

# JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

*classical realism, from hounds to humans & more!*

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News & Journeys of Joy! :: Vol. Twenty, Number Two :: Spring 2025

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*Happy Spring!*

Feb. 7, 2025: It is finally quite nice and warm in San Miguel. This afternoon's temperature is predicted to be 79 degrees F.

My nose has had a 1/8 inch round flat spot on it for quite a few years. It is redder now. I send a picture to Dr. Frank Simo, my St. Louis dermatologist, who agrees I should see someone here.

I walk to well known dermatologist, Dra. Blanca E. Farias' office, thinking I can more easily make an appointment in person. My Spanish is not good. As it turns out, Dra. Blanca moved her office since we was here a couple of years ago. I call and get an appointment on March 5 at 2pm. Yay!

## *Capital One*

When we first got here in January, I called Cap One to have them send a new Credit card since they canned my old one. When I told them today I had not seen the new card that they supposedly sent Jan. 23, they cancelled that card and said they would sent yet another card. I hope so. We'll see...

I call LaConexion, our mail service, and indeed no mail is ready for us to pick up. Challenges abound this year.



Bees buzz and LOVE the blue flowers over the cacti on our rental apartment's tiny patio.

Feb. 9, 2025, 10:45am; I adore my Sunday morning foam rolling class with Diana Barrios Whitman. Diana taught at Wellbridge through its closure in 2019? I have stayed with her via Zoom ever since. This class is very relaxing. I hear bees buzzing above the cactus when I foam roll.

After class Brian and Coltz come home after their walk. We all nap and by 3:47pm, I feel as if I have energy. Good!

Later we walk to a restaurant by Mercado Sano. We sit outside, watching traffic along the Ancha. I enjoy a simple salad and salmon in a croissant. Brian enjoys his dinner too. Good news: there is hardly anything leftover!

Feb. 10, 2025: I meet with Lynn Padwe, whom I believe I met in 2018 in an oil painting class taught by Donna Dickson. We had fun reminiscing about our times in San Miguel.

We will meet again...



Feb. 11, 2025, 4:18pm:

On my walk home from the LaConexion, our mail delivery place, I run across this huge pork BBQ. We haven't eaten here, yet. *Maybe next year...?*

Sharon Draper, whom we have known for around 20 years, joins us at El Pegaso, our favorite San Miguel restaurant. Sharon lived

downstairs from Ernest's place on Calvario where we rented for around 20 years. When Ernest died, we rented Sharon's smaller place downstairs from Ernest's.

Little did we know the benefits of renting Sharon's basement apartment with good light from a pretty patio. AND...Sharon's place was WARM! Yay!!! Then she sold it.





Our friend Sharon Draper

Sharon just moved back to San Miguel after living a year in Portland, Oregon. I'm happy to see you, Sharon!



Feb. 12, 2025: Brian drives us to City Market where I find Organic Yogurt in a soft plastic bag. What a surprise!

I use my spatula to put it into the plastic tub that was the prior yogurt container. This is better for the planet, for sure.

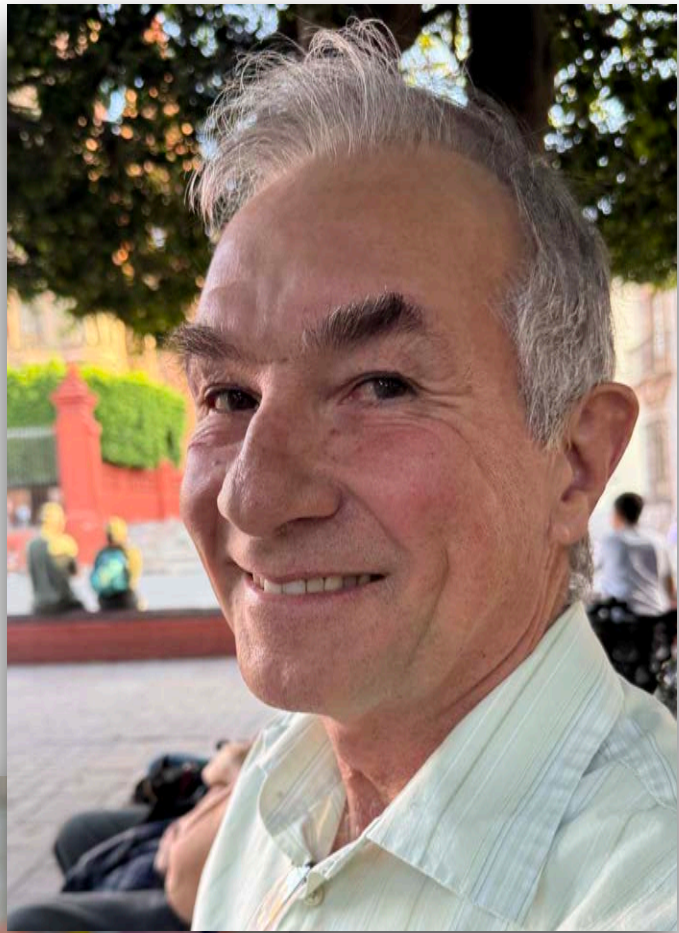


Feb. 13, 2025 I run across my parents' wedding photo.



Top Row: Daddy's brother Ted Kroeger, daddy Arthur Kroeger, and Mom's brother, my Uncle Bill Boeker.

First Row: Alice Schnitzmeyer (my mom's eldest sister Sophie's daughter), Mom: Dina Louise Boeker Kroeger, and my Aunt Elsie Kroeger. Since my parents were 40 when I was born, I did not ever see my dad with that wonderful big head of hair.



Feb. 13, 2025:  
Meet SAM! Sam and Coltz get along fine according to Brian who walks Coltz to the Jardin nearly every morning. Sam belongs to Charles, a new

friend, whom Brian met in the Jardin.



*Happy valentine's Day!*



Brian brings home a gorgeously wrapped box of chocolates from Johfrej, our favorite place for chocolates here.

*Thank you!!!*

Feb. 14, 2025: Mojigangas in front of the Paroquia.



Mojigangas are large paper mache' puppets with a human inside who dances to entertain people.





The Parroquia is complete with confetti  
hanging from the trees...

Musicians in front of the Parroquia in the Jardin



Feb. 14, 2025: We walk for a delightful dinner at Hotel Sautto. My main course is Fettuccini with Fruta de Mare. It includes clams, squid, shrimp and more, and is plenty for our dinner tomorrow night! I'll add spinach and fresh tomato to another leftover salad and we'll have a delicious dinner.

Feb. 16, 2025: Our apartment is finally a very comfortable 70 degrees! Chesterfield is cold, 29 degrees that feels like 11 degrees! I'm glad we are here.



Feb. 17, 2025: We drive to Dr. Ricardo's office to pick up 10 bags of frozen BARC, Biologically Appropriate Raw Cuisine. Each 1 pound bag of food is good for over 2 meals. This food will last Colt into early March.

Dr. Ricardo states Colt will need a test for **screw worms** in addition to records of his latest shots to get back into the States. Brian was warned to not go barefoot when he was a child in west Texas to keep from getting screw worms. I will make an appointment for that test closer to the time we leave for home.



A happy gal shows off her grand gown in the Jardin.

Feb. 18, 2025: I pick up mail at LaConexion. We get 17 pieces of mail, but no replacement for my Capital One credit card. 99% of our 17 pieces of mail are dated Feb. 5, 2025. Mail has NEVER been so slow to arrive in the 20-plus years we have spent early spring in San Miguel before.

Feb. 19, 2025: Yikes! I thought I had enough meds to last until we got home in late March - early April. Not so with Eliquis and Anastrozole. I need to visit the local Pharmacia Guadalajara. Without insurance, a month of each is \$300+.

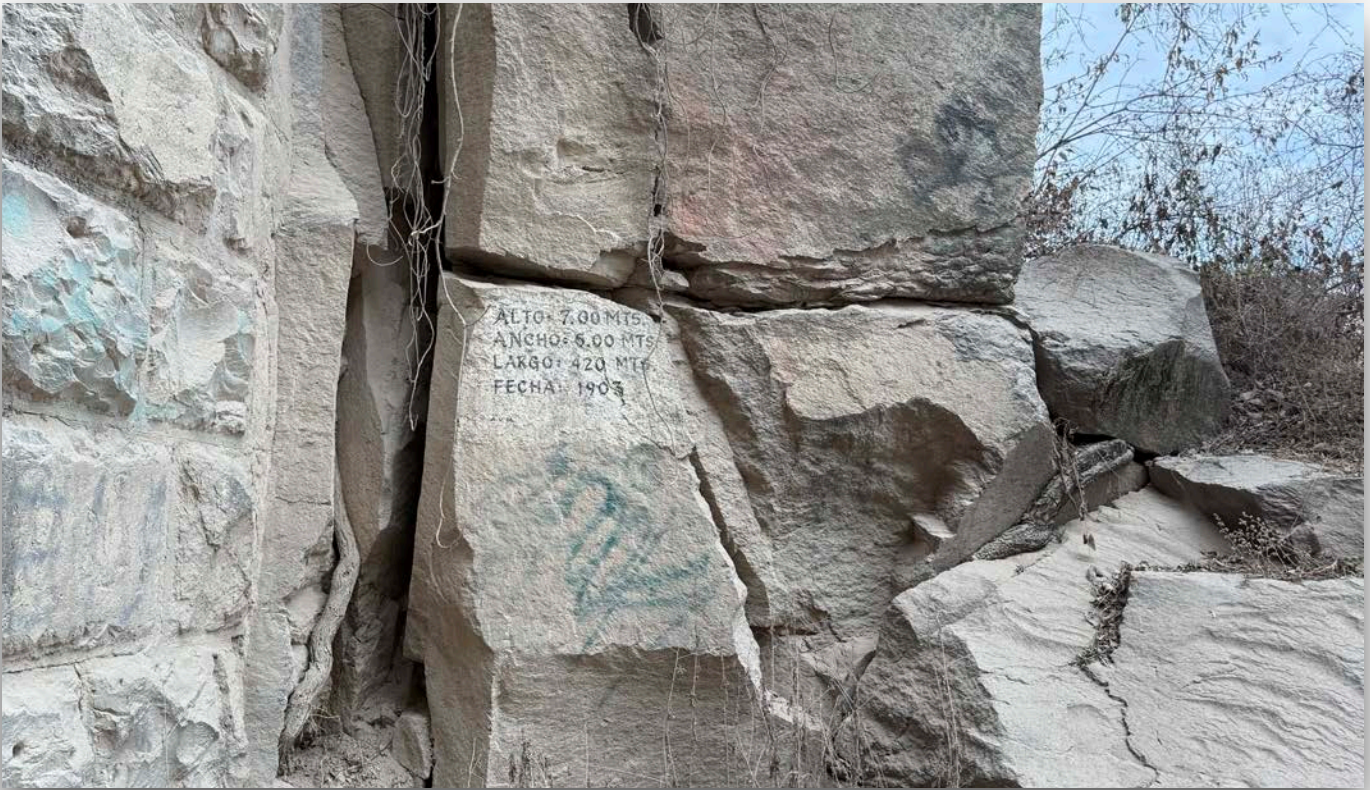
*Come, ride with  
us to the BIG TREE!*

Feb. 20, 2025, 10:28am: Today starts beautifully! It's a balmy 64 degrees. Aldo, a Jardin friend, guides us to the Second Largest tree in Mexico! The drive takes a couple of hours and is well worth the effort.









10:29 am: *The Presa Allende - Lake*

We approach a tunnel that is about 450 feet long.









Markings on the rock tell the length, depth and more about the tunnel.















*I LOVE the  
roots,  
stone,  
cat &  
chickens!*



12:36pm:

Aldo takes us to his favorite outdoor cafe for gorditas. He orders them the way he thinks we will like them and **THEY ARE DELIGHTFUL!** Corn gorditas with filling are just the right amount for lunch at 12:36pm. I hope to find them in town.

On the way home, Brian drops me off at LaConexion to pick up mail. Yay! One envelope feels like it has a credit card in



it! Darn! The card is one of the first replacement cards that was canceled... Tomorrow I will call Capital One AGAIN... I wonder when Cap One mailed this card??? Is it the first replacement or the second? It turns out it is the first replacement card.

## *The Pro-Música Cocktail Party*

Feb. 21, 2025: Our long time friend Arlena Lawrence introduces us to a higher level of society in San Miguel. ;-)) She acquired two extra tickets for the Pro-Musica cocktail party! Arlena guides as Brian drives to the hosts' home high on a hill overlooking San Miguel. I can hardly imagine how the builder got his machinery and materials up the hill to build this magnificent contemporary house complete with a pool. Parking is single lane on Prolongacion LaQuinta 2A next to the house. A very young man operates a 2-3 person elevator and takes us to the main floor. WOW! The wine and Hors d'Oeuvres are free flowing and delicious. The caterer is amazing. I wish I had taken pictures.

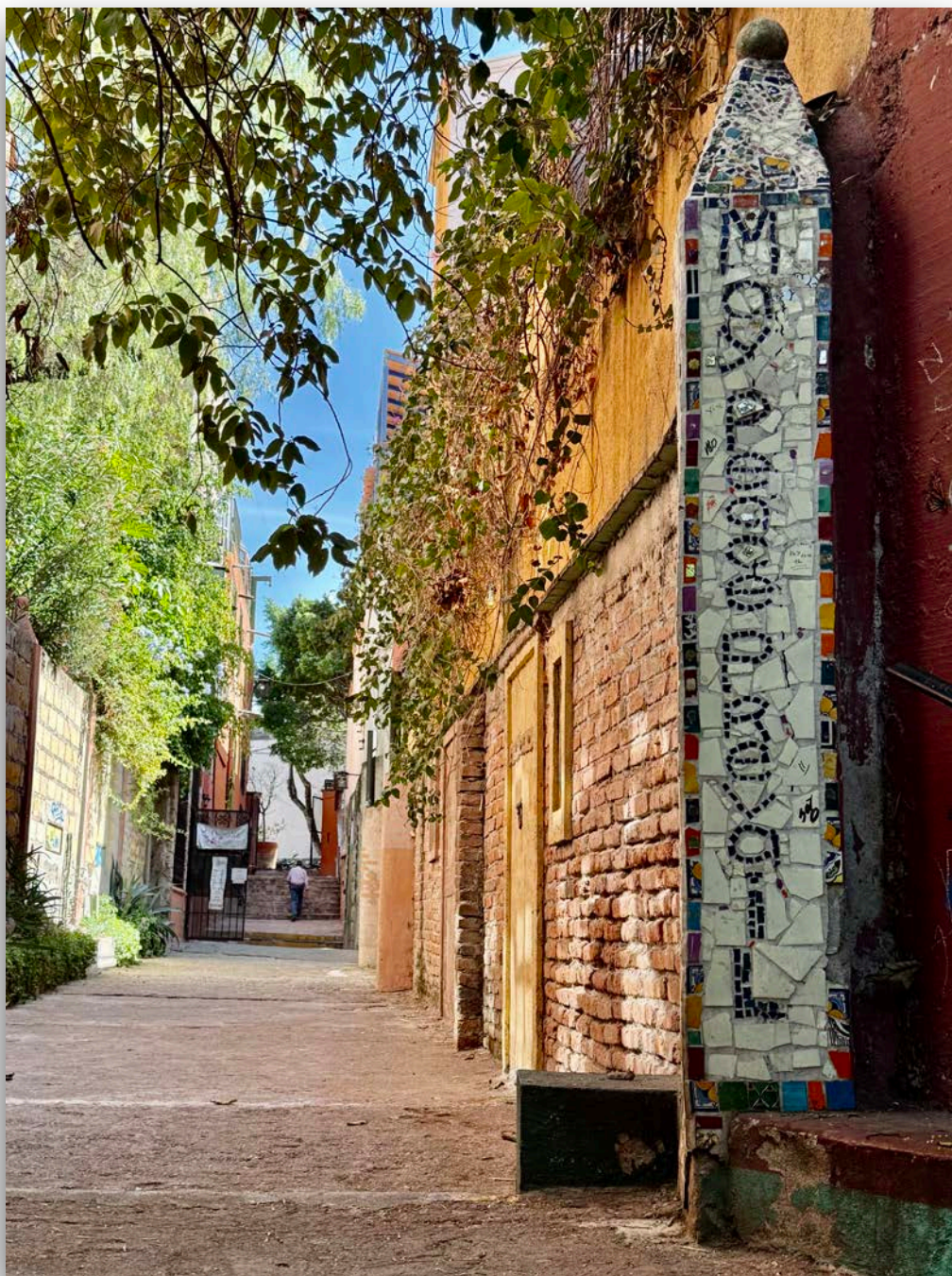
Feb. 22, 2025, 10:10am: Now, to activate what I believe is my correct Capital One Credit Card. YES! It is the correct replacement card! I call my Mac Guru Derek to help me reactivate my Microsoft Excel! Challenges, Challenges!

4:31pm: The sun is out after yesterday's dreary, drippy day.

Feb. 23, 2025: We walk to a very small bakery in the San Antonio area to order a pecan pie! The pecan pie here is to die for: thick with pecans top to bottom! I may pick it up Friday, Feb. 28th. It will be worth the wait and 400 pesos = around \$20! The path on the way home is beautiful.







*“May Peace Prevail”... says the sign...*

“Hecho en Mexico” is a restaurant we’ve gone to for years.

We enjoy the new lights on the poles holding up the umbrellas on the indoor-outdoor patio. See photo below.



Feb. 24, 2025: Derek Burrows helps me with Microsoft Excel via Zoom. It is nice to have an updated computer and a credit card again. Now, to pay those who have waited and waited while I waited for my new card. Plus, I am now able to get into my Inventory in Microsoft Excel. Life is Good.

Feb. 25, 2025, 10:30am: I gladly see Sue Lawrence, my Pilates instructor here. She has an opening for a duet. Good!



Sue's class is BETTER than any I have had back home. Unbelievable! If Sue taught at home, I would definitely hire her for her challenging workout on a simple flat reformer. My partner, Teresa Shepro, looks like she could be Nonnie Markeset's blond sister. She is as beautiful as Nonnie.

Diana Dell greets me on her walk to Sue's class. Diana and I met several years ago when we discussed a very personal feminine need for which she helped me. I am forever grateful for her help. After stopping for groceries and mail, I walk home and nap for at least 2-3 hours. What a treat!

5:40pm: I walk several houses down to meet Arlena to cab to El Pegaso. There we meet my friend Sharon Draper for a girl's night out finished with fabulous Carrot Cake! ;-)) Brian is meeting with Aldo and Phil for dinner.

Feb. 26, 2025: For the first time in my 20+ years of making and selling sculpture, a woman wants to know if I provide a contract stating when the sculpture will arrive. I'll send her the UPS tracking info... Please, be brave...

This possible client has a great idea to place "*Siesta*" *MS* by, or on, her dad's tombstone because he adored his dachshunds.



"Siesta" Snoozes Soundly in the Butterfly House at the Naples Botanical Garden in January 2015. Photo by fellow exhibitor, George McMonigal.

While she is interested in the life-size Miniature "*Siesta*" above is a photo of the life-size Standard "*Siesta*" in the Naples Botanical Garden in January 2015. Hopefully she will plant many flowers around her dad's tombstone, or, she



will set “*Siesta*” *MS* between her dad’s stone and where her mother’s stone will be. Time will tell....

Feb. 27, 2025: My cousins at Edna’s 83rd birthday! Janice, Nancy & Edna, daughters of Martha & Henry Boeker, my mom’s brother.







Feb 28, 2025: I pick up our pecan pie. It is as beautiful as in the past. Brian and I each get a nasty cold. After my haircut, our good haircutter, Lawrence Dimirjian recommends I get some purple tablets of Tabcin for daytime use and some



green Tabcin for evening. These seem to help with the nose blowing. Thank goodness!

March 2, 2025: Brian wants to head home March 20. This evening, Brian weaves our way through one way streets to find a restaurant we went to many moons ago. Bistro 300 is on Quebrada, the street with the bridge over Canal street. We split a Wild Salad and still have enough for tomorrow night. We each get Shrimps with Fettuccini. The sauce is amazingly delicious and, again, we have enough for tomorrow night. The cost, with one beer and tip is \$990 pesos: \$48.42. Very reasonable price...

March 4, 2025: My new iPhone 16 Pro Max, which I bought in December, is not turning on. I email Derek, a Mac Guru, and will hopefully hear from him about where to take it, OR, maybe he can fix it from afar???

Surprise! Brian fixed my phone by Googling how to fix it. ;-))

Tonight I visit friends, Muriel & Harley Mimura and Leslie & Chip Silloway whom I met in 2006, with Betsy a friend whose husband Gerald passed a while ago. I miss that crowd.



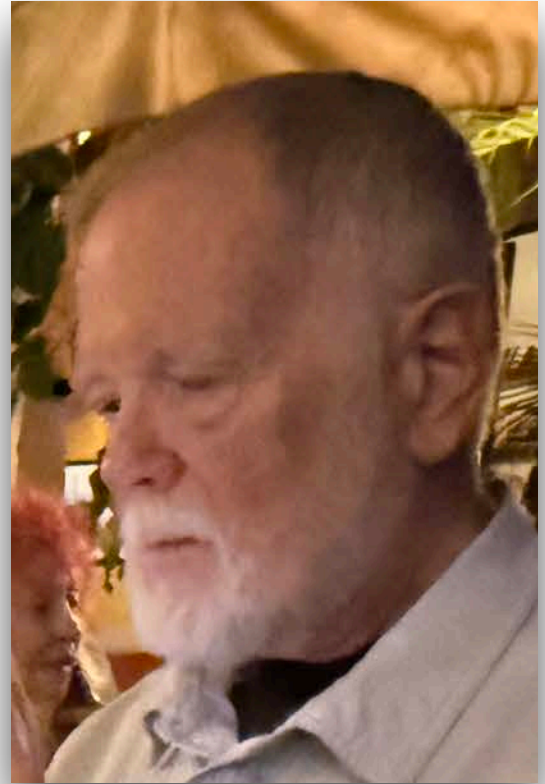


Nonnie Markeset, a dear friend, invites us for dinner next Thursday, March 13. Nonnie always signs of with a funny. I must pass it on...

March 6, 2025: We meet Karen & Jim Quinn at Hotel Sautto for dinner. We four used to stop for dinner in Laredo, TX, and again in Matehuala, as we each drove to San Miguel. Jim & Karen started flying to Leon to get here faster from Chicago. It is fun to share time with them again.

As a bonus, I get a hug from Ricardo Sautto whose relative gave him the hotel a number of years ago. His beautiful wife and daughter are at the next table. They look great!

March 7, 2025: This morning, I pack two and a half weeks worth of supplements to get me just past March 20, 2025, when Brian wants to start driving home. I am ready.







Brian took this photo of a young Indian boy in about 2019.

This weekend there is dancing with wildly feathered costumes throughout the Jardin. Fun times!

*March 9, 2025 - surprise, surprise below!*



**Joy Beckner** was born in St. Louis, Missouri and trained at the Washington University School of Fine Arts. She worked in fashion and then fund-raising before a sculpture class reawakened her love for clay and wax modeling. Her attention to detail and commitment to creating strong representational work has resulted in many awards and invitations to membership in prestigious organizations. Professional memberships include: The National Sculpture Society, Fellow 2014; The Salmagundi Art Club, Non-Resident Artist Member, 2012; The Society of Animal Artists, Signature Member, 1999; and American Women Artists, Master Signature Membership, 1999. Joy's first solo exhibition was at the Margaret Harwell Art Museum in 2012.

March 9, 2025: The AMSA America Medallic Sculpture Association book has this copy about me as one of the “authors.” I definitely need an updated head shot. ;-))

March 9, 2025: My agent, West Model & Talent, requests that I audition for a non-speaking role for Ameren UE. Shoot dates, if I get it, are April 1-4, in St. Louis. I take the photos. It takes quite a while for the photos to transfer from my iPhone to the computer. We plan to be home by March 23. Fingers crossed.

*A Lovely Breeze tonight... WONDERFUL!*

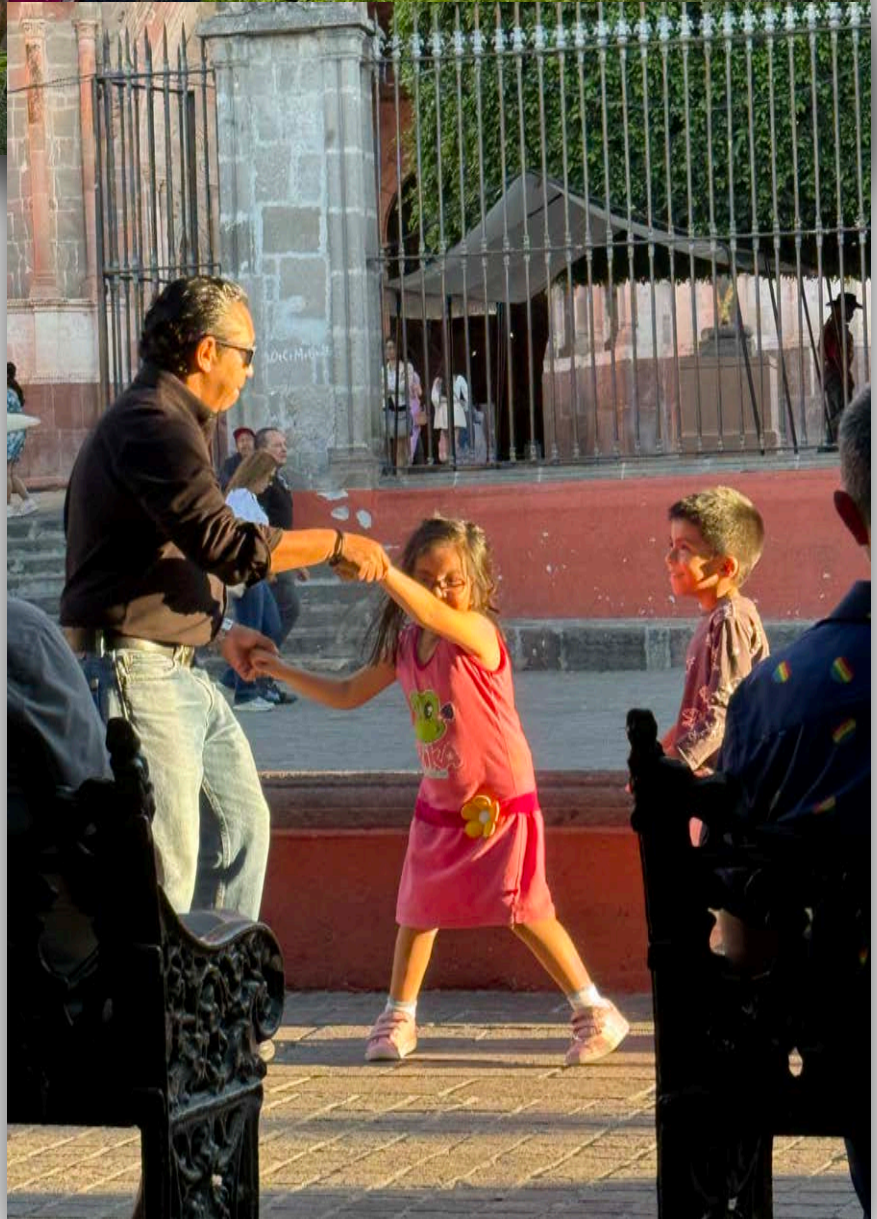
March 10, 2025, Sunday: We cab to the Jardin (Har-deen). There is a lovely breeze and a band is on stage. We share our favorite bench with Sam, Charles & Aldo. The music is very up-lifting. The horns are fabulous!!!



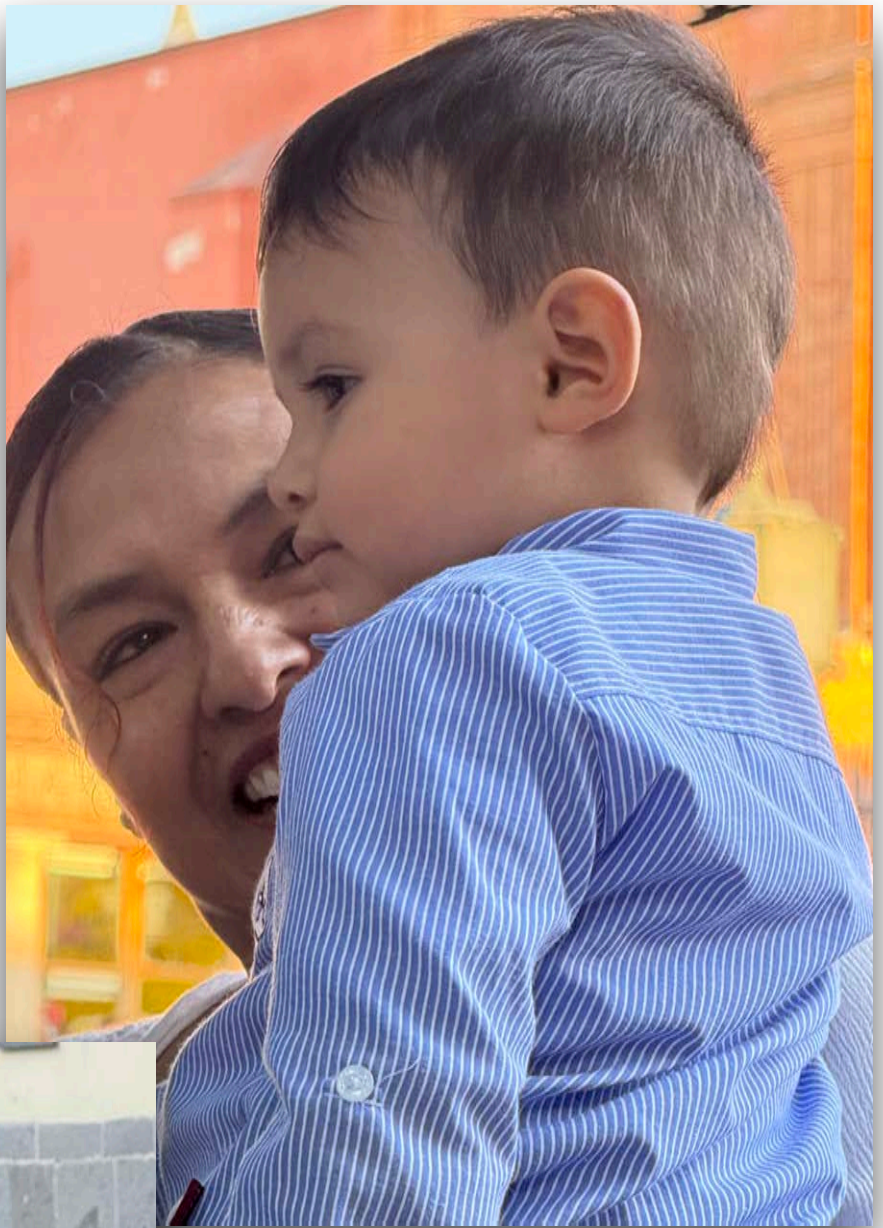


Papa & daughter  
dance. Son is next!

Daddy's play with  
their kiddos.





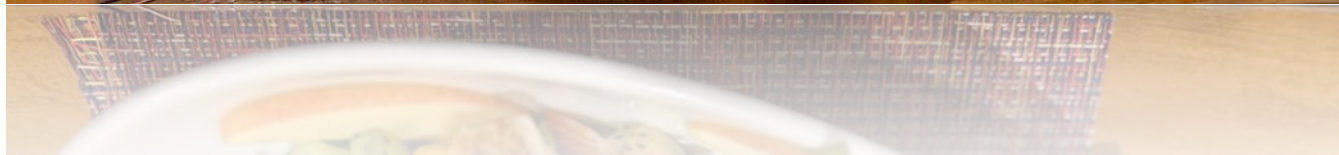




*Happy son!*









Next we have a delicious dinner at El Pegaso. Brian saves me a touch of his Eggs Benedict and I am in LOVE! It is incredibly delicious!



*El Pegaso's Fantástico Carrot cake is the Fínale!*

*What a wonderful Sunday night vacation!*



March 10, 2025, 3:37pm:

A flower catches on a cactus on our patio.





**Fotos de Guanajuato y México  
para el mundo. · Follow**

Feb 25 · 🌐

**San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato.  
DR AQC.**



An overview of the Jardín and the pruned trees  
in the garden.



March 12, 2025, 3:54pm: A man and his dogs across the Ancha from where I sit to rest after getting groceries.





*This beautiful weaving hangs  
across from our bed.*



*How DID someone weave these flowers?*

*Sadly, our longtime friend Sharon Draper is  
not well and wants nothing from us...*

March 13, 2025: My Pilates partner, Cheryl Matthews.





*Cheryl Matthews, my Pilates Partner*



*My Masterful Pilates teacher, Sue Lawrence.*

Sue is the most creative and BEST Pilates teacher I have had for the past 20+ years! If I lived in San Miguel I would go to her easily once a week!

Plus, she likes and wears her sterling silver owl that I made many years ago. Thank you, Sue!





Thank you Karen Quinn for your  
iPhone photo of the eclipse.

*Whoops! No BARC!*

March 14, 2025: I should have called Dr. Ricardo to see if he had any of his home made frozen raw dog food. He does not, so we will drive back Wednesday, March 19, to pick up food for our trip home and for a couple weeks at home.

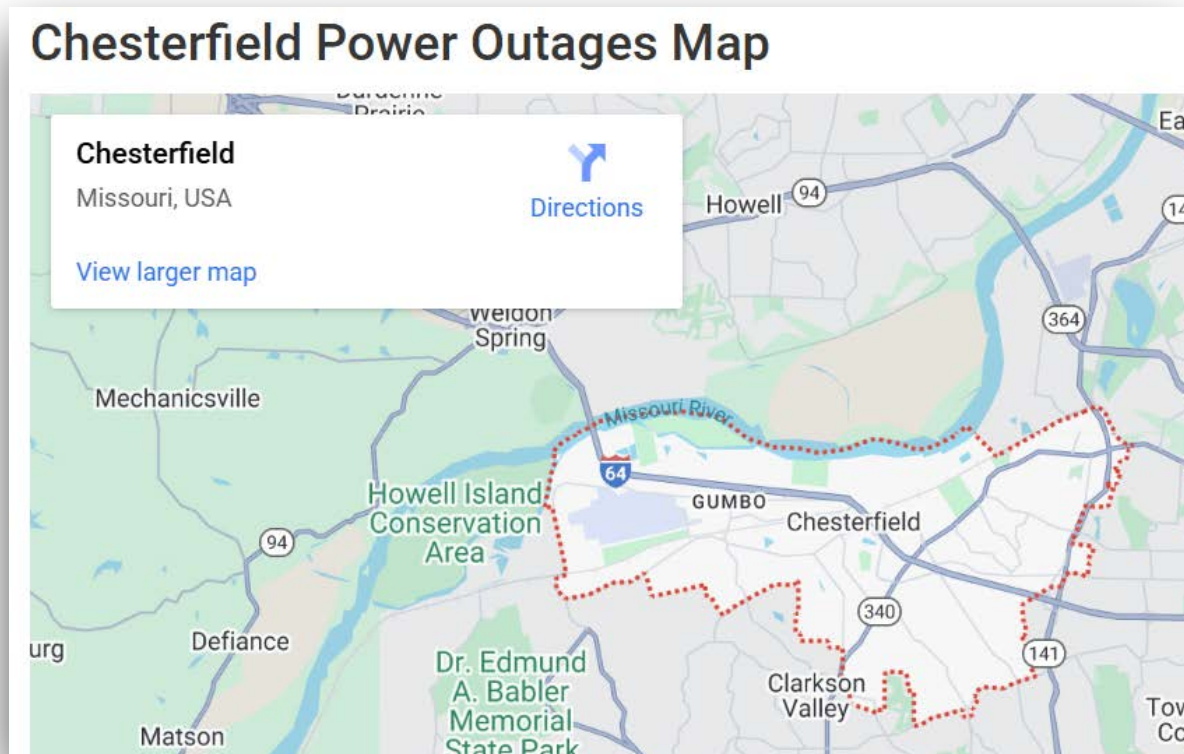
Petco indeed has frozen raw chicken & salmon, just enough to fit into our minuscule freezer.

Each of the eight 4oz. packs is wrapped in a Corn Husk!



The Earth and Coltz LOVE IT!!!





*Friday, March 14:*

*Tornado warnings are everywhere in the  
St. Louis area!*

*Our home is spared tornado damage :-)*

*Some Purina Farms areas have been damaged  
and will reopen April 26.*

*No people or animals were hurt.*

*The Purina Events Center remains open! YAY*

*DCA is on for May 12-17!*

March 15, 2025: Meanwhile, Brian checks the internet and says we may not have power in our house tonight. Power has been out off & on for the last two-three days... Our neighbor Carrie just emailed that Ameren stated we should not expect power to be restored at home until at least tomorrow...

Our house is definitely within the red dot area. Last night all First Responders were deployed. Chesterfield is 58 degrees.



The first time I have seen this kind of cactus bloom. Pretty!





Owls on a house close to us in San Miguel.



Tomorrow early morning San Miguel temperatures are predicted to be in the upper 40s.

March 16, 2025: I write to Lynn Padwe with whom I met early in our visit, and learn she had an emergency operation to remove 2/3 of her colon! We vow to see each other next year. Best wishes for speedy healing, Lynn!



Coltz' Tamalitos salmon dinner is thawing for tonight.



9:27am: Ameren Missouri sends a voicemail that our power has been restored.



*Saint Patrick's Eve...*

5:15pm: We meet Nonnie & Ed for a delightful evening of drinks & music to celebrate St. Patrick's Eve! This event at Don Lupe Grill benefits "Feed the Children."

It is really hard to believe Nonnie will be 84 in December, and Ed will be 89! They are inspirations!!



*Nonnie Markeset*





*Ed Markeset*

*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*



March 17, 2025: A lovely lady sits in front of the Parroquia.





I've always enjoyed this sculpture in an El Pegaso window. It's my turn for Eggs Benedict tonight!

Friend Lynn Padwe writes she is home and has a 9-5 nurse to help administer her 18 drugs. She's weak and wants to talk next week. Whew!!! Well, she sounds in a positive mood.

March 18, 2025: It's COLTZ big day to get his **Screw Worm test and Certificate**. We leave San Miguel at 8:45 for our 10am appointment with a vet in Queretaro! By 11:11am the vet has everything ready for us.

Our Queretaro vet shows Brian Coltz's tests.



Now, to drive home to San Miguel...

We stop for more easy-to-serve food from Petco, and put it into our Kool-a-tron. I defrost and clean our mini fridge. I haven't defrosted and cleaned a refrigerator since I cleaned my parent's ice box! I imagine that was in the 50s or 60s.



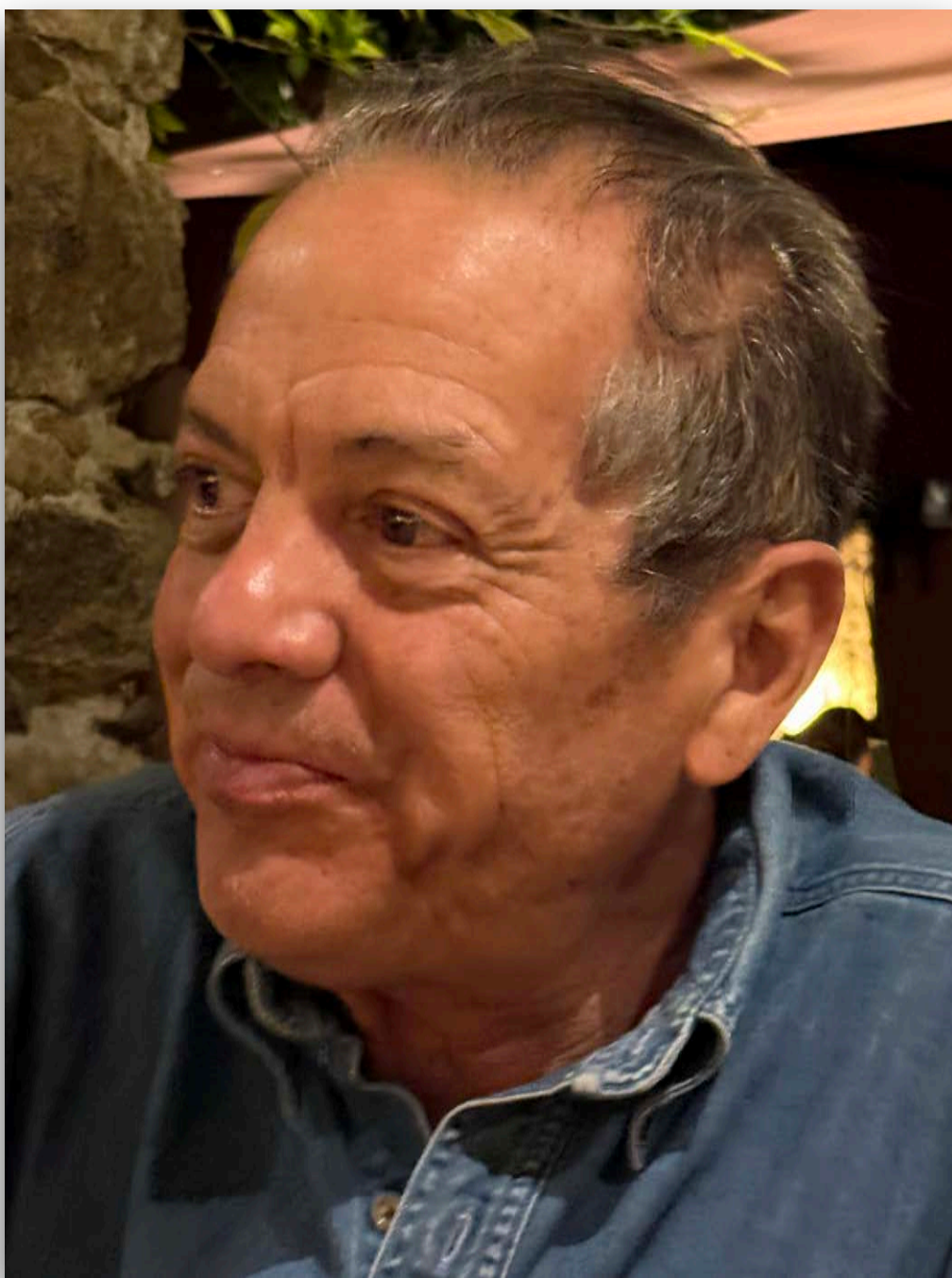


Coltz, on my lap, watches what we pass on our way home.

*Jacarandas are blooming in San Miguel!*







*Alberto at Jfecho en México*



*Ana*

*The four of us enjoy an evening at Hecho en  
México.*





*Jacaranda blossoms at 8:58pm on our walk  
home from dinner with Alberto & Ana.*

March 19, 2025: Brian takes Coltz for a bath and I pack.  
This afternoon Brian and I stock up on good frozen food for  
Coltz from Dr. Ricardo.

## *16 Hours later... Our LONG drive on Day One*

March 20, 2025, 5:45am: We leave San Miguel early. Trucks are backed up forever on the 4 lane highway, all thanks to every truck's contents having to be inspected front to back.

Eventually Brian took my suggestion and squeezed between two trucks to drive on the shoulder. When another vehicle squeaked onto the median, Brian did too and then we drove on grass and rocks in the center for miles, passing trucks. We cross the border easily and ended up in Cotulla, Texas at **10:30PM!!!**

Interestingly, border patrol did not ask if we had a dog, nor if he had a Screw Worm test Certificate. We had an unnecessary drive to Queretaro.

March 22, 2025, 7:39am, 37 degrees: We leave Muskogee, Oklahoma on US 69 this pretty morning. Brian states, "We're crossing the Arkansas River which comes out of Leadville, CO." Later we pass cows in a field. The side light is beautiful.

Segregated cows. On one side of the road are white cows; on the other side are black cows. Next we see integrated cows. Good!



Bradford pears have been growing along our route home since the middle of yesterday. Here they are more plentiful.

9:08am: We cross into Missouri. Wind comes sideways to us from the south.



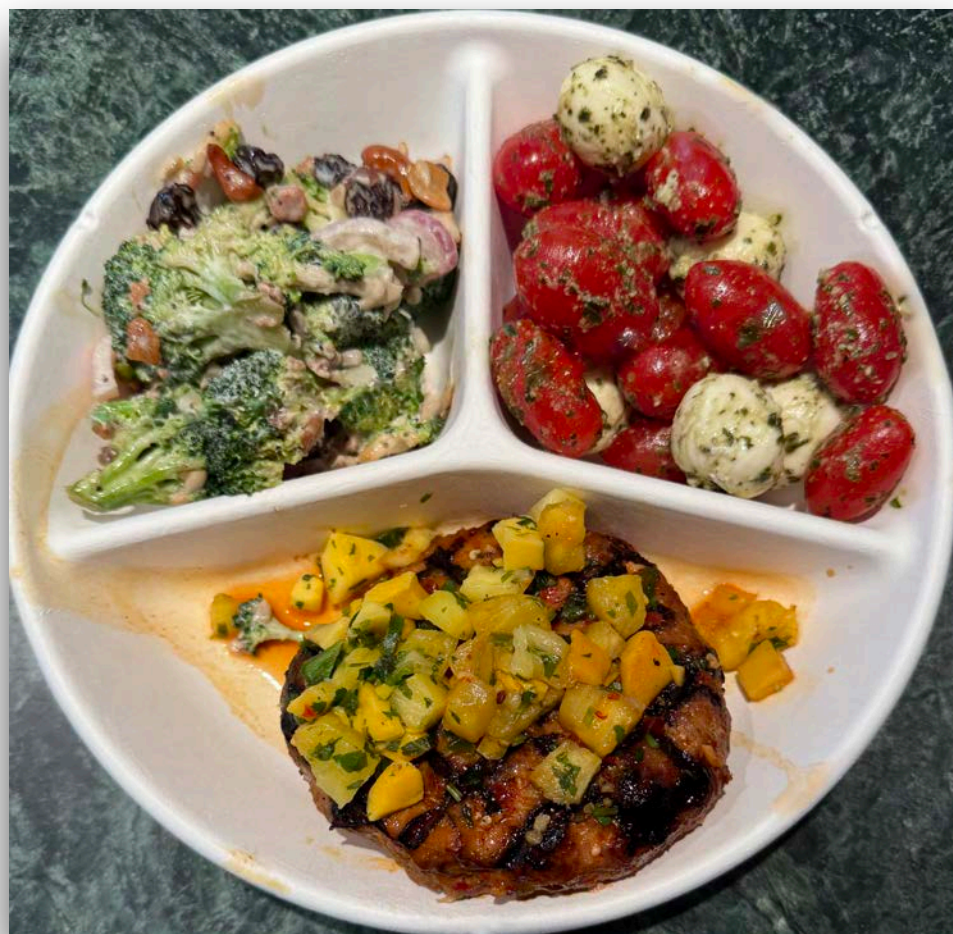
We stop for gas and potty break. Brian buys toffee and I buy dark chocolate covered pretzels. Above, the logo for this stop always reminds me of John, the mentally challenged

son of Charlie Lowery, Brian's former employer who is no longer with us.

12:34pm, 57 degrees: We turn east on MO Hwy. 100 toward home.

Brian states we will have driven 1670 miles since Thursday at 5:45am when we left San Miguel.

*Saturday, March 22, 1:02pm: We are home!  
Nap well, my dear Brían.*





A kind man in the prepared food department at Whole Foods suggested turkey burgers topped with mango sauce. I add sides of broccoli salad and pesto tomatoes with cheese. Brian likes it. We have a second one for tomorrow. ;-))

This Turkey burger with mango sauce, broccoli salad and Pesto tomatoes is a GREAT VALUE for \$12.00! Thank you Whole Foods for making my life easy tonight.

Sunday, March 23, 2025, 11:17 CDT: Brian is back in bed, and, after putting a little in the wash, I join him.

It's been a long sleepy week. Sorry folks that this news is so long, but 80 years take their toll on time and energy.

March 28, 2025:

*Stay well, my friends...  
Hugs and best wishes to you & America!*

314-378-7032

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*Happy Spring! Joy*