

November OPAA Art*Walks* column, Suzan Noyes

*“If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share.”* W. Clement Stone

I’m enjoying the last of our fall weather to the utmost. It always arrives too swiftly; the geese group up and fly south, honking away, a small maple tree out back flares yellow-orange. Potted plants sport final suicidal flowers. Autumn’s final flare always seems a bit sad; our landscape quickly tucks in for the Big Dark. I still hope to pick apples and take a few more walks. I’ve watched salmon swim and spawn upstream in the Dungeness, a sight much missed since Alaska.

A sunny day trip to Fort Flagler and coastal spots with my brother was lovely till we pulled into Port Gamble. I’d planned lovely photographs of the late season dahlia gardens for future painting reference. The tiny historic village was mobbed with day-trippers; the sun huddled under a cloudy blanket. We wandered for some time in the cemetery mulling over tombstones. The sun only reappeared while we stalled in traffic on the bridge back to Olympic Peninsula. I’m left with past photographs of fancy sunlit dahlias but remain seriously grateful for the day trip.

Last year’s November column featured gratitude in a month noted for giving thanks. Our board members shared tales of unexpected chicken dinners, blizzards, unforgettable side dishes and more. This year, as Covid persists (can’t the sucker *itself* just lay down and DIE, I ask) I queried recent OPAA board members to relate a few specifics about 2021 they are personally grateful for. Here’s a note from recent and appreciated member, ***Linda Collins Chapman***:

“What am I thankful for in this last year? The most obvious is that I chose not to leave the planet...yet. Our large adventure of the year was daring to travel; we drove to Colorado to join our son for Christmas. Lots of mountains, snow... and icy roads. Three days there, three days back, eating in our hotel room! (I especially enjoy the wintery Wyoming roads north of Cheyenne.)

“The best thing about this topsy-turvy year was my opportunity to study with Christina Cordova, ceramic figurative sculptor extraordinaire. Creating hollow ceramic sculpture is quite challenging, but I am loving the results! So even though I’ve turned seventy, this old dog has learned new tricks. For that I am truly thankful. The Art Barn folks planned and held **ARTjam 2021** over Labor Day weekend.

“Not enough parking - the traffic jam on Silberhorn was unprecedented - but everyone was so excited to escape to something other than a weekly Walmart run. My husband and I continue to adjust to the life of curmudgeons...at least we still have the choice (said in fun). I am grateful for my health.”

Yes!

From our Vice-President & Art Trading Card aficionado **Lorraine Ford**: “As our pre-pandemic world spun faster with busyness and demands, I’d say, “Stop the spin! Let me off.” It took Covid-19 to stop those demands – *and everything else*. Our ‘usual, comfortable, familiar, and safe’ all came to a screeching halt as well. Being thankful seemed harder to fit into its usual context.”

This month, Lorraine says she’s more thankful than ever for all things taken for granted prior, and for faith and family which remain her personal anchors, despite the worldly spin - or not. “It’s such a strange time that really challenges one’s body, mind and spirit. I wonder if I’ll ever get it together, but as A-G-E keeps encroaching, maybe tomorrow I won’t even recall what it was I wanted to...?”

In the ‘old’ days, habits and circumstances, social mores, were accepted as continuing into the next 100 years. We’re beyond that: Tik-Tok and Bit-Coin and private billionaires in outer space. Global Warming. I never thought I’d end up a ruminative dinosaur, myself.

I’m thankful for science and medical personnel working to get a grip on the Covid-19 situation and those upcoming booster shots - yahoo. Happy to see my brother this past summer after so long and thrilled with weeks of great weather (short heat waves?!), and happy to be part of the Blue Whole Gallery in Sequim, a goal I’ve had for several years.

I’ll share this from new board member **Mike Medler**, serious long-time supporter of OPAA:

“There was the Thanksgiving when the power went out. I had to cook the bird in the BBQ. It was very crispy.”

I hope he had lots of gravy & and cranberry sauce.

Our best wishes to all members of OPAA for a lovely turkey day, 2021, and a reminder of the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting from **Eva Kozun**:

“Will you join me for a Paint-and-Create on December 2nd?! If so, gather up a few supplies to bring to the meeting. AND/OR you can start making small works of art (6” x 8” maximum) and bring them, finished, to the meeting. I will be installing all the little artworks in FLAGs as needed throughout 2022. Currently, there are three FLAG locations: (1) Outside the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center (PAFAC). (2) Outside the Dungeness Botanical Company, Sequim (the Old Nash Store). (3) Shipley Senior Center library room, Sequim. Two more to be installed: (1) NOLS Library, Sequim. (2) Jardin Du Soleil Lavender Farm, Sequim. Join me in creating art and smiles! Work at your own pace and contribute what you can. I look forward to seeing you in person or by ZOOM and feel free to email me with any questions. [artpelaeva@gmail.com](mailto:artpelaeva@gmail.com) Thank you in advance for your kind support and participation! **IF we are unable to meet in person on December 2nd, and instead meet by ZOOM, you can mail, or deliver your artworks to me, Eva Kozun. Please go to the OPAA website ([opaagroup.org](http://opaagroup.org)) Members’ Only Page where my name, address & phone are listed. You can also call or email me ([artpelaeva@gmail.com](mailto:artpelaeva@gmail.com)) to arrange for pick-up.** Thank you!” *Eva Kozun*

