

December 28, 2017

Season's Greetings to One and All!

This is an interactive newsletter. Click on any picture or link for larger images and/or more information.

Dear Friends and Family,

HOME

We feel very lucky to live in a beautiful place like Port Townsend, where we are surrounded by nature and spectacular views. This year we had eight different sightings of [bobcats](#), just outside our kitchen window. We even managed to get a couple of pictures. We are delighted when we can share our home with friends and this year we enjoyed visits from Jan and Jim Robinson (friends from University of Redlands days) and Paducah friends Char Downs and Jay Downs-Siska. On Ron's 75th birthday, we



hosted our annual family reunion for members of the Bryer and Howell clans and we were joined by Ron's sister Janis Overstreet and her husband Paul.



Our only big house project this year was the installation of a six-foot-high, stainless steel and dichroic glass sculpture by Phoenix artist [Lyle London](#), which hangs from the ceiling of our entryway.



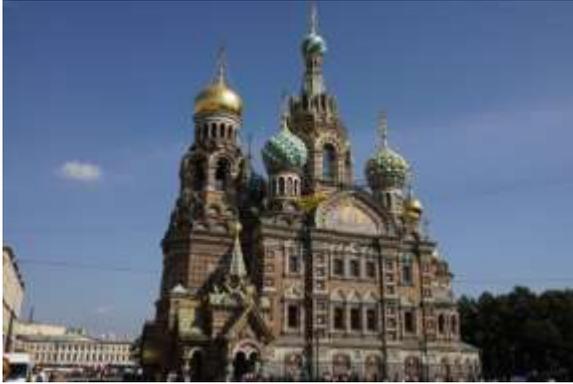
Ron's [kitchen](#) (read: studio of culinary arts) was on the annual Port Townsend Kitchen Tour this year. Naturally we invited guests to visit Caryl's studio at the same time.

TRAVEL:

We continue to enjoy visiting new places. Our travel year began with a two weeks on the big island of Hawaii. We rented a house right on the beach on the wet side of the island for a week, and then moved to a condo on the dry side for the second week. It was a rather sedate and relaxing vacation, since Ron was scheduled for back surgery as soon as we returned home. [CLICK](#) for a slide show.



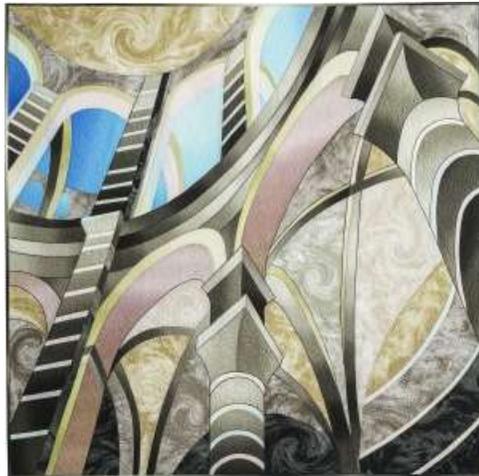
In February, Ron had a spinal fusion in his lower back. This was a much more extensive procedure than the one he had on his neck several years ago, and the recovery was longer and more painful than we had expected. The good news is that it was successful, and the lower back pain that he suffered for many years is gone.



Our big trip of the year was a cruise on the Baltic Sea in August. We began with four days in Stockholm, Sweden. From there we boarded a 396 passenger ship, the [Silver Seas, Silver Cloud](#) for a cruise to Estonia, Russia, Finland, Poland, Germany, and Denmark. Our trip ended with three days in Copenhagen. [CLICK](#) here to see a slide show of the whole trip.

QUILTS & SHOWS:

The quilt calendar started this year with a big solo exhibition (*Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry: 40 Years of Color, Light, and Motion*) at the [Nixon Centre for Performing & Visual Arts](#) in Newnan, Georgia, from January 9-February 7. We did not travel to Georgia for this show, so we don't have pictures. The same show traveled next to the

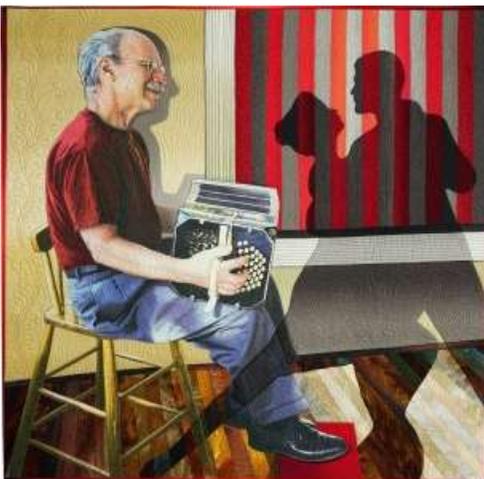


[Texas Quilt Museum](#), where it hung from March 30– June 30. To see a slide show of the installation, [CLICK](#) here.



Caryl continues to show her work and this year she won several awards, both major and minor, and both national and local. We traveled to Houston for the big International Quilt Festival in November. It was our first trip there since 2013 and it was fun to see and catch up with many of our friends in the world of quilting.

Caryl finished two new quilts this year, and is quilting another very large piece as the year ends. [Bandoneon](#) (below left) is our first collaborative piece (Ron's photo, Caryl's design). [Arches](#) (above left) was inspired by the baptistery at Pisa, which we visited last year.



Caryl usually documents our comings and goings, her new work, and exhibitions throughout the year on her news page, so if you want to see what we're up to, visit: <http://www.bryerpatch.com/news/news.htm> Since Caryl has retired from teaching, she has begun, as time permits; to put many of her classes and publications on her website as free downloads at: <http://www.bryerpatch.com/faq/faq.htm> In June, Caryl did lectures for a couple of quilt groups in Oregon, and while we were there, we spent a day with Caryl's niece Becky Howell and her husband John Gambatese in Corvallis. We also spent three days enjoying the parks, museums and restaurants in Portland. Many of the photos in Ron's [slide show](#) (below) were taken on that trip.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Ron continued to enjoy his photography hobby during 2017 and as the year ends, he is having fun with Sony's newly released, fabulous, new a7Riii camera. He has also experimented this year with taking pictures through a telescope and through a digital microscope. He explains some of the technical details in a [SLIDE SHOW](#) of his favorite (non-travel) photos of 2017. [CLICK](#) here for the slide show.



We do love to see friends and family, so if you are coming our way, be sure to contact us.

Best wishes to our friends, family, and country in 2018.

Ron & Caryl