

Happy New Year

From Ron Gentry & Caryl Fallert-Gentry

10 Baycliff Pl. • Port Townsend, WA 98368 • 360-385-2568 • caryl@bryerpatch.com • gentry@olympus.net



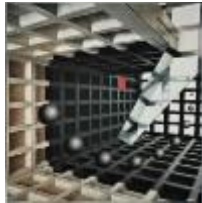
January 8, 2024

Dear Friends and Family,

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

Last year, we spent the Holidays on the Silversea ship Silver Muse, cruising from Sydney to Auckland and arriving home just in time to celebrate our 10th anniversary on January 11. Our annual holiday letter kind of fell through the cracks. So, this will be a two-year accounting of Gentry Family news.

Here are links to two quilts Caryl made, inspired by a stop in Hobart Tasmania.



[Click for a slide show of the whole voyage.](#)

In early 2022, Caryl's quilt Aquarium #2 was accepted into a SAQA Traveling Exhibition titled Fur, Fangs, Feathers, & Fins. It premiered at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum's Ironwood Gallery in April. Ron and I decided to go to the opening and spend a week in Tucson. We love the free flight raptor show at the museum, so we bought memberships to let us go several days in a row.



[Click](#) to see the whole Fur, Fangs, Feathers & Fins show.



[Click](#) to see the other photos we took while we were in Tucson.

In April of 2022, Caryl also had a solo exhibition at the McLean Textile Gallery in McLean, VA. [Click](#) to see the show.



We spent Easter of 2022 with my sister Pat Howell and her family. We got a nice photos of the two of us with Pat, her husband Rich and their son Andrew in their gazebo, overlooking Puget Sound. [Click](#) for larger photo.



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In August and September of 2022, we joined our good friends Alden and Karin Mead on a Pearl Seas cruise on the St. Lawrence Seaway from Toronto to Portland ME, through the Canadian maritime provinces. Although all the passengers were tested negative fifteen minutes before boarding the ship, about 20% of the passengers had Covid by the end of the cruise. We canceled most of our bus tours and stuck to outside walking tours at our ports of call. [Click](#) for the slide show.



After our Canada cruise, we drove to Lowell, MA where Caryl was having a solo exhibition at the New England Quilt Museum. She did a talk and had a special reception there. We were especially excited to see our good friend Linda Baxter Lasco, who drove down from New Hampshire. [Click](#) to see a slide show of the installation.



Summer of 2022 Caryl spent many hours in her garden, further developing her rock-bordered raised beds and trying to find plants the deer don't like to eat. Dahlias were supposed to be deer resistant, so she planted a bunch right in front of her studio window. The deer didn't get the memo, but she did get a photo of one of the culprits and developed it into a new quilt.

[Click](#) for a larger photo and more information.

Ron's big project in the summer of 2022 was rescuing the twenty-two-foot-high Stanley Rill sculpture in the center of our driveway. It was carved from a tree trunk, and the roots had begun to rot. With the help of our friend and helper Dan Letterman and the crane operator from the local boat yard, it was cut down and spent several months lying next to our garage, while Ron figured out how to remount it. It's a long story, but naturally there's a slide show. [Click](#)



Late January of 2023 found us in Ontario, CA, where Caryl had a [special](#)

[exhibition](#) of 40 of her recent quilts at the Road to California Quilt Show. This same exhibition was also displayed at Quiltfest Greenville, Pennsylvania National Quilt Festival, and Pacific International Quilt Festival. In December the show went to the Iowa Quilt Museum, where it will be on display until March 10, 2024.



Several of Caryl's quilts won awards at other quilt shows around the country in both 2022 and 2023 including [Best of Show](#) in Celebration of Color at the International Quilt Festival, Salt Lake City.

Shortly after returning from California in 2023, Ron began a series of treatments for an aggressive form of prostate cancer. Fortunately, it had not spread, and there is an effective treatment for it. Here is the picture of Ron ringing the bell at the Fred Hutch Cancer Center after his 44th and last radiation treatment.



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If that wasn't enough, after he finished his radiation treatments Ron had surgery to fuse his sacroiliac joint which has helped relieve some of his chronic back pain.

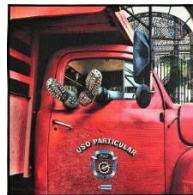
By his birthday in July, he was ready to travel again, and we celebrated by circumnavigating Iceland, with a side-trip to the Faroe islands, on the Silversea ship Silver Moon. The new volcano that has been in the news recently began spewing steam and ash shortly after we left Reykjavik, and by the time we returned, ten days later, we could see the cloud of ash as we drove to the airport. Here's a picture of Ron enjoying his 81st birthday with a special cake delivered to our cabin. Naturally there is a slide show. [Click here](#) or on the photos.



In October 2023, we combine a trip to the International Quilt Festival in Houston with a family reunion. All of Ron's extended family, siblings, nieces, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews live in Arkansas. Ron arranged to take them all on a four-day cruise from Galveston to Cozumel, Mexico. We had a group of 15 ranging in age from 2 to 81.



This was the first time we had attended the Houston Quilt Festival since before Covid. It was wonderful to see many of our friends from around the country while we were there. No big awards for Caryl at Houston this year, but between the contest and various satellite exhibitions she had six quilts hanging at the show.



On December 12, the Iowa Quilt Museum opened a three-month-long solo exhibition of Caryl's recent work (35 quilts). It will be in Winterset Iowa until March 10, 2024. If you happen to be traveling to Iowa, do try to see it.

The year ended with Caryl organizing and hanging Burst of Color, a show of more than 70 works of fiber art by 37 artists in her Peninsula Fiber Artists group at Northwind Art, the premier gallery in Port Townsend. The show will run through February 11. If you are in our area, do make a point of seeing it.



We wish you safety, health, and joy in 2024.

Ron & Caryl