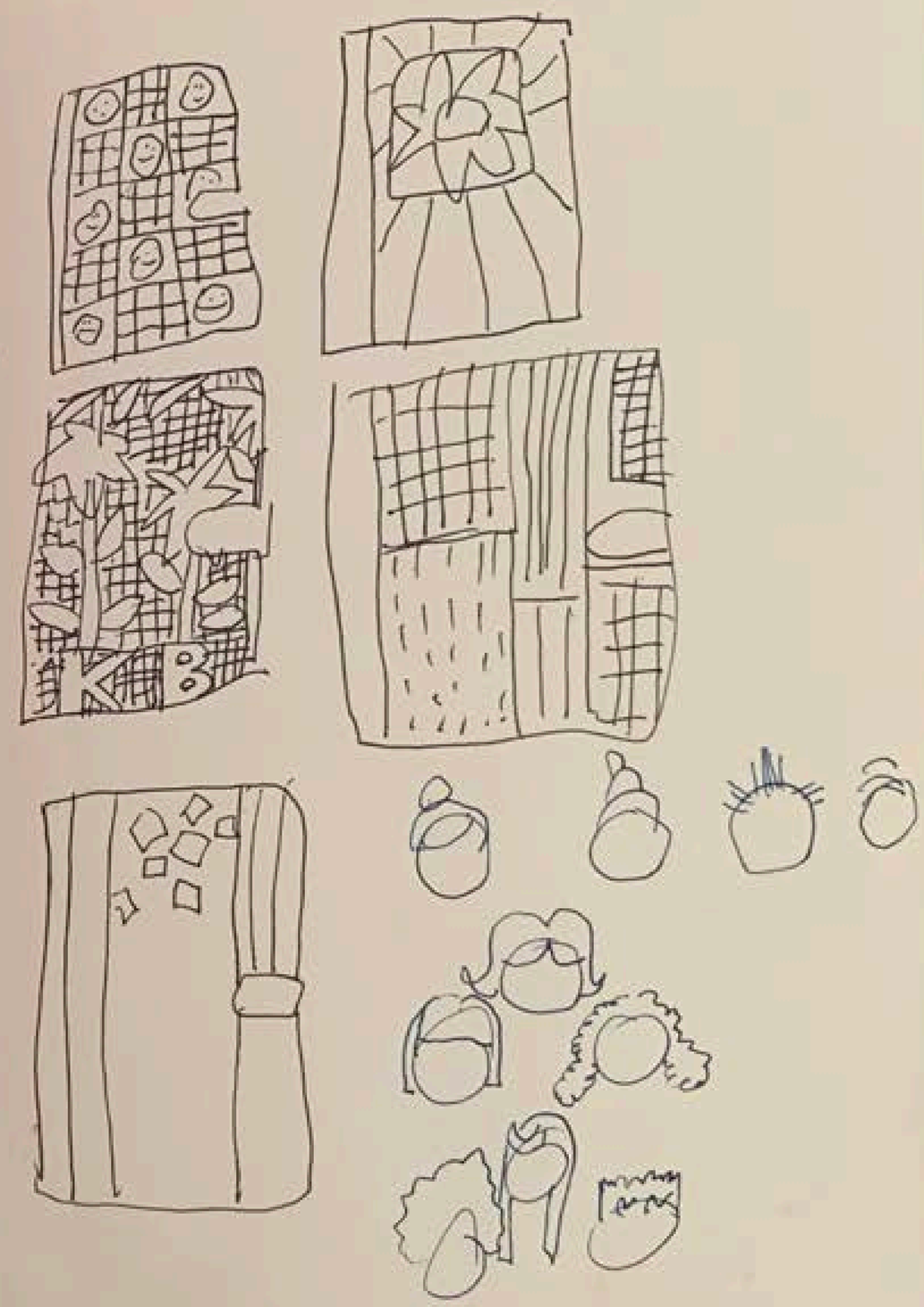

Little Golden Books
Little Golden Books
Little Golden Books
Little Golden Books

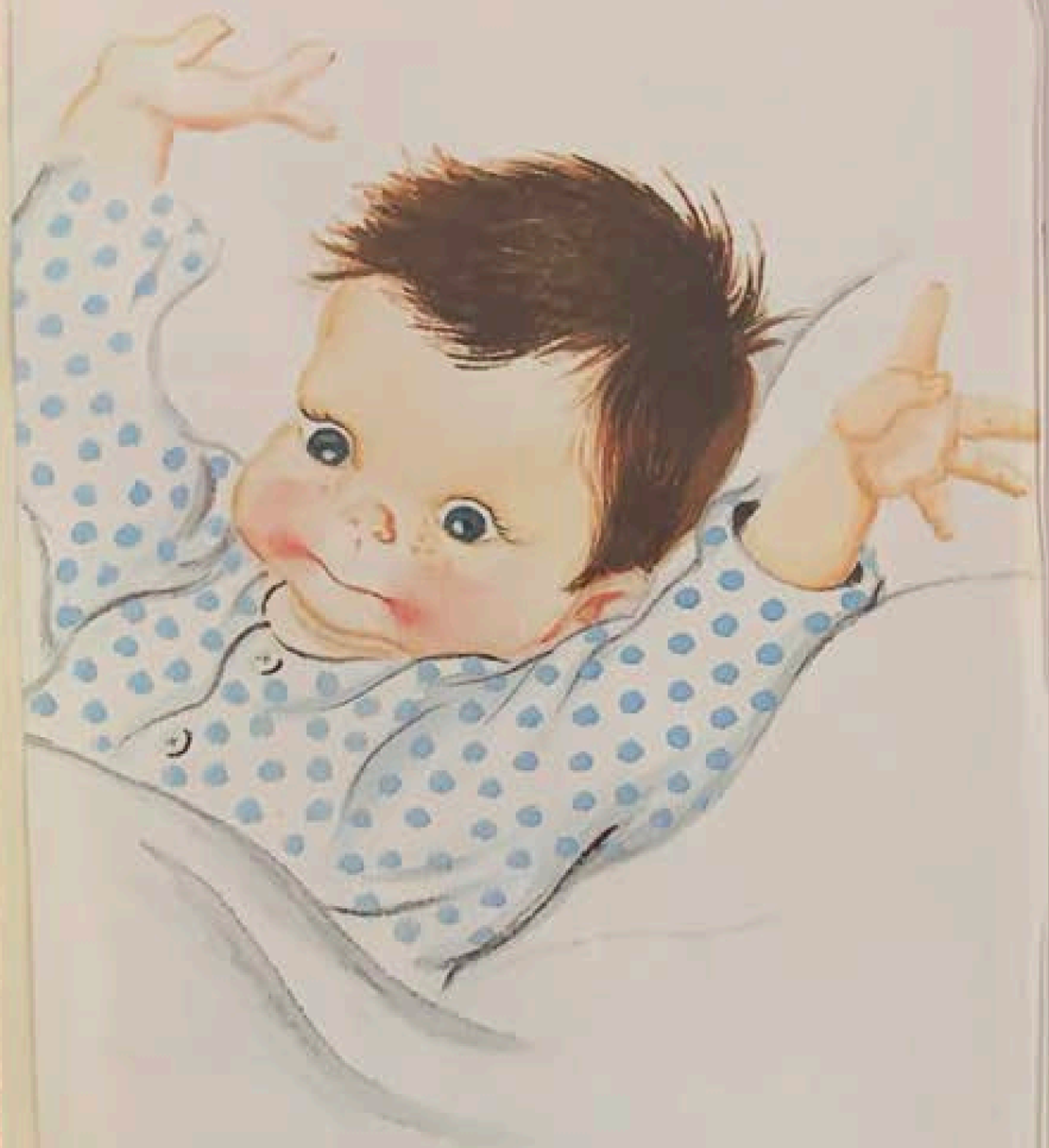
2.25.18 – 6.1.18



cont: Responses to UNL ??'s

9. What was it like to receive the Pulitzer?
It was: mindblowing, satisfying, validating, fun.
It was outside the range of my expectations. It was my first experience of the idea that life can be beyond our ability to plan or dream. I was proud of the work we'd done on the winning project.

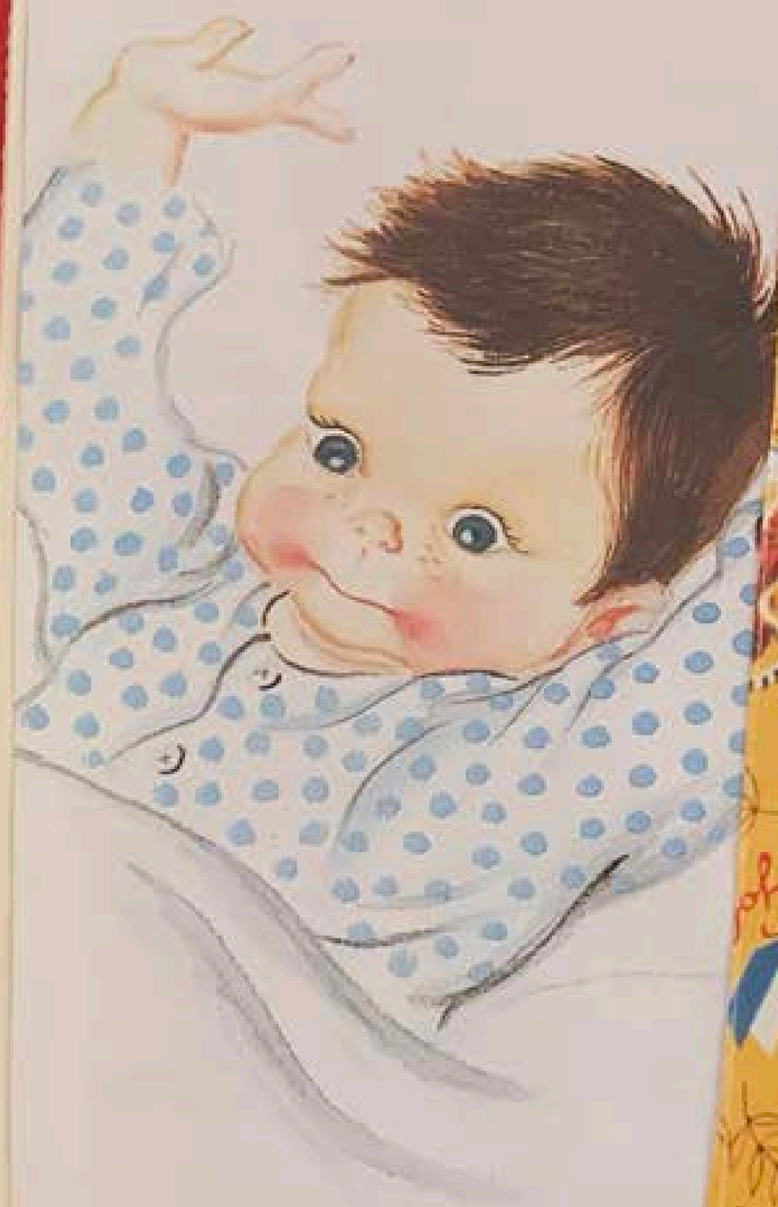
Today's a new day!



From *Good Morning and Good Night* by Jane Werner, illustrated by Eloise Wilkin. 1949.

not know that
the first graphic
to be so honored.
the hours after
ward, when it was
ed.
't think I can
hat into words.
like I was glowing.
l life is very
g. I came home
that evening and

Arrive
20 minutes early
9:00
MAY 22.
HIP CLASSIC



From *Good Morning and Good Night* by Jane Werner, illustrated by Eloise Wilkin, 1949

I did not know that I was the first graphic artist to be so honored until the hours after the award, when it was confirmed.

I don't think I can put that into words. I felt like I was glowing. But real life is very humbling. I came home that evening and

a neighbor saw me emptying the kitty litter box + said "Pulitzer Prize winners shouldn't have to do that." The Columbus Telegram announced the win on their front page. My picture was right nextto, and given equal play with the fellow who'd won the ugly bartender Contest. Life is humbling.

How did it change my career? It did change my career. Part of that change was internal. As much as we may not want to admit the need for external validation we do — or I did at that time. I felt tremendously honored, and given one more nudge of confidence, just as the love from my parents, and encouragement

from professors ~~was~~
helped to embolden me,
What did it mean that
a graphic artist's work was
recognized?
The recognition of a
graphic artist's work
was twofold. 1) it was
a signal within the
industry that a shift
was in its way, and
that visual storytelling
was becoming more + more

useful, 2) for our project in particular, it was fair and right that the graphic contribution in this piece was crucial to the impact of the final product. So, I was gratified, but also knew that this fight to justify visual storytelling, justifying 'art' would be + still is an uphill battle.

I won the year that Wendy Wasserstein won for the Heidi Chronicles. (If you know, the premise.) There was synchronicity in that. (feminism, women in art.)

(10) Was there a particular transition from newspaper to freelance? Was the transition smooth or challenging?

I had been freelancing for over a decade before I worked full time at the

DMN.

As challenging as freelance work can be, it spoils a person, once you've tasted the life of wearing flip-flops to work. The work at the DMN was such a terrific learning experience. Things happen so quickly that you have to learn to think quickly, work smart,

and through the distractions of TV's blaring, people talking around you. My desk was right under the department TV, which meant that groups of folks ~~wou~~ gathered there to watch breaking news and also to watch 'All my children' while they ate lunch.

I learned discipline.
I also learned forgiveness.

If I felt that something I'd done had bombed, an opportunity for redemption came quickly. The appetite for content is voracious — and I appreciated that time of learning so much about processing information + transforming it into visuals.

The transitioning from the NMN back to freelance was not

without dry spells, but
it actually led to heady
times of working with
the Times Square BID,
Absolut Vodka, and
continued free lance
work. The flexibility
allowed by free lance
work also allowed me to be
in Nebraska a lot during
the 1990's, as I cared
for my parents. Dad died
in 1994. Mom in 1998.

BREAK

What makes me 'glow' now?

1) This. Quiet time. Writing.

2) Seeing joy in people we work with.

3) Moments of unity.

4) Concentrating.

5) NATURE

6) CLOUDS

(11) what do I love about "community art"

Let me clarify that I see my career, thus far, somewhat separated into 2 chapters. ~~Up~~ ~~Through~~ chapter 3 is still ahead, ~~until 2002, 2003 or 5?~~ ~~my work was~~ The thread of connectivity through both of these chapters is an intuitive voice guiding me to what I needed to be

doing at that time.
There are times when
I've felt a little bit
like an actor in my
own story. And there
are times when I'm handed
20 pages of dialogue to
memorize by the next day.
I've felt many times over
that I'm pushed to catch
up to fate—whether that
be the Pulitzer, work with

Times Square, the murder in my front yard, or leading an arts non-profit. I hope this makes a little sense. While I've charted the path for some of my career, over and over, something has landed in front of me with the orders attached.

<u>This</u> is what you are going to do now.

This career has been a perpetual act of faith and trust. That is a long way to answer the question — these things happened not simply because I love this work, but because I was tasked to do them.

I love the process of community/social practice

art — It's like the Beatles. Each one had enormous talent. Together, they created something that transcends. I love the beauty + joy that art can bring to a community. I understand the power of art as a strategy to spread ideas.

All this, and I don't believe that artists have any responsibility to engage in community based collectives, political art, or social practice art.

Some of the artists I'm most inspired by are artists who've created their own world — whether

it be the color fields
of Helen Frankenthaler,
or the universe of talking,
charming bunnies, mice +
kitties, hedgehogs of
Beatrix Potter.

(12) Where do I go for
inspiration?

My meditation practice
inspires me. It is based
on the wisdom of sacred
texts, and these words

live through time & space and inspire my sculpture & my writing.

Travel inspires me — that removal from daily routine, which in turn not only opens me to alternative points of view, but also frees my mind from the usual stuff.

Returning to the work

of artists I love inspires me. Writers + musicians too. I love Helen F, Eva Hesse, Georgia O'Keeffe, Frida Kahlo, Yayoi Kusama, Grandma Moses, Alice Neel, Anselm Kiefer, Matisse, Van Gogh of course, The writing of George Orwell, E.B. White, Sacred texts, poetry, My friends Shelley + Deborah.

My daily life + observations inspire. 2017 was a very productive year for my journals. Sorrow + pain inspire art. The process of transcending the absurdities + outrages of life is inspiring.

(13) What are current projects?

I mentioned that my ~~career so far~~ there are two chapters so far in my career. First was the work as an illustrator and writer. The second chapter is 29 Pieces — the organization, and its mission. God willing, Chapter 3 is ahead.

In August of 2000, I

was lying awake in bed
at 2:00 a.m. I heard
voices, and then a shot.
A young man was ~~sho~~
murdered in front of our
home. That event disrupted
my life and work as I
knew it. As a child, I'd
witnessed a family member
beat my dog to death. And
as a child, I'd been frozen
unable to respond, protect

the dog, or stop the violence.

When the murder occurred at my home, I could not just accept it. I couldn't let it go. I got to know the parents and siblings of the victim, and the mother of the shooter.

I wanted to understand what this one act of senseless violence did

to there in the families of the victim and shooter, and to a homicide detective who sees this facet of our world on a daily basis.

I ~~talked with the DMN~~ ~~about~~ Editors at the DMN approved a story + art package about this, and three years later, ONE BULLET was published.

~~It was a~~
Between the murder + publication, I did series of interviews with those impacted by the murder. Per my agreement with the Dallas Police Dept, I did not talk about any of these interviews until all the trials in the case were completed - and that took 3 years.

In those 3 years, I submerged myself in the world of grieving families, statistics about gun violence, and systemic socio-economic factors that play into violence.

~~The extent of the~~

Lessons were brought home to me about the colossal waste that violence produces. damage

when
ONE BULLET published, ~~received~~
heard from so many
people whose lives had
been damaged by violence.
A personal metamorphosis
began. ~~I went to Africa~~
~~wrote~~ A difficult time of
finding form for my
ignited passion began.
The joyful work I'd been
doing for Times Square felt
foreign. I went to Africa

and wrote & illustrated
a piece called Faust & a
Plague.

I was part of a small
Methodist church group
called ArtSpirit. Several
of us in the group
started a non-profit
with the idea of using art
to raise awareness about
issues of social justice.

It was first called
Today Marks the Beginning
and is now 29 Pieces.
29 Pieces embodies
everything I am, and
everything I hope for
this world.

The 29 Pieces name
refers to .....

Since the launch of
the org in 2005, we've
developed a curriculum

of 19 Lessons that use art to teach non-violence + social + emotional learning. We've worked with more than 50,000 youth in the North Texas area, trained more than 400 teachers in our Artists Making a Kinder World curriculum.

In 2013, we did the Dallas Love Project.

2015-2017, the Piece 24 Project, based on Let Me Walk in Beauty. Raised more than $50K in the project.

Now, Piece 10, and a collaboration with UNT on a project in early stages.

Funded by Grants, individ donations, etc.

Leading 29 Pieces has been

the greatest joy, the most work, the most obstacle filled endeavor, ~~the greatest~~ a great teacher in persistence, focus, love, and more love.

Worked with so many talented children + professional artist, so many generous donors.

This is social practice art at a beautiful, human, scale. Each project, each

teacher training proves the power of art to open hearts, provide a platform for communication, and bring beauty into the world.

You may ask, what is Chapter 3? In the next years, we hope to build a digital platform from which all 29 pieces content can be accessed for free — to all.

~~I would~~ At that time, I have some ideas for writing + sculpture projects that I will turn to.

~~I am also in the~~

~~process~~ And The journals ~~from~~ ~~to~~ have piled up, and ~~I look back at a lot of~~ ~~early~~ I want to respectfully, gratefully archive them,

and in so doing—
experience gratitude
for my parents, my family,
incredible friends, sweet
husband, and beautiful
career.

(14) Advice to students.

You have to care more
than anyone else does
about your work. Be boldly
confident. Be curious.

Gail Buhl - my designer painting professor used to pronounce loudly + repeatedly "My mother loved me but she died." We giggled. We looked at each other + rolled our eyes even.

But this is it.

You have to CARE more than anyone else does about your vision + your work, + all stuff about business.

(15.) My career thus far?

Beautiful. I've been given opportunities beyond my wildest imagination.

Highlights:

- The Pulitzer
- Times Square.
- Park Ridge Center
- DMN pieces -
  - AIDS
  - One Bullet In Morris Eyes
- Burkes Cancer
  - 29 Pieces -

sculpture is the culmination.

- working with the team on Piece 24 Project.

- everything about the Dallas Chove Project.

Hold on to the hope that the best is yet to come.

(16) Lasting memory - UNL?
Time at UNL is alive in the lasting deep friendships, the fertile ground the art dept provided through

the work spaces, the professors, the atmosphere of creativity + possibility. What do you love about illustration + design?

I tend to shy away from labels for artists — such as illustrators. After all, Leonardo was an illustrator, as

was Michelangelo.
And design is part
of the very structure
of creation -
So - I love art and
design
Why do I love art & design
they are universal
language

Pizza - Order — Angelo's
Gluten free-
make

Brownies-
Cupcakes — Central M.
W. Foods
Gluten Free Plan

2.27.18

This morning is our
presentation to momentum
+ their bigger team.

3.2.18.

DRUG STORE
Michaels or JoAnn's
Piercing
Gas

5228 W. Plano Parkway.

Invite Christy W. + Sarah H.
Rafi + Waheeda.
KATZ

3.2.18.
Sitting in exam room at Dr. Barrington's in Plano, For 2nd opinion + a conversation about hip surgery.

Yesterday - Thursday - was a good day. Thursday Fdy, offered us a $65,000 grant. We got 4 or 5 emails from Momentum + Pathfinder schools. I felt tremendous relief.

And I'm receiving a UNL Alumni Achievement Award. Fulfillingness, Second finale.

MARCH 4, 2018

Leaving for Houston tomorrow morning to spend 4 days with Shelley. Then back to Dallas, then to Fort Worth, back to Dallas for the Shelley reception here.

Maybe we'll see bluebonnets.

Shelley called and is not feeling well (in Houston). Today. A day of disintegrating mood, why?

- LOUD APOCALYPTIC PREVIEWS - 8 or 9 of them
- CRITIQUE of movie BY PHYSIQUE.
- TWIDDLING THUMBS
- MISUNDERSTANDINGS
- CONVERSATION UNCONNECTING

3.5.18 Retreat planning.

LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON SHELLEY. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON SHELLEY. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON US. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON SHELLEY. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON SHELLEY. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON SHELLEY. LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD HAVE MERCY ON SHELLEY.

3.14.18

So it was a week of changed plans. Shelley had a 103° fever, turning into bronchitis. My drive into Houston was wretched - a supposed 3hr 40 min drive turned into 6 hours. 2 bed bugs in my bed at the Best Western, inhospitable people, fear of catching what Shelley had.

Over and over — the lesson of negotatiation of expectations ... the process of adaptation from what was planned into what is, and taking the 'what is' and turning that into something beautiful. Or at least something thoughtful and creative. And appropriate to the situation.

[redacted]

So, we made soup, watched movies and Netflix, did a few short outings, made a PPT for Shelley, and tried to get her well enough to fly, it:

Friends revisited have been on my mind:

Debby Knotts
Jody
Shelley
Vicki Morgan

Peter Kohlmann
Sandra Johnson
Gail Gaynor
Poppy
Barbara Foster

Gretchen Lynda
Betsy Katz

I become impatient. Critical.
Feel "broadcast to" in some
cases. And surgery begins.
The process of detachment
is under way. Why?
Is it due to feelings in me?
~~Long term~~ Personalities that
I could integrate when I
was younger and work with?
Choice of friends who are
self-involved? My withdrawal
now because of chronic pain?

Why am I dis-entangling from some of my friends?

Because with some of your friends, there is simply not a lot of common ground anymore.

And so what now?

Does a person drift away?

Walk away?

Have a courageous conversation?

Honor the bond, say thank you, and move on?

What?

Putting it all on the table at this stage seems silly in some ways. We are who we are. Or are we?

Are we capable of adaptation now yet?

Yes. We must be.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

is it best to accept and let it go? Or do friends owe honesty? And if so, only when invited? Or ~~when~~ freely ~~often~~ offered.

In any case, I feel myself disconnecting. The cords are getting unplugged.

And maybe, is this part of a preparation for departure?

The first stages for setting the intentions and bonds for next time?

What is happening?

You have changed.

Hazy week: momentous pull out

Thursday, March 29, 2018

Exquisite day in Dallas. Blue sky, warm sun, the ground littered with flower petals, Lady Banksia roses in full bloom. Birds singing. Perfection. Despite. Last night,

Another email gut punch.
This time from Momentous
Institute. They've pulled
out on the idea of a
sculpture + sculpture
garden. Leaving us stranded,
with no site, no funding
from the NEA, and out
the money we've invested
in the supposed project.

I wanted to step on it,
not talk about it.

I woke up this morning
with the conviction—
"I don't have time for
this nonsense anymore."
One more example in the
list of those with more
resources controlling the life
of the work.

And I didn't need to ask
for anyone's guidance or
advice — the path was
clear

All this during Holy Week,
The comparison can be made.
Darkness, betrayal, solitary prayer,
wakefulness, dying away and
rebirth + resurrection.

I see everything going on
around me, and I withdraw,
The insanity of political
leaders, the persistent enmity
between the races, the egos
of 'friends,' ~~[illegible]~~ I pull back,
and stay above/away from the fray.

This thing with Momentum brings me closer again to a resolution — my work here is complete. By that I mean, the work with the organization. How to end it intentionally?

April 1, 2018: Easter

I am wordless.

SAD	HURT
Sorrowful	injured
Melancholy	isolated
Gloomy	pained
Somber	aching
Dismal	heartbroken
Heavy hearted	lonely
Quiet	despair
Mournful	
Blah	ANGRY
Dull	CONTEMPTUOUS
Sullen	IRRITATED
Moody	ANNOYED
Out of sorts	PROVOKED BITTER
Discouraged	SULLEN FRUSTRATED
Disappointed	INDIGNANT
	IRATE GRUMPY
	WRATHFUL
	CROSS BELLIGERENT
	SULKY

[redacted]

decisions and responsibilities.

So how do I rise from my state of pain + fatigue and be a grateful, fun friend, when I'd much rather be .... what?

Alone + reading a book.

Guidance?

You don't have to be the life of the party. Express genuine gratitude for friendship, for laughter. Excuse yourself for time out frequently. Don't worry about that.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

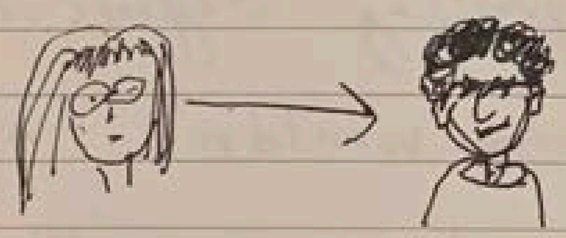
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

my response. Put a little space between the lemons. Put space between reactions. Try being — was it Avila or Lisieux — see the face of the Jesus. A middle eastern, swarthy little man. ☺



off to workshop — Guidance?

FUN

And it was fun. Students were engaged. Adult professors + Shelley + Debby were great + also engaged.

Gretchen arrived @ 6:15 + we went to Chef Karim's. Very loud. Food was good. Personal dynamics were

interesting to observe.
I was exhausted but
still didn't get to
sleep till 3 a.m.
My attempts to remain
calm about personal dynamics
— not very successful so far.
The noise, many conversations,
watching the patterns
of the conversations.
One person begins to speak —
rather than being heard
the comment serves as
an opportunity to arc
conversation to them
Person 1. Begins to say
something about a topic.
Person 2 — rather than
listening and respecting the
point and hearing person 1
out, Person 2 deflects
the conversation to
themselves.
The art of conversation

is rare indeed. Curiosity is rare. Fran Lebowicz was correct in many situations. "There is no such thing as conversation. Only waiting. I want to be different. I crave real conversation. And it is found in our meditation group, with some friends, with the rare occassions with a stranger or a young person. All these years, I was the one who connected, brought people together. That is happening this weekend.

With the realities of aging, I have more experiences where I say to myself "This may be the last time." I'm 66, and that may be young

to say that, but it's real for me.

People I know have killed themselves - intentionally or by overdoses. I wonder if I have what it takes to approach aging with creativity, humor, and grace. That is quite a goal to set - and a worthwhile challenge!

4.23.18

And the weekend is over - other than getting to the airport in Omaha and home.

4.28.18.

And now a week away from the Alumni weekend festivities and the taste in my mouth is good. Sunday - the day of brunch, photo shoot and Alumni Dinner was all high, happy spirits.

to Karen

Thank you for the wonderful memories
Love Jody

Everyone enjoyed themselves. the photos are pretty good, except for the one of Shelley, Jody, Debby and me.

There hasn't been a lot to process. All good in the end. As Shelley said, "As long as we have each other, life will never be dull."

And today - a day ahead to do what I please.

SHINE THROUGH US

DEAR YOU, HELP US TO SPREAD YOUR
FRAGRANCE EVERYWHERE WE GO.
FLOOD OUR SOULS WITH YOUR SPIRIT AND LIFE.
PENETRATE + POSSESS OUR WHOLE BEING SO UTTERLY
THAT OUR LIVES MAY BE A RADIANCE OF YOURS
SHINE THROUGH US, AND BE SO IN US,
THAT EVERY SOUL WE COME IN CONTACT WITH
MAY FEEL YOUR PRESENCE IN OUR SOUL
LET THEM LOOK UP + SEE NO LONGER US
BUT ONLY YOU!
STAY WITH US, + WE WILL BEGIN 2 SHINE
AS YOU SHINE, SO TO SHINE AS 2 BE A
LIGHT 2 OTHERS;

80 of our NRA visitors and no thought for building
Real Time Shame & embarrassment –
Buildings lit in red.
Omni wrapped in the
U.S. Flag. Why?
In the choice of giving
a home to the NRA,
Dallas revealed what
Dallas values. Money,
Power, Guns.
The President

Cara Mia – Where Earth Meets Sky
Theatre Dallas
Ignite @ SMU
Paintings of Laura Owen
Kitchen Dog Theater
Logan Kroher

money in the NRA.
NRA is not the gun club
that ~~Grandpa~~
Diabolical.
Truth, Beauty, Perfect Love,
Suffering + Shame:
A Tale of Two Cities.

The essential questions
about Commitment + Peace.
what is commitment?
what is peace?
Poem - If there is tok
why does peace matter?

There've been people who
made commitments to
making the world a
more peaceful place.
a couple of examples.

What are things you
can do to commit
to peace?

We'd like to ask everyone
to make a commitment

MAY 18, 2018

This lull. Quiet times,
and I've felt no need
to process. Enjoying time
in the garden, little naps
in the afternoon, relaxing
time of watching TV,
movies, sweet moments with
P.Nut and Sparky, a glass
of Prosecco in the garden
with Kelly. A little, content
life these past weeks.

MAY 26, 2018

Candy's birthday.

Kelly is in NE.

This quiet time continues. Unfocused time. Tying up loose ends, preparing for surgery.

John Gasko's daughter is coming over. Why? Some parents in a state of concern about Maya's artistic bent, and how to guide her. I'm a

little at a loss. I don't know her, or know her abilities.

May 27, 2018

Still another quiet, calm day. Sunday. Memorial Day weekend. Remembering those who've served - like Dad, Kelly's Dad, Ross Simpkins. And those who are on the other side, waiting and watching for us, I hope.

Mom, Dad, all the family members, Barbara, all the animals. Flame, Ben, Betsy, Andi, Bryn, Emma, O'malley, Charlie, Alice, Dante, and all the others. I hope they greet me. And now Will's Mom, Jessie. In her ascension.

May 28, 2018. Memorial Day. As this book finishes, I went to another journal

to draw- fuck. Immediately, I felt like I was trespassing into the world of a cumplist. Excel. Express. When for one short period of time. I just want to be. No ambition. No drive. Still. Listen. Prepare for another chapter. Look at photos. And remember.

Will's mother is buried today.

June 1, 2018.

Madeleine Isbell graduates Sunday, I'm going to the party + I need to write a letter to her — at the request of her Mom.

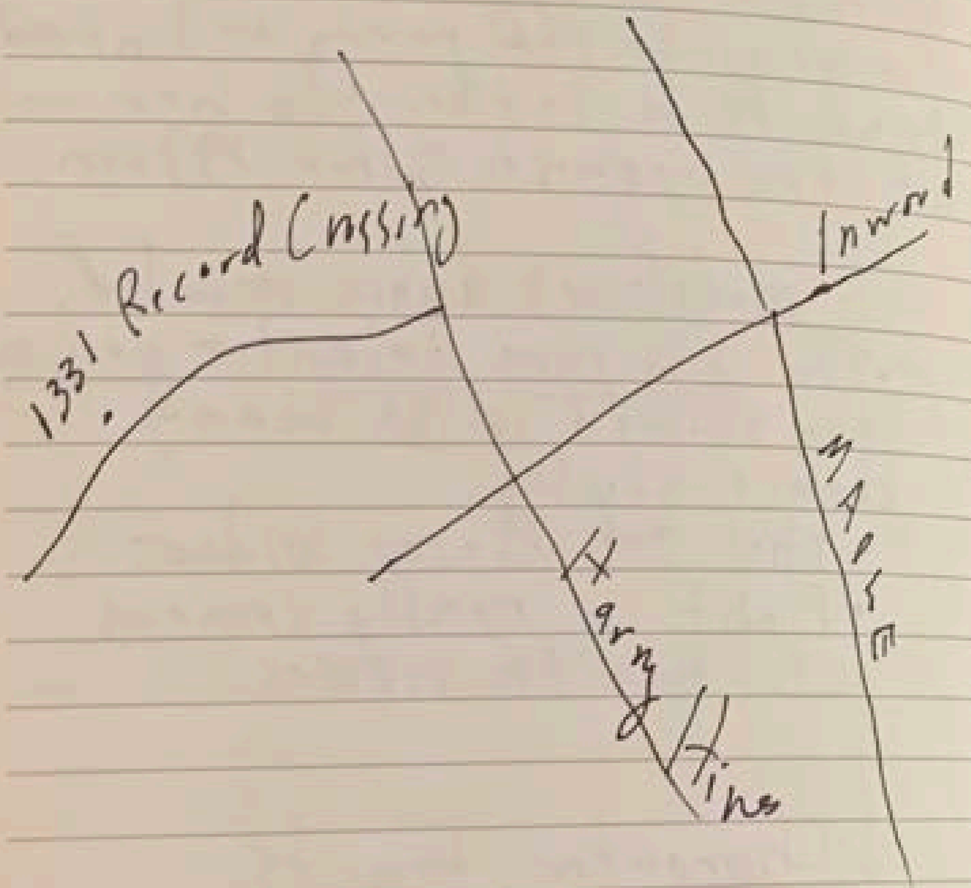
So:

- Madeleine's dance recital.
- The discipline, talent + poise she showed in so many dance styles.
- The 29 Pieces video.
- Fight in really serious health issues.

↓ Character traits.

— in her next years.
— with her family
— in what she chooses to devote her life to.

↳ Part of her character.



Cedar Springs Tattoo + Piercing.
4008 Cedar Springs
Opens Now

Percy Jackson —
by Rick Riordan

Spartapuss