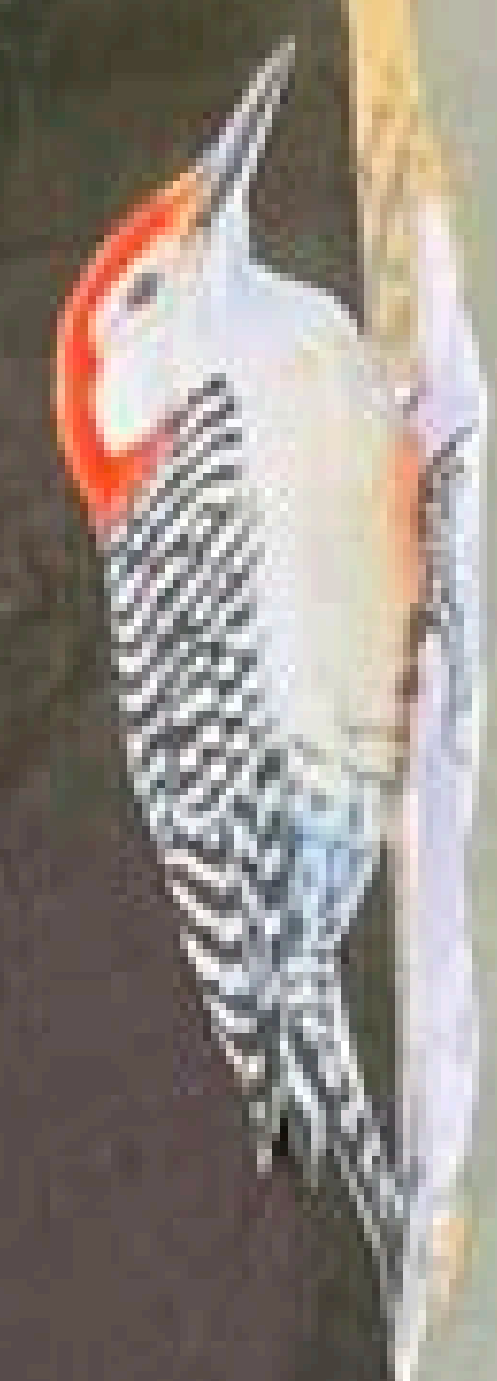


PARKS



Interim

Tangled wires and a

woodpecker on a steel pole

PARKS

JULY 6, 2020



Another
Interim Journal

AUGUST 16,
2020

PARKS

This journal began
as an in-between
JOURNAL - before starting
one tentatively called



SOME
THING
BEAUT
IFUL.

Then,
as
always,
came

digressions. The question
of parent/child responsi-
bilities. Then came

THE OPPOSITE of BEAUTY
Destruction of nature.

IT

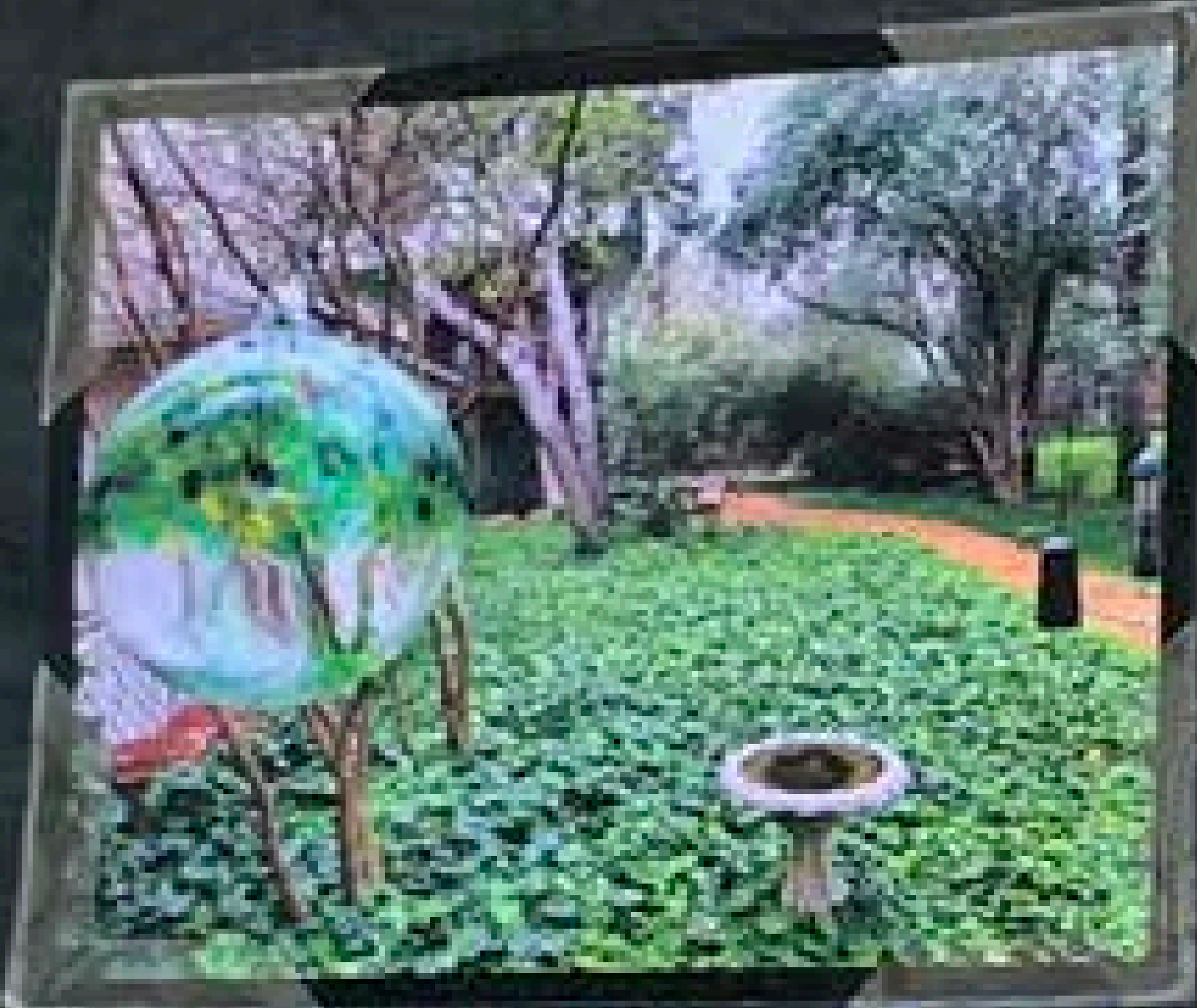
CAME

TO BE

ABOUT

TREES

THIS
as an
JOURNAL
one




digress
of p
biliti
THE
Des

PARKS

Let Me Walk in Beauty

O Great Spirit
whose voice I hear in
the winds
and whose breath
gives life to all the
worlds
hear me
I am small and weak.
I need your strength and
wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty
and let my eyes even
behold the red and
purple sunset.
Make my hands robust
the things you have
made.
And my ears grow sharp

 to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I
may understand the things
you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons
you have hidden in every
leaf and rock.

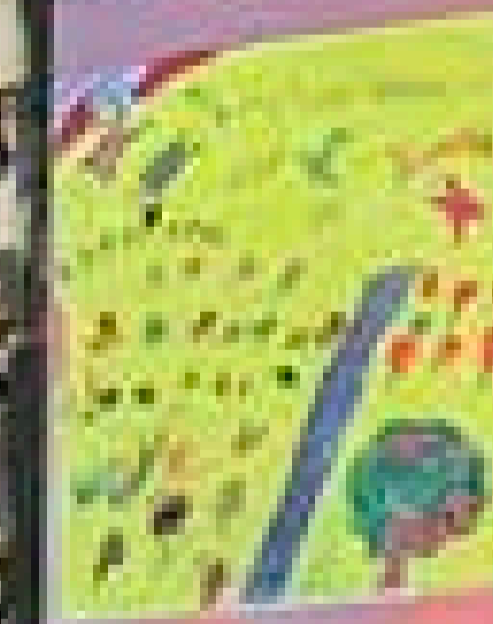
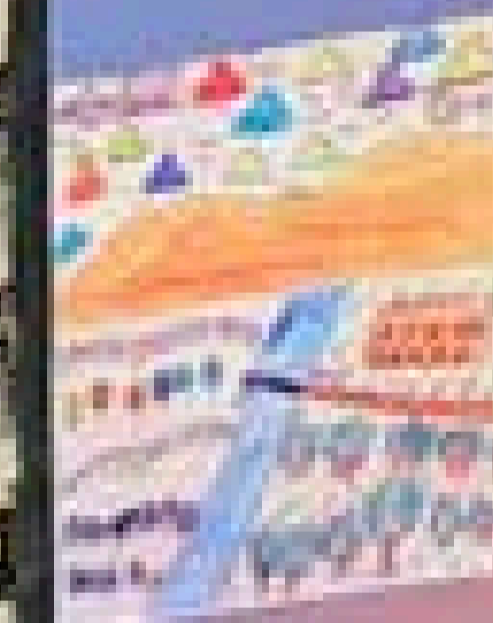
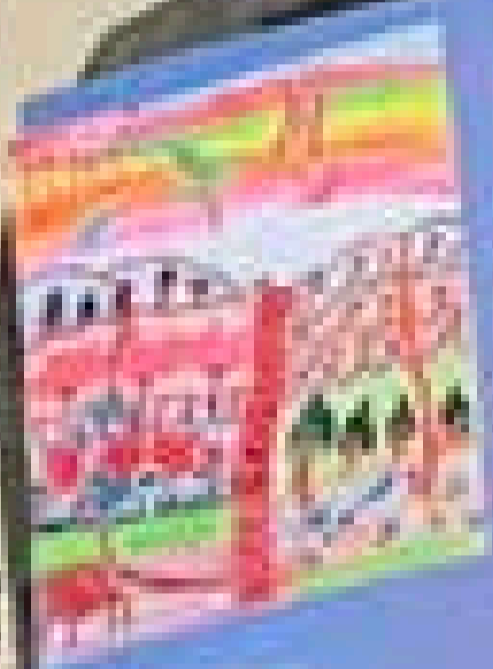
I seek strength not to
be greater than my
brother or sister.
But to fight my greatest
enemy - myself.

Make me always
ready to come to you
with clean hands and
straight eyes.

So that when life
fades as the fading



my spirit may come
to you with love
and shame.



Quote
Image
NATURE

Quote
Image
TREES

Quote
Image
Art of Nature

IMAGES
TREES
LEAVES

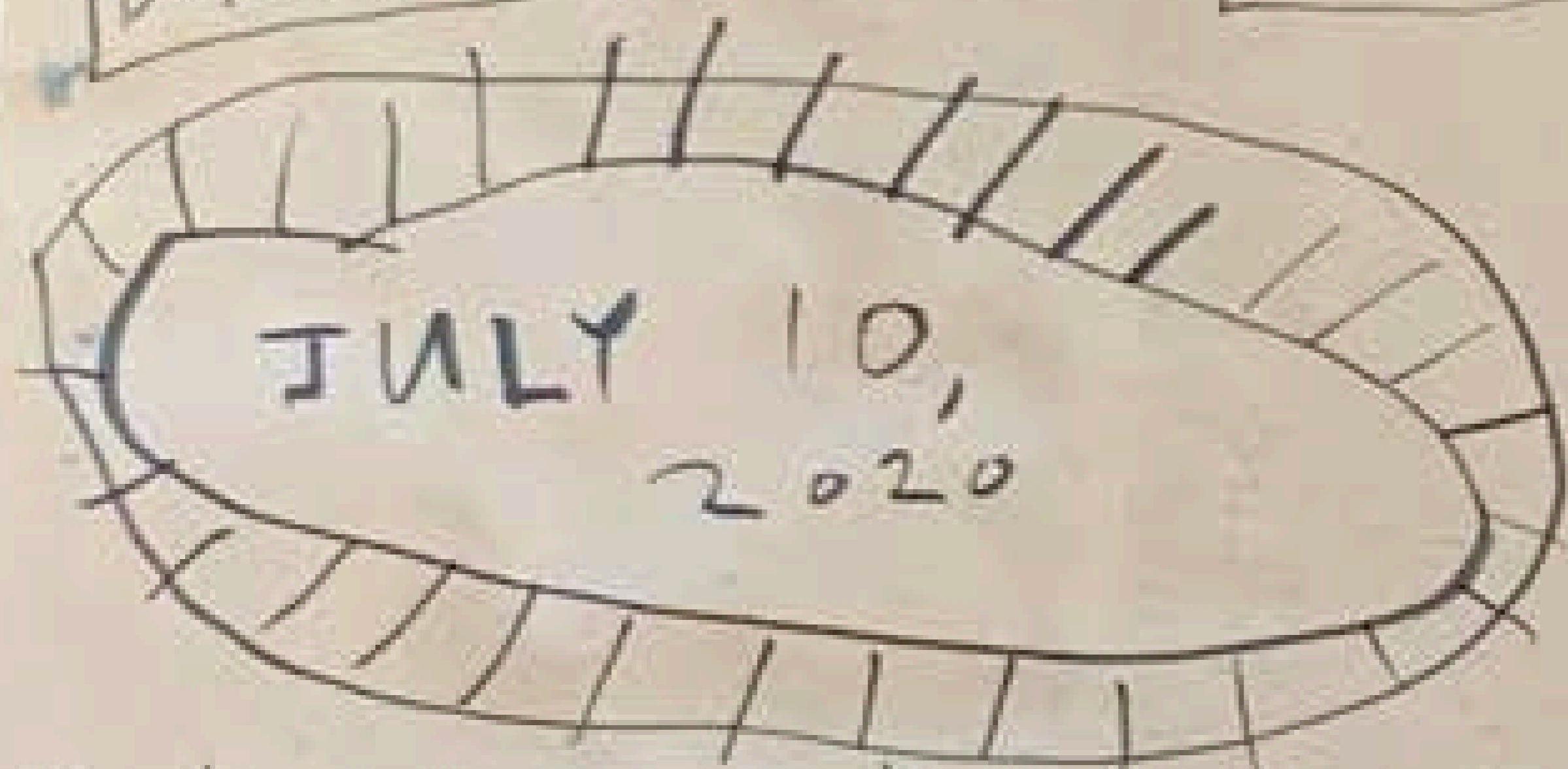
IMAGES
FLOWERS

IMAGES
BUGS

Images
BUTTERFLIES

Images
OUR ARTISTS

IMAGES
SUPPLIES

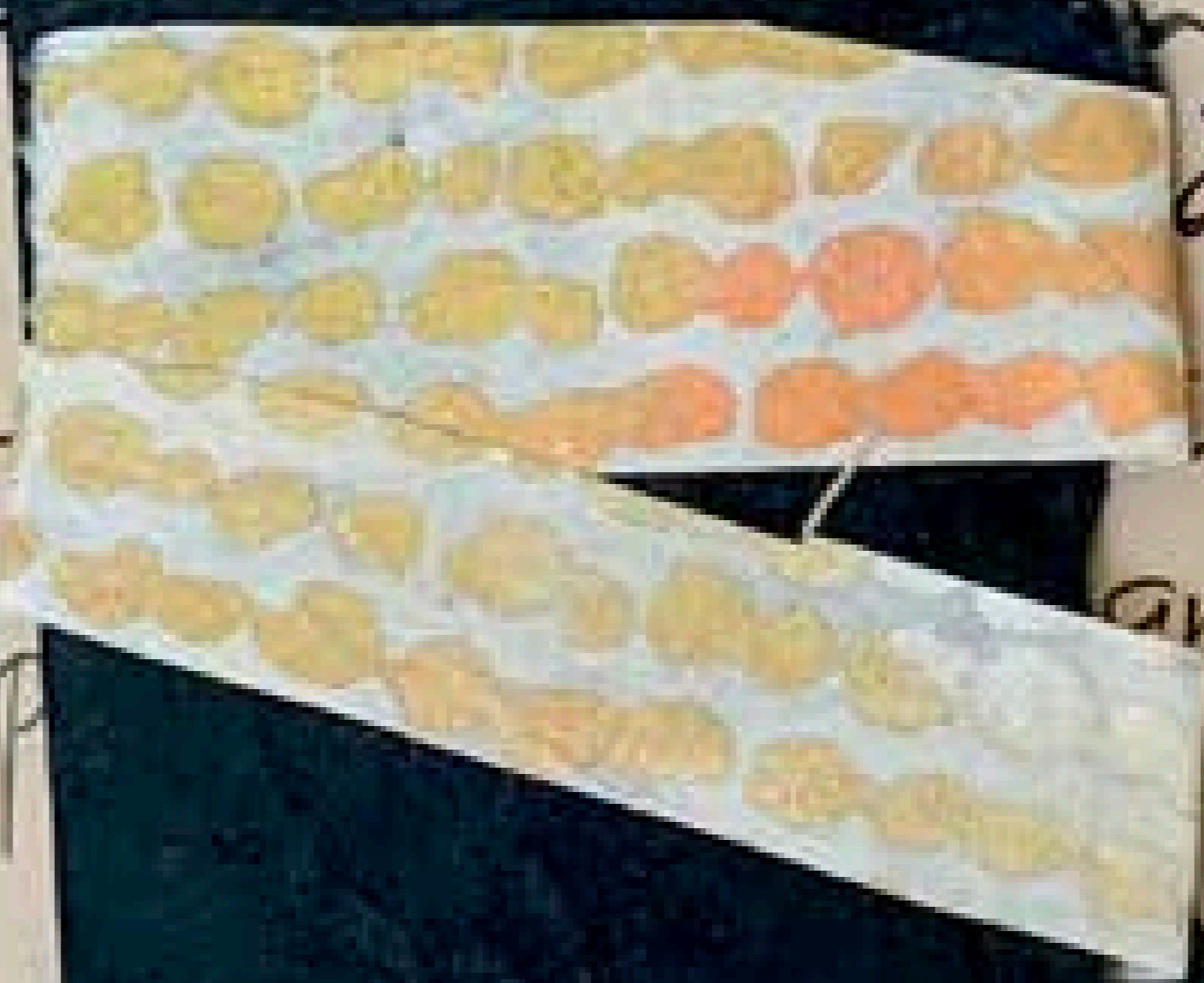
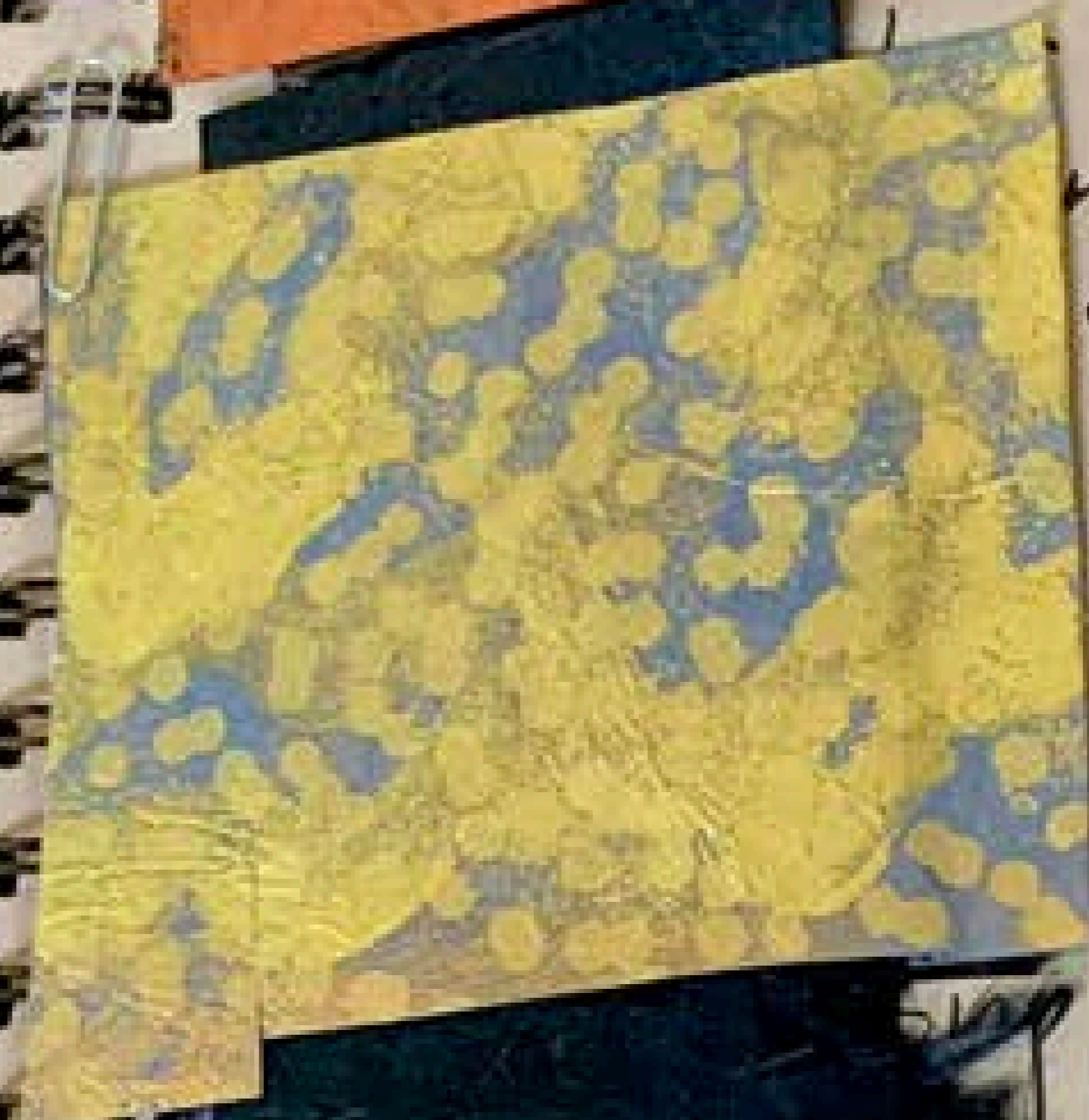


And we are having our first real heat + humidity. Summer is lush this year since we've had so much rain.

PARKS

between the house, it like summer)

land birds, birds. except of the seat blow-



supposed to a script + duo for the land can't go so we do



IMAGES
MURALS

Images
Seasons

LESSON
ASSIGNMENTS



And I have a bit of a mental block - though I wake up thinking of imagery
The good days of Texas summer + by mid-day, I am looking forward to sitting in front of fan, watching TV.



Isn't this always the first step ^{of something} of engagement?
Resistance? Then
Prayer. Then
Stopping in. Then
A heated rush. Then
Endless details editing. Then
It is finished. Put a bow on it.

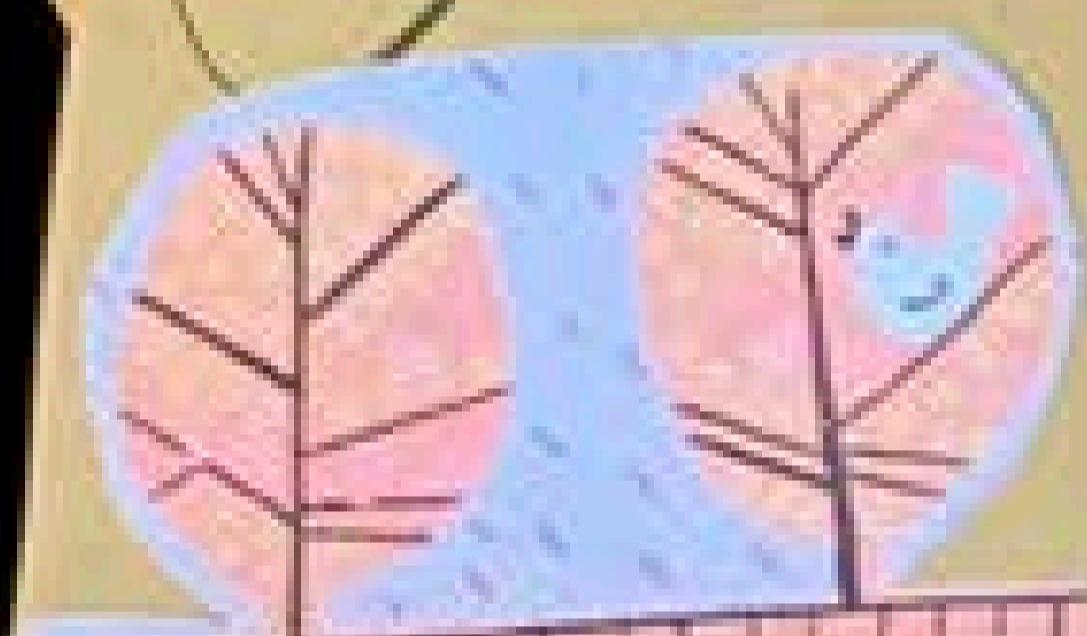


PARENTS

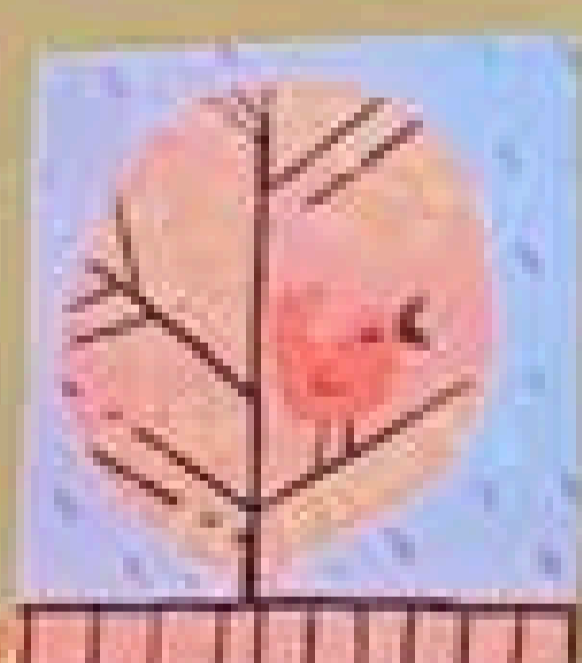
① FLOWERS



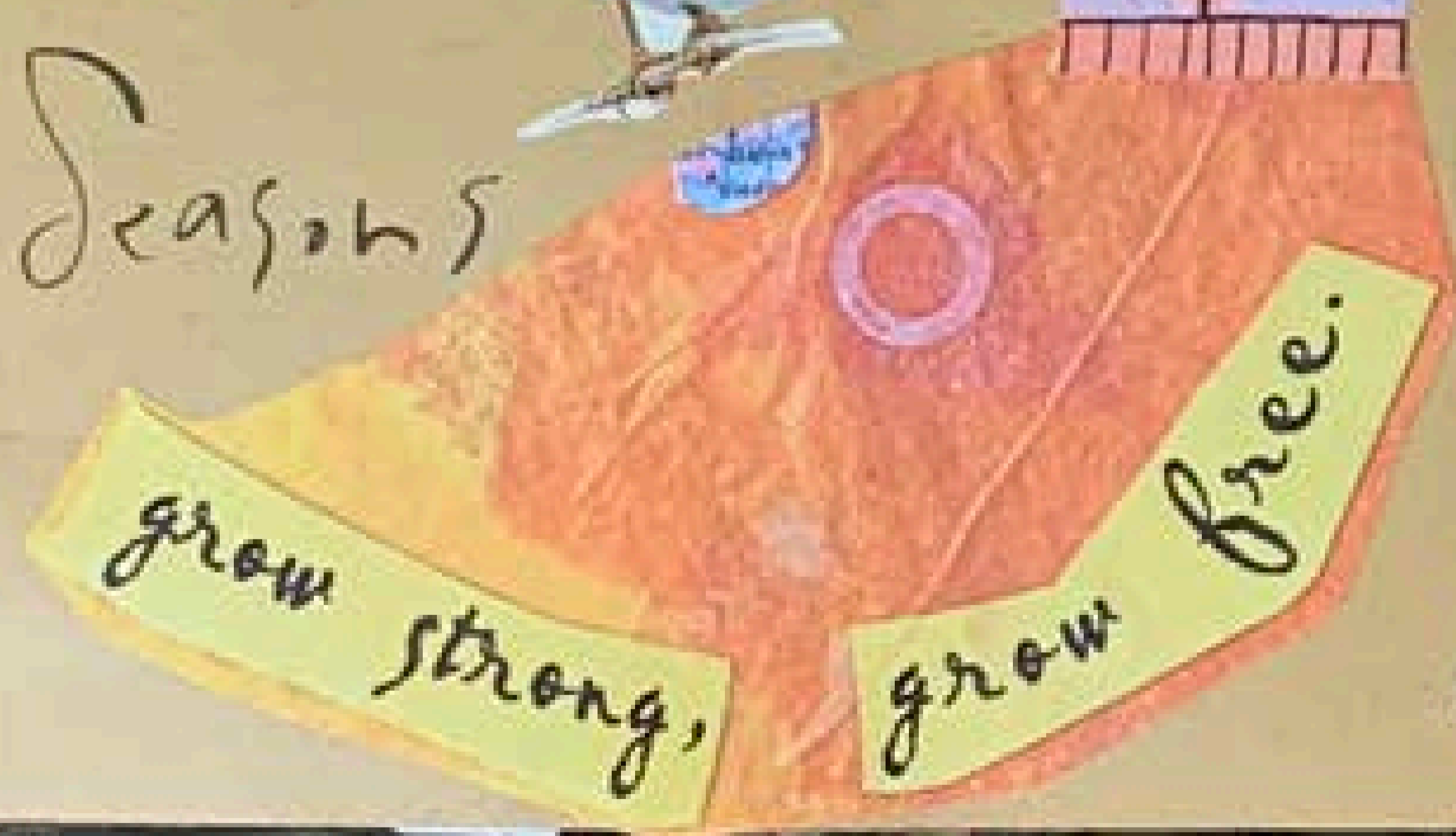
② TREES



③ What/who lives in trees?



④ Seasons



WHAT WILL THE LESSON ASSIGNMENTS BE?

IDEAS FOR CLASS PROJECTS:

1. Draw your garden of peace. (using 29 Pieces THRIVE Lesson). Include any flowers, trees, birds, animals, clouds, or any other things from nature that you'd like to see in a garden where you could go to feel peaceful. (Define PEACE and have conversation about it.)
2. Draw your Garden of Peace, without using the 29 Pieces THRIVE lesson as basis.
3. Discuss and think about all the creatures that live in trees. Do a drawing of that picture in your mind. There are birds, bugs, and what else?
4. Think about all the creatures that live in trees and do that drawing of the creatures at night in their homes in trees.
5. Imagine the most beautiful butterflies. If there is a particular theme at your school (for example, Ireland Elementary is interested in butterflies) study butterflies and then do colored pencil drawings or paintings of the most beautiful butterflies you can imagine.
6. Paint your secret garden.
7. Imagine a jungle. How do you think a real jungle would look? Paint that, there are no mistakes!
8. Paint a secret island with palms, trees, and all the elements you would like on an island.



Trees are really, really cool. They:



1. Give oxygen
2. Give life to wildlife
3. Store carbon, stabilize soil.



Also, they are a home for all kinds of creatures. Here in TX:

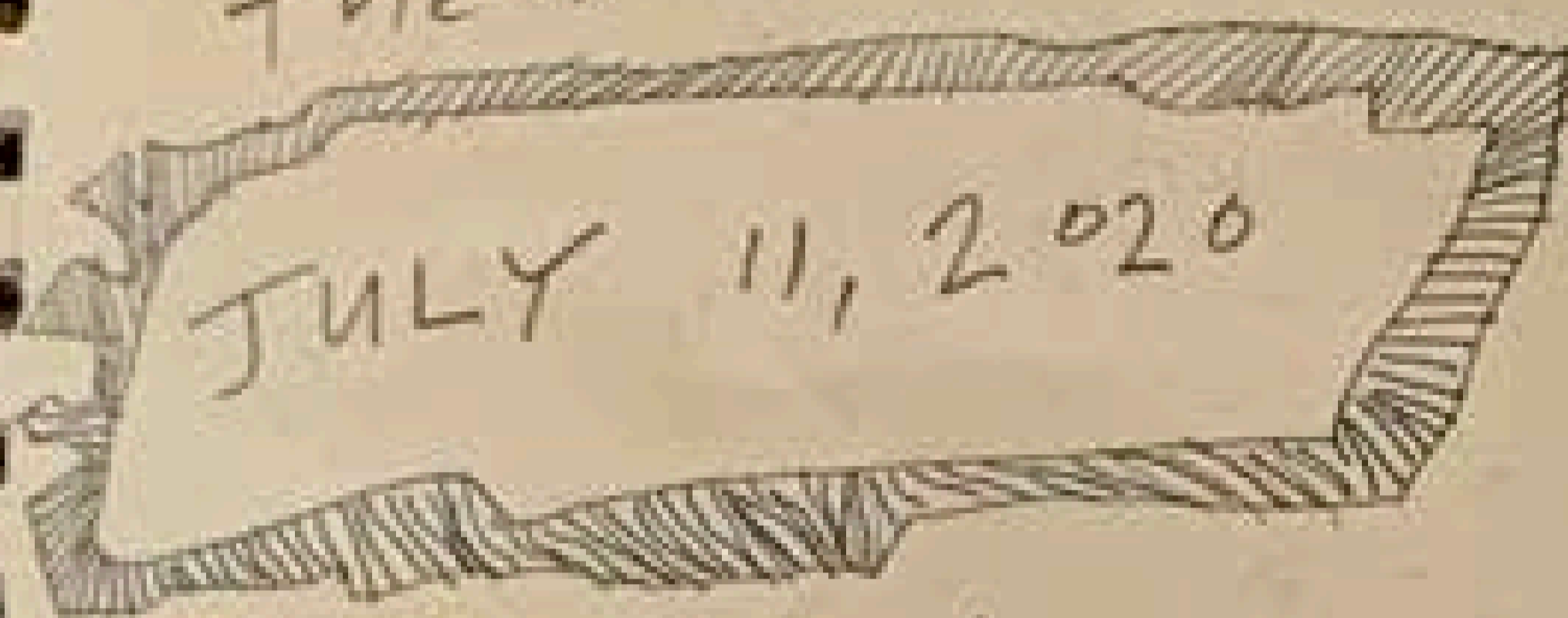


- Birds
- Squirrels
- Bugs
- Raccoons?
- Opossums?
- Spiders
- Beetles
- Sometimes a cat.

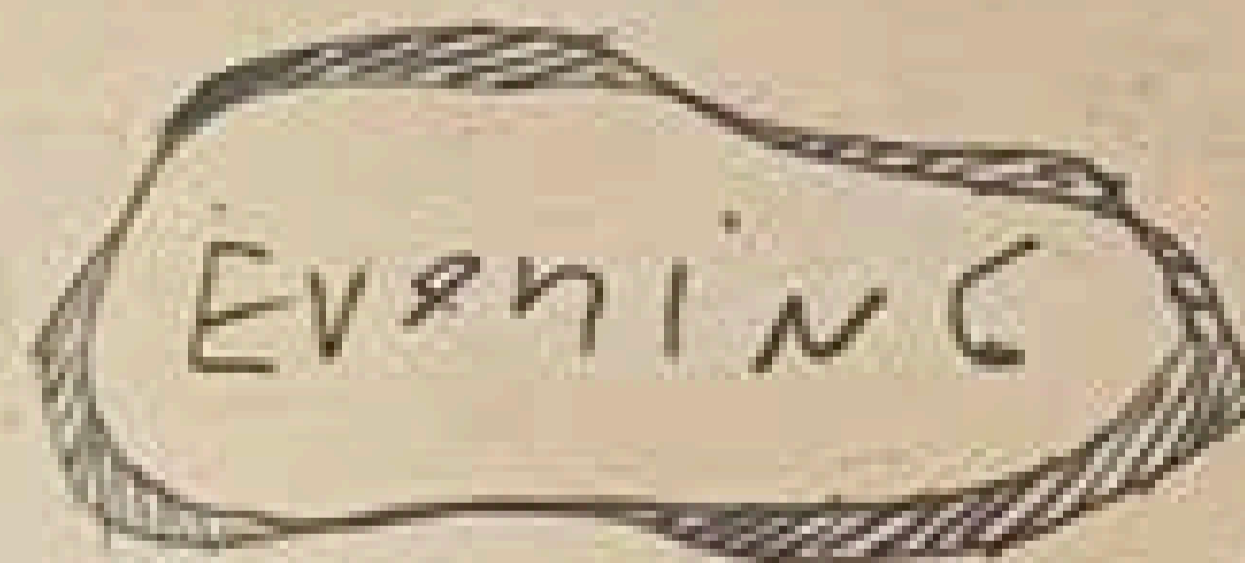


When a tree is cut down, not only do we lose the tree + all

the good it does, ~~we~~ many animals lose their homes.



WORKS today on the video content. And cleaning up a room a week in the house. FRI. 7.10.20 - FRI. 7.17.20 The FRONT office,



Tomorrow I go to the studio, sit, and write. So many friends are

are heading in to
despair because I
don't see any quick
fixes rising to the
surface.

And the bigger pic-
ture — of climate
change, extinctions, chaos?
Is all this a narrative
thread leading into
that?

I think of E.B. White.
Makes it hard to know

watch
I've
for
stage
se
with
common

what to do when
one gets up in the
mornings



This morning, I called
Candy. She answered
and sounded strained.
She said she was with
her Mom, and she was
expected to pass away
any minute. Which she
did - 3 minutes later.

Candy called me
later & tell me



that her Mom was gone.
She sounded calm, glad
that she was able to be
with her.



Her Mom - Donna - lost
her own Mom when she
was only 2 years old.
Donna had told Candy
that she wanted to
see her Mom. Donna
was showing signs of dementia
those last few years.

I've known Donna since
I was a little girl. Like
Edythe Bembry + Marjorie
Cunning she was another
good Mom to me.

This could be hard for Candy. It's always hard. They go beach other pretty much every day.

These people who are part of our lives. We meet them. And we all move on.

We all must prepare for the moment when this whole life — the relationships, the loves, the beauty, the striving, the service — all coalesce. And we once again become the drop that we are,

joining once again with the ocean.

Tuesday, Gretchen has a double mastectomy at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Manhattan. The friends are standing up to help, give support, bring food, make her laugh.

She cannot die from this. The prognosis is very positive as I understand it. Gretchen may be underestimating her recovery. In her words — she acts as though it is

a "hangnail" procedure.
She has many more
chapters to write in her
life story

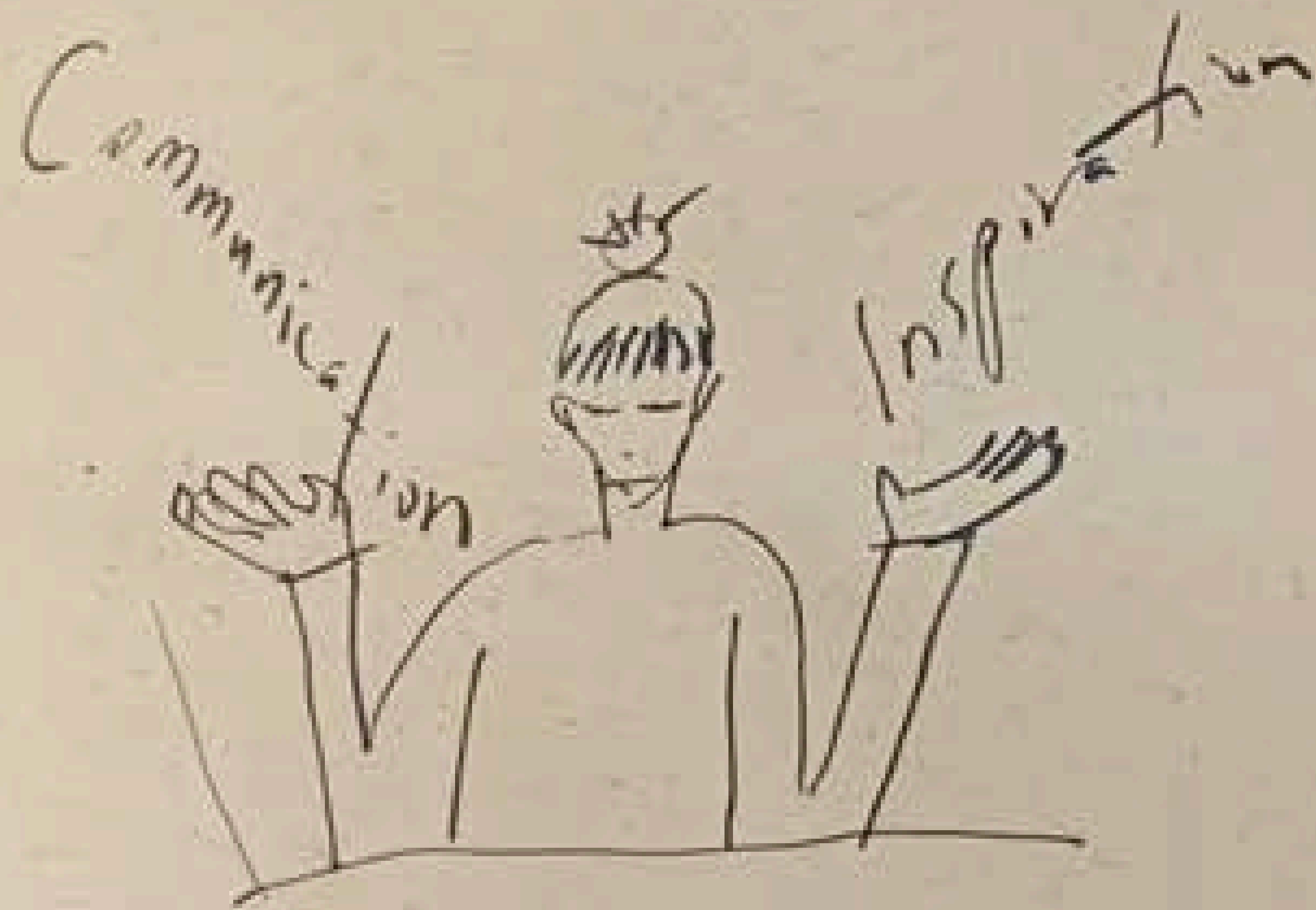
July 12, 2020

Write this morning
sit down.

Take 1 hour to do
this script.

10 Lines basically.
I can do this!

6 minutes each.



July 18, 2020

No theme thus far for
this journal. In-between
journal.

Just these last days!

1. Gretchen had double
mastectomy.

2. Candy's Mom died.
Funeral was Thursday.

3. Brian Cranguis + died
of Covid-19.
4. Kathy Latour died
after a life of battling
with cancer.
5. Tirony Kaufman died
suddenly of a blood
clot.
6. Jason Koon's wife was
diagnosed with cancer.
Too much.
7. Janelle called Kelly.
She'd fallen. Feels
"g...fy!"
8. Dolores Mendoza is
pregnant. Again.

PARENTS

2020



skies

ream last
the 5th occurrence.

reams, I'm
that must
I alive.

ings it to my
est night,
me that
ved into
t. I called
to Dad +
He
weak.

3. Brian Grant
of Covid.
4. Kathy La
a fted a
with co
5. Tierney
suddenly
clot.
6. Jason
diagnosed
Too
7. Jan
Sh.
ig.
8. Dal
pr

JULY 19, 2020



Hot. Blue skies.
 Recurring dream last
 night. 4th or 5th occurrence.
 In the dreams, I'm
 oblivious that Mom +
 Dad are still alive.
 Someone brings it to my
 attention. Last night,
 someone told me that
 Mom + Dad moved into
 an apartment. I called
 them, talked to Dad +
 it was awkward. He
 sounded old + weak.

Mom kept photo books.
They drove me crazy because
there was no organization



Christmas - Dallas
Approx. 1981 or 82. Photo

by decade, by family, by
event. She had photos +
postcards in boxes + pulled
out one at a time + put
them in the album. I've
taken the liberty of pulling
a few photos that trigger
immediate memories.

Here you are Mom
with Kelly's grandma Phoebe
at your right, Kelly at left.

Mom didn't come to the
phone.

In these dreams, my
reaction is a jarring
stupor that they
are alive and a
burning remorse about
neglecting them.

What do these
dreams mean?

God knows I doted
on them while they
were alive.

But am I allowing
their memories to fade?



December - 1951
Columbus Hospital.
I gaze into Mom's
eyes.

I rarely, if ever, went
to my parents for
comfort. I protected
them.

So I never cried in
front of them -
maybe a few times in
my entire life. (teen + adult)
Black friends, Native
friends call on their
ancestors. Should I
do that more? Are
their spirits fading
because they are
being forgotten?
Some of it comes



Approximately 1978.
Mom and Dad's portrait.

down to how I felt around
my parents.

I felt disapproval.
different.
For being an artist.

For not dating.

For my politics.

For living with Kelly.

For shunning marriage.

Because I was beyond
their understanding.

Because I was too tall.

For not having
children.

This isn't fair to them.
I know.

For becoming vegetarian

For wanting to travel

For distancing from
the Lutheran church.
For being a brat sometimes.

4th of July.
1980-ish?
Walt + Louise's
cabin in Duran
Walt, Louise, Toby,
Emma, Dad,
Mom, Manuella,
Terry, Ernie,
Elicie.

2020
All gone
except
Manuella



So what is the connective
line now?

Blood.
Shared history.
Gratitude.
Memories

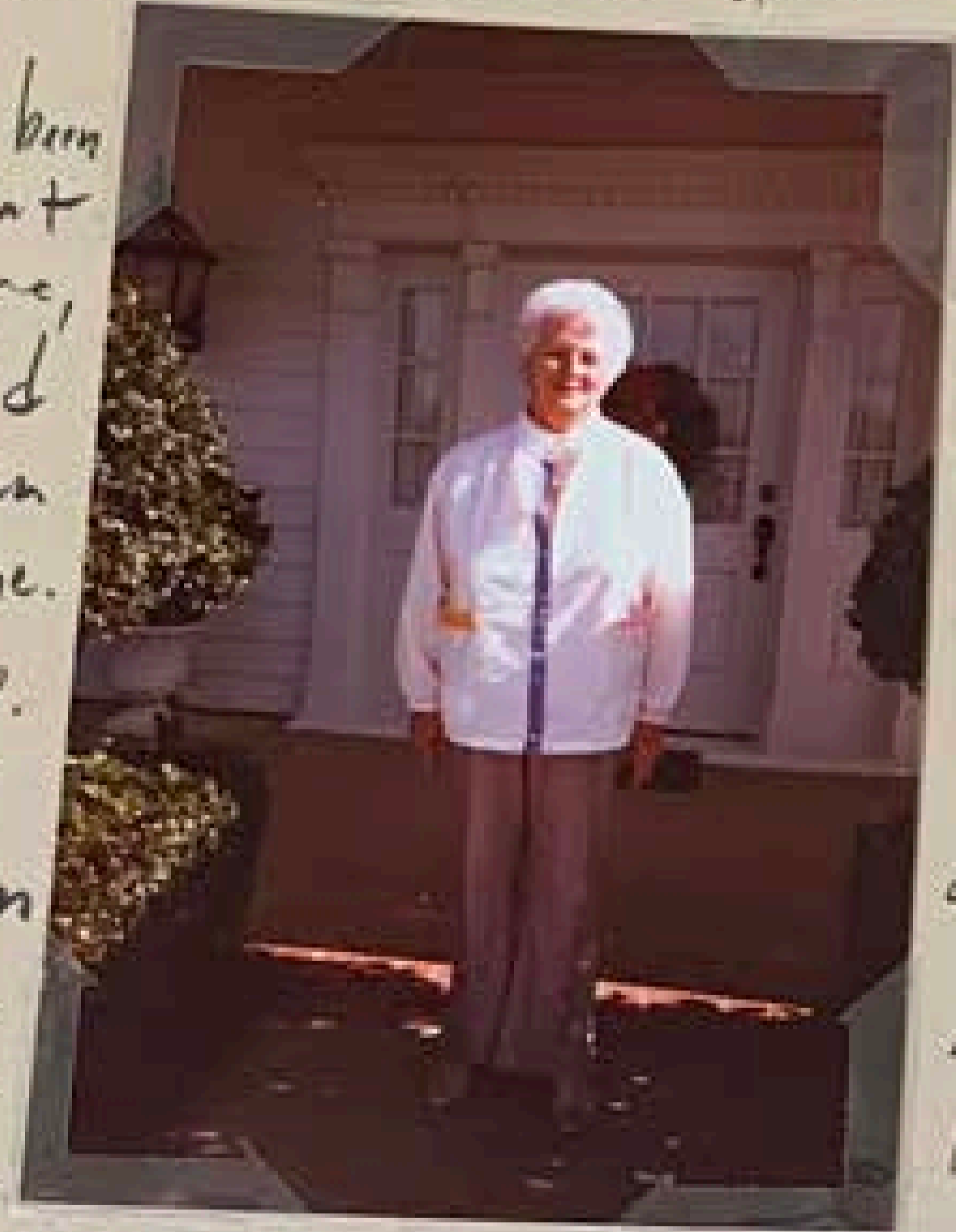
What's the missing
connective tissue?
In this mother line?
father line?

If by a miracle, I saw
them today, I would most
likely slip back into my
caregiver role. What
would we talk about?

She wanted family,
grandchildren, a
continuation of what

Mom came to visit in Dallas
two or three times. Only
shortly after I'd moved
here, Vi Tschann and
Mom came for a visit.

I'd been
about
here,
I'd
down
phone.
came.
never



upset
moving
and
broken
on the
They
Dad
did.

came
for
mas-
Kelly's

Mom
once
Christ-
when
folks + Phoebe came. And
I think ^{NASH} Mom came on
more on her own. She
enjoyed Southfork, and
the State Fair.

she knew.
And she got an artist.

JULY 21, 2020

Sometimes my mind drifts
back and locks onto foolish,
stupid things I've done.

It makes/helps me
understand the Catholic
ritual of confession.

"Forgive me Father for I
have sinned."

1. I stole. I took a
little spiral notebook
from West End
grocery and I lied
about it.

July 1, 1987
Mom - your 80th Birthday.



It was at the party room where Lu lived. I made an angel food and a "Flag" cake, which everyone was making that year. Dad - you shyly asked if you could give Mom the corsage, that I'd ordered.

At 68, I still carry the burden of guilt. Would confession lift?

2. As a child, I stole money from a wallet I found on the ground, a block away from home. What did I do with the wallet? I don't remember.

I carry the burden of guilt for that.

3. I resented my Grandmother, her constant illness, the source of embarrassment created because her infirmities



necessitated a portable
toilet that was always
behind the dining room
door.

I put red nail polish on
a small wound on her
finger instead of
merthiolate.

"Father, Mother, forgive
me, for I have sinned."

Handy mortal sins,
but weight on my spirit.

Interesting. What must
the weight be for those
who widen their gap in
their conversation with
the divine in deep +
harmful ways + often?



GRETCHEN N. Mt. Singi
7.14.20

GDG

020



Two friends
called, emotional
Mrs. She'd
now concave,
chest and
by the brutality
the cancer
er. (It scares
at an emotional
hit her. But
gone. She
and find
n.
called and
latest - very
name drug is
g. And needs

FLYING

JULY 24, 2020

Two phone calls. Two friends with breast cancer. Gretchen called, emotional, in tears. She'd looked at her new cancer, scarred, bruised chest and she was hit by the brutality of it. She says the cancer doesn't scare her. (It scares me.) She was at an emotional low. The blow hit her. But the cancer is gone. She will be strong and find her path again.

Louvraine called and texted. The latest - very expensive - chemo drug is not working. And needs



GRETCHEN
7.14

I REMEMBER THIS SUMMER DAY IN COLUMBUS — DO YOU? WE'RE AT JOHN PENSIKEY'S CORRAL — NOW A HIGH PRODUCING VEGETABLE GARDEN.



DAD - AT JOHN PENSIKEY'S CORRAL

IT WAS AROUND 1975 OR 1976. I'D COME TO VISIT FROM LINCOLN. YOU ASKED ME TO COME TO JOHN + EM'S WITH YOU. WE GOT THERE AND JOHN NEEDED HELP PLANTING POTATOES.

I DUG IN AND HELPED FOR QUITE A WHILE. YOU SAID YOU WERE PROUD OF THE WAY I HELPED. THE ONLY TIME YOU EVER EXPRESSED PRIDE IN ME.

1975 / 1976-1978
DAD in his late 50's

to be discontinued. She can't eat any fresh produce. In both cases, I listened, held their feelings, and then tried to make them laugh.

With Gretchen, it comes easily. Acknowledge the pain. Try to help to see strategies through it. Begin telling funny stories, or together, make fun of Donald Trump + Rudy Giuliani. Begin to paint a picture of the chapters ahead.

With Lorraine, it's different. My confidence in her recovery is weaker, but one never knows.

wonder what Dad's comments on THIS DAY would've been.

FLYING



G.D. DAY AFTER

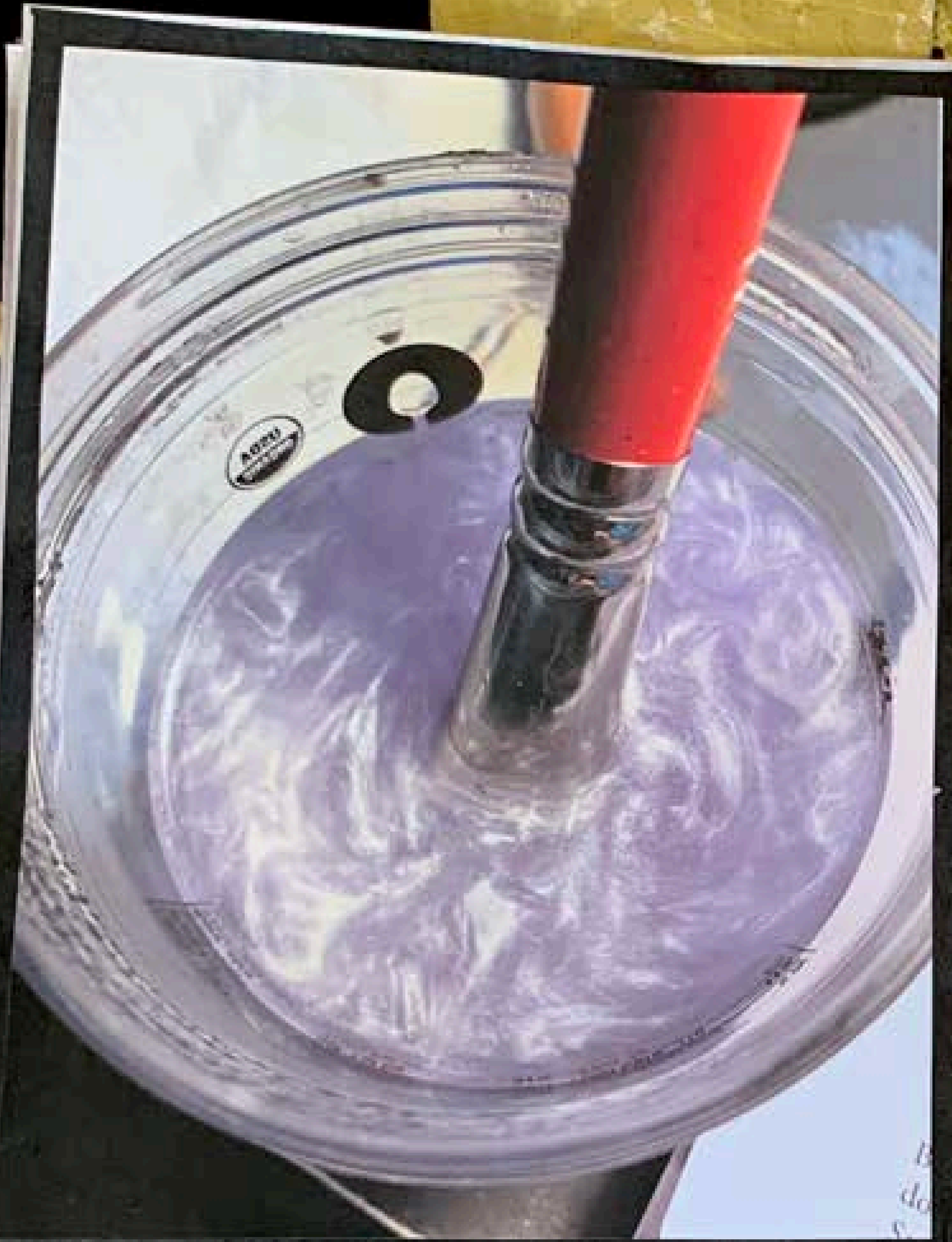
So: acknowledge. Hold the
pain + fear. Hope for
better reports ahead.
Redirect the fresh fruits
& veggies comment. Who needs
'em anyway?

"You can still have ice
cream, peach cobbler, pie,
chocolate."

She said that cheered
her up.

I hate this. This
cancer leaving women
in states of fear,
horror at how they look,
or dead - like Barbara,
Kathy LaTour, Susan Noel,
Betty Katz. It's barbarous.

FLYING



some things still shimmer

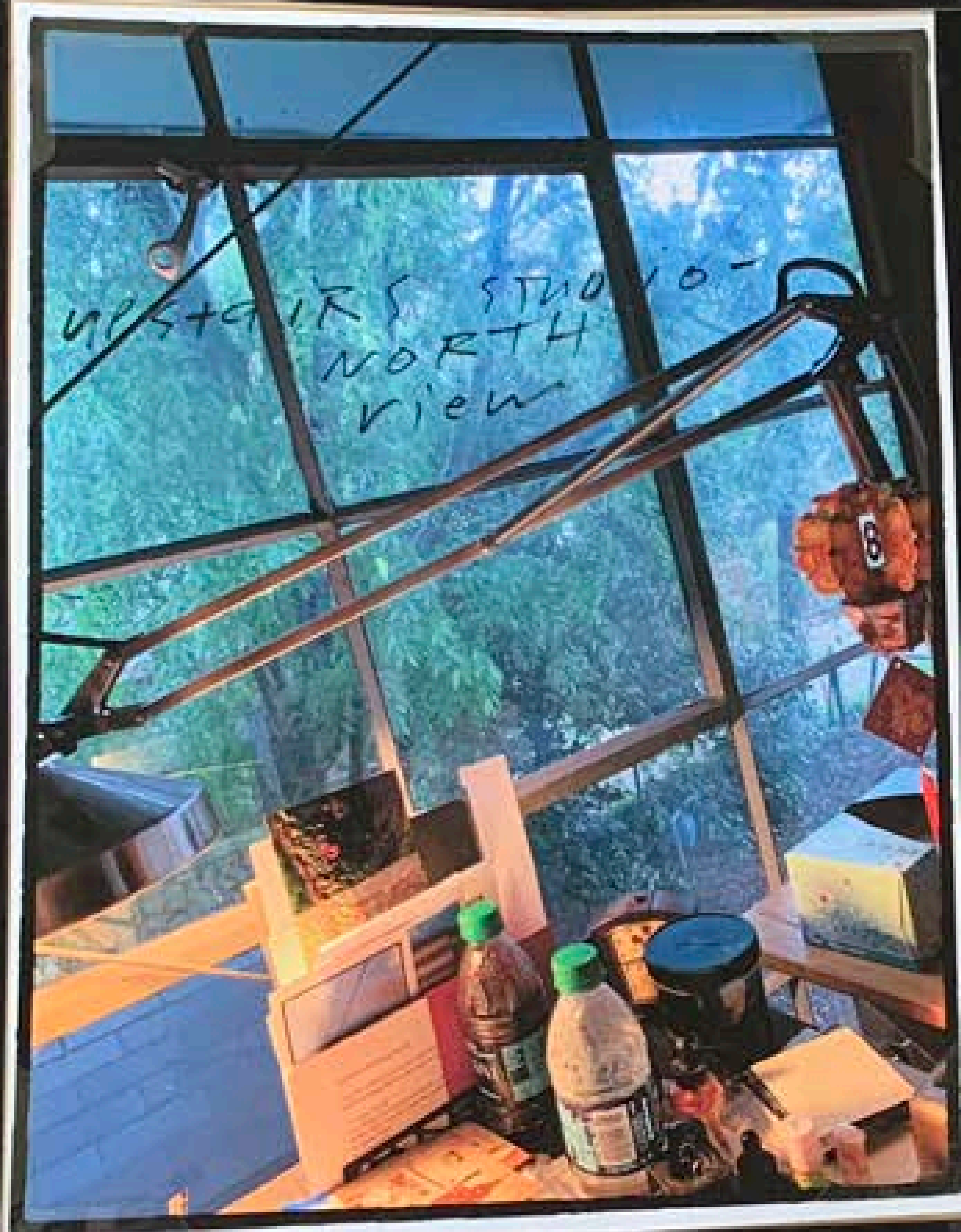
Still 7.24.20
I still haven't perfected how I'd like these pages to look. The words demand to come quickly.

The words don't knock. They run in, move through me & demand to land on paper.

The visuals are often a record that comes later.

Today was supposed to be dedicated to private envisioning for 29 pieces.

FLYING



Quiet time. Seeing
into the future, then
letting God laugh at
plans and say "hey -
not that, but **THIS**."

The feeble planning
seems to be an essential
part of that process
though. And some-
times, it all happens -
just not the way
I'd envisioned.

Who could've dreamt
all of this up? A
Pulitzer, a murder, an
organization, 100,000+
young people!

FLYING



Doll-like dolls. Right - given to me as a little girl. Clothes lost, so a new outfit. Left - with original outfit.

NONE of this was on my radar... back in 1969 in Columbus... or 1973 in Lincoln... or 1980 in Dallas.

ANYWAY 2020. The world feels upside down & in a tailspin. And we humbly plan & plot in our idealistic world of 29 Pieces.

Here we are. ONE year into a 3-year plan for the legacy initiative. It goes well. O Check timeline.

FLYING

Because you know that WHAT IS DONE IN LOVE IS DONE WELL, show that LOVE IS KIND, believe that ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE, & prove that LOVE CONQUERS ALL, we THANK YOU.



We love being with you

Karen
Karen Blessen: Founder &

Blessen
Executive Artistic Director

on love island.

Karen M. Isbell
Karen Isbell: President, Board of Directors

○ What more could we should we be doing?

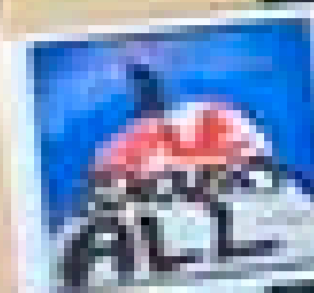
↑
○ Think about this.

"MY" WORK

○ The 29 Pieces. What should I be doing? What should happen with them?

○ The JOURNALS. Look at agreement again + get back with work.

○ The JOURNALS. Context + keywords.



LOVE CONQUERS ALL



THANK YOU.

LOVE IS KIND



FLYING



WHAT IS DONE IN LOVE IS DONE WELL



of the PARENTAL

LYING SCHOOL

in session this
At least I think
all the cardinal
about.

Today I finally saw
sh cardinals on
the bird-bath -
exactly what
here until a
plunged in
bath.



proved there
stays around,
d up w/ z

B L M T R E E S

LOVE CONQUERS ALL



WHAT IS DONE IN LOVE IS DONE WELL

JULY 28, 2020

The Nature of the Parental Bond

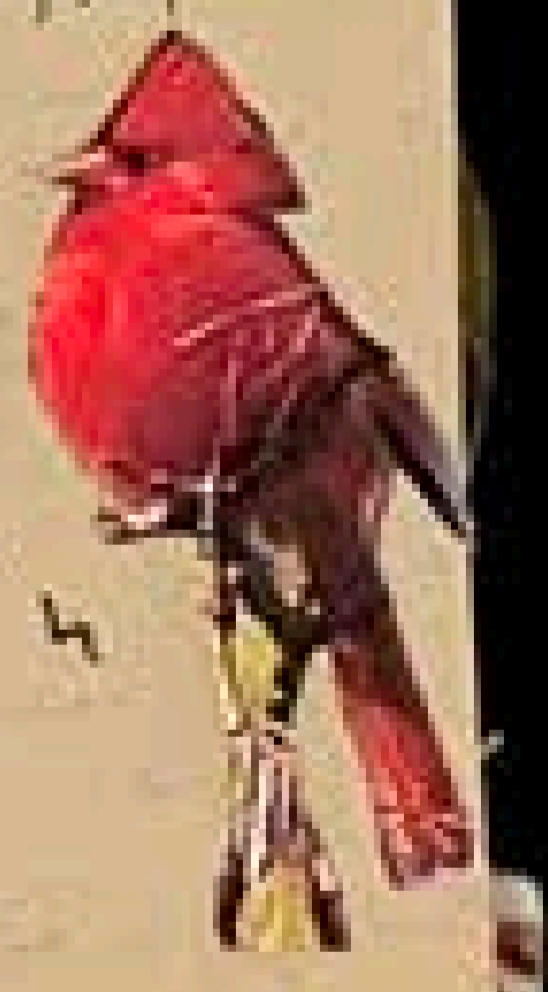
WHAT IS DONE IN LOVE IS DONE WELL

CARDINAL FLYING SCHOOL

School's been in session this past week. At least I think that's what all the cardinal chatter is about.

And yesterday I finally saw two small-ish cardinals on the rim of the bird-bath - not knowing exactly what to do there until a little wren plunged in for her bath.

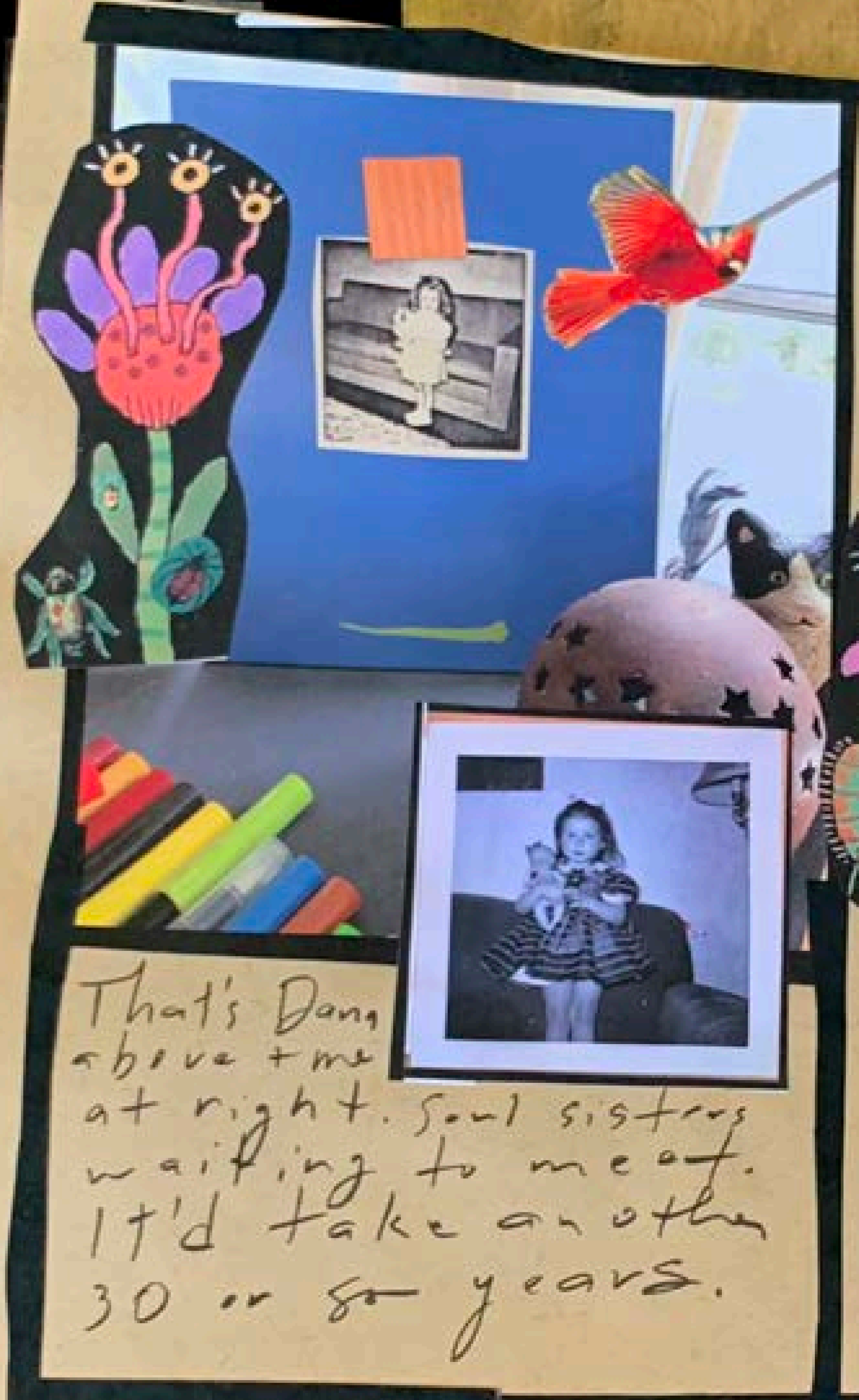
So that proved there are youngsters around, and I shined up my



THANK YOU



B L M T P E S



That's Dana above + me at right. Soul sisters waiting to meet. It'd take another 30 or so years.

theory of flying school.
And if I'm understanding it right - that involved two parents - one at either end of the flight pattern - chattering incessantly, demanding loudly, a little fearfully.
"This way. Beat wings harder. Tuck your head in. Feet out for landing. Watch out for windows. See that cat down there! Monster killer! Our mortal enemy."

The parents took their responsibility very seriously, diligently.



B L M T P E S

Then what? Do the parents watch wistfully as their babies fly away? All that urgency in their upbringing, where does it go?

Do the babies have lasting loyalty to their parents? Or do they simply move on? Do babies take care of parents in their old age?

I realized I know nothing about birds.

Or parents.

Or parents + children.

The long view responsibility?



INSTITUTIONAL Breakdowns

The Supreme Court
The Senate

Some State Governments

Supply Chain in Times
of Health Crises

The Post Office

Distribution of Accurate
Scientific Knowledge

Court System

The Fourth Estate

The Time of Covid 19 —
along with fury + outrage
at the cruelty + idiocy
of our president + the
sycophants surrounding +
supporting him, the
breakdown of our
institutions (now the
post office), the damage
to our garden planet —
this time provides
sometimes welcome,
sometimes unwelcome
reviews of past trans-
gressions. And a juvenile
review of "what-ifs?"
about childhood. Some
of it is or feels stupid
but these thoughts wait

NORTH PARK

In

THE

TIME

OF

COVID 19

BLM TREES

through nonetheless.

What if my parents had
been highly educated?

(Neither went beyond
8th grade.)

What if my family read,
went to movies, listened
to music, enjoyed theatre?

(None. It was newspapers +
TV 24/7 or at least during
all waking hours.)

What if my family travelled?

(One childhood flight to
Chicago - aborted when
Grandma broke her hip in
Columbus.)

What if we talked about
ideas? Feelings? Dreams?

What if I wasn't as lazy?
Reluctant to help Mom?

(I could say it was never
asked of me. Sadly - Mom

7:00 PM ON A TUESDAY NIGHT



SEPTEMBER 2020

just did the work - so
much work.)

What are the responsibilities of
a parent?

1. To provide basic care.

Feed

Protect

Keep the child as secure
as possible.

Cleanse the child.

Give attention.

2. Beyond that!

Love the child

Teach a child in

• the ways of the world

• the culture

• school subjects

• Expected behaviors.

• To be kind

• RESPONSIBILITY

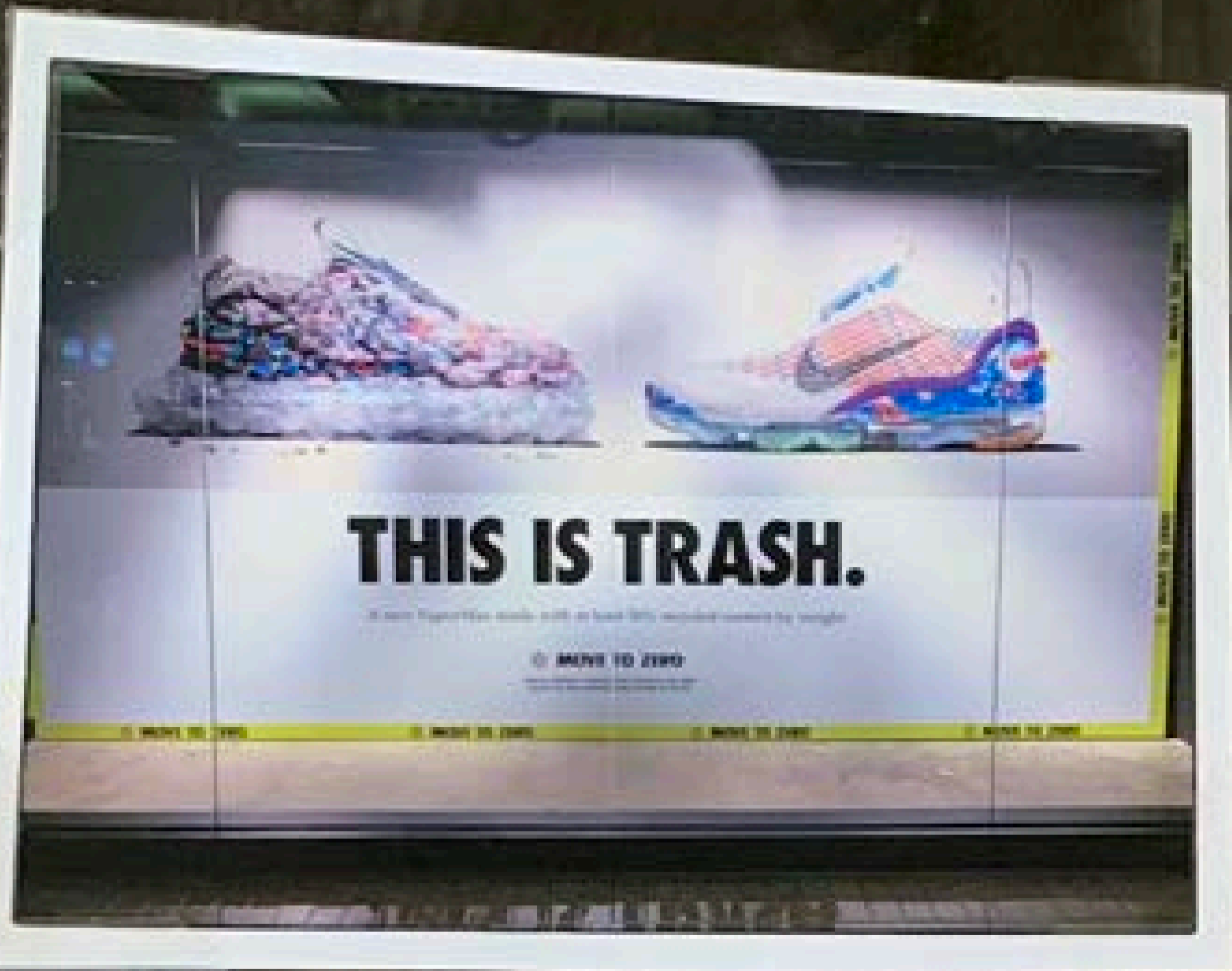
3. Beyond that.

Expose the child to

important, life-

enhancing practices.

BLM TPEES



PRE COVID

NORTPARK WAS PACKED

- Books
- Music
- The arts
- Theatre
- Spirituality
- Nature
- Movement
- Travel
- Other cultures

4. Beyond that.

Discern the uniqueness of that individual child.

Help the child understand the negotiation between service + loyalty to the family / the community / the group and service to their own calling. Should the child be so fortunate to experience a calling?

5. Beyond that:

Bless the child on their journey. Push them to fly.

BLM TRENDS



IS THE APOCALYPSE UPON US?

BLM TREES



IS THE APOCAL

6. As a parent + as an individual, continue to embody what you've taught ~~and~~ ^{your} own calling.

Be there as the child becomes a parent.

What are the responsibilities of a child?
(in the gap between experience + idealization)

BLM TREES

SO.... WHAT ARE

1951 - 1963 (A)

As a baby, a child has no conscious concept of it.

He/she is expected to be an

infinity circle of love. Eyes meet, love happens. Baby speaks the universal language of love.



THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CHILD?

If that love language connection takes, it locks in, and the circuitry of love remains constant.

If love is not returned to a loving parent,



Parental Disappointment

7.29.20

ONE PERFECT JOURNAL.

What would make it?

Conception. Genetically programmed. The growth doesn't modify. Or get modified. Or distracted or interrupted.

It would not be the receptacle for the day 2 day thoughts. Like this one is.

Or if it were, there'd be a palette, a texture, a place for the lyrics and the melody — together. Not side by side. But integrated.

Like a song. Or a symphony. Is it musical or narrative?

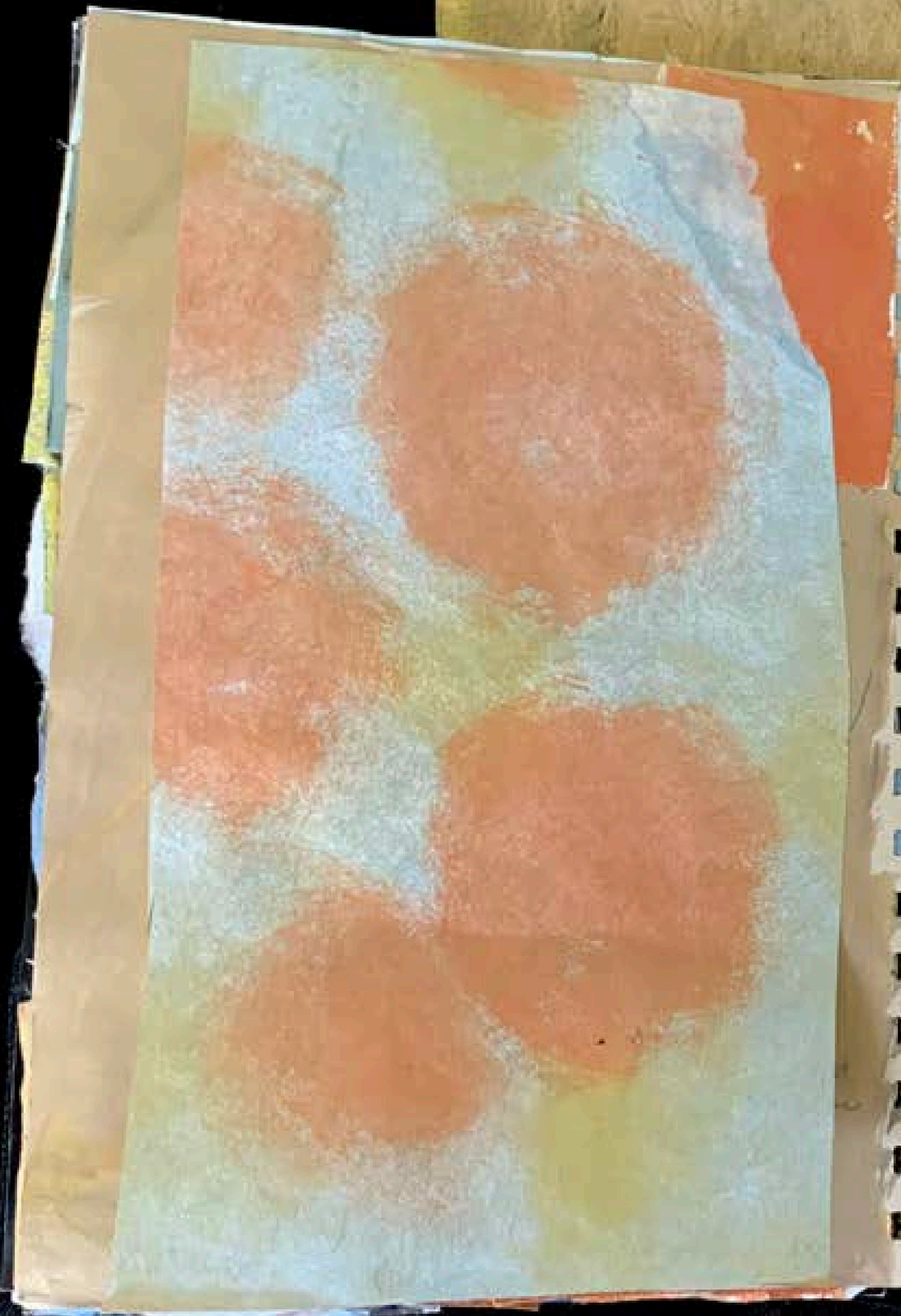
A story or a tone poem?
An album.





B L M T R E E S

BLM TYPES



BLM TYPES

[Blank white paper with a paperclip]



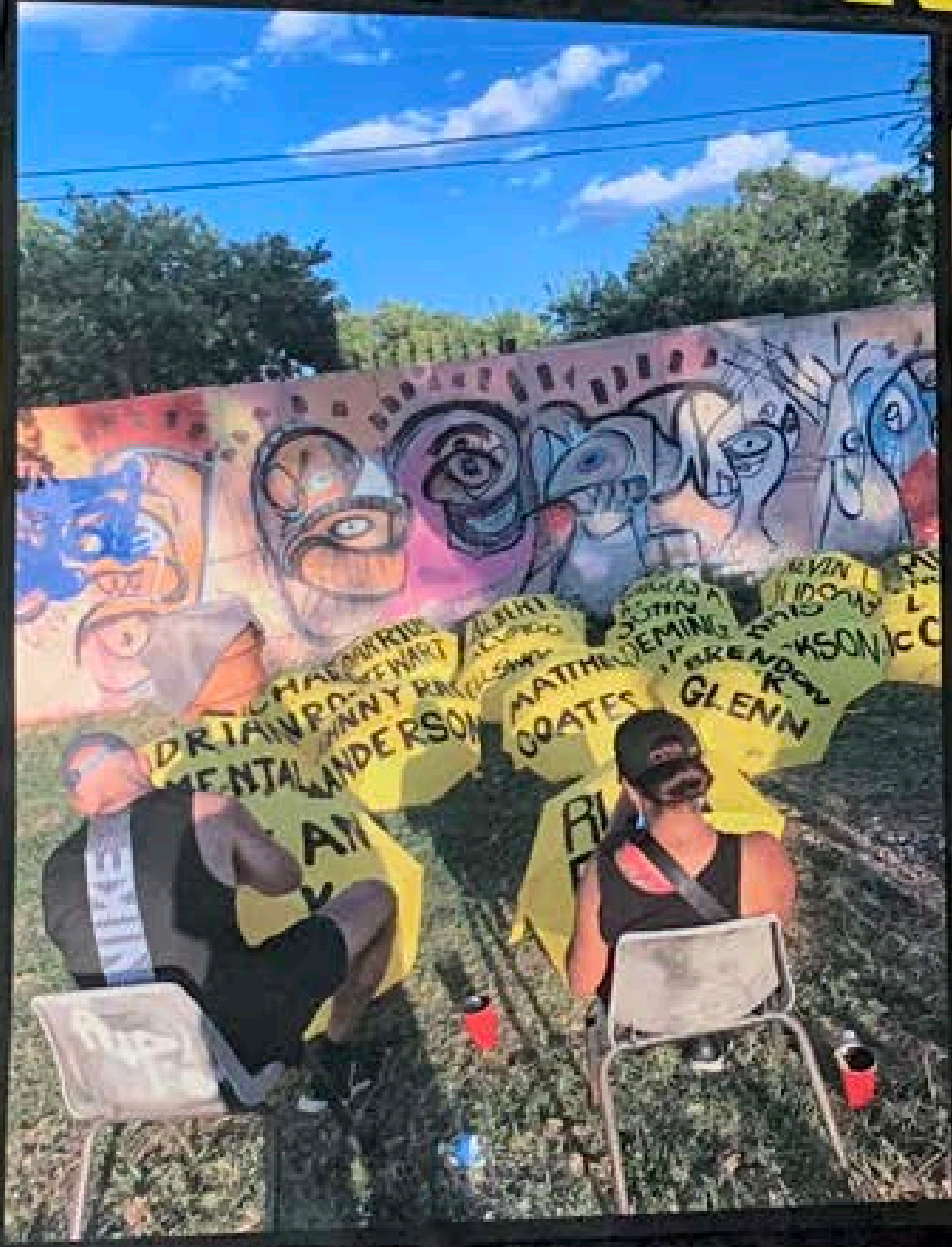
[Blank white paper with a paperclip]

The disposal of
Beginning with the
through the contacts, the
teachings. The shared
experiences.

are not solid, but a
 of energy
 feel something moving
 the way of the approach
 example of the approach
 man. Contacting... An
 The body mind disperses

B L M T R E E S

BLACK



LIVES

AUGUST 2020
One hot Sunday evening — painting names of people killed by police — on yellow umbrellas — in beautiful light.

MATTER



TREES

BLM

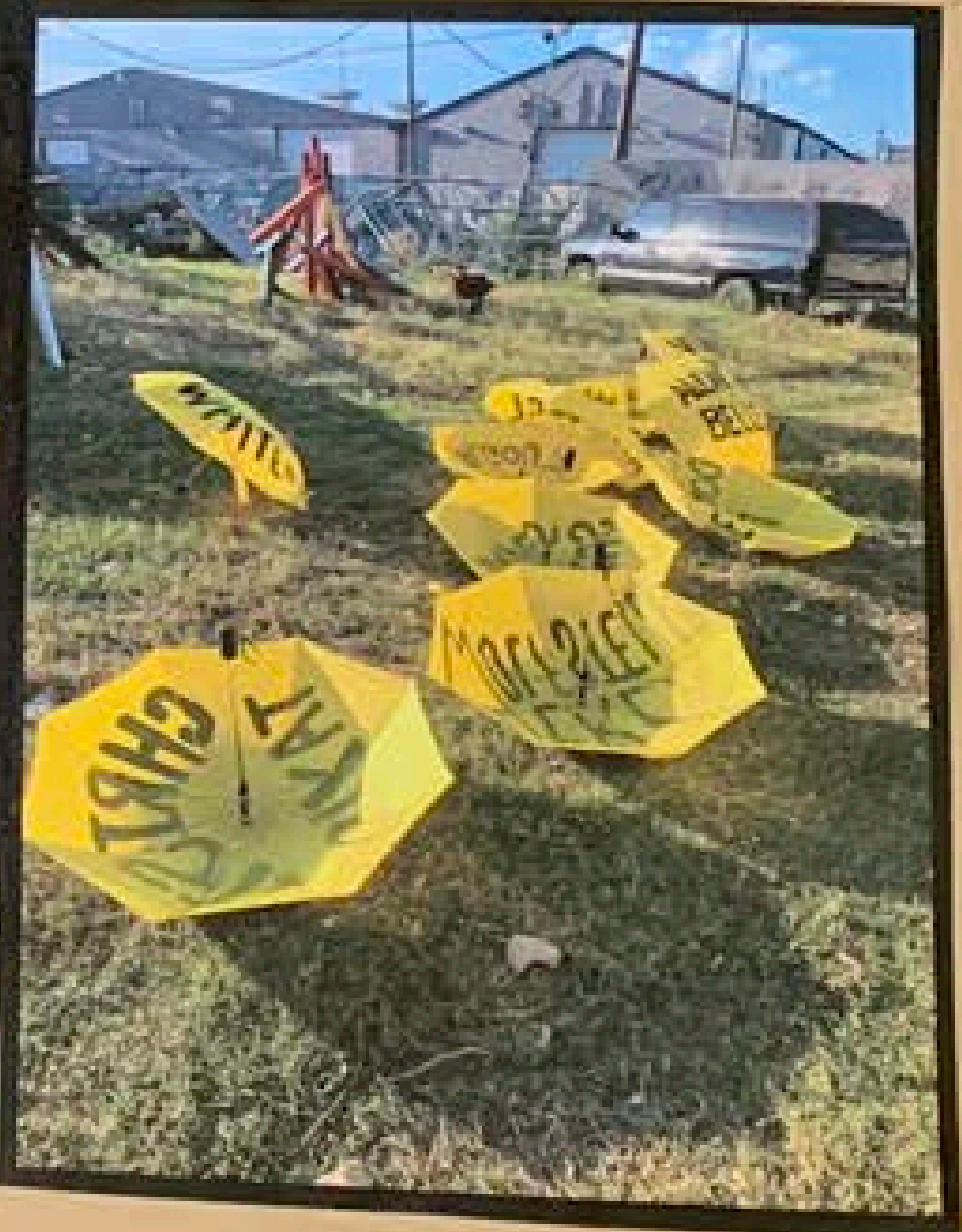
BLACK

LIVES



August 2020
 One hot Sunday
 evening — painting
 names of people
 killed by police
 — on yellow umbrellas
 in beautiful light.

MATTER





RESPONSIBILITIES OF A

CHILD - EARLY YEARS

From my experience, the infinite expected to continue. The be expected to drive

by circle of love is child is too young to in and mother lawn

1951-1963 (B)



or the But are Don't

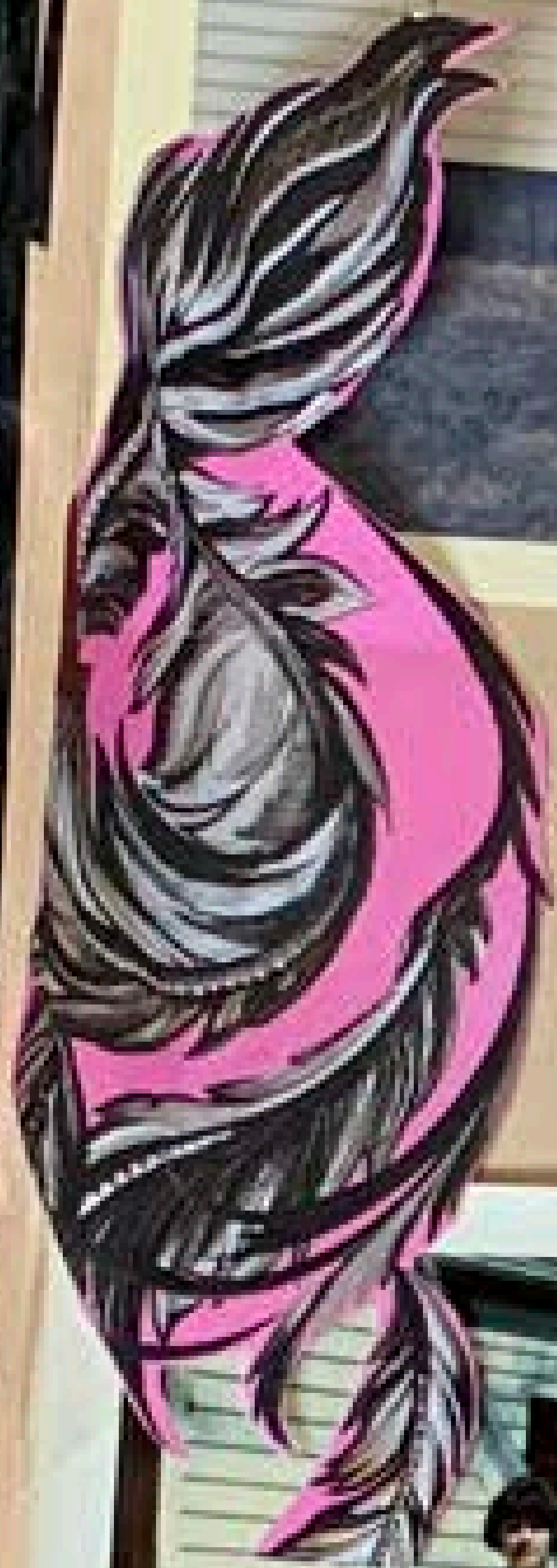
even do dishes. still, there some expectations. (1) Cause a parent in due worry.

Don't swim in a deep lake too fast, (2) Don't be ob- (3) Don't cry and throw a tan- un civilized habits, (5) for

Don't ride the horse stinate and obnoxious, (4) Don't indulge in God's sake, don't embarrass us, (6) Go play + leave your parents alone.

Thumb sucking etc. Gross habits.

TREES



OF A

RESponsibilities

1963-1966

RESPONSIBILITIES
These are tough years, more and more. These are tough years, more and more. These are tough years, more and more. These are tough years, more and more.

Responsibilities
be stupid.
you hate
didn't + I
Help out
act like
about it.
a lot +

CHILDREN



3

MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are separating
Preferring the company
So. For me, those
sullen. I smiled rarely.
- stay alive. Don't
Don't tell parents
them. (I
didn't.)
even if you
an asshole
I was a brat
at the time.



TREES



RESPONSIBILITY



OF A CHILD

I have very few
while alive. Don't
stay out but
Help a girl
bring a girl
For the
say you make
PC didn't
I didn't



HIGH

1966-1969

photos
high school
at home
was his
never kind
you

SCHOOL



YEARS

parents
lo. RESPONSIBILITY
family
off inevitable.

4



8.8.20



RESPONSIBILITY OF A
Call home. Give attention.
Visit parents and
grandparents. Stay
D. not shame the
(I didn't join a church,
Vietnam War. Had
Kelly.) Make your
proud. I did - in
Pat school, won awards.



TREES

CHILD:
LEAVING
Home 1969-
1979

alive.
family. (I did.)
opposed the
sex. Lived with
mama + papa
some ways. Excelled
Got work.



5



The
gap
must
be
bridged
by phone,
by letters,
by visits.

TREES



Dad,
Aunt Lily,
Johnny,
Emma
Pensick



Aunt Lily
Yandik,
Me, Johnny
& Emma
(Blessen)
Pensick



Loved
these
two.
Lily +
Emma.
Love
them.

Questions:

- (1) Are we responsible to keep the past in the present?
- (2) How accountable is the parent-child relationship? This could go on for pages. I ask it for myself and for the young people I work with?

Here I am - lower right - days before leaving NE for NYC, then Dallas.

I owed my parents reassurance of love, that I would not be foolish or reckless, and that I would stay connected through letters + calls.



TREES

1978-1993

RESPONSIBILITY OF A

I moved to NYC, then with KELLY, Mom while she could still visit. Meanwhile, I either drove to NE to see them between 4+6 times a year. Dutiful daughter. I was attentive, caring, loyal. They criticized me for living outside of marriage & not going to a church.

ONE OF THE FEW PHOTOS OF MOM, DAD + ME AS ADULTS - TOGETHER.



CHILD - ADULTS TOGETHER

to Dallas, to be visited ³¹ times travel. Dad never flew, took a bus or

6



→ I'd been programmed to be attentive, as Mom had been to Grandma + Grandpa. Dad anyway, it was what I wanted. I remained very protective of Mom. I never

confided my worries, I sent samples of my work + they were proud, I was extremely connected, yet sometimes impatient + irritable about the small town mentality. Always attentive.

TREES

6

Flowers were sent to Mom. Pink bouquet on Mother's Day and on



July 1 - Mom's birthday. Honor was given attention paid. She took piece of them.

AUGUST 5, 2020

CURRENT EVENTS. God help us.

The shitsform/clustefucke/dumpster fire continues. Children are still in cages on the Texas border.

Trump is still filling the headlines with his devaluing countries and in anities.

The U.S. Post office is under attack for political reasons.

Some Black people voice hate.

Constant conflict

persists about school / no school.

Dallas has daily high rates of death from Covid-19, and still some people won't wear masks.

All this and global warming + carbon emissions point to an expiration date for human life on earth.

Peter Beard was right on so many counts.

TREES

The Kimono



From Gretchen's grandmother...

to her Mother...

to Gretchen...

and to me.

TREES

7

Responsibilities of a

1993 - 1998

1993 - Dad's diagnosis of LUNG cancer.
Mom's diagnosis of heart failure of congestive (1994) - Dad died. 1998 - Mom died.

Responsibility in over-drive. It's a lot. Drives to doctors. Availability for everything. Daily bad news and issues. A career blossoming wildly. Times Square)

CHILD - THE CAREGIVING YEARS

ABSOLUT, Angel Book, Grief, Fatigue. But intense energy for. Intense concern. Love. Love not fear.

FLAT OUT INTENSITY OF RESPONSIBILITY TO EVERY POSSIBLE DETAIL. TO RESPECT. FULFILL WISHES. BE PRESENT.

TREES

8

BRINGING
TO

THE PAST
THE PRESENT

1998



THE LAST
CHURCH
PORTRAIT
MADE OF
MOM + DAD.



TREES

8

BRINGING
TO

THE PAST
THE PRESENT

they are gone. How does
a child continue to keep
a parent alive? It's been
22 years. Photos, memories
documented. Honor their
memory.

More than that?

Black friends call them
in. Some people continue
in internal conversations, some
end up at a shrink. Some
feel lasting gratitude. Some
are released to begin their
true purpose. Some feel a
release from responsibility.
Some sense impending separation.

The

TREES

TREES

ORE

The

TREE

BEFORE



View from Studio —
2nd Floor Landing

AUGUST 11, 2020

I need solid time in the studio today — with this.

Between the 100° days, 5 months of COVID-19 lockdown, and the agitation of the tree cutting next door, I crave quiet time. 29 Pieces is very busy right now.

So: what occupies my mind?
(1) Dissolve or manifest?
I speak about how I "am" how to "be" in the world right now.



Looking to the House

The mode of the time is
cacophony. Noise. Conflict.
Get your name out. Social
media. Be an influencer.
There's conflict about
EVERYTHING • from masks,
to how many steps to walk
a day, to racism/white
privilege/embedded social
injustice, police brutality,
global warming/no such
thing. And on top of all
in finitum. ~~So~~ exhausting +
energy/life force draining.
• By 'dissolving' as one
author, I mean to move
into the invisible. We are
not solid blobs of matter
in the first place. We
are buzzing, moving entities
of sub-atomic particles.



View FROM the house

By 'dissolving,' I invisibly +
silently extend my spirit
out into the world. Like
a 'contagious grace.' A
radiance on a break to
quote some of the Pieces
Writing from the 29 Pieces.

Through meditation, prayer,
quiet connections in a circle
29 Pieces — with teachers,
project managers, action +
real change become
possible then realities.

Examples:

Meditation

Prayer

Quiet calls

Connective tissue between
positive forces.

Me - 29 Pieces - friends -
teachers - a circuit.

"PLANTS ARE MORE COURAGEOUS
THAN ALMOST ALL HUMAN
BEINGS:



AN ORANGE TREE WOULD
RATHER DIE THAN PRODUCE
LEMONS, WHEREAS INSTEAD
OF DYING THE AVERAGE
PERSON WOULD RATHER
BE SOMEONE THEY ARE NOT."

—Mokokoma Mokhonoana

By 'manifest' I mean, stay
solidly here, in my role.
Non-profit leader, wife, friend.
Use my voice, which at this
point feels like speaking
into a bomb explosion,
or an erupting volcano.
I don't have the desire
or energy for that. Anyway,
there is so much history
of beautiful words, persuasive
words lying there flat on
the paper. Look at the
Declaration of Independence,
with its picture of equality
and justice, never meant
to be enacted by the writers.
Look at Abraham Lincoln,
even. We have to be held

"ALL OUR
WISDOM IS



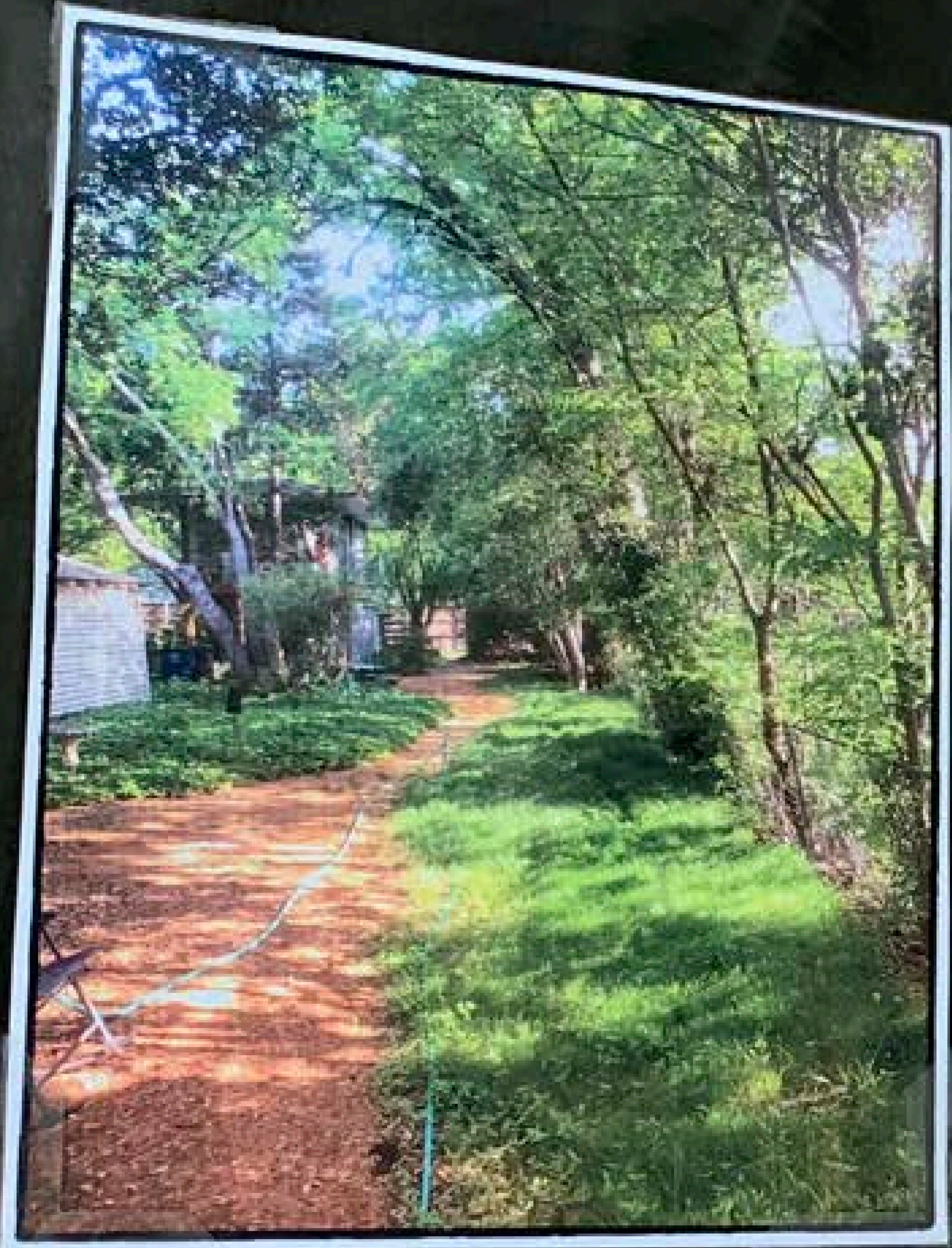
STORED
IN
THE
TREES."

— SANTOSH KALWAR

accountable for the dead
gap between word + action.
I am of action. Even
when the actions are not
visible to the human eye,
but are sensed in the heart.
Discreetly, quietly, under
the radar. Invisible like
oxygen, not loud like
thunder.

(2) Beauty.

The concept of beauty.
Sandra in her prime.
Sandra now. My golden
moments — vanity —
or what is it when
complete strangers pay
wild compliments —
using the word beauty



or beautiful?

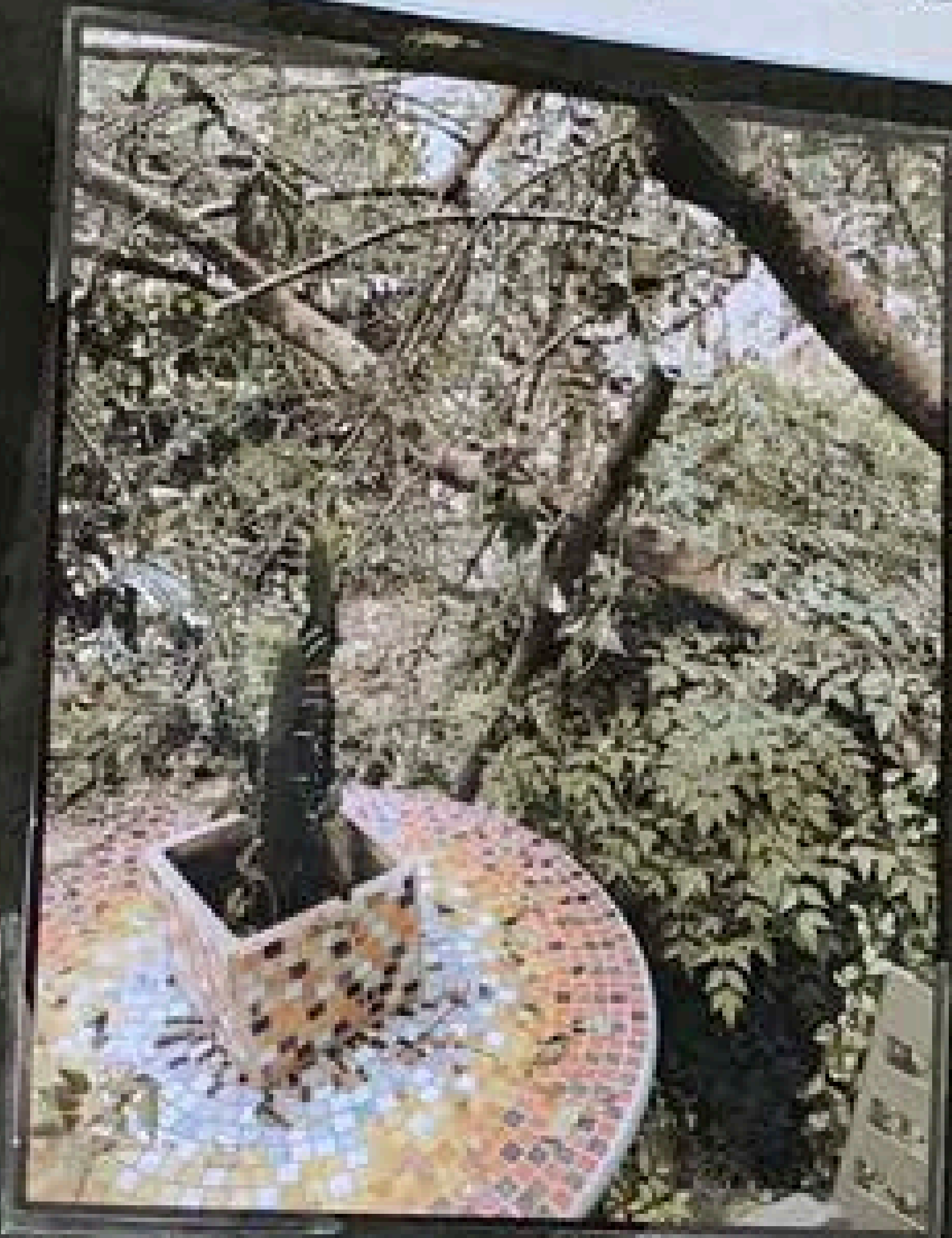
Is a sparrow as beautiful as a cardinal?
Is rarity or contributor to the label of beauty?

Beauty can be an attribute, a commodity, a trophy, a lure, a cultural ideal, an object of veneration for one eluded by beauty.

It can be something real — something that merges spirit and appearance. It can be male, female, animal, nature, art, voice, invention, writing, culture.

Beauty is compromised, possibly damaged when commodified. Beauty is explicitly destroyed to be

August 11, 2020



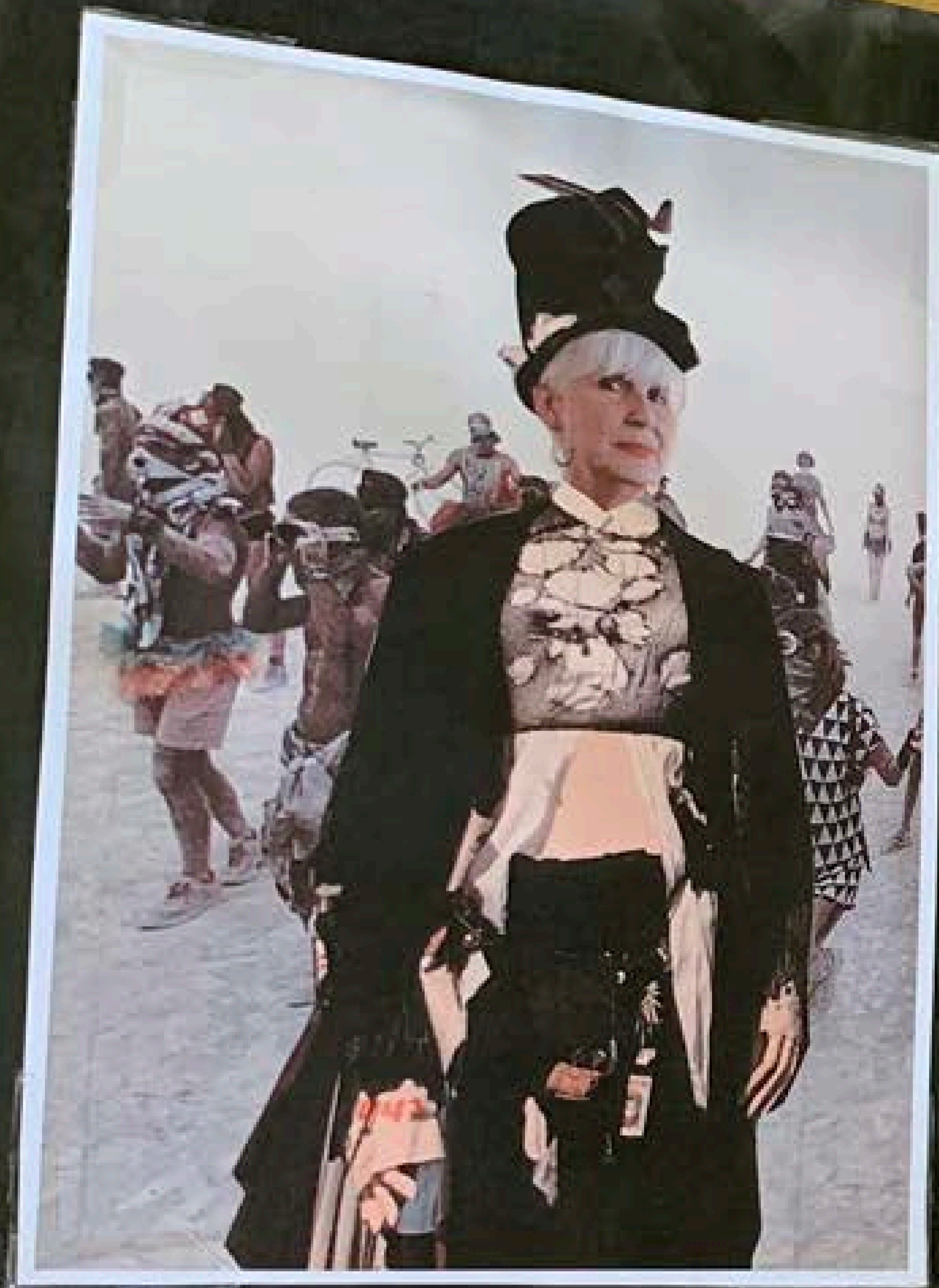
YEAH - THE DAY I
LOST MY SHIT

a trophy animal on a wall.
Random thoughts in hopes
of a cohesive conclusion.

"Her beauty is only skin deep."
Easwaran states that his
grandmother's beauty was
not lost in aging. She
had radiance, kindness,
spirit.

Beautiful, idyllic locales
are 'purchased' (as it) by
bottom line minded capitalistic
developers. Beauty
is commodified, destroyed
in the process. Balance is
undone.

Ships - the travesty of
cruise ships. Massive,
floating producers of
human waste. Patrons
want 'beauty' & 'experience',

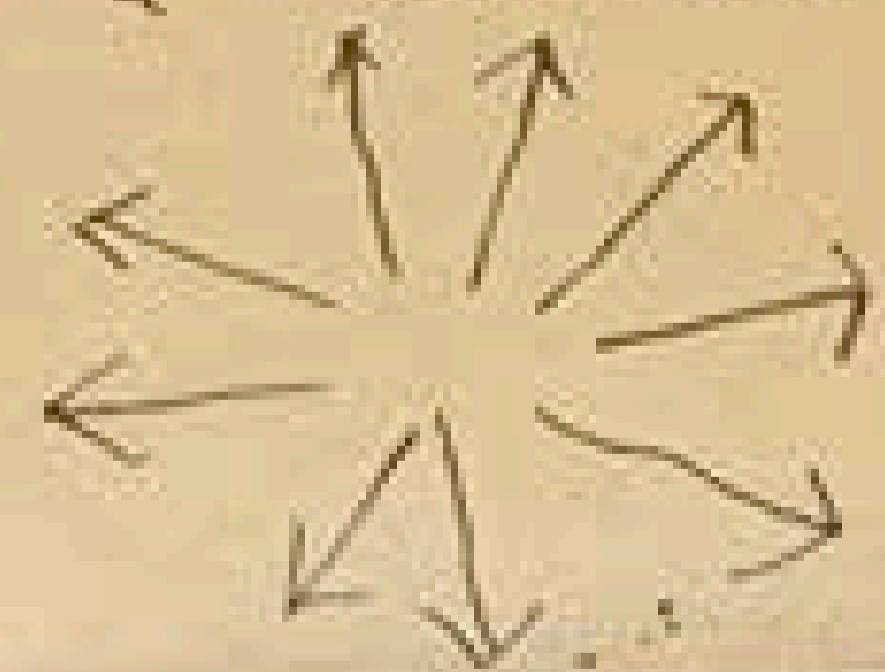


you are witless about
damage ~~done~~ and the
orchestrated ~~perennial~~
agenda.

Dallas residents want
beautiful, tree lined
neighborhoods, yet buy lots
and destroy established eco-
systems to build their
\$,000 sq. ft. homes, pools,
+ 2 story garages. Insanity.

TRUE BEAUTY is at
our fingertips. In the most
humbled little moth, in
the expressive face of a
spider, in a sparrow, a
cloud, a tree, a dandelion,
for God's sake.

I am a dandelion.



The TREES AFTER

When I was in high school,
I read Teen Magazine
cover to cover. Movie magazines
were ever present. Aunt
Pearl bought them & brought
them to Columbus. Ross &
Geraldine Simpkins gave
stacks of them to us,
when they were finished
with them. Here we
were — here I was —
poring over movie magazines,
lusting after Liz Taylor,
Eddie Fisher, Richard
Burton, Jackie Kennedy,
Debbie Reynolds, Doris Day,
Rock Hudson.

Why? There we all were —
in a small town in Nebraska,
caught up in the falsified
fantasies of the lives of
celebrities!



TREES CUT AT BASE

I was a smart kid, but I
loved those magazines.
Why? To escape.
Was Pearl, Ross Simpson,
Geraldine Simpson trying
to escape, too?

One time - I was 17 or so -
a friend of Mom's told
me (in front of Mom) that
I looked like my mother.
Maybe I had a look on my
face - I don't know.
But Mom looked at me
and said "She doesn't want
to look like me. She
wants to be beautiful."

At the time, I perceived
nuances of accusation in
Mom's words. ("She wants
to be better than me." "She
wants to be different.")



CUT TREE FELL
ON NEW HOUSE

But she was absolutely right in some ways. I know I looked like here I've never denied or been unhappy about that. And I did/do want to be called beautiful.

Still, And without diving into self-congratulatory confessions, I know that superficial beauty lasts for a few golden moments in time. And the true beauty in "I want to be beautiful" has to do with — "I want all those invisibles that I am/aspire to spirit — contagious grace — grit — generosity — kindness — to be beautiful."



8.13.20

ONE BIG TRUNK REMAINED

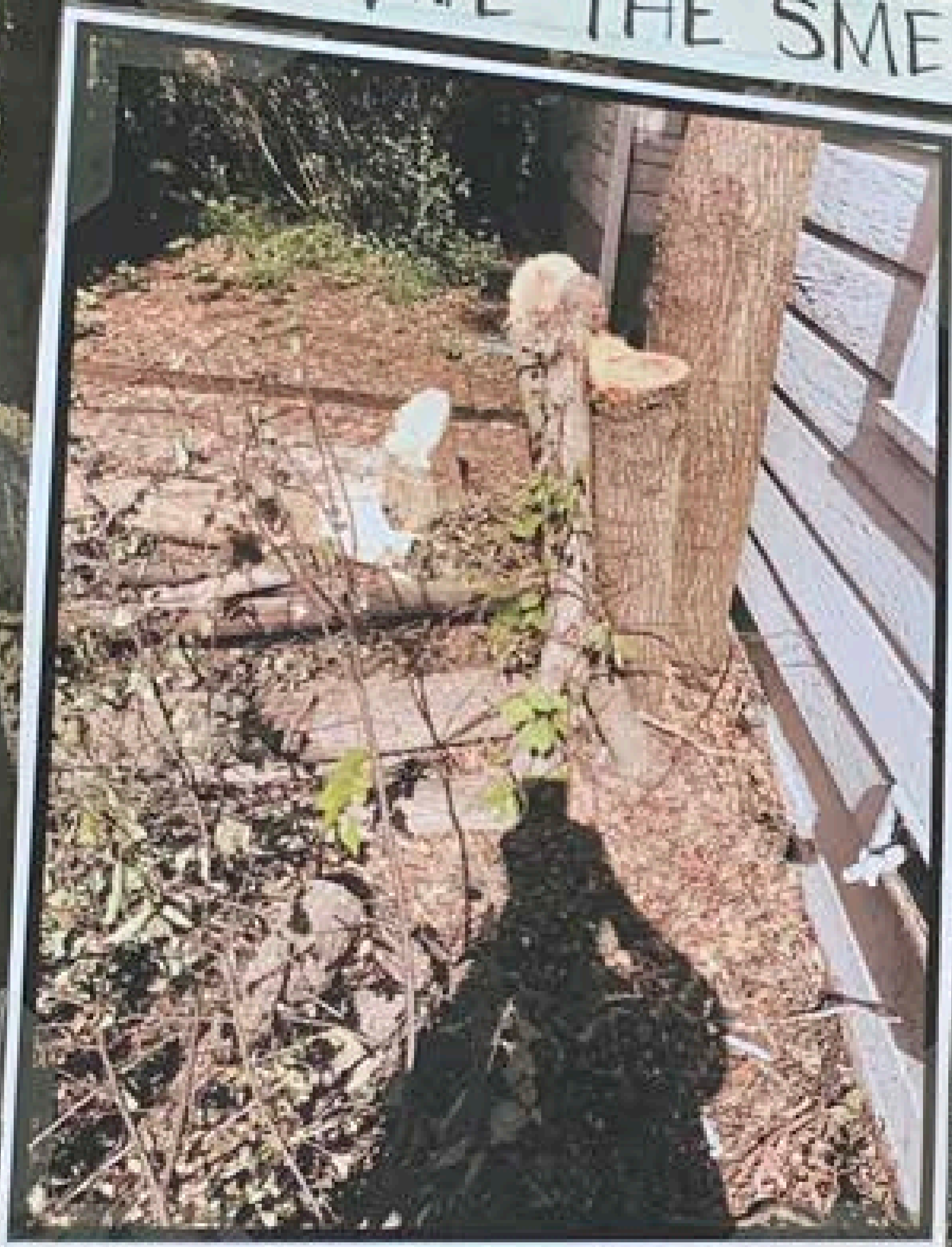
The tangle with this ~~incident~~
word 'beautiful' came about
Circuitously. — a few days
ago.

We tell on the subject
of beauty. She said that

We've talked
openly about this in the
past —

I am curious about

"WHEN TREES BURN,*
THEY LEAVE THE SMELL



OF HEARTBREAK
IN THE AIR."

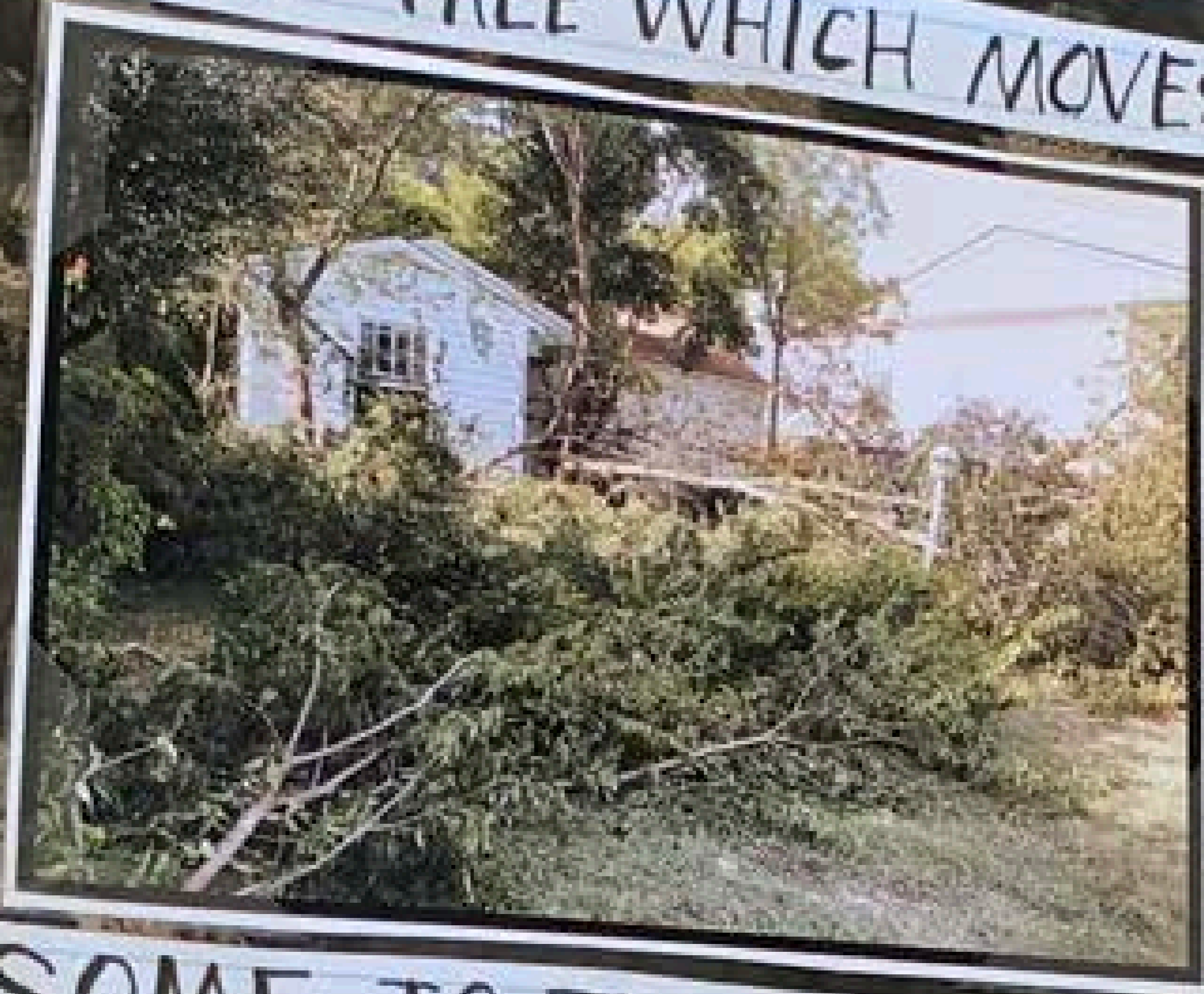
—KHALIL GIBRAN

*OR ARE MURDERED

her — and there is no other
have this conversation.

90 gave her an example
of my self-consciousness,
lack of confidence. The
example was my experience
near the Union Station subway
stop in NYC in April of 2006!

"THE TREE WHICH MOVES



SOME TO TEARS OF JOY



IS IN THE EYES OF

This casual meeting with the
man who I met & Jeff Forney
is written about in detail
in my typed journal.

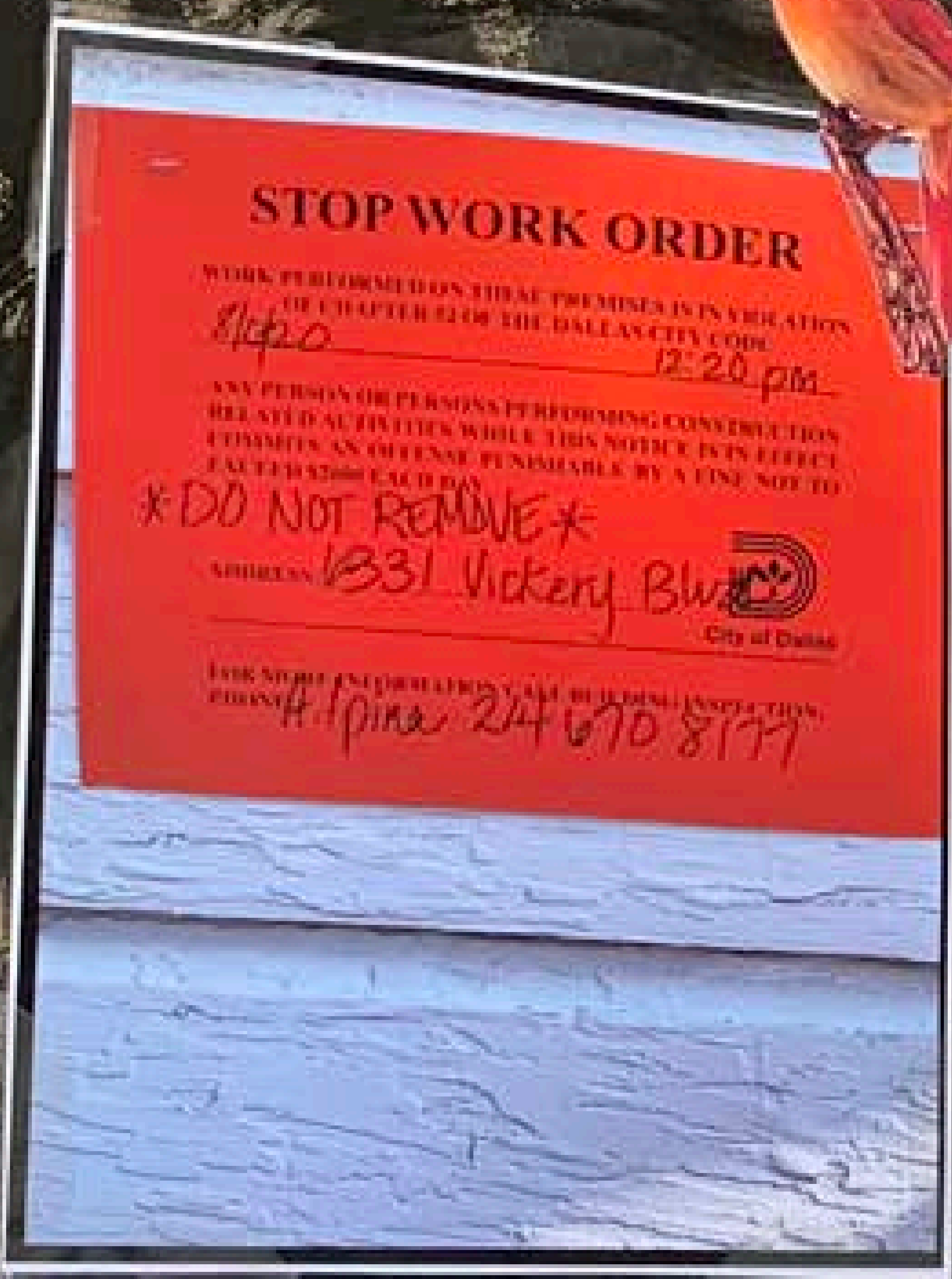
I was 54 years old at
the time, and guess that
he was 15-20 years younger.

Go back to 2006 to read,
and it left me with
memories of the "golden
in time" moments I've
experienced in NYC.

Wistful sadness at energy
wasted on doubt, roads not
taken, little dwellings
built in vanity.

COVID-19 leaves us with
a lot of time for reflection.

And this begins to sound
like the quarterback stuck
in past glories.



8.13.20. @ 6331 VICKERY

(3) TREES

One of my biggest regrets in my adult life is that Kelly and I did not buy the lots to the east & west of us. Instead, we bought property in Nebraska. And now, the 2 story house has Trump reality living in it, and Pappi's house was purchased by a young couple — I actually liked them. I texted them to negotiate saving some of the trees. They were reasonable. We marked 4 or 5 to save. They introduced me to the demo crew, who was also

OTHERS ONLY A GREEN



OPEN & VACANT VIOLATION
CITY OF TAMPA
6331 Volney
15/Nov/20 1570

INFRACCIÓN POR ESTRUCTURAS ABIERTAS Y DESOCUPADAS
CITY OF TAMPA

INSPECTOR *K. Brown* TELEPHONE 408.515.1138

hired for tree removal.

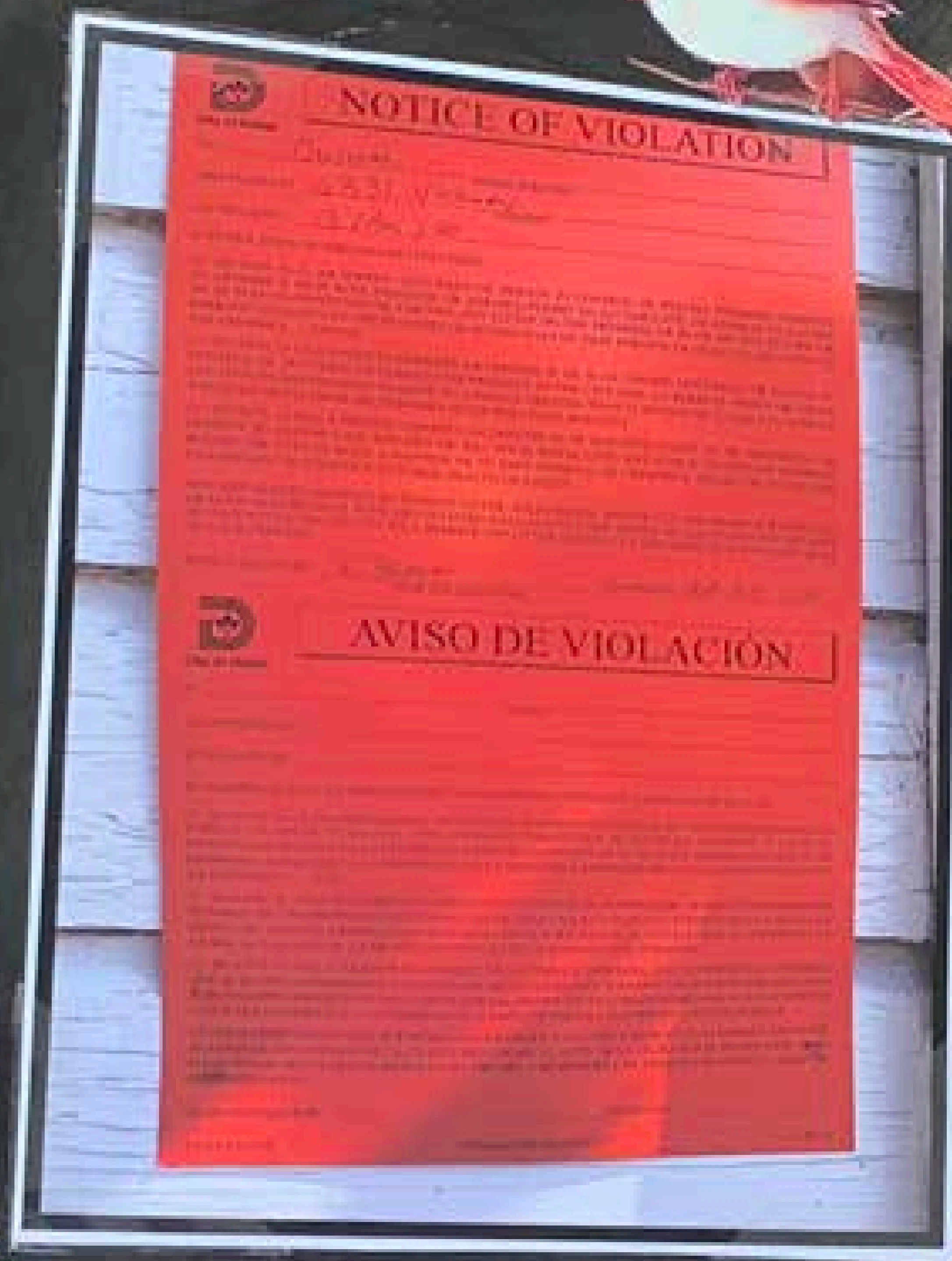
AUGUST 13, 2020

Well, the tree thing blew up. I lost my shit — totally — at the working outting down trees and one fell into our garden, breaking our passion holly tree.

AUGUST 13, 2020

There's so much to report on the tree drama — my handwriting may not hold up. I will write in the typed journal.

THING THAT STANDS



I am a dandelion. And
Now I am an elephant.
with thick skin.

Courage.

Bulk

Intensity

Ferocity.

Loyalty.

Protectiveness

I've never retained an attorney,
other than for our wills,
and for 29. Pieces legal
stuff.

So what happened?

① New neighbors, [redacted] +
[redacted] purchased

IN THE WAY."



DESTRUCTION IN BACK YARD
CONTINUED

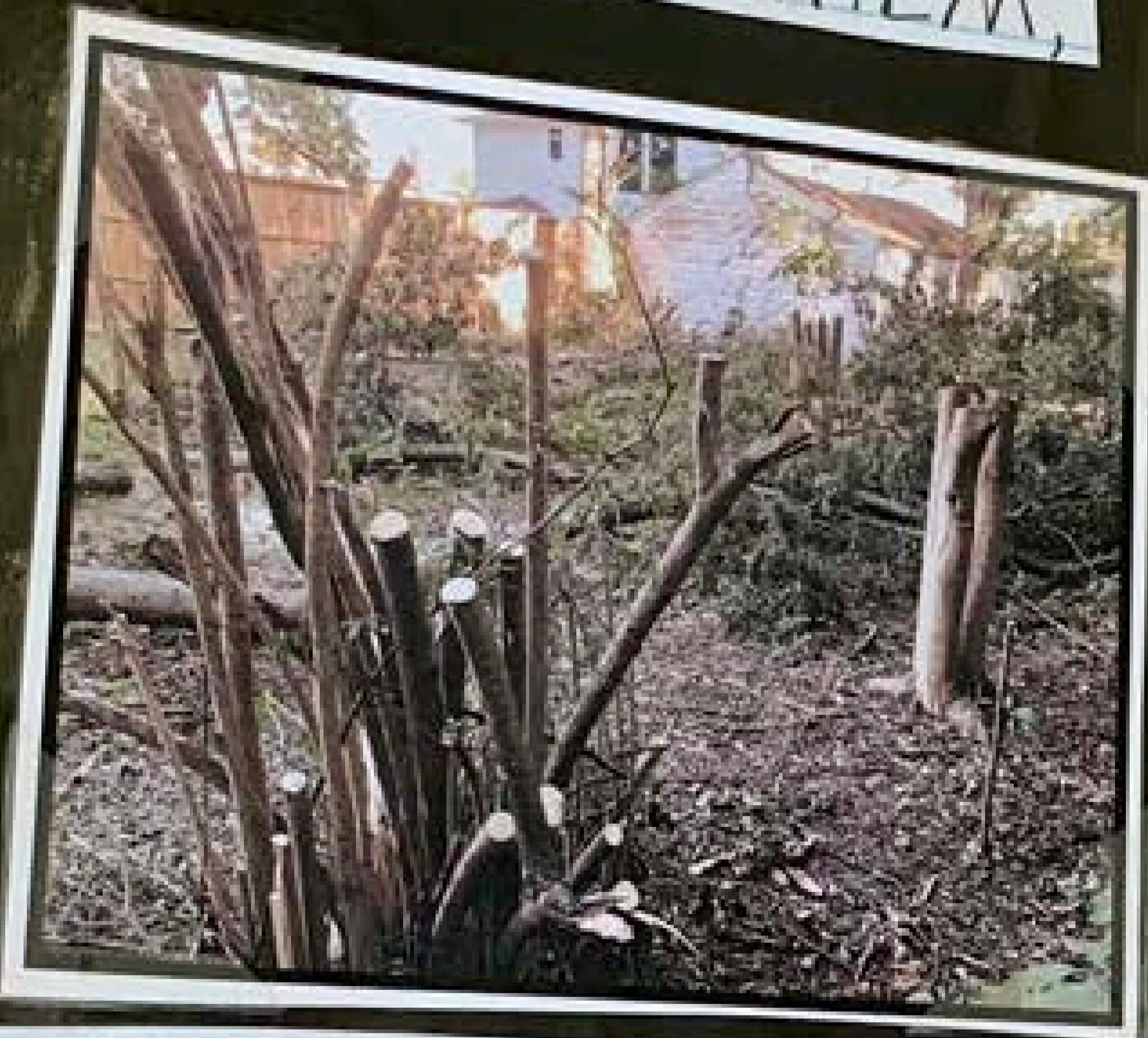
- Mr. Patrick's lot and home.
He came & nicely intro-
duced himself a month
or so ago to Betsy and I.
2. Then a couple of weeks
ago both introduced them-
selves to Kelly when he
was outside.
 3. I texted them last
Friday to ask if we
could have a conversa-
tion about preserving
some of the trees.
 4. They came over Friday
evening, August 7, 2020
and we had a cordial
conversation about
saving a few.
 5. Saturday morning - we

—WILLIAM BLAKE

"TREES ARE SANCTUARIES.

WHOEVER KNOWS HOW TO

SPEAK TO THEM,



WHOEVER KNOWS HOW TO

LISTEN TO THEM,

CAN LEARN THE TRUTH."

— HERMAN HESSE

marked a few trees to save.

6. The crew started their work — inside the house, doing demolition. illegally. As Dallas law states that demolition — even inside — on a property that will be torn down, must be permitted, including an asbestos inspection. No demolition permit.

7. Closing on the house did not happen until Monday or Tuesday, and demolition started before ownership of the property.

8. Tuesday, August 11, 2020, Ricky + an other guy with a chainsaw start

"SHE WAS SITTING IN A GARDEN
MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVEN
HER RAMPAGING IMAGINATION



COULD EVER HAVE CONJURED
UP, AND SHE WAS BEING
SERENADED BY TREES."
— LYNN KURLAND

cutting trees in front
of the house.

I went to Whole Foods +
came back to the branches
of the tree at the corner
of Mr. Patrick's house lying
in our garden, and thought
broken off the possum had
hally.

9. I totally lost my shit.
At Ricky - who clearly
didn't know what the
hell he was doing. He
was cutting tall trees
off at the base.

I texted [REDACTED]. I was
angry.
He came over.

"THERE'S A CHINESE
SAYING, 'WHEN IS THE
BEST TIME TO PLANT



A TREE?"

TWENTY YEARS AGO."

THE CHINESE ENGINEER

SMILES, "GOOD ONE."

I asked if ~~Ricky~~ was bonded and insured, ~~and~~ he didn't know. I asked if he had a demolition permit. He did not.

10. Yesterday, Paul Patterson from Bartlett Trees came over, as well as Manuel Alvizo. They braced the possum haul back up.

I'd told [redacted] I'd give him the bill for the tree.

11. Ricky & his crew proceeded their hatchet job on all the small trees.

"I'M PLANTING A TREE

TO TEACH

ME TO

GATHER

STRENGTH

FROM MY

DEEPEST

ROOTS."



—ANDREA KOEHLE JONES,

The Wish Trees

Their front + back yards
are a disaster / a thursday
now.

12. [redacted] came over last
night with his 12
year old daughter. He
asked how things
went yesterday. I motioned,
like — look around —

He proceeded to say,
"I'll have to bring you
a six pack of Beer."

He told me that the
house would be 2 1/2
stories.

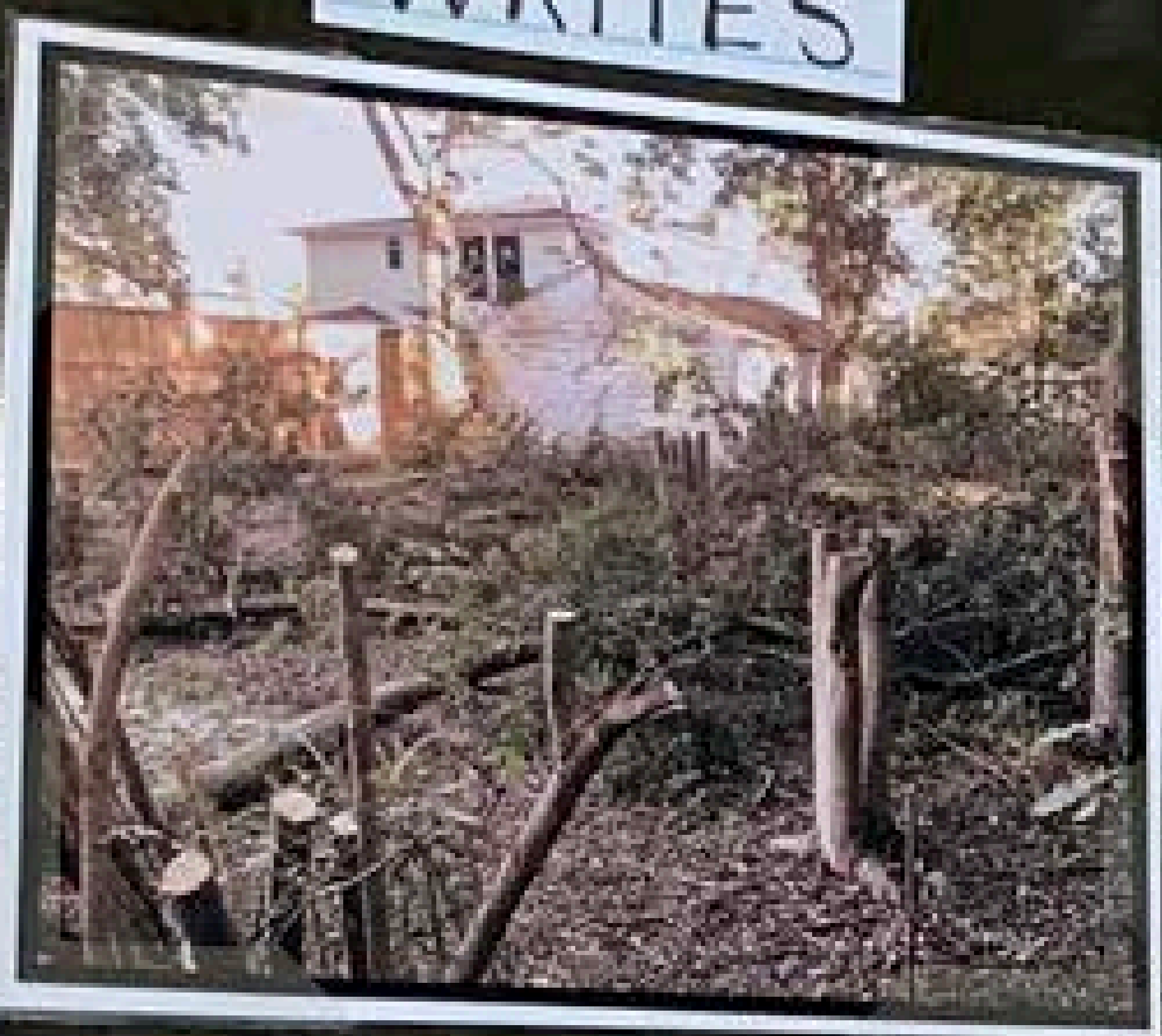
5 bedrooms.

His wife wanted the
Taj Mahal.

His daughter, [redacted] was

"TREES ARE POEMS
THAT THE EARTH
WRITES

DEMENTORS APPEAR



IN HUMAN SKINS.

UPON THE SKY."
— KHALIL GIBRAN
Sand and Foam

with him. He told me he was getting a quote from Rickby's friend about doing the big trees. I stewed. About all the liability issues — he has proven himself to be willing to break the law, + to do sloppy work.

He thought a six pack could change me. His workers would be in our yards. They could damage our property.

I have to babysit this shitty situation. So I couldn't sleep. I woke up thinking — what

"THE PLANTING
OF A TREE



IS A GIFT
WHICH YOU CAN

...

are pro-active steps I can take?

A. Call our insurance company. I did that and was told that this is something for a litigator. They are ruining an ACOR system, harming our property + their changes will force us to essentially do another landscaped plan.

B. I called Vicki Millican for counsel. She passed the news to Michael, who called me.

C. Gretchen called + went into overdrive. I said to call 311 (we had yesterday), contact our city council person. I wrote + called David Blewett. Within 10 minutes, a building inspector was here +

MAKE TO POSTERITY

AT ALMOST NO



COST AND WITH

ALMOST NO TROUBLE,

...

put a STOP WORK order
on the house.

Rizley drove up there +
tried to go to work.

I said - Gorry - WORK
is STOPPED at this

site. He said his
contract was with [REDACTED].

The city did a STOP
WORK on [REDACTED].

Not happy. He pro-
ceeded to talk in
Spanish to the woman
from the city.

D. I texted [REDACTED] that
we'd retained an
attorney. He replied,

"I tried to be nice.
I guess you want to
do it the hard way."

MAKE TO POSTERITY

AT ALMOST NO



COST AND WITH

ALMOST NO TROUBLE,

...

put a STOP WORK order
on the house.

Tricky drove up there +
tried to go to work.
I said - Gorry - WORK
is STOPPED at this
site. He said his
contract was with Brian.
The city did a STOP
WORK on Brian.

Not happy. He pro-
ceeded to talk in
Spanish to the woman
from the city.

P. I texted Brian that
we'd retained an
attorney. He replied,
"I tried to be nice.
I guess you want to
do it the hard way."

AND IF THE TREE
TAKES ROOT IT



WILL FAR OUTLIVE
THE EFFECT OF

...

I replied "LAWS."

Then code compliance
came + put two more
big signs on the house.
Code violation + I
can't read the third
one.

[redacted] was in the back
yard when I went to
the studio. He said -
I guess you want to
leave all the trees on
the lot line. I said you
I don't think you + I
should talk anymore.
And my attorney will
be in touch.

So here we are.
Now a number of
a Hornys are interested

YOUR OTHER ACTIONS,
GOOD OR EVIL."



—GEORGE ORWELL

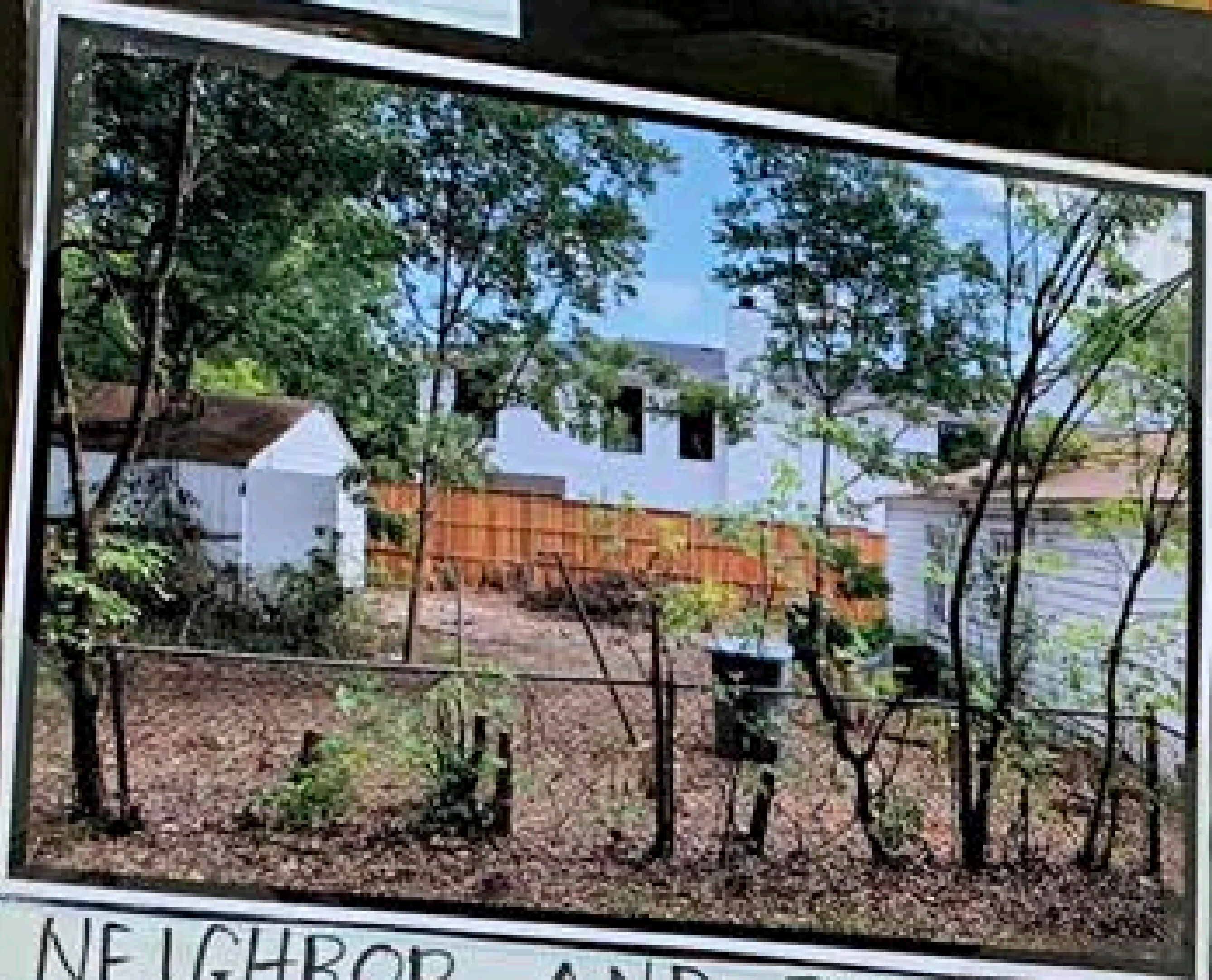


in working with us.
In the morning
8.14.20, I will call them.
This wouldn't be happening

IF:

1. The new owner had not hired inexperienced sloppy guys with chainsaws to cut down trees, and we hadn't fallen in our garden.
2. If he hadn't told me he had no permits.
3. If he didn't say, "I need to bring you a six-pack."
4. If Allstate hadn't advised us to get an attorney.
5. If this callousness to nature didn't offend ^{my} soul.

08.22.20



NEIGHBOR AND DAUGHTER



CLEAN UP BACKYARD

How unpredictable are
the waves of life.
I'm giving attention to
beauty, for responsibility,
then boom.
A tree falls. Laws broken,
WAR.

Or not war.
But justice.
Like the t-shirt says.

Underestimate me,
~~Let's have some fun.~~
OR
That'll be fun.



AUGUST 16, 2020

This interim journal comes to a close.

Tody's Birthday

Our internet line has been cut.

I am looking for tools to deal with: agitation, sorrow.

AUGUST 22, 2020

The 2020 DNC is complete. What a soothing balm to hear calm, compassionate, smart people!

We've retained the attorney to deal with the situation next door. I can only control my reaction to!

1. Disobeying/skirting Dallas law and codes.

KB: Attorney, photos, Dallas code + Building inspection

2. Using inexperienced, cheap labor, unlicensed labor.

KB: The law, see above. Cannot step on own property or damage anything.

3. Cultural collision. You be you. I'll be me.

4. Destroying - unconsciously, unceremoniously, Mother Nature.

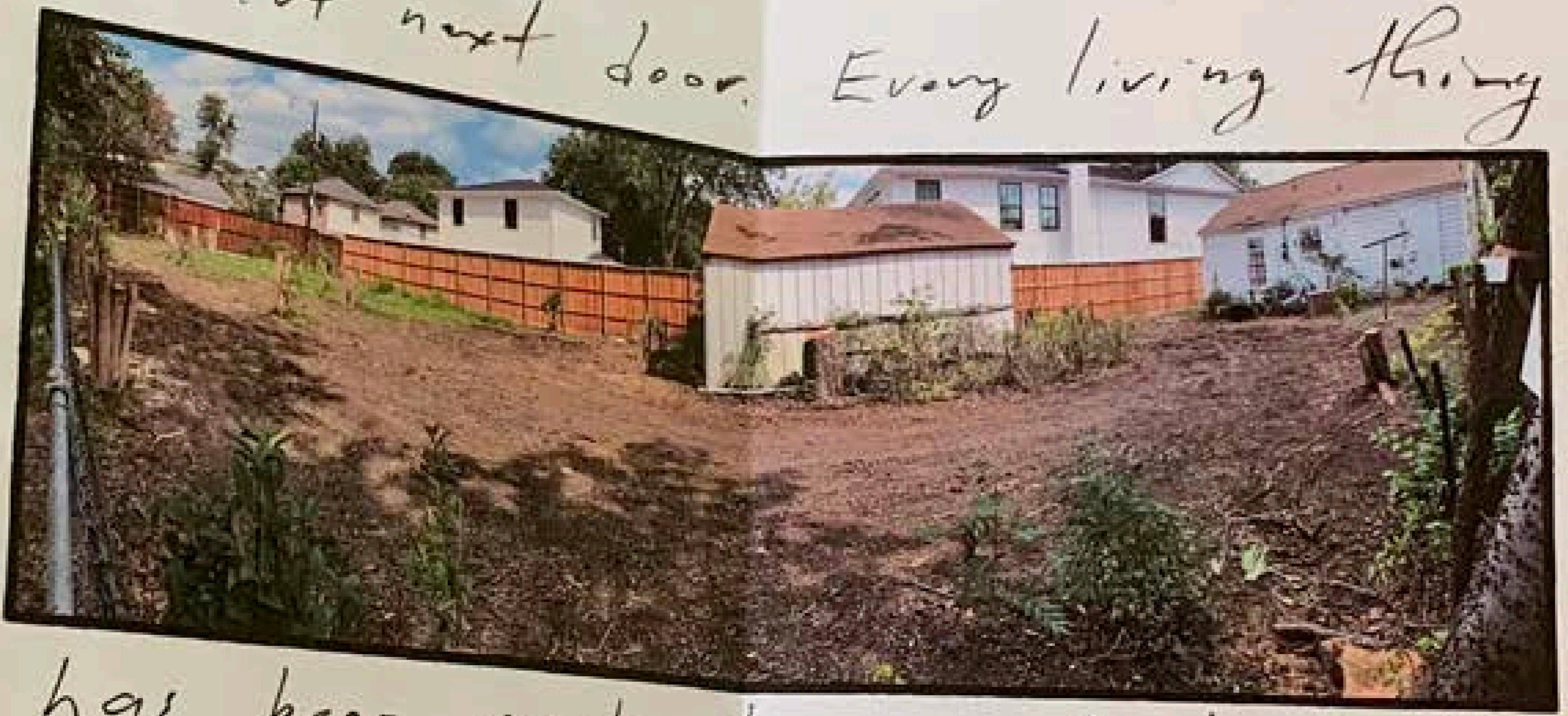
KB: Hold the Rage.



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The lot next door. Every living thing



has been cut down. Sept. 2020

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Family Trees.

Tree Cut.

Tree falling in the garden
Trees became the theme
Trees in the park's
project.

Trees gone next door.

Trees on the borderline
Lotline.

Trees for Christmas
gifts - from Arbor Fdn.
Trees planted in my yard.

Legend says yes.

Do trees have the
capacity to haunt?

