

time out

For those of us fortunate enough to be safely sheltered in our homes, the silver lining of this dreadful pandemic is that we have the gift of TIME. Our challenge is to make the best use of this precious commodity.

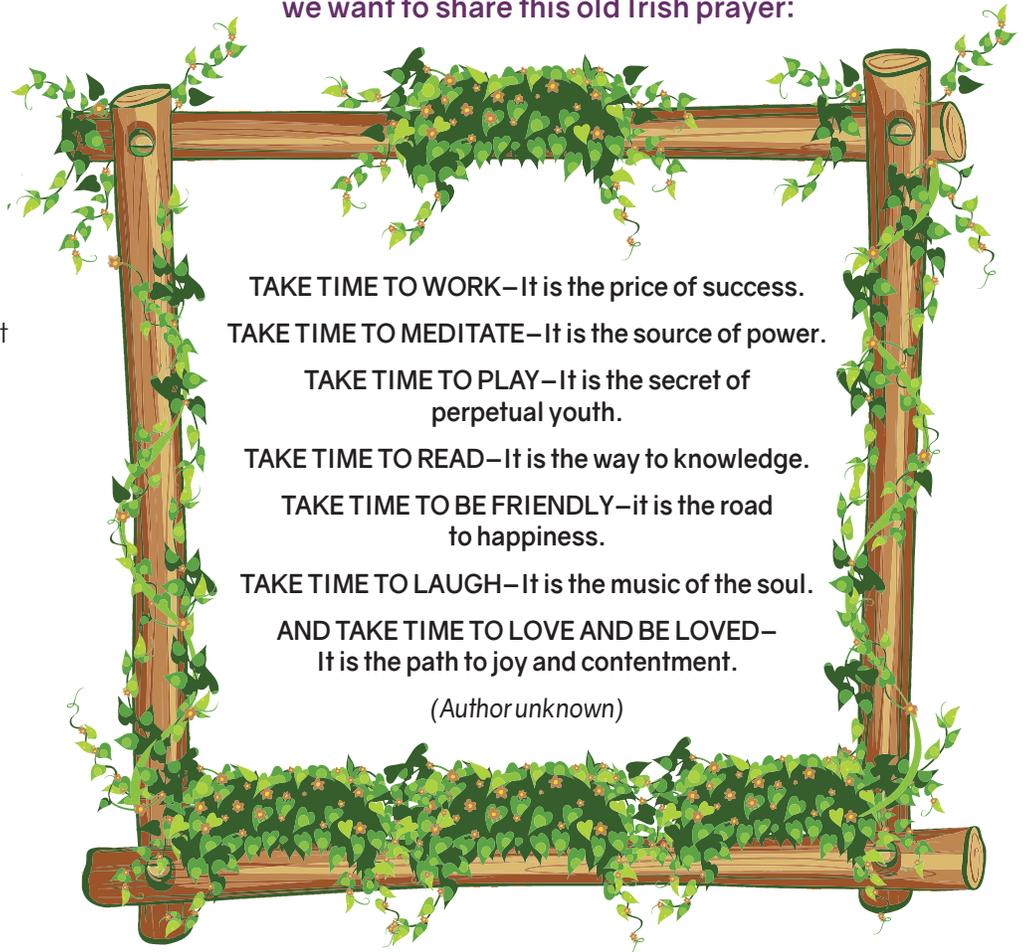
Daily we learn how people use their imagination and creativity to surmount obstacles, change the way they accomplish tasks, rethink how they conduct business and explore new ways to communicate with family and friends.

One of our members who paints recently said he wished he had more time for his art. My hope is that all of our members are currently finding more time for their art, or more time to enjoy art. Whether you are passionate about painting or writing or if you enjoy listening to music, our passion for the arts will surely sustain us as we transition through this historic period.

Our local and national arts organizations are creatively using their websites, the internet, social media and even the good old radio to stay in touch with audiences and provide them with virtual performances. More than ever before, arts organizations need our support!

Donna C. Mayhew

**Until we are able to safely meet again,
we want to share this old Irish prayer:**



- TAKE TIME TO WORK**—It is the price of success.
- TAKE TIME TO MEDITATE**—It is the source of power.
- TAKE TIME TO PLAY**—It is the secret of perpetual youth.
- TAKE TIME TO READ**—It is the way to knowledge.
- TAKE TIME TO BE FRIENDLY**—it is the road to happiness.
- TAKE TIME TO LAUGH**—It is the music of the soul.
- AND TAKE TIME TO LOVE AND BE LOVED**—It is the path to joy and contentment.

(Author unknown)



take note

- Due to the Pandemic, the Arts Advocates Board has voted to cancel the May General Meeting and Luncheon. While we will really miss seeing everyone, particularly our scholarship award winners, we must continue to make the health and safety of our members and guests our first priority.
- In lieu of a formal presentation, the Scholarship team will acknowledge each Arts Advocates scholar with a special certificate.
- Membership renewals may be made through the website or you may mail a check to Betty Ferguson at 1231 Whitney Drive, Venice, Florida 34292. Renewals may be \$55 per person or, as a sustaining member, \$125. To help us grow, please consider a sustaining membership. Any questions, please contact Betty.
- We hope you will continue to watch the newsletter and website for information concerning Member Activities such as salons and tours. Our policy is to continue following social distancing guidelines as prescribed by health department officials and all available scientific data.
- We wish to thank the following members for their years of faithful service as board members: Martha Ballard, Jerry Chesley, Suzanne Weitz and Vern Weitz, Past President. While their board participation will be missed, we look forward to working with them on various committees and other projects of their choosing.
- Arts Advocates will continue to operate as usual throughout the coming months. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors meet regularly through an online conferencing platform and, if it is not possible to meet face-to-face, we will continue to connect to our members through monthly newsletters, e-mails, the website, videos, and online conferencing. Lots to look forward to!

In Memoriam

Condolences go to member Carol Cathell on the loss of her husband, **Bill Boyd**, at the end of February 2020.

Also, our thoughts are with member Mary Alice DeVirgilis who lost her sister, **Ellie Longo Ticola**, in late March 2020.



take a bow

- Jane Sheridan is our official “Organizer” for Go-To-Meeting online conferences. Thanks to Jane, the Arts Advocates Executive Committee and the Board of Directors have the opportunity to continue conducting meetings.

Our Go-To-Meeting subscription permits us to expand these conferences to 250 members. If necessary, Arts Advocates has the capacity to reach our total membership electronically.
- Team members Martha Ballard, Cynthia Burnell, Tonya Eubank and Joan Endrizzi graciously managed our Giving Challenge fundraising effort. A big bouquet of thanks to them.
- Bravo to Jackie Salvino, Linda Milberg and the Scholarship Team for doing an outstanding job of successfully adjudicating numerous applications in a difficult time.
- Martha Ballard, Betty Ferguson and Priscilla Adams are focused on introducing the New Member Partnering program. We thank them for leading this important effort.
- Kudos to our newsletter team, Faith Perkins and Joan Correa, who continue to manage our monthly publications. This month, Teresa Carson and Leslie Butterfield joined the team to help elicit input from our creative members especially those who paint and write.

where are they now?

Interview with Past Scholar Ceramicist Matt Kearney

When I began researching this month's past scholar, ceramicist Matt Kearney, I was pleasantly surprised to see recognition of our Fine Arts Society of Sarasota scholarship on the 'About Me' page of Matt's Upriver Ceramics website. And when Matt sent me a photo from our 2004 awards ceremony that still hangs on the wall of his Bonita Springs art studio, it was clear that this is an artist who does not forget those who have supported him on his artistic journey. *"The Fine Arts Society was one of the earliest groups that recognized me as an artist and that photo I display in my studio is of me and the scholarship committee chair Nancy Stukenberg. I received so much good feedback and positive affirmations about my work that day and those comments validated my decision to pursue a career in the arts,"* notes Matt, adding *"The financial support was very valuable as I attended a private university where tuition and expenses were significantly higher than attending a state school. Your early support and confidence in my talent were very important to me and I am happy to show The Fine Arts Society of Sarasota my appreciation on my website."*

Matt was born and raised in Sarasota and was a two-time Fine Arts Society scholar. He graduated from Booker High School in 2004 and then earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Stetson University in DeLand, FL where he studied marketing and fine arts.

Matt had always been artistic growing up but his interest in ceramics didn't really take hold until high school when a family from South Korea moved into his neighborhood. When visiting the home of his new Booker High School classmates, Matt was amazed at the ceramics studio in their home. Their father was master potter Ki Woon Huh and upon seeing the artist's ceramic works, Matt says *"I was blown away. I began studying one-on-one with Ki Woon Huh and he opened my eyes to the world of possibilities and creativity that could be applied to three-dimensional art through ceramics. I always knew I wanted to be an artist and ceramics enabled me to develop my own style and stand out. Although he didn't speak much English, we managed to communicate. Ki Woon Huh was my mentor and I owe him a debt of gratitude. We keep in touch and he is still a working artist at his studio in Sarasota."*

Fast forward to graduating from college when the economic recession hit and the time was not right to pursue a career as a professional artist! Matt started his own business in electronics and did other work to pay the bills, and those experiences have helped him learn the entrepreneurial side of business. During this time, he



continued to look for studio space and found it in an unlikely place. A standup paddle board excursion led him to Riverside Park in historic downtown Bonita Springs. There he discovered a collection of small fishing cottages alongside the Imperial River. The city was accepting applications from artists and supplementing the studio rents with an art-in-public-places fund. Matt applied and was accepted and has use of an affordable private 300 square foot cottage for his studio and gallery. Other artists in the village include three oil painters, a pine needle weaver, basket makers and a seashell artist. Since the cottages are located within the park, the kayak rental cottage and public events help attract people to visit the art studios.

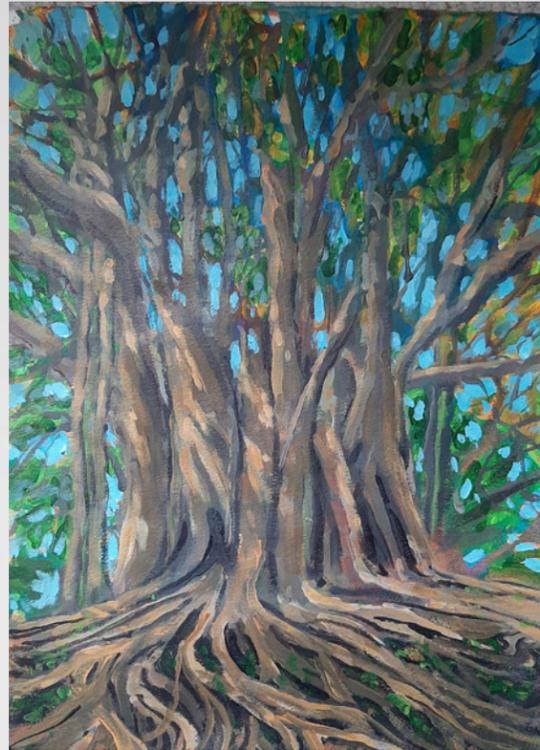
Matt welcomes our Arts Advocates members to visit him at his studio, but it's best to call or email in advance to schedule a day and time. His wide variety of works range from \$8 for wheel-thrown miniature pots up to \$3,500 for sculptural pieces. To view Matt's websites, click the following links:

<https://www.upriverceramics.com/>
<http://www.upriverceramics.etsy.com/>

Please go to www.artsadvocates.org/what-s-new to read Matt Kearney's full story



Reflecting



Twists and Turns



Low Tide



Summer Read



Body Surfing

"I am enjoying using acrylics during this time of introspection. It's a new medium for me but since I painted years ago in watercolor I love the fact that it can flow like watercolor and also be as thick as oils. Easy to use glazes and never too late for changes that remain fresh and unmuddied which is harder to do in oil and watercolor."

~ Karen Mathis

"Here are some photos of some of the paintings I'm creating in my new series "Bringing Beaches Home". The concept is to capture the happiness and energy, colors and imagery of our beloved beaches onto the canvas so you can enjoy our beaches in your home everyday!"

~Meg Krakowiak

An Invitation to **create**

Virus I

What anxiety
What a fuss
What oh what is happening to us?

The market is tumbling
day after day
Nothing seems here to stay

Closings, cancellations, isolation
Can't even go on vacation
What oh what will happen to us?
What will survive the coronavirus?

~ Linda Doery

In Appreciation

I am not an artist but an art appreciator,
so my entry is about appreciating. I am
appreciating our member Sarah Stern who
has put aside her other art endeavors to sit
at her sewing machine and make masks for
frontline workers and friends.

For a creative person making the same thing
over and over, this is not easy.
"Here here" for Sarah!

~ Linda Bruemmer

Virus II

The world as we know it
has come to a halt
An invisible enemy
is at fault

The streets are empty
The stores are closed
A dog walking friend
to the other side goes

News broadcasts seem
designed to scare
Nothing good is on the air

While into our homes
all must retreat
Texts and calls are
how we meet

For Passover and Easter
alone we sit
Hoping isolation will keep us fit.

~ Linda Doery



"I want to share that I have been working with my 7 year old granddaughter Laura who lives in Copenhagen doing art projects while both of us are sheltering at home. Here are some examples of our work.

We started by singing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" in both English and Danish (It's one of the songs translated in both languages and there are hand movements that go with the song too).
Left: Laura working on her art work that is a combination of cutout paper and drawing. Above is my work.
~ Leslie Butterfield



"Antique buttons are my thing. They are little pieces of art, history, real materials. My jewelry designs are centered around the antique button. That hasn't changed. Here's what's changed due to the Covid virus:

- Gone are the large beads, bring on the seed beads.
- Gone are the large selection of beads, bring on the need to be more creative, using my diminished inventory.
- Gone is the stress of production, bring on the time to think outside the box and freedom to experiment and make mistakes."

~Marilyn Richey
Jewelry with a Past

"As we shelter in place during the coronavirus pandemic, I'm working on some creative projects to help relieve my stress. This is a pencil drawing of the design I have been working on for a quilted bed runner. It is being done as a collaboration with a quilter friend in Houston. The image shows a view of a beautiful world interrupted by a global virus outbreak, or the vertical bands can represent the idea of being contained. Still, the world behind goes on and remains compelling."



Distancing

"I painted this scene (pastel on Uart sanded paper) in early March before our beaches were closed. The reference photo was actually taken last summer on Anna Maria Island. My feeling as I painted was influenced by the isolation imposed by the current health crisis. I miss volunteering at ArtCenter Manatee, lunches at the Bird Key Yacht Club, special events organized by the Arts Advocates, plays at the Asolo, and strolling through Selby Gardens. My paintings are influenced by the pervasive mood of the times.."

~ Coseffe Kosiba



Here you see the fabrics I have chosen and my work table with tools for designing. My friend and I speak on the phone and share images and ideas throughout the day."

~ Leslie Butterfield

Lauds (Payne Park)

Spaces between monumental clouds,
let pass a luminosity,
which falls just so on fields still topped
with dew, revealing countless threads
connecting blade to every other blade.

Fragile, yet persistent, threads—
broken each day by those of us
unmindful of their presence, mended
in the night by creatures well aware
the web of connections helps them stay alive.

~ Teresa Carson



Monkeying Around

"A digital painting I have created on the
computer during quarantine."

~ Elisabeth Trostli

The Curmudgeon

He loved to complain. It made his day.
"They should've.
They could've.
Why don't they?
Do you believe it?
There's no way!

Misery loves company, or so they say.
But she packed her bags and moved away.
He'd sucked all the joy out of the air
And anywhere else was better than there.
He was affronted when he found she'd gone,
How could she leave? What had he done?

The upside was, of her walking out -
Now he'd really got something to moan about!

~ Maureen Donovan

On the Beach – Pigeons

I saw pigeons on the beach today.
Why were they there?
They didn't say.
Maybe, bored with being cooped up,
They fancied a day by the sea.

~ Maureen Donovan