

Be Inspired by BeBe Landis's Account of Her Time Practicing Social Distance

Since moving here five years ago, when we downsized from a large house to an apartment, it's been my mission to get rid of "stuff" in a creative way. So I've become (more of) a "maker," inspired by the classes I've taken at OLLI and the many creatives in Asheville. So while I'm missing my "Beginning Ukulele" class this semester because of the quarantine, I'm catching up on the things I started in previous classes:

I finally finished two masks I started in Louis Gire's "Mask Making" class.

Checked Off: A Shutterfly photo book from Julia Loughran's "Creating Custom Photo Books" class.

Starting to watch "The Plot Against America," which I read for Jay Jacoby's class on Phillip Roth.

There's a quilt from Rebecca Nelm's class that still could use some work.

Cleaning out my files, I found my notes from Rose Bator's class on creativity and the heart and am reading through those again. They are a source of constant inspiration.

Inspired by a vintage jewelry class I took at OLLI, I've been making jewelry from my "stuff" and finished two pieces; and there are many more such projects laid out on the dining table.

Okay — I did take a walk because I wanted to see Mel Chin's "Wake". I originally saw it under construction at STEAM during a tour with an Leadership Asheville Seniors group, before it went to Times Square. There it was in a lot next to Burial Beer — and I had it all to myself!

I started Erik Larson's "The Splendid and the Vile," which we got at his interview at UNC Asheville. I've read two books and finally am getting to the NY Times ["1619 Project" articles](#). (There are about eight weeks of NY Times Sunday Magazines to go through too.)

I've made two pots of soup; and, by not eating out, I have better control of the calories that are going into my body.

Cleaning out drawers and closets, I've found things to donate and things I can use that I didn't know I had.

Then there is my list of other projects: going through my computers to clean out files, going through photo boxes and considering making more photo books — and maybe picking up my ukulele and finding an on-line course I can follow.

The money we've saved from cancelling trips, not going to restaurants or stores -- we've made donations to MANNA and BELOVED.

Then there's reflection about what is really important. We've had long heart-felt conversations with people who are stuck at home too, particularly with our son in San Francisco (who's going stir-crazy working from home). We're all looking out for one another in our building, extending offers of errands run, games to be played, books to swap.

I hope that you can stay well. And maybe get those things done that YOU have wanted to do.