

Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Friends and Family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: February 6, 2021
Re: Weekly Update

Hello, Everyone!

As I was contemplating the continuing pandemic and this week's update, I found my mind racing with many thoughts. While the vaccines give us rays of hope, the variants create new forms of uncertainty. Even though some of us are cautiously out and about, we also have become accustomed to isolating. Despite the fact that we are no longer excited about sorting or organizing our lives, we feel a need to keep busy. As I have talked with friends and family, a common thread has recurred. Many of us are finding new things to occupy our time. We are dabbling in the creative arts. I say that, because I'm not sure of the correct terminology. Is it art, craft or a combination? Carol is trying her hand at quilting and paper folding. Tamara is knitting and assembling a doll house. Gayle is drawing and painting. Others are reading, writing, cooking or figuring out other new skills. We would love to hear what old or new talents you are exploring and if you are interested, feel free to share pictures of your handiwork. Perhaps we could even use them in a future update?!

Jim Bloch in Blue Water Healthy Living shares Pablo Picasso's tips to survive the pandemic. He capriciously says, "Picasso, the famous Spanish painter, has a few recommendations to keep your mind sharp and your soul sated during these long weeks of social isolation designed the slow the spread of COVID-19." Bloch pulled these great suggestions from several of Picasso's paintings. Read a good book—

"Girl Reading" 1938. Cook an unexpected meal— "Still Life with Lobster" 1943. Draw your partner— "Visage" 1928. Frolic with someone you love— "Picasso at the Beach" 1965. Play some music— "Mandolin and Guitar" 1924. If you are interested in seeing the actual paintings, the Detroit Institute of Art has put 99% of its 61,251-piece collection online at <https://www.dia.org/art/collection>. Enter "Picasso" in the search-for-art box, click "search-collection" and 117 items by or related to Picasso pop up.

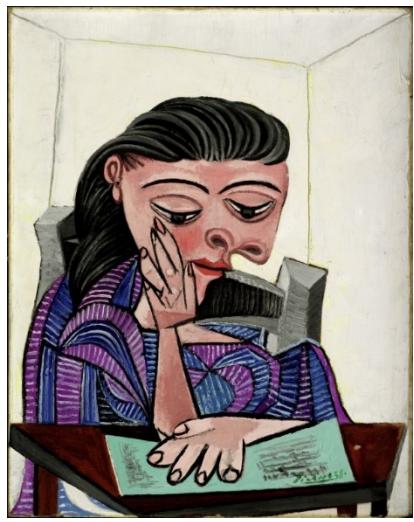
(Left) Picasso got the background right in this painting—a depressingly white room of quarantine. No matter, reading is a way to escape, if only for a while.



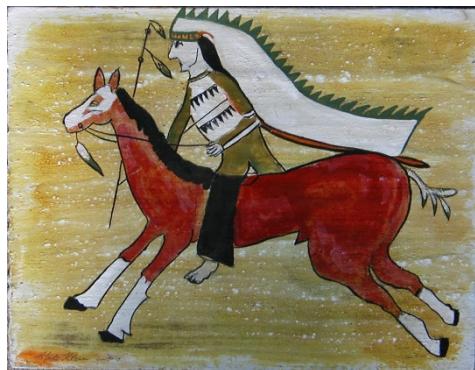
Carol turns strips of material or paper—even grocery bags—into beautiful ornaments or package toppers.



Gayle has been art journaling! She pulled out her sketchbook and is drawing & painting pictures she finds appealing.



Picasso once said, "The purpose of art is washing the dust of the daily life off our souls." Call it what you will—art, craft or self-expression. Maybe we all need to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and get creative at home **OR** at Raven Hill, now that the Center is getting ready for visitors! We are working on innovative ways to reopen for families, school students and campers! What might be your artistic focus? Maybe it is recording specific thoughts in your own words, music or images, preserving those reflections for your children and grandchildren. Now is the time to learn, create, grow and play, as we say at Raven Hill. The possibilities are endless and we certainly have the time right now to get creative and feel better at the same time!



In 2010, participating art teachers ground clay and rocks to use as colorants in their watercolor, oil and encaustic paints for Raven Hill's "Art Across the Ages" painting class. Watercolor painting above is by Monte Klein.

"He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands, his head and his heart, is an artist."—St. Francis of Assisi. Use your hands, your head and put your **heart** into your work. Become your own artist.

Remember: life is all about creating yourself. So, stay curious; listen to the artist within you; enjoy yourself; and share your old and new skills with us here at Raven Hill, if you are so inclined!

If you know someone who would like to receive weekly updates, please send their email addresses to info@miravenhill.org. I will add their names to the list. Previous updates are available on our website — www.MiRavenHill.org.

I always enjoy getting your emails & phone calls. You can text me or call my cell at 231.675.6025 anytime. You can also email me whenever. My email address is cheri@miravenhill.org. Meanwhile, play it safe, even if you have had the vaccine. By the way, I got my first dose this week! Wash your hands often, wear your masks, socially distance and stay away from crowds.

Take care of yourselves and have a good week,

Cheri



Art teachers also created their own brushes and used them to apply their paint.

Since 1903, Crayola wax crayons have helped those creative juices flow. Take a chance, feel emboldened and be curious. Try your hand at something new and different **OR** resurrect and perfect a skill from your past. Then, let the Center know how it goes!



Campers picked their favorite colors and learned the art or craft of Shibori, a Japanese method of folding and clipping to form patterns on silk. Raven Hill offers Shibori classes for small groups. Call 231.675.6025 to schedule a session, so you can design your own scarves or banners.