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Joyce's Journal

A monthly dispatch from Joyce A. Miller, Writer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! SUMMER BECKONS...

I'm celebrating two birthdays in June this year. Me! I'll be 64 on June 6. And **Look! You're Dancing** is one year old! Do you remember the anxiety I went through last year to get **Look! You're Dancing** out into the world? It started with a problem with my distributor where I was supposed to have a button to upload the final draft. But alas, I had no button! After a week of going back and forth with their tech support (you know the first thing they told me to do was to turn my computer off and back on!), the button magically appeared when my computer randomly did an upgrade. I thought for sure I wasn't going to have any books to sell at my book launch at Jardin. The books arrived the day before the launch! With so much stress, I worked myself into a bout of laryngitis. I took a sip of wine before I began my reading at Jardin and almost passed out. Luckily my daughter Jade stepped in and read the chapter for me. I spent the next week in bed with no voice at all! But all is well that ends well. **Look! You're Dancing** is out in the world and if you haven't read it yet, you still can!

My work-in-progress, tentatively titled **Corinne**, is with three beta readers from my Church Hill Book Club. Hopefully they'll have it back to me sometime this month with lots of comments and suggestions to make it better.

June 21st marks the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere and the start of summer. It's also National Selfie Day, so let's take those selfies on that day and share them!

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S INCLUDED:

An artist marries an artist

I attended a Richmond Rotary Club meeting on May 23rd as the guest of my dentist Dr. Paul Neumann. The guest speaker for the meeting was Jimmy Thomas from the Glenville, NY Rotary Club. Jimmy initiated a non-profit call Doggie Paddle where he journeyed 2000 miles by kayak from upstate New York to Key West, FL and bicycled back to raise awareness and money to provide service dogs to veterans in need. Jimmy regaled us with stories of his trip—getting clipped by a ferry near Manhattan and nearly pulled into the ferry's propeller, paddling through 3 to 4 ft waves when a surprise thunder squall overtook him off the coast of Florida, and being lifted out of the water on the Intracoastal on the back of a manatee. Jimmy raised over \$100,000 on his trip and hopes to provide 6 dogs for veterans. If you'd like to find out more and to help, please go to his website: <https://www.doggiepaddle.org>

As the bonus for June's newsletter and to get you excited about my work in progress, I'm attaching the synopsis of the **Corinne** book, a photograph of her and one of her husband's paintings of her. Do you find her as intriguing as I do? If so, please share in an email to me!

I live in the Church Hill section of Richmond, VA with my husband and my retired racing greyhound. Before I started writing, I worked for 30 years at a nuclear physics research laboratory.

Do what you came here for!



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An artist marries an artist



Brilliant Corinne Mackall meets the love of her life Gari Melchers on a ship where she's headed to the Paris Salon to exhibit her paintings. It's the early 1900s and Corinne quickly finds out that the art world is not so equal in how it treats men and women artists. She marries Gari and helps to promote his career rather than focus on her own artwork. Gari becomes a famous portraitist, muralist, and American Impressionist painter of the time, comparable to his friends John Singer Sargent and James McNeill Whistler. Does Corinne lose her identity and become Mrs. Gari Melchers? All she wants is respect for her accomplishments in painting. Based on the true story of Corinne and Gari Melchers as they move from an art school in seaside Holland to an art studio in Weimar Germany before the Great War and finally to their Belmont estate in central Virginia.

