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# Joyce's Journal

A monthly dispatch from Joyce A. Miller, Writer

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## AUGUST REMINDS US THAT SUMMER ENDS

August is American Artist Appreciation Month, so perhaps I'll take some time to visit a local art gallery or take a painting class from a local artist. When people think of famous visual artists, the first to come to mind are often the European classics: Rembrandt, Picasso, or Monet. But there are thousands of American artists who have contributed the same amount of inspiration and talent with their work: Gari and Corinne Melchers to name two! You'll be able to read their story when my next novel comes out.

This month I would also like to take the opportunity to show appreciation for you. I'd like to thank the readers of my newsletters and books this month. A writer only begins a book, a reader finishes it. August 9th is National Book Lovers Day. I hope you'll share a photo of you reading one of my books on your social media and tag me!

The Perseid Meteor Shower, one of the brightest celestial displays, starts in mid-July, but peaks around August 11-13. Visible from any location on Earth, it promises a mesmerizing spectacle of shooting stars, especially in dark, clear skies.

A GLIMPSE OF  
WHAT'S INCLUDED:

### **A deleted scene**

The Author Expo in Kilmarnock in July was enjoyable. There were 40 attendees--authors, publishers and writing group representatives. I met a few people in each category. We had a networking lunch followed by a talk by author Christina Dalcher. The theme of her talk was "Be Fearless!" Then we had 3 hours of sales at our tables throughout the afternoon. I sold two books and got a few more sign-ups for my newsletter. Alan and I stopped at Lee's Restaurant on the way home for homemade crabcakes. I would like to go back and explore the little town of Kilmarnock when I have more time. All in all, a nice afternoon!

We're going to be spending almost the whole month of September in France and Germany visiting friends. As a bonus for this month's newsletter, I'm including a few paragraphs that my editor had me delete from **Look! You're Dancing** about my French friend Pascal's physics experiment in the Mediterranean Sea. It could become part of a future memoir about my 30 years at a nuclear physics laboratory. If you enjoy reading it, 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!



JOYCE A. MILLER, WRITER

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Toulon was Pascal's port for a physics experiment that he was running called ANTARES, an acronym for Astronomy with a Neutrino Telescope and Abyss environmental RESearch. He built an underwater neutrino telescope to detect high-energy cosmic neutrinos—nuclear particles that pass through the mass of the Earth. This underwater system comprised 900 photomultiplier “eyes” on twelve lines in a grid covering approximately 1000 square meters along the Mediterranean Sea floor. Each vertical line was a 350-meter chain with a buoy at the top and the detector “eyes” attached to it. These “eyes” detected and measured minute flashes of light which coincided with the existence of a neutrino. Pascal needed his sailboat La Gargouille to travel from the experiment site to the detector counting house on the shore in Toulon. It was the whole reason we took the sailboat through the canal.

Pascal told us a side story about his experiment under the sea. There are certain fish in the Mediterranean that fluoresce. The detector “eyes” were delicate instruments and extremely sensitive to light. The fluorescing fish were so bright; they were blowing out all the detector eyes. The engineers came up with a device to blow a screen of bubbles on the outskirts of the grid, an air bubble curtain, to keep the fish on the outside away from the detector grid. Bubbles of air were released at the bottom of the sea and as they rose, they acted as a barrier to control the movements of the fish. The fish no longer interfered with the detectors.