
MARCH 2023 | ISSUE 28

Joyce's Journal

A monthly dispatch from Joyce A. Miller, Writer



COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES!

March 31st is at the end of the month but mark your calendars for National Crayon Day! It's a day to celebrate the invention of crayons along with the joys of creative expression.

In 1903 cousins Edwin Binney and C. Harold Smith developed their own line of colorful drawing sticks by combining paraffin wax with non-toxic, kid-friendly pigments. Binney & Smith then coined the company name Crayola by combining the French word for chalk, craie, with the first part of oleaginous, the oily paraffin wax used to make the crayon. At that time Crayola produced only 30 different colors of crayons. How many crayons do you think Gari and Corinne had in their studio?

Grant Wood, an American artist who was a contemporary of Gari and Corinne Melchers, once entered a Crayola-sponsored drawing competition and came in third place. He later credited this win for encouraging him to stick with his art career. We may never have had the iconic painting, American Gothic, if not for crayons!

I saw the iconic painting American Gothic at the Art Institute of Chicago on our February trip!

A GLIMPSE OF
WHAT'S INCLUDED:

**A pdf of a greyhound
coloring page!**

Some fun facts about crayons:

Blue/azul/bleu is the favorite crayon color.

The first eight pack of crayons sold for five cents.

Each Crayola crayon has three languages on the wrapper--English, Spanish, and French.

I've been a guest on two podcasts. One is available to listen to now. It is called **The Story of my Pet** podcast. My episode, All About Dogs Who Dance, is about dog dancing and greyhound adoption. The link:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1983300/12318089>

On March 14th I'll be featured on the **Starlight Pet Talk** podcast talking about greyhound adoption and my book **Look! You're Dancing**.

The link is here: <https://starlightpettalkpodcast.buzzsprout.com/share>

As the bonus for March's newsletter, I'm attaching a pdf printable of a coloring page of a greyhound. Drop me an email or tag me on Instagram to show me your finished page!

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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