

Joyce's Journal

A monthly dispatch from Joyce A. Miller, Writer



A PEACEFUL DAY!

On the afternoon of Monday, Feb. 2 thousands of people flooded the streets around City Hall in Richmond, VA. They were standing on pavement and on snow and ice, many with eyes closed and hands folded over their chests. The Walk for Peace was organized by a group of monks who hail from around the world with a goal to raise “awareness of peace, loving kindness, and compassion across America and the world.” They set out on Oct. 26 from Fort Worth, Texas to walk approximately 2,300 miles across 10 states to Washington, D.C. Aloka the Peace Dog, a stray dog the group adopted on a former pilgrimage in India, walked with them. Venerable Bikkhu Paññākāra, the monk who has been leading the walk told the crowd that if we throw loving kindness, compassion and peace out to the universe, “it will shower back down on all beings.” We need that now.

For our 30th wedding anniversary, my husband and I took a train trip to the Northeast on February 16. We stopped one day in Philadelphia and had a private tour of **Henri Rousseau: A Painter's Secret**. Although we loved his lush jungle scenes with naïve animals, we enjoyed his other “portrait landscapes” too. Back on the train the next day we traveled to New York City. Any book lover would appreciate The Library Hotel. Each floor is dedicated to a category of the Dewey Decimal system, with rooms featuring curated book collections on specific topics like Zoology and Botany. There is a Reading Room that is open 24/7 with snacks, coffee, tea and hot chocolate, We had an 8-course wine pairing

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S INCLUDED:

YouTube video of the book launch!

winter tasting dinner at Eleven Madison Park in the evening, complete with a visit to their 3-Michelin-starred kitchen. We finished our trip with a quick stop at the Morgan Library and Museum. I want to return and spend more time there as one morning was not enough.

A winter coastal storm threatened to derail my book launch party on Sunday, February 22nd, but my people showed up anyway, and those who couldn't make it were with me in spirit. We gathered at the vibrant Shop Two Three in Richmond's Manchester neighborhood, where we celebrated with a birthday cake for Corinne. I read the chapter where she marks her 30th birthday in Germany, and one of my beta readers surprised me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. I'm still overwhelmed by the love and support. The best place to pick up a copy is through the James River Writers online bookshop. All their books are discounted, and every sale sends a donation their way. Find it under "Books by JRW Members" at <https://bookshop.org/shop/jrw>.

As a bonus for this month's newsletter, I'm going to include a little YouTube video I made of the book launch party.

Here's the link:

[Book Launch Party for Mrs. Gari Melchers](#)

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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