

Seasons Greetings from John & Donna



Horses pulling the Christmas Sleigh through the snow. Studio painting 16 x 20 acrylic is this years Christmas painting

This past year has again been about art and travel and medical emergency while travelling..

Here is a picture of Donna finally relaxing painting in November after ll the stress from medical stuff was behind us.



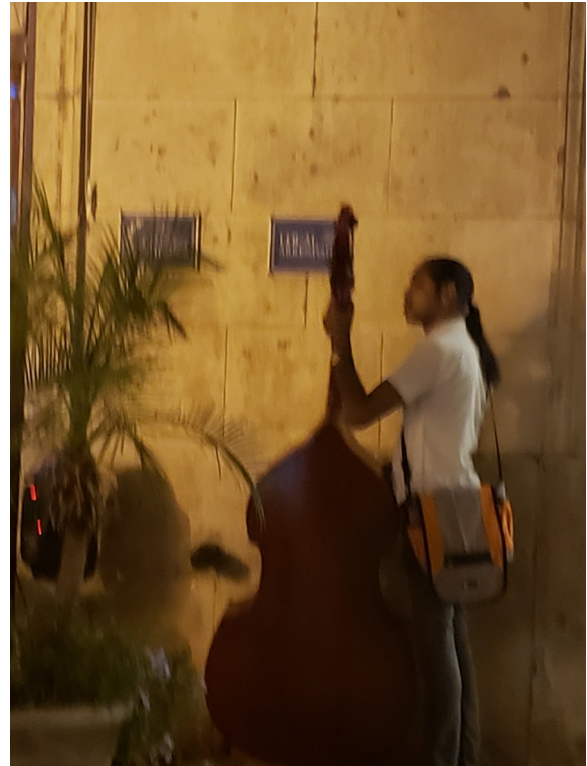


We started the years travels by going on a cruise to Cuba. Good thing we went when we did, now cruises to Cuba are banned once again.

Here is a sketch of John right after we got on the ship.

We arrived in Havana around 5 pm and went out for a walk around the town later that evening. It is a lively city with the residents friendly and welcoming. There was a lot of street music and merriment.

Still committed to making art part of this trip below is a watercolor in Donna's travel journal of the Basilica of San Francisco which is right across the street from where the cruise ship docked.



The next day we had a walking tour of Old Havana that ended with a ride in one of classic old cars planned.

This tour had been highly recommended on Trip Advisor. So we were Excited.



This documentation of the time we were there at the meeting place, but no tour guide to be found. He later notified us in email that they had to quickly go out of business and if we knew the circumstances we would understand why. Our money was refunded and we had to come up with our own plan. So we ended up taking a buggy ride around the city.

That turned out fine but as Donna was stepping down from the buggy, which was a very high step, she got a compression fracture on her foot.

The next day we were at one of those private islands. Since we live in Florida and are close to the beach we stayed on the ship and this painting was done en plein air from the balcony.



The Urgent care x-ray said it was not broken but a trip to the podiatrist confirmed a compression fracture. And.. There is still a need to use the ultrasound bone growth stimulator.

Travels to Florence and Northern Tuscany was supposed to be a relaxing trip with lots of painting, enjoying Tuscan cuisine and wine and some touring. We began our trip in



Florence staying in an AiirBnB in the outskirts of Florence. It was lovely and convenient for getting into the city center. We are big fans of hop on hop off bus so we got a three day pass and scouted about the magnificent city, taking in the Uffizi museum and a day trip to Fiesole.

After that we got in our rental car and headed to Barga, Italy a wonderful mountain north west of Florence. This is a painting Donna did of Barga before the trip. It is a



good thing for as it turned out despite best laid plans not much painting was done there as John had a medical emergency.

If you have not heard of ITP, it is low platelet count that causes bleeding under the skin resulting in petechiae. When we saw that it meant a trip to the emergency room.

Our friend there in Barga drove us to the ER, helped with translation and emotional support. We found out the staff was goggling ITP, not very confidence inspiring. But they did get him stable after 3 days. We decide to cut the trip short and head back to Boston and Vermont. We both got airplane flu on the flight back and that caused a relapse of the ITP in John, this time he ended up in Dartmouth-Hitchcock in Hanover NH where they clarified the I in ITP stood for immune.

We decided that our new definition of a good vacation is one where we both come home alive.

Here we are after John's release from Dartmouth-Hitchcock, decided to go out to dinner before heading back to Barton.



Wishing you all a joyful and love filled Holiday
Season and all the Best in the New Year!!
Donna & John