

New Year's Day, January 1, 2023

Dear friends and family.



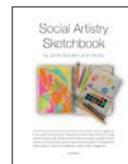
Burna quoted a T-shirt yesterday: “I can’t believe I’m the same age as old people.” Me neither. I had my 80th birthday in November and every time I think 80, I just laugh. It took us a full week to get all the celebrating in: a champagne brunch with friends; supper with Steve Dunn and Lynn Rodenhizer; a lox and bagels brunch; and afternoon tea with a *Kyivski Night* tort. We’re getting dangerously close to our 50th wedding anniversary and are upgrading our celebrations.



Steve and Lynn at Liberty Puzzles



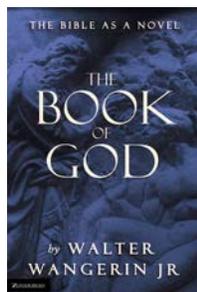
Burna teaches work-related English via Zoom for McDonald’s Spanish-speaking employees, plus a diverse group of ESL learners at the English Learning Center in Denver. I collaborated with ICA colleague Janet Sanders to publish the 1st edition of her Social Artistry practices. I’ve just begun to collect and edit many years of my unpublished poetry.



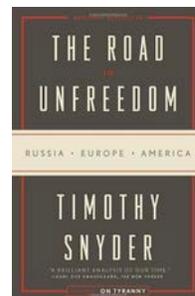
We visited all three of our daughters this year: Jenny Sides, Sarah Roth and Ruah Dunn. We attended a pig roast celebrating Bennett Sides’ high school graduation in Gaylord, Michigan; had lunch with Ruah, Tabia Coulibaly and our mutual friend, Mary Price at Mary’s care home in Howell; and hung out at Sarah’s and Tyler’s home in Goshen, Indiana so Burna could teach her ESL Zoom classes. The Amtrak Capital Limited stop in Elkhart is about ten minutes from Goshen.



Ruah (ctr), daughters Nia (l), Tierra (r)



Burna and I listen to Audible books when we’re driving together. *The Book of God* (Walter Wangerin Jr.) is a dramatic rendering of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures through the Resurrection of Jesus—written as a novel. *The Road to Unfreedom* (Timothy Snyder) is a riveting, well-documented account of “how toxic ideas, autocratic power, and fake news spread from Russia to the White House” [Time]. It takes courage to listen to *The Road to Unfreedom*, but the reward is making sense out of Russia’s meddling in both Ukraine and the US.



This is *Jacob Wrestling with the Angel*, our family symbol, created in Chicago, in 1975.

Buda, considering his new reindeer toy.





Buda is a two-year-old Boxer puppy who plays at day care so Burna and I can get stuff done. We hiked together this year and discovered an urban wetlands park that Buda explores regularly. On weekends, he runs free in the Cherry Creek State Park off-leash area. Buda has two playmates: he plays daily with Sweat Pea, who lives downstairs, and weekly with Harriet, who lives not far away.



We've subscribed to the online *Live from London* music festivals created and organized by the VOCES8 Foundation early in 2020. Since we're just six hours away, we drove to Santa Fe to attend a *VOCES8* concert on their North American tour.

We took Louise Singleton to the concert and had long conversations with Louise and the Packards. VOCES8 is our favorite international vocal ensemble; *Kantorei* is our favorite in Denver. Both groups are on YouTube.



We're reconsidering our level of engagement and the look and feel of our condo. We've been



getting rid of what no longer belongs, including books, decor, curricula and files. But the best thing we've done all year is adding two easy chairs to our home office. The shift from doing to being is bearing fruit: with less clutter space feels more spacious and time expands. feels more welcoming.

I pray that in 2023 humanity will settle down to grow and deepen, neighbors will honor boundaries and laws, politicians will promote social equity and opportunity, and citizens will engage creatively in civic life.

Thank you for enriching our lives with friendship and love.

Burna

