

"The sun shines and warms and lights us and we have no curiosity to know why this is so; but we ask the reason of all evil, of pain, and hunger, and mosquitoes and silly people" --Ralph Waldo Emerson

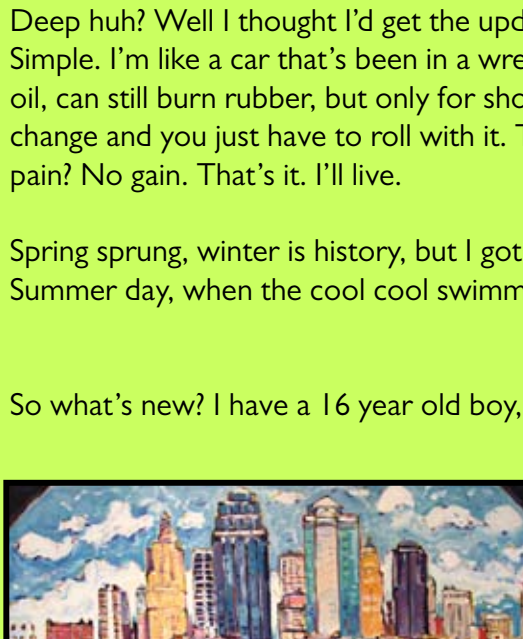
# Savvy

(As in SAV-e, get it?)  
A digi newsletter dedicated to you, from me.

Volume Three

July 2010

## Ain't no cure for the Summertime blues... Ah, that's a bunch of bovine excrement. (Though a very good song)



Starting a new Summer newsletter.....where to begin. Not like starting a painting. Oh well, feet first. We left the Plaza months ago. But you've all figured that out by now. Winter was a doozy, and so was Spring. Pretty bright as I write, and still very green. Got some nice acoustic guitar working and trying to get in the mood. Let's start with one of my famous found quotes....just to set the tempo.

"Never miss a good chance to shut up." -- Will Rogers (well, I guess I've missed that chance!)

Deep huh? Well I thought I'd get the update on Simple. I'm like a car that's been in a wreck. oil, can still burn rubber, but only for short change and you just have to roll with it. Tires pain? No gain. That's it. I'll live.



"How I'm feelin' out of the way first. Damaged but still running. Not leaking distances! But that's all I need. Things are worn, but still have a grip. No say, it's hard to write on a gorgeous Summer day, when the cool cool swimming pool beckons. ! But I'm trying.

So what's new? I have a 16 year old boy, tearing up the road and a 13 year old girl tearing up the pool. You tell me! But they're good.....yeah right. No they are. In fact they're great. Getting ready to head to the lake with 4 of their friends. Pray for me.



I don't know, been kind of home body. Had some great commissions and worked on some fun fundraisers. And now I'm ready to do some new stuff for myself.



Here's the description for them: left to right sorta. Ah, you figure it out. 1. YMCA 125th Anniversary commish. 2. Goldy Gate. 3. Purply Provence. 4. Spring's a Poppin'. 5. Cami's Xmas present. 6. Kitty Kornering. 7. Road to Heaven. 8. Reflecting on Summer. 9. Kansas Wheat. 10. Kitty Porn. 11. It's a Beautiful Day. There. Most are sold, but call Jenny and she tell ya for sure. One has to make a living. Don't worry workin' on more!

## Speaking of Jenny!

Yeah, about Jenny. Drumroll.....She's getting married! Now all she's getting married to. I normally keep myself busy working at Sav-Art, painting, creating murals, working with local artist Kari Heybrock and attempting to learn how to garden. But this year is way busier than ever before. As Sav announced this winter, I got engaged!! So, I am planning a wedding for 300+ people in November. Crazy, I know. Being a creative person I have learned that wedding planning ideas are endless. What a time intensive event!! And of course if that was not enough for one year, I was accepted to show at the Prairie Village Art Fair in June. That was my first outdoor art fair of that caliber. Thank goodness I had pros to help me along and teach me the ropes!! That will not be the only time you hear from me this year, but thanks for all that came by to support me. I had a super show. More about Sav-Art....come visit us back at 45th & State Line!! I know it isn't the Plaza, but it's amazing how good the space looks with such colorful art filling it. (I own this one! Mike)



Don't forget, if something is sold, I can always recreate with a bit of a twist, to keep it special. Now ain't that special?



Oh yeah, how could I forget! Just got done doing 7 days in L.A. in the Manhattan beach area. All by myself. (Thanks Tanners). A little sabbatical. Check the photos. They tell the story.



## "When in doubt, Twirl" - The Grateful Dead

Coming home from Cal-ee-for-nigh-a, I felt like I needed a shtick or something. Ok! Getting my hair colored, lipo-suction on my six-pack ( I know it's under there somewhere!), spray tan and I'm set for the pool! I'm gonna work it this year. Hell with work, I need to chill! Got a son to cut the grass, plants are growing and my daughter does the watering, the little lady is jammin' on her thing, so join me at Woodside! They open at ten! I'll be doing one and a halfs before I settle into a nice cool corner of the baby pool. Until the water warms up. Nice ladies there too! Water does seem a bit murky though. By mid July, I'll be golden! If I could just find my Gucci slippers! Aah-hhh Summer. Nuthin' better! As they (someone, I'm not sure who) say, " Never take Life too seriously, Nobody gets out alive anyway!" Chill baby, chill! Mike

## A NEW FRIEND And ain't she sweet!

I always seem to meet new artists, of all ilk. Well, we're gonna start highlighting them here. So our first is Cup/cake creator extraordinaire: Diane Mora of...what else? "Extraordinary Cakes". Here's a few words from her. They were written to me when first met. And still sound good. And enjoy the visuals of her wares!



Hello! I hope you'll appreciate this, although it's unrelated to cakes...recently I won First Place Most Creative/Artistic in a contest hosted by Urban Winning Housewares for Creative/Artistic Use of Trash. The rule was that glue was the only thing you could use that wasn't trash. For about 6 or 8 months I have been creating what I call "Junk Mail" for friends and family. I use post-consumer waste (fancy name for trash) and up-cycle it into handmade greeting cards with hand made envelopes. Everything is cut and made from trash - empty food boxes, paper shopping bags, magazine pages, empty tea bags. Here's two examples, but you can see more on my Facebook page in a photo album called, "Paper Patisserie". I actually ended up selling everything I made...so now it's back to the drawing board. Anyway, could be another quirky thing to keep in mind if you hear of anyone wanting to have some TRULY recycled custom invitations made for a party or event.

And here's some of the "other" things I create. Be well, Diane



Visit her at: dianemoracakes.com Like I said, Ain't she sweet?

## Too Hot to Cook? I'll Fix that!

Health food makes me sick. -Calvin Trillin

Cool it baby. Load the cooler with your fav bev's. Ice and let sit while you "cook". The Gas grill doesn't make you sweat, so fire it up. Cut some onions into rings, slide over corn on the cob, spray with garlic juice and slather with salt, pepper, wiki-wiki sauce, and butter. Wrap in foil and throw on the grates next to that solid hunk of beef fillet. Cook each for about 3-4 minutes on each side. So far no sweat. Cut those fresh tomatoes, onions, cucumbers and add some feta crumbles. Pour a simple olive oil and vinegar mix over the top. A little salt and pepper. Lime maybe, or basil. Chill it tad. Calm and cool! Ok then, grab a cold one, baby. Take heaven off the grill. Let sit. On a plate, place a of "slice of about 2" of the beef. Unwrap the corn and let the juice spill over the steak. Spoon some salad up. Fins a cool spot: Basement next to the AC unit, or in the car with air blasting, or just on the deck under a tree with the summer breeze flying by. Uncork that extra chilled Rose, and crank up "Summertime in England" by Van the Man, from "Common One". And thank god you're alive in America.

## READ THIS! LISTEN TO THAT! Stock Up for Summer.

When I get a little money, I buy books. And if there is any left over, I buy food. --Desiderius Erasmus  
You are the music while the music lasts. -T. S. Eliot, So don't turn it off

Ok, if anything, there are so many good books and new music right now, I don't have time or space to write about. But here's a few musts! Enjoy, boy. Books first.

- 1. The God of the Hive, by Laurie R. King. The latest and greatest in her Russell/Sherlock Holmes series. She just keeps getting better. I also did a piece for her site. What thinks?
- 2. The Girl who Kicked the Hornets Nest. 3rd in the trilogy by Stieg Larsson. Yow. Heard that another writer may pick up where he left off. Dead. Lots of manuscripts supposedly lying around. Let's hope.
- 3. The Good Fairies of New York, by Martin Millar. I discovered this at the used book store. Scottish fairies flee the homeland and infiltrate the lives of wackies in NYC. Funny, poignant, goofy. A good read.
- 4. The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag by Alan Bradely. Much awaited follow-up about a 11 year old girl/detective in 1950's England countryside. Original, funny, and just a great book! Here, here.
- 5. Matterhorn, by Karl Marlantes. A novel of the Vietnam War. Trust me. Read it.
- 6. Elegy for April by Benjamin Black. Irish author who so good with the "In you head" thriller. Must be dark and raining when reading. Or sunny if you scare easily
- 7. Eye of the Red Tsar, by Sam Eastland. Once house detective to The Romanoffs, exiled prisoner comes back to help Stalin find lost treasure of the Tsar. Killer, in more ways than one!

Now for the tunes!



- 1. Jackie Greene, "Till the Light Comes". Dude just keeps on keepin' on!
- 2. Justin Townes Earle. Son of Steve Earle. Just saw him live with Levon Helm ( Could be show of the Year!) and immediately bought all his work. Righteous!
- 3. Reckless Kelly. Liked so much, bought all their wares. Austin, rock, acoustic Irish twinged sound, Slainte!
- 4. Willie Nelson, "Lost Highway". Bunch of help singing from friends. He'll never die. Has too much to say!
- 5. Robert Earl Keene, "The Rose Hotel". You gotta love him!
- 6. Loudon Wainwright III, "Album 1". Start here and go forth! Love him.

## Closing Time!

GOD IS INNOCENT NOAH BUILT IN A FLOOD PLAIN.

I don't know who said it, but that sums it up for me. Not as flashy, location, location. I hope you've enjoyed this here memento. Not as flashy as others, and long overdue, but I hope at least informative and as always, very un-serious. I'll leave you with some art I have somewhere somehow forgot to show. And oh yeah! Look for an invite in early August for the "25th Anniversary of JJ's " ( where my work has hung since replacing everything with new stuff. It will be a fun event and almost all of the proceed will go to Jimmy's and my charities! Woo-woo, winners will abound!



So, in closing, love life, your family, your friends and my art! Hah. And let's say a short one for our service men and women keeping watch all over the world, that they may come home soon....and safe. We miss ya, darn it.

Mike With apologies to Jasper Johns.



Here's to all of you. Nastrovia! (Thanks from Polskiville!)

