

**HANG (Cont. from 22)**

page, Monument Community Garden, all carefully chosen for beginner to green thumb garden-

ers. Take a look and tell me what you like best for your garden! Janet Sellers is an avid "lazy gardener"

using natural methods for high-yield, restorative gardening success. Drop by and see the Monument Community

Garden in Lavelett Park on Beacon Lite Road. Janet can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Art Matters

**From caves to pencils to screens—and back to pencils**



By Janet Sellers

*"The wave is not the water. The water merely told us about the wave moving by."—Buckminster Fuller*

The pencil and the electronic screen are not the idea, it is the human hand behind those tools that brings the idea to Earth and to manifestation. Even the word manifestation has the word "hand" in it (from the Latin manus equals hand, fendo means thrust). These tools simply put down the wave of thought moving through tools to a new form.

When hard times hit, we need an extraordinary experience to help us through. For "ever," at least since the 60,000 years that human beings have been on this planet making cave paintings, human beings have turned to art and creativity in their lives, and we call it "culture."

For the last few months, we've had virtual concerts with musicians playing alone at home, studio-assembled on screen in complete ensembles whether it's an orchestra in Amsterdam, Colorado Springs, or a group of rock or country musicians playing for us from their homes to our homes.

National and international venues, via Google Arts and Culture, offer virtual walkthroughs a la Google maps street view. I shared some of these experiences with my art classes as we're now online. Granted, we have been holding pencil, pen, and brush to make art, and we're very aware of what it takes for museum class artwork as we make art at home. We saw the Sistine Chapel from all angles. We enjoyed the Museum of Modern Art from our own easels and armchairs, and of course shared our class work from home alone, but together online as a group.

Pikes Peak regional artists have gone online to bring their art into our living rooms and share with us the beauty of the human spirit. The Colorado Springs First Fridays art events brings art from the street tram to our home screens. The PeakRadar.com site, supporting local artists and art forms, created pages for virtual art classes, virtual art tours, and online art experiences.

**DIY success in person or online**  
Sometimes looking at art or listening to music on devices is like trying to taste bakery goods through the display's pane of glass, but there's something special going on per student when we

do the work in situ. I've been teaching my art classes with Zoom and Hangouts. I wanted to keep momentum for learners, and it plays out. The reason is simple: Although we are using screens, we are also using our eyes, ears, arms, hands, and bodies to make the art. It is a tangible work being created by students right where they are, even though the screen is not a tactile source.

**Keyboard caveat**

In a study of students and screen time and learning, the results of using pen and ink created a stronger learning experience for notes, retention, and tests. Students using laptops for notetaking were pitted against students using paper and pen at college lectures. Test results showed higher scores for the pencil kids in short-term retention (within one-half hour). Pencil note students also did much better on tests a week later. Keyboard note takers could only transcribe verbatim, not process the information into their notes, which turns out to be the strongest impression of the information for retention.

In taking an art class, we find that using art tools helps create a more powerful visual memory. I am fond of using a pencil; there's something very grounded about graphite. From

shepherders in France taking chunks of graphite to mark their sheep, graphite became the artists' magic wand we know today, encased in wood and painted yellow: our pencils. Efficient and economical, they've served us for a long time. A single yellow pencil can make a line that is 36 miles long! That's a lot of notetaking and sketching.

Many people are now using the online experience to choose the art they want to live with. Gone are the days when people obeyed gallerists for hot art trends. Art buyers these days want to live with the art that they buy, take a vital interest, and are on the hunt personally for their art. Art lovers and artists alike can benefit from virtual art until we can meet again.

**Art Hop**

No Art Hop in May? Maybe in June—but let's all be creative anyhow. Support your local artists, art classes and art galleries—visit them online. It's easy: Find them by name on Google; it might be easier to find them on Peakradar.com.

*Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, speaker and teacher. Enjoy a virtual artist tour or buy her art at her online gallery: JanetSellers.com. Drop her a line at JanetSellers@ocn.me.*

**Snapshots of Our Community**

**Virtual Birthday Party, Mar. 30**



**Above:** How do you celebrate your birthday when you're practicing social distancing and are not allowed to invite a lot of people to your house? Invite everyone to log in and celebrate online. That's what my sister Jane Weinfeld did. More than 20 of her friends and family took part in her virtual party on Zoom March 30. That's Jane in the top row, fourth from the left. My wife, Tia Mayer, and I are also on the top row, second from the left. Though there were no birthday hugs and many people talked over each other, Jane got to hang with her friends and family, and that made for a successful evening. One friend even virtually offered a cupcake with a candle in it. *Screenshot by Michael Weinfeld.*

**Seniors-only shopping hours, Apr. 1**



**Above:** Seniors lined up in front of King Soopers on Baptist Road to take advantage of special shopping hours when the store first opened April 1. The store reserved the hours of 7 to 8 a.m. for seniors only to better control crowds in this age of coronavirus. Nearly 40 shoppers lined up about a half-hour before the store opened to make sure they were the first to get in. Everyone in line was asked to keep at least 6 feet apart both outside and inside the store to comply with social distancing recommendations. Each shopper got a freshly disinfected cart on their way in. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

**Demand lessens, supply returns**



**Above and right:** By early April, as compared to mid-March, the shelves at area grocery stores were starting to be regularly replenished, with some restrictions on purchase quantities still enforced. Demand for certain products had begun to subside, as shoppers had stocked up for shelter at home, while transitioning to other needs. You can compare these photos of the produce area at Natural Grocers (right) and the soup shelves at King Soopers (above) with those in the March edition of OCN. *Photos by David Futey.*

