



Bethel High Class of '71 Reconnecting...

M A R C I A Z I N S E R - E D I T O R

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

HOLY is HIS NAME.

Luke 1: 46-49

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D I A N E B E S S E T T E K E N N E D Y - P A R T 2

I was still teaching at the Hobby Shop when Solano Community College was involved with the shop's ceramic department. The shop had several kilns and twelve potters wheels. It was a wonderful program. They hired me as an assistant to one of the pottery teachers and I helped him for almost two years. Then they hired me to help Marc Lance, another pottery instructor, as his lab assistant. That's where I learned how to mix glazes and fire the electric and gas kilns.

In 1987, my husband got a job in Conroe, TX, and we moved there. Another big mistake. My husband was laid off for two years prior and he had a big time drug and alcohol problem. I was really trying hard to make our marriage work and prayed that he would change. He only got worse and made my life a living hell. I left him a couple of times and the last time I left he promised me that he would get help. He got in trouble after that and landed in jail for possession of crack cocaine. His family got him out and into treatment in

Houston, TX. He was there for 30 days and then in a halfway house for three months. It was a very peaceful time for me while he was away. I sought a lawyer to divorce him, but didn't have the money. Divorce in Texas is very expensive. So I stuck it out with him, miserable and unhappy. The only thing that brought me peace and joy was the potters wheel and if not for God's grace and love for me I wouldn't be here today.

I was able to purchase a used kiln, electric potters wheel, and several raw glazes and studio tools all for \$700. My husband was angry, but I didn't care at that point. I wasn't going to let him take my only dream away. He was hard to live with even when sober. His mother was not a good person and had married and divorced four or five times. He had a lot of bitterness in his heart. In 1996 he got a job offer back in CA. He wanted to come back and be near his alcoholic mother. I was happy to leave Texas so we moved back to Vallejo, CA. We rented for a couple of years and then

bought a home in Rio Vista in 2000. The real estate market was booming and our rented house sold after TWO days on the market.

I was working as a seamstress in a Napa dry cleaners. In Rio Vista I found a job right away at a local marina. I met a sweet lady who was a potter and we became really good friends. She invited me to a pit firing and I became enchanted with that process and started working that process for a couple of years. I later had a local welder make me a frame for a raku kiln so I could do that process as well. Meanwhile my husband was sober from drugs and alcohol for about ten years. But, he became addicted to working out and weight lifting. I thought it was okay, but since he had such an addictive personality he got into Antibolic steroids. He became very violent, just looking at him would make him go into a rage. My life was turned upside down AGAIN. I did not feel safe in my own home. He hit me and pulled my hair and I thought he might kill me. Continue to page 2...

DIANE BESSETTE KENNEDY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I called a divorce attorney, my husband found out, so he moved out of the house, leaving me with all the debt. I had to use a credit card to pay the \$4,000 attorney fee. I had the house payment and other debt. The attorney got my alimony check each month. I had to rent out one of the bedrooms to help with expenses. I also started a sewing business doing alterations and dress making. I lost my job at the Marina, they fired me for being rude. A month later my father passed away. So now, I am really in a s*&# hole. LOL...

God had really been testing me through the divorce, losing my job, and the death of my father. But, I got thru the divorce, kept the house and my classic car and all the furniture and alimony. I found another job doing alterations, commuting to Fairfield and I was much happier and at peace. I had promised my father before he died that I would go back to church. I did, but not to the Catholic church. I was invited to go to a friends church to listen to her son play the drums. I just felt the Holy Spirit there and love and kindness from everyone. I have been going there for five years and have learned so much about Jesus and God the Father. God brought me through all of the heartache, debt and burden of the house payment. I put the house for sale last year, and tried to sell it in a short sale. After ten months the bank had an offer but would not take it. In a short sale, you do not have to make any payments so I saved my money and paid off my debts. I had enough money to buy new studio equipment and have money in savings now. God is good and He provides. While the house was still for sale I did not know what God had in store for me. But, in His will, he had a much better plan for me. I found a beautiful new home in an over 55 community that is gated. I recently joined the Trilogly Art Guild. I have won ribbons for my work, of course there was no competition.

Currently, I am attending Solona Community College, taking a wood firing ceramics course. It is a lot of work and all 25 of us have to split and stack wood, prepare wading and clay dabs along with our work to fill the kiln. It is not hard for me to make six to ten pots in two hours. I am fast, but, I have 30 plus years of experience. Wood firing is a whole different process. The ash from the wood melts and gives a beautiful glaze to each piece. It is a long process and needs around a week to cool in the kiln before unloading. I contacted my old friend Marc Lancet from back in 1985-1987. He asked me to come try the wood firing process with one of my bisque pieces and I did. This led to me being asked to join the firing class which runs until December.

I have also been taking care of a lady with dementia for two years. She is really sweet and easy to take care of. I shop and cook for her and bring her to Dr. visits. We garden together, take walks and enjoy our time together. She is a blessing to me. This is so much nicer than the residential care home. It was really hard work taking care of Alzheimer patients, and the pay was not good.

It was not easy to learn the pottery trade, it took and takes a lot of discipline and hard work. The equipment is costly. I never gave up. I just kept trying harder. I learned that all the trials and disappointments are God's way of making you stronger. If it wasn't for my faith in the Father through Jesus I would not be a potter. He has helped me work through all the hardness and sadness and helped me to forgive my ex and move on. I am now happy and content and trust Him. Diane

1969 TRIVIA, WHAT A BANNER YEAR!

CBS canceled one of its most popular shows, *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. Due to the political potency of the show the network was under pressure to "dump it". It's hard to believe that then Vice President, Spiro Agnew claimed it was "subversive"!

Record of the year was **AQUARIOUS**, by the 5th Dimension.

Bethel, NY became the happening place. 400,000 people came to Max Yasgur's farm for the Woodstock Music and Art Fair.

Charles Manson and several members of his cult were charged with the mur-

der of actress Sharon Tate and four others in Los Angeles. Tate was married to film director Roman Polanski.

Leonard Bernstein stepped down as director of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

Judy Garland died of a drug overdose at age 47.

The actor, Dick Wilson, who played Mr. Whipple on the Charmin Bathroom Tissue commercials, made that product a household name!

Sesame Street debuts on television.

Penthouse also begins publication.

July 18th brought the story of Ted Kennedy driving his car off a bridge in Chappaquiddick, killing Mary Jo Kopechne.

July 21 brought the U.S. winning the space race by landing Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins on the moon.

The ACLU claims that marijuana is harmless to the user and society in general.

Dr. Laurence Peter introduces the world to his "Peter Principle," which states that workers rise to their level of incompetence. (I loved that book).

COOK'S CORNER WITH GARY YOVINO



Gary as a baby!!!

Hand Made Chips for the Holiday!

1 Package flour or corn tortillas, any flavor, small or large.

1 stick butter

Your favorite spices

If you make these for Christmas, split the stick of butter into two cups. Melt each one and add green food color to one and red to the other.

Lay the tortillas on a cutting board and brush one side with the butter. Then sprinkle on your favorite spices. Mine is garlic salt, pepper and cayenne.

Sprinkle to your own taste. I use garlic salt because they come out crispy like potato chips. Cut small tortilla into 8

wedges, large into 16. Lay in a single layer on a cookie sheet and bake at 350' for about 8 minutes. This will depend on your oven and how crispy you want them. After they have cooled, place them in a large zip lock bag and they stay nice and fresh. They are great alone, but can also be used with dips or use as you would a plate of nachos. They are really good with chopped tomatoes and mozzarella, cooked under the broiler for a few minutes. Use your imagination.

And, they have less calories since they are baked not fried!

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA... LIMONCELLO

Ingredients:

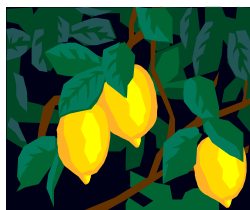
12 lemons, peel only, NO PITH

3 sprigs lavender, optional

2 liters light rum or vodka

6 cups sugar

3 cups water



Put the lemon peels, lavender if using, and rum OR vodka in a container and let stand for 4 weeks. Strain the mixture into a decanter. Mix the sugar and water in a medium saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until sugar is dissolved. Cool before adding to the rum or vodka mixture. Bottle in recycled glass bottles for gifting. Corks found at craft stores.

Serve in small aperitif glasses. This will store in freezer for up to 1 year. (If it lasts that long) ENJOY!!!!

NEWS FROM MARCIA...

As some of you may know, I have realized it is too much for me to publish an issue of the BHS newsletter each month. Since I mentioned I would likely not continue last month, several of you offered to help me so that we could continue at least in some way. As long as I can count on a few of you I will try to publish each season, at least until we have our 40th reunion. Thanks to all of you

who wrote to let me know how much you have enjoyed the paper. It really has been fun to do, although it is very time consuming!

Since we live in Ohio and all of our kids live in New England we are now in process of trying to find a small home up in Maine, where housing seems more affordable. It has been quite a shock to see the "pits"

that we can afford. It's not the best time to sell our Ohio home so we are hoping to find a "bargain" just to get our foot back in the New England door!!! So you know what I will be spending my spare time doing over the next several months.

I wish you all a blessed holiday season. MERRY CHRISTMAS and may GOD bless you all.



Me and my husband Tim celebrating our 35th this past August.

GRANDPARENT'S ANSWERING MACHINE

From Aunt El

Good morning...At present we are not at home but please leave your message after the beep.

BEEEEEP...

If you are one of our children, dial 1 and select option from 1 -5 in order of "arrival" so we know who it is.

If you need us to stay with the children, press 2.

If you want to borrow the car, press 3.

If you want us to wash your clothes and do your ironing, press 4.

If you want the grandchildren to sleep here tonight, press 5.

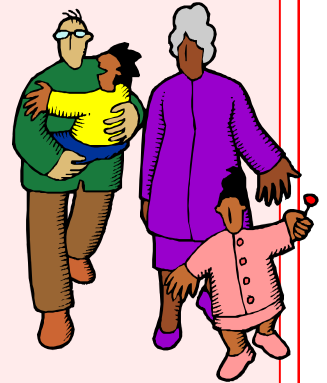
If you want us to pick up the kids at school, press 6.

If you want us to prepare a meal for Sunday or to have it delivered to your home, press 7.

If you want to come to eat here, press 8.

If you need money, press 9.

If you are going to invite us to dinner, or take us to a restaurant, start talking, we're listening!!!!!!!



I LOVE THIS ONE FROM AUNT EL!

Sister Mary Katherine entered the Monastery of Silence. The Priest said, "Sister, this is a silent monastery. You are welcome here as long as you like but you may not speak until I direct you to do so."

Sister Mary Katherine lived in the Monastery for 5 years before the Priest said to her, "Sister Mary Katherine, you have been here for 5 years. You can speak two words."

Sister Mary Katherine said, "Hard bed."

"I'm sorry to hear that," the Priest said, "We will get you a better bed."

Another 5 years and Sister Mary Katherine was called by the Priest. "You may say another two words, Sister Mary Katherine."

"Cold food," said Sister Mary Katherine, and the Priest assured her the food would be better in the future.

On her 15th anniversary at the Monastery, the Priest again called Sister Mary Katherine into his office. "You may say two words today."

"I quit," said Sister Mary Katherine.

"It's probably best," said the Priest, "You've done nothing but complain since you got here."