

## Spring 2020



*Mueller's Watering Hole*

Spring? No, this is not a typo. I am calling a reboot of 2020. I was feeling a little traumatized by the daily bombs exploding in my normally happy existence. That was, until I remembered my mission: Make the world a brighter place one smile at a time! With this change of perspective, I realized I have a lot to smile about!

*\*NB as a side note, if you would like to help me spread smiles by sharing this newsletter with friends, please use the link at the bottom of this page instead of the forward button. (It helps to prevent spam).*

In attempting to counteract some of the craziness, I find being productive and trying new things or improving on old skills helps. I am not ignoring what is going on in the world; I am simply changing my focus. I've taken to listening to the Good News Network after listening to my morning world news brief. Some of my favorite headlines are sprinkled throughout this letter.

*Search engine that plants trees with every search has just planted 100 millionth tree*

What kinds of new things have I been up to you may ask...



I put down my metal and flames to pick up a hammer and nails for a couple weeks. Having found a blueprint on line that didn't look too "difficult" I went to work. With a pair of chicky babies staring up at me from the safety of their box, I created a double decker coop with a raised garden. I quickly found that woodworking is not my forte' but hopefully the girls will not hold it against me and will produce some eggs soon.

*Students overwhelmed after landlord gives them a "good tenant bonus" on top of returning security deposits.*

I have also been cooking a lot and canning as well. I love Ina Garten's recipe for Lemon Curd and Giada De Laurentiis recipe for red sauce.

*"Wine Fairies" anonymously gifting booze and treats to neighbors who could use a smile.*

Despite a temporary departure from my norm, I've returned to my passion for creating wildlife sculptures and pet portraits from metal. The mini vignettes (3" pet faces with a magnet on the back) have been a hit! Sixteen so far this year! Don't wait until the last minute to start thinking about unique holiday gifts that are small but personal.





83 millionaires asking for higher taxes "humanity more important than our money"

Perhaps a bigger, one of a kind gift? Here are several ideas...



**Whistle Pig Over Ice** I like to hike and one of my favorite places to get out and enjoy nature is in Colorado. There are so many great trails on which to meander but the one to the Ice Lakes is truly spectacular. High above tree line the water is so blue it looks like a giant bottle of Scope has spilled. Columbine and Indian Paintbrush color the landscape, while marmots (known as whistle pigs in the Rockies) whistle back and forth to one another. Occasionally the call of big horn sheep can be heard echoing off the cliffs. This sculpture was created in reverence to some pretty great memories made there. Feeling pretty satisfied with the results, I took myself out for a late dinner. While sitting at the bar, a couple of fellows were remarking about the great taste of whistle pig. My first thought was, ewww! It turns out they were talking about a pretty tasty bourbon by the name of Whistle Pig. After a good laugh, we decided this piece should be dubbed *Whistle Pig Over Ice*.

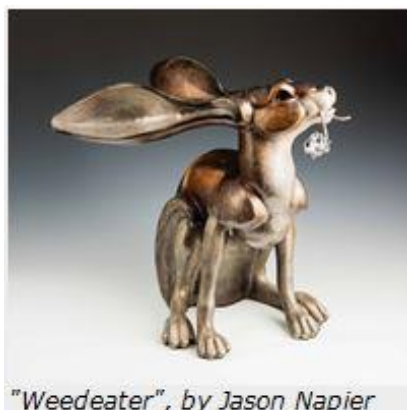
**San Juan Welcoming Committee** The Straight of Juan de Fuca is a large body of water in the upper northwest region of Washington State. It is the international boundary between Canada and the United States and home to three pods of orcas. As a frequent traveler to the majestic waterways of the Pacific Northwest, I have had several opportunities to view the beautiful whales. One trip stands out above all others. While exploring the coves and tide pools around San Juan Island by kayak, my group spotted some Orcas in the distance. It turns out, they spotted us as well and came in to take a closer look. Coming eye-to-eye with something so large and beautiful as an orca can only be described as breathtaking! With scarcely the gap of a street's width separating us, the whales glided through the water, barely causing small wavelets in their wake. To me, the whales are the ambassadors of the islands, thrilling to see and be welcomed by.

**Love is in the Air** Rosy-Faced Love Birds that is! One of the perks of living in the arid zone is frequent visits by these lovely, cheerfully noisy little birds. Descendants of aviary escapees, these raucous, bright green and peach feathered entertainers boisterously banter from the tops of palm trees and saguaros. As bold as their bright plumage, these little characters seem to revel in being happy and free.

*Park ranger carried dehydrated German Shepherd down treacherous mountain trail*

## New ways of shining through a COVID haze

The virus has put a damper on getting out to an art show or gallery you say? That does not mean that the art cannot be found. Right now, dhSeadragon art can be found on the web page [www.dhseadragon.com](http://www.dhseadragon.com) and online store on Etsy. My art can be seen on Instagram, Linked In, Facebook, and Twitter as well. I have participated in online shows through National Sculpture Society, American Woman Artists, and Sonoran Arts League. Hidden in the Hills in Scottsdale, and Carefree is still optimistic about keeping its' slot in late November-with enhanced safety features of course. Congrats to one of my favorite artists, Jason Napier. His art will grace the 2020 HITH magazine cover.



*"Weedeater", by Jason Napier*

*Bus driver uses lockdown and nudges from students to finally get college degree.*

Need to get out? Take a walk in some scenic foothills, sip some wine, or lose yourself in a good book. Here are a couple calming places to regroup.



**Besos Locos (Crazy Kisses) and Caballo Sonriendo (Laughing Horse)** Have you been hiking over by the Shaw Butte Visitor Center (in Moon Valley off 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Thunderbird) and seen the 8 ½ foot tall, abstract horses? Yep, those are mine-some of my first creations. They were originally created on a lark after driving through south Phoenix and being inspired by the graffiti I found there. With the help of some Hispanic friends we came up with words to adorn the playful pair. Crazy Kisses is filled with words of passion, hugs, kisses, and romance, while her brother is all about action verbs such as; twirling, laughing, singing, and playing.

**Brix** Spoiled Dog Winery in Langley WA is a wonderful place to stop in for some fortified grape juice. It couldn't be in a more scenic location and the Krug's will make you feel like a part of the family. Be sure to give belly rubs to the spoiled dogs, one of which is Brix. He has had his portrait done by dhSeadragon and it hangs in the tasting room. Bonus question Q: do you know what brix means? (hint, it's the sweetest name ever) 5881 Maxwellton Rd., Langley WA on Whidbey Island.

**Nevermore!** The Poisoned Pen is Scottsdale recently acquired a dhSeadragon original. Nevermore! Is a nod to the Edgar Allen Poe story, The Raven. Stop in and say hi to the knowledgeable staff and let them guide you to your next "can't live without it" mystery series. Visit with the numerous authors that frequent the shop, and of course, enjoy the ambiance of this fun, eclectic, soon to be your favorite too, haven for mystery and mayhem (books).

*After 23 years of working for a Chevy dealership, salesman is given his dream car, a brand new corvet.*





**They're here! Custom pet magnets and blank greeting cards!** Want your pets' image in a smaller scale keepsake? Missed the opportunity to purchase that sculpture? dhSeadragon has the solution. Working from photographs of your pet I can create 3" magnets that capture the likeness of your fur baby. Visit [www.dhseadragon.com](http://www.dhseadragon.com) and go to the "What can I create for you" section to get started. Didn't make it out to the Phoenix Zoo for the Sassy the Okapi? Missed the debut of the burrowing owls? The sculptures have found their loving home, but you don't have to go without. Images of dhSeadragon sculptures are now available on blank greeting cards. The name of the piece and its story are on the back of the cards. Cards can be purchased individually or at a discount rate for packages of three. Go to dhSeadragon Distinctive Designs on Etsy to find the one that got away.

*Single mom donates lottery winnings anonymously to help wounded police officer.*

Keep your eyes open for the "summer" 2020 newsletter for upcoming shows. Or visit the News section of [www.dhseadragon.com](http://www.dhseadragon.com)

*More Americans going out of their way to help support small businesses.*

Pictured are some of the newest dhSeadragon sculptures-some of which are still available.

From left to right: Mori, Mueller's Watering Hole, Tiger Tiger Burning Bright



Check out my Etsy online store for pet food bowl holders, animal magnets, and blank greeting cards.

One the table now: One of my patrons came to me with an idea, which has blossomed into a very cute sculpture. Can't say more as it is a *surprise*. Check back in to see the romantic gesture. Did I mention I love my job! See, lots of things to smile about!

dhSeadragon Distinctive Designs LLC is a supporter of animal conservation efforts. As such, a portion of all sales go toward organizations that care for, and find homes for pets or rehabilitate, and give voices to our wildlife through safe havens and education.

Closing thought; What can you do to make the world a better place, to help out your neighbor, or bring a smile to someone's face?

All the best!

Dadra Hunt

aka *dhSeadragon*