



Newsletter

Winter 2014-2015

::: Suzi Hudson :::

Question: *What do Minnesota winters, making art, and giving gifts of money have in common?*

Answer: *They're all scary...but they're all life changing!*

Dear friends,

I recently read that Raymond Carver compared writing his stories to *riding at night in the backseat of a driverless car with no lights on*. So why do it?

Simple. Because making art is life changing. Just like your gifts. **And your art center needs YOU!**

Having a safe, encouraging learning environment is crucial. Providing you access to the very best artists and art experiences, in a safe and secure facility, offers you opportunities to grow more deeply. When you dare to face your most creative and sometimes terrifying dreams, they often turn into your most glorious, life-affirming gifts.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting the process is that easy. Sometimes it's raw and clumsy. Sometimes it's so damn painful it tears your heart out and brings you to your knees. But when you make art in a supportive environment, you are not alone. You connect with people. You dive deeper. You make a life changing discovery.

Every day you tell me how your art center changes your life. You share that White Bear Center for the Arts is sometimes the *only* place you feel deeply accepted and connected. Well, I say to you, it's **your** art center. You make it so.

So what must you do? SUPPORT YOUR ART CENTER! It needs you. Your center depends on your gifts to keep it alive. Scary? Maybe. While giving gifts of money can be scary, be brave! We're in this together.

If you value your art center, please commit to supporting it with your financial gifts. Whatever the amount, **your support is critically important.** So much so, we're starting our year-end giving effort, **today!** Please, give your most daring, loving, and generous gift that you are financially able to give.

What else? Keep showing up. How else will *you* survive this winter? Look deep inside this beautiful catalog for amazing new opportunities, new teachers, and new offerings, especially in writing! Even if, like Raymond Carver said, it means feeling like you're riding in the back seat of that car without a driver and (HA!) maybe it just got worse because it's snowing. Because, crazy as it sounds, *that's* the ride which develops your own ability to more fully engage in your life.

And lastly... be glad. Look what you have. You have an art center!

One thing's for sure, it's **THANKS TO YOU!**

Suzi Hudson
Executive Director