GARDENS EYE VIEW

THOUGHTS ABOUT LIFE, LIVING, AND GARDENING...

Aug
1

Finding A New Path

IMG_3030

"Do the best you can in the place where you are." ***~Unknown***

Today was to be a special day. I was to be retired from my career in public education, and my mom was to be visiting me for several weeks to kick off this new journey. Well here I sit still working and alone in my garden. I am not complaining mind you. Disappointed that I could not retire, yes. Saddened that my mom took ill while visiting my sister in Virginia and was unable to visit, absolutely.

IMG_2883

But I have not wallowed in my grief over the situation….why should I really. I have a good job still, and so far my mom is getting better and may be able to visit in a few months. The only real issue has been dealing with all the abrupt changes. But what is keeping me OK with all of this, is that maybe there is a better plan coming I am just not aware of yet.

Last year at this time I was struggling with my most recent lesson surrounding patience. I have never been good at this thing called patience to the point where I hated the words,"just be patient". But with the sudden changes that have recently shot up in my path, I have had to veer sharply into the grassy meadow waiting for a sign of which way to go now. And just when I think the new road is showing itself, I find another obstacle and another sharp turn.

IMG_2946

So patience seems to be the operative word for now. A wait and see attitude. Not to get too caught up in the idea of retirement; what it will be or what will it look like. Frankly I wasn't even sure what I was going to do upon my retirement. I had visions of doing nothing for a while, and working in my garden. Writing more, cleaning and clearing my surrounds.

I read recently to stop struggling to figure out what you are going to do when you have to start over. Instead just stop where you are and start from there slowly. So I did. Understand I had completely cleared out my office except for one box of desk things. After all I was one week away from leaving. But as soon as the decision was made that I would have to rescind my retirement, I threw myself quickly back into my job as if nothing had changed and without missing a step. It felt like the perfect solution.

I think this distraction of getting back to work has helped immensely. Not to mention the fact that the projects I had to start working on, had deadlines that were moved up by months and need to be completed by the end of August. So I have little time to regret, lament or even think about much except getting my job done. Of course it helped that my co-workers and boss were ecstatic that I was staying for a while.

IMG_2923

But how long that "for a while" would be was still hanging out there. Was my postponement of retirement for a few months, was I working full time or would I move to part time. So many decisions, and so many opinions as to what would be best for me. No great hurry in deciding everyone said. But I am not one to languish over decisions especially if it would help in planning for my employer and for me. And do you know, the decision came to me this week. And it just felt right. I knew it was the perfect decision because I felt it in my gut or maybe what others call intuition. I have decided I will remain working full time for this school year and will be retiring at the end of June, 2014.

"Every great work, every big accomplishment, has been brought into manifestation through holding to the vision, and often just before the big achievement, comes apparent failure and discouragement." **~Florence Scovel Shinn**

IMG_2936

When I recently read this quote I felt inspired. I was searching for a new path and felt as if I was just standing still. But I know now I really am on the right path. I just need to hold the vision or maybe in my case clarify my vision now before retirement. Just a general idea of what I'd like my next steps to be. It was easy when I was finishing my college degree. I wanted to be a teacher. I wanted my own classroom. And everything I did was for that one purpose. And yes I eventually left the classroom to work as a school district administrator working more with teachers, but I was still teaching, still in the world of education.

PAGES

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RECENT POSTS

- Moments In The Garden: A Messy Surprise End to Winter
- The Garden Break
- Seasonal Celebrations-Spring's Colors Abound
- Simply The Best Natives-Solomon's Seal

But now the world is open again. I can do practically anything I want so it will take some time to wean down the list. But that list will always have education of some sort in it of that I am sure. It is part of my being, my purpose, my soul. For now, I am finishing some coursework, and will gradually be rolling out my next steps for my blog, my business, my garden and my writing as they are revealed to me in flashes of inspiration.

I am feeling ambitious and renewed. I feel like whatever decisions I make will be fruitful and lead me further along the path. I do believe that when we create our visions and put lots of our own sweat into them, somehow the right doors just seem to open. This journey was started almost 3 years ago with this blog. And it just keeps moving forward albeit not in a very straight path. And some days I feel like I am fighting mighty big odds, but you know every dream or creation came from that one idea, that vision and sweat to make it work.

DSCN1530 I still intend to find beauty in each day. To recreate and renew my garden (once I can see it again through the weeds). After all the garden above all things fuels my imagination and my soul. Getting lost in the endless projects that need doing there, will also recharge my creative juices and give me needed peace of mind. My garden has opened so many new doors along the path, and I know it will generate many more.

Of course who knows what changes will continue on my path. If I have learned one thing it is to follow the path as it reveals itself, to take advantage of the opportunities as they present themselves, and expect those sharp turns…in fact count on them even embrace them. They may turn out to be the most fun!

"Each morning we are born again. What we do today is what matters most." **~Buddha**

Next up on the blog: I will be wrapping up July in my garden next Monday on my **Gardens Eye Journal** post. I hope you will join me.

And I hope you will join me for my posts once a month at Beautiful Wildlife Garden. Most recent post is up.

Please remember, to comment click on the title of the post and the page will reload with the comments section.

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This entry was posted on August 1, 2013, in Garden, Life Lesson, Memoir and tagged acceptance, balance, challenge, dream, garden, hope, life, peace, soul. Bookmark the permalink.

70 Comments

← Wildflower Tale-Joe Pye   Garden's Eye Journal-August 2013 →

70 THOUGHTS ON "FINDING A NEW PATH"

REPLY

Island Threads says:

August 1, 2013 at 6:01 am

Donna so sorry to read about your Mum but glad also to read she is improving, I remember how much you were looking forward to your time with her, perhaps when she is well enough to visit you will not be so busy with work, take care, Frances

- Plotting In the Veg Garden
- Flower Tales-Cosmos
- Moments in the Garden-Winter Begins
- Simply The Best Natives-Horsetail Rush
- Stuck Foot In The Meadow
- Walk About-10 Fitch
- Gardens Eye Journal-January 2016
- Simply The Best Natives-Christmas Fern
- Seasonal Celebrations Revealed-December 2015
- First Glimpse of Winter
- Gardens Eye Journal-December 2015
- Seasonal Celebrations-Winter's Moods
- Simply The Best Natives-Blanket Flower
- A Stuck Foot In The Wall Garden
- Winter's Gifts
- Tree Following: Wrapping Up The Linden
- Gardens Eye Journal-November 2015
- Wrapping Up The Veg Garden
- Simply The Best Natives-Rudbeckia Hirta
- In A Vase On Monday: Autumn Views
- Gardens Eye Journal-October 2015

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VISIT ME AT MY NEW BLOG:

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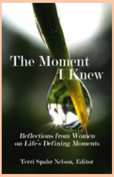
FIND MY POEMS PUBLISHED IN:


The Moment I Knew
Reflections from Women on Life's Defining Moments
Terri Spahr Nelson, Editor

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Donna says:

August 1, 2013 at 6:05 am

That is my hope too Frances….I have found things work out for the best many times. I will keep the thought of her visit in my autumn garden in my mind. Thank you Frances.

REPLY

Randy Hyden says:

August 1, 2013 at 6:43 am

Donna, I , too, have been at sort of crossroads , trying to decide how much longer I am going to keep going. Like you, recently, I decided to keep at it a good while longer and actually increase my work load. Feels right. !

REPLY

Donna says:

August 2, 2013 at 1:10 pm

Glad to hear it Randy. We do know when things are right for us so why fight it!!

REPLY

Christina says:

August 1, 2013 at 8:34 am

I hope you mum will be well soon, I remember you picturing her in your July garden,

I hope you mum will be well soon, I remember you picturing her in your July garden, but as you say that can be changed to autumn easily enough. I don't know your reasons for not retiring as planned but hope the next year will be rewarding for you. Your garden and this blog will help you find your new path I am sure. Christina

REPLY

Donna says:

August 2, 2013 at 1:14 pm

I think so too Christina. Writing has always helped me gain perspective. My mom is doing better and I hope she will feel well enough to come visit.

REPLY

Lavender Cottage says:

August 1, 2013 at 9:01 am

Sorry to read about your mom Donna yet happy your decision for retirement has evolved. "Patience is a virtue" is not an idle statement.
Judith

REPLY

Donna says:

August 2, 2013 at 1:15 pm

It truly is not an idle statement Judith as I have learned.

REPLY

HolleyGarden says:

August 1, 2013 at 10:40 am

REPLY

Donna Abel Donabella

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I love your attitude of going the way of the path as it is shown to you. I recall a preacher once talking about "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet" and how a lamp on a dark pathway only shows a small way forward, step by step, not the entire route or destination. Glad to hear your mother is doing better. I hope she makes a full recovery and is able to visit soon. And that your true last year of teaching will be thoroughly enjoyable.

REPLY

Donna says:

August 2, 2013 at 1:18 pm

Thanks for the lovely words Holley. I do hope for these things too. I think it will be another crazy busy year but not quite as stressful as this past year. And as I light the way, step by step the plan will unfold a little bit each time.

REPLY

Ginger Goolsby says:

August 1, 2013 at 11:37 am

Donna, I am also contemplating retirement, but so far that is as far as I have gotten….contemplating! So much work to do in my garden, etc.; however, I fear I would miss the social atmosphere of work that helps keep me "sharp and on-track". So I guess I am just being patient and waiting until it feels right!
I do hope your mom recovers quickly and is able to come for that later visit.
Sometimes things come at the most unexpected times; perhaps your pathway will be clearer at the end of June 2014.
Ginger

REPLY

Donna says:

August 2, 2013 at 1:21 pm

Ginger how lovely to have you visit and thank you for this wonderful comment. I think the path will be much clearer by June.

I am finding with blogging that I can continue to keep social although I know I will lapse into my introvert persona if I am not careful. So part of my plan will have to include staying social…thanks for that reminder.

REPLY

Dorothy says:

August 1, 2013 at 12:39 pm

Donna, Your post made my day! I admire your resiliency and your wisdom. Thank you for writing such an inspirational post.

REPLY

Donna says:

August 2, 2013 at 1:23 pm

Oh Dorothy thank you for such sweet words. I had never considered myself resilient compared to so many others who have had far worse to endure. But it helps me keep things in perspective to know I too am resilient. It also pleases me that the post was inspirational!

REPLY

Stacy says:

August 1, 2013 at 12:50 pm

Donna, I'm so sorry about your disappointments and hope your Mom is feeling more like herself soon! Your sense of ambition and renewal sounds like a very good sign that the path you're on is the right one. And at least you enjoy grassy meadows, so when you have to veer off into one while you wait for the next step to become clear you have somewhere pleasant to wait! 🙂 Just think what it would be like if life demanded that we wait in metaphorical industrial parks instead.

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DEAR FRIEND AND Gardener
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Calendar of Gardening Blog Memes

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GARDEN AND NATURE BLOGS I READ

- A Gardener in Progress
- A Guide To Northeastern Gardening
- A Way to Garden
- An English Girl Rambles
- Andrea In This Lifetime
- Angie's Garden Diaries
- Annette's Garden
- As Long As You Have A Garden

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 12:02 pm

Perish the thought Stacy. The meadows are so much more contemplative and peaceful.

REPLY

Kathy from Cold Climate Gardening says:

August 1, 2013 at 12:53 pm

I hope your mother makes a complete recovery, and I'm glad you're handling the changes well. It can certainly throw anyone for a loop when sudden changes come up.

REPLY

Donna says:

August 2, 2013 at 1:24 pm

Thanks Kathy…I am trying to embrace these sudden changes as warnings to stop and consider carefully what I am doing…it sometimes takes some deep listening to myself to know what is right.

REPLY

Laura Bloomsbury says:

August 1, 2013 at 3:53 pm

Donna, you express yourself so well! I remember you mentioning retiring last year and see how quickly the time has flown. Patience is not for retirees – it's more a case of holding the sands of time back. Anyway the best garden path is the slightly overgrown, winding one. Good luck with your journey – and best wishes for your Mother's recovery

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 12:12 pm

Thanks Laura….I am patiently waiting for that time I can play in the sand for a while 🙂 I am loving the well worn garden path.

REPLY

Liz says:

August 1, 2013 at 6:06 pm

Hi Donna,

Oh dear, what a rough situation. I hope your mum gets better soon and you get to see her!
I'm not sure whether I'd be happy or sad that I'm unable to retire… On the one hand I want to be a 'lady who lunches' but on the other I know I'd be bored within a few weeks/months.

I hope things ease up soon, and who knows, perhaps you will begin to enjoy patience 🙂

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 12:17 pm

That would be new for me Liz, enjoying patience. I am hoping to have a good plan with lots to keep me busy lined up by next June. Hoping to start some of it this fall.

REPLY

Diana Studer says:

August 1, 2013 at 6:25 pm

- Austin Agrodolce
- Beautiful World and A Novice Naturalist
- Beyond The Garden Gate
- Blogging Away
- Bonney Lassie
- Carolyn's Shade Gardens
- Casa Mariposa
- Clay and Limestone
- Cold Climate Gardening
- Commonweeder
- Conrad Art Glass & Gardens
- Crafty Gardener
- Crafty Green Poet
- Creating my own garden of the Hesperides
- Curbstone Valley Farm
- Deb's Garden
- Diary of a Suburban Gardener
- East Gwillimbury CameraGirl
- Elephant's Eye on False Bay
- Experiments With Plants
- Flaneur Gardening
- Flower Hill Farm
- Flowery Prose
- Foxglove Lane Studio
- Garden Envy
- Garden Fancy
- Garden of Aaron
- Garden Walk, Garden Talk
- Gardendaze's Blog
- gardeninacity
- Gardening Jones
- Gardening Jules
- Gardening With Confidence
- Gardening With Grace
- Graphicality-UK
- Great Stems
- Gwirrel's Garden
- igardendaily
- In Season
- In the Garden
- Island Threads
- Jean's Garden
- Late to the Garden Party
- Lavender Cottage
- Lea's Menagerie
- Life-Change-Compost
- Loose and Leafy
- Me So Thorny
- My Garden Says
- My Secret Garden
- My Woodland Garden
- Nadezda's Northern garden
- Nature and Wildlife Pics
- On Botanical Photography
- Pam's English Cottage Garden
- pbmGarden

You sound comfortable and certain of your decision. I look forward to hearing about your mother visiting you, in autumn then.

REPLY

Donna says:

August 2, 2013 at 1:27 pm

Thank you Diana. As I wrote this, I wasn't sure how it would turn out, but I also realized by the end that I am comfortable with the decision.

REPLY

Sheryl @ Flowery Prose says:

August 1, 2013 at 7:45 pm

I sure hope your Mom will be feeling better soon!

You're right, it's sometimes so difficult to know what path to take, but you seem confident with your decision to postpone your retirement…I always think that things happen for a reason and the future is an open book. It's exciting to anticipate what will happen next!

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 12:03 pm

I agree Sheryl…I think things have happened for the best and I do feel the future is exciting…I am looking forward to what may happen.

REPLY

PlantPostings says:

August 1, 2013 at 10:02 pm

Dear Donna: You seem calm and confident and confused at the same time–totally understandable! But finding beauty in every day is the best advice anyone can give. Sometimes life isn't clear-cut, nor segmented into "befores" and "afters" (although often that happens, too). Best of luck as you work your way through the next year of transitions!

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 12:07 pm

Beth you have captured my feelings perfectly….I know there will be many transitions and maybe those are the best parts of life to embrace. I still plan to write more and hope we can connect soon. Let me know what might work for you.

REPLY

Jason says:

August 2, 2013 at 12:25 am

Best wishes to your mom. Sounds like you are taking your challenges in stride.

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 11:47 am

Thanks Jason! I find the challenges are great lessons that only make me stronger…I learned that from my mom!

- Plant Postings
- Plantaliscious
- Plants and Stones
- Prairie Rose's Garden
- Profile of Plants Growing in our Aberdeen and Cheshire Gardens
- Pure Oxygen Generators
- Quarry Garden Stained Glass
- Rainyleaf
- Rambling in the Garden
- Rambling Woods
- Red Dirt Ramblings
- Red House Garden
- Red-Shouldered Hawks of Tingsgrove and Beyond
- Restoring the Landscape With Native Plants
- Rhone Street Gardens
- Ripplespeak
- Rock-Oak-Deer
- Rosemary's Blog
- Roses and Other Gardening Joys
- rusty duck
- Sho' Nuff Sistuh's Guide to Organic Gardening
- Southern Meadows
- The Blonde Gardener
- The Galloping Gardener
- The Gardening Blog
- The Northern New York Gardener
- The Sage Butterfly
- The Scientific Gardener
- The Violet Fern
- The Whimsical Gardener
- This Grandmother's Garden
- Three Dogs in a Garden
- Under the Pecan Leaves
- Viewing nature with Eileen
- Weeding on the Wild Side
- Wife, Mother, Gardener
- Words and Herbs

OTHER BLOGS I READ

- a spirit of simplicity
- Always Well Within
- Back Road Journal
- Cherie's Place
- Creative Dream Incubator
- Elenacaravela's Blog
- Elephant's Child
- eljaygee
- Far Away In The Sunshine
- Foxglove Lane
- Gotham Girl Chronicles
- hanging up to dry
- Healing Moments
- In Soul
- Life On Purpose/Be More With Less

REPLY

Cathy says:

August 2, 2013 at 7:11 am

This is such a positive post Donna, and from the way you write I am convinced that you have found the right path! Hope your Mom recovers quickly and I wish you a very happy final year at work. Although I have barely done any teaching for the last two years I still see myself as a teacher… so from what you say I think that will never change in your life too, even when finally you get to retire. All the best!

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 11:54 am

I agree Cathy…once a teacher always a teacher. I thank you for your warm wishes!

REPLY

Jen @ Muddy Boot Dreams says:

August 2, 2013 at 11:14 am

Life has thrown you more than one curve ball here, but you seem to have caught it and are moving forward. I'm sorry that your Mom isn't able to visit you, but hopefully in the fall.

Your attitude is wonderful, and it can only make the path easier for you.

Jen

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 11:46 am

Absolutely Jen….I have learned that putting a positive spin helps so much!

REPLY

Carolyn @ Carolyn's Shade Gardens says:

August 2, 2013 at 3:24 pm

It is hard to understand your situation fully without knowing why you aren't retiring. However, I understand that there is something very personal about that decision. I am glad you are able to use your blog posts to process events that must be so difficult for you. Your thought process seems very upbeat, and I am happy that you are able to handle your disappointment that way.

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 11:06 am

Thanks Carolyn. Hard to explain the why but it was not a choice. I had to postpone due to some undeliverables that were promised. Once they were gone the plan had to change and time was needed for a new plan. But I learned a lot from the experience and I think will have a better plan and be better prepared in the future.

REPLY

Susan says:

August 2, 2013 at 8:18 pm

Donna, My plans were on hold for three years. Perhaps because it was not of my choosing I was devastated and sad for a longtime. I am ashamed to say I sleepwalked through most of it. I didn't curl up in a darkened room but for the most part there was a lack of enthusiasm. If only I had read the Buddha quote. What a waste of each precious day. I will never do that again. Your thoughtful post is going into my special file under "kick in the pants". Sincere good wishes for the future.

Maery Rose: Writer
Mara Glatzel
Marc and Angel Hack Life
Marcie Scudder
photographing New Zealand
Ripplespeak
Sharing my reflections
Stepping Into The Future
Subplots By Grace
Tell Tale Therapy
The Blue Muse
The Creekside Cook
The Goodwill Seeds Co.
The Light Laughed
Tiny Buddha
Walkabout Chronicles

POETRY BLOGS I READ

Metaphors and Smiles
Poets United
STARDREAMING With Sherry Blue Sky
that's mrs. mediocrity to you

TOP POSTS & PAGES

Moments In The Garden: A Messy Surprise End to Winter

Wildflower Tales-Virginia Bluebell

Wildflower Tale-Shooting Stars

Simply The Best Natives-Bloodroot
Simply The Best Natives-Bloodroot

About

Simply the Best Herbs-April

Simply The Best-June
Simply The Best-June

Health
Health

Flower Tales-Pansies

Simply The Best Natives-St. John's Wort

2016 Reading Challenge

Donna has read 9 books toward her goal of 40 books.

9 of 40 (22%)

view books

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 11:04 am

Oh I am glad the post spoke to you…I almost went down a dark road but thank goodness there was a beautiful light that I caught out of the corner of my eye just in time. It helped me get back on the path and move forward even through my disappointment.

In years past I would have lingered in the darkness. I am hopeful I will be able to actually retire this June but each step towards it is a wonderful journey into the unknown of what can be once it actually happens 🙂

REPLY

Jennifer Richardson says:

August 2, 2013 at 9:20 pm

Really hope your mom is mending
and that you're enjoying these last sips of summer
before you head back to school.
Teachers are heros in my book
and I'm thankful for the important work you do.
peace to you, friend,
Jennifer

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 11:00 am

Thank you Jennifer as your sweet words continue to make my vocation so much more meaningful….I will enjoy but a few of these last sips, but fall will bring I hope a few days of respite and work in my garden sanctuary.

REPLY

Loredana Donovan says:

August 2, 2013 at 10:22 pm

Hi Donna, I love the sunflower and the quotes. A very reflective, introspective post. Best of luck with your decision. Hope you continue to find the answers … as your plan unfolds. 🙂

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 10:58 am

Thanks Loredana…the decision has slowed me down and made me continue to contemplate the future and plans in the future. It is scary and exciting at the same time.

REPLY

Jennifer@threedogsinagarden says:

August 3, 2013 at 9:17 am

You are so positive in the face of two big disappointments that I can't help but admire you more for it Donna. I am so sorry that your Mom took ill and couldn't visit. I hope she can visit as you hope after she recovers. The teaching year will pass quickly by I am sure and will give you more time to think about how you do fill your days when you retire.

REPLY

Donna says:

August 3, 2013 at 10:55 am

Jennifer your wonderful words continue to buoy me. I am feeling the same way…better prepared to retire and happier for the wait!

Reaching
by Grace Peterson
tagged: currently-reading

Bleeding Hearts
by Susan Wittig Albert
tagged: currently-reading

Rising Strong
by Brené Brown
tagged: currently-reading

Shadows Of Death
by Jeanne M. Dams
tagged: currently-reading

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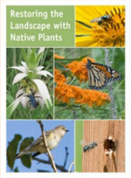

REPLY

b-a-g **says:**

August 3, 2013 at 11:50 am

Donna , I was glad to read that you have supportive colleagues to help you through the next few months. It wont be long before you're anticipating another type of education again.

REPLY

Donna **says:**

August 3, 2013 at 12:00 pm

B-A-G they have been so wonderful….I feel less stress knowing they are there. Feels nice to be appreciated too.

REPLY

Casa Mariposa **says:**

August 3, 2013 at 11:49 pm

Good luck with whatever comes next. Finding the positive makes every new step, even if we're just having to adjust to not moving forward, a little bit easier. 🙂

REPLY

Donna **says:**

August 4, 2013 at 7:15 am

Thank you…I think even standing still is positive and learning comes from any backward slides…this will be a most interesting school year.

REPLY

Karen (Back Road Journal) **says:**

August 4, 2013 at 7:22 am

I hope that your mother gets stronger each day and will be able to enjoy time with you later in the year. It sounds like you are comfortable with your decisions and the meandering path that you will be going down. I think it will be flower filled for sure and will bring smiles along the way.

REPLY

Donna **says:**

August 4, 2013 at 7:24 am

As I read your lovely comment Karen, it brought a smile to my face thinking of that flower filled path….thank you!

REPLY

Debbie **says:**

August 4, 2013 at 10:13 am

Donna, It's amazing how life manages to step in and change the plans we've worked so hard to make. I'm so glad to hear your mom is getting better and I'm sure that the coming year at work will hold many new blessings for you that you would have missed otherwise. Hopefully in a few years you'll look back and realize everything worked out exactly as it was supposed to.

REPLY

Donna **says:**

August 4, 2013 at 12:53 pm

I agree Debbie…I often find the changes worked out so much better than my plans.

MY GARDENS ARE:

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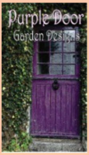
Habitat

PURPLE DOOR GARDEN DESIGNS



REPLY

Rose **says:**

August 4, 2013 at 5:43 pm

Oh, Donna, I don't know what I would have done if I had had to postpone my retirement for a whole year! But you have such a wonderful attitude about this unexpected change that I know it will all work out for the best for you. I understand your feeling that education will always be a part of who you are–ever since I retired, I've been substituting just to keep involved. You never really stop being a teacher.

I love the final quote from Buddha–I should hang this on my wall!

REPLY

Donna **says:**

August 4, 2013 at 6:00 pm

Rose I am so glad to hear it…we are always teachers…it is forever in the blood.

I was thinking about putting it on a pic and framing it…

REPLY

Jean **says:**

August 4, 2013 at 8:45 pm

Donna, I sometimes think life is a game of baseball in which most of the pitches are curve balls! Even though I know this intellectually (I can remember the exact moment in my mid-30s when I figured it out), I still forget that my careful plans do not control the world and I struggle when life's curve balls force me off the path I so carefully laid out. I think you are better at going with the flow than I am, and that is a personality gift that you should treasure.

REPLY

Donna **says:**

August 4, 2013 at 9:20 pm

Thank you for that wonderful comment Jean. I will treasure this gift as I have been learning to cultivate it in recent years.

REPLY

igardendaily **says:**

August 5, 2013 at 1:19 am

Hi Donna,

I have been out of pocket for awhile but was so surprised and at first saddened to hear about these "curve balls." However, after reading your entire post, I can feel your comfort and optimism about the upcoming year. I do hope it is a year of growing for your – in unanticipated ways – and when retirement comes along it will feel perfect! Best wishes of improved health to your mom as well!

REPLY

Donna **says:**

August 5, 2013 at 5:54 am

Thanks for your wonderful wishes Andrea…I am hoping for a growing year as well.

REPLY

bridget **says:**

August 5, 2013 at 4:34 am

Well done Donna on how you have adapted to these late changing plans. It shows a great strength and resilience which will carry you along the path. Hope your Mum regains full health soon. x

REPLY

Donna says:

August 5, 2013 at 5:57 am

Bridget you are too kind. I am already feeling that strength as the path moves ahead.

REPLY

Janet/Plantaliscious says:

August 6, 2013 at 6:31 am

I love the way you are feeling your way forward Donna, and that deep inner certainty that a decision is right for you is a precious feeling, the best measure of whether you have wandered astray somehow or not. So sorry your Mum was taken ill, hopefully her later visit will be a wonderful one, and now that you have greater clarity on when you are retiring, maybe you will also be able to enjoy her stay more too. After all, if you are "feeling ambitious and renewed" you should make excellent company!

REPLY

Donna says:

August 6, 2013 at 7:52 am

I am trying to carry those feelings to work as well, and it has helped. The end of this school year will be most welcome and a celebration of moving forward finally (I hope)!

REPLY

ShonuffSistuh says:

August 10, 2013 at 6:13 pm

Thank you for this intimate sharing.

REPLY

Donna says:

August 10, 2013 at 6:18 pm

And thank you for visiting and I glad you liked it.

REPLY

pbm says:

August 11, 2013 at 4:04 pm

Donna, Just now catching up on your blog–have been away and see now you didn't retire after all. Hope things settle down for you and you can take a few garden moments for yourself Donna. Sending kind thoughts to your and your mother. Susie

REPLY

Donna says:

August 11, 2013 at 4:37 pm

Thank you Susie I could sure use those thoughts…I will not spend much time in the garden until late summer or fall.

REPLY

Janet, The Queen of Seaford says:

August 21, 2013 at 11:09 am

After your little teaser comment in the last post I am glad to read more of what is going on with the fact you are not retiring. Another quote (though I don't know from whom this quote is taken) is "Man plans and God laughs". I tell my daughters to let life unfold — don't try to manage the things you have no control over. I hope it unfolds for you so your desire to retire is fulfilled. You hinted at changes on the blog as well, I will look forward to seeing what happens.
I have been MIA for a lot of the summer, reading posts in small clusters. There are some I can glance over and some, like yours, that deserve close reading and time to respond. Hoping to be caught up soon……only about 185 more posts to read through. 😊

REPLY

Donna says:

August 21, 2013 at 7:31 pm

Oh Janet that is the nicest thing to hear..thank you so much. I know what you mean. It takes days to catch up.

REPLY

KL says:

September 26, 2013 at 9:28 am

I know what you mean and how you feel because I think I have been there, still there and will be there for the rest of my lives. Some example: I left my job because that college was a corrupt place to teach — it was inflating the grades of students who were give huge donation to the college! So, I started doing part-time jobs, giving interviews for others and thinking will they be good, should I take them, etc. But, fate took me another way and put in a job that's my dream job and I love it best. So, I think patience is required and also there will be something best around the corner and thus never give up hope. If you didn't get one thing, perhaps that's better because other better things are out there waiting for you. If I took any of the jobs that I interviewed for, then I was not never going to get this dream job.

REPLY

Donna says:

September 26, 2013 at 10:18 am

I completely agree…something is waiting for me until just the right time when all will be revealed….I am so glad you landed in your dream job!!!