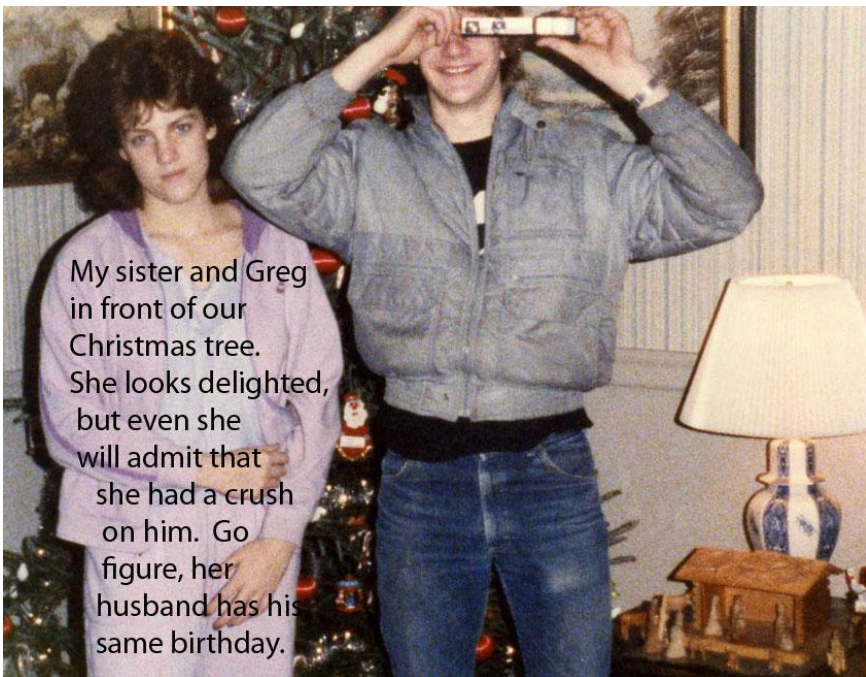




Merry Christmas 2010 everyone!!!

My entire family & I wish you & your family a Blessed Holiday Season & Happy New Year! I'm so excited!!! 😄😄😄 One of our paintings that Sophie and I created is going to be made into a mural in Philadelphia this spring. It was the first painting we ever created from a wheelchair, and actually the painting was Sophie's first ever!!! She helped me to spill all the paint in all the right places. She was the cutest little puppy!!! The mural will be on Kelly Drive, Boathouse Row, if you know where that is ??? It's going on in the disabled rower's house.... Our story is kind of like a Charles Dickens Ghost Story. The Ghost of Christmas Past, etc.... 😊 I have two friends who passed away when they were very young, 17 and 20. I decided to leave my crazy Audrey Hepburn Rock Opera on Kelly's grave about two years ago. My mom said it wasn't a good idea!!! I mention Kelly in the rock opera scene. I had placed a blue wooden rosary from Medjugorje on her grave in 2003 when I made my pilgrimage there with my family. Every year on June 6 (the day I visit them, and the day my other friend Greg was shot and killed - D-Day 😞) I would see the blue wooden Medjugorje rosary hanging on her candle that sits above her cemetery grave. I only ever knew Kelly from work. I never knew her family!!! All I knew was that I wanted to ask her out!!!!!!! 😞😞 Kelly was a very pretty girl... My Audrey Hepburn. It may sound funny, but that's what I was thinking. Kelly had BIG Audrey Hepburn Doe Eyes. Twenty-five years later, and I am still thinking about her...

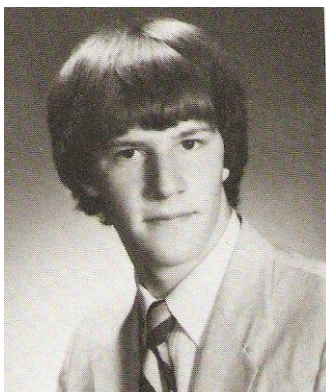


My sister and Greg in front of our Christmas tree. She looks delighted, but even she will admit that she had a crush on him. Go figure, her husband has his same birthday.

Kelly died of a cardiac arrest caused by anorexia. I just found this out a few months ago, but she died on a Saturday. The day after I lost courage asking her out!!! That was a Friday night... The scene I record in my rock opera... You can read the scene I left with Kelly on my website, if you want to. 😞 Fourth scene from the top!!!

<http://www.brokenartgallery.com/ROCKOPERA.htm>

Anyway, I wanted to say "hi" to the family, and to let them know I still remember their daughter. 😞😞 So, I was asking my other friend at his graveside if I should do it. My mom was with me that day and trying to discourage me. Well, we left Greg's graveside, got into our Toyota Sienna handicap accessible van to drive to Kelly...



Greg



Kelly

...turned the key, ... and the radio started playing "Evil Woman" by the Electric Light Orchestra. I was totally dumbstruck. The Electric Light Orchestra was my friend's favorite band, and I thought to myself "Evil Woman" Bogs (alias Greg) ??? No way Bogs!!! 😞 Kelly was a SAINT... of course, my friend would know that I would love to make this story into my Christmas card this year, and the fact that he sent me the song "Evil Woman" does in fact embarrass me very much, as you might expect!!! Really? FRIENDS!!! 😞 I sometimes wonder why I miss him so much... Ha ha... Greg went to Kelly's viewing with me, and the next day I went to her funeral alone. Greg knew that I liked her a lot!!! In two 1/2 years, I would be going to his funeral with my family. 😞 Never take any time you have for granted my friends. I wish I had a Time Machine... Kelly and Bogs worked together at the Allentown Hospital with me... So they knew each other too!!! My mom later said (when I tell you how the rest of this story turned out) "Maybe he was referring to me ????" Ha ha... I don't think so... 😞 My mom is the biggest Saint I know!!! No one would take care of me the way my mom does!!! She is a Godsend... She just knows that I'm over the top sometimes, like my friend Greg!!! Mom didn't want me to hurt anybody. Anyway, I was so excited about the strange song happening on the radio that I decided to leave the rock opera play scene, a letter telling them who I am, and an identical rosary to the one I left before... 😞 I figured they must have always wondered who left the rosary!!! My mom thought it would get rained on and put it in a plastic bag, but she still thought it would get ruined by the time anybody found it, or it would just blow away. Well,

...on Father's Day Kelly's mom and dad found it!!! Her mom called me to tell me how touched they were to know that somebody still remembers their daughter. She said her husband was really emotionally moved!!! To find it on Father's Day no less... 🤔🤔 We know them very well now!!! My parents when they go out get my friend Greg's (alias Bogs') mom to watch out for me... Greg is the friend who was shot. The one day recently she was coming over and I was looking at Audrey Hepburn YouTube clips the way I usually do... and I stumbled upon one I have never seen before of Audrey Hepburn dancing to the old song "Safety Dance." Once again, I was amazed and dumbstruck because "Safety Dance" was my friend's favorite song on the radio... before he died!!! I thought what are the chances of me finding this a few minutes before his mom gets to my house ??? 🤔 So, when she arrived, I told her what had happened... Which she liked very much!!! Then I began telling her about the mural I was then only being considered for in Philadelphia... She said to me "Do you think that's a sign too ??? Like the one you just had of Greg ?!!!" I said what do you mean ??? She said "You're mural... On Kelly Drive ????" 🤔🤔 I said "Oh my gosh, I didn't even realize that!!! I used to live on Kelly drive... That's where Sophia grew up!!!" "Maybe Kelly's thanking me for contacting her parents and introducing them to you ????" Kelly and Greg were friends... And, now their parents know each other too. I think Kelly sent my mural to me!!! 🤔🤔 Kelly's mom, Maureen, gave me this picture of Kelly with Debbie Boone, the woman who made "You Light-up My Life" famous. She was with her at Kelly's anorexia clinic in Philadelphia. I was shocked to hear Debbie mention a window on her famous song!!! The rain and her bedroom window were the last things Kelly spoke to me about... Maureen also gave me a poem Kelly would carry with her called "DON'T QUIT!!!" 🤔🤔 Last year, when I was in the hospital week after week... Kelly's poem and song gave me great inspiration... I could picture her whispering to me, "Keep throwing punches, Brett... God may not give you the knockout punch to your opponent, but you will definitely give your opponent the best fight of your life, if you DON'T QUIT!!!" 🤔 I'm happy to announce this year's Sophia Award winner... Yahoo!!! The Philadelphia mural artist extraordinaire, Ms. Ann Northrop!!!!!! 🤔🤔 I don't know what made you think of us, but I'm glad you did!!! The SPIRITS must have whispered in your ear, I suppose... 🤔 I hope you all have a beautiful Christmas!!! Remember, we see only what we want to see, and we are only as happy as we want to be!!! As Debbie Boone cries out... you light up my life my friends!!! Your challenge, like Ann with our mural, go do something nice for somebody, completely unexpectedly... Life is a test. Passing it is easy, as long as we DON'T QUIT!!! 🤔🤔🤔

(left) Debbie Boone and Kelly
 (below) the disabled boathouse on Kelly drive
 (bottom) the painting "Escape"

BRETT
 X of friend



ADDED CLOSING NOTE: Just reflecting on my life!!! 🤔 If I had the courage to ask Kelly out that Friday night, that may have made her HAPPY, and Kelly may have sailed through that terrible Saturday without a catastrophic health problem. Her mom recently told me that she didn't have a boyfriend at Parkland High School. Perhaps, I could have changed events, learned about anorexia, and helped Kelly fight her illness. And, now Kelly would be there for me. We could be celebrating our 20th Wedding Anniversary this year!!! 🤔🤔 Of course, that didn't happen... If God gave me one moment in my life that I could try again, that would be the moment. I never had a picture of Kelly until recently!!! Mostly, I always remembered that she had Audrey Hepburn's BIG sparkling Doe Eyes. Maybe that's how my crazy obsession got started ??? If Kelly sent me my dreams of Ms. Audrey Hepburn, she is definitely not an "Evil Woman." She is the kindest, and most compassionate friend I ever had!!! I don't care if I do look like a FOOL to the entire world.. Remember, at least I gave Demetrius Top Billing in my Christmas card the way Kelly hinted that I should!!! So, I'm not a COMPLETE FOOL. 🤔🤔 Hey, I bet ya Albert Einstein was Bogs in that DREAM!!! No way, I just figured that one out... He's probably laughing right now. It's my friends who are crazy, NOT ME!!! Have a beautiful Christmas everyone!!!! 🤔