

Person Interviewed: Marty Meade

Date Interviewed: January 14, 2021

How has your daily life been affected by the quarantine or Corona Virus?

First of all, I am an artist and so I have a studio to work at and because of the virus and because of the quarantine, I've had a wonderful opportunity to paint and work on my own art.

I usually teach classes in my studio and so I've had my studio to myself and that's a positive thing. Because I live in The Valley I feel very supported. We have family around us, so I really haven't been isolated.

Do you feel supported by The Valley community during this time? If yes, in what ways has your community supported you? Can you think of any other challenging time in The Valley that would compare?

This community has been absolutely unbelievable. Financially, I lost a third of my income because I haven't been able to teach and I teach out of my studio, so I was really scared and the emergency fund was there for us. There was an incredible amount of money coming to help individuals.

I've been here for 50 years and we've had some other challenges and this is one where I've watched people work together. We've had arguments and big fights over French Ranch and the golf course...y'know there's been a lot of discourse over the salmon. I've seen some split here in The Valley, but in this case people have really come together and so, even though it's been hard there hasn't been the anger around it the way I've seen at other times.

Do you think that the safety precautions such as masks, social distancing, and hand washing are too much, too little, or just enough?

Not enough. I think it's all important and we could use more precautions.

Have your thoughts about the pandemic changed at all since March of 2020?

Well, no I take it all very seriously because I'm at an age where there have been other similar things. I grew up in a period when polio was an epidemic and my brother was left disabled because of polio. So, for me Covid was the same type of scare.

Would you like to add anything about what your Valley community has meant to you during the past year?

Do you know what the word, “utopia” means? Well, for me The Valley is Utopia. It has always been. We moved here in 1970 and took a big risk because we left a comfortable community in Los Angeles, but we wanted something better and we’ve been really happy here.