

*...Once as a teenager I said,
"I'd like to live and work in Old Lyme someday."
Forty-five years later...*

I really wasn't planning consciously on moving. After all, I was quite content sharing space in my sister and brother-in-law's picturesque log cabin in the woods. The treehouse like bedroom, with cedar closets, and mossy roof was a dream come true for the woodland fairy in me.

Flowing in the moment one fine day without expectation, I found myself giving voice to a fleeting notion that went something like this: "Creator, I am so happy living here, and yet it would be most lovely to live on my own again in a place where I can lay out all my art supplies and create again. If there's a place as inspiring and as wonderful as living here that I can afford, bring it on!"

I've dreamt of a live-in artist's studio for quite some time. My imaginings envision an ample one room living space with adequate kitchen, small bathroom, cozy bedroom, just enough closet space for my clothes, and floor-to-ceiling bookshelves for my books and art supplies. I desire a light-filled space with large windows, and an inspiring location surrounded by abundant beauty, offering solitude and privacy.

As quickly as this vision popped in, it was done, and I moved on without thought. Three days later, 3 people approached me with a sense of urgency to check out an available rental that was far too amazing to pass up. How could it be that these people were telling me of a rental space when I wasn't actively looking for one, and hadn't shared my day dream thought seed with anyone? Tis the way the Universe works. Do I not know that by now?

I've gathered several pivotal insights through the years, and one of them is when something occurs 3 times in succession, pay attention. Now that the universe has my attention, I concede to checking out this so-called amazing place.

First of all, I discovered that this amazing place is located in the small, New England coastal village of Old Lyme. The very town I envisioned living and working in as a teenager. Quaint Old Lyme is known for fine art and museums, country inns, lighthouses and sailboats. It is a most picturesque town located along the

Connecticut River, and home to osprey, swan, duck, heron, plover, deer, and other beauties.

Synchronicity strikes again! As soon as I pull into the driveway of the private compound to meet the landlord of the amazing rental space, I have the sensation that my daydream is coming to fruition. Walking into the rental space was like returning home. As I stood in the middle of the spacious one room living space, my heart was pumping with excitement. There before me were 2 huge floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, 2 skylights, huge cathedral ceiling and window looking out upon marsh, and giving way to ocean waters, and 2 lighthouses in the distance.

Yikes! What an amazing space indeed. I could hardly contain my elation. As I pivoted around 90 degrees, I laid my eyes upon the ladder leading to the bedroom loft. Oh my, I thought.....how well could I navigate up and down the ladder in the middle of night to pee. The next thought to enter my mind was, “no problem. I will call upon my soul memory of living in a kiva, ancestral pueblo sacred pit house, long ago, and will adjust to it just fine.”

Nurturing this sweet abode is the sound of the sea in the distance, walking trails, and private beach a short hike away, amazing sunrise and sunsets, and about 400 acres of nature preserve. If that wasn't over the top, add the bonus of a sheep, donkey, and yellow lab. What a package the universe has served up to me, a most wonderful surprise, and how quickly and effortlessly it has come.

A rental discussion with the potential landlords is the final bit of business that will confirm whether this amazing place is truly meant for me. From all seeming appearance there's no way I can afford to rent here without significantly living over my head and beyond my means. I'm not interested in setting up that stress. No thanks.

I've just caught myself presuming based on appearance, knowing full well that presumption is the exterminator of possibility. The universe has clearly guided me here to test my belief that with spirit all things are possible. Standing in my truth before the landlords, I divulge my current financial situation, and the amount of monthly rent I am able to afford. In addition, I throw out the notion of bartering. Barter and I have become buddies through the years. A good portion of my life

has been based on this alternative form of exchange, contributing skills and talents with excellent results.

Before I tell the outcome of this story, I want to share the significant lessons I learned in magnetizing this opportunity.

Hold out for the Greater Good of All Concerned.

Surrender attachment and remain open at the same time.

Believe beyond what you can see.

Trust that all things are possible no matter what has been or seems to be.

The greatest reward is mutual agreement.

Let spirit work through you.

Do your part and let the universe do its part.

Cutting to the chase, I've now lived in this lovely spot of paradise for 2 weeks. My landlord/tenant agreement is mutually honoring. My energy is happy and free being exactly where I am meant to be. I am dancing in wild gratitude for this amazing place, communing more with the natural world, and skipping down the driveway caretaking animal friends like Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, the beloved book character, who I admired in my youth.

Because I followed the trail of spirit's lead, I find myself living an amazing life of solace, beauty, and inspiration. Another bonus is that I now live a mere 15 min. drive along small country roads to where I work.

Walking the dogs on the edge of the meadow, looking out upon the marsh, I stopped in my tracks and blurted out *Holy Shit!* I'm actually living in Old Lyme, and stunning Griswold Point of all places. Imagine that.... a prayer planted so many years ago has now come to pass. What an honor and privilege to be here and now.

This space has come to me at a time when I am ready to embark on a greater exploration and expression of myself as a working artist. And so, it's time to get on with creating.....

Renya
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