

Jan's Gems . . . April, 2019

For the Birds. . .

No, this isn't a comment on our politics . . . I happened to be sitting on our deck on a warmish springish day, and oh, did it feel good to see the first signs of buds, pink "popcorn" blooms on cherry trees, and an occasional hummingbird zooming in for a taste of my homemade nectar. I was taking it all in on my 15 minute break from my studio when, at a glance, I started following some larger avian action going on above me. There seemed to be a chase scene with one large bird being harassed by a much smaller winged version. As I sought clarity, I realized, oh wow, what a rare sight right over our house! It was a handsome bald eagle soaring against the blue sky not really threatened, especially, by this seemingly protective smaller bird. I really didn't want to think what the handsome eagle was circling for, but rather to see how majestic he/she is in flight. I watched the way he flew by just catching the slight updrafts of air and wind, and how the open span of his wings is enough for just coasting. Meanwhile, the other small bird had to flap his wings feverishly to catch up just for that small attack to distract the eagle from dive-bombing the nearby nest. What a great sighting it was. I watched until they were out of sight, and I returned to my studio refreshed for new designs and projects at hand. Without getting too syrupy, I always find grounding in the beauty of nature.

One fun fact about the Bald Eagle is their silly and high pitched giggle or scream in which, in movies and TV shows, the sound crew always dubs a lower and rougher sound to symbolize their strength in the wilderness.