

**From:** Ellen Rice <ellenrice@mchsi.com>

**Subject:** The beach, art lessons, a painting that expresses the purest form of love

**Preheader:** Also, Feathered Sunshine debuting in print Sunday

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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in The Ellen Rice Gallery. Don't forget to add ellenrice@mchsi.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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*The beach in Bethany is not as bad as many people think. The dune is smaller, but it's still there and the beach is already rebuilding, wider and in a more natural configuration, though there are areas that were hit harder south of the downtown area.*

Dear

I have heard people exclaim in horror and read so many panicking Facebook posts about the sand erosion from Jonas that I thought some more realistic comments might be welcome.

## The beach

I went out yesterday to see for myself what Jonas had done to the Bethany shoreline and although a chunk of artificial sand dune was eaten away I was heartened to see a

beach much larger and more natural in formation than I've seen since the replenishment projects began ~ and people are finding an abundance of beautiful seashells, sea glass and pieces of old pottery once again!



The beach in Bethany has a tidal pool again now, and from

the looks of it, if it was warmer and you waded into the water, chances are you could walk a long way out before getting in deep water. This is the way I remember our beaches for the five decades I lived here

*Bethany's beach two days after Jonas, viewed from Garfield Parkway and the boardwalk looking north. The beach is already rebuilding. Most of us old-timers knew it would.*

before beach replenishment.

Bethany is scheduled for replenishment in 2017. I for one am not in favor of trying to best Mother Nature. It's a losing game and extremely costly - both financially to taxpayers everywhere in the country and humanly to those swimming and body surfing in our waters.

It's gone largely unreported how the hard, steep drop-off in the surf zone created by beach replenishment has caused numerous life-altering injuries, crippling and death. I know that's not a popular thing to say and that's why it doesn't get reported, but I've heard too much and know an outgoing, intelligent, wonderful woman whose life has become painful and extremely restricted because one day she decided to body surf after the shoreline was altered by replenishment.

I would much rather have a natural beach and know my family and everyone else is safer ~ and have the fun of finding beautiful beach treasures once again than have more sand replenishment. I bet the local sea life would favor that, too....

### **Art Lessons**

I have a growing list of people who would like to take art lessons from me and I will start giving them in February.

If you're interested, please reply to this email and tell



*I haven't seen this many shells in years.  
Reportedly, they're washing in with  
every high tide. : )*

me a few things about yourself and what you hope to learn by taking lessons from me. No skill level required, just the desire to learn.

In order to plan my classes, I do, however, need a general estimate of your skill level (beginner, intermediate, advanced), your preferred subject matter, mediums (types of paint) you've worked with, and what you hope to accomplish with lessons from me.



*The old jetties are once again revealed. If you're among the people who didn't realize they were there, check out the [painting](#) that I did in 2009 before the then infamous "mound" was created. The replenishment crews didn't remove them; they just buried them and they get revealed from time to time after a good storm.*

I'll also need to know whether you prefer private or group lessons and what days and times would work for you.

I won't be able to fulfill everyone's wishes the first go-round, but I'll go over your responses and work with serious students as much as I can. So, help me out by answering those questions, and if you have any questions, just send them my way. No questions are "dumb." They help me help you!

*Note: There won't be any classes in spring or summer.*

### **Love, hand in hand**

A project I hoped to complete before Valentine's Day for several years is now finally being painted. More later about a subject that I fell in love with when someone gave me a photo and asked me if I'd like to paint it for my *Children by the Seaside* series. I love it for its expression of the purest form of love.

### **Feathered Sunshine**

I've finished my goldfinch painting, *Feathered Sunshine*,



shown below in its last stages of completion, and it will be available in several sizes of archival gicle'e reproductions on paper and canvas as early as this Sunday, January 31.



*Final touches on Feathered Sunshine, my latest nature painting. Please keep in mind that digital images cannot - and don't - show true colors. You're welcome to come see the original in person this weekend.*

The information still isn't on my website, but the regular prices will be the same as those of my first bird

painting, [Spring](#)

[Promise](#). When the prints are up on the website, you'll be able to purchase them there, as well as by calling or visiting my gallery.

I'm giving \$30 off the two largest sizes on paper now through Valentine's Day as a way of saying Thank You for following and collecting my work.

The original is available. If you're interested, please [email me](#) or stop in or call the gallery at 302-539-3405. It will be on exhibit starting Sunday.

### **The beach this weekend**

The weekend weather forecast for the beach area is promising, especially considering it's the last day of January, historically the coldest week of the year. Saturday is forecast to be sunny and in the 40s and Sunday partly cloudy and in the 50s in the Bethany area. I'll take it!

If you want to walk around on dry ground instead of snow, come on over! Rain got rid of our snow here. :-)

End of my report! I hope it's eased your mind about the beach. Happy shell hunting!

See you soon,

Handwritten signature

