

The Many Faces of the Art of Aging

By Robert Taylor

This year, 2007, I shall try to recognize as many faces of the art of aging as possible, beginning with acknowledging aging and life as my best friends. They have both been with me for 88 years and neither has ever stopped doing its job. Aging began at birth and continued through puberty, continued into young manhood, through middle age and on to where I am now ... old. Each phase has been a learning experience, and if you are reading this you are one of the lucky ones who has learned to survive ... and so am I. With all its aches, pains and wrinkles, aging is still better than the alternative.

Life is older than dirt, and my life is part of that life, so life and aging are one. But my share of life has been there for me through lung cancer, prostate cancer, skin cancer, a ruptured appendix, 2 heart attacks, 5 stents and more. Throughout my 88 years life has been stronger than death, and for that I am grateful. How about you?

Now, after all these years, I am convinced that death is only a bogey man, and does not really exist. I am convinced there is no death, only change. I am convinced that life is eternal, and that death is simply a way out of our earthly experiences, good or bad, into a new life filled with peace beyond all understanding.

But because life and aging are my best friends, I'm not quite ready to accept that change. I don't want to leave them, and don't want them to leave me. In other words I don't want to go ... not yet... because I love being alive, and being with you, and Emilie, and the other marvelous people in my life.

And I love getting older because I know when aging stops, the final change will begin ... for you and for me. Maybe I'll see Bobby Jones and Ben Hogan play golf. Maybe they'll give me lessons. But they are big, big maybes. So, if life is a matter of choices, I choose Breezy, my next door neighbor to give me lessons because he is here, he is now and I don't have to go far to find him. He has improved my game.

Thank you neighbor. You help me know that ... life ... is good