

## Taking Pictures No Matter What

*by Kenita Gibbins*

Since 2003 my passion has been to use my cameras to the best of my evolving abilities. Before 2003 I just liked to take pictures. Now I relish thinking I make images.

Eastertide 2016 we went to San Diego to be with our oldest son and daughter-in-law. The four of us decided to take a ride on a whale watching boat. Over the sound system, I heard that dolphins were sighted at 12:00 o'clock. I left my family in the stern. I hustled through the ship as fast as possible. The moment I arrived at my destination a big wave raised the prow of the vessel. I saved my camera high in the air with my left hand. I reached behind to catch myself with my right hand. I knew the minute I landed that my wrist broke.

People wanted to help me up. I said, "No thank you. I need to stay here." One nice man asked if I was alone. I told him how to find my family. They arrived quickly, but not before a man from the ship arrived with the legal paper for me to sign showing I wouldn't sue the company. The company man did have a towel and ice. We were almost to shore. The staff couldn't get rid of us fast enough.

We went straight to Urgent Care. Immediately the nurse wanted to get my ring off before I swelled anymore. She couldn't move my beautiful ruby ring by simply trying to pull it off with string. I kept saying, "Go get my son Mark and husband George. They are paramedics." She kept repeating, "I can cut it off." My ring was not saw-friendly. It is made of platinum. Finally after denting the ring band, she went to get Mark. He did make the string trick work.

X-rays showed that I indeed had fractured my wrist. This was Saturday before Easter and all pharmacies closed early. We couldn't get my medicine. I settled for margaritas.

I flew home to Denver for surgery arranged by my primary doctor. Our daughter picked me up. I felt sad leaving George in San Diego with the car. He is legally blind. We actually found a driver to drive George and the car home.

With my arm in a cast, I couldn't handle my camera. I owned a really good iPhone with sharp image capability. I decided to join iPhone Academy online. I knew my mobile camera could do more than I had figured out how to do. My new school delivered everything their advertisement promised.

Eventually my wrist did get stronger, just not strong enough to manage a Nikon 700 with a 500 mm lens. I love my phone, BUT! I decided I absolutely needed a new Sony 10 4. This camera weighs 2-1/2 pounds and it has one fixed lens that will stretch out for 600 millimeters. My rationale was if I don't buy this camera I might not be able to get one. Sony cameras are made in China. I couldn't risk there being a tariff put on it by our government and it not be available to Americans forever. Now I can shoot all of the images that move me.