



Christmas Greetings from Philip J. Saraf



*In Loving Memory of
Philip John Saraf
1930 - 2016*

The Atlanta Journal - Food Features - May 31, 1972
Photographer Bud Skinner



Family of George Saraf and Mary Gannam circa 1939
 Phyllis, Mary Ann, Mary Gannam with George
 Philip, George Saraf with Rose, Antoinette



Savannah Art Association Gallery
 Savannah News Press - November 18, 1979
 Photographer Steve Bisson

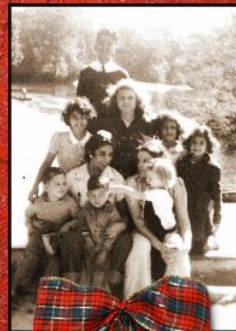


The Coastal Senior - January 2017

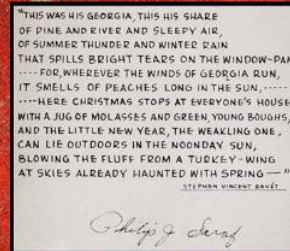


1965

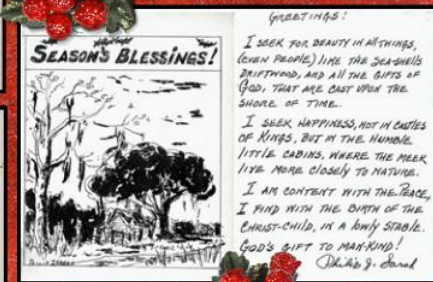
118 East Harris Street
 Savannah, Georgia

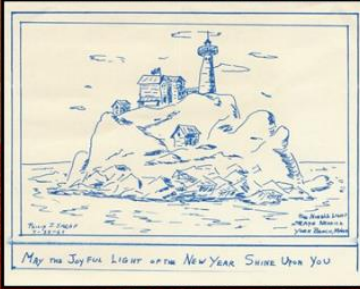


Philip and his siblings
 Antoinette, Phyllis, Mary Ann
 Rose, George, Antoine and Iris



1964





May the Joyful Light of the New Year Shine Upon You

When I was in Israel the past summer, my dear ones all came. Some from Boston, you see in a very beautiful and thoughtful gift, made by leaf from the collection, made what she described a number of old, beautiful, and a set of paper on which she wrote *Happy New Year*.
I wish to see you again, *Happy Christmas*.
Philip J. Saraf



1967

My heart never left
On the shore of Israel,
I'd happy who I
With people in good.
Laying in heart
On the shore of Israel,
That night my heart, in fact,
I came toward the sea front.
But my heart and at a little time
I shall and heart
Of heart, and with heart
I shall of heart, on earth heart, I want
I love to wish
From the number of nation
And she celebrate it, but
To her heart's pleasure.
I will always remain
The gift of the heart with
That and show with and remain
I'll give to me my heart with
But the greatest gift of all
Take a genuine with heart
If you my heart better
There's gift of heart



Christmas of 1972
I dedicate this card to my mother's father, Kanan Karaman, who in 1923 came with his family from Beirut, Lebanon, to 1905 from the Beirut bank, he brought with him a strong religious faith, and gave it to me. To all who know him, he is like a gift, who speak of his, beauty, and love. He has faith in the world he saw, in the garden of love, for he has raised many a child, and many. Then he shared with family, friends and neighbors. During my youth like other things, me that, "if a man gets through life and that he can't find any sense, the blessing of life, in nature, he is not living, he is dead."
There I have found art, poetry, beauty and love, as a universal language. Even in looking, one finds most important ingredients to love; a joy to share.
Part of my greatest experience in life is being able to transform love into an inanimate object and giving it life. Always it becomes a part of me, a part of a rock, a broken shell, an old clock, a piece of art, and make all it work. I've before speak from, a ticking clock is a heartbeat, and from my heart, warm glow of love, all added to the beauty and charm of that time, I wish to share with you. The best gifts are tied with hearting.
The joy of Christmas is love
Philip J. Saraf



1972

A CHRISTMAS INDICATION
Happiness is the love of all my family and friends, that multiply happiness by sharing it. This is pure religion, for it is love in action.
Happiness is Hubbie, the queen of the seashore in the city. When all stress is blown, she gives me faith and courage, and lifts my spirit on high.
Happiness is a great book, "A Touch of Wonder," that renews my appreciation for love of life.
Happiness is learning, and never be filled in wisdom; and to teach and never be weary in love.
Happiness is Miss Emily Raveland, a benevolent Christian, with a beautiful soul, loved by all who know her, it is a pleasure.
Happiness is a splash of colors on the canvas, or a dash of spices in the cooking pot singing the benediction of God.
Happiness is the humble form of Marie and Henry Burns Henry, with his basket making and folklore, and beautiful Marie, with her over-loving something in my heart. Her ever-blooming flowers, happy children, and country home has inspired me to happy paintings. My heart's happiness is in her labor of love, the beautiful quilted blanket she made for me her heart's gift to me for Christmas.
But the total of all happiness is Christmas time, the most beautiful time when the spirit of the Christ Child, unfolds to all in His love and peace.
May we forever seek and find happiness on into the New Years to come.
With Happiness in Love,
Philip J. Saraf



1975

Dear Love One:
Happiness is sharing of love, beauty, kindness, joy, peace and faith, all through the joyful journey of ourselves, a part of you.
Happiness is bearing a burden of someone, to help lighten his load. But to share with that joy, and your share, and the many blessings you receive, is to love a love that takes you back to the heart to create a rainbow, to give beauty to a rose.
I wish to share my many happiness with you, during Christmas, and the New Year's time.
Happiness is love,
Philip J. Saraf

1973

Dear Love One:
From my happiness in life I learn, to give, not you will receive; teach you will learn, and to do a love deed, and to really rewarded. For happiness is like a candle, you light to show someone the way, but you can't help feeling the warmth from it. If you will learn to share, it shows, that you do care, in an act of kindness and love. I care.
This care, when he sent the only together love, our children.
Come, let's share this holiday season together, a time of joy and happiness.
Remember the Care
Philip J. Saraf

1976

A Time for Reflection

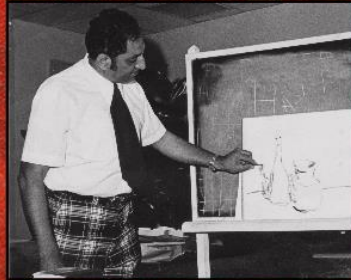
Christmas is a time to think back on the past year. It is a time to count our many blessings and wishes to appreciate and health, how seldom to appreciate our joy, our dark days to appreciate the sunshine.

A darkness is given, creates love. For it is not how much we have in life, but how much we enjoy in life to make happiness.

This year I discovered a new kind of happiness, the art of "teaching" with a dear lady friend of mine. Together we discover, some of the pure in heart in the folklore and traditions, especially among the blacks. It gave me greater inspiration to try to capture this deep sense of life in my paintings.

Creating new recipes, meeting new friends, and am thankful for all my old friends, my family, love that can never stop, I must travel on, and keep discovering new happiness.

But we must walk on though, December, and into the new year, carrying out our memories, and our wishes. A Merry Christmas and Best Wishes from Ull, with love (Philip), and



1977

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OF 1978

When the antique clock struck half-past twelve,
 Beyond the door of the Grayson Boy and the Colton Cat,
 And by the hearth, alive came all the elves.
 There in the old rocking chair, Ginger and I sat.

And from the kitchen floats the aroma of spices
 From cake, cookies, and the merry brew.
 I wish to share a philosophy, and everything nice,
 "The huggin' and kissin' don't last forever. The cookin' do."

Add all of this, and the magic of Christmas appears
 In this old house, and we all shall share
 The good spirit with the holiday cheer.
 With joy and happiness of the coming New Year.

The Joy of Christmas
 In Love

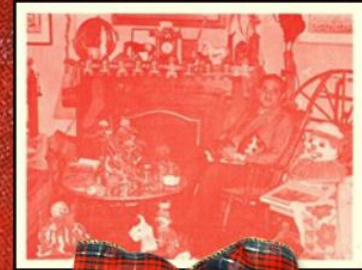
Philip J. Saraf

Dear Folks,

For several years my hand was giving me so much trouble I could not work or paint with so much pain. I had an operation in February of this year. It was a miracle.

Meanwhile, in May, I had an invitation from Mrs. Virginia Bales to paint in the Shenandoah Valley up in Strasburg, Virginia. It was beautiful! It lifted me from my depressed feeling.

So now I have a cute puppy which I got in August. Her name is Ginger ("Gin"), after Virginia Bales. She will be seven months old this month and she shows so much love. I count my blessings.



1978



My Dear Friends and Love Ones:

My dream, like a broken Christmas ball, shattered, my heart is sad. But in this broken Christmas, I am beauty.

I must give up this house soon that has been my home for fifteen years. By the grace of a Great Lady and a dear friend, Miss Emily Russell, I was allowed to live here this long.

In this house in a silent friend, I have never been alone. This house has been my source of many smiles, many happiness. This house was like a great lady, I have such respect for it. No, I have not found a new home yet.

However, I will make merry, and celebrate my last Christmas here at 118 East Harris Street. Come, if you wish, to share with me a time of happiness.

I have faith in the future, in the New Year, which will open a new door to a new dream, a new home.

The Joy of Christmas in Christ,
 Philip J. Saraf



1979



7 West Charlton Street
 Savannah, Georgia

My Dear Friends and Loved Ones:

This year, 1980, has been a rough one for me, but I will not let it get me down. It is part of life, the changing times, we must move on.

I moved into my new apartment the first week of February. I have the view of St. John's Church and Madison Square. I fell in love with the kitchen, which allows me room for a studio and my two loves, painting and cooking.

I had been having trouble with my right hand getting numb and had to have an operation in April. While out of work for three weeks, I didn't have time to sit on the "poo" pot. With my right arm in a sling, I continued to paint, as I am left handed. I painted "May Day 1980", from which I won the most popular vote in our Art Association Show in October.

My dearest friend, Robbie Phillips, moved to Still Hope Home in South Carolina. I dearly miss her.

In June, I was invited for a vacation by the Nicholson family in their home, in Saluda, N.C.; and I also visited Carl Sandburg's home, the highlight of my trip this year.

In July the passing of Henry Burns, the baker maker, and a great and humble man. The passing of another great and important man in my life who lived to be 100 years old. He taught me how rich and beautiful life can be by sharing all that God blesses us with. He died the day after Thanksgiving, he was Karam Gannam, my grandfather.

So let us all come together to share this time of joy, a time for happiness, the beauty of Christmas, and the coming New Year.

The Joy of Christmas in Christ,
 Love,

Philip J. Saraf

1980

1981



My Dear Friends and Loved Ones:

I wish to share a beautiful experience I had happen to me last Christmas.

Last year, on December 18, 1980, when I was very depressed, I had a long Christmas phone call from my twin, Kay Lee. From a lady who said I didn't know her, but she heard so much about me and hoped to meet me some day soon. She said she was Phillip Kay Lee's daughter. (Kay Lee is the inventor of the Brittle Bread. She also taught me how to make "Stink printing.")

Phillip said her mother was in the hospital with a broken back, and she had one request. She wanted a Christmas tree in the hospital room. Phillip said she was going to buy her mother a tree. But her mother said no, she wanted a pine tree. And she asked her mother, "How can I get one?"

And her mother said, "If anyone can do it, Phillip can do it." So Phillip asked me to get one for her mother and she would be glad to pay for it. But I told Phillip, "If your mother has that much faith in me, I will make her what some trees."

So Saturday, December 20th, I went out into the woods on my wife's farm looking for a pine tree: full, and just right—three and one-half feet tall. I took it to the hospital with some decorations, and wasn't sure if the Security Guard would let me bring it into the hospital. But she heard the door open for me.

I took it up to Kay's room, and she was passed out from so much pain, but I stood at the foot of her bed and called her name twice. She opened her eyes, and when she saw the tree she had the biggest, beautiful smile, and said, "That pine tree smells so beautiful."

I set it up and decorated it for her, and she had an angel to set on top of the tree.

It made my day, just to see that smile, to bring happiness into the heart of Kay Lee. It brought me happiness also.

Phillip came down here January 1, 1980. I met her for the first time. She was beautiful. She took her mother home with her to Sun Town to a hospital there. Kay Lee passed away in the middle of February, but I know she left this world with a smile in her heart.

Come, let us share this holiday season together. I hope to see a big change for the better in our lives in 1981.

I Wish You the Celebration of Love in Christ.

Philip J. Sarof



Kay Lee is the creator of Brittle Bread Savannah News Press - April 18, 1976

1982

My Dear Friends and Loved Ones:

THIS INFANTILE YOUNG OF
E2, CARRIED MY FEELING OF
THE COUNTRY'S SPIRIT TO HOME
"BUT HERE, I HEARD THE
RINGING OF THE HAND-
BELLS AT A WEDDING,
PLAYING CHRISTMAS
SONGS.

I SAW A LIGHT,
A BRIGHT LIGHT'S STAR,
A STAR IN THE EAST, A
DWARFING STAR, A STAR
OF NEW BIRTH, HIS NAME,
ASIDE OF A BROTHER FROM
1943, COME LET CELEBRATE
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
1982
Philip J. Sarof



PEACE ON EARTH

1984



THE MAGNIFICENT CITIES OF THE BEVER, BOST, BOSTON, THE WALL OF
THE TOWN, WHICH WITNESSES THE BIRTH OF ST. JOHN'S
AND THE BIRTH OF CHRISTMAS. THE BIRTH OF ST. JOHN'S
CHURCHES AND THE BIRTH OF THE CHRISTMAS BELL.
ACTS VIBRATING, FULL OF CHARMS AND BEAUTY, LET'S
CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.
CELEBRATIONS OFFICE, IN CONJUNCTION
Philip J. Sarof

Philip J. Sarof
100 St. John's Church
Savannah, Ga. 31401
234-2301
Dear Friends and loved ones:
There has been much fortune
for me this year. First, I have
moved to a better apartment and
decorated, massive school, her
apartment, printing and sale,
of my painting of the morning
1985. It is the celebration of
my first, around the maypole
you must see, it is lovely.
Hope you will share with
me the joy of a beautiful and
bright Christmas, and a
brighter and happier New Year.
Philip J. Sarof

1985

1986

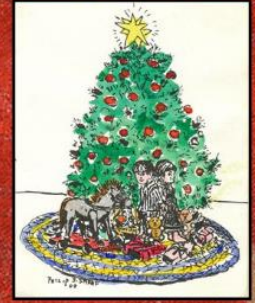


Several of Philip's Christmas cards were printed in black & white and then lovingly hand painted.



A Gift of Love
How beautiful when one shows
a gift of love, for it is an
act of love.
When giving a gift of oneself is
the best gift, a gift can give.
For a gift is what the heart is
love.
A gift of sharing is a gift
from the heart, it shows the
love, care, a gift of love.
I wish to share with you,
this beautiful season, the joy,
happiness, and love, in the
spirit of the Christ child.
With Love
Philip J. Sarof

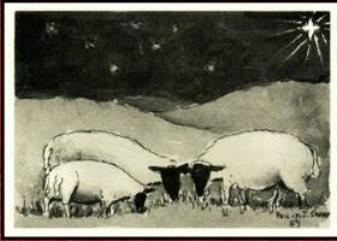
1988



Christmas
That magic time of year,
Decorating of the Christmas trees,
the home, and the hearts,
filled with love.
The feeling is everywhere,
the music of the joyous season,
the greetings of old friends,
and the meeting of new ones.
The gathering of families,
and friends, to celebrate the
birth of Christ.
Sharing of this merry time
with gifts of love and looking
forward to the coming of a
bright New Year.
I wish to share this magic
season with you.
Come visit us
for the holidays.
Philip J. Sarof
& June



1989



CHRISTMAS WISH

Many merry Christmases.
Many happy New Years Unbroken
friendships, great accumulations
of cheerful recollections
and affections on earth
and heaven for us all.

Philip J. Saraf

*May the Star of Bethlehem
bring peace and hope
for a bright and joyous
Christmas and guide you into
a prosperous New Year.*

Philip J. Saraf



**Holiday
Cheer**

1990



1991

Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

In this time of recession and hardship,
we must endure and not let the Christmas
Spirit leave us. I quote a line in a poem
from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

"The longest ebb is the turn of the
tide."

Let's have faith the tide will turn and
rise again for all of us in the coming
year.

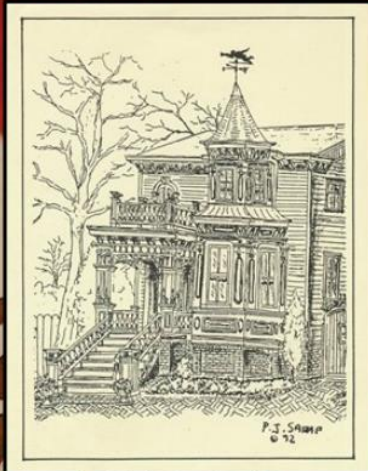
Wishing you all a very Merry Christ-
mas and a prosperous New Year.

With Love and Joy,

Philip J. Saraf

*Philip I am looking forward to Holiday
visit from you all. Love Philip*

1992



DEAR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES:

I SAW AN ANGEL ATOP A VICTORIAN HOUSE,
BLOWING A TRUMPET TOWARD THE SKY!
IT'S MESSAGE INSPIRED THIS GREETING
AND I CAN HEAR IT SPEAK TO MY HEART!
"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON
EARTH PEACE AND GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN."

IT WAS A MOTHER'S LOVE AND TRIBUTE,
IN REMOVAL OF A LOST SON. HE IS NOW
AN ANGEL IN HEAVEN.

IT IS MY WISH AND PRAYER THAT WE ALL
WILL HAVE PEACE, JOY, HAPPINESS AND
LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER DURING THE
HOLIDAYS AND IN THE YEAR TO COME!

WITH LOVE AND JOY IN CHRIST,

Philip J. Saraf

"I WAS INSPIRED TO CREATE THIS CARD
AFTER I HEARD THE STORY OF THE ANGEL
ATOP THE HOUSE FROM THE MOTHER,
BETTY HEASE.
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT HER LATE SON, RANDY,
AND HOW SHE ADDED THE ANGEL TO THE
HOUSE IN HIS MEMORY WHEN HE WAS TAKEN
FROM HER AT AGE 16."
PHILIP SARAF

PHILIP J. SARAF
126 WEST TAYLOR STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401
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1993



*Merry
Christmas*

My Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

No matter how black the sky, the storm comes and heavy rain. Always look for the brighter side,
the rainbow, when the sun comes out again.

You will see all the colors of the artist's palette, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet, in
one brief moment of beauty. GOD'S gift to all that have the eyes and heart to see it.

It was GOD'S promise in the beginning. (Genesis 9:13-14)

"I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be taken of a covenant between me and the earth, and it
shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud."

When I see beauty of the rainbow, I see all the colors of Christmas. I see the spirit and Joy of
the Christ Child, GOD'S gift to mankind.

Wishing you all the joys of the season,

Love and peace be with you,

Philip J. Saraf

Santa Bear, Bearing A Gift

We may give without loving,
but we cannot love without giving.

Material things are not gifts.
The only true gift is a portion of
thyself.

In gratitude for God's gift of life to
us, we should share that gift with
others.

I wish to share with you the Joy of
Christmas and a Joyful New Year. I
give you my gift of LOVE.

Philip J. Sany



My Dear Family and Friends,

In the month of April, 1995, there will be a
great change in my life. After 44 years in a
Dental Laboratory, I will be retiring.

This will give me free time to paint, to
pursue my art field, to travel. Visit with
family and old friends. Make new ones.

Hopefully and prayerfully, I will find a cabin
within a 100 mile radius of Savannah. I will
also consider being a caretaker on an estate,
as my income will be very limited.

You all know how I love to cook. So I plan
to have a garden to raise herbs, vegetables,
fruit trees, and flowers.

Chickens to scratch the soil and lay some
eggs. A dog for my ears and companion.

With all this how can I miss finding
happiness.



A MESSAGE OF LOVE

Angels are one of God's most beautiful gifts to all
here on earth. The angel, God's messenger;
heralded Christ's birth, spread glad tidings,
guided the shepherds, warned the three wise
men, and watches over us.

We all can become an angel, by giving and by
sharing, by showing acts of kindness, by
helping someone in need, and by showing love.

God put us here to serve His purpose and to
serve Him. I try to live like an angel everyday.

You can be an angel too. Try it and see how
happy you can be.

Merry Christmas, with love,

Philip



Dear Family and Friends,

As one small candle may light a thousand,
one bright star, the star of Bethlehem,
may light the whole world. May the light
guide us to the saviour like the shepherds
and the wise men to the Christ child.

Sharing the warmth and love of Christmas,

Philip J. Sany



Coastal Empire Fair



"Fantasia On A Theme"

When a musician plays an instrument, he puts his
heart and soul into his work with love and harmony.
It brings such joy and happiness to others.

A celebration of Christmas, Love, Joy, Beauty, and
Happiness are music to the Soul. It is all of these
virtues that we give and share with each other that
brings us closer together.

When we open our hands and our hearts, we give
freely to others. Not only are we giving, but we
are receiving. When we close our hands and our
hearts so tightly that we gain nothing, we lose it
all.

The greatest celebration I wish to share with you,
is GOD'S gift of Love to the world is the gift of HIS
only begotten SON.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

With Love, *Philip J. Sany*





JOY TO THE WORLD

Let the Holiday Festival Begin,
 Let the heart sing with joy.
 Listen with an open Heart.
 Let the spirit of Christmas impart,
 the joy of loving and giving,
 This Holiday Season, a gift from Heaven.
 I wish you happiness into the New Year,
 Your dreams of the future are there.

With a Giving and Loving Heart

Phillip

Phillip J. Saraf



1998



December 25, 1999

Dear Friends and Loved Ones:

Two thousand years ago today, on a cold December night, a child was born in a lowly stable, because there was no room at the inn. A humble birth, in a manger, along beside the farm animals to keep Him warm.

From the North, a bright Star rose in the sky to guide those who came to see the Promised One, the Messiah.

This was a sign to proclaim a new beginning of peace, love, and good will to all mankind. The light of the Holy Spirit is still with us.

The first gift to the baby Jesus was love. May the celebration of his birth remind us to share the gift now and into the future. I wish to share my gift of love to you, also. Come share the joy of this holiday season with me.

Phillip
 Phillip

1999



2000



Gannam family home and store
 Hopkins Street circa 1930.
 Mary Gannam Saraf circa 1935.

CHRISTMAS WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US

My Dear Family and Friends,

I remember always, the fond memories of Christmas' past. Christmas was a special and happy time back in the 1930's when I was a toddler. My mother took the family to grandmother's house to celebrate.

On Christmas morning, mother would help dress my four sisters and myself in our best clothes. We would catch the trolley at Duffy and West Broad, ride to 45th and West Broad, get off for the long walk west to Hopkins Street and from there to 33rd and Hopkins Street to Grandmother's house.

Grandmother's house was warm, heated by the wood stove and filled with the aroma of herbs and spices. The food and sweets were prepared with great skill and love and always delicious.

She gave each one of us an apple, an orange, and a great big hug. Uncle Mike and Uncle George had a grab bag, which was a croker sack filled with toys, one for each of my four sisters and myself, which we took turns and reached in the sack and grabbed a toy.

After mother's 90th birthday in June, she took ill and left us at the end of September. I prayed to God for Him to take her in His Hand and guide her among the angels in Heaven.

She followed in her mother's tradition and we will continue what she taught and gave us with her special love. She is remembered and loved by her eight children, twenty-five grandchildren, forty-eight great-grandchildren, and many friends.

Please call 234-3597 and let me know when you can come by for a visit.

In Remembrance of Christmas
 To Mother Mary Beecher
 From Her Loving Son,

Phillip
 Phillip



2001



The Christmas Spirit 2001

After the terrible tragedy of Sept. 11, caused by a terrorist group, to our great nation. First it brought fear, then anger. A war to bring the terrorist down. How sad when we try to be at peace with the world. Feeling kind of blue, I went riding around town and spotted this bright red cannas lily in bloom. It caught and lifted up my spirit, there is hope.

I had to stop and capture its beauty and the yellow butterfly, which reminded me of an angel. To me, the bright red is a sign of happiness, also a sign of courage and the yellow of the butterfly a sign of cheerfulness, against the dark mood weathered wood, there's hope and love. We should never give up faith, keep the Christmas spirit, share this magic holiday season with all our loved ones, friends, and neighbors. Let there be love, taught to us by a Child born 2000 years ago.

Peace be with you,
Philip J. Saraf
Philip J. Saraf



Savannah News Press - July 10, 1978
Photographer Robert Kempf



2002



To my Family, Friends, and Loved Ones:

Christmas, 2002

On Sunday, May 16, 1971, after a visit from my friends, Marie and Henry Burns (the baker and/or), I was heading back home on the Chesapeake Road and saw an old country house that caught my eye. It had bright colorful clothes on the line drying in the sun. As I approached the house, I saw Johnny Lovette playing his guitar on the porch. I was inspired to capture this scenery in one of my watercolor paintings. I stopped and asked Johnny for permission if I could paint it. He didn't understand what I was going to do, so I showed him some of my paintings from my portfolio. He understood what I wanted to do and made me feel welcomed with a smile. He told his children to please get a chair and a glass of water for me and not to bother me while I was painting. By welcoming me with his kindness, his land and his family were blessed. The scene had a happy feeling with the sun shining brightly, colorful clothes blowing in the cool breeze on the line, a little white dog was running into the picture, and Johnny was playing songs from his guitar.

After I finished the painting, I called the family over to show them what I had done. I asked what the little dog's name was and they told me his name was T.V. We all had a good laugh after they told me his name. I named the painting Sunday Wash. They all had smiles on their faces and were glad that I came that day. Finally I met his wife, Adeline, whose smile was like a sunbeam. They had nine children and another one on the way. They told me that I would always be welcomed to come again.

We developed a beautiful friendship and every time I went to see the Henry Burns' family, I always stopped by to see the Lovettes. I would take photographs of the children and the family as they were growing up throughout the years. When I see the children and their family make do with what they had, I decided to bring the children toys for Christmas. It was a joy to see their expression of happiness in their eyes when they opened their packages. They started to call me "Mr. Santa Claus Man".

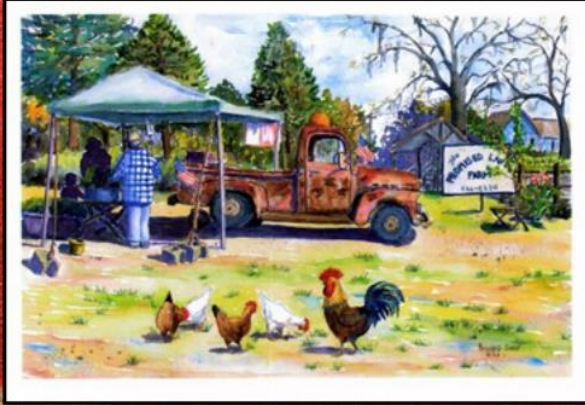
When Adeline asked if I could help her find a sewing machine to make clothes for the children, my friend Anne Evans went with me to all of the sewing machine stores in Savannah to find a good used one. A storeowner sold me one for a good price, which we took to Adeline and gave it to her. Her face lit up with a beautiful smile and she thanked us with all her heart for the gift. The children looked well dressed in the new clothes their mother sewed for them. The children lined up, clasped their hands together and sang a song to welcome me when I arrived to see them. Johnny and I are about the same age and we became like brothers in an extended family. We were both blessed in the name of the Lord. His children have grown and have children of their own now. They have never forgotten me and I feel especially blessed because they invited me to be with them for Johnny's 73 birthday on November 16, 2002. I was glad to be included for the family's celebration.

Merry Christmas to all,

Philip J. Saraf
Philip J. Saraf



2003



God's Promise

When I saw this sign at Willie Johnson's farm, *The Promised Land*, it reminded me of God's many promises throughout the bible to Noah, Moses, and Abraham to name a few.

One of his greatest promises was sent by one of his angels to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive a son by the Holy Spirit. His name would be Jesus, the Son of God.

May God's promise cover you with love, like a blanket of snow, soft and gentle this holiday season with peace, joy and happiness. If you wish to come by and visit me between Christmas and the New Year, please call in advance.

Love and light,

Philip J. Seraf



2004



My Christmas Blessing

Christmas, 2004

To all of my friends and family, thank you for all of your prayers, faith, and encouragement. I have recently moved into my new home at 505 E. 60th Street.

In the middle of May, this past year, my landlord evicted me from my apartment on Taylor Street, which I lived in the past 19 years. After my eviction, I moved my personal belongings into storage and stayed with my brother and his wife and my friend, Steve for 6 months.

I was unable to purchase a home or pay the costs of higher rent, so after many months of searching I became distressed at the costs of finding a new home. My sister Maryanne, who is a real estate agent with Fischer & Kelly Realty and her son Neil Fischer, Jr., who lives in Florida agreed to help after they heard my plight. Neil has his own real estate company, ERA, and told his mother to find a home for me and he would purchase it for me to live in.

By the Grace of God, my nephew Neil, became my Angel and helped to answer all of my prayers. I moved into my new home before Thanksgiving and have much to be thankful for and blessed to have the best Christmas present I could ever dream of, a gift of a new life.

Now I know how the Holy Family felt when they could not find a place for their child to be born, as there was no room in the inn.

I feel jubilant with the Christmas spirit and look forward to a Happy New Year. A new door has opened for my future and I am slowly getting my house in order. Please call in advance if you wish to visit at 912.383.9695.

My Christmas Love and Good Wishes to All



505 East 60th Street
Savannah, Georgia

2005



The Joy of Living

*"The trees stand hushed on tip-toe for the night,
of the star of Bethlehem, that shall glorify the night."*

How happy one can be when life renews your spirit. Since moving into my new home last November, I feel positive energy and happiness all around me. Things started taking shape, day by day, making everything cheerful. I have now created my own environment to make me happy.

This past spring, I planted a garden to grow my own flowers, vegetables, and herbs. My cooking was much more enjoyable and I was able to share my love with others.

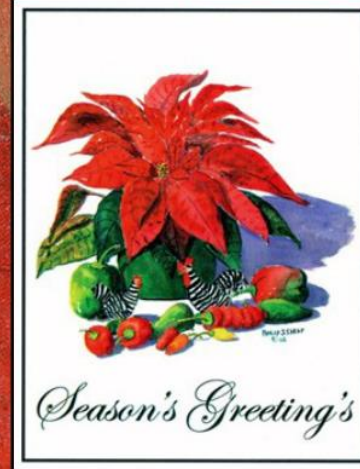
With kind thoughts and best wishes for your happiness at Christmas time and throughout the year. Please come visit during the Holiday Season to share the Spirit and the joy of living.

The Joy of Christmas
With love,

Philip J. Saraf



2006



CHRISTMAS 2006

I PRAY FOR PEACE

THIS PAST SEPTEMBER 28, I HAD A TRIPLE BY-PASS SURGERY AND MY HEALING BEGAN WITH ALL OF YOUR LOVE, PRAYERS, AND SUPPORT, WHICH I THANK YOU WITH ALL MY HEART.

AFTER THREE WEEKS I WAS ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, RAKE LEAVES, DRIVE MY CAR AGAIN, AND MOST OF ALL, THE ENERGY TO PAINT AGAIN. I'VE WORKED ON COMPLETING SIX UNFINISHED PAINTINGS AND STARTED A NEW ONE. I FEEL GREAT WITH THIS RENEWED ENERGY AS IF GOD LIFTED UP MY SPIRIT TO A NEW HEIGHT. IT IS A BLESSING AND A GIFT I WILL TREASURE.

IT IS A TIME FOR US TO REMEMBER THE GIFT GOD GAVE OF HIS ONLY SON. THE BABY JESUS WAS BORN TO TELL HIS WORD AND TO WIPE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD. I PRAY FOR PEACE TO ONE AND ALL. THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, MAY HIS LIGHT SHINE UPON THE WHOLE WORLD FOR ALL TO SEE AND THERE WILL BE PEACE AND HAPPINESS UPON YOU ALL.

LOVE AND LIGHT.

PHILIP
Philip



2007



THE TRIANGLE OF LOVE

FRIENDSHIP IS LIKE A TRIANGLE OF LOVE. THE JOY OF SHARING ALL HOLIDAY SEASONS, BRINGING TOGETHER HAPPINESS TO PEOPLE OF ALL DIFFERENT FAITHS, AND THEN WE WILL FIND PEACE IN THIS WORLD. MAY PEACE BE WITH YOU. MAY THE RADIANCE OF THE CHRIST CHILD SHINE UPON YOU ALL.

LOVE AND LIGHT.

PHILIP J. SARAF

2008



The Great Expectation

I lost my hearing when I was two years old, and I didn't wear a hearing aid until I was seventeen years old. I learned to hear with my eyes, a gift, a six sense; God's gift to me.

Every movement, action, expression and color, I can feel the joy; the love is like music to my eyes. I can listen to silence with serenity and feel the songs of the holiday seasons coming.

The signs are everywhere. The colorful leaves falling, the arriving of the Christmas trees, poinsettias, wreaths and all the beautiful Christmas colors, a reminder of the birthday of the Promised One, the baby Jesus.

This is a gift in itself, freedom from desire to inward peace. My love and wishes, and God's blessing to you all.

May Peace Be With You

Philip
Philip J. Saraf

P. S. My heart and doors are open to my family and friends. If you wish to visit during the holiday season please give me a call to let me know when.



Christmas 2009

My Dearest Family and Friends,

I have enjoyed living in my house for the past few years and shared so much happiness with my neighbors, friends and family. It has been a pleasure living at this residence, however, this will be my last Christmas here and will soon be moving into a new home January 2010. My love and gratitude for my nephew, Neil Fischer and his family, for giving me this opportunity to enjoy life and have a place to call home.

During the week of October 12, I attended an artist workshop at Wild Acres in the mountains of North Carolina. I shared this time with some of my artist friends from Savannah and had a great time painting. The fall colors reminded me of the colors of Christmas, the season to come with all of its glad tidings. I listened with my eyes and could hear the music around me. It inspired me to capture the moment and paint *Nature's Symphony* on the cover of this card. This is a moment, which is something I will never forget and will share with you.

A Merry Christmas with Love,

Philip J. Dary

Philip

2009



The Promise - Christmas 2010

As I looked out my back door, it was raining and a cold wind was blowing across the marsh, a dark sky. I thought of all the things that happened this past year. I had to move, and I had serious health problems in February. In April I celebrated my eightieth birthday with my family and a few friends.

I dedicated this Christmas card to my dear friend Lorraine Mimi, a great lady, who is 93 years old. She is a great inspiration to me. She walks with a crutch and a walking stick with determination to keep moving and to live independently in her own home, with help of her faithful friend Emma Jean. Her mind is sharp and with a great sense of humor.

I looked again out across the marsh and saw a ray of light, the sun coming out to shine again.

I thought again of the bright light that shined two thousand years ago, a star, the Star of David, a child was born, our Savior. Again we shall look for the radiant light, the Promise of the second coming of Christ to light the whole world and bring peace.

Love and Light,

Philip J. Dary

Philip

2010

2011

CHRISTMAS AT WOODBOO

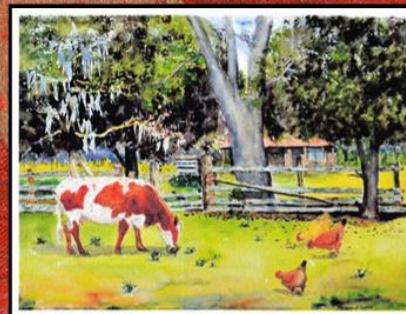
When I was invited to this old house in 1967 by Miss Emily Ravanell, my ex-land lady, I fell in love with its old southern charm, its beauty, serenity and the peace I felt there. It was built long before the Civil War surrounded by giant oak trees with a view of Shipyard Creek. It endured and survived many storms all these years and is still standing.

I thought of all the happy people there and the Christmas celebrations all through the years. It brings to mind the rough times we are going through now, but we all must endure and stay strong, pray and trust in the Lord to lead us through all of this. Remember, Christ is our Savior.

A Merry Christmas 2011

Philip

Philip



Christmas 2012

My Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

This has been a difficult year for me, filled with life's challenges and lessons learned. I fell and fractured my hip on March 28, and was hospitalized for eight days. Afterwards, I spent a month recuperating in a nursing home until I was well enough to walk and become independent again.

I returned back home to Rivers End on May 4. As fate would have it, the house I rented soon went into foreclosure and I was forced to move on July 1. Fortunately, I was blessed to have good family members and friends assist in packing and moving things into storage and to my new camping ground on Sand Road in Wilmington Island. I am forever grateful for Tom and Kathy Hall for their kindness in providing me a place to stay. Although I knew it was only temporary, it felt like home.

Three months had past and I finally received a long awaited phone call from the management of The Woods apartments for a vacancy. On October 18, I moved into my new home. While not spacious, I have enough room to be comfortable in my one bedroom apartment. It has a small balcony on the second floor and a corner in my bedroom is reserved for my studio.

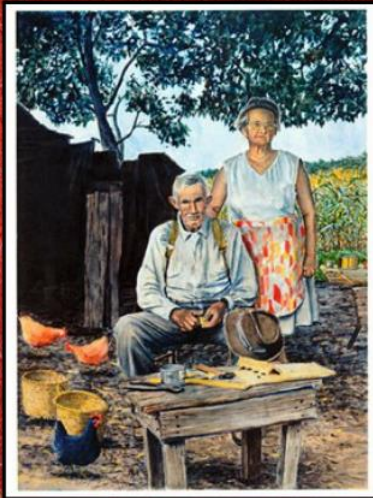
Reflecting upon the year, I am thankful to be in such a wonderful apartment with such good neighbors. I have what I need, and at peace to enjoy life and get back into painting again. Now I am ready to celebrate the joyous Holiday Season of Christmas with family and friends. Peace and Joy to All.

With Love and Light,

Philip

Philip

2012



A Story of Friendship

As we share and gather together this holiday season, we are reminded of friendships past and present. In loving memory, I share a story of two kindred spirits of past who have been a kind and gentle reminder in my life of everlasting love.

In July 1963, a road trip to the country in Ellingham County led me to a remote and picturesque location. It became my painting muse, my second home, and a place filled with many hours of happiness. It was an artist's dream, one filled with crops in the fields, mules, cows, goats, ducks, and chickens that waited to be painted.

In front of a farmhouse, I saw an oak basket in back of a pickup truck. I stopped to ask the owner about the basket and learned a local basket maker lived nearby. Driving down the road I followed the directions to a red painted house with a garden of glorious red poppies, alongside weaving a basket was Henry Burns. His wife, Marie, was there to say hello and posed together for a photograph.

I purchased some baskets that day and asked if I could return back to paint. Marie invited me to return back for dinner, which was the start of a beautiful friendship.

Henry and Marie were poor farm folks, who didn't have much, but gave freely to others from their hearts. They welcomed me into their extended family, which included their kin, neighbors, and friends into their home sharing dinner, holidays, weddings, and family reunions. During Christmas, Marie gave me quilts and I gave paintings and money when I could spare it.

Looking through old photographs earlier this year, I found the picture of Henry and Marie Burns on the day we first met. The photograph inspired me to create the painting on this card. It brings back fond memories of friends who were kind, humble, endearing, and loving. They are long gone now, but not forgotten. I share with you loving thoughts and the joy of Christmas to all.

With Love, *Philip*

Christmas 2014

A Prayer for Peace

The thoughts penned by an unknown writer from the book, *Apples of Gold*, compiled by Jo Petty, contain the following words of wisdom:

*If there is righteousness in the heart,
there will be beauty in the character.
If there is beauty in the character,
there will be harmony in the home.
If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation,
there will be peace in the world.*

I remember the passing of my dear friends, Jay Schwarm, Loraine Minus, and Alice Blank; and brother-in-laws, Sam Toodle and Hank McShane. We continue to celebrate their life and legacy with friends and family who are blessed to have known them.

May the radiant light from the birth of the Christ child remind us of the miracle and the precious gift of life. We are all bound together in brotherhood and share many of the same values. I pray for love, understanding, and peace in the coming year.

Love and Light,

Philip



Christmas 2015
Christmas at Woodboo

During the 1970s, some of my fondest memories were painting views at Woodboo, which is featured on the cover. Woodboo is located in Pin Point near Shipyard Creek, and is a charming structure built before the Civil War, framed by massive live oaks and quiet places for nature. It was here that my dear friend, Ms. Emily Ravenel, would often invite me to visit and relax outside the busy life of the city.

I am forever grateful for such life experiences and friends I made along the way. I am thankful for my family and friends who have continued to show their love, patience, kindness, and help over the past few years in my time of need. I am indebted to my friend Steve, who is kind and faithful, and has been an inspiration to keep me going.

The future is bright for the coming New Year in our city, along with many new changes, which promises to build new hopes and dreams.

Let's celebrate Christ's birthday with love, prayer, and peace.

Love and Light,

Philip



To Philip

From one of the adoring -
Kathleen

A portrait of a friend, I give to you
Whose kindness to others often costs,
Yet his hidden strength endures
And the harmonies of life are not lost.

A lover of horses, my friend Philip,
His life is a maze of interesting things.
A Poet, an Artist, a gentle man,
A cook, a Sheik with a heart that sings.

Touched by sadness and darkling years,
He has beauty of Soul and a loving heart.
Devoted and steeped in the Love of God,
And deeply rooted in his world of Art.

Discernment of beauty of sights and Scenes,
He transmits his thoughts to mortals like me.
And I who listen, stand refreshed
Engulfed in the sea of Reverie.

Adored by the ladies, both young and old,
He wines them and dines them, so replete.
Philip so gallant and lovely to know
Is my adorable Sheik of Harris Street.

Philip John Saraf

Philip John Saraf, well-known Savannah artist and chef, beloved brother, uncle, cousin, mentor and friend, passed away peacefully June 9, 2016, surrounded by family and friends.

Philip John Saraf, the oldest son of George A. Saraf and Mary Gannam, was born April 23, 1930 in Savannah, Georgia. Philip lost his hearing at a very early age, so school was difficult for him. He graduated from Sacred Heart Catholic School and attended Benedictine High School for a short time, but left to attend vocational school where he trained to be a dental technician. Philip worked in dental labs in Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah for 47 years.

Philip painted from the heart and saw beauty in simple things. Many of his paintings are of shacks, sheds, and farms around Clyo in Effingham County and he often included chickens - a sign to him of happiness. His paintings grace the walls of family, friends and countless others who purchased his works at art festivals, county fairs and shows around the South over the past 50 years. Despite his declining health, Philip continued to paint and participate in local art shows and win awards until the end. In 2010, his painting entitled "Grandmother Comin' Home" was chosen to be part of the Treasures from the Telfair II exhibit in the Greer Gallery, and in April 2013, Philip's cherished painting of his friends basketmaker Henry Burns and his wife Marie entitled "Country Gothic" won the People's Choice Award at the Landings Art Association Spring Art Show.

Philip was a giver and generous to a fault. He loved to entertain people in his humble abode and feed them with the beauty of his paintings, his remarkable stories, and the epicurean delights he created from scratch in his kitchen. This was perhaps most evident at Christmas time. He proclaimed the birth of the Christ child in his beautiful Christmas cards and shared words of wisdom about life and the season. For many decades those cards included an invitation to visit during the Christmas holidays - to enjoy Philip's hospitality, holiday decorations and culinary delights. The memories of those visits and the Christmas cards themselves are treasured by many.

Philip was a teacher and a mentor, always ready to share his love for painting, cooking and life with anyone who showed an eagerness to learn or listen. He was a deeply religious man, always thankful for the simple joys in life and the richness and beauty of God's creation. He was a kind and gentle soul and believed that every day was a gift from God. The world is a better place because he lived, and we are better people for having known him.

Kim Marie Fischer Peters
September 2016



*"Christmas will always be with us"
Philip J. Saraf - Christmas 2010*