

This card—**A Mini-Vacation in Monet’s Village**—is Number 15 in a series of “Diversions for You and Your Friends” created by Arlene Harder, MA, MFT, Support4Change Blog.

Being sick or having a major problem in your life is a pain in the neck. This is because, in large part, any situation that negatively impacts your life forces you to think about *it*, rather than more pleasant things. That is why this card is designed to **take your mind off your troubles**, at least for a while—and you can find more diversions every Monday on the blog.

(Be sure to read to the end of Page Four.)



Today I invite you to take a mini-vacation and stroll—in your imagination—in Giverny, in northern France, which is best known as the location of Claude Monet’s garden and home. Here you will be greeted by picturesque houses, small village stores, pathways that haven’t changed much in the more than 150 years, and of course, the famous lily ponds.



Perhaps you have been here and these pictures will simply refresh your memory.

In any case, this is part of what Wikipedia has this to say about this famous place and painter:

"Claude Monet noticed the village of Giverny while looking out of a train window. He made up his mind to move there and rented a house and the area surrounding it. In 1890 he had enough money to buy the house and land outright and set out to create the magnificent gardens he wanted to paint.

"Some of his most famous paintings were of his garden in Giverny, famous for its rectangular Clos normand, with archways of climbing plants entwined around colored shrubs, and the water garden, formed by a tributary to the Epte, with the Japanese bridge, the pond with the water lilies, the wisterias and the azaleas.

"Claude Monet's property at Giverny (house and gardens), left by his son to the Académie des Beaux-Arts in 1966, became a Museum opened to public visit in 1980 after completion of large-scale restoration work: the huge

Nymphaea's studio was restored and the precious collection of Japanese engravings was displayed in several rooms, hung in the manner chosen by the master himself; the gardens were replanted as they once were. The house became a popular tourist attraction (the Claude Monet Foundation), particularly in the summer when the flowers are in bloom.

"Monet lived in the house with its famous pink crushed brick façade from 1883 until his death in 1926."

From your own travels, you know it is a great pleasure to visit places where you can walk on the same paths that were used by a person whose words and art come down to us through the years.

As you ride through this place of beauty and inspiration for a famous painter, pay particular attention to the lilly ponds. Let their serenity fill your heart and bring you peace today.





QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people."

— Abraham Joshua Heschel, rabbi and professor (1907-1972)

I hope this card helps you create a little peace, joy and love in your life