

## Angel or Imp

4/8/26

Prompt: The devil on one shoulder is arguing with the angel on the other shoulder. What are they arguing about? Who is winning?

I have a little imp on one shoulder that says “You really want to do that.....You really should do that.....It would be a shame to miss out on that.....So I want to raise my hand - literally or metaphorically.

Fortunately, on the other side is my daughter Casey, at least in my imagination, tugging my hand down. These two impulses are constantly at war. Sometimes I say ‘no’ because I realized it will be too time consuming or I don’t think that I have the skills. Other times I say ‘no’ because there is something else going on at the same time – that is if I realize it by actually looking at my calendar.

In the Harry Potter books, Herminie is given a gadget that allows her to do two things that are happening simultaneously even though she is attending each one separately. Thank heavens I don’t own such a device. It would be very dangerous!

So I keep trying very hard to listen to the Casey angel. How am I doing? Well honestly, I’d give it a mixed review. On the plus side, I did manage to get off of the Master Gardener Board. As much as I enjoyed it, I had served two 2-year terms and felt that the technical skills which would have been an assess were frankly beyond me. Of course I’m still on the Grant Committee and helping with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, so time-wise I’ve just saved myself going to a meeting every other month. It is a start though! I’m being replaced by a much younger person....all to the good!

That flows right into the Community Garden. At the end of the last season I told everyone “Don’t let me take on 2 ½ plots. I really need to reduce. Did I listen to myself? Of course not. When I was planning out my garden layout in January, I just couldn’t figure out how to properly rotate my tomatoes without that last ½ plot. I do have a plan though. I’ll turn my no-till plot over to someone else and use a tilled plot for the tomatoes. That way I won’t be as attached to the plot and maybe I can give it up next year. Maybe? I see that as a compromise between my angel and imp.

Then there is the Raging Grannies. Talk about a time sink! I’ve been a Raging Granny since about 2004. I was the sole director for several years until I gave a class on directing and Deborah Lofgren, a great street performer, took over the lions share of the directing. I took up playing the tenor guitar instead and mostly do that now. Actually that is more time consuming than directing as I have to actually practice. With the inauguration of Trump the second time around, the Grannies have really have gotten lots busier and we have added new members hand over fist. For each new member I took on the task of preparing a packet of materials to help them get smoothly through their first rehearsal. We have also had to hold extra rehearsals to catch the new folks up on our list of over 200 songs – extra organizing and extra evenings. To my angel’s credit, I make no attempt to be at every performance. The newer (and very enthusiastic) grannies have been organizing small “pop-up” gigs. I don’t do these. That is at least some small corner of sanity. But, on the down side, we have now started small targeted groups. Purely optional. Of course I joined the

leadership group and offered to host. In my defense, it is easier to host and have people come to me than to go to them.

So.....How am I doing? I guess not so well. What will I say 'yes' or 'no' to next? Will the no's win? I have no idea. But I do know that my Casey angel will be by my side pulling my arm down for any new inspirations that may come my way. I just don't know if she will succeed.