

Wells Point Ups the Heat

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July was hot. I'm sure I'm not the first person to say that, but it definitely was hot. We were in Italy for part of the month and Rhode Island for the balance. Coming home, being home, even if it was hot and sticky, was better than being away, though I must say, Italy was quite pleasant.



I finally visited the 15th-century castle in the Umbrian region of Italy, [Civitella Ranieri](#), which offers residencies for international writers, composers, and visual artists. Annu was a resident there in 2021, and because it was so soon after the pandemic, I wasn't allowed to visit then. Images from Italy are interspersed throughout this newsletter.



While traveling and now that I am home, I have been working on film projects, looking at other people's films, and getting good news on my own. I was delighted to read "We are thrilled to include your film ([Shucking Tradition](#)) in the inaugural [Avalon Family Film Festival](#), which will take place August 27-29, 2026, in Avalon, NJ."



This film, which has numerous Film Festival awards, was finally [posted online through the distributor ELEVI](#). Please take a look. If you're thinking to yourself, "Why is there a charge for this?" the answer is simple. Because, as a professional, this is how I make my living, and I have a right to ask for some compensation for my labor. Despite what people say, something that's on the Internet is not automatically free.

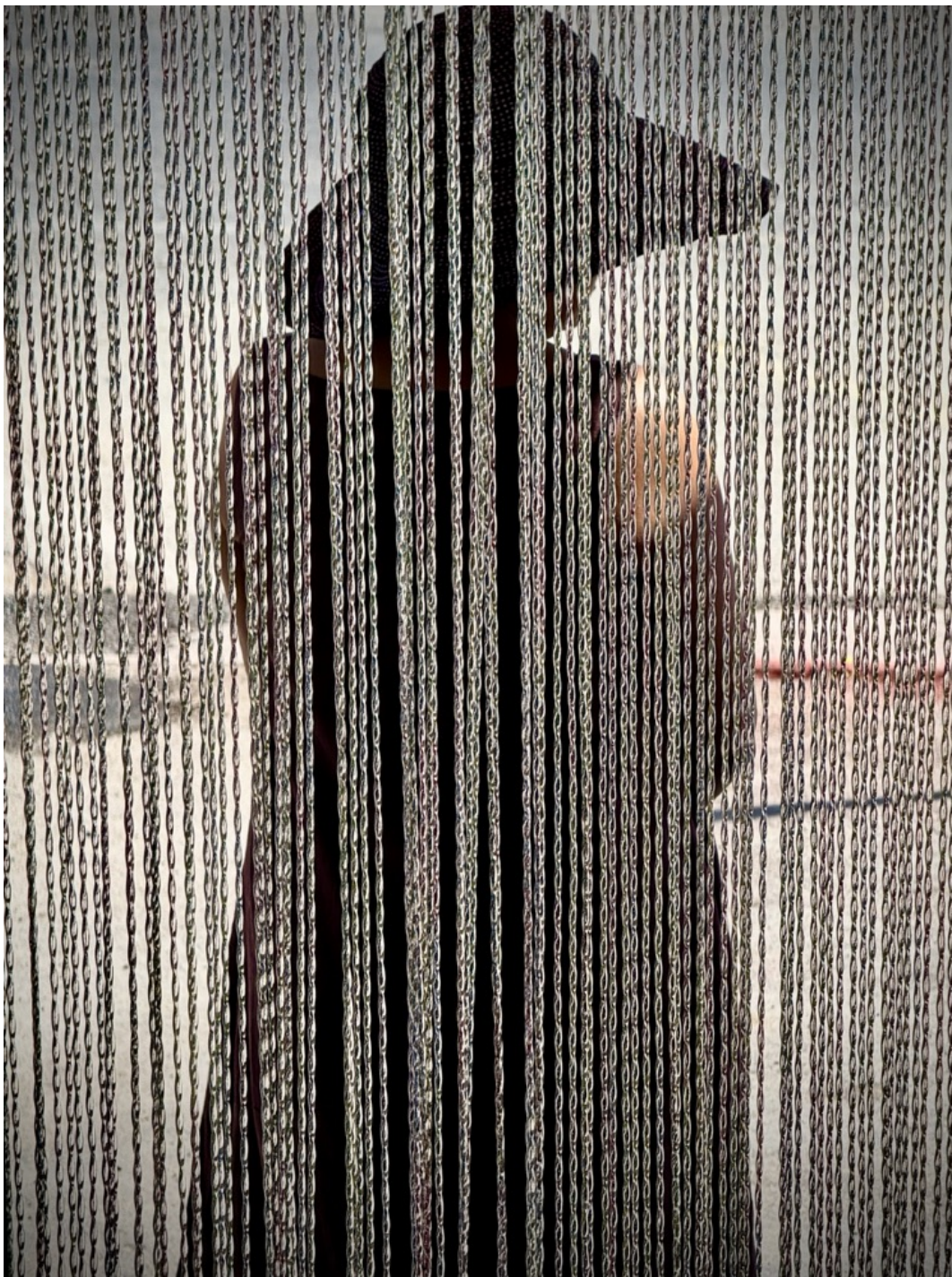


If you're looking for a free film with a great story, check out my friend's film, [Chaplains Under Fire](#), on Vimeo. As Lee Laurence writes, Chaplains Under Fire helps us understand what military chaplains do, why and how they do it, and the effect they have, not just on troops and military units, but on military families and veterans too. And yes, the effect that serving troops in combat has on the chaplains themselves. It's worth pointing out that the documentary has received high praise from people across the political and religious spectrum.



NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Martha Wakefield, a friend and former student, shared her fascinating work, *Unearthing an Insane Past*, in a [Gallery Talk at the A Smith Gallery](#) in Johnson City, Texas.



I hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter and my updates! I welcome your feedback. If you've received this newsletter for some time and want to be taken OFF my list, please just let me know. If you know anyone interested in getting these updates, please encourage them [to sign up for this newsletter!](#)

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