

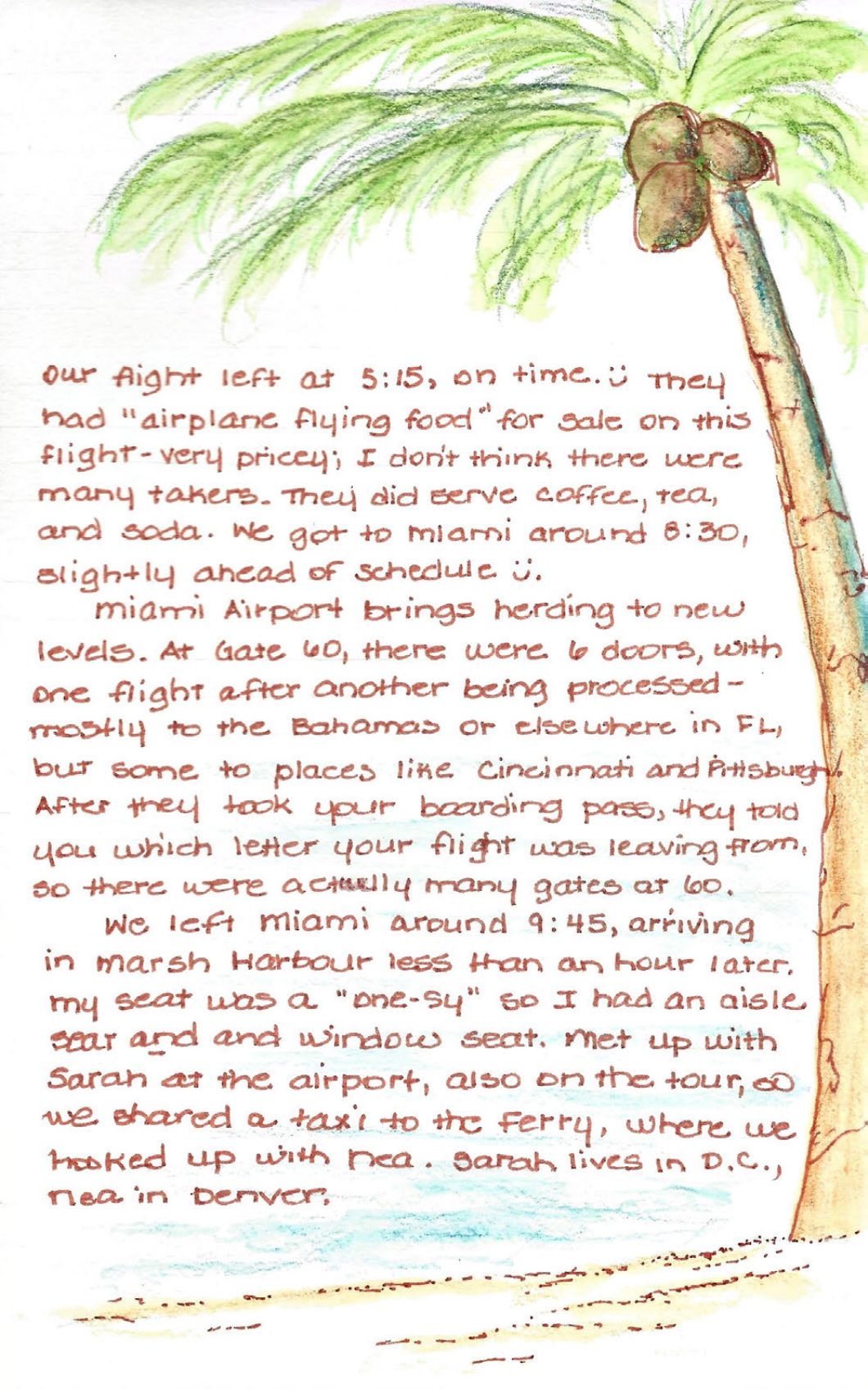
February 3 & 4

As a big full moon rose, Clare, Flopsy, and I were en route to Concord. We picked up dinner at Dos Amigos, and Clare and I had a pique-nique at the bus station. I managed to eat a very messy burrito without getting any of it on me! ;)

I took the 7 p.m. bus from Concord to Logan, where I spent the night. They have some nice Boston rockers, where 5 or 6 of us sacked out. At 4 a.m., I got up and toddled down to the first "cow line," where we were investigated and irradiated and deemed deserving of boarding the "Flying Cattle Car." For some reason, the scanner didn't approve of the contents of my "Life Bag." They put it through again and sent me on my way. I have no idea what the problem was—something to do with my tablet.

Oh yuck! It's either Dunkin's or Starbucks. I went with DD, but couldn't even procure a dough-dough to mask the bitter brew.





Our flight left at 5:15, on time. ☺ They had "airplane flying food" for sale on this flight - very pricey; I don't think there were many takers. They did serve coffee, tea, and soda. We got to Miami around 8:30, slightly ahead of schedule ☺.

Miami Airport brings herding to new levels. At Gate 60, there were 6 doors, with one flight after another being processed - mostly to the Bahamas or elsewhere in FL, but some to places like Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. After they took your boarding pass, they told you which letter your flight was leaving from, so there were actually many gates at 60.

We left Miami around 9:45, arriving in Marsh Harbour less than an hour later. My seat was a "one-54" so I had an aisle seat and a window seat. Met up with Sarah at the airport, also on the tour, so we shared a taxi to the ferry, where we hooked up with Nea. Sarah lives in D.C., Nea in Denver.

My third-floor room has great views in both directions - the ocean on one side and the harbour with its pretty lighthouse on the other.

Made a short call to Clare on the office phone - Tracfone doesn't work here, and there are no prepaid phone cards or throwaway phones to be had on Elbow Cay.

Took a walk around Hope Town and along the beach, photoing as I went. Lots of cute little pastel houses, tiny little fenced-in yards full of lush, tropical vegetation.

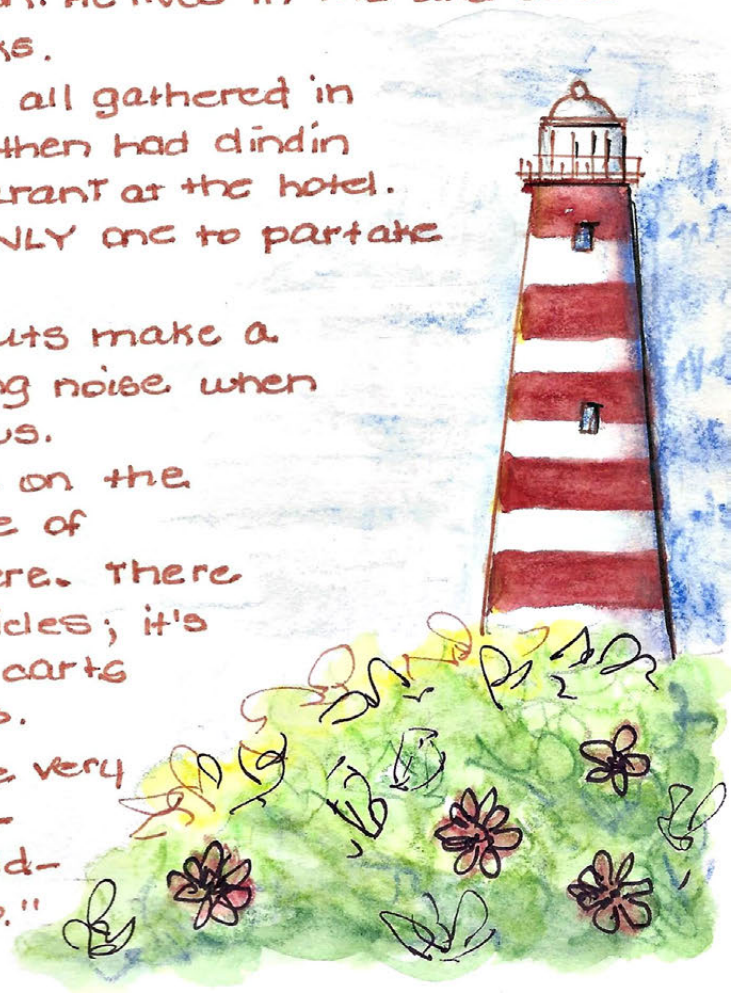
Sat in the sun for a while, met Bruce, our token man. He lives in ME and does children's books.

Tonight we all gathered in the bar and then had dindin at the restaurant at the hotel. I was the ONLY one to partake of dessert.

- The coconuts make a lovely clacking noise when the wind blows.

- They drive on the "wrong" side of the road here. There are few vehicles; it's mostly golf carts and bicycles.

- People are very friendly here - even the children say "hello."



# February 5

cloudy most of the day with torrential rain this afternoon. even thunder boomers.

We spent most of the day working in the studio. It was pretty intense, going from 9:30 to 5:00. Sarah and I are at the front table. We had a short break for lunch, but it was pouring out, so we are at the studio.

Tonight Sarah, Signe and her sister Susan, Jean, and I had dinner at Harbour's Edge. I had yellowfin tuna in a toasted sesame crust. It was excellent! Due to my corrupting influence, several others ordered dessert.

mix of sun and clouds;  
very breezy.

Ate brekkie at  
the Sugar Shack.

CLASS  
started  
at 9:15  
and went  
til 4:00;  
with a short  
break for  
lunch. We  
did some out-  
door painting →

Tonight Jean, Signe,  
Susan, Sarah, Kathy,  
Sterling (her hubby), and I  
took the boat across the harbour to

# Feb 6



Looking north from  
the front steps of  
Hummingbird  
Cottage 2/7/15



the Hope Town Inn and Marina,  
where we enjoyed another excellent dinner.

called Clare. It's still cold and snowy  
up north. It was  $-14^{\circ}$  in the morning, and  
it has snowed every day.

**F** a beautiful sunny day. The breeze came  
up this afternoon.

**E** Sarah and I had breakfast at the  
Sugar Shack and then walked to the  
Coffee House for a second cup of  
coffee. Class started at 9:15. We  
were given a choice of doing a color  
exercise <sup>or working outside.</sup> I opted for the latter and did  
the above drawing. Yesterday when

**7**

I could <sup>not</sup> decide what to paint, Susan suggested rooflines, and I was intrigued by the idea.

• After working so hard, I rewarded myself with an ice cream cone for lunch - a poor choice perhaps, but oh! so good. This afternoon we painted outside again. This page is the result.

• Tonight Jean, Sarah, Signe, and Susan (et moi) had dinner at Firefly Sunset Resort, which is a little to the south of town (they take you in a golf cart). Diana, who has Alzheimer's, and Lisa, her caregiver (and very funny), joined us. Jean and I chatted 'til 10:00.



Beach at the Hummingbird Cottage  
Art Studio 2/7/15

# Sunday, February 8

a GAW-jus sunny, warm day with a nice breeze. Went down and got my free coffee and sat on my balcony enjoying the bread and cream cheese my next-door neighbor Jean gave me last night.

At 9:00 we met on the Queen's Highway in front of the Lodge, where we were taken via the ubiquitous golf cart to the Abaco Inn, which is near the south end of Elbow Cay and another beautiful spot.

We have spent the morning plying our brushes. Sitting on a chaise in the sun painting/journaling - does life get any better than this? I am a few feet from the ocean listening to the soothing sound of the surf. All I need is a margarita, and I'm sure that could be arranged, although 11:15 a.m.

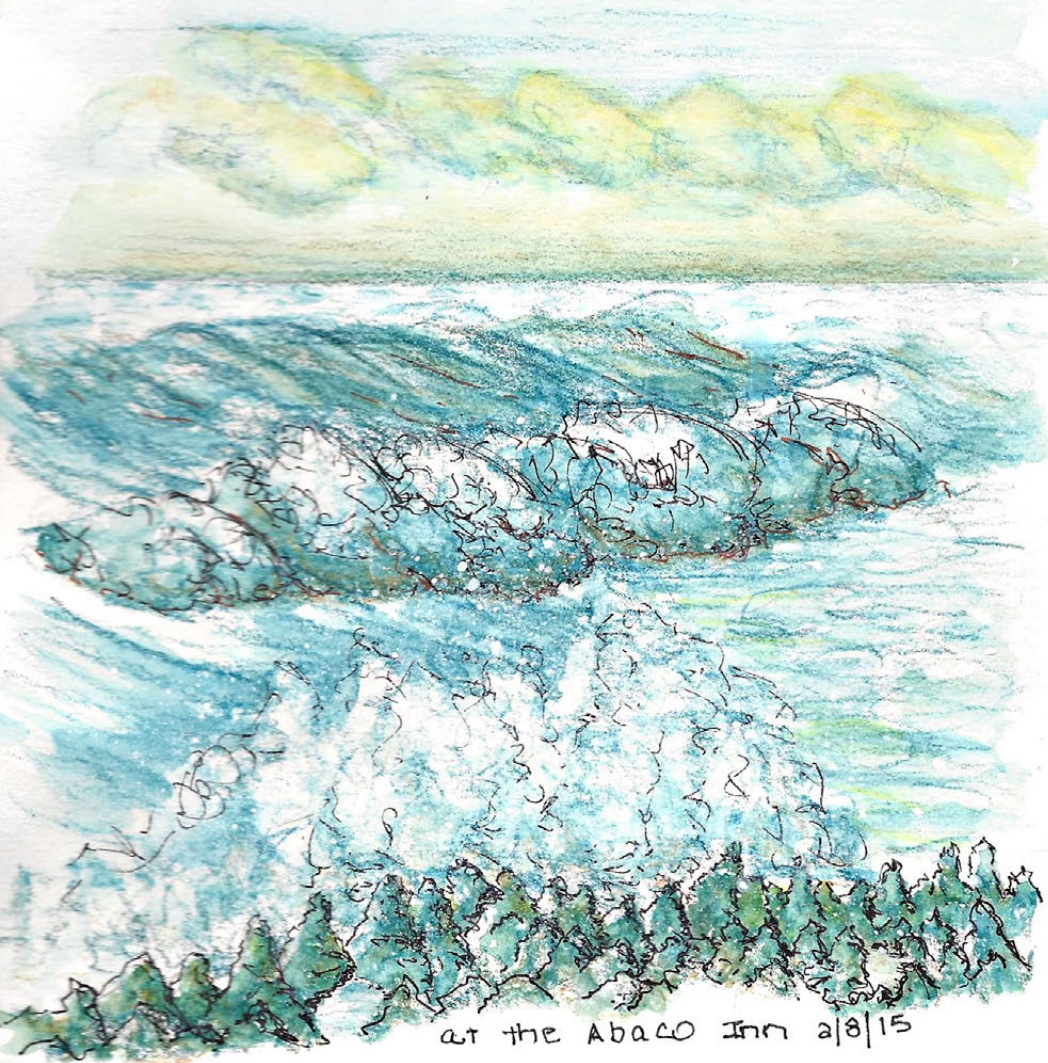
may be just a tad early to indulge in such things...



We met for lunch at the Fin and Tonic restaurant at the Abaco Inn. I had a very tasty chicken curry salad and a seltzer. After lunch, some of us went to Tahiti Beach,

which is at the southern tip of the island, where we did more painting, as well as walking barefoot in the lovely soft sand, picking up bits of coral and pretty little shells.

At 3:00 the van brought us back, and at 4:00 we did our last show 'n' tell at the studio. What a wonderful assortment of work!



at the Abaco Inn 2/8/15

Tonight we ate at the Edge. Finally got to try the conch cakes. Very yummy. Just about the whole group went, but we were divided into two tables of 8. called Clare - snow, snow, snow.



# FEBRUARY 9

mix of sun and clouds.

I'm 3 for 3 with watches on these trips. My watch said 6:30, when there was a knock on my door. It was actually 7:15, and he was there to take my bag to the ferry. I had to move REEEALLY fast.

A bunch of us from the workshop were on the ferry (Sarah, Nea, Kathy and Sterling, Joan). Sarah and I shared a cab. Brekkie at the airport. Our flight to Miami left around 11:20.

I already know my flight to Boston was cancelled due to weather, so I am on a 3:15 flight tomorrow.

Sarah had already planned to spend a few days in Miami at the Beacon in South Beach, so I came along and got myself a room here, too.

When I called Clare from the airport, she said it was starting to clear there, but when I checked with the agent, there was nothing earlier that went straight through.

Sarah and I walked all over - along the beach, along Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue, etc. When we were trying to decide where to eat, the "hustlers" trying to get us to "eat here" were a real turn-off. We asked at the desk for a place where we could get Cuban or



at Tahiti Beach

"South FL" food, which is Cuban food as it turns out. She sent us to Puerto Sagua, a Cuban restaurant a block over. It was the sort of place where the real people eat, kind of like a diner inside with a counter and tables. It was really yummy. I had shredded beef with rice and fried plantains with a Cuban beer. Then we came back to the hotel and got our free mojitos. Called Clare when I got back to my room - it was nice to be able to yak for as long as we wanted ;)

February 10



It's going to be "only" 70° today.

Slept like the proverbial baby last night. Breakfast starts at 9:00 (!), but coffee is available from 7:00, so I am using this time to catch up on my journal.

After an excellent brekkie at the hotel, Sarah and I spent the morning at the Wolfsonian Museum. At noon we said our good-byes, I finished packing, checked out, and waited... and waited... and waited for the shuttle. After 45 minutes and several phone calls, Silvana at the front desk suggested I take a cab. Arrived at the gate to hear the flight was delayed - turned out it was only 15 minutes, so I still made the 7:40 bus, arriving in Concord at 9:30, where I was met by Flopsy and Clare, with winter shoes and dindin from Dos Amigos. The snow banks are HUMONGOUS!