

Hi Kerry,

I am returning your mother's painting. It was one of the nicest gifts I have ever received. I know how much it meant to you and the warmth you gave it to me with. I definitely felt that warmth and love.

For various reasons I have not been able to hang it in my house. I have felt guilty because it isn't visible and appreciated in the open as it should be. I decided that the painting should be restored to you who appreciates it the most and either hung or given to another who can give it a proper home.

As a side note: Over my 84 years of life, I have found meaning becoming involved and fully engaged in various activities. In the last 33 years it has been chess organization. When I found I could no longer continue a mission I left and found another goal. It hurt deeply leaving something I loved and to which I felt I contributed a lot. For example, when I retired from Ohlone College in January 2012, I left it behind as best I could. I have not gone up on the college campus since. When I stopped powerlifting and running powerlifting meets, I gave up contact with all the current events and literature on the sport. It is unlikely you will see me around or hear much from me in the coming years for I will simply fade away.

I know you will continue your great work and mission to preserve the history of chess in California. You have done an amazing job and I, among many, say thank you for your dedication to a necessary and unending project.

Alan