

Spotlight: Counting Blessings



Artist Jennifer Main, pictured in her gallery at the Arts Factory, is thankful for family, friends, recent aunthood (courtesy of her sister) and the chance to do what she loves for a living. DAVID BECKER/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Yes, Tough times teach basics of family, health and optimism more important than things we're still thankful

By JOHN PRZYBYS

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Thankful? Two wars continue overseas, the economy is as uncertain as Lindsay Lohan's sexual orientation, the only jobs around seem to be ones that have disappeared and ones that eventually will, and foreclosures are making Southern Nevada neighborhoods look like deserted Hollywood backlots.

Right. And a happy Thanksgiving to you, too.

But try, just for a moment, to step back from everything that's going wrong in our particular corner of the universe and think, instead, about what's going right.

We asked a variety of Southern

Nevadans what they're thankful for this Thanksgiving. And, from their responses, we derive this notion: This year's otherwise dismal day of thanks might be an opportune time for developing a renewed appreciation for the small, but hugely important, blessings we're usually too busy to think about.

"I think, whatever's going on, there's always more to be thankful for than not be thankful for," offers Las Vegas artist

Jennifer Main.

Her friends. Recent aunthood. Even the ability, Main says, to "do what I love for a living."

Most of all, Main says, she's thankful for her family.

The trick is to "stay thankful for the simple things that don't change so much," she explains. "When money starts disappearing you kind of look at what's important, and I think what it comes

down to is family."

Crystal Williams of Las Vegas suspects that we often try to find happiness in material things. But, Williams, a criminal justice major at the College of Southern Nevada, numbers among her greatest blessings "my family and friends who have always been there for me."

► SEE THANKFUL PAGE 6J

Keeping a positive attitude reaps benefits

"When money starts disappearing you kind of look at what's important."

JENNIFER MAIN
LAS VEGAS ARTIST