

The Neighborhood News Thanksgiving Edition

By,

Patty L. Fletcher

Edited by,

Claire Plaisted

November 2016

Table of Contents

Greetings from Patty and all The Campbell Kingdom

Treat of the Month

Neighborhood News

Literary Submission

Link of the Month and In the Hood with tips tricks and more

Products and Services

Administrative Details

Author's Corner

The Twilight Bark

Wrap Up and Notes From the Editor

1. Greetings from Patty and all in the Campbell Kingdom...

Hello again Neighborhood News Readers. Patty and Campbell here with what we hope is another fun filled and informative edition of The Neighborhood News. Yes, you read correctly, this is the Thanksgiving edition, and I can hardly believe that it is that time again. Seems like only yesterday that we were putting away our winter jackets, mittens, and scarves, and getting out our swimming suits. Now here we are planning holiday dinners, and trading recipes. Well, as they say, time does fly. You know? When I was a kid I laughed at my parents for saying such. Now, here I am saying that very same thing and I do not need to see to know that the youngsters in my life are probably rolling their eyes, and laughing behind their hands when I do. Well, in the words of King Campbell AKA Bubba from Bubba Tails, "Go ahead and laugh wee ones, it will happen to you one day, I promise."

It is with that thought in mind that I write the following to you...

We, none of us know when the very moment we're living in could be our last. So I urge all of you to take the time to let all those around you know that you care, and that you love them. If you have differences between you I encourage you to make them right, and put the past behind you so that

if someday you're faced with losing someone close to you, you do not also have to endure the pain of regret. I can tell you from experience that is no fun.

In this time of being grateful, let us remember what that truly means, and not just use this time of year for eating, drinking, and making merry.

Campbell and I hope you enjoy this edition of The Neighborhood News, and as always we encourage you to let us know what you think. After all, it is your newsletter, and we would like you to enjoy it.

And with that, we present this month's Neighborhood News.

2. Treat of the Month...

This month's treat of the month is an oldie but a goody. It is for me, one of my most treasured memories. It is a Thanksgiving story that is by far one of the most love filled I have ever written, and the best part? It is one-hundred percent true. I hope you will enjoy it.

“Well? I’m Glad For All Yall”

By,

Patty L Fletcher

November 9 2015

Flash back to Thanksgiving 2014.

Thanksgiving that year dawned with all the excitement of cooking, cleaning and getting ready for the big day ahead. I was to celebrate with two families that year.

I would have lunch with my now EX fiancé Donnie, and his son, as well as a few friends, and then go to my father's house for a celebration with my daughter, her new family, father, and my sister Mary.

There was a new addition to the family this particular year, my very first Seeing Eye Dog, Campbell, AKA King Campbell as I'd taken to calling him shortly after his arrival in my life.

As I'd gone through the morning's work of making what had always been my mother's famous chicken and dressing recipe, and running up and down stairs, helping with various tasks, Campbell wagged happily by my side.

He watched with great interest the shredding of the boiled chicken which was to go in to the dressing, and thumped his tail very loudly and licked his lips in appreciation when a piece “Accidentally” fell to the Floor.

Once I'd finished with Donnie, his son, our friends, and our mid-day celebration which Campbell had participated in with much interest and enthusiasm, I was on my way to my dad's house for the

second meal of the day, and what I hoped would be an awesome visit. I'd chosen to leave Campbell at home in his crate, as he'd already had quite a bit of excitement, and what with my dad's house being small, and so many people, I simply felt it would be too crowded for my big galoot of a dog to be added to the mix.

As I came through the door of my father's house I called out, "Happy Thanksgiving! Where are my girls?" My two granddaughters came flying up, but stopped short just a few steps away. The younger of the two, grabbed my sleeve, tugging ever so slightly saying, "You didn't bring any Campbell" My heart filled with love, at that sweet child's words, and as I gathered her in to my arms and took the older one's hand, and continued in to the house, I explained why I'd chosen to leave Campbell at home.

Later as we gathered round the table for our meal, I listened as my daughter explained to her oldest what it meant to be grateful. "It means being glad for something." She said, as we all fell silent and clasped hands. My oldest granddaughter only hesitated a moment in the silence and then as the room fell completely still she said in a clear sure voice, "Well, I'm glad for all y'all." There was simply nothing else to say. As I reached for my napkin pretending to have something in my eye, I heard my dad whisper, "I didn't hear her." My sister who was sitting closest to him, repeated what the youngster had said, and as we began to pass the food, I felt that my heart would burst with love.

Now as I write, thinking of that day's events, I think of her little voice chiming in to the stillness of that most awesome moment saying, "Well? I'm glad for all y'all." And my heart is once again filled to bursting with love.

I invite you, no matter how you celebrate, as we go in to the holiday season, be sure to count absolutely every moment spent with friends, family, and yes, even pets, as a true blessing. Don't take even one second of those moments for granted, for none of us knows when it could be our very last moments with those who are special in our lives.

Anything can take these special ones away.

Sometimes even the simplest of things can go wrong in just the blink of an eye, and once they do there's simply no way back to what you had before.

So, have a happy holiday season, be glad for all those you have, and from all here in the Campbell Kingdom, until next time this is Campbell and Patty saying,

"May harmony find you, and Blessid Be."

3. Neighborhood News...

Recap...

Hi, just a quick reminder, we have books out at I Love Books in the Kingsport Town Center, better known as the Fort Henry Mall. Please make sure to visit them in person, or online soon.

Due to the fact that the books at Dillys Curiosity weren't selling I have removed them, but I still very highly recommend their shop. They are friendly, their products are first rate, and their prices are great. For Dillys Curiosity visit <http://dillyscuriosityshop/> And for I Love Books see <http://KingsportBookstore.com>

Hey! All! You! Facebook Fans??

Looking for a group to join? Like dogs? Need a place to talk about what you're doing, to vent your frustrations, or just say hey to a friend, for no other reason than to have someone say hey in return? Campbell's Corner: The Comfort Zone is the place for you! We laugh, cry, and love with you!

We are always happy to accept new members, and having a dog is not a requirement. It is just something lots of us have in common.

Dogs not your deal, but you still want a fun filled place to come and chat if for no other reason than to just say hi? Need a place to share a special happening in your life? Want to

Share a sorrow, or vent a frustration? We at Patty and Pals would like to invite you to join. We have lots of fun so give us a try today.

Although Bob Cat has gone, his group Bob Cat and Friends is still up and alive. I'd thought about getting rid of it, and well, first off I cannot figure out how to get rid of any group on Facebook, and secondly, I still love cats, and want to provide a place for people who have them to gather and talk of them, so how about it cat lovers? Want to join?

Go to Facebook and search in groups for Bob Cat and Friends. Let us keep it alive in his honor. He would have thought that was a PURRFECTLY awesome idea!

If that is not enough social media to satisfy you, then how about Twitter? Not on a lot, but we're there. Check us out at: @Bubbalee04 today!

On July 6 2016 Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life was added to the BARD.LOC.gov website provided by the National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicap, and on July 9 it had hit the most popular downloads list. This is to me the most exciting thing to have ever happened, and I am proud and very honored to be able to make this announcement to you. I hope that you will visit the site, and download it today, and if you are not a site user, then by all means call your library and request a copy be sent to you. Be sure and let us know what you think when you're done.

Another awesome thing that has happened here over the summer is that King Campbell AKA Bubba has decided I need not be the only author in the family, and so it is with great pride I tell you of...

Bubba Tails from the Puppy Nursery at The Seeing Eye Written by Patty L. Fletcher Told by, King Campbell Lee The Seeing Eye Dog AKA Bubba

Spring and summer 2016

In this magical and love filled tail, King Campbell AKA Bubba travels to the puppy nursery at The Seeing Eye to help ready a group of puppies who are just about to embark on the fabulous journey of learning to become Seeing Eye dogs. Just as he is about to finish his tail, a wee pup becomes very frightened of all that lies ahead, and one frightfully stormy night she runs away! Will King Campbell hear the urgent call from the puppy nursery in time? Will they find her and save her so she can fulfill her destiny? Find out by signing up to <http://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/>
What's New?

*****!!!We interrupt this newsletter to bring you a very important report***!!!**

The Raw Truth: Campbell's Rambles Book Two

Yes folks, you read correctly. Campbell and I are publishing our second book.

The following is a post from Campbell's World, and I hope you will all take a look, because if you do you will learn how you can find out what happened after that long ago October day in 2011.

Finding My Way Back

By,

Patty L. Fletcher

October 2016

Hello Readers!

I hope this day finds you well. I'm writing today to let you know of my plans to try to find the path back to the goals I had when I first began my journey of writing.

It is my hope that with this writing I can undo some of my past, and enable myself to go forward into the future in a better and more productive way.

As many of you know I have made many mistakes in the last few years. Some of those mistakes have been very costly. I have lost friends and even family due to these mistakes, and I've come to realize that sometimes no matter how many times you apologize, no matter what you do some simply will not give you a chance to redeem yourself no matter how hard you try. The rational part of my mind says walk away. You've done all you can. My heart simply refuses to get with the program. I simply cannot seem to quiet the hurt. The pain that I live with each day is something that words cannot describe because they have not yet been invented. I don't have them within me at all.

When we are young we're taught to apologize for what we do wrong, and that once this is done to not repeat the offence. This is where I stumble. This, I am going to attempt to explain.

It is my hope that you will come to at the very least understand me a bit better. Once this writing is complete I don't plan to ever publically mention these things again.

Because once I've told the rest of my story it is my hope that I will have come to where I intended to be in the first place, and that the work I intended can continue.

Now, I'm not going to write a bunch of excuses. That won't work. What I have decided to do instead if those who assist me are willing is to blog a few chapters at a time my second book. For me it is no longer a matter of publishing to sell books, or make money. I've given up on that dream.

At least for now. At this time what I want is understanding, forgiveness, and closure. Will this happen? I don't know. I cannot know until I take the chance and try.

As I say, over the next few months if those who assist me are willing, my second book, *The Raw Truth: Campbell's Rambles Book Two* will appear on my blog.

It is my hope that folks will read it. It is my hope that when you do you will come to know me a bit better, and that those whom I've wronged will finally at the very least find it in their hearts to acknowledge and forgive me.

More importantly, it is my hope that with the writing of this, that I will acknowledge and forgive myself. That ladies and gentlemen would indeed be a true healing, and would once and for all enable me to continue with my head held high and to once again be proud of whom I am.

I no longer expect a happy ending. I know from much experience those only happen on the Hallmark Channel, and that's OK. If this does as I wish it will do more than just give me what I desire. Since the writing of *Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life* I have gotten some pretty neat letters and notes from readers. I've learned that there are others out there like me. Some of whom have been through similar circumstance as have I, and I have learned that my book helped them. It is my finest wish that this writing will also help people suffering in silent horror to allow themselves to come from their darkness into the light.

In *The Raw Truth: Campbell's Rambles Book Two* you will learn of the abuse I suffered, and hid. You will learn of how my mental illness spun frighteningly out of control, and you will learn what I have begun to do to try and bring it back under control. You will learn of how some have reached out to help, to acknowledge my effort, and you will also learn of how some have continued to ignore me, causing me to feel tossed aside. Now, I want to qualify that statement. I want you to realize that it is only because I allow them to make me feel this way that it is so. No one person can truly cause another to do or feel anything if the person doesn't wish it. It is my job and mine alone to stop that and it is my hope that with the telling of this story that it can be so.

Until then, I hope that you all are happy healthy and well.

Thanks for reading.

May harmony find you. Blessid be.

*Patty and Campbell back to say that by the time this newsletter is published we are hopeful that *The Raw Truth* will have begun to appear on our blog. We would like to invite you to follow us there, and read our story.*

We thank you in advance for reading, and now, we return you to your regularly scheduled newsletter.

Coming Soon...

Campbell and I are still looking for work. We have not as of yet found anything but we're looking hard each and every day. Follow us at campbellsworld.wordpress.com to read of our adventures into the world of possible employment.

4. Literary Submission...

The following submission comes from Author/Editor Leonore Dvorkin. When I read this article I knew I had to publish it in *The Neighborhood News*. It is one of the best articles on the use of Technology, and the devices that come from it, that I have ever read. I hope you will not only read this, but please? let us know your thoughts. It is with great pleasure that I present...

IN DEFENSE OF THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN PUBLIC **by Leonore H. Dvorkin**

C 2016

In the September 2016 issue of *The Consumer Vision*, there was an article entitled “Seven People in a Waiting Room.” The author, Jane Kronheim, bemoaned the ubiquitous use of electronic devices (cell phones and tablet computers) in public spaces. She expressed a longing for older-style communication among people in places like waiting rooms and cafés: casual, friendly chats about sports, holidays, politics, etc.

I submit this article in support of a contrary view.

Although I myself am not a heavy user of such devices in public, my highly educated and tech-savvy husband (the author David Dvorkin) most certainly is, and I have gradually grown more accustomed to seeing such things in just about everyone’s hands these days. They are used by toddlers, teens, and adults. Even many elderly people like and use them, as I witnessed the other day in my doctor’s waiting room; a man of at least 80 checked his smart phone and then chuckled merrily at whatever it was he was seeing there.

What might all those people be doing with those devices? Are they merely engaging in frivolous pastimes that do little more than cut them off from their neighbors? Most likely not. Here is a list of just some of the many things that people might be doing on their devices.

- Reading the news, perhaps from all over the world, not merely what is printed in the local newspaper. There are a great many foreign periodicals that are translated into English every day and published online.

- Getting the local weather report. With a special app, the seeker can find a weather report on his or her specific neighborhood, not just the metro area. The app can also give up-to-the minute warnings of things like coming storms, high winds, flash floods, smoke from nearby fires, and much more.

- Doing homework, on any level from kindergarten to graduate school. Even if a student is not

taking an actual online course, many teachers on all levels now assign homework that must be done online. Our son, who has a PhD in Bioinformatics and is a biomedical researcher, does most of his work on his computer, and he sometimes has to work more than 80 hours a week. I cannot imagine that he does not take advantage of every spare moment to work if he is required to wait for some long period of time in a public place.

- Filling out online applications: for jobs, college, you name it! Likewise, the person could be writing or updating his or her résumé. Or perhaps the person you see perusing his or her screen is reviewing the qualifications of prospective employees and is about to send an e-invitation to an interview to some fortunate and grateful recipient.

- Reading magazines or books. My husband and I now do the vast majority of our news reading online. In addition, we love our Kindles for reading novels. Amazon allows downloaded e-books—many of which are very inexpensive or even free—to be read across all the devices that one might own: A Kindle e-reader, a computer, or a smart phone. The program keeps your place for you, so that whenever you access the book that you wish to continue reading, on whichever device you choose to access at the moment, you are taken right to where you left off. You can also adjust the type size and screen brightness, as well as engage the text-to-speech feature if you wish. Earbuds or headphones allow you to listen to text or music without disturbing your neighbor.

- Writing email, articles, or even whole books. My husband is the author of 27 published books, and he's hard at work on number 28. He often has his iPad or larger laptop with him, and if he has a long wait somewhere, he either reads or writes. Of course he will answer if anyone speaks to him, as he is never rude, but he prefers to be as productive as possible. He has zero interest in discussing things like sports with strangers. We also have a thriving business editing books by other authors; David often works on one of those books if he has the time to do so when out in public for long periods of time—such as when waiting for his car to be serviced.

- As for cell phone use, most younger people text. Sure, they might be writing something very superficial, but plenty of face-to-face chats are extremely superficial, too. Let's not pretend otherwise. However, those people who are using their cell phones to text or telephone might be engaging in important communications indeed, even vital ones, with friends, family members, colleagues, employees, or employers. The observer has no reason to assume that the communication is frivolous; it could be quite the opposite. The person might be announcing the birth of a baby, responding to or communicating the news that a loved one is gravely ill or has died, responding to the offer of a longed-for date or job offer, finalizing the plans for a wedding or a funeral, or dealing with anything else that life throws his or her way.

These are just a few of the many useful and important things that people might be doing on those devices. The people are very far from dissolving and evaporating, as Ms. Kronheim put it. Instead, they are engaged and present in ways that could not have been imagined just a few years ago.

In fact, research tells us that people are reading and writing far more than they were before such electronic devices became common. To quote the author Anne Trubek: "If anything, we are in a golden age of writing. Most Americans write hundreds if not thousands more words a day than they did 10 or 20 years ago. We have supplanted much talking and phone calling with texting,

emailing, and social media.” (From an article by Sarah Begley, TIME Magazine, Sept. 12-19, 2016, p. 24.)

I can certainly attest to the validity of those statements. I write at least a dozen emails every day, some short and some quite long, to my friends, relatives, students, and editing clients in many states and various countries. Every Friday, I use Skype to give an English lesson to a woman in Tokyo. Since the advent of e-books, I’ve been reading many more books every year than I ever did before. David and I also use Facebook and Twitter, and we both have blogs. Of course, the torrents of junk email that we both receive every day can be beyond annoying. But overall, we feel that the many positives of our various electronic devices far outweigh the negatives.

Obviously, we have plenty of company!

About the author of this article:

Leonore H. Dvorkin is the author of four published books (both fiction and nonfiction) and many articles; her articles are mainly on the topics of fitness and nutrition. She and her husband, David Dvorkin, have lived in Denver, Colorado since 1971. Leonore works as a tutor of four languages, a weight training instructor, and an editor. Since 2009, Leonore and David have edited some 30 books by other authors, most of whom are blind. They assist the authors in getting the books self-published in e-book and print.

For more details, please see Leonore’s website: <http://www.leonoredvorkin.com/>

Leonore’s email is: leonore@leonoredvorkin.com

David Dvorkin’s website and contact information: <http://www.dvorkin.com/>

OK Neighbors What say you?

Have we simply traded the news stand where one could get reading material for the train for our devices or...?

Is it much more?

This article has appeared on my blog, and on Facebook. There has been some great discussion. It is my hope that those of you who have commented there, will also comment here. We really do value all opinions. There have been valid arguments on both sides. So I ask again...

Neighbors, what say you?

Below are some of the things I use my E-Device (Iphone) for...

Texting to friends and family to schedule rides, or maybe family dinners.

Communicating for good or ill with VR/Blind Services.

Filling out job applications.

Settling differences with friends.

Getting directions from my local bus stop to a desired location in town just a few blocks away.

Scheduling travel plans.

Sending a grocery list to my local Grocery for pick-up when I arrive.

And much much more...

5. Link of the Month and In the Hood With Tips Tricks and More...

Featuring

Penny Fleckenstein

Who blogs at

<http://notyourveragesinglemom.com>

and guest blogs at <http://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/>

Recipe...

Oh, how I love quiche! My first memory of quiche was at Enchanted Hills Camp. I was fifteen and our cook made it for lunch. I've had a love affair with Quiche ever since.

Quiche is French for garbage pie. I prefer thinking of it as leftovers pie. It's an omelet in a pie crust. You beat eggs; I do three per quiche, and about half a pound of cheese per quiche. For my spinach quiche, I buy an already made piecrust. You can buy the Pillsbury one where two come in a box. All you need to do is unroll it and place it in a 10-inch deep dish pie pan. When I found out they make it with lard, I started to buy it frozen already in an aluminum pie pan. Either way, both kinds of crust are yummy. No one will know the difference between the store bought and the homemade.

I line the piecrust with Morningstar Bacon Strips a vegetarian alternative to bacon. I cover the bottom and up the sides of the crust. I wipe my mushrooms clean with paper towels and slice them. When I feel extra lazy, I buy them already sliced. I sauté them in a bit of butter. I sauté fresh spinach in a separate pan or I microwave frozen spinach. I grate my extra sharp cheddar cheese and break and beat my eggs. I wait for my sautéed vegetables to cool down a little and throw them in the big bowl I have my eggs and cheese in. I use the liquid from the spinach too. I add just enough milk so that it's liquid. I stir it all together. I like the pourable Pyrex bowl that comes with a lid. It has a handle on it and a pour spout, so you can distribute your filling between two piecrusts evenly. I put each pie on a cookie sheet and bake for 45 minutes to an hour--until the pie is solid on top and it smells done. Let it cool a little out of the oven, and slice and enjoy.

If you don't like mushrooms or spinach or Bacon Strips, you can put anything you want in a quiche. I've made a broccoli quiche, a Chinese cabbage quiche, and a chili quiche with chili and sliced bell peppers. It's versatile, customizable, and delicious. No one will know you used leftovers. It makes a good gift.

TIP

I love the first slice pie slicer sold by Pampered Chef. It is a pie server with sharp edges on it, so you can use it to cut the pie with and your first slice comes out nice and clean. It has a plastic cover which goes over the serving part so when you're storing it, you can't accidentally cut yourself. I also like their can opener that opens cans on the side, the apple corer slicer that clamps on your counter or table, and their bamboo spoons.

Feel free to ask me any questions at
goodthaimom@gmail.com

Please make sure to put into the subject line, "For The Neighborhood News" So that we can get the questions and answers into the next issue.

###And More...

First up some music to get you moving after that great meal you just cooked!

Mike's Musical Memory!

Take it away Mike Tate!

Here's this month's musical memory. I chose this one because it is the season to party, and this song begins a great celebration just the right way to keep folks smiling bright.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4Lxa4EOiaE>

If you'd like me to make your event memorable with just the right music and personality. Please contact me...

Mike.tate1970@gmail.com

###Book Review...

Now that we've cooked our Thanksgiving side-dish, and even found just the right serving tool to use, it is time to relax with a good book. Now, for some this will mean some mind candy reading. Such as a 'Cozy Mystery' but for those who like a good book to sink their mind into, one which will help you learn while being thoroughly entertained, the following is the book for you. Of course this is just my opinion, but if you read this book, or, if you have read this book we'd love to have your thoughts. Good or bad, we'd like to hear from you. Here's the book info and my review... Please remember that this review is sparked by a personal interest...

First what NLS (National Library Services For the Blind and Physically Handicap) has to say, and then my current thoughts.

NLS description:

His bright light: the story of Nick Traina DB47039
Steel, Danielle. Reading time: 10 hours, 10 minutes.
Read by Sharon Murray.

Psychology and Self-Help
Biography

Biography of Steel's son, who died at nineteen battling manic depression. She recounts the ordeal of watching her intelligent, talented son become a troubled teenager. She explains that, though it was clear to her that something was wrong with him as a child, he was not correctly diagnosed until he was fifteen. She presents both a tribute to Nick and a lesson about mental illness. Bestseller.

First off I know some will remember when I read this a couple years ago. I was just coming out of a hellacious three-year long battle with my own Bipolar demons, and as I read the book I kept saying... "OMG! Did I do that? Do I do that? Will I do that?" I kept going, "Yeah, I have had to apologize and apologize again." I kept crying out to no one in particular, and everyone! All at the same time...

"I am sorry I am this way! Do you not think I'd stop it if I could?" Now as I remember this most riveting book, this heart--breaking story I am sitting here asking the same questions again. Feeling the same feelings again and wondering if an early diagnosis makes a big difference. One of the things she spoke about in this book was how certain brain patterns formed before the illness began to be addressed, and that it was her belief that had they been addressed earlier on he might have had a better chance to live a full life with the illness rather than succumbing to it at the early age of 19 years old. Yes, ladies and gentlemen the illness killed him. The illness causes the brain to not perform as it should. This in turn messes up the thinking process, and this in turn caused him to believe death was a better option than life, and enabled him to take steps to make that so.

I was relieved and chilled to the bone simultaneously at the realization that someone recognized the illness as the reason for death.

I had never before reading this book heard it sounded out loud and certainly not in writing in that manner and I was glad and horrified all in the same breath. There was a huge part of me that wanted to run out and buy all those I have ever harmed as a result of my being sick a copy of this book, and beg them to read it and to know that I felt all that and more. I wanted to but figured if they would not read the book I wrote. The book I poured my love and heart into they would not read a book about someone they did not know. I do not know, but now here I am struggling once again with this hateful illness and want to thank you all who support me, and to suggest that everyone read this book.

Who should read this book?

If you have bipolar disorder, you should read this book. If you know someone have a family member, or close friend with the disorder, you should read this book. Even if you are just the friend of a friend who has someone in their lives with the disorder you should read this book. If you work

among the public in any fashion you should read this book. Why? Because it will help you spot and understand the illness in a whole new way.

I have never wanted anyone's pity. Never wanted anyone to make excuse or allow me because of, but I do want more than anything to be, acknowledged, heard, and understood.

I am now, sicker than ever before in my life with this illness, and during the next few years I will become even more so, and it will be only by the grace of all I hold in a higher power, my doctors, and my self-control and mindfulness over matter practices, that I will survive. How do I know? Because I am menopausal. I am going through the change, and this causes problems all by itself, and then you top that with a good helping of bipolar disorder, and folks you have a mixed up mess.

They say if I can get through the next one-three years that it will stabilize some and I hope that is so. I have even been told by some that the symptoms lessen some, and that would be glorious, but in the meantime I have to live with the monster who is at times out of control...

I say I want a job, but find the task of simply working with VR/Blind Services troublesome...

I say I want a relationship, but at times being a regular every day friend without the pressure of "Love and Sex" tossed in for good measure can be difficult for me and those who befriend me... I say I want to keep my home, yet there are days when simply maintaining food, dishes, and laundry is an all-day deal and I get lost in my head along the way...

I did not used to have such problems as this, and it is a great combination of things which cause this to be so...

It is my belief that the medication I have depended upon for years has simply stopped working for my body at all...

I also believe that the oxygen deprivation that I suffered at the hands of my now EX-Fiancé had a large part in some of the newer symptoms I face, such as short term memory loss, anger, and bad reactions to stressful situation, and confined spaces...

I also believe that his abuse caused me to have issues with disassociation behavioral tendencies... All of which can manifest themselves through bipolar disorder... Again, not wanting pity, just want to be heard, acknowledged, and understood... I've even given up on happy endings or new beginnings...

This review will be updated, so stay tuned for comments etc which will be posted here on this blog as time goes along...

Thanks for reading...

Patty L. Fletcher

Author, Motivational Speaker, Nonprofit Consultant, and Creator of The Neighborhood News...

Link of the Month...

This month I have a great link to share. I hope you will enjoy it. As always your feedback would be much appreciated.

Thanks Peter...

<http://peteraltschul.authorsxpress.com/2016/09/30/cool-paw-luke/>

6. Products and Services

Sponsored Ad of the Month

If you are looking to promote your products, services, no matter if it is training, a book, a website or a blog, new or used items, a podcast or an app, feel free to register as a user at the Bizviz Network.

One part of the site is a blog with regular posts on relevant information, including the VIP Blog Log, which is a growing list of blind bloggers, as well as recommended resources, assistive technology and helpful information for the community in general.

The other part of the site is a free classifieds section with many different categories, where users may browse through, or place and manage their own free business or personal classified ads.

To subscribe as a user, go to <http://bizviznet.com> and click on the menu and widgets button at the top of the page to find all the site has to offer.

You may also subscribe by simply sending an e-mail to info@bizviznet.com with "subscribe" in the subject line and your name and e-mail address in the body of the message.

Sponsored Ad of the Month

Word Matters! – A Glimpse of the World

Word Matters! Is a blog that combines journalism and news gathering with thoughts and opinions as well as informative and entertaining shorts. Edited by Ernest Dempsey, it is the site that inspires, entertains, sometimes shocks, and of course informs people on current issues as well as past glory or misadventures.

Visit www.ernestdempsey.com to read and maybe share your opinion or thoughts, or suggest what topics you want to see on the site.

*** New Advertisers

Brief portraits of the Halperts' Books

Abracadabra Moonshine, Stephen Halpert's first short story collection is an opportunity for the reader to enjoy his unique, original imagination and the characters and situations that evolve from it. His chief intention is to tickle the funnybone and shiver the spine of readers everywhere. Most of the stories are short and quick to read, each one a unique jewel in a sparkling collection. Readers report that they find them entertaining and original, and in some respects reminiscent of the old Twilight Zone TV series.

Heartwings: Love Notes for a Joyous Life by Tasha Halpert is a book to inspire comfort and Joy. It combines poetry, essays and simple spiritual exercises to present a positive way of looking at and coping with everyday life. Tasha Halpert uses examples from her own life to illuminate a positive way for others to see theirs. Her poetry, one poem for each short essay, reflects her poetic view of life and all that goes into making it joyous. The exercises that accompany each chapter can be helpful in creating more positive feelings for the reader.

To purchase copies send \$17. to cover postage and handling to Tasha Halpert, PO Box 171, North Grafton, MA 01536 and if you wish an autographed copy please let us know to whom to dedicate it. Copies are also available on Amazon; Tasha's book is available for kindle as well, and on order from Barnes and Noble.

###

Wonderful Christmas-Themed Books by Two Authors

1. Christmas on Valley View Farm

C 2012 by Brian K. Nash

In e-book and print on Amazon and other online selling sites.

This third story in the Valley View Farm series, suitable for children 9 to 12, has everything a young reader could desire. Christmas is coming, and Daniel Riggs is dreaming of what might be in store. But a kidnapper has plans for Daniel's feline friend Midnight. Helped by the talkative farm animals, Daniel faces a bloodthirsty panther and rides a thrilling ghost train, then revels in holiday magic. Review quote: "Like a great story told to friends next to a crackling fire over several nights, this book will stay with you long after you read it." – Reginald George, on Amazon

Details of this and Brian's five other books for children and adults:

www.dvorkin.com/brianknash/

2. It's Still Christmas

C 2015 by John Justice

In e-book and print on Amazon and other online selling sites.

Once getting by financially, the Gleasons have become homeless and close to hopeless. But their faith in God and His mercy has never wavered. Now Christmas is close, and their lives are about to undergo a drastic change. The lifesaving aid they give to a stranger, an elderly Jewish widower, is soon repaid in ways they could never have imagined. Enjoy this touching story of mingled hearts, trust, and faiths.

John Justice is also the author of *The Paddy Stories: Book One*, C 2016.

Details:

www.dvorkin.com/johnjustice/

Unemployed and actively seeking work?

Underemployed and searching for a job that makes better use of your skills? Entering the workforce for the first time?

Having a job promotes dignity, helps with a sense of purpose, and hopefully brings in some money to buy the things we want. For many blind people, finding a job can still be a long, frustrating journey that can drain the self-belief of even the most positive person. If you're looking for a blindness-specific guide, written by a successful blind professional who has helped many others realize their dreams, Bonnie Mosen's book, "It's Off To Work We Go", contains practical advice, examples and anecdotes, all from a blindness perspective, drawn from her years of experience as a successful vocational rehabilitation counselor. From improving your chances of landing an interview to the all-important question of when, if ever, to disclose your blindness, it's all covered. It's written in a chatty, easily readable style, with many real-world examples of strategies that work and strategies that don't.

To purchase the book or for more information, visit mosen.org/work. Bonnie Mosen can be contacted at bonnie@mosen.org.

My Ideal Partner: How I Met, Married, and Cared for the Man I Loved Despite Debilitating Odds

by Abbie Johnson Taylor / C 2016

For sale in e-book (\$3.99) and print (\$11.95) on Amazon, Smashwords, and other buying sites.

My Ideal Partner



*How I Met, Married,
and Cared for
the Man I Loved
Despite Debilitating Odds*

Abbie Johnson Taylor

Summary:

In September of 2005, Abbie Johnson married Bill Taylor, who was blind and 19 years her senior. Three months later, Bill suffered the first of two strokes that paralyzed his left side and confined him to a wheelchair. In *My Ideal Partner*, Abbie Johnson Taylor, once a registered music therapist, uses prose and poetry to tell the story of how she met and married her husband, then cared for him for six years despite her own visual impairment. After she made the painful decision to move him to a nursing home in September of 2012, he seemed to give up on life and passed away a month later.

About the author:

Abbie Johnson Taylor lives in Sheridan, Wyoming, where she writes full time. She holds a BA degree in music performance and worked for 15 years in a nursing home as an activities assistant. This is her fourth published book. Her others are a romance novel and two books of poetry. Her work has appeared

in *Serendipity Poets Journal*, *Emerging Voices*, and *Magnets and Ladders*. For details, please visit her website: <http://www.abbiejohntaylor.com>

*Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life* Nonfiction by Patty L. Fletcher

Now For Sale!

The book is now for sale in print and e-book format from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, the Apple bookstore, Smashwords, and other online sellers.

For details, please see: www.dvorkin.com/pattyfletcher/

***EBOOK VERSION NOW FREE AT SMASHWORDS! ***

About the Book

This is the story of how the author obtained her first guide dog from The Seeing Eye™ in Morristown, New Jersey: what motivated her, the extensive training she had, the special relationship she developed with her trainer, and the good friends she made. Once she returned home to Tennessee, there were many new challenges to be met and overcome, including domestic abuse.

All that was in addition to her chronic conditions of bipolar disorder and fibromyalgia. With honesty, courage, and humor, Patty Fletcher tells a remarkable story of personal development that is sure to inform, entertain, and inspire others, both blind and sighted. THE SEEING EYE and SEEING EYE are registered trademarks of The Seeing Eye, Inc.

See: www.SeeingEye.org

The book was edited by Leonore H. Dvorkin: www.leonoredvorkin.com
Cover design by David Dvorkin: www.dvorkin.com

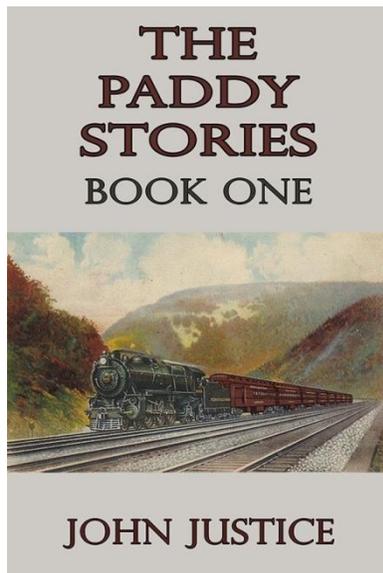
About the Author

Patty L. Fletcher lives in Kingsport, Tenn., where she worked for 9 years as Volunteer Coordinator at CONTACT–CONCERN of Northeast Tennessee, Inc, and is now writing full time. For many more details about her and her family, and to see some additional photos of Patty, her former co-workers, and friends and Campbell, go to: www.dvorkin.com/pattyfletcher/
Book also available at <http://bard.loc.gov>
And at <http://BookShare.com>

###

THE PADDY STORIES, BOOK ONE

by John Justice (C 2016)



Blind Paddy Flynn, orphaned at age eight, travels by train from Philadelphia to California in 1947 to live with his childless aunt and uncle. Part One tells of his mother's death, his time in a children's home, and then his eventful journey to California.

In Part Two, Paddy and his closest friend from Philadelphia, Lucy Candelaria, are reunited in California. Their unusual and loving relationship and their special form of communication make up a major part of the story.

The cast of characters includes the residents and staff of the children's home, the family Paddy stays overnight with in Chicago, the train staff, the several adults who accompany him on different legs of his journey, his welcoming relatives and their wonderful dog, and various neighbors there in California.

With his loving nature and can-do spirit, Paddy brings joy and inspiration to many others. He even stands up to two bullies, one in Philadelphia and one in California. But how will he adjust to life at a school for the blind? Book One of *The Paddy Stories* ends with Paddy once again having to face an uncertain future.

To be continued in Book Two.

In e-book and print. Full details: <http://www.dvorkin.com/johnjustice/>

ABOUT BOB BRANCO

Website plus contact information: <http://www.dvorkin.com/robertbranco/>

Robert T. Branco is the author of three books:

As I See It: From a Blind Man's Perspective (C 2013)

My Home Away from Home: Life at Perkins School for the Blind (C 2013)

Weighing Things Up: Essays on Trends, Technology, and Present-Day Society (C 2014)

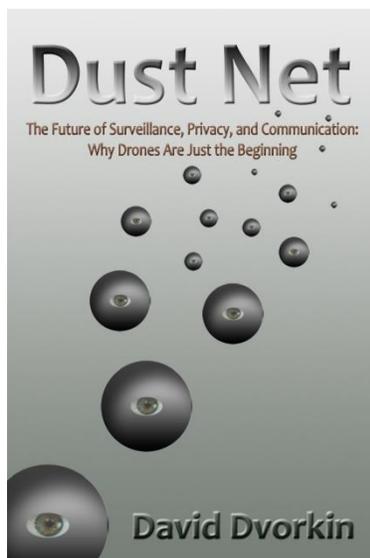
All three books are available in e-book and print formats on Amazon.com and several other online buying sites. Full details about the books, plus text previews, are on Bob's website, listed above. He also compiled a cookbook, *What We Love to Eat*. All the recipes were submitted by blind contributors.

Bob is also the publisher of a monthly online newsletter, *The Consumer Vision*. A typical issue would print out to about 30 pages. He has several regular contributors, but is always looking for new ones. He accepts essays, short stories, poems, ads, and much more. Contact him for more information.

Bob also hosts a weekly telephone conference program, *Branco Broadcast*, which began in 2014. His guests, many of whom are blind, most often speak about their jobs or their books. Contact him to learn about how the program works and how to become a guest.

DUST NET – The Future of Surveillance, Privacy, and Communication:

Why Drones Are Just the Beginning by David Dvorkin, C 2013



This is a work of nonfiction plus some speculation. It's largely about drones and their very rapid miniaturization, their present and coming use in law enforcement and war, and a potential future in which spy and communication equipment will literally be the size of dust motes, almost impossible to see and impossible to escape. It's also about the complete lack of privacy that is coming in the future.

Parts of the book are encouraging, detailing how such devices will help rescue people after disasters, help people escape the control of repressive governments, and simply communicate more easily with one another. But most of the book is chilling, portraying a future that will be very, very different from our past.

What's really important is that this is *not* a work of science fiction. Many of the devices described here either exist already or are in the development stage. No matter where you fall on the political spectrum, you need to read this book, because to know the future is to help yourself prepare for it.

Full details and book preview: <http://www.dvorkin.com/dn/index.html>

Calling all Coffee Lovers

Are you a coffee lover? Do you enjoy delicious food? If so, I have just what you are looking for! I am an Independent Kat's Coffees Representative, and I carry a large variety of coffees, teas, dessert mixes, bread mixes, and so much more. All products are made to order. So, there is no wondering how long a product has been sitting on a shelf before you order. See all the high quality and delicious coffees and other edibles at www.katscoffees.com/ourproducts.html

I can be contacted at inahurrycoffee@gmail.com or 816-977-9434 with any questions or to place an order. All payments are made via PayPal and are sent to inahurrycoffee@gmail.com Please also give a like to my page on Facebook, Independent Kat's Coffee Representative, Jordan Gallacher, to find out any news about products or any specials that are going on!

Thanks,
Jordan Gallacher

Butterfly Knitting

Looking for an awesome birthday or Christmas gift? Maybe you have a new baby coming? Here's the lady to call. Becky and her sidekick Jake can hook you right up. Give her a shout-out today!

Becky Frankeberger

Butterfly Knitting
Ponchos
Afghans
Shawls
Custom Knitting

360-426-8389
becky@butterflyknitting.com

An added comment from Leonore Dvorkin: For those readers who cannot see Becky's website and her products, I can assure you that they are flat-out gorgeous and they appear to be of the highest quality. She is very talented indeed!

Want to make new friends? Want to participate in fun and challenging games? Then join Games Galore and More.

GGM is a Voice Chat site where people talk to each other in real time. This site and its rooms are for everyone who is interested in interacting with a variety of people in a friendly environment. We offer activities and events of interest to the blind community. Everyone is welcome.

You can join our site at no cost. All you need is a headset to fully participate. Once you have signed up and received your username and password, you can chat with people from around the world and participate in games, seminars, and presentations on a variety of topics.

To register with Games Galore and More, go to: www.gamesgaloreandmore.com

Enter on the Join our Site link, and follow the prompts.

If you have any issues or questions, please feel free to write James Gagnier or Shelley Gagnier at:

james@jgagnier.com Or shelley@jgagnier.com

Patty here to say that I was on a show with the fine folks at Games and Galore, and they were awesome hosts. If you missed that event, contact the site owners James and Shelly to see if it was archived. Their games are lots of fun, challenging, and at times rather educational.



The Orchid Keeper.

A short novel, by Jennifer Deese has been called inspirational fantasy. Born and raised in the Northeast United States. Miss Deese developed a deep love for books at a very young age. As she grew older, she knew her place in the world was in writing. After beating her own addictions years ago, she began to take steps to make that dream come true.

The Orchid Keeper takes us along on a fantastical, yet difficult journey, of an addict and alcoholic named Cora. In a fast downwards spiral and drowning in denial and projection Cora gets an amazing, and wondrous opportunity to change the path she is on. With the aid of Sol, an orchid keeper of Osipia, will she be able to defeat her demons?

Miss Deese is currently working on another book in The Osipian Chronicles, called The Fading Light. In this second book, we will once again see the effects of addiction; this time on a race of beings from another world. You can follow her progress on any of the sites listed below.

Jennifer has also had a horror short story published in an anthology, The December Awethology: Dark Volume. Her story, Jingle Jars, is featured on the cover. In this story Karma takes its toll on a fellow for whom payback is way overdue. A demon is the hero of this story, and when you read it, you will surely understand why.

Deese is always open to interaction with her readers, so feel free to follow her or contact her, via the site's below, with questions about her writing, her characters, and the world she has created.

<http://www.amazon.com/Jennifer-Deese/e/B00N2URD14>

The Blind Post news

From and for the blind

What can be published in the Blind Post News. New and used. Wanted and to Give away any Services and training. Announcements. Business and job opportunities.

Want to subscribe? Send Lori AKA Food Lady a message with your name and email address to: foodlady@theblindpost.com

Read the news at
<http://www.theblindpost.com/>

Books by Abbie Johnson Taylor

For detailed descriptions, excerpts, and ordering information, visit
<http://www.abbiejohntaylor.com>

We Shall Overcome. Lisa, visually impaired, is afraid of policemen because of an incident that happened to her brother years earlier. When she meets John, a bicycle patrol officer, she must re-evaluate her apprehension.

How to Build a Better Mousetrap: Recollections and Reflections of a Family Caregiver. The poems in this collection were mostly inspired by the author's experiences while caring for her late husband, totally blind and partially paralyzed by two strokes.

That's Life: New and Selected Poems. In this book, the author gives advice to teenagers, shares more memories of her younger years, and touches on other life-changing events, including her wedding and her late husband's death.

All three books are available on Bookshare, and you can download a recording of 'That's Life,' in mp3 format from the author's site.

For those of you who have been waiting and waiting, it's finally here! Meagan Green's

First album is out! Many people who have listened to it already have really enjoyed it, so check out the samples at; <http://www.musicspring.net>

The album is called, The Flow of Your Blood.

Eight of the songs are originals by Meagan herself, including the title cut which is a favorite of most who have heard the album. There is one well known hymn with a great arrangement by Chris Belle of Affordable Studio Services, Meagan's producer.

The other song is written by her dear friend Stephe Belle, Chris's wife and co-owner of the studio. You can either get a CD in the mail or download it on the computer. The cost for a download of the entire album is \$13. If you'd like to download by the song, they are \$1.50 each. You will be taken to paypal through my shopping cart.

Or you can enter the following email address;

mgreen@wvi.com

For a CD hard copy the cost is \$15 which includes shipping.

Send check or money order to:

Meagan Green

1410 Westfall Place

Stayton, Oregon 97383

Enjoy! MeaganGreen

The Blind Perspective

For a fun-filled, informative online magazine, check out The Blind Perspective:

<http://www.theblindperspective.com>

Unity Church of the Tri-Cities

423 W. Walnut St., Johnson City, TN

423-975-9159 /

www.unitytricity.org

Sunday service at 11:00 a.m.

All are welcome at Unity Church of the Tri-Cities, where you will find an atmosphere of love, acceptance, and empowerment. is a Christ-based teaching that emphasizes spirituality over religion as we embrace our own spiritual growth and development. We strive to apply Universal Truth Principles to improve our own life experience as well as to bless our planet and all humankind through selfless service.

Sponsored Ad

Hey, Beautiful Patty and Handsome Campbell,

Per your request:

The show is “AM Tri-Cities” (the show has been around for over 60 years—long story☺) and is on the Holston Valley Broadcasting WKPT/ESPN family of stations. It can be heard at AM 1400, 1490 and 1590 and on FM 94.3, 97.7 and 97.9. Yes, those are six transmitters covering East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, a bit of eastern Kentucky, and Western North Carolina, and it’s also streamed live on the internet at <http://espntricity.com> . I prefer to be contacted—initially, at least—by email at dave@wkptradio.com . Non-profits, entertainment, regional heritage, things to do, and topics of general interest that enhance the quality of life in our region are our usual fare.

Many thanks for all you do. Give yourself a pat on the back and Campbell a hug for me.

Dave Light

7 Administrative Details

Advertising in or subscribing to The Neighbourhood News!

Cost is now \$15.00 per year for an advertisement with a 200-word limit with or without photo. One time ads can be gotten for the price of \$5.00

All submissions must be sent in by the 30TH of each month without fail.

The email address to send subscription requests, advertising, literary submissions, or PayPal Payments to is: patty.volunteer1@gmail.com

To place your Ad, please send your information including contact info such as email address, phone or website. (One link per Ad)

Font & Size: - Times New Roman, size 12 and a 200-word limit with or without a photo.

Please send in the form of an attachment, and when possible please embed your photo into the ad.

Payments may be sent to me via PayPal or if you like you may email me to find out how to send a money order.

We are currently looking for literary submissions. We do not charge nor do we pay for literary submissions. If your submission is going to need editing you may contact *Claire Plaisted at the below link* plaistedpublishinghouse@gmail.com

Literary Submissions can be short stories, narratives, or poems. They're not to accede 2000-word count.

Thank you for your business.

Patty L. Fletcher

8. Author's Corner...

First up in this month's Author's Corner is a great Essay from a co-author friend of mine. Take it away Mark...

Universal Design for Dummies

An Essay

By Mark Carlson

We in the disability community have heard the term "Universal Design," to denote a living or workplace that is universally accessible. The United States has made some admirable strides forward in making public places more accessible. Independence Hall in Philadelphia, for example,

where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776 has a wheelchair ramp outside. Independence indeed.

While noble in concept, I find total accessibility to be virtually unworkable, especially in the home. Sure, the scale is smaller and certainly cheaper. A person with a disability would know how to make their own home accessible for their needs and even have a fair understanding of what would help other disabled friends or family feel comfortable. Grab bars in the bathroom, ramps for low steps, easy-to-reach appliances and fixtures are all within reason.

But in the case of someone who either marries or lives with a so-called “normal” person, i.e. someone who has no disability and has never given the matter of accessibility a moment’s thought, that’s a whole different matter. I’m here to tell you in the blind community that making a home with a non-disabled person accessible is about as easy as swimming with a man-eating shark. Well, that’s not totally accurate. You can reason with a shark

My wife Jane is a lovely and intelligent woman. We have been married for 21 years. It has been a learning experience for both of us. In my case I had to learn how to make her happy and she had to learn how to find ways to keep me guessing.

On the matter of accessibility, she had a very steep learning curve as my sight failed in the 1990s. To her credit, she handled it pretty well, but not without some hiccups. She never seemed to grasp the concept that my deteriorating visual field was less than the width of my shoulders and hips, so I frequently bumped into walls and doorways. “That wall has not moved, Honey” she always said with a sigh. Yet I did manage to teach her some things, like to put tactile sticky dots on the smooth faces of appliances so I could use them. Not that I was allowed to. See my story *Husband Training 101* for details. She also learned to describe the layout of a room when we entered it and told me where the obstacles were. Not bad for a beginner.

But in three major areas she has not managed to achieve the Holy Grail of accessibility. These are not unique. Many women have these same traits. Now, before you lady readers begin foaming at the mouth, read on. I’m willing to bet that you may stop and say, “Hey, he’s right. I do that too!”

Moving Furniture

Let’s take the big one first. We live in a large two-story condo. Every so often — about every six months or so — Jane decides she wants to move the furniture in the living room. She has done this so many times the carpet looks like it has railroad tracks on it. Kind of like playing three-dimensional Tetris.

“I think we’ll have more room if we move the couch to the right and put the two chairs over by the window, then put the big dresser from the guest room in the corner.”

“Sure,” I say with concealed trepidation. I’ve been through this before. So we start moving. I say “we,” meaning that I do all the moving and heavy lifting while she points and says “A little more to the right, two more inches, almost, okay right there.”

Then, while I’m wheezing and trying to get the cramp out of my back she says “Oh darn, that’s not going to work. Take the big dresser back upstairs and bring down the other one.”

Have you ever tried to repress a wine?

But finally the job is done. Now it’s up to me to get used to it. My shins and toes take a beating for a few weeks. On an intellectual level I know where everything is but it’s not automatic, such as at three in the morning when I have to go down and close the window. BONK! “Ouch.”

Then she calls down from the bedroom, “Honey it’s been three months, haven’t you learned where the coffee table is yet?”

Then the day comes when I can do it blindfolded, so to speak. That's when, at dinnertime she says, "You know, Honey, I was thinking... If we move the sofa over by the side of the fireplace, then the big dresser will fit perfectly."

Thump. Thump. Thump.

What's that noise?"

"Nothing. Just me beating my head on the wall."

Actually this is okay; At least I am aware of where the furniture is. But what about the other head of the Feng Sway Hydra? When she, on her own and without telling me, decides to "just move a few things around a bit?"

Answer: Pain and injury.

I'm out all day and she's home alone and unsupervised. I'd rather leave a five-year-old with the car keys. Walking down the upstairs hall she says, "Hmmm, that bookcase would look much better over here. And this lamp can go right by the table."

Not wanting to bother me with the silly details she does it herself. And then I come home, blissfully unaware of what I am heading into.

"Hi Honey, I'm home!"

"Hi! Dinner will be in fifteen minutes."

"Great. I'm going to change. Be down to help in a few minutes." Nope. Not even close.

Then I turn into the hall. CRASH! Please be aware that I don't go charging through the house like the T-Rex chasing Sam Neill and Jeff Goldblum in "Jurassic Park," I move at a sedate pace. But I don't expect to find a big piece of furniture that wasn't there that morning. "What in hell?"

She runs out of the kitchen and yells up, "What did you break?"

"Just my neck, nothing important. What is this bookcase doing here?"

"Oh, I forgot to tell you. I move a few little things today."

"No kidding. Where is the lamp?" CRASH! "Never mind, I found it."

No amount of reason will make her understand that this is dangerous. I'll give you an idea of how her mind works. The other day I was coming down the hall and was almost to the back bedroom when she came out of the room. "Can you back up?" She asked.

"Why don't you let me by? I'll have to walk all the way back to the front hall"

"Because you're the guy."

See what I mean? Let's move on.

Objects on Walls and Counters

This one is not specifically aimed at my wife. In the home and workplace, it's common to find framed paintings, prints or photos on the wall, but these are usually at shoulder or head height. Below that is usually clear. Most blind persons develop navigation skills very quickly. One of them is to let a hand trail along a wall or counter when moving in a hall or room. This helps keep us oriented and clear of obstacles. This strip runs, depending on your height, from about two to four feet from the floor. I have a name for this region, based on what is known in international relations as the DMZ for Demilitarized Zone. I call it the D.B.M.I.I.G.B.Z, for "Don't Blame Me If It Gets Broken Zone." From the stories of other blind men, some wives or girlfriends have taken to hanging things like deep shadow boxes with their prized collection of vintage McDonald's Beanie Babies, or a framed porcelain Elvis or a genuine faux-wood reproduction von Trapp Family Cuckoo Clock that chimes "These are a few of my favorite things" on the hour. They are supposed to lend a "Victorian" look, but to us blind guys, they're like land mines. I call them Booby Traps. It doesn't take much of a bump to knock one off the hook and send it crashing to the floor in

pieces. Even the most cautious blind person would have to creep along at the pace of a geriatric snail to negotiate the bric-a-brac obstacle course. Then with a crash it becomes brick-a-broke. “Sorry.”

In the kitchen I tend to let my fingers trail along the edge of the counter to keep my bearings. And I don’t expect to find live land mines in there. Jane is a fantastic cook and baker. She has big binders stuffed full of recipes, organized for each season. When she plans a dinner party she pulls out the binder and decides what to make. After writing down her shopping list, leaves for the store.

Then I walk into the kitchen, again blissfully unaware that doom awaits.

Letting my hand trail along the counter edge towards the refrigerator, I bump into the binder, which, you probably guessed has a few inches hanging off the edge. In less time than it takes to say “Oh—” the binder has been bumped, knocks aside an open bag of flour, which falls to the floor, tipping over the nut grinder on the way. “—crap!”

You guys know what needs to be done. Yes, alibi time! Clean it up and play dumb. But the flour is all over the counter and floor, the nut grinder is in ten scattered pieces and the wife will be home in thirty-five seconds. But it’s gotta be done.

By the time Jane comes home I will have cleaned the counter and floor ten times and found nine of the ten pieces. “Hi, Honey,” I say, trying not to pant and look as guilty as Charles Manson. “Get everything you needed?”

“Yes, but I forgot to get more flour. I hope I have enough.”

Oh, god I hope so too. I get away with it about two out of five times. I won’t tell you about the other three. That can only be revealed to a divorce attorney.

You get my point. If she had only slid the binder back two inches, I’d have gone right past it. It was a booby trap. She puts them everywhere. A bottle of wine by a plate of very sticky pastries with painstakingly formed icing. You know how hard it is to repair icing so it looks pristine? Yeah? Try doing it blind.

Booby traps are all over my house, and I never know where they will turn up. The only constant are that they are likely to be breakable and expensive, and that Jane will not see my side of it. Tell me I’m wrong, guys.

Organizing, or “Guess where I put it?”

This is another of Jane’s little plots to keep me from ever feeling confident in my own home. In the same manner as wanting to move furniture every time the seasons change, she gets into these “I’m going to get organized” phases. That’s fine, but I wish she’d tell me BEFORE the fatal day. Having things organized is just common sense. Blind folks depend on knowing where to find things. We learn to put things in the same place every time.

But now comes Jane with her newfound resolve to make the world a better place, starting with our bathroom. Let’s say I’m going to take a shower and remember that I ran out of shaving cream. I go into the bathroom cabinet and reach in for the familiar shape of the Edge shaving gel can. Not there. I move the Orange blossom-scented Glade air freshener, the Nivea skin lotion, the giant refill bottle of Johnson & Johnson’s Baby Oil — for my sensitive skin — and feel for the can. Nope. Not there. “Where is it?” Using logic, I begin a careful survey of the shelves, feeling each object with no luck. Then I start moving outward. The other cabinets, the bathroom counter, the little cubby where we keep the Q-Tips. Still no shaving cream. I’m stubborn. Throwing logic to the winds, I dig into the other cabinets, even the one where we put the Water Pic we haven’t used since the Regan administration. “It’s got to be here. I only used one can and we bought a twin-pack.” But soon I wonder if I could be wrong. Maybe I did use it up, or more likely that I had only

hallucinated using Edge Lemon-Lime Shaving Gel for twenty years. I feel my face. Nope, no beard. Not a hallucination.

An hour has passed, I'm not about to ask Jane since I'm a guy and can't do that. But then, just as I'm on my hands and knees, pulling the broken foot massager out of the closet to see if the can might have fallen twenty feet from one room into another, Jane comes in.

"What are you looking for, Honey?" This is delivered in a tone that exactly intersects compassion, exasperation and condescension. I hate that tone.

"My shaving cream. I know we have another can."

There is a long, deadly silence. "Oh..." she stammers. "Um...I'll get it for you."

I stand up, sweaty and annoyed. "Hold it!" I say, "You know where it is?"

"Yes, of course," she replies with maddening casualness. "I wanted to organize the bathroom. So I went to the Container Store to get a small cabinet to put the things like shaving cream and toilet paper in."

I shrug, amazed at her twisted logic. "Sure. Shaving cream, toilet paper go together. I get it."

She leads me out of the bathroom, down the hall, past the laundry closet to the hall linen closet. Then she opens it and in two seconds flat, hands me the last can of shaving cream. I hold it as if it was the last can of shaving cream on the face of the Earth.

I shake my head in total dumbfounded exasperation. "If I looked for the next ten years I'd never, ever have thought of looking in there."

"Well, now you know," she says and leave.

I decided to grow a beard.

In conclusion, not every aspect of accessibility involve remodeling. A lot of it only requires a change of mindset. That's where the word "impossible" comes in. Remember, and I say this from years of experience, that no man ever changed a woman's mind in the slightest. She only appears to have changed it. But I tried, oh god how I tried. I used reason, logic, pleading and bribes, but I might as well have tried to drink the Atlantic Ocean.

If I had managed to make her change just one of her habits, my home would not only be much more accessible, but my life would be less stressful, frustrating and dangerous. So, does anyone have a very long straw?

Mark Carlson

858-592-2677

Markcarlson2222@san.rr.com

© 2016 By Mark Carlson

All Rights Reserved

Patty back with just one question...

Mark, how is it you can remain alive while writing such stories about your wife? LOL! I love this, and thoroughly enjoyed reading it. So, Neighborhood News Readers, do any of the rest of you deal with such? Let us know in next month's issue.

An Awesome Story of Rescue...

While doing some cleaning out of computer folders, I ran across a long forgotten article that one of our very own readers sent to me. While this article is a year old, it is still very good, and I am sure the organization mentioned here can still use your help. Read, and Enjoy!

In these turbulent, sad days, we need a happy dog story. This is about 1,000 dogs and 100 cats that, instead of being euthanized, on Friday headed out in private planes toward happy adopted lives.

A family to throw Frisbees for them. Kids who need to cuddle with them at night. A wagging tail that brightens the end of a bad workday.

Want to adopt an animal? Go to the Wings of Rescue website and click “Holiday Airlift 2015” for a list of participating shelters. A batch of about 100 dogs and a few cats arrived at Paine Field in Everett from Van Nuys Airport on a Fairchild Metroliner twin-engine cargo plane. You could hear the barking even before the door was opened.

Hey, what would you do if you had been in a stack of dog kennels for nearly four hours? The outnumbered cats were considerably quieter. Waiting for them were workers and volunteers for shelters that included the Skagit and Kitsap County Humane Societies, PAWS and the Noah Center. 100 dogs and 10 cats arrived in Seattle Friday, part of 1,100 California shelter animals due to be euthanized that were flown by the Wings of Rescue group to shelters in Washington and throughout the region. (Erik Lacitis / The Seattle Times)

By now, the crews had a routine. Line up the kennels on the tarmac right outside Castle & Cooke Aviation. Check the paperwork. Start loading into the lined-up vans for the drive to the shelters.

These shelters have been part of Wings of Rescue, based in Woodland Hills in Los Angeles, for a year or more, meeting the planes once or twice a month. On Friday, two leased cargo planes and 23 smaller aircraft flew out the 1,100 dogs and cats, “our biggest holiday airlift ever.” In California, shelters are overcrowded and euthanasia is common. In the Pacific Northwest, shelters actively look for dogs. Says Ric Browde, the transport coordinator for the California group, “Washington is a godsend for us. You people, you’re more educated, more responsible. You have a higher level of humanity and compassion. People tend to vaccinate, keep pets indoors. “Maybe it’s the weather in Los Angeles. Sunny skies 12 months a year. We have dogs in the streets, procreating.”

Wings of Rescue was founded by Cindy Smith, a real-estate broker, and Yehuda Netanel, a real-estate developer. Both also are recreational pilots and dog enthusiasts. Maybe a little more than enthusiasts.

“How many dogs do I have?” says Smith. “I have an eclectic bunch. A Chihuahua. Pit bulls. A Great Dane mix. I have lots. I don’t want to get into trouble with animal control.”

They decided to make dogs their cause.

The two founded the group in 2011, with the idea of having pilots use their planes to save animals from kill shelters.

Their “squadron” of pilots has so far flown out 15,200 dogs, with some flights costing \$2,500 to \$5,000 for fuel and hangar costs, depending on distance. A few of the dogs came Friday with a little bit of narrative.

“My name is: Tiger. I’ll be available: NOW! I’m an altered male, brown, short haired Chihuahua mix. My friends at the shelter think I’m about 9 years old. I came to the shelter as an owner surrender ...” says one. Browde says the California shelters that give them dogs typically don’t provide any kind of story about the animals. And forget about a short video that many shelters here use to attract possible owners. On his website, Browde took it upon himself to promote some dogs. Related stories and features Photo gallery: Share pictures of your pets and view the gallery

More stories featuring pets

“Roxy is a cuddly 8-year-old brown and white spayed female Boxer who was dumped ... her former owners woke up that day and decided that they no longer wanted the responsibility of taking care of a dog.”

“Wiley is a regal 7-year-old black male Labrador retriever who was found without either a collar and attached identification tags or a microchip ... Wiley is a perfect gentleman and an ideal indoor pet for an individual or family living in a private home.”

He says it works wonders to provide some personality to the animals, and they get adopted much more quickly. Browde also has the task of naming the dogs. It’s easier to adopt out a Monty than a No. A4881243 M. It’s a task, with hundreds of dogs to name, so he’s gotten to names like “Onyx.”

After a few days of R&R, the new arrivals here will be ready for adoption.

“Little furrries for the holidays,” says Katherine Spink of PAWS. Or in the case of Roofer, a Rottweiler mix soon available at the Skagit Humane Society, a big guy who’ll lick your hand if you brush it past his kennel. Come on, and you know who you are, you need a Roofer in your life.

Becky Frankeberger

Thanks Becky, and sorry it took me so long to use this.

***!!!Like a roaring fire and a great ghost story to while the long winter nights away? Here’s the ticket to a chili winter’s night, and some great ghostly tales!

Ghostly Writes - Nov5

Presented by
Plaisted Publishing House

A horror-filled Halloween collection of short stories.

Ghostly Writes Anthology is the first of a yearly anthology and was released in October as an eBook on all major distribution sites.

This eBook will be FREE so if you like a great haunting then you’ll need to get a copy of this wonderful book which is full of short stories from around the world.

Authors include:

Michael J Elliott, Ashley Uzzell, Stewart Bint, Jane Risdon, Rocky Rochford, Jennifer Deese, J B Taylor, Karen J Mossman, Marjorie Hembroff, Adam Mitchell, C A Keith, Elizabeth H Newton, Wendy Steele, Neil Newton, Eve Merrick-Williams, Amy Budd, Sara Mosier, Jessica Wren, Kyrena Lynch, J G Clay, JLC Roche, Claire Plaisted, Adele Marie Park, Ricky Allen Jr, Cayleigh Stickler, Jim Adams & Jennifer Deese

Embers of Webster Street is my contribution to this story.

**** Patty back to say that even if you didn't pick this up at Halloween it's never too late for a good scare!*

I am getting ready to read and review this book. Watch for reviews coming soon. Likewise, if any of you have read, or are reading and would like to let us know what you think, by all means use the contact info provided in Administrative Details.

No. 9 - Twilight Bark...

Hi everyone, we're nearing the end of the Thanksgiving Edition of The Neighborhood News, and I just wanted to take a moment to let you know how much fun I have creating this newsletter for you. It can at times be rather challenging to know just exactly what to put in or to leave out, but I love doing it just the same.

We're always happy to get your feedback, so make sure to drop us a line soon. One thing you will notice is that I have stopped putting the reader's names in comments. I have decided instead, to identify them by their state. This way no one has to be revealed. So comment at will. Good or bad, we want to hear from you, and of course if you wish, your thoughts can remain between me, you, and the dog house.

Speaking of feedback, we have gotten a few comments, and I am going to publish them with the reader's permission below. I'd like to say thanks in advance, and to remind you that the articles and opinions expressed within are not always the views of The Neighborhood News Creator's.

**** Reader... Hi, as always I have totally enjoyed reading this month's issue of The Neighborhood News, and am so very grateful for your positive outlook when sharing information with your readers. I especially enjoy the Treat of the Month and the Author's Corner. I hope you continue putting out The Neighborhood News for a long time to come.*
Signed, Canada

Hi, Canada, Patty here to say thanks for your kind words. I am really glad to know that you enjoy The Neighborhood News. I hope if ever there is something you'd like to know about, or a particular type of story you'd like to see shared here that you'll let me know. Remember, I don't create just for me, but for you, the reader.

*** Reader... Hi Patty, I just wanted to ask, do you know why Lori Motis stopped posting in your newsletter?

Signed Curious in California

Hi, California. I will have to direct you to the Products and Services portion of The Neighborhood News, and suggest that you write and ask Lori yourself. I make it a habit to never speak for another. Maybe you'll consider signing up for her magazine. I for one enjoy it very much.

*** Reader... Hi, Patty and Campbell, I just wanted to stop by and ask if you knew what became of Sam Hogle since his having retired Mason. I so very much enjoyed his story of their adventures of cat rescue.

Signed New York.

Hi, New York. I have to say that it has been a while since I have heard from Sam. Other than having seen a Facebook post by him the other day saying that he was waiting on an interview to take place, I simply could not tell you. Maybe he will bark back next month and let us know. Thanks lots for writing in.

10. Wrap Up and Notes from the Editor...

Well, Neighbors we've come to the end of what I hope has been another fun and fact filled edition of The Neighborhood News. It is my hope that you have enjoyed reading this as much as, if not more than I did when creating it. I leave you now with some notes from our most awesome editor Claire Plaisted of Plaisted Publishing, and until next time this is Patty and King Campbell saying...

“May harmony find you, and Blessid Be.”

What's new with Plaisted Publishing.

I sure know it has been really busy recently. Our 'Ghostly Writes Anthology 2016' is now published on Amazon, Kindle, Kobo, Inktera, 24 Symbols Scribd, Tolino, iApple & Barnes & Noble (Nook)

It has been a wonderful adventure with lots of new authors along with some I already know on social media. A total of 27 stories are there for you to read, haunting, scary, thrilling and in some cases a bit twisted. These authors are from all over the world and such fun to work with. I can't

wait for next year. So if you have a ghost story...You are welcome to submit it to Plaisted Publishing House for our yearly anthology.

Due to demand, I also have taken my Indie Publishing News/Magazine to a monthly issue. The group is growing fast and new ideas are forming. The latest been 'Author Spotlight.' Nope you can't apply for this – This is something I chose to do as the editor of my newsletter. I like to pick someone who when I am scrolling through social media and I go 'Yeah – Why not you...So I contact them.

I have also started to take paid adverts. This is for those who wish to advertise bimonthly or in all 12 issues. For six months it is \$10 US Dollars and for all 12 it is \$20 US Dollars. Payable via PayPal. As long as the advert is an author and or a small business which supports Indie Authors then give me a yell.

www.plaistedpublishinghouse.wordpress.com
plaistedpublishinghouse@gmail.com

You can also find me on Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Facebook etc. Just google my name and you can find me.