

24th December 2015

The Neighborhood News

1. Greetings to the Neighborhood

Hello to all, and HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all! No matter how you celebrate this issue has something for you. We hope you will let us know what you think and that you will write to us and share how you celebrate your holiday season.

Campbell and I enjoyed a fabulous Thanksgiving with family.

We will be writing of all our holiday adventures in Campbell's World, so make sure to check it out. In the mean time we hope you enjoy this issue of The Neighborhood News.

Patty & Campbell

Issue 9

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2. Treat of the Month

Before I post this month's treat, I want to share with you a conversation that my instructor Drew Gibbon and I had during my training at The Seeing Eye.

We were standing waiting on a bus, after just having ridden a train. For me that was the first time ever I'd done such and as was the case for me much of the time I was going through my training, I'd had huge apprehension about doing it beforehand. As was also the case, Campbell had of course done everything just absolutely right, and of course nothing bad had happened. I as usual was emotional about it and after a long awesome praise session with my pup I stood and as I wiped my eyes turned to him and asked, "How on earth can you stand to love these dogs and then give them away?" He said to me, "Why, it's like giving the best Christmas present ever in the whole wide world."

Now I am not quoting us exactly there, but that's what he said, and even then I did not fully comprehend what he was saying to me. I can for sure say, I do now, so in honor of Drew Gibbon and all other Seeing Eye, and other Guide Dog trainers everywhere, and handlers/owners too here is the Holiday Treat of the Month.

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

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Twas the night before Christmas and the kennels were still,

with most dogs now asleep having eaten their fill.

*The Labradors sprawled out, quite snug in their beds,
while visions of ANYTHING edible danced in their heads.*

*And the Golden and Shepherds curled up on the floor,
some twitched in their sleep and some even did snore.*

*The dog food was stacked in the feed room with care,
in hopes that a trainer soon would be there.*

*On the window ledge, one of the kennel cats lay,
surveying the lawn at the end of this day.*

Something was different, that little cat knew.

Tonight something would happen, it had to be true.

*For that day as the workers had left to go home,
They'd wished Merry Christmas! before starting to roam.
The dogs had noticed it to during this past week's walks,
the trainers seemed just that much happier and eager to talk.*

*In the mall where they worked through the maze of people and stores,
there were decorations and music and distractions galore!
Most dogs pranced along without worry or fear,
but some balked at the man on the sleigh and those fake looking deer.*

*The cat was almost asleep when he first heard the sound,
a whoosh through the air and a jingle around.
It reminded him of a dog's collar when the animal shook,
but this sound kept on growing. He'd better go look.*

*From the ceiling there came a faint sort of thunk,
as the kennel cat climbed to the highest pile of junk.
Once before people had worked on the roof,
and come down through the trap door to a chorus of "Woooof!"*

*But the dogs still were quiet, all sleeping so sound,
as this man dressed in red made his way right on down.
He patted the cat as he climbed past his spot,
then made his way right to the trainers' coffee pot.*

A shepherd sat up, not fully awake,

then a Golden followed her with a mighty loud shake.

That did it! All the dogs sprang to life with loud noise.

In spite of the din, the old man kept his poise

He filled the pot full and it started to brew,

then he pulled up a chair and took in the view.

Dogs all around him, so carefully bred,

he knew well their jobs, the blind people they led.

Some had stopped barking and looked at him now,

while others delighted in their own deafening howl.

Laying a finger in front of his lips,

the jolly old man silenced the excitable yips.

“You all may not know me, but I’m Santa Claus,”

the old man smiled and took a short pause,

While he filled up his mug with hot liquid and cream,

“I’ve always wanted to stop here. It’s been one of my dreams.”

The cat had climbed down and was exploring Santa’s sack.

“Yes, little kitty, that’s an empty pack.”

Santa smiled as he drank and looked at those eyes,

deep brown ones and gold ones held wide in surprise.

Some of these dogs,

He’d seen just last year,

He’d seen the effects of a pup on the tree,

but now they were here at the school, just waiting to be.

*“I didn’t bring you presents or bones just to chew.
I’ll tell you something better, what you are going to do.”*

*“You all will work hard and the trainers will share,
both praise and correction, gentle and fair.”*

*“You’ll go lots of places and face big scary things.
You’ll ride buses and subways and hear fire sirens ring.”*

*“Cars will drive at you but you will stand strong,
not moving into danger, not moving toward wrong.”*

*“And then just when you think that this trainer’s the best,
the kindest, and funniest person, toss away all the rest,”*

*“That trainer will begin to ignore you and give you away,
handing your leash over despite your dismay.”*

“Now the person who pets you and feeds you will be a blind person.

That’s a person who can’t see.”

*“This man or this woman may see just a tad,
but their view’s missing parts or the focus is bad.”*

“So you, well trained dogs, will act as their eyes.

You will work as a team and discover the size”

*“Of this great world we live in, because you will go
a million new places with this person, you know.”*

*Santa sipped at his coffee and looked over the brood,
knowing what he had to say next might sound kind of rude.*

“Not all of you will make it and become canine guides.

Your time here isn't wasted though. You won't be cast aside."

"Some of you will be drug dogs and some will find bombs.

Some will become pets in a home with a dad and a mom."

*"All these things are important. People wait on long lists,
to receive such good dogs as you, the school folks insist."*

*The last drop of coffee had gone into his cup
as Santa turned, smiling at each wide eyed pup.*

*"The best gift of all is to give something back.
That's why there's nothing for you all inside of my pack."*

*Draining his mug, Santa went to each pen,
and petted and scratched each dog again and again.*

*"Now next year and many more years after that,
you all will give gifts wherever you're at."*

*"You might lick a hand that's had a bad day,
Or notice a car and step out of the way."*

*"You might help catch a crook or discover some loot,
Or just bring some joy to a tired old man in a funny red suit."*

*"Your master will love you and treat you with care.
In return, your training and trust will always be there."*

*After the last dog had been petted and soothed,
Santa put away the coffee pot and made ready to move.*

*Up the ladder he rose to the door high above,
with a smile and a wave as he slipped on his gloves.
And all the dog ears were pricked as he disappeared out of sight.
“Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Good Night!*

Then they once again are torn from people they have grown to love and trust, and given to a trainer, and then, just as Santa says here they're once again asked to make a change, and that's if they make it through. So yeah, they truly are the very best “Christmas present in the world.” No matter what you celebrate, you can for sure celebrate that.

Guide Dog handler/owner or not, you can for sure understand the important job these great beasts do!

Bless the beasts!

3. Neighborhood News

Recap:

As Campbell and I have already reported, we have had our book Campbell's Rambles for sale out at I Love Books in the Kingsport Town Center. We told you last month that the books had begun to sell. Well, folks, they all sold out, and the manager of the store has bought more, and so first I'd really like to thank all of you who have either bought books from there or who have helped to spread the word about them being there. I encourage you to please visit this awesome book store soon, and if you've not already done so buy a book. If you've already got a copy of our book, then by all means, stop by and buy one for a friend, or loved one. The very awesome manager of the store will be more than glad to take care of you.

He will even give credit to me for an online sale if you request my book from his website.

Check out: <http://www.kingsportbookstore.com/>

King Campbell and I will be going by soon to sign copies, so who knows? You just might see us there!

We also still have books with another local business. That's Dilly's Curiosity Shop, at 1121 N. Eastman Road in Kingsport, Tennessee, in the Greenacres Shopping Center. Should you ever find yourself in their neck of the woods, stop in and say hi. Tell 'em Patty and Campbell sent you! Their attractive website: <http://www.dillyshop.com/>

By the way, if you enjoy The Neighborhood News, you're bound to enjoy Dilly's Curiosity Shop's newsletter as well. Make sure to take a look at their website, and sign up today!

Speaking of Dilly's, Campbell and I were there selling and signing books on December 15. we began around 2-PM that afternoon. If for some reason you'd hoped to join us that day but something stopped you, you can still get in on the action. All you have to do is to go to the website shown here, and request a book. They will send one to you and it will be signed by me. Contact them to learn how.

See their website for more info, and if you wish to donate directly to The Seeing Eye see: www.TheSeeingEye.org

Another thing going on here in The Neighborhood:

Campbell and I have a new Facebook page called Campbell's Rambles. It's for the promotion of books, ezines, blogs, Facebook pages, and groups. We are always putting up new things, so make sure to stop by and take a look, and invite your friends to like it as well. We are happy to promote folks other than ourselves, so be sure to stop by. Share a link, a blog post, or anything you think will help get the word out about whatever it is that you love to do. If it's your passion, we want to help let everyone know!

Speaking of blogs! Another great and wonderful new thing here in The Neighborhood is the creating of Campbell's World. Claire and I have begun our first project together as editor and client other than The Neighborhood News, and it turns out I am now following yet another dream of mine. We are creating an awesome blog. A blog that will allow anyone who dares to click the link below to enter and visit a world like no other. There you will read about the treasures Campbell, Bob Cat and I find as we live our lives together each day in The Campbell Kingdom. There will be episodes of Campbell's Calamities, writings from our adventures as we go through our daily activities and we will also talk about the struggles that those with disabilities of all kinds face each day. Again, there will be something for everyone.

So take a breath, gather your nerve, and click today

<https://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/>

We Dare You!

Also, with Bob Cat's help, we have created a Facebook group called Bob Cat and Friends. This is similar to the group Campbell's Corner: the Comfort Zone. The purpose of these groups is to give people a place to go and write, to talk about things that are important to them. It's a place where cat and dog lovers alike can go to discuss their similarities and unique differences, to let their hair down, put their feet up, and relax and be themselves. It's a place where they can bring their furry friends along if they like. No furry friends? You're still welcome. So look us up today!

What's New?

The first awesome tidbit to share is that an episode of Campbell's Calamities, called "Rescued" (which is also slated to be Chapter Two in my second book, The Raw Truth: Campbell's Rambles, Book Two), has been included in an anthology. The name of the anthology is - Awethology Dark.

There is a second volume with lots of great stories as well called Awethology Light – suitable for those

under 18 yrs of age.

See Products and Services for the full advert I am very excited about having my work published with the work of other authors, some of whom have been published before. Included in the book will be my book, bio, and website information. ***FYI*** The Anthology is now out and ready for purchase.

I'm still a bit amazed to be the recipient of such wonderful blessings in my life at the present time. Even with the struggles that Campbell and I have faced, we are still experiencing each month the most awesome things that we have ever known in our world before. We are truly happy to be able to share them with you in The Neighborhood News.

We are also on the hunt for new and interesting things to write about. All topics are welcome.

One of the things we'd like would be to be able to interview both staff and students from different guide dog schools. While I am a strong supporter of 'The Seeing Eye,' I have come to realize the benefit of having different schools around the country. More and more, I am learning that one school doesn't always fit all. If you'd be interested in participating in this project, email me at the email address given in Administrative Details. We would seriously like to hear from all of you. If you're not comfortable with an outright interview, how about writing a literary submission and tell your own tale? Either way would be fabulous!

Make sure to stop by again to see if I get any of this done!

If you have anything going on in your world that you'd like to be interviewed about, or if you know of a neat organization, group, person, or event you'd like to see profiled in an interview, or literary submission such as the one Sam sent us last month give me a shout out. My contact information is below, in the Administrative Details.

Coming Soon

Finally Campbell and I hope to be on a local radio show called Community Forum as well. We have had to delay this a couple of times due to staffing changes at the WETSFM station, but we've been assured by the staff there that soon we will be called upon to appear. In the meantime, this show can be heard Saturday Mornings on WETSFM Radio. For information about this or any other show, please see

WETS-FM - Official Site: www.etsu.edu/wets

You Can Help!

Due to budget cuts, and a slight mistake by me, the ad I had running with WETSFM has been stopped. If you'd like to assist, please write me to receive a cost sheet at: patty.volunteer1@gmail.com

Any assistance folks could be would be appreciated.

Also a couple of issues back I said I'd decided to put away for a while the draft of The Raw Truth: Campbell's Rambles Book Two. Again, like the changing of the season has changed the weather, I have changed my mind.

In fact at this moment in time the first complete draft including Prologue and Epilogue is finished and I am now going through and getting it ready for my editor.

I do have one slightly disappointing bit of news to share. Due to some difference of opinion between myself and others, the story I was to have had included in a holiday anthology was pulled at the last minute. While this was for a time very discouraging to me, the things that have come about sense that decision was made that directly affect my life are so very awesome and life changing for Campbell, Bob Cat, and me that I simply cannot remain upset about any of it, and I continue "Forward in my life's journey. So, come along with me, and let us see what we can see!

4. Literary Submissions

A couple of months ago we published part one of this suspenseful murder mystery. Then I got that awesome story by Sam and simply had to put it in last month's issue, now due to a few of you having written and reminded me, or I should say begged me, to put it in, part two is here!

If you'd like to see the first part of this story it can be found on my blog in the archived issues. Enjoy!

Murder In Grafton Center, Part 2 by Stephen Halpert

Bob and his wife Juno lived alone on Brigham Hill Road in a restored sprawling three story Victorian surrounded by beautifully designed gardens, a vineyard and a pond. When we got there, judging by the number of cars in the vicinity, the calling hours were in full swing.

A burly man with a ruddy complexion wearing a brown suit stood, arms folded, at the entrance. He nodded politely as Jeff, Sherry, Susan and Rita went in. Then he turned and looked hard at me and Juice.

"Dancer and Juice, isn't it?" He frowned. "Inspector R.T. Mallory, Grafton PD."

I asked if I could see the crime scene report.

Mallory's face got even ruddier. "Medical Examiner called it a massive coronary. Considering his age and all that weight he carried around..."

Juice asked about an autopsy.

"Not my department," Mallory growled, "Just to play it safe Chief's conducting a thorough investigation."

Jenkins and West from Boston Police Headquarters along with Samson from the State Police pulled up in Jenkins cruiser. "You taking this all right?" West asked me. "You two go way back."

"As well as anyone. It's still hard to believe."

Jenkins eyed Mallory. "Autopsy? CSI?"

"You guys sound like a broken record." He straightened his shoulders. "Like I told Dancer. Chief's in charge."

"Got a precise time of death?" West asked.

Mallory shifted from one foot to the other. "He was dead by the time the ambulance arrived. "His wife got back around one thirty, and called it in." He looked sincere. "I appreciate how you guys feel but let it rest."

"Can't." West said. "We're cops remember."

Mallory sighed. "This is a good town. People here are decent, honest, God fearing not like the riff raff you deal with in Boston. I don't want any of you intruding on their bereavement."

"No problem." Jenkins said.

A slender, youthful African American policewoman approached Mallory. "What is it now Bopp?" He sighed with impatience.

"Both adjacent fields are full up, Inspector. Best to divert any more vehicles." She gave Juice a long look.

"Take care of it," he snapped.

We went in. Bob's wife Juno hadn't aged a day since I'd seen her at their housewarming fifteen years ago. She still had the lithe taut figure of a ballerina and a face reminiscence of an angel painted on fine Bavarian porcelain.

She sat in an upholstered antique armchair in a corner of their living room. Beside her on a small pink marble topped table were a faux antique French style phone and a box of Kleenex.

"Dancer!" She clutched my hands. "Thank you so for coming. You were practically his son. You knew that?"

"I'm so sorry."

She clutched at a small ball of tissue. "If only I'd gotten back sooner. Maybe it might have made a difference." She dabbed at her eyes. "But after Yoga I stopped by Patience's for lunch."

Gypsy joined us.

"Mind if I take a quick look at his office?"

She nodded sadly. "Of course!" She shuddered. "And knowing him his spirit's probably down there reading proofs on his monitor." She burst into tears. Gypsy put her arms around her and waved me away.

The house was jammed with affluently dressed, somber people. There was an open bar and a caterer had put out a spread of finger food and cheeses. I noticed Rita chatting up a gubernatorial candidate. Jenkins, West and Samson stood together nursing what looked like small glasses of cordial. I joined them.

"Taste this." Jenkins handed me his glass.

"I heard that Bob and his neighbor Ernie Dickens invented it," West said. "They call it Honey Acorn Cordial."

"Delicious," Samson said. "Isn't this is a banner year for acorns?"

It tasted a little sweet to me but I liked its nutty flavor. Even a few sips packed a wallop.

I went downstairs into the dimly lit basement. The door to Bob's office was ajar. The room was dark. As I searched for the light switch I stumbled forward and landed atop a soft body.

"You fell for me," a woman slurred.

Then I felt a slight breeze as someone I couldn't see passed by me and left the room.

I pushed away and sat up. Then I tried to help her up but she had other ideas and slid backwards trying to pull me back down alongside her. I helped her sit up and her arms locked around me like I was a buoy in the mid-Atlantic.

Her coughing inundated me in fumes of gin.

"Someone else in here with you just now?"

"Just us," she giggled. "Why? You like crowds?"

I found a light switch. The woman was short, dowdy and very drunk. She wore an unbecomingly tight black silk suit that did nothing for her bulges.

"Who are you?" I noticed that Bob's computer was still on.

She wiggled a stubby finger at me. "I'm Patience Worthington." She sounded aristocratic. "Who you?"

"Dancer."

She patted my leg. "Fox trot or waltz? My you are one wild hunk of a man. Ever play for the Pats?"

I noticed a thick gold wedding band. "No, but back in the day I boxed. Is your husband a hunk too?"

"Oh do I wish." she sighed. "No he's an egghead; Dean of the Vertebrate Department at the Vet School." She smiled coyly. "Lamar knows absolutely everything about backbones but zilch about me. Let's go get a little drinky."

"Haven't you had enough?"

She laughed. "In this house there's no such thing as enough."

(to be continued)

*** Isn't that awesome? But didn't you wish for just a bit more? Well, make sure to read next month to find out more. Unless we get a really hot story from someone in The Neighborhood, the third part will be available.

Also if you liked this story, or have comments concerning it, please give a bark or two in The Twilight Bark?

We'd love to hear from you, and I'm sure so would Steven Halpert, the Author of this Awesome Suspenseful story.

Happy reading, and now we continue with The Neighborhood News!

5. Link of the Month and In The Hood

Third and Final Part of Interview With Bobby Donald Licensed Tennessee Enterprises

Business Manager

This month we're pleased to have Bobby Donald back for the third and final part of his most awesome interview concerning his work as a licensed Tennessee Enterprises Business Manager. This month Bobby has graciously written a summary telling the differences in the two different types of businesses he has managed. He has managed both a convenience market, and a vending stand with machines only. The summary does a nice job of explaining the two in a way that even I could understand. Now, as I have written here this is the third and final part but if you still find you have questions, please? Don't hesitate to write to me and let me know of them. I have no doubt that Bobby would be more than happy to answer them for us in the Twilight Bark any time. So bark if you have anything at all to ask. Also, if you ever ran a stand of any kind, and you'd like to toss out comments concerning your experiences, we'd absolutely love to hear of them.

###

In the Hood with Bobby Donald Licensed Tennessee Business Enterprises Manager.

Hi Bobby, the readers of The Neighborhood News, as well as Campbell and I would like to welcome you back. We're ever grateful for the time you've taken out of what I know is a busy schedule to write and share even more awesome information with us. This month readers wanted to know what types of vending you'd done, and their differences, and even maybe similarities. As usual you've exceeded my expectations in responding to this request, and so without further delay I am turning it over to you.

Thanks, Patty and all. I am more than happy to provide this additional information, and want to let your readers know that should they have any further questions that your advice of writing in to The Twilight Bark is spot on, and that I will be more than happy to come back again and provide answers, or even chat with anyone who is in or has been in the vending program. Maybe you live in a different state, and things are done differently where you are to some degree. If so I'm sure all of the readers here would love to hear of this. I know for sure I'd find it interesting. I'm always curious to learn new things. Especially concerning the business I am in. In the meantime, I have as you have stated written a summary explaining about the types of work I have done. Here it is below. I hope it helps to sum up what it is that we've been talking about. I also want to add here that I have very much enjoyed participating in this interview, and if at any time I can ever be of assistance to anyone concerning the vending program in Tennessee please by all means write to Ms. Patty here and let her know. She'll see to it I am notified, and if you provide contact information I'll be happy to get back to you.

I hope you enjoy and learn from the following and thanks again for having me here with you.

Tennessee Business Enterprises offers unique opportunities for blind vendors in different markets. My managerial experience has been obtained in convenient markets as well as vending. Both markets are similar in their product offerings as well as managerial responsibilities. However, there are differences in the daily operations of each type of facility. In general convenient markets are more labor intensive than a vending operation. Mini marts have set operating hours to accommodate customer needs. For example, hours of operations in Cookeville were 7 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday. In contrast, the vending facility I currently manage does not have defined hours of operation. The decision of labor hours is dependent on the efficiency of the work force ability to complete job assignments. The largest expense is usually labor cost in both merchandising operations. The point of sale is where major difference exists between convenient marts and vending facilities. Cash drawers must be reconciled at the end of each cashier's work day. The point of sale is an opportunity for employees to have interaction with customers in the convenient mart. Cash collection may be weekly in a vending facility. The point of sale is an opportunity for employees to have interaction with customers in the convenient mart. Cash collection may be weekly in a vending facility. Vending machines have meters to reconcile cash and sales data. Customer interaction with employees usually occurs during filling machines with merchandise.

*** Patty and Campbell here again, Bobby that was very enlightening. Can you answer just a couple more questions for us? For starters which of the two of these types of businesses you write of here is the most time consuming? Also which of the two is likely to make the most money for the work?

Potential revenue generating facilities are unique. Vending has been most profitable for me. Both types of operations can be time consuming. Operating hours for convenient marts and the size of the vending route are both variables that will determine the time commitment for each type of business. Prospective managers should require at least fifteen percent greater sale volume while considering a mini mart over a comparable vending route. This is a rule of thumb I use when evaluating such facilities. Another thing we'd really like to know is, what types of things drive down the business you are in, and what things do you do to combat this? In recent years, price increases by suppliers has been a challenge to maintain gross profit standards. To maximize gross profit percentages, managers seek out new suppliers who offer lower prices. For example, we purchase twelve ounce can sodas at Wal-Mart. Everything changes over time and people must be able to adjust when necessary. The best advice I can give is to stress the importance of a positive attitude when working in the retail sector.

Bobby, I have to say this has been just fascinating. I hope everyone has enjoyed this as much as have I, and I do hope some will bark about it in The Twilight Bark. I know of a couple who read The News, who were in vending, so I hope they'll give a comment or two. In the meantime, thanks so very much for helping me to help others learn about such a great job opportunity.

Please? Make sure to read this month's issue when it comes out, and please? Let us know how we did.

*** Readers, this concludes the interview with Bobby Donald, however if you have any additional comments, or questions all you need do is to send them to me, either via the Twilight Bark or in an email just between you, me, and the dog house. Either way I'll see Bobby learns of it.

And now, the link of the month.

In keeping with a holiday theme I have selected a link that shows a great way to get rid of stress. I got this from a Canine group I am on.

We hope you enjoy!

Whenever I need a break from holiday stress

5. Link of the Month and In the Hood

15 Dogs and 3 Cats Take Over Santa's Workshop In This Hilarious Video

www.countryliving.com

Administrative Details

First up, a note from one of our subscribers and new sponsors. —

Robert Branco, Bob to his friends, hosts an awesome Telephone Chat Room where folks from all over the U.S. gather to socialize and have fun. He offers things such as weekly trivia games and open chat time.

He also provides an informative show called Branco Broadcast. On this weekly 1-hour program, which is conducted by telephone conference, the guests present their topics to listeners. The moderator is author Bob Branco, of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

After the guest presents his or her topic, there is always time for a Q & A period. To access the program, do the following: Call 712-432-3645. When you hear the man's voice after the computer voice, press 1 for the main menu, 1 for the rooms menu, and 6 for Bob's conference room. You do not have to say your name. Hit pound to be in the conference. Please mute your phone if you are not speaking. Contact Bob if you are having any trouble with this: 1-508-994-4972.

****Patty and Campbell here to say that we have been privileged to be on the Branco Broadcast twice. Both times, we were treated well, had great attendance, and were fabulously rewarded for our time spent; that was with a business that resulted from our having been guests on his show. When we attended the open chat, we found it to be fun and friendly. It was the kind of atmosphere that made me hate to leave and want to visit again. Even though I knew no one personally, I was still completely comfortable. Give Bob a try as a listener participant or guest today!*

Bob's website, with full information about his four books and more contact information, is: www.dvorkin.com/robertbranco/

6. Products and Services

Just a note from all here in The Campbell Kingdom: The following items seem to me like very good things for birthday gifts, Christmas gifts, and any other holiday shopping. I'm sure that some of you have friends or relatives who have birthdays just around the corner, and, of course, the season will soon come to life with all the various wonderful holidays, giving us all plenty of reason to give! So make sure to pay close attention to the awesome Products and Services below.

###

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!

###

The Devil's Lieutenant

by Suzi Albracht

In *The Devil's Lieutenant*, our hero reluctantly enters a dangerous, unholy world where nothing and nobody can be trusted while attempting to solve a series of gruesome murders. As he investigates, his core beliefs are challenged and still the murderer eludes him.

At the same time, one by one, his loved ones are threatened and struck down. Then his unborn child becomes a target of the Devil's Enforcer. He has a faithful ally by his side, but will they be able to save their wives, their children, the world? Someone's wife and child will suffer a horrendous end. Will it be our hero's, bringing him to his knees? The battle to save humanity has begun, and our hero has no choice except to wage war against the Devil himself and his henchmen.

Come with me and I will tell you the tale of *The Devil's Lieutenant*.

At Amazon: [mybook.to/The_Devils_Lieutenant](https://www.amazon.com/mybook.to/The_Devils_Lieutenant)

Video trailer: <https://youtu.be/IPGepsZrm70>

###

It's Still Christmas

C 2015 by John Justice / 35 pages long

In e-book and print on Amazon, Smashwords, 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.

Details: <http://www.dvorkin.com/johnjustice/>

###

Excerpt from a book by Brian K. Nash

Talking with Kids: Everything You've Always Wanted to Know about Blindness (C 2011)

In e-book and print from Amazon, Smashwords, and other online sellers.

Full details and buying links: <http://www.dvorkin.com/brianknash/> (the 5th book listed)

I have come to the conclusion that most sighted people consider the loss of vision to be so appalling that they simply can't imagine life without it. They imagine that if they were blind, the smallest and simplest of tasks would become absolutely insurmountable. If you have any reservations about this statement, check out your own level of proficiency next time the power goes out at night and you are without a flashlight or candles.

With this in mind, once I had reached adulthood, I set out on a high-minded crusade. I wanted to do my very best to change people's thinking, to give them a glimpse into the world of blindness through demonstrations of equipment we used to perform certain tasks and by delivering positive lectures.

In the early 1980s, I let the leaders of a number of civic groups in the area know that I was ready and willing to talk candidly about blindness. Over the next few months, I suffered through several rather awkward meetings at these local clubs, but eventually I put together a pretty good informative speech and demonstration. My guide dog, Arrow, always came with me, and soon we were booked by numerous schools and other civic groups in the area.

I really enjoy working with kids. They have vivid imaginations, and unlike most adults, they aren't encumbered by the constraints of proper etiquette or logic. Their questions reflect their love of life and their inborn tenacity, their burning desire to carry on no matter what the circumstances.

###

The Blind Perspective

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

<http://www.theblindperspective.co>

###

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. We are 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.

###

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.

###

Chance Encounter, a new novel by Tony Medeiros (C 2015)

Reviewed by Leonore H. Dvorkin

This second novel from the talented Tony Medeiros is a Cinderella story with a twist. The well-to-do narrator, Joseph Perry, has big dreams for Carolyn Laplante, the intriguing young housecleaner he observes at a café one morning as she tries to drum up business. It takes him a while to find her again but find her he does. Things go from there, both professionally and then very personally, as Carolyn rises in the world.

Of course, it requires more than the wave of a wand to transform Carolyn from someone who earns a very low income and looks it to a glamorous and self-confident executive running a thriving business. But together, Joe and she accomplish what he always knew was possible for her. Eventually, though, Carolyn's ambition becomes her downfall. Both she and Joe have to suffer in different ways before she gets on a sustainable career path and he realizes that his own work is no longer bringing him self-respect or happiness.

Other characters in *Chance Encounter* include Joe's bosses, colleagues, friends, and parents, as well as a sleazy Massachusetts senator. There is a fascinating relationship between Joe and Peggy, the wife of his best friend. It's almost brother/sister, but there is some subtle, underlying sexual tension that is never overtly expressed.

For a romance novel, the actual sex scenes are relatively few and rather understated. This is no bodice-ripper. But if you enjoy well-developed novels featuring diverse difficulties and happy endings, this one is for you.

In e-book and print from Amazon and other online sellers. Tony's first novel was *Blocked*, an entertaining novel about online dating. For more details on both books, as well as a photo of the author, see his website: www.dvorkin.com/tonymedeiros/

###

Title: The Distant Sound of Violence

By Jason Greensides

Genres: Literary/Contemporary/Coming-of-age/Mystery

Synopsis:

Do we ever escape the decisions we make when we're fifteen?

Nathan Dawes, the loser from school, an outsider, street philosopher, and member of The Grove Runners gang, needs Ryan's help to get Stephanie to fall for him. When Ryan's lawnmower is stolen, Nathan sees this as his chance to enlist Ryan in his plan.

Although Ryan knows that becoming friends with Nathan could lead to trouble, he reluctantly agrees to help.

Stephanie wants nothing to do with either of them. Besides, she's more interested in the one guy in the world she really shouldn't be.

As Nathan continues his pursuit of Stephanie, and Ryan gets mixed up with The Grove Runners, soon events overtake them all, haunting their lives for years to come.

This compelling coming-of-age mystery is a heart-breaking tale of bad decisions and love gone wrong. It's about the choices that lead to violence, loss, and tragedy.

Links:

Link to the book on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Distant-Sound-Violence-Jason-Greensides-ebook/dp/B00PP1H2F0>

Website of Jason Greensides: www.jasongreensides.com

Title: Awethology Dark - <http://www.amazon.com/Awethology-Dark-Awethors-ebook/dp/B016RDV1RE/>

Title: Awethology Light - <http://www.amazon.com/Awethology-Light-Awethors-ebook/dp/B016RCVIQY/>

Title: December Awethology - Dark Volume <http://www.amazon.com/December-Awethology-Dark-Awethors-ebook/dp/B018XWC5Z4/>

Title: December Awethology – Light Volume <http://www.amazon.com/December-Awethology-Light-Awethors-ebook/dp/B018XWC4WS/>

****Patty and Campbell back with you. First off, Brian, your excerpt here is very fitting. There are many reasons this is so, but the largest reason is that your mission is so much like mine. To raise AWARENESS!*

May you have much success!

Speaking of success, let me recognize all you who have ads of various kinds with us. Without you, I would not be enjoying the continued success of The Neighborhood News. Thanks to all our advertisers for placing your ads with us. Please make sure to let us know of any success they bring you.

As you will read in my upcoming book, I have recently learned, that success comes in all shapes sizes, and forms. I have also learned that success is decided individually, more so than by majority.

And now a word from another subscriber and sponsor of The Neighborhood News.

I wrote to Dave Light and asked him to give me all the details concerning the wonderful radio show that he and all the stations listed below put on each day. Campbell and I are frequent guests on that show. See below for listening info.

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 J) and is on the Holston Valley Broadcasting WKPT/ESPN family of stations. It can be heard on **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

****Patty and Campbell here: Each and every day, Dave plugs our books that are for sale at the two shops listed above. He also always makes time for us on the show whenever we’re to be involved in any event or are having one of our own.*

So, thanks lots, Dave! Y’all make sure to give a listen soon! Dave is awesome, and the show is, too!

*** Hi everyone, I’m popping back in for a moment to share a bit of commentary on The News thus far, my thoughts if you will indulge me a moment.

I’d like to say first off that the year of 2015 has had its ups and downs. I have to say that the creating of The Neighborhood News has been one of the major ups! A true high-light to my store of memories.

The love and support you The Reader, (Neighbors) of The Neighborhood News has been and continues to be greatly appreciated by me.

I truly do want to hear from you readers, (Neighbors) Please? Let us know you’re reading.

Let us know what you think, what you’d like more of and what you’d like less.

We’re open to everything. No promise that all will be done that is suggested, but we will give it deep considerations. Normally I’d save such talk for the wrap-up portion of the News, I felt it belonged here, and so here it is.

Blessings to all in the coming new year.

Patty L Fletcher

*****FYI!!!** SPECIAL!!!****

Attention All Readers of - The Neighborhood News!

We are until the first of the year running a holiday special on advertising. From now until January 1st, 2016 you can purchase one year's advertising for a onetime fee of \$20.00 for 200 word limit or \$25.00 with a photo.

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

To: patty.volunteer1@gmail.com and make your payment to me at PayPal.com using the same email address.

Even if you are already placing Ads with us, you may still take advantage of this limited opportunity. Thanks and we look forward to doing business with you in the near future.

Author, Motivational Speaker and Nonprofit Consultant

Administrative Details Continued

7. Newsletter Submission Information

Please read the following information carefully, as some of it has changed. If you'd like to submit something, please have it to me no later than the 20th of the month prior to the month of publication desired.

Please send all submissions to patty.volunteer1@gmail.com

The costs for inclusion in the newsletter are:

\$5 for an ad up to 150 words in length / \$10 for an ad of 151 to 250 words

NEW: If you wish to have a small photo of your book cover or of products you're offering for sale included, the charge for that is an additional \$5.

Volume discount: Pre-pay for 5 months and get 6 appearances of your same ad / Pre-pay for 10 months and get 12 appearances of the same ad (1 year)

Note: An ad that is pre-paid for six months can run for six consecutive months or every other month for a year.

\$5 for submitting a poem, a short story, or a narrative (2,000 words maximum)

That is, you pay me to have your work published. Granted, that may be a bit unusual, but in return for

your \$5, you will have your work published, gain some exposure, and also be able to advertise your website or your blog. I can also put in any contact information that you wish to have included. Your literary work will be protected by a Common Copyright.

Word limits: 250 words for an ad / 2,000 words for a poem or story

Links and Treat of the Month submissions are free of charge. Treat of the Month submissions can include Musings, Making It Happen, and similar things, such as the submission this month.

Just keep it to a maximum of 500 words.

However, links may not include advertisements for your own products or services. Those are paid or trade out ads only.

Also, we are now offering advertising such as the write-up provided by Dave Light, host of AM Tricities, and the information about author and talk show host Robert Branco.

To become a sponsor, you can either agree to advertise The Campbell's Corner Neighborhood News on your show, blog, or other publication, or you can send a payment of \$20 via PayPal to me at patty.volunteer1@gmail.com

Please note: Due to many helpful comments both public and private, the layout of what is now an ezine has changed. This ezine can be received via email subscription and also seen on Facebook.

Previous issues can be seen on our new blog at <https://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/>

The publication has also lengthened a bit to include certain things that were requested. It is always under construction, and we encourage you to send feedback at any time.

- Patty Fletcher

8. Subscription Information

To receive The Neighborhood News, simply email me to subscribe. Please send your first and last names and your email address with your request to patty.volunteer1@gmail.com

To unsubscribe at any time, please email me with your first and last names, the word unsubscribe, and the email address you're subscribed with. We will remove you from our mailing list without one hard feeling.

9. Author's Corner and the Twilight Bark

Well, I asked for comments concerning keeping readers' comments in or out of The Neighborhood News, and the response was huge. Most wanted to keep them in, and they also wanted to give the section a name—hence “The Twilight Bark.”

We get great feedback both private and public from our Neighbors here in The Neighborhood News, and we're proud to say that we are making the changes most requested. We very much wish to have your feedback on all of this, so please make sure to bark back soon. Please as always, let us know whether you wish to remain private, or if you'd like to put your comments out on the Twilight Bark.

Below are just a few comments some readers are barking about.

Recap from last month

###

Thanks for putting out the neighborhood news. It is an awesome magazine.

Marda

Thank you, Patty! That's a substantial newsletter with lots of interesting information.

Karen J Mossman

I like receiving the newsletter as an attachment, that way someone can save the document for future use. Keep up the good work!

Anne

###New this month

Marda wrote to say that while she likes The Neighborhood News sent to her in the body of a message she is glad I offer it so many ways, also when I wrote and asked about whether folks wanted The Neighborhood news Monthly, Bi-Monthly or Quarterly she wrote back and said that she understood if I were busy and needed to send it out less frequently but that she enjoyed the newsletter a lot and for her part she hoped I continued to send it out every month.

I only got three other emails back on that and they all agreed with Marda and so the newsletter will remain a monthly publication. If anyone has any other comment about this by all means let us know.

Sam wrote to say thanks for publishing his story. He said,

“It was neat seeing my story published like that.”

*** Sam Patty and Campbell here to say that we were real glad to read it, and that when we let Bob Cat hear of it he purred and purred. I think he was glad you were helping his Furkin.

Folks if you have a story to share, we want to know of it, so follow Sam's lead and send us something soon. We're always glad to hear from you and if you need editing done just send it along as is and we'll take care of it in the editing process when The Neighborhood News is edited by Claire before publishing.

Last and certainly not least, Happy Holidays! Whatever you celebrate!

If you celebrate it and would like to write about how you did this year, for the New Year's Addition, please see the submission info, and submit your story accordingly.

If you really and truly have a special sharing, but simply haven't the funds with which to make it happen, send it to me. I will read it, and discuss further with you after.

Don't hesitate to send. Remember in the words of Mr. Drew Gibbon, "Take a chance, there's a fifty percent chance you'll be right"

Well, in this case, "There's a fifty-percent chance you'll be published!"

We want to hear from you, so get those thinking caps snugged down tight, and get creating today!

Speaking of how people Celebrate and what they do during the holidays Here is John Justice one of our advertised authors to tell us what he's been doing during the holiday season. Even though we do lots of celebrating there is also holiday work going on. Seeing how John has put out a Christmas book it only stands to reason he would do holiday related work to promote it. So here is John with his Twilight Bark Contribution.

Hi Patty,

On Thursday, December 10, Linda and I attended our first Rotary Club meeting. It was a breakfast meeting and our purpose was to talk about our two projects. This year, we have produced our first holiday CD called The Justice Family Christmas. This is a collection of eighteen traditional holiday songs and we both sing either together or separately.

second project was the release of my first published book. It is entitled It's Still Christmas and we brought along copies of the book and cd for sale. We sold six sets and it was an encouraging experience.

the other hand, we had a book signing scheduled on Monday, December 14 at the Horsham Library. The skies opened and it literally poured. We had three visitors during the entire ninety minutes and sold only two sets of our book and CD. No one was there; probably due to the weather and the proximity to the Christmas holiday.

good experience and one really bad one in a space of three days, Patty. I guess we're breaking even or might be a little ahead so far. I'm looking forward to the Neighborhood News when it comes out. Enjoy your holiday. Give Campbell a hug for us.

JOHN AND LINDA JUSTICE

*** Patty and Campbell here to say John that is awesome. I'm glad to see you have had events that will assist you with getting the message out about your book and all that you and your wife Linda do. I think

that is Fantabulous! That is one of my favorite made up words, and it fits here. I want to assure you that even though you only had three people at the one event it was worth doing. I promise you that you touched someone. I once had an event I truly felt was a bust. It was in fact my first ever talk and book signing on my own. I didn't have that many people at all, I was discouraged to say the least but a few days later I learned from someone who had been there that my testimony about getting Campbell and how he changed my life had helped them. I realized then it was about way more than sales and how many people attended an event at one time.

Thanks for sharing and keep up the good work.

10. Wrap Up

Thank you lots for reading The Neighborhood News. Please? Make sure to bark a bit about it to your friends and share it round a bit as well. Do you work somewhere where magazines and such are put out for folks to enjoy? If so, maybe you could put out a few print copies. If you don't have the knowhow or printer available to do so, let me know. I'll send you a few copies to put out for your customers or clients to take a look at. Got a church or Sunday School class you think might want to advertise an event with us? Non-profits of all kinds advertise free here in The Neighborhood News, so make sure to spread the word. Got a business where you send out packages to folks, think you might be willing to put some of my business cards in with those packages you send out? If you'd like to do this please drop me a line. I'll send you a bundle or two of cards. If you like we can trade out services. I'll place an ad for your business for free in The Neighborhood News in exchange for your putting a business card in everything you send out to customers clients etc.

There are many ways for businesses to help one another and money is tight for all, so how about it neighbors? Do you like the barter system? If so Bark at me soon.

In the meantime please

Check out our services, book, and website info below, and come back next month for another fun-filled visit!

— Patty L. Fletcher

Author, Motivational Speaker, and Non-profit Consultant

Book: Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life (C 2014), in e-book and print on Amazon and other online selling sites / The e-book is text-to-speech enabled.

Website: www.dvorkin.com/pattyfletcher/

The book can also be found on Book Share

<http://www.BookShare.com>