

# The Neighborhood News Double Decker Edition

Patty L. Fletcher

Edited by Claire Plaisted of Plaisted Publishing House

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## ### 1. Greetings from Patty and all The Campbell Kingdom

Hi Readers Everywhere! The Neighborhood News is back, better than ever before. Because it has been so long since I put out a great newsletter and sent it out to everyone everywhere, I am creating a Double Decker Edition. This newsletter will be a bit longer than usual.

I am excited to report that we have a new computer in The Campbell Kingdom, and it is going to make what we do here at The Neighborhood News much better for all.

There are lots of new things in this month's edition, so make sure to read this edition in its entirety. You don't want to miss a thing.

You'll especially want to take a look at our new **Products and Services**, and **Administrative Details** page. It has more ads than ever before, and many of them are new.

Even though Christmas is behind us, there are lots of holidays yet to come during this most awesome new year, and in this section, you'll find something for most everyone on your **Valentines**, **St. Patrick's Day** and **Easter** lists. Not to mention birthdays, and anniversaries. So, make sure to take a good look.

This month we have Announcements, Recipes, Tips, and More.

We have book reviews, advertisements, and interesting articles galore. So pull up a chair, and sit down a spell, cause in this **Double Decker Edition** we got lots of info to tell.

We hope you enjoy The Neighborhood News!

Please? Let us know!

**And NOW!!! Here! We! Go...!**

\*\*\* The mission of The Neighborhood News is to blend the lines that separate one from another. In this Neighborhood it matters not from where you come, where you live, who you are, or what you do. If it is important to you, we want to hear of it too.

## ### 2. Treat of the Month...

This month's **Treat** is provided by **Leonore Dvorkin**. She's got a quick and easy way to make and keep your New Year's Resolutions, and I for one think it fits into the beginning of the year just right, and so have decided to share with you.

Take it away Leonore!

### **New Year's Resolutions Made Easy by Leonore Dvorkin, 12/20/16**

- 1) Make a list of the bad habits you would like to change. (You know what they are!)
  - 2) Make a list of the good changes you would like to implement, either new habits or one-time actions. (You know what they are!)
  - 3) At the beginning of each month in 2017, pick one from each category and write it down.
  - 4) That month, make those changes: ending something bad and starting something good. It doesn't matter how major or minor the change is.
  - 5) At the end of the month, if you find you've made the change, reward yourself in some way.
  - 6) If you haven't succeeded in making the change, just carry it over into the next month. Don't be down on yourself. Keep trying.
  - 7) Share your intentions and successes with others or not, as you like. But sharing any positive changes you have actually made will probably make you feel all the better about yourself. And who knows? You might inspire others!
- The result? A changed and improved life. At least that's going to be my approach. I wish all of you a happy and healthy 2017!

*\*\*\* Patty and Campbell back to say...*

*Isn't that just the easiest thing you ever read? Do you think you can take that, and make it work for you! If you have any luck, or if you've a New Year's Resolution or goal. Suggestions of your own, let us know. We're always looking for new ways to improve our lives. Until then, keep on keepin' on.*

**\*\*\*Special Surprise!\*\*\***

**Since this is a Double Decker Edition, I've got a special Treat of the Month Surprise.**

Here's a funny story to make you laugh, and give you just a bit of food for thought concerning making changes.

Thanks to you Steven Halpert for this funny and thought provoking story.

Stephen Halpert

### **News from the Beauty Parlor**

Harry scratched his head and glared at the works of an old mantle clock he was determined to restore. It was resisting his efforts. A piece rolled under the table. Grunting, he pushed back his chair and reached for it.

The back door slammed. "I'm home from the beauty parlor," came a shrill voice from the kitchen. "And I picked up some groceries on the way. Want to help me put them away?"

He could tell from her voice something was amiss. Reluctantly he set his repair work aside and came into the kitchen.

"Bessie, tell me what's wrong?"

"Everything," she sighed. She took a jar of soup out of the fridge, poured the liquid into a pot and set it on the stove. "At least I don't have to fuss over lunch." She turned and looked at Harry. "Mrs. Rackatanski's husband has a crush on a new tenant in their building who she found out was a cross dresser."

Harry raised his eyebrows. He started taking the groceries out of the supermarket bags and putting them on the counter.

"Worse, Sadie Segal's elderly Dachshund has to have dental implants and she's trying to get by on her social security so how can she pay for them?"

"Oh dear, that's too bad. But finish your story. What's Mrs. Rackatanski going to do?"

"Who knows," Bessie said. "You never get the full story at the beauty parlor." But Lucille urged her to get one side of her head shaved."

"How's that going to help?" Harry asked.

Bessie stirred the soup, then went to put away the groceries Harry was unloading. "And what's worse Lynn Songbird just found out her son's gay."

Harry shook his head. "How old's her son? Did he tell her or how did she find out?"

Bessie sighed. "Forty two. And now she knows why he never married. It seems she went to his Facebook page and saw him dancing with a professional wrestler. Well you can imagine how that made her feel."

Harry sighed. "Poor thing; must have been quite a shock." He got two soup bowls and a couple of plates out of the cupboard.

"And the big news is my sister Lucille has two new men in her life, both offering matrimony. Poor dear."

"What do you mean? I'd say good for her."

"Oh not Lucille, Harry. When it comes to husbands Lucille is very down to earth and only wants one at a time. So its terribly confusing for her."

Harry stopped talking and blinked. He peered at Bessie. "You don't look like the same woman who left the house this morning."

Bessie laughed. "Took you long enough to notice my Poodle Do."

Harry frowned. "That's what they call it?"

"Harry dear, let me tell you one thing about hair. It always grows back. So if you don't like it this week just relax."

Harry shifted in his chair. "You let Lucille talk you into that hairstyle didn't you."

"I had to. She was so confused about which of the two to marry."

"If she can't make up her mind then maybe neither one is a good catch."

Bessie grinned. "You tell her that."

"Oh no not me. Your sister Lucille is a termagant and the less said to her by me the better."

"That shouldn't make any difference Harry. After all, she's family." She shook her bouncy curls. "I hope you'll grow to like my Poodle Do. It may seem a little short at first but remember Harry, hair always grows back."

"How long do I have to endure this until I have my wife back again?"

"For gosh sake Harry, a few snips here and there, a curl and a color rinse-- that's all it was. You sound like my father when I stopped braiding my hair."

"I guess I'll be able to get used to it." He sighed and shook his head. "But you look totally different."

"For the better, I hope?" Bessie patted her curls. "How can I look any different to you, when to me I look pretty much the same, just curlier?"

"You let Lucille talk you into this, didn't you?"

Bessie shrugged. "She kept showing me the diamond rings, and Estelle just snipped away. We both agreed that I needed a change. After all, this is a lot less expensive than two weeks in Florida:"

"I'll take you to Florida."

"It's not the same Harry. Having a trendy style can wake a woman up and make her feel young again."

He put his head in his hands. "You're a good looking woman. I don't see why you can't leave well enough alone. I'll bet it was expensive."

"Harry everything's expensive. Lucille said I look sexier this way and I tend to agree." She winked. "Did you get the mantle clock running?"

"Not yet, but I will. I'll probably need some new parts. How expensive?"

One fifty but that included her tip."

He started coughing. "Never mind. I'll get used to it."

Bessie smiled. "You should have seen what I avoided. Mrs. Rackatanski had the entire left side of her scalp shaved and painted bright purple. At first I wondered why she did it but then I had to smile. She did look more youthful."

Harry looked horrified. "You'd never do that? Have one side of your head shaved?"

"Probably not," she smiled.

"You've so lovely just the way you are."

"But Harry if I'm lovely regardless, a new hairstyle isn't going to matter aside from making me feel better. You should see Lucille. Now she has an orange streak and is thinking of getting a tattoo under her left ear."

He sighed audibly.

But Bessie hadn't finished. "Maybe it's time for you to get something trendy. Lucille and I agreed you'd look spiffy with a gold streak going across your scalp. They're having a special on that next week."

"What on earth for?" His voice choked.

"So when we go out to dinner people who don't know us will think you're hot. After all you are the Mattress Tsar of Pawtucket and everyone sees your picture in the ads and on TV."

"Bessie, I like my hair just the way it is. Or at least what's left of it."

"That's just it Harry. Sometimes we need to do silly things to stay in style. Besides as I said the virtue of hair is that it always grows back."

"So you're saying you think I look too old?"

"Well not as old as that clock you're trying to fix, but I guess everything's relative." She ladled soup into the bowls and put a box of crackers and some cheese on the table. "A trendy hairstyle with a wave would help--maybe some new clothes. Some of what you have in the bedroom closet goes back to just after we were married."

"Well I do need something," he smiled.

Her face brightened. "A stylish new suit or even a leather vest?"

"No," he shook his head. "I was thinking of a few new pairs socks."

*\*\*\* I don't know about some of those changes, but if you're making changes in 2017 and you'd like to share them with us, we'd like to know of them. Our Neighborhood News section is looking a little thin, and we are also always looking for new things for the Link of the Month or - In the Hood section. so make sure to drop us a line about anything new you're going to do.*

### ### 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: [www.twitter.com/Bubbalee04](http://www.twitter.com/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.*

**\*\*\* Prologue is out, and Chapters 1-3 are coming!**

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

**Coming Soon...**

Campbell and I are going to be starting a new Facebook group for all things literary. If you're interested in joining this group, please drop us a line, and when we create it we will add you. We're trying to think up a catchy name, and we need your help. Send your name suggestions to the Email address shown in the Administrative Details section of this newsletter.

If you like to read or write this will be the place for you.

You need not be a published author to join. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

## ### 4. Literary Submission...

In this month's literary submission, we are delighted to present this most fascinating article written by our good friend and reader Alexis Red. She gives a fabulous account of her experiences and observations from her visit to her local Police Academy, so without further delay we present...

### **Citizens Academy...**

Have you ever wondered how sheriff's deputies determine whether a crime has been committed? Have you ever wondered how evidence from a crime scene is preserved? If you answered yes to either of these questions, read on for a description of the Leon County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy.

I first heard about this opportunity on the app used by my neighborhood. A message was posted describing the ten-week class and encouraging interested individuals to apply. Some of the topics that would be covered included a SWAT demonstration, an opportunity to ride along with a deputy, and the opportunity to shoot some of the high powered weapons. I have an interest in forensic science and other topics related to criminal justice. After reading through the information, I had a strong desire to apply.

Before doing so, I talked with a good friend in Houston about some concerns due to my low vision and the fact that I have a guide dog. My main concerns were how the staff would feel about someone with low vision participating in the class as well as whether I would be able to participate in all of the activities. My friend explained that if the LCSO was unfamiliar with the visually impaired, they may not allow me to shoot a weapon due to safety concerns. At the time, I was unsure how this could even be accomplished as I had never fired a weapon in my life. My friend felt the true barrier to me getting into the class was the lottery system mentioned on the website. There were only 30 spots in class, and we expected there to be a huge application pool.

Before submitting the application, I contacted the lieutenant in charge of the Academy to discuss some of my concerns. Lieutenant Nancy Burns could not have been nicer and more receptive to my interest in the class. We discussed some of the activities that were planned. During the course of the conversation, she mentioned another individual who is visually impaired who had participated in the class a number of years ago. Knowing someone else had gone before me to blaze the trail sealed the deal. The next day, I completed my application and faxed it to the office.

About two weeks after submission of the application, I received a letter from the LCSO stating that I had been accepted. Class was scheduled to start August 9. I was very excited. I'm sure my friends, family, and colleagues wanted me to just get it over with already!

Most of the classes were held at LCSO headquarters. I used Dial a Ride to get to class as it started at 6:30 PM. Since the class ended at 9:30, I used Uber for the first few classes until I connected with someone who lived close to me. She drove me to and from the remaining classes. Transportation was the easy part to figure out. What was more challenging for me was keeping my guide dog out of harm's way in some of the classes.

Each week, we covered a different topic related to LCSO operations. The first week was an introduction to the command staff including the Sheriff. As the Sheriff was speaking about crime statistics, my dog let out the LOUDEST yawn or groan I've ever heard. He then proceeded to roll around on his back and kick his legs in the air. Apparently, he was not impressed with the statistics.

After that, we started to have more group participation and hands on activities. There were several portions of class that were highlights for me so I will describe those portions. I will also describe any adaptations that were made for my visual impairment or use of a guide dog.

During the crime scene session, no adaptations needed to be made for my guide dog. The instructors provided more description than what is probably typical. I was able to lift prints using black powder from an object and place them on lifting tape. These prints were then transferred to a piece of white paper. Unfortunately, I was unable to see the details in the prints. I could see there were prints on the paper, but the arches, loops, and whorls were very difficult for me to see.

While we were in the crime scene area, one of the instructors described the fuming chamber. This is a large chamber that is used to show prints on an object. The chamber is about 5 feet tall and has components inside for heat, humidity, and the object. There are chemicals in super glue that when they interact with oils from human skin will raise prints on the object to a whitish color. These prints can then be lifted in the way described above.

I had read about this process in one of my favorite books, "house Rules" by Jodi Picoult. The main character used the same process to make prints visible, but he used a fish tank. I asked about this and was told that LCSO used to use a fish tank before the purchase of this specialized chamber. This tank was then donated to another county.

It wasn't until a few weeks later when I was able to spend some one on one time with the crime scene staff that I got a better understanding of these concepts. I met with two staff members, John who oversaw crime scene and also participated in the dive team and the latent print expert, Felicia.

This one on one time was arranged by Lieutenant Burns as it was determined the ride along would be unsafe for me to participate in. Since I have an interest in forensic science, we both agreed this was a suitable replacement. I was perfectly fine with this accommodation as I feel I got much more out of this time than I might have gotten out of the ride along.

During my meeting with John, we discussed a number of different topics. These topics included whether someone with a disability could perform his work as well as ways weapons were tested in the lab. We discussed the fact that there are many visual aspects to his job such as searching for evidence and identifying evidence. We also discussed the training one must undergo to be hired in his position. If someone wants to work in the lab, John advised that getting a degree in forensic science would be best. If someone wanted to perform his job, which is not related to the lab, no degree in forensic science is required.

I then met with Felicia who has been at LCSO for many years. She has been the latent print examiner for 18 years. She described more about what she does and allowed me to see the computer she uses up close. I was able to see the lines she draws to determine similarities between latent prints. I was very surprised that I could even see that because of how difficult it was for me to see the prints on the white paper.

During my time with Felicia, she used the LiveScan machine to take my prints. She printed out a set for me to keep, which is a fun keepsake from class. The LiveScan is a computer terminal where you place each of your fingers as the print is taken.

SWAT day was a very exciting experience. The SWAT team conducted a demo from beginning to end. The captain did a fantastic job of describing everything as it was taking place. He even warned us when to cover our ears before a gunshot or explosion.

Taking a guide dog to SWAT demo is not a good idea because of all of the noise. My guide dog was perfectly content to be cared for by one of his favorite people while I was away.

After the SWAT demo, the officers provided information and demos of the weapons used in law enforcement. Examples of weapons demonstrated included a Glock and M-4 with and without a suppressor.

We then had the opportunity to shoot some of these weapons on the range. I was given the chance to shoot an M4 with a suppressor. Each student was paired with an individual instructor as some of us were very new at this whole thing. Having that one on one instruction made me feel much better. Doing this with only a few instructors for the group would have made me very uncomfortable.

There were three students at a time on the range, each working with their individual instructor. I was paired with a member of the SWAT team who was very good and patient through the entire process. He had much to contend with as I had never even held a large weapon, let alone pulled a trigger. I had to commend his patience as I was a little bit afraid of the experience. In fact, before we even started with our instructors, I got cold feet and was going to back out. When other classmates were shooting, I regained my confidence and opted to participate with the class.

The instructor explained where to point the weapon and reminded me many times to keep my finger away from the trigger until I was ready to shoot. Until I was absolutely ready, the gun was on safety for everyone's protection.

Lieutenant Burns was also there and stood right behind me with her hand on my shoulder. I jumped every time a gun was fired even though we were all wearing ear protection. Once I was absolutely ready to fire the weapon, my instructor guided me step by step through the process of locating the trigger and pressing it gently. As soon as I pressed the trigger, the gun fired, and I was nearly on the ground. I might have been on the ground had Lieutenant Burns not been behind me to hold me up. A friend who watched the video says I regained my footing very quickly.

I was then instructed to change the setting to semi. This means that when you press the trigger once, multiple bullets are released very quickly. I changed the setting and was directed to press the trigger gently. As soon as I did, BANG BANG BANG! I believe I may have hit the target at least once, but I didn't get confirmation on that day. It wasn't until weeks later someone told me I actually hit the target.

Shooting the M4 gave me a sense of confidence and empowerment. I don't plan to purchase a gun anytime soon, but just knowing that I've had the experience helped me realize that I can do anything even with a visual impairment. If my experience with LCSO has given me any life lessons, it is that even with a visual impairment, anything is possible. Dream it, and it will happen.

The last experience I want to describe is the day we each got to fire the Taser. At the beginning of the class, we were gathered in the main classroom with the field training officer (FTO.) The FTO described each piece of equipment on his belt and even tested the Taser so we could hear it. My guide dog was very afraid of that sound as evidenced by his shaking and trembling. I was unsure how he would react so had spoken with several friends and an instructor at his school. Everyone believed that he would be fine so I went into that experience having an idea that he would handle it well. How wrong we all were! The FTO observed the dog's reaction and agreed not to demonstrate the Taser in his presence. When it was my group's turn to work with the Taser, another classmate took my dog while her group was doing another exercise.

I was one of the last people in my group to fire the Taser. The FTO who worked with me was very patient as he knew this was a new experience for all of us. He oriented me to the device before directing me to place my finger near the trigger. When he said it was safe to press the trigger, I moved my finger and gently pressed it as I had done with the firearm. Nothing happened, but I wasn't squeezing it hard enough. When the FTO explained what I was doing wrong, I

squeezed a bit harder, and ZING! The cartridge flue towards the dummy and landed somewhere in the body. We all heard the crackle of electricity for five seconds.

If others with a visual impairment are interested in participating in this experience, here are a few pointers to consider:

- 1.If you are considering applying for this class, read the information carefully as the brochure and website will give you a good idea of what activities to expect. They can't describe everything, but they will hit on the highlights. For example, I didn't know we would get to use the Tasers.
2. Discuss with the person in charge any accommodations you may need either before the class or as the class is progressing.
3. If it is safe and you are unable to see what is presented, ask the instructor if you may touch the object. I did this several times during the class and came away with a much better idea of what was covered than had I not requested to feel the object.
4. If you have a guide dog, consider carefully how your dog will do with the planned activity. For example, it's not a good idea to take the dog on the jail tour or bring him to SWAT day. Consider also how your dog will react to other dogs if the academy has a demo with K-9 scheduled.
5. After the lesson if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact the person in charge via e-mail. I did this several times, and Lieutenant Burns was happy to put me in touch with that particular instructor. I e-mailed the instructor requesting a description of the demonstration, and within a few hours, received a very well written description.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience in the Citizens Academy and learned much. Taking this class has given me a better appreciation and understanding of what law enforcement professionals do on a daily basis. It's not just taking the bad guys to jail. There's much to consider from making a stop to arresting a suspect. I would urge anyone who has an interest in this area to consider applying for the citizens' academy with your local police or sheriff's department.

*\*\*\* Patty and Campbell here again and I'd just like to say a big thank you to Alexis for that most amazing story. I learned a ton and I hope you did too. Be sure to let Alexis know if you liked her article. Make sure to comment in the Twilight Bark.*

## **### 5. Link of the Month plus - In the Hood with tips, tricks, and more...**

### **### Link of the Month...**

#### **Brain Pump - learn something new**

Brain Pump is a site full of random, short, educational videos you can view one after another, no clicking required. You can watch the endless stream of videos, or you can choose from their list of categories that include topics such as psychology, technology, food, history, physics, space, business, math, and a catch all category of do it yourself videos called artisan. Got a few minutes?

Learn something new. <http://brainpump.net/>

### **Favorite Links...**

<http://TheSeeingEye.org/>

<http://Goddessschool.com>

<http://AccessibleWorld.org/>

<http://HelpingHandsFortheBlind.org/>

### **### In the Hood...**

#### **TIPS FOR VIPS (Because Visually Impaired People Are Important, Too)**

by Penny Fleckenstein

who blogs at: <http://notyouraveragesinglemom.com>

Happy New Year, everyone! A new beginning comes around again. Again, I'm doing my end-of-the-year evaluation and considering my resolutions for the next year. I'm impressed with what I've already accomplished, but am always making more goals, bettering my intentions, and reaching for the stars. I want to do EVERYTHING. However, I must recognize my humanness and make small changes a little at a time. Whether you make resolutions or not, I hope this will be helpful to you.

I recently took a trip to Cleveland for an overnight stay. I took a friend who uses an electric wheelchair. When I made my online reservation, I didn't specify that I needed an early check-in. We won't make that mistake again. Neither did I check on an accessible taxicab, nor the public transportation system. It has taught me that I need to be more prepared for my next trip, especially to an unfamiliar city.

Tomorrow is like an unfamiliar city. There are so many tomorrows in a lifetime, and we have no idea how many tomorrows there will be for us. I feel I've spent a lot of my lifetime feeling sorry for myself, immersed in my depression. In just the past few years, I've determined to become more positive, practice gratitude, and be a happier person.

With the help of Rori Raye at <http://havetherelationshipyouwant.com>, where I purchased a \$400 complete collection of programs, I learned to fully experience my emotions, face them, and release them. I have been able to find great empowerment in the choices I make. It helped me to go through with my bike trip from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, MD. That was worth every penny I spent.

I also have been reading Joel Osteen books, volunteering for World Vision at his Night of Hope, and reading Katie and Gay Hendricks' books, as well as Marni Battista material. I have immersed myself in the past three years in my Penny Renovation and have been loving it. I have been able to accomplish all this learning here at home and by becoming more active in my community.

I have hope and faith for my future, feel great joy, and have peace in my heart. When things around me are turbulent, I have been able to use the freeing techniques I've learned from the Chopra Center. I don't have to make decisions based on what my religion says. As Martha Beck has stated, I can make decisions which are kind to others and freeing to my spirit. I can unequivocally feel free to be me. How exhilarating this has all been.

So, if you're determined not to make New Year's resolutions, I want to encourage you to set goals for yourself. Either way, have faith for the positive, receive blessing even if you don't believe in God, and be kind to yourself and others. I wish you the very best in 2017.

If you'd like to correspond with me about anything I've mentioned or have tips to contribute, please write to me at: [goodthaimom@gmail.com](mailto:goodthaimom@gmail.com). Also, check out my blog. Let's forge new friendships and have great adventures.

### **\*\*\* ATTENTION READERS...**

When writing to penny concerning questions, or any other item make certain to put The Neighborhood News in the subject line so that Penny can know to direct the questions and answers to me for publication. Just as with the Twilight Bark your name need not be published if you wish it not to be.

### **### More...**

The following is an offering I wrote for my father's Christmas gift. I'm publishing it here just as I wrote and had it printed for him. I post the following in honor of my Daddy! Whom I love way lots!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS DAD!**  
**Bright, and Beautiful Light In the Snow: a Wonderful Winter Solstice Tale**  
**By,**  
**Patty L. Fletcher**  
**December 21 2016**

I've been thinking what I could make that would be good for your heart, and finally I decided on the following. Why? Because happy memories are great for your heart. They warm the heart, and fill it with happiness and love. I cannot think of a better way to help you get and be well. So Campbell and I hope you like it.

### It was a mid-winter's evening and I might have been 9 or 10 years old. The snow had been falling since about an hour before dark, everything was buried in smooth beautiful white and thick sheets of swirling snow were still falling softly outdoors. If I listened hard enough when it was very quiet I could sometimes hear the snow falling but for me, it was as close as I could get to actually seeing snowfall. I had just enough sight that I could see it on the ground in the day, and not much more. I'd never seen an actual snowflake, and could not understand when people tried to describe them to me.

Just as I was about to go and get ready for bed the phone rang. My mom picked it up and I thought little about it as I headed for my room, PJS and a book. Just as I reached the door my mother's voice floated to me. "Don't get into your night clothes, your daddy has something to show you when he gets home from work." Well, I couldn't at all imagine what it might be. Christmas was past, and my birthday wasn't for almost a whole nother year. I hadn't done anything out of the ordinary, so I really was stumped.

After getting a snack, and drink, I plopped down into my favorite old chair in the living room to read a talking book, and wait. It was no good though, I couldn't concentrate on that book. I was still trying to figure out what my dad might want to show me. Since I could think of no reason I might be rewarded, my child's mind began to wonder into darker and more shadowy places within my mind. Could I be in trouble? Had I done something, and forgotten about it, only to have been caught unaware? The mind can be a horrible place when the imagination begins to fill in the blanks.

Finally, after what seemed like an eternity I heard my dad's old yellow pickup truck chugging up the hill to our house. Dad had snow tires on the truck and they were making a rolling crunching sound as he made his way into the drive.

I could stand it no more, and darted to the door in a flash. As I stood waiting Dad got out of his truck and called to me. "Get your shoes and coat, and come out here!" He sounded excited, not angry, so I was pretty sure I was in the clear, but what on earth did he want to show me at nearly 11:30 at night in the cold snowy dark? Finally, I had my coat and boots on, and just as I started out the door, my mom stopped me and made me put on a hat. I protested saying, "I don't like to wear hats. They mess up my ears!" She didn't understand what I meant, and so I went out shoving the edges of the hat back up and over the backs of my ears so I could hear, and ran to my dad, who was standing by his truck. "What is it?" I asked breathlessly. My dad was hooking up a huge light. I jumped as it flashed white hot bright into the dark snowy night.

"You see that?" He asked.

"Yes!" I answered excitedly. I squinted for a moment in the brightness of it. It was bright even for me.

My dad lifted it high into the air, and shown it out into the dark. "Look into the light, and tell me what you see." Dad instructed. There was hope and excitement in his voice. I stood as still as I could, looked straight ahead, and began to work on gaining and keeping my focus. I wore glasses then, and that seemed to make it more difficult, at least at first.

Soon I was staring into the light shining out into the snow. At first all I could see was the glare of the blindingly bright light. Then my eyes began to grow accustomed to it and I was better able to focus.

"Is that snow?" I asked as I stared in amazement at the swirling sparkles flying through the lighted air.

"Yes! Yes, that's snow!" I could hear the happy excitement in dad's voice.

"I can't believe it! It's...It's... Beautiful!" I stood in wrapped amazement for what seemed like hours.

I was near to freezing when dad finally said, "That's enough for now. We'll come out again another night." I reluctantly stepped away as he turned out that beautifully bright light, and the night grew dark again.

When I went to sleep that night my heart was filled to bursting with happiness and excitement at having finally seen my first real snowfall.

Many years have passed since that long ago day, but the memory of that moment is forever etched into my mind. It has, over the years, helped me through a many a hard moment in time.

I have used the memory of that sparkling white softly falling snow to overcome fear, and nervousness. One of the happiest uses I ever had for it came during the birth of my daughter Polly. I was in the hardest throws of my labor, and thinking I simply could not possibly take one more breath, or count through one more contraction, when I felt my dad's hand on my shoulder, and heard his soft voice whisper in my ear.

"See the snow. The soft white sparkling snow. You can do this."

And of course I did. That momentary memory though, helped me in ways no pain medication could have done.

*Well, for now that ends our tale. This is Patty Your Daughter, and your Grand Dog King Campbell AKA Bubba the Super fabulous Seeing Eye Dog saying...  
Happy Solstice! Merry Christmas! And Happy New Year!  
May harmony find you, and blessid be.*

We hope you like your gift. If you want to read more of our work, you can get on your smart phone and visit <http://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/>

Love You!!!

## **## 6 & 7 Products and Services & Administrative Details January 2017**

**"Strength does not make one capable of rule; it makes one capable of service."  
~ Brandon Sanderson, *The Way of Kings***

[www.SisterhoodoftheMoon.org](http://www.SisterhoodoftheMoon.org)

## **\*\*\*!!!The Neighborhood News and CAMPBELLSWORLD Presents!!! Products and Services! & Administrative Details**

If you wish to place a first time ad or update an existing Ad please email the details to me according to the guidelines shown here.

I look forward to continuing to do business with you and apologize for any inconvenience caused by my recent tech trials. If you continue to read below, you'll see my special thank you offer.

One other special note. Some Christmas ads have either been edited, or removed. If you paid for, or sent in a free ad for something you see no reference to at all, please contact me at the information provided in the Administrative Details of this announcement.

I will see you're taken care of. Make sure to read the Ads section all the way through. There are some new Ads, and some advertising changes.

Thanks very much, and blessed be.

### ### Products and Services

#### About Patty L. Fletcher

**My name is Patty L. Fletcher and I am a published Author of one book, Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life and the Creator of an Online News and Literary Magazine called The Neighborhood News.**

**To see buying links for my book, read issues of The Neighborhood News, and see how it all began visit <http://dvorkin.com/pattyfletcher/>**

**To see my updated blog and newer work visit <http://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/> I am also a Nonprofit and Small Business Consultant, and I'd love to come to work for you. I can provide...**

**Public Speaking about your Nonprofit or Small Business. Give me the materials, and presentation, set the Public Speaking engagement, and watch me go to work.**

**Need funds raised? Volunteers recruited? I'm your go to girl.**

**Need a part time all hands on deck staff member during your busy season? Give me a call. I have over 4000 hours Customer Service Public Speaking, and Fundraising experience, and I'd love to find out how I can help you.**

**For more information please Email: [patty.volunteer1@gmail.com](mailto:patty.volunteer1@gmail.com) or phone: 423.963.9476. I'll be happy to send you a resume.**

[www.acb.org/node/1163](http://www.acb.org/node/1163)

**\*\*\*Sponsored Ad of the Month\*\*\***

###

***DOZEN: The Best of Breath and Shadow***

Edited by Chris Kuell / C 2017 / 365 pages

In e-book and paperback on Amazon and other selling sites.  
From the back cover:

*Breath and Shadow* is a literary journal of disability culture, written and edited exclusively by people with disabilities.

In this collection, editor Chris Kuell presents the best writing from the magazine's first 12 years. This collection of our best essays, poems, and short stories shines a light on the many gifts, ideas, and voices of writers who are disabled and removes many of the hurdles faced in mainstream publications.

100% of the proceeds from the sale of this anthology will go back to *Breath and Shadow*, allowing us to increase contributor payments and reach a wider and more diverse audience.

To learn more, visit us at: [www.abilitymaine.org/breath](http://www.abilitymaine.org/breath)

### ###Editing and Publishing Assistance

Hello, everyone. We are David and Leonore Dvorkin, in Denver, Colorado. We are the authors of over 30 published books, and since 2009, we have been editing books (both fiction and nonfiction) by other authors and assisting them in getting the books self-published in e-book and print. The three publishers are CreateSpace, Amazon, and Smashwords. Amazon is the primary seller, and the books are sold worldwide.

We have worked on over 30 books of varying lengths and many types. Most of our clients are blind or visually impaired; Patty Fletcher is one of them.

Our comprehensive services include thorough editing, print layout, conversion to e-book, cover design, the provision of back cover and ad blurb texts and book-related Web pages for the authors, setting up the accounts with the publishers, and some help with marketing, all for very reasonable rates. Throughout every project, we maintain close email contact with the author.

For full details, see: <http://www.dvorkin.com/epubhelp/>

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.ernestdempsey.com) to read and maybe share your opinion or thoughts, or suggest what topics you want to see on the site.

**\*\*\* For a preview of the kinds of articles found there please visit**  
<http://www.ernestdempsey.com/can-a-service-dog-serve-two-masters/>?

### **\*\*\* New Advertisers**

#### **### You are Invited!**

To our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Birthday Bash for Out-Of-Sight.net! Grab your party hat, your bells, whistles, and horns, and dress up in your finest party duds! We will be celebrating our ninth birthday in style on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>! There will be several hours of your favorite games, of course, but that is not all! This is not going to be just any party! This is going to be the best one we have ever had!

Okay. Sit down, and hold tightly to your hat, as we reveal to you our special guest speakers for the celebration!

Out-of-Sight.net is proud to announce that famous mystery author Nelson DeMille has agreed to appear as a guest at our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Birthday Celebration on January 28, 2017, at noon eastern. Mr. DeMille is the author of many best-selling novels, including Plum Island, The General's Daughter, Up Country, and most recently Radiant Angel. He has created interesting and multi-faceted characters, such as John Corey, John Sutter, and Paul Brenner, who appear in many of his books. Most of his books are available through the National Library Service and on BARD. We are very honored and excited to be able to present such a thrilling guest. Be sure to read a few of his books before the big day so that you will have a better understanding of his work.

And, that's not all! Let's give a warm welcome to another special guest for our celebration! One of our favorite audio narrators, Scott Brick!

Scott Brick is an actor, writer, and an award-winning narrator of over 600 audio books such as, Moneyball, Helter Skelter, In Cold Blood, The Bourne Identity, The Bourne Supremacy, The Bourne Ultimatum, Nightfall, Radiant Angel, The Firm, Patriot Games, and Fahrenheit 451. He has recorded works for a number of high-profile authors such as, Tom Clancy, Robert Ludlum, Michael Crichton, John Grisham, Clive Cussler, Nelson DeMille, Harlan Coben, David Baldacci, Steve Berry, Lincoln Child, and Isaac Asimov, just to name a few.

He was nominated for a Grammy Award, and in 2000 was hired by Morgan Freeman to adapt Arthur C. Clarke's, Rendezvous with Rama for the big screen. We are pleased and honored to have Scott join us for our birthday celebration, and we look forward to learning more about this famed narrator!

In addition, featured speakers will include, Microsoft Accessibility, Aira, and NLS! The day will be filled with fun and challenging games, interactive events, informative presentations, and will feature a special On Stage event that will showcase the talents of many of our members as well!

So, do not miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity, and it is happening only on Out-Of-

Sight.net. You must sign up and receive your special password prior to January 28 in order to access these live interviews! We hope to see you all there! Stay tuned for the updated schedule coming out soon! To sign up for the daily announcement with all of the updates, send a blank email to: [Out-of-sight-announcement-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Out-of-sight-announcement-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Arrive early, and get a good "seat"! See you there!

### **### GrannyMoon**

"Order Your Personal 2017 Forecast Reading To help you understand the opportunities and issues in the coming year! A \$10.00 Donation! <http://goddessschool.com/donations.html> )0(Honoring the Goddess Every Day at GoddessSchool.com So mote it be!! )"

### **### 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**

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.

### **### The best popcorn and fudge around!**

Welcome to Hayward Gourmet! What makes our product gourmet? We make our product daily in small batches for our customers. We use high-end packaging to secure freshness of our product. All of our recipes are homemade and dented from several ingredients! That's what makes our great flavors!

We are incredibly proud of every product we sell, and equally proud that our business has created new jobs. We support local organizations and community events, in addition to offering our fundraising programs to help a variety of organizations across the country meet their funding goals.

We carry 2 types of popcorn, flavored and specialty in 3 sizes. From apple and bacon to caramel and jalapeno popcorn. We also have delectable and creamy fudge in half pound tubs from chocolate to chocolate and mint. **a perfect treat for everyone! Enjoy a piece for dessert with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine.**

**We also carry wonderful and chewy salt water taffy in 20 different flavors. They come in half pound and 1 pound bags. A One pound bag has 60 individually wrapped pieces. and we don't stop there! Do you like popping your own corn? Well, we also have 2 pound bags of tender corn and toppings and oils. We even have a fun popper!**

**Are you looking** for new ideas to raise money for your organization? Our fundraising program is VERY simple and EXTREMELY profitable with groups earning 40% of sales (minus shipping).

### **WHY USE Hayward Gourmet Popcorn? IT'S SO EASY!**

No counting or sorting: all popcorn is packaged and labeled with each sellers name and order form. No money counting: when a seller is done selling they simply seal their envelopes, collect and send back.

Is it really that easy? YES!

Interested? Let's get you started!

To browse website and place an order go to [popcornalicious.haywardgourmet.com](http://popcornalicious.haywardgourmet.com). Works best with Mozilla or Google Chrome. For additional information or to set up a fundraiser, contact Catalina Martinez at [popcornalicious@gmail.com](mailto:popcornalicious@gmail.com) or 612-227-3011  
Thanks for popin in

### **### Books Edited and Produced by Leonore and David Dvorkin in 2016**

Note: These are just some of the books we produced this year. All are in e-book and print formats from Amazon, Smashwords, and other online sellers. Details of our comprehensive services are at: <http://www.dvorkin.com/epubhelp/>

1. *My Ideal Partner: How I Met, Married, and Cared for the Man I Loved Despite Debilitating Odds*, by Abbie Johnson Taylor. The visually impaired author tells how she cared for her blind and partially paralyzed husband for seven years before his death in 2012. An inspiring story of love and devotion. Details: <http://www.abbiejohntaylor.com>

2. *Austin Bound*, by Shelley McMullen. The author recounts the darkest and most challenging four years of her life, then tells how her decision to let go and go with God, allowing Him to steer her course, changed her attitude and eventually her life for the better. Details: <http://www.dvorkin.com/shelleymcmullen/>

3. *The Christmas Carriage and Other Writings of the Holiday Season*, by Alice Jane-Marie Massa. A heart-warming collection of holiday memoirs (many from her Indiana childhood in the 1950s)

and 1960s), short stories, and poetry. Includes photos of her beloved guide dogs. Details: <http://www.dvorkin.com/alicemassa/>

4. *The Misadventures of Mistletoe Mouse*, by Susan Bourrie. For children 5 to 9. Older children will enjoy reading this to younger ones. Enjoy the lively adventures and misadventures of Mistletoe Mouse and his friends Molly Dolly and an express reindeer as they work to make terrible Christmases terrific, tackling every new challenge with energy and imagination. Details: <http://www.dvorkin.com/susanbourrie/>

5. *The Same Kind of Human: Seeing the Marginalized and Exploited Through Eyes of Grace*, by Christine “Clarity” McDonald (author of *Cry Purple*). Using primarily lived experiences and Scripture, Ms. McDonald advocates for and then offers compassionate, practical advice on how to approach and help the most marginalized among us: prostitutes, drug addicts, and the homeless. (Note: As was stated in the Acknowledgements, the primary editor of this book was Britney Hamm.) Details: <http://www.dvorkin.com/cmcdonald/>

### **### 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](http://mosen.org/work). Bonnie Mosen can be contacted at [bonnie@mosen.org](mailto: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. 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>

### **### 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/>

### **\*\*\* Ads From Old but Important Friends...**

### **### 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>

### **\*\*\*NEW AD!! From an OLD FRIEND!!**

#### **### Streamline Java**

Is pleased to announce the opening of [www.streamlinejava.com](http://www.streamlinejava.com) where you may find a large selection of Kat's Coffees products including coffees and other beverages such as hot chocolate and tea, and also you will find a wide variety of food items from breakfast to dessert and everything in-between. All coffees are available in 1 Pots, 8oz bags, and 1lbs bags with the 8oz and 1lbs bags being available in Whole Bean or ground. Please make your selections in the drop down boxes for the size you wish to order and if you want Whole Bean or Ground. Some items are also available in Decaf for the Decaf drinkers out there. If you are looking for some rather unique flavored coffees such as Hot Fudge Brownie, Tirimisu, German Chocolate Cake, and much much more, check out the Flavored and Gourmet Coffees sections!!

I can be found on Twitter @StreamlineJava, and I am also on Facebook. Both places I will be posting news, information, and promotions that I do. Any questions can be directed to [streamlinejava@gmail.com](mailto:streamlinejava@gmail.com) or you may call 816-977-9434

### ### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:james@jgagnier.com) Or [shelley@jgagnier.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

\*\*\*Note this magazine is also featured here on this blog.

### ### Unity Church of the Tri-Cities

423 W. Walnut St., Johnson City, TN

423-975-9159 /

[www.unitytricity.org](http://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](mailto: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

**\*\*\*FYI Please Read!\*\*\***

Advertising in or subscribing to The Neighborhood News!

In order to make up for some of the time that your ads were not available to the public due to my tech trials, until further notice all current advertisers or subscribers/blog followers can receive 1 year’s free advertising, and all new advertisers subscribers/blog followers can receive 6 months free. After your ads run out you can get 1 year’s advertising for \$10.00

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

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

To place your Ad, please send your information including contact info such as email address, phone or website.

Font & Size: - Times New Roman, size 12 with a 200 word limit with or without a photo. Please send in the form of an attachment and when possible please imbed the 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 pay for, literary submissions.  
If your submission is going to need editing you may contact:

*Claire Plaisted*

*Director*

*Plaisted Publishing House*

[www.plaistedpublishinghouse.com](http://www.plaistedpublishinghouse.com) or [plaistedpublishinghouse@gmail.com](mailto:plaistedpublishinghouse@gmail.com)

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

If you'd like to learn how to become a guest blogger on the site, you may email at the address provided to find out how. We do not charge nor pay for guest blogger submissions, and the same guidelines apply as shown for literary submissions, except the word limit.

\*\*\* I'm continuing to gather information in hopes of creating a networking Directory for 2016 and 2017 please send the info listed to join this directory!

This directory is designed so that all wishing to do so can reach out and network with others. Please write back with the following information.

# indicates Optional \* Indicates required to receive or continue Receiving.

All Optional info will be shared if reader gives permission.

First and last name  
Subscription Email  
Advertiser (Yes No)

# Secondary Email (Share or Private)

# Social Media (Share or Private)

# Phone (Share or Private)

Thanks so much and have a great day. I'll let you know when the directory becomes available.

If you'd like to have an ad in the directory such as are posted in Products and Services, please send \$5.00 via PayPal

Follow Newsletter Guidelines when submitting Directory Ad

I'm also planning to begin a Facebook group for those wishing to post and receive Online Magazines, links or full editions, Blog posts, link URLs or full posts, and discuss all things literary. If you'd like to be part of this group let me know, and if you wish submit your opinion on its name. We will send updates to the blog and post them in The Neighborhood News.

Thank you for your business.

Patty L. Fletcher

### **### 8. Author's Corner...**

First up in the Author's Corner this month is what I like to call a golden ray of hope. I don't know about yall but I for one am already quite sick of winter. The following offering by my good friend Tasha Halpert reminds us that spring is not really that far away. Thanks Tasha and Happy New Year!

Heartwings Love Notes: 759 A Sip of Spring

Heartwings says: "In January spring dances in and out again tantalizing us with wisps of warmth, promising more."

There is a deceptively warm period in the first month of the year called the January thaw. It usually comes at the end of the month, but sometimes earlier. It is the opening note of a long prelude to spring. Sadly, it raises hopes too soon dashed. February sets in, the snow falls, the cold descends, and winter reminds us that we have a long way to go. The upside is that at least the days are longer and brighter as the sun grows stronger and shines from higher in the sky. The burgeoning light keeps us apprised of spring's actual advent.

Expectations often create disappointment. However, it is difficult to avoid having them. The anticipation that is the creator of my expectations is what happens when I yearn toward something that is just out of reach or even beyond my control, like spring. This habit begins in childhood. Once we outgrow the present moment mindset of our early years, we are vulnerable to it. For instance, when the circus was coming to town it was a big event in my young life. My grandmother always took me and every year I loved it.

The difficulty with anticipation, especially when one is an adult, is that it can suck the juice out of the actual event. A few years ago Stephen and I took a friend's two children to a local circus in a town nearby. Based on my memories of Barnum and Bailey, I had unrealistic expectations of the little circus and did not enjoy it nearly as much as I would have otherwise. On the other hand, the two children we took had a wonderful time. Unexpectedly, my enjoyment ended up being about that rather than about the performances.

Today in the news I saw that the circus of my childhood—Barnum and Bailey, will be no more. This may have started I suppose when they released the elephants and now they are disbanding completely. I wonder if those who like me once anticipated the arrival of the circus will be disappointed. I haven't been to a Barnum and Bailey performance in many years myself, however I have my memories. Thankfully I can sip those memories whenever I wish. That's the blessing of memories, like food in the pantry or the refrigerator they are available when I wish to reach for them. Memories of spring, however, cannot compare to its actual advent, and that I eagerly await.

May you find the present moment more joyful than any anticipated future.

Blessings and best regards, Tasha Halpert

Please let me know if you have enjoyed this love note. I so appreciate hearing from readers. If you have any comments or questions I will be happy to hear them. For more please visit my website at [www.heartwingslovenotes.com](http://www.heartwingslovenotes.com)

*\*\*\* Patty and Campbell back to say... WOW! And WOW! I needed to read that! Good stuff for sure. If any of you have something you'd like to share in the Author's Corner, please make sure and check out the Administrative Details for all submission guidelines.*

**### 9. Twilight Bark...**

Here is a post that will also appear on the blog. There are things in this I hope you'll read and comment on.

Campbell and I are very glad you've stopped by. We're writing for a couple very special reasons. First off, we'd like to thank those who really support us.

My Daddy, even when he wasn't sure of Campbell, my writing, or anything else I've done, he was right there every time!

Love you Dad!

Claire Plaisted, for all your friendship, blog and newsletter support, and the snippets of editing you do. Without all that, I'd be sunk. Don't know what else to say. It falls short on the return for all you do, but for now, my love, and gratitude are all I've got to offer. I'm hopeful as 2017 begins to take shape, it'll become more prosperous for the two of us.

To the Dvorkin's. Thanks, a huge lot guys! You gave me my first shot at all this, and I'm still kickin' Not sure how long I'll last, but nice to still have you in my corner. Leonore your ADS are top notch, and your articles get good response. Well written, thought out, and information always correct. Appreciate the working and up to date links as well.

David, your work on the website is fabulous. I remember the first time I showed it to Claire. She wrote back to say, "David Dvorkin has done a good job for you." Always nice when you're recognized like that, and makes me proud to work with and for you.

I hope for us too that 2017 is more prosperous. Thanks for your patience on that matter.

To my family... All YALL!

I'm grateful. Aaron Michelle, and the girls, for sticking it out with me at the house, and in my life. I know it's not easy.

Mary and Joan love yall much. Polly, it's been good just to be near you. I love you, and still am your mother, like it or not.

Dave Light, thanks a ton and a half for all the advice, and other great stuff you provide to and for me. Your friendship is most appreciated, and Campbell and I love you lots.

Bobby! You've been a nice new addition to mine and Campbell's WORLD! And we're way glad you're still hanging' in with us! We'd like to say some special thanks for all your help support, and assistance with my work. It is most amazing, and way MUCH! APPRECIATED!

Love you My Sweetie Pie!

Mike Tate You're lots of fun to talk to, and hang out with. Whomever you capture in your heart for a partner for life is gonna not only have their hands full, but they're going to receive lots of TLC and once they have it they'll never go away.

You're like a little brother to me, and your help with my writing, and mental illness is something I value lots.

Thanks Dude, and Pluto, you're the STUFF!

You were the perfect helper and friend to King Campbell when we visited there.

Janeen, my partner in 'Inappropriate fun! And One of my very BESTEST FRIENDS!!!

To the Friendship Connection! All you guys are awesome!

All my friends there are supportive, loving, kind, and they love me just like I am. I should go and do things with them more, but sometimes situations just won't allow. I'm hopeful of fixing some of that in 2017.

Happy New Year guys, and blessid be.

The Seeing Eye! Can't forget yall! Campbell and I are most happy together, and we're ever grateful to you and all your staff. To your "Wise and Ancient Trainers' We say a BIG HOWDY! and THANKS DUDE!

To the Team, Thanks as well. You all were and are great. I guess some have gone now, but they still live in my heart. I hope this message gets to you, and finds all well.

Well, last but absolutely not least! In fact just the opposite!

King Campbell Lee! AKA Bubba Seeing Eye Dog. Without whom I would be "Lost and Afraid!" I love you my Baby Bubba with all of myself. You do indeed, make..."My whole self sing."

Thanks Christine and Wally!  
you all are my inspiration.

Thanks Phyllis, Emmy Dog (Rainbow Bridge) Ethan Dog, and all...!

Well, I guess we should toss in a special thanks to Mr. Drew Gibbon. He did do lots of work, took some crap from me he did not deserve, and even though he still has nothing to say, I find him a most awesome person, great trainer, and still count him among my friends. I am hopeful of one day reconciling our differences, until then...Blessid Be Dude! (SIR!)

**###Now for a few things to let you know of...**

Campbell and I are going to be starting some new projects beginning February 1ST.

We will be...

Starting an All Things Literary FB page. ADS Newsletter and Online Magazine links posts, and all welcome...

Book Reviews, excerpts, and ADS  
Announcements of all sorts...  
Events and more!

We're trying to think of a name. Help us out. Send your choices to: [patty.volunteer1@gmail.com](mailto:patty.volunteer1@gmail.com)

We will be writing book reviews. If you'd like us to read and write a book review for you, all you

must do is provide an accessible form of your book, and I'll put you on my Review List for 2017.

We're also looking to begin an Email List, and we are looking for List Serve info. If anyone has information concerning an easy to use, blind friendly List Serve that is free we'd like to know of it. Please send to Email: [patty.volunteer1@gmail.com](mailto:patty.volunteer1@gmail.com) or comment back to this message.

The list will provide a place for folks to...

- Receive CAMPBELLSWORLD posts

- Receive, post, and discuss any and all newsletters, and online magazines

- Post and discuss book excerpts and reviews

- Post and discuss all things blog

- Post and discuss all things social media

- Post and discuss all things marketing

- Post and discuss all offers

- Post and discuss all things tech

Well, for now I suppose that is all. We wish you well, and hope to hear back from you all real soon.

### ### 10. Wrap Up...

I guess I pretty much already said all I had to say for this month, and so at this time I'll turn it over to Claire. I encourage you to read any info and offers she may provide below. She is a most magnificent lady, and her work is very well done, and received.

Blessid Be Claire, and...Take it away!

Until next time this is Patty and King Campbell Lee AKA Bubba saying...

May harmony find you, and blessid be.

Hello everyone. It is time I caught up. I have a few things to tell you about. Firstly, I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope it goes well for you all. Secondly I'll tell you about my book releases and then what is happening at [Plaisted Publishing House](#).

It has been a busy start to the year, both for myself and my business. Firstly I have two brand new children's books coming out. The first is *Girlie and the Quest for Pedi's Family* which is due out on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017. The second will be in another month and it is called *Girlie's Circus Adventure*.

I also have a novella due out for Valentine's Day – Love at Valentines is a Contemporary Romance written under my pen name of Beth Bayley. It is the third of a short series about three siblings and how they find love. The stories are based in Wales, UK.

Now for Business.

I have had some wonderful new clients. First there is Joanne Ruth and her first two book ['The](#)

[Unexpected,](#) and [Waking Fire.](#) Both are set mainly in New Zealand that the USA does have several parts in the novels. They are amazing stories. I couldn't put the books down until I had finished. You can find out more about Joanne Ruth [here](#)

Next up is [Poppy Mann](#). Poppy is another wonderful Author with a Contemporary Romance which will be released within the next few weeks...maybe even days. *The Night of the Moonflower* is a look behind the scenes in Indonesia and the life of an Envoy who holds a post at the New Zealand Embassy with his wife. It is rich and the drama is wonderful. A great read for all.

[Ghostly Writes Anthology](#) is also publishing a short Anthology called Ghostly Romance. There will be no more than ten short stories (I'm still waiting on submissions) to this wonderful book along with some Poetry by [Kyrena Lynch](#)

[Indie Publishing News](#) Magazine is now looking for more Authors, Bloggers, Editors, etc to join our group and sign up for the magazine which is issued on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month (unless stated otherwise). We need Flash Fiction no more than 500 words. Educational Information for Authors. If you have any ideas, please contact me at: [plaistedpublishinghouse@gmail.com](mailto:plaistedpublishinghouse@gmail.com)

Last but not least. We will be announcing our Sponsorship for Indie Authors on the 10<sup>th</sup> Feb in our Magazine. So watch this space for more updates.

Thank you for your time. I hope you enjoy the latest edition of Patty's Newsletter.

Claire