**The Neighborhood News / Issue #6**

September 4, 2015

Coming to You from the Campbell Kingdom

by

Patty L. Fletcher

Edited by Leonore H. Dvorkin

 **###**

**Table of Contents**

1. Photo of Campbell with My Grand-Niece Kaylie

2. New: Treat of the Month
3. Neighborhood News
4. Literary Submission
5. Link of the Month
Administrative Details Follow

6. Products and Services

7. Newsletter Submission Information

8. Subscription Information
9. Author’s Corner and The Twilight Bark
10. Wrap-Up

11. A Comment on the Amazon Reviews of Patty’s Book

12. Editor Information / Help with Self-Publishing

**### 1. Photo of Campbell with My Grand-Niece Kaylie**



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

This Treat of the Month is provided by my friend and now retired ex-supervisor, D. Lynn Sorrell. It’s a limerick he wrote about his retirement from CONTACT-CONCERN of Northeast Tennessee, Inc. and his upcoming new career. It’s also about the hunt for his replacement—which, I might add, was no easy task!

Take it away, Lynn!

**###**

“I'm retiring in the month of May,"
To the Board was what Lynn did say.
They got kinda queasy
 "Get no one who's sleazy!"
 So they started the search the next day.

The country was searched day and night;
Six people stood in the spotlight.
Their talents were dazin'
Much money to be raisin'
Margaret Kirk was just oh so right.

So, Lynn's out and Margaret's in.
For Contact it's a wonderful win.
If Lynn goes to preachin'
And doing God's teachin'
He'll call 211 to confess all his sin.

D. Lynn Sorrell
211 is a Helpline Hotline serving Northeast Tennessee. See <http://www.CONTACTCONCERN.org> for more details.

**### 3. Neighborhood News**

**### A brief recap:**

Campbell and I previously reported that we placed six books on consignment at a local bookstore called I Love Books, in the Kingsport Town Center. So if you’re in that area, stop by and take a look.

We also have books placed 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/>

We also shared last month that we would be attending an event in Johnson City, Tennessee. Campbell and I rambled our way over to an event that was held to recognize the 25th anniversary of the ADA (Adults With Disabilities Act) with the Northeast Tennessee disABILITY Resource Center. We had the honor of providing a short award presentation to our very own Tennessee Congressman Phil Roe. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty for disabled persons in our state, and we were proud to assist with that event. Of course, along with his award, he received a signed copy of our book.

|  |
| --- |
| **### Thanks to Robert Branco and the Branco Broadcast:** On August 4, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, I was interviewed on 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. I talked about networking, my motivational speaking services, changes to my monthly news and literary email ezine (this publication), and my autobiographical book. That’s *Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life*. After my presentation, there was a Q & A period. To access future programs, do the following: Call 712-432-3645. If 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 ever have any trouble with this, or if you would like to be on his show or make a referral: Phone 1-508-994-4972. Email Bob at: branco182@verizon.net. He is the author of four books. His website with full details: www.dvorkin.com/robertbranco/ |

 **### What’s new:**

Campbell and I have a new Facebook page called Campbell’s Rambles. It’s for book, ezine, blog, and Facebook page or group promotion. 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.

Also this month, with Bob Cat’s help, we have created a Facebook group called Bob Cat and Friends. This is similar to Campbell’s Corner—which, by the way, is now 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 for cat and dog lovers alike to 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. So look us up today!

We are also on the hunt for new and interesting things to write about. We are hoping to speak soon with someone from a Guide Dog school, someone we were very impressed with during the Top Dog Convention. So stay tuned 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, give me a shout out. My contact information is below, in the Administrative Details.

**### Coming soon:**

Some of the things we have been working on have had to be scaled back or put on hold due to both Campbell and me being sick for the last couple of months. We are better now, and the following is what’s coming up.

 We are still working with Bobby Donald, a vending stand operator in Knoxville, Tennessee, on the interview with him that I promised. In addition, we are raising funds to have a book sale and signing at Dilly’s Curiosity Shop. We were hoping for August, but that was not to be, so now we’re looking at September or October instead. Stay tuned for more updates. If you’d like to help us out, you may do so by contacting me at the contact info given below, in Administrative Details.

Also, we will soon appear on a local radio show called Community Forum. This can be heard Saturday Mornings on WETSFM Radio. For information about this or any other show, please see

|  |
| --- |
| [WETS-FM - Official Site](http://www.thesmartsearch.net/search?action=selectSearchResult&session=447179865700693771&ssMapKey=dest.sec.wetsfm%25radio&initialRank=0&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.etsu.edu%2Fwets%2F) www.etsu.edu/wets |
|  |  |

**### 4. Literary Submission**

Setting Yourself Up for Success

by Penny Fleckenstein

It was one of those days. Usually, our visits to the children's dentist go well—which it did. It was going there and coming back that didn't work out so well. Zachary and I were in vans for a long time, both going and coming back, while they picked up and dropped off three people. It had to happen the day when my son had to get two teeth extracted.

I came home that night in a bad mood. Why did things mess up? It was clearly a bad transportation day. On any other day, when it was just a dental cleaning, we would have been picked up and gone straight there and back. Why, on a day that it mattered the most, did we have to endure such hardship? I know. I'm sounding like a princess, like I expect no difficulties in life (which is true, by the way), but it was for my sweet six-year-old boy who had just gotten two teeth extracted. Couldn't we have had some allowances to get him home just a little faster? Why did we have to jump through hoops?

The transportation glitches disturbed me so much that it bothered me into the night. I didn't sleep well because I was so angry. With just a little compassion, my son could have been home sooner. It enraged me even into the next day. I wasn't angry with the people, really—just the situation. Then it hit me. I didn't set up my day for success. I didn't start off that day praying about our transportation. I prayed about everything going well at the hospital, which it did. I was so nervous that we were going to get lost and that we wouldn't find our way to the places we needed to be. I felt afraid that I wouldn't get the right people to help me. I had simply forgotten to pray to God about our transportation needs. Believe me, I won't make that mistake again!

That day, God showed me how to turn hope and faith into substance. He showed me that if I make my desires known to Him, He will do what He can to fulfill them. Yes, well, you say, what about the disappointments? What about the times when I felt my desires were ignored or when I felt He didn't care? Those are the times I learned who was really in my corner: my real supporters.

In fact, later that week, when I fell down the stairs, God answered one of my prayers by having me encounter the people who now take care of a cat we were feeding on our front porch. We had been doing that for quite some time, but we haven't seen the cat for months. Although I would have preferred not to fall down the steps onto the concrete, I felt such overwhelming relief to know that our beloved kitty cat is well taken care of and provided for. As upsetting as disappointments in life can be, it is well worth knowing who your true supporters are and having your prayers answered.

Setting up for success needs to be done daily. I like to do it in the morning, when I'm planning my day. I pray and ask for God's favor and grace. Setting up for your success can be done for long range plans, too. I remember that at the 200th birthday celebration of Pittsburgh, I learned for the first time about the trail from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. We watched some cyclists arrive from Washington, D.C. I wished in my heart that one day I would ride the trail on my very own tandem bike. Yesterday, as I rode on my new tandem, I realized that through my continual praying, I had been setting up for my success all this time. God cares about the little things and the big things, your dreams and wishes for today and tomorrow. So keep praying, keep dreaming, and keep setting yourself up for success.

Just a little wish in your heart, watered by your prayers and faith and nurtured with love, in time, with persistence and endurance from you, what once began as just a little wish blooms into reality.

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

This month, the link is to a song. In these days of traumatic events, in these anger-filled and unsettling times, we need more love, and so I present

“Power of Love”
Huey Lewis and the News
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCkgYhtz64U>

 **### Administrative Details**

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

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 ☺) 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://espntricities.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!

 **### 6. Products and Services**

**### Coffee and More**

Looking for that great coffee or that delicious food item? Well, you can find a wide variety of coffee and food items at [www.katscoffees.com](http://www.katscoffees.com) Products include: Columbian Roast, French Roast, Hazelnut Coffee, Tiramisu Coffee, Peanut Butter Fudge, Chocolate Chip Cookies, New Orleans Beignets, Chai Tea, and more! There are over 500 products to choose from, and the two I have tried and can tell you are great are the French Roast and Tiramisu Coffees. Most Coffees are available in One Pots, 8 oz. bags, and 1 lb. bags. Please go to <http://www.katscoffees.com/jordan_gallacher.htm> to place your orders, and I will get back to you with your total. Payments can be made to me via PayPal once you have your order total. You may contact me directly at inahurrycoffee@gmail.com if you have any questions or want to know if I have a particular product.

**### Large dog crate for sale**

My name is Phyllis Stevens, and I am in Northeast Tennessee. I have a large, three-door, wire dog crate for sale. It is made by Kong. Asking $80 but will negotiate. It is slightly used, but in excellent condition, no rust, and all doors are in working order. Easy to break down and reassemble. To contact me about this, please write to: catlady1949@charter.net

### **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 and Guide Dog Jake

Butterfly Knitting

-           Ponchos

-           Afghans

-           Shawls

-           Custom Knitting

360-426-8389

becky@butterflyknitting.com

An added comment from the editor of this newsletter, Leonore Dvorkin: For those of you 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.

**### Nonprofit Consultant**

Hello!

 Are you a nonprofit with half a dozen invitations to things like luncheons, where you know that if you say you can come, they are sure to ask you to speak? Do you have a whole calendar filled with information fairs to attend? Is there not enough time in your busy schedule to make them all, or do you simply not have enough volunteers to cover it all?

I have the solution to those and other issues as well.

My name is Patty L. Fletcher. I am a self-published author and motivational speaker, as well as a nonprofit consultant.

 I can cover many different positions and will be happy to do so for a onetime fee for each event or a set fee for several events.

What can I provide?

* I can learn what your organization does, what services it provides, what types of volunteers it needs, etc., and go out and do presentations or work information fairs for you.
* I can learn your organizational training methods and provide training services for you.
* I can give motivational talks to your staff/volunteers, talks designed to energize and motivate them to work hard at their service and feel great about doing so.

For more information about these services, please contact me by phone or by email:

423-963-9476 or patty.volunteer1@gmail.com

We can discuss price for services at that time. Costs will vary.

Thank you for your time and your attention to this very important matter.

Patty L. Fletcher

[www.dvorkin.com/pattyfletcher/](http://www.dvorkin.com/pattyfletcher/)

Author and Motivational Speaker

Book: *Campbell’s Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life* (C 2014)

In e-book and print on Amazon, Smashwords, and other online buying sites.

**### Massage in Orlando, Florida, from Mike Tate**

Treat yourself to experiencing the difference of a healing hour of relaxing, deep-tissue massage done by a therapist who has seen the world with only his hands, mind, heart, and soul for the last 30 years of life. I will work with you at your home or business. Email me today for more information. Appointments in the metro Orlando area only.

Mike.tate1970@gmail.com

Michael D. Tate / Massage license number ma44618

**###** ***The Blind Perspective***

For a fun-filled, informative online magazine, check out *The Blind Perspective*: <http://www.theblindperspective.com>

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

423 W. Walnut St., Johnson City, TN

423-975-9159 /  [www.unitytricities.org](http://www.unitytricities.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. Unity 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.

**###** **Books by Abbie Johnson Taylor**

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

1. *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.
2. *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.
3. *That’s Life: New and Selected Poems*.In this chapbook, 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.

**### *The Glass Family*, by Leonore H. Dvorkin (C 2012)**

A play in one act, in which the transparent characters—Glenn, Glenda, Gladwin, and Glennis Glass—offer their opinions on such matters as being half full or half empty, accepting oneself as one comes from the Great Factory, the restricted lives of their costlier neighbors in the locked china cabinet, and much more.

The characters:

Glenn Glass, the oldest and largest of these vessels. Glenda Glass, Glenn's faithful wife and the only painted one of the four. Gladwin Glass, the son, a sturdy and inquisitive young chap. Glennis Glass, Gladwin's sister, who considers herself quite the sophisticate.

Excerpt:

GLENNIS
I think we're much more attractive than those scratched and banged-up plastic glasses next door to us. They hardly shine at all, and they're so—well—*plastic!* And can you imagine being that garish bright green? It's just too revolting!

GLENDA
Glennis, dear, acting superior does not become you or any other transparent glass. Perhaps it's not easy being green—or pink or blue. How can you know for sure? And of course they are just as real in their own way as we are in ours. Their basic material is simply different.

GLENN
Your mother's right, Glennis. We all have to accept ourselves and others as we came from the Great Factory: tall or small, heavy or light, clear or shaded, glass or plastic, ribbed or smooth.

E-book: $1.99. Paperback: $9.95. For more details and handy buying links, see:  <http://www.leonoredvorkin.com/gfam/index.php>

Comment from Patty Fletcher: I absolutely loved this sweet, funny little play, so I hope you’ll give it a try! It would be fun and low-cost for any theater company to put on, even a high school theater department. It’s suitable for teens or adults.

**### *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 cheap 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, see his website: <www.dvorkin.com/tonymedeiros/>



**### 7.** **Newsletter Submission Information**

Please read the following information carefully. 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. That is, if you wish to have something appear in the October issue, have it to me no later than September 20th. Please send all submissions to me at: [patty.volunteer1@gmail.com](patty.volunteer1%40gmail.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 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

So that the newsletter won’t become overly long, I’m setting the following limits per issue: 10 ads, two poems, and one short story or narrative.

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 Mr. Sorrell shared for this issue. 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.

We are also now offering advertising such as the write-up provided by Dave Light, host of AM Tricities.

To become a sponsor, you can either agree to advertise The Campbell’s Corner Neighborhood News in 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 online ezine has changed. This 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 unsubscribe at any time, please email me with your first and last names, the word unsubscribe, as well as the email address you’re subscribed with, and 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.”

Last month, I asked if anyone could tell me where the name “The Twilight Bark” comes from. Now we have a winner for the Twilight Bark Contest. Reader/subscriber Phyllis Stevens was the only one who answered correctly. The source was the Disney movie *101 Dalmatians*. The Twilight Bark was the method by which the dogs transmitted information to one another each evening and was used to find the missing puppies in the movie. The observant Ms. Phyllis will receive a $25 Amazon gift card the first week in September. Thanks to a generous donor, we were given a prize to give away, and so the prize is hers. Thanks, Phyllis!

And by the way, folks, there is still a contest going on. That is, we are still looking for literary submissions such as poems, narratives, and short stories. The best will win a free placement in The Neighborhood News. So get those fingers busy writing!

In the meantime, here is some of what you readers are barking about.

First up is our praise corner. Now, while we love all these compliments, remember that we’re doing this for you, so we want to know if there are any parts of the Neighborhood News you’d like to see done differently. So don’t hesitate to send a suggestion or even a complaint. Of course we can’t promise to act on all those suggestions, but it is for sure always going to be no if you don’t let us know what you’d like to see!

Here are some of the comments we’ve received recently. **Please note that many of these are repeats from last month,** as we have not received anything new thus far this month. We’re hoping that if there is some problem, you will bark about it soon!

**###** Hey, Patty. Great newsletter, as always. My favorite part of this edition [#4] was the tribute you wrote about Celine Kitty. While I was reading it, I felt like I was going through the whole experience with you. I can tell that she is very special.

Sam and Mason

\*\*\* Patty and Campbell here to say thanks, Sam, for such a great note. While we are learning to live without Celine Kitty, we still miss her very much and find that she is hard to do without and impossible to replace. She is and will be greatly missed.

**###** Thanks for sending the Newsletter. You do a nice job.

Warm wishes, Tasha

**###** Next, a much-appreciated note from yet another sponsor of The Neighborhood News, Terri Winaught.

Hi, Patty,

 This being the first newsletter of yours which I have read, I would like to say how excellent I found it to be. In fact, you might just inspire me to consider writing a monthly newsletter. If I do, I hope it can be even half as informative as yours.

Thanks for this monthly read, take care, and God bless.

Terri    t.winaught@verizon.net

\*\*\* Patty and Campbell here, to say: Terri, be sure to let us know should you ever publish a newsletter or ezine of your own. We will be sure to take a good look and to advertise you.

### Some of you sent comments on mindfulness. This first comment really took me by surprise and made me stop and think. Never before did I ever consider that someone might have a problem with being “too mindful.” Read the following and let us know what you think.

**###** Dear Patty,

I must confess that I didn't do the assignment, because I find myself doing that exact thing when I'm speaking with someone. In fact, I do it so well that I've been accused of being deceptive, because I want to take my time to think about the answer to their question, so much so that I'll write them an email a few hours later to answer their question. I've also been accused of not being spontaneous. I have a couple of friends who will ask me something and be upset if I don't reply to them right away. I have to remind them that I need to think of an answer, since their question was totally unexpected. Thinking can take me a long time.

Penny Fleckenstein

\*\*\* Patty and Campbell again. Penny, that still has me thinking!

**###** Hey, Patty. I am writing to give you my assignment for this month’s newsletter. It may be a little different, and I'm not sure if it's what you're looking for, but I definitely learned from it.

I've had a house guest for the past week, and things got ugly this morning all because of a lack of mindfulness on my part. Basically, my friend began criticizing my lack of hospitality. To give you some history, this friend is an extremely blunt person, and I've learned to take what she says with a grain of salt. This is where I *should* say that I was mindful of that during the disagreement. However, I wasn't. Instead of stopping to think about the situation, I decided to immediately get defensive and retaliate with an argument. This only served to make the situation worse, and it ended up with both of us going off into two separate rooms.

After a while of letting my guest pack in peace, I tried to fix the situation. However, the damage was done. I realize now that my being mindful could have changed the situation. As much as I regret what happened, I figure that the only option at this point is to use this as a learning experience when interacting with other people in the future. I appreciate the essays that have been in the newspaper so far, since it was because of them that I even took the time to think of the situation after the fact.

Sam and Mason

\*\*\* Sam, Patty and Campbell here to say that this sounds much more like me. ☺ I’m glad you learned from it, and I’m glad I’m not alone when it comes to opening mouth and inserting foot. And by the way, Sam: Thanks for recognizing the Neighborhood News as a paper. It will be one day.

\*\*\*Update: Patty and Campbell back this month to say that while rereading your comments, Sam, it seems to me your house guest could have also been just a tad more mindful.

Here’s a further note on all this from my editor, Leonore Dvorkin:

Exactly, Patty; I agree. They say that it takes two to tango, but it also takes two to quarrel. All of us could benefit from learning to step back, take a deep breath, and remember what is more important, our pride or the relationship that is at stake. I’m betting that it’s almost always the latter. So, as you said before, we need to learn to Stop! Think!—and only then act.

**###** Hi, Patty,

 What an excellent newsletter! My favorite parts are the descriptions of books that people have for sale and the services that people can provide.

While writing this, I made my focus on the mindfulness you discussed relative to the importance, not so much of *what* we say, but how we say it.  I think mindfulness is so important, in fact, that I plan to ask if the mental health facility where I work still teaches classes or facilitates groups about mindfulness.

Thank you so much for such a great newsletter.

 Terri     t.winaught@verizon.net

\*\*\* Terri, we truly appreciate this feedback.

\*\*\* Update for this month’s issue: In reference to your comment concerning the mental health facility where you work and the availability of classes, please do let us know what you find out, and what you do with the information. Campbell and I have just experienced the horrors of what can go terribly wrong, and what is required of the one seeking help, when a person who is mentally ill goes to get help for their illness when in crisis, and my belief of why more do not get help.

Your comments could be very helpful to a project that, while time consuming, will hopefully be worth the time and effort in the end. Stay tuned for more, everyone!

Finally, I am passing on to you this challenge that some of my friends and I who are on a certain email list received. It is to list one of the most positive and thrilling times of your life. Well, you know me, I could not choose just one! For me, there were three. So I am going to put here what I posted to the email list. Now I challenge each of you to write in the comments section at least one positive and thrilling time in your life, a memory so great that no matter how down you are, it can lift the corners of your mouth in a smile. In fact, I think I’m going to start each day doing this, and maybe it will lay a positive foundation for the entire day.

So here goes! Thanks, Karen and Zelda, for starting this awesome topic, and for giving us this positive challenge.

\_\_\_

I think that just about everyone knows the most thrilling times in my life, but I’ll write of them here anyhow. The first most thrilling time in my life was the birth of my daughter, Polly Telucia Hensley. I will never forget the first time they laid her in my arms, all soft and snuggly. She was all bundled up in blankets, tiny mittens, and a tiny hat. They like to have them wrapped up—or, as the old term is, swaddled—to keep them very warm, as they are not yet used to the outside world.

Of course I put everyone out of my room, and then proceeded to take off each mitten one at a time, count each finger in turn, and put the mitten back. Then I removed the booties and counted the toes the same way. I never believed it was true that mothers did that, but I had to. It wasn’t just wanting to see her, but to make sure she was all right and as she was supposed to be. Then I fed her. I held her to my breast, and when she found her place, there had never been before, and has not been since, a feeling quite like that.

Then flash forward 24 years, and there’s Dog Day, the Most Wonderful Day Ever, on 4/4/2011 around 3:00 or so in the afternoon. That was when Drew Gibbon, Sr., Instructor of The Seeing Eye, changed my world forever when he placed Campbell’s leash in my hand and introduced this magnificent beast to me.

Again, there never was before, and never will be again, a feeling such as that. We sat for what seemed hours, although Drew would say to me later that he’d only been gone about 30 minutes. Campbell and I began the bonding process right there on that bedroom floor on a rainy New Jersey afternoon. I had no idea what was in store for me after that day, but I have not had any regrets as far as having Campbell and being a Seeing Eye dog owner-handler.

I can think of other thrilling moments, and those have been the births of each one of my grandchildren. I rejoice in them even now, and I hold that positive energy close. I send it forth, and I have faith that there is a higher power that can take that energy and place it where it should be.

Now I am going to cheat and list one more thrilling moment. That was the publication of my first book. Just before midnight on July 31, 2014, was when the first publisher, Smashwords, announced the release of *Campbell’s Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life.* It was a great moment indeed. I had worked very hard, had poured all my heart and soul into the book, and to me, it was truly a labor of love. That was a most awesome time for sure, and even if I am able to write 100 books in the future, there will never be a feeling as wonderful as the publication of the first one was.

A closing comment from Leonore Dvorkin: I agree, Patty. David and I have written and published 30 books of our own, but we both agree that there is no thrill like having that very first book of yours in print at last.

**### 10. Wrap-Up**

Campbell and I want to say that we have truly enjoyed putting the Neighborhood News together this month. We are excited about the changes, and we hope that the new format gets you howling with excitement, too.

We’d also like to add that we are very grateful for your having stuck with us during this most difficult recent period in our lives. First, my Campbell Lee was sick. In midsummer, he was finally diagnosed with a liver infection and a serious allergic reaction. Then I became ill and was recently hospitalized in the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

Now the two of us are recovering, and I am reinventing myself, which means that Campbell is adapting to my changes as each one of them comes along. I might add that, as usual, he is doing an awesome job.

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 Nonprofit 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/](http://www.dvorkin.com/pattyfletcher/)

And now, a word from our friend and editor, Mrs. Leonore Dvorkin.

**### 11. A Comment on the Amazon Reviews of Patty’s Book, *Campbell’s Rambles***

- Leonore Dvorkin, Editor

In all my years of writing and editing, this was a first. On Amazon, someone asked me this about Patty’s book, *Campbell’s Rambles*:

Sorry, aren’t you the editor of this book? Is this an objective review?

This is how I answered her:

Yes, I am the editor of the book. And yes, it is an objective review. It is an honest, emotional, and very informative story, as you will see if you read it. I can assure you that I do not hand out praise lightly. To tell you more about who I am and what I do: My husband (David Dvorkin) and I are both authors. I have four books to my credit. One of those, like Patty's book, is autobiographical. The title is *Another Chance at Life: A Breast Cancer Survivor's Journey* (third edition: 2012). David is the author of 26 published books, mainly science fiction and horror novels, including three *Star Trek* novels. We both write both fiction and nonfiction. Since 2009, we have been editing books by other authors and then assisting them in getting the books self-published in e-book and print formats. We have edited 24 books thus far. Most of our clients, like Patty Fletcher, are blind. Working with these brave and admirable individuals has been a real education for us. Before reading Patty's book, I had no idea what guide dog training was like, and I was quite happy to learn all this. It has been an honor for me to assist Patty in getting her important messages out to the world. I am proud to have her call me her friend, and I'm very happy to be editing her monthly newsletter for her now. She is currently working on a second book. Watch for that sometime in 2016. Sincerely, Leonore H. Dvorkin (Google my name to find my website. There you will find full information about my books, David's, and those of our clients.)

For the readers of this newsletter: My website URL is [www.leonoredvorkin.com](http://www.leonoredvorkin.com)

You can’t put a URL on Amazon, or your comment will not be posted.

I would like to add that as of this date, September 4, 2015, Patty’s book has five 5-star reviews and one 4-star review on Amazon. Thus it is obvious that I am not alone in my high opinion of her book. Most of the other reviewers said many of the same things about the book that I did.

I wrote the above to the questioner for several reasons. First of all, even though the writer of those questions may have meant them as simple questions, I wanted to defend myself and my integrity as both an editor and a judge of literary quality. Second, I wanted the writer of the questions to know more about me, my husband, and what we do. Third, I want all the readers of this newsletter, especially those who are writers or who wish to write, to know that even positive comments and the most sincere desire to help others can sometimes be met with skepticism or even hostility. Over the years, in response to our many books and even more articles (which are archived on our websites), my husband and I have received some notes and letters that could only be described as hate mail. We have had to learn to simply laugh at all that, and then to forge ahead. My main message to all writers and would-be writers is this: You can’t please everybody, so you have to please yourself. Remain true to your own vision and messages. You are never going to have everyone like what you are doing and saying.

Here is a link to Patty’s book on Amazon. All the reviews are there, and you can click on “2 Comments” after my review to find this discussion.

[http://www.amazon.com/Campbells-Rambles-Seeing-Retrieved-Life-ebook/dp/B00MAVYBHK/ref=sr\_1\_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1441404528&sr=1-3&keywords=Patty+Fletcher](http://www.amazon.com/Campbells-Rambles-Seeing-Retrieved-Life-ebook/dp/B00MAVYBHK/ref%3Dsr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1441404528&sr=1-3&keywords=Patty+Fletcher)

Please see below for more general information about me and my work.

Thank you. —Leonore Dvorkin

**### 12. Editor Information**

This newsletter was edited by Leonore H. Dvorkin, of Denver, Colorado. She also edited my book, *Campbell’s Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life,* as well as all of Brian Nash’s six books and three of the four books by Robert Branco. (See the third and fourth editions of the newsletter for titles and details.) Both Brian and Bob are blind.

Leonore is the author of four books:

1) *Apart from You*, a novel / Revised edition: C 2010

2) *Another Chance at Life: A Breast Cancer Survivor’s Journey*, about her 1998 breast cancer and mastectomy, with no reconstruction / Third edition: C 2012

3) That same book in Spanish, entitled *Otra oportunidad a la vida: El camino de una sobreviente de cáncer de seno.* The English text was beautifully translated by Gloria H. López.C 2012

4) *The Glass Family*: a humorous, one-act fantasy play about a family of drinking glasses in a kitchen cabinet and how they view their world. Photos by the author. C 2012 See above, under Products and Services, Section 6, for more details.

All four books are available in e-book and print from Amazon and other online buying sites. The English version of Leonore’s breast cancer book is also available in audio from Audible.com. For review quotes, excerpts, and buying links, please see Leonore’s website: [www.leonoredvorkin.com](http://www.leonoredvorkin.com)

Leonore and David Dvorkin, who are the authors of a total of 30 books, also offer editing and self-publishing services to other authors for very reasonable rates. They offer a 20% discount to clients who are disabled and/or low income. Most of their clients are blind.

Since 2009, they have edited and produced 24 books, both fiction and nonfiction, by other authors. A thrilling crime novel entitled *Red Eyes*, by the Tennessee author Gary Hensley, is due to be published before the end of 2015.

Full details of the Dvorkins’ services are here: [www.dvorkin.com/epubhelp/](http://www.dvorkin.com/epubhelp/)