Prepare to expand your experience!

Letter from the Editor

Thank you to the Pittverse writers and YAP staff for making my time as editor such a great experience. I remember sitting in Damon’s office (YAP Pittsburgh’s assistant director) at the beginning of 2015, leafing through the original four page Pittverse newsletters and admitting how little I knew about autism. Now I’m getting ready to publish a 70 page magazine and have built relationships with over a dozen adults who are on the spectrum.

It’s been amazing to see magazine grow and change with each quarter, and it’s all thanks to the inspirations and dedication of the Pittverse writers. Since the inception of Pittverse Magazine, the writers have become more and more independent: setting up their own interviews, peer reviewing each other’s articles, and collaborating on photos and designs. I am confident that the magazine will only continue to grow and flourish in the future.

Thank you!

Renee Fisher
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Todday on May 30, 2017 I finally landed my mountain climbing interview with Mr. Hermetz.

Michael Hermetz used to be my mountain climbing teacher, whenever I was younger and went to Presley Ridge. The school and my interview are located at 530 Marshall Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Presley Ridge is a private school for both kids and adults with disabilities. I attended Presley Ridge at the age of 10 years old; that's when I climbed my very first mountain wall.

Then I went on to climbing a real mountain with the expertise of Mr. Hermetz guiding me through the process. Rock climbing was both an extracurricular activity and for physical education. You would learn what body parts you would need to physically tone your body.

I attended Presley Ridge from my 4th grade year up to 6th grade. By my 7th grade year, I transitioned from Presley Ridge and did half a day there and half a day at my high school of Carlynton.

Anyways getting into the mountain climbing. My first question for Mr. Hermetz was, Why did you start mountain climbing, and what inspired you to start climbing?

What inspired Mr. Hermetz was seeing pictures of mountains. Then he wanted to start climbing them. He lived in Ohio first, plenty of mountains to climb, then he moved to Colorado and started climbing. He really enjoyed the thrill of mountain climbing. He climbed real mountains in both Ohio and Colorado.

Also what else inspired him to start mountain climbing was the beauty of the mountains. That's what hooked him into climbing mountains. He climbed fake mountain walls in PA. While I attended Presley Ridge, I climbed all of their fake walls. Plus, Mr. Hermetz and I both enjoy the challenge of climbing fake and real mountains.

My second question was, Besides physical fitness, how does mountain climbing benefit you and others?

There is a physical part of it; it builds strength. The emotional part is just feeling of accomplishment of climbing challenging mountains. There is also a spiritual part of it. It feels like you're a part of nature: the mountains, the sky, the landscape, and your breathing. The other benefit is the thrill of it all, climbing up higher enjoying the heights.

My third question was, What age did you start climbing?

Mr. Hermetz started at a young age of seven years old. He started climbing trees, then ladders up on roofs of houses. He likes heights, being up high in the air.

My fourth question was Do you have any advice for newbies? When I asked, he said yeah sure, wow that's another good question. You have to go somewhere safe. Plus you have to have good equip-
ment, good instructors, and stay below 8 feet. Height is not a problem for Mr. Hermetz or for me.

My fifth question was What kind of safety procedures have to be met before and after a climb? There's all kinds of checks, like making sure your helmet and harness is in check.

Don't worry too much about the shoes. Make sure they are tied and have bottoms to them. Make sure your ropes are in good shape along with the rest of your equipment and yourself.

Avoid thunderstorms. They are risky because there is metal equipment involved.

Mr. Hermetz doesn't plan on retiring. Lastly if mountain climbing is something that you want to try, make sure you have the right equipment, a good instructor like Mr. Hermetz, the weather is good, and don't go in with a cocky attitude. Also, make sure you're emotionally and physically in shape.

You can't let fear get in the way of mountain climbing or anything else in life.
Hi, my name is Kevin Hart. I'm going to write about me having autism and a learning disability and how I go about everyday.

I don't let it take control of my life. I go to counselors to discuss what my problems are. Plus I take medicine to help negative action that I might take. I was diagnosed with autism and a learning disability at a young age. I got teased a lot because I was shy and some people hated me.

I go about every day not worrying that I have these things. I try to blend in with the crowd if I can. I know a lot of people take advantage of people like me because they think we're easy targets. Sometimes it's hard for me to adapt to new changes but I'll get use to it. I sometimes have trouble making friends and starting conversations. I usually let them start and I add to the topic at hand.

Earlier in my life I was approached by many people asking for money and I fell for it and lost a lot of money, but I learned my lesson the hard way (don't do it).

I did ask a lot of people what I needed to do and this is what they told me (till this day I do what they said to me). Whatever they try to do to me I usually tell everyone I know about it, and my family and friends help me out with the problem I have.

I do pretty well with certain tasks (ex: make bed, make lunch, etc.). I take public transportation to and from work (saving money). I do some exercise (sit-ups, walking, lifting, etc.) For me, it helps out a lot when I do these exercises.

It's good to hang out with friends (ex: at the mall, library, at school, etc.). For some, it's difficult to do these things. They have someone to help them out. There's a lot of agencies out there that help out people with autism and learning disabilities. Just have someone schedule with of the agencies to help them out.

It might take a while to adjust to what they are helping you with. Just go through it. This pays off in the long run. They're just there to help you, and that's it. What I'm trying to say is if you have autism and a learning disability make sure to get the help and resources you need. Have a counselor to talk about problems, and take medication that helps your mood. Stay somewhere that's safe to live and work. I hope this info is helpful for those who have autism and a learning disability.

I interviewed Marie Mambuca from Autism Connection of PA. I got a lot of insight about autism. She says autism is a lifelong neurological and developmental disorder. Lifelong is the most important part of this definition. She thinks the ADOS test is the best for diagnosis for Learning Disability, although she's not a professional who diagnoses people herself.

She imagines there's an infinite number of disabilities. And she'll talk to anyone about anything. She became interested in this line work because she gave birth to a child with autism. Researchers need to have participants so they can figure out the truths and to rule out the nonsense.

Marie herself doesn't have autism or LD (Learning Disability). She doesn't think it is the person with autism or LD, but the bully who has the problem. She says we have a responsibility to prevent abuse. No one should be abused, period. Women folks from another culture religion county NO ONE.

There are no symptoms leading up to autism or LD. I was born with autism and learning disability. She
does like what she does for work and enjoys helping the other families out with children with autism.

I believe you'll need a degree in this field of study. Many of us with autism encounter challenges everyday which we need help to solve. There's a lot of supports out there for you to help you out these challenges.

As a parent, she wants to encourage other parents of children with autism to make sure they maximize their child's potential and possibilities. Her job as the Family Supports Coordinator at the Autism Connection of PA is perfect for her. She has talked with thousands of parents and professionals who love and work with someone with autism.

Marie told me she is able to understand where they are coming from: their experiences and frustrations. She can explain the most appropriate services, proper therapies and providers, special education law and how it can help us, and stories from my experience of raising a man with autism.

She believes it's true that if you've met one person with autism you've met one person with autism. Therefore, the resources that would benefit a person are as individualized as they are. There are a variety of research based therapies that she shares with families and professionals that are in the Evidence-Based Practices for Children, Youth, and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder written by the Autism Evidence-Based Practice Review Group.

I hope this article helps out other people who have autism.

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My First Trip to Kennywood
by Bryan Lippert

July 15, 2011 was the very first time that I went to Kennywood. My day started off to a rough start. I had a ticket for myself. When the day came, I went down to meet my friend at Sharp Edge Bistro on Penn Avenue. That person was not there. So then I went all the way out to Kennywood on the 61c bus, by myself.

Then I changed my mind. I said maybe my friend and I can go a different day and time since I felt bad, and if I would have gone myself that means I have to buy another ticket.

So then my friend called me on my cell phone, I told my friend well I'll meet you down at Sharp Edge Bistro on Penn Avenue. That person was not there. So then I went all the way out to Kennywood on the 61c bus, by myself. My friend had no money with them so I had to spend a total of $6.45 for the bus and $2.45 for a drink for my friend with me at Kennywood. I hardly brought any money with me so I could not pay to play any games or buy any food for myself and my friend. Luckily we packed our lunches. My friend said that they would pay me back the money I spent on the bus, drink, and for taking them on the bus with me out to Kennywood.

I had a really good time. We could have stayed longer, but we had to take two buses to get home and plus I was a little sick. Then I told my friend it's getting late, let's get the bus and go downtown. We left at 8p.m. and got downtown at 9p.m. My friend had to catch their bus at 9:15p.m. and I had to catch my bus at 9:25p.m. so we said our goodbyes.

Or did we? I believe my friend and I ended up taking a taxi back to my place. I didn't mind I paid out another $10.00, then they spent the whole weekend with me. I knew them well enough.

After the sixth time I was bored with it. I rode all the rides and I tried their Potato Patch fries. I managed to ride the Phantom, the Phantom's Revenge, and that insane Black Widow ride. My mouth was literally spread open really wide from all the wind pressure. I felt like that was one of the most intense rides I rode.
Interview with Mrs. Kelly, a City Connections Teacher

by Max Chaney

I have recently graduated from City Connections, and to make it more memorable, I decided to interview a very kind teacher and friend who I’ve gotten to know extremely well. Apparently she’s been teaching for over a decade, and she is very proud of her students who have worked tirelessly for earning their diplomas, taking driving lessons, passing classes etc.

I am very, very proud to have chosen her as a teacher. When I was first introduced into the program. So as a thanks for your help here’s your interview, Mrs. Kelly!

Max: How long have you been a teacher?

Mrs. Kelly: I have been a teacher for the Pittsburgh public schools for the past 17 years.

Max: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Mrs. Kelly: I decided to become a teacher because I grew up with a sister named Desiree who is one year younger than me has an intellectual disability. I also admired my mother, father, grandfather, and aunt who are all teachers.

Max: Do you have anyone with special needs in your family?

Mrs. Kelly: Yes, my younger sister Desiree.

Max: What was it like growing up with someone with special needs?

Mrs. Kelly: Growing up with someone with special needs, you learn to be a lot more patient in a situation and you definitely learn to be more creative.

Max: Who inspired you to become a teacher?

Mrs. Kelly: My older sister Wendy and some of my family members were teachers. When my older sister Wendy and I were looking at colleges, my parents did not want me to study to become one. They were both teachers and struggled a lot financially. They also worked past teaching hours which took away from time with the family.

Max: Why did you want to work with kids originally with special needs?

Mrs. Kelly: Because from a very young age (five and six) I did not know my sister Desiree had a disability, or I did not understand that she had a disability. I thought it was interesting to why my parents expectations of hers than to mine. For instance, if I wanted a cookie.. I would have to say, “May I have a cookie please?” She was allowed to point at the pack of cookies and make a noise and my mother would give her the cookie. I was not willing to accept that she would not be able to speak. I would spend a lot of time modeling how to talk. First with one word and then building her up over time to several words that made part of a sentence.

Max: What do you enjoy about the City Connections program?

Mrs. Kelly: I love that it's very individualized and the students are very determined.

Max: Where did you work before becoming a teacher?

Mrs. Kelly: When I went to collage for pre-dentistry at the University of Pittsburgh, and I waitressed for a dentist but I decided to keep the job at the restaurant.

Max: What was your first job?

Mrs. Kelly: I taught private Baton lessons for $5 an hour in the 80s in my church basement.

Max: What do you currently enjoy doing in your free time?

Mrs. Kelly: I enjoy riding my bike, such as riding the gap trail. I also enjoy spending time with my family, and I am proudly retired from softball.
Dealing with Diabetes

by Sarah Lehman

Since my late teens, I have dealt with the struggles of having Type 1 diabetes. Diabetes is a condition where an organ called the pancreas stops working properly. The pancreas’s job is to produce a substance called insulin, which helps maintain a person’s blood sugar levels. Sometimes, however, the pancreas fails to produce enough insulin, so artificial insulin must be administered, usually through injection.

There is also another form of diabetes, known as Type 2, or adult-onset diabetes. Type 2 diabetes involves insulin resistance, which is when cells are unable to effectively respond to insulin, which results in high blood sugar levels. It should be noted that the terms ‘juvenile’ and ‘adult-onset’ refer to when they most frequently manifest: juvenile diabetes is often diagnosed in childhood or adolescence, and adult-onset diabetes in adulthood.

When I was first diagnosed, I took it very badly, as I had (and still have) a deep love of sweet things. I tried to act like I could still eat what I wanted. I often snuck food, especially cookies, candy, and similar, which threw my blood sugar off. Eventually, however, I managed to gain some self-control, and put myself on the right track. While I do still eat extra stuff (usually with small amounts of carbs), I do have much more control over my blood sugar.

There are a lot of things I have to do to keep my blood sugar in check. First of all, I have to check my blood sugar levels with a glucose meter at each meal and before bed. I also measure out how many carbohydrates I have at each meal, using a ratio of X grams per unit of insulin. Said ratios not only vary between meals, but can change depending on the time of month, the weather, and other factors.

If my blood sugar is too high, I give myself extra insulin or reduce my carbs to bring it down, and if it’s too low, I give myself extra to bring it up. Following these guidelines, I can have a snack two hours after breakfast and another two hours after lunch. I also have a few carbs before bed, to make sure my blood sugar doesn’t get too low during the night. If it does get too low at any point during the day (other than meals/snack time), I take special glucose tablets to bring it back up.

Additionally, after the ‘honeymoon period’ (when my pancreas hadn’t fully stopped producing insulin), I started supplementing my mealtime insulin with ‘basal’ influence. When I first started taking basal insulin, I only administered it once a day, but later on, I started splitting the required amount—half in the morning and half before bed. Finally, doing exercise after a meal or snack allows me to use less insulin/have a bigger snack.

Having diabetes has been (and still is) a struggle for me, but with the experience and self-control I’ve gained, I feel that I’ve really made progress since my initial diagnosis. Of course, there are things I can’t do anymore, due to the limitations my diabetes puts on me, but I’ve learned to live without them (although I do miss them). Hopefully, a cure will be found someday, and more people will be free to eat what they want.
Lee Denim Jeans

by Joey Cepek

These denim brand clothes began back in 1889. They are world-wide famous twilled clothing articles. They are now for both genders of people as well as for innocent domestic animal pet companions such as dogs and cats.

Christ directed wise, yes, indeed, literally and truly so, as in the New Testament passage in the Book of Hebrews 13:5 “I, Jesus, will never leave you, nor reject (forsake) you.” Amen!

Henry David Lee, who was no relation to Confederate U.S. Civil War general Robert E. Lee, was born in Vermont, in 1849. He was one of eight children, whose tailor father died at a young age. He learned to fend for himself by even competing, as a bare knuckle boxer. In 1865, a 16-year-old Lee moved to Galion, Ohio, drawing the attention of a man named Chris Crim, a wealthy banker, who lent Lee $3,000, in order for Lee to begin his sewing knitting business. Soon after, Crim lent Lee $50,000 in order to purchase an oil distributor.

In 1886, Lee contracted pulmonary tuberculosis, which sadly forced him to sell his prosperous business to the Rockefellers, who would merge it with Standard Oil.

Studying, during the illness recuperation period, Lee decide to move, beyond the Mississippi River, so that he could take advantage of better weather conditions and the natural hot springs out west in post-Civil War America. Despite a medical doctor’s warnings, Lee and several business associates moved to Kansas, whose capital city is Topeka. Salina, Kansas was believed to have been the birthplace, of Henry D. Lee’s supplies store. VF Jeanswear now owns the company. The current headquarters are in Merriam, Kansas.

A patent on metal rivet clothing pieces expired in 1891. This paved the way for other denim-making companies to make or invent their very own versions of jeans.

Henry David Lee began to work as an employee of the oil industry. He sadly developed tuberculosis. The usual unfortunate symptoms of coughing, excessive sweating, shivering, body chills and aches, also befell a young Lee, in 1886.

Montpelier is Vermont’s capital city. The Lee Company stopped selling food supplies, in 1950. In a 1917 interview, with the newspaper, The Kansas City Star. Lee said, concerning the business opportunities, provided, by westward expansion, “I really did not appraise the full size of the field. It’s bigger, better, than we expected, a field susceptible, of great and rapid development in almost any line.”

Against a concerned doctor’s advice, Lee traveled to Salina, Kansas, whose capital city is Topeka and he went on, to establish the H.D. Lee Mercantile Company, the largest food source outpost between the Kansas City and Denver area, which is Colorado’s capital city, starting, in 1889.

Lee successfully recovered from his battle, with tuberculosis, Divine Inspired, also, yes, literally and the business equally became very successful. The company was selling fabric, stationery, and furniture. An awful warehouse fire in 1903 damaged the H.D. Lee Mercantile Company; however, by 1911, Lee’s company was thriving once again in steady momentum. There were a lack of adequately paved roadways so despite this, loyal customers were still flocking, to the company’s headquarter stores out west.

An impulsive man, with little patience, really, tolerance for not very much at all, plus, for others’ procrastination, Lee began and finished his own clothing factory and started making his own line of jackets and dungarees, of which the word comes from Mumbai, now called Bombay, India, cotton-twilled denim pants, with pocketed pants, having a flap hanging, over the chest area and straps, over the shoulders.

These were early renditions, of overalls. This was due, to an uncertainty, of Eastern-based suppliers supplying Lee a steady quantity surplus, of work clothes, which his customers, even the hard-to-please ones, wanted, to buy. A lawyer acquaintance, of Lee’s believed Lee was “out of his mind”, for wanting to move out west, beyond the Mississippi River, by supposedly telling Lee, “I’ve stood beside you, Mr. Lee, in many battles, now if you persist, in going out west, it looks like there remains only one service I can render you, that is, to bring your body back, for an Ohio burial.” As is soundly known, Lee disregarded this lawyer’s opinions, completely.

Lee jeans are the second most sold pairs of blue denim jeans after Le-
vi’s jeans, which Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis began in 1873. Marco Polo is credited with naming indigo as he traveled across what is now Pakistan, in the Middle East, where he saw the plant called, in its Latin scientific name, Indigofera tinctorial. In India and Africa, and, in the Americas, Indigofera anil, which was the most prevalent of the early vegetable dyestuffs from where the blue dye was extracted from the plants’ leaves. Back in the 1200s. Cotton fiber and seeds are used, in numerous products, including margarine and vegetable oil. The cotton pant is also widely used to make mops, soap, paper, and candles.

Jeans are still controversial in some parts, of the world. For example, in Turkey, church and government leaders, for religious and morally ethical standard and doctrinal dogmatic reasons, continually argue, whether people, especially girls and women, should dress in traditional shirts and scarves or in Western-style outfits, including blue jeans.

In the Bible, the Book, of Deuteronomy says men and women shouldn’t wear gender assigned clothing articles, plus, in the Book, of Ezekiel, it states, blue clothes and embroidered work were being offered by the merchants of Sheba, in the sixth century, B.C.

Each year, jeans and other cotton clothing are recycled and turned back, into strong flexible fiber paper, which is the type being used, in the printing of money. Even Lee denim jackets and 5-pocket men, women, and children’s denim pants are used to do this. Stronger than regular paper, which is made from wood fiber, and better able to withstand the wear and tear that money goes through, as it journeys from wallet to wallet. It’s believed 20 to 30 percent, of all U.S. paper money, is made this way.

Blue is the Virgin Mary’s, Jesus’s mother’s holy color for, “With the Lord himself, all things shall never be impossible,” in the Gospel of St. Luke 1:37. Amen!

Big Tex is a staple statue in Fair Park, Texas, in the southeast section, of the Dallas area, where the annual state fair is held, in the Lonestar state, of which Texas is, made with the Lee Company denim sponsor ship, in 1952. Big Tex caught on fire in 2014, however he was rebuilt, since then. Big Tex now is now outfitted, with Dickies-brand pants. Austin is Texas’ capital city.

The Jumbo Brand overalls were produced by the Lee Company. Lee was known and widely admired for his business acumen. In 1900, he started being the chairman of the National Wholesale Grocers Association. Appointed treasurer of the American Tobacco Company, Lee thought up the invention of the green rebate certificates, which were included, in many cigarette packages.

The Lee Hardware Company was begun, with Lee partnering, with Norbert F. Schwartz and Charles L. Schwartz, two hardware retailers, from Salina, Kansas, who requested Lee to help them further business prospects; so Lee responded, by loaning them $100,000, to start their own business pursuits, out of compassion, for Lee had struggled, in earlier years, on a tight working company budget.

Garments that Lee was selling, in the hardware store, originated, from unreliable suppliers, whose product, was viewed, by Lee himself, as lacking, in professional craftsmanship. As was known, to be quite a typical pattern, of a free-ranging entrepreneur, as was Lee, he correctly reasoned he could improve the current business procedure, at hand.

Lee entered the work wear business. He had a facility built in order to make overalls and overall pants, with an east-to-produce overall design, which was later dubbed, the “Jumbo” brand. Over time, the Lee work wear division began to market a clothing article, called a coverall, which was later named the Lee Union-All. It wasn’t a reference to any kind of labor union at all. Simply, it described the design, a literal union, of a shirt and a pair, of pants. It was designed to be slipped on over daily clothing, similar to a jumpsuit.

Automobile drivers were the Lee Union-All’s main fitting interest, originally. Climbing out, in order to change tires, or turn crankshafts, in primitive days, of automobile travel, in the early 20th century, was the actual practice, of virtually, if not all, of the earliest automobile operators.

Lot Number 201 was the dark blue denim Lee Union-All and Lot Number 202 was its khaki twill variant. The Lee legacy, from the Union-All invention, in 1913, started an embroidery folklore, as is literal true case, with the ongoing blue jeans myth saga, Lee’s chauffeur, John Helmsey, suggested the clothing design, after complaining about the grease and the grim Helmsey contended with, each time a car breakdown occurred.

Similar to Levi Strauss’s “invention,” really an advanced version, of denim pants, which was later called blue jeans, of which Strauss never called them, during his lifetime, were first produced and sold to miners and other blue-collar skilled laborers in California in 1873. Getting back to the Lee Union-All story, it appears, as a liberal interpretation of actual facts. The clothing piece was created, by a zealous early public relations executive. Helmsey was a
devoted confidant, of Lee’s who was bequeathed $5,000, in Lee’s will, after Lee died, of a heart attack, sadly, in 1928. He was 79 years old.

However, internal company memora nda clearly identifies the actual idea most likely came from a Detroit, Michigan enterprising auto mechanic. In spite, of the details, a literal true fact still remains, after an uncertain period, a profound success literally became, of the Lee Union-All. Just 118 dozen pairs were sold, after the Union-All’s 1913 debut, however, by 1915, Lee’s company was selling roughly 8,500 pairs annually. The outfit made Lee a household name, nationwide.

A 1927 advertisement jingled, or said, “A suit, of Union-Alls, under the seat, of every auto.” Babe Ruth, the Major League Baseball great, signed on, that same year, with the Lee Company, as a company spokesman. 1927 also saw the Lee Company introducing the Amazing Hook less Fastener, which resolved the chronic complaints, emanating, from field workers and many others, who were weary, of fumbling, with their pesky button pant flies, when they had to go pee. Lee’s company ran a lucrative naming contest, for the marketing gimmick clothing feature. WHIZIT was the winning entry.

Another humor-filled product promotion, of the often sober-minded Lee Company, Chester Reynolds, a Lee salesman, introduced and supervised a distribution stream, of a line, of miniature overall pairs, at county fairs. Reynolds invented the idea, for the batch’s remainder umber, of dot-eyed dolls, in the little over duds. A window display, at Dayton’s department store, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, began a furor, over the newly made dolls, the Lee Company started making the dolls, as an invented mascot, nicknamed Buddy Lee.

Originally costing $2.50 each, these hand-painted dolls were made, in a designed line, with a cowboy, an engineer, and a football player, from the early days, of the sport. This all started, in 1920. Early Buddy Lee dolls sometimes commanded $250, or more, at auctions. Buddy Lee, as a doll mascot, was retired, in 1960. Buddy Lee was reinstated, in 1998, with a bobble head version. Buddy Lee, as the resurrected company mascot, was reintroduced, on television commercials, as the Lee Company aired them, along with their famed denim clothing apparel, in order, to attract a younger generation, of customers. The doll was paired, with celebrities, which is always a very wise business-enhancing venture approach, for years and still, as in the 1990’s and early 2000’s, with such television stars, as Sarah Michelle Gellar, from the Buffy The Vampire Slayer and on other television shows, from the same era, as Dawson’s Creek and Dharma and Greg, as cast members, from each show, donned Buddy Lee Tee Shirts.

Also, a Buddy Lee Revival, featuring the “Can’t Bust Em’” slogan, was borrowed, from the same name work wear line. So, each doll was inscribed, the “Lee Dungarees Can’t Bust ‘Em, Est. 1880”, which suggested an impression, of Lee’s work wear dating back, to the “Can’t Bust ‘Em” brand, which predated the beginning, of the Lee Company, by 9 years. The before mentioned slogan became Lee property, in 1946, after the firm’s purchase, of “Can’t Bust ‘Em’s” parent company, called Eloesser-Heynemann. This 1946 transaction also gave Lee possession, of the Boss of the Road trademark and its cute bulldog mascot, which were Eloesser-Heynemann property, since 1932, after the San Francisco, California-based company bought out Neustader Brothers, who were a longtime competitor, of theirs.

The Lee Company was the first jeans company, to be focused, on producing a continual line, of denim western wear, a big one, indeed. The Lee Company celebrated their 50th anniversary, in 1939, which was nicknamed, its “JUBILEE”, because a jubilee is a period, of fifty years, or a half, of a century.

“We can do it!” was the slogan during World War 2, popularized by a fictional character which was created by American artist J. Howard Miller in 1942 and later Norman Rockwell painted in 1943 for an edition of Saturday Evening Post, thus encouraging millions of women, nationwide, to join the labor force, producing bullets, guns, uniforms, and other weapon machines in the war effort, allowing women to wear denim overalls and blue jean pants, including from the Lee company, even after the war, to present time, over 70 years later.

Geraldine Hoff Doyle (1924 - 2010) was believed to have been the model, while having a temporary metal pressing job during WWII in Inkster, Michigan. Doyle didn’t personally know she was the focus of the enduring poster until 1982 almost 40 years after the war’s end. Denim was a much heavier twill than jean. Unlike jean, which was woven of two dyed threads, denim had the distinctive appearance it retains today, which is a colored warp, usually dyed, with indigo, crossed with an undyed, or white weft. The two fabrics were, however, used, in the production, of many, of the same dry goods, leading to the eventual interchangeability, of the terms. With the coming, of mecha-
nization, in the 1700’s, and the abundant natural resources, of its colonies, in India and North America, both of which were blessed, with ideal conditions, for growing the cotton plant, England built an enormous textile industry. The heavy twill, of denim proved well suited, not only, for work wear, but for goods, such as upholstery, mattress ticking, and awnings, as well. Similar cotton products included drill, a course fabric that would lend its name to one variety, of prototypical blue jeans, called “blue drilins” and duck, or canvas, which was ideal, for tent cloth and sails. Over the years, jeans have been sold in white, black, brown, green, and just about every color, on the color spectrum. It’s no accident though, the main color is blue. “The deeper blue becomes, the more urgently it summons man towards the infinite, a longing for purity and, ultimately, for the super sensual”, as this was written by, Wassily Kandinsky, an artist.

Mariners were known to routinely recycle tattered sections, of ship sail, into ship “slops”, into uniforms, including bell bottom pants. Marco Polo while traveling, in the Middle East, where he saw the plant called, in its Latin scientific name, Indigofera tinctoria, in India and Africa, and, in the Americas, Indigofera anil, which was the most prevalent, of the early vegetable dyestuffs, from where the blue dye was extracted, from the plants’ leaves, back, in the 1200’s. Cotton fiber and seeds are used, in numerous products, including margarine and vegetable oil. Each year, jeans and other cotton clothing are recycled and turned back, into strong flexible fiber paper, which is the type, being used, in the printing, of money, even Lee denim jackets and 5-pocket men, women, and children’s denim “Lee jeans are the second most sold pairs, of blue denim jeans, after Levi’s jeans, which Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis began producing and selling, in 1873. The cotton pant is also widely used, to make mops, soap, paper, and candles. Marco Polo is credited, with naming indigo, as he traveled across what is now Pakistan.

Blue is the Virgin Mary’s, Jesus’ mother’s, holy color for “With the Lord himself, all things shall never be impossible,” in the Gospel of St. Luke 1:37. Amen!

Jeans are a basic part, of our post-modern culture. They are born, literally, as cream-colored cotton puffs. Cotton is grown, in warm and dry climates, where raw cotton is harvested and taken to a factory, called a cotton gin. Pipes suck out the cotton, out of delivery trucks, or train cars, and into a manufacturing building. Inside the building, huge dryers remove a remaining excess moisture, then a special machine combs through the fabric fibers, in order to screen out sticks and dirt. In the end, a gin machine stand plucks out cotton fibers, away from the cotton seeds. Clean fibers are shipped to spinning mills, as they are later spun, into stone-colored cloth, known as plain cotton fabric. At the 19th century’s close, jeans were starting, to be a household word. In 1899, a melodrama play, entitled, Blue Jeans, first appeared onstage.”

“Amokseag Mill, which was located, in Manchester, New Hampshire, was the main center, from where major jeans manufacturers ordered their denim, and they routinely requested not pale beige, but dark blue, a color that would go on, to show less dirt and wear. The New England mill received orders and sent order shipments, of ready-made blue cotton denim, colored, with indigo, which was a dye made, by fermenting the leaves, of the indigo plant, which was a plant, which could grow up to six feet tall, in the tropical climates, of the world continents, of Africa and Southeast Asia. Due to the need, of indigo plant fermenting, indigo making was a long and tedious process. For centuries, it was one, of the most high price dyes, in the whole world. In 1880, German chemist Johann van Baeyer created the exact same laboratory color. Soon, a German chemical company was selling manmade indigo, for more inexpensive fees, than the natural indigo plant-based dye. Today, jeans companies, worldwide, produce over 14,000 tons, of synthetic indigo annually, with most, of it being used, to the blue jean dye factory procedure. As is the case, with naturally-produced indigo, synthetic dye is not colorfast, meaning it will gradually fade away, or wash out, of the original fabric.

Denim comes, at a jeans factory, in gigantic rolls, of up to 490 yards, with each roll providing enough fabric, to make up to 300 pairs, of jeans. An automated cutting machine slices through 68 layers, of fabric, all, at one time, thus creating perfectly patterned cut-outs, with each piece being passed to factory workers, operating sewing machines. In the production process’s beginning, pockets and belt loops are made. A big stamp pounds down onto a cookie-cutter-like mold platform. 20 pockets can be created, at one time. Another machine folds, sews, and presses each pocket, in place, then a zipper machine stitches the zipper, to the denim fabric, then cutting it to size, and attaching the pull tab. Needles pull cotton thread, through the ready-made fabric 4,000 times, a minute.

After all, of the pieces are assembled, workers stitch them together, with a worker, being responsible, for stitching the inseams, working
American workers, to be laid off, thus causing untold numbers, of during the to our southern neighbor, Mexico, factories, to foreign countries, like company, moved many, of their manufacturers, including the Lee by robots. Many American jeans world, may all soon be replaced, many other nations, around the wers, in blue jeans place, of jeans. However, work- North America is the official birth clothes, at the workplace, or not. Many people like to wear jeans, sweatpants, and other casual clothing pieces, even to their jobs, thus usually calling in sick, much less. More workers, who are clad, in casual clothes, tend to put more energy into their job tasks, while burning more excessive body calories. However, scientific data isn’t neces- sary, to correctly prove, that many people like to wear jeans, sweatpants, and other casual clothes, at the workplace, or not. North America is the official birth place, of jeans. However, workers, in blue jeans-making facili- ties, in the USA, Mexico, and many other nations, around the world, may all soon be replaced, by robots. Many American jeans manufacturers, including the Lee company, moved many, of their factories, to foreign countries, like to our southern neighbor, Mexico, during the 1980-‘s and 1990-‘s, thus causing untold numbers, of American workers, to be laid off, indefinitely, while in the process, of finding cheaper labor.

Environmental pollution, physical, sexual, verbal, and emotional abuse, of jeans factory workers, in foreign nations, such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, El Salvador, India, Thailand, and other developing countries, and many of these abused and under paid laborers, later developing life threatening medical conditions, due to inhaling toxic dye fumes, plus protesting speeches, from people, from these nations, public- ly exposing the dark side, of the clothing factory industry, led to better laws and regulations, being enacted, by several jeans companies, including that, of Lee, designed to protect the foreign workers, in their homeland. Many consumers, including Americans, would pay more for pants, knowing the workers, who made them, are well-treated and well-paid. The International Textile Garment and Leather Work- ers’ Federation isn’t into boycott- ing specific clothing manufacturer- s, because boycotts could put fair factories, out of business, including the abusive ones. The Global Union Federation, produces a continual “blacklist”, of factories, which break work and employee safety rules, with an updated list called the Register of Dirty Companies, with the Fed- eration asking jeans makers, to their business elsewhere, away from bad factories.

Jeans companies offer good advice, in purchasing a pair, of blue jeans, one, look for distinguishing features, like the leather patch, on Lee waistbands and always remember, that if a price is too good to be true, it probably is, so you won’t get shafted, by wrong-headed-wise buying behaviors. Also, don’t sit, on a piece, of home furniture, because the dark blue indigo dye will rub off, onto the furniture piece. Your skin can turn blue, if you stand, in the rain, if you wear your new- ly purchased jeans, without washing them first.

The word Jean, first appeared, in the Oxford English dictionary, in 1567. Jean first appeared in Webster’s dictionary, in 1864. The word Denim, is of French origins, of its French translation, “ serge de nimes”, a trade term, of a cotto- wool blend originally intro- duced, in Nimes, France, in the southeastern part, of the country, in the 1500-‘s. Its French transla- tion, of blue jeans, is probably “bleu de Genes”, derived, from a sailor’s port, in Genoa, Italy, in the 1500-‘s, as well. Denim is a cotton wool blend. Blue jeans’ origin is still largely unknown, to this day.”

So, the wearing of blue jeans rep- resents all socio-economical areas, of humanity’s wholeness, globally, literally. Jeans are uni- versally worn, despite Mormon founder Brigham Young dubbing them, including similar trousers, “fornication pants”. A church vicar, in Great Britain, in the 20th century, banned jeans, from his home church youth group, claim- ing that any one, who wore jeans was a person whose morals were, “practically non-existent”.

Lee Jeans, despite this religious viewpoint, just as other jeans brands, are sold around the world.
“And now, further news on the recent crime wave. Over to you, Lindsay.”

“Thanks, Spencer. It’s become clear that the numerous incidents plaguing Los Angeles are the actions of an organized criminal element—one so skilled that there are almost no eyewitnesses to these crimes. From purse snatching to vandalism to breaking and entering, police have been overwhelmed by calls from citizens who have been victimized. The crimes are highly varied, as the thieves have stolen everything from roller skates to electronic gaming systems. What’s even more perplexing is how rarely the culprits are seen. Police reports provide only vague descriptions of teenagers or middle school students. To top it off, several of these descriptions also mention ‘shadowy, inhuman forms’ accompanying them. Unfortunately, they were not able to get a good look at these forms. In any case, these incidents are by no means random or isolated. And regrettably, the police are unable to do much to combat this crime wave. Lindsay Gillespie, Los Angeles News.”

“Alright, thanks, Lindsay. When we return: a mother of two arrested after calling the police to report her child being assaulted. How did this happen, and why—”

CLICK. A ten-year-old Hispanic boy named Juan hit the remote, turning off the TV.

“Well,” he said, turning to look at the gathered kids and their monster partners. “I don’t think there’s any doubt. Rebeldes has clearly made their mark upon this city. The time to act has come.”

Beside him, Mantis—an insect-dragon creature—growled in agreement from both mouths.

“I’m with you,” agreed Ryan, a bespectacled eleven-year-old. “They need to learn that having a monster doesn’t give them the right to do whatever they want.” He passed a small flash drive to Megabyte, the white rabbit-like creature giving a nod and running over to the computer. Inserting the drive, it hopped onto a chair and began to type.

Nick, a dark-haired boy dressed in ‘goth’ clothes, turned on a projector, his ghost-like partner Leila hovering beside him as he began his presentation.

“As you know, LA’s recent crime wave is being committed by a group known as Rebeldes—that’s Spanish for ‘rebels.’ They mostly recruit kids from poor neighborhoods or with juve records, though they’ll take others who catch their eye as long as they’ve got a monster partner. This makes things difficult for the cops, so it’s up to us—the members of Fantasma—to stop them.”

Just then, an Asian ten-year-old entered, followed by a Hispanic boy and an African-American girl, both about the same age. All three were accompanied by monsters of their own—a catlike creature with a cloud for a lower body, a bipedal goat-like creature with red-orange fur, and a grey & purple imp, respectively.

“Sorry I’m late,” the Asian boy said. “What’d I miss?”

“Oh, hey Vince,” Juan gestured for the trio to approach. “You didn’t really miss anything important. Are these the new recruits Carmine told me about?”

“Yes,” Vince replied. “Meet Pablo and Brianna. Tian Yan and I ran into them while patrolling northern Sepulveda Boulevard.”

“Did you explain to them about Fantasma and Rebeldes?” asked Mary, stroking the small wolf-like creature she called Selene.

“I told them the basic stuff, yeah.”

“Good,” Nick said. “That’s about all I covered so far.” He gestured to Leila, who floated over to the computer and changed the slides.

“While we still don’t know who is behind Rebeldes, or what their long-term goals are, we have been able to thwart some of their crimes, and have helped the police catch a few members, albeit anonymously.”

“Tonight,” said Ryan, stepping up to continue as Nick sat down. “We’re going to try and capture a member or two, to see if we can get some information out of them.”

“How?” asked Pablo.

“Megabyte and I keep tabs on Rebeldes’ operations, mainly with special software and radio equipment,” Ryan explained. “This allows us to catch wind of their operations so we can interfere.”

As if on cue, a pop-up appeared on the computer screen:

Alert!
Rebeldes communication detected.
Listen?
Yes  No

Chirruping excitedly, Megabyte hit ‘Yes.’ Near instantly, the sounds of radio communication filled the room.

“Pizarro to de Ayala. Pizarro to de Ayala. Do you copy? Over.”

“This is de Ayala. I hear you. Over.”

“Just received word from El Cid. We’re hitting Dodger Stadium tonight. It’s time to step things up.”

“Copy that, Pizarro. I’ll grab Picasso, Dali, and Kahlo, and we’ll meet outside City Hall. Over.”

“Got it. Over and out.”

Closing the communication program, Juan looked around at his fellow members of Fantasma.

“All right then. Mantis and I will be going to check this out, but I doubt we can handle this alone. Nick, Mary, Vince are any of you free tonight?”

Vince nodded. “I told Dad I was going to a sleepover at a friend’s house.”

“Good. Pablo, Brianna, you two should come with us, get a little experience under your belts.”

“Cool.” Pablo pulled out his phone. “Just let me send a text to Mama so she won’t worry.”
**Teamwork**

by Kevin Hart

It's good to have teamwork to help out in a big work load setting (ex: at the assembly line, at the airport, etc.) If you have a hard time keeping up with the work load, ask for help. As a team, you can get the work done. It's not worth getting injured when there's help out there. Some people do it on their own, when possible risk of injury is great. It's not worth your health to get injured because you'll be in pain and can't work. What I'm trying to say is getting the help you need and working as a team is better than doing it yourself when injury can be prevented. Also it gets the work done the right way when you use teamwork. I hope this message helps someone in need of help.

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**A Place of My Own**

by Josh Hughes

Soon after I moved home to Pittsburgh from New Jersey, I began to search for my own place. At the time of moving back, I returned to live in the house I grew up in until I could find a apartment that I could afford.

There were a couple locations I was looking at for an apartment. One of these locations was Monroeville since one of my desires was to be near family. Also I had grown up in Monroeville and the people that I was closest to lived there.

Another location that I had considered was Squirrel Hill since at that time I did not have my driver’s license and everything was in walking distance.

I worked with my service coordinator to find a place of my own. My mom, service coordinator, and I took a tour of two affordable apartment complexes, both run by Presbyterian Senior Care. One of the apartment locations was in Oakmont called Plumwood and the other was called Timothy Place.

They were very nice apartments. I also worked with Achieva’s A Home of my Own Program, in which they did an assessment about living on my own, but it didn’t work out with this program. As I was doing my research online for apartments. I came to discover that the two locations that I wanted or made sense for me to live in were too expensive. So I applied for a couple affordable apartments, but the ones that I looked at were a bit far from family.

One of these apartments that I applied for was Timothy Place in Plum Borough. While it was not my ideal location, I was only about ten miles from family and friends, and my goal at the time was to be able to get my driver’s license, which is another article. I was on the Timothy Place wait list for about two years before there was an apartment available. When one did become available, I got a call from the landlord saying that one was available. To my surprise, it was a two bedroom apartment which was one of the features I was looking for.

I moved in March of 2016 and have been at my apartment for over a year now. While it may not be my permanent home, it is a good apartment to start out in. I will just have to see what the future holds for me.
At the beginning of this year I accomplished one of my goals that was long time coming, I earned my drivers license. This is one goal that I am very proud of since it took me about ten years before I was ready to pursue driving, but as an old saying goes: better late than never. My motivation for working hard to get my license was because I realized the fact that my parents are not always going to be around and that also other family members have their own lives.

My journey to earning my license began about a year or so ago when I picked up the driver’s manual and started studying it to get my permit. Along with studying the manual, there was also a testing app created by Penn Dot in order for people to practice for the written exam portion of the exam.

I practiced taking the written test on this app over and over again until the day of my written test. I recorded each score as I went along. I went and took the written portion of my driving test on my 27th birthday. I passed the test by getting the minimum amount right that was needed to pass. This was my birthday present to myself that year.

Once I got my permit, I started getting behind the wheel that summer. I started off driving in parking lots in different places such as a school and also a cemetery. I had family and friends take me driving in these areas. Once I got comfortable driving in the parking lot, the next step for me was driving on the main roads and highways.

It was a bit nerve-racking at first, but with the help of my mom, I was able to conquer my fear.

While I had my permit, I enrolled in University of Pittsburgh’s Adaptive Driving Program with OVR paying for my training. I had a wonderful and patient instructor.

For some sessions I would go down to Oakland to drive in a city setting and other times my instructor would come out to where I live in the eastern suburbs and we would work on things like tricky intersections. I also worked on driving on highways such as the parkway and merging on or off the exit ramps. Another skill that I worked on was changing lanes.

I worked with my instructor for about half of a year. Then when she felt that I was ready to take the on the road portion of my test, I practiced the route of the test with my instructor a couple of times. I also practiced parallel parking.

In January of this year, I went to the testing center in Penn Hills and took my test. I was so happy when I got the results of my test. I passed the on the road portion of the test the first time with a perfect score. Once I got my license, I started taking about every opportunity that I can to get used to being behind the wheel. To my surprise, each time that I drove, I got better and better. I guess the old saying that practice makes perfect is true. I hope eventually I will be able to afford a car.
A Personal Reflection

by Joey Cepek

Vengeance is mine, says the Lord, meaning literally, perfectly, and, again, the Lord shall judge his people. As it says in the New Testament, Book of Hebrews 10:30 from the Good Lord Jesus Christ our Lord, Savior, and master, perfectly, literally, and wonderfully, now and forever and ever, yes, indeed, literally and truly so! Wonderfully! Amen!

I am not the same kind, of person, you are. I am not a white-collar professional worker, with degree titles, after my name. I am not an ordained minister. I am not a theologian. I am not a seminary-trained BIBLE scholar. I read it also, meaning the Bible, for personal spiritual enrichment. The Bible books, in the Old Testament, of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, with all, of the Laws, given by the Lord God Almighty to the nation of Israel and the entire race, of Jewish people, following their liberation, from slavery, in Egypt, after 400 years, of back-breaking bondage, there, in the Exodus, through Moses, from, ultimately the Lord himself through his divine an supernatural son Jesus Christ our Lord, Master, and Savior and through the Holy Spirit, the triune trinity God head ordained, yes, indeed, literally and truly so!

The Bible on cassette is really good, as I bought it, in four volumes, covering all 66 books, of the entire Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, the whole Old and New Testaments alike, combined for $1.30 from the Hampton Community Library, on Friday, January 27, 2017.

Reading about dogs, “Man’s and woman’s best friend, as the first documented domesticated innocent animals, from their wolf ancestor, some 12,000 years ago, as is believed, by scientists, the world over, is great and enriching, literally. This is combined, with great technicolor pictures, of dogs, of various breeds and mixed breeds, including the Labrador Retriever, from Newfoundland, Canada. The books also contain colored photographs, of wild canids, such as wolves, coyotes, foxes, jackals, dholes, dingoes, raccoon dogs, African hunting dogs, plus many others, in the Candida, or the Canine, meaning the dog family.

Many stray innocent domestic animals, including dogs, cats, bunny rabbits, horses, plus many others, of various species, breeds, and mixed breeds, or crossbreeds, alike, are never ever, to blame, for being illegally abused and/or abandoned, just like a small child, which is never ever acceptable, or justifiable behavior, ever. They deserve a second chance. This is, at life, just like people. They are not like an old pair, of socks, shoes, sweatpants, blue jeans, a wooden chair or table, or some other inanimate object, including an automobile, with 4 rubber tires. No, they are immortal soul bearing, sinless, and innocent creatures, who deserve unconditional love, tender loving care, or TLC, in the abbreviate form, because Jesus Christ, Emanuel meaning “God is with us” as in the Gospel of St. John 1:14 immaculately states, “The Word became flesh and came to dwell among us, yes, indeed, literally and truly so.

Jesus perfectly and literally loves and lives on the inside of all innocent animals because he is the ultimate representative of all creation through his heavenly father and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever and ever. Amen!

Jesus, Hershey, Duke, Siam, Brownie, Snowball, Timbur, Blackie, Charlie, Ike, Puppy Meyer, Lurch, Bimbo, Rocky, Puff, Moonie, Biff, Furball, Fluff, Poppy, Sidney, Eddie, Sassy, Candy, Harley, Daisy, Betsy, Scout, Sunday, Sheba, Bandit, Rains, Cy, Mario, Hercules, Bullwinkle, Jasmine, Benji Sr., Benji Jr., Spike, Slick, Effie, Shadow, Hogan, Pete, Tippy, Shultz, Miss Kitty, Chester, Shiloh, Ginger, Queenie, Tazy, TiTi, also spelled TyTy, and all of our other dearly departed four legged love ones are yes, indeed in heavenly paradise with Jesus himself forever and ever and we will all be reunited with all of them in a grand eternal reunion on a Biblically prophesized Garden of Eden paradise pleasure ground, some day, forever and ever, gloriously, wonderfully, perfectly, immaculately, and beautifully, as it clearly states in the Book of Revelation Chapter 21 and Verse 5, “He, Jesus, whom sits on the Holy and immaculate throne of supernatural divine deity and grace declares, “Behold! I shall make all things new!” Amen!

Usually, innocent domestic shelter animals, such as dogs, cats, and others, especially, if they are strays, for only Christ perfectly knows how long, literally are totally innocent of all of their plights, yes, indeed, are given names, by the workers there, after animal husbandry control officers find and
wonderfully rescue them. Older pet animal companions need a loving home, just like younger pet companion animals. An orange and white tabby domestic cat and an older black Pug dog, with a silver and gray muzzle, along with a yellow bow tie, plus the pretty tomcat, with domestic gray and white fur, with dark, almost black, tiger-like furry stripes, named Claude, formerly known as Dash, and Lana, a Chocolate Labrador Retriever, just like Hershey, Cocoa, Timbur, and Duke, in heavenly paradise with Jesus, forever and ever, yes, indeed, literally and truly so, who was a stray dog, in Washington County, PA., for two weeks, before they transferred her, down to the 1101 Western Avenue shelter, in the North Side animal shelter. The kennel workers told us how old she might have been, at the time, around 4 years old, and, now, she has a silver white-gray furry muzzle. She might be older, or approximately 8 years old, right now, as of this journal entry.

April barks, as an alarm Barker, as do most dogs, just like Daisy, a little Maltese, and Webster, a little Bichon Frise and Shi-Tzu mix dog, but they are not biters, which no one ever needs to potentially deal with, yes, indeed, literally!

Once she gets to know you, on the property, of my parents and I, she calms down. She’s all bark and no bite, literally and wonderfully, just like Duke, Hershey, Daisy, a miniature white poodle, cocker spaniel and some other breeds, little dog, of our former neighbors, and all other innocent animals, in heavenly paradise, with Jesus, yes, indeed, everlasting, forever and ever, literally and truly so!

“I, JDC, am also imperfect and flawed, literally! Amen!

Selena Quintanilla-Perez’s Most Memorable Spanish and English Language Songs

by Joey Cepek

1. COMO LA FLOR (LIKE A FLOWER)
2. BIDI BIDI BOM BOM
3. DONDEQUIERA QUE ESTES (WHEREVER YOU ARE)
4. AMOR PROHIBIDO (FORBIDDEN LOVE)
5. LA CARCACHA (THE JALOPY)
6. BAILA ESTA CUMBIA
7. NO ME QUEDA MAS
8. LA LLAMADA
9. DREAMING OF YOU
10. A BOY LIKE THAT
11. IS IT THE BEAT?
12. WHERE DID THE FEELING GO?
13. CAPTIVE HEART
14. BAILA CONMIGO DUET (SELENA/SPANISH LYRICS+DAVID BYRNE/ENGLISH LYRICS)
15. I COULD FALL IN LOVE
16. MISSING MY BABY

A GROUP OF REMIX RE+RECORDING SONGS

1. ON THE RADIO
2. THE HUSTLE
3. LAST DANCE
4. FUNKYTOWN
5. BLUE MOON
6. WE BELONG TOGETHER
7. LA BAMBA
8. FOTOS Y RECUEUDOS (PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES) +SELENA’S OWN RECORDING+SPANISH LANGUAGE, WHICH WAS TAKEN, FROM THE 1983 SONG, FROM THE PRETENDERS, ENTITLED, “BACK ON THE CHAIN GANG.”

“Selena began, as a singer, with her older brother Abraham B. Quintanilla III and her older sister Suzette, with their father Abraham B. Quintanilla, Jr., as their manager, with their band called Selena Y Los Dinos, starting in 1980. The Quintanilla family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1981, after Abraham, Jr. closed his restaurant, in Lake Jackson, as result, of the oil industry collapse, statewide and as a touring base, for the fledgling young band.”
Zoology, the study of animals, is interesting. I'm sure you know that, just like plants, of which botany is the study, of them, with a male gender organ, known as a stamen and a female organ, known as an ovary, inside each other, meaning each individual plant, including trees, bushes, shrubs, and others, plus fungi, like mosses and mushrooms, even some animals, such as saltwater ocean dwelling maritime animals, such as protozoa and amoeba, some seahorses, as well as, barnacles, sea cucumbers, sea hydras, sea anemones, jellyfish, sea corals, sponges, and others, reproduce asexually, that is, they bud out, of themselves, by dispersing polyps, off, of their bodies, into their oceanic, or freshwater living environments.

These creatures have literally been alive since, almost, that is, since the dawn of Creation, with sponges, plus jellyfish, which are some of the most primitive animals Created, goes as far back as 630 million years to the present time.

If I were a jellyfish, I'd sting those, who anger me, plus unlike, as a human being, I wouldn't feel guilty, about it, literally not, at all, yes, indeed, because, just like any other innocent animal species, I wouldn't, as a jellyfish, wouldn't, that is, be held accountable, for my actions or be, By The Divine Creator, Either.”

“Amen!!!”

“Jellyfish don't care, about where they swim and where they float, then that means, that they don't worry, about their life responsibilities, as spineless invertebrate creatures, who, except for one known species, or so, that that is, by scientists' current knowledge, have poisonous stinging cells, lining their tentacles, normally hanging, from a visible umbrella-shaped head, with no eyes.

Most jellyfish will sting anything or everything, that comes, into contact, with their tentacles, individually, that is, as well as, in a group, of them, known as a smack.

They aren't true fish, despite their name, and are coelenterates, and are related, to sea anemones and sea hydras, in the same animal family.

If I can come back, as any innocent animal, a jellyfish, namely a giant one, with stinging tentacles, measuring between 50 to over 100 feet, is what I wouldn't mind being, or as another jellyfish, known as a Portuguese Man of War, with a crest-like scale-fin on top, of my umbrella-shaped head.”
Feeling Guilt for Eating Meat

by Joey Cepek

I also feel a bit guilty, in eating the flesh, thoroughly cooked, that is, of chickens, turkeys, cows, bulls, pigs, and such because, literally, yes, indeed, since they were once immortal and soul-bearing creatures. I also believe, too, meaning, on this unfair side, of eternity, and, if I live long enough, meaning, on my own, someday, again, Christ willingly, that yes, indeed, literally, I will want to be a vegan, possibly, and starting out, hardly eat any cooked meat, if any, at all.

I just eat what my parents have given to me, since childhood. I'm on a fixed daily budget income, too, and, like for years, have also read, that is, about the terrible abuse, of many helpless factory industrial farm animals, of the before-mentioned species, and they tragically and needlessly suffer, before they are slaughtered, and so I can't help, but feel a tinge, ongoing-wise, of being a hypocrite, too, as my personal conscience bugs me, sometimes, after I eat a hamburger, a cheeseburger, a pork chop, pork and sauerkraut, fried or baked chicken, bacon, sausage, hot dogs, steaks, spare ribs, or some other meats.

However, again, I just, as for years, and still, just eat what's prepared, by my mom, to please her and my dad, out of due continued necessary respect, to them, as in the Holy Bible's text, the Book of Ephesians 6:3, "Children, obey your parents, so it may always go well, with you, even into, meaning possibly and literally, yes, indeed, into old age, and that your own days, be extended, in the land, of the living”, that is, By A Divine Blessing."

“AMEN!!!”

My Reincarnation Opinion

by Joey Cepek

I wouldn’t mind being a box-shaped Australian jellyfish, one of the most venomous animals in the world if reincarnation were true, but in my honest opinion, it isn’t true at all. Such as if each and every one of my family’s deceased human relatives, including my maternal grandmother, named Lenora G. Cook (Fairman) are now African elephants or Asian-Indian elephants, who are the largest mammal creatures of all, literally. Or if I, too, could come back as a dog, a cat, a horse, a donkey, a whale, a bear, a squirrel, a chipmunk, a crow, a butterfly, or a bumblebee, so I could also pick up and fly to wherever I needed to go, however, literally, only wishful thinking, yes indeed! The good Lord Jesus Christ declares, in the book of the Gospel of St. John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes, to the father, but by me.”
I was diagnosed with Asperger's when I was two years old. As a child I was shy a lot. My parents tried to get me socially involved by signing me up for t-ball, but that did not work out so well. I just sat on the grass and picked it and drew in the dirt.

I liked to be by myself and pretend I was different people, like a teacher. I have always had an interest in one subject or thing. When I was six, I was into school buses and outer space. Then when I got to third grade, I started to be interested in the Titanic because I had learned about it.

Now my interest is sports. Sometimes this was a benefit because I had something to call my own. Sometimes it was a distraction because other kids might not be interested in the same things I was.

Asperger's has made it difficult for me to remember things, so I use lists. All through elementary school I had a personal aide to assist me with schoolwork. In seventh and eighth grade, I was put in an Autistic support classroom and mainstreamed for three or four of my classes.

Eighth grade was a very tough part of my life. It was also a tough year for me not just physically with my foot surgery but mentally and behaviorally as I was always causing trouble. I would not listen to my Mom. I would get into arguments with her, yell at her, and hit her. Sometimes I got so mad that I took it out on my sister, and much to my disappointment I would hit her also. It got so bad that the police came a couple times and took me to a psychiatric hospital about three times over a certain period of time.

Then it got to the point the summer before my freshman year of high school that my parents made the decision to put me in an RTF (Residential Treatment Facility). At first I was not too happy about going there, but when I got there they showed me ways to get along better with people.

Once I accepted that I was there I worked and was on my best behavior. Finally when the end of the 2004-2005 school year came, my therapist and I sat down to talk about going back to public school. When my therapist said yes I could go back I was so happy. I went back and spent my junior and senior years of high school at my public school. I graduated from high school in 2007 with honors and went on to a community college.

In college I had to learn how to be a self-advocate for my needs, which I believe, is an important thing to know how to do. Also in college I had accommodations to assist me in my classes like being able to record lectures, getting extended time on tests, and testing outside of the classroom.

These accommodations helped me in my classes especially recording my classes. This enabled me to go back and listen to the lecture and take notes at my own pace. Just recently, I was taught how to use the washer and dryer, and since I could not remember all the steps like what temperature to wash what clothes in, and what settings to put the washer and dryer on, I wrote them down as I was being told them. Now I have a visual reminder of what to do.
I chose to write about my Dad and his experience in the pharmaceutical profession. We sat down for an interview and I learned a lot about my Dad and his job.

1. When did you become a pharmacist?
I became a pharmacist over 30 years ago. I worked in retail pharmacy, insurance companies, mail-order pharmacies, and specialty pharmacies.

2. Why did you want to become a pharmacist?
I wanted to become a pharmacist because I liked chemistry and medicine and wanted a career in which I could help people.

3. How long did you go to school?
I went to chemistry school for 6 years and worked as intern for 3 years to learn to be a pharmacist.

4. Where did you go to school?
I went to the University of Pittsburgh and graduated in 1985.

5. What did you study?
I studied chemistry, biology, math business management, empathy, and how to truly talk to people.

6. What type of classes did you take?
I started with a lot of different sciences, anatomy, physiology, and learned how your body works.

7. What’s the best part about being a pharmacist?
I think that the best thing about being a pharmacist is the ability to really help people before they understand how medicines work on the body.

8. What/Who inspired you to become a pharmacist?
I had many teachers and liked them all; however Professor Dr. Knapp was my favorite.

9. Have you worked at many companies?
In the past, I worked for companies that focused on complex diseases. They included diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease and other diseases. I learned about each disease and where medicines fell in their treatment. I would advise people how to get to best effect from medicines to reduce side effects.

10. What do you like most about your job?
My job has provided valuable experience and gave me a chance to talk to people all over the country.

I really enjoyed interviewing my Dad. He helps people and I am proud of him.

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The Blessing Behind the Curse

By Darren Timothy

If you are born blind, your other senses become heightened for the loss of one. You may not be able to enjoy bright colors, but instead hear every instrument more beautifully in an orchestra. I believe this to fall true for anything that doesn’t render you as “typical” or “normal.” People commentate in other areas in what they may lack.

Through other people’s eyes they may see me as socially inadequate or maybe even non-empathetic. Sometimes it is hard to know what to say or do in social situations. What people do not see is the situations I may thrive in, but the situations they would be seen as inadequate.

My sister Taylor is a great example. She can go to a party and at the end of the night know everyone there and their life story. I could be at that same party and never even ask the person’s name.

What I could tell you about is what cars were parked outside, the picture that was hanging crooked or who was wearing two different socks. Something that if you asked her, she would have not even noticed or cared about but could be more useful. Our vision of what we see in the same circumstance is different but equal in importance.

Taylor asks for my advice because she says I have an amazing way of thinking more logically.

Thinking with emotion out of the equation, and just by using facts is a gift in itself.

For some people it would be a curse, or even unimaginable, not to be able to ‘normally’ show empathy. Such as being the only person at a private family funeral not crying, yep that's me. I felt bad, but I felt like what would crying accomplish? It wouldn't bring the dead person back, it wouldn't make things better again, or surely wouldn't make anyone else feel less worse. I comforted family members, drove family in the funeral procession and helped elsewhere as my family members who needed it.

My curse of not being ‘normal’ is what I am thankful for.
Carolyn Komich-Hare: Ambassador of Arts for Autism

A Pittverse Exclusive Q&A by Michael Kurland

This interview is with the co-Founder of the Arts For Autism Foundation, Carolyn Komich-Hare. She’s no stranger to the Autism spectrum, having worked in the field for over two decades. After my 1-on-1 interview with Joey Travolta of Inclusion Films, I felt that Carolyn would be a great follow-up to learn more about advocacy, arts and Autism in the Pittsburgh area. And here was the result:

1. Could you start by telling us a bit about yourself?

A: Well...I’m finding that as I get older it’s more difficult to talk about myself. It’s a whole lot more fun to talk about my family, which consists of my husband, Jason, who teaches at Pitt. Our kids are Ella (11) and Jamie (9). They are rapidly growing and keep us all busy and completely entertained. We also have two dogs, which add a level of chaos in our lives that we could never have anticipated!

2. What led you to start the Arts For Autism Foundation?

A: We started the Arts for Autism Foundation as a way of keeping Joey Travolta Film Camp here in Pittsburgh. It has grown substantially and has a hard-working Board of Directors, including Heather Conroy and Joe Farrell who helped bring the camp to Pittsburgh!

3. What is Arts For Autism and what are its goals?

A: Arts for Autism Foundation was founded to support the creative expression of adolescents and young adults with disabilities in an accessible, inclusive setting, alongside industry professionals.

4. When did your path first cross with Joey Travolta & Inclusion Films?

A: I met Joey in Bakersfield, California during the fall of 2010. I was visiting a colleague who knew Joey and was stopping by the camp to meet with a student of hers; she asked if I wanted to tag along. It seemed like a great opportunity to learn about programs happening in other parts of the world. While my colleague met with her student, I was able to observe Joey interviewing some of the filmmakers. It was an incredibly moving experience. Also, I’d never seen students with autism and developmental disabilities so challenged and engaged. I learned that day how important it is to push past the rigidity of traditional educational programming and provide true opportunity for growth through the arts.

5. What’s your role in Joey’s Short Film Camp? (Excuse the pun.)

A: Ha! Well, my role is to coordinate the program here. There is a lot of planning involved which gives me opportunity to be out in the community working with our partners (Enterprise, Hilton Garden Inn University Place, Winchester Thurston, Panera Bread) to make sure everything “behind the scenes” runs smoothly. Also, we coordinate local staffing and volunteers who work alongside Joey’s crew.

6. What previous experiences led to where you are today?

A: I had absolutely no idea that my path would lead me here. Prior to moving to Pittsburgh, I was a special education teacher. Now I’m the Clinical Director of a research program (that’s my full-time gig; Arts for Autism is my favorite side project!).

7. Any pieces of advice for Pittverse’s readers & staff?

A: Surround yourself with good people and take advantage of any opportunity presented to you. If there doesn’t seem to be an opportunity for you to follow, find one!

8. What do you see in the future for Arts For Autism?

A: We are very excited to have introduced the 4th Classroom last year and will continue that program in parallel with Film Camp. That program evolved out of our dedication to advancing our filmmakers toward employability. Keep an eye out, also, for a special announcement regarding a workshop series beginning this fall!

As a veteran of the Film Camp since its inception, I totally agree that when an opportunity presents itself go for it! I value her mission for the foundation as it has benefitted me and many others working towards real-world opportunities in our community.

For more info about Arts For Autism, visit their website at www.afapgh.org

My 1-on-1 w/ Joey Travolta published in the Winter 2017 issue.

Personal Thanks:
Carolyn Komich-Hare
Heather Conroy
Joe Farrell
Dale Oprandy
And Joey Travolta
Yellow eyes
looking through the tall grass;
hunched over, ready for the attack,
ready to guide the hunt.

Yellow eyes
looking ready to take off in flight
and leave the tree,
ready to take flight.

Yellow eyes
looking for the school,
swinging through the water,
ready to eat whatever comes its way.

Yellow eyes
watch as the grass takes fire,
hear as the guns go off;
running to get away.

Yellow eyes
watch as the tree falls down to the ground.
The tree of its home no longer there.
The cry of distress heard for miles.

Yellow eyes
bite down on hook,
try to break away.
Shoots sound;
everything goes silent.

Green-brown eyes
wake up,
breathing heavily.
Just a nightmare, that’s all.
Everything’s just fine.
Human eyes close again
to go back to sleep.
An Interview with Jessica Benham of the PCAA

by Delaine Swearman

When Jessica Benham moved to Pittsburgh a few years ago, she sought out other autistic self-advocates like herself. “Jess”, as she goes by, was diagnosed with autism during her freshman year of college and has been involved in autism and disability advocacy for most of her adult life. She first became involved in the fledgling Pittsburgh chapter of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. Then a year ago, she was instrumental in the birth of a new organization, the Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy, or “PCAA.”

The PCAA is a grassroots organization run by and for autistic people. It provides peer support, social opportunities, referrals, organizational trainings, and does political advocacy.

Jess is the Director of Public Policy for the PCAA, and says her degrees in communication and political science helped prepare her to do advocacy work. She says advocacy work is important to her because it’s personal, political, and life-changing. There are challenges, however, because the structures in place are often not autism friendly. For example, making phone calls to schedule meetings with legislators means not having nonverbal cues during those conversations. Jess has discovered there are many unwritten rules in political advocacy. She has also encountered stigma from politicians and their staff.

She says that the issues most directly impacting autistic individuals are related to education, transportation, housing, health care, and autism competency for first responders. And the most helpful thing autistic people can do to advocate for themselves is meet with their legislators and tell their stories.

Jess is currently working on a PhD in the Rhetoric of Science at the University of Pittsburgh. She also teaches classes there. She lives on the South Side Slopes with her partner Karl, a dog and two cats. She likes playing board games, answering trivia questions, and singing karaoke.

In addition to policy work, Jess helps with the PCAA’s full lineup other activities such as hosting adult meet-ups, screening documentaries, holding open mics, sponsoring sensory friendly events, having resource fairs, and doing trainings.

The next big event for the PCAA is fundraiser gala on August 6th at DiAnoia’s Eatery. Tickets are available for purchase at eventbrite.com. As an organization run almost entirely by autistic volunteers, a lack of finances is one of the major hurdles to growth. With more funding, the organization hopes to start a transition age peer support network.

As for the future, Jess says, “Ideally, I’d like to see PCAA grow and become a more broadly supported and well funded organization. I want to see Pittsburgh become a more autistic friendly and accepting place, and I want to be a part of that happening.”

The Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy welcomes autistic adults over age 18, and is an inclusive group, respecting all areas of diversity. It’s activities are also open to those with other disabilities and allies. To get involved, visit the website at http://www.autisticpgh.org/, check out the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/autisticpgh, or send an email to jess@autisticpgh.org.
“Teddy Spike” laid her next egg on April 7 right next to the geckos’ painted wooden house. My other gecko “Unseen” sat near the egg until it became dented. When it’s dented like it was, the egg is gone.

April 28 was the next time she laid an egg near the front of their tank. We put it in hatchrite which is a bedding used for gecko eggs for incubation. It was set in the middle of the tank in a plastic, round container.

April 30 the geckos had another egg which they didn’t pay much attention to. That meant it wasn’t fertile, but we added it to the hatchrite anyway. After that we cleaned the tank really well and put moss wet with water into both floors of their house. We cleaned their water dish.

Then May 17 we saw something very strange…There was moss that was pushed out of the bottom floor of their house. And moss had been pushed up against the little round window of the house. The geckos had worked together to build a nest!

The next day Teddy Spike laid two eggs on the inside of the house for the first time! They were very protective of the eggs. The one side of the house was completely covered with the moss. Spike sat right in front of the other window of the house. Then they took turns sitting in the house next to the eggs. They were careful not to sit down on them. Unseen sat on the second floor with his head near the little entranceway. My mom tried to reach in for the eggs so we could put them in the hatchrite. Unseen jumped out and hissed at my mom looking like a Gila monster!! So we left the eggs in the moss in the house. We thought that if they were so determined and planned everything they could do for their eggs, maybe we should give them the chance and let nature take its course. We left the eggs where they were.

So we went to “The Enclosure” to buy a light to replace the burnt out one. I asked the man there “what are we doing wrong?” None of the eggs are working out. He showed us how they set up the plastic container with the hatchrite. They had a few eggs that were in it and we saw that so far we were doing the right thing. The man at the shop removed an egg from the container and put it on his cell phone light. That’s how to “candle it” to see if the embryo is alive. A pinkish circle appeared which was good.

After getting home we checked my geckos’ eggs and they looked like they weren’t doing well in the moss. So my mom put the eggs in the hatchrite, putting a thumbprint in it first and covering them up a bit. He said we could put a sprinkle of water near the eggs, but not directly on them. He had said the humidity was very important and that is probably our problem. We bought a new humidity gauge and it’s really hard to get the humidity to go up.

Right now there are three eggs still sitting in the hatchrite. They don’t smell and aren’t dented in or flattened out like some of the others before. I don’t think they’re good but will wait a bit longer to see. Since January, Teddy Spike has laid a total of 10 eggs! Maybe next season…
The geckos built a moss nest in their house.
Jesse Torisky: President of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh

by Michelle Middlemiss

Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing Jesse Torisky who is the new President of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh. In 2015, I was most fortunate to interview his father Dan Torisky who was President at that time.

I began by asking Jesse: “Could you tell me why you took over the Autism Society of Pittsburgh for your dad besides his getting too old to do it on his own?”

“That's one of the primary reasons and that my dad's been asking me for years and basically I've been running out of excuses. It seems circumstantially that this was the right time for me. More importantly, I wanted to make sure if I did decide to take it over it would be at a time when he was still around. I could learn what I needed to learn from him and his experience in the many years that he ran it both with my mom and after she passed.”

“I have a follow up question to that. You said something interesting. You said your dad was asking you for a couple years. Did you feel pressured into doing it?”

“Nope; I didn't feel pressured into doing it. It was just a suggestion. I'm an attorney by trade and that's where my focus was on.”

“Are you still an attorney?”

“Yes. I don't practice actively, but I am still a member of the bar in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. This is a full-time position now.”

“If you found out one of your clients who is autistic was getting an unfair trial in school or in the media would you support them in it with their civil rights?”

“I'm not a civil rights attorney. I started out as a prosecutor then I went into private practice. After that, I handled hundreds of insurance fraud investigations on behalf of insurance companies since it was a large part of my expertise with a background as a prosecutor. I also began doing a lot of insurance defense work as a trial attorney. One of the things I enjoy doing through this organization is helping folks who are autistic and involved in situations like this to get the legal assistance they need. I cannot practice law through the Autism Society of Pittsburgh. I can make recommendations to other attorneys who handle that type of work. I'd use my legal experience to help navigate through whatever issues arise.”

“I know it's your older brother who's on the spectrum and I know your father told me a story about how you protected Eddie from bullies when you were little. Could you talk about that?”

“There were many instances when my brother was being teased and heckled by the neighbor kids. You were a target if you're "odd" and stood out as my brother did, and was practically nonverbal from early on. Ironically the constant teasing forced him to become verbal. He had to learn to say "shut up and leave me alone;" "don't bother me," and things like that. In my opinion that prompted him to be more verbal than he would have otherwise been.”

“I can understand that. How did you handle that because it's usually the older siblings who are supposed to watch out for the younger ones? But with you it was the other way around.”

“I was sort of his older brother; not physically but in the sense that I was aware of what was going on at an earlier age. He's still taller than me and it got me really mad that kids that were picking on him were much bigger. So there were a lot of confrontations that were really uncomfortable. I believe it really helped to make me mature a lot quicker. Weekends I wouldn't be out playing with my friends when Eddie was home. With my two sisters, it was sort of expected that one kind of hung around the house in case Eddie would have outbreaks. It would typically result in him running away from her. My brother had very long strong legs and he could run like a gazelle. It was usually me running after him, trying to keep up with him. I'd call the Monroeville police from a phone booth back then. They'd ask if my brother ran away again and I'd tell them where I thought I saw him go last.”

“Was it hard for you in the way that your friends would start teasing him? Did you feel like you couldn't have a lot of friends because you had to help your brother?”

“Not really. I didn't have a lot of friends but they were good friends. It wasn't like I wasn't a popular kid because I had to take care of my brother all the time.”

Jesse continued to explain that he's 56 now. In the 60's on, people didn't even know much about autism. His brother also had MR and he was never in the school district. He lived in Western Center in Canonsburg in an institution during the week. Jesse said that he didn't think any of his friends made that connection that he was autistic. It had nothing to do with his personal relationship...
with his friends.

“What do you do in the Autism Society besides getting out the word?”

“It’s one of the biggest things we do. It’s a very simple straightforward way of awareness building. If we’re doing a fundraiser every time you’re interacting with someone that you’re working with at the fundraiser, you’re getting the word out. The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is a very large production. There are thousands of people who helped put this together. People working with the Grand Prix ask what it’s about and what is autism? It spreads information that I don’t think these people knew about before. It spreads because volunteers mention what they are doing. We have always been an information and referral organization. We get calls weekly from people who are just finding out their kids are diagnosed or they have a kid who’s in trouble with the law or they’re scared because their child is not responding to the guardianship or whatever they’re worried about. Sometimes it’s about not having wraparound services or they’re new to the area. Whatever it is, we like to provide them with the best information that we have in our possession. When my parents started out there was no internet and not a lot of information out there about autism, so they just read a lot. But now with the internet it’s easier to stay abreast of current things. One of the things that really attracted me into doing this job is something I started doing here a year before I became president. I was able to assist in a large way in getting a Juvenile Justice training film to its final form. I did interviews of these various people; police officers, defense attorneys, prosecutors... I’d ask them questions about the criminal justice system or how, if at all they interacted with people on the spectrum. I have had the pleasure of working with some of the finest law enforcement with the training videos. One thing the videos present is how an officer shows the preferred way and then the non preferred way of dealing with a suspect in different scenarios. The most common one shows police officers involved in an investigation where there’s some suspicious-looking behavior in people walking around and looking in car windows which would indicate a highly suspicious per-

son. But it could be someone on the spectrum. If they had asked my brother back in the day when he was on edge what was going on, he would have said “Shut up” and run off. When we were doing training with the 540 magistrates last year in Pennsylvania I asked them if they ever knew someone on the spectrum or was related to anyone on it. Half of them raised their hands. Back when I was a kid it would have been very few. During my entire 10 years as a prosecutor I never encountered anyone on the spectrum. Only recognizing my brother’s traits, I was an expert on my brother but maybe wasn’t in tune to someone on the spectrum. The lack of remorse or lack of control in smiling could be triggers to recognize this. Recognizing that the suspect didn’t want to be touched or were talking to themselves or literally showing no emotion could be factors I now recognized. At least a third of the hands go up when I asked how many of you think you had someone on the spectrum and didn’t realize at the time he was autistic. A common pleas court judge named John Zattola was quoted in saying that before he knew about autistic traits; he never knew that autistic people didn’t always show remorse. For a sentencing judge that’s really important information. That was a real eye opener for people who don’t know of anyone on the spectrum. Or that someone on the spectrum may at times look like they are mocking another person when they may be just moving their mouth!”

“At times high functioners on the spectrum can be accused of the very same thing. I may bark if I’m very stressed. And people don’t expect it,” I told Jesse. Often we agree with someone only because we want to please them. We may not really understand the emotions involved.”

“A lot of things are coming up on the news about police brutality. We’re seeing the negative side of what police are doing to people with autism. This makes people like me get scared when we see a police officer walking our way. As a past prosecutor do you feel that you failed with getting the training tapes out or are you making more tapes?
“No because none of those incidents have happened here. At least for the people we came in contact with we are fortunate that we have highly trained and intelligent law enforcement in Western PA. The areas in the country that made the news had some inexcusable circumstances that a situation can escalate to the point that it had in some of those cases. I’m not judging every case. I’m sympathetic to the police who have always been a good friend to us in helping to get our brother back when he ran away. I’ve got to see them from that standpoint as helpers.”

“I’ve had trouble finding jobs because people don’t realize I have autism and don’t know how to interpret what it is. What ideas do you have that involves training?”

“One of the things we’re trying to do and I think we're making headway is to break into education training. We are trying to get more involved with school districts and universities. We’ve already been training nurses at CCAC. As far as job training for potential employers, we are trying to involve them to be trained in this area. It would make it a lot easier for people on the spectrum to go into an employment situation with a group of coworkers who are already made aware of some of the peculiarities and idiosyncrasies. They could make accommodations they can reasonably make without doing injustice to themselves. If you want people to respect autism and the challenges that creates you have to respect them. There has to be a really important balance between accommodation and interference.

I’ve been a teacher for a long time. I teach at CCAC and Point Park University and I absolutely love to teach. To me, the whole mission of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh is to teach. Everything we do is instructional in one way or the other. If we’re building awareness of autism, we’re teaching. We reach out to legislators and urge them to support a piece of legislation that mandates police officers and magistrates get 32 hours of training every 6 years on autism and disabilities. This is part of what we do when we’re trying to educate the legislators with certain rules and regulations out there that aren’t going to be good for our folks and see if they can address this.

There’s the information referral legislative initiative that my dad and mom did incredible work on, that I’ll never be able to compete with. My focus is on the training and I think the idea of educating the potential employer base is an outstanding idea and it goes hand in hand with what we’re trying to do. We have people here who are able and willing to do that. We have all kinds of film footage about traits of autism which makes it easy for people who don’t know these things.

“We know what basic rules are but we don’t always understand them or we over understand them. So we’re going to just copy what we see. If we do the wrong thing and we get corrected we’re going to wonder why did we get into trouble?”

“Exactly. More instruction needs to be given as to how rules relate and how to understand them. I would like to do training with families on how they should be instructing their child in responding to authority. In the late 80’s Eddie actually struck one of the attendants where he lived at Western Center and then threw a brick through a car window. He also threw a chunk of cement at my dad. It occurred to me that nobody ever bothered to tell him what was unacceptable. I said “Eddie do you realize if you do these things here you’re out of this group home and into the main building up there. Then they send you back here. This is criminal mischief; you can go to jail for that in the real world.” So I just broke it down; trying to acquaint him with the consequences if he was out in the real world. It really resonated with him and we only had one incident after that. He finally got it; so I think that kind of education is very helpful.”

“Any other challenges that you are seeing?”

“There’s a challenge in the rise of the occurrences of autism and the decline in concentrated services. The trend is to put everything out into the community.”

“I’m not for that.”

“Nor am I. We’re in the minority unfortunately. There are very strong feelings on both sides of this. As a result, we’re going to a path where it’ll eventually just be bankrupt...a state that tries to do this. There are some private institution type settings where there are some main buildings that are floors of people who cannot function at all. Then they have group homes with beautiful settings. As you advance in your generalization skills you can be moved...eventually even out into the community. I’d love to see a marriage of the two, but with a central safety net. My brother’s at Allegheny Valley Schools which is one of the best run facilities. Staffing is all there for him for whatever he needs.

“There’s got to be segregation to a point in autism in order to have a nice, safe, and even ground. If you’re bullied by an equal it still hurts, but you’ll learn from it and become stronger than if you’re bullied by a non equal. Then you could become the bullier. We need places where kids with autism, no matter high or low, can have understanding together.”

“It’s so depressing when I get these email blasts from advocacy groups saying to call your congressman because “they’re going to be warehousing people into institutions.” You never see a movie with a well run institution. They always demonize them and
make them out to be the bad guys. We should be watchdogs to make sure no matter what, that they are being well cared for whether it be in a group home or an institution. Is this lost on people who are so hell bent on getting rid of institutions? And this CMS Final Rule stuff! They're trying to impose rules subject to this heightened scrutiny. Right now there's the 25% rule that says if you have 25% or more of people with disabilities or autism you have to have further justification of them living together. My aunt is in her 80's and lives in Assisted Care High Rise apartments with lots of other old people. Everybody living there has to be over a certain age. Nobody says anything about that. They're not institutionalized: they just all have something in common: they like to be together and they're old! I don't understand why common sense is lost on these well intentioned people. But some are so hell-bent on getting rid of institutions.

“They’re so hell-bent on it because they think that means acceptance.”

“You can't legislate acceptance and that's why you have to walk a fine line to make sure that is done in a way that makes it attractive to an employer.

We're gonna be in a crisis situation if we don't straighten out these long waiting lists of people waiting for the waivers. How idiotic is that! When we have these institutions that are fine structures that are mothballing that can be converted into something. These people didn't choose to be the way they are and we have the responsibility to do everything to address every available resource that we have until we get to that Utopian world where everyone can live together.

“I don’t believe we should be forced to being something we’re not. That’s why I believe in that segregation thing. If you push us into that constricte environment and atmosphere it cripples us.”

“I couldn’t have said it better myself.”
Burger Month

Honest John’s, City Works, and Burgh’ers

by Bryan Lippert

This adventures/story is called burgers week/month since the month of May is pretty much all about going out and grabbing yourself a grand slamming mouth watering, taste igniting burger. Pittsburgh burger week officially starts on May 13, 2017 of this year; there is going to be some kind of kick off party at social Bakery square. From May 15 thru May 21, 23 restaurants will be offering brand new tasty creations. Anyways all of this information can be found in the City Paper or online, I don't want to copy off of the city paper.

Now let's get into the experience of eating tasty burgers. I started off early this month of May. On May 3 I tried out Honest John's of Homestead located at 216 E 8th Ave Homestead PA 15120. Whenever I walked in to Honest John's it was a bit small, but cozy and relaxing. They had some cool looking ceiling fans. The place was set up nice looking, I'd say it's in between high class and low class. I would consider it mid class even whenever you google it, right away I checked the reviews 4.5 stars they lived up to that score. "Oh joy this is what I ordered Honest Johns Honest to Goodness" burger (12.00) it had Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions and instead of bacon I was able to put an egg on top of it. My side dish was only sweet potato fries, but they where amazing. The sauce was excellent too. Honest John’s is a part of the 23 locations who are offering new creations this Month of May.

Before May, Pittsburgh burger week/month started I visited City Works a brand new brewery/restaurant located downtown in market square at 2 PPG Place Pittsburgh PA 15222 Hours open everyday 11am to 2am. I ordered a burger/meal called Veggie, consisting of farro, red quinoa, black bean and cannelloni bean patty, corn tortilla crusted, sport pepper aioli , leaf lettuce, tomato, red onion, whole grain wheat bun, it was basically a more structured veggie burger. It was good and came with fries. The price was a bit expensive for $13.00 although the atmosphere was very loud and very appealing. There were sky lights to look out thru the inside of the restaurant above your head. Also, there were a ton of televisions. I think I counted about 20 or more. Plus I had a nice waitress. She was kind, and I told her I would come back perhaps to try out the happy hour drinks/specials. They were a bit cheaper. Also the host was nice.

My eating experience at Burgh'ers in Lawrenceville on May 18th 2017 located on 3601 butler street Pittsburgh 15201. I arrived at 7:55pm looking forward to hopefully try one amazing taste-tastic burger from this restaurant. The times are involved simply because I literally wrote about my experience while I ate here. It was crowded, it's a bit too noisy I didn't like the noise, neither would my parents it echoes. It took awhile to be seen by my waitress about five minutes not terribly long, it was super busy. I feel like I have to speak louder here. The menu looked pretty impressive lots of burgers to pick from, plus milk shakes. I placed my order for the special burger of burger week called "Mighty Tasty" this burger consisted of two thin burger patties topped with American cheese, romaine, caramelized onions, pickles, and special sauce served on a mayo-grilled bun. I had my burger well done no pink, plus I had a choice of French fries or side salad I picked French fries. I liked the whole water set up I had a big glass bottle filled with water in a Red Ribbon Beverages bottle 32.oz bottle of water. It took 20 minutes for my food to come out, it looked tasty like the name. So first I tried out the French fries they where about salty, but very good, next comes the burger. The burger was indeed superbly tasty nice and moist a little bit messy but super delicious. I certainly agree that this place gets a 5 star for good food. Well the price was $13.90, plus a tip I'd say it could have had another side regardless my stomach was satisfied my mind filled with tasteful thoughts of coming back again.
The Burger King Bacon King

by Richard Campbell

I’ve been watching commercials for the new Burger King Bacon King, and I’ve heard it’s pretty good. But I wanted to try one for myself. So, this past weekend I went out to the Burger King on Brownsville Road in Brentwood and asked to have one ordered. (I ordered one with no fries, just a bottle of water).

I tasted it, and man it was by far the best mushroom burger I ever sank my teeth into!

The beef like all Burger King burgers is fresh, not frozen, and unlike McDonald’s and Wendy’s (which are fried) Burger King always flame-broils their burgers so they taste better.

The cost for the burger alone (which is two 1/4 pound beef patties topped with swiss cheese, smoked Applewood, and mushrooms) is $4.99. But it’s $6.99 if you order it as a combo or $8.99 if you “king size” it. And you can choose either fries or onion rings, too, with your combo. It may add extra calories, but what the heck? Go for it, I say.

So if you want a really good mushroom swiss burger, (which unfortunately is for a limited time) go to your nearby Burger King. Because for over 50 years as they say, Burger King, have it your way!

The BRGR Food Truck

by Kenneth Miller

I ate at the BRGR food truck last night, Wednesday June 14. It was parked in Wilkinsburg, outside of the Biddle Escape, Coffee, Tea and Artifacts shop. I had a specialty burger, with jala-penos and pepper jack cheese, the ‘Fire In the Hole’ burger. Additional $4 for a sizable portion of french fries sprinkled with parsley and parmesan cheese. It all went quickly, chased by some red wine. - Kenneth
Burger Month

TO BE OR NOT TO BE TIS A QUESTION WHEN IT COMES TO DELICIOUS FOOD THAT CAN BE MADE IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOMES, IT KINDS OF HAVING SOME IRRITATION FEELING THAT MAKES US ASK OURSELVES THESE BASIC QUESTIONS: WHAT IS GOOD FOOD? DO I BUY OR GROW THE INGREDIENTS MYSELF? HOW DO I GET THE RECIPE? HOW DO I PREPARE IT? THE QUESTION'S ASK DOESN'T NEED TO BE ASKED. THE ONLY THING WE NEED IS AN ATTITUDE AND THIS AWESOME RECIPE WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE BLOOD OF MY FAMILY FOR OVER 14 GENERATIONS.

AND NOW I GIVE IT TO YOU FOR THE LOVE OF FREEDOM AND TO SHOW THE FACT THAT THE CULTURE OF HISTORY IS NOT TAKEN AND USED FOR PERSONAL GAIN, THE KNOWLEDGE OF ALL CULTURES IN HISTORY BELONGS TO EVERY LIVING THING. WE ARE ALL EQUAL, AND THERE ARE NO MASTERS IN THE WORLD. WE ARE IN CHARGE OF OURSELVES AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

HAM PIECES, BACON SAUSAGE, HAM PIECES, BACON BITS, MUSHROOM, BASIL, PARSLEY, THYME,
ITALIAN BREAD CRUMBS, CHOPPED, SHREDDED CHEESE, THAT'S ALL IN THE MEAT.
OPTIONAL TOPPING: LETTUCE, TOMATO, PICKLE, KETCHUP, MUSTARD, CHEESE, MAYO, RELISH.
RECOMMENDED BREAD - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BREAD.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL! THANKS FOR CHOOSING HOME MADE LOVE.
Bryan’s Burger from Burgh’ers
The Advantages and Disadvantages of Sending Your Child to Camp
by Daniel H. Ashkin

Sending your children to a summer camp will assist them in developing new hobbies and social skills. Working coherently as a group of often supports them in developing teamwork and trust. When children face new challenges at a camp, they are able face major difficulties later in life. When boys and girls try out new skills in camp, they often acquire more self-confidence and extra inspiration in themselves. Because they are able to try out more challenging adventures with limited supervision, children often become more self-reliant in making their own decisions later in life.

My parents sent me to several camps during my childhood. When I was ten-year-old, my mother drove me to the North Side Planetarium to learn how to construct rockets. After the rocket class was finished, they launched the model rockets in an empty grass field. Next, another class taught me about the different types of clouds and the various types of weather patterns. For example, when the weather becomes sultry during the late afternoon, thunderheads and cumulonimbus clouds begin to appear to grow in the late afternoon sky; then, a very heavy rainstorm might begin with loud thunder and vivid lightning across the sky. The two science courses provided me a great fascination in the interest in the weather and astronomy.

Deer Creek was another exciting camp to which my parents sent me as a child. The camp is located at 109 Eiela Road, Cheswick, PA 15204. Deer Camp website is www.campdeercreekonline.com. Deer Creek is Pittsburgh’s oldest day camp by Pittsburgh Magazine. The campers are between the ages of 4 and 15 years old.

A typical day at Deer Creek begins at 8:00 a.m. in the cool, crisp mornings. Parents drive their kids to the yellow school bus to load their children. The bus driver drives the excited children to Cheswick at 9:30 a.m. The overjoyed children circle around the flagpole as the beautiful suns light shines on them. Each activity is forty-five minutes long during the day. During the wonderful day, the animated children would likely enjoy archery, swimming, nature walks, and singing folk songs with their friendly counselors. Before 3:25 p.m. every weekday, the counselors would pass out a salty pretzel and a cup of punch to the kids before they get onto their buses. On the buses, the children would likely sing songs with excitement and joy.

At Deer Creek, counselors Adam and Eve took our group on wonderful nature walks through the green, thick forests. Adam and Eve was a very kind couple. They loved the outdoors. Studying the different kinds of flowers, trees, and animals gives us a valuable knowledge in the study of the wildlife. At home, I loved to explore the wonderful, green woods in my neighborhood near the creek as a child.

During the sports segments, I kicked the soft, plastic kickball over the children heads for a home run at camp. I tried out for the long jump in ninth grade school. Winning the 50 yd. dash on the Special Fridays enables me to attempt track and field in the ninth grade. In High school, I have jumped over 16 feet in the long jump. I could run as fast as a lightning bolt as a young child.

We also participated in relay races on Special Fridays. The winners of the races would receive shiny trophies for first, second and third place. On other Special Fridays at camp, a group of students would search for coins in the roaring creek. After the groups gathered all the shining coins, they won valuable prizes.

The camp counselors sang Peter, Paul, and Mary folk songs under the green, pine trees. “500 Miles”*, “Blowing in the Wind,” and Puff the Magic Dragon were our favorite songs. We always sang the song “If I had a Hammer” under the tall, pine trees with the music counselor who wore tapestry shorts and brown hiking boots. Since the ending of the Vietnam War, some of us do not comprehend the words of peace and harmony; unfortunately; many countries in the world are still killing slaughtering people around the planet. Visualizing a world of peace gives children an imagination of extreme hope and an optimistic future in life. Peter, Paul, and Mary songs will always assist many of us that those who are going-to-wars are irrational people. During the Vietnam era, many young people believe in antiwar. Today, some people still believe that violence in the world can go away if we are antiwar.
However, the disadvantages of sending your children to sleep over camp and a day camp are the following: Unfortunately, traveling to a day camp on a bumpy bus every weekday can likely make your child very fatigued at the end of the extended day. When I attended my first camp, my mother would often drive me 60 miles a day for me to become more sociable. I would often miss my parents when I attended a boarding camp. In addition, taking a ten-mile hike up an extremely steep mountain on a hot, humid day would often make me feel very exhausted. Carrying a heavy-backpack on my back caused my neck and shoulder to ache in severe pain. Furthermore, climbing up an extremely steep overhang with a rope tied around my back often made me feel very nervous and extremely tense. Looking down at the bottom of a cliff would also give me anxiety.

When children attend sleep-away camp, they often miss their parents and friends. In addition, school is right around the corner with no period for any type of relaxation. During-sleep over camps, the smell of food may appears very unpleasant. The inexperienced camp cook would often serve hot dogs and Sloppy Joes during lunchtime. Sloppy Joes, hot dogs, and ham sandwiches are awful food for children to eat at camp. The Sloppy Joes seem to tear a hole in my tongue. Furthermore, the campers received two cookies for desserts and a snack. A child needs extra calories because he is constantly involved in strenuous physical activity all day. Camps should serve salads, fruits, and non-fried food today to keep children healthy. At the end one summer, I lost 20 pounds during at one summer camp from eating diet. When I came home from this camp, my parents were extremely shocked.

In summary, summer camps provide an opportunity for your child to explore new, wonderful hobbies such as arts and crafts and new sports. In addition, they may likely develop social skills through social interactions with new friends. Furthermore, your child develops cooperation through the playing sports. Cooperation plays an essential role in sports, school and work in life. Going to a day camp often requires an extensive, difficult bus ride to and from the site every weekday.
I interviewed Sharyn Rubin for the Pittverse Magazine this summer. When Sharyn works with people at Charles M. Morris Nursing & Rehab Center, she demonstrates a friendly, positive attitude. She has been working at the nursing home for about ten years. Sharyn Rubin is a very friendly, compassionate person who always wears a sweet smile on her face. She always gives me encouragement after finishing my volunteering work.

The Jewish Association on Aging provides nursing home Care and daycare for the older population for the Pittsburgh area. Charles M. Morris Nursing & Rehab Center, Weinberg Terrace and Riverview are the main facilities. They provide nursing care and rehabilitation services for the older population in the Pittsburgh area. The website is www.jaapgh.org.

In addition, the facilities provide Sabbath Services for the Jewish residents during the morning, Friday Nights, and Saturday Mornings. In addition, the agency provides senior citizens with low-cost lunches and special programs at the Jewish Community Center.

Why is Sharyn Rubin superb at her job as the volunteer director?

Sharyn Rubin is a blessing through her positive and favorable attitudes as she greets the patients. She also demonstrates affection and adoration in attending to the others throughout the home.

What is the main objective of Charles M. Morris Nursing & Rehab Center?

The Nursing Home assists people in recovery from a severe accident or an illness. For an example, they may support a person in physical resulting from a knee replacement, back surgery or a severe illness. Sharyn said, "Recovery may likely take a long time for an individual to get back on their feet." The residents live here for a short time or permanently. They may range between the ages of 50 and 90 years old.

How old are the oldest residents at Charles M. Morris Nursing & Rehab. Center?

Sharyn Responded, "We have eight residents who are over a hundred years old. In addition, she added, one of the residents is 105 years old."

What are some of the popular activities during the day for the residents?

The adult daycare provides assistance for people who are suffering from severe memory impairments and difficult disabilities. During the mornings, most of the residents start the day with mild exercises in their chair. For an example, they may lift up their arms and do arm circles. In addition, the residents may likely pass a ball to each other in their chair for exercises. The residents love arts and crafts, singing old songs, and watching old movies. During the spring and the summer months, they may enjoy helping the staff plant flowers around the beautiful courtyards.

Before I became a volunteer at Charles M. Morris Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, I volunteered at Anathan Club in Squirrel Hill. I assisted the seniors who suffered severe memory impairments. We
helped them in their exercises, current events, and serving lunches. In addition, we aided them in playing in board games. After I volunteered at the Anathan Club, Sharyn Rubin gave me a position in assisting adults in the daycare. Many of them suffer from severe dementia and physical disabilities.

*What role does Music Therapy play in assisting the patient's memory?*

Sharyn's response, "everybody in the home loves music." While the music therapist plays the songs, the residents can sing along with her with different types of different types of instruments in their hand. Singing with the music teacher provides them stimulation and memory skills. Singing old songs can greatly improve their memories of their earlier life. When I attended the daycare, Frank Sinatra was their favorite performer. The residents had many wonderful memories of him singing in downtown Pittsburgh. Some of the residents were great fans of Diana Ross music. When the CD player played Motown music, the blind women sang aloud in her wheelchair.

*What role does the Rabbi play in comforting the patients?*

Sharyn's response, "the Rabbi does not judge the residents at the homes. She added, "He is a wonderful person who cares deeply about people, and she continue, he can speak to Christians and Jews without any type of judgment". Before a patient dies, the rabbi often prays for the patients comfort and tranquility.

*How does a person become a volunteer at Charles Morris Nursing & Rehab Center?*

Teenagers, adults, and seniors can call Sharyn Rubin at (412) 521-1790 and make an appointment to speak to her. Sharyn said, "They are always looking for volunteers to read out to the patients; and added, the residents love to hear the volunteer playing a musical instrument." The nursing homes are always looking for volunteers who can translate a language to the staff. These types of services can greatly support the nurses, nursing assistants, and the doctors in providing better treatment for the patients. However, some of the volunteer positions may likely require a PA background check for some of the positions at the home.

In conclusion, Sharyn Rubin is a special volunteer director in many different types of ways: She displays a superb, helpful, and grateful attitude in working with volunteers and with memory professionals. She gives beneficial support to the volunteers and the patients at Charles Morris Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. She always expresses a sweet, caring smile on her face.
In 2001, Jennifer Lopez starred in a box office flick called “The Wedding Planner.” 16 years later, a Pittsburgh native is in the midst of writing her own Wedding Planner story.

Pittsburgh native Tonya Edinger is the proud owner, and founder of Weddings of Pittsburgh—a wedding planning business co-owned, co-founded, and co-run by her husband, Sean Edinger, a talented DJ. Weddings of Pittsburgh is so popular in the 'Burgh, it was once featured in the Spring and Summer issue of Perfect Wedding Guide—Pittsburgh’s “Ask the Expert.”

As one time, Mrs. Edinger was selected as the Perfect Wedding Guide—Pittsburgh’s expert three times in a row; And as a result of that accomplishment, she believes—like most of her wedding planning friends, clients and colleagues—that she is a reliable source for making some hard wedding-planning decisions such an easy task! “Every day I wake up excited to come to work and plan wedding masterpieces,” she explained in her bio on the Weddings of Pittsburgh’s website: weddingsofpittsburgh.com. At the beginning of this story, I explained about J-Lo (Jennifer Lopez) starring in a movie in which her role was that of a fictional Wedding Planner. In real life, Ms. Edinger, a wedding planner of nearly 20 years of experience, also explained in her biography on the aforementioned Weddings of Pittsburgh’s website that when it comes to being a wedding planner, “I am (the Non-fictional version of) T-Lo! (the aforementioned J-Lo, Jennifer Lopez).”

My interview with Mrs. Edinger for this magazine was a lot like the bio she wrote on the Weddings of Pittsburgh’s website—She had a lot to say that justifies her as one of the best, if not, the best wedding planner in the Pittsburgh area! At the beginning of this interview, Mrs. Edinger explained about how Weddings of Pittsburgh got started; “In 1999 my husband (Mr. Edinger) was golfing with a friend, who was a DJ, and he (Mr. Edinger’s friend) said to him, ‘You should start DJ’ing with me, I make all this money on the side. And You should start doing this (DJ’ing).’” Shortly afterwards, the Edinger’s took a 401k out and started their budding wedding planning business together.

From there, they got their first event-planning gig (job) working at a bar in Kittanning, PA., a short drive from Pittsburgh, and they worked their for an entire year. After a year working in Kittanning, however, Ms. Edinger said to her husband that she didn’t like the bar scene; “Let’s do some more ‘Family Stuff’ (with our business).” And by “Family Stuff,” she wanted to focus more on doing “More weddings, anniversaries, and birthday parties.”

Within three months after they left their first workplace behind, a bar in Kittanning, that bar suddenly closed down for good. The Edinger’s decided to leave the bar that they worked at in Kittanning—before it suddenly closed down—was because, “We prayed about it, and we felt that this is what God wanted us to do (leave the bar they worked for).” Months after they “…prayed about it,” God blessed the Edinger’s with their first wedding to plan from a friend of Mr. Edinger, and after-
wards through their “Word of mouth referrals,” as Mrs. Edinger explained, the couple worked on one wedding, after another.

For almost 15 years, Mrs. Edinger worked on the back end of wedding planning with her husband. She explained that the “Back End” tasks consisted of her coordinating and setting things up the day of the wedding. She said that period was a learning experience for her. Also during that period, she was, “Making sure (her husband’s) DJ prices go up.” Along with making sure her husband was satisfied with her husband’s prices to DJ went up, she also she wanted to be satisfied with the fact that she wanted to have a wedding planner, her, came along as part of their wedding day DJ package.

Sometime in 2013, Mrs. Edinger another “Divine” appointment when she met a business coach, a business coach who told her that when it came to wedding planning, she, Mrs. Edinger, could “…plan weddings on her own.” And when she heard that, Mrs. Edinger then said to her business coach that she just met, “Alright, let’s do it!” It was that magical moment when, in Mrs. Edinger’s words, “Weddings of Pittsburgh came about.”

Since that magical moment occurred, her meeting with a business coach to help make Weddings of Pittsburgh “Come about”, she and her husband, on average—according to Mrs. Edinger—plan and conduct about 10 weddings a year that are “Exclusive.” And while some, to most weddings typically take place in the Springtime, a Spring wedding to plan for Weddings of Pittsburgh are, in Mrs. Edinger’s opinion, “Very Rare.” She said that most of the weddings she plans/conducts are in the Fall, because “For no reason, that’s who they end up (weddings) happening.” In addition to planning weddings, Mrs. Edinger, according to Weddings of Pittsburgh’s website, organizes professional events, and “Livens Up” private parties.

Also according to Weddings of Pittsburgh’s website, Mrs. Edinger continually makes connections in the event industry through referrals and networking throughout the greater Pittsburgh area—which is great for her potential clients. Amongst Mrs. Edinger’s best business industry connections in the greater Pittsburgh area is Wadria Taylor, the founder of Pittsburgh Style Week. When asked about being connected with Ms. Taylor for Pittsburgh Style Week, Ms. Edinger said, “She is an amazing fashion designer, I love her work.” She then said that Ms. Taylor’s work “Is very stylish, and I (if asked) would definitely model for her.” However, she then said that she would Not model for Ms. Taylor during a future Pittsburgh Style Week because Ms. Edinger believes that “She has very beautiful models that she has design her work.” Mrs. Edinger attended a runway show during Pittsburgh Style Week in 2016 as a spectator. “I enjoyed watching it and being a part of it,” she said, “And I enjoyed watching everything (from the runway show during 2016 Pittsburgh Style Week) some to-gether.”

As she did Wadria Taylor at 2016 Pittsburgh Style Week—as well as other wedding planning-related events/activities in the Pittsburgh area—Mrs. Edinger, to paraphrase what she explained on Weddings of Pittsburgh’s website, instinctively knows how to work together co-
hesively with vendors to ensure that the wedding you plan will a one-of-a-kind experience.

One of Mrs. Edinger’s clients shared their experience with Weddings of Pittsburgh on its website: “The best investment we made for my wedding was hiring Ms. Edinger from ‘Weddings of Pittsburgh’ and her husband, Sean, to DJ. I met Mrs. Edinger on several occasions to make sure that everything was to my satisfaction. She went above and beyond to accommodate my schedule and find a venue that worked with my budget for our rehearsal dinner. The day of the wedding she was everywhere I needed her to be, the perfect multitasker. She handled payments to all of my vendors, and kept things running very smoothly. Tonya sealed the deal making sure my day was stress free, and spent enjoying my time as the new her I couldn’t have asked for more. Weddings of Pittsburgh exceeded all of my expectations. I highly recommend her to anyone that who wants to have a stress free planning process.”

When asked about it, Mrs. Edinger said her favorite weddings she loves to plan are the ones that are, “Unique, and (her clients) went something really personalized to them.” Mrs. Edinger then said this when asked about being a part of weddings, “Oh yes, absolutely!” She then said, “I love to pick a bride up (meet her) after she just gets engaged, and start the (wedding planning) process.”

The wedding planning process consists of finding out the “History” of the engaged couple which will be a part of this wedding Mrs. Edinger is planning. In other words, “How did (the engaged couple) meet, how did they get together, and what the things they love (to do) together; and then plan the wedding off from there.” On the day of the wedding she planned, Mrs. Edinger goes to the church, and the location where the wedding’s reception will be held “...until the (reception’s) very end,” she explained. After the “Very end” of the reception, Mrs. Edinger “Packs up” everything she brought for the wedding. In the days that follow the wedding, Mrs. Edinger keeps in touch with her wedding clients she worked during the post-wedding planning process, and the wedding itself. Part of the post-wedding planning process consists of her having a closing meeting with her wedding clients that typically takes place after their wedding clients’ honeymoon.

In her free time, Mrs. Edinger enjoys reading non-fiction. She believes that her family is number one to her, when explains her has been happily married for over 25 years to the love of her life, DJ Sean Edinger of Ultimate Entertaining. Other than her husband, the other loves of her life are she, and her husband’s three wonderful children.

Also in her free time, Mrs. Edinger is actively is involved in the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber where she serves on the Board of the Young professionals. And like this writer, Mrs. Edinger is an active servant of God. She, and her husband, are members of Crossfire Church in Butler, PA.

When it comes to you, or someone you know planning one of the most important days that anyone will ever live through, a wedding day, or any other important event in your life, please consider the services of wedding planner Tonya Edinger, and her husband, DJ Sean Edinger. Because I hope, through this story, that you’ve not only understood why along with her DJ husband, Sean, Tonya is one of the most popular wedding planners, if not, THE most popular wedding planners in the greater Pittsburgh area; but also have understood why the Edinger’s many, many years of experience and accomplishments in the wedding/special event planning business is all the more reason that you should consider having this #DynamicWeddingDuo a part of your wedding/special event planning process. Because after all, there’s no greater feeling than having your wedding, or any other special event day in the greater Pittsburgh area planned with Pittsburgh’s wedding (and special event) planners on your side!
Every now and then when it comes to video games, there is always that one video game that takes everyone by storm. That game then becomes a viral success within the gaming community and people will always remember and cherish the memories that took place while venturing off in that game.

Early on in video gaming, a console called the Atari 2600 was introduced on September 11th, 1977 and it was considered to be “The new thing” for parents to get for their kids on the holidays. Then in September 1996, the Nintendo 64 came out and between that time multiple systems came out and had success while others failed miserably. However, one game that came out in 1997 for the Nintendo 64 was considered to be the hottest game of its time and is now considered to be a legendary game. That game was “007 Goldeneye” During my life, this was the first game that got me really interested in the video game world. It stands as one of the greatest games within the echelon of “greatest games ever made.” Those include Mortal Kombat, Zelda, Super Smash Bro, and many more 007 having sold 8.1 million copies.

Now let’s warp forward in time to November 23rd, 2004 when another massively influential game hit the market. This was the day World Of Warcraft was released and put on the shelves after many months of anticipation for what is now possibly considered to be the greatest MMORPG (Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game).

World of Warcraft takes place in the Warcraft universe where you build a character complete with race, gender and are able to customize your character’s looks to achieve a really awesome look and a in the gaming community. It is an enormous world with, what I would call, Provinces or various areas in order to identify where you are. The most infamous area is known as the Kingdom of Azeroth in the continent of Kalimdor. From here you can choose to be a race from the good people also known as the Alliance or you could pick a race from the what many would consider evil or villains from the Horde. The main purpose of the game is to Complete quests such as hunting animals to find things for in game characters.

Within the game the possibilities are literally endless and one can spend many hours playing. So it goes without saying one can just simply do quests and in the process level up their character (a form of prestige) and acquire better items that improve their characters abilities. You can also establish a profession to make money which we will get to in a second.

Many people have played this game with the utmost dedication. There are stories of people who starved themselves to death to kids failing school due to distractions from the game and therefore not doing their homework. That is just to show you how addictive and popular this game was/is for some people.

Other people tried to cheat the game to not have to work for the rewards in the game. The most common was a player would spend six hours playing the game, work on their character and make money. However when it was time to go to bed, the individual would have a program that initialize their character to be a “bot” (Let the computer take control of the character with an objective within the code of the program) In this case the bot would spend Eight or Nine hours collecting things for the profession.

As a simple example if a character was a fisherman, the bot would go and spend eight or nine hours fishing and, when the individual would wake up he would have a ton of fish to sell to vendors or other players without any effort.. Blizzard, the company that developed the game realized really quickly the problem and put a cookie in the server to detect these bots and banned the player from playing the game with that email and they were unable to pay for the subscription with debit/ credit card with their name on it.

Since we are talking about professions and selling things, let’s talk about the in game currency. The in game currency is a crucial aspect of the game since it allows you to buy items and things needed for professions and due to the vast world, currency is used to travel faster to other areas and depending on the distance determined how much it will cost. The in game currency is Bronze, Silver, and Gold coins.

100 Bronze coins is equal to 1 Silver coin and 100 Silver coins is equal to 1 Gold coin. When some-
one has extra items they find in the open world, they can sell those items. You also get coins as a reward/payment for completing a quest and you can then explore The Auction House. Buying and selling and that is what I want to focus on for the rest of the article and how to be lucrative within the auction house.

When I first started to explore The Auction House I only sold things. I did not start out buying things. At first I really played around with junky items to see what things could sell on the lowest rate (Lowest rate being the first time the item is successfully bid on and then sold for the auction). I sold gloves, weapons and armor on the auction house.

When I started messing around with The Auction House I had 14 Gold, 67 Silver and 30 Bronze. For the sake of making it easier to read I will address currency in that form as follows; “14.67.30.” If it comes to just silver and bronze it will read as such, 00.45.25. So that would read as 45 silver and 25 bronze since there is no gold. If the sale is just gold I will post the variable of gold as such, “X” Gold.

After playing around with The Auction House I started to notice people were buying parts of gems and some basic crafting materials also known as in the game “Crafting Regents”. My first attempt at being successful was to spend 12 gold on an item called “Shadowgem”. It is a purple gem in the shape of a heart. I bought 12 of them so essentially they averaged out to 1 gold per unit. Now let us talk about how the auction house works in the game.

When you go to sell something on the auction house, there is always a starting bid price that usually is set by the computer at double to triple the average selling value to in game vendors; in most cases it is Silver and Bronze. So something that is worth 8 pieces of silver on The Auction House the starting bid is already set to 00.25.14 as an example. Personally I never pay attention to that number. I actually look at the value set by the in game vendors and round up to at least one gold.

When posting an item on the auction there are a couple of things to remember. The first important thing is when Finding items or buying multiple items in the auction house items, most items or crafting reagents stack. Since you only have sixteen slots in your backpack to carry things you have to eventually go somewhere to sell them to a vendor or return to an area that has an auction house to clear up space. But certain items will just keep on stacking in one slot in your backpack. I believe at one time I had 136 tin bars in one slot.

Then you have the “Number Of Stacks” section in the auction house. In order for the two to work you have to have an number that is divisible it is basic math. If you have a stack of a particular gem of 15 you can either sell them in the auction house as 1 number of a stack of 15, 3 sets of a stack of 5, 5 sets of a stack of 3 or 15 sets of a stack of 1. That is what I tried with the shadow gem. I bought 12 of them for 12 Gold and said to myself I am either gonna get triple what I spent or people will really want them and buy them. I started out the bidding at a stack of 1 with 12 auctions and set the starting bid at 3 gold and the buyout at 15 Gold. If people had bought the Shadowgems I would have made a minimum of 36 gold because 3x12=36 gold and a maximum of 15x12=180 Gold.

Initially the sale did not go through. I tried to sell it four or five times at that price range. Af-
ter the fifth time I then started to increase the stack size to try to interest a buyer, keep in mind I still did not know what the value of the shadowgem was actually worth. I kept up with online forums that kept up with the current price on things in The Auction House to make sure I would be making money. I then tried selling them at stacks of 2 in 6 units for a starting bid of 3 Gold and a buyout of 10 Gold. I must have tried to sell them several times before I was able to sell all of them at a buyout of 14 Gold. Needless to say I did not pursue that gem anymore.

However as I was playing in the open world I did find a gem called Moss Agate. It is a green gem that has a hexagon type of shape to it. The first couple I saw up for sale on the auction house was going for a buyout price of 9 Gold so I started with that since I found a couple in the open world and I realized I was going make money. Then I started to look into the auction house and I played around for a week or two, till I discovered that in stacks of two I can sell them for a starting bid at 25 Gold and a buyout of 40 Gold and people are buying them.

Sometimes it takes a couple of tries and that is the result of maybe skipping a day from the game and during that time people buy the cheaper ones on the market. Now when I got to the auction house I try to buy all that is available for a good price. The cap limit I will spend in a buyout is between 10 Gold since I sell them in pairs for 25 Gold; but often I do not have to worry about it because people end up buying them out for 40 Gold. Largest amount of Moss Agate I sold was 13 auctions stacks of 2 Moss Agate all for 40 Gold buyout; so 13 x 40 = 520 Gold that day, minus the house cut. I actually made more Gold that day due to other items being sold.

Through the course of using The Auction House I have tried to sell many things and tried multiple times to sell them for a lot more than what the in game vendors generally buy them for. Most of the items do not sell and I have to resort to in game vendors, sometimes you do have to take (not losses) but what you can get for the item since no one really wants them.

I did however find that when it comes to apparel like Armor, Gloves, Capes, Cloaks, Belts and things of that nature that due provide armor, people are more likely to buy items that add attributes to your character. Since this is a role playing game certain attributes are crucial for a gamer’s character. So gloves that add +1 to strength, +stamina, and +1 Critical Strike will simply sell than something that does not offer extra attributes. The same applies to Weapons, Rings and Amulets/Necklace.

I also found that Wool Cloth in large stacks sell quite well. I sold a stack of 25 units of wool Cloth for roughly 35 to 40 Gold. I generally play around with it. If it is 20 units of wool cloth in a stack I will try to sell it a starting bid of 15 Gold and a buyout price of 25 Gold. This crafting reagent is a very common item to find in the open world on enemies I have killed for quest purposes. Silk Cloths also sell as well; I can sell a stack of 6 units of silk cloth for about 10 to 15 pieces of Gold.

To conclude this article I have worked my way into a very comfortable financial situation where if later down the line I want to buy a pet or a mount I can pretty much afford any of them. The Good ones range between 120 Gold to 500 Gold. It is something I am really looking forward to because I am starting to get bored riding my horse.

I started out using the auction house when I had only 14.67.30 and now I have eclipsed the 1,000 Gold mark. Currently I have 760.85.34 wealth in the game until 15 pending sales in the auction house go through and fourteen of them are 14 auctions in stacks of 2 of Moss Agate for a buyout of 40.00.00. The end result will be I will make roughly 560 gold tonight if they all sell therefor making me believe that I am actually in a very comfortable situation the rest of the way; however I have to remain vigilant in the times and try to keep up with the hot items currently being sold to continue to be successful in The Auction House.
Interview With a SuperCuts Hairstylist

By Sara Brooks

I interviewed my hairstylist, Ali, who works at SuperCuts. She has worked for seven years cutting and styling hair. She likes to do men's hair he best. Her favorite part of her job is that she gets to talk to people. To be a hairstylist, you need to go to school for about nine months. You also need a lot of practice. You use sharp tools and you learn to work closely with people in a safe and professional manner. Then you take a state exam, and you need to renew your license every two years. I really like my hairstylist. She cuts and styles hair for people, and she helps people feel good about themselves.

In My Own Words About Certain Things In Life

By Bryan Lippert

I struggle sometimes with time management, just like some others do. We all need to be able to have a good structured schedule; it’s hard to maintain sometimes. Also, sometimes we all take on too many tasks at once. I honestly enjoy keeping myself busy all day until I have to go to bed. That’s my only relaxing time.

Another thing that some of us struggle with is making the sacrifices in order to keep an even flowing well structured schedule. Although sometimes I amaze others; I take on a lot and manage to get all of my goals/ tasks completed because I focus on all of them and don’t get side tracked. Here are some examples. Let’s say I have to get my interview done for the magazine, but “oh I want to watch the Penguins game.” Not a good idea. Why? Because you could have gotten your interview done and possibly edited in those three hours.

Plus, if you’re a reader and like to read books, this goes with the same example, you could have read your book for three hours or one hour of reading, one hour of studying over what you wrote, and one hour of cooking for yourself.

I can live with no cable. Why spend such a huge amount of money on it? Example two: If you only watch a few shows and don’t really have much time during the day to watch from either working at your job, not home enough applying to jobs or whichever it may be. There have been many times when I’ve felt disappointed towards others. Like they say, “Oh I’m too busy” It’s excuses, that’s what it is. Or the fact that they don’t know how to manage time well. Examples would be like to grab a friendly coffee sometime. They are like, sorry, I’m too busy. Then I’m like, you can’t give me an hour of your time? That’s all I ask. Even my mother would agree that an hour is reasonable to give.

About same old, same old, some folks out there in life whenever they live in their neighborhood, they stick to going shopping, out to eat, etc., within their neighborhood. They really don’t adventure out of their circle. I’m glad I’m not the same old same old. I encourage folks to explore some more neighborhoods out there, do different things, and meet new people.
had the opportunity to interview Jacob Diller who works at a local library in Tarentum, PA, Part of Allegheny County Library Systems. Jacob has worked for this library for three years on a part time basis since he is a full time college student at St. Vincent College; he is an history and English education major. Jacob discussed some of the changes about the library over the past 10 years.

Prior to being employed at the library, Jacob has volunteered for years. Jacob discussed one of the changes over the last 10 years which is The Summer Reading Program. The focus is on math and science. This year's Allegheny County Theme is "Build A Better World." Tarentum has a focus on Local History Presentation which began three years ago and has grown in attendance from five people to around 80 now.

Another major change in the library system is that you no longer only have access to materials at your local library; you can now order materials from other libraries to be delivered to your local library. Me in particular, David O'Rorey, talks to a patron at the library to look up DVDs on the computer of classic films and Military Aviation Documentaries to order on DVD. I also like music, but usually all they can order is CDs and most of those are online. If only they had Unofficial Live Concert Recordings available but those I usually get through music trading and online Torrents and SoulSeek. When you place an order for something at the library it usually takes less than a week to arrive. This service from the library is absolutely free.

How does the library make money then? They receive donations from patrons, They receive profit from photo copies from printing and sending faxes. What most people don't know is they also have an ancestry investigation service which they charge for. If you ever want to look into your ancestors, the library is a good resource for that.

They also offer internet access for people without home computers. You can also rent E-Books for free.

These are just some of the many things your local library has to offer for you to find out.

If you haven't been to the library recently you might want too consider checking it out for yourself.
The freedom is ours, the government's attempts of lies are failing, the truth to be revealed is now.

As such for the lies pain and unjustified actions of those who pretend to be in charge of us whom are not in charge of us. And the truth to stop this unjust threat and to be completely honest of how to do so, beginning of the words I speak to u my dear brothers and sisters. There are no clues nor power left for the government to use to hurt us that are left behind that they can hide and lie about. Once again the people have wised up at this era finally. To be frank I wished it could have been sooner then later at this point. But unfortunately no offense on anyone in particular, the people around the world coward before the darkness and have given up on the abilities of freedom as well as idealism. But as many wise men and women have stated truth to the people whom have lived in fear and have abandoned hope for so long have finally once again been gifted with the strength to once again believe in freedom. As we speak I write this article of great truth, more and more people have realized that they are free and no one can take that away from them. The true fact This earth is a great gift to all of us and every living thing is equal upon it for which we stand as brothers and sisters together we are in harmony. Soon my brothers and sisters I promise u and I'm serious about it. The time of the lies control power corruption fear and not to mention the injustice of innocent blood caused by war split will for soon come to an end. For now after all the darkness we have suffered the time of balance of the light and dark will be repaired once again. But also that means that u my dear brothers and sisters of earth will have to work hard on making the change of helping each other as well, for I cannot hold it all for u and be the only one to make a sacrifice. U have to help as well to be free. Because if u do not make the sacrifice as I do to being free and doing the right thing forth of all our brothers and sisters then we will never be free. If u do not understand fully what I mean of sacrifice. Then I shall tell u now. The body of the government are a bunch of cowards of human beings. As human beings in the laws of heaven we are all equal, and as an equal there charge of us is considered a lie beyond the laws of true justice as well as true freedom. For they committed the three unforgivable sins blasphemy betrayal and geniside/murder and for that of which they have committed they will fail. For the only one whom is truly in charge of one self said being of this beautiful yet partially damaged by war of the earth is that very being itself and no one else. U need to realize to true meaning of our life's importance and how precious ur life is and can be to u. The government made us slaves to their whim and expect us to bow down. And if we don't they will kill us for going against their lies and deception. So the sacrifice I am speaking of is not to fight nor kill, not to sacrifice life nor limb, and definitely not to commit threats nor doing anything entirely weak less that will cost fatal to u or anyone else. The only thing in sacrifice that I speak is this poetic statement of true justice. To be truly free, u do not need to listen to the lies nor the idiocy of the government, u do not need to follow the laws of other humans that are equal to u. If u are under attack by other human beings with unjustified power and falsified authority that are equal to u u have the right to defend urself however u see fit, but with one exemption that requires a great importance of the meaning of a code of honor, that is never to kill thy enemy by any circumstance, but if u do then u'll be at the level of these monsters that are not in charge of anything but themselves. And u do not want to do this. The reason I do this is because I am a true believer of freedom of the arc angels whom have protected me for as long as I can remember. They have guided me through this darkness and also to finally reveal the truth of why I owe them my very life. I was 8 years old on a winters night alone and afraid. I collapsed and no one around to help me. I died and was a specter of the earth. When I was just about to diss appear forever from the earth as hope for me was lost, an angel appeared infront of me and blasted a holy light upon me. My spirit glowed brightly as I appeared in heaven with her. She have spoken to me and asked me to do something for heaven I cannot say fully what they have asked for it is not yet all the way fulfilled. All I can tell u now is that our destinies will be free and life as we know it will be ours once more. For the promised day will be fulfilled and it will be upon us in the near future. The darkness will be sealed and the balance will once again be restored. My dear brothers and sisters of earth have faith in freedom and the spirit that guides us. For the religious lies of the government will no longer control our right to justice that we deserve as well as our freedom to live how we see fit once more.

This article was written as well as created and issued with the foremost honesty as well as personal truth of the meaning of all of our life's,

Ur brother and one of the guardians of the earth,

Nature f.f. Aura

A celestial knight of the trinities true heavens consul.

P.s. Be brave my brothers and sisters, for our freedom is almost upon us, don't give up, never surrender and always remember, we will succeed in all that we have dreamed and we shall live our dreams.
My Trip to Lilac Springs

by Bryan Lippert

About Bryan’s somewhat awesome day on Saturday October 5, 2013: I went up to Lilac Springs; it’s basically in Meadville, PA and, well, it offers many different amenities. You do the research online. Getting to the weekend, I went up there with my dad. He had to roast another pig for the vets, like those who served in the Vietnam war and world wars, etc. Also some of my dad’s motorcycle pals came to it, too. There was so much food, yes, enough to feed an army of 20 soldiers or more. They had the pig, different styles of chili, a variety of drinks, and dessert. Speaking of desserts, I made a pistachio brownie cake that had the words vets and USA on it in cinnamon red candy on top, along with a white pistachio cake. The winner was the brownie pistachio cake; everyone destroyed that. There was not much left. Plus there were different people that set up there canapés, like one guy was making those dog tags for whoever wanted one for five dollars, another guy was a part of keystone riders promoting his motorcycle stuff. Native Americans were there, a radio station or DJ with music was there. A ceremony for the vets happened which was nice. Getting to me, Bryan, I helped out a lot. I helped make and serve breakfast for people like bacon, eggs and pancakes. I cleaned up afterwards too, uh those dirty dishes. I had another person cooking along with me too. I helped set up the drinks for everyone, the crackers and cheese, the dip and chips and my bake-tastic desserts. I had a canapé set up too for my art. I was charging five dollars for a portrait of who ever wanted to pay me to do it. I drew all ladies (wow) no guys so I enjoyed drawing the first lady then hours later I ended up drawing her one girlfriend then her other girlfriend, plus a guy paid me to draw him a scary clown. I made twenty five dollars for all I did. I also made a song about the vets, a sort song I sang it, I wish there were more people there to hear it, oh well. Whoever were there enjoyed it, yet again I wore my awesome gear; plus I had another black shirt with a motorcycle on it, so that way I could represent the bikers and myself. Overall it was a positive time, no one got drunk, hurt, high, threats came out of my mouth or anyone else’s we all got along, I wish I could have gotten more photos with me and others. I blame myself; I could have asked more people to get a picture of me. I plan to do better next time.
Exotic Meats I’ve Eaten

by Bryan Lippert

I’m not 100 percent sure what I tried first. I’ll just go ahead and explain myself.

I tried alligator and crocodile jerky in Florida with my parents. It was really good. Of course I tried all the different flavors of BBQ: hot, spicy, and regular, I enjoyed them all. I had regular alligator burgers too for $10.99 per pound. Most of this meat I’m talking about is made at Strip District Meats at 2123 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Their number is 412-391-1762.

I tried turtle meat; it was expensive. I paid $20 for one pound. I felt bad eating turtle since when I was a kid I raised a turtle. So the meat was dark red when cooked all the way it turned grayish tan. I admit it was good and chewy. I made a simple turtle soup just with chopped onions, pepper, hot sauce, and turtle meat. I’m never eating turtle again.

I tried wild boar meat that cost $8.99 per pound. It was shockingly really good. It was very similar to what regular pig tastes like. I gave up on eating all pig meat like four years ago or more.

Of course my first taste of exotic meat was with my dad. Growing up with him, he was a hunter, so he had me try out deer sticks. They were my favorite. Then he had me try deer steak, deer bologna with cheese in it, and goose, which I didn’t care for. The meat was gray along with the bear meat balls he had me try. They were no too bad.

Also he had me try wild turkey. It was much better than store bought. I tried frog legs. They didn’t taste too great. They didn’t feed well since they’re so small.

Getting back to the Strip District Meats I’ve tried, I tried camel meat for $9.99 per pound. It was fairly good. It reminded me of eating meatloaf growing up with my parents. I tried python in spring rolls, since it was cheaper. It was okay. Shockingly the python has no fat in it at all.

I had kangaroo meat. It was fairly good. I’m never eating it again since I like kangaroos, and it would be cool to have one as a pet.

I tried elk meat for $8.99 per pound. I enjoyed it. I also ate llama meat for $9.99 per pound. I will not eat it again. It tasted fine; also I love llamas.

I shockingly had an ostrich at the Sharp Edge Creek House. Who hasn’t ate buffalo before? Believe it or not, some restaurants serve buffalo burgers.

Some restaurants also serve yak burgers. Oh, I had that meat. It’s awesome. It has whopping 50 grams of protein in it. I bought yak burgers for $14.99 per pound.

Another nice fact about Strip District Meats is they take food stamps. I also tried rabbit. Never again. I love rabbits and hopefully one day I can raise one. There’s not much meat to the rabbit. It didn’t taste that great. It was okay. It was chewy. I got it for $7.99.

My friend purchased quail. I ate that with him. We didn’t like it too much. Although I ate quail eggs and they were much better.

I tried duck, too. It’s alright. I tried some water buffalo; it was not too bad. It tasted like any regular burger you would buy in the store or go out to a restaurant and eat.

The strangest thing that I ever ate was some pig brain a few years back, when my dad did a pig roast. I thought it tasted like stuffing.
Hello! This is an interview with the Happy Hound dog grooming salon at Allison Park shopping center in Hampton Township. It was conducted on May 1, 2017, with Regina (Gina) Vitale, the current owner proprietor. I know for a fact that my immediate family has taken our canine friends here for grooming for over the last 20 years and counting!!! AMEN!!!

Joey: When did this business open? What was your first job?

Gina: The Happy Hound opened in 1986, just about a year before I joined the staff in 1987. I graduated high school in 1988. The owner was Patricia "Pat" Zimanski. My mom talked to Pat, and since she needed a dog bather, she hired me... and I haven't left since! Three years ago (2014), Pat retired which is when I became the owner.

Joey: When did you start grooming?

Gina: I was too scared to groom for a while. While continuing as a bather, I was trained in grooming by Pat and Bruce (the latter of whom still works at the Happy Hound). I practiced grooming on my neighbors' dogs, and eventually started grooming at the Happy Hound in addition to my bathing duties.

Joey: What was here in the building before the grooming salon?

Gina: It used to be a beauty and hair salon before Pat bought it and turned it into the Happy Hound.

Joey: How many canine customers do you work with each day?

Gina: On a daily basis, the Happy Hound services close to 20 dogs! Occasionally, when there are at least 2 groomers, we can service around 30 dogs!

Joey: Did you have to go through any specialized training?

Gina: I did not receive any "special training", per se. I trained exclusively with the people who hired me, totally hands-on. It's the best way to learn! I am currently training someone who went to grooming school prior to being hired, yet still has a lot to learn in the field.

Joey: Can you think of doing any other job?

Gina: I can't even imagine having another job... I LOVE it! Having a doggy day care with an attached grooming salon would be a dream, but I would always be working with dogs no matter my job.

Joey: Do you have a favorite breed of dog?

Gina: My favorite dog breed is the St. Bernard. I love giant breeds!

Joey: Did you have any canine, feline, or other innocent animal companion growing up?

Gina: Growing up, I was not allowed to have dogs. I did have cats, gerbils, guinea pigs, and ducks, though! My first duck's name was Pee-wee. One of my bunnies was named Chuck, and he had black and white fur. I got my first dog when I was 15 or 16 years old. I saved up money from babysitting jobs, and got a St. Bernard who I named Zack.

Joey: Who was your first canine customer?

Gina: My first canine customer when I was grooming out of my house was a Brittany spaniel named Pumpkin. Although Pumpkin has passed away, I still groom the owner's dogs. My first canine customer at the salon was a shih-tzu named Sammy. He just recently passed away.

Joey: Do you have a variety of dog customers?
grooming tools?

Gina: There are over a dozen different tools me and my staff use for grooming, as well as multiple options of shampoo depending on the dog's skin needs. I have a special blade for paw fur. It is smaller so that it won't nick the paw. I also have special clippers for claws: a big pair for big dogs, and a small pair for small dogs.

Joey: How long does it take to groom a canine customer?

Gina: The entire grooming process takes about 1-2 hours. First we trim the dog's hair, then we bathe and blow dry, and finally cut and style the fur.

Joey: Do you have procedures to defuse potential fights (spats) among the dog customers?

Gina: Due to each dog having privacy in the crates, I do not have to deal with any dogs fighting while at the salon. As such, there also isn't any socialization.

Joey: Do you have any aggressive dogs? Do you have protective protocol for nervous and/or aggressive dogs?

Gina: I do have some aggressive dogs as customers, which still scares me a bit. I always use a muzzle to protect myself from aggression during grooming.

Joey: Do you know anyone who does not love animals?

Gina: No, I do not personally know anyone who doesn't love animals... and I don't think I want to!

Joey: Do you believe innocent animals, pets included, have immortal souls and that they go to heaven?

Gina: Yes, I do.

"Thank you, Gina, for letting us interview you!!!"

Gina's Happy Hound
2412 Ferguson Rd #7
Allison Park, PA 15101
AMEN!!!
My first computer was a Commodore 64. I used it for word processing. Our stamp collection was organized with a huge spreadsheet. We had dial up internet but I cannot remember what we used it for.

It was in the dark hallways of the library at the University of Massachusetts @ Amherst where I first discovered email lists and they became a easy and accessible tool for groups to communicate. You could sit back in the dark with the soft green glow of the monitor and create email groups. That was UMASS 1998.

I have had many failures and frustrations on these lists, and on social media. Failures in email etiquette? I used some foul language. Did I send you too many emails? I got off a lot of lists. I got thrown off a lot of lists. People’s assertions about how social media can be used has a ring of falsehood. I am always suspicious.

There is a new application called ‘Grammerly.’ Grammerly is like a super spellchecker that also makes stylistic suggestions. The advertisements for Grammerly suggest that it can infuse your social media posts and writing with confidence. Grammerly, and many other applications are now filled with prompts that make navigating the social media norms easier.

Quickly, social media presents itself with a thud right in the middle of our romantic relationships. Social media instantly become gossip. In most cases, someone’s “relationship status” is the most important thing about them.

I went so far as to call myself a Luddite and argue against the adaptation of new technologies. I wrote an angry letter to Canon arguing that their Powershot Camera was an example of planned obsolescence.

Fifteen years ago, I lived without telephone or a television for eleven months. In retrospect, I think that was a good period of time for me. Today, refusal to engage internet and social media and any of the technology used at work are the greatest obstacles to developing new job opportunities. Members of my family are on Facebook and maintaining relationships.

With all this new technology, you can never know just how badly you have been hacked or how much concerted effort is put into monitoring your lifestyle and habits. I know for certain that HighOnPoems.com is writing about me, that they track which poems I have read, and deliver to me in “Daily Doses” of poetry… that they write about my family and my aspirations and my relationships. There are a group of people that have organized to hack my life that are using the HighOnPoems.com platform to change me. More so than to change me, to protect themselves from me.

The writers at the Pittverse have an email list. Now we have each subscribed to an application called “BAND.” We are asking one another, “Are you in the Band?” There are cartoon figures holding signs, “shoutouts” and comments and notifications. I am not trying to sabotage it. I want it to be a place where we discuss one another’s writing. In Korea, the BAND is more popular than Facebook.

1 The Luddites, followers of King Lud, were weavers whose livelihoods were being rendered obsolete by mechanical looms. Angry mobs of Luddites burned down factories. Are Luddites a force in society today?
A Friend Helps Me Out of a Funk: He can give advice, but I don’t have to take it

By Kenneth Miller

My friend has monthly meetings and he gets a lot done. He says, “touch someone.” He speaks about the ancestors. He reminds us of what everyone around us is doing. He tells us to represent, to wear a button, to hand out some fliers. He organizes the meeting with paper agendas, handouts and food.

He knows the power of the letter and reminds us by showing us his own and gives us a folder to keep them in every month.

Also, he tells us that we can provide a positive example for others during the public testimony: to make proposals and add to the stack of written testimony, recommendations and demands that have been placed squarely before elected officials and administrators. Getting organized means doing more of this, not less. He points to the City Council and the County Council and the Sports and Exhibition Authority, and the different School Board meetings and says, “go.”

He reminds me of how important it is to solicit testimony and reminds me of the lengths he goes through to encourage, support and present the testimony of others. He provides another example of interracial relationships.

When we are frustrated about the internet, he demonstrates working through that frustration and then gives us explicit instructions like “post this twice to your friends and family.” He creates whole new email lists with rules that are reset and explicated and asks us not to be discouraged. He still focuses on the mail and the print media. There are great newspapers all around us, the Courier, the Post Gazette the student papers and the alumni magazines. He has confidence about getting what is influential and then using it.

He gives us a calendar, monthly meetings, a Corporate and Inclusion Equity Summit, a BBQ To Stop Police Brutality and a Summit Against Racism. He takes responsibility for helping us recognize birthdays and deaths... an intelligent useful place for prayers, even for an atheist. He rushes into complex relationships and accepts tension and urges big and little steps towards the resolution of problems. He holds out the possibility that problems can be solved.

He really treats everyone the same way and takes each person's contributions as something unique and worth building on. I’ve got more than one friend like this... a big fistful of people I trust that I know are doing the right things, that I admire.
On a day where temperatures climbed up to 80 degrees, The Boiler Room, located in the Banksville section of Pittsburgh, was the setting for an Pennsylvania primary Election Night party that served as the climax for one of the candidates taking part in one of hottest political races in the 2017 Pennsylvania Primary—the Democratic race for Mayor of the city of Pittsburgh. On the evening of May 16th, 2017, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, the incumbent candidate, hosted his Election Night party at the aforementioned Boiler Room after he—and the people who voted for him that day—took on Pittsburgh city Councilwoman Darlene Harris (of Pittsburgh’s North Side) and Reverend John Welsh for the right to be one step closer to occupying (or taking back) the highest political seat in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Peduto was first elected mayor in November of 2013 after a mayoral campaign that lasted less than a year, and a 12-year long tenure as a Pittsburgh City Councilman who represented the city’s 8th district—a district that he represented the East End neighborhoods of Bloomfield, Friendship, Oakland, Point Breeze, Shadyside and Squirrel Hill. During his tenure as a Pittsburgh City Councilman, Mr. Peduto chaired the Committee on General Services, Technology and the Arts. The Committee is in charge of all contracts and purchases as well as city-owned buildings and land. Mr. Peduto also oversaw the City Information Systems department, the Cable Bureau and the Art Commission on Council.

And during his first term as mayor, Mr. Peduto added a lot of accomplishments to his ever-impressive political resume’. Amongst his accomplishments; Mr. Peduto has invested millions of dollars into affordable and mixed-income housing, and has worked with stakeholders to invest in our future by providing summer employment opportunities for Pittsburgh’s youth. Another accomplishment Mr. Peduto has made as mayor was to help address food insecurity through the city’s free afterschool meals program, serving children and people with disabilities. Another accomplishment he’s has as mayor is that of hiring the highest numbers of police officers, firefighters, and building inspectors in decades. Under Mayor Peduto’s leadership, the City has doubled the amount of street paving since 2014.

At his Election Night party, supporters had a lot of positive things to say about Mr. Peduto’s first term in office. One of his supporters said that Mr. Peduto, “…is going to help us to continue to move forward.” In an impromptu interview with one of his supporters, I told that that Mayor Peduto has done a lot of positive things for Pittsburgh (Not bad coming from a reporter who lives in Braddock, which is not a neighborhood within the Pittsburgh city limits!). I then asked one of his supporters what else he will do during his second terms as mayor if elected? One of Mayor Peduto’s replied, “Jobs, and (build more) Affordable housing—(even though) Pittsburgh is still very affordable to live in.”
By the time 10 PM rolled around, two hours after the polls closed, Mayor Peduto, the incumbent candidate, was declared the winner of the Pittsburgh Mayoral primary—And in the end, when all of Pittsburgh’s 402 precincts were reported, Mayor Peduto breezed by his opponents by a whopping margin(s); with Mayor Peduto earning 68.92% of the vote, to Reverend Welch’s 17.43% of the vote, and Councilwoman Harris’ 13.28% of the vote. After 10 PM rolled around, the time came for Mayor Peduto to give his victory speech, which was preceded by a brief speech by Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. “We have a bold mayor who has done a lot of amazing things over the last four years,” Mr. Fitzgerald said, “And I think is so exciting that we’re going to have him as mayor for the next four years.” Mr. Fitzgerald also praised Mayor Peduto for his “Amazing” job he has done in his first term as mayor, “The fact that this city is on the move in a way it has not been in decades—with new companies, new young people, (and) new energy in all of our neighborhoods,” Mr. Fitzgerald also said, “What this Mayor has proven he is doing is that Pittsburgh is a city of the future, but it is a city that remembers its past.” That was part of his speech that helped introduce the winner of the Pittsburgh Mayoral Primary Election. In his victory speech, Mayor Peduto said the results of the Mayoral Primary gave him as mayor “a mandate to continue” the effort he launched four years ago when he launched his first campaign to become mayor of Pittsburgh. “It’s not a mandate for a politician,” Mayor Peduto said. “It’s a mandate that we’re on the road to success, and we are required to make it so that Pittsburgh stays Pittsburgh, and we build a Pittsburgh for all.”

When he concluded his victory speech, Mayor Peduto then spoke to members of the media (me included). Over the next four years as mayor, “It’s time to take on even bigger challenges,” Mayor Peduto said, “(And) We’re going to tackle them head-on.”

No matter what challenges that comes Pittsburgh’s, and Mayor Peduto’s way the next for years, he’ll not only, as he said, “…tackle them head-on.”, but he’ll do so with an entire city having his support. One thing I love about living in the Pittsburgh area is that it always has the support, love, and encouragement of from people when other people—let alone politicians—are going through tough times and tough challenges. And in
this day in age, when all, to most of the news we’re informed about coming from politics and politicians that are very negative, it’s awesome to know that the person who has served the people of Pittsburgh as Mayor, Bill Peduto, embodies the spirit of positivity, hope, encouragement, and even love to the office of Pittsburgh Mayor. And in turn, the people he serves embodies him with the same aforementioned spirits. And it’s that aforementioned reason that, in this reporter’s opinion, he deserves the right to serve as Pittsburgh’s Mayor for the next four years. And because of his few comical reasons for re-election, like being a pioneer in cool bike lanes all across the city!
Interview With My Nana and Pappy: 55 Years of Marriage

By M.J. Devine

The year 1962 to the present time and counting, 55 years of making memories. My grandparents celebrated their 55th anniversary on June 15, 2017. Pat and Jack Miesel have been married for 55th years. That is a very long time to be married. It is a big celebration of loving someone most of your life. They have seen many things in their life together and I wanted to share a little bit about their love story with you in this article.

How did you and Pappy meet?
We met in 1960 at a teacher training class led by his Mother. I was introduced as the only single girl in the room by his sister. I was sure this was the man I was going to marry from that first night.

What did you do on dates?
We went roller skating for our first date. We would also go to drive ins.

What was it like when you were proposed to? Where and when did it happen? How did you feel?
Pappy came to Michigan and proposed to me in my parent’s kitchen. I said yes and we started to plan our lives together.

Where and when did you get married?
We got married at Saint Mark Lutheran Church on June 15 1962. We had three pastors marrying us. One was Pastor of the church. One was Pappy's brother Pastor Roland Miesel and bother-in-law Pastor Gene Lenk. Our wedding party was all family. Our reception was held in basement of the Church.

What memory stands out the most from your wedding day?
Pappy said he was marrying the most beautiful girl in the world. His Mom keep telling him to smile as I came down the aisle. Nana was marrying her prince. Just like Cinderella.

Where did you go on your honeymoon?
We went up Conte cottage for a few days. Then went to Niagara Falls. We had no money for food and ate jelly sandwiches. No peanut butter. It was the best trip ever.

How would you describe your spouse? What do you admire most about them?
He is my Prince Charming. He is my anchor and has provided for our family. We have four wonderful children. Also 16 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. We are family and enjoy doing things together. Also we now have peanut butter. Pappy said I am the loving caring Mother of our children. I am his best friend and he is mine.

What do you believe is the key to a successful marriage?
God is the center of our marriage. We respect and love each other. We are a team. We do everything together.

What has been your favorite place to travel together?
We love to travel. Been on about 19 cruises we have toured Europe, Greek, Baltic countries, including Russia, United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal. We have been in every state in USA. We toured national parks. We have driven across the country. We went thru the Panama Canal. We been in Mexico and Canada. We been in all the islands in the Caribbean. One of favorite places is the happiest place on Earth. Disney World and Disney Land.

What is the one thing you most want people to remember about you?
That we are one God's children and we are all way ready to serve. 1-800-Nana and Pappy.

What is your and Pappy’s song?
Tell me why. I really think that God above created you for me to love. He picked you out from all the rest because he knew I loved you best.
Ever since it first went on the air nearly 60 years ago, WTAE-TV has been blessed with a legendary array of news reporters and anchors to ever appear on Pittsburgh television. Names like Paul Long, Don Cannon, Joe DeNardo, Carl Ide, Dave Murray, Jim Scott, Alby Oxenreiter, Myron Cope, Bill Hillgrove, Stan Savran and Adam Lynch have all left their luster on the great tradition that is the news department of WTAE-TV—a.k.a. Pittsburgh’s Action News 4. Other names that have been a part of WTAE-TV’s great tradition of their news department have been Susan Davies, Nan Chapman, Lynn Cullen, Debra Fox, Sheila Hyland, Cathy Milton, and Yvonne Zanos.

And then, there are the present day names that are a part of Pittsburgh’s Action News 4—one in particular is Bofta Yimam, WTAE-TV’s reporter and weekend morning anchor. She was first hired as an investigative reporter in 2013. Ms. Yimam, a native of Maryland, and a graduate of the University of Maryland, started her career in Dalton, GA as an anchor and reporter.

After her humble beginnings in the Peachtree State, Ms. Yimam continued her journalism career across the Southeast, Mid-south, and the Midwest. Ms. Yimam’s previous TV job in the South was in Memphis, Tennessee at WHBQ-TV.

In nearly every year in her career, Ms. Yimam has been honored for her work. While reporting in Georgia, she won the prestigious Edward R. Murrow award for Best Breaking News Coverage. And in 2013, she won a Midsouth Regional Emmy for excellence in Continuing Coverage. With that honor, she became the first Ethiopian-American newscaster to receive an Emmy for her work as a journalist.

Speaking of honor, as a Pittverse reporter, I had the great honor of getting to know a little bit more about Ms. Yimam in a Q-and-A-style interview I conducted with her for this article:

ROBERT: Other than being on camera, what does your job as a reporter/anchor comprise of?

BOFTA: That's really just one aspect. Behind the scenes, we all make calls, confirm details, line up interviews, research, request records, review court/police records, log sound, write pieces, and communicate with producers on story development.

ROBERT: Who influenced you to become a TV Journalist?

BOFTA: As a kid, I remember that I loved reading and writing. I would read books until my eyes were so tired. I would get sucked into the stories. It makes sense that I now tell stories for a living—and I'm truly honored that people trust me to tell their story. It's a privilege. Regarding influencers toward this career, I had a wonderful teacher in elementary school who always encouraged me to read stories out loud. That may sound like a small thing, but it proved to be special for me. She would compliment my voice and writing—and she really gave me confidence! There are several female broadcasters who also served as inspiration when I was growing up including, Maureen Bunyan, Diane Sawyer, Barbara Walters, Kathleen Matthews and Oprah Winfrey. I also remember just being fascinated with storytelling and video... specifically with correspondents located around the globe and how
they managed to tell compelling stories and deliver dynamic live reports.

ROBERT: What’s your best memory working at WTAE?

BOFTA: Covering the Penguins’ Stanley Cup parade. Veteran photographer Dan Pratt and I drove together to the parade and he said this would be a day I would never forget. He was right. I’ve never seen a crowd like that—hundreds of thousands of fans filling the streets, cheering from parking lots, and even saving their seat outside in the wee hours of the morning—bracing for that moment when the players hoist the Stanley cup. The energy was amazing and you could feel the city's pride. It was incredible moving.

ROBERT: Which colleague (on, or off-camera) do you enjoy working with at WTAE?

BOFTA: I’m fortunate to work with a great crew, really genuine and kind people. I work mornings so we're up very early together and it's wonderful that we do enjoy each other's company. Sometimes, you do need someone to make you laugh or give you an extra cup of joe! I've worked longest and closest with Meteorologist Ashley Dougherty at WTAE, so she probably knows the most about me personally! I sincerely appreciate all of my friendships at WTAE.

MORE ON BOFTA YIMAM:

When Ms. Yimam is not in the public eye as a reporter, she, according to her personal website (www.boftayimam.com), hosts online health fitness groups and offers public speaking workshops. She also loves to scratch off travel destinations on her bucket list! That list has taken her on many flights to cool destinations including Cuba, Japan, Ethiopia, Greece, Italy, Jamaica, and France.

During her time in college, she studied abroad in Seville, Spain, and later interned at ABC’s Good Morning America in New York City. She’s grateful that her career landed her in Pittsburgh and enjoys exploring the city. She’s also extremely thankful for the amazing family and friends who continue to bless her life as a journalist, a traveler, a friend, and yes, like the headline I wrote for this story, genuine sweetheart.
I met with Veronica White, an artistically-creative individual, who put her aspiring writing and directorial visions to life this past spring. I found out about Veronica and her recent movie debut from my community support staff, Valerie Boyce; who co-starred in her movie. We sat down at the Robinson Mall food court, for what I thought would be a quick question/answer interview, but I ended up getting more from the meet-up than I originally thought. I found it easy to talk to her and was happy to find out that we both have movie interests in common.

1. WHEN DID YOU BEGIN WRITING YOUR SCREENPLAY? WHAT WAS THE LENGTH OF TIME DEVOTED TO FILMING?

“I began writing in November of 2016. I had to take a break around the Holidays; as the movie material is dark. It took me two months to complete writing. Originally a 30 minute movie that I reduced to 20 minutes to be able to enter in multiple film festivals. Preproduction began in Feb 2017, shooting was in March and by mid April we began post production. The movie debut was June 17th, 2017.”

2. WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO WRITE/DIRECT?

“Learning by doing!” I had a group of talented actor friends and wanted to give them the opportunity to try something different, while I gave myself the opportunity to explore something new. I had a group the creative minds and talent, which allowed me to pursue something I had always thought about doing.”

3. HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CAST AND CREW?

“I chose people who I felt safe and comfortable with because it hard trying something new. Working with friends, enriching lives, and providing opportunities for potential new career paths was exciting for me. I am retired, and I wanted a project to keep my busy.”

4. WHAT IS THE PREMISE OF THE MOVIE?

“Basically, a young man breaks out of confinement and tries to deal with many obstacle that continually hold him back in life.”

5. HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION FOR THE MOVIE?

“The main scene in the movie is filmed at a beautiful, remote location. The room we filmed in was huge, which allowed us to fit all the equipment and people. For one scene, a character lights a fire in a gorgeous fireplace. We set up the scene based around that fireplace.”

6. HOW DO YOU THINK THE MOVIE TURNED OUT?

“Better than I had any right to expect for my first attempt. I had a group of good actors and a good editor. I didn’t have any behind the scenes help though. I spent a lot of time producing vs. directing. Things to remember for next time!”

7. WHAT WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART?

“Wearing so many hats! A lot of technical responsibilities and engineering. Artistic and creative vision is a different thought process. Controlling emotions and managing people—providing empathy, support and encouragement. I had to be quite stern at times being a task master.”

8. WHAT WAS THE MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT?

“So much fun trying something new and it worked. The best part is hearing from others that they enjoyed themselves and learned new things. Also, seeing my actors smile at the debut!”

9. WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS WITH THIS FILM?

“Market! We had a cast screening in June, which was a success. I have entered it into 6 film festivals! Two festivals are about women filmmakers. It has also been entered into a leadership film role festival, local festivals, and festivals in New York, Toronto and Colorado Springs. My goal in entering it into different level film festivals is to get feedback from professionals. I’ve been told that the acting is great and received positive feedback on the production value.”

10. DO YOU PLAN TO DIRECT ANY MORE MOVIES?

“Absolutely!”

11. WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR CURRENT AND/OR FUTURE PROJECTS?

“Small projects to do skill building. Improve camera work and shot planning. Currently, I am helping a friend on a project planned for the end of the year. I am doing a promotional video for an upcoming local theatre company. I am also starting to write some new film ideas. Right now I am in a replenishing mode.”
Top 5 Things that don't make sense in TV/Film
By Kyle Walter

1. Power Rangers Dino Thunder
In Dino Thunder their teacher Tommy shows the Ranger history but in the Rangers that followed, they showed no explanation of their history.

2. The Simpsons Halloween episode titled: “The Thing and I”
They tell the viewers that Bart has an evil twin but after he's gone, the neighbors don't realize that he ever existed.

Zordon gets destroyed by Ivan Ozze. In “Power Rangers in Space,” they explain he got captured and they drained his energy. When the red space ranger finds him, Zordon asks for the Rangers to destroy him; reason is so his energy can wipe out all of evil in the galaxy. How come Zordon's energy didn't wipe out the evil in the World?

4. Star Wars (all episodes)
In all of the films, the non Jedi/Sith knows about the Jedi/Sith and the Force.

5. Child's Play
After Lee Ray transferred himself into the good guy doll, nobody looked for Ray's body.
One of my favorite kinds of food is Italian food. Italian food is delicious! I had the opportunity to interview a new business owner and chef named Ernie Mancing. He opened up his own Italian restaurant in Beaver County, PA. His restaurant, RADICI, was voted “BEST OF THE VALLEY: NEW RESTAURANT IN 2016.” RADICI is known for its homemade Italian cuisine. I even got to taste my favorite Italian dish, Fettuccine Alfredo and it was DELIZIOSO!!

1. WHY DID YOU WANT TO OPEN A RESTAURANT?
“To do work that I was proud of, with limitless potential.”

2. WHAT KIND OF FOOD DO YOU SERVE?
“Traditional Italian, with a few special twists and variations.”

3. WHAT DOES RADICI MEAN?
“RADICI means “Roots” in Italian.

4. WHAT DESSERTS DO YOU HAVE?
“Gelato and sorbetto- which are the denser, Italian equivalents of ice cream and sorbet. I also make berry ricotta cheesecake.”

5. ARE YOU FROM ITALY?
“My ancestors are. All of my great-grandparents came to America from Italy, and settled in Western PA. I was born and raised in Beaver Falls, PA.”

6. WHERE DO YOU GET THE INGREDIENTS?
“We try to buy ingredients from local growers, raisers, and producers whenever we can. We also count on the typical local grocers we all know.”

7. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE DISH THAT YOU MAKE?
“Probably, Fettuccine Alfredo. I feel like we make that particular dish in a way you can’t find elsewhere!”

8. DO YOU HAVE ANY SECRET RECIPES?
“Yes”

9. WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR RESTAURANT?
“We care about our product. It’s fresh, derived locally, and made with care and attention to detail.”

10. WHAT MAKES YOUR RESTAURANT DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS?
“We try to cater directly to any individual’s needs and create an atmosphere that compliments the food.”

I encourage everyone to go to RADICI and taste some of the great food that is made from scratch! It was awesome interviewing a chef and business owner. I hope that one day I can make great Italian food too!

RADICI is located at: 1034 Pennsylvania Ave, Monaca PA 15010.
Follow RADICI on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/radicidining/
My Interview with Theater Veteran, Valerie

By Mike Levenson

“All the world’s a stage, And all the men and women merely players”

1. When did you start doing theater?
I began performing at a young age. I loved to dance! I would put on small shows for my family; singing and dancing. I started performing in musicals in middle school and have continued to perform in some aspect throughout the past 10 years.

2. What theater companies are you a part of?
I am a member, and on the executive board for R-ACT Theatre Productions, located in Rochester PA. I also perform with The Bobcat Players in Beaver, PA, and have recently finished a local film with Stoop Ferry Productions, called “Childlike.”

3. What is one of your favorite shows that you were a part of?
I really enjoyed performing in “Boeing Boeing,” a classic farce. My last project and first debut in a film was also very enjoyable; I was given the opportunity to play a very dark character; something different! I loved the challenge. I also got to sing in it too!

4. How many musicals or shows have you been in?
I have been in several shows. My favorite would be “The Wiz” when I played Dorothy. I received a Henry Mancini Nomination for that performance. I have been a part of many murder mysteries with R-ACT. I would say that I have likely performed in over 20 shows.

5. What upcoming projects do you have planned?
I will be starting rehearsals for a dramatic play called “Decision Height” that will be performed in mid-September, with the Bobcat Players.

6. Do you prefer singing, dancing, or acting?
I love it all! I get to show a different side of me with each, and I love becoming a new character with each show.

7. When not on stage, do you still help out with productions?
There are a variety of ways to be a part of a production, without being on stage. Whether it be behind the scenes help; stage managing, painting sets, or tech. I have choreographed for a show at Stage 62, I have assisted directed shows at R-ACT, and I have volunteered with talent shows at different camps and public schools.

8. Do you play any instruments?
I played clarinet in high school. I have an acoustic guitar that I mess with occasionally. I can play the keyboard. I also am interested in learning how to play multiple instruments, like the drums! I just love to learn new things!

9. Did you have any role-models in the theater world?
I am fortunate to still be able to work with my high school musical director, who encouraged me to participate with R-ACT. He has given me so much insight into acting and I have wonderful memories from my high school years because of him and my high school band director!

10. Do you think you could be on Broadway?
Nothing is impossible! :-)

Pittverse 66
1. What is improv comedy?
   Improv comedy is comedy that is made up on the spot—audience suggestions—a short comedic scene based on that suggestion.

2. What is a Cellar Dweller?
   Formed in 1997, the original location that the Cellar Dwellers met was in a basement.

3. How many people make up the Cellar Dweller group?
   We have a group of 8 people that perform on stage and a group of people that help out behind the scenes.

4. Do you travel?
   Occasionally, but 9 times out of 10 we do our show Every Friday night in Rochester, Pa.

5. How long do the shows last?
   They last an hour and a half, from 10:00pm-1130pm.

6. How long does each sketch last?
   Sketches last typically 3 minutes.

7. How do you promote the show?
   We promote through social media.
   Follow on Facebook @thecellardwellers & Twitter @CDImprov

8. What is the group’s favorite game to play?
   It’s a game we all play together with the audience. The audience shouts out a different person or thing, and then the Cellar Dwellers demonstrate the world’s worst example of that particular person or thing.

   Example: “World’s Worst Police Officer? --- “No thanks, I don't like donuts.”

9. Where does the group see themselves in 10 years?
   Individually the members imagine themselves doing various different things in 10 years, but we will always try to help keep the Cellar Dwellers alive. The outlet that it provides for so many people, both as performers and audience members, is not something you ever want to see go away.

10. What do you want people to know about the CD?
    If you want to watch improv comedy or if you want to participate in it, you have an outlet here in Rochester!
Congratulations Pittsburgh Penguins

Back-to-Back Stanley Cup Champions

Photo by Robert Hester III
Top 10 Action Movies of All Time

By Richard Campbell

10. White Heat (1949)
8. Dragnet (1951 - Universal)
7. Dragnet (1987 - Universal)
5. Batman (1966 - Twentieth Century Fox)
4. New Jack City (1992)
2. Passenger 57 (1992)
1. Enter the Dragon (1973)

Top 10 Vacation Spots

By Kevin Hart

10. Family Reunion Destinations
9. Bahamas
8. London
7. Paris
6. On A Cruise
5. D.C.
4. The Beach
3. Home
2. Vegas
1. Disney
Top 10 Pittsburgh Jazz Artists

By Richard Campbell

10. Billy Eckstine (Mr. B)
9. Walt Harper and All That Jazz
8. Frank Cunomundo
7. Jessica Lee and Friends
6. Dr. Nelson Harrison
5. Al Dowe and Etta Cox
4. Jay and Marty Ashby
3. Maureen Budway
2. Sandy Staley
1. Harold Betters (Mr. Trombone)

Top 10 World Renowned Female Jazz Singers

By Richard Campbell

10. June Christy
9. Lee Wiley
8. Jane Monnett
7. Sarah Vaughan
6. Diane Schurr
5. Ann Hampton-Callaway
4. Nancy Wilson
3. Vanessa Rubin
2. Catherine Russel
1. Diana Krall
Top 10 Guitarists of All Time

By Richard Campbell

10. Les Paul
9. Ed Van Halen
8. Chet Atkins
7. Pete Townshend (The Who)
6. Dick Dale (King of the Surf Guitar)
5. Dwayne Eddy
4. Chuck Berry
3. John Lennon (The Beatles)
2. Eric Clapton
1. Elvis Presley “The King”

Jimi Hendrix US Postage Stamp Caption
Three days after Sergeant Pepper’s release, Jimi Hendrix and the Experience opened with it at a concert in London that the Beatles attended. That’s right, Jimmy Hendrix covered Sergeant Pepper for the Beatles and they loved it. Hendrix went on to torch his guitar at the Monterey Rock Music Festival.

-Kenneth Miller

Top 10 Male Pop Singers

By Richard Campbell

10. Michael Jackson
9. George Michael
8. Lionel Richey
7. Richard Marx
6. Michael Bolton
5. Marvin Gaye
4. Frankie Valli
3. Brook Benton
2. Luther Vandross
1. Elvis Presley “The King”
Top 10 Male First Names

By Joey Cepek

10. Zachery
9. Sylvester
8. Kurt
7. Jerome
6. Michael
5. Craig
4. Keith
3. Moses
2. Abraham
1. Joel

Top 10 Female First Names

By Joey Cepek

10. Holly
9. Tabitha
8. Heather
7. Janine
6. Julie
5. Sianna
4. Rachel
3. Rebecca
2. Celeste
1. Emily

Top 10 Eye Opening Movies

By Joey Cepek

9. Fantasia (1940)
8. Dumb and Dumber (1994)
5. Lady and the Tramp (1955)
4. Cinderella (1950)
3. Snow White and the 7 Dwarves (1937)
Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.

Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) currently has programs in 17 states and serves 25 major US cities as well as dozens of other urban, suburban, and rural communities. By tapping into the strengths and capabilities of the 10,000 families we serve each year, our 2,000+ YAP staff members, and the capacity of communities, YAP affects positive change.

YAP has developed unique service delivery principles that guide our work with youth and families involved in the Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Behavioral Health, and Education Systems. Our staff, who reside in or near the neighborhoods they serve, work non-traditional, flexible hours and are accessible 24/7. Our demonstrated ability to recruit and energize indigenous resident leaders within neighborhoods is another unique element of our success.

External evaluations of YAP confirm the validity of our approach. Our model has also been cited by several external bodies, including Annie E. Casey Foundation, as a “promising practice” in providing effective alternatives to institutional care.

Since our agency opened, YAP has experienced rapid growth. We have broadened our scope of services and increased our capacity to serve more children, youth, families, and adults – including those who have not succeeded with traditional services. We continue to explore new opportunities to demonstrate our unique and effective community-based alternatives to out-of-home placements.

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A Magazine Written Exclusively by Adults on the Autism Spectrum