



S.T.E.P LITERARY JOURNAL

Collected works from the Wayfarer Center



S.T.E.P. Literary Journal

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If I could be an animal . . .

I would be a big beautiful colorful **Parrot**. I would talk to everyone and say sweet nice things to everyone. I could fly around and see everything from the sky. My friends and family would be all animals and creatures who are nice and sweet and liked to help anyone at any time it was needed.

—Tina Louise

I would be a **Kitten** because I feel I am loveable and I would help a person in a way that maybe medicine would, for example, they help to lower blood pressure, they help with depression and the person would not be as lonely as they might have been before. My friends would be ducks because they are cute and woddle like me.

—Ronda Huston

If I were an animal I'd be an **Golden Eagle**. I could fly far enough away from stupid humans. I'd be able to see how beautiful the earth appears. I'd have keen eye sight and wings that outstretched distance. My nest also would be safe away from humans. My children would be at distance from harms way. Perhaps have better odds than other families on the ground. I'd be able always to see the ocean, lakes and rivers and **fly!**

—Anita

If I were an animal . . . **North American Timber Wolf**. I would hunt in a pack. I would be the dominate alpha male. I would be friendly to humans in the wilderness like trappers, single males tring to stay alive. I would be the biggest and badest to other packs for territories. I would live a long and healthy life with my offspring.

—the wolf

These are our thoughts and our words . . . that we wanted to share with you . . .

I would be a **Tiger**

Because I am persistant and tenacious.

I am supportive. Loving and nurturing.

My friends and family would be tigers as well.

I would start my letter with . . . Dear . . .

My daughter and my son!

I love you both so much! I never went one day without thinking about you both! Please forgive me for leaving you and for not being the mother you deserve! Right now I am working on doing whats right so maybe one day you'll forgive me and love me again. I truly am so sorry. I really love you! Tina (aka) Mommy

The person in my past that I lost contact with would be my grandpa. In my past I was into my drugs and not into my family. I was not a very nice person when I was using drugs. I was very mean to my grandpa and grandma all the time. They let me live with them for a long time without paying rent. But I showed them no gratitude at all. My grandpa had heart problems and my attitude towards him was not helping. I started stealing from him for my drugs and that put him in the hospital and then he passed away. So I would love to ask my grandpa for forgiveness, but I can't because he is no longer alive. So until I can get forgiveness from my grandpa I will never forgive myself, and that I will have to wait until I die to get his forgiveness. That really sucks because I loved my grandpa and he would have done anything for me.

—Ryan Murillo.

Brother Wayne,

Letting you know I do have your address with me and I have been in the mental hospital July 2, 2008 till July 15, 2008. Now going to outpatient therapy with the Serria Vista Hospital. It's okay, I don't mind. Only "back home" one day and your brother-in-law tried to put me back in the hospital already. I am at a mission in hiding, so Bruce can't have me locked away again. Bruce wants to have me conserved again in a mental institution again.

Since I have been gone 2 days now. Made phone contact with Matthew and do attend my mental health class on an outpatient basis/the doctor care is with me . . . and Dr. Roman doesn't feel I am unstable. . . . Dr. Roman knows where I am at the mission.

Bruce put a missing persons call to the police on me. (tuff cookies on Bruce). All I am saying although the mission does lewd stuff. I am enjoying the smiles, food and shelter. And freedom from the hospital.

—Nanc, your little smiling sister.

And if they wrote me back, the letter would say . . .

The letter said: "Someone I love yelled at me, said they were repulsed by my kind request for them to contact me more often"

And they wrote back: "People treat other people according to the way they feel about themselves. The rude comments issued to you really have nothing to do with you . . . they are a cover for whatever is really troubling the complainer. Next Step? Sometimes the best response is no response . . . give them time to realize what/who they really are angry at . . . Also, Kindness goes miles in the face of adversity.

—Tim

Dear Editor,

When will the President fix the economy. Too much tax payers money is being wasted to fix roads that are not destroyed. When will he also pass a bill to stop congress from letting Oil companies buy out and exceed the amount needed. Every dollar spent on oil and useless things is one less dollar in my pocket and food on the table. How does he plan to fix it? —Al

Dear Al,

Once the budget is balanced out more jobs will become available. If he would sign a bill from Congress that will put a freeze on skyrocketing oil prices and create a budget on road construction in the end everything will balance itself out. —the Editor.

And I would end my letter with . . . Will write again soon, Let's keep in touch!

10 RULES TO LIVE BY

RULE NUMBER:

1. Being respectful to others
2. Being honest with other people
3. Being compassionate with other people
4. Look both ways before you cross the street
5. Always eat your vegetables.
6. Love thy neighbor
7. Being thoughtful to all you cross
8. Always admitting when your wrong
9. Always stay in good company
10. Live life as if it were your last.

—Allen Johnson

1. Don't pee in the wind.
2. Look both way before you cross the street
3. Wear your seat belt
4. It's easier to pull then to push
5. Never open and eat the boxes of chocolates you get
Your girlfriend for Valentines Day
6. If the sign said beware of Dog, then do so
7. When working around horses let the horse know
were you are at all times
8. Anger takes too much energy
9. Do on to others as you whould have others do unto you
10. Rock n Roll will never die

—Ben

1. to love my god with all my heart
2. To treat others as I would want 2 be treated
3. To always have a positive attitude
4. To stay clean & sober 4 the rest of my life
5. To keep a smile on my face at all times
6. To be a soldier 4 God
7. To respect others
8. To be a good friend
9. To be a good companion
10. To love and pray for even my enemies

—Ronda Huston

1. I shall not steal
2. I shall not kill
3. I shall not comit adultery
4. I shall not throw the first stone or lie
5. I shall not drink liquor
6. I shall not use drugs
7. I shall not worship false gods
8. I shall be kind to others
9. I shall give donations to other people when I get rich
10. I shall be happy and loving to myself and my wife.

—Greg

1. Do the best I can every day
2. Do not be judgemental
3. Treat everyone I meet, see or get involved with with respect
4. Try and learn something new every day
5. Be thankful for daily blessings
6. Focus on living a peaceful, tranquil Life
7. Live each day like it might be my last
8. Be kind and gentle
9. Teach other when possible-use wisdom and knowledge for good
10. Stay focused on goals.

—Vickie L. Nichols

1. Don't kill
2. Don't commit adultery
3. Don's use God's name in vain
4. Set goals
5. Listen to others
6. Don't lie
7. I used to think being lazy was bad for me, so I gave up thinking
8. Don't abuse others
9. Respect all around you
10. And belive in yourself

—Robert Stephens

To be yourself and let me be myself, be honest, respectful, caring
Tolerant, friendly, spiritual, joyful, interesting and communicable.

—Kiki Savas

AND A FEW MORE RULES . . .

1. The greatest thing is to love and be loved in return . . .
2. Treat others with dignity, the way you want to be treated . . .
3. To thine own self be True . . .
4. Accomplish at least one thing you need to every day . . .
5. “You must look fear in the face and do the one thing you think you can not do . . .”
(Eleanor Roosevelt)
6. Recycle . . .
7. Change oil regularly
8. Jesus saves, but Moses invests!
9. Do Random Acts of Kindness
10. Oldies but Goodies!

—Tim Sullivan

One thing I live by.

Notice positives are often found in some negatives:

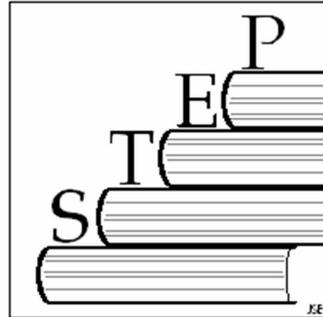
People work very hard to present a news story on stories that don't make the news. It is my hope that CNN will continue to present stories of Black America. “Black in America” I got on the web site today. I read many responses to the coverage. I was not at all surprised by the negative feedback may viewers shared. Many voices were white and it did seem Black people responded just as negative—I felt some knot in my gut. But I realized that for the first time in my life since MLK I heard Black Voice on television—even the worst responses are important because people are talking about Black America—It's a good thing—very good thing. I hope CNN's producers continue—It's about time.

Anita Taesali

Editors note . . .

This is the second edition of the Wayfarer Literary Journal, and I am very proud of the work within these pages. The pieces are a product of the “writing class” Mike Elfant teaches on Monday and Thursday nights, and the words are those of the author's, as written with all the humor, passion, sadness and joy that goes with them. I am proud not only of the work itself, but of the openness and courage it takes to share them.

Woodland Public Library Literary Services



Our new logo was designed by Mike's daughter, Jassmine, and we just thought we would formally share it with you!

Coming soon . . . a special edition of the *Literary Journal* entitled **SUPERHEROS**. The editorial staff honestly thought they could fit all the writings in this month, but, it was a popular subject . . . and the words just flowed and flowed and . . . flowed.