

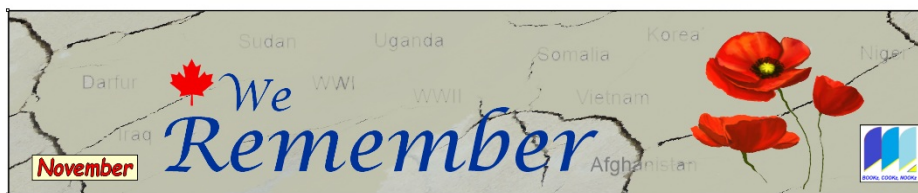


# *BOOKz, COOKz, NOOKz*

Vol. I Issue 11 **November** Nov. 1, 2021

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### ***This month's newsletter explained***

This issue needs a little explanation:

my website work has focused on **books and writers** recently because I read a lot and interact with many writers. I am a great advocate of reading in all forms from newspapers to books and websites and one of my goals is to help showcase writers, particularly Canadian ones.

### ***Newsletter Format***

The goal of the newsletter is to inform and help site visitors stay up-to-date with the news and current events. But I want to make access to this information as easy as possible and recognize that digital access can be challenging. Those who do not have digital devices, should consider visiting a local library where they can help you in this regard.

For those who do have devices, I use **PDF FORMAT** posted to my website under [OPINION/NEWSLETTERS](#).

### ***Need help accessing the newsletter***

Should you have problems accessing the newsletter, please email me for assistance at [zippyonego@gmail.com](mailto:zippyonego@gmail.com)

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## ***Editorial***



We live in a social caste system, as narrow and restricted as that of any society in the East, and anger and animosity are the malevolent siblings to which it has given birth.

Envisage our society as being a series of closed but ever-expanding circles. At the center, 'the old boys' club,' the power brokers, the billionaires, the entitled, the institutional authorities. The next layer, the schooled, the post graduates, the rich, those armed with barrister bulwarks, the economically successful, the inheritors of limited family wealth. Then come the outer layers and it is debatable how far removed the specific group is from the nucleus of the social system. Finally, there are the outer rings, the outliers, the poor, the homeless, the drug addicted, the mentally afflicted. These are the outermost rings of our society: the segregated, the ostracized, the marginalized, the disconnected.

The outer ring fluctuates with vibrancy, energy and recognition depending on the mood and news currency of the period. For example, the Japanese were the most outcast in the USA during WWII, mirrored in Canada. Blacks were in a dynamic ring that moved inward with each passing generation after The Emancipation Act of 1863. Each generation loosening the segregation bonds of American slavery and yet, today, Blacks are still in flux moving between the extremely outcast outer rings to the lip-serviced freedoms of inner circles. The LGBTQTX+ community moves as do the outer rings, depending on the news/media currency of the times. The indignation and uproar with the deaths of George Floyd, Travon Martin, Rodney King led to demonstrations that shamed society into moving Blacks toward the social center of this Western caste system. However, a backlash erupted led by the alt-right protesters, counter protesters, the neo-Nazis, culminating in the January 6 violence in Washington.

This class system is perpetuated and fueled by the anger and animosity that percolate continuously through the populations of North America. The rings ebb and shift depending on the dominating news story. The indigenous school grave sites influence the energy and growing power of the Indigenous in Canada. Blacks have moved centrally after the Floyd, Martin and Charlottesville events.

Women are an interesting demographic. From being outliers before the successes of the suffragettes to somewhat more important persons with greater recognition because of equality laws in Canada and the US. Those laws have moved women's groups inward but the barrier to the innermost circle of the entitled remains and will remain until its power is broken.

We are not there yet. We pay lip-service to equality, protected liberty and legalized freedom for everyone. Islamophobia continues, anti-Semitism abounds, Indigenous abuse remains. Political leaders profess commitment to the philosophy of equality. The empty words speak loudly. Unemployment rates spike among the outliers. The number of homeless screams injustice; the treatment of persons of colour, the poor, the mentally challenged, the drug addicted these are indications that we live in rings of a social caste system and are willing to perpetuate it.

Are there solutions to the reduction, eradication and dissolution of the anger and animosity so prevalent throughout our Western society today? We believe so. Political leaders must find the courage to ante up their bets with actions rather than philosophies: develop real strategies to improve justice, equality, and love. Society must ante up as well. It must develop greater awareness, more vibrant action against hate and anger. All of us need to put skin in the game, commit to fighting for equality and justice. Teach it.

Preach it. Reach for it in every way, with every fibre of our social system to eradicate the malevolent twins, anger and animosity, created by our restrictive caste system.

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## ***Councillor Dave Pickles writes...***

**Councillor David Pickles**

Regional Councillor Ward 3



[dpickles@pickering.ca](mailto:dpickles@pickering.ca)

### ***A Calling Call***





I was thinking about that when I read an article in the Toronto Star about ‘must see’ movies that many people had not seen. On the list was a Robert Mitchum movie, maybe *The Night of the Hunter* or perhaps *River of No Return*. He had many popular movies. That reminded me of my near brush with movie fame. As they say, it began while I was in grade 13 in 1982 in London, Ontario. Robert Mitchum was directing and starring in a movie being filmed in a local theatre. Some of my female friends wanted to sign up for a call to be extras in the movie. I had a car so we went down to the registration event, and I signed up as well. I recall them measuring for hat sizes, a top hat they told me since it was a historical movie.

Shortly after I went off to school at the University of Waterloo. I never thought about it again until months later when I was home for a weekend. Out of the blue my dad says “you will never guess who called last week, Bob Mitchum”. Somewhat shocked I said “his office called”. My dad says “I recognized his voice from the movies and he said, hi its Bob Mitchum can I speak to Dave Pickles he signed up to be in my movie”. My dad said “he is away at school and too busy to be in the movie”. To quote another famous movie line “I could have been somebody” LOL. Only recently because I wanted to tell this story I joined the *Robert Mitchum Facebook* fan club to find out the name of the movie, it turns out it was *The Hearst and Davies Affair* about William Randolph Hearst’s affair with actress and former ‘Ziegfeld Follies’ showgirl Marion Davies. I intend to try to watch it soon to identify my role.

### ***Lights, Camera, Action!***

Pickering has long been a location of movie and TV series shoots, including *X-Men*, *John Doe*, the 1950’s series, *Last of the Mohicans*, and more recently *American Gods*, *Locke & Key* and *Anne with an ‘E’*.

Last week with Mayor Ryan, Members of Council and along with Minister of Finance and our Pickering-

Uxbridge Member of Provincial Parliament, Peter Bethlenfalvy and Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, Lisa MacLeod, we had a tour of a new studio backlot in Pickering. The outdoor backlot, the largest of its kind in Canada is located on a 90 acre site north of Green River. The revenue / rent is currently at \$30K a month.

Film & television services in Pickering have been expanding to support this billion dollar industry. The lease is exclusive with William F. White International Inc., Canada's largest provider of film & television equipment and studio space (they will run the activities on the lot; all operations at their expense). It's a potential 9 year lease if they take up all the renewal options, and is a key component in supporting post pandemic labour force recovery and Pickering's desire to lead culture-led economic growth. When a production is on site, there will be 100 – 250 people working the show/film. Many crew and productions staff live in Durham and will have a chance to work locally.

William F. White is committed to hiring local services to source products to maintain the site operation. They have developed a 'Sustainability Plan' and are supporters of the 'Ontario Green Screen' program. They will also be reaching out to local academia – Durham College and Trent University film/television programming – in an effort to ensure the growth of the next generation of film and television workforce.



*Councillors Ashe, Pickles, Butt*

No, this photo is not the cast of *Jack Reacher*. Photos were not permitted on the backlot, so following the tour Councilor Ashe, Councillor Butt and I posed off site for this team Pickering photo in our branded jackets.

The backlot was originally created/built for *Season 1* of *Jack Reacher*. William F. White now owns the backlot assets and will be renting the site to many various productions from now on. *Murdoch Mysteries* is the first production to use the site under William F. White management. We hope the site will also attract many US mainstream series and feature films as well as Canadian productions.

### ***Chestnut Hill Developments Recreations Complex – Exciting Renovations***

In September, I had a behind the scenes look with Vince Plouffe our Project Manager at the exciting renovations at the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex (CHDRC). As you can see it's an active construction site now so I have also included the finished artist rendering.



The building is about 40 years old and although there have been updates over the years it really needed a full renovation. COVID-19 shutdowns made it more efficient to move ahead with several works that would have been otherwise staged over a longer time. Many of CHDRC components, systems, and key amenities are aging and in need of a substantial retrofit. Following a concept design and extensive community engagement, the City began the phased construction. The work should substantively be completed and the recreation centre re-opened by the end of this year.

The scope of the project includes a complete gut renovation of the existing change rooms for both members and non-members, extension of the second floor exercise area and related improvements, upgrades to existing finishes throughout the ground floor of the lobby and concourse and consolidation of existing service counters into a single point of service. Additional related work such as lifecycle water main replacements and upgrades to building life safety systems have been incorporated for efficiency.



**Proposed Interior View - Public Changeroom**  
Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex  
1597 Valley Farm Road, Pickering, ON  
Ph: 905-476-1234



**Proposed Interior View - Fitness Area**  
Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex  
1597 Valley Farm Road, Pickering, ON  
Ph: 905-476-1234



The public change rooms will be combined into a single universal change room and linked with the existing family change room to create a new single suite. All changing will occur in private change cubicles with zero-sightline partitions to ensure privacy for all patrons. Several universal washrooms will be included in the suite, which is intended for use by all patrons, regardless of age or gender and will meet all current accessibility regulations.

Two new members change rooms will also be created, sharing access to a new accessible-entry whirlpool, steam and dry saunas. Space constraints made it impossible to provide these amenities in each suite. They will be located in a common access area visible from the pool deck to ensure the visibility and safety of patrons.

Finally, with all these cinematic initiatives in the works in Pickering, I am on the look out for the next big production.....



## ***“Affair in Pickering”***

Starring

***Dave Pickles***



## ***SOME GREAT BOOKS for CHRISTMAS CONSIDERATION***



## ***Children's Books***

***Bathtime Fun!***

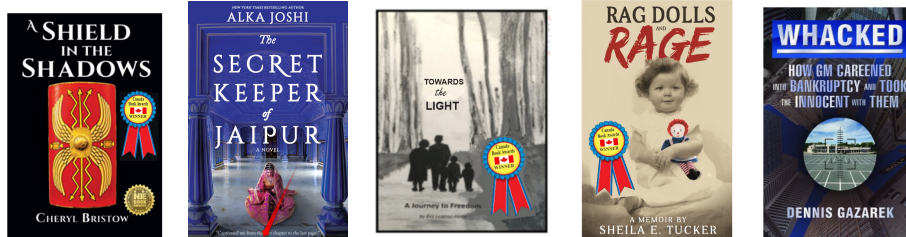
Kathleen Gauer [LINK to author's site](#) 4-7 years

***For No Reason***  
years

Kathleen Gauer [LINK to author's site](#) 4-7

<b><i>High in the Sky</i></b> years	Kathleen Gauer	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-7
<b><i>The Wish Carvers</i></b> years	Kathleen Gauer	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-9
<b><i>Bushyhead</i></b> <a href="#">site</a> 4-10 years	Peta-Gaye Nash	<a href="#">LINK to author's</a>
<b><i>On a Higher Hill:</i></b> <b><i>A Christmas Journey</i></b> years	Sheila Tucker	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-7
<b><i>Emotional Animal Alphabet</i> (series)</b> Sandra Wilson	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-7 years	
<b><i>Super Kids Save the World</i> (series)</b> Sandra Wilson	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-10 years	
<b><i>Feeling Empty</i> (series)</b> Sandra Wilson	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-10 years	

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## Adult Books

<b><i>A Shield in the Shadows</i></b> <a href="#">site</a>	Cheryl Bristow	<a href="#">LINK to author's</a>
<b><i>Be the Awesome Man</i></b> <a href="#">site</a>	Dennis Gazarek	<a href="#">LINK to author's</a>
<b><i>Courage, Sacrifice &amp; Betrayal</i></b> <a href="#">site</a>	Rick Pyves	<a href="#">LINK to author's</a>
<b><i>Night Madness</i></b> <a href="#">site</a>	Rick Pyves	<a href="#">LINK to author's</a>

***Rag Dolls and Rage***  
[site](#)

Sheila Tucker

[LINK to author's](#)

***The Henna Artist***  
[site](#)

Alka Joshi

[LINK to author's](#)

***The Secret Keeper of Jaipur***  
[site](#)

Alka Joshi

[LINK to author's](#)

***Towards the Light***  
[site](#)

Eva Henn

[LINK to author's](#)

***Unborn. Untold.***  
[site](#)

Ruth Coghill, S. Davidson

[LINK to author's](#)

***Whacked***  
[site](#)

Dennis Gazarek

[LINK to author's](#)

## ***Read to a child***



## **Books are magic**

When you read to a child you show them the magic of words. These words can ignite their imaginations, send them to new worlds or help them understand their own world better. It can help them learn how to construct their language and inspire them to want to learn more.

Sandra Wilson



*"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."*

— Emilie Buchwald

## Christmas gifts that will benefit bedtime routines



Did you have someone read a bedtime story to you when you were young? Such a tradition and habit for some family homes and their children.

Our little guy, *Fermo*, has had familiarity with the habit.

### *Fermo's solution to bedtime challenges*

When he was just 12 weeks old and new to our home, bedtime was scary. Crated for his security in the laundry room and until he knew more about bathroom procedures for a puppy, he seemed accepting of



the process until the light was extinguished. Then the whimpering and crying began.

We found a solution: reading to him.

Sitting on a stool beside his bed-crate, I would read a story to him, softly, soothingly. In a few minutes he would be breathing the soft breaths of sleep. Lights off, I would stand at the laundry room doorway, waiting and listening. He never woke up and did not cry again every night we did this routine.

### **Do you have young ones challenged with bedtime routines?**

Consider the *Fermo night time reading solution* for your own loved ones. Here's a selection of books written by acclaimed Canadian authors who have created children's stories ideal for bedtime reading:

<b><i>Bathtime Fun!</i></b> years	Kathleen Gauer	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-7
<b><i>For No Reason</i></b> years	Kathleen Gauer	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-7
<b><i>High in the Sky</i></b> years	Kathleen Gauer	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-7
<b><i>The Wish Carvers</i></b> years	Kathleen Gauer	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-9
<b><i>Bushyhead</i></b> <a href="#">site</a> 4-10 years	Peta-Gaye Nash	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a>
<b><i>On a Higher Hill: A Christmas Journey</i></b> years	S. E. Tee	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-7
<b><i>Emotional Animal Alphabet (series)</i></b> years	Sandra Wilson	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-7
<b><i>Super Kids Save the World (series)</i></b> Sandra Wilson	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-10 years	
<b><i>Feeling Empty (series)</i></b> Sandra Wilson	<a href="#">LINK to author's site</a> 4-10 years	

Click the link to the author you are considering to access their website for purchasing information.

### **Give your young one a "Gift card promise"**

Consider giving your youngster a Christmas gift card promising some specific

reading periods for the bedtime. The books in the book list will bring a whole new value to bedtime routines for your loved ones.

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## **Christmas Book gifting**



Author, S. E. Tee, has written a very timely children's book especially for **Christmas gifting**. The book has a significant and important message for all children. Consider giving it to your special little one for Christmas. Author Tee has even added a special "Gift giving card" in the opening section of the book so you can customize your own message for the young ones.

**On a Higher Hill:**

**A Christmas Journey**

S. E. Tee

[LINK to author's site](#) 4-7

years



**Go to the library.**

***Visit your public library to see the many services it offers.  
Here's what my library offers:***

- 3-D PRINTING
- AUDIO BOOK BORROWING
- BOOK BORROWING
- BOOK CLUBS
- eBook BORROWING FOR LIBBY READER
- MEETING ROOMS
- MOVIE BORROWING
- PERSONAL ASSISTANCE
- PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES
- SOCIAL GET-TOGETHERS
- TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE
- TUTORING PROGRAMS
- WORKSHOPS



***A report card on CEO Jackie Flowers' first year in office***

CEO Jackie Flowers has reinforced that her selection as the new CEO of the Pickering Public Library was an excellent decision.

She has demonstrated herself as being incredibly talented, hardworking, strategic and innovative. Among her broad list of innovations and new policy initiatives:

- the Library went *fine free* during the pandemic, a step that created equity

by removing a financial barrier for many Pickering residents;

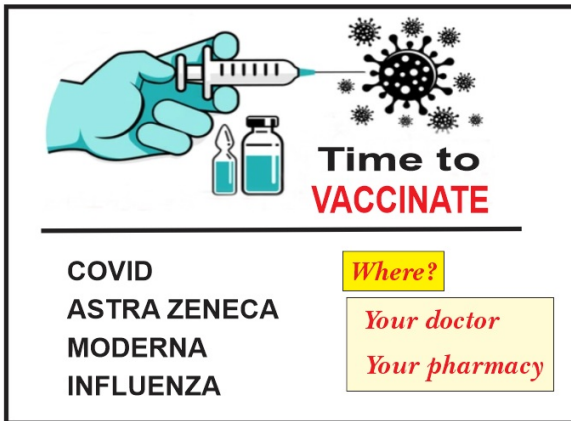
- when other libraries were laying off staff during the pandemic, she focused on *virtual events* launching the library's new *virtual production hub*;
- she has been invited to the Ontario Library Association conference in recognition for making the Library so successful in transitioning to a virtual environment;
- she has increased awareness and training in the area of diversity and design thinking so that we can better engage with our whole community and create new services that meet community needs;
- she has launched new volunteer opportunities for adults who now deliver library resources to individual homes of community members who cannot visit the Library due to health issues, mobility issues or vulnerability to Covid-19.

For an executive who has been in office for such a short period of time, she has confirmed her selection as CEO to be a decision of excellence. Our library deserves all the recognition and acknowledgment it has been received.

Our library: ***"big city service, small-town caring."***

**Are you still vacillating about getting the flu shot?**

***It isn't a question of "personal rights." It's a question of science.***



The impact of COVID-19 on the world around us is greater than anyone anticipated and it is farther reaching than ever expected. Shipping and trucking problems are affecting food supplies, medical supplies, retailer supplies of every kind. Worse, some price increases are very surprising begging the question 'Exploitation?' "Parking fees???"

## **A PANDEMIC GETAWAY**

*Recently, we ventured out for three days to take a break in an environment away from home. Our favourite place to visit at this time of the year is the Niagara Region, as it offers many vigorous in-nature walking trails on the Escarpment, as well as quaint, little cafes and an abundance of shopping.*

### ***Things have changed a lot***

We found a very different scene from our last trip two years ago. We found Niagara-on-the-Lake a

virtual ghost town. The few people who walked the Main Street were forming lines of entry into stores; selections were limited and most stores closed early between 4:30 and 5:00 pm. As well, many stores were simply shuttered.

### ***Niagara Falls, Ontario***

In the Galleria Mall, at Niagara Casino, many more stores were permanently closed. Restaurants in the area are open mainly on the weekends because of staff shortages of staff, but also because they need to cater to the weekend “crowd” primarily. We were told that we would see more visitors out and about on the weekend.

### ***Wine tastings reduced***

Wine tastings at any of the wineries are limited. Reservations are required, permitting only three couples at a time at the tasting bar. One could spend endless time roaming the wine shop while waiting one’s turn at the tasting bar. Each tasting lasts thirty minutes with offering of three types of wine, the cost \$20.00 per person. The wait-list is endless. Consequently, on a three-day getaway, one would be lucky to obtain any tastings reservation.

### ***Pandemic pricing: gouging or exuberant profit recovery?***

Prices also have increased exponentially. At the Hilton, for example, before the pandemic, over-night parking was \$20.00 a night. Today, it is \$50.00 a night. At the Niagara Casino, unlimited parking for several nights used to be \$5.00. Today it is \$20.00 for each night, with no more unlimited parking. To obtain a Free Parking Pass, one would have to play both the slots and the tables for many countless hours.

The light laser show at the Planetarium used to be \$15.00 per person and it ran every night. Today, the price of the same show at the same place is \$50.00 per person and runs only on Fridays and Saturdays.

### ***Niagara Region: not recognizable any longer***

There is a positive side to all this perceived gloom and doom. Throughout our three days stay, we always felt comfortable and relatively safe from contracting COVID. Our hotel suite was disinfected everywhere, hand sanitizers on every hard surface and available in every hotel lobby and in walking areas of the hotel. Wearing masks was a must and distancing reminders were everywhere. Since there were few visitors on the streets, conversations were limited. The risks of contracting the virus were also reduced. That was a good thing! We were relatively certain that we would not been infected.

### ***Economic recovery or exploitation***

Economic recovery will be a very slow and a deliberate process. Larger crowds and more people on the weekends will not resurrect the shuttered stores. There is hope and optimism: fewer restrictions, more scientific knowledge and more political will with restructuring, innovations, and more investments will kick-start the economy. Staff must be lured back with the promise of higher wages. Tourists need reassurance that the old days can be returned. All these issues need to come together going forward to recreate the full and vibrant Niagara Region we once knew!

Change is good and change is necessary, and change is inevitable, but time, effort and dedication are needed and in abundance. The response to these initiatives will determine how well and how quickly they will rebound.

Just my Opinion,

*Eva H.*

## ***Digital Tools***

Become a better user of computers. This section highlights computer programs which we feel are very worthwhile for computer users to consider trying. The programs will your computer work with increased efficiency, easier productivity and reduced repetitive procedures.

### ***Google Extensions***

Google extensions are applets, small programs dedicated to specific tasks within Google Chrome. Learning how to find them, install them and use them will make you wonder how you lived without them. But be careful, too many of them may disrupt your browser. I will highlight a couple of extensions in each newsletter:

#### **#1 - Briskine**

*Briskine* is a Gmail (Chrome) extension that makes writing email replies easier, faster and eliminates repeated duplication of message texts.

One types the text needed for replies and saves it in ***Briskine*** with an appropriate word or short phrase for recollection. Save the template and you never have to type the text manually again. Click twice in ***Briskine*** and presto, entire textual response is inserted into your message.

#### **#2 - Power Thesaurus**

Power Thesaurus is a Roget's thesaurus at your finger tips while working on your computer. Immediate availability of synonyms and antonyms, all at your typing finger tips ! [**Advisory tip for WORD users**: Right click on any word in MS WORD

to access a ‘*synonym*’ menu (or a ‘Thesaurus’ option). Click there for your needs.]

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### **Notezilla**

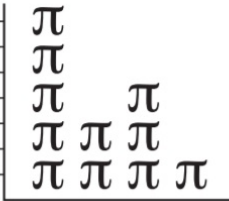

I have touted *Notezilla* as an outstanding note making application for a few years. Notezilla is more expensive than other note making programs but it is well worth the price which is reduced significantly after the first year.

Notezilla leaves any other note making program in the dust. One outstanding benefit for writers and researchers is that you can stick explanatory notes on to web pages for your future reference when you revisit that page. This feature alone makes Notezilla an essential tool for every writer and researcher.

The program is available in full or trial version at: <https://www.conceptworld.com/>

**BRAIN FLEXERS**



<p><i><b>KNEE</b></i></p> <hr/> <p>SANDWICH</p>	<p><b>IRTAL</b></p> <p><b>LRIAT</b></p> <p><b>RATIL</b></p> <p><b>ALIRT</b></p>	<p>lem</p> <p><math>\pi</math></p>
	<p>e e</p> <p>a a</p> <p>r r</p> <p>t t</p> <p>h h</p>	<p>pl <b>PART</b> ay</p>
<p>cycle</p> <p>cycle</p> <p>cycle</p>	<p><b>CHECK</b></p> <p><b>EARLY</b></p>	

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Bologna (below knee) sandwich, trail mix, lemon pie, pie chart, down to earth, big part in a small play, tricycle, yearly checkup, circle of friends

**Upcoming Events**



Dec 9      ***Social Media Panel***

Panel discussion for writers on the “*Using of Social Media.*”

Panelists to be confirmed: Alka Joshi, Ginger Kuenzel



As always, writing the newsletter is a creative effort that becomes more enjoyable in its publication rather than the development. The creative process can be likened to going to the dentist: lots of apprehension and anxiety at the outset, some pain and stress during the process and then, relief, joy and great satisfaction at the end.

We hope you enjoy it selecting and reading the sections that interest you while giving other areas a cursory glance.

We thank each of you for your continued support, your comments and your feedback.

Best,



In consultation with the ‘**Boss, N.**’