

November 2021 Theme: What I Am Most Proud Of

Barbara Ehrentreu -- There are many things that I have done in my life like receiving a Masters, teaching for twenty years or publishing three books or receiving the Indian Independence Day Award for both 2020 and 2021 that has generated numerous news stories. But if I sort through the many things in my life, what I am most proud of is my children. My daughters are beautiful, intelligent and hold good jobs at the moment. But what they are is the best people anyone could ever find in this world. They are caring and responsible and spend time with me. They are fun and mostly accepting. We have lived together through the worst pandemic and still find times to enjoy with each other. They include me in their life and that has been the best thing for me.

Sarah Darer Littman -- Finding my voice, both in writing and in life. It took me 38 years and a nervous breakdown, but I finally did it. Now I teach to help others find their own voices, and try to use mine to build greater understanding. The novel, *Some Kind of Hate*, I've been working on for the last two years (*Scholastic*, Fall 2022) is probably the best example of that to date.

Lee Paine 10.15.2021
At this particular moment in time, still struggling through a pandemic, what I am most proud of is that I am a contributing member in an active community that is caring for all within it in so many important ways. Right now, our health and well-being depends greatly on the community/state that we live in, and the ways in which we care for, support and protect each other.

In addition to each of us making personal choices that help protect us, our families, friends, neighbors, and those in all the service industries we need and interact with, I am both proud and grateful to be among those who support and lend extra assistance to the non-profits who do so much for all of us, especially the smaller non-profits, who need every volunteer and every donation to survive; because of Covid, unfortunately, many have failed in the last 18 months.

But the Greenwich Pen Women, the Greenwich Choral Society, At Home in Greenwich and other non-profits that I have been involved with for decades, have survived because members step forward and do whatever is needed - a whole group, committed to working together, who assure the future for organizations such as these. I am proud to be able to serve with others in this way.



Sunny Volunteers Lining Up by Lee Paine

Adrienne Reedy -- *Hurricane Sandy Taught Me About Influence*

During Hurricane Sandy, our ABC son, who we hosted through a school program, his mother called to say they needed to evacuate their home in Far Rockaway NY and asked if they could stay with us. A widow with two school-aged children at home, of course we said yes. They ended up staying for about a month.

We own a small house in Orange CT we were looking to sell. One morning I asked our guests to go for a ride. We drove around the neighborhood in Orange and I took them to see the house. After some coaxing, we encouraged the mom to move to CT and live in our house for minimal rent. What I'm most proud of is I put a picture of the house and story on Facebook. *Within 15 minutes*, the entire house was fully furnished. Even a Christmas tree, dishes and decorations were donated. I learned the power of my influence that day.

My friend still lives in our house and works in the school district. Today the youngest child is a senior in high school. The youngest son is a graduate of Univ. of New Haven doing well in social work. The young man who we hosted for four years is a Boston College graduate with a successful career for a data software company in L. A. The oldest daughter is married now with two children and recently purchased a house in Stratford. A Tufts grad, with a Masters, she just took a teaching job in Bridgeport. Disheartened that her class library had no books, my friend reached out to me and I posted the need on Facebook and so far I've collected over 500 books but I'm sure by the end of the month there will be 1000!

Heather Sandifier -- I am most proud of my ability to fix/restore things. It's part of what I consider 'happy industry'. It gives me such a feeling of satisfaction and makes people happy.

December's Theme: I Surround Myself With...