

"My Grateful, Continuing Journey into Awareness, Advocacy, and Allyship for Disability Rights"
Henry Germain-McCarthy, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
International Disability Rights Affirmation Conference 2022
October 28

[2022/10/28 09:59] Carolyn Carillon: Hello everyone.

Today's presentation is being transcribed so those without audio or who require text only can participate in real time.

Some speakers may be using a text teleprompter tool for some or all of their presentation. Transcriptionists will fill in any gaps and support the Question & Answer section at the end. A little explanation about this service.

Voice-to-text transcriptionists provide a translation of the key ideas discussed, NOT a word for word transcription.

Voice-to-text services provide an in-the-moment snapshot of ideas and concepts, so that those who are unable to hear or to understand the audio program are able to participate in real-time.

You will see the transcription in local chat.

Transcription is provided by Virtual Ability, Inc.

The transcriptionists are:

LoriVonne Lustre

Carolyn Carillon

The speakers will be identified by initials as they speak.

The following initials in the transcription record will identify the speakers:

HGM: Henry Germain – McCarthy

<< transcription starts >>

[2022/10/28 10:00] OperativePhoenix Resident: Hi, I'm Phoenix. I've been disabled since after my car accident that has been affecting my mobility in real life. I love to fly airplanes and do educational activities in SL. I live in Japan and I teach English in SL.

Dr. Henry Germain-McCarthy is Professor Emeritus at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (New Orleans). His research about and advocacy for disability rights is long-standing. He works to promote the legacies and leadership of disability activism movements and improve public awareness, professional education, and social policy regarding quality of life for all people.

His session is titled "My Grateful, Continuing Journey into Awareness, Advocacy, and Allyship for Disability Rights."

Here is how he describes his session:

"I believe that interpersonal experiences and relationships, when reflected on and shared honestly, have great power to shape minds, hearts, and actions to improve quality of life for both the individual and community."

Dr. McCarthy benefited from visiting and interacting with various people from more than 40 cities in the Caribbean, Central America, Europe and the US, deepening his understanding on disabled people's lives and how to support them. Through today's presentation and

research, he hopes to promote "the broadening the coalition of collaborators working to establish disability access and accommodation for inclusive education, employment, health care, and recreation as human rights."

Please refrain from questioning and comments during the presentation because Dr. Germain-McCarthy is still new to Second Life. There will be a discussion session after the presentation. Welcome, Dr. Germain-McCarthy. The floor is yours.

[2022/10/28 10:03] Carolyn Carillon: HGM: Thank you

This is my first visit to Virtual Ability

I'm honestly impressed

By the dynamic environment

It's beautiful and comforting

My habits are old school

I hope this is useful

And a mutual learning experience

If it isn't, take what works for you and leave the rest

My goals for today's session are:

Share my personal and professional experiences that have led me to be an ally with the disability community for equity and justice. Thus, this talk is rather atypical for a formal conference presentation because the approach to the subject matter is biographical and autobiographical.

Highlight several activists and leaders in the disability rights community whose impressive work and spirit I have admired and promoted. Their creativity, perseverance, and accomplishments for the benefit of their community are gifts for all of us to explore, celebrate, and emulate.

Offer some ideas for expanding the network of disability-justice allies. I have much to learn from you. I am humbled and honored with this speaking and mutual-learning opportunity. MANY THANKS!

Throughout the slides, there will be "RR_#" and that's a related reading or resource

The list of resources is available in the handout box

They're additional readings

Let me talk about a summer job that stimulated my career and devotion to disability rights. As an undergrad, I majored in psychology and chose summer jobs each year in a related setting, to give myself hands-on exposure to different specialties and client populations within psychology.

I worked in a recreational program that I developed and ran with two fellow students for youth with behavioral disorders at a community mental health center. The next year I was a dormitory attendant in a large residential center for adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

The third summer I worked as an orderly/aide in a long-term care facility (SJG) for men with significant physical disabilities. We were very short-staffed, and the work was the most challenging and exhausting I had ever done. That job was also the most intriguing and interpersonally enriching one I had ever had; and it started me on a career path that I pursued for the next 46 years.

Francis White was my friend and teacher who never went to school. My first teachers in my chosen vocation to serve people with disabilities were a few residents of the SJG nursing facility where I worked for 3 summers (1970, '71, '72). Most influential for me was Francis White who was unlike any person I'd ever met, in many ways. He never went to school because he was truly "bed-bound," due to severe congenital deformities of his torso & extremities [arthrogryposis] that prevented him from breathing if he sat upright in a chair or from doing any activities of daily living. He also lived in a highly discriminatory era when kids with much fewer limitations were segregated into special classes, denied schooling or were not even considered for it. Francis was 40+ years older than I, but we became great friends. As I bathed, dressed, and fed him, I listened with fascination as he shared his mind and his world with me, a world of hobbies and relationships far from the single bed that he never left. I wrote letters that he dictated to "pen pals" he had in several cities around the globe. He learned Italian from listening to opera on public radio. With a clever sense of humor and an accepting ego, he transcended the physical and social limitations that he had been handed. Some people call such "super-crip" stories "inspiration porn." For me, his enriching, encouraging, expansive appreciation of life was so worth my learning to do, regardless of the age, abilities or social position of that person I enjoyed & learned from.

There were two other SJG residents who sparked my interest in the disability experience. Another friend at SJG was Bobby Wong. He was placed there because he had quadriplegia & his family did not have adequate capacity for his care. He knew I empathized with his isolation there, being the youngest resident by many decades and the only Deaf person. We corresponded after I left that job and moved far away. I shared in his delight when he wrote to me several years later that he was working at the nearby Independent Living Center, and when I visited him in his own apartment.

A third notable SJG resident was Mr. L.; he was a contrast to Francis and Bobby. He complained often that the staff were slow or inept in providing his care; and that he enjoyed no intellectual stimulation there. He told me of being denied admission to Harvard Univ. in 1940 when they learned he was disabled and used a power wheelchair. By far, he had the most visitations of all at SJG and many personal assets, but he seemed miserable about his life.

I pondered these three men's ways of being and took the only path I was aware of at age 21 for reacting helpfully: I applied and went to graduate school in rehabilitation psychology, to learn more about what I was observing.

Beatrice Wright was a humanist & my academic mentor. Beatrice Wright, my major professor in graduate school, was known for the progressive principles about understanding and responding to disability that she proposed and argued for in her first book, published in 1960.

Wright, B.A. (1960). *Physical disability: A psychological approach* (2nd ed, 1983). New York: Harper & Row.

The 3 principles that I most embraced from that book and have tried to incorporate in various ways in my teaching, research, and community service throughout my career are:

- Emphasize an asset-focused approach that seeks out and exploits whatever strengths exist (or can be developed) to apply to a disability challenge or injustice, in contrast to the medical model's focus on the patient's pathology and deficits.
- Use an ecological, interactionist approach to analyze disability issues. That is, be sure to assess and engage the assets/resources and the challenges/barriers within both the client and the physical and social environment, in order to understand and tackle any concerns or issues holistically and pragmatically.
- Treat clients as "co-managers" of their rehabilitation goals & plan. She devoted a whole chapter in her book to this principle, rooted in respect for their personal autonomy and the value of their knowledge gained from direct experience. Today, her ideas are widely expressed (though still not consistently implemented). But 60+ years ago, they were quite ground-breaking. This was before people were writing about concepts or strategies like: disability rights legislation, physical and programmatic accessibility, the social model of disability, independent living, informed consent, shared decision-making, etc.

McCarthy, H. (Writer & Producer), Chan, F. (Director), & Jourdan, S. (Editor). (2009). "Practical Wisdom: Positive Rehabilitation Psychology and the Legacy of Beatrice Wright" (2-hour film with Instructor's Guide and Manual of Student Learning Activities). Falls Church, VA: National Clearinghouse on Rehabilitation Training Materials [New Editions Consulting, Inc.] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT0wClwIPQw&t=5690s>

McCarthy, H. (2011). A modest Festschrift and insider perspective on Beatrice Wright's contributions to rehabilitation theory and practice. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, 54(2), 67-81. DOI: 10.1177/0034355210386971

I'm going to talk about Advocates & Thought Leaders in the Disability Community who most influenced me

I have had the privilege to learn from many impressive thought leaders and advocates in the disability rights movement through their publications, presentations, consultations, legislative lobbying, public education, and other contributions to the movement. I will highlight 9 of them who have had the most influence on my disability-justice awareness and my desire to spread the wisdom and inspiration of their work.

McCarthy, H. (2003). The disability rights movement: Experiences and perspectives of selected leaders in the disability community. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, 46(4), 209-223.

I studied their contributions, had the opportunity to meet all of them, and worked collaboratively with several of them for at least a few years. I will briefly summarize their place in my pantheon of mentors and colleagues and will identify the areas of their expertise that especially piqued my interest. They are given in alphabetical order, without noting their degrees, because their identities and achievements were grounded in justice work, not the fame or prestige that their superb talents earned them.

My first was Adrienne Asch (1946-2013)

Feminist scholar in disability studies; bioethicist; mentor; accomplished vocalist
Upon graduation from Swarthmore College, which is an academic powerhouse, she was rejected for every job she applied for. When told once outright by a receptionist it was simply because she was blind, she insisted on staying there until she was interviewed as

scheduled. She was forced to leave by security staff. She tried to file a job-discrimination case but there was no such Federal or State law based on disability. So she started lobbying for one and didn't stop until the New York Human Rights Law was amended in 1974 to cover disability.

Adrienne was skilled in promoting equity for women and disabled folks through a range of interpersonal approaches: consultant, therapist, professor

She was also renowned as an expert and spokesperson on the impact of attitudes about disability on bioethical decisions about the value and lives of the unborn and people with disabilities.

This tribute in a memorial article perfectly captures her intellect and personality:

“Asch had an endearing ability to be at once gracious and confrontational, passionate and prickly. She was always open to differing views, but she never compromised her insistence on absolute respect for the lives and perspectives of people with disabilities. She was known for asking probing questions to identify common values and expose disagreements that needed to be hashed out.”

Asch, A., & McCarthy, H. (2003). Infusing disability issues into the psychology curriculum. In P. Bronstein & K. Quina (Eds.), *Teaching gender and multicultural awareness: Resources for the psychology classroom* (pp. 253-269). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Roberts, D. Adrienne Asch (1946–2013). *Nature* 504, 377 (2013).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/504377a>

Then my dear friend Susan M. Daniels (1948-2011)

Educator; disability policy innovator; motivational speaker; early adopter of technology; “fun”preneur (entrepreneur of fun)

I knew Susan the best of the leaders I'm highlighting in this talk. We were work colleagues and close in age, but she was so astute, clever, and helpfully frank that I often felt like she was my mentor; she certainly was for many people.

Starting in the 1970s, she did ground-breaking workshops and authored publications on sexuality and disability for folks with a disability, parents, and various healthcare professionals, many of whom avoided the topic due to their personal discomfort or lack of appropriate training.

This excerpt describes one of her major policy achievements.

“She was both a ‘policy wonk’ and an activist, and was as comfortable debating scholarly economists as organizing community stakeholders... Perhaps Susan’s greatest accomplishment was the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act [of 1999 that]... created employment incentives and healthcare provisions for workers with disabilities and removed many of the systemic barriers that forced many individuals with disabilities to choose between health coverage and work.”

<https://disabilitypolicyworks.org/susan-m-daniels-her-life-and-work/>

Susan was unusual and truly endearing because of the balance she demonstrated in her life: she was passionate about both the serious work she pursued and the fun times she created for her colleagues & friends.

McCarthy, H. (2012). (Producer & Director). “Susan Daniels: Creatively Managing Disability and Embracing Life” (83-minute film; also available in a condensed and captioned 37-minute DVD). Tallahassee, FL: The Capstone Consulting Group, Inc.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_cw5hQ4_T4

The next is Justin Dart, Jr. (1930- 2002)

Disability and economic justice activist; coalition-builder; kind heart

Born into a wealthy family, Justin got polio as a teenager and later succeeded in the family business. He resigned to devote his life to humanitarian service. He pursued disability rights through varied advocacy roles in federal government positions, legislative lobbying, and grass-roots organizing. He visited all 50 U.S. States at least 5 times to educate citizens and advocate for passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Then he focused his efforts on healthcare reform and economic justice. He and his wife Yoshiko mentored many immigrant women in a cooperative living-and-learning arrangement in their home.

He was adept at coalition-building, as expressed in this quote that summarizes his mission: "...empowerment is when government joins with business, labor, religion, and individual citizens to guarantee every person the tools to govern, to produce and to live the best life possible for self and for all."

<https://www.independentliving.org/column/stone200102.html>

Here's a picture of the Signing ceremony for the Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26, 1990)

Justin Dart is on the far right.

1st row: Evan Kemp, President George H.W. Bush, Justin Dart

2nd row: Rev Harold Wilke, Sandra Parrino

I met Rev. Wilke (1914-2003) at a lecture he gave in 1972. I am thankful to him, and later to the transformative thinking of psychologist Carolyn Vash (1934-2015), who also had a disability, for cultivating my interest in exploring the varied connections between spirituality and disability. I was privileged to collaborate with each of them on presentations and publications.

McCarthy, H., & Johnson, P. (1995). Living independent thinking: A conversation with Judy Heumann. *Rehabilitation Education*, 9(1), 3-20.

I did not include this in the handout list

so every number after this is one number larger

I apologize

The next person is Lex Frieden

Disability policy expert; pioneer of independent living services; researcher; disability ambassador

Lex Frieden http://www.lexfrieden.com/_lfrieden/lex1.html

Lex has a long legacy in advocacy and policymaking on many disability issues and injustices. His networking, lobbying and writing were instrumental in shaping the ADA of 1990. He also led the federal panel for instituting its 2008 amendments.

He was one of the pioneers in the philosophy, policy, and research regarding the Independent Living Movement and continues in that leadership role.

Through his own life-threatening experiences as an electric wheelchair user during hurricanes and power failures, he developed expertise in preparedness, evacuation, and support needs of persons with disabilities in such disasters.

Lex is highly experienced in working within political and governmental systems, organizations for rehabilitation consumers and providers, and international disability associations.

Next is Eileen Giron

Disability rights activist; developer of a business enterprise to employ folks with disabilities; mentor; artist

She is the founder and Executive Director of ACOGIPRI, a collective of disabled self-advocates working on human rights, independent living, vocational training & their small-business, Shicali Ceramics, in El Salvador. Its website is: <http://www.shicali.com/>

This multi-talented leader has held several posts in Disabled Peoples International, including Chair of the Latin America Women's Committee

She led a unique project, in which 100+ Salvadorans with disabilities were trained and accredited to monitor their 2003 national elections.

Eileen affirms: "Democracy can only be built with the participation of all; otherwise, democracy is not genuine."

She is a wheelchair user who wants her epitaph to say:

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK IN ORDER TO FLY."

The next is Judy Heumann

Disability rights activist; icon of disability pride and self-determination; co-founder of World Institute on Disability

Judy was denied admission to Kindergarten and a teaching job upon college graduation because she used a wheelchair. That is what fueled her life-long fight for disability rights. Her parents won the first battle against the school principal; Judy won the second one by suing the New York City school system.

In 1970, Judy and some fellow activists in Brooklyn founded Disabled in Action (<https://www.disabledinaction.org>), a civil rights organization committed to ending discrimination against people with all disabilities.

Judy was a leader of 150 disabled people who locked themselves in the San Francisco Federal Building in 1977 to demand the implementation of the 1974 law prohibiting disability discrimination in federally-supported programs. After 25 days (the longest sit-in protest in U.S. history), all their demands were met.

Note this quote from her 2021 memoir: "Change never happens at the pace we think it should. It happens over years of people joining together, strategizing, sharing, and pulling all the levers they possibly can... things start to happen, and then suddenly, seemingly out of the blue, something will tip."

[2022/10/28 10:32] Carolyn Carillon: "Crip Camp" (2020) is a fabulous documentary film of one summer at a sleep-away camp for youth with disabilities where Judy worked and demonstrated her passion for instilling self-determination in disabled people.

Heumann, J., with Joiner, K. (2021). Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist. Boston: Beacon Press.

Next is Ralf Hotchkiss

Designer of sustainable wheelchairs; entrepreneur-educator of folks with disabilities in under-resourced nations; disability justice activist

<https://whirlwindwheelchair.org/>

In 1980, Ralf started working tirelessly to design sustainable wheelchairs that (1) can handle rough and otherwise difficult terrains & (2) can be constructed with locally available parts.

He taught disabled folks in under-resourced countries worldwide how to maintain and repair the rugged wheelchairs and assisted them to turn these skills into income-generating, sustainable small businesses.

His innovative rehabilitation engineering work earned him a MacArthur Foundation “genius” fellowship. He used that time and money to expand his enterprise by co-founding Whirlwind Wheelchair, Inc. that now manufactures and/or distributes durable wheelchairs in 60 countries.

As the website explains, a wheelchair is not just hardware but a means of self-actualization and social change:

“A functional wheelchair designed for the challenges of its environment is a tool that enhances the rider’s ability to participate in family, social and economic activities...as well as enhances public perception of the capabilities and value of people with disabilities.”

Next is Harry Lang

Scholar of the culture, education, and history of Deaf people; science educator; prolific author

https://www.deafpeople.com/dp_of_month/LangHarryG.html

Harry is among the most productive and well-rounded persons I’ve known, as exemplified by these diverse interests and accomplishments:

He has almost 100 publications, including 15 books, many of them on varied topics that highlight the contemporary and historical contributions of Deaf persons. Subjects include activists, actors, athletes, entrepreneurs, journalists, scientists, soldiers, teachers, and technologists.

Lang, H.G. (2021). Turn on the Words! Deaf audiences, captions, and the long struggle for access. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press. <http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/turn-on-the-words.html>

While his international stature in Deaf Studies and research on science education has brought him into scholarly activities with many famous scientists such as Stephen Hawking, Carl Sagan, Linus Pauling and Isaac Asimov, his heart and soul are focused on practical tools for the equitable and effective education of deaf students at all levels and the appreciation of Deaf culture.

For example, he created an American Sign Language online lexicon of technical terms in math and science and co-authored the widely used textbook, Educating Deaf Students (2001). He has served as a consultant and content expert for a major documentary film, museum exhibitions, professional associations, and schools.

All the while, he is a down-to-earth, witty guy who loves to tell jokes.

Next is Peg Nosek

(1952-2020)

Disability justice activist; director of research center on women’s wellness; accomplished musician; prolific author

As a past member of Virtual Ability’s Board of Directors and a former conference speaker, Peg is familiar to some or most of you. Her prolific publications list (96 journal articles and 25 book chapters) also made her well-known to many people worldwide.

Her topics of interest were wide-ranging: sexuality, independent living, spirituality, assistive technology, and universal health care.

McCarthy, H. (2022). Rehabilitation’s Renaissance Woman: A Tribute to Margaret A. Nosek, PhD (1952-2020). *The Rehabilitation Professional*, 30(1), 5-10.

She was equally skilled and engaged in various methods of improving life for her disability peers, such as: designing rigorous research projects; founding & directing the Independent Living Center in Austin TX; joining advocacy demonstrations in the streets; consulting on-line.

In 1993, Peg founded the Center for Research on Women with Disabilities in Houston, TX. Until her death, she served as its Executive Director. She designed and conducted research and training projects funded by the most respected, competitive grant agencies in the U.S. Some of her recent studies were conducted using Second Life.

<https://www.bcm.edu/research/research-centers/center-for-research-on-women-with-disabilities>

Next I'll mention

Other Resources That Taught Me about Self-Advocacy, Self-Determination & Self-Help
I got to know other movers, shakers, and trailblazers in disability movements from the following organizations whose activities I was honored to participate in and promote. I thank them for their acceptance of my listening, learning, and helping their causes to the extent I could.

First is ADAPT (American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today) www.adapt.org
Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability Issues, New Orleans, LA
Organization of People Undaunted by Stroke, Queens, NY

McCarthy, H. (1981). Magnum OPUS: Self-help in Organization of People Undaunted by Stroke. *American Rehabilitation*, 7(1), 7-9.

peer counselors at National Spinal Cord Injury Association, New Orleans, LA Chapter
peer counselors at New England Rehabilitation Hospital, Woburn, MA
Society for Disability Studies <https://disstudies.org/>
Vietnam Veterans Drop-in Center, Queens, NY

This photo of an advocacy march shows Judy Heumann (3rd from left) & Justin Dart (1st from right). The banner underscores the common cause of all liberation movements: fighting injustice. This marks a transition in my talk to the topic of today's disability justice movement.

The banner says that an injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere

Next I'll transition

Some Ideas for Growing Coalitions & Allies

None are new or earth shattering

(1) Invigorate inter-group collaboration and coalition-building among the disability, healthcare and rehabilitation communities, to expand the size and power of the network of advocates and supporters for disability-justice issues.

For decades, the disability community has been fragmented into diagnostic-based organizations. This has constrained their fellowship, networking and advocacy. I give gold stars to Virtual Ability for demonstrating the opposite, by cultivating cross-disability and international participation and exchange. Invest in building more such coalitions/collectives (e.g., Sins Invalid)

Sins Invalid. (2019). *Skin, tooth, and bone: The basis of movement is our people* (2nd ed.).

<https://www.flipcause.com/secure/reward/OTMxNQ==>

Regrettably, rehabilitation services professionals and consumers have not enjoyed the high level of mutual appreciation and trust that we could expect, given the common ground they

share. Differences of socialization experience, power, and perspective between professional outsiders and disabled insiders can sabotage productive partnership. I believe the provider community's allyship, earned by following the lead of the disabled community and collaborating in their advocacy efforts with humility and requested resources, will maximize their individual and mutual success.

(2) Educate policy-makers and fellow citizens by explaining how changes that promote disability justice also benefit the common good.

-- universal design makes things easier for everyone to access and use

-- full-employment strategies with needed accommodations or supports provide for more flexible, successful work environments and create stronger economies by increasing the tax-paying population

-- meaningful social inclusion creates higher morale due to less stress from isolation, thereby improving the mental health and quality of life of the individual and the community

(3) Promote inclusion of disability within the BIPOC diversity meme or framework of groups that, due to historical and persistent discrimination, deserve interventions for attaining social justice; add "D" for "...or disabled" to make it

BIPOCD = Black, Indigenous, and People of Color or Disabled

My closing message:

Each one of us is a worthy, ever-changing, interdependent person with needs to be fulfilled and contributions of time, talent, and soul to give.

That is why everyone deserves and benefits from an inclusive world where disability justice and human rights are embraced and effectively enforced.

Let us be joyful as we collaborate to achieve that liberated, accommodating world together!

I am eager to learn from your comments, questions, and input---now and in the future.

Thanks for your acceptance, attention, and interest. Namaste!

[2022/10/28 10:45] Pecos Kidd: Wonderful presentation - thank you so much!

[2022/10/28 10:46] iSkye Silvercloud (iSkye Silverweb): Loved the photo of Ralf Hotchkiss...professional tinkerer :)

[2022/10/28 10:45] Gentle Heron: What an interesting presentation, Henry! Thank you for sharing. You have wonderful friends.

QUESTION: How can we, a virtual community, assist in your mission?

[2022/10/28 10:46] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): HGM: well, I should ask you that question Gentle. You are doing fabulous work on the cutting edge of inclusiveness

I am a privileged person. I know it.

What I have done is tried to use my privilege to showcase to and educate the general public.

I have been retired for a number of years, but I continue to use my voice for as long as I can

[2022/10/28 10:47] Mook Wheeler: QUESTION: Your mention of Beatrice Wright made me sad: as you said, her work preceded disability rights legislation, physical and programmatic accessibility, the social model of disability, independent living, informed consent, shared decision-making and more. And yet, today, policy everywhere rarely takes her extraordinarily important input aboard. The ADA was signed 30 years after her book. Do

you think the ADA has been built upon Beatrice's 'ecological and interactionist' approach?
Does it consider it? If not, why?

[2022/10/28 10:48] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): HGM: Question from Mook response.

I think it does.

There is focus on the built environment

Lots of us think concretely and can see the physical barriers more easily than all the ways
of being in the world

There are difficulties with the ADA. the enforcement mechanisms are weaker than the
mandates

It takes a lot to take on the bureaucracy

Compare this to school desegregation

The presidents of the time sent the full force of the government to make it happen

It takes a lot of energy, education, and stick to it ness to take on ableism and discrimination

I hope this was helpful

[2022/10/28 10:52] Mook Wheeler: Thank you Henry, that is illuminating, yes. It needs
more work still.

[2022/10/28 10:47] DeeDeeBeaker Resident: Have you thought about becoming a regular
SL resident?

[2022/10/28 10:52] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): HGM: question from DeeDee

No, I have not thought about being an SL resident. Thank you for helping me here today

My friend in college called me a self-styled anachronism

I am not the one to take on the new technologies, although I try to be open

Time is a factor. I do what I can with what time and energy I have

My sons bring me along as much as they can. I will remind them to push me more.

CC: thank you Henry. You did great!

[2022/10/28 10:55] Orange Planer: That was an amazingly polite way to say "SL is WAY
too hard..."

And that's OK.

[2022/10/28 10:55] Mook Wheeler: Henry, show your friend this photo of your 'self-styled
anachronism (not' :))) [*Gyazo snapshot URL*]

[2022/10/28 11:00] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): HGM: I am still a self-styled anachronism. I

listen to the radio, a lot. although my son have given me earbuds

A son gave me a google home. And I do use it. especially for music

SL is glorious to look at! Perhaps I could just look at it like a movie.

I appreciate your eagerness to get me on board. Perhaps I will make that a NY resolution

[2022/10/28 11:04] iSkye Silvercloud (iSkye Silverweb): make tomorrow your New Year's
Day and get started ;)

[2022/10/28 10:52] Gentle Heron: QUESTION- What are some ways you see to interface
our virtual environment with the Independent Living Movement? Can we help make that
movement more successful?

[2022/10/28 10:56] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): HGM: All the agencies and support groups are
interconnected, especially with community living situations

It is more than getting people out of institutional living situations, it is more about helping the
individual to be included in their community:

Physical, emotional, social, acceptance

How is someone included in their community and who is checking in with them.

It is the joint interaction of the person, their community, and the social / emotional / physical
environment around them

How can this be best facilitated

[2022/10/28 10:59] Gentle Heron: QUESTION- What is your next RL project?

[2022/10/28 11:03] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): HGM: My wife and I volunteer with an organization that supports babies and children who require heart surgery.

We are a 'heart home' where the child and a parent / guardian stay with us for 6 weeks

We support them and get them to appointments etc.

We also do fundraising for them, and for Haiti (my wife is Haitian)

[2022/10/28 11:04] Orange Planer: Now THAT is awesome.

[2022/10/28 11:05] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): CC: thank you Henry. That is all we have for questions.

Thank you so much.

We hope to see you again in SL.

HGM: Thank you. I will certainly promote VAI and SL. You might see me here.

It was a true honor to be here. Namaste.

<<transcription ends>>