

SELF ADVOCACY SPEAKOUT

January 2021

Why I Love to Bake

By Anja Calior

I love to bake all things from cookies to cakes and everything in between. Why, you ask? It's because it smells so good and I just get so much joy out of it! It's also nice to bake for others, especially when they aren't expecting it.

One of my favorite desserts to bake was the black cherry tart I made in my culinary class when I was in school. They were really yummy! However, I can think of lots of desserts that I like to make. I also love to come up with all sorts of different ways to decorate my desserts. I would really like to have a job as a baker/decorator.

I need some adaptations to make baking safe for me such as a specialized cutting board, a swiveling lamp to let me see what I'm doing while baking/decorating, and a recipe book holder. I get my inspiration from watching the baking shows on the Food Network. I aspire to be that good someday.



My Holiday Experience

By Justin Galloway

Usually we host Thanksgiving at our house and my whole family of aunts, uncles, and cousins come over with food. But this year, because of COVID, it was just me and my mom. I helped her make the turkey and stuffing and I enjoyed it. It felt unusual not to have the family there with us, but we did a Zoom call so everyone could see each other and I loved it. This year I am thankful for my mom, family, co-workers, boss, Facebook friends, acquaintances, and my SSA.

My mom and I put the Christmas tree up in the dining room the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We decorated the tree with Christmas lights and ornaments in all different colors. We put a star on the top and put a white skirt under the tree. We also put a Christmas wreath on the front and back doors.

I am getting excited about Christmas this year. Since COVID happened, I'll be doing my Christmas shopping online. We always open our presents on Christmas morning and then me and my mom eat breakfast together. I really hope I get a steering wheel cover for my car. I'm looking forward to going back to work fulltime in 2021 and going on outdoor activities with my friends again.



My Kent State Journey

By Olivia Parker

Since COVID-19 happened, I could not attend the day program like I used to, so I started attending Kent State University in Trumbull County. I do this virtually through Siffrin Academy and I love it. My teacher's name is Lauren and she is so amazing and fun. The activities that we have done so far include chair yoga, money management, attend book club, discussed self-advocacy, history, grammar, science, and sign language. We've also discussed movies and worked on math skills. I have a lot of friends that attend Siffrin Academy with me. I wouldn't want to go anywhere else to learn. I'm looking forward to attending classes on campus next year.



This Pandemic Cannot Hold Me Back & Stop Me From Living My Life

By Laura Stark

My Stark Family holiday gatherings have always been so special to me. We have always had a huge gathering including extended family and close friends. Our day would be full of laughter, love, hugs and the most heartwarming conversations with all of us catching up on each other's lives. For me, the best part about our time together was hugging on each other and catching up. I loved how on Thanksgiving everyone would gather in one large circle holding hands and saying a prayer. I always felt so happy and safe being in that circle surrounded by my family. This year I wasn't able to enjoy the family circle of prayer, but I am thankful that I was able to see family members that I haven't seen in about a year. I was able to hug them, which made me feel so happy and safe. No, it wasn't the big circle I'm used to, and yes, I had to wear a mask, but I really enjoyed it.

Now that this pandemic is here we will not be able to get together in person, but we are having a Zoom Christmas. How exciting to try something new. I know it will not be the same, but it is better than not doing anything at all. I have learned to value life this year and to appreciate love. The love from the people who love me and the love I have for them. This year was horrible for a lot of people. I, however, choose to look at the awesome blessings I received. *(cont'd)*



This Pandemic Cannot Hold Me Back... (Cont'd)

By Laura Stark

I saw my cousins that I haven't seen in a long time. I was able to spend more time with my boyfriend. I got a new job as a student teacher. I started an awesome photography club. I moved to Ohio in March and I am chilling with my dad and getting to know him better. I am reading a lot more, and I really enjoy it. I have started working towards my goal of being more independent and actually having my own apartment. WWOHHOO!

A wise person said to me, "Wear your mask and don't worry about the pimples it puts on your face." I like that advice.



Bethany and Friends Movie Reviews!



The Notebook - Sam/Bethany

Duke (James Garner) reads from his old leather bound notebook a real fascinating love story to his fellow patient (Gena Rowlands) in a nursing home. The story is about a country boy Noah (Ryan Gosling) and a rich heiress (Rachel McAdams). This is not your typical chick flick, it has a twist that is so captivating you won't even notice you have been sitting there for two hours witnessing this beautiful love story unfold.



A Walk to Remember - Sam/Bethany

We really loved this movie. Jamie (Mandy Moore) was our favorite character. She is a quiet and innocent young lady who meets Landon (Shane West). The two develop an unconditional love that helps keep them strong during the difficult and trying times ahead. This is definitely a "chick flick" must watch. Grab some snacks, some tissue, and a good friend and get ready!!! Let us know if you give it a thumbs up or down.



When We First Met - Amanda/Bethany

Noah, a gangly/goofy guy that is a very over-the-top kind of character, goes back in time to a Halloween party to try and win the heart of Avery. Avery is a pretty young lady that is kind of funny, who only sees Noah as a friend. Then there is Carrie who is a brown hair, brown eyed, goofy/silly lady who happens to be Avery's best friend and self-proclaimed bodyguard. And last, but not least, you have Max. Max is the tall, dark, and somewhat handsome best friend to Noah that thinks he is a stud, but he is really a dud. He tries to give advice to Noah to help him win over Avery. Does it work? Watch, chill and see...

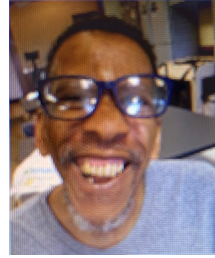


The Clique - Bethany

A cheesy mean girl flick with Elizabeth M. Laughlin, Elizabeth Gillies, and S. I couldn't give it a thumbs down because it was a sweet lesson at the end. I couldn't give it a thumbs up because it was your usual spoiled, immature rich girl who is miserable and enjoys taking it out on others. So, we are giving our first sideways thumb! Watch it and tell us what you think...



Don't forget to let us know what you think. Did a movie make you laugh, scream, or wish you'd have skipped it all together? Which character do you like the most? You can reach us at bethany.samchill@gmail.com



1. Besides Olivia Newton-John, name another female singer that went from county music to pop/rock music?
2. Which U.S. city has 3 amusement park rides on top of the Stratosphere Tower?
3. Which baseball player beat Hank Aaron's 755 home run record?
4. What 1980's video game has a multi-colored, poison spitting monster with a red steel face that you have to defeat?
5. Which musician did the Pink Panther movie theme song and the 1970's NBC Nightly News theme song?

Answers:

1. Bonnie Tyler.
2. Las Vegas.
3. Bary Bonds had 762 homeruns.
4. Arkanoid.
5. Henry Mancini.



Did you know that Garrett McNamara broke the world record for surfing the highest wave (79 feet) in Portugal and also surfed a tsunami in Alaska and survived?

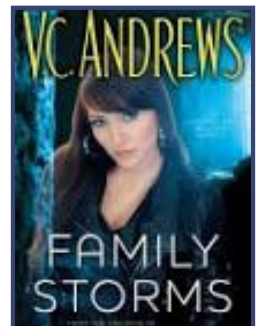
If you have a trivia question for Abe or you just want to share your thoughts, email him at askabelne@gmail.com



Anja's Book Review

Family Storms by V.C. Andrews

In this novel, the girl in the story, Sasha, is whisked off to an emergency room. She doesn't remember much, but after much painful thought, she remembers she was with her mother, crossing a street. They're homeless, and they've got no place to go. Her mother ends up dying instantly, and Sasha doesn't have anyone else to turn to for help. She is devastated - and alone. Mrs. Jordan March, the mother of the girl driving the car, is a wealthy stranger who visits Sasha in the hospital. Seeing as she has nowhere to go, she insists Sasha come live with her family. Sasha soon discovers that Mrs. March had another daughter, Alena, who died previously. She feels really funny about using Alena's things, and little does she know that Alena's sister is dead set on making her life a living hell.



- Photography Club meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Zoom ID #861 259 9172 Password is cat

- The Aristocats Book Club meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

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Speakout Spotlight On: Interviews with Laura Stark



I interviewed three people that are close to my heart. I wanted to share their joy with you! I asked them all the same two questions. What is something positive that happened in 2020 for them and what are they looking forward to in 2021!!

The first was my grandmother. Her name is Cecelia Stark. She is an amazing, and loving woman with the world's biggest heart and most contagious laugh. That is what I love the most about her. Grandma said she was grateful she did not get the virus! Very thankful that we have video chat and all those programs to see the family. It really makes her happy, and it makes me very happy too! We love seeing each other's smile and of course I love hearing her laugh. Her laugh is contagious. For the second question she said she's so happy they they are making a vaccination and to get it done and out of the way, so that she can be safe. She also said I will be so happy to see my family face to face.

My second interview was with my Aunt Vangie. She said a whole lot, she is a talker. She is so amazing and has a kind heart. She's a caregiver at her place of employment and is celebrating her one year anniversary on the job. She's just so thankful for this opportunity. She said it's so important to her because she has learned so much from this job. She said she learned not to take life for granted, the little things mean so much! Like walking, dancing, and singing. One of her clients are blind and when she visits him, she would describe all the things around him. Like a shiny red car and a squirrel with a black spot at the end of his tail. He just loves it! She appreciates all her clients because she cherishes all the moments and the memories she gets to share with them. She actually had two positive things! the second was spending more quality time with her husband and their three daughters. We had so much time together that we spent it on praying, watching our favorite shows and movies, even playing board games and plus we get to talk a lot more these days. It's wonderful. Then she answered the second question. She's really looking forward to getting to see her extended family like her nephews and nieces and her husband's side of the family. She is so excited to see all of them and especially to give them all a big huge hug.

And then finally I asked my boyfriend. For the first question he said that he could not think of anything. Well, he said of course meeting me! Then he laughed. And the second question I asked him about what he was looking forward to in 2021, he said nothing but I think he meant to say he's looking forward to spending more time with his amazing girlfriend! Like going on new and more adventures together. I can say for myself that I'm very excited to spend more time with him and going on more dates. Like the movies! And I don't think he would like this, but I would love to go star gazing. My family would always do that, if it was nice outside of course. I just love him. He makes me so happy! He makes me laugh so much and he always finds a way to make me smile.

When I was writing this article I just felt joy and happiness inside. These people and the rest of my family are so important to me! They are just so incredible. It doesn't matter if we live close to one another or far away, we're always there for one another!

The Self Advocacy Speakout is published quarterly. The next issue will be released on March 1, 2021. If you want to be a part of the writing team, or have something to share for the Speakout Spotlight, please contact TekissaGraham@tcbdd.com