

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

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SPEAK UP CONFERENCE

Last year, I attended my first conference virtually after finishing the rough draft of my now published book called Speak Up, created by an amazing lady named Carol Kent. I made some great connections, learned a lot, and Carol even endorsed my book. The conference is held in MI and when they offered a virtual option again this year, I was very excited to join in. I learned last year to invest my time at the conference in the coffee chats to make those important connections and new friendships. Once again, I made some wonderful connections, and I am slowly working through all of the sessions. The conference offers both a writing and speaking track and last year, I only attended the writing part of the conference. This year, I invested in both and have a year to learn from professionals, teaching 48 sessions on different topics relating to writing and speaking. I am in the process of once again finishing another rough draft, this time my 31-day devotional. I am not sure if I want to self-publish, hybrid publish, or traditionally publish this time. I have learned a lot and know I will continue to learn a lot as time goes on. During these conferences, you can meet with agents, if you want to pitch your ideas to be represented in a traditionally published contract, but I decided not to pursue that option and just enjoy the conference. I have not yet met Carol Kent in person but will have the opportunity to meet her at a conference I am attending in TX this week and very excited!

TRIP TO BACK TO TEXAS

It has been about ten years since we have been back to TX and it is wonderful to be back to see friends, visit old houses, high school, the church we were married at, and eat and some of our favorite restaurants. Because I moved around a lot as a child but spent my high school and college years in TX, it was the one state I always considered "home". While here, not only did we have the blessed opportunity to see some very special friends, but I also had the opportunity to share my story on a radio show called "The Review with Joy & Co." on Fishbowl Radio Network and on a faith based internet streaming tv show called the "Fanny Minnett Show" The week will conclude by attending an amazing speaker conference called Christian Communicators. I am so excited to meet many authors and speakers I have only had a chance to get to know virtually up until now. One of the co-directors of the conference, Tammy Whitehurst, also endorsed my book, so I am very excited to meet her finally in person!

MY SECOND BOOK

I have completed the draft of my second book, a 31-day devotional, and am now getting coaching help and guidance. Once I get back from TX, I plan to dive into my coach's critiques, make corrections, and then decide on publishing options. I have learned a lot this year and there are advantages and disadvantages to self, hybrid, and traditional publishing. I also have realized based on revenues, expenses, and taxes, I should consider a LLC. At this point, I have not made any money and very much operating at a loss. However, one never knows what the future may hold.

CANCER TREATMENT CENTERS OF AMERICA (CTCA)

When I received the possible diagnosis of ovarian cancer in February, as my book launch was beginning, I said once I recover from my hysterectomy, I really want to continue sharing my story at CTCA and volunteer there if possible. At my 6-week checkup, I met with the leadership of the HOPE and Cancer Fighters organizations to see what I could do to help. As someone who has been on quite a long medical journey over the past 20 years since my stroke in 2003, the environment and medical staff at CTCA is amazing and do an extraordinary job at treating each patient with the emotional support and compassion they need, not just meeting their physical needs. I started volunteering their several days a week both connecting and supporting patients as a friend and survivor who understands what it is like to go through a medical journey and now conducting a weekly creative writing class to both patients and caregivers. I have found healing in my own writing so I offer journals, writing prompts, and encourage my new friends to explore writing to help them process their feelings as they go through this new journey.

PODCASTS, ZOOMS, AND BLOGS

I continue to look for opportunities to participate in podcasts, zooms, or write on someone's blog. I have an article being featured on an author's blog this week and another podcast interview next week. World Stroke Day is October 29th so that is my next big marketing push to start sharing stroke awareness facts, and share my story on podcasts and zooms. I will have the blessed opportunity to go back on PJNET tv in October and also do another book signing event at our local Barnes and Noble on October 29th. You can view all of my current podcasts where I have shared my story so far on my website at this link: <https://lorivober.com/interviews-and-podcasts-1>

BOOK CLUB

I just finished my first book club from the reflection questions at the end of each of my chapters on Zoom, during the month of July, with some lady friends from my church. CTCA is looking at starting my book club with patients at the hotel in the afternoon in October, along with a sponsored dinner, and I am very excited!

If you are a podcaster or do a zoom show or know someone who does, I would love to be your guest!