

### Newsletter - October 2015: Celebrate Fall, Celebrate Life



Greetings!

Fall is here! The relaxed and free months of summer are gone much like the leaves on the trees. My family is back on a schedule and the days and weeks fly by in orderly fashion. Mondays start out in earnest, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday clip by, Friday brings a sigh of relief, then whoosh goes the weekend.

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#### Life Stories from a Unique Perspective

Last month, I had the pleasure of working with a small group from the [Center on Halsted](#). The Center supports LGBTQ people of all ages, but my class was tailored for seniors who had great stories to tell and wanted to hone their skills. Participants came and went but these two men, Craig and Ralph, were there for every session. I was blown away by their creativity, skillfulness and bravery. I hope to work with the Center again in 2016!



[More on Upcoming Workshops](#)

Below is from a memoir on a young man taken too early due to complications from Muscular Dystrophy. Despite the tragic loss, his story was full of light, laughter and love. I was honored to tell it.



In high school, Johnny relied on his Aunt Tagger for some unconventional volunteer service hours, a graduation requirement for Fenwick.

Johnny and friends Don, Dave and Ross arrived at the McHugh's house to babysit. Tagger left them for an hour, and came back to find Johnny wheeling his chair down 75th to Cortland, west to 76th Avenue, north to Armitage, and back around to 75th Court, all busy city streets. He was pulling Tagger's daughter Bridget on rollerblades and other daughter Colleen was using one of Johnny's old wheelchairs to tow their brother Will. They were all squirting each other with Super Soakers. When Aunt Tagger returned to pick up her kids, she was told by all to leave because they were having too much fun.

"After this, Johnny gives me a form and asks me to sign it. I said, 'Johnny, what work of fiction am I signing now?'

He said, 'We taught your kids Spanish while you were gone.'"

*In memory of John Walsh McHugh  
May 23, 1982 - May 16, 2015*

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Thanks for reading. See you next month. - Nora

