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EDITOR'S PEN

Gary Barg, Editor-in-Chief

Jewels From Joanne

I would like to share a note I recently received from a reader:

You called me a Fearless Caregiver, when I took care of my beloved husband.

When I wrote you about how I got his care taken care of at the nursing home, you praised me, highly. Well, the TV is on for noise. An ad was just running with a number to call if you feel your loved one has been abused in a nursing home. I got livid, then angry and then I decided I would write you again. ...[more](#)

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FEATURED ARTICLE

Communication...the Essentials

By William R. Leahy, M.D.

The role of the caregiver has many facets. An effective caregiver, whether a professional or family member, is interested in providing educated, nurturing and loving care to allow patients or loved ones to become as self-sufficient as they might be and to heal with dignity. [...more](#)

GUEST ARTICLE

Her Bodyguard

By Daphne Simpkins

He stood behind his new bride at the dinner party, wearing the poker-faced expression of a caregiver who feigns invisibility until the patient in his care requires assistance. His too-thin wife sat in the only wingback. Her legs splayed comfortably in an uninhibited posture that contrasted with the modest Southern-girl bonnet she wore to hide her bald head. His wife has breast cancer and this man has become the vigilant caregiver—better, bodyguard—a job that seasoned lovers and good daughters usually adopt. [...more](#)

CARETIPS

Six Questions You Should Ask Before Choosing a Nursing Home

“Use your nose.”

That used to be standard advice given to people searching for prospective nursing homes for themselves or their loved ones.

The sentiment behind the advice was to prompt people to use their olfactory sense to determine whether a facility was clean, practiced proper hygiene, etc., explained James Ellor, Ph.D., professor in Baylor University’s School of Social Work and gerontology expert. [...more](#)

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CAREVERSES

Touched By A Nurse

By Judy Kay Goodridge

*She walked into the room softly
To see if I was awake.*

*I could tell that she was tired,
But her smile was sincere and not fake.*

*She tenderly turned my body.
She sensed the pain and ache.*

*Her touch was oh so gentle
She was like that every day.*

*Tears filled these old weary eyes,
Emotion was more than I could bare.*

*No it was not from pain in my body.
Only relief that she did care.*

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