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**Helping Them Remain at Home** • August 27, 2015 • Issue #842

## EDITOR'S PEN

Gary Barg, Editor-in-Chief

### Grace Notes

The 1976 elections were the first in which I was able to vote and that experience imbued me with my interest in all things policy and political. In fact, as the director of the video center at Florida State University, I was able to journey to Plains, Georgia on a few occasions and met members of President Carter's family including his mother, Ms. Lillian. Although these occasions came replete with all that goes with being around a sitting president, I remember the visits as cozy and small-town friendly. [...more](#)

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## FEATURED ARTICLE

### Helping Your Loved One Age in Place Comfortably

*By Kevin Blakeney*

*"I know that my mom is still here today because we have been able to help her get the round-the-clock care she needs and live in the comfort of her home." – Robert L., caregiver*

As a frequent panelist at Fearless Caregiver Conferences, we have lively and sometimes emotional conversations with our audience who has the daunting responsibility of ensuring loved ones receive the care they need to live comfortably. [...more](#)

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#### GUEST ARTICLE

## Disaster Preparedness for Elder Loved Ones

*By Dana Carr*

It's no secret that a large percentage of deaths in Katrina-ravaged New Orleans were our sick and our elderly. Even institutions built to safeguard our elderly loved ones were ill-equipped to handle a disaster of this magnitude.

In his September 19, 2005 report, New York Times reporter David Rohde exposes Katrina's impact on nursing homes and hospitals. About 60% of nursing homes failed to evacuate successfully before the storm hit. Many nursing home operators feared their frailest residents would die on the buses leaving town. [...more](#)

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#### CARETIPS

## Surviving a Fractured Hip

*By L. Theresa Pantanella, OTR*

Some preparation before a loved one comes home from the hospital will reduce the demands on the caregiver, and will facilitate recovery. It is recommended the caregiver purchase:

1. A reacher. This will enable your loved one to pick up items from the floor or those just "out of reach". [...more](#)
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CAREVERSES

## **Dancing Home**

*By Jeanne Gerst*

I am walking my mother home,  
To see her to the door  
Where there will be no more pain,  
and death will reign no more.

The journey has been long  
And filled with many a care,  
But the Shepherd-Savior knows,  
He's not taken unaware.

Sometimes the steps are big  
And hard to manage well;  
Sometimes it's only baby-steps,  
A sort of dance, I feel.

There is beauty in the dance,  
Though sometimes it's unsteady;  
I'm learning lessons daily,  
To make my own soul ready.

For heaven waits for all of us,  
A blessing sweet indeed,  
Yet while we walk this dusty earth,  
We continue planting seeds

**Enjoy more caregiver poems  
or share one of your own**

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