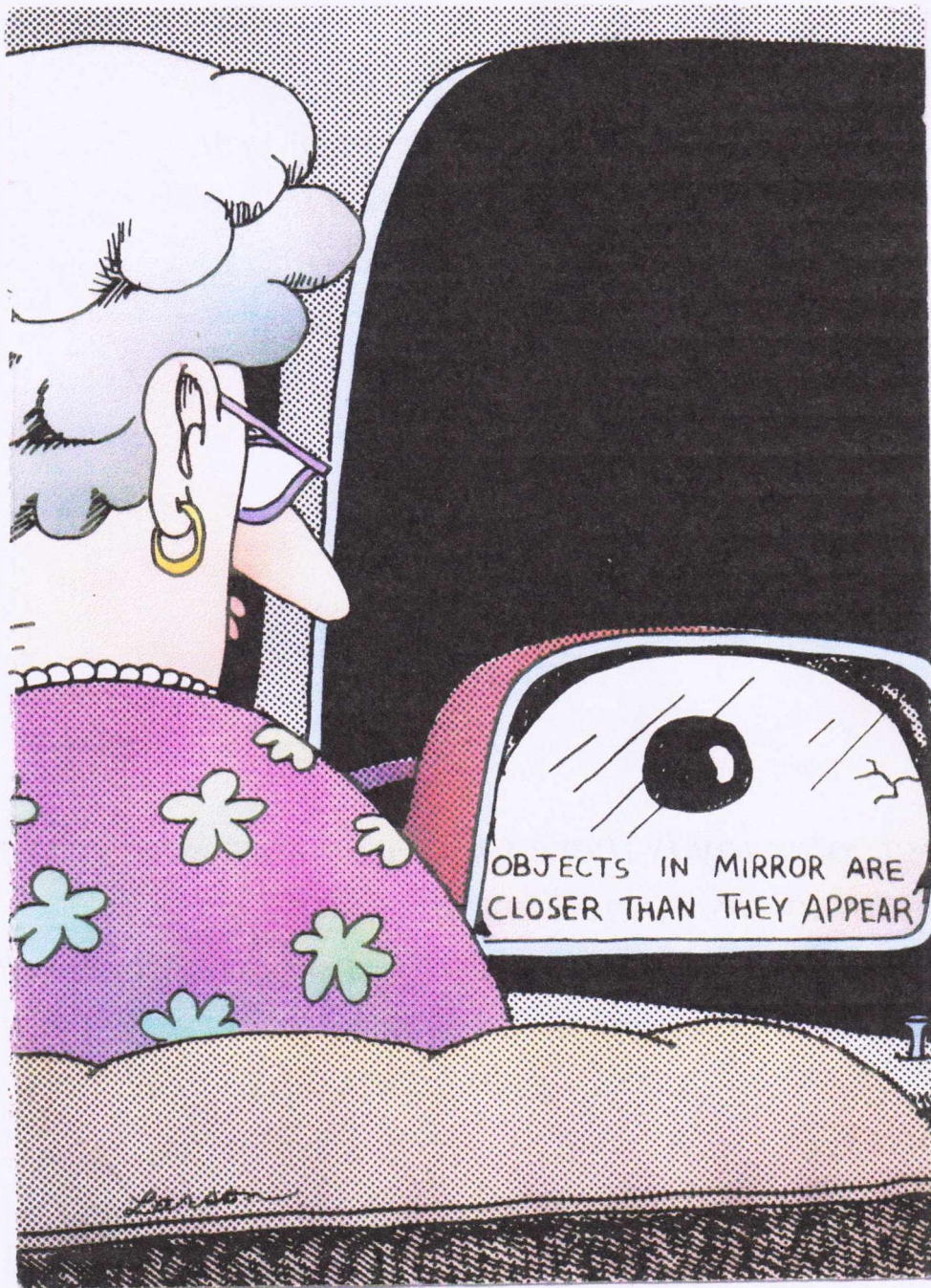


# Passages # 18



# Passages # 18

September 25, 2003

*I ask but one thing of you, only one....  
That always you will be my dream of you;  
That never shall I wake to find untrue  
All this I have believed and rested on,  
Forever vanished, like a vision gone,  
Out into the night. Alas, how few  
There are who strike in us a chord  
We knew existed, but so seldom  
Heard its tone – we trembled at the  
Half-forgotten sound.*

*Amy Lovell*

*What greater joy is there for two human souls than to  
feel that they are joined for life...  
To strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each  
other in sorrow, to minister to each other in all pain,  
and to be with each other in silent, unspeakable  
memories...*

*George Eliot*

# *Passages # 18*

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*This zine is intended for SFPA # 235, September, 2003.*

Hello, fellow SFPAns. I'm going to try to do a natter/ comment type of zine this time. My contributions have been so hit or miss since the twins were born, I figured that I need to introduce myself again. So here goes.

My name is Janet Larson, nee Davis, also formerly Lyons (1978-1993, my name from my first marriage). I was born July 22, 1957, in Stuttgart, West Germany, a child of a U.S. Army officer. If you're an astrology buff, that makes me a Cancer, on the cusp with Leo. I grew up largely in Fort Rucker, Alabama (home of the U.S. Army Aviation), and Fort Lauderdale, Florida (home of my now-deceased maternal grandparents).

My family moved to the Atlanta area in 1969, where I went to high school in College Park, Georgia, and college at Emory University. I received a B.S. in Biology in 1979. I became active in Star Trek fandom while in high school, and was secretary/treasurer of Southeastern S.T.A.R., editing their newsletter for about 3 years. I went to my first Star Trek convention, Vulcon, in New Orleans in 1972. Guy may remember my second, the New York Star Trek convention in 1973. My brother, Avery, and I were active in the Atlanta Science Fiction Organization (ASFO), and we went to several Deep South Conventions during high school and college (Avery went to Georgia Tech). My first World Con was Washington D.C. in 1974. I remember meeting Isaac Asimov and getting his autograph and a kiss on the cheek (I was told he was a dirty old man).

My first APA was Myriad, composed largely of Georgia fans. My second was SFPA; I was on the waitlist for about 2 years, and an active member for 1 or 2 more years, in the late 70's and early 80's.

As it happens, college limited my apac somewhat; I remember moving my mimeo machine from one dorm room to another! I was also fairly active in the Society for Creative Anacronism. I married Vince Lyons in 1978, my senior year in college, graduated, moved to Augusta, Georgia, and had two children, Christopher James, June 3, 1980, and Cathryn Rebecca, January 28, 1983. I went to the Medical College of Georgia and graduated in 1986, and all fanac basically ceased during those years.

After graduation from medical school, I did an OB-Gyn residency as an active duty Army officer in El Paso, Texas, followed by a 4-year utilization tour in Columbus, Georgia. I divorced Vince in 1992, and subsequently met Kyle Larson and fell in love,

and the rest, as they say, is history. During this time I also became a multi-engine instrument-rated private pilot, and bought a Piper Twin Comanche. I left the Army as a Major, and did a fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine in Oklahoma City between 1994-1996. At the end of the fellowship, I took a job in private practice in Augusta, Georgia, and in 1998 I became a full partner in the practice. Kyle and I became proud parents of Cassia Rachel on November 8, 1997, and twins Haydon Richard and Samantha Ruth on October 4, 2000.

I continued to read science fiction more or less all these years. In high school, I read a lot of Tolkein, Heinlein, and Asimov. In college, I discovered Zelazny and Anne McCaffrey. After medical school, I discovered Melanie Rawn, Katherine Kurtz, and Jennifer Roberson. More recently, I have read Ann Rice's Vampire Series and J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series.

Chris graduated from Emerson College in Boston. He married Rachael Shapiro September 1, 2002, and they are living in Memphis. Cathryn is a junior at Emory University, majoring in psychology with intentions to do pre-vet. Their father died in a small airplane crash March 13, 1998 (a Friday, incidentally). He was the pilot and the only occupant of the plane.

Currently, my passion is horseback riding. I ride hunt-seat, a form of English riding, which includes jumping. My current discipline is called equitation, which means emphasis on riding classically correctly. I have three horses: my mare, Indiana, is a 10-year old warmblood, which is a kind of sporthorse that originated in Germany; her mother was a Hanoverian, and her sire was an Oldenburg. I bred her to a thoroughbred stallion, and still have her filly, who is now a 2-year old named Faranth (after the first gold dragon). My gelding is a 14-year old thoroughbred, retired racehorse, named Saint Nicholas, or Nick for short (his racing name was Soviet Warrior). Cassia's pony is named Chips Ahoy, or Chippie; he's a flea-bitten gray, Arabian/Quarter Horse cross.

Right now, my horseback riding is in a state of flux, due to a bad fall I had in July, when I had a mild concussion. I stopped jumping, and went into some remedial training. When and if I'm going to start jumping again is up in the air right now. Faranth was started by a trainer in August, and now is learning how to be ridden. We live in an equestrian neighborhood, on 2 acres, and we have a barn in our back yard. But I don't have time to ride one horse, let alone three, and I'm starting to wonder if I have too many horses and need to get rid of one.

Recent health issues: in my last zine I bored everyone with my perimenopausal hormonal woes! I am really amazed at how hormones can play with your mind. Last month I took the plunge and had Lasik surgery. It's been an amazing success. My vision is now better than perfect at a distance. I do require reading glasses, so I had to get bifocals for work. I've been wearing glasses since I was 12, and got contact lenses for the first time when I was 16, for nearsightedness. Before my surgery, my correction was -3.25 and -3.50. Now my bifocal correction is 1.75. The most remarkable surprise for me was being able to see my shower! I used to take my shower before putting my

contact lenses in, and of course I didn't wear my glasses, so my vision was always fuzzy in the shower. The first few days I took my shower after the Lasik surgery, I was amazed to actually be able to see the bathroom and the tub! The laser itself took 23 seconds per eye. Just amazing.

## **Mailing Comments, SFPA 234**

The Southerner, Jeff Copeland—Hopefully, you did finally receive my dues. Sorry I got behind with those... Sorry you won't be able to take another year as OE. You've done a fabulous job, in my opinion.... Sheila is brave to take it on! .... I know it's a weak excuse for missing a SFPA mailing, but that concussion did mess with my writing abilities for several weeks! I was supposed to be writing an article for the newsletter my office puts out, and that just got finished this week. I also was supposed to be writing an exam for my annual board certification renewal course for the American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. So instead of writing, we went to Jamaica for a week for my birthday in July.....

Spiritus Mundi 196, Guy H. Lillian III---I live about an hour from Greenwood, SC. I didn't realize that Susan Smith was incarcerated there. Is that website really on the line? If so, that is just sick. Ct me: as far as I know, the term "steed" does not infer gender. ... We went to Dragon Con in Atlanta, the same time as WorldCon. It was a short drive for us, and Anne McCaffrey was there. I enjoyed listening to her, and her son, Todd. It seems that she's in the process of handing the reins of Pern over to Todd. I hope so.

Revenant #19, Sheila Strickland---I went to a conference in Montreal in May, right at the end of the worst of the SARS scare. One of the sonographers went with me, except that she almost backed out of the trip because of being worried about SARS. I was amused, because there were no reported cases of SARS in Montreal, and Toronto is really not that much closer to Montreal than to Augusta Georgia.... But they're both in Canada, and that's why she was worried. She should have been more worried about the connecting flight in Atlanta, where there actually had been cases of SARS reported! She ended up going to the conference after I got on the Canadian Health Services website and reassured her that there were no cases of SARS passed on in conferences or airports. ...

I pre-ordered *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, so it was delivered by FedEx that Saturday. I was at work, and Cathryn was at home and signed for the shipment, so she paged me to ask if she could read it. It was hard waiting four days for her to finish it! Fortunately she's a fast reader. Then I got the books on tape version, and I've really enjoyed listening to the different voices.

Ct me: Samantha has been going extremely well with her speech therapy. After 3 months, her therapist says she basically has caught up to her age group. Of course, since

she is, in my opinion, so extremely intelligent, being average in speech isn't being caught up, in my opinion.....

Nice Distinctions 2, Arthur Hlavaty----Re: reality TV: several people at work watch reality TV, including the new doctor; but for me, I don't watch it, since my life is already real enough, thank you very much. I'm afraid I don't understand the fascination. ...

Twygdrasil and Treehouse Gazette #83, Richard Dengrove----Your late mother-in-law may have been more than depressed; she sounds frankly psychotic from your description. As in paranoid schizophrenic. And I mean that in the nicest of ways... Ct me: there are plenty of genomic and molecular biologists who feel that the nature/nurture question is heavily weighted toward DNA; in other words, we are slaves to our DNA, and everything we do can be explained by our genetic make up. Personally, I feel that there is room for free will, especially when you can easily see that identical twins do not grow up to be the same person, and nature and nurture should be as close to equal as humanly possible. That being said, I also feel that, in many ways, we are slaves to our hormones. At least, having experienced recent hormone fluctuations, that's the way I feel now.

Avatar Press, Vol 2, Number 28, Randy Cleary----Re: movies: *Finding Nemo* is really more for the adults than the children. And I really enjoyed *Pirates of the Caribbean*. A lot of fun. ... Ct me: thanks for the kind words. After my remedial riding courses, my riding is a lot better. Now if I could just get some confidence back.....

Tennessee Trash #54, Gary Robe----I just noticed that I got 2 copies of this. I wonder who is missing one..... I really enjoyed your review of HP5, and like you, I can't wait until HP6 is here! I have my own private theory about Aunt Petunia's roles in the future books.... Just curious about what your take on her motivation to take Harry in and keep him all these years, especially now that her precious Dudley's life is threatened; in other words, what is Dumbledore holding over her head? What did that Howler really mean? .....

Yngvi is a Louse #84, T.K.F.Weisskopf Reinhardt----Ct me: very insightful comments about language. This experience with Apraxia scared me a lot; I just imagined this beautiful child growing up in our culture without verbal language, and it was terrifying. I'm so grateful that she has been doing so well with her speech therapy.

Home with the Armadillo #59, Liz Copeland----You didn't say this, but are you wondering why your doctor didn't come up with the diagnosis sooner? Hopefully your surgery was as uncomplicated as mine was.....