

Happy Birthday
To Our
GURU



From Your Fan Club

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO OUR



ode to john's 80th

The man who has “Redefined Stuttering”
Is another year older today
It’s rumored that John has reached 80
But the guru refuses to say

He admits that he’s sometimes forgetful
And complains that his hips often ache
But it’s hard to deny that you’re aging
When the candles cost more than your cake.

John looks upon age as a number
And celebrates birthdays with fun
But he isn’t the group’s oldest member
‘Cuz Bob is a HUNDRED AND ONE

John, you've transformed the lives of so many
By addressing the reasons we block
When we choose to let go, life's exciting
Any tips how to hold back the clock? ALAN BADMINGTON



OUR GURU WAS BORN MARCH 3, 1935.

WHEN HE WAS ONLY A BABY GURU, HE STARTED STUTTERING. HE WAS 3 YEARS OLD AND HIS MOTHER HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A 6 WEEK TRIP. THIS STUTTERING CONTINUED WELL INTO HIS TWENTIES.

HE GRADUATED FROM DARTMOUTH AND THEN RETURNED TO NEW YORK TO WORK FOR HIS FATHER'S ADVERTISING AGENCY. IT LOOKED AS IF HIS FUTURE WAS PRE-ORDAINED.

ONE DAY OUR GURU HAD A TRANSFORMATIONAL IDEA.



ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT, HE CALLED A TRAVEL AGENCY AND ASKED FOR A ONE-WAY TICKET TO SAN FRANCISCO.

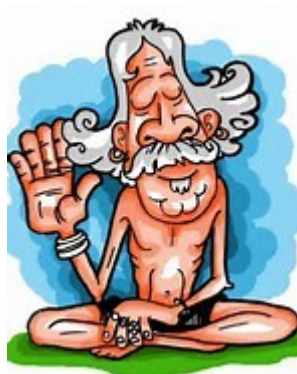
THINK OF SAN FRANCISCO IN THE 1960's AND YOU WILL REALIZE WHAT A GREAT IDEA IT WAS! IT WAS THE PERFECT PLACE TO START NEW.....THE PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION TRAIN WAS JUST LEAVING THE STATION, SO HE JUMPED ON BOARD....AND HE DID IT ALL.... PSYCHOANALYSIS, ENCOUNTER GROUPS, GESTALT THERAPIES, PSYCHODRAMA, EST AND LIFESPING TRAINING.

HE ALSO DID “WIERD” SAN FRANCISCO TYPE STUFF....LIKE JUMPING FROM AIRPLANES AND TAKING AN LSD TRIP.

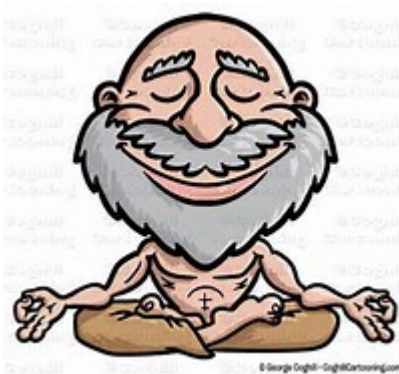
HERE IS A PICTURE OF OUR GURU AT THAT TIME:



FIVE YEARS LATER, HE HAD MATURED....



EVENTUALLY HE BEGAN TO MELLOW:



AND HE STOPPED STUTTERING AND HOLDING BACK!!

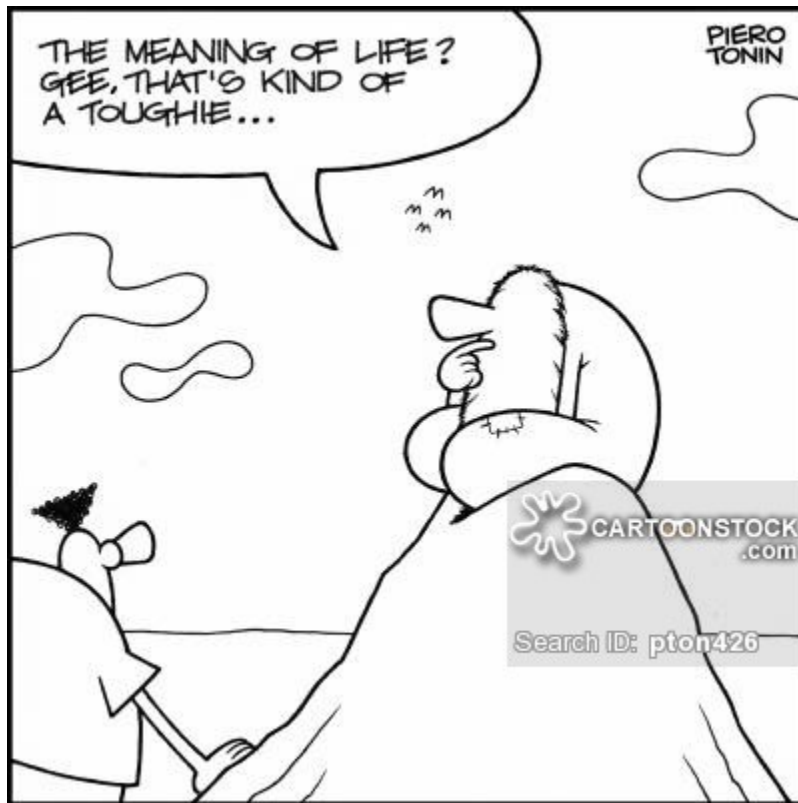
OUR GURU BECAME A SUCCESSFUL COPYWRITER, WRITER, EDITOR.....BUT HE WAS NEVER CONVINCED HE HAD TAKEN THE RIGHT PATH....



OUR GURU GREW BORED.....



HE LOST TOUCH WITH HIS REAL SELF:



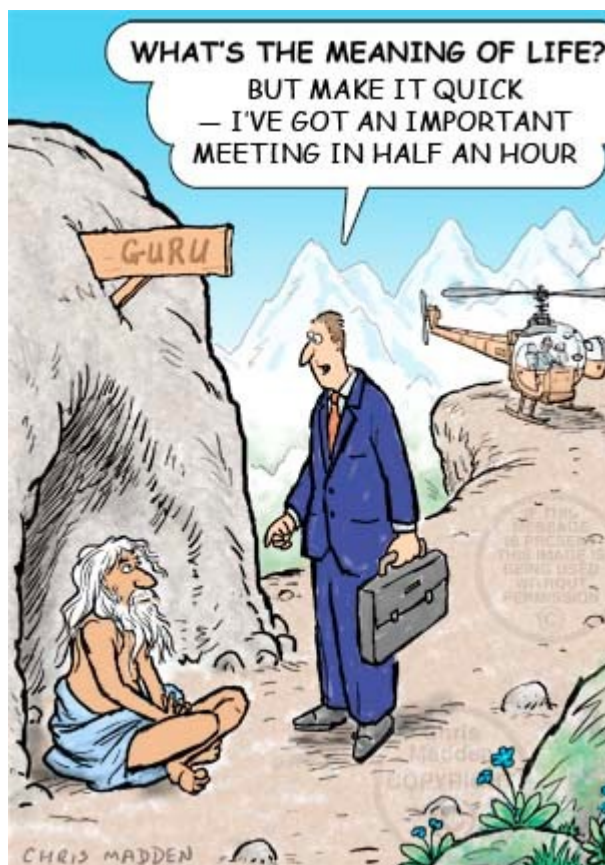
NOW OUR GURU HAS ARRIVED:



OUR GURU ENCOURAGES PATIENCE.

HE REALIZES ONE DOES NOT RECOVER FROM HOLDING BACK OVERNIGHT.

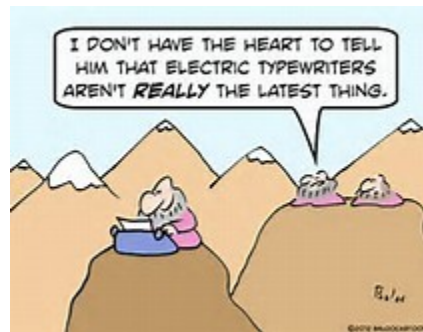
HE HAS NO PATIENCE FOR THOSE WHO INSIST ON INSTANT-ANYTHING.....



OUR GURU HAS AN ACHY BREAKY BACK THAT OFTEN INTERFERES WITH HIS GURUHOOD:



OUR GURU IS QUITE SPIFFY. HE KEEPS UP ON THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY. AND HE IS KNOWN TO LOOK “ASKANCE” AT PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL IN THE DARK AGES:



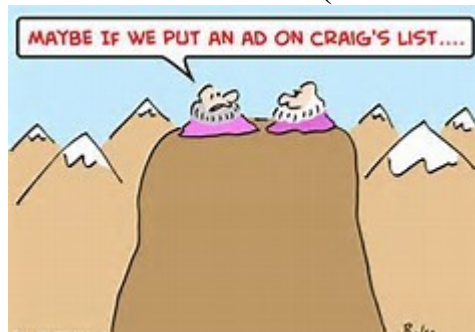
OUR GURU INSISTS THAT WE USE THE RIGHT WORDS, AND
NOT SEND THE WRONG VERBAL OR NON-VERBAL MESSAGES:



A PROBLEM AROSE WHEN OUR GURU WROTE HIS MOST FAMOUS BOOK (*REDEFINING STUTTERING*, which we all love.) WHEN HE FIRST WROTE IT, HE DIDN'T PUT THE WORD "STUTTERING" IN THE TITLE. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED:



AND THEN THIS OCCURRED TO HIM (BUT HE DIDN'T ACT ON IT):



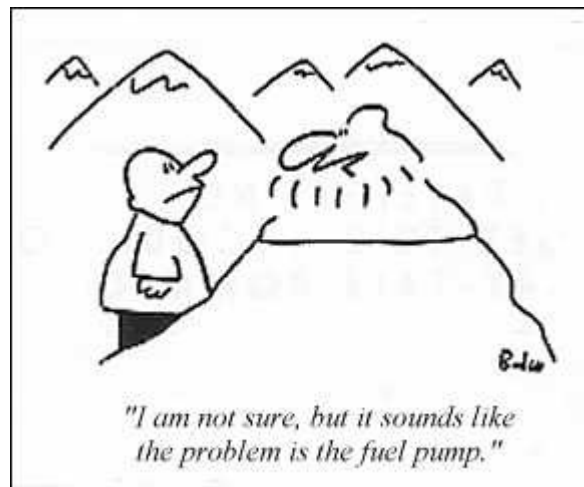
OUR GURU COULDN'T HAVE MADE IT WITHOUT HIS WIFE, DORIS. DORIS ENCOURAGED HIM TO GO TO A NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION MEETING WAYYYYYYYYYY BACK BEFORE IT WAS THE NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION (when it was the national stuttering project!) HE SPENT UNTOLD HOURS WRITING, EDITING, CREATING AND HOLDING WORKSHOPS ALL OVER THE WORLD, ETC., FOR N. S. A.

WE COULDN'T FIND A GOOD PICTURE OF DORIS. THIS WAS THE BEST WE COULD DO:



"I know it's cold up here, but you can't attain enlightenment wearing a hat like *that*."

THERE ARE MANY GURUS WHO ARE SO HEAVENLY THEY ARE OF NO EARTHLY USE. THIS IS NOT TRUE OF OUR GURU:



OUR GURU GIVES FREELY. MANY OF US WOULD NOT HAVE READ “REDEFINING STUTTERING” IF WE HAD TO PAY FOR IT, BECAUSE WE HAD BEEN RIPPED OFF MUCH TOO OFTEN. HERE ARE TWO EXAMPLES OF GURUS WHO ARE NOT LIKE OURS:



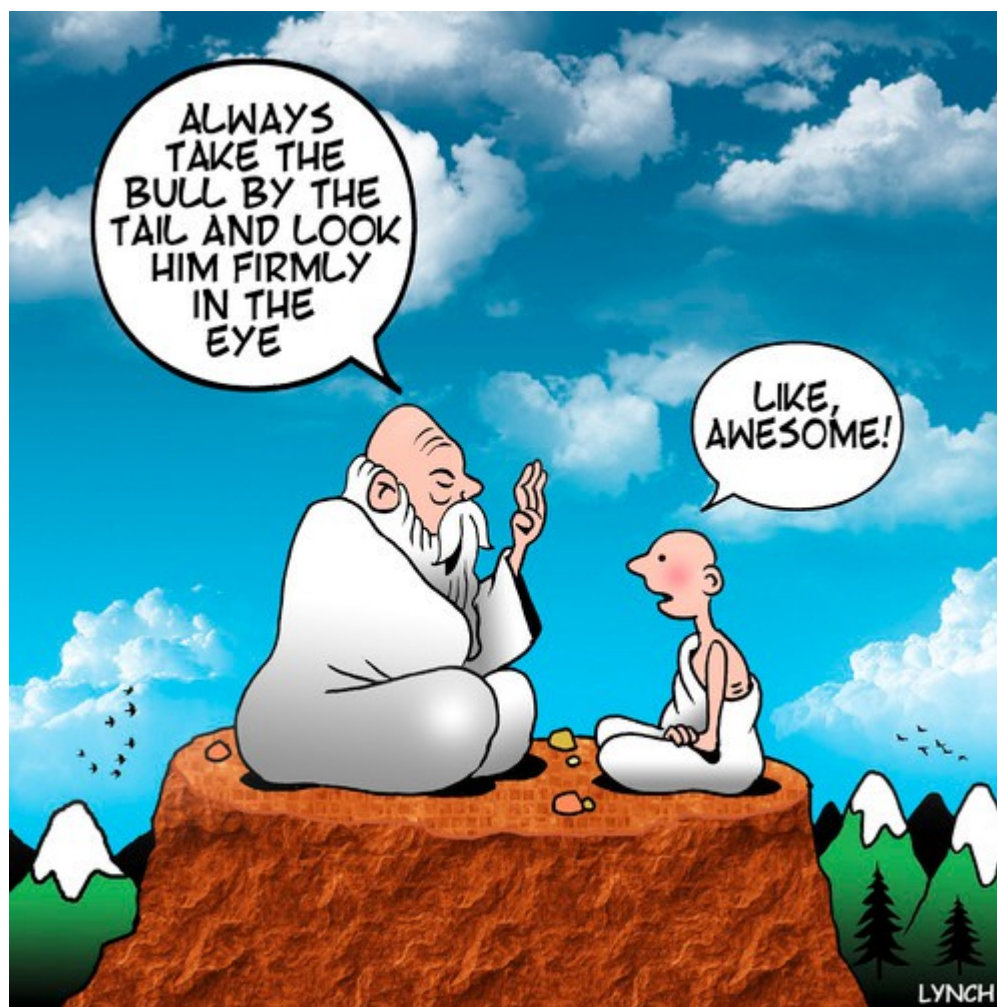
"Thank you for calling the guru. If you want the meaning of life, press one. If you want the significance of the Universe, press two. If you want...."



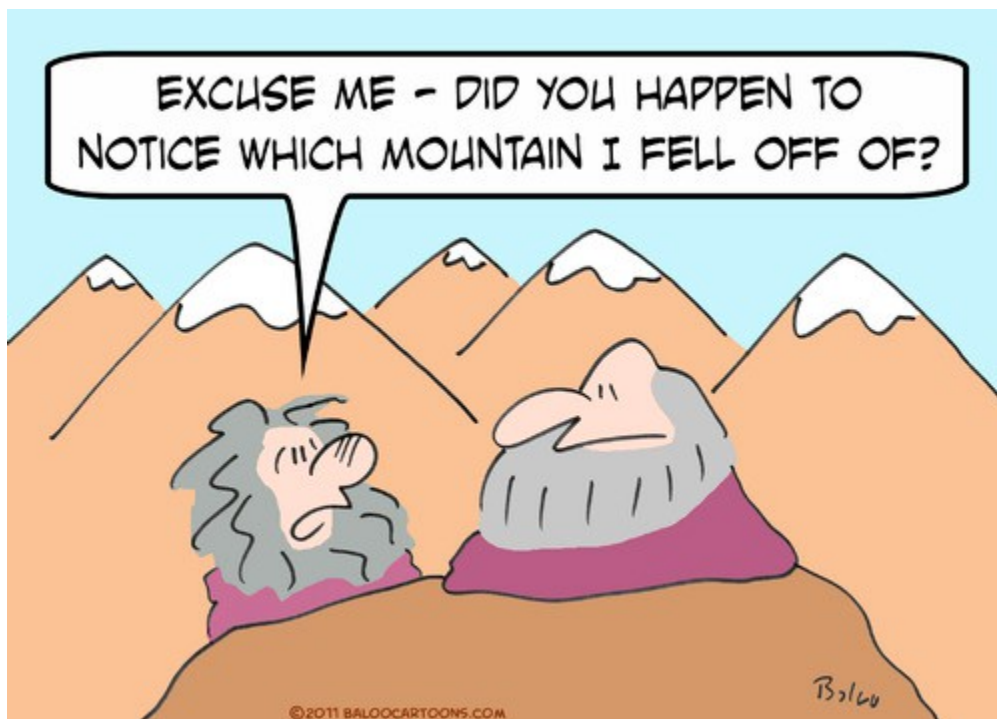
OUR GURU USED TO RUN. SEE JOHN RUN. HE IS NOT SO AGILE ANYMORE. BUT THAT DOESN'T BOTHER HIM. NOW HE RESORTS TO SKYPE AND EMAIL:



OUR GURU SPEAKS IN METAPHOR:



HE GETS SOME REAL 'DOOZIES' FOR QUESTIONS (I heard this questioner's name was Ruth):



OUR GURU IS NOT COMPETITIVE.

HE IS OPEN TO ALL.

AND YET ONE GETS THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS ATTITUDE IS OFTEN A ONE-WAY STREET.

THIS IS OUR GURU BEING ADDRESSED BY SOMEONE WHO CONSIDERS HIM A "COMPETITOR":



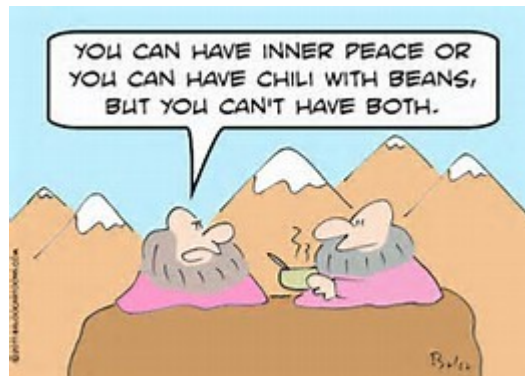
NO QUESTION IS TOO “SMALL” FOR HIM:



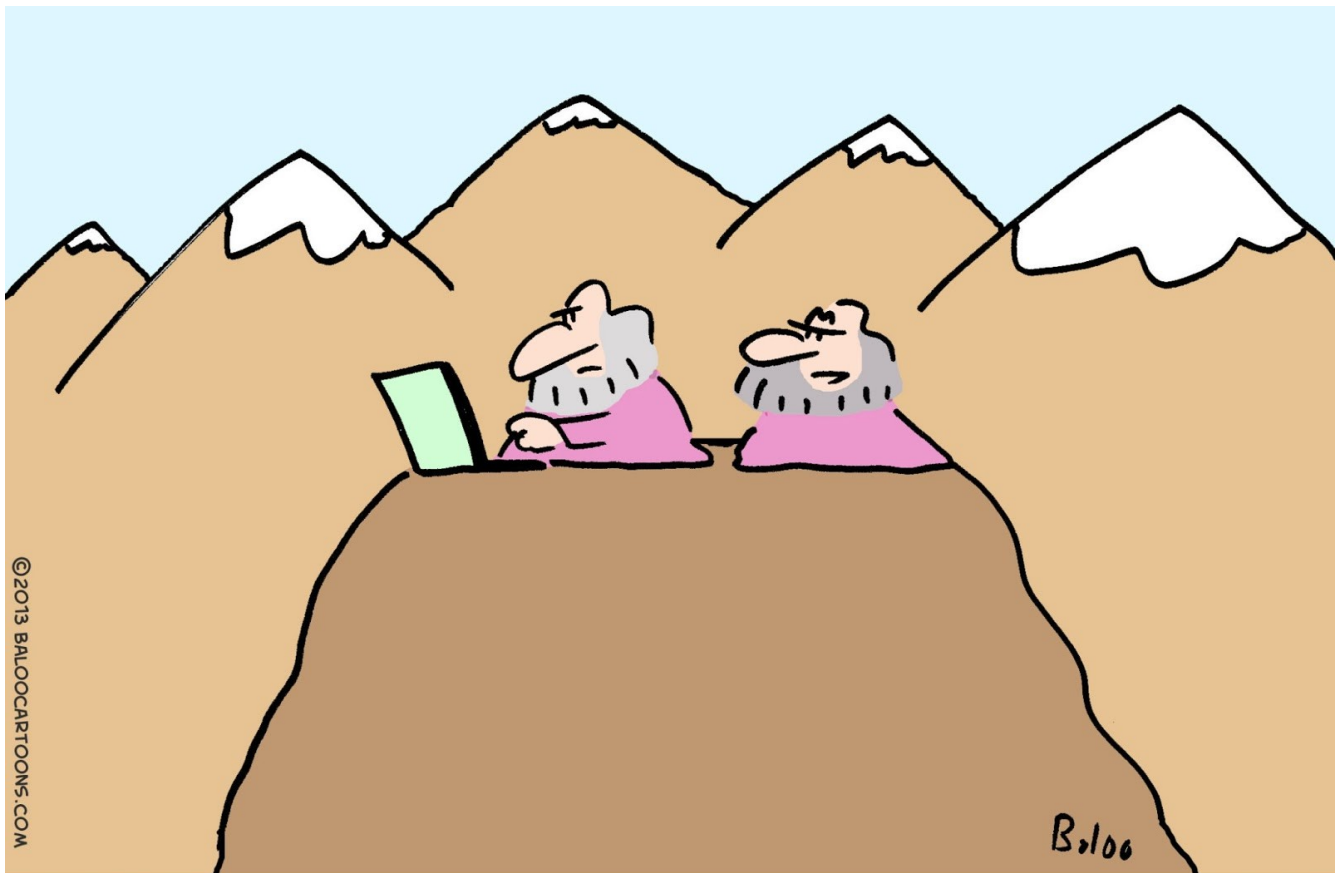
OUR GURU IS VERY SOPHISTICATED AND AS YOU KNOW, HE HAILS FROM NEW YAWK AND ATTENDED A VERY PRESTIGIOUS COLLEGE. HERE IS A PHOTO WITH HIS FRIEND BOB, WHO CALLS HIMSELF A HILLBILLY, AND RUTH, WHO CALLS HERSELF A REDNECK.



OUR GURU HAS BEEN FACED WITH MANY HARD CHOICES:



STUTTERING HAS TAKEN OUR GURU AND DORIS ALL OVER THE WORLD.....(Doris, it's a COLLAR, not a BEARD!!! And just LOOK at your long eye lashes!) THAT IS WHERE THEY MET BOB! AND RICHARD!! AND ALAN!!! OH YES, AND GEOFF AND PAUL!!! AND ALL *KINDS* OF CHARMING PEOPLE.....AND THEY LOVED IT ALL. BUT SOMETIMES IT WAS INCONVENIENT.

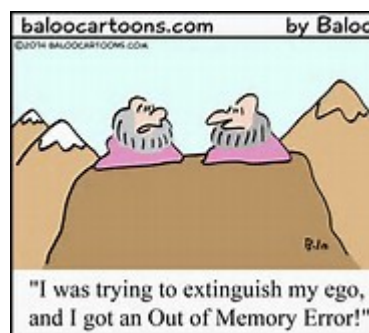


"Forget it — the nearest wi-fi hot spot is in Rangoon."

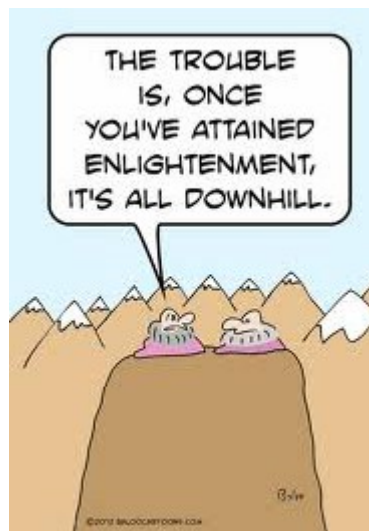
OUR GURU DOESN'T *LOOK* 80 YEARS OLD,
HE DOESN'T *TALK* LIKE HE'S 80 YEARS OLD.
ONLY ONE HINT OUR GURU MAY BE 80
YEARS OLD..... John puts a question to Bob:



THIS EXPLANATION SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT:



OUR GURU DOES NOT BELIEVE THOSE WHO SAY “LIFE IS OVER AT 80” OR “LIFE IS OVER ONCE YOU’VE ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT”:



AND WE ARE HAPPY BECAUSE WE WANT HIM TO LIVE TIL HE IS ONE HUNDRED AND ONE YEARS OLD!

OUR GURU RECEIVED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD....HERE IS A SMALL SAMPLE:

A FEW OF THOSE GREETINGS.....MARCH 3, 2015

Happy Birthday John!..and many happy returns.

I remember hearing you present at an NSA conference in the late 90's which certainly stimulated my thinking. I first referred to your stuttering hexagon in a presentation to a Speech Pathology Australia conference in 2000. Our time together in Perth 2004 also had quite an impact.(thanks for asking me to write my story for inclusion in your books. It got me into a groove and I haven't stopped since.)

Let me follow Alan's lead with a little ditty of my own...

There once was a man named Harrison
Who expanded the fluency lexicon
He showed us the right track
With the term "holding back"
As well as the stuttering hexagon.

Looking forward to your presentation to the Australian Speak Easy Association conference next week.

Dr. M. F. Irwin
217-9 Payneham Rd.
St. Peters, SA. 5069
Australia

JOHN:

Enjoy your special day, my friend. Throw caution to the wind and treat yourself to a few extra helpings of your favorite ice cream. 😊
Alan Badmington, Wales

Una enorme referencia en mi vida. Happy birthday John! **ANTONO RASCO**



Hi John,

When telling a friend about your birthday today, I cried. I became present, on a deeper level, to how much your work has influenced and transformed my life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Paul

Paul B. Engelmänn, M.S., L.Ac., RYT

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Happy Birthday John Harrison!!!

And may this year be filled with health, happiness, peace and may more and more people say “Thank you” for what you have done for the stuttering community.

Bob

+++++

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www.masteringstuttering.com

www.neurosemantics.com

Happy birthday John!!! Congratulations and thanks for a whole life devoted to stuttering. Inaki

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHN

Thank you for making your book available free of charge. I probably wouldn't have read it as I've been sold so much hocus-pocus in the past that I was finished spending so much \$\$ on stuttering. It shows your true intention of helping people first and foremost. That is rare.
Tim Steadman

Dear John Harrison,

Happy Birthday to you!

Your book Redefining Stuttering illuminated the path to freedom for so many people who stutter, including me. As I am preparing now for another day of training with Bandler, anticipating with joy meeting new people, chatting with them and enjoying the free flow of expression, I know none of this would be possible if not for you! WE have no idea how many people found freedom of speaking because of your book, but this number has to be quite substantial.

WE know that not everyone will come back and post about their success - many just go on with their lives. I hope that today some of those people will wish you happy birthday and say a word of gratitude.

Have a very happy birthday, John!

Anna Margolina

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE SAGE OF SAN FRANCISCO. RICHARD
PARENT, CANADA

Happy Birthday Old Friend. Have a grand day.

• PAUL CASTELLANO.

Happy Birthday John.

Your book completely redefined my view of speech and life in general. It was first starting point for me. Second was our sessions via skype. I hope we will be in contact in years to come and as much people as possible will benefit from your approach to speech and life and from your enthusiasm and believe in change.

Thanks for making this world better for lot of people.

Best wishes,

Amer

The logo for 'Guru' features a bright yellow sun with a soft glow positioned above the letter 'u'. The word 'Guru' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

John, Happy Birthday!

As I see, you are still smiling. Things must be going well. Tell us about your latest projects. Who were the people who founded National Stuttering Project??? I think I was about the 10th member. I read about it in one of the Washington or Wall Street newspapers.

Gunars Neiders

TO JOHN:

Hoy es el cumpleaños de un amigo muy especial. Cumple nada más y nada menos que 80 años!! Es una de las personas más generosas y amables que he conocido en mi vida y desde aquí quiero agradecerle todo lo que me ha ayudado para ser la persona sin miedos ni complejos en la que me convertí hace casi 5 años. Happy birthday, dear [John Harrison](#)!!! Thank you for everything, San Francisco's wise guru, as our common friend, the Canadian, [Richard Parent](#), always calls you. *Aricelli Herrera, Spain*

John

I'm adding my voice to so many others – thank you so much for your amazing book which has changed my life and the lives of loads of other people around the world. And for all your generosity in supporting people who hold back and contributing to this forum. And thank you for your sessions on Skype which are definitely propelling me in the right direction at high speed!

Hope that you and your family have a great day!

Sue AlQadhi, London



Happy birthday! I'm sure you have your johnnypants on doing your birthday happy dance. I want you to know that your writing changed my life and I will always be grateful to you. I didn't know that the rest of my life I'd be flapping my arms in the wind at every stuttering passerby, yelling "But have you ever read John Harrison????".....but I do. Anyway, hb2U Ruth Mead
Sent from my iPad

Happy birthday, John, from Mallorca, Spain. Angel Garcia

Feliz Cumpleanos, John! Maria Hargrove

Happy birthday, John!
Lionel Glacomina Orthophoniste, France

Happy Birthday from the Netherlands.
Judi Godvliet

Happy Birthday! Your book has changed my life, John Harrison.
Muhammed Junaid Paul



Congratulations, John!!! Frank Loomans

Dear John,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Merci pour vos conseils.

Grace à vous j'ai appris que le bégaiement n'est pas seulement un problème de parole.

Hier, dans le cadre de mes activités, comme expert, j'ai parlé d'une voix forte et assurée pour mettre fin à une dispute entre deux clients.

Je devais prendre un levé topographique des lieux et leurs disputes me déconcentraient de mon travail. J'ai donc laissé ma colère sortir et tout allait mieux.

Ce que je ne faisait pas avant 2011, année où j'avais appris pas mal de choses sur le bégaiement.

Autrefois, j'aurais d'abord pensé à cacher mon bégaiement et non à exprimer ma colère. Grand changement.

Merci john.

Regards.

Ahsen Massi



A Happy Birthday from Mali, dear John.
Zan Camara

Happy Birthday from West Australia
Nancy Ross

Happy Birthday, John, from Hazel Percy, U. K.

Here's just a few words I've put together for you:

There was a young man called John
Whose stuttering was there, then was gone
He shared with the world
His recovery - unfurled,
Explaining the way it was done.

I remember the first time we spoke
I thought you were such a young bloke!
So professional you sounded
That I just wasn't 'grounded' -
My blocking was no way a joke.

Over time you helped me to see
My emotions were not being free
As I shared thoughts with others
I held back and stuttered -
Too scared to show the 'real' me.

In London you made me speak LOUD
To stand and be heard in the crowd
'Cognitive dissonance' you said
Was all in our head
'Big volume' just must be allowed.

I thank you for all your support
Through good times and bad you have taught:
"Let go! Be yourself
Holding back - on the shelf
I don't need to have that sort of thought.

So now you are eighty years old
Your wisdom and insight are gold

I thank God for you
And for all that you do
Helping those in the 'holding back' world.

Hazel Percy, U.K.

Happy Birthday John....Congratulations! Russ Hicks, Texas

Have a wonderful birthday, John!
Rene Robben, Netherlands

Happy Birthday, John. Thanks for introducing me to the NSA through the monthly Letting Go newsletter. Ed Menninger

Hope your day is as wonderful as you are, John. Sending love,
Annie Bradberry



Happy Birthday, John:

A year ago I started to change my way of seeing life. After so many failed attempts to achieve fluency and expending some money , I accidentally found a book that changed my form to see and feel this problem, after reading "*Redefining Stuttering*" by John Harrison, I realized that everything mentioned about the hexagon was applicable in my case.

I think I've improved my fluency and the most importantly part is that I feel I'm on the right track to achieve more fluency in the future.

Thank you, John... LUIS

Congratulations, John, on this great milestone of life!

I first met you decades ago during the previous millennium, at the 1987 NSP convention in San Francisco. Back then you were still a youngster, barely into your second half-century of life (and much younger than I am today).

It was such a pleasure some years ago to show you and Doris around our little Norwegian corner of the world.

In the year 2035 we would like both you and Doris to come back to Norway, so we can all celebrate together your 100th birthday in grand style among the magnificent mountains and fabulous fjords!

May you (and all of us) be blessed with the very best of health, happiness, prosperity, and fluency.

PAUL AND LIV GOLDSTEIN, NORWAY

THERE are Dozens and dozens more greetings.....from all over the

world. But you have to take our word for it...because your FAN CLUB is tired of typing.

Many Happy Returns of the Day!!!!!!

YOUR JAIIII-NORMOUS FAN CLUB

