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My name is Renate Johs; I am a senior and at this time I am “blazing a trail.”

I was born and raised in Germany during and after World War II. I immigrated to the United States at the age of nineteen, not speaking any English. I was willing and able to learn the language of my new country quickly.

I discovered that I was able to write poetry when my sons were very young.

I did not pursue my poetic thinking for many years. I was too busy with family and jobs; even though I wrote little poems or stories once in a while.

When times were sad, I wrote. When times were bad, I wrote. When times were happy, I wrote.

I had one of my poems published in May of 1997 in a poetry book called “Chambers of Time” “The National Library of Poetry.”

By that time I had three grandsons who brought me lots of joy and happiness.

I married my second husband in 1999 and he passed away from Alzheimer’s disease seven years later.

About two years ago (with grandsons at the marrying age) I seriously started thinking of getting my children poems published in children books.

The obstacles and frustrations were enormous and still are. The hardest part was and is finding good illustrators as well as finding the right publishers. Also, publishing can be quit costly.

Those are the reasons many seniors don’t even think of publishing, although their writings might be and probably are beautiful. We, as seniors need help; we feel lost and we are easily confused. Family is too busy to help and friends are just as confused as we are.

I now have one children’s book in hand, another being published in the very near future and another getting published later this year. The two latter books will soon be available at Barnes & Noble and also on Amazon.

Even though I know the frustrations will not stop, I will keep on writing and publishing as long as I can.

Renate Johs

(Domain Name: Rena Lotz)