

Sandee's Story

by Sandee Storey



Meadowview Drive in Miamisburg was about the twelfth place I lived in the South and Midwest by the time I was 13. I officially lived in Miamisburg until I graduated from Hanover College in Indiana and went to Peace Corps training for Thailand in 1968.

I will have lived in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, a neighborhood of Boston, for 48 years come March.

In between I taught English and then scientific method in Thailand, first in a small upcountry town, then in Bangkok. I learned how to speak Thai and teach English as a Foreign Language there. I traveled to Laos, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India and Nepal during that time, too. In Indonesia when I was traveling home from Thailand, I met and married my Swiss now-ex-husband. We had daughter Renee after we had been in Boston for about two years. She now lives in San Francisco with her husband and two kids. She is the vice president of development for a national law firm that specializes in doing mediation instead of litigation.

I have had various English teaching and other jobs over the years, but I am probably best known for my 24 years full time in local journalism and for my writing poetry. I worked for an existing local neighborhood chain. As it was folding in the early 90s, I decided to get a second mortgage on my house and start a newspaper more suited to the community. For example, there was Spanish in them, because 25 percent of the people in JP, as it's called, were native Spanish speakers.

The papers were also delivered free door to door every two weeks. I was the founder, editor, and publisher of two neighborhood papers for 20 years, until I sold the business in 2010. Now I write a monthly column for the JP paper.

Every once in a while, I am reminded that I wrote a column for the Miamisburg News a couple summers in high school. It was called "Sandee's Storey," and I was supposed to include as many names of other kids as possible each week.

A friend and I co-authored a book called *Women in Citizen Advocacy; Stories of 28 Shapers of Public Policy*, where we told real stories of how regular people worked together for change, hoping to be helpful to readers. MacFarland & Co. published it in 1992, and it was mostly purchased by libraries.

After writing poetry in the 1980s and getting some poems published, I went for 17 years, when I was publishing the newspapers, not writing or publishing any. Then in 2005 I started writing verse again and have been ever since. A full-length collection called *Every State Has Its Own Light* came out in 2014. It was chosen as a finalist for the May Swenson Poetry Award. I give poetry readings around Boston and teaching writing workshops for adults. I'm president of my condo association and on the Family and Patient Advisory Committee of the local hospital. I co-direct an ongoing poetry reading series.

