

## HolLynn (Bryson) D'Lil



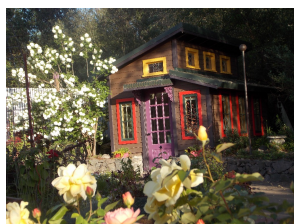
After graduation from Burges, I attended Texas Western for a year, then married and moved to LA where I worked as a waitress. (Soooo naive. I worked in place called Hoover's next to the LA airport. The hostess wore a bikini. I wore a knee length sarong and once asked the bartender to fill an order for a "Purple Fly." I was told that referred to an aphrodisiac.) I returned to Texas and graduated from Texas A&M (one of the first women to enroll there), moved back to California and started teaching in a private school in Alamo. My teaching career abruptly ended after three months when I became a paraplegic from a car accident.

After that I had two children, divorced when they were in grade school and moved to Sacramento where I worked off and on for the State of California as an accessibility consultant. During the off part, I ran a clothing design business for people who are wheelchair mobile. One Friday, I left the offices of Everest & Jennings Wheelchair Company with orders to the horizon. On Monday, I received a call that E&J had decided to sell the clothing subsidiary. The next Thursday my doctor informed me I had cancer. I survived the cancer and my second divorce and went back to work for the state. Then seven years later, the aging process not allowing me to handle the eight to five grind, I started working as a private consultant where I could schedule my day around my disability.

I moved to Graton, a little town about 60 miles north of San Francisco in 2004 where I officially retired in 2008. I'm still working on really retiring, however as I'm an officer of several non-profits and plan to run for the board of directors of our local sewer district. (I promise to run a clean campaign!)

My children make me look good, though as a single working mother in a wheelchair, I routinely lost my mind. So, it must have been in spite of me and by my setting a terrible example, that they are so delightful today.

With her experience in serving adults with developmental disabilities for over 15 years combined with her degree in public health from San Francisco State, Chelsea is now providing basic health services for the HIV/AIDS population in Chicago. With a background in law and mediation, Trusten studies art, art history, urbanism, and environmental design at the l'Université du Québec à Montreal.



I have a little studio in my garden where I paint, working mostly in acrylics, and am being accepted in some of the local shows. My garden, in the shape of a labyrinth, has been written up in the San Francisco Chronicle. See [www.thetravelinggardener.com/2012/graton-garden-an-accessible-work-of-art](http://www.thetravelinggardener.com/2012/graton-garden-an-accessible-work-of-art). It has 14 buried 50-gallon recycled Mountain Dew drums to hold the rain water and channel it back down to the aquifers before dumping into the creek. I asked my son to build a tool shed for me that would look like an outhouse. If you look at the attached photo, you can see why I call it the Outpalace. Gardening in this area is almost a no-brainer, as it is the verdant site of lovely orchards, vineyards, and forests all the way to the coast.

During all of this, I worked in the disability civil rights movement, helping to take over the fourth floor of the federal building in San Francisco in the 70's. (I got an assignment from Ms Magazine so I could be “press” and go back and forth into the building, which for some strange reason became closed to people in wheelchairs once the take over started.) In the 80's, I helped write the first access standards in CA for public facilities, historic buildings and housing. Then in the 90's, I wrote technical manuals and provided many seminars on accessibility. I sat on a Federal access advisory committee and a NFPA advisory committee in the 2000's and since then, it's been a struggle to protect our civil rights laws against this strange tide of regressive politics.

Along the way there have been many marches in the streets, protests, sit-ins and countless meetings to negotiate for a place for persons with disabilities to be in the built environment. I even wrote a musical to celebrate the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and to protest a CA case before the U.S. Supreme Court against the ADA. We managed to persuade our Attorney General to drop the case two weeks before it was to be heard, something unprecedented in Supreme Court history.



Several years ago, I reached the pinnacle of my advocacy career, and actually, any career - I made the funny papers! Morrie Turner, cartoonist, wrote me up for my advocacy work in his series, “Wee Pals.”

If you are ever in Northern California, please come for a visit! Graton is a quirky and closely knit, supportive community where I've been so very happy. I'd love to see you and find out who we are today. (707) 829 9440 or [hdlil@comcast.net](mailto:hdlil@comcast.net)