

Cindy Pierce

Author, Speaker, Storyteller & Sexuality Educator

January 2024 Newsletter

Hello Readers,

I am starting the year off with a couple of stories. ***Boomer Glitch*** will make you all feel better about yourselves at my expense. You are welcome. ***The Gift of Goofy Antics and a Thoughtful Birthday Song*** is in honor of our dear friend, Rich Joseph, and how he blesses our lives with kindness and outrageous humor. Back in the day, Richay and Bruché created a bus stop series of skits that were brilliant, odd, and hilarious. Luckily, I was able to dig up a few photos of Richay in action that captured the nonsense.

Thanks for reading,
Cindy

Boomer Glitch



It turns out I was confused by Apple Maps when traveling on foot until my daughter yanked my head out of my backside. One issue is that I often reach for my phone to get directions without putting on my glasses. The bigger issue is that I don't use Maps enough for my drifty brain to commit to the system. For folks in my age range, this story may make you feel darn tech-savvy. Anyone younger willing to read more than five sentences may find a little compassion for their parents.

A few years ago, our daughter Sadie and I traveled together and walked around a few cities. You can picture what that looked like – this old lass punched in directions, and then my Boomer Glitch of the day caused things to get wonky. [READ MORE](#)

The Gift of Goofy Antics and a Thoughtful Birthday Song



Wipe Dipe and Lawn Stripes written and sung by Richay Joseph

I recently read Ken Cadow's book, *Gather*. Ian, the main character, acknowledges the adults who have "gathered for him" throughout his life. I teared up when I read this because almost everyone I know benefited greatly from being surrounded by anchoring adults or having one person who helped them find their way. Bruce and I are grateful for the many people who gather around our children. They are blessed by close relationships with their many aunts, uncles, and cousins on both sides. Many of our friends have been surrogate aunts and uncles for our kids. Richay, AKA Rich Joseph, has been one of those people.

Richay spreads joy and humor with his goofiness, creative expression, and storytelling. One of Richay's superpowers is making people feel welcome and known, and he often does that through the offering of his songs. Over the years, Richay has become an accomplished guitarist. He also writes and records songs with clever and meaningful lyrics, sometimes for specific friends. On January 2nd, our youngest kiddo Colter turned twenty-two. He was deeply touched to receive a recorded Richay song called *Wipe Dipe and Lawn Stripes*. When Colter was a wee lad, he carried a little white raggedy cloth diaper he called "wipe dipe" that he snuffled while he sucked on his fingers.



As Colter grew up, he developed a wide variety of interests, including playing guitar. Of course, Richay is one of his music mentors. Colter is meticulous about his work

mowing lawns, grooming ski trails at the Dartmouth Skiway, driving the Zamboni at the Connecticut College rink, and driving an excavator anywhere he gets the chance. Colter insists that everyone pay attention to the straight lawn stripes he makes when he mows our lawn and other lawns in the neighborhood. On January 2, 2024, Richay wrote and recorded a song for Colter called *Wipe Dipe and Lawn Stripes*, which captures the wonderful connection Colter and Richay have shared and will share for many more years.

Our family's connection to Richay and his family started years before he moved to the Upper Valley. Bruce and Richay went to UVM together and share many common interests, as well as a similar zany sense of humor. Richay and Bruce have a particular flare for brainstorming ideas for odd skits and shameless nonsense. Some of their work is rather time-consuming, but Richay's wife Maggie and I usually forgive them because they spread joy and add spice to our lives. As the Lingelbach-Pierce kids got older, their interest in Bruce's oddest humor waned a touch, but if Richay was in the mix they got on board.

On Richay's regular visits to the Upper Valley, he joined us for the morning madness of kids wrangling up breakfast and packing lunches before the bus arrived at 7:10 AM. Watching the kids get on the bus inspired Richay to pitch some ideas that could make the bus stop a more exciting and humorous endeavor....[READ MORE](#)

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ONWARD WITH THE AWKWARD

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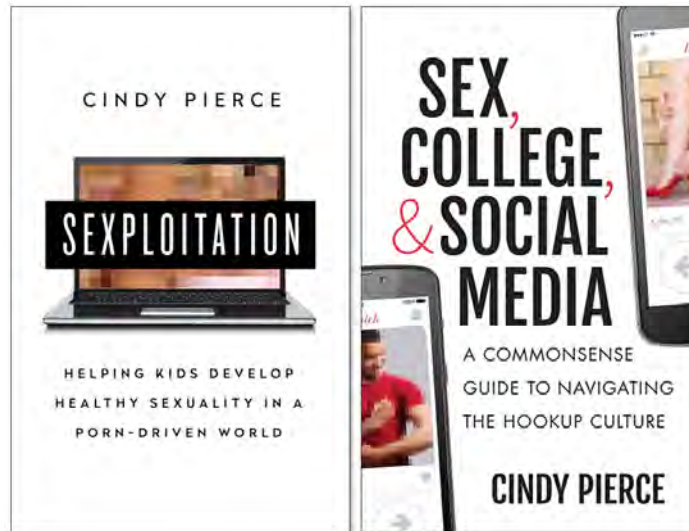
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