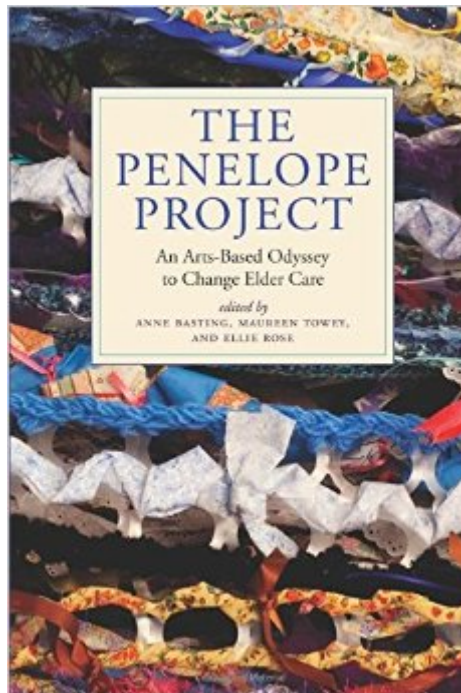# The Penelope Project: An Arts-Based Odyssey To Change Elder Care (Humanities And Public Life)

Synopsis

Of the 15,000 nursing homes in the United States, how many are places youâ ™d want to visit, much less live in? Now that people are living longer and more of the population are elderly, this question is more important than ever, particularly for people with disabilities. We must transform long-term care into an experience we and our loved ones can face without dread. It can be done. The Penelope Project shows how by taking readers on an ambitious journey to create a long-term care community that engages its residents in challenging, meaningful art-making. At Milwaukeeâ ™s Luther Manor, a team of artists from the University of Wisconsinâ ™s theatre department and Sojourn Theatre Company, university students, staff, residents, and volunteers traded their bingo cards for copies of The Odyssey. They embarked on a two-year project to examine this ancient story from the perspective of the hero who never left home: Penelope, wife of Odysseus. Together, the team staged a play that engaged everyone and transcended the limits not just of old age and disability but also youth, institutional regulations, and disciplinary boundaries. Inviting readers to see through the eyes of residents, students, artists, staff, family members, and experts in the fields of education, long-term care, and civically engaged arts practice, this book underscores the essential role of the arts and humanities in living richly. Waiting, as Penelope waited, need not be a time of loss and neglect. The Penelope Project boldly dreams of how to make late life a time of growth and learning. If you dream of improving peopleâ ™s lives through creative endeavors, this book provides practical advice.Â

Book Information

Series: Humanities and Public Life

Paperback: 230 pages

Publisher: University Of Iowa Press; 1 edition (May 15, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 160938413X

ISBN-13: 978-1609384135

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #62,300 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #13 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Nursing > Nursing Home Care   #28 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Stagecraft   #32 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gerontology

Customer Reviews

How can we transform negative attitudes about older people, frailty, and long-term care? How can we persuade elders who do not have dementia or use walkers and wheelchairs to change their minds about those who do? How can college students be inspired to care about what goes on behind the walls of the long-term care residences? How can college and university faculty teach their students that â œcivic engagementâ • can not only be meaningful but also playful? How can long-term care administrators and employees benefit from collaborations with artists, students, and faculty?Put on a play!This book is inspiring, informative, and performative. It speaks to many audiences. However, you donâ ™t need to be planning to spend a couple of years figuring out how to present a play based on The Odyssey throughout a whole continuum of care community to benefit from reading it. It will stimulate you to imagine how the arts can change attitudes about aging, older people, and long-term care, and about how generations can come together in joyful creativity to accomplish this.

The book is a chorus of candid, thoughtful voices of people involved in a two-year partnership to shape a collaborative performance project between a longterm care community and university theatre students in Milwaukee and a Chicago-based theatre company. Juxtaposing the myth of Penelope, who waited 20 years for the return of Odysseus from the Trojan War, with the story of an elder in longterm care waiting for a long overdue visit from her daughter, The Penelope Project utilized a range of diverse art forms to create a site-specific work staged at the longterm care community itself. The book is not only a highly readable chronicle of one inspiring project, it provides a useful step-by-step guide for artists and anyone committed to infusing longterm care with creative possibilities

The Penelope Project by Anne Basting et. al. is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in early May.To begin with, this book is not a book, but a compilation of several retrospective scholarly articles, so it seems more like a series of interrogative project proposals than a way to therapeuticly reform eldercare. Also, the sole reason that I'm giving The Penelope Project a four-star rating, instead of three, is for the too-few times that the authors refer to the seniors individually, rather than just 'the group' or 'a chorus.'

Download to continue reading...

The Penelope Project: An Arts-Based Odyssey to Change Elder Care (Humanities and Public Life)

Defining Digital Humanities: A Reader (Digital Research in the Arts and Humanities) Models and Pathways for Person-Centered Elder Care (Leading Principles & Practices in Elder Care) A New Deal for the Humanities: Liberal Arts and the Future of Public Higher Education (The American Campus) A Comprehensive Guide to Project Management Schedule and Cost Control: Methods and Models for Managing the Project Lifecycle (FT Press Project Management) Change Your Habits Change Your Life: Break Your Bad Habits, Break Your Addictions And Live A Better Life (Change Your Life, Stop Smoking, Stop Drinking, Stop Gambling, Stop Overeating) The Perils of Penelope The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim - The Skyrim Library, Vol. II: Man, Mer, and Beast (Skyrim Library: the Elder Scrolls V) The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim - The Skyrim Library, Vol. III: The Arcane (Elder Scrolls V: the Skyrim Library) Cats: Cat Care: Kitten Care: How To Take Care Of And Train Your Cat Or Kitten (Complete Guide To Cat Care & Kitten Care With Pro Training Grooming & Nutrition Tips) Orchids Care Bundle 3 in 1, THE NEW EDITION: Orchids + Orchids Care For Hobbyists + Phalaenopsis Orchids Care (Orchids Care, House Plants Care, Gardening Techniques Book 4) Digital Scholarly Editing: Theories, Models and Methods (Digital Research in the Arts and Humanities) Public Health Nursing - Revised Reprint: Population-Centered Health Care in the Community, 8e (Public Health Nursing: Population-Centered Health Care in the Community) Working with Elder Abuse: A Training Manual for Home Care, Residential and Day Care Staff Life Coaching: Life Coaching Blueprint: Save A Life One Person At A Time (BONUS 30MINUTE Life Coaching Session- How To Motivate, Inspire, Change Your Life) The Manual to Online Public Records: The Researcher's Tool to Online Resources of Public Records and Public Information Home Based Business Escape Plan: How To Make $10,000 Per Month With Your Own Part-Time, Online Lifestyle Business: Home Based Business Ideas (Home Based Business Opportunities) Python: Learn Python in One Day and Learn It Well. Python for Beginners with Hands-on Project. (Learn Coding Fast with Hands-On Project Book 1) CSS (with HTML5): Learn CSS in One Day and Learn It Well. CSS for Beginners with Hands-on Project. Includes HTML5. (Learn Coding Fast with Hands-On Project Book 2) C#: Learn C# in One Day and Learn It Well. C# for Beginners with Hands-on Project. (Learn Coding Fast with Hands-On Project Book 3)