



GLEANINGS

Summer 2016

Maybe a Robot?

By Millie Malone Lill

What if I ever needed a service dog? I do have Fiona but let's face it, she thinks I'm the one who provides the service. In other words, I am the *caregiver* and she is the *caretaker*. The rules here at Realife say only one pet, but that is not the problem. Realife could not deny me a service dog in addition to my pet dog. No, the problem is that Fiona would not allow another dog in her apartment.

So what about a service robot? Expensive and no known prototype, at least not known to me. Hmm. I could make my own! I could save up my empty cans, string them together into a robotish shape. I have a whole package of googly eyes in every size, to make its face

humanoid. Since they are googly eyes after all, my robot could even roll his eyes at what I ask it to do. But, in theory at least, it would still have to obey. I like that!

OK, we have the basic robot. Now to make it functional. Difficult. The innards of a remote control car could make it move. Or, even better, I could park him on top of one of those robotic vacuums, the Roomba.

I think I'll call him Fred. Fred could clean for me. If I put magnets on the ends of his arms, he could pick up stuff, too, as long as I only drop metal things. I would need a slightly more sophisticated remote control than for the toy car, but maybe my son Glenn could help me with that. He can do stuff with electronics and electrical things.

Fred would have to have shin guards, because Fiona dislikes vacuums as much as she

dislikes other dogs. He would have to have a large hose for suctioning up all the dog toys, and a separate tank for the liquids I spill when my hand does its herky-jerky dance and flings things all over. This is sounding pretty good!

So now we have Fred picking up Fiona's toys, slurping up my sloppy spills and vacuuming my floors.

Fred needs thick rubber gloves for doing dishes. I don't want him to short circuit and set my place on fire. He also needs some sort of elevating device to make him tall enough to reach the cupboards. I use almost no canned goods, so my supply of robot materials is limited. A couple of corn cans and a soup can make a rather stubby robot, you know? I can

probably attach a Reacher/grabber for picking up stuff that is not metallic. What else does Fred need?

I have the lever-type door handles so taking my trash out shouldn't be a problem for Fred. I could make him a plastic poncho for when he cleans the shower. I don't take any meds at this point, so he doesn't need to help with that, although if he could make a pitcher of iced tea and keep it in the fridge, that would be great. I already get Meals on Wheels, so I could take my time teaching him to cook and to get groceries. Oh, I just thought of another job for Fred! Putting away the laundry! My most hated task!

I think this will work quite nicely. Maybe you should all start saving up your empty cans and sending them to me to help make Fred tall. (If only I had that option for myself!) I'm looking online for a used Roomba. Hey! Now that I think of it, I bet I could get Fred fully assembled on Amazon.com.

NPSA Reunion

October 2nd in Omaha, Nebraska

Look inside for the invitation and R.S.V.P.

You're invited to

Nebraska Polio
Survivors
Association
Annual Reunion

Sunday, October 2, 2016

At the DC Centre
11830 Stonegate Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68164

Program featuring a **Skype**
conference call with

Daniel J. Wilson, Ph.D.

Retired Muhlenberg College
professor, polio historian, author of
three books on polio, including

Polio: Biographies of Disease



2016 Reunion
Luncheon and
Program

Registration: 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.

Buffet Luncheon: 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Daniel J. Wilson (via **Skype**): 2:30 p.m.

Social Hour until 4:00 p.m.

(All times Central U.S.)

Please Respond!

Fill out registration form.
Return with reunion registration fee of
\$5.00 no later than
September 12, 2016

*If you cannot attend in person but
would like to participate in the free
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NPSA 2016 Reunion
Registration Form

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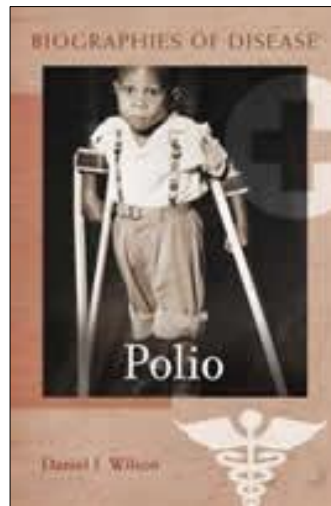
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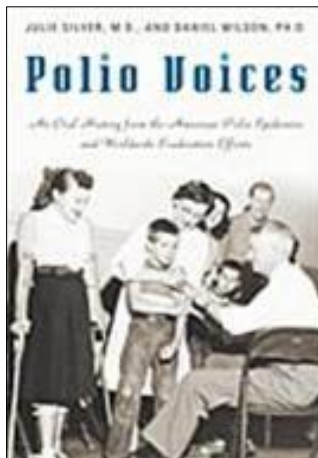
Books by Daniel J. Wilson, Ph.D.

Polio: Biographies of Disease, 2009.

Polio Voices: An Oral History from the American Polio Epidemics and Worldwide Eradication Efforts, edited with Julie K. Silver, M.D., 2007



Living with Polio: The Epidemic and Its Survivors, 2005



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Summer 2016



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NPSA Mission Statement

The mission of Nebraska Polio Survivors Association is to educate the public and the health care community concerning polio and post-polio syndrome and to respond to the needs of individuals who suffer from the syndrome through group meetings, educational programming and newsletters, financial and other support of research concerning the syndrome and the circulation of research results.

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