

## Wyalusing Public Library

We had the honor of hosting author Donna W. Hill here at the Wyalusing Public Library. Donna came and gave a presentation on her novel, The Heart of Applebutter Hill.

Donna has an awesome way of bringing her audience into her story, as well as her mind, while presenting her novel. Her descriptions and imagination enthralled and encouraged the audience to her story. The theme of the story is in line with what is popular reading for young readers today. The futuristic twist has a Hunger Games/Divergent type of feel, as well as the current issues of bullying, etc.....

We would gladly invite Donna back to the Wyalusing Library for further book discussions.

Cathy Brady Director of Wyaksing Public L. Swing

### Roslyn Presbyterian Church

EASTON ROAD AND TYSON AVENUE, ROSLYN, PENNSYLVANIA 19001 REV. ROBERT L. UNVERZAGT, PASTOR OFFICE: 1044 EASTON ROAD • 887-4240



## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN REGARDING DONNA WEISS-SINGER, INSTRUMENTALIST

Our congregation has enjoyed Donna's musical performances on two occasions, and we look forward to inviting her back again.

Donna is a remarkably gifted songwriter and singer who is able to communicate beautifully a message of faith and inspiration that stays with her audience for a long time. Her gentle and cheerful personality radiates inspiration, and she brings to worship a sense of joy and victory through her faith in God. Her message is clear and appealing.

Donna's life experiences and her spiritual sense of how God is working in her life provide a helpful context for understanding her music, and they also give authenticity and reality to the message she brings.

Our children have also had a good learning experience in feeling "at home" with a person who is handicapped--discovering that she is a person with her own frustrations, joys and triumphs, and her own story to tell. They of course enjoyed her guide dog, Curly O'Connor, as much as they enjoyed Donna! He too has his own personality!

I Heartily recommend Donna to any church or organization that is ready for a time of inspiration, encouragement, and a vital personal story in the pilgrimage of faith.

Cordially

Bob Unverzagt

Pastor of Roslyn Presbyterian Church

Wyoming County Cultural Center The Dietrich Theater 60 East Tioga Street Tunkhannock, PA 18657-0119



(570) 836-1022 (570) 836-3243 Fax wccc@epix.net www.dietrichtheater.com

### To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my longtime friend Donna Hill. Donna and I met quite a few years ago when she sang at one of the many popular concerts at The Old Lynn Church. Her voice and her music were hauntingly beautiful and I was so enthused about her that we asked her to take part in our Singers/Songwriter's night at the Dietrich, which she did. Once again, her music and lyrics are superb and the audience was very responsive to her music.

Since that time Donna also did a special "Second Saturday" program at the Dietrich in which she performed for a mixed audience (children and adults) singing some fun songs, but mostly talking about her Guide Dog, Hunter. Both the children and the adults were fascinated by Hunter, a wonderfully gentle and intelligent dog whose life's work is to help Donna navigate a sometimes chaotic world.

I know that Donna received a great honor when the Performing Arts Division (PAD) of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) included one of her songs on their new CD. Donna was the only artist chosen from Pennsylvania – a great honor and testimony to her talent.

If you head an organization or a club that uses speakers either regularly or occasionally, I would highly recommend bringing Donna and Hunter in to speak. As with so many other physical challenges, blindness is oftentimes met with terrible prejudice and lack of understanding. By bringing Donna and Hunter in to speak and get to know people, it helps to reduce the levels of prejudice which are there mainly from ignorance. And if Donna can't convince the audience that the blind are just like you and me, then trust me, Hunter surely can! It's a delightful hour and I assure you your group or your audience will love it!

Singerely,

Hildy Morgan, Executive Director



ART AND MUSIC PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

April 9, 2007

#### To Whom it May Concern:

Ms. Donna Hill has requested a Letter of Recommendation from me, and I am honored to comply with her request. I have known Ms. Hill for one year as a colleague in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Folklore Society; and, as chief planner for the First Biennial Conference on Women and History in Northeastern Pennsylvania (March 3, 2007).

Ms. Hill is a singer-songwriter of rare quality. Her songs are life-focused and energizing, rooted in the best traditions of folk-music, and reflective of her own up-beat personality. After hearing her perform at monthly meetings of the NEPA Folklore Society, I invited her to perform at the conference I was planning on women and history in northeastern Pennsylvania on March 3, 2007. She "kicked off" the luncheon with a rousing song empowering women to live their dreams, and followed this with a brief discussion on the topic of being blind and a woman in NEPA. Her perspective and observations widened our discourse on women and history in the region, and it is largely due to her quiet leadership that we are beginning to study the history and the blind in NEPA.

Ms. Hill is a refreshing, positive, and inspiring speaker and performer. I recommend her highly, confident in her ability to "charge" your space with as much energy as she charged ours.

In short, I give her my highest recommendation.

Respectfully,

Josephine M. Dunn, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Art History

Director, Art and Music Program



St. Paul's

### Evangelical Lutheran Church

EASTON ROAD & MT. CARMEL AVENUE • GLENSIDE, PA. 19038 • 884-3005

Dear Friend:

It is a real pleasure for me to tell you a little bit about Donna Weiss, her witness, and her music.

Donna, a member of St. Paul's Church, presents a program for all age groups which features original music, much of it Christian. To say her music is "delightful" or "enjoyable" would indeed be true, but it would miss the goal of her effort. Donna's songs and her presentation of them are really her faith-story, her journey. They speak of how faith has carried her along through the laughter and the tears.

It is clear to me that Donna is called to this ministry of writing, singing, and sharing. I am sure you will find her program not only entertaining, but a motivation to use your unique gifts in ministry.

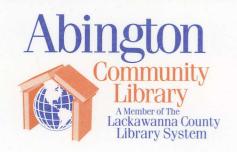
Personally, you will find Donna full of enthusiasm, very witty, and downright fun to be around.

Warmly,

Harry W. McDowell, II

HWM:lje





January 3, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Donna Hill, who recently conducted a presentation on *Harry Potter's Books* here at the Abington Community Library in Clarks Summit, PA. The presentation was geared towards middle school patrons through adults. I thought her presentation was going to be something special based upon her enthusiasm, but it exceeded our expectations. Everyone in attendance felt the same way. Some comments included:

- Her performance was very informative and moving
- She made the 'experts' realize they hadn't scratched the surface of the books
- Her insight into the books was astounding

It is wonderful when people are willing to share their areas of expertise or experience with our Library patrons. We very much appreciate her professionalism, sincerity, and time put into preparing this presentation. Participants also very much enjoyed her original music and singing!

I hope we can use her again this summer at the Lackawanna County Library System Harry's Birthday Bash celebration. I've forwarded her contact information to the committee involved in planning that event.

Sincerely,

Leah Ducato Rudolph, MLIS Director

### St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Ridge Valley

910 Allentown Road, Sellersville, Pa. 18960 Church Office: (215) 257-9643 + Parsonage: 257-7179

> Ministers — The People of St. John's The Rev. Nickolaus H. Bastian, Pastor



Friday, March 17, 1995

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to you to share an opportunity for you and your congregation to share in Christian joy and inspiration. Last month, our congregation, St. John's Lutheran Church, Ridge Valley, in upper Bucks County, Pennsylvania, invited Donna Weiss-Hill to sing at one of our Sunday brunches.

I am delighted to tell you that I was witness to a wonderfully talented and gifted woman. Donna's music filled my heart with gladness. Her guitar playing, as well as her own musical compositions, moved me and the members of my congregation to applaud her performance again and again. Her powerful witness to her Christian faith, despite her blindness, was awe-inspiring to all in attendance.

Her performance should not be missed! If your congregation is planning a rally day for your Sunday School, Donna's playing is enhanced by her tender interact with little children. Her appeal crosses all generations.

If you are looking for an uplifting day of Christian folk song and witness for your church, please pick up your phone today, or write her. I assure you, you will not be disappointed!

Yours in Christ,

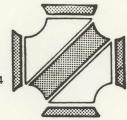
Nickolaus H. Bastian

nicholaus H. Bastian

Pastor



## EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA



240 South Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106 (215) 627-6434

THE REV. DR. PEYTON G. CRAIGHILL DIRECTOR, DIACONATE PROGRAM

Dear friend in Christ,

My highest recommendations go to Donna Weiss as a person who can serve you and your parish well as a leader of programs for your church groups.

I came to know Donna when I served as Assistant Chaplain at Episcopal Academy. Donna led chapel services for the school community that were both inspirational and enjoyable. Holding the attention of a large congregation of teenagers is no easy task. Through her music and her witness, Donna went beyond entertainment to provide both students and faculty with a vision of joyful living in the power of the Spirit. Not the least of her appeal was her wonderful relationship with her guide dog, Curly Conner. Donna communicates the presence of Christ to those around her, not only through her art, but through her life.

Whatever the occasion may be at which you invite Donna to participate, I am sure that it will be a rewarding and enriching experience.

Yours in Christ,

(The Rev. Dr.) Peyton G. Craighill



PHILADELPHIA MONTGOMERY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY To Whom It May Concern:

It was our very great pleasure to have Donna Weiss-Hill speak and sing for us in grade our Chapel (grades 1-5).

The children were enthralled with her singing and fascinated as she told them about being blind. She related her experiences and feelings as a child in a way that was relevant to the students. She shared her faith in the Lord and testified that His strength has allowed her to live a very fulfilled life. She "taught" them about her guide dog and how he works for her. She had the children participate in singing and invited questions. She gave the children an unforgettable experience.

I highly recommend Donna and Curly Connor her guide dog for your school assembly.

Sincerely,

Sally J. Van Hemert,

Saly & Van Hemeit

Principal

Hillcrest Campus 35 Hillcrest Avenue Erdenheim, Pa. 19118 (215) 233-0782

**Dresher Campus** 1701 Jarrettown Road Dresher, Pa. 19025 (215) 628-4330

Roxborough Campus 8230 Ridge Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19128 (215) 482-1252

### Rev. Rich Sauer + 224 10th St. + West Easton, PA 18042-5424 + 610/253-9557

September 19, 1994

Dear Friend in Christ:

It is my privilege to commend to you a most radiant and inspiring artist by the name of Donna Weiss-Hill.

Donna has delighted the congregation and community I serve with two marvelous concerts in the past year. She possesses a remarkable gift for bringing God's Good News to listeners. As a song writer, she is a master of powerful images and memorable choruses. As a guitarist and stage presence, Donna is completely delightful. Just as significant as her musicianship is the wise, witty, and faithful testimony Donna shares with us between songs. This is a woman whose life has been given us to show the power of Christ's love.

I write these words for much the same reason as I write my sermons: Here is a treasure I very much wish to share. Donna Weiss-Hill's gifts are too profound to be hidden under a basket.

I'd like to see her bright light shining through the region so that others will glorify God.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Per. Rich Sauer

**Pastor** 

St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Church

3900 Freemansburg Ave., Easton, PA 18045

610/252-2258 (O), 610/253-9557 (H)



## New Eagle Elementary School

Office of the Principal

March 24, 1994

Dear Sir:

This letter is written to recognize the talent, skills and audience appeal of Ms. Donna Weiss who performed with her guide dog Curly Connor at our school on Wednesday 3/23/94.

I was especially impressed with Ms. Weiss' poise and rapport with children. She presented very meaningful anecdotes concerning the difficulties she experienced as a blind child. She emphasized the quality of persistence and the value of maintaining high expectations for oneself.

The guide dog was cherished by the children at New Eagle. They learned about the necessary education of guide dogs and that the dog is a blind person's eyes during travel.

I recommend this program without hesitation. I selected the assembly to broaden our students' perspective on handicapped learners. Ms. Weiss program met my expectations perfectly.

Sincerely,

Beth Anne Kob, Ph.D.

Principal Principal

BAK: ah



March 1, 1994

To Whom It May Concern,

Mrs. Donna Weiss presented an assembly program at the Hatfield Elementary School recently to an audience of 600 students in grades kindergarten through five.

The program presented was entertaining and extremely informative. Interesting aspects of the life of a visually impaired person were shared; original songs were taught to the audience and Donna's guide dog performed for the school.

For forty-five minutes Donna was able to capture the attention of the students and hold their interest with her presentation. She is extremely skillful in crowd control which was evident in working with this very large student body. The program was a very positive experience.

I would strongly recommend Donna Weiss as an assembly presenter...she is excellent in that roll.

Sincerely,

Meredith Roberts

Principal

MR/dar



Middle School

2/10/94

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter of recommendation at the request of and on behalf of Donna Weiss, a singer/songwriter who has performed at a few of our Middle School assemblies during the past ten years. Donna, who is blind, is always accompanied by Curly Connor, her guide dog of the past ten and one-half years.

During our assemblies Donna and Curly are well received by our students and faculty. Donna's songs are usually inspirational folk songs, often dealing with personal messages that build an empathy with the audience. The explanations of her life, both in terms of her music and her visual impairment, and her question/answer period become a meaningful forum for Donna and her audience.

My ten to fourteen year old students, my faculty, and I think highly of Donna Weiss as an assembly performer. She is dependable, interesting, and self-reliant. I recommend her for this type of program without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Ray De Sabato

Principal



### RUSSELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT SPROUL ROAD AT NEW ARDMORE AVENUE BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA 19008

MARYELLEN HIRSH Principal (215) 359-4310

January 24, 1994

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend to you Donna Weiss-Hill for performances for your school or organization. Ms. Weiss recently performed her program at our school. Donna is a sight impaired singer who performs her own original songs.

Donna's music is inspirational and designed to convey the message that individuals should not be limited by any disabilities. Donna also speaks movingly of being blind and yet independently living a full and fruitful life in a sighted world.

The program ran approximately 45 minutes. Ms. Weiss is a talented musician and speaker. Her program was extremely well received by the faculty and the students.

I would encourage you to invite Donna Weiss-Hill into your school or organization for her program. I am sure you will find her very inspiring and informative.

Very truly yours,

Maryellen B. Hirsh

Hayellen B. Husk

School District Of Cheltenham Township

ELKINS PARK SCHOOL 8149 NEW SECOND STREET ELKINS PARK, PA 19117

215-635-7400

January 12, 1994

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Donna Weiss, composer and performer.

On November 18, 1994, Donna Weiss performed on stage before our entire student body of 720 fifth and sixth graders. The program was wonderful. It included discussion and songs by Donna and a performance by Donna's guide dog Curly Conner who led Donna around our school auditorium and back on stage.

Our students loved the program and we plan to ask Donna to perform again in the near future. Please contact me if you need additional information about this program.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Kircher,

Principal

rc



### E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

June 20, 1990

Ms. Donna Weiss 2210 Oakdale Avenue Glenside, PA 19038

Dear Donna,

It was so nice to hear your voice again. I would be very happy to give you some of my impressions of your program and feel free to quote me.

- o The program that you gave at DuPont was outstanding! The outside employers as well as the Duponters who attended the meeting commented that you helped them to see what a blind person is capable of doing and what the world is like to someone without sight. It gave them insight on what kind of jobs they had in their companies that a blind person could do, and you helped them to see that there are no boundaries to what you could do!
- o You easily adapted your program to all age groups and situations (school children to business environment).
- o You expertly fielded people's questions and immediately put your audience at ease.
- o You possess a beautiful singing voice and incorporated a song at the end of the program which was very inspirational and appropriate for the meeting.

Donna, I hope these will be helpful to you. I admire you so much. Thanks for sharing yourself with others!

Have a really nice summer!

Sincerely,

Paulette K. Pyle

Manager, Benefits and

Retirement Administration

al PKP4.WEISS

### NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2001 OLD LINCOLN HIGHWAY LANGHORNE, PA 19047-3295

DR. DONALD D'AMICO Superintendent 752-6422

MR. BERNARD G. HOFFMAN Deputy Superintendent 752-6412

DR. GARY L. BOWMAN Deputy Superintendent 752-6428

MR. JOSEPH V. PARADISE Business Administrator 752-6311

MR. HARRY P. JONES Director, Human Resources 752-6331

DR. DAVID J. MARRINGTON Curriculum & Instruction 752-6420

MR. P. HOWARD WILSON Director, Pupil Services 752-6445

Pearl Buck School 943-1850

Samuel Everitt School 943-1880

Oliver Heckman School 752-3822

Herbert Hoover School 752-9300

Lower Southampton School 322-9330

Walter Miller School 943-4600

Neshaminy High School Office 1 - 752-0453 Office 2 - 752-6491 Office 3 - 752-6485

Neshaminy Junior High 752-3600

Poquessing Elementary 322-4410

Poquessing Junior High 322-0350

Carl Sandburg Junior High 943-0360

Albert Schweitzer School 943-1110

Tawanka School 322-6555 Herbert Hoover Elementary School 501 Trenton Road Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047

May 4, 1990

Miss Donna Weiss 2210 Oakdale Av. Glenside, PA 19038

Dear Donna.

Please accept my sincere thanks for the fine assemblies that you presented in our school last week. The program was interesting, fun, informative, and very worthwhile for our students.

The program. "Life With Curly Connors." was educational and entertaining for all the students in our school, and the teachers too. You touched the hearts and minds of our children with your stories, songs, and information about experiencing life without sight.

As a principal who has experienced over twenty years of assemblies in his career. I enjoyed yours immensely.

I thank you for sharing your thoughts, songs, and teaching with us here at the Herbert Hoover Elementary School.

I hope that many other children in Lower Bucks County have the opportunity to attend one of your fine assemblies.

Sincerely.

Richard S. Marotto

Kish Maratta

Principal

RSM:dc



## JENKINTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Summit Avenue and Walnut Street Jenkintown, Pennsylvania 19046 Church Office Phone: 886-7250

May 9, 1990

To Whom it May Concern:

Donna Weiss presented a program for a Sr. Citizens luncheon at our Church several months ago that was very well received. Another group has now invited her for a program later this month. I found her to be an excellent musician as well as expressive and creative as a composer.

Most of all, for me, I feel that she is very effective as an interpreter of the Christian faith. Her own Christian faith shines brightly in her songs and in her conversation. Donna has found a way to express her genuine Christian faith as she sets the context for her various songs and as she answers questions about her experiences as a blind person. With her pleasing personality and positive attitude she is an able ambassador for the blind.

I would recommend Donna and her music for both community and Church programs and personally I think she has material and a manner of presentation that would be very effective in a service of worship.

Very sincerely yours,

Longth & Roberts

Rev. Donald Richards Minister of Visitation



### CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT • DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

March 1, 1990

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is to encourage you, should you have the opportunity, to have Donna Weiss, singer and songwriter, engage your students in assembly.

Donna spent the better half of a day with us late last November. She and Curly presented two thoughtful, humorous, and captivating assemblies to our entire student body. Then she took the time to meet with several classes.

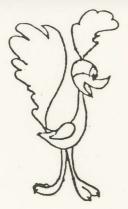
She and Curly were delightful with both the large and small groups. There were many questions and obviously a lot of interest in Donna and how she lives. Without preaching, Donna arranged things so that students were given pause to explore how they are living. Obviously I recommend Donna to you. Give me a call if you think I could help answer a question concerning her or her presentation.

Very truly yours,

Stephen Albert,

Assistant Principal

SA/paah



### LEARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
157 Henry Avenue • Warminster, PA 18974 • 441-6066

TO Whom It May Concern

On January 12, 1990, Donna Weiss presented her assembly program entitled "Life with Curly Connor" to the students at Leary Elementary School. There were two programs: grades K-3 and grades 4-6. I was impressed with the way she adjusted her presentation according to the level of the students. It was probably one of the more qualitative and meaningful shows that we have had this year.

This is what I published about Donna's assembly program in my monthly newsletter that goes home to all parents:

"Everyone was moved and insipred by Donna Weiss' program on January 12. This blind woman, accompanied by her guide dog named Curly Connor, sang uplifting songs for the children. She played the guitar as she sang her original music and lyrics. She talked about her everyday activities as a blind person. It certainly sensitized everyone to the importance of our eyesight and to all that we take for granted in our lives."

I believe that you will find that an experience with Donna is worthwhile and very humbling for all members of the audience.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janice Brecher

Principal

March 1, 1990

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

CLARA BARTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BLUE RIDGE DRIVE AND BLUE LAKE ROAD
LEVITTOWN. PENNSYLVANIA 19057
215-945-4177

October 10, 1989

Ms. Donna Weiss 2210 Oakdale Avenue Glenside, Pa. 19038

Dear Denna:

On behalf of the students and staff of the Clara Barton Elementary School I would like to express my thanks for the excellent shows you presented at our school on October 5, 1989.

Your informative and entertaining shows were applauded by all who saw them. Many Barton students commented that they enjoyed your music and learned a great deal about how you manage with your handicap. Curly Connor was a great hit.

Please feel free to include me among the many school principal s willing to recommend your show/assembly to prospective audiences.

Again, thanks for two thoroughly enjoyable and informative performances.

Sincerely,

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Leonard H. Schwartz

Principal

Clara Barton Elementary School

XC: Clara Barton PTO

### BENSALEM TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

BENJAMIN RUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL My Office Phone is: 244-2787

May 24, 1989

To Whom It May Concern:

Benjamin Rush Elementary School in Bensalem Township has had the privilege of being involved in one of Donna Weiss's assembly programs. Miss Weiss brings to the children an awareness and understanding of what is important to children for them to understand fellow students who have a disability. Her program is a combination of wonderful music written by her, cogent speaking, and a wonderful sense of humor.

Schools are missing an opportunity if they have not scheduled Donna for an assembly.

Sincerely,

Melvin A. Montanye Principal

Molien a. Montarme

MAM: dmp



### Maternity B. V. M. School 9322 Bustleton Avenue Phila., Penna. 19115

May 19, 1989

To Whom It May Concern:

The student body of Maternity B.V.M. School was fortunate to experience the talent of Donna Weiss. The students were impressed with Donna's life story and how she has learned to cope with her handicap.

Donna and her guide dog, Curly, provided the students with first hand knowledge of how valuable guide dogs are to blind people.

Our Student Council made it financially possible for Donna and Curly to present their program to us at Maternity B.V.M. School.

I feel that Donna would offer a rich learning experience wherever she would be invited to present her program.

> Sincerely, ister Bonita Smith

Sister Bonita Smith,

Vice Principal



## RESURRECTION

A Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- Music Director
   Mary M. Dungan
- Child Care Director Carole Nimorwicz
- Property Coordinator Albert Bendlin

Welsh and Mann Roads • Horsham, PA 19044 (215) 646-2597 The Rev. Glenn M. Zorb • Pastor • (215) 441-4935

May 3, 1989

Dear Friends in Christ,

Donna Weiss recently played for our Contemporary Worship Service. Her music was terrific, as I knew it would be, having heard her latest album 'Harvest.' The witness she shared as she talked about her life and the songs she writes is what left an even more lasting impression than her musical skills.

If you have the opportunity to hear Donna, I heartily encourage you to do so. Her music and presentation is uplifting and inspiring. We can't wait to have her back as soon as her schedule permits. If you are interested in having Donna for a concert or a Worship Service, I encourage you to be in touch with her.

In Christ.

Glenn M. Zorb

Glenn M. Zorb, Pastor

P.S. It is probably appropriate to mention in a postscript that Donna is blind. She travels with her seeing eye dog 'Connor' but Donna manages to function extremely well and she certainly doesn't allow her loss of sight keep her from full participation in God's creation.

GMZ



## AVON GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

110 EAST STATE ROAD • WEST GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA 19390 • PHONE: 1-215-869-2010

PHILIP E. PYLE Principal

March 28, 1989

Dear Friends in Education,

When looking for a quality assembly program we are left to our own resources. Brochures arrive each year telling of the wonders of this or that particular program. You schedule the show and hope and pray you get what you've asked for. If all goes well the audience will enjoy the performance and learn from the experience. Like many of you, I have had some great programs and I understand the "agony of defeat."

Ms. Donna Weiss is a very talented singer and song writer who happens to be blind. She and her guide dog Curley Connor gave our 700 students an outstanding assembly program. Our children sat spell bound for one hour as Donna sang to them and told them about what it is like to be blind. She showed us how she depends on her guide dog and taught the children what they should do when they see a guide dog.

If you are looking for a quality program which is entertaining and educational, Donna Weiss won't let you or your students down. Everyone will leave this program with a new feeling of sensitivity about themselves and others.

Our teachers said this program was one of the best ever to come to our school. Enclosed is a copy of an article in the local paper about Donna and her program.

Respectfully,

Phil E. Pyle



## Merion Elementary School

549 S. Bowman Avenue, Merion, PA 19066 664-8759

March 15, 1989

To Whom It May Concern:

Ms. Donna Weiss appeared as a performer of folk songs for the Merion School students. Ms. Weiss is a professional entertainer and held the attention of even the youngest child. In addition to entertaining, she was able to convey to children the feelings of those in the sightless world. Along with her dog, Curly Connor, she captured the hearts of us all.

I highly recommend Donna Weiss for any assembly/talk programs for which she is available. She is a plus in both the music and human interest areas.

Sincerely,

Marvin R.Gold, Ed.D.

Principal

MRG: jlf

Great Halley School District Sugartown Flementary School Sugartown Road Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355

March 8, 1989

Ms. Donna Weiss 2210 Oakdale Avenue Glenside, Pa. 19038

Dear Donna,

Thank you for the great job that you did during your visit to Sugartown School this year. We all enjoyed your beautiful voice and your well written songs. I especially appreciated how much time you were willing to spend with us, enabling all our students from kindergarten to fifth grade to enjoy your program.

You were correct in your assertion that Curly Conner would be a hit. He certainly sparked interest in what you had to say to the children. I also was amazed at both the quality and quantity of the children's questions. You did a great job responding.

Thanks again for your visit. I hope to see you at Sugartown again some time in the future.

Sincerely,

Donald V. Fraatz

Principal

DVF/dmf

First Presbyterian Church

Pacific Avenue at Thirty-Sixth Street Box 864 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451 Telephone: (804) 428-6332

Dr. J. Scottie Griffin
Pastor

February - 1989

#### A LETTER OF REFERENCE FOR DONNA WEISS

To: Anyone who seeks to publicize Donna Weiss and her music

I first heard Donna Weiss sing as I was hustling through Philadelphia's Surburban Station to catch a train several years ago. While it was a common occurrence to encounter street singers in that bustling place, I had to pause and listen for a spell – even though it meant catching the next train. She was no ordinary street singer. After listening for a few moments I determined that I wanted to invite Donna to sing before some group as soon as possible. She came to the annual dinner of ADELPHOI, a group of Presbyterian ministers and spouses, to present a program of Christian music. In almost thirty years as a Pastor I have seldom seen a group so enthused about a program.

Donna Weiss has performed before Church groups in numerous places. She accompanies herself on acoustic guitar and is especially adept at engaging audiences in sing-alongs and dialogue. She has experience with special worship services, youth groups, Sunday Schools, and Parish life events. She radiates Christian joy and love and will be a great "plus" to any program where she may be involved.

Dr. J. Scottie Griffin

\*\*This may be used in any way. Feel free to edit or to use any or all of what I have written.

### Norwood-Fontbonne Academy

8891 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118 (215) 247-3811



February 15, 1989

To Whom It May Concern:

With much pleasure do I recommend Donna Weiss' program "We the People: make this the law of the land." Her knowledge of and sensitivity to the Constitution era of our nation's history is indeed impressive.

Miss Weiss' songs are filled with feeling, caring, and life. References to individual historic fathers, trivia included, leave the sense that Donna may have been a personal friend to each of them.

Our students were enthralled with the keenness and skill of Donna's special companion, Curly Connor. Learning how "guide" dogs are trained, the difference between "guide" and "seeing eye" dogs, and observing the particular interaction between Donna and Curly Connor was an enriching experience for students and faculty.

Respectfully,

Sister Phyllis Tracy

Vice-principal



## Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

570 Welsh Road, Huntingdon Valley, Pa 19006 (215) 947-8200

25 January 1989

Dear Friend in Christ,

I take great pleasure and consider it an honor to say a few words on behalf of Donna Weiss and her faithful partner "Curley Connor" and to recommend them to you.

Our first contact with Donna was almost a year ago when she was asked by our Director of Women's Ministries to be a central part of the worship service at Gloria Dei for all local churches on World Day of Prayer. Well, Donna provded just the right atmosphere of calm and joyfilled faith as we prayed for peace. Her music, personally composed, is certainly beautiful and her performance of the music is enthralling but more then that it is at one and the same time a simple and yet profound expression of personal faith. Simply put — it is from her heart and it is real!

As soon as I heard Donna I knew I wanted her to be part of our special music Sunday which is usually part of our October worship schedule. So this past Fall we gave Donna a generous part of both worship services one Sunday. And the experience was the same — the larger congregation was captivated by her. In fact at the end of the services comments asked why we did not give Donna more time in the service to share her music and her testimony. Intertwined with music, Donna tells the story of her life and what faith has meant to her in her intimate relationship with the Lord. The story is moving, thought provoking and humorous.

I recommend Donna in many settings -- worship, workshop, bible study, conference, even youth group, in fact I am still reminding our youth staff to get Donna in the first chance they have. Donna is very flexible in any setting.

Oh yes... about "Curley Connor" her Black Labrador partner in sight. He is great! He is wonderfully behaved and everyone loves him! In fact, the bond between this good lady and faithful dog is really a visible expression of the harmony between Donna and all God's creation around her even without the benefit of physical sight.

I hope you enjoy Donna as much as we have. God bless...

David M. McGettigan Associate Pastor

### PLYMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 542 PLYMOUTH ROAD PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462

January 17, 1989

Dear Friend:

The staff and students of Plymouth Elementary recently had the pleasure of welcoming Donna Weiss and her beautiful companion, Curly Connor. Ms. Weiss presented a most enlightening program about her life with Curly, her seeing eye dog. The students were captivated by Ms. Weiss's confidence and were most excited to meet Curly close up.

We were all impressed with Ms. Weiss's uplifting music which shared an important message, for we all have handicaps of one sort or another to overcome. Ms. Weiss's accomplishments revealed to the staff and students that hard work, clear goals, and the desire to succeed are important aspects in anyone's life.

Our students at Plymouth were most interested in the day to day experiences Ms. Weiss confronts. The question/answer portion of the program was informative, and revealing, causing students to truly think about life from a new perspective.

We were delighted to have Donna Weiss and Curly share a part of their lives with us. There is no doubt that everyone learned something special from this wonderful program. I would highly recommend inviting Donna Weiss to present an assembly program to any age group.

Very sincerely.

Sheryl S. Solow

Principal

# Lionville Elementary School 518 Lionville Road Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335 363-6580

O. DOUGLAS DAVISON, PRINCIPAL

January 9, 1989

To Whom It May Concern:

Donna Weiss presented an outstanding assembly to the students of Lionville in October of 1988. She and her dog, Curly Connor, demonstrated the unique techniques and skills necessary for them to work as a team. The assembly very nicely pointed out the determination that is necessary to overcome a handicap.

Although Donna is blind, her natural talent and ability are immediately obvious. Her combination of singing, guitar playing, and stories made for a terrific presentation. The children especially enjoyed the opportunity for questions and answers. Donna answered each question honestly and openly.

While principal of another school, I had to opportunity to have Donna visit my school several years ago. She made a very favorable impression upon the students and staff then, and it is a joy to see that talent and energy continuing to be shared with children.

If you are looking for a program that will not just entertain your students, but stir them as well, then I would recommend Donna Weiss to you.

Yours truly

Von Jas Harrion

Douglas Davison, Principal

Saint Luke School
2336 FAIRHILL AVENUE
GLENSIDE, PENNSYLVANIA 19038

May 5, 1988

To Whom It May Concern:

Donna Weiss is a young musician who lives in the Glenside area. We, at St. Luke's School, had occasion to meet and hear Donna when she presented an assembly to our students. Her manner with the children was most professional and she quickly won their attention.

Donna spoke honestly and freely with the children and allowed them to ask numerous questions. Her music was both fun and entertaining. I would welcome the opportunity for Donna to return to St. Luke's. I would recommend her presentation to others as well.

Sincerely,

Many o ficializa

(Ms) Mary Jo Pierantozzi

Principal



### VALLEY FORGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL OF THE TREDYFFRIN/EASTTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

105 West Walker Road Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087

April 20, 1988

215 688-8980

Dear Sir or Madam:

Donna Weiss presented an excellent assembly program of song and discussion at the Valley Forge Intermediate School on April 19, 1988. Her message on the subject of blindness and her ability to personalize this condition enabled her to maintain audience interest throughout the 45 minute program. Through her music and the assistance of her guide dog, Connor, Ms. Weiss was able to effectively communicate with students and to develop a rapport with them.

The question and answer time in the program was particularly valuable to our students as they were able to have their many questions about blindness answered in an open and honest manner. Audience reaction during and after the program was excellent.

I highly recommend Ms. Weiss as a program presenter.

Sincerely,

Thomas V. Hughes

Principal

dw

CHELTENHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASHBOURNE ROAD & FRONT STREET CHELTENHAM, PA 19012

215-886-9500

March, 1988

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the principal of the Cheltenham Elementary School. I am writing this letter to highly recommend an assembly put on by Ms. Weiss. Ms. Weiss is a blind folk singer. Her songs were delightful. The children really enjoyed the performance.

Ms. Weiss also spoke to the children about her blindness and how she copes with everyday needs. It was most informative. The children gained great insight into the life of a blind person.

After the assembly, Ms. Weiss went into individual classrooms and answered any questions the students had. She was most accomodating and pleasant.

We have had many assemblies this year. Some very costly. However, I feel that the greatest bargain this year was the assembly put on by Ms. Weiss. She was superb. I received many positive comments from the members of my staff as well as the children. You can't go wrong with Weiss!!

Cordially, Helen M. York Helen M. Fox

Principal

## SOUTH PHILADELPHIA HIGH MOTIVATION SCHOOL SOUTHWARK ANNEX

#### 9TH AND MIFFLIN STREETS

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19148

March 1, 1988

Dear Mrs. Yanks, The high point of our school day today was an informative and totally enjoyable "session" with Donna Heiss. She animatedly re-created history with our equally lively eleventh graders. Der selection of music was timely for our avid American history classes. The students also appreciated her talent as a Syricist. Mr. Theirs's relaxed and friendly manner encouraged our students to participate as they "showed off" with correct responses to her questions on the Constitutional Convention, Taskington, and Franklin. That a wonderful format for learning!
The loved her (& Curly O'Conner, too).

> Sincerely, Mickey Darrie



# Southeast Delco School District

### **ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL**

ASHLAND & BARTRAM AVES. • GLENOLDEN, PA. 19036 • (215) 522-4375

PAUL J. SANBORN
Principal
District Social Studies Coordinator

THOMAS SCHELLINGER Assistant Principal

February 9, 1988

Thank you very much for your inspering and informative assembly today. Needless to say, our students thoroughly enjoyed it and their attention and behavior has never been better.

The Junior High Can be a tough crowd to work and your certainly had them in awe.

Again, thank your for sharing your music, your experiences, and, best of all, Convox.

Best wishes for a joyous and relating stay in Florids.

Lincerely,

Tom

#### CHICHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POST OFFICE BOX 2100 • BOOTHWYN, PA. 19061 • 485-6881



JOHN A. KACZENSKI, Ed. S. Superintendent SAMUEL L. FERRANTE, Ed. D. Admin. Asst. Curr. & Inst. THOMAS F. REDMOND, M. Ed. Business Admin. CHESTER E. WESNER, Ed. D. Director, Pupil Serv.

1 December 1987

To Whom It May Concern:

Troubador Donna Weiss has asked me to act as a reference for her, and it is my sincere pleasure to do so.

Last year, while serving as principal of the Linwood Elementary School, I contracted with Donna to spend a day at our school, presenting two assemblies and visiting classrooms. All my decisions should have been so fruitful.

She and Connor, her dog, arrived at Marcus Hook station where I picked them up and took them to the school. She entertained the primary grades in the morning with her songs and her frank discussion of the place of the unsighted person in our society. She then visited classes, answering questions and speaking of the need for understanding why guide dogs aren't to be petted, why blind people prefer not having things done for them which they are capable of doing for themselves, and the like. She ended the day with an afternoon assembly of music and conversation with the intermediate grades,

It was a day of the truest form of education. She even, at her own expense, provided Braille cards and led some classes in the techniques of reading them. Donna Weiss is still remembered by the kids and the teachers of Linwood. I cannot recommend her highly enough.

Yours truly

Charles P. Martin



### GARNET VALLEY JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 233, SMITHBRIDGE ROAD

CONCORDVILLE, PA 19331

PHONE: 215-459-9520

VERNON R. WYLAND Superintendent

RICHARD R. CASTAFERO Principal JOSEPH P. BRUTON, JR. Assistant Principal

ANDREW P. RUMFORD Assistant Principal

November 30, 1987

Dear Sir or Madam,

We at Garnet Valley High School have had the privilege of an appearance by Donna Weiss and her dog, Curly Connor. She met with a health seminar of juniors and seniors and talked of her coping skills, her outlook on life, her successes and failures. The students gained insight on not just what it is like to be blind, but more importantly, how to set goals and work towards achieving them. She also presented an assembly program for the entire 11th & 12th grade. She entertained with her music and anecdotes of how she copes with daily living. Connor also demonstrated his skills and was a delight to observe.

As a teacher I found her presentation to be excellent. She related well with the students and they responded positively to her. My hope was that the students would gain some understanding of what it is like to be "different" in our society. On a daily basis our students do not come into contact with anyone who is different. My hopes were achieved beyond expectation. The students enjoyed the stories of her life and found her philosophy of life to be encouraging and inspirational. What follows are actual comments from the students.

In summary, Donna Weiss and Connor were an enjoyable experience for us and we plan to have them visit again. If I can provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara Monaghan

Department Chairperson

Health & Physical Education

#### Comments:

"I thought that she was good because she inspired one to reach for goals that seem to be unobtainable. She had a positive attitude which stretched to encompass everyone who was around her."

"She only deals with the positive side of things. She's cheery to be around and brightens up the room. She's also got a great sense of humor."

"She was interesting in that finding out how she copes. (sic). She kept our interest and was great because she was cheery. Her singing hit me in my soul or something. The songs were meaningful."

"I really liked it. I was really surprised what she could do. She made me feel that just because you have a disability it's not the end of the world. You can do anything you want to."

"I thought she gave us a very realistic insight to blindness. I never realized just how much I took for granted. Her outlook on life is also more positive than I expected."

"I thought her performance was inspirational. When you see Donna perform, even with her major handicap, you feel like you can do anything."

"She has a good outlook on life. She has helped me to understand blindness better. She is a very good singer."

"She did a lot of things on her own. I was very impressed. She didn't make you feel sorry for her, she was just trying to say it wasn't too hard being blind, in some ways."

"Very inspirational."



# GERMANTOWN ACADEMY P.O. BOX 287 FORT WASHINGTON, PA. 19034

FOUNDED 1759

Telephone (215) 646-3300

November 26, 1987

To Whom it May Concern,

Donna Weiss appeared before two assemblies at Germantown Academy this year. The first assembly was composed of the children in the kindergarten through the third grade. The second assembly was grades four, five and six.

Donna aroused us with her music which she composed and performed. She later received requests from individual teachers for specific lyrics and music that could be taught to their classes.

Perhaps the most inspiring part of Donna's visit was the way in which she dealt with her handicap. As Ms. Weiss spoke of her life, its hazards, rewards, and accomplishments, her face shone.

I felt renewed and humbled. Donna seems able to do more than those of us with perfect vision.

Donna translated the meaning of blindness in daily life by eliciting and answering questions posed by the children. Her answers were humorous, fresh, frank.

In the ensuing weeks the faculty remarked how uplifting the program was. Parents said that their children came home replete with emotions regarding the assembly.

We look forward to the time when Donna returns!

Sincerely,

Drulle a. seetzer

### CHICHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POST OFFICE BOX 2100 • BOOTHWYN, PA. 19061 • 485-6881



JOHN A. KACZENSKI, Ed. S. Superintendent SAMUEL L. FERRANTE, Ed. D. Admin. Asst. Curr. & Inst.

THOMAS F. REDMOND, M. Ed. Business Admin. CHESTER E. WESNER, Ed. D. Director, Pupil Serv.

Marcus Hook School November 25, 1987

To Whom It May Concern,

Please be advised that as Principal of the Marcus Hook Elementary School, I can enthusiastically endorse Ms. Donna Weiss' program as presented to our students.

Ms. Weiss made two presentations, for primary and intermediate classes. Her program included singing, explanation/discussion of blindness and demonstrated the use of her guide dog Connor.

Students sat intently during the program and thoroughly enjoyed the show. Student participation was especially high as they asked and answered questions.

Students learned that a handicap does not necessarily keep a person down. Ms. Weiss demonstrated her life skills that showed students what can be accomplished, even with a disability.

It was pleasureable having Ms. Weiss with us and hope she can return in the future.

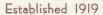
Should you wish further information, please feel free to contact me at (215) 485-9780.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Blanford

Principal







November 25, 1987

Dear Sir:

This is a recommendation for Donna Weiss. Donna and her seeing eye dog, Connor, presented a program at our school recently. The children were enthralled. They not only enjoyed the singing, but were inspired by Donna's example of a person who has overcome a handicap.

She is a terrific performer and person and, in my opinion, is deserving of financial support.

Sincerely,

Robert Sarkisian

Headmaster

gd



November 20, 1987

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Recently the students and staff of the Highland Elementary School, Abington, Penna. had the unique opportunity to have Ms. Donna Weiss visit our school.

Ms. Weiss presented an assembly program for us that was outstanding! She is a very talented individual and we were fortunate to have her share her music and many interesting experiences with us.

Her program, "WE THE PEOPLE: MAKE THIS THE LAW OF THE LAND", was educational and entertaining for all age groups from kindergarten to adult. She was received enthusiastically by all of us. Her combination of songs, guitar music and storytelling was dynamic. The children were very impressed with her guide dog "Curly Conner." Ms. Weiss presented all of us with the opportunity to see what a person can accomplish even when they have a handicap to overcome. She impressed us with her skills, wit and charm. She was an inspiration to us all.

From the many favorable comments I have received from students, staff and parents, I would recommend this program to other schools for inclusion in their assembly programs.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Wolfe,

Principal

Highland Elementary

Dobut K. Wolfen

School

Abington, Penna.

RKW:ma

## Ridley School District

LEEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TELEPHONE (215) 237-8019

CHESTER PIKE RIDLEY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 19078

November 19, 1987

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We recently had the opportunity of experiencing one of the best presentations in the history of our school. Donna Weis and her co-performer, Curly Conner (her guide dog) dazzled a captive audience of 300 students and teachers with a fantastic performance of song, mirth, and a wealth of information about experiencing life without sight. The children just loved her as she told them about her daily routines and life experiences. The children also loved her voice as she shared with them original pieces of beautiful music.

We all benefited from Donna's performance. There was so much to learn about Donna and Conner that we could have kept them both here for a week. However, within the short span of an hour, Donna gave us all an education that we will always remember. Most of all, Donna left with us a friendship that we will cherish forever.

I thank Donna Weis for sharing something special with us at Leedom School and I know that she will experience great success in her future endeavors.

Sincerely. Sichard & Sicard

Dr. Richard L. Picard,

Principal

RLP/ndf



#### CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT . DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Donna Weiss came to Pine Run Elementary School November 17, 1987 to present two assemblies, one for grades K through second and the other for three through six. There were between 250 and 300 children in each group.

The primary children were treated not only to a talented folksinger/writer but also to her guide dog, Curley Connor. There was a nice flow to the program as Donna also explained and discussed blindness with the children. She handled the question and answer sessions with great poise and self-confidence. The song selections were stimulating and current of interest to children and adults alike.

The primary teachers commented on how many ideas were introduced or elaborated on by Donna that could be used back in the classrooms.

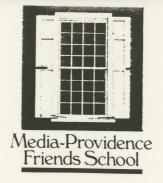
After being with Donna for the morning I realized I was not with a handicapped person but one who represented a special segment of our society. I would certainly recommend Donna for a program with elementary students.

Sincerely,

Donald R. McClintock

Principal.

DRM/bml



February 18, 1987

Dear Friend:

Earlier this year, Donna Weiss spent a morning at our school and not only did she provide us with two extremely enjoyable and informative assemblies, but the time she spent with our students and staff was one of our most special experiences ever.

Donna performed for two sessions, the first was for Pre-K through 5th grade, and the second was for grades 6 through 12. She adapted her presentation for the different age groups and was right on the mark in speaking about topics that were comprehensible for both younger and older students. Our younger students were especially taken with her guide dog Connor and they learned a good deal about how Donna and Connor work in tandem. Students at both sessions were excited about her beautiful singing and playing, and were anxious to extend the time with Donna.

The reason for their excitement is evident once you spend time in her presence. In addition to being a creative singer and songwriter, she is a brave and wise individual who has much to teach all of us about life and about being open to all of its possibilities and potentialities.

I recommend her program to you in the strongest way possible. If you would like more about my enthusiasm, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Vitalo

Headmaster

Senate of Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, PA

## Congratulations

In the Senate, June 18, 1986

Whereas, Danna Weiss, songwriter of Glenside, Pennsylvania is saluted for composing the song "Challenger" in honor and memory of the seven astronauts who died in the space shuttle explosion on January 29, 1986. Danna's inspirational song has uplifted the hearts of all Pennsylvanians.

Now therefore, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania heartily congratulates Donna Weiss for her award winning song which has been recognized for eloquence and beauty by President Ronald Reagan and Sovernor Dick Thornburgh;

And further directs that a copy of this document, sponsored by Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf, be transmitted to Donna Weiss, 421 Keswick Avenue, Glenside, Pennsylvania.

THE DEPOSITE OF DE

Attest:

Mark R. Corrigan, Secretary Senate of Pennsylvania