

Personal Reflection – 2020

Learning – at 89!

I live alone in my lovely home in Raleigh, North Carolina. For over a week I have been troubled by what I thought was the chirping of a (large) cricket or a small bird which may have gotten into the house. I even called a few pest control companies to get an estimate of their services. The noise was intermittent, but insistent and was driving me crazy!

Yesterday, I had the thought: Perhaps this is not animal, vegetable or mineral! Perhaps this is electrical! I called my friend Chris, who immediately suggested it was the low battery warning on my smoke alarm system. He came, put in a new battery for me, and lo-and-behold! Silence!

My learning was an astonished recognition that I had stubbornly stayed with a false hypothesis: *this is an animal sound*. I never once considered *an alternative cause*. How often have I clung to a position on *anything* without ever asking: What might the alternative feel like? Be like? What *are* some alternatives? WOW! This ole lady got a rude, invaluable awakening from a chirping battery!

Learning at 89! What's next?

by Jane Vella