

Lauren With a Side of Lewy

by Lauren U,
PAC Core Team

I've spoken and written about Frosty, Jonnie, Eddy, Clyde, and Lola. I don't think I've ever spoken of Raymond. In the house directly behind mine live Raymond and his large family. They have frequent visitors and many parties. My dogs, Frosty and JonBoy, are mostly accustomed to everyone and they respond nicely to gentle reminders, "It's only Raymond, you know Raymond." They then usually ignore the comings and goings. Sometimes Raymond has so many visitors, it is as if they have taken over the neighborhood with all of their noise. I generally have no patience for unnecessary and extraneous sound, especially in my otherwise quiet home. I tolerate it because I must. Keeping on friendly terms with my neighbors is imperative for peaceful existence. Still, sometimes it gets overwhelming with the sudden cacophony of Raymond and company. Other times I get interested and watch out the window. Raymond and friends mill around or play with each other. They dance; they sing. What are they celebrating all of the time? They're so active with so much energy. We have had an exceptionally wet and cold winter. It has been raining much more than usual. This is good for the environment but seems to keep Raymond and his friends/family quieter and less active. I haven't seen or heard much of them. Not too long ago, one of Raymond's friends was found in my yard, dead. It freaked me out and I insisted that Eddy remove the body. I couldn't allow the dogs to get to it. That's less noise and less mess, but it also leaves me with one less pigeon to entertain me. I'm lonelier than I thought.

Lauren U is a member of the Positive Approach to Care (PAC) Core Team. She was a registered nurse with the ANCC Board Certification in Psychiatry for 30 years. Now she is the keeper of the frolic. Lauren has been living with Lewy Body Dementia (love how they add "with behavioral disturbance") for over five years. She currently lives in Northern California with her professor husband, Eddy. PAC agrees with Lauren – that she is delightful!