***Reflections:*** As I look over the past few years of my life, it seems like only yesterday that I was carpooling the children to school and sports events; going for weekly allergy shots, PTA meetings, high school graduations, and saving for college;  planning for weddings, and now the grandchildren.  Where did the time go?  It was only yesterday that I was just a young girl myself with dreams of what I thought my life would be like when I grew-up.  Well, here I am, the children are grown and living their own lives, and now it’s my turn.  But what does that really mean to me?  Having been a single parent for most of my life I knew how to struggle in that domain, but how do I begin to live a full life with the charm and dignity that I imagined it should be?  I hadn’t been practicing I’d been struggling.  And, now that I’m being given life on a silver platter, somehow I didn’t imagine that it would be quite like this.

The seasons have begun to change, and time did not wait for me as patiently as I had imaged it would.  The things that I planned to do when the children grew-up don’t seem to have the same appeal as when I first put them on my to-do list.  Yes, I have great pride in having been the single mother that I was and everything that it entailed. I’ve come to realize that while I was excelling in motherhood 101, I had not been as attentive to myself as I should have been.

Now, as I enter mid-life, I am realizing that I had not cultivated the skills to thoroughly nurture my woman and I am feeling the challenge from the neglect of my earlier years.  So, with the dignity of a woman, and the spirit of a child, I get another chance to do it all again.  I get to grow-up and even bring my little girl out to play.  But this time however, I finally figured it out, life is not a dress rehearsal for some future role that I will be starring in, life is now; and now is all I have left …

At this phase of my journey I find that I am more sensitive to the elements of life than I used to be. I tend to cradle the essence of this new era as a mother would nurture her new born, or with the anticipated enchantment of preparing her little one for the wonderment of their first day of school. If only I knew then that time was of the essence, and I could not recreate or capture what is long since gone, while sarcastically envying youth being wasted on the young.

As with the sound of music, each decade provides us with an opportunity to create a legacy for those who come after us. In our 20’s we are busy exploring the wonders of life. Our 30’s are often a point of struggle to identify who we are while juggling the responsibilities of the choices that we have made along the way. In our 40’s we begin to expand our boundaries in preparation for our future. Our 50’s are a portal between the present and the past where we begin to define our place in the world. In our 60’s we record our life’s purpose and reflections, regrets, challenges, assessments, joys and sorrows; and from our forgiveness we create new horizons that honor our past and starting over, taking higher ground, and ultimately moving-on.

***“A Woman’s Corner”*** is my gift and the legacy that l bequest to humanity …

***WHAT* is *“A Woman’s Corner”? AWC*** is a dedicated Community Service project designed to provide a FREE online introduction to interpersonal communication skills, including a series of online self-directed and self-esteem personal development workshops for women in transition.

***The Apprentice Project*** is a self-directed 3 credit college internship created in conjunction with participating colleges and Universities. It is a cost effective community service initiative program intended to bridge gaps created by continued budget cuts in our economy.

***WHO* am I**? My name is *Esther Price-Johnson, Founder and CEO of* ***AWC.***  I retired from the Federal Aviation Administration in 2007 as a Special Projects and Training Coordinator where I wrote and developed Standard Operating Procedures [SOP], and trained as an ISO 9001 2000 Internal Auditor. I relocated from New York to Northern Virginia in 2009, and began to build ***AWC*** in 2010 to be an Community Service to support underserved communities by utilizing college interns as a vital commodity. In addition, ***AWC’s*** focus is to provide positive online incentives to encourage women to aspire as role models in the fundamental areas within their family. Conversely when we serve the women in our communities, they will save their children in matters more effective than any federally funded program outside of the home ever could.

***WHAT I do***: I design online/onsite workshops that support initiatives for women in transition, and coordinate the details to conduct personal development workshops that reinforce basic interpersonal communications and development skills. I design a 3 credit college internship program that encourages civic duty and community service projects as a responsibility

**WHERE I do it**: AWC Studio: One-on-one . Onsite by appointment Only . Online (See below)

*A Woman's Corner* . [www.awomanscorner.NET](http://www.awomanscorner.net/)  
AWC.net is the Administrative extension for the AWC websites

*A Woman's Corner* .  [www.awomanscorner.Com](http://www.awomanscorner.com/)   
 AWC.com is an ongoing IT and Graphic Design Internship project with New York University

*A Woman's Corner* . [www.workshopsatawomanscorner.com](http://www.workshopsatawomanscorner.com/)    
AWC.workshops.com . Is under construction and will provide FREE online workshops and will be translated in 45-52 languages

***WHY I do it?*** My motto is to *“Lead by Example”*, and if it’s to be, it’s up to me …

***WHEN do I do it***? 24/7 Online . Onsite; Pending: monthly column in the Fairfax County TIMES