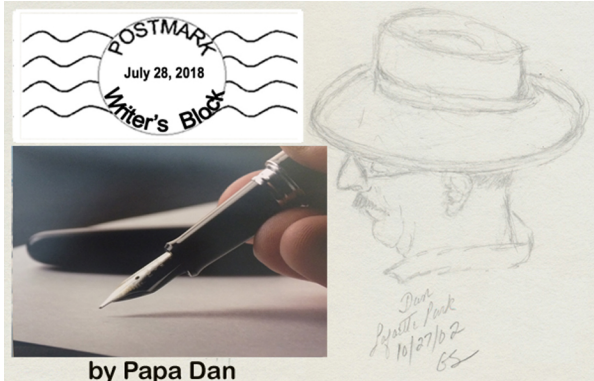


# Trying To Make It Better

By Dan Sapone



**“Hey, Jude, don’t make it bad.  
Take a sad song, and make it better.”**

— Paul McCartney

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Recently I wrote something called “Interruptions,” reflecting on the continuous drumbeat of tragic stories that emerge from the daily news. Every day, it seems, we hear another new piece of bad news piled on top of the unraveling stories of bad news from previous days. I read “Interruptions” in public at The Whistlestop Writers meeting here in the Tri-Valley. From the reaction, it seemed to have resonated with members of the audience. However, on reflection, I think even my central question — “What should I do about it?” — only made us feel worse about the things happening in our world these days. Gretta asked me, and I had to ask myself, “Was it a good thing to inflict such thoughts of harm and futility on my audience? Were they any better for it? Was I? Or did I just contribute to how bad we all feel about the world around us? One day’s bad news may distract us from yesterday’s bad news – or last week’s. More often, I fear, the accumulation of stories has a “multiplier effect.” In short, did I just make it worse?

Yep. Maybe so. I decide not to publish it on *ConVivio*.



So, the resulting “Writer’s Block” has me looking for something else to think about and something else to write about. So, here is a quick start — just a start. Just little things. It’s brief. We’ll see if this approach leads anywhere.

## Some News That’s Not Bad

Caught on “smart doorbell” camera, kids return wallet with \$700 inside.

[http://abc7news.com/society/caught-on-camera-kids-return-wallet-with-\\$700-inside/3835550/](http://abc7news.com/society/caught-on-camera-kids-return-wallet-with-$700-inside/3835550/)

Small American town welcomes refugees with Southern Hospitality.

<https://www.today.com/news/clarkston-georgia-home-thousands-refugees-t132421>

There's a new Alzheimer's/dementia drug that's showing promise in slowing memory loss in early clinical trials.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/25/health/alzheimers-dementia-drug-treatment.html>

A generous anonymous donor reveals her identity. She gave millions to artists without taking credit for the gifts.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/20/arts/design/susan-unterberg-artist-grant.html>

A British supermarker chain is introducing a "quieter hour" for autistic shoppers.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/19/world/europe/uk-supermarket-autism-morrisons.html>

An experiment with a four-day work week is a surprising success.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/19/world/asia/four-day-workweek-new-zealand.html>

Tourist accidentally pays 100 times taxi fare— driver tracks him down to return it.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/when-tourist-accidentally-pays-100-times-his-taxi-fare-driver-tracks-him-down-to-return-it/>

Riders of dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles, illegal in most cities, have found a community.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/25/nyregion/dirt-bikes-bike-life-ride.html>

Recovering addict anonymously pays for ambulance crew's breakfast.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/recovering-addict-anonymously-pays-for-ambulance-crew-eating-breakfast/>

Surprising solution: saving a country from wildfires with goats.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/goats-the-surprising-solution-to-saving-a-country-from-wildfires/>

There's a lake of liquid water on Mars.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/25/science/mars-liquid-alien-life.html>

A mother duck is caring for 76 ducklings on Lake Bemidji in Minnesota.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/24/science/merganser-ducklings-photo.html>



Today, right now, across the world, something good is happening — whether or not we hear about it or acknowledge it as something good. And, as Walter Cronkite used to say at the end of *The Six O'Clock News* back in the 1960s, "And that's the way it is."

And, there's more ... <https://www.today.com/news/good-news>

Your comments on this topic are welcome.