

Awestruck Again

By Maggie Beyer

Every few days, I ask my caregiver to help me sort through the volumes of writings in my office. My limited eyesight prevents me from organizing on my own. Last week we came across a 1995 article I wrote for the *Beacher Weekly Newspaper* titled 'Tripping Through Andalusia' (pronounced An-duh-lu-see-a). My helper asked where this city is located. Let's find out, I responded, and asked her to read some excerpts from this 7-page spread. Here are just a few:

"I relived the charm of this countryside village, as well as the majestic cities of Granada, Cordoba, Seville, Madrid and Toledo. The Gothic cathedrals and palaces directed my eyes upward to the rose windows, majestic arches, vaulted ceilings; the altar retablos carved stories high, the gilded lace stone and ironwork that stretched beyond the eye's view ..."

"All this looking heavenward caused me to trip several times ... and so the title, *Tripping Through Andalusia*. I tripped over little steps and changes in levels as one culture built on another, and over the cobbled pathways of narrow streets that dated to the Romans and B.C. Several of these missteps left me sprawled on the ground wondering if Spain accepted Medicare ..."

"If there was a highlight to this trip, beyond the old world of things to be seen, it was the people I met. I was the only tourist from the United State; our first group of eight met in Madrid. In Granada, we joined another group of 24. England, Canada, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Taiwan, India, Guatemala and Australia were represented in this melting pot of tourists."

As these words were read aloud, I felt young again. I felt alive and vibrant. I recalled how fearless I must have been to go on this adventure. I was a woman in her sixties, traveling alone on my first trip abroad.

I was so taken by the flood of memories from 20 plus years ago. What a wonderful discovery; my past can be revisited and I can be awestruck again and again!