

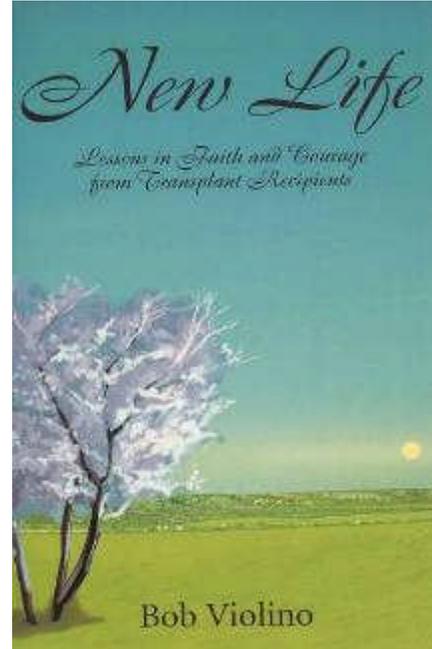
A Review of

New Life, Lessons in Faith and Courage from Transplant Recipients

Author: Bob Violino

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient

Bob Violino knows from first hand experience the subject of his wonderful collection of inspiring stories. He received a replacement for his own failing kidney from his wife, Renee` back in 1995. Feeling connected to this new community of transplant recipients, he went on to serve the Long Island area as editor of the TRIO newsletter for their local chapter. Using such writing skills Bob continued to interview and capture stories of other recipients that he found helpful and inspiring in special ways. He shares what he found in this book, **New Life**, by relating the facts of transplant life through the eyes and lives of seventeen fellow recipients from all walks of life, including even such a notable as liver recipient, Larry Hagman, who has gone on to be national spokesman for the National Kidney Foundation, especially known to us for his antics and support at the bi-annual US Transplant Games' appearances.



This book is a great resource not only for waiting and post-transplant patients and their families facing similar life challenges, but also medical professionals for whom such insights from patients gives them the unique opportunity to better understand what their own patients are going through. With such insight, professionals can serve with deeper empathy and improved understanding their ever growing community of transplant patients.

Each story has its own message of survival through faith and perseverance, offering yet another illustration of the strength of the human spirit, giving hope to readers not only facing transplant, but also any other severe medical challenge. One message that comes through repeatedly is how that faith gives courage to go on and face life each and every day. As we each face our own adversity, reading these stories can help put things into perspective, often making it easier to deal with our own. We find we are not alone. Others have gone before us and survived, each in their way. In capturing such stories, Bob offers his readers gifts of support and inspiration, showing how those others have dealt with often worse situations than we may be facing in our lives. Whether it's Artie Michaels, well known leader of the Long Island TRIO chapter who began running in local marathons at the age of 50, later to continue running through his liver transplant experience, or Vanessa Underwood, famous for her commitment to physical fitness both before and after her kidney transplant, each story will touch a chord in its reading.

Another part of Bob's writing captures the emotions of recipient and donor family meeting each other. This has become more common in recent years, but still evokes emotions and awe each time such a meeting is made public. Yes, the process of transplant is an anonymous one, but such contact is often possible through mutual cooperation and the support of an understanding OPO (organ procurement organization) and Bob shares these events in several stories.

Whether you are waiting or have already experienced your transplant, whether family or friends of such people, or just looking for the good in life as uplifting inspiration, this book will give you exactly what you are seeking. I join with others who have recommended that **New Life** be added to hospital libraries, especially for transplant centers whose success is so connected to their patient's attitudes and outlook in facing such life saving procedures. Reading real-life stories of transplant success in overcoming great adversity will lead to belief in a successful outcome for themselves which often helps translate into their own reality of success.

Thank you Bob and Renee` not just for your own inspiring story, but in then going beyond by finding and making available this wonderful resource.

Note: For further information about **New Life** and purchase options, click on Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble

Reviewer Brief bio:

Jim Gleason, received his heart transplant Oct. '94. Jim volunteers with NKF, UNOS and the Gift of Life Donor Program in Philadelphia as well as being a nationally recognized speaker and author. His book, [A Gift from the Heart](#), is offered both for downloading or on a CD free as thanks to his donor family and can be obtained by clicking of the title here or contacting him via e-mail at GLEASONJIM@AOL.COM.

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