

SPECIAL REPORT

“Just Like It Was Yesterday”

by Mary G. Anderson, *Family Legacy Planning Institute*



Mary G. Anderson, *Family Legacy Planning Institute*
Organizational Consultant/Coach, Author & Speaker

“Just Like It Was Yesterday”

by Mary G. Anderson, *Family Legacy Planning Institute*

Time flies whether we are having fun or not it seems. Another Mother’s Day has passed and this one has been bittersweet for me. Last year on Mother’s Day I rounded up my three children and decided once and for all it was time for a ‘family photo’, which I knew, hadn’t officially happened for probably ten years. We all went out for breakfast and then met with a professional photographer at Vasona Lake park and with lots of ughs, smirks and whining succeeded in compiling both a group picture and individual shots of each member of the family. It seems after we arrived back home that each child went off in its own direction and the unified moment of mother’s day celebration was over.

I had made a request that particular Mother’s Day to each child that instead of picking out a gift for me I would like them to write me a note about what they had each learned from me, as their mom, over the years. My daughter, Emilie, age 26, went into great detail in her note about all of the fabulous friendships and social skills she developed by watching me entertain and visit with such a wide variety of diverse personalities over the years. She was especially touched by the fact that I have kept close friendships with people from being a toddler, to grade school, to high school, to college, to Hewlett Packard, and more. My son, Hunter, age 15, wrote the funniest note about how he finds my prosperity program very amusing. He noted that the money jar I keep full of change to attract more funds, will now instantly grow as a result of the silver quarter he taped to the inside corner of the card. My middle child, Taylor, age 22, didn’t present me with a note or card on that mother’s day but I was confident that it would show up at some point and I didn’t mention the oversight as I recall.

A typical gorgeous early spring week followed that Mother’s Day, although oddly at mid-week an unusual rainfall occurred out of nowhere. I remember it was a Wednesday, and of course, Emilie, had returned to her work and home in San Francisco, Hunter was off to high school and Taylor was out pounding the pavement looking for a new job. As usual and in most homes-- kids come and go, doing just exactly what kids do. It seems, as they grow older that home is just a place for a quick snack, clothes change and maybe a handout of much needed cash. That day ended quietly until the phone rang at 1:30AM and I awoke to hear the words that every parent dreads. It was the Valley Medical Center calling to let me know that my son Taylor had been a horrible car accident and he was barely holding onto his life. In disbelief I said that was impossible, as I knew he was home in bed with a bad cold. Not so. Driving alone without anyone close by to call, I finally reached the hospital in the dark night with the rain pouring down. The doctor met me at the elevator door; Taylor had just died from massive internal injuries. He was gone. Just like that. It was then that I became numb and only now that a full year of holidays and reminders has passed, am I beginning to know the indescribable pain of losing a child.

It was a few weeks after his funeral when I was searching in the back seat of my car for something and I found the Mother’s Day card from Taylor. It was tucked carefully in the seat pocket behind the driver’s seat. He must have put it there before we went to breakfast that day. He wrote to me about what he had learned in his short life from me. He talked about unconditional love and really being there for somebody, he talked about the connection that he had shared with my father, my mother and my brother—all of whom has passed away in the past couple of years. If I had only known—I wouldn’t have wasted time getting my hair fixed that week or going to that baseball game—I would have sat and stared at him, knowing that he would be gone soon forever. There is something about kids that we often forget about our own past and ourselves. Kids almost always reach an age when they truly believe they are invincible. Ideally some magical angel watches over them as they tackle the entire wild, crazy rites of youth—driving, snowboarding, skateboarding, motorcycles and more. If any one person could define how much living could be packed into 24 hours, Taylor was the one. He had a dynamic personality, he was very funny and smart--he lived every day as if it were his last. I guess Taylor’s angel just couldn’t keep up with his wild spirit that blustery night last May.

I am the lucky woman who got to be his mom for 22 years. I wrote this article to honor him and let him know how much I miss him every day. Luckily, with the support of other kindred souls close to our family and Taylor’s group

of loyal friends—there has been a tight circle of support that has formed around Emilie, Hunter and I over the past year as we deal with the grief of this unimaginable loss. I admonish you to listen carefully to those close to your heart and remember, we just never know really what's next—cherish the moments, memories and milestones. Kahlil Gibran's writes in his masterpiece *The Prophet*,

“Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.”

Questions? Comments? Please contact us by telephone or e-mail [here](#)

©familylegacyplanninginstitute.com. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, mechanical or electronic, including photocopying, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from [family legacy planning institute](#).

In conclusion, on the morning of my son's funeral I was inspired to write a poem. I read it to a filled congregation at the end of the ceremony; many of the guests requested a copy of it. I believe that the words capture the challenges, sacrifices and joys of being a mother.

Taylor Scott Anderson
March 11, 1983 ~ May 19, 2005

Master Taylor, you are the star, Shining brightly from afar, That risen in evening sky, Fell to us without a mar
To our new star, I proclaim, Our lives will never be the same, With your precious innocence, We have our own eternal flame
Perfect soul and symmetry, Our eyes rejoice at what they see, From the heavens, you were cast,

God please welcome him home at last...

(Formerly, on his birth announcement, the last line read, 'welcome home to us at last...')

~WSA to TSA on 3-11-83

What Does a Mother Do for Her Son?

by Mary Gutheil Anderson

What does a mother do for her son?

She helps create him
She carries him next to her heart for close to a year
She gives birth
She sustains his life
She feeds him
She clothes him
She combs his hair
She nurtures him
She loves him
She teaches him about God
She reads books to him
She sings lullabies to calm him
She shares her history with him
She plays with him
She laughs with him
She shares the pain of life with him
She challenges him
She watches over him
She encourages him
She provides strength and reassurance
She listens with him to life
She introduces him to hope and courage
She brings in the sound of nature and the cuddly fur of a puppy
She creates with him
She teaches him
She corrects his papers
She watches his games
She takes him to appointments
She washes his clothes
She calms him down
She helps him find his own deep wisdom
She walks with him into his bright future
She helps him reflect and learn from his past
She gives him advice She tries to heal his pain
She cheers him up
She clarifies his challenges
She helps him to link his heart to both his family and friends
She tries to understand him
She is often at parties and celebrations with him and the family
She supports him in his work
She creates metaphors to help him learn from his hardships
She plans with him
She watches the world change with him
She helps him to be free from doubt
She invites him to take risks, grow and follow his dreams
She is his anchor in times of trouble
She is his strength in both triumph and failure
She is the woman who takes a stand every day for the infinite possibility of him and his mission here on earth

What does a mother do for her son?

She is the woman who was awakened on a dark, rainy night to hear the dreaded end has come

She is the woman who kissed his cold forehead and said goodbye too soon

I am that woman, that mother...

I loved Taylor, more than life itself

I am broken over this loss

Today his precious body has been buried, my son, but I know his soul and love will live on in each of us.

“The universe is not going to see anyone else like you in the whole history of creation. It is up to you to become a letter, a word, a page in the book of human history...” ~Vartan Gregorian

About the Author...

Mary G. Anderson, Family Legacy Planning Institute

- Organizational Consultant/Coach, Speaker and Writer
- Certified Conflict Resolution Specialist/Mediator
- Hewlett Packard, Management Training Specialist
- Founder, Advanced Legal Training Institute & Family Legacy Planning Institute
- Producer and host of “Voice of the Valley” television show
- BA Willamette University, Secondary Teaching Credential

Family Legacy Planning Institute (Client Services & Estate Settlement Advisor)

Founder of the *Family Legacy Planning Institute*, Mary Gutheil Anderson, is an organizational consultant/coach, speaker, seminar leader and TV producer. Mary specializes in supporting clients through difficult life transitions. She offers strategies, solutions and systems to assist clients through the challenging process of dealing with unexpected and unwanted change. As a personal and business coach, Mary works with clients who are going through transitions such as grief over the passing of a loved one, life threatening illness, loss of job, relocation, divorce, feelings of overwhelm and chronic disorganization.

In the past few years, Mary has met with a series of unexpected deaths, which included four family members, including her 22- year old son, Taylor. She was forced to confront many challenging obstacles including planning funerals, settling four complicated trusts and making other difficult end-of-life choices. It was at this time that Mary also became actively involved as executor of both her parent's estate and brother's estate. She quickly learned about the grief, shock, inertia and indecision that often face executors/trustees as they try to quickly organize and access all the paperwork, deeds and property etc. that may be required by CPA's, attorneys, insurance/real estate agents or other advisors. The Family Legacy Planning Institute was created to help other individuals and families who were working through similar challenges (facing some of the same issues she had). She works in conjunction with the professional services offered by the Estate & Trusts Attorney.

Mary provides a consulting service to assist clients who are either in 1) the midst of handling a death of a loved one, executing and settling their estate and/or 2) a client who has decided to get organized and plan ahead by completing an end-of-life plan including their will, collecting their important papers and completing a checklist of final wishes. She also offers Legacy & Succession Planning services for business owners and executives as they develop their vision and successors for generations to come.

*Member of the International Coach Federation (ICF)
Certified Professional Coach, Charter Member of Coachville (COACH U)
Graduate, Excellence Coaching &, Accomplishment Coaching
Graduate, Life on Purpose Institute, Coaching from Spirit & Explode Your Business Income
Golden Circle Member of National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO)
Member, International Enneagram Association (IEA)
Member, National Speaker's Association (NSA) & Member, American Society of Training & Development (ASTD)*

A Note from Mary

Are you going through a challenging period of time facing some difficult changes, health issues or sudden grief over an unexpected loss? Are you an individual seeking unbiased support and a path to manage change in your personal and/or business life? You might consider hiring a coach. Coaching is a positive, powerful investment in you, your growth and is often tax-deductible as a business expense. Contact me to set-up a complimentary 30-minute coaching call. In our time together, we'll explore the issues bringing you to coaching and determine if I'm the right coach for you!

“Most of us miss out on life's big prizes. The Pulitzer. The Nobel. Oscars. Tonys. Emmys. But we're all eligible for life's small pleasures. A pat on the back. A kiss behind the ear. A four-pound bass. A full moon. An empty parking space. A crackling fire. A great meal. A glorious sunset. Hot soup. Cold beer.” ~Anonymous

advanced legal training institute offers
Legal Education Products & Services

- Live & Recorded MCLE Seminar & Teleseminar Packages (*including AudioCDs, VideoDVDs & Workbooks*)
- [*Wealth Preservation & Estate Planning*](#) eJournal
- Speaking & In-House Customized Training Services
- Consulting & Coaching Services (*including Law Firm Management, Legacy & Business Succession Planning*)
- Licensing of Legal Forms

family legacy planning institute offers
Legacy & Wealth Planning Client Products & Services

- Live & Recorded Seminar & Teleseminar Packages (*including AudioCDs, VideoDVDs & Workbooks*)
- [*My Life, My LegacyPLAN*](#) eJournal
- Speaking & In-House Customized Training Services
- Consulting & Coaching Services
(*including End-of-Life Planning, Elder Care Choices, Funeral Planning, Legacy Planning, Business Succession Planning & Grief Coaching*)
- Estate Settlement Agent Services