

What my mother meant to me.

As you know, I am the youngest child in our family. <sup>Steve, Jane Ann, and I had</sup> Each of us children has ~~their own individual relationship with our mother, separate from our brother and sister's relationships.~~ <sup>our</sup> Each viewpoint of our lives from childhood to adults is different. She saw each of us as individuals and related to us in that way. ~~She had an occasional slip in names, like; JaCarol or CaJane, when you give your daughter a good ol' Texas double name, which is bound to happen ☺.~~

<sup>our</sup> My mother was <sup>our</sup> my whole world growing up. She was so beautiful and appeared like a movie star to <sup>us</sup> me. When she walked in to the room, it would light up. <sup>our</sup> My father and she were the most important people in the world to <sup>us</sup> me. I remembered telling them, they I would live with them until I was 30, and at several different times, I actually did.

<sup>our</sup> My mother had unconditional love for her children, grandchildren, nieces & nephews, cousins, in-laws and friends. She was proud of each of us, and she always made us feel like we were her whole world. She would do anything for us, nothing was too great. She gave to us, before she gave to herself.

She had integrity, dignity, class, grace, and was full of joy. It was important to her to make our house a home for dad, Jane Ann, <sup>Jane Ann and me</sup> Steve and me. Her special touches were so artistic and unique. She taught me to be a lady. It <sup>to be a</sup> was important to her that <sup>we</sup> I knew the social graces and to be kind to others. <sup>We gentleman</sup> We never heard her be discourteous to anyone. She embraced our friends and family, and opened our home to everyone. <sup>love</sup> Obligation to one another is life long, and blood lines aren't the only method for being a true family.

In looking back over the years, with her and my relationship evolving as mother and daughter, I grew to respect her more. She was so kind and giving. She never spoke negative about anyone. She chose to believe all people where good. Two things that she said to me over the years and has continued on throughout my adult life is 'be nice to people' and 'everything always works out'.

The biggest and most important thing I have learned from my mom is to love and respect my husband. Loving your husband is the best gift you can give to your children and to yourself.

Our

-My parents wedding vows were to love, honor, comfort and cherish, through good times and bad, sickness and health, richer and poorer, till death due us part. They lived their 51 years together in life as best friends, companions, and were a true life-long love affair.

I never imagined I would lose my mother at the age of 43, while still having a 15 year old daughter, 4 year old son, and a two year old son. My heart aches, that my children will never know the woman that many of us remember. Mom developed Parkinson's disease about the time Taylor was born. Taylor remembers fondly their many talks lying out by the pool at night and watching the stars for hours. William and Jack have learned kindness of elders, and love to visit with them. They are not afraid, and are happy to reach out to those that need help.

The most important lessons my mother taught me by example, was, to BE a mother. I sing to my children, just as she sang to me. I draw them a bath every night, just as she did for me. ~~I bring my children a glass of ice water every night to their beds when I tuck them in,~~ <sup>bed every night</sup> just as she did for me. And I sing to my children while they bounce on my knees, "ride a little horsie, ride to town, better watch out or you fall down".

Two additional lessons I learned watching from my mother. Maintain and nurture your friendships over your lifetime. <sup>we</sup> And observing the friendship and genuine love between Mom and her sister Jane. There is a saying, you can't choose your family but you *can* choose your friends. I am very fortunate, I have chosen my *sister* to be my best friend.

JUST AS MOM AND TITA,

\* **To Mom:** When Jane Ann, Steve and I were very small and we lived in our first home on Mesilla Street, we gave you a card, which is applicable even today. "You loved us and cared for us morning and night. You guided our footsteps and set us right. You cheered us and praised us, and inspired us, too. Thank you for that and we will always love you."

\* **To Dad from Mom:** "Some people search and never ever find their lifetime through, the kind of love and happiness that I have found with you." "Love is a rainbows end, and mine is for you. Bud, with all my love, thank you, for being our 'poet'."

~~To Mom from Dad:~~ My I be so bold and read to you a card my father gave to my mother which was tucked away in her treasures. "When love is great there is no need for words....For even in the silences Love is heard. NO one else in all the world could ever even start to fill the special place you fill So deep within my heart...So I hope somehow you know what words can never say—That you mean even more to me with each and every day.

~~Let me finish with this, from mother to you all:~~ <sup>WHICH WAS ~~THE~~ TUCKED AWAY IN HER GRANDFATHER'S BOOK.</sup> In everybody's garden, a little rain must fall or life's sweetest, fairest flowers wouldn't grow and bloom at all. And though the clouds hang heavy, so heavy, oh my family and friends, I'm sure that God who sends the shower will send the rainbow's end.