

Dedication – published October 31, 2013

By Theresa Hubbard

I wanted to christen this Blog by dedicating it to a man who changed the course of my life, and to all of the mentors/teachers who have changed *your* life.

As I have been exploring my journey one person in particular came to mind as someone who presented me with some incredible gifts.

Two very distinct memories, that each, in their own way, drastically changed the course of my life. And for that I will be forever grateful. And I hope to honor him by continuing my journey with his footprints always present.

The first memory was of an annual review we had over my performance. He was very complimentary, though he had one thing that he wanted me to work on. He wanted me to work on not taking things so personally (which when he said that to me, I took very personally). Having made his point, he reinforced all of the positive work that I had accomplished over the previous year. From that point forward, I worked very diligently to not take things as personally. His genuine care for me allowed me to genuinely hear it for the first time. I still have that review that he hand wrote and reread it every few years as a reminder.

The second event was when he approached me about learning how to prepare tax returns. My Bachelors is in Philosophy and I was going to be an attorney before I was hired at Mayer Hoffman McCann. The thought of doing tax returns did not appeal to me at all. I hated math. He assured me that doing tax returns was not about math, it was about being resourceful and solving a puzzle/problem, both of which he thought I was good at. His belief in me prompted me to begin the training that they provided to all the newly hired accountants. I was actually incredibly talented at it and the reviews I received from the managers and partners were very encouraging about my future in the tax world.

However, my Bachelors wasn't in accounting and since I was not going to become a CPA my options were limited at the firm. Having this new found talent/skill and belief in myself, I moved on to another firm. I actively stayed in the accounting field (where I met my husband), until about 2007. I still do accounting for the businesses that my husband and I own.

In 2003 I had an epiphany that I was supposed to be a mental health professional. I went back to school and now I am in private practice specializing in trauma, working with executives, couples and families. I own a retreat and wedding venue north of the airport. I speak, write, teach, do some radio appearances, host retreats at my center and various other things connected to my profession. I teach other mental health professionals and supervise them in their post graduate work (which I just love doing!!).

I was actually in the process of contacting this mentor/teacher when I discovered that he had died earlier this year. The amount of grieving that I have experienced these last few days was initially surprising since I have not seen him in 15 years.

Upon reflection, it makes complete sense. He completely changed the course of my life, and again, I will forever be grateful.



He was my teacher, my mentor. I am truly blessed that he was a part of my journey.

Thank you Steve Gershon. You were a blessing to countless people.