

THE ACORN

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Letter From the Editor

I recently saw a movie about a youngish man who seeks more from life than his currently "comfortable" existence. He daydreams about better days, better things happening to him, and a better life in general. Perhaps you know the story by James Thurber. It is called The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.

Now, the movie is quite different from the short story but the premise is the same. A daydreamer who longs for his daydreams to become a reality. And the movie sweeps you up. I admit I cried a few tears during parts of it, as I understood Walter's longings. I understood the feeling of being in one place and dreaming of yet another. Of doing something mediocre instead of something absolutely magnificent.

But I learned something from the movie that I wasn't aware of learning from the short story I was required to read in high school. I learned about being in the moment. I learned about not just daydreaming or dreaming something but actually getting out there and doing it. I learned that the people I am with, I am supposed to be with at that moment. I learned the value of respecting the moment for what it is and not letting anything come between that moment and me.

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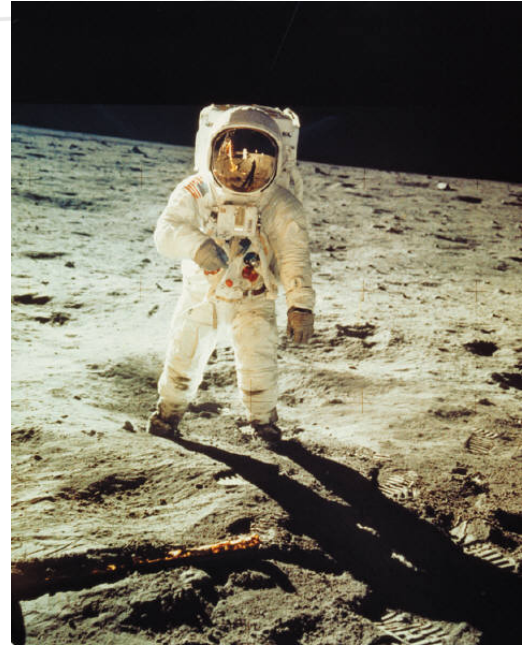


Letter from the Editor (con't)

I also learned from the movie the importance of family. As Walter Mitty goes about his adventures, he remains tied to his family in so many ways. He adores his mother and reveres his deceased father, who forced a change in his life that would last for years. His sister aspires to reach the stars and he supports her wholeheartedly.

So, for you I wish all the time and travel you hoped for. All the adventures your heart desires. And for your children, I wish the moon and the stars. May they dream big, give big, merit big. For your family, I wish cohesion, comfort, and consideration.

Laura Acierno (10)



David and James Kennedy (9)

Left to Right:

McKenzie Johnson (9), daughter of Lon, David Kennedy (9), son of Lana and Ray...



Kristen Johnson (9), daughter of Greg and Cindy, and Sadie Johnson (9), daughter of Mark and Frances.

Letter from the President

The words "Happy New Year" resonate with a new joy and a fresh optimism for change. Did you make your new year's resolutions this year? Fill in the blank: In 2014 I will _____.

...Lose 20 pounds, eat healthier foods, run five times per week, call a family member four times per month. We all make resolutions and we all break them. Or maybe you made a resolution not to have a resolution. Ironically, when you think about it, this is a resolution.

Whether you're doing well and hope it continues or stumbling already because

It feels too difficult; maybe it's time to re-evaluate the resolutions, and the direction in which we are headed.

This year, I want to share more time with the people I love. Maybe we should just try to break one bad habit, or become aware of our feelings? It begins with an honest assessment. Are you getting stuck in your feelings because they're often intense, or are you having trouble expressing yourself because you are more conservative and evasive?

For example, I want to offer words of encouragement that tell people how I feel about them. I want to listen more...talk less. Just a five-minute phone call or text can make a difference in someone's life.

Letter From the President (con't)

Set a goal for your strength: people usually don't have the willpower to keep their resolutions. This is typically true when you set the bar too high. My sons are grown, so I raise the bar too high for myself. Every year I become discouraged and often fail. Instead of giant goals to achieve in one year, I'm working on small goals. Maybe five to 10 in 90 days instead of one for the entire year. According to research, only eight percent of people achieve their new year's goals by the end of the year. Still, we keep trying. Experts say that simply having five to 10 smaller goals can help you. Baby step your way toward the larger ideal

Set a goal for your heart: I think the real way to succeed is to stay focused on what matters most, set an obtainable goal, be clear, and find an encouraging community or family member to journey with. One of the things I love about my family is how this plays out. We get together because we genuinely want to share with teach other. I love to watch my nieces and nephews grow. There is a new connection with my brothers and sister that I need to feel as I age. It takes effort, but we all know it's worth it. My family helps me sort things out. My brother Marty says, "it's good for my heart and soul to visit with my family." I agree. We are not perfect by any means, and at times even frustrate each other in the process of loving one another. I think human need is the universal force behind our actions.

Set a goal for your mind: Avoid being vague. Be clear with your message and your voice. It's easy not to be specific on things you need to grow in, especially if you have fear of commitment or accountability. Family should provide a "come as you are" atmosphere where you can love and be loved, know and be known, understand and be understood. What if our family was our safe harbor? What if we were confident enough to invite one more family member to come home this summer and visit?

Set a goal for your soul: The strongest oak tree of the forest is not the one that is protected from the storm and hidden from the sun. It's the one that stands in the open where it's compelled to struggle for its existence against the winds and rains and scorching sun (Napoleon Hill).

Focus this year on what really matters most

1. Believe you have an encouraging family to journey with. Connect with a family member. A small act of kindness pays big dividends. Send a text or a card.
2. Seek the help of family members to help you articulate things you know actually need to be said.
3. Be part of something bigger than yourself. Help each of your family members reach their potential and encourage them to just try (maybe a healthier vegetable instead of fast food, a brisk walk instead of TV)

Letter from the President (con't)

4. Take time to help your immediate and extended family to gather stories, photos, accomplishments, and awards to share with other family members during the July reunion.

5. Take the time to really look for goodness and listen more attentively to those who really matter. If we want to make a difference in our world, it should begin with our family. We have time to practice with our family. You may learn something you never knew before.

Don't sweat if you can't keep any of these up for the year. Instead, make it in a three-month journey, with just one goal to see if you can do it. I don't want to have time slip through my fingers without spending some quality time with those who really matter. Be sure not to let making a living interfere with having a life. I'm personally attempting a few right now and am already enjoying the freedom of how the next 90 days play out. Just think...by that time, it will be spring!

Be well,

Lana Kennedy (9)



L to R: Sally Huth (11), Karen Huth (12), Henry Huth (11), Dana Huth (12), Dick Huth (10)

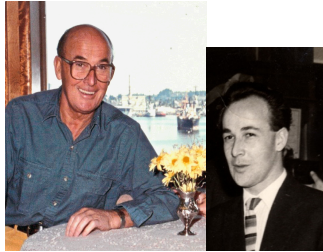
POSTCARDS

Somewhere in the great United States:

Jeremy Johnson (9) has, for the second year in a row, been named in Forbes Magazine as one of the top 30 young adults under the age of 30. In the education section, you'll find Jeremy's profile including his history and accomplishments. He's among an elite group of people and it is highly recommended you look him up at <http://forbes.com/pictures/lmh45klkg/Jeremy-johnson-29/>

Columbus, OH: Nescher Pyscher (2) has two new books in print *Tales of the Fallen, Book III: The Lord of Concrete* and *Big Boy's Pants: Tattoo's and Baby Food – A Boy's Guide to Life*. Both are available from amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, and better booksellers worldwide as paperback or download for eBook devices.

Seattle, WA: Back in November, **Dana Huth (12)** had an opportunity to return to Ohio for a visit wither family. During her trip, her nephew/Godson, **Grant Mercer (12)** took Dana for a tour of his campus and introduced her to his football coach. Also during her trip home, Dana had a chance to visit with a few very special people; her mother, **Karen Huth (12)**, and her **Uncle Dick (10)** and **Uncle Hank and Aunt Sally (11)**. Here is a photo of the group at lunch (left).



David Donnelly Keogh

21st September, 1927 -
29th December, 2013

Our father, David Keogh, passed away in the early hours of Sunday morning, December 29th. He left peacefully to join our mother, Gwen, two years and a month after her death in 2011. We send him with our love and best memories.

My daughters wrote the perfect obituaries from their granddaughters' perspectives. They echo my sentiments entirely.

"My Grandfather was the shining star of my childhood. A comic, a singer, an adventurer, a storyteller, a lover of knowledge and discovery, and always quick to chat up a stranger just to bring them a smile. He instilled in me a pride for my Welsh ancestry and my childish sense of humor and wonder, and though not a perfect man, he was a damn good one!

I send him all my love that his next life comes with more wisdom (though he wouldn't think that possible), peace, and love." **Rachel**

"Last night, the world as we know it lost a great man. My Grandpere David Donnelly Keogh passed on to a better world after a long 80-some years here. Many of you had met him and his Welsh bumbling bald self, wandering about Pipkins in Blue Ash or the Kenwood Trader Joe's. He served his military service in the RAF in India, travelled extensively on business and pleasure throughout Europe, took his private pilot's license here in Cincinnati, and had the WORST English humor one could possibly imagine. He loved "dark & stormys" (rum and ginger beer), and the 2nd greatest woman I have known, my Grandmere Gwen, who he's reunited with somewhere out there. He was such an important figure in my life, and it's quite hard to believe he's really gone. Selfishly, I wish I'd had just a bit more time with him, but then again it's never enough. I believe he's in a better place, and I send nothing but love and positive intentions to him, Grandmere, my Mum and siblings.

Guys, I love you so much and know you're staying strong. **Sofie**

"... You were an amazing Grandpa and you'll be missed by everyone, even the those you befriended at Kroger! I love you Grandpa, and now you are in a special place with Grandma." **Sadie**

Frances Keogh (9), wife of **Mark Johnson** and mother of **Sofie and Sadie Johnson** recently lost both of her parents. Their obituaries are to the left and below. Our thought and prayers are with the Keogh-Johnson family.



Gwendolen Vera Bispham (Keogh)

23rd March 1929-25th November, 2011

Gwendolen Vera Bispham-Keogh, she fully embodied the experience of being human. Wife, mother, grandmother – elegant, complicated, wonderful, creative, stoic, hardworking, gentle, passionate, cryptic, intelligent, loving, gentle, sad, angry, courageous.... With the dry humor of a Brit during a cold winter's walk on a Sunday afternoon in England she said, "Can we stop enjoying ourselves and go home now?" Mum, you are home now. May you continue to express yourself throughout time and space. With all our love, David, Frances, Alison, Alex, Rachel, Sofie, and Sadie

Walk in beauty.

[Recipient]

The reunion Committee would like to thank all of you who made pledges and donated to last year's and the next two years' reunions. We met our goal for last year! Please contact Dick Huth, 1245 S. Cleve-Mass Rd., Suite 8, Akron, OH 44321 if you need a reminder of how much you pledged. Without all of you, reunion activities like the ones we've been able to have in the past would not be possible. Thanks so much for your generosity!

NEXT HUTH REUNION: July 25-27 NEXT REUNION MEETING: February 8, 10:30 am