



The Community
School

Passages Program



Passages Press

Eyes Pried Open

Looking at my baby picture

by Natasha St. Pierre

Eyes open up looking for the little one with the
yellow phone
But that one is missing her – her whereabouts are
unknown.

The one that we long for is now a chick with a
'tude' and guys in her mind.

But still we search for that three-year-old in the
picture

Yellow phone in hand,

Without concerns or mistakes to withhold.

If only time could rewind

She'd spin back in time

To find herself with the phone

And no mistakes to be shown.



all my thoughts

by Natasha St. Pierre

first thought

all my dreams changed when I heard the words
all my worries became a roaring storm
all my secrets came spilling out
all my life I never thought I would be a teen mom

second thought

all my love grew when I saw your first ultrasound
all my worries became a light sprinkle
all my stupid acts didn't matter
all my dreams came back on strong
all my spilled secrets didn't matter
all my love was all for you

third thought

all my plans would now include you
all my happiness would now be because of you
all my life I wanted you – I just didn't know it yet

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To My Little Man

by Mara Downs

Baby boy

You are the best thing that ever
happened to me.

Having you gives me a reason to
want to live.

Without you

I don't really want to know
where I would be.

If it weren't for you in my life

I wouldn't have a reason to set goals.

I do know that no matter
what happens in life

You will always love me.

I am sorry for bringing men

in and out of your life -

Oh, please forgive me, baby boy.

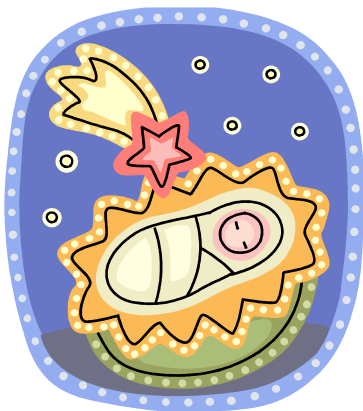
I promise you two things, Tyson.

I will be here for you when you need me,

No matter the mistakes you make in life.

And I will love you no matter what.

I love you so much, baby boy.



by Nick Halliley

Infants need to be cared for. Babies are considered infants from birth to eighteen months. Infants are hard, yet easy to take care of. They are hard and aggravating, because they are very dependant on the parents, mostly the mom. The easier parts are the fact that you don't have to chase an infant who doesn't run around all over the place.

Well, all of the other students have probably done this talking about what the mother can do to bond with the baby. Considering I am a dad, I will tell you how a dad can get involved in the baby's life. While baby is in the breastfeeding stage, the dad can change diapers and give baths. When baby gets older dad can become a playmate. Dad can play with baby by tossing her on a bed or something else soft. When she/he gets even older, dad can teach sports if he is the better athlete, or help mom teach the children games like chess, checkers, Uno and stuff like that.

I, personally, find it very hard to find a way to bond with a newborn. I try to play with them and teach them by talking to them. I make Autumn bounce on my lap and make her "jump". When Sky was this little, well, I wasn't around, so I didn't do anything. When Sky got older, however, I started making my presence known by playing games with her like peek-a-boo and jumping on the bed (wrestling). I chase her around her great-grandparents' house.

That is *toddler* care, so let's get back to *infant* care. Dads can also make their infants dance by gently pulling their arms simultaneously. Also, he can make them sway left and right or bob forward and backward to the beat of the song.

Some more suggestions for dad/baby bonding include holding your infant with a nude top, so he/she can smell your scent and hear your heartbeat. You wanna play a game with her/him? Have a staring contest; baby might win. This "game" will let your child study your face and get

to know and love it. Or you can “play kangaroo,” take a front pack (front carrier), put it on with the baby in it and do what you were going to do, like yard work, house cleaning, playing with animals - just your ordinary everyday things. Also, you could help out when baby is sick, or you could use baby as weights. You could even do my favorite thing to do - take pictures.

I just recently read an article about children under two years old watching television. Kids watch TV for an average of about forty-five minutes a day. I guess that’s a long time. I thought one and a half shows weren’t too bad, but I guess I was wrong. Anyway, in the article I found something quite humorous. It said, “Most parents are using television as an educational tool, not for the more conventional explanation of babysitting.” People would rather us use a TV to neglect our children as opposed to teach them. The top three reasons for why parents let children watch TV: 29% - it teaches them, or it’s good for their brain; 23% - it is something he/she really enjoys doing; 20% - to baby-sit.

Why should men bond with their children? Well, a generation ago, the bonding between man and child was just not too noticeable. You knew who your dad was, but you never knew how much he loved you. In the past several decades, however, dads have been stepping up to the plate, so to speak. While it is easier for moms to bond with their children, dads still can bond. Dads need to bond to have a good relationship with their children.

So, I conclude with: Dads, do whatever it takes to start and maintain a good relationship with your children. Have fun!!!



On Reading & Writing

by Jessica Isakson

I have read so many books; I have a hard time keeping them all straight. I remember so many books, though, that inspired me to change something in my life, write a poem, draw a picture, create some music, sing a song, share ideas with someone else, and just really contemplate about how the book had meaning in my life.

I remember the book that I really loved reading, 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, made a real difference in how I viewed myself and others. It generated so many ideas in my head about how to better do things on the outside and on the inside. It made me think about how to do things in a more efficient way when it came to communicating. It made me realize that there was a lot I didn’t understand when it came to other people and why they did or said certain things. I realized a lot of people’s criticism wasn’t said to piss me off, it was said for me to contemplate and take into consideration for change. This book generated the idea of also keeping my life in check by using a calendar, using organizational skills in everything I do, making sure I do something for myself each day, and making sure that I understood and did things each day for someone else’s benefit.

When I write I can’t help but let my imagination run free. When I look at a blank piece of paper it’s like looking into a person’s eyes whose heart is dead. There’s just this blank look, no life. When you start to tell a story, when you let your imagination go, you start to put a spark of life into the person. You create a new beginning, a new character. You create what is really going on inside of you into a story that you want to be able to tell others. Dreams and goals can turn into a story. An interest in something or someone can turn into a story. Anything is possible with something so clean and fresh in front of you just waiting to be formed into something new and exciting. When I have a clean sheet of paper in front of me I don’t think, I just write. When I write a poem I take what is in my heart, what is running through my veins, just take control of my hand and words just appear. Out of a

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jumble of thoughts and emotions, my mind grabs onto words, pieces them together and creates a piece that is so much a part of me, it's like *I* am on the paper, not words. Writing frees my soul and brings me back to the inner me.

Women's Rights

by Sheena Stone Moulton

The timeline I will be presenting is on women's rights and the amazing things they accomplished in their time and the things they helped accomplish after their time on earth for the women to come!

Without these amazing women that stood up on their own two feet and spoke out I don't know where the women of today would be standing. We probably today would still be treated less than an equal and treated like dirt. We probably would still to this day only be able to stay at home and do "womanly things." If we applied for jobs, it would only be jobs specifically for women, like to be a nurse or a teacher.

We should be praising the names of these women and be grateful for the things they have done for women everywhere. For if they did not stand up, just think of where we would still be standing as women.

- In the year 1701 both men and women served together in the jury of Albany, New York.
- In the year 1769 the law said that when a woman got married to her husband she was no longer a person in the citizens' eyes. She was a mere shadow to her husband. If the husband's wife did something good, it was not the wife who got credit for the thing she did. The husband always got the credit and the wife got nothing!
- In the year 1777 all states pass a law, which takes away a woman's right to vote.
- In the year of 1789 the Constitution was ratified. The meaning of the word "people" in the Constitution used to mean white men.
- In 1792 British author Mary Wollstonecraft wrote a book about the equal rights of women,

that women should be equal to men. This book was called The Vindication of the Rights of Women.

- In 1821 Emma Willard founded the Troy Female Seminary, the first school to offer girls' classical and scientific studies on a collegiate level.
- In 1828 Englishwoman Frances Wright is the first woman to address an American audience composed of both men and women.
- In 1833 Oberlin College is founded as the first coeducational institution of higher learning.
- In 1837 Mount Holyoke, the first college for women is founded by Mary Lyon in South Hadley, MA.
- In 1839 the first state (Mississippi) grants women the right to hold property in their own name, with their husbands' permission.
- In 1840, after being refused the right to participate in the World's Anti-Slavery Convention, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton decide to have a Women's Rights Convention when they return home.
- In 1845 Margaret Fuller publishes Women in the Nineteenth Century, which has a profound influence on the development of American feminist theory.
- In 1848 Mott and Stanton call the first women's rights convention. Amelia Bush is chosen chair, and becomes the first woman to preside over a meeting attended by both men and women.
- New York state legislature passes a law that gives women the right to retain possession of property they owned prior to their marriage.
- At Seneca Falls, New York, 300 women and men sign the Declaration of Sentiments, a plea for the end of discrimination against women in all spheres of society.
- In 1849 Elizabeth Blackwell graduates from Geneva College in Geneva, NY with the first medical degree awarded to a woman.
- In 1851 Amelia Bloomer publishes in her Seneca Falls newspaper, *The Lily*, a description of a comfortable, loose-fitting costume

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consisting of a short skirt worn over pantaloons. Even though this outfit was not worn by Amelia first, but by a lady named Elizabeth Smith Miller, it ended up being known as the “Bloomer.”

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony meet and begin their fifty-year collaboration to win for women their economic, educational, social, and civil rights.
- In 1855 Elizabeth Cady Stanton makes an unprecedented appearance before the New York State legislature to speak in favor of expanding the Married Woman’s Property Law.
- In 1863 Stanton and Anthony organize the Women’s Loyal National League and gather 300,000 signatures on a petition demanding that the Senate abolish slavery by constitutional amendment.
- In 1866 The American Equal Rights Association is founded with the purpose to secure for all Americans their civil rights regardless of race, color, or sex. Lucretia Mott is elected president. To test women’s constitutional right to hold public office, Stanton runs for Congress receiving 24 of 12,000 votes cast.
- In 1867 Stanton, Anthony, and Lucy Stone address a subcommittee of the New York State Constitutional Convention requesting that the revised Constitution include women suffrage. Their efforts fail. Kansas holds a state referendum on whether to enfranchise blacks and/or women. Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton travel the state speaking in favor of women suffrage. Both black and women suffrage is voted down.
- In the year 1868 Stanton and Anthony launch their women’s rights newspaper, the *Revolution*, in New York City. Anthony organizes the Working Women’s Association, which encourages women to form unions to win higher wages and shorter hours.
- In 1869 the National Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) is founded with Elizabeth Cady Stanton as president. Wyoming Territory grants suffrage to women.
- In the year 1870 Utah Territory grants suffrage to women. First issue of the *Woman’s Journal* is published with Lucy Stone and her husband Henry Blackwell as editors.
- In 1872 in Rochester, NY, Susan B. Anthony registers and votes contending that the 14th amendment gives her that right. Several days later she is arrested.
- In 1873 at Anthony’s trial the judge does not allow her to testify on her own behalf, dismisses the jury, rules her guilty, and fines her \$100. She refuses to pay.
- In 1875 the U.S. Supreme Court declares that a state can prohibit a woman from voting. The court declares women as “persons,” but holds that they constitute a “special category of non-voting citizens.”
- In the year 1876 Stanton writes a *Declaration and Protest of the Women of the United States* to be read at the centennial celebration in Philadelphia, but it was denied.
- In 1879 Belva Lockwood becomes the first woman lawyer admitted to practice before the Supreme Court.
- In 1880 New York State grants school suffrage to women.
- In the year of 1890 the first state (Wyoming) grants women the right to vote in all elections.
- In 1892 Susan B. Anthony becomes president of the NAWSA.
- In 1895 Elizabeth Cady Stanton publishes The Woman’s Bible, a critical examination of the Bible’s teaching about women. The NAWSA censures the work.
- In the year 1900 every state has passed legislation modeled after New York’s Married Women’s Property Act (1848), granting married women some control over their property and earnings.
- In 1903 Carrie Chapman Catt resigns as president of the NAWSA and Anna Howard Shaw becomes president.
- In 1907 Harriet Stanton Blatch, daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton founds the Equality

League of Self-Supporting Women, later called the Women's Political Union.

- In 1908 International Women's Day is celebrated for the first time.
- The Supreme Court upholds Oregon's 10-hour workday for women. The win is a two-edged sword: the protective legislation implies that women are physically weak.
- In 1910 The Women's Political Union holds its first suffrage parade in New York City.
- In 1914 Montana and Nevada grant voting rights to women!
- In 1916 Jeannette Rankin, a Republican from Montana, is elected to the House of Representatives and becomes the first woman to serve in Congress.
- In 1920 women finally get the right to vote; they get a voice.
- In 1923 the National Women's Party proposes a constitutional amendment: "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and in every place subject to its jurisdiction. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."
- In 1932 The National Recovery Act forbids more than one family member from holding a government job, this resulting in many women losing their jobs.
- In 1936 Federal court rules birth control legal for its own sake, rather than solely for the prevention of disease.
- In 1937 the Supreme Court upholds Washington State's minimum wage laws for women.
- In 1938 The Fair Labor Standards Act establishes minimum wage without regard to sex.
- In 1947 the U.S. Supreme Court says women are equally qualified with men to serve on juries but are granted an exemption and may serve or not as women choose.
- In the year 1960 FDA approves birth control pills.
- In 1965 the Supreme Court overturns one of the last state laws prohibiting the prescription or use of contraceptives by married couples.
- In 1972 the Supreme Court rules that the right to privacy encompasses an unmarried person's right to use contraceptives.
- Shirley Chisholm is the first black American to run for President.
- In 1973 they made it legal for women of the United States to have first trimester abortions without state intervention.
- In 1974 Ella Grasso of Connecticut becomes the first woman Governor elected in her own right.
- In 1981 the U.S. Supreme Court rules that excluding women from the draft is constitutional.
- Sandra Day O'Connor is appointed first woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice.
- In 1984 Geraldine Ferraro is the first woman from a major political party nominated as Vice President.
- In the year of 1989 the Supreme Court affirms the right of states to deny public funding for abortions and to prohibit public hospitals from performing abortions.
- In 1994 Congress adopts the Gender Equity in Education Act to train teachers in gender equity, promote math and science learning by girls, counsel pregnant teens, and prevent sexual harassment.
- In 2000 the U.S. Supreme Court invalidates those portions of the Violence against Women Act permitting victims of rape, domestic violence, etc. to sue their attackers in federal court.

As you can see from this timeline I have typed up, women of the past have gone through a lot over the years and they really have done a lot for the women today. The women of the past really cared about the women's future and if I could tell them, I would thank them for the things they had accomplished for the future.

What really got me about the past with women are the rights they did not have when it

came to marriage or getting jobs. It was really ridiculous and just plain ignorant for the men to do this to women. Women were legally considered dead in the eyes of the law. When they got married, they were stripped of their identity. For example, if I would have been born back then along with Glen, when I married him my name would be Mrs. Glen Moulton. No longer would I be looked at as an individual!

Women were not allowed to vote until the 19th amendment in 1920. Women had to submit to laws when they had no voice in their formation. Married women had no property rights, none at all for the longest time. Then years after that it was okay for women to have property in their names if the husband said it was okay. Husbands had legal power over and responsibility for their wives to the extent that they had the right to imprison them and beat them with impunity. If women divorced their husbands, the wives had no rights for child custody; the laws always favored the men in these situations.

Women had to pay property taxes even though women had no property rights. They had to pay for something that wasn't even theirs, it was their husbands. This does not seem right to me! When women wanted to work they were very limited on what they could do. They could be a teacher, nurse or secretary. When women did work, they only got a fraction of what men earned. Women were not allowed to enter professions such as medicine or law. Women didn't go to school that often to get the education that they should have had, because they didn't think it was necessary since no college or university would accept women students. With only a few exceptions, women were not allowed to participate in the affairs of the church. Women were robbed of their self-confidence and self-respect, and were made totally dependent on men.

Women are doing so much better today in the present than they ever did in the past and I am happy where the women stand today!

THE BOOK CORNER



Lucky

by Alice Sebold

reviewed by Andrea Benito

Lucky is a memoir written by Alice Sebold. She wrote it about her rape as a college freshman and her struggles after and before.

She was brutally raped and beaten in a park near her college on her way back to her dorm. The book tells about this and how hard it was for her to convince everyone around her that she was fine. Her family also has a hard time with it. She tries to tell the facts about what happened to anyone who will listen, but either they can't or she can't seem to get it out. She struggles to make sure everything happens right and her rapist gets convicted.

She wrote this book for anyone who has been through trauma, as she says in the book, "You save yourself or you remain unsaved." I think I learned to be brave from this book and not let anything get me down. I think her purpose was to get everyone to not give up hope, no matter what.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes memoirs. A memoir is a personal account of a particular period in a person's life. It is an interesting book. I think books about other people's lives and struggles are interesting.

GRADUATION

AUGUST 25

2-4 pm



John St. Methodist Church
Camden