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Flash!

Advice, perspectives & ideas to accelerate the leader in you



Author Joseph Campbell astutely observed *"I don't believe people are looking for the meaning of life as much as they are looking for the experience of being alive."*

As we celebrated my mom's 75th birthday recently, it occurred to me that she has been on a lifelong quest for the experience of being alive:

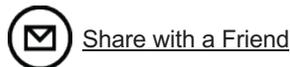
- When I was growing up, my mom constantly adopted new hobbies: sewing, painting, crocheting, basket weaving, antique collecting
- When she wanted to earn more money, she became a real estate agent and then the managing broker
(Her agents still reflect, "No matter how busy your mom was, she always made time for me.")
- When my sister needed a kidney transplant, my mom donated hers without hesitation
- And she won't walk by someone homeless without offering food or money
- After being widowed, she traveled to China alone
- Upon her return, she tried Match.com
- And then at 70 she walked down the aisle again (*including a bachelorette party!*)
- She once pulled an all-nighter with me for the best seats at the Macy's Day Parade
- After the election, she attended the March on Washington
- Last year she biked Iowa with me
- Last month she started doing yoga
- Last week she tried OrangeTheory Fitness
- **And for 40 years she has done it all in long red nails**

I can synthesize her strategies to "experience being alive" as follows:

1. **Keep perspective** ("What's the worst that can happen?")
2. **Say "yes!" first**; figure out the how later
3. **Always have a ticket** to the next adventure
4. **Make others feel important**
5. Go out of your way to **help people**

While my mom doesn't talk about the meaning of life, she never passes up an opportunity to experience something new or to make a difference for someone else.

Ann Tardy



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(2) If you're at the **ANCC Magnet Conference** this week, come visit us at the MentorLead [booth #1330!](#)

(3) Are you architecting a mentoring solution or preparing to launch or re-launch a mentoring program?

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