

Celebrate Good Times.....C'mon.....

Do you remember this song? It certainly does fit this time of the year. We have so many celebrations to attend!! What happens during the rest of the year? This is the time of high school graduations, college graduations, weddings, birthdays (mine is the 8th of July) anniversaries, confirmations, baptisms, First Communions, Father's Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Weekend (which includes Blessing of the Boats), Summer Solstice, Family Reunions, Fourth of July, my birthday (did I already mention this), house-warmings, ground-breakings.....whew!! And personally, I hate to miss a celebration!

So what is the importance, the significance of bringing family, friends (sometimes people you don't even know that well) to gather in recognition of a "happening"? This question was asked at a recent meeting of our local Toastmaster Club. And it got people to thinking. We heard from Deb who described a Fourth of July at Boston Harbor. She sat in the grandstand with thousands of others listening to the Boston Pops play God Bless America on an absolutely beautiful, clear night and had a lump in her throat and goosebumps all over as the fireworks went off overhead. "This is what America is all about" she thought, "Freedom, beauty, joy."

For Linda it was a recent trip "home" to visit sisters and celebrate the graduation of a niece. Being back where you are a sibling and a child again, fitting in to your "role". Uncles, aunts (out east where I am from this is pronounced like it is spelled not ant), cousins, grandma and grandpa....all the favorite relatives reminiscing, laughing, telling the stories that are told at every family event.

Tia shared that she was standing in her kitchen looking over the family yard that had been incredibly transformed for her wedding day. "It was amazing, she said, there they were all my family, my friends, here for me....to be my support and help me to celebrate one of the most important days of my life." "I hadn't really gotten in to all that hoopla about a wedding & planning, but then looking out over that yard that is when I really got it... I understood." And then her father came up next to her, put his arm around her and said, "Tia, I love you."

Hearing these stories that night at the meeting many of us were teary eyed and did get goose-bumps. And that is when I really got it about celebrations. That is the importance, the significance. These are the events that continue to connect us with the people that we care about and that care about us. These are our times to gather and to remember and to create new memories, the stuff of our lives, the stories of our lives.

Sometimes in our lives (personal and business) we feel like it takes extra effort to make it to all these celebrations or to put on a celebration. But we must and when we make that choice to we are helping to create and live the story. We are continuing to honor the traditions, the special moments, the relationships.

Speaking of celebrations.....How 'bout those Red Wings!!! Now that was a celebration.....

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