

Mother's Day Thoughts

The history of Mother's Day dates back for centuries with the earliest Mother's Day celebrations traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. In England during the 1600's, Christians celebrated a day to honor Mary, the Mother of Christ. By a religious order the holiday was expanded to include all mothers and was named Mothering Sunday. During the time when the English colonists settled in America the practice of this tradition slowly ceased.

In the United States, Mother's Day was loosely inspired by the British day and was first suggested after the American Civil War by social activist Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the words to the Battle hymn of the Republic. Julia was horrified by the carnage of the Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War so in 1870 she tried to issue a manifesto for peace at international peace conferences in London and Paris. She began a one-woman crusade for peace and made an impassioned "appeal to womanhood" to rise against war. Due to her efforts women in 18 cities held a Mother's Day for Peace gathering. Howe failed in her attempt to get the formal recognition of a Mother's Day for Peace. In the history of Mother's Day this was a precursor to the modern day Mother's Day celebrations.

It was actually Anna Jarvis who finally succeeded in introducing Mother's Day as we celebrate it today. Anna's mother had started "Mother's Friendship Day" in 1858 to improve sanitation in the area where she lived. In 1900s she worked to heal the nation reconciling both Union and Confederate neighbors. Ann was instrumental in saving thousands of lives by teaching the basics of nursing and sanitation. After her mother passed away in 1905, Anna decided to dedicate her life to her mother's cause and to establish Mother's Day to "honor mothers, living and dead".

The first Mother's Day was observed on May 10, 1908 in Andrews Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Grafton is home to the International Mother's Day Shrine. Anna's dream came true in 1914 when a Presidential Proclamation by Woodrow Wilson declared the 2nd Sunday of May to be observed as Mother's Day to honor all mothers.

Now that I have given a brief history about Mother's Day I would like to add how special our Mother's are to us. There are three phrases that I(we) haven't said enough to our Mothers:

1. I'M SORRY! – In the different stages of life that we go through while growing up, especially being a teenager, when we are the smartest person to walk the planet and unfortunately we think our parents are well maybe not the smartest; there is at least one time (in my case too many times) where my actions caused my Mother pain or disappointment. I'm Sorry for that!

2. THANK YOU! - I can't begin to imagine how many times that my mother did something for me and I forgot to say thank you. My mother is pretty selfless so I know that I owe her millions of thank you(s).

3. I LOVE YOU! - This is one phrase that I know we all need to say to each other more and especially to our mothers. I asked my mother one time if she knew that I thought about her and prayed for her everyday, and she said Do you really? I told her at least once a day whether she needs it or not. A mother's love is unconditional. There is always a bond between a mother and her child. I don't know how many times my mother has called because she had a "feeling" and it turned out that some was wrong or I was having a bad day. Just hearing her voice made things better.

A mother is the Bible's most honored woman, and great stress is laid upon the influence of mothers. The word "mother" or "mothers" appears in the Bible almost 300 times. The phrase, "As his mother was..." appears 20 times in II Kings and II Chronicles. A mother's influence is also stressed in Ezekiel where we read the phrase, "As is the mother, so is her daughter". The love of children was deep in the heart of the Hebrew women, and the mother was regarded with the deepest reverence.

So I would like to finish by saying this to all the Mothers, have a very happy Mother's Day, thank you for everything and we love you.