

Family Connections...

Julie Hryniewicz-Hache -- Sunday, February 25, 2007, 10:08AM



Sitting down to candlelight and my adorable husband, who made another fantastic meal, I was immediately triggered to memories of my Grandmother. The soup he had made for dinner resembled the pasta fagoli, that was one of my Nona's specialties, and I couldn't stop crying. Nothing like sobbing tears to ruin a nice romantic dinner!

Talking in between breaks, to blow my nose in the bathroom, I explained that my reaction was much more than her death itself - it represented the end of an era of family get-togethers. Almost every single time I saw my Grandmother, it was for a meal - usually cooked by her own hands and with a table full of other family members. I ached for

the loss that had now befallen my Dad's side of the family because the same thing happened when my other Grandmother died six years ago.

It was the efforts of my two Grandmothers that our family gathered for every holiday including Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and birthdays. How could we make sure that our family didn't continue to drift apart; especially when many of us detest the culinary arts? I wanted to work around our crazy schedules, no matter how hard it was. I wanted to see my family, way more than we have been. I wanted to let them all know how important they are to me because we never know what tomorrow will bring...

Feeling the urge to call my Mom immediately after crying through dinner, there was so much I wanted to say - I wanted to tell her that I missed her and wanted to see her more often. I wanted to cry some more and tell her how much I love her and need her wisdom, even though I am all grown up. Instead, when I called, it didn't seem like the best timing. Instead I just made plans to meet her at a restaurant for supper the

following week...

Why didn't I say all of the things I wanted to say? Why is it so hard to pour our feelings out to the people we love the most, especially when we want them to know how much we love them? I wasn't sure, but I was determined to reach out and proceeded to call almost every other member of my family, including my Daughter, my Dad, my Sisters, my Cousins, and my Aunts and Uncles.

By the end of the conversations and leaving messages, two and a half hours had passed and I was feeling more grateful than I had ever felt in my life. I have so much to be grateful for...I have so many amazing, wonderful, loving people in my family and my heart was full of love for every one of them. We made arrangements for meals, we cried, we laughed, we told stories, and vowed to keep in touch more regularly, no matter what.

All of the money and success in the world will not fill one of our greatest human desires - a desire to feel a connection with others. We are often so busy and our schedules are difficult to coordinate, but we have so much to share. The relationships with our families are the deepest connection possible and can bring us profound fulfillment and joy. We can see today as a new beginning, put our past regrets behind us, and reconnect with our roots. Are there any family members that you would like to call or write today? It sure brought joy to my day and I can't wait for dinner with my Mom...

"Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place." -Zora Neale Hurston