



CARE Chronicles

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March

When I Grow Up, I want To Be *Me*

By C. Richard Hearn

"When I Grow Up, I want To Be Me" is the working title of the book I aim to write one day about my irreverent journey through life. That writing is for another day; but one of the fun chapters wrote itself in my heart last weekend in Palm Beach, Florida. With your permission, I'd like to share it with you in this CARE Chronicle. But first, I'd like to extend a few thanks.

Thank you, financial faithful for your response to the last newsletter. Not only was it triple what the reach back rate usually is, but many of you offered your homes for shelter as well as your sincere concern for my most insignificant plight. Thank you for that. It was a warm feeling for me for you to care like that.

Thank you, Lisa See [Lisasee.com] for knocking them dead with your words and your pen at our "Night with Lisa See" for the benefit of Literary Orange. I am told it was the largest fund raiser ever for that organization. Their 5th Annual Festival is April 9 and tickets are still available. See the link at literaryorange.org.

"The key to change... is to let go of fear."

Rosanne Cash



My best friend and I were privileged to sponsor the event to honor my daughter who never waivers from her commitment to make the library a resource that serves the educational needs of the community. As rich and poor continue to move further apart, libraries are playing an all-important role.

Lisa's new novel, *Dreams Of Joy*, will be released in late May. Certain to be an international best seller, STARCARE is purchasing 100 signed copies. We will be happy to reserve one for you provided you will do the following;

1. Send me an email with a new charitable idea you are willing to support; something beyond what you're doing now. I don't care what it is; I care that you expand your giving horizons. If you want ideas, I'm happy to provide them. It's not important what you do, just that you care about the world around you that needs your love.
2. Refer our services to someone you think might benefit by them.
3. Do both and we'll send you three books.

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Thank you *Orange Coast Magazine* (March Issue) for singling out me and STARCARE as one of the 2011 *Five Star Wealth Managers* in Orange County. According to them, that represents a select group of less than 3% of the 12,800 wealth managers in this county and was based on surveys* of more than 74,000 households. According to me, I'm a pretty lucky guy to do what I love, make a small difference in the world I live in, and be trusted by you to help you with your dreams. I promise to continue to do everything I know how not to screw that up. Thank you for getting me here.

Now, back to my Palm Beach story.

A friend of mine for 30+ years and his significant other, who I hadn't met, invited me down for a long weekend aboard the boat on which they live. I quickly surveyed the reasons not to go and quickly realized there were none. Besides, my yachting friends were getting a treasure of a guest on their vessel. An unseaworthy senior, not one pair of boat shoes, white as a ghost with creaky legs that ran too many marathons, one hand weakened by arthritis, a lack of balance that can be only be described as truly breathtaking, a propensity for motion sickness and significantly older than the hosts. It was the perfect setup for the remake of *Gilligan's Island*.

How would I fare? Would I be miserable and, worse still, make my hosts miserable being so ill-prepared for this wonderful experience? On the

plane ride over, I was claiming insecurity about the weekend as a dependant on my tax return.

Then, it all magically changed. On the top down, sun up drive from the airport to the boat in that perfect Palm Beach weather, the worries seemed to disappear, instantly replaced with excitement, anticipation and laughter. I was trying something totally new for me, venturing out of my zone, something pretty rare for me.

The weekend turned into a whirlwind, nonstop party. My hosts were the most beautiful and seemingly most popular couple on the island. Every new day turned into multiple invitations to trendy restaurants; dancing; art exhibits; VIP openings; cocktail parties with authors and European Royalty; exclusive country clubs; cruising the Intracoastal Waterway; rafting on Peanut Island like 20-year-olds; fireworks on the water; and exquisite wines to facilitate the flow in all of the above. I made new friends and reconnected with an old one. What a thrilling weekend. I came home refreshed and feeling 15 years younger.

How did I fare? Very well, thank you. Thanks to my fabulous hosts, that fabulous town, and a willingness to exit my comfort zone and be open to change.

* The *Five Star Wealth Manager* is an award based on client satisfaction. Respondents evaluate criteria such as customer service, expertise, value for free charged and overall satisfaction. The overall evaluation score is based on an average of all respondents and may not be representative of any one client's evaluation.

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On the plane ride home, the fresh memories, the replenishment and re-nourishment inside from my amazing adventure filled my heart – crowding out the room needed by the previous insecurities to flourish.

The airline has a new policy against bringing insecurities on board and they didn't seem like baggage worth checking, so I quietly said goodbye to them, thanked them for being there when I had needed them, and dropped them into the hazardous waste container. Say "Bye, Bye."

Life is so precious and so full of opportunity. I'm learning to seize these prized moments when they present themselves. Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional. Here's to options. When I grow up, I still want to be me. Meanwhile – and I'm guessing it will be a long while – I'm so proud to be a part of *your* life and deeply respect the opportunity to help you connect with your dreams. Thank you for your continued support of STARCARE.

Sincerely,



C. Richard Hearn
LPL Branch Manager,
Chair of CARE and TEAMCARE
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