

constructive CHOICES

The Choice Connection

Dear Jean,

CHOOSE TO... Plan and Strategize

Choose to... imagine the end result... create, design, draw the plan... consider strategy #1.

Consider strategy #2 and why not a strategy #3... reflect tomorrow on what worked and what needs to evolve.

Experience the stretch and discomfort of new relationships and expectations, and believe in yourself .

Drive the plan and strategy from the consequences of ongoing activity.

Design the plan for life balance and for work satisfaction.

Celebrate your energy and being in motion... acknowledge your success in completion!

In This Issue

- Jean's Latest Choices
- PLANS & STRATEGIES
- Quotable Quotes
- Jean recommends...
- Administrivia

PLANS & STRATEGIES



Do you have a plan? How are you going to do that, complete it, finish it up?

How many times have you been asked those questions? I couldn't even begin to count how many times someone has asked me this nor how many more times I have asked myself those very same questions. I am hardest on myself usually with this question. At times, it seems as if I am driven by how much yet has to be accomplished and that the time I have to get things done is never enough.

I do like to plan. I am "create an outline first" person and consider

Constructive Choices, Inc.
Vol. 1, Issue 10, October 2007
~ Plans & Strategies ~

Jean's Latest Choices



- Choosing to expand new routines and new habits into strategies for my plans
- Ask for additional support with the physical therapy
- Start a watercolor painting class - a conscious strategy for activating fun into my week
- Try out one strategy and consider others
- Reflect on my plans for retirement strategies, the PhD strategies, life balance with work obligations and yes there are a few other plans in place.

Quick Links...

[Constructive Choices Web](#)

[More About Jean & Constructive Choices](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

myself to be the ultimate list maker. I use to think of myself as being somewhat spontaneous, and although I am okay with change (notice I didn't say I love it)... in reality I would much rather have a plan ... the plan. And with the plan I move right into defining the strategy - the method to get it done. And... what I need to manage better is to think of strategy in the plural - strategies.

I began to think of the differences in a plan and a strategy and so obtained a clarification on these from the dictionary. Webster defines these as follows: A plan is *"detailed formulation of a program of action; an orderly arrangement of parts of an overall design and almost always implies mental formulation and sometimes graphic representation"* - such as (drawings, outlines, templates, etc). My outline formulation falls right in line with this.

A strategy, on the other hand, is the *"careful plan or method; an adaptation or complex of adaptations (behavior or structure) that serves or appears to serve an important function in achieving evolutionary success (toward a goal)."* Surprisingly, this is explained in the singular as if one strategy might be all that is needed.

While doing a little research on this topic, I ran across a quote from General Patton (see Quotes section) on the benefit of devising at least two (2) plans so that the circumstances are not driven by the plan, but in fact the circumstances drive the appropriate plan (s).

Considering my many plans and strategies these last couple of years, I have discovered my following "Top 10 Reminders" and surprising AHAs. Please, feel free to add your learning about plans and strategies to this list.

1. No plan for even a day brings me to a complete standstill.
2. Creating and outlining my plans can and are my personal motivators.
3. Flexibility in the plan is key - it is seldom completed as it was originally intended.
4. I can create a strategy to clarify my plan's activities, but better that I have more than one strategy, a backup plan as it were.
5. Plans and strategies embody their own energy that feeds the speed at which I move toward completion.
6. Having life balance means I plan for it. I can lighten up on the strategies perhaps for the fun and personal and just let it evolve, but if I don't plan for it, it just doesn't happen.
7. Strategies will ensure the completion of a plan and it's own success.
8. The simplest strategy is best to get the most complex plan into gear.
9. Plans not of my choosing may still be appealing, but strategies designed by others do nothing to increase my engagement in the activity.
10. There is no one right plan and no one right strategy. Life is in motion and change is constant, so what was working yesterday and maybe even today may need some tweaking

[Other Articles & Workshops](#)

[The Choice Line](#)

[The Choice Store](#)

[Contact Jean](#)

Join our mailing list!

Join

to keep it moving tomorrow.

I was reminded this past week of the following - change is good... change is inevitable... and change is constant. This led me to consider how this might relate to plans and strategies. I believe I would add the following about strategies.

Strategies are the souls of creativity... the energy to drive personal motivation... the assurance of a plan's completion.

Quotable Quotes

"None of us suddenly becomes something overnight. The preparations have been in the making for a lifetime."
- Gail Godwin

Quotations

"Strategic - "doing the right things is more important than doing things right." - Joseph Stemler, CEO

"In the space of two days, I had evolved two plans, wholly distinct, both of which were equally feasible, the point I am trying to bring out is that one does not plan and then try to make the circumstances fit those plans, one tries to make the plans fit the circumstances." - George S. Patton

"I've always tried to go a step past wherever people expected me to end up." - Beverly Sills

Jean recommends...



1. [The Killer Angels](#)

Michael Shaara

~ Jeff Shaara's father and Nobel Prize Winner for this book on the Civil War's Battle at Gettysburg. A great historical perspective as told by the players in this event. Plans and strategies galore.

2. [Soar with Your Strengths](#)

- Donald Clifton & Paula Nelson

~ A foundation book for my continuing work on the PhD (yes it is still a plan).

3. [Career Management \(The Dryden Press Series in Management\)](#)

- Jeffrey Greenhaus, Gerard Callahan and Veronica Godshalk

~ The text for the HR Career Management course I am teaching this session for Webster University. This creates a reflection of all the career plans and strategies I have employed in my 30+ years in the working arena.-

Administrivia

My Constructive Choices AUDIENCE:

* Professionals wanting to be at choice in their career and daily work

* New Managers (and aspiring leaders) transitioning to establish a leadership role in their communities

* Individuals wanting to sort through the choices, build a more fulfilling life, lift their voices, and

* Coaches who choose to step out, show up and say -

Yes, it IS all about YOU!

Copyright 2007, All Rights Reserved
Constructive Choices, Inc.

Please, feel free to distribute this newsletter in its entirety. I only ask you include copyright and subscription information. You may have received this newsletter from a very thoughtful friend and I invite you to pass it along to others.

Be sure to check out the Choice Connection newsletter Archives. The archived newsletters are in PDF format. You can easily view from your computer or print them out and take them with you!

Choice Connection Archives

Sign up for the Choice Connection monthly newsletter!	
Email: <input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Go"/>

Privacy by  SafeSubscribeSM

email: jean@constructivechoices.com
web: <http://www.constructivechoices.com>