

Vol. 3, Issue 5, May 2009

The Choice Connection

- YOUR STORY -

Constructive Choices, Inc.
Discover and acknowledge your strengths...



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Quotable Quotes

"Own only what you can carry with you: Know languages, know countries, know people. Let your memory be your travel bag."
~ Alexander Solzhenitsyn

"When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced; live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice."
~ White Elk

Dear Jean,

A STORY - a share from a reader

When I arrived at 2:30 a.m., the building was dark except for a light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, and then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked.



'Just a minute', answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware. 'Would you carry my bag out to the car?' she said.

I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. 'It's nothing', I told her. 'I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated'. 'Oh, you're such a good boy', she said.

Highlights

Storytelling - Skills that can be defined as CORE ... PROCESS ... INTERACTION. Where are your strengths in your storytelling?

Our STORIES are our heart and soul - a share of our wisdom, laughter, interests, hopes, dreams, and life's lessons learned.

Quick Links

Newsletter Archives

CCI Web Site

About Jean and CCI

The Choice Store

Articles & Workshops

Complimentary Coaching Intro

Contact Jean

Tools/Resources

Books

1. Wake Me Up When The Data Is Over: How Organizations Use Stories To Drive Results
- Lori Silverman

2. The Art of Storytelling
- John Walsh

Web Sites

1. The National Youth Storytelling Showcase

2. Writers Journal

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!

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When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, and then asked, 'Could you drive through downtown?' 'It's not the shortest way,' I answered quickly. 'Oh, I don't mind,' she said. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice'. I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. 'I don't have any family left,' she continued. 'The doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. 'What route would you like me to take?' I asked. For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, 'I'm tired. Let's go now'.

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. 'How much do I owe you?' she asked, reaching into her purse. 'Nothing,' I said 'You have to make a living,' she answered. 'There are other passengers,' I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. 'You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,' she said. 'Thank you.' I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light.

Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life. I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID, -BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS RE MEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

Stories are powerful ... the messages are many and the pictures they evoke stay with us a very long time. You have many stories within you. They are the greatest and the simplest of gifts you have to share. How will you make us feel?

Warm Regards,

Jean

Constructive Choices, Inc.



CHOOSE to... consider the anecdote, the action, and the points of your stories and the feeling you

want to leave them with.

CHOOSE to...

ask questions, listen to the imagination, and observe the stories implicit in others' words and actions.