

Musings on Motherhood

Some thoughts from women who inspire us
and those who inspired them



In honor of Mother's Day, the Coastal Illustrated posed three questions about motherhood to several local women. Some responded with their experiences as mothers and others with theirs as daughters. We thank these women for sharing their thoughts with us and wish all mothers and those we love like mothers a very Happy Mother's Day!

CINDY LANE

1. *What is the best advice you ever received from your mother?*

To me, actions speak louder than words. My advice from my mother was in the loving way she raised us every day.

2. *What is the best Mothers' Day gift you ever received (or, if you are not a mother, the best gift you ever gave)?*

I receive the best gift every Mothers' Day-- Breakfast in bed!! I love seeing the look of joy and excitement on the girls' faces as they go about this yearly ritual.

3. *Who would you say is the "perfect" mother or is a great role model for mothers? (e.g. June Cleaver, Mother Theresa, Marge Simpson, Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis) Why?*

I think it would be rather difficult for anybody to be the "perfect" mother. I do think she is somebody we all strive to be by loving our children unconditionally, supporting them in all aspects of their lives, believing in them, being there for them and providing them with a home that is filled with faith and love.

ASHLEY UDELL

1. *What is the best advice you ever received from your mother?*

Put your trust in the Lord; make Him the first priority in your life and all else will fall into place. I found that to be most accurate!!

2. *What is the best Mothers' Day gift you ever received (or, if you are not a mother, the best gift you ever gave)?*

It's those precious cards my girls made when they were younger (my kindergarten still does!) Also, the adorable stick figure drawings of our family, drawn in that adolescent hand. They were always so brightly colored and we were always drawn smiling in those pictures. I just cherish them!! (I think I still have one or two on my refrigerator!!)

3. *Who would you say is the "perfect" mother or is a great role model for mothers? (e.g. June Cleaver, Mother Theresa, Marge Simpson, Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis) Why?*

If there is a perfect mother out there, please call me! Soon!!

SHEILA GLAESER

1. *What is the best advice you ever received from your mother?*

After college, my mother wanted me to know there was no need to rush into marriage and motherhood. She was 30 when I was born -- in 1964 she was the oldest mother around! In my 20's and 30's I traveled, worked and owned my own home in Atlanta. Having my baby at 38 made the experience that much more precious and special -- I was ready!

2. *What is the best Mothers' Day gift you ever received (or, if you are not a mother, the best gift you ever gave)?*

Every Mother's Day we enjoy Sunday brunch in the Grand Dining Room at the



CINDY LANE WITH HER FOUR DAUGHTERS, SARAH, KATE, AND TWINS ABBY AND EMMA

Jekyll Island Club Hotel. The beautiful setting and the fabulous food are perfect gifts for me!

3. *Who would you say is the "perfect" mother or is a great role model for mothers? (e.g. June Cleaver, Mother Theresa, Marge Simpson, Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis) Why?*

I love the book "Gift from the Sea", written in 1955 by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. The final statement of the book, "Patience - Faith - Openness, is what the sea has to teach" is remarkable! The message to all women is so perfect, even today, especially here in our seaside community.

VICKI SIMMONS

1. *What is the best advice you ever received from your mother?*

Stay close to God and listen for His guidance.

2. *What is the best Mothers' Day gift you ever received (or, if you are not a mother, the best gift you ever gave)?*

Probably a bouquet of flowers and weeds from our yard, pulled up by Andrew when he was about 4 years old. It was a gift from the heart.

3. *Who would you say is the "perfect" mother or is a great role model for mothers? (e.g. June Cleaver, Mother Theresa, Marge Simpson, Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis) Why?*

I would have to say Laura Bush. She is a great Christian woman. Her genuine desire to put God first is evident. She has a wonderful way of seeing the best in people and encouraging her children and others around her.

DANA CARROLL

1. *What is the best advice you ever received from your mother?*

Never say what you would or would not do until you have gone through the same experiences as the person you are trying to judge.

2. *What is the best Mothers' Day gift you ever received (or, if you are not a mother, the best gift you ever gave)?*

The gifts that my children make at school. I keep them all.

3. *Who would you say is the "perfect" mother or is a great role model for mothers? (e.g. June Cleaver, Mother Theresa, Marge Simpson, Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis) Why?*

June Cleaver with a little bit of Marge Simpson's sarcasm. I think that June Cleaver was a strong and caring mother. She allowed her children to learn from their mistakes and corrected them when they were out of line. In today's world, I think she would have needed a touch of sarcasm to help get her point across!



ELIZABETH AYLWARD AND THE "PERFECT" MOTHER. HERS! MARTHA STILL

ELIZABETH AYLWARD

1. *What is the best advice you ever received from your mother?*

Pretty is as pretty does.

2. *What is the best Mothers' Day gift you ever received (or, if you are not a mother, the best gift you ever gave)?*

It was a placement that William made in preschool. On it was a questionnaire about me and the things that William enjoyed doing with me. Precious . . . and priceless.

3. *Who would you say is the "perfect" mother or is a great role model for mothers? (e.g. June Cleaver, Mother Theresa,*

Marge Simpson, Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis) Why?

My mother -- Martha Still. Because she loves unconditionally and has set an example of a Godly mother. She is kind, gentle, and very forgiving.

ELIZABETH FREYER

1. *What is the best advice you ever received from your mother?*

Always wear clean underwear.

2. *What is the best Mothers' Day gift you ever received (or, if you are not a mother, the best gift you ever gave)?*

My mother died the day after Mother's Day in 1999. On that Mother's Day, I had a long visit with her where she had enjoyed a bouquet of peonies and "Peace" roses I had grown and arranged and also some blonde brownies which I had made. It was one of the best times we had had in recent years. It turned out to be a closure on our relationship and a nice one at that.

3. *Who would you say is the "perfect" mother or is a great role model for mothers? (e.g. June Cleaver, Mother Theresa, Marge Simpson, Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis) Why?*

I have always admired Barbara Bush. She is not afraid to be herself - she is comfortable in her own skin. She has had the heights of motherhood in seeing her children grow up into responsible, giving adults, some of whom just happen to be at the pinnacle of leadership; she has also experienced the depths of motherhood with the death of a child and disappointments in failures with her children also. Yet, she keeps on going, being supportive, and being a wonderful role model for us all.

NICOLE ANDERSON

1. *What is the best advice you ever received from your mother?*

My mother has always given such wonderful advice. People are always saying "I wonder what your mom would do" or "let's call Jot and see what she thinks". My mother is a wonderful Christian, a very loving wife, and the best mom. The best advice she has given me is, "Nicole, slow down. Life goes by

so quickly. Take time to enjoy it. There will be time later to do laundry, cook, and clean. Enjoy and love your husband. Hold, cuddle, snuggle, and love your children." This is a prayer my mother tries to live by and advises my sister and me to live by "Lord, we do want our rooms to be filled with precious and priceless treasures. We want our homes to have love and laughter around every corner. We love You, we trust You, and we thank You. Amen." A couple of quotes my mother mentions often "take too many pictures, laugh too much, and love like you have never been hurt because 60 seconds you spend upset is a minute of happiness you will never get back". "Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God."