

ATTIVITAJIET GHAX-XAHAR TA' MEJJU

Il-Ħamis 1 ta' Mejju: Ġita ta' ġurnata bil-katamaran għal Sqallija. Niltaqgħu il-Passenger Terminal għol-Waterfront fil-ħamsa ta' filgħodu. Fis-6.30 a.m jitlaq il-katamaran. X'hin naslu Pozzallo ikollna coach tistenniena. Nirritornaw Malta għal xi 11.00pm.

Il-Ġimgħa 2 ta' Mejju: Project House Floriana 8.30 p.m. Illum is-sur Joseph Farrugia se jagħtina talk u jurina DVD fuq il-George Cross peress li din is-sena jaħbat is-70 anniversarju minn meta ingħatajna il-George Cross. Titilfuhiex għax interessanti żgur.

Il-Ġimgħa 9 ta' Mejju: Project House Floriana 8.30 p.m. Illum Fr. Saviour se jagħmlilna quddiesa fl-okkażjoni ta' Jum l-Omm biex nitolbu għall-ommijiet kollha – ħajjin u mejtin.

Il-Ġimgħa 16 ta' Mejju: Project House Floriana 8.30 p.m. Illum se jkollna talk interessanti ħafna mill-Family Counsellor Doreen Coleiro M. Couts (Melit), MSc Nursing, BA in Youth & Community Studies.

Il-Ġimgħa 23 ta' Mejju: Project House Floriana 8.30 p.m. Illum se jkollna fun games minn tlett membri tal-kumitat – Silvio, Connie u Mark. Għal dawn il-logħob dejjem ħadna gost u dħaqna ħafna.

Il-Ġimgħa 30 ta' Mejju: Illum se niċċelebraw il-birthday celebrations ta' dawk il-membri kollha li għalqu sninhom f' Mejju. Din id-darba ser niċċelebraw il-birthday barra. Dettalji aktar tard.

Chairperson: Maria Borg **Mob. 9927 1981**

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Għeżiež ħbieb,

Iż-żmien qed igerbeb ġmielu u dejjem naraw bidliet u żviluppi fil-grupp biċċa għall-agħar u biċċa għall-aħjar. Din is-sena l-grupp jagħlaq sittax-il sena mit-twaqqif tiegħu u għalkemm xi kultant nidhru li sejrin lura speċjalment fin-numru ta' membri, bqajna mexjin 'il quddiem.

Ma tridx taqta' qalbek fil-ħajja imma dejjem tħares 'il quddiem. Dak li għallmuni lili l-esperjenzi qarsa tal-ħajja – **“Never Say Die!”**. Kien hemm mumentu fejn kellna ħafna taqlib, kritika u nuqqas ta' qbil iżda ftit ftit bid-diskussjoni wasalna wkoll. L-importanti li ma niġġudikawx bl-addoċċ u ma nitkellmux fir-rabja għax inweggħu aħna u lil xulxin. Nippruvaw inkunu pożittivi mhux negattivi u ngergru biss. **“Better light a Candle than to Curse the Darkness”**.

Flok noqogħdu ngergru x'hemm ħażin, nippruvaw nagħtu daqqa t'id fejn nistgħu, biex l-attivitajiet jirnexxu. Billi taraw lil tal-kumitat jaħdmu ma jfissirx li aħna ma naċċettawx l-għajnuna jew ma rridux min jiġi magħna. Jien napprezza ħafna meta waqt it-te jew xi party ikun hemm min joffri biex iqassam jew min jaqbad inaddaf. Kull għajnuna tgħodd. Napprezza ħafna wkoll meta xi hadd jgħid grazzi għax xogħol li nagħmlu li kollu u kulhadd jagħmlu minn qalbu u fil-ħin liberu tiegħu. Napprezza ħafna meta narakom idduru ma xi hadd ġdid u tagħmlu iħossu “welcome”. Dawn huma kollha affarijiet pożittivi li jġibu l-grupp 'il quddiem.

Dan ix-xahar assoċjat ma' Jum l-Omm u għalhekk ħsiebna fl-ommijiet kollha billi se nagħmlu quddiesa u nitolbu għalihom u xi tifikira żgħira ma tonqosx! It-talks li se jkollna żgur li se jkunu ta' ġid kbir għalina u għalhekk nagħtikom parir ma titilfuhomx. Barra minn hekk għandna d-divertiment – logħob ma' Silvio and Co., il-ġita ta' Sqallija u l-Birthday Celebrations. Kif taraw programm varjat – attivitajiet serji u fun activities! Għalhekk naħseb li taqblu miegħi meta ngħidilkom li:

Mal-Minusone int fittex mur, Ghax magħhom zgur għandek futur !

Nixtieq nieħu din l-okkażjoni biex niringrazzja lill-membri kollha tal-kumitat tal-kooperazzjoni u x-xogħol tagħhom u nawgura lill-ommijiet kollha:

Happy Mother's Day!!

Dejjem tagħkom, MARIA

You'll Always Be Mama to Me

Melissa Rhoads

"We received a nice card from your Dad and Christa," an elderly acquaintance recently told me. Never having thought of my mother as "Christa," it took me a second to realize they were not referring to my younger sister. Initially I dismissed this incident. Memory, though, is quite independent, and I found myself repeatedly rehashing that conversation and the questions it raised. Why did they assume that I didn't call her Mom? Is that possibly the norm for families like mine? Could it be that I've just been incredibly lucky without ever having realized it – lucky that my stepmother has always been Mama to me? The quest to answer these questions has sometimes been painful and humbling, but always rewarding.

My birth-mother died when I was 15 months old. She had battled leukemia for over a year. During that time, Mama Lynn had spent all her energy in reaching out to others, and caring for Papa and us six children. She worked on our scrap books and photo albums and got our clothes in order for when she wouldn't be there anymore. Edna St. Vincent Millay, the twentieth century American poet, once described loss as "a hole in the world, which I find myself constantly walking around in the daytime, and falling into at night." Although for me this grief is now more like a tide that comes and goes, Mama Lynn's death has left a certain hole in my life that will never be filled. I don't remember her, but I'll always carry the knowledge of her love in my heart.

Mother-loss creates a void which a daughter may spend her lifetime trying to fill. Most will have difficulty trusting another woman after experiencing their mother's death, and many will never find a "mother substitute" to turn to for advice, counsel, and friendship.

Stepchildren experience loyalty conflicts which can be eased when a birth-mother gives her children permission to like their stepmother. Maybe Mama Lynn was subconsciously doing that for us the day she gave Papa her blessing, saying that if he found another wife in our church after her death, she would be happy. At the time this conversation was more than he could handle. Looking back, though, it has only been a comfort to Papa and to us children. The autumn after Mama Lynn's death, my sister entered kindergarten in our church's school. Her new teacher was Christa. In the parent-teacher working together, a God-given love slowly grew between Papa and her. A few days after my fourth birthday, Papa told us that Christa would soon be our new mother. Those were exciting days! I often pull out the well-worn photos of the day when their honeymoon was over and we welcomed them home. The joy is tangible on every face: joy in this gift that God gave to our family.

Looking back now, I realize that I have never thought of her as Christa, "my stepmother," or "my Dad's wife." They have always been Papa and Mama. My sister Christa and my two younger brothers are technically my half-siblings. We never thought of each other that way, though, and it never crossed my mind that Mama would favour

them. What is the secret then? How did Mama manage to love all of us wholeheartedly through our childhood and adolescent years? How were we able to end up a family that I couldn't imagine differently? Perhaps it was the result of circumstances and timing. I was four when Mama came into our lives – and Mama, who was in her late thirties, had been longing for a family and children of her own. The answer, though, lies much deeper than this. As a teen, I was the cause of much discord in my family through my headstrong attitude and temper. When Mama and I had run-ins, though, Papa always made it crystal clear that they were a team and that he would not tolerate any disrespect towards her. The ultimate healing from our brokenness, though, lies in God's gift of "living by mending" which includes asking for, receiving, and giving forgiveness. This daily forgiveness and gathering together each evening to pray for Jesus' protection and leading were the glue that kept my family together.

Now, as an adult living on my own, I realize just how lucky I am to have Mama as a friend a confidant. I think often of the many stepmothers who are exhausted by trying and having their affection rejected. God sees their love, work, and effort. A stepfamily may never become just like an original family, but does this matter? Through the years, God's grace kept inextricably gluing my family together in a wonderful way. With his grace as the glue, each family can become as he intended.



