

# The Joan Times

Newsletter #22  
From Joan Huguenard  
Beautiful Sonoma, California  
September, 1992

## Yes, Yes, Yes

The weather here is gorgeous; Sonoma is a friendly, historically preserved, tourist-attracting little village with wineries, unique shops, and restaurants in abundance; Sonoma Valley is a prestigious agricultural region and an open air Farmer's Market twice weekly offers just-picked goodies right down the street (of course, in Sonoma, everything is right down the street); I'm gradually getting organized in my new home; Katherine (I mistakenly called her Margaret I my last newsletter) is a delight: her family treats me like family; the tension in my neck and shoulders is beginning to evaporate; and I AM WRITING!

## My books

Many of you have asked, so let me give you a little introduction. I am currently working on Embracing the Yes, a light-hearted, inspirational account of the assorted directions my life took once I started saying Yes to God more often, and got out of the quagmire of No's that I had lived with in my thirties. It covers the time frame between my fortieth birthday and my invitation to teach in China some fifteen years later.

I have also written several chapters of the sequel: How I Ended Up in China Because I decided to Have a Garage Sale, which will cover my first year there. A third book will deal with my second and third years in the Middle Kingdom. Fourth, fifth, and sixth books? – wait and see.

## Your Contribution

Anecdotes give life to the manuscript and I'm including as many as I can. It occurs to me that you probably remember some that I don't. If you wish, I invite you to remind me of any you'd like me to consider including — - anything poignant, humorous, or teaching me (us) a lesson I (we) needed to learn. Don't worry about being recognized in the book as I use only first names and can even change yours if you wish.

No need to take the time to write it all out in detail, unless you really want to. Just a few words on a postcard will do it, along with your phone number so I can call

for more details if it seems like something I can use of if (as is quite possible) I don't remember the incident at all and need you to fill me in. It would be helpful if you also gave me some "best times to call", bearing in mind that it is three hours earlier here than the east coast, two hours earlier than the Midwest. I'm an early riser so a good time for me to call you would be before 8 a.m. (California time) when the rates go up. Or sometime on the weekend.

You are certainly welcome to call me at Katherine's. A good time for that is after 11:00 p.m. your time, when it's cheaper. However, if I'm not there and you leave a message, there's little assurance I'll get the message, as Katherine's short-term memory is failing fast. Note the following:

One evening, Katherine hung up the phone and said, "Your son, Tom, called. You'd better call him back right away." Answering his phone, Tom said, "Is that a sweet lady, or what?" "You're right, Tom," I responded, "She IS a sweet lady. But she just told you I wasn't here when I was practically standing at her elbow."

## Amazing

I well remembered reading an old book from the library in the early 70's that profoundly influenced my thinking, so I wanted to mention it in my book. But I recalled neither title nor author. However, a couple of weeks ago, while going through papers I'd saved since then, I found not only title and author, but even notes that I had taken while reading the book. Still, I thought, my writing would be more accurate if there were some way to actually read the book again. Before visiting a used bookstore, though, I hide myself to the Sonoma County Library.

Guess what! Your Personality and God, by Margery Wilson, published in 1938 and long out of print, is now in my hands. An electronic search located a copy for me. Amazing. Even more amazing is how right on her essays are, even for the 90's!

## Washington Office on Haiti

There's no question that some of you cannot or choose not to give financial support to efforts for the beleaguered citizens of Haiti. That's okay with me. On the other hand, LOTS of you have asked me what you can do. So I'm enclosing the latest dispatch I've had from the WOH. If you throw it away, I'll never know. If you should decide to send a check, I won't know that either, but Thanks Bunches. I met Claudette Werleigh in Haiti, and again in the Washington Office. She will be a fantastic director.

## Joy

Though I know a lot about communicating, I can't accurately describe for you how wonderful it feels to really be writing. It's slow going, but at least four times a week, I work on the book.

Hope life is good for you.

Joan