

# The Joan Times

Nomad, Shmomad, Where's Joan now?

## The Book!

At last, at last, at very long last— my first book! **Embracing the Yes! : A Life Recycled** will be rolling off the presses in a few short weeks. It's about nine years since I first started this autobiographical work so you can imagine how thrilling it is to know its publication is near at hand. You may wonder why I offer the story of my life between ages forty and fifty-five. Let me quote from the book itself the following:

*Note from the author about the why of it:*

With so much to write about that's more current, folks sometimes ask why I wrote this book? The answer is easy.

Along my path of growth, I have frequently been urged to write something to be shared with a specific person. Observing how I had changed my own life, the requesters felt my reflections might motivate change in someone they knew who was stuck in a less than satisfactory situation—a dead-end job, a financial fiasco, a disastrous relationship with son or daughter. The first such request came from a friend whose mother felt trapped in an unhappy marriage, paralyzed with fear of trying to change anything at all.

Gradually I discovered that an unbelievably high percentage of people, from high level corporate executives through every echelon of society, lack a solid sense of their individual worth. Because such a lack is debilitating, untold numbers of folks find themselves "stuck" in some unhealthy state of affairs.

Should the story of my journey cause even one person to take steps to bring about a recycling of his or her life; should this tale motivate even one of God's beautiful creatures to embrace the possibilities of Yes!, then my goals will have been accomplished.

Anyone you'd like to gently motivate to change? Yourself? Consider **Embracing the Yes!** for Christmas gifting.

## The Beginning Experience

I'm pleased to announce that the forward in this book is from Sister Josephine Stewart, the founder and original director of the Beginning Experience.

I'm pleased to further announce that, following a commitment made some years ago, I plan to donate half of all profits from sales of **Embracing the Yes!** to The Beginning Experience (known affectionately as B. E.) You say you don't know about this not-for profit, international volunteer organization that has made a vast difference in the lives of many thousands, including me? Let me once again quote from the book:

*The Beginning Experience*

Nearly every week-end of every year, somewhere in the world, men and women who are suffering the anguish of the loss of their marriage participate in a weekend activity that brings profound change into their shattered lives.

Ever since October of 1974, the formerly married have been enjoying the life-changing dynamics of a Beginning Experience weekend. Widowed, separated and divorced persons learn to deal with the frustrations, guilt, anger, humiliation, and depression of losing their marriage partner. With caring guidance and support, these persons gain effective tools for gently closing the door on the past and moving with hope and resolve to a brighter future.

## Marketing Embracing the Yes!

**Embracing the Yes! : A Life Recycled** will be sold primarily by direct mail. Please feel very free to duplicate and distribute the enclosed flyer profusely.

I hope to do a number of radio interviews and some author events, particularly in towns where I've lived.

Except for those cases where I have an opportunity for a book-signing appearance, **Embracing the Yes!** will not generally be found in bookstores.

## *The Joan Huguenard* *Holy Land Tour of 2000*

Few things have raised my excitement level so high as the prospect of providing some 50 of you this opportunity. In June of the year 2000, I want to take you on an incomparable two-week tour of the land of the Bible. You will have the best guides available, I guarantee it! We are arranging a dynamic itinerary, great accommodations (not pricey first class but quite comfortable), and planning to include everything including tips in the price. Everything, that is, except lunches. Many of you don't want three full meals per day, so we'll include a big breakfast and dinner, and you can choose how much food you want to buy when we stop at lunchtime.

Is it safe to travel in Israel? And will it be safe in 2000? **Believe me**, we won't go if the experts feel it is unsafe. During my year there I talked with tourists from around the world who were flabbergasted to learn that some Americans had been convinced by the media that it was unsafe to travel in the Holy Land. If you have any question about this, go to a travel agent and ask to speak to someone who had recently been there. Ask that person - whoever it is - if they felt they were in danger while on their tour of the Holy Land. I felt absolutely safe there where people can still send their children to the park by themselves; where I feel comfortable walking alone at night; where they don't have gang wars, drive-by shootings, schoolyard massacres or gang rapes. Safer by far than in this dangerous country we live in! Besides, our guides constantly have their finger on the pulse and will always make any appropriate adjustments in the itinerary to avoid any possible trouble areas.

Please let me know if you may have an interest in this tour (no commitment required at this time.) We'll have estimates of costs soon and many more details to share.

### *Where IS Joan Now?*

Not sure even I know the answer! A pattern that started for me several years ago is repeating with a vengeance in this year of super-nomadism; I stir from sleep and ask: Where am I? What city am I in? Whose house is this? Where's the bathroom! Having offered, in exchange for room and board, my services as organizer, respite care giver, house-sitter, or conversationalist, I move into a new domicile every week or two. Whew!! It is do-able, and I am finding it's a neat way to get acquainted with families I have known only slightly (or not at all.) However, I am also finding I am not Superwoman after all, and getting

the book out by my self-imposed deadline was not do-able in these circumstances. Nonetheless, the bigger goal of having **Embracing the Yes!** out in time for Christmas giving has been met and that delights me.

### *Correspondence (and Lack of . . .)*

May I quote from Tom Peters? When this renowned business writer is at work on a book, he says he resorts to "unadulterated rudeness. Mail, save for life and death matters, is left unanswered for months. Phone calls are not answered. Social engagements are canceled."

I didn't plan it that way, but it's happened. So to all who wrote after Joan Times #32, I say Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! I LOVE to get mail. Hope you won't stop writing to this non-responder, though I'm not likely to improve. With promoting **Embracing the Yes!**, writing the sequel, and getting two short (already written) books ready for publication, I'll have precious little letter-writing time available in the near future. I'll be thrilled if you write to me anyway. But never feel obligated!!

Email, also, has been mostly one-way. I gain access to my email messages at least weekly but have sending capacity far less often. Nonetheless, my email address remains one of the two constants in my life, so you CAN reach me at [jonihugs@cheerful.com](mailto:jonihugs@cheerful.com)

or reach me through regular mail (some say snail mail) at: **P. O. Box 405, El Verano CA 95433.**

I am swept away by the generosity of your invitations—everything from "spend a week and help me organize my junk drawer" to "spend a month or more, rent free, in a lovely hideaway where you can write your heart out." So far, many invites have been deferred by the logistics of getting there, especially since my trusted 1981 Honda has finally given out. But dragging my stuff and my self from the proverbial pillar to post has been exhausting and I'm ready to tuck into some of those longer-term offers. On the other hand, early November will be dedicated to promoting the book - perhaps in your town.

To those who ask, "How else can I help?" you could gift me with a phone card - I use them constantly.

### *Daily Life in Biblical Times*

In Sonoma, Milwaukee, South Bend, and Carson City, I've had the inestimable pleasure of presenting - with slides - the teaching I learned in Jerusalem. My audiences have seemed intensely gratified. The latest, some 100 children in grades five to eight, sent individual letters of thanks! What a treasure trove! May I present this amazingly informative slide show in your neighborhood?