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# MEMOIRS' IN-SIGHTS

Inspiration, Information, Reflection and Vision

(An electronic version of our Corporate Ethical Will)

# Memoirs

PRODUCTIONS

An Ethical Will &  
Video Biography Company



FALL 2008, VOL. I, ISSUE 4

## LETTER FROM THE PRODUCER



Iris E. Wagner  
Executive Producer

This issue's theme naturally evolved, the idea of writing meaningful letters that would summarize and project our deepest wishes for our loved ones and our strongest beliefs about what really matters for our descendants to read one day. In some cases, this is inspired by age or illness, two more obvious triggers for self-reflection, but more often it is simply the desire to *capture that which matters* most so that the opportunity is not lost.

Because in our busy, time-starved lives, the one thing we can count on is that things change, and unexpectedly. That's why our request for this frantic back-to-school, back-to-work period is to take the time to write a letter to someone you love – you won't regret it. And for those of you who celebrate – our best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Be well, go safely,  
Iris

# INSPIRATIONAL



RANDY PAUSCH — *The Last Lecture*

If you haven't heard of him yet, you must not be one of the seven million people who has seen his famous "Last Lecture" given at Carnegie Mellon University, short months before his death of pancreatic cancer. Created as a memorial and inspiration for his children with lessons on what really matters and how to achieve one's dreams, this lecture was delivered before a standing-room only crowd in his computer science class that was filmed and has been circulated for the world to share. His messages are simple, funny and heartfelt: he's realistic without being maudlin and meaningful without being pedantic. Everyone from Diane Sawyer to Oprah is a fan of what is *clearly a legacy of values*, except delivered in a stand-up format. You owe it to yourself to be inspired. To view the video, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5\\_MqicxSo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5_MqicxSo).

## VISIONARY: HOW TO WRITE A LETTER OF LOVE

Writing a letter of love is not the same as writing a love letter. First of all, it's destined to someone you love but not necessarily the object of your love or your beloved. Most of all, it's meant to be read and reread, long after you are not present, and to capture some of the things that most meaningful to you. Here are three easy tips to get you started.

**The past:** Start by saying what a gift being in their life has been, how you feel about the role you play, your first memories of them, how your life has changed since they have been a part of your life.

**The present:** Tell them what you like most about them, the things you enjoy about their character, what you appreciate and what you never tell them but always want to, or what you always tell them and why. You could recount the things you love to do together, the things you love about them, what makes you proud.

**The future:** Write about what you hope for the future, where you can see them following their desires and their special talents. Finally talk about what you think is important to take into the future, the thinking that has inspired you and maybe a quote or phrase that you have acted on in the past.

And that's all it takes! A few sincere words from you can make a lasting difference in the lives of those you love.

### 'MEMOIRABLE' QUOTE

“ To send a letter is a good way to go somewhere without moving anything but your heart. ”

**PHYLLIS THEROUX**

# INFORMATIVE

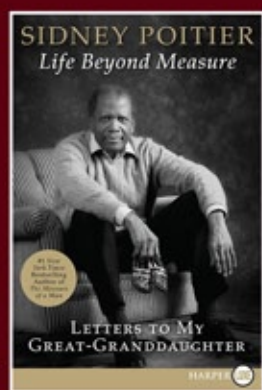
## ELECTRONIC PICTURE FRAMES

Also called digital frames, you may have seen them on the desktops of the truly tech-savvy. These conventionally-sized picture frames let you display and change your photos at the touch of a button. It's never been easier to display your favorite memories. Digital picture frames have been around since 2000 but today, the design of frames has been improved and refined, and they come in a wide range of models available in different screen sizes. You can get a small model perfect for a desktop that displays at 4x6 inches, or a wall-mounted model that has a square screen of 12 or 14 inches. Older versions will require you to transfer photos with a memory card but the newer ones can have photos uploaded through a Wi-Fi transfer. It's worth looking into if you like to change your framed photos frequently – and it's time to get those digital photos off the hard drive!



Image courtesy of Westinghouse

## WE'RE INSPIRED BY...



### LIVING A LIFE BEYOND MEASURE

The famous writer/director/actor Sidney Poitier has published a third memoir (following 1980's *This Life* and 2000's *The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography*) detailing his remarkable story. He recounts some of his memories, from a poor boy in the Bahamas, to his experience of racism coming to the United States, falling in love and raising a family (six daughters, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter), breaking the race barrier in theater and film during the Civil Rights Era, achieving stardom and success in Hollywood, and being a diplomat and humanitarian.

Written as a set of 23 letters to his great granddaughter in the hope of letting her know exactly who her great-grandfather was, what he believed, and what made him tick, *Life Beyond Measure* is bursting at the seams with inspirational stories aimed to advise and motivate us all. According to Reed Business Information, "His writing is deep, his views are that of a wise man who has seen the world from every angle. Poitier's classical, firm and rolling voice is entirely engaging, and listeners will find themselves yearning for more."

Sounds to us like a *legacy of values*, written by a famous and introspective great grandfather to a dearly loved and newly arrived child.

# HONORABLE MENTION

## Memoirs & Iris Honored: 2008 RayLign Family Well-Being Award



Gregory T. Rogers, Founder, RayLign Advisory with Iris Wagner at The Burning Tree Country Club on June 12, 2008

The 2008 RayLign Family Well-Being Award was presented to Iris Wagner, Memoirs' Founder and CEO as part of *RayLign's Family Gathering* event held at The Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, Connecticut (much to our great surprise!). The Award is given to an individual or organization that exemplifies a professional commitment to and unbounded enthusiasm for RayLign's purpose of perpetuating well-being for families through the generations. For more info, visit [www.memoirs.ca/newsletter/raylign\\_pr\\_2008.pdf](http://www.memoirs.ca/newsletter/raylign_pr_2008.pdf).

P.S. We were lucky to have met Greg while presenting at *The Family Office Forum (IIR Conference)* in Miami last year, and truly feel privileged to work with him on his *Legacy Of Values* production. We take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanks to Greg and his team for all that they do!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Iris Wagner will be speaking on Preserving Legacy:

- September 22-23, 2008  
*The Family Office and Alternative Investment Conference, Campden Conferences, TAJ Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts*
- October 14, 2008  
*Global Assets Showcase, Family Office Association, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Greenwich, Connecticut*
- October 27, 2008  
*Family Office Annual Meeting Event, Ballentine, Finn & Company, DeCordova Museum & Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts*
- November 14, 2008  
*Family Office Forum, Stetson University, Orlando, Florida*

## FINAL THOUGHTS

A reminder for your old home movies—we'd love to transfer them to Archival DVDs before they're "lost forever." Kindly contact us for more info.

**Memoirs**  
PRODUCTIONS

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