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Inspiration, Information, Reflection and Vision  
(An electronic version of our Corporate Ethical Will)



**Memoirs**  
PRODUCTIONS

*An Ethical Will &  
Video Biography Company*

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## LETTER FROM THE PRODUCER

A milestone on the road used to be the indicator of how far you have come, and how far you have yet to go. As upright stones with engraved distance markers have been replaced in most places with reflective highway signs, the emphasis appears to have shifted from marking progress on the journey to simply providing direction.

Here at Memoirs, we think it is good to know where you want to go but also to take the time to note how far you've come. This issue is dedicated to taking stock of where you are, right now, and of marking the significant milestones that are placed along the pathway of our lives.

Be well, go safely,  
Iris



*Iris E. Wagner*  
Executive Producer

# INFORMATIVE



*In the 2010 Olympics, the U.S. Bobsled team won its first gold in 62 years*

When you ask many people about milestones, they often respond with anniversaries of some kind: their 25th wedding anniversary or their 50th birthday.

While it's true that anniversaries make great milestones in the sense of using these important markers as a time for reflection backwards and forwards, there are other milestones that we should take time to celebrate and use as a starting point for thinking about what matters. What about:



A "milestone" visit to a special spot? Your 100th visit to your favorite restaurant? Tell the waiters! So what if you're not sure – you can still celebrate the occasion!



Having a special dinner not just on the anniversary of your marriage but on the anniversary of the day you met: why not return to the spot and see how it has changed.



The first overnight stay of a grandchild without his or her parents is an important step that forever changes the relationship between all parties.



A "back in time" trip: go back to one of your favorite vacation destinations and take pictures of yourselves in the same places you posed all those years ago. Pull out your old photos and see how much you (and the locations) have changed.



Was there a book or film that made you stop and think or see things differently? Read or view it again, or pass on a copy to someone who could use an intellectual poke.



If you have a garden or a country home, take note of the "firsts" you take in: first blossoms, first fruit. Nature's milestones are ways of reminding us about the continuity of the life cycle.



Was there a breakthrough for you of some kind you should be noting? First time you made it through a 10-mile run? A new business sector you finally broke into? How do you want to mark this milestone?



Mark a major time of transition: a move to a new home, a graduation, a new job. Don't focus on the uncertainty or the change but see it as an opportunity for reflection and celebration.



## WE'RE INSPIRED BY...



Lisa Kudrow, of *Friends* TV show fame, has a new series that fits very well with the *Memoirs*' belief in legacy-building. In NBC's "*Who Do You Think You Are?*", this so-called "alternative series" allows viewers to take an up-close and personal look inside the family history of some popular celebrities such as Matthew Broderick, Spike Lee, Susan Sarandon and Brooke Shields.

Starting with her own family's story, which includes references to the Holocaust, Lisa Kudrow's production company decided to adapt the British version of the same documentary series with a "journey of self-discovery" as the stars unearth their family trees and reveal the milestones, events and sometimes surprising stories that compose their family legacy. At times inspiring or even tragic, it is interesting to note that many histories are often linked to crucial events in American history, such as the California Gold Rush to the Salem witch trials and the Civil War.

Not only entertaining viewing, this series has the power to show just how connected everyone is not only to the past, but to one another. And if you really like the idea and want to try it out for yourselves, the BBC series has a CD ROM set you can purchase at [www.welovegifts.tv](http://www.welovegifts.tv).

## WE'RE WATCHING

**History's Turning Points:** Not just for history buffs, the thirteen-part series on decisive moments in world history, produced by *Filmwest*, is a wonderful documentary series available at Amazon and elsewhere online. It highlights the major milestones and historical events across the centuries and continents, bringing immediacy to the towering moments of world history and showing how one moment, act or decision inspired a whole series of consequences. As their website explains:

Each turning point in history has behind it a story and a set of principal characters whose dilemmas and conflicts form its dramatic core, and whose unique personalities influenced the outcome of events. How would the development of one of the world's greatest civilizations, China, have been different without the ruthless ambition of its first emperor, Chin? Would the British have won Quebec in the eighteenth century without the tenacity and devotion to duty of General John Wolfe? New facts, often from indigenous sources, have emerged to add to our understanding of these crucial events and these, together with the latest historical research and documented first-hand accounts, bring each turning point vividly to life.

Great watching for those who are interested in new perspectives on the significant moments that have changed the world.

# WE'RE READING



Okay, so we're not actually reading this one. And neither would you be: at best, you'd be composing or writing it. There are a multitude of books out there on the market, from compiling favorite recipes to recording children's "firsts". We like this one because it is a simple and easy way to preserve the important milestones in your family and also creates an automatic legacy. As the author says, the scrapbooking craze of recent years doesn't work for all families, especially when it comes to the time it takes. We are big believers in recording memories in writing, photos and of course, on video, but also believe that we need alternatives that are simple, practical and encourage the user to contribute to them.

One of our clients keeps a notebook by his bed to record his thoughts and remembrances of key events that changed him over the course of his life, a true recording of milestones. A number of people we know have adopted the tradition of writing their children a letter on their birthday in a notebook or a backed-up computer file that the child will open only once he or she attains a milestone, i.e. upon a 21st birthday, or graduates from college, or marries. Whatever your method for recording milestones, we encourage you to start now, since the building of a legacy for loved ones takes a lifetime of small bits of thoughtfulness.

## 'MEMOIRABLE' QUOTE

“*Sooner or later we all discover that the important moments in life are not the advertised ones, not the birthdays, the graduations, the weddings, not the great goals achieved. The real milestones are less prepossessing. They come to the door of memory.*”

**SUSAN B. ANTHONY**



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