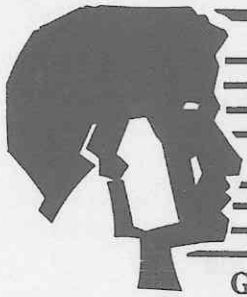


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GFC NEWS

June, 1998

GFC-Richmond • P.O. Box 8501 • Richmond • VA • 23226

Commencement President's Message:

It's June, and for many that means graduation. My own daughter -- my youngest child -- will be graduating from high school. Days afterward she will be moving into an apartment she found during her spring break. Ever since her 18th birthday -- barely a month ago -- she has begun to assert her independence.

These changes are causing her mother much consternation. Not me. This is what parenthood is all about; preparing children for life on their own and then sending them off on their own.

Oh, she still has much to learn. But from life, not from her parents. And she cannot learn the

remaining lessons by remaining in the nest -- even for a few more years. She has to take flight, search new horizons and build her own nest.

She is looking forward to her college years. So am I. It gives me great joy to see both of my children discovering what will one day be their world --- and discovering themselves in the process.

Some parents watch their children stride to the stage to receive their diplomas with weepy-eyed sadness because they realize that they are no longer little kids. What tears that will well in my eyes will be because I realize that I've done at least a few things right in guiding my daughter to this point. And it

will be because I am filled with joy for her that she realizes how far she's come in life. It was the same when my son graduated from high school three years ago.

In a way, high school graduation is also a sort of commencement for us. It is a new beginning for our children. And it is a new beginning for us. It calls for a change in our relationship with our children. It marks the time when we give up the role of parent, and take up the role of mentor and friend.

I consider myself fortunate to have realized early on in my "second life" how important it is for parents to cultivate a "sense of relationship" with their children -- and

especially with teenagers. It makes it so much easier to graduate from parent to mentor to friend.

So, if you haven't yet reached the point of commencement, begin preparing for the day. Work on your relationships with your kids -- and also work on the "sense of relationship" with them. And if graduation day is near, embrace it and celebrate it. And move on to the next phase of your life.

Announcements

Bob Greene currently has several of his photographic art works on exhibit in the Photographic Arts Network's Explorations '98 Show at Shockoe Bottom Arts Center through June 27th.

He also has two of his works on exhibit in the Virginia Society for Photographic Art's Annual Show at the Charles Taylor Arts Center in Hampton,

VA, through July 5th.

And beginning July 6, Bob will be exhibiting most of his portfolio in the Gellman Room at the downtown Richmond Public Library -- along with his SBAC studio partners. There will be a reception on July 9th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. -- all are invited.

Special Thanks

Out thanks to Jim Beckner for introducing us to SHADES at the May meeting.

Jim has offered to conduct SHADES sessions for any GFC member who would like to host a private gathering of friends. Just call Jim at the Fan Free Clinic.

June Social

Bob Greene is offering to host a "Richmond by Rooftop" social (weather permitting) on 6/23, 6/24 or 6/25 atop the Shockoe Bottom

Arts Center. Details are still tentative but will be announced at the June meeting when we will decide on a definite date according to what is best for the most people. (Come prepared to pick a date.) As usual, this will be a "pot-luck" affair

Calendar of Events

Date: Thursday, June 4

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 520 N. Boulevard

The June meeting will return to our usual location. This will be an "open forum" meeting with time to share recent "life developments" both good and not-so-good and also to socialize.

For More Information about GFC-Richmond, call 355-6218 or 230-2578.