



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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Welcome to the May 2020 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to write about “Mothers Day”. This topic allowed members to share their “thoughts on their mother” in how special they are. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this edition of *The Noodle*!



Current Members:

John Baldino
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My Mother is Loving, Kind and Friendly

On this Mother's Day, I am thinking of my mom. She is a wonderful mother.

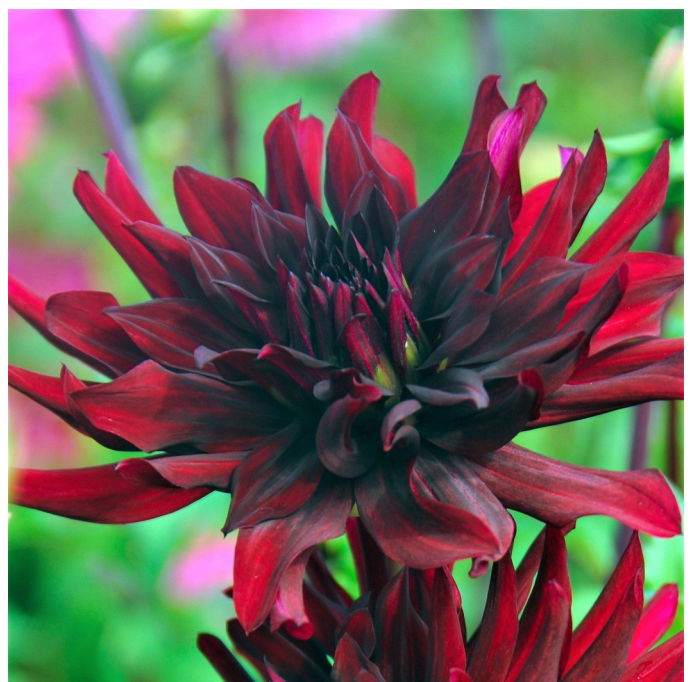
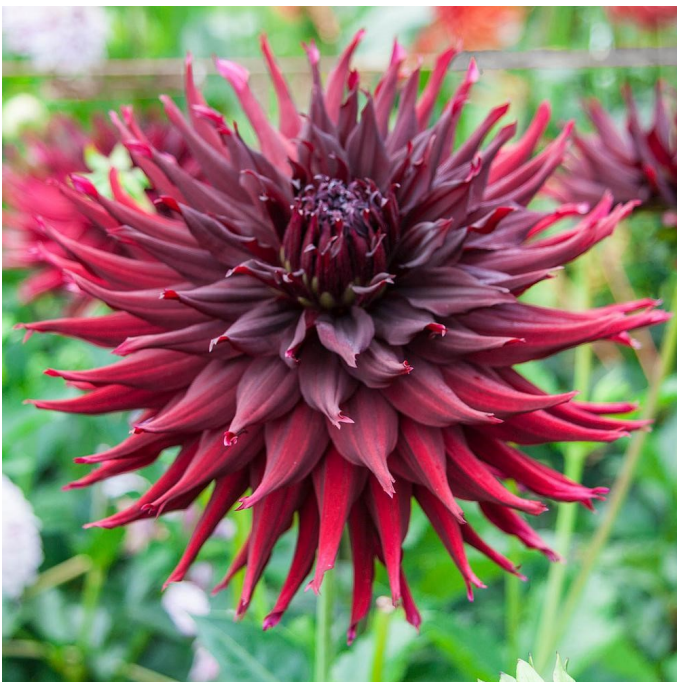
My mother is loving to me because she gives me lots of hugs and kisses when she comes home after she has been away on vacations without me and my dad. I always miss her. I love my mom all the way to the moon and back. She cooks me dinner and breakfast every morning and nights of the weekdays and weekends.

My mother is always kind to me. I ask her to give me head rubs at night and they make me feel relaxed before I go to bed. I love her head rubs. I get them on Monday nights and Thursday nights.

My mother is also friendly. She is pleasant and takes me out to hear the blues on Monday nights. We go to "Lost Mondays" at the Warehouse. We have drinks and sit at the table and listen to the music. The music soothes us and we enjoy it. We interact with the other music lovers there and sometimes we have a potluck supper with them.

I swim with my mom in the Gulf of Mexico at our beach house on St. George Island. The water there is invigorating. We love it when the waves are big enough to ride and we love playing around in their bubbles. Splashing in the water is one of my favorite things to do with Mom.

By John Howard Baldino





Mother's Day

We would celebrate Mother's Day by going to the theme parks and had dinner. We would go to Kings Island in Ohio. We used to go to Kentucky Kingdom, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, and SeaWorld. We would also go to Walt Disney World. We also went to Cypress Gardens which is now Lego Land Florida. We also went to a cemetery. We would ride the all the rides and went to all the shows. We saw many concerts. We would give flowers and cards to all the moms at church. My dad's birthday falls on Mother's Day sometimes. We would go out to eat. We would watch movies. The schools would have a Mother's Day luncheon every year. We would go to the beach and have a picnic. We went to several churches for the Mother's Day services. We would make dinner. We would go for a ride and look at the water. We would watch TV shows. We would have fun going to the different parks. We went to Kings Island many times. The different theme parks offered different things for families to enjoy on Mother's Day. They had different deals for Mother's Day every year. They had special shows just for mothers. It was fun to go to all of those theme parks every year in May. Mother's Day is a really fun day to celebrate mothers. Moms are there for you when you need them. You can talk to them about anything that you need.

By Christina Waldron



What My Mom Means To Me

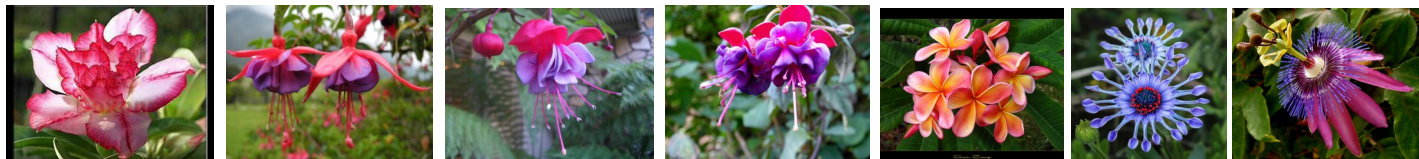
Where do I even begin? Mother's Day is coming up. Observed in the U.S. since 1914, thanks to a proclamation signed by Woodrow Wilson, the second Sunday of May has been reserved for moms of all kinds. It's the one day of the year specifically set aside for everyone to honor and appreciate their mothers for everything they have done for us, although it is my belief that one should do that every day of the year. That's definitely the case for my mom. She has done so much for me starting from the day I was born that I could never begin to recount everything. With all of my disabilities, she's been my number one advocate from the start;





navigating the system, helping me get the services and resources that I needed to better my life and quality of it. Other things also, like raising me up to know and serve the Lord, telling me I can do anything and not let others ever tell me differently and simply being the one who as always loved me unconditionally no matter what and always will. I love her and will always be eternally grateful for everything she's done for me and that's what my mom and Mother's Day means to me!

By Derek Carraway



My Mother's Day Gift

My mom has always been sweet, kind and gentle, but she is more than that to me. She is my biggest supporter. Through simple everyday tasks like fixing my meals, getting me up in the morning, and dealing with me when I get obnoxious, she makes life better for me. When I was little, she would take me to therapies and help me work on my physical mobility, and even when I complained, she would endure it for the good of my health. In fifth grade, I decided to host a fundraiser. Who was my cheerleader for that? My mom. While other kids went to soccer and other physical activities, my mom always tried to find ways for me to get out and have fun, like going to parks to swing and carrying me up to the top of the little kid's slide so I could do that over and over. At Easter egg hunts, she would literally hold me up so I could walk a little bit and feel what it was like for the other kids. One year at my grandparent's in Ohio, she took me out of my chair to lay in the snow to make snow angels, as I had never seen snow before. When we went inside, she gave me warm water to warm up my hands after they were freezing in the snow. Moms always know what to do!

In my later years, Mom was always supportive of my ambitions in high school while keeping her expectations realistic. I wanted to be president of a club, but she suggested that I go for vice-president which was a better option for my skills and abilities. While writing this article, I can't help but wonder about what Mother's Day present to give her, but as we are in the middle of a lock-down, this article is the perfect gift. I Love You, Mom! Thank you for always being there when I needed you.

By Serena Wetmore



Mother's Day: Origin in America

In the early days of America the situation was quite different. There, the early English settlers often disapproved of more secular holidays and this is why the Mothering Sunday tradition never really took hold in the USA. Even some early attempts made there in this regard were mixed with women's suffrage and other peace movements.

In the United States it was Julia Ward Howe, the author of the words to the Battle Hymn of the Republic, who came with the idea of an International Mother's day in 1872. It is noticeable here that her objective behind this was not exactly to honor mothers but to celebrate the peace.

Another important name associated with present form of Mother's Day celebrations is of Anna Jarvis. Anna Jarvis was the person who made lots of efforts for establishing Mother's Day, as a national celebration. Jarvis held an annual gathering of "Mother's Friendship Day," with an objective to heal the pain of the victims and those affected of the Civil War. After the death of her mother in 1905, Anna began a campaign for the establishment of an official Mother's Day in order to commemorate and pay tribute to her mother.

It could be said that Anna Jarvis devoted her entire life to making efforts to have Mother's Day declared as a national holiday. She began her struggle in the spring of 1908. As her first step made in this direction she wrote to the Superintendent of Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. This was the place where her mother had taught Sunday school classes for over 20 years. In her letter to the Superintendent she urged that a Mother's Day service should be held in honor of her mom. 112 years later this day is still honored but we forget why it was the reason behind it. This day is to honor our moms and all they did for us. Let us never forget to celebrate moms because they sacrifice a lot to make sure we grow up to be responsible, as well as law abiding citizens of our community. Moms and Dads are both heroes and their days shall and will be honored.

By Dakota Smoot





Mother's Day

Mother's Day is an important day each year that we celebrate. The reason Mother's Day is so important to me is because my mom has done a lot for me since I was adopted from Russia in 2002. For one thing, she puts up with my attitude on the daily basis. And regardless, she still loves me constantly even when I do not deserve it. When I was in fifth grade I got picked on a lot because I was smaller than the other kids and I had to stay after school for tutoring in math. Also, due to me having a learning disability called dyscalculia (not being able to understand math), I fell behind in school so much because I could not keep up with the other kids in class. I was not liked very much, and after sixth grade, my mom pulled me out of school and homeschooled me for the last six years. I definitely appreciate her giving up her time to teach me lessons even when she didn't have too. Mothers do a lot for us, such as cooking food, cleaning the house, being there for us in our toughest times in life, putting up with bratty attitudes (such as mine), and nonetheless loving unconditionally. Therefore, I like to do something special for my mom every once in a while, such as cooking my mother dinner a certain day of the week, so she does not have to cook. I also like to make her a cup of coffee on Sunday morning because she deserves to sleep in. Let us never take our moms for granted because they are the ones who do so much for us when we do not even realize it, and they deserve to be appreciated.


By Emma Massey



My Mother

If I can describe my mother with one word, it's inspiration. My mother has been through hardships, loss, poverty, and despair. It has been a long journey. From a little girl who was from a small town in Puerto Rico, to becoming a mother raising four boys. When my mother became an adult she wanted to help former female inmates to rehabilitate themselves to live a full life. It wasn't easy to have an autistic child around but from the moment that I came to this earth, she knew how special I was. For a long time, my mother had to fight for her prosperity.





She is the type of person that can inspire a young generation of women to never let negative syllogisms get in the way. She would not let a school system or incompetent leadership dictate someone's life without letting the person write their own story. She has fought for me and the people she cares about. Would anyone say that she's perfect? Well no—but she is to me! I see the strength, intelligence, and beauty of my mother inside and out. It wasn't an easy life but after all the difficulties, the hindrances, and the disputes, the one thing that a person cannot take away is the love and value that I have for you. We achieved almost everything together because we are a unit. I was only apprehensive of one decision. When I joined The Florida Youth Council, I had the notion that without my mother teaching the essential attributes of tolerance and patience, I wouldn't be an advocate for people with disabilities. A mother gives love, faith, nurturing, and power to her child. She is an energy field created by all living things. She surrounds us and combines the galaxy! My journey would not continue if it weren't for my mother. To my mother, many children will not understand how powerful a mother's love is when many who have now become older realize those moments. Every piece of the puzzle will come together, and when it does, life becomes whole. You have been through many paths in life, but at the end of the day, you're a role model, a peacekeeper—but most of all, a mom. I've made this statement before in years past, but these words still hold true to this day, "No other woman will ever replace you." Yes, it is a cliché, but the most important thing is always to appreciate the people around you because you never know when they will become a memory. I know the work that you do will continue on regardless of age. You are my Yoda! Without the master, how will the student continue a legacy?

By Alexander Gonzalez





How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self-advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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