

PASSAGE POINTS NEWSLETTER

October, 2009

This month's topic: *Are you a traveler or a wanderer?*

As a kid, I filled scrapbooks with favorite cartoons from The New Yorker alongside clips of " Confucius Says" and "Today's Chuckle" from the Philadelphia Inquirer. One memorable Confucius quote proclaimed: *The fool wanders; a wise man travels*. Not only is this quote not from Confucius (it's from Thomas Fuller--obviously no Internet back then) but also I would suggest, after several recent trips, that this is just not true. I believe that there is wisdom in knowing how to both travel *and* wander in life!

How do you approach your journey? Are you a traveler, a wanderer, or both?

Tips for Traveling:

Never doubt the value of a plan. Plan with both a high view and a detailed focus. Get out the maps, review the territory, get advice, and plan excursions. On a recent trip to the Hudson River Valley, we worked with our Innkeepers and County Tourism reps to schedule tours of Hyde Park, the Rockefeller estate, and the Culinary Institute of America--all glorious experiences that systematically enlightened us with historical information, cultural understanding, and culinary cravings. It was traveling at its best.

We were able to hit many popular destinations only because we spent time in advance researching the Hudson River Valley, collaborating on "bucket list" places to see, determining best routes, and planning an efficient pace for our group of four.

Tips for Wandering:

But, there are always surprises. When you are thrown off course, challenge yourself to see *beyond* your plan with new eyes. As author Byron Katie points out, sometimes we need to step away from our tendency to be a dictator of life, declaring what is good and what is not. She asks with a smile, "who needs God when you have your own opinion?" Instead, open your mind and say ahhh. Carpe Diem--whether it's a fall day at its finest, or a fall day blown upside down by high winds (We missed a glorious vista due to 50 mph wind gusts...)

We also missed turns, got confused, ran out of time, and encountered cranky, poorly trained service providers. I'm happy to report that at these times we moved into a wandering mode with success! We devised alternate routes, lightened our load with laughs, discovered new vistas, helped pioneer a newly opened trail across the Hudson, and bumped into fellow passengers who shared advice and delightful stories.

Wandering also gave us the opportunity to notice the tall, blue cosmos dancing outside the Inn, brush up against a woodchuck rambling across the yard, enjoy intricate stencils on Frederick Church's Olana doorways, and see the sleeping porch where Eleanor Roosevelt slept at her cottage. Ah, the wonders of wandering.

Wishing you a grand journey filled with wise travel and wonderous wanderings,
Vicki

This newsletter is dedicated to my dear friend, Marilu MacCarthy, who took on the task of composing our Hudson River Valley trip with the eloquence of a conductor and the flexibility of a jazz virtuoso despite continuing challenges! David, Tim and I say thanks.

RECOMMENDED LINK:

To learn more about Byron Katie and her work:

<http://www.thework.com/index.asp>

RECOMMENDED WANDERING:

If you have the opportunity to travel to Broadway in NYC, you must wander over to the St. James Theater and see *Finian's Rainbow*, featuring our favorite "home grown" actor, Christopher Fitzgerald! It is a grand production set to open on October 29th.

<http://www.finiansonbroadway.com/index.php>

THOUGHT TO PONDER:

Wandering re-establishes the original harmony which once existed between man and the universe.

[Anatole France](#)

Passage Points offers coaching, workshops, and Field Guides to help you navigate life's journey. Find out more at www.passagepoints.com

I love to hear from you! Send your comments, questions, suggestions to vicki@passagepoints.com And please pass this newsletter on to anyone who would benefit.