

“Follow your bliss and doors will open where there were no doors before.”

“It is by going down into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life. Where you stumble, there lies your treasure.”

Joseph Campbell

ABOUT THE NEW WORLD

and the need to “mingle” among generations!

WELL LADIES... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU but I am *Over the Edge* about improving our world. How? By mentoring and MINGLING with our youth, encouraging them to create the new world, helping to navigate and learn to live respectful lives and creating purposeful enterprises and new economies. From the great Bob Dylan, “*The Times They Are A' Changing*,” and there is no road map for where we are headed. What better way to get there than to mix it up and MINGLE with multiple generations!

First I am concerned about a few things; maybe it has something to do with the events surrounding Eliot Spitzer (whose wife, Silda, was in high school with me). Maybe I am affected by the economic news of the global change at such a rapid pace it makes my head spin or maybe it's hearing about the teens that beat up other teen girls (Ladies, these are our daughters!) and post the video on YouTube for the world to watch. Maybe it's the news from my husband who stopped a car of teens who purposely ran a biker off the road, nearly killing the person just for laughs. And let's not forget the recent stories out of Texas about polygamy, child abuse and abuse of woman. Are we a country so focused on other parts

of the world that we neglect our own backyard? Or do we see a world better equipped to take charge of change? Is it a failing of our society or a cleaning up?

I watched Silda Wall (as I know her) Spitzer (someone I do not know) as she stood with her face so drawn, her color more gray, eyes empty, tired, swollen and wondering. Publicly she braved the camera and shared her pain, the shattering of the life she knew, ... all of what was real to her now a fictional

Why are you interested in being an entrepreneur?

“I am excited about the ability to create and execute on an idea that I am passionate about and seeing others respond to that passion.”

Akil Hine, Duke MBA Student

novel to be read not lived. I felt my own heart breaking for her, my throat choking up. These questions came to mind: What is real and what is imagined? What is right and what is wrong? I realized at the moment she walked out with her husband, Silda Wall Spitzer, a mother of three daughters, a woman with a Harvard Law degree and a First Lady of N.Y. after a stellar career... could have someone arrested for stealing her IPOD, but not her heart, her soul and the life she believed to be true. It pained me to see her. I felt for her as she was criticized for standing by her husband while other critics criticized her for potentially not standing by.

We are a split society, 50 / 50. There is no right; there is no wrong. There is only judgment, criticism and pondering of our own comfort zones, as we've become a world of public master debaters. We collect information for our right piles just so we can be right, or the “est” of the room; smartest, funniest, riskiest or the savviest! What is real is our world, the

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world we create in our minds. An extreme freedom seems to be leading us to invent the new world for better or for worse. We teach that the past is our great predictor of the future. Does that mean things will never really change? If that were the case, women would not be voting in the upcoming election.

I am generally optimistic, so maybe that is why my emotions go Over the Edge, when I hear stories like those I've mentioned here. I care, Over the Edge care, about our youth and

What would you like women of my age to help young women with?

"Help us think about how to approach the next phases of our lives."

Sarah Kate Fishback, Duke MBA Student

what kind of world they will grow up in. What will the economic future be for our young women? What will the opportunities for family be for them? More than anything, how will they create their dreams? Do they have dreams? With more generations living longer, I began to think about how women can support women more to create this new world.

I am Over the Edge about...THE NEW WORLD and the "MINGLE-Generation" that will create it!

At the very moment I decide to write this article I receive a call from a past associate who remembered me from a board meeting. She recalled that I left early to take my daughter to an event. In the middle of this particular board meeting, I had no problem sharing (with the mostly male group) that I was caring for my family first. After two years and only a few past encounters, this young professional woman "Googled" me, traced me to Raleigh and contacted me.

Her purpose for contact surfaced almost immediately. She asked, "How do you have a life filled with things you are passionate about? How do you make time for your family in the 24/7 world of business that we've created for ourselves? How do I keep my three-year-old daughter safe from the world's evils and still have time to spend with my husband enjoying life? And HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE and make a decent living at the same time? You know the damn American dream!" she asked with desperation.

I was overwhelmed! Simply overwhelmed by the nature of the contact, by the emotion this young professional woman, who

seemed to have everything going for her, was sharing with me (all while she was closing the door to the conference room of her high-profile New England office).

I was overwhelmed that she sought me out specifically to ask these questions. Somehow I had created an impression that I am a knowledgeable person in these topics and "safe" to talk to. While flattered, I am merely a seeker and in the process of striving to warrant the privilege of helping answer such questions. Leadership development experts call it authenticity. The new focus they say is about authentic people. I call it being who you are! They are out there for us all to tap.

Knock, Knock... Are my readers listening? You may be one, if you reflect on those that seek you out for guidance. Then of course I realized that *Women's Edge* is about mentoring, inspiring and motivating women to reach their full potential, authentically! What a perfect place to engage the discussions of the NEW WORLD than here with our readers.

I am Over the Edge about mentoring our youth. The challenge feels sometimes bigger than the globe itself. What

"My daughter is three years old, how do you have the life you dream of while trying to earn a living, raise a family and maintain work priorities."

Young professional from a major financial services firm

worked for me in my past may no longer work for young women. Very scary! Yet, there are lessons to share and they want to hear from us, all of us. The good, the challenges, the opportunities, the how's, the not to's, the do's, the if I had it to do over I would's. As I pondered what young women want from my generation and feeling uncertain, I decided to go ask. Well, I not only asked, but made sure you share in it also (i.e., that we can all as women be there for each other, "mingling" our way to a better world). Once again I did not count on being overwhelmingly inspired in return by the young women I interviewed.

So off to the university campuses I went. PC in hand (first change I notice... there are no PC's on these campuses, it's mostly very cool looking MACs with pink and orange skins and IPODS in every shape, color hanging every way possible from one's anatomy), to ask Duke University MBA and other

Graduate Students mostly what they are feeling, thinking and what my generation of women (ok, I am not 30 and BTW 40's were very kind to me...next) can do to support their journey.

MINGLING

Are we seeing sparks of insanity? Is this new generation really interested in forming the NEW ECONOMY? Not only are they interested in new visions of the future; they overwhelmingly speak about having a purpose, a desire to contribute and improve the world. They get it! Are they really able to drive the vision of a purposeful life and even "jet propel" their lives far beyond the hyper-consumerism and compete-to-kill business life that has emerged from the School of TRUMP? Can it really be done? YES! They believe with our help the world is theirs to improve.

To the right is just a snippet of insight from the answers I've collected so far (keep in mind, this in no way is a formal research project but more a personal interest). Women listen up....women younger than you are asking for help, insight and our mentoring, support and friendship. NETWORK with them, MIX AND MINGLE WITH THEM! Set up formal outings with them. If you don't know how to engage, email me. I am thinking of facilitating a volunteer WOMEN'S MINGLE Group and will assist you in reaching out. |

Let me hear from you about what you're passionate about. I love comments to connect with my readers. Please email any thoughts or responses you may have about the articles or a topic you may have interest in. Anything you'd love to share concerning any of the Over the Edge past stories or ideas on future stories is welcome. Please email me at teresa@cladventures.com subject: Over the Edge. You may also visit my blog at www.cladventures.com for past Over the Edge stories.

Lessons for Life's Journey – What Young Women have on their Minds

1. Do you believe that dreams can come true? What is your big dream?

Hands down the answer is yes from everyone I talked to. Young women are out to make a difference in the world. Their futures are not just about making money. They are not driven by an "end" goal but the "means" goal.

Family: All of the women I interviewed wanted to have a family, with children and loving spouses. Most of them brought up worries about life balance.

The idea of loving came across as a pursuit of trusting relationships.

All of them wanted to inspire! They wanted to inspire their children and others in a way that motivated people to live their own dreams.

2. Why do you lean toward entrepreneurship (these were mainly business students)?

"It is where my dream will live," said one MBA student. Most of the women wanted businesses of their own. There was a general feeling they have more control over their own destinies. This point resonated with all of the graduate students I spoke to. Many feel there is more equality in some fields of work than others, but building a business seemed to win hands down with the women I spoke with.

3. What would you like women of my age to do to assist you on your path?

"Help us think about how to approach the next phases of our lives." This also came from all the interviews of more than 30 young students. They want involvement from older generations; life lessons that will help them navigate their own life journeys.

4. What top three issues come to mind when contemplating our ever-changing world?

The main points of concern that came across in the questioning:

- The economy, worries about recession, worries about what world economy really means for our country and what that would mean for them as they launch out into the world of work in just a year or two.
- Support for one another was another big concern and networking effectively to help other women achieve the desired success while also seeking out women that can support their own growth.
- Home and work balance was top of mind for every young student I spoke with.

Does this mean young or old, all women want the opportunity to mingle and exchange ideas, help one another, impact others to create a bigger world...

5. What is your primary concern as you continue on your education journey?

The economy comes up again as a big concern. Many wondered if they would have to move outside the country to establish financial stability.

Entrepreneurism is a major focus mainly as a dream and desire but also is a way to be in charge of their own destiny.

Some of the businesses these women had in mind were surprising to me. Not to oversimplify this dream but one MBA student was interested in organic farms and the ecosystem of business from this type of farming. Restaurants were another interest. Two young women wanted a clothing boutique or some type of retail chain and yet another wanted to open a small inn with a world-class restaurant.

Coming from RTP and having been in technology most of my career, I found this quite refreshing.

6. Who do you think is the best role model for young women today?

Well, this is no surprise, even among this young generation of women Oprah wins again!