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Tao-Girl

Newsletter

The Gathering - A Celebration of Tao and Defiant Women Everywhere



Spring 2009

There's always a reason to cheer.

Those of you who know me are aware that much of our wintertime is spent following the UCONN women Huskies basketball team. We're right up there in the stands at just about every game cheering on these young women who become our "adopted" daughters during their 4-year stay at the school; excelling at not only basketball, but academics –with poise, intelligence and honesty.

But now the season is over until the fall and the girls, reveling in their winning season, are back to their studies. Joe and I are left to find another squad for which we can put on our cheerleader outfits.

That would be, of course, our beloved Mets. Or the Red Sox. Or anyone who happens to be playing against the Yankees.

With the media constantly reminding us of the catastrophic state of the world – swine flu, terrorism, disastrous climatic changes and the failing economy, one would assume that there is not much to cheer for lately.

I heartily disagree. Right now I am sitting in my study, looking out at the newly emerging flowers, shrubs and trees and know that life will constantly run its cycles. It is up to us to remember the beauty and the good and not dwell in the negative.

Not an easy task, I agree. But one that is necessary to our survival, and the health of our bodies and souls.

As time rushes on – bringing with it the challenges and transitions of life, you might take a tip from my friend, and fellow UCONN enthusiast, Sharon Scull, who has sent me this very timely poem:

LIFE RUSHES ON !!!

Stop the clock!!!
Life is rushing ahead at dangerous speed
Our lives are spent trying to beat the clock
meeting deadlines
wishing for something in the future
to be ten, sixteen, twenty one
out of High School
graduate from college
summer vacation
holiday
Not any more!
Whoa ---wait a minute!
Better to enjoy each and every moment
So aware am I



KEEP UP WITH MY BLOG ON
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that time is no longer endless
 So scary to look back at time
 to realize the speed at which it travels
 Looking ahead is even more frightening
 No way to stop the clock
 but I can dig in my heels
 and savor
 each precious moment
 for life rushes on

Sharon, I thank you for your wise words. I shall savor each moment – the ups along with the downs, and know that each is precious and will serve to help me grow in spirit and strength.

SPRING WISDOM

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.

A VERY SPECIAL TREAT

My friend, Carole, recently sent me an email with the following attachment. I thank her for sharing it with me and I enthusiastically pass it on so you may enjoy the beauty and wisdom of the photos and sentiments it holds.

[Click here to view](#)

TAO AND DEFIANT NEWS

Here's where we hear all about YOU, our Tao and defiant women; where we learn what is going on in your lives; the ups and down; and can respond to you with encouragement, support and/or kudos!

Please email me at: thepath@taogirl.com with your news to be included in the next issue.

Jamie Callan's latest book *French Women Don't Sleep Alone: Pleasurable Secrets to Finding Love*, has recently been published and has been received with great acclaim and wonderful reviews by, among others, The New York Post, YourTango, The Huffington Post, MSN.com, Publishers Weekly, New York Social Diary and AOL's Wallet Pop column....and is selling like hotcakes!

Jamie wants me to let you all know that "If anyone one has a book club or women's group and wants me to come and talk about the book, I would be very interested!" Jamie, as always, I am so proud of you!

My friend, Jane Curtis, writing as Edna Flannigan, has made it to the to the quarter final rounds in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards this spring with her novel *Pigs Must Fly*. Follow this link to read a synopsis of the book along with my review.

It's a fun and fascinating read as we follow shy Iris Haugsdahl from her simple life on the farm to her adventures in Las Vegas.

http://www.amazon.com/gp/pdp/profile/A1QRBGCV1EYBQR/ref=cm_cr_dp_pdp

AND Jane recently took first place in news reporting in the state of Iowa in the annual Iowa Press Women contest for a story called: Hunters who died were best friends. (Last fall, two Laotian refugees were hunting in woods near Woolstock, Iowa, when one of them accidentally shot the other. After calling 911, with emergency crews on the scene, the remaining hunter killed himself out of distress.)

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Award-winning author, **Dana Davis**, who I met at the AAUW Conference in Phoenix, AZ, several years ago, shared with me that along with the books she has out now she has others to be published soon.

Desert Magick: Superstitions, an adult paranormal fantasy is now available paperback.

Breach of Worlds, a teen fantasy, is scheduled for electronic release with SynergEbooks Publishing this summer.

The *Teadai Prophecies* fantasy trilogy for adults is scheduled for electronic release with SynergEbooks Publishing later this year.

You can visit Dana at www.danadaviswriting.com

Stacey Krone-Battat, President and Director of Inspiration at Kiwi Publishing wants all of you to know that Kiwi is collecting life-changing moment stories and have a new contest for their Thin Threads Collection.

Check it out and submit your story: <http://www.thinthreads.com/contest.php>

Donna Ferber's is proud to announce that her acclaimed and very powerful book, *From Ex-wife to Exceptional Life: A Woman's Journey through Divorce*, is now in its third printing.

Visit Donna at: www.donnaferber.com

Alexis Powers, who announced in our winter newsletter the she had started a writer's workshop in her Albuquerque home, has now added another project to her life. She wrote to me that, "At the age of 69, after writing many books and short stories, I find I need a new endeavor. This started when I redid a 30 year old dollhouse and enjoyed painting, refinishing floors and doing the roof. My new "path" leads me to art. I'm taking a beginning drawing class and hope to paint something wonderful. Being retired and "older" proves to provide a wealth of new interests.

Way to go, Alexis!

This just came from my friend and colleague, **Dale Allen**, who has much to share:

"I have a performance of "In Our Right Minds" for the *New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners* on Thursday night, May 7th at 7pm - Performance Schedule details

at <http://www.inourrightminds.com> and <http://njawbosw.org/>

"And on May 16th, I will be presenting, "Grow Your Gusto," speaking as **Dale Allen, Life Coach Comedienne** at *The Female Entrepreneur Networking Gala* on May 16th, 2-5pm, Waterford Community Center, Waterford, CT. Performance Schedule details at <http://www.inourrightminds.com> and jasmine@withoutregrets.net."

She continued her email with perhaps the most exciting news of all...

"all is very well, CJ! My sister had a baby 41 hours ago, on Sunday night! Dan Morgan Black. I am in heaven!!!"

Donna G is a Tao and defiant woman who stays in touch with me all of the time and I love to follow her exploits and very busy schedule. After two years of having co-chaired the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, this year she is taking a break from the duties of chairmanship and participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life at the end of May.

Donna is one young woman who remains committed to doing all she can to help

others. She's a remarkable role model for Tao and defiant women everywhere!

And, as for me...

...I've recently returned from the beautiful city of Pittsburgh – yes, gals, it really is a beautiful city – where I gave the opening keynote and participated in a panel discussion with www.womenetcetera.com. It was a fabulous day of sharing, learning and healing for all who attended. We're looking forward to bring more such conferences to cities around the country – if you'd like us to come to your home state – please let me know!

I was also fortunate to be invited as a guest on two cable TV shows here in Connecticut; One was produced by the National Organization of Pen Women and I was interviewed about my work as a writer.

The other show is AgelessTV and you can see a very sweet write-up they did about me and my work on their website at: www.agelesstv.org.

When we get a clip of the show up on YouTube, I will be very proud to share that with you.

I was very pleasantly surprised by <http://www.budgetartists.com/beauty-wellness> when they contacted me with a review of TAO OF THE DEFIANT WOMAN and asked me to contribute an article to the site. You can see both at the above link.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of The Gathering, and look forward to receiving your comments along with your own stories and news (which will only be published with your approval).

As for the next Gathering, well it will come out in the summer, with Tao and defiant updates to continue when I have news to share with you all.

CJ

For information, or to share your thoughts and wisdom with us: thepath@taogirl.com
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