

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JANE DOE

~To all believers and achievers~

As I look back on my life, I find myself reflecting on the experiences, achievements, and values that have defined me. It is with the upmost gratitude and love that I would like to share them with you here.

Defining Experiences

-Growing up, I was a tomboy child. That meant climbing trees, and roofs of buildings. It meant mowing lawns and edging lawns and cleaning windows. I was a tomboy child and was looked down upon for it. This was a painful experience. It showed me what it is like to feel different. But that's who I was. Then everything changed when I got braces and started to get attention for my swimming.

- Sometimes a tomboy, sometimes a Beauty Queen; in my teens and twenties I straddled both worlds. I was never a socialite, but I was brought into that world because I was beautiful. I once rode on the shoulders of the international surf champion on the waves of Waikiki. He even asked me to stay on and compete with him. I couldn't stay with him because I was already on a work assignment, but the invitation was a great honor.

-As I came of age, I was blessed to enjoy a deep friendship with Maya Picasso, the daughter of Pablo Picasso. Through our correspondence in Spanish and French, she shared about her life and my life opened up. I will always treasure our time together, as well as our correspondence between my home in New York and hers in Paris.

-After Maya's mother tragically died, my life spiraled out of control. I deviated from my principles and became carried away in the chaos of New York. Unable to find work in the arts, I felt lost and unseen. And like many other stage actors and personalities in my community, I realized that I had a drinking problem and needed help. So, I left New York for California, and began attending AA meetings. It was a tough and humbling experience, but it was the beginning of my new life, and my connection to Father God.

Achievements

-I swam for the Athens Athletic Club's Synchronized Swimming Team. We were good enough that we were able to take a trip around the world. It was such an exciting time, and I loved every second of it. We were eventually presented with the Helm's Award, which means that each member of the team earned ten gold medals. This was one of the great achievements of my life.

-I attended UC Berkeley where I earned a BA in political science, and an MA in Education. I was also a four-time university Beauty Queen. Though I have been looked down on by people in life who have thought that I was vain, this was a big deal for me.

-I worked for Washington's Education Department. I am still proud that nobody else could fill my shoes to do the assignment that I was given; to complete a fifty-page report on the management of community education programs. It was so much work, and I am proud that I completed it.

Values

The Bible says that you must humble yourself to get the value of the true Father God. I have been humbled through experiences of helping the destitute, as well as having been helped when I was destitute. It is a harsh experience to go through. Suffering always is. But it has brought me humility, and that has been healing. Most importantly, it has shown me that righteousness always overcomes evil. That is my deepest belief and my most cherished value.

Gratitude

People who looked upon me as an achiever have helped me keep hope that my story will not be lost at the end of my life. They saw me in a positive light. They could understand my achievements, and that made me feel good. For much of my life I have felt misunderstood by people. That is why it means so much when people have told me that my life meant something, and that I was special to them. It makes me feel that my life was worth living, despite the terrible pain and struggle that I have been through. I hope that this letter can be a sign of hope for everyone who isn't sure if their life meant anything. I want to tell them that it certainly does.

Blessing

To all who I love, I wish and hope for the best possible conclusion to your lives and stories. That means whatever Father God deems your destiny to be. I use the word destiny instead of "fate" because I believe that destiny leaves the door to heaven open. It helps us remember that we are capable of choosing our paths. Most importantly, it reminds me that righteousness always overcomes evil. I hope that my life has been an example of this, and I hope that yours will be too.

With Love,

Jane Doe ~ 9.14.2021

~ Prepared by HEB Chaplain Anthony Graffagnino ~