

"The person who influenced me most..."

Continued from page 8

"Susan Kelly leapt into my head. In fact, she is in my head a lot. She'll be my best friend forever no matter what. She really understands and appreciates and complements me. She can be very practical and has a totally different relationship to money, so she can help me figure finances and not think less of me.

"She is incredibly intuitive. Because of her medical training as a nurse practitioner/midwife, I can consult with her as I did with my Doctor Dad when he was alive. Whether she is in Tibet doing medical clinic or working as the nurse at project AVARY she is a real helper.

"I have had both fun and serious deep discussions with Susan. Many times they merge. I can tell Susan anything -- no matter how bizarre and embarrassing -- and she gets it and has something worthy to contribute. She will also tell me when I am full of it. She is supportive and appreciative of my art and "artistic" nature. While I have had losses, she has suffered supreme tragedy -- but still she listens to me complain about petty things.

"I think I am a better person for knowing her. I am glad to have Susan as a best friend. You should be so lucky."

Vickisa -- West Marin Artist, Art teacher, member of GRO, Director of Dance Palace Camp, volunteer FF/EMT, and KWMMR programmer

"It seems it should have been an easy answer, but suddenly I found myself thinking about far too many options -- finally boiling it down to a four-way tie: my father, my grandmother, Juan Trippe and -- William Shakespeare.

"My father, the inventor, for having such high aspirations, holding true to his dreams, and never giving up in his quest to make the world a better place.

"My grandmother, for being the source of constant, unconditional love -- always encouraging, and smoothing

out all the rough spots in my life.

"Juan Trippe, for opening up the world through aviation by starting Pan American World Airlines -- thereby giving me a chance to travel and explore the world, while working for one of the greatest companies ever.

"And finally Shakespeare, for all his incredible plays with their memorable lines that continue to offer wisdom and endless pleasure."

-- Von Hurson, Wine Educator and Petaluma Post columnist

"The day of my grandmother's funeral, my Father saw me crying, put his arm around me and said solemnly with a tear in his eye, 'We are all born to die.' As a teenager, his simplistic words were not comforting, especially compared to my compassionate, loving Mother who would never say something so seemingly callous. After some reflection and more life experience through the years, I learned that his words were said out of love. My Father influenced me to live in the present, to be aware, not to fear death, and therefore to be in control of what is controllable. That lesson rings in my life daily, as I find myself living wholeheartedly, creating memories, and embracing the old saying that 'the best things in life are not things.' I was influenced to simply live consciously."

-- Athena Sabourieh, Owner, America's Luggage Depot

"The person who has most influenced my life is Parmahansa Yogananda. His teachings of yoga and meditation have changed me internally and have given me more joy, peace and love in my life. After him, I think the pureness and simplicity of both my grandmother and my daughter have opened my mind and my heart more than anyone else."

-- Gina Huntsinger, Marketing Director, Charles M.

Schulz Museum & Research Center

"I can't name less than three: my mother, father and daughter.

"My mother taught me to use my imagination and ingenuity to create beautiful things with what is within reach, her palette. Our home, our clothes and our yard were her canvases.

"From my father I learned to appreciate colors and see beauty all around us. I acquired his hunger and curiosity to know more and, I hope, his humility. Working in the garden together, I remember him holding up a tomato to the sunlight and saying 'Have you ever SEEN such a beautiful red?'

"My daughter, my Camille, has always inspired me to open my mind to new possibilities and to imitate her courage to self-express through art. I still have the color wheel she helpfully made for me when she was a child.

"The influence and opinions of these three definitely shaped me more than those of any of the many others who have had a role in who I am today."

-- Vangie Pullins, Art Glass Artist, Designer, Instructor, Co-Owner, Aurora Colors Gallery & Glass Art Center



Nurse Susan from "Mentors and other important people" by Vi©kisa



Reserve space now for the April Post.
707.776.2788 - petalumapost@aol.com



INTRODUCING
**MARTINELLI
MASSAGE**
AT SPATINI SALON



Mention
this ad for a
\$25 DISCOUNT
on your first
massage!

6 Petaluma Boulevard No., Suite A-1
Call Kristi Martinelli at 762.3055 or 763.2153
or e-mail Natti5@aol.com

**STOP
SMOKING
in 1 HOUR**
GUARANTEED with Hypnosis

**New Horizons
Hypnotherapy Associates**
Smoking Cessation Specialists
1-888-823-6128