

SP Community Comment
~~March 10, 2017~~ AP 21, 2017
Sam Pennisi

A Women's Worth

In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a women. Even though she is considered something of a conservative hero, Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister uttered this somewhat liberal and enlightened thought. Over the centuries this rings true in that the workhorses of most cultures have been women.

Leonard Slaigh, a noted surgeon and author, wrote a book about a theory of his that asks the question 'When did goddesses become gods?' His idea was that for countless generations women assumed the role of the mortal human ruler or goddess, ^{then} changed somewhat suddenly when writing was invented. Men became the keeper of the written word and knowledge that could be passed on and built upon. Men, using this power, became the ruling sex. It's an interesting idea but the fact is that men have kept women in a less than equal role for hundreds of years. Some of this has to do with childbirth and child rearing and feeding. We are mammals after all, and this important function falls to the female of our species. But more recently this makes even less sense. It is quite clear that men and women are much more equally capable than different. We see this played out in the ability to learn and teach, to do business, to do politics, and even perform the same military duties. ← SP

I am married. ~~I married up~~ ^{sh}. Sharon earned a P.hD from Michigan State. She has taught and was a dean in the California State University system when it was rare if non existent. She is an accomplished public speaker and author. In retirement, she continues to publish and teach, partners with me in our small business and helps raise three grandchildren. She keeps a pace not too many can keep up with; male or female.

I have two daughters. They both left Humboldt County to pursue their education and early life experience. The both came home about ten years later with Master's degrees and opted to earn a teaching credential at HSU. ~~They are both now two of the hardest~~ ^{save, SP} working and most committed public school teachers in their hometown. ~~One is at the high school and one is at the middle school.~~ ^{SP} They are both excelling in their chosen profession and building a career.

In this beloved country of ours, it is still true that women make less than their male counterpart for doing the same job. Even jobs that have state or federal protections against wage discrimination, can experience wage differences because of other factors; most of which are contrived.

My children grew up with our promise to them that they could be anything they wanted to be that their natural abilities allowed. In the 60's and 70's and 80's and 90's, Sharon and I both worked to level their playing field. In the year 2017, it is still not level. Last Wednesday ~~was~~ International Women's Day. Around the world, the discrimination and inequality is much more serious.

It's 2017; It's about time. ^{was} It's also time to celebrate Earth Day, like we need it. we do.

~~The Mayor of Ottawa, Canada said in 1964 "Whatever women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult."~~

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.