



**November/December 2011 - Leadership Letter (63)**

**LEARNINGS ABOUT LIFE & LEADERSHIP**

**Hello Clients, Colleagues and Friends ...**

Recently, a friend sent me an article written by Regina Brett for the Cleveland, Ohio *Plain Dealer* ... to celebrate her birthday. As she says, "my odometer rolled over to 90 in August" and she shared 45 life lessons with her readers.

All of us will benefit from them, and particularly those young enough that we haven't yet learned them from our own hard knocks and bad decisions.

So I've been inspired to write my own version ... which I call "**Thirteen Learnings About Life and Leadership.**" Not as funny as Regina's, but hopefully interesting to you anyway!

Blessings of the season,

***Mel***

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Don't forget that all past **Leadership Letters** can be found on our website at  
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**REMINDER:** If you need to reach me quickly, please do not email. Please call or text me on my cell at **513/919-7672**. I have my phone with me while consulting, traveling, planting trees, biking or canoeing!

## 13 LEARNINGS ABOUT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

- We live in an incredibly fortunate time and place: 21<sup>st</sup> Century USA. This can be confusing and distracting, as well as full of opportunity.
- Each of us has received countless blessings from others. Noticing those can lead to an attitude of gratitude.
- I am in charge of my life, and am responsible for almost everything that “happens” to me. There’s more power in this attitude than in believing I’m a victim (even when I am).
- We are fellow travelers who can and probably should help each other along the way. That will probably please our Creator more than anything else we do.
- There are few fatal mistakes; most “failures” are really opportunities for us to **learn** something important. Reflecting is more useful than feeling bad.
- There’s a lot of heroism in life if we are attuned to it ... and it can raise our spirits and aspirations.
- There’s a lot of humor in life as well. When I learned to laugh at myself, I found an endless supply of humor.
- The real **meaning** of my communication is not what **I** think it is. It’s the response it elicits from **you**, i.e. ... what **you** think of it.
- Leadership is a set of activities and a way of being that anyone can play and many do, with or without titles.
- The “best” leadership guide is *Servant Leadership* by Robert Greenleaf, practiced by some companies and many individuals.
- The test of effective leadership is: Do “your” people perform at their best, do they feel fulfilled and successful, and are they learning?
- When we are in a toxic or troubling situation or relationship, there are only three ways to change that situation ...
  - examine and change our **attitudes**, or
  - examine and change our **behaviors**, or
  - examine and change our **associates**.
- When we are responsible leaders for another person whose performance is unacceptable, they have the same three options. We can/should help them to **see** those three options and act accordingly.



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