

The Greatest Idea of All

Today, we honor the memory of Max Weismann, President, Founder and Creator of “The Center for the Study of The Great Ideas”, and my beloved husband who passed away on February 22, 2017.

One of Max’s professions was that of building and restoring structures and creating new projects. His expertise was in solving problems to arrive at a better and sounder building than was envisioned in the beginning. It was his habitual way of accomplishing the best in the finished work, never cutting corners and always bringing in the assignment on time, within budget, and to everyone’s satisfaction.

This habit and dedication to improve and continually perfect his abilities and knowledge until he understood better and better how to hone his craft was a metaphor for his living a better life, which he did.

The same qualities that Max used in his life prior to creating The Center with Dr. Mortimer J. Adler were the foundations for a successful Center based on The Great Books, Dr. Adler’s writings and seminars, and great philosophers who deserved to be read and discussed.

Max’s drive and focus on building The Center in 1990 was the beginning of his dream being realized. When he joined a Great Books discussion group in the 50’s, the Bible was discussed not as a religious book, but a book of ideas, common circumstances present today, and the mistakes made by people who did not understand enough to make good judgments. This type of reading makes us examine our own actions hopefully leading to understanding, which can lead to a better life, and thinking for ourselves.

It is in our right actions becoming habitual and thereby increasing our understanding that we can improve our lives. To be alive, we should be gleaning expertise in living a good life by aiming at what is important and keep aiming until we hit the target.

Today, we honor Max's right desire to aim at this target. This lack of having a right goal is pervasive in all important facets of our lives, such as, family, education, government, medicine, etc.

Max, with his untiring partnership with Dr. Adler, step-by-step accumulated a library encompassing much of what is required to be educated in living well: to create more questions for us (more than quick answers) and by so doing to attain the ability to examine issues resulting in better judgments.

With the devastating loss of my husband, Max, I had to rely on his loyal volunteers, especially, Ken Dzugen, Dave Peterson and Terry Berres. I also want to give a special thanks to Max's close friend and The Center's, Howard Rosenbloom, a support and mentor to me.

I made a promise to Max, and am continuing his dedication to The Center for the betterment of all no matter their age or background.

Max truly was and remains “the greatest idea of all.”

Thank you all for your donations.

Elaine Weismann

