

Stuart Showalter
Child Custody Life Coaching

Monthly Motivation 14 - What are you doing for others?

Much like in the movie Star Wars there is a great force out there acting upon all of us. There is a positive side and a negative side to this force just as there is throughout all of nature. So it is on which side you choose to align yourself that will determine your potential outcome. This is a principle applied in various forms throughout the ages across a range of philosophical and religious practices be it pay it forward or the Wicca principle of return times three.

It was a myriad of factors that led to me meeting Larry after I found his wallet. I was en route to an organized cycling training in Zionsville and was heading across Highway 234 when I noticed what appeared to be an ID holder alongside the road. Up the road I was compelled to stop and head back. What I found was a wallet with an ID pocket on the exterior which contained a BMV operator permit. I didn't recognize the address so I continued on my journey. Upon reaching the staging area for the ride I searched through the wallet and found a business card belonging to Larry. I tried calling the mobile number which was no longer in service. I decide then to just find a cop and hand it over. As soon as we took off as a group I saw a cop heading towards us but couldn't get over quickly enough to flag him down.

As I rode past the Sheriff's Department I resisted the urge to drop it off there because I "had to meet Larry". I am often intrigued by people and enjoy meeting strangers because those people could have some pearl of wisdom to share which may be just the thing I need in my life. This is one reason that I take the 40+ hour bus rides to and from Las Vegas.

So I got online and was able to locate another phone number for Larry. I tried calling twice, the final time around 2200 hours but still no answer. I had determined that Larry lived about a half mile south of the highway and figured that he set the wallet on top of the car and when he got up to speed, about 1000 feet past his street, that it flew off and into the road. I imagined that he was still walking along that road with a flashlight at 2200. I then planned to ride my bike back down there first thing in the morning.

I took off just after 0700 and arrived at Larry's house around 0800. When Larry answered the door I told him that I found the wallet he left on top of his car. He quickly looked through and determined that everything was there. I mentioned that he could use the Applebee's gift card at the front of the stack to treat this hungry guy to lunch. Larry pulled it out and handed it to me saying, "I didn't even know that was in there." He then invited me in and asked if there was anything else he could give to me. I said that a glass of orange juice would really hit the spot.

So we sat in the living room and traded stories about finding things and performing good deeds. Larry told me of having run out of gas at a time way back and the stranger who

stopped and gave him some to get going then made a request of Larry. Larry had offered some cash to his benefactor but instead the man simply said all I want is for you to help out someone else when they are in need.

Larry did that. Years ago Larry had also found a wallet. It contained over \$400 in cash and he was able to discern that it belonged to a mother who was receiving welfare. He guessed that she had just cashed a check. When he returned it to her at her home she meticulously counted it all and then separated \$100. It was for Larry but he also made the request of her to just help someone in need.

I mentioned that I admired the oriental screen that was in front of me in the living room and had also noticed some Japanese wall hangings in the entry way. I then noticed the entire house was decorated with Japanese artifacts. Larry had been stationed in Japan while in the US Air Force where he met his wife who is descended from a Japanese mother and a father who had been in the Air Force also.

At some point during our ramblings Larry recounted the efforts to find the wallet in the house the previous evening. He was searching at the time I called but as he nor she didn't recognize the phone number they didn't answer. I had brought one of my business cards that I was going to leave if Larry wasn't home. So I gave it to Larry and asked him to contact me by email so I could reply with a tutorial of mine about simple efforts we can take to make our lives much easier – it includes establishing a place where keys, wallet, cell phone always get placed when you return home. I also asked him to contact me if he ever had a yard sale and was going to get rid of any of the decorations.

Their new home is being built and they plan to move soon and have a sale Larry told me. He said that he would let me know when and that he had something he wanted to give to me but needed to check with his wife first.

During this time Larry is also studying my business card. He says “we were meant to meet” because he has two sons that each have current child custody litigation proceedings and he was looking for a way to get them the type of help I provide.

Larry must have had about 20 various cards in that wallet. As he said I saved him a huge amount of effort. There were many opportunities for us to not have met. I could have kept on riding not realizing that what I glimpsed was actually a wallet alongside the road. I may have been able to flag down that police officer. I could have left it at the Sheriff's Department. Larry could have answered his phone and driven up to Lebanon that evening and retrieved it. Larry could have grabbed it off the top of his car along with his phone and keys. I would have headed to the staging point from a client's home in Carmel thereby never passing the point where Larry's wallet lie if my client didn't have a dinner party planned that evening and rescheduled. I could have been a dishonest person who would have just removed the valuable items from the wallet and then ditched it. I may not have offered to send an email to Larry with my helpful tips. But all came together that Larry and I had to meet, sat in his living room chatting for an hour

where he became aware of the child custody services that I provide.

I wasn't looking to obtain a new client, contemplating that he would be offering oriental décor which I like at a yard sale was so far removed from my consciousness that it would be most unlikely that I could have ever guessed that as a possibility, or get anything more than a glass of juice and possibly a meal for my efforts. Somehow every factor that was necessary to ensure that Larry and I met fell into place. Larry was convinced that it was going to happen. He had called his previous employer early in his search, the one for the business card I found, to see if someone had found his wallet and called. I had, but it wasn't until I got home at 2030 after the ride that evening.

I was please to have been able to provide some aid to Larry's grandchildren involved in the custody conflicts. Again, I am reassured that there is a force that pervades the universe, the Unity, which binds us all together and joins those with like ideas and practices.

Your current challenge may be a child custody dispute, financial issue or a health related matter. There are opportunities for you, *now*, to reach out to someone who is having a similar challenge and offer assistance. So do that each and every day. You will soon find that what you once may have viewed as an insurmountable barrier is being chipped away through no conscious effort of your own because you now have Unity working with you to achieve your goals.

Stuart Showalter
Child Custody Life Coaching
P.O. Box 374
Lebanon, IN 46052-0374
Stuart@StuartShowalter.com