

2012 — OUR FIFTH YEAR!

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Cynthia Sherman

WHAT ARE YOUR "WORDS TO LIVE BY"?

I think it is so important to always be kind to others—recalling that famous phrase—it is better to use honey than vinegar... if you are kind to others it will (hopefully) be returned to you. But it is not always about being kind—it is also about respecting human dignity and appreciating and celebrating differences. As a founder of the Holocaust Museum and Education Center of Southwest Florida in Naples and a member of the board for nine years, I strongly believe in teaching children to respect the rights of others, to have the courage to stand up to bullies and to not tolerate prejudice or hatred to help make the world a more peaceful, loving place.



WHICH ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

I am most proud of having become a partner at a leading, national 600-person law firm in Manhattan as one of only eight female partners. I worked long and hard for eight years to become a partner. Having come from a family where neither parent attended college, it was quite an achievement! I loved practicing law because of the ability to champion clients' causes by negotiating assertively on their behalf.

WHICH LEADERSHIP SKILL IS OVERLOOKED MOST OFTEN?

I think the ability to delegate and build a team is underappreciated. We lead by example as mentors, but it is important to be able to let go of particular tasks and encourage others to step up and use their talents. Believing in the capability of those on your team is very difficult to do with confidence and poise, especially if you are a perfectionist.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF IF YOU COULD?

I grew up with very conservative parents who were not risk takers. If I could rewind my life, I would try to be much more of a risk taker, be more open to change and not be so self critical if goals were not achieved or I failed to do something well that was challenging. Just attempting something new can be so life affirming and rewarding.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

I am so inspired by the philanthropic work of others in our community, especially in the ranks of the Women of Initiative. There are so many women who pour their hearts into philanthropic pursuits in this community without seeking anything in return except the psychic rewards from a job well done. They are my heroes.

Originally from... *New York City*

Deserted island must-have... *My husband, Bruce, & dog, Dalee*

Person I'd most like to meet... *Pablo Picasso*

My go-to pick-me-up... *Working out followed by sinful dessert*

Favorite vacation spot... *The Côte d'Azur*

Karen Scott

**WHICH LEADERSHIP SKILL
IS OVERLOOKED MOST OFTEN?**

The ability to listen and to really hear. I always try to remember: it's hard to listen if you are always talking!

WHAT ARE YOUR "WORDS TO LIVE BY"?

"To whom much is given, much is expected."

**WHAT PART OF YOUR WORK
DO YOU FIND MOST REWARDING?**

Helping local charities do a better job of providing much needed services for children.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE
TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF IF YOU COULD?**

Be more confident, have high aspirations and don't worry about what others think.

**WHAT ATTRACTED YOU
TO YOUR CURRENT PASSION?**

Living in New York City and working through our family foundation, I became aware of many successful not-for-profit organizations, like the Robin Hood Foundation. I have been able to take that experience and channel it into my new hometown, through the Naples Botanical Garden and The Naples Children & Education Foundation.



Originally from... *Long Island, N.Y.*

Deserted island must have... *My husband*

Person I'd most like to meet... *Ronald Reagan*

My go-to pick-me-up... *Shopping for shoes*

Favorite vacation spot... *Portofino, Italy*