



## ANNIVERSARY EDITION ~ 4



## Time Stops for No One

I remember the day I began sharing my journey four years ago as if it was today. It was COVID, my dear aunt who shaped a large part of my life passed, I felt confined in this NEW normal trying to figure out how to manage everyone at home and I needed to release. Over the years our family had been transparent about our journey with a loved one on the spectrum. It was necessary to share for some of the families who relied on us and some whom we relied upon - but the ability to connect dissipated when we were all forced to live in our silos during COVID.



Of course, everyone in the world had the same circumstance but different challenges. Our family had unique issues because we were caring for a rising teen on the spectrum.

- So now our sense of connection was LOST

- Our ability to receive consistent help - GONE
- Our expertise even as parents in this environment was a “C” at best initially and we were just trying to figure it out

Time Stops for No One. The days seemed endless. When I had a moment to document the journey or just vent it helped me cope. Writing became my respite, and I soon realized that I was not alone. When a dear friend suggested I share my thoughts and resources I realized I had an opportunity to help others understand our world and let families who share similar lives know they are also not alone.

Over the past four years I have shared a lot! As my older daughter says, probably far too much - but when you have a testimony the point is to TESTIFY. I remain grateful to the many people who touched and continue to touch our daughter’s life. For the record, she is doing quite WELL!

## KBJ and KGJ Share a Similar Story

Very rarely am I completely star struck but I had my moment this past week when I had the opportunity to meet Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first African American Woman to sit on the United States Supreme Court.

### The Current Court: Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson

A profile of United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

[Read All About Justice Jackson](#)



It all came about so fast. My dearest friend, Shaunte’ Parker, (who is more of my soul-sister after 34 years of friendship) invited me to a private chat with Justice Jackson. It was the best gift I have ever received - barring family - I was GIDDY! Justice Jackson recently discussed her life in the Lovely One, and planned to share more about herself at this gathering.



When I arrived in DC I was beaming. All day I thought about what it would be like to meet this woman, only one year my senior who has so much grace. Let me share she DID NOT disappoint. Her energy is radiant, her smile forces you to engage and at the same time relaxes you and her stature is demure yet at the same time dynamic.

While I knew a lot about the justice I think I was so in awe I glossed over that she was a mother of a child on the spectrum. It did not resonate until I was in her presence that this woman and I shared a similar story.

- Married for 28 years
- Balanced professional careers with our spouses
- Navigated the practice of law with young children and
- Nurtured a child on the spectrum

As I listened to her it dawned on me how many women care for children with needs. I admired Justice Jackson even more for her bravery and transparency.

Justice Jackson received her Honorary degree from my alma mater, Spelman College this past May and she is also an Honorary member of my beloved sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Inc. I think this photo says it all I could not have asked for a better day!!



## Spelman College 2024 Commencement Ceremony

A remarkable video featuring Justice Jackson receiving an Honorary Degree (1:32:28-1:47:16 mark)

[Watch Video](#)

## Plant a Seed and it Will Grow



Thank you for your constant and continued support. As I look back on all of these newsletters I cannot believe how much our family has grown. Autism is not a disease, it is an Intellectual Developmental Disability. Families who live with a loved one need resources and grace from birth to death. When you plant a seed it grows. My hope for this harvest season is that you share my weekly blog, monthly newsletters and website resources with others you know.

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I'VE BEEN BUSY  
[BLOGGING](#)

I'VE BEEN BUSY  
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**Ok - I am late for a REASON**  
This blog is not for a good reason - I had my 100th birthday. Do you remember anytime when your just passed it by you?

**Oh To Be 103!**  
Thinking of a birthday like this does. I wish I think about how fast the year went by when it is my husband's birthday. (Sandra)

**Where did the TIME Go?**  
I remember exactly about the day. The 100th one what to wear. The idea of trying to get the picture sorted. Trying to coordinate.

**Unexpected Blessing!**  
So today we celebrated an unexpected blessing in the middle of what was a hectic day. I will appreciate the details but let me tell you...

**Count Your Blessings one-by-one!**  
Today I can't help but smile with my words. I know although I typically don't wish Friday is my new Sunday. (Christina) say "Hi"

**So I lost a friend**  
So I lost a friend from a level from the time I was in high school. Someone that is a truly beautiful inside and out. Someone...

**Be Cognizant of What You Pray For**  
Be Cognizant of What You Pray For Our daughter is a senior and she has some serious she has the "TSP" she does want to work.

**Never say No!**  
How say "No" to our daughter decided she wanted to be a cheerleader. She has been begging for 2 years to try out and now...

**The World is smaller than we think- 2 Days in Dublin**  
The World is smaller than we think- 2 Days in Dublin to husband and I had a 10 day vacation to Europe. (Sandra)

**I have to say it was a GOOD Day!**  
How to say it was a GOOD Day when the day I was a Good Day. Our family had a "Good Day".

**Just Another Day**  
Just Another Day. My hubby and I are in an airplane. The time to take one because we are visiting our oldest daughter.

**A Weekend of Rest**  
A weekend of rest for my husband and I have a lot of responsibilities to take care of. Other times we feel like we are rolling back...

**Friendship is Fuel for the Soul**  
Friendship is fuel for the soul. This is my 50th birthday. I wish to see more making our friends together for the rest.

**The Year of Jordan!**  
The Year of Jordan. (We) 2 years ago I gave birth to an amazing little boy who is determined to take over the world and win!

**This is what happiness looks like!**  
This is what happiness looks like. (Sandra) makes him. (I) have a mean boss. (Sandra) it was an "happy" day. (Sandra)



**Laurie Hill**  
Laurie is a writer, speaker and activist for neurodiversity and an able bodied resources. Laurie talks to Kim about her adopted daughter with neurodiversity.

**David Moran**  
David Moran is the Executive Director at the office of the Public Defender for the 1st Judicial Circuit. David speaks about how he has been inspired to help others from an early age.

**Kim Kuruzovich & Kelli Mendillo**  
Kim and Kelli are Mom's like me. Sharing their story and amazing parenting tips.

**Tiffany Ford**  
Tiffany is a long time St. Pete senior leader who has shared her time and talent with hundreds of building theaters.

**Nydia Nelson**  
Nydia Nelson is the Academic Chair of Mathematics at St. Petersburg College. She has been a member of the St. Petersburg College.

**Judy Owen**  
Judy Owen shares her experience with her autistic son.

**Lacey Nash Miller**  
Director of Workforce at Academy Prep Center of St. Petersburg.

**Alizza Punzalan-Burdle**  
Learn about Alizza's passion for helping others and how the St. Pete Rose Clinic benefits the community.

**Chantell Miles**  
Conversation with Chantell Miles, Executive Director of Pace Pinellas.

**Brody & Jones**  
John Brody and Shaanika Jones.

**Jail and Kim Jackson**  
An insightful conversation with Dr. Jail and Kim Jackson about mentoring young leaders through the Apollo Club.

**Vicky Westra**  
Vicky Westra, Chief Executive Officer - Autism Skills.

**Belinkia Berry**  
Belinkia Berry, Acting Dean of St. Petersburg College of Workforce Development and Dr. Cynthia Johnson, Director of Economic Development for Pinellas County.

**Sean King**  
Sean King, Director of Government Relations and Advisory for Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pinellas County. Great information about Habitat For Humanity's program for providing affordable homes and ownership opportunities for low and moderate income families.

# In case you missed it! September Newsletter

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