

When One Door Closes . . .

Why Do We Still Keep Banging Our Heads Against It?

One door closes and another opens. True...but when that door is slammed shut in an instant, *accepting* one's new reality is not often an instantaneous process.

Join Maryanne as she discusses her experience of coming to terms with the on-duty death of her husband—a Calgary police officer—and the repercussions of being widowed at 32. She shares her personal path through the grieving process, including the steps she took to begin to transform loss into positive change—both for herself and her community.

Maryanne's presentation is a candid account of her struggle with the fact that her and John had not yet started a family—and how her motherhood decision was framed by grief. Maryanne shares her unique perspective on the 'to be or not to be...a mom?' decision and shares with the audience her path to discovering what “motherhood” means to her—partially determined through the filming of her documentary *Whatever Floats Your Boat...Perspectives on Motherhood*—and how she is choosing to reflect this in her life.

When one door closes, other doors *do* open...the key is to learn how to stop banging one's head against the old doors and start seeking—and making—new ones.



“The documentary is a timely and much needed resource for any woman considering motherhood. As a 35 year-old psychotherapist specializing in women’s issues, and as a woman asking herself the same questions about motherhood, I found the stories to be extremely captivating, thought provoking, and real. This film gives women much to consider when contemplating motherhood and its alternatives.”

~ Esther Kane MSW, RCC | Courtney, BC

“An amazing documentary...the honest and real snapshots of so many women’s diverse thoughts on some aspects of motherhood were captivating. When tragedy is part of the backdrop of choices about becoming a mother, there is added poignancy and pain. Thank you for this film and the chance to celebrate women.”

~ Juleta Severson-Baker | Calgary, AB



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Maryanne Pope

Maryanne is the author of the creative non-fiction book, *A Widow's Awakening* and also writes plays, screenplays, short stories and articles. She is the founder and CEO of Pink Gazelle Productions Inc. and the executive producer of the award-winning documentary *Whatever Floats Your Boat . . . Perspectives on Motherhood*. Maryanne is the Board Chair of the John Petropoulos Memorial Fund and is a passionate speaker on a variety of topics including workplace safety, environmental concerns, grief, and women's issues.

Attendees take away the following from Maryanne's presentation:

- A powerful example of what it means to go with 'Plan B' in life
- Ideas on how to reframe one's experience from victim-based to victor-based
- Different perspectives on the concept of motherhood
- An understanding of the idea that what happens to you is less important than what you choose to *do* with it

This presentation is suitable for:

- Women struggling with the motherhood decision
- Women who are unable to get pregnant and having difficulty coping with this challenge
- Women considering not having a family and who are seeking support with their decision
- Women coming to terms with the death of a loved one