

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Table of Contents

Who are your heroes?	7
How would you describe your grandparents?	11
Do you have a family member you wish you'd gotten to know better?	23
What was your Mom like when you were a child?	27
What was your dad like when you were a child?	33
How did your parents pick your name?	41
Did you ever move as a child? What was that experience like?	45
How would you describe the neighborhood where you grew up?	49
When you were a child, what did you look forward to most?	51
Where did you go on vacations as a child?	55
How did you get to school as a child?	59
What do you miss about being a child?	61
What is one of your favorite children's stories?	63
How is life different today compared to when you were a child?	65
What were your favorite subjects in high school?	69

Table of Contents

How did you get your first job?	71
What were your friends like in high school?	75
How did you choose where to go to college?	81
Did you have a car in high school or college?	85
What was your first boss like?	87
What was your wedding like?	91
Do you have a special piece of clothing that was handmade or refurbished for you?	95
Do you believe in love at first sight?	99
What inventions have had the biggest impact on your day-to-day life?	101
Do you believe in magic? What is a magical experience to you?	103
What are you superstitious about?	107
What famous or important people have you encountered in real life?	109
What are some of your biggest pet peeves?	115
What would you say is the best meal you ever had?	117
What is one of the worst trips you've ever taken? What went wrong?	121

Table of Contents

What's your favorite story about trying a new activity for the first time?	123
What's a small decision you made that ended up having a big impact on your life?	125
What's one of the most beautiful places you've ever been? . . .	129
What is one of the most expensive things that you've ever bought?	135
What song always brings back a particular memory?	137
What's your favorite way to travel?	143
What photograph do you most regret not taking when you had the opportunity?	145
What is the farthest you have ever traveled from home? . . .	149
Which musicians or bands have you most enjoyed seeing perform live?	153
What would you save if your house was on fire?	159
What are your favorite TV shows?	163
Do you believe that people can change? Why or why not? . . .	165
Did you ever volunteer for something that nobody else wanted to do?	169
What is the best job you've ever had?	173

Table of Contents

How did you decide when to change jobs?	179
Are you the same person you were as an adolescent, or very different?	195
How is your faith different from your parents' faith?	197
Have you ever doubted your faith?	199
Do you believe in a higher power?	201
What would you consider your motto?	205
Who inspires you?	207
If you could thank anyone, who would you thank and why?	213

Who are your heroes?



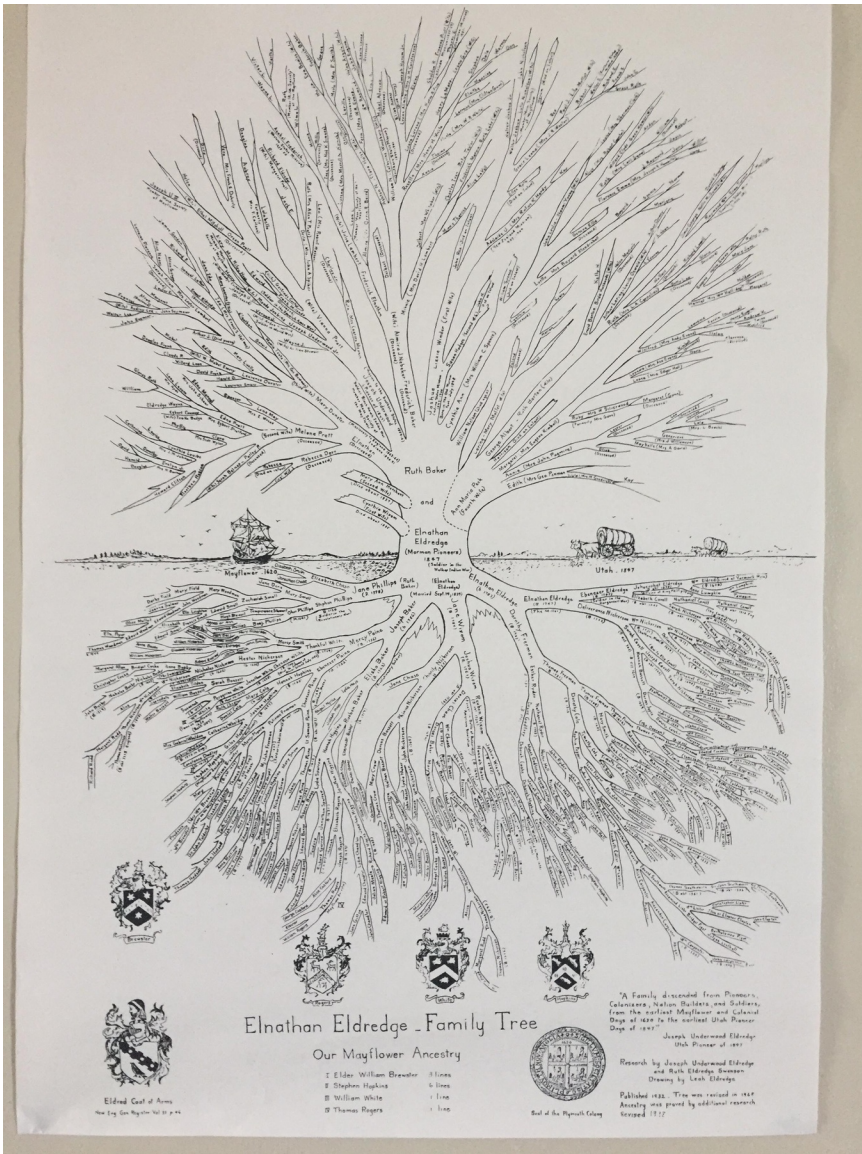
My heroes are my ancestors who were converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints in their native lands of Sweden, Denmark, and the British Isles. They heeded the prophet's call and emigrated to America to be with the Saints and eventually crossed the plains to the Utah Territory. Several gave their lives making this journey. They made these sacrifices to be true to their God and the covenants that they had willingly made with Him. They were following a prophet of God. They realized that this life is a test and the trials that we face here are of a temporary nature. They had an eternal perspective that gave their lives purpose.

We read in the Book of Abraham in the Pearl of Great Price, starting in verse 24 "And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell;

25 And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;
26 And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever.”

Although my ancestor’s lives were very difficult and filled with all kinds of challenges, their testimonies of the reality of their God and the truth of the Religion they had embraced gave their lives purpose and meaning. They strived to become like their Savior Jesus Christ and their Heavenly Parents. Their experiences refined and worked to perfect them. I am so impressed with how they all endured to the end. I admire the integrity, dedication, devotion, and perseverance with which they lived their lives in order to leave a legacy for all of their posterity. They left me the legacy of their testimonies of the truth of the restored gospel and demonstrated by their lives how to live true to that knowledge. My greatest desire is to pass this legacy on to my posterity.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Eldredge Family Tree showing Pilgrim and Pioneer heritage.

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How would you describe your grandparents?



To describe my paternal grandparents, Helge and Adena Swenson, I am including parts of two talks. The first one, I wrote about my grandmother, and the second one about my grandfather was written by my Aunt Nell Gourley and used in a BYU Devotional given by my cousin Elder D. Todd Christofferson.

” For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:16-17

What is everlasting life? What kind of life is it that God wants us to have? What kind of life would you want someone that you loved to have? What kind of life would you choose for yourself to have everlastingly?

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Would you choose a life full of hardships and challenges or one of comfort and ease? One free from pain and illness or one full of both joy and sorrow?

Pretend for a moment that you were told that your everlasting life was to be just like the life you lived this past week. That you would have to live with an eternal repetition of the thoughts, attitudes, reactions, interactions and emotions that you have at this time.

Would your everlasting life then be filled with peace and serenity or filled with worry and anxiety? Would it be filled with hate and bitterness or love and forgiveness? Would it be filled with complaints and impatience or filled with patience and acceptance? Would it be full of hopelessness and despair or filled with determination and faith? Would you be surrounded with the ugliness, chaos, and false doctrines of the world or would you be surrounded with that which is beautiful, uplifting and true.

We have only been pretending that our everlasting life would be like our present one. But in reality, that may well be how it will be. In Alma 34:32-34 we read. "For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors...for after the day of this life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed. Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis that I will

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

repent, that I will return to my God. Nay ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world.”

If there are things that we are doing that we don't like, or habits or thoughts that we have that make us and those around us unhappy, now is the time to change.

I was taking a college chorale class, and we were preparing for our big concert which was to be held in a few weeks. At one of the rehearsals the director in frustration said to the choir, “When are you going to do this right? What are you waiting for before you change?” He made the point that if we continued to practice it wrong over and over again, when the time came for the performance, we would have locked in the habit and would be unable to do it right.

We need to be reminded when we see things about ourselves and our circumstances that need changing of the saying, “If not now, when? If not me, who?”

Because God so loved the world He implemented His Plan of Happiness and Salvation. In this plan we have our agency. Each one of us has the ability to determine the quality of the life we are living now and will live everlastingly. We do not and cannot always control the circumstances in our lives, but it has been said, “Circumstances do not make the man. They simply reveal his character.”

In the book, “Man’s Search for Meaning”, Victor Frankel teaches us an eternal truth about agency. Victor Frankel was a Jew who lived through the most horrible and degrading circumstances of the concentration camps of World War II. He came to realize that freedom is a condition of person not environment. He found the ultimate freedom. He said, “Between what happens to me, and my response is my freedom to choose that response.” We all have that freedom; the agency to choose our response to our environment and the things that happen to us. In reality, our mind creates our world.

“Men are that they might have joy.” God wants us to be truly happy. It has been said “The challenge is not simply to live but to live to satisfy the soul.”

God wants us to choose a life of the highest quality. There are some general guiding principles that we have been given that all who are interested in a quality life should follow. The first part of the 13th Article of Faith says, “We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous and in doing good to all men.” Beyond this and keeping the commandments there lies a vast number of choices of how to use our time, talents and resources. Because each of us is a unique child of God with our own individual missions to perform, we have different gifts, talents and desires. There is not one right or ideal way of life that can make everyone happy or satisfy everyone’s soul. Each person must learn to listen to his own drummer and learn God’s will

concerning him. What might make one person happy may not meet the needs of another.

If we want the type of everlasting life that God has prepared for those who love Him, it is crucial that we exercise faith and rely on the Spirit to direct us to know God's will concerning our daily choices. The Sixth Lecture on Faith from the School of the Prophets states the necessity of "the knowledge which persons must have, that the course of life which they pursue is according to the will of God, in order that they may be enabled to...exercise confidence in Him, necessary for them to overcome the world, and obtain that crown of glory which is laid up for them that fear God."

The last part of the 13th Article of Faith gives us direction in making these choices. "If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

Many times, the examples of others can give us the strength and encouragement to make positive changes in our own lives. My grandmother, Adena Warnick Swenson, was an example of one who lived a quality life. Three of her outstanding traits greatly influenced me, her love for learning, her love for beauty, and her positive outlook.

Grandmother loved learning. I had the privilege of being raised next door to my grandparents, so I saw them often. I seldom remember seeing Grandmother idle. She kept beautiful needlework or sewing by her chair to work on as she would visit

with you. But when you first came in and saw her sitting alone, she always had a book in her hands. She enjoyed sharing with you the things she had just been reading, often in preparation for Relief Society lessons that she taught for years on literature and spiritual living. It was during these times that I had some of my first exposures to Shakespeare, Wordsworth, and some of the other great writers and poets. She loved Abraham Lincoln and would share books about him with me. Most of all she loved the Lord and the scriptures and read and studied them all her life. She certainly followed the counsel in D&C:88 “Seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom, seek learning, even by study and also by faith.”

Grandmother loved beauty. She loved her garden and spent many hours creating beauty with the flowers there. One summer my husband and I toured Brigham Young’s home in St. George, Utah. The guide there showed us the many beautiful furnishings and decor and shared a statement from Brigham Young that said, “It is our duty to surround ourselves with beauty. We need to use our creativity in order to do this.” My grandmother was truly an example of this. She had a favorite poem that she would often quote: “If of thy mortal goods thou art bereft, and from thy slender store two loaves alone to thee are left, sell one, and with the dole, buy hyacinths to feed thy soul.”

The third trait of her quality life was her positive outlook. She had the ability to buoy up others out of their discouragement and

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

despair. One example of this is when my aunt, her daughter, had to have part of her thyroid removed because of cancer. She then faced thirty more chemotherapy treatments, each of which made her deathly ill. The morning of the day she was to go in for another treatment she talked to my grandmother and said, “I just can’t do it. I can’t bear the thoughts of thirty more treatments.” My grandmother wisely said, “Well, can you stand one more? Can you do it just for today?” She understood the wisdom of the scripture in Matthew that tells us “Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” She divided her problems into portions she could deal with. Almost anything that has to be endured can be endured for just one day at a time, or at least for one hour at a time. Each morning as she woke up, she would have her first thought be, “This day is going to be a beautiful day in my life.” and then she would consciously think about what she would do that day to make that come true.

I hope that each of us will be more aware of the way we are using our agency in determining the quality of our daily lives here and our eternal lives hereafter. We should always remember the great love that God has for us and the type of life He wants us to live in order to achieve happiness here and eternal life hereafter.

“For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

You Are Free

By Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

From a devotional address given at Brigham Young University on October 19, 1999.

The gospel, said President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), “is a plan of freedom that gives discipline to appetite and direction to behavior.” This plan puts us on a path of increasing knowledge and capacity, increasing grace and light. It is the freedom to become what you can and ought to be. But for your freedom to be complete, you must be willing to give away all your sins (see Alma 22:18), your willfulness, your cherished but unsound habits, perhaps even some good things that interfere with what God sees is essential for you.

The Master’s Voice

My Aunt Adena Nell Gourley told of an experience from many years ago with her father—my grandfather, Helge V. Swenson, now deceased—that illustrates what I mean. She related:

“My daughter and I were visiting in my parents’ home. Along about sundown my mother asked if we would like to step out on the back porch and watch Father call his [five] sheep to come

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

into the shelter for the night. Father ... is a stake patriarch, and ... the personification of all that is good and gentle and true in a man of God.

“... Father walked to the edge of the field and called, ‘Come on.’ Immediately, without even stopping to bite off the mouthful of food they were reaching for, all five heads turned in his direction, and then [the sheep] broke into a run until they had reached his side and received his pat on each head.

“My little daughter said, ‘Oh, Grandmother, how did Grandfather get them to do that?’

“My mother answered, ‘The sheep know his voice, and they love him.’ Now I must confess that there were five sheep in the field, and five heads went up when he called, but only four ran to Father. Farthest away, clear over on the edge of the field, looking straight toward Father, stood [a] large [ewe]. Father called to her, ‘Come on.’ She made a motion as if to start but didn’t come. Then Father started across the field, calling to her, ‘Come on. You’re untied.’ The other four sheep trailed behind him at his heels.

“Then Mother explained to us that some few weeks before this, an acquaintance of theirs had brought the [ewe] and had given it to Father with the explanation that he no longer wanted it in his own herd. The man had said it was wild and wayward and was always leading his other sheep through the fences and causing so much trouble that he wanted to get rid of it. Father gladly

accepted the sheep, and for the next few days he staked it in the field so it wouldn't go away. Then he patiently taught it to love him and the other sheep. Then, as it felt more secure in its new home, Father left a short rope around its neck but didn't stake it down.

“As Mother explained this to us, Father and his sheep had almost reached the [straggler] at the edge of the field, and through the stillness we heard him call again, ‘Come on. You aren't tied down any more. You are free.’

“I felt the tears sting my eyes as I saw [the sheep] give a lurch and reach Father's side. Then, with his loving hand on her head, he and all the members of his little flock turned and walked back toward us again.

“I thought how some of us, who are all God's sheep, are bound and unfree because of our sins in the world. Standing there on the back porch, I silently thanked my Heavenly Father that there are true under-shepherds and teachers who are patient and kind and willingly teach us of love and obedience and offer us security and freedom within the flock so that, though we may be far from the shelter, we'll recognize the Master's voice when He calls, ‘Come on. Now you're free.’”

It is exciting to realize that we can expand our freedom by perfecting our obedience. In the words of President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “We are not obedient because we are blind, we are obedient because we

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

can see.”

Our choice in this life is not whether we will or will not be subject to any power. Our choice is to which authority we will yield obedience: God’s or Satan’s. As Lehi stated, it is a choice between liberty and captivity (see 2 Nephi 2:27). If it is not one, it is necessarily the other.

Our yielding to God and His right to rule and reign over us brings other blessings. Among the foremost are the faith and confidence that permit us to live with peace...”

These two talks highlight a few of the many qualities of my paternal grandparents: Helge Vincent Swenson and Adena Hannah Warnick Swenson.

I am so very grateful for the immense influence my grandparents have had on my life.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



My Grandparents on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Do you have a family member you wish you'd gotten to know better?



I wish that I had better known my maternal grandmother, Julia Druce Lambert Eldredge (1873-1952).

She died when I was almost eight years old. She lived in Granger, Utah and we lived in Pleasant Grove. With the need to daily take care of farm animals and responsibilities, and transportation being what it was, we didn't visit them frequently. It is sad to say that I have no personal memories of her. When she died her coffin was in the living room of her home and all the family were gathered there for a family prayer and final goodbye. I stood amid my family and cousins, aunts and uncles. Everyone was crying and I remember clearly feeling out of place that I didn't feel a loss for her and sad because I felt that I should.

I have a sense of her remarkableness from the stories my mother has shared. When she was nine, she was chosen to belong to a

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

singing class under Professor Evans Stephens. They gave concerts in the tabernacle and the Salt Lake Theater. He later became the director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and has written almost twenty hymns in our current hymnal. Julia loved school and did well and helped teach the other students. She was especially good at mathematics. She married and gave birth to twelve children. My mother was number nine. She was a wonderful manager and made butter and traded eggs for the family food and clothing. She was also a good seamstress and made all her children's clothes. She was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and enjoyed teaching young people. She organized the Granger Camp of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers which met in her home. It is still active today and is known as the Julia Eldredge Camp. She was an excellent practical nurse and tended her own children as well as nieces and nephews. My mother told me spiritual experiences that her mother had that demonstrate her great faith and character.



Julia Druce Lambert Eldredge

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What was your Mom like when you were a child?



I had the ideal mother. I was the baby of the family. I had three older sisters. It was obvious that my mother loved being a mother. She would curl our hair in ringlets or make beautiful French braids. She sewed most of our clothes.

My mother taught elementary school before she was married. She was well read and loved to share knowledge with us. She loved to tell us stories and adapt her voice to all the different characters in the stories. I think my mother knew the name of every bird and flower.

She did the many tasks of a farm wife such as making bread and taking care of flower and vegetable gardens and orchards. She canned the fruit that we grew: peaches, cherries, apricots plums and apples. She made jam and churned butter.

She had a strong work ethic. She was always busy. We learned from her as she worked. I remember coming home from school

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

and sitting on the basement steps reading my books to her as she sat in our “dark room” or basement working. She cleaned and boxed many dozens of eggs from our chickens getting them ready to sell. She cleaned the eggs with sandpaper wrapped around a block of wood, called a sandpaper brush. She also hulled and cracked the walnuts she had gathered from our trees and readied them to sell. During cherry season she supervised the hired workers and her daughters while we picked the fruit. We enjoyed singing songs and harmonizing as we worked on ladders in the cherry trees. Other work I remember her doing was on wash day. Before the new machines, she would wash the clothes and put them through the wringer washing machine. Then she would hang them to dry with clothes pins on the clothesline in our back yard. She would sprinkle the dry clothes with a water bottle and roll them in a clothes basket. Then she spent hours ironing on the ironing board that folded down from the wall in our kitchen. She like to listen to the soap operas and Arthur Godfrey on the radio while she ironed.

She had a nice soprano voice. I liked to sit by her in church meetings. She loved to sing the hymns.

She and her unmarried sisters, who were also schoolteachers, made picture scrapbooks by tying together heavy brown paper pages pasted with pictures cut from magazines and books. I spent hours looking through these books. Many had pictures of babies and mothers, and nature scenes. I remember one was

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

poems and pictures from Robert Louis Stevenson's "A Child's Garden of Verses". She also had a joke book where she had cut and pasted jokes from magazines.

She had her own filing system of boxes of pictures, stories and articles. Some of the categories were Bible Stories, Book of Mormon Stories, Church History, Nature, Seasons, families etc. She filed articles on many subjects. She was very organized.

She was very active as a 4-H leader in the community. She taught clubs for me and my sisters and others in sewing, cooking, gardening and homemaking skills.

One Church calling that she really enjoyed was being Timpanogos Stake Primary President. She implemented the Cub Scout program which was new and she loved being able to work and teach young boys and their leaders those things that as a mother of all girls she had missed out on.

She loved the gospel and the church. She also had a great love for family and for her heritage. She was proud to be a descendant of Utah Pioneers and the Pilgrims. She was very active in the Mayflower Society, Daughters of the American Revolution and Daughter of the Utah Pioneers. She was a talented and prolific genealogist. She made scrapbooks for each of her children highlighting our activities and achievements as well as our ancestors and their faith and adventures. She contributed to compiling and publishing several books and histories of her ancestors and relatives.

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I am so blessed to be the daughter of Ruth Irene Eldredge Swenson!



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Family Photo about 1945

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What was your dad like when you were a child?



I am going to include what I wrote for my father's life history book.

"I am grateful to my father, K. Warnick Swenson, for giving me an understanding of Fatherhood. This knowledge has helped me to feel closer to my Heavenly Father and to better understand Him. I always knew that my father loved me.

I am grateful for his example of love and devotion to the Lord and His church. He had a strong sense of duty. He taught me through his example the concept of service. He loved opportunities to serve. Whether the opportunity came in the form of an official church call or from a need he saw or found on his own, he considered it a blessing and privilege to serve. He exemplified magnifying a call. He always went the extra mile, always gave his best. I have tried to magnify my calls and assignments as he did.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

I am grateful for his love and devotion to his family. He had a great love for my mother and his daughters. As a young girl, I remember him lying on the couch, trying to sleep after a long day at work and I had fun combing his dark brown hair as the back of his head was over the edge of the pillow. (He went to work at 4 a.m. every morning so he would come home and nap before returning to work in the evening to oversee the milking of the dairy cows. I remember when I would ride in the car with him, and he would ask me to sing different songs to him. Although he was not an in-tune singer himself, he loved music and always encouraged me to sing or to play something on the piano for him.

He was a loving and dutiful son to his parents. He loved his brothers and sisters. He was grateful for his heritage and had strong feelings of family pride and loyalty. He was a wonderful grandfather to my children. I loved to watch him with my babies. Some men don't feel comfortable with little ones, but he would hold and rock them when they were fussy or had colic. He would get down on the floor and play with his grandchildren and let them know he loved them. He took pride in being able to sit on the floor with his legs outstretched and touch his nose to the ground. He enjoyed challenging his grandchildren if they could do the same. He kept his pockets filled with candies to give to grandchildren and children at church. I remember a special time, before the birth of my seventh child, when Daddy arrived from

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Utah in time to help my husband, Steve give me a priesthood blessing. This blessing was a great strength and help to me as complications occurred during this birth process.

Daddy had wisdom and a quiet, gentle strength. He sought knowledge and wanted to learn and grow. I remember often seeing him sitting in a chair reading. Usually, he read the scriptures or church books. I remember he also used to enjoy reading the stories in Relief Society Magazine and many other books. He was proud of the collection of books that he owned in our home library. This helped me learn early to love to read and study the scriptures. I remember gospel discussions we shared. Daddy knew the scriptures and their applications to life. He had a great understanding for spiritual things.

He was sensitive to the needs of others. The Spirit tutored him and rewarded him with an educated heart that could both know and feel. At the viewing before his funeral, men came through the line and told me he was their best friend. Friendship is a sacred trust to me, and I know what it takes to be someone's best friend. He was always thinking of others and wanting to share what he had with them. He shared his walnuts, fruits and vegetables and plants as well as his knowledge and uplifting thoughts and compliments.

He had a respect for the earth. He seemed in tune with nature, animals, and all living and growing things. It was like he felt a stewardship over everything around him and cared for it with

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

love, appreciation and gratitude. He loved his greenhouse and nurtured his plants.

He contributed to the community through his service. It was unusual for a man at that time to be the president of the high school PTA as he was. He believed that one should give back to the communities they live in and do all they can to make them better places to live. I share this philosophy and have followed his lead by serving in many community offices and positions of influence. I am grateful for his understanding of this principle and gain more appreciation for his service as I also serve.

He was a good worker. He was always up in the early morning hours to go to his work at the training school and then he came home and put in more time on his farm and orchards. I don't remember ever hearing him complain or being critical.

He was an example to me of loving people. Especially in his work with those at the State Training School who had developmental disabilities. As a music therapist I have worked with several special need populations. I have had many spiritual experiences working with individuals who have mental and physical challenges and I've felt the love that the Savior has for them. These experiences make me feel close to my father and I know he had similar experiences as he showed Christlike love and respect for those that some would find hard to love.

I'll never forget my father's look of love and pride when he came backstage at the contest after I was named Strawberry Day

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Queen. I also saw that look when I graduated from BYU. I want to always be worthy of that look. I have had the blessing and privilege of communicating with him four times since his death. He has given me comfort and the assurance that he is close to me and my children and all of his family. I have also felt an assurance that he associates with my son Jacob who died three months after Daddy did. I try to use his standards and teachings as a measuring rod for my actions. I hope I can live in such a way that he will be proud of me and my choices.”



Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



My father, Karl Warnick Swenson, my mother, Ruth Swenson, my sisters, Shirley, Barbara and Karolyn. Me when I was four.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

How did your parents pick your name?



My parents had an Rh factor incompatibility and before the 1960s, there was no method available to prevent Rh sensitization during Rh-incompatible pregnancies. A Rh-negative mother can safely have multiple pregnancies if the baby is also Rh-negative. However, if the mother carries an Rh-positive baby after her first pregnancy, her Rh antibodies can attack the baby's red blood cells, which can lead to a condition called hemolytic disease of the newborn (HDN). HDN can cause the baby's red blood cells to swell and rupture, which can lead to a low blood count and deprive the baby of oxygen. This condition can be life-threatening for the baby. I was the fourth live birth for my parents. Mama had a miscarriage between me and my older sister. The Rh factor condition was discovered when my mother almost died after being given a transfusion that was incompatible.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

I had three older sisters at the time of my birth, Shirley 8, Barbara 5 and Karolyn was 3. I suspect that my parents would have liked to have a boy as their likely last child in order to carry on the family name and be a help around the farm. But they were thrilled to have a healthy little dark-haired girl. They told me they named me Joyce because of the great joy I brought them.



Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



My sisters Barbara, Shirley, holding me and Karolyn standing.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Did you ever move as a child? What was that experience like?



At first, I thought the answer was no. I lived on the same street and was raised in the same neighborhood from the time I was born until I went to BYU. I got married while attending school and after Steve and I graduated we moved to Arizona. Steve had moved twenty-eight times by the time he got to BYU. I felt it was an advantage for me to grow up in a small-town atmosphere where you and your family were well known and surrounded by wonderful relatives and a supportive community. It gave me an identity and reputation that I was proud of and desirous to live worthy of. Steve reminded me that I did move once during my childhood. My grandparents moved into a home that was just a few years old in 1915. They had two children at the time, my father the oldest being about six years old. They added three more children to their family and built on to their home

over the years. This was a wonderful place for them to raise their family. When my father married in 1934, he built a basement home on the property, a few acres west of his boyhood home. Over the next few years my parents had four daughters and the house also grew as he added an upper addition to the home. In 1948 on Labor Day, we traded homes with my grandparents. We needed a larger home and my father who took care of the farm would be closer to the barn and farm duties. My grandparents wanted a smaller home and less responsibilities. They made the move by having the tractor pull a trailer load of furniture and belongings through the fields to one house and then reversing and repeating the process several times until the moves were completed. I was just four years old and have a vague memory of this move. It was a wonderful home to be raised in. I love the heritage this home represents. I will include a “Brief history of the HV and Adena Warnick Swenson home in “Manila Ward” (Pleasant Grove, Utah)” taken from a Family Search memory for Ruth Irene Eldredge. Written by Steve Dunn Hanson

“Helge and Adena bought this “almost” new home in the summer of 1915 east on the road the Manila chapel was on. Their son, Calvin, was the first child born here. Subsequently, Richard and Jeanne were born in this house. Warnick and Nell were born in their first, tiny house before they moved here.

Once in the home, they added a kitchen and a cellar under it, put a roof over the front porch and built a barn. The irrigation ditch

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

ran through their property on the east. Five acres of land came with the house, and they subsequently purchased 7 1/2 acres more. Soon culinary water was piped into the neighborhood, and they piped water into the house and added a bathroom.

They had many dinner guests in their home, the most memorable was in 1936, President Heber J. Grant and his wife, Augusta. He was in Manila to dedicate the extension to the Manila Chapel. It is noteworthy the Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Twelve Apostles, grandson of Helge and Adena, lived here with his mother as a toddler for a year or two while his father served in the Armed Forces.

In 1948, Helge and Adena traded homes with Warnick and Ruth, who were living in a smaller home west of their property with their family of six, so they would have a larger home to raise their children. Warnick added a breeze way on the east side of the house along with a two-car garage that it connected to.

Warnick passed away in 1979 and Ruth in 1999. The home passed to their daughter, Shirley, who lived in it until she sold it in 2014. Even after she sold it, she lived in the home until she was permanently placed in a long-term care facility. She passed away in 2016.

The Swenson family lived in this home for 100 years!

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



We traded homes with my grandparents

How would you describe the neighborhood where you grew up?



The neighborhood I was raised in was Rural, Religious, and Related. It was an ideal environment to be raised in. People had shared moral values and they cared for and about each other. There were built in expectations of behavior and most children lived up to them in happy and cooperative ways. Almost one hundred percent were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And the majority of those were second, third, fourth or fifth generation members. The Manila area where I was raised was originally called Northfield, an unincorporated area of Pleasant Grove, Utah. The original families that settled it and farmed the area were Warnicks, Harveys, Wadleys and Swensens. The Swensens were Danish and not related to us. My maiden name was Swenson, the Swedish spelling. My great grandfather Charles Peter Warnick and his wife Christine had ten children.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Most of their children raised their families in Manila. So, I was raised with several great aunts and uncles and many cousins a few times removed. As children we had chores related to our cows and chickens and orchards and crops. This taught us responsibility and a strong work ethic. On a farm the jobs have to be done in a timely manner or there are natural consequences. There was also an emphasis on getting a good well rounded education and an appreciation for the classics both in literature and music. There was love among neighbors and a spirit of love and caring for one another. I feel very blessed to have been raised in this protective and nourishing environment.



This is a picture of the old Manila Church. It has been added on to and turned into a reception center. The historic part was the hub of the community. It was at the base of the foothills and Mount Timpanogos that you can see in the background.

When you were a child, what did you look forward to most?



I had a wonderful childhood. My parents created many great traditions around the holidays. My mother would decorate the house for every holiday and make it special with stories, foods and activities. I looked forward to celebrating each one. We would make homemade valentines of construction paper and paper doilies and add pictures cut out of magazines. It was fun to leave them on doorsteps anonymously. We would ring the doorbell and run and hide before we could be caught. For school we would make a valentine box out of a decorated shoe box to collect valentines from fellow classmates. For Easter I always looked forward to a new Sunday dress. This would be homemade by my mother. We would get to choose the material and pattern. One year I asked for one that was just like last year's that I grew out of. It was a white material with little blue flowers and had a

full circular skirt that I loved to twirl around in. July, we celebrated my birthday and our country's birthday and the Utah Pioneer day. We would have picnics and programs and look forward to eating the first watermelon of the year which had been cooled in the irrigation ditch that ran in front of our home. We had fun with Halloween and dressing up. Thanksgiving was a really big deal for our family. We loved to share stories about our Pilgrim forebearers who had arrived in America on the Mayflower. We were proud that we descended from four Pilgrim ancestral lines. We would go to our Eldredge Grandparent's home in Granger for our Thanksgiving feast with all our cousins and aunts and uncles. Christmas time was magical. I loved helping to get the house ready and decorating our live Christmas tree. I especially liked the colorful glass ornaments and tinsel that hung from the branches. On December 23rd we always had our family party with my Swenson Grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins. This was my Grandparent's Anniversary. They chose to be married on this day partly because it was the birthday of our Prophet Joseph Smith. They would share their testimonies and love for the gospel and the blessings it brought to their family. I loved and looked forward to celebrating these holidays with my family and with my relatives.



Me and my sisters in our Easter dresses.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Where did you go on vacations as a child?



My family did not go on vacations. I didn't feel deprived. I never even thought of it as something families would do. Summertime was a busy time on a farm with chickens and cows that were cared for daily and gardens and orchards that needed attending to on their timetables.

I did have enjoyable and productive times during the summer months.

Events that happened regularly were family reunions. These were usually held for one day in the summer. The Warnick reunions were held at our church building or occasionally up American Fork Canyon. In fact there is a place in the canyon called Warnick Flats. Many Warnick relatives lived in the ward and town where I grew up. I remember enjoying programs with singing and stories. We also attended Eldredge and Nebeker reunions in the Salt Lake area. I remember some at Liberty Park.

Usually there was a program and a meal and genealogy reports and updates. My parents and sister Shirley were great contributors to family history research and the writing of life histories and the publishing of family books. I am very proud of my heritage and these reunions helped reinforce that blessing.

My father's siblings (Uncle Dick, Aunt Inez and children and Aunt Jeanne and Uncle Paul Christofferson and boys) when they had moved from Utah, would come for a visit each year. Our home was just through the fields from my Grandparents, so we enjoyed all the family visits.

Also, our Manila ward would have a day at Mutual Dell in American Fork Canyon and the Timpanogas Stake would held a girl's camp there that I attended as a teenager.

Another activity that filled our time during summers was 4-H. I started in clubs when I turned eight years old. My sisters and mostly all the youth in our ward were involved. My mother taught several of my clubs over the years and other mothers in the ward were also teachers. Girls learned how to cook and sew on increasingly skilled levels over the years. There were other class subjects. Once I learned how to make a wooden shoe holder where we sanded and varnished the wood and nailed it together. We would enter our projects first in a Manila Ward fair and then the Pleasant Grove City fair and the Utah County fair. The winners went on to the Utah State Fair. I loved to attend these fairs and see the exhibits. We learned standards of excellence

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

and I think I always got blue ribbons, the first-place standard. When I was finishing my Junior year in High School, I won the State Dairy Foods Demonstration contest at the Utah State Fair. The prize was a wristwatch with a 4-H symbol on its face. I wore it with pride for many years. My demonstration was “Butter Cookies for Better Entertaining”. I demonstrated how to mix the batter, roll out the dough, and cut it into various shapes. I displayed 12 decorated cookies. One for celebrations in each month of the year. I enjoy being in front of groups and giving demonstrations. This was one of the skills we developed in our club meetings. Once we were taught a lesson, we would take turns demonstrating and teaching parts of it to each other. I really loved the singing time during our meetings and the fun 4-H songs and other traditional songs that we learned. Each week at our meetings we would say the 4-H pledge and motto. “I pledge my Head to clearer thinking, my Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands to larger service and my Health to better living for my club, my community and my country”. (In 1973 they added the words “and my world”) The 4-H motto was “Make the Best Better”.

Writing this has made me reflect on the blessings of 4-H in my life and the opportunities that it gave me. Recently, my daughter-in-law Judy paid me a compliment. She said “You have a way to talk that makes any topic easy to understand. It’s your tone, pace, and words used that makes whatever you say very

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

clear and pleasant to hear. I hope that I can get to that level of communicating one day.” If this is true, 4-H had a part in laying a foundation to help develop positive traits and skills in communication and public presentation.



I won the Utah State Fair Dairy Foods Demonstration 4-H competition

How did you get to school as a child?



I lived in Manila, an unincorporated area of Pleasant Grove, Utah. We were too far away to walk to elementary, junior high, and high school. So, I rode the big yellow school bus. The bus stop was at the top of our street and the canyon road. It was about a five-minute walk up a slightly sloping hill. This hill was fun to ride our sleds down in the winter but not too fun to walk in bad weather. I started riding the bus to school in 1950. I walked with my three sisters until they finished high school. Shirley graduated in 1954, Barbara in 1957 and Karolyn in 1958. And then I went to the bus stop alone. I remember several times that we cut the time close and had to run for the bus. I enjoyed being with friends on the bus.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What do you miss about being a child?



I miss the environment in which I was raised. I was raised in a religious community. Christian values were respected and modeled in the leaders, teachers and adults around us. This was also true on a national level. Politicians were dignified, spoke intelligently, handled disagreements with persuasive arguments and worked to build unity and bipartisanship. Celebrities were depicted morally in public. The tv shows and movies had no course language, swearing or immodesty. They portrayed noble characters with high standards and values. Today it is depressing to see the total lack of civility and decency in some politicians and their followers. Many forms of entertainment contain lewd language and behavior. It makes me sad that children today do not have the opportunity to enjoy innocence and wholesomeness in the environments in which they are being raised.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What is one of your favorite children's stories?



I have loved books for as long as I can remember. My mother taught elementary school before she was married. She loved to tell us stories and adapt her voice to portray all the different characters in the stories. She and her unmarried sisters who were also school teachers, made picture scrapbooks by tying together heavy brown paper pages pasted with pictures cut from magazines and books. Some examples of the types of pictures were, babies and mothers, children in many settings, Dionne Quintuplets, various holidays and seasons. One book was pictures from Robert Louis Stevenson's "A Child's Garden of Verses" illustrated by Jessie Wilcox Smith. I spent many hours looking at the pictures and imagining backgrounds and stories to go with these pictures.

Being the youngest of four girls, I had several of my sister's school readers and books to read and enjoy. We had a collection

of Bobbsey Twin books, and children's bible stories, many Little Golden Books, and Fairy Tales. (I especially liked "Little Two Eyes" and "Frau Holle" or the "Golden Girl at the Well" which are Brother's Grimm fairy tales.)

When I was old enough to get a library card I loved going to the library. (My minor at BYU was Library Science) I remember reading all the Nancy Drew mysteries.

Some of the Children's stories I have loved as a mother to share with my children were "Fat Cat", "Harvey's Hideout", "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane", "Runaway Bunny", "Charlotte's Web", and "Sylvester and the Magic Pebble".

Steve enjoyed reading books to our children. Some of the ones he read with them were, Laura Ingalls Wilder books, "The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe" series, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", "James and the Giant Peach", Lloyd Alexander series and many, many others. This was a delightful time!

How is life different today compared to when you were a child?



I will address two major areas of difference in life today compared to when I was a child. Society follows less moral and ethical standards and Technology is far more advanced and prevalent.

When I was growing up society had a moral and ethical compass, Movies and entertainment followed accepted standards regarding language, sex, and violence. The standard was sexual purity before marriage and complete fidelity to one's spouse after marriage. People did not use swear words or coarse language in public. Modesty in dress and speech were expected and observed. Politicians, civil servants, educators, and celebrities lived moral and ethical lives in public. If they did not their careers and reputations would be ruined. It wasn't until 1968 that Parental guidance was felt needed for movies. People

generally acknowledged a belief in God and followed Judeo-Christian values. In today's world, outrageous behavior, dress, and language have become normalized and we see this in all aspects of society.

Technology and ways of communicating have changed dramatically. We had a family radio in our kitchen. This was a source of programs, news, and entertainment. When I was about six years old our family bought a television set. We were one of the first families in our area to own one. There were only three channels to choose from and they were only available certain hours of the day. I used to get unhappy when my friends came over and only wanted to watch television instead of playing. Our telephone was on a party line. Ten families shared the line. The phone would ring different patterns for the party being called. You could pick up the phone and listen to whoever might be talking at the time. Or you may be talking, and a neighbor would tell kids to get off the phone because they had an important call to make. The phone was in one area of the house, so you would need to be stationary when using the phone. Homes and cars did not have air conditioning. Today we are blest with computers, smart phones, social media, and numerous sources of information. We now live in a global society. We can communicate instantly by text or email all around the world. We can have visual zoom meetings; I have taught a religious institute class on zoom for the last few years. Many people work

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

remotely from their homes. Advances in medicines and surgical procedures are saving and improving lives. With my husband Steve's health conditions, he would be blind and deaf without today's technology. He has a cochlear implant and an artificial iris implant. He receives shots in his eye for macular degeneration.

I am saddened and concerned regarding society's rapid moral decline but very grateful for the way technology has improved my world and the world at large.



Steve with his cochlear implant hearing device

What were your favorite subjects in high school?



I loved my high school years. I love learning! It was exciting to learn about so many things at that time of my life. I had a great English teacher, Mrs. Marie Doty. I enjoyed writing and diagramming sentences. I also loved reading and pondering the meaning and symbolism of what I was reading, especially with poetry and short stories and novels. I also was greatly influenced by my debate class and loved being on the debate team. It was great to develop my critical thinking skills and be able to study and argue for both sides of an issue. I also did extemporaneous speaking on current topics in competitions. I would read news magazines to be prepared and informed about whatever subject I may be given. These experiences influenced me to receive my BA in English at BYU. I also loved my music chorus classes. We had a great teacher. Mr. Leslie Reese. I loved learning to sing harmony and be exposed to many forms of music. The love of music has greatly influenced my life. My decision later in life to become a

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

music therapist has been a blessing to me and allowed me to bless many others through my private practice and my work as a music therapy professor at Chapman University. My other favorite class in high school was cheerleading. I loved learning and performing our routines. I loved being so involved in the affairs of our school and cheering for all the games and school activities.



Pleasant Grove High School Cheerleaders 1961-62. Front Janet Maxfield, Annette Walker, Linda McCausland. Back Joyce Swenson and Linda Wadley

How did you get your first job?



I was raised in a farming community. As an adult I realize the values learned from growing up in that environment. It was a great way to learn responsibility and develop a good work ethic. Chores needed to be done in a timely manner. Cows could not wait when they needed milking, chickens had to be fed on time and eggs gathered. Crops needed weeding and irrigation on a regular basis. Fruit and vegetables needed to be picked when they ripened and prepared and processed before they spoiled.

I was involved in these tasks at an early age. I remember making boxes as a child for the cherries we picked from our orchard and sold locally or shipped. We would stand around a table where my father had spaced wooden forms to hold the ends in place while we hammered and nailed the back and sides on the boxes. I could earn a few cents per box and 3 cents a pound for cherries picked.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

My mother supervised the cherry pickers while my father was at work. She would have several ladders placed so pickers could reach the tops of the trees. After we climbed up and filled our buckets, the cherries would be sorted, weighed and then placed in the boxes. My three sisters and I used to enjoy picking with hired workers. I remember loving to harmonize and sing in the orchard as we picked the fruit. I learned many fun and traditional songs as we worked.

I also was hired to pick raspberries. The owner of the fields would come around to workers houses in a pickup truck early in the morning. We would all get in the back of the truck and be taken to the fields where we would pick the berries for hours working down long rows, one on each side of the row.

I also started babysitting at an early age. I think I was only 8 when I watched our neighbors' baby. After she was asleep, I entertained myself by picking up the telephone and listening to others talking on the ten-party line we had in our neighborhood. The summer after my high school Junior year, I was able to get a job as a carhop at the new FrosTop in our town of Pleasant Grove, Utah. The location was great, on State Street right below Linden hill. I was the only one hired that was still in high school. The other girls were graduating Seniors. It was the first drive-in that used carhops in the area and was a popular place. I really enjoyed being a carhop and giving great service to the customers.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

I also had a volunteer job as a candy-striper at American Fork Hospital when I was in high school. This was my first job that required an application and interview process. I worked in the reception area and helped visitors and patients as requested. I will include a definition of this program. Hospital volunteers, also known as candy stripers in the United States work without regular pay in a variety of health care settings, usually under the direct supervision of nurses. The term candy striper is derived from the red-and-white striped pinafores that female volunteers traditionally wore, which are culturally reminiscent of candy canes. The term and its associated uniform are less frequently used in current clinical settings.

In our Church I served in callings to positions when I was very young. As a teenager I was Junior Sunday School Secretary and Piano Accompanist for Primary. I enjoyed feeling responsible and mature enough to have a job and to be serving others and making contributions.

I always tried to magnify my callings and job opportunities and give my best efforts in all I did.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What were your friends like in high school?



What were Your Friends like in high school?

I loved my high school years. Looking back, I guess I was a big fish in a little pond, but I loved it that way and had many opportunities to participate and grow. There were about 130 in my graduating class. I was in the school chorus, a cheerleader, on the debate team, in pep club and United Nations club. I won the Strawberry Days Queen beauty pageant the year I graduated and the State 4-H Dairy Foods Demonstration and the Betty Crocker, Homemaker of the Year contest during my high school years. When I started Junior High our school building held 7th through 12th grades. So Junior High and High School met together. I got to see my sisters Karolyn and Barbara at school for my first two years. They were 4 and 5 years older than me. I had friends in several different groups and didn't feel I was exclusive in choosing associates. Pleasant Grove High School

included students from the main town and the unincorporated areas of Manila and Lindon. Lindon later became its own city. I lived in Manila and rode the bus to school. I had my Manila friends that I was in church and 4-H clubs with. My main school friends, The Gang, all lived downtown. Our family only had one car which my father took to work plus my mother didn't know how to drive. So it was hard for me to do a lot after school until I got my driver's license at the end of my junior year. (Note: When my father passed away at age 69. My mother decided to get her driver's license to give her some independence. I was so proud of her and thought it was very brave to do that at 70 years of age. Now 70 seems like no big deal but I still am very proud of her for taking charge of her changed circumstances.) My sister Barbara got married to Jim Harvey the summer after my 7th grade and they lived in an apartment in his parents' basement downtown. At times I would go there after school and sometimes spend the night so that I could do after-school activities or things with friends. Back then people started dating in Junior High School, so I had boyfriends and lots of boys I dated from 7th grade on. In fact, each grade nominated a couple for the Sweetheart dance and Paul Haycock and I were the 7th grade sweethearts. Interestingly I went to high school graduation with Paul also. He was in my Manila Ward, and we grew up as friends but never really dated except graduation. He was Student body President. Many people got married right after they graduated from high

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

school like my sisters Barbara and Karolyn did. Some of my classmates married before graduation. The district built a new high school that included grades 9th to 12th that opened my sophomore year. I was a good student and loved learning. I felt like the school offered me a good education and prepared me for the next steps to my university years and love of lifelong learning. I loved high school life and all the curricular activities I was able to participate in and grow from. I am grateful for the many good friends I had and my fellow classmates.



Strawberry Days Queen. I won the town beauty pageant the year I graduated. 1962

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Cheerleader

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

How did you choose where to go to college?



I was planning to attend a Utah school to get my degree. I considered Utah State University in Logan or BYU closer to home in Provo. At that time most female high school graduates in my area did not go to college. They either got married soon after high school or got a job. I had goals at this time to graduate from college, tour Europe and maybe serve a mission for our church. The church had a policy at that time that girls had to be 21 before they could serve. A neighbor was going to BYU that summer to get his degree and offered to let me ride with him. I decided that if I went to summer school, I would be able to graduate in three years instead of four. This made my decision. Two of my close friends decided to go to BYU and we made plans to room together in the Fall in on campus housing. I am glad that I made the decision to attend BYU. This is where I met my husband, Steve. We both graduated in 1966. My degree was a BA in English with a minor in Library Science. Steve graduated in Economics and

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Political Science. We also were dorm parents at BYU and had our first child, Laura, while we were BYU students.



BYU Graduation Day 1966

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Laura was born while we were dorm parents at Wymount Terrace. 1965

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Did you have a car in high school or college?



I did not have a car in high school or in college until after I was married. In high school I rode the bus to school. We just had one car in our family and my mother did not drive. My father had the car at work during the day. So, if I needed transportation from after school activities or being with my downtown friends I would have to get rides from the parents of my friends or my father or one of my sisters would come to pick me up. Later when my friends and I were old enough to drive they would give me rides or I would sometimes get to borrow the car. When I was 17 and got a job for the summer at the Frostop, I was usually able to take our car to go to work. I loved to drive. I had lots of boyfriends, and they often provided my transportation.

At BYU I lived close enough to campus to walk to classes, but the weather was often bad. My roommates and I were usually able to find boys with cars that would drive us home, especially at night.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Steve and his roommates would often give us rides. We were friends before Steve and I started dating. I worked as a waitress at Heaps-a-Pizza for a while and the boss would always see that the employees had a ride home.

I never assumed that I would have a car going to school. I knew our family could not afford it and it was not the expectation for girls to have one. None of my friends did. It was just the way of life to walk to the bus or when in college to walk to campus and classes whatever the weather. It was always a fun bonus when someone offered you a ride. I didn't think of it being healthy at the time, but I am sure the exercise helped to keep me in good shape.

What was your first boss like?



The first job I had besides picking fruit and babysitting was at the Frostop. This fast-food drive-in was just opening in our area and was the first to introduce carhops to take orders and deliver the food to your car. I really liked working here. I had just finished my Junior year, the other girls hired had just graduated from high school. There were five or six of us hired. It was a popular place, although the prices were a little higher than elsewhere, because of the carhop service. The location was great. Situated at the bottom of Lindon Hill on State Street which was the main highway from Provo to Salt Lake City at the time. The boss was a man from out of town. He didn't show up much and he didn't seem very interested when he did. The one woman and we girls pretty much ran it. We cleaned and closed-up at night. In retrospect I'm thinking that it was not a very safe situation.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

My next two jobs were while I was attending BYU before I got married.

The first one was as a waitress at Heaps A Pizza. Later it became Brick Oven Pizza. It was owned by two young men (Glee and Ray) who were thoughtful to employees and made sure we got home safely at night. It was a very fun and busy place to work, and we were able to keep the nice tips that we got.

The next job was in the BYU music library. The pay was \$1.00/hour. This was considered good wages back then. The music library was on the 5th (top) floor of the Harold B. Lee Library. It had about a dozen listening stations. Several music classes had music lists that their students were required to listen to each semester. The students would come to the window, give me their student identification card and a filled-out card with the catalog music number on it for the requested record. I would go to the back room and find the record and put it on a station and give them earphones to use. There were very busy times with waiting lines for stations and lines of students trying to check in and out. Many were impressed with my organizational skills and ability to be calm and personable and professional with everyone. I appreciated the opportunity to realize I had these skills and hone them. I received a wonderful musical education being able to listen to almost all the famous operas and read their librettos. I listened to classic symphonies and concertos and become familiar with music periods and great composers. I

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

loved this job and my boss, Robert Manookin. I have heard musicians say he was one of the finest composers in the church. I am including a short bio from Wikipedia:

Robert Manookin was a Latter-day Saint composer. Manookin was a professor of music composition and theory at Brigham Young University. He also served as a member of the General Church Music Committee of the LDS Church as well as both chorister and pianist at both the ward and stake levels. He was a stake patriarch in the Orem Suncrest Stake until his death.

Brother Manookin took an interest and became a sort of a father figure to me. He was positive about my abilities and he and his wife invited me and Mary Monson, his assistant, to their home for office socials a couple of times. He attended my marriage and sealing in the Salt Lake Temple. I continued to work in the music library a couple of hours a day the first year we were married. Then Laura was born and Steve and I became dorm parents for BYU at Wymount Terrace.



Robert P. Manookin

What was your wedding like?



We were married and sealed for time and all eternity Monday morning August 24, 1964, in the Salt Lake Temple by Gordon B. Hinckley a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. (He later became President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.) I received my endowments the same day. Several relatives and friends were there with us. Steve came early that morning to pick me up and drive to the temple. He had several small cuts on his face with toilet paper sticking to the blood. He had decided to get a clean shave and he had only used an electric razor previously. He used a Gillette handheld razor and thus all the bleeding cuts. That afternoon my sister Barbara had prepared a special luncheon for all of us at my parents' home. We had a reception that night at the Manila Ward church house. It was very lovely! My sisters Barbara and Shirley were in the line as Matron and Maid of Honor. My bridesmaids were my four closest friends, Linda Wadley, Earlene Giles, Marilyn Stubbs

and Janina Fowler and Steve's sister Lynette. Clyde Pearce was Steve's best man. The bridesmaids wore floor length gold delustered satin dresses. My sister Karolyn was at the guest book table. She was expecting a baby in October and didn't feel up to standing in the reception line. She had created and made my wonderful wedding dress. A full-length dress of silk organza, underscored with delustered satin which fell into a modified chapel train. It was trimmed with appliqued lace on the skirt and bodice. We had a reception Friday night, August 29th (Steve's parents' anniversary) at the Pacific Grove ward building in California. We honeymooned between the two places, going down through Utah, Nevada and Southern California. We spent a day at Disneyland and then traveled up the California coast to Pacific Grove.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



August 24, 1964

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Our reception line

Do you have a special piece of clothing that was handmade or refurbished for you?



It is very special to me that my sister Karolyn made my wedding dress. I love her! She is a skilled seamstress. It meant so much that out of her love for me she volunteered to make my gown. The year before she had made a blue satin brocade formal for me to wear for the Strawberry Day's Queen competition. I was the reigning queen and wore this dress to crown the new queen. This gown was a similar pattern to how I wanted my wedding dress to look. I will copy the description from the newspaper article about our reception: The bride wore a full-length dress of silk organza, underscored with delustered satin which fell into a modified chapel train. It was trimmed with appliqued lace on the skirt and bodice. The dress was created by her sister, Mrs. Leon Gillman. She carried a white orchid nestled

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

in stephanotis and wore a chapel length veil.



**PLEASANT GROVE'S
1962 STRAWBERRY
DAY QUEEN**

Soon after the Judges had made their decision on May 19, 1962, the house lights were dimmed and Joyce Swenson was crowned the 41st Strawberry Days Queen of Pleasant Grove's annual Strawberry Days festival. As Strawberry Days Queen Joyce reigned over the local celebration, visited the surrounding communities to promote our Strawberry Days celebration. She ably represented Pleasant Grove in the Miss Utah Pageant. Joyce is now a Sophomore at the Brigham Young University, where she is majoring in English.

From the Strawberry Day Queen pageant program. Karolyn made this formal for me. 1963

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



My Wedding Dress 1964

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Do you believe in love at first sight?



I do not believe in love at first sight from a romantic and relationship point of view. I do believe in attraction at first sight and there is sometimes a chemistry that clicks right away. However, for real love to occur there must be a time to truly get to know one another. It is important to become friends, to learn about a person's character and their beliefs and goals in life. It takes time to see how they react to different situations and how they go about solving problems. It takes time to see if they treat you and others with respect and kindness. After you have taken time to really get to know someone, the next step is to learn that you can truly trust them. You cannot have the type of love for a person that would lead to a rewarding and happy marriage without knowledge and trust.

I do believe in love at first sight as a mother. My Grandfather Swenson enjoyed quoting something I said when I was pregnant

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

with my first child. “A mother loves her child before it is born.” When you have gone through the birth process and literally put your life on the line, it is an indescribable moment to see and hold your baby for the first time. You immediately have a deep love and an eternal bond. I was able to give birth to eight precious children and experience this strong and beautiful love at first sight each special and sacred time. I also felt this bonding love the first time I saw my oldest grandchild in the hospital nursery. Steve and I were later able to become her legal guardians. Motherhood is an important and treasured part of my identity. I feel a deep and profound love for all my posterity.



Holding Ben and Judy's Jacob Hanson at his birth 2009

What inventions have had the biggest impact on your day-to-day life?



I use a microwave oven every day. I am grateful for the convenience this invention has made in food and meal preparation. The inventions that I am most grateful for deal with ways to access and share information and learning. Smart phones make it possible to text and communicate from different locations. I can easily keep in touch with family, friends, and others and conduct business and make and confirm appointments. I also appreciate the ability to email. I teach a weekly religious institute class over Zoom allowing students from several geographical distances to be together and feel the spirit in their homes as we learn and share spiritual truths. I do most of my daily reading and accessing news and information on my iPad and Kindle and computer. I appreciate the invention of apps. I access scriptures and spiritual material through the

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Gospel Library app and Bookshelf Plus app. I also access the Spokane Library District through their apps. I have apps to read my medical information and even have an app to unlock the doors of our church buildings. I also do a lot of shopping online. Social media and YouTube provide ways to stay in touch with others and access all kinds of learning and entertainment. I can look up and find needed information with Google on my computer. I am so grateful for the ability to take classes, listen to music and access all kinds of learning opportunities. I am devoted to the concept of lifelong learning and these inventions greatly bless my day-to-day life.

Do you believe in magic? What is a magical experience to you?



I do not believe in magic, but I do believe in miracles. I believe that as we make and keep covenants with God, we are blessed with a miraculous power beyond our own abilities. I have experienced God’s help and blessing many times in my life.

President Russell M. Nelson, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made these remarks as part of his April 2024 Conference address.

“Joseph Smith’s dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple is a tutorial about how the temple spiritually empowers you and me to meet the challenges of life in these last days. I encourage you to study that prayer, recorded in Doctrine and Covenants section 109. That dedicatory prayer, which was received by revelation, teaches that the temple is “a house of prayer, a house of fasting,

a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God.”

This list of attributes is much more than a description of a temple. It is a promise about what will happen to those who serve and worship in the house of the Lord. They can expect to receive answers to prayer, personal revelation, greater faith, strength, comfort, increased knowledge, and increased power.

Time in the temple will help you to think celestial and to catch a vision of who you really are, who you can become, and the kind of life you can have forever. Regular temple worship will enhance the way you see yourself and how you fit into God’s magnificent plan. I promise you that.” President Nelson continues.

“We are also promised that in the temple we may “receive a fulness of the Holy Ghost.” Imagine what that promise means in terms of having the heavens open for each earnest seeker of eternal truth.

We are instructed that all who worship in the temple will have the power of God and angels having “charge over them.” How much does it increase your confidence to know that, as an endowed woman or man armed with the power of God, you do not have to face life alone? What courage does it give you to know that angels really will help you?

Finally, we are promised that “no combination of wickedness” will prevail over those who worship in the house of the Lord.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Understanding the spiritual privileges made possible in the temple is vital to each of us today.

My dear brothers and sisters, here is my promise. Nothing will help you more to hold fast to the iron rod than worshipping in the temple as regularly as your circumstances permit. Nothing will protect you more as you encounter the world's mists of darkness. Nothing will bolster your testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Atonement or help you understand God's magnificent plan more. Nothing will soothe your spirit more during times of pain. Nothing will open the heavens more. Nothing!

The temple is the gateway to the greatest blessings God has in store for each of us, for the temple is the only place on earth where we may receive all of the blessings promised to Abraham.” I testify that President Nelson's words are true. I am grateful for the promises and blessings that I have received in my life. I am frequently given knowledge and power beyond my own understanding and strength. I have been greatly blessed by the Lord.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Spokane Washington Temple picture taken by Steve Hanson

What are you superstitious about?



I don't feel I am superstitious at this time in my life, but when I was young, I had fun with superstition. We would look for the first star and make a wish saying, "Star light. Star bright. First star I've seen tonight. I wish I may I wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight." Then we would close our eyes and make a wish. We would make a wish on our birthdays by blowing out all the candles on the cake. If you blew them out in one try and didn't tell your wish, it would come true. We looked for four-leaf clovers in our grass and put them in our shoe for good luck. We had a saying "Don't step on a crack or you'll break your mother's back." So, we would skip over the cracks in the pavement. It was bad luck to have a black cat run in front of you or walk under a ladder. Friday the 13ths were bad luck days. When I was a little older, I followed my horoscope and later got into biorhythms. I do some weird routines that might be seen as superstitious. Like I line up my glasses in the cupboard in a certain order and rotate

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

them so each will be used and not get their feelings hurt.

What famous or important people have you encountered in real life?



Celebrity.

Some celebrities in Hollywood were wanting to launch an effort to promote donating to blood drives. Area church leaders were exploring getting involved and Steve and I were invited to a small gathering for this purpose. We interacted with Pat Boone, Micky Rooney, and Roger Williams.

Political.

President John F. Kennedy spoke in the Mormon Tabernacle on September 26, 1963. My roommates and some friends from BYU waited outside to see him leave. He passed by the crowd shaking hands with some. He almost touched my hand as I was reaching out from the 2nd or 3rd row. He was assassinated two months later on November 22nd.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Steve did political polling for Barry Goldwater in Arizona. Barry Goldwater was the Republican nominee for President and was now running again for the Senate. We were invited to his house in Paradise Valley for a dinner, His house was a famous architectural icon and later was renovated for tours.

I was appointed by California Governor Pete Wilson to his Child Development Policy Advisory Committee. This was a ‘pleasure appointee’ which is a prestigious appointment and means there are no term limits. The appointee serves for as long as the Governor desires. Pete Wilson also ran for the Republican nomination for President,

Church Prophets and Leaders

When I was Strawberry Days Queen, we presented a crate of strawberries to President David O. McKay. My picture with him was in the Deseret News.

I was on the Tustin School District Board of Education with Barbara Benson. Barbara was not a member of the Church but was a widowed sister-in-law of President Ezra Taft Benson. He invited her to a dinner reception held before he spoke to a conference at Anaheim Stadium. He asked her if she needed a ride to the event and she said, “No. She would have me, and Steve bring her.” So, we were able to be a part of this special small get together. President Gordon B. Hinckley performed our marriage and sealing. We have also been able to be in small group settings with President Russell M. Nelson and President

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Dallin H. Oaks. Steve was the stake president in charge of a Regional Conference. Elder Robert D. Hales was the presiding visitor accompanied by Elder Cecil Samuelson, who later became president of BYU. I entertained and had lunch for the wives of the authorities at our home. There were Sister Hales, Sister Samuelson, the two temple matrons and two mission president's wives and Steve's counselor's wives. We also went to tour the Nixon Presidential Library. Later Steve and I sat at a dinner table with Elder Hales and his wife Mary. Elder L. Tom Perry stayed in our home for a few days. Steve and I worked with Elder Ronald A. Rasband and his wife for the Newport Beach Temple open house. When I was teaching at Chapman University, I was the faculty advisor to the LDS student club. Chapman built a beautiful new interfaith building. They invited Elder Jeffrey R. Holland to come and dedicate it. The LDS Students and Interfaith department sponsored a dinner before the dedication event. Steve was invited as the Stake President in the area and I as faculty advisor. We had nice interactions with Elder Holland and when he left to get ready for the dedication. I stayed with his wife, Sister Pat Holland and accompanied her to the building and sat by her. She was a former counselor in a General Young Women Presidency. And of course, I have had many special times with my cousin Elder D. Todd Christofferson.

I was able to meet with several General Women Leaders. I had lunch with Cheryl Lant and Kaye Hanson. Kaye was serving on

the Young Women General Board at this time.

Cheryl became General Primary President in 2005. I also met with Colleen K. Menlove, General Primary President from 1999-2005. I wanted to share my concerns about Universal Pre-K programs being proposed in California and nationwide. Her son, Mitchell Menlove was a political aide to Senator Jeff Flake and others in Arizona and she arranged a meeting for me with him and some colleagues when I visited Arizona.

Bruce Olson, who was managing director of the church's public affairs department stayed at our home to speak at a regional YSA fireside. I shared with him the KidBuilders project that I had conceptualized and was being developed and promoted by the Orange County Children and Families Commission that I served on. He felt the church would be interested in this and arranged for me to meet with Bonnie D. Parkin, General Relief Society President. We have also had Virginia Hinckley Pearce visit in our home. She was a counselor in the Young Women General Presidency. We met and interacted with Sherry Dew on different occasions. She was counselor in a General Relief Society and is CEO of Deseret Book Company. Julie B. Beck and her husband Ramon stayed in our home a few days. We had several meaningful talks and shared some sacred experiences. She was a counselor in the Young Women General Presidency at the time and she later told me that it was in our home that she received the inspiration that she was going to be called to be General

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Relief Society President. She was an inspiring leader.



Presenting Strawberries to President David O. McKay when I was Strawberry Days Queen with my attendants Pamela Patch and Charlene Carson

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What are some of your biggest pet peeves?



Packaging that is hard to open. This is usually for food and medicine.

Unsolicited mail. I have to clear my accounts every day and when I unsubscribe, they don't always stop.

People who believe misinformation. I think we need to seek the truth and check reliable and multiple sources of information.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What would you say is the best meal you ever had?



Thanksgiving has always been a very important holiday in our family. My mother was proud of her Mayflower heritage. We are descended from four of the original pilgrims: Stephen Hopkins, William Brewster, William White and Thomas Rogers. I have always looked forward to Thanksgiving and enjoyed cooking and preparing for the feast. As a child we would celebrate Thanksgiving with my mother's family in Granger, Utah. This was a large family gathering in a not so large house. We would form in a line that wove throughout the house to enter the kitchen where the Aunts would fill our plates. Then we would find a place to eat the dinner. The year I got married, Steve was inaugurated to the process. He still laughs about sitting on a bed to eat our Thanksgiving dinner. I've enjoyed the last several years celebrating the holiday at Ben and Judy's home in Gilbert Arizona. We have had 30, 40 or some years almost 50 of our children and grandchildren for our special feast. I enjoy making

my traditional dishes that our family loves, sweet potato casserole and creamed corn, to go along with our turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy, rolls, green beans casserole, and of course pumpkin pie.

Other meals that have special meaning to me are two family heritage dishes that I have fond memories of my mother making for me. I have made these simple meals for my children and enjoy seeing them pass on the tradition in their families. These dishes are Swedish Hotcakes and Goldenrod Egg. Several of my children have Goldenrod Egg for their family breakfast on Christmas and Easter. This is a basic white sauce with the whites of hard-boiled eggs cut up in it. This is served over toast. Then the yolks of those eggs are mashed and sprinkled over the white sauce to resemble the Goldenrod flowering plant. Swedish hotcakes and Goldenrod Eggs have become comfort foods for me and are connected with wonderful memories of my childhood.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Home of my Eldredge Grandparents where we would celebrate Thanksgiving.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What is one of the worst trips you've ever taken? What went wrong?



In the summer of 1969 Steve and I went to Utah with our three small children. Laura was 4, Will 18 months old and Jayne 4 months old. We spent some time with my family there and then left the children with my parents and went on a fishing trip with Steve's parents to Flaming Gorge. They pulled a small mobile camping trailer we all would stay in and had a rowboat with a motor. I am not a camper! It has never appealed to me. I didn't like anything about this trip. I tried to act pleasant, but I missed the kids and was miserable. Steve took me out on the lake in the little boat one day. I was scared to death because I did not know how to swim. He emphasized that I should not stand or move in the boat because it was not steady. But if I sat still, it was perfectly safe. When we got out in the middle of the lake the motor broke, and he said we had to stand up and change places

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

so Steve could row us back. It was terrifying for me. I couldn't stop crying all the way to the land, which was a cliff which we had to hike up. I was so glad to get back to Pleasant Grove and my children and family.

What's your favorite story about trying a new activity for the first time?



My husband likes to tell the story of the first time I tried to water ski. We were having a family reunion on Lake Powell. I do not know how to swim and so I am afraid to be in situations on the water where I do not feel safe. They somehow convinced me to put on a life jacket and try to water ski. Steve got in the water with me and helped me put on the skis. I was really getting nervous and asked him how deep the water was where we were. He said it was probably about 50 or 60 feet deep. I panicked because I thought it was only about 10 feet deep. He laughed and said something like 10 feet would be over my head. He assured me that I would be fine because of my life jacket. Well, the boat started, and I got up on the skis the first try. Soon I went up and over the top of the skis and they fell off. I clung to the handle of the rope and was dragged a couple of hundred feet. They were

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

yelling at me to let go of the rope, but I was holding on for dear life. No one had told me you are supposed to let go when you fall. The boat finally saw what was happening and slowed down and came back to pick me up. Suffice it to say that I have never tried that again.

What's a small decision you made that ended up having a big impact on your life?



I grew up living next to my grandparents on my father's side. Grandpa Swenson was a very Christlike man. I noticed a certain trait he had that I wanted to incorporate in my life. He always complimented and thanked others for the positive things about them and for what they did. This might be a person speaking or singing in church or someone performing a good or kind deed. I started doing this and it became very natural to me. My life is blessed by looking for good, beautiful and positive things to comment on. As I noticed the various ways people reacted to my compliments, I realized that there is also an art to receiving compliments. Relationships are strengthened by receiving compliments from others graciously and making them feel good to have noticed and made the effort to comment positively. I

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

treasure this note that I received from a young missionary we served with in Romania. “Sora Hanson, It’s been so fun being in your district. I really admire your sensitivity and kindness to others. You always take the time and consideration to compliment others on everything they do, whether that’s a talk in church, a musical performance, a good thought in district meeting, or anything else. I’ve really admired that in you and hope to better develop this quality myself.”



My Grandfather H.V. Swenson

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What's one of the most beautiful places you've ever been?



I want to mention four places of exquisite beauty that I have been able to visit. I will add descriptions from the internet.

“The first one was San Carlos de Bariloche, usually known as Bariloche (Spanish pronunciation: [bari'lotʃe]), is a city in the province of Río Negro, Argentina, situated in the foothills of the Andes on the southern shores of Nahuel Huapi Lake. It is located within the Nahuel Huapi National Park. After development of extensive public works and Alpine-styled architecture, the city emerged in the 1930s and 1940s as a major tourism centre with skiing, trekking and mountaineering facilities. In addition, it has numerous restaurants, cafés, and chocolate shops. So, is Bariloche worth visiting? Absolutely. Not only is the small mountain city the gateway to some of Patagonia’s most beautiful scenery, but it also has incredible food, drinks, activities,

facilities, and community.” We visited Bariloche in 1989 when we picked up Will from his mission and toured several places in Argentina and Peru. This place was breathtakingly beautiful. I was almost overcome and filled with beauty and had to step away to a private spot from our tour group to process it. The hymn going through my head was “How Great Thou Art”.

The second place was Butchart Gardens in British Columbia. We visited here in the mid 1980’s during a Hanson family reunion. I was so impressed and felt like this is how I picture the Garden of Eden to be. We have been able to visit it other times. A picture and description are below. “Just a few of the words that have been used to describe The Butchart Gardens include “breathtaking,” “astonishing” and “peaceful.” Nestled in Brentwood Bay, it’s about a 30-minute drive from Victoria on Vancouver Island. A designated National Historic Site of Canada, over a million visitors are drawn here every year. The transformation of a limestone quarry into a sunken garden of massive dimensions and dramatic aesthetic qualities represents an exceptional creative achievement in Canadian gardening history. Moreover, as the garden has matured and evolved, its beauty has become more distinctive.”

The third place of beauty was New Zealand that Steve and I were able to tour with Ben, Judy, Jacob and Maya in 2017. It was so lush and green and amazingly beautiful. My favorite place to visit there was the Hobbiton Movie Set. “The Hobbiton Movie Set

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

is a significant location used for The Lord of the Rings film trilogy and The Hobbit film trilogy, serving as a stand-in for the town of Hobbiton in the Shire in both trilogies. It is situated on a family-run farm about 8 kilometres (5.0 mi) west of Hinuera and 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) southwest of Matamata, in Waikato, New Zealand, and is now a Tolkien tourism destination, offering a guided tour of the set. Join us and experience the real Middle-earth™ with a guided tour of Hobbiton™ Movie Set, where, in the heart of the Waikato region, you can step into the lush pastures of the Shire™, as seen in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit trilogies.”

The fourth place on my list is Powerscourt Estate in Enniskerry, Ireland. We also toured Ireland in 2017 with Ben and Judy and their family. “Named 3rd Best Garden in the world by National Geographic, lose yourself in 47 acres of carefully curated and maintained gardens. With so many wondrous features to explore and the stunning Powerscourt House listed as one of the top 10 globally (Lonely Planet), there is something to take everyone’s breath away.” See Below.

I would also add the area where I now live, the Spokane, Washington and Northern Idaho areas are extremely beautiful every season of the year. I feel blessed to live in such a beautiful place in this beautiful world.

“Powerscourt Estate in Enniskerry, Ireland



Bruno Latzelsperger//Getty Images
In an effort to commemorate his reign and leadership, Richard Wingfield, 1st Viscount Powerscourt, commissioned the German-born architect Richard Castle to build a 68-room mansion resembling a great Italian Renaissance villa in 1730. The gardens, developed to complement the Palladian architecture, were created over two main periods. The formal plan for the gardens was laid shortly after the estate was finished, but the design was not implemented until the 1840s. From thriving wall gardens to unique Japanese planting to the enchanting Tower Valley, the lush wonder exhibits the best in landscape design with breathtaking views of Sugar Loaf Mountain

Butchart Gardens in British Columbia, Canada



Wolfgang Kaehler//Getty Images Once the site of a cement quarry, Robert Pim and Jenni Butchart transformed the old limestone deposits into the beginning of the garden's most well-known attraction the Sunken Garden in 1904. Today, Butchart Gardens stretch over 55 acres with 900 bedding plant varieties including a Mediterranean garden and 26 greenhouses. With nearly a million visitors each year, the gardens have been designated as a National Historic Site of Canada.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Hobbiton New Zealand

What is one of the most expensive things that you've ever bought?



Of course, the most expensive things are our homes and cars, and weddings for children etc.

We did have some wonderful family vacations. One was driving across the United States. The other was spending Christmas in the Holy Land. Both were incredible trips and were educational, spiritual and enjoyable.

When Steve and I were married we just had two plain matching gold wedding bands. On our 25th anniversary we decided to get me a diamond ring. I designed the ring with one raised diamond in the middle surrounded by eight smaller diamonds representing our eight children. This is beautiful and meaningful.

We have enjoyed buying nativity sets from the countries we have visited. Some are priceless to us and valuable. For example the

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

carved Olivewood set from Bethlehem, the Kathe Wohlfahrt sets from Germany and the wood carving from Austria.

What song always brings back a particular memory?



I love music and have many memories connected to songs from my childhood and growing up years. Certain songs make me recall harmonizing and singing with other workers while picking cherries in our orchard. Other songs remind me of times at school and primary and church. Others recall different boyfriends and music I loved to dance to during my teenage years and beyond. I spent hours singing as I played the piano and went through many songbooks cover to cover. When my two terms on the school board were over, I attended California State Long Beach and became a Board-Certified Music Therapist. There are several songs that I will always connect with my experiences with the clients and patients that I worked with in this profession. I will share a couple of stories from my journals. Names of clients are changed.

I had a wonderful breakthrough with Mary. She is partially paralyzed and has not been able to speak words since her stroke several months ago. She does make a repetitive sound. She has a devoted husband who comes every day and brings her notes and leaves an encouraging thought to think about every night when he leaves. She is usually very discouraged and sometimes not responsive to his efforts or that of her daughter and two-year-old grandson. We have a wonderful relationship and communicate spirit to spirit. I have told her stories about others who are able to sing even though they can't yet speak, and she sometimes sings a word or two with me in the songs we do. This time I was playing and singing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" which is a song with special meaning to her and her husband. and I got her singing most of the song with me. The Nurse ran to get a tape recorder and said, "The speech therapist will never believe this!" Then I got my recorder and taped it again. The CNA that has been working with her for months came in and I asked her if she would like to hear Mrs. Naylor sing. She listened and said to Mary, "Is that You?" and Mary's eyes beamed as she nodded yes, and the CNA said, "Was that before your stroke?" I said "No, we did this tape five minutes ago." She couldn't believe it. Then Mary's husband came and I told him we had a surprise for him. He stood at the foot of the bed as I began to play the tape and he reached out his hand like he was conducting the music and she reached her hand towards his from her

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

position in the bed and although their hands were a few feet apart, their eyes locked and continued that way. She was so proud of herself and laughing almost with tears and at first he didn't realize what was happening, but as her voice got clearer and stronger on the tape the tears were flowing down his face and hers with joy. They were still never losing the eye contact. I felt so privileged to witness it. It was indeed a miracle.

One of the most beautiful experiences was with my hospice patient Maria and two of her estranged daughters who she hadn't seen for four years. I had been visiting Maria for months and we had become very close and been through several close experiences with death. At first she was relatively strong and mobile. She had a very, very strong faith in God and that he would heal her. Our sessions went from playing ping pong with paddle drums and sitting together at the piano to times when she could not get out of her bed. She shared many thoughts and feelings with me, about God and death and her sorrows over her first husband and the strained or non-existent relationships with her daughters. Now her death was very close and two of the married daughters had come from far away for a last visit. "Maria looked a little stronger than last time however I still would not have been surprised to have her die during our visit. She was more verbal but could not sing. She slept much of the visit or rested with her eyes closed. She was listening. I started

singing with my Omnichord, “How Great Thou Art”. The oldest daughter came in and sat down on the floor by my chair. I gave her a sheet with the words, and we sang it through together. Her sister joined and sat by her. We chose some songs. (Some that in earlier sessions, Maria would ask to be sung over and over sometimes five or six times in a row and then we would talk about the meaning of the words and what she was feeling as she listened). We sang a song, that was sung at the oldest daughter’s wedding. While they were singing and feeling the words, I was inspired to realize that the session was probably more for the daughters than Maria and that I should have them share some things about their mother and I felt they needed to have an opportunity to say Goodbye and have some closure. I got out my “talking drum” and explained how Maria and I had used it to converse. I demonstrated how I played the drum and told them what I was saying with my hands about how I loved their mother and had been blessed to work with her. Then I told them how Maria Loved to play the drum and how sometimes she would stroke it like a prayer and other times she would pound it in frustration or pain or anger but always with a spirit and feeling. The older girl took the drum almost reverently and played tenderly and as she played the tears rolled down her face and there were also tears in my eyes. Then the youngest daughter took a turn, not quite as freely expressing her feelings but it was also a healing experience for her. Then Maria wanted a turn, and

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

she played it with weak intensity and love but couldn't continue because of sharp pains. We all talked about what we were feeling and then chose two goodbye songs. "Kum by Ya" and "God Be With You Til We Meet Again." During Kum by Ya, Maria mouthed the words and I changed it to say' "Someone's Singing about Maria" and "Someone's Praying for Maria." Then we started singing "God be with You" By the second and Third verses, I was singing mostly alone as tears streamed down the daughters faces and Maria was mouthing some of the words. After I processed the lyrics with the daughters and they expressed how they were perfect for what they wanted and needed to express to their mother. We all embraced each other and felt the Spirit and love. They were so grateful, and I was richly blessed. I will never hear these songs again without hearing their sweet accents and voices singing these words of peace and love.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What's your favorite way to travel?



I enjoy being a passenger in a car. I like to be able to observe the scenery and different neighborhoods and houses and other things you can see on your drive. I enjoy the flexibility that driving offers to set your own schedule as to when and where to stop and which routes to take. On long trips I enjoy playing my Travel Bingo game. I also like to listen to books and sometimes do needlework. It is also easier to pack when we take our car instead of having to fold clothes up in a suitcase and adhere to certain weight limits. I enjoyed our travels with Ben and Judy and the kids. Ben enjoyed driving in the many different countries and places we toured together. I loved sightseeing and experiencing the countries and areas in this way. We got to see beautiful landscapes and natural settings as well as visit tourist sites and wonderful buildings and museums. I love traveling and seeing and learning new things and being in a car has facilitated this in wonderful ways.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What photograph do you most regret not taking when you had the opportunity?



In 1979 I was pregnant with my 8th child. It was a high-risk pregnancy. The baby was due in August and In June I became bedridden. I will quote from the journal I was keeping at that time. “Steve took me to Long Beach Memorial for the ultrasound. We were there from 11:30 to about 5:00. I have what I thought I did, complete placenta previa. The baby is in a transverse position like Ben was which may increase the chances of rupture. They were concerned about the baby’s kidneys because of a low amount of antibiotic fluid and couldn’t pick up a good picture of them because of position. They said to go straight to bed because of chance of bleeding until I talked with the doctor. On Friday I went in and saw Dr. Longworth’s substitute. He said I should never be left alone from now until the baby comes, and I need to

stay right in bed. He said the chances were not good that I would make it much further and it was inevitable that I would hemorrhage and then we would have to act fast. There is also a problem that the profuse bleeding will trigger the labor which could cause rupture problems. We'll have to hope for a day at a time...Steve gave me a beautiful blessing tonight. He didn't feel impressed that he should say that either the baby or I would be alright but gave assurance that whatever happened would be an ultimate blessing for me, him and our family and that heavenly Father's hand was in the situation. (I will add that I had an inspired dream where my father who had passed away in April had come to take me. So, this was an emotional and difficult time for me and Steve) This situation has already been a blessing to our relationship and brought us spiritual insights and growth. Steve had a special talk with the children explaining the situation to them in general terms...Tuesday Shirley came. It was such a relief to see her and know there was another adult in the house. I don't know how we could be doing it without her...I was transferred from HMO to a high-risk maternity specialist at UCI medical center. (I was so glad to get a new doctor. Our insurance with the HMO covered Dr. Longworth who I felt was crude and didn't treat me with the dignity that other doctors did. Plus, I did not have confidence in him.) Steve and I both felt better about the change. The facilities are closer and much better for the baby and me. I've been right in bed now since June 13th and off and on

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

since the first. On July 3rd Dr. Goldstien decided to Hospitalize me at St. Josphe's and gave me a day to get ready...About 12:30 a.m. Monday July 16th the doctors decided to go in and do the Caesarean. (Dr. Linzey told me later that as he was driving to the hospital, he was inspired to do a midline incision. This was very different from the normal procedure. And perhaps saved my life.) It went unbelievably smoothly on me. After I told Dr. Linzey he did a beautiful job on me and he said, "It wasn't me, it was the Lord." I know it was and I was so grateful to know he felt that way and had been guided. Our baby boy was born at 2:15 a.m. His heart was beating, and I did hear him cry before they inserted the tube in his throat. There was very little hope from the beginning. The pediatric specialist Dr. Carrie Worcester and six or seven others worked frantically with the baby for about forty-five minutes while I was on the delivery table three or four feet away. I watched his little dark-haired head. The lungs were small, and he was kept breathing artificially. They took me to recovery where Steve and I were able to be together. They let us see the baby in the isolette as they took him past to CHOC (Children's hospital of Orange County). About 4:00 Dr. Worcester came and told us the baby would probably die within the hour. He had hypo plastic lungs and only a small remnant on one kidney and oligohydramnios. He could never have survived even if he had gone full term. Steve went over and blessed him with a name, Jacob Nathan Hanson. I am so thankful for the

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

relationship Steve and I have and the strength that flows between us. Steve went home about 5:00 after seeing the baby again in intensive care. About 6:00 they came and told me Jacob had passed. They asked me if I would like to see him. It was so special. They had him wrapped in a little blanket and let me hold him in my arms. It felt so good and natural to have him there as I kissed his little face and stroked his cheek. I was so grateful for the chance to say a mother's goodbye". This is the moment I wish I had a photograph of me holding my baby, Jacob Nathan Hanson.



Steve and I at Jacob's grave, Fairhaven Cemetery, Santa Ana, California.

What is the farthest you have ever traveled from home?



When I was growing up, I had never been out of the state of Utah except for one time when our family visited my father's cousin in Pocatello, Idaho. My sophomore year at BYU I went with my roommate Janina Fowler to her father's home around Carlsbad, California. She was raised in Pleasant Grove where she lived with an uncle's family. I had a great desire to travel and see more of the world. I wanted to tour Europe before I got married, but that didn't happen. I hoped that someday I would be able to see more of the world. This dream came true in a big way. Below is a list of the thirty-two countries Steve and I have been able to visit. The furthest away is Albury, New South Wales Australia. 8, 236 miles from Spokane, Washington.

EUROPE

England

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Ireland

Sweden

Denmark

Netherlands

Belgium

Germany

Austria

France

Italy

Czech Republic

Hungary

Romania

Moldova

MIDDLE EAST-MEDIRERRANEAN

Israel

Jordan

Egypt

FAR-EAST

Japan

Hong Kong

Macao

China

PACIFIC

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

New Zealand

Australia

Fiji (Steve)

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA

Canada

United States

Mexico

Guatemala

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Chile

Peru

Brazil

Paraguay

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Which musicians or bands have you most enjoyed seeing perform live?



During the early 1980's I had season tickets to the Pacific Symphony that performed at the Santa Ana High School auditorium. I would attend with my friends and neighbors, Diana LeSueur and Mary Ann Jack. Since Mary Ann was in a wheelchair caused by Polio we had great handicap parking. We all loved classical music, and this was an excellent symphony orchestra. They were wonderful evenings.

In 2004 Steve and I were on our church's public relations committee to prepare for and promote the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's performance in Orange County. We attended and hosted guests from leaders in the community. There was a VIP reception before the performances for them to meet with Craig Jessop, director, and some choir members. It was an outstanding performance. I will include an article about the event:

Published: April 3, 2004, Report ad By Deseret News, Kathleen Lubeck Peterson Church News contributor COSTA MESA, Calif.

“When the Mormon Tabernacle Choir came rolling into Orange County, Calif., March 26–27, it brought the joy of music, the thrill of consummate professionalism, and the whisperings of the Spirit.

This was no ordinary experience. With the celebration of the choir’s 75 years of continuous network broadcasting, coupled with the Philharmonic Society of Orange County’s 50th anniversary, it was a perfect match. A perfect match in Orange County –More than 9,000 tickets for the three concerts — one on Friday evening, March 26, and matinee and evening concerts on Saturday, March 27 — performed in the Orange County Performing Arts Center were sold out months before the concert. If the crowds came for a heavenly musical experience, they did not leave disappointed. “I’ve never heard so much applause before,” said Mac Christensen, the choir’s president. “The audience response was electrifying.” Many high school a cappella choirs came to the concerts. After the Friday concert, one of the students on the street called out to the choir members, “You knocked my socks off!” That was high praise, indeed, from the younger generation. “This particular concert was designed around the celebration of our 75th anniversary of broadcasting, and it reflects the music we’ve performed on the broadcast over these many years,” said Craig Jessop, music director. “It also

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

reflects music that our listeners love, those that get the most requests.”

Those beloved songs the choir sang produced three or four prolonged standing ovations each concert. The 360 choir members and 26 members of The Orchestra at Temple Square traveled by plane to sunny Orange County. The concerts were a blend of hymns, choral masterworks, patriotic songs, folk music, and songs of the land such as “Shenandoah” and “Deep River.” Masterworks included compositions by Bach, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Rimsky Korsakoff. A Nigerian carol titled “Betelehemu” featured an array of drums and a powerful percussion section (with John Longhurst switching from organ to percussion). The choir members sang, clapped, shouted, rhythmically swayed back and forth and filled the hall with a joyful noise. It brought the audience members to their feet. The patriotic songs of “America the Beautiful” and a medley of George M. Cohan favorites were a tribute to America. During Friday night’s concert, the military chaplains and other armed forces in attendance were given a special thank you for their service to God and country. “To me, the concert was not just musically beautiful, it was highly spiritual, a wonderful experience,” said Shabbir Mansuri, founding director of the Council on Islamic Education. Omega Medina, manager of the classical division for the Grammy Awards and a professional singer herself, was thrilled to hear the choir. “The music of the

Tabernacle Choir represents true Americana to me,” she said. “They have as their mission a high standard of excellence and sing patriotic songs which speak to all of us. They speak to the freedoms that we have in this country. “Given the rigorous auditions for the choir, you can’t be surprised that every year these talented singers can record such high quality music. Just the joy of hearing this choir makes me proud.” The Rev. Christian Mondor of St. Simon and Jude Catholic Church in Huntington Beach said, “It was an extraordinary evening. I was so impressed with the choir and the whole concert, especially because they sang entirely from memory. The diction was so easy to understand. That’s extraordinary.”

On Saturday night at the end of the concert, the baton was turned over to well-known philanthropist Henry T. Segerstrom, who conducted an encore with the choir. He was cheered by Orange County residents and given a standing ovation. The world-class concert hall where the choir performed is named Segerstrom Hall in honor of his contributions to the community. Although the choir members and conductors are primarily the focus of the concerts, the professionalism of the musicians in the Orchestra at Temple Square added a rich dimension to the music. Mack Wilberg, associate director of the choir, has given a fresh look to arranging traditional hymns. Many of those arrangements were included in the evening’s program. California has a rich history with the early saints. Latter-day

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Saint immigrants first arrived in San Francisco in 1846, and built communities in the area. In 1847 the Mormon Battalion arrived in San Diego, and six Battalion members were at Sutter's Mill in January 1848, when gold was discovered. Surprisingly, about 30 choir members have lived in Orange County, and more than half of the choir members have roots in California. Lloyd Newell, announcer for the Music and the Spoken Word, brought cheers and applause from the audience when he announced that Cox Cable in Orange County will add BYU-TV to its cable line-up starting Sunday April 4, 8:30 a.m. on channel 361. North America West Area President Elder Lynn G. Robbins and his wife, Jan, attended the concert, along with his first counselor Elder Val R. Christensen and his wife, Ruth Ann. "Many hearts were touched, people obviously felt the Spirit," said Elder Robbins. "Some of them felt something even before the choir began singing. This was a wonderful gift to the saints of Southern California." The VIP receptions on Friday and Saturday nights gave community leaders the opportunity to mingle with their hosts and visit with choir leaders. During VIP receptions, various honors were bestowed upon the Tabernacle Choir. On Friday night, United States Congressman Dana Rohrabacher presented a certificate of Congressional recognition to the Tabernacle Choir, and on Saturday evening, United States Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez also presented a certificate of Congressional recognition. The Orange County Board of Supervisors also gave a

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

commemorative plaque to the choir, delivered by Chairman Tom Wilson.”

What would you save if your house was on fire?



Steve and I talked about this question. We have a box containing our important documents that we would save and our phones and iPads that contain information and ability to communicate. Then we talked about the things that are sentimental and irreplaceable and have special meanings to us that we would hate to see destroyed. I would like to save the book I wrote in about our family history from when we were married until about 1979. We have it digitally, but I would like the one I wrote in my own handwriting. We both value beauty. Steve said we should save some of the beautiful things I have made with my needlework. The counted cross five panel nativity, the needlepoint of Renoir's, "Two Young Girls at the Piano", my embroidery sampler of "The 23rd Psalm" and others. Some of our collected nativity sets are priceless to us, the carved olive wood from Bethlehem, the holy family from Austria, the one carved set from Romania and several others. There is an old

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Roseville vase and a ceramic bust of a girl reading a book that belonged to my grandmother and sat on top of our bookshelf when I was growing up. There are old original framed pictures of ancestors that would be so sad to lose. I love the two antique engravings that hang above our fireplace. I inherited a spinning wheel that was made by my Great Great Grandfather Larsen for his wife and then sold to my Great Grandmother Swenson and handed down to my grandmother, father, sister Shirley and then me. We have so many antiques and family heirlooms and other things we have acquired that have special meaning to us and could never be replaced.



We have inherited this Spinning Wheel made by my Great Great Grandfather Larsen.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Counted cross nativity that I embroidered.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What are your favorite TV shows?



We have not had television in our home since we left California in 2007. But I will talk about some of my favorite shows of the past. Growing up I loved “Dragnet” and had a crush on Jack Webb. I was very caught up in “The Fugitive” with Richard Janssen. I also loved “Father Knows Best”. I loved several musical shows that I would watch weekly and join in singing and dancing. “The “Mitch Miller Sing Along” “American Bandstand” “Your Hit Parade” “Vic Damone Show”. When our kids were young we like to watch the “Lawrence Welk Show” and “Donny and Marie”. The kids would have fun dancing to the music. More recently I have enjoyed watching on youtube, “Downton Abby” and “The Chosen”.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Do you believe that people can change? Why or why not?



I believe in the Plan of Salvation or the Plan of Happiness. Essential to this plan is the fact that we can change. Our purpose here on earth is to learn to make choices that will enable us to progress and become like our Heavenly Parents. There are absolute truths that we can count on and conform to that will facilitate this transformation. I know that through knowledge, desire, effort and grace we can change. Unfortunately, some change in negative ways and turn away from moral and ethical lives. Thankfully, others make choices to turn from degraded lifestyles and become happy and contributing members of society. As a music therapist it has been rewarding to see people change attitudes and overcome addictions. I am so grateful that we can always change and improve, even daily in small and impacting ways.

I am including an explanation of the Plan of Happiness from the website for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“Before we were born on earth, we lived with our heavenly parents as Their spirit children. At a council with all of His children, Heavenly Father presented a plan, known as the “plan of salvation” or “the great plan of happiness.” The plan includes all the laws and ordinances of the gospel necessary to gain eternal life, “the greatest of all the gifts of God.”

Sadly, one-third of Heavenly Father’s spirit children did not accept the plan. They chose to follow Lucifer, who became the devil, and were cast out of the presence of God.

We are on earth because we chose to follow Heavenly Father’s plan. One significant purpose of mortality is to gain a physical body. On earth we can have joy and peace, but we will also face temptation, opposition, and adversity and experience trials. Earthly trials are part of mortality and can help us grow to be more like our Heavenly Father.

Essential to the plan is the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Jesus overcame spiritual and physical death and took upon Himself our afflictions, sorrows, and sins. This suffering, death, and Resurrection are referred to as the Atonement. The Atonement was necessary since “no unclean thing can dwell with God.” It is through Christ’s sacrifice that we can repent and live with God again.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Also essential to God's plan is agency, or the ability to choose. When we choose to repent of our sins, we choose to accept the gift of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. If we exercise our agency to keep the commandments, we have the blessing of participating in sacred ordinances, which are ceremonies that include making covenants, or promises, with God. These ordinances include baptism, confirmation, priesthood ordination for men, and temple ordinances.

Part of our Heavenly Father's plan is that someday we will all die. Death is the separation of the spirit and the physical body. Our spirit, which existed in the premortal life, will live on after our death. If we lived righteously—repenting as needed—to the end of our mortal life, we will enter spirit paradise. The Book of Mormon prophet Alma described this as “a state of rest, a state of peace.”

Because of Christ's Atonement, all of God's children will be resurrected and our bodies and spirits will be reunited. Resurrection will be followed by the Final Judgment, where God will judge us according to our desires and our obedience to the commandments. If we have qualified through repentance, we will be able to live forever with our loving heavenly parents.”

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Did you ever volunteer for something that nobody else wanted to do?



ISDUP (International society of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers) was founded in 1901 to honor the men, women and children that settled Utah. We share their achievements and stories while preserving their artifacts and historic landmarks. DUP serves to educate the people of today about their pioneer forebears in many ways, including museums and relic halls.

My grandmothers, aunt and my mother and sisters Shirley and Barbara were all very active in DUP in Utah. The organization is made up of descendants of the pioneers who meet monthly from September to June in groups called Camps. These meeting agendas contain personal ancestral histories of the camp women and lessons and music that come from the ISDUP headquarters each year. One of the Camps in Utah is named after my grandmother, the Julia Eldredge Camp which she founded in

1931. It met in her home in its beginning. Several Camps combine to form a Company. The Companies host events during the year. There are presently 183 Company organizations in 15 states and Canada and over 100,000 members. A Company can consist of up to 20 or so Camps. If there is only one Camp in an area it is considered a One Camp Company. Camps are presided over by a Camp Captain and the Company by a Company President.

When Steve and I were released from the Spokane Temple Presidency and when Shirley's health was declining rapidly, I felt that I now had more free time and I wanted to honor my heritage by attending DUP meetings since that had meant so much to my family. This was in the Fall of 2015. When I started attending the meetings I didn't really understand much about how the organization was structured. I felt our meetings were being run haphazardly and I was a bit bored, but there were a lot of good women who were active. A few months later I was approached by the nominating committee to see if I would be President of the Spokane Valley Company. I would basically be the first Company President because there had just been one Camp. They had just recently divided into the Spokane Valley Camp and the Wild Roses Camp. I ran unopposed because no one else wanted to take on this obligation. I didn't know much about the responsibilities and expectations that this position involved but I had confidence in my leadership and organizational skills. I knew I had the background and experience to help contribute to

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

the building and development of a strong, cohesive and meaningful well-run group of women. The Lord had given me many opportunities to lead and contribute in the past and He had inspired me every step of the way. I knew that would still be the case. I felt this was a very worthy organization and that I could help develop our local units to better fulfill DUP's objectives. I was installed for a two-year term as President of the Spokane Valley Company in May of 2016. I served the maximum limit of 3 terms until 2022. During the six years I served as president our Company grew and added two more Camps – Lake City and South Hill Lilacs. I have formed many good relationships and friendships with these women. They are great examples and an inspiration to me. I currently serve as 1rst Vice President to the Spokane Valley Company and Registrar and Music Leader for the Spokane Valley Camp.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Spokane Valley Company of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Fall Social at the Bing Crosby House in Spokane, Washington. I was Company President. I am in front in the grey skirt.

What is the best job you've ever had?



I have loved many of my jobs. I will pick two as my favorites. One of my favorite jobs was working as an educational consultant for the California State Department of Education. I was hired to be a Regional Coordinator for the “It’s Elementary!” Alliance for Orange County and San Diego County – Region 9. I soon recommended dividing the Region into 9A and 9B. I became coordinator for Orange County. The Alliance was based on the Elementary Grades Task Force report entitled “It’s Elementary!”. I had been a member of the task force representing all school board members in the state. The Alliance was created to help schools understand and implement the recommendations in the report. I enjoyed creating and growing our Alliance according to the State’s plan. The Alliance included groups of Districts, Schools, Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Higher Education, Safe Neighborhoods and Environments,

Assessment and Book Clubs. I recruited members for each group and appointed a chairperson for each. Each group held separate meetings which I attended, and then all would meet monthly where I conducted and facilitated the meetings. There was wonderful rapport, unity and excitement as we worked on these goals. Conferences were held at County and State levels. I traveled to Sacramento for Regional Coordinator meetings monthly. I presented at several conferences and was a keynote speaker. Our Orange County Alliance was a leader in the State. I felt my talents were being used and multiplied as I handled and resolved disputes and differences, built an effective organization that was making meaningful differences to improve conditions for children, teachers, and schools. One of our principals told an acquaintance that I was the most talented woman that he knew. I treasure that compliment coming from an outstanding principal that I admired. I felt the Lord magnifying me and using me as his instrument.

My other favorite job was Music Therapist for St. Joseph Hospice. I have so many precious memories of working with the patients and the other hospice team members. This is an explanation of hospice. Hospice care is a philosophy of treatment focused on caring, not curing. The goal is to help patients get the best quality of life in the time remaining. Patients must agree to stop any curative care. A hospice team likely includes nurses, aides, social workers, clergy, and bereavement counselors. Hospice

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

staff care for any type of physical and emotional symptoms that cause pain, discomfort, and distress. The care is specifically designed around the patient's needs and wishes, although the patient's loved ones receive support as well. Importantly, patients in hospice can stop hospice service whenever they want. And if patients are still alive after their 6-month period in hospice, doctors can repeatedly recertify them for an additional 6 months of hospice care. St. Joseph Hospice of Orange County that I worked with is one of the few that had a music therapist and a massage therapist. I was the first music therapist that they hired. It was wonderful working with the team. I worked on the same problems that the other team members did, only I used music as the vehicle to treat them. For example, I may receive referrals from the nurses for pain diversion, calming, energizing or relaxation. From the social workers I would often do a life review or address issues of depression, help patients to process and express emotions, help to resolve communication and acceptance and closure concerns with the patient and often family members. Chaplains would refer for processing spiritual and end of life concerns and comfort. The hospice staff in general were caring and extraordinary people. I visited patients in their homes, in skilled nursing homes or residential care facilities all over Orange County. I worked with some patients for years and built a wonderful rapport with them. Others I may only see one or two times before they died. Music was such a gift and

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

blessing at this time in their lives. I had many wonderful and spiritual experiences. I truly felt this was far more than a job. It was a Ministry. I felt the Lord's love for each patient as I ministered to them through the gift of music.

Joyce Hanson named to education position

Former Tustin school board president Joyce Hanson has been appointed Orange County coordinator of a statewide drive to reform elementary education in California.

Her appointment as coordinator for the Orange County Chapter of the California Alliance for Elementary Education was announced this week by the California Department of Education.

Hanson will help to implement recommendations contained in a 1992

Department of Education report, "It's Elementary," calling for reforms in 32 areas of elementary school education.

Hanson, who helped create the blueprint for reform, served three years on a statewide task force that developed the report.

Among the suggested ways in which elementary schools be reformed are:

—Development of a curriculum stressing the issues of character such as honesty, pride and self-discipline.

—Early intervention with students who are experiencing reading problems.

—Stepped up recruitment of teachers with a diversity of ethnic backgrounds.

—Institution of performance-based assessment as a replacement to the traditional A through F grading system.

Hanson said this week that she will be heavily involved in developing model schools based on the "It's Elementary" report and establishing a network of such schools, teachers, administrators, students, parents and the business community to serve as a support entity for launching the reform movement into other schools.

She said she would be working 10 to 20 hours a week on the project.

Hanson called the appointment "exciting" and said it was something she was looking for after deciding not to run for re-election to the Tustin Unified School District board last year after serving two terms over nine years.

"This was an area in which I thought I could still make a difference," she said of the elementary reform effort.

She is a past Tustin Woman of the Year and was a recipient of the George Washington Medal of Honor from the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge for her efforts as a parent at keeping music programs running at the elementary level in the face of district financial cutbacks.

Hanson serves on the board of directors of the Assessment and Treatment Services Center, a nonprofit agency that works with troubled youth and their families referred by police and schools for counseling assistance.



Joyce Hanson

Article about my job description

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

How did you decide when to change jobs?



I am going to list several areas where I have worked and served and the various reasons I left these opportunities and positions. I served on the Tustin Unified School District Board of Trustees for nine years. When I was elected, I believed in and planned on a two-term limit. As a district board member, I also belonged to the Orange County School Boards Association made up members of all 32 school districts in the County, and the California School Boards Association. I was elected by my peers to be president of the OCSBA. I also held important positions at CSBA. I represented all school board members in California (about 5,000) on the State Elementary Grades Reform Task Force. I was on the Delegate Assembly, a member of the Legislative Network, and on the Nominating Committee. So, I saw that I was in a position of influence on local, county and state levels and knew that if I stayed on the board there would be even more opportunities to

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

make positive differences. That made it a hard decision to leave, but I felt like I should honor my original plan to serve only two terms.

When I left the TUSD board, I was approached by the California State Department of Education and hired as an educational consultant and Regional Coordinator for the Alliance for Elementary Education. We established “It’s Elementary” Alliances in nine regions in the state. My region was Orange County and I created one of the best Alliances in the state. This was an outstanding and productive program. I worked for CSDE for three years. A new Superintendent of Public Instruction was elected and in a political move disbanded the program. After this I began working for the Orange County Department of Education. I was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to his Child Development Policy Advisory Committee (CDPAC). I served as a Pleasure Appointee (no term limit) for ten years. A new Governor cut the program out of the budget in 2004. I don’t know how long it had been in existence. It was a very respected and impactful committee. I know it was there at least when Ronald Reagan was Governor (1967-1975). I was sad to see the State lose this valuable resource.

When I became a Commissioner on the Orange County Children and Families Commission, I resigned from my job as educational consultant for Orange County Department of Education because I felt it could be a conflict of interest. The Commission funded

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

several competitive grant requests and programs for which OCDE applied.

I was hired as a faculty member by Chapman University to be the Interim Director of the Music Therapy Department. I was replacing my former professor, Dr. Kay Roskam who retired. The University needed to have a permanent replacement in this position who had a doctorate degree. We had two candidates and the one who would be best had been involved in a process that ousted Dr. Roskam as President of the National Music Therapy Association and thereby was not acceptable to our community of Music Therapists who provided the clinical opportunities for our students. The search committee recommended that I stay on in the position. But the Music Department needed to fill the position with someone who could be tenured, so the second candidate was hired. However, they wanted to keep me as a faculty member, so they divided the job description and responsibilities I had been doing and made it into two positions. I accepted the new position as Clinical Supervisor. The first year with Dr. Luce was not too bad because he had promised Dr. Roskam, who helped secure his position, that he would not make any major changes in the first year. I think she felt by then he would see how and why the successful program functioned as it did. The second year he proposed changes. The Dean and his assistant met with me and Dr. Luce to get my opinion and advice. I brought up several concerns but felt the meeting was cordial.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Dr. Luce was angry about this and ended up threatening me. The University put some things in place to make my environment safe, but the situation led to my resignation. I will include some correspondence to demonstrate what was happening.

Dr. William Hall, Dean

School of Music

Chapman University

Dear Bill,

Thank you for making the time this Friday to talk to David and me about proposed changes to the Music Therapy Program. As you know, I have been struggling with the decision about staying at Chapman University in my present position as Clinical Supervisor. As you had suggested, I was going to wait until after Friday's meeting before making a decision. However, I realized that it would be helpful for you to be aware of other factors affecting my decision before that meeting. I am not copying this letter to David Luce. It is more personal and for your reference only. I will not cite many specific incidents but could share them with you if you want details.

The previous letter that I sent you was focused on the proposed program changes. This letter is focused on the difficulties and unpleasant conditions I am having working with David Luce.

As I weigh the pros and cons, I think I must be crazy to think of leaving this dream job. I love working with our students. I enjoy

having professional relationships with the wonderful School of Music faculty and staff. It is very fulfilling to teach, counsel, nurture, and train students to be successful music therapists in this profession that I love. It is also rewarding to be involved in outreach to those in the music therapy community and to recruit and assist them in supervising our students in the practical application of their clinical work.

This pro side of the balance scale is weighted against working with and under David. I think David has many positive things to contribute, but his management style of micromanaging and needing to control is objectionable. I will mention an example here. On August 16th of this year, about two weeks before school started, David informed me with an e-mail that he had spent his summer writing a Clinical Training Manual (over 100 pages) that he wanted me to critique immediately. This was difficult to do because my schedule was already full as I was lining up placements for the student's fieldwork before school started. I soon realized that I could not go through this document quickly because it contained major policy and philosophical changes to the way Clinical Training has been done at Chapman. As Clinical Supervisor, I was very surprised that he had written something changing my area of responsibility. These changes would require me to operate differently in my classroom and in my work with the Fieldwork Supervisors and students. The prescriptive and inflexible tone set in this manual was one that I do not want to

be identified with.

Some adjectives that describe David's behavior that I find increasingly unacceptable are: Impulsive, Arbitrary, Inconsistent, Forgetful, Angry, Accusatory, Elitist, Demeaning and Disrespectful. I have not used these terms lightly and have several specific incidents that illustrate these traits and the consequences they have on the program and individuals. I have had to deal with being the recipient as well as smoothing over situations where others were the recipients of these traits. I will share just one incident to give an example. I received an e-mail saying he was "livid" with me. This was when AMTA notified him that Maureen McFadden O'Niel had been accepted for an internship that he did not know all the details about. This was not a University Internship, and he did not really need to know all the details. He had apparently forgotten that he had asked the intern supervisor and me to get together and take care of the matter because he did not know the student well.

I have no objection to working under a director or supervisor and being accountable to them for the work I do. I understand organizational structure and both the management and the political reality of these systems. I also know there will be negatives in any job. However, at this time in my life and career I have many more opportunities for professional, civic and community involvement than I have time to accept. It is important to me to spend my time where I can use my talents,

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

knowledge, and experience to make the greatest contributions. My current position at Chapman, as defined by David and his style of management, does not allow me to do this. Rick made the statement to me that I do not work for David, but for the School of Music. However, I do not feel that autonomy under the present organizational structure.

Thank you again for your help and support. I would be glad to discuss any of this in more detail if it would be helpful.

Respectfully,

Joyce Hanson

Music Therapy Clinical Supervisor

William Hall, PhD. October 27, 2004

Dean, School of Music

Chapman University

Dear Bill,

I had a disturbing conversation yesterday afternoon with David Luce. You should be aware of what David said to me. I will be quoting as closely as I remember. It has been in my thoughts since I left his office about 5:30 yesterday.

He said that he has been so livid with me since we met with you and Rick on Oct.11 that this was the first time that he could speak civilly to me and that he could not even mention the things that he had imagined doing to me.

This was bizarre and might show an unstable mind. I don't know his reasoning in saying this. Perhaps it was to intimidate or maybe even a veiled threat. I do know that as a result of how I felt at the time and when recalling it, I no longer feel comfortable about being around him alone.

He also said that any trust or confidence that he had had in me was gone and he did not know if it could not be regained. He accused me of being in a power struggle with him and putting his job in jeopardy by doing an end run and going directly to you. He said I was like a sibling who had to have my own way and when I was not getting what I wanted would go to the parent who would give it to me.

He in essence said I should have known before I disagreed with his recommendations to change the program, that he was the expert in this field. His Doctoral Dissertation was about designing a music therapy program. I should have known that he would have carefully researched and done the needed background work for all of his recommendations.

He stated that our philosophical differences hampered what he wanted to do with the program, and he felt the students would begin to sense this and suffer as a result.

The result of this is that I will not be renewing my contracts with Chapman University as Clinical Supervisor for Music Therapy and part time instructor after the end of the present semester.

Respectfully,

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Joyce Hanson

From my journal:

October 28, 2004 About 11:30.

I just got off of the phone with Bill and Rick. They are handling this situation with David seriously and appropriately. They met with David yesterday afternoon after I had met with them, and Bill told David that what he had done to me was a “dastardly thing”. (I said, “Did you actually use those words” and Bill said, “I used much stronger language, but I am cleaning it up for your sake.”) He said they put the: Fear of Yahweh into him and he told me that if David had denied or tried to justify what he did and not verified my integrity, that Bill would have fired him on the spot. David admitted that he had anger management issues (not just my situation) that he had brought with him from Wisconsin. David called and got set up with a counselor for anger management after his meeting with Bill yesterday. He was also told that if he did not handle things by apologizing to me profusely, he would be fired. Bill thought that David had never been called on the carpet for his behavior like he was yesterday and that this may perhaps be the jolt he needed to change.

They talked about a meeting where the four of us could sit down and talk about the situation. I asked what the goal of this meeting would be in that I did not see myself ever wanting to work with him on a one-on-one basis again. They said that their

first goal was to protect me and then the students. And that they did not want to lose me or have me have to be in a situation that dishonors me. They had told David to call and apologize and wanted to know what he said and how I felt. I told them that he had left a message, but I did not want to talk to him one on one. I had been thinking about the statement he made about “not even being able to mention the things he wanted to do to me” and what it might mean. If it was physical, then the phone would protect against that, but if he wanted to harm me professionally or my character then I did not want to talk without a witness present. And I at this point did not even want to talk to him with someone else there. I told them that I had emailed him that I received his message about wanting to talk with me and that I had told him in the email that I had talked to Bill and Rick about not having conversations without someone else there and if he would like to email me that would be fine. Bill thought that that was a good solution and to have it in writing. They said to see how the climate was in a couple of weeks and then if I wanted to meet to see if there was a resolution for my comfort and satisfaction, we could do that. They want me to call when he emails me about what he says and how I am feeling about it. Bill also honored my feelings at this time and said he had been the victim of untrue accusations also.

William Hall, PhD. 2005

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Dean, School of Music

Chapman University

Dear Bill,

I want to clarify my understanding of some of the things we had discussed at the end of Fall semester regarding how a safe and comfortable situation could be created for my employment Spring semester at Chapman University in light of David Luce's actions and unacceptable behavior. You and Human Resources have assured me that Chapman University will not tolerate the kind of behavior that Dr. Luce has engaged in and that he would be put on notice that any future occurrences will not be tolerated. I was told that safer working conditions would be set up for me to avoid to the extent possible having to deal with Dr. Luce. This would include a separate office, telephone, and mailbox. No one-on-one meetings or unmonitored conversations would be required. Necessary student and program information could be exchanged by e-mail.

The fact that I have received no sincere apology from Dr. Luce nor seen any remorse or change in his behavior, makes me still feel unsafe and wary to interact with him.

I would like to bring two things to your attention. The first paragraph concerns proposed changes and the second paragraph addresses Dr. Luce's narrowing of my position responsibilities.

1. Some of Dr. Luce's proposed changes that had caused me concern have already been implemented. My concern was for the

extra demands on the students created by adding classes or more units to an already demanding program. Changes this semester are:

1. Students in Mus 262 are required to have a weekly clinical hour added to their class. Although a new class was not added as proposed, this additional hour has the same effect on student class time and homework requirements.

2. Mus 495, which has always been a placeholder for the actual six-month internship is now an actual additional weekly class for our Seniors.

3. Thursday night Colloquium is still held, and all students are strongly encouraged to attend.

4. I do not know if other changes such as adding another year to the equivalency program have been approved or not since I have not been a part of these discussions.

2. Last December you and Rick Christophersen held a required face-to-face meeting with Dr. Luce and me in order to discuss working conditions of minimum direct involvement and clarify our roles and responsibilities for Spring Semester. You and Rick had discussed with me before the meeting that as Clinical Supervisor of the Music Therapy Program, I would be teaching the new clinical hour for the Mus 262 class on Tuesday night. I was prepared to discuss how we could handle the smooth transitions from the first hour of the class that I would teach,

and the last part of the class Dr. Luce would teach. I assumed we would also discuss the fieldwork placements and weekly monitoring of fieldwork journals for the students in this class. This has been part of my job description in the past. Dr. Luce apparently had another plan going into this meeting. He stated that he wanted to teach the clinical part of this class and be responsible for the Mus 262 student's fieldwork placement and journal monitoring. I was not prepared for this. My mind was more on the less involvement this would require with him. However, when I left the meeting, I realized that he had been successful in limiting the scope of my clinical supervisory responsibilities and thus my professional influence.

This was merely the beginning of his calculating to bring about the elimination of my influence in the Music Therapy program at Chapman University and the Clinical Supervisor position itself. During the semester, Dr. Luce revised the Clinical Training manual, taking out all references to the Clinical Supervisor. Where there had been a listing of Clinical Supervisor responsibilities he replaced it with Director of Music Therapy. He retyped the title page removing my name as Clinical Supervisor and listing me under Adjunct Faculty. He then proceeded to change my key and lock me out of the music therapy office and thus denied me access to student files and records which had been part of my job responsibilities. Next, he declared that he was going to make duplicate fieldwork visits to mine. This was

unprecedented and confusing to the field. He at first indicated he needed to do this in order to write letters of recommendation for internships and that he would make all visits before Spring Break, to avoid scheduling conflicts and difficulties for the fieldwork sites. He then changed that limitation and is now visiting all the students not just those ready to do their internships and he is scheduling into May and still changing schedules weekly.

Respectfully,

Joyce Hanson

After I resigned the program continued to go downhill. The students wrote a letter to the dean outlining several things that Dr. Luce was doing that were impairing the effectiveness of the music therapy program and the student's education and morale. Within a couple of years, he was fired, and the music therapy program is no longer offered at Chapman University. A true tragedy.

The next major reason for 'changing jobs' was when Steve and I were called to serve a mission for the Church in Romania. This resulted in my resigning from the many Boards and Commissions, organizations, and music therapy positions and all that I was involved in. Ultimately it was a permanent move from California. This was a very difficult time for me. I was sad to give up these opportunities to serve and change from this very rewarding and fulfilling time of my life where I felt I was where

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

the Lord had led me to serve and make contributions that were truly making positive changes and differences to the quality of many lives.

After our Romanian mission we moved to Spokane, Washington. Here we served full time for three years in the temple presidency. After our release in November 2013, I again started working as a music therapist with private clients and a therapy group for women with spouses who were addicted to pornography. This was very rewarding work to me. In 2018, I developed a neurologic condition with my vocal cords, Spasmodic Dysphonia. Spasmodic dysphonia, also known as laryngeal dystonia, is a neurologic disorder that can affect the voice and speech. It is a lifelong condition that causes the muscles that generate a person's voice to go into periods of spasm. This condition made my singing unpredictable and I had to give up my music therapy work. This was a great loss to me. Music Therapy has felt like a ministry as I served patients and clients in so many ways. It has provided me with fulfilling career and many opportunities to heal and to bless.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

Are you the same person you were as an adolescent, or very different?



The World Health Organization (WHO) defines adolescence as the period of life between childhood and adulthood, from ages 10 to 19. This is a unique stage of human development that involves rapid physical, cognitive, and psychosocial growth. Adolescence begins with the onset of puberty and ends when an adult identity and behavior are accepted.

As far as my basic personality, goals and desires are concerned, I have been the same person all my life. I was raised in a family that gave me a strong sense of identity. I have a Legacy of ancestors who sacrificed for their faith in Jesus Christ and their religion, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their strength, courage, and ability to do and withstand trying situations because of what they knew to be right and true is inspiring. I had the desire in my early years to gain my own

testimony of the truths that they had shown. I felt I inherited their capacity to do hard things. I was also impressed with their desire to better themselves in all areas. They were refined and educated people. They were involved in bettering their community and surroundings. They loved beautiful things in nature and cultivated an interest in the arts and music. The Church's Thirteenth Article of Faith states,

“We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.”

I felt like I had been given a beautiful body, a keen mind and a heart full of righteous desires. I wanted to use those gifts to make a positive difference and contribution to my family, friends, school, church and community. This is still my desire.

How is your faith different from your parents' faith?



I am blessed to share the same faith that my parents and all my grandparents and great grandparents and most of my 2nd great grandparents and some of my 3rd great grandparents embraced. All were faithful members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They knew the Gospel was true. This led them to live covenantal lives that exemplified knowledge of and trust in God's Plan of Happiness. I am so grateful for the great legacy they have given me. They left examples of sacrifice, goodness, selflessness, service, integrity, honor, uprightness, endurance, dedication, and consecration.

The circumstances and trials my ancestors faced in the eras that they lived in were very different to those we are confronted with today. But facing and overcoming challenges requires the same qualities they demonstrated of faith, trust, courage, and conviction. Most importantly it is a matter of prioritizing our

lives to first love and serve God and then love and serve others. I pray that I can live a life worthy of my heritage and pass my sure testimony of the Lord's restored gospel and church to my posterity and others. I know it is the way that will bring them true joy in this life and in the world to come. I will strive to teach these truths by my words as well as my example.

Have you ever doubted your faith?



I have always believed in God and have wanted to live the kind of life that He taught by word and example. I know that will bring true happiness. I know that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is His restored church on earth today and it has Priesthood Authority to administer the ordinances of eternal salvation. I have a desire to have an informed faith. I have aimed to be a gospel scholar. I study earnestly, consistently, and broadly to deepen knowledge and understanding. I read scriptures, books, manuals and listen to podcasts and talks daily. I have been privileged to be a teacher in several church organizations and have taught an institute of religion class weekly since 2015. I have recently been called as a Service Missionary for the Church Education System and will be teaching online institute classes to students all over the world. I have had many situations in my life that tested and tried my faith. Bruce and Marie Hafen's book "Faith is not Blind" describes different

phases that faith passes through. “The Simple Faith of our youth and marvelous spiritual experiences is followed by a period of Complexity. We are faced with the hard realities of our mortal existence and God can seem distant or un-answering as we struggle. This may be a time of health challenges, disappointment in choices of loved ones, lost opportunities, financial reversals, family problems, betrayals, deceptions, regrets, depression, death, illness etc. As we cling to our faith and what we have known to be true during these types of trials, our faith becomes tried and tested and refined and deepened. We find God in our extremities. “Thus, do we move into the calm, mature, deeply rooted Simplicity on the other side of our Complexity.” I am grateful for all that I have experienced because I am now blessed with the peace in my heart that Christ promised his disciples, a peace beyond understanding. I am glad to have paid the price for this sure knowledge.

Do you believe in a higher power?



I am including a testimony I wrote.

I, like Nephi, was born of goodly parents. I also had wonderful grandparents who had a great impact on me for good. I was taught by my parents the Gospel of Jesus Christ and of our great heritage. Pilgrims and Pioneers who were examples of great faith and testimony are a part of our family genealogy. I know that lineage is extremely important in the passing on of the traits and characteristics through the generations. Personages of the Generations are involved and linked together in pre-earth life, mortality, and post mortal phases.

I have always loved the gospel and its teachings and had strong desires to live righteously and follow the plan that my Heavenly father and Jesus Christ provided for me. The scriptures, at times, have seemed a part of my eternal knowledge and have been easily memorized and recalled in times of teaching and in

personal times of need. I love to teach the gospel and counsel with others concerning its truths, doctrines, and applications.

In Section 130 of the Doctrine and Covenants we are told that “There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world upon which all blessings are predicated. And when we obtain any blessings from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.”

I know the Lord is very aware of His children and is eagerly waiting for us to put ourselves in a position to receive the blessings and knowledge He desires to give us. He will love, tutor, and bless us to the degree that we will follow Him and diligently seek to learn of Him and His ways. He will guide and direct us in all our daily and routine tasks as well as in those times when we need specific wisdom, protection, and help. I have often felt this constant guidance in my life, helping me accomplish things far beyond my natural abilities.

The temple is His portal to heavenly communications and ordinances. I am grateful for the calling I had to be Assistant to the Matron of the Spokane Washington Temple. What a privilege it was to serve full time for three years working in and teaching of the temple.

I have been blessed with spiritual dreams where I have communicated with those beyond the veil. I have felt that the Lord trusted me with this knowledge and these experiences because He knew I would keep it sacred and, like Mary, “ponder

it in my heart”.

I know that the Lord has preserved my life when it was in jeopardy. It is my desire to complete the things that I was sent here to do in a way that is pleasing to Him.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only church on earth that has the authority to administer the ordinances essential for Eternal Salvation and Exaltation. Our Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother yearn for us to return from our mortal journey worthy to live a Celestial Life with Them.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

What would you consider your motto?



One the mottos I feel I have inherited from my ancestor's examples:

“I Can Do Hard Things”

I also have tried to live my life by our church's 13th Article of Faith:

“We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.”

I may not remember this exactly, but we onetime toured the Brigham Young home in St. George Utah and there was a sampler on the wall that said as I recall and love:

“It is our duty to cultivate beauty”

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

I also ask for the blessing that Solomon asked for:

“Give me an understanding heart”

These are four mottos that help shape my life.

Who inspires you?



My husband Steve Dunn Hanson is the person who most inspires me. I will include a letter I wrote to him a few years ago that highlights many of the reasons that he is my inspiration and a light and inspiration to our family and the countless others he has blessed and influenced.

Dearest Steve,

Thank you for being the perfect companion for me. Thank you for being the perfect Patriarch in our family. We have shared a wide range of experiences and I have always been able to rely on your steadiness and wisdom and spiritual perspective.

You truly are a genius, a modern Renaissance Man. You possess many talents and have knowledge in so many areas. You have been able to excel in writing in its many various forms: novels, inspiration, how to, instruction, talks, sermons, lyrics, poetry, scripts, biography etc. Your artistic eye is shown in photography, designing covers, creating, and illustrating films, videos. I am grateful that you appreciate excellence and beauty in all its

forms, such as art, photography, music, literature, and scripture. It has been a joy to create a home of beauty with you.

I am impressed with how you handle the physical and emotional challenges that have come over the years. The problems with your eyes and sight and hearing and pains and vertigo to name a few. You are never complaining and always achieving despite the obstacles.

You have been an outstanding leader in the church and gospel. I don't think there has been a more loved and respected stake president. You always knew the right thing to do and say in exceedingly difficult situations such as the funeral talks you gave for situations with crime and murder that made national news for the sheriff's deputy and the Bate's son. Your many personalized funeral talks were a blessing to so many. I especially appreciated your funeral talks for my parents, and for Shirley, and Kaye. Your talks as a stake president, a member of the stake presidency, and high council were outstanding. They clarified doctrine and made it applicable. They comforted and inspired. They changed lives. You have an ability not only to know what needs to be done, see all aspects of a situation on a macro level but also an ability to break it down into a detailed plan of organization and application. I think it is very unusual to have both of those skills to the degree that they exist within you. These abilities were shown in your development of the "Gift of Family History" for the Orange Stake and your leadership in

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

incorporating these concepts into the Newport Beach Temple Open house. Also, in your development of videos on our mission in Romania for teaching and activation and in your work for the Church Audio-Visual Department.

Mostly importantly, I appreciate your becoming the perfect husband to me and the perfect father and grandfather to your posterity. As well as your becoming the perfect son, son-in-law and grandson, to your ancestors. It has been a privilege to serve with you on our mission in Romania and in the Spokane Temple Presidency. It is a blessing to see you exercise the sealing power which you hold in blessing others, especially our own grandchildren. Thank you for the hours you have spent recording the histories of your family and my family. Thank you for writing your own history, your Observations, and Legacy. And for your many books where you have shared your knowledge, wisdom and testimony. These will be priceless treasures.

I have appreciated the fact that I have always been able to respect you. It has been a privilege to observe through the years as you have continued to become more Christlike. Thank you for forgiving me of my imperfections and always wanting to help me realize my full potential as a queen and priestess and daughter of God. Thank you for securing us an eternal marriage. I am excited to spend forever with you.

All My Love,
Joyce



Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

If you could thank anyone, who would you thank and why?



I have been blessed to have many wonderful people who have shaped and influenced my life for good. I will start by thanking my parents, K. Warnick and Ruth Eldredge Swenson, for creating a loving home to raise me in. They lived lives of integrity and service. They loved the Lord, and they loved their children. They each had a strong love for their heritage and taught their children to honor our ancestry by living praiseworthy lives. They nourished me in spiritual, physical, educational and cultural areas. They gave me a strong sense of identity and a belief that I could achieve great things because my ancestors were examples of living lives of overcoming trials and of persevering and doing hard things while staying true to their God and their religion. These were family traits that I inherited to face the challenges in my life.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

I thank my three sisters, Shirley, Barbara and Karolyn. Each of them has loved and served and cared for me, their little sister, for my whole life. They have very different personalities, but I feel a strong connection and relationship with each one. I can't thank them enough for the physical, spiritual, social and emotional help they have given and continue to give me. Their influence has shaped my life significantly. I thank my sister-in-law, Kaye Hanson. She became a dear and valued friend. We were extremely close after she and Ray divorced. We knew each other's souls and were there for each other whatever the need to comfort, inspire and bless. She and Shirley passed away in 2016.

I wish to thank each of my children, Laura, Will, Jayne, Amy, Liza, Mary, Ben, and Jacob. Nichole, our first grandchild, was raised as one of our children. Each one of them has brought me great joy and growth as a mother. Steve and I have raised them and watched them grow to adulthood with wonderful families of their own. We have at times had our hearts and minds stretched and sometimes seemingly broken by some of their challenges and choices. We have also been filled to overflowing with joy at times by watching them overcome challenges and make eternal progress. I have grown and changed to be a better person and have been blessed by the lessons I have learned from each one. They have taught me more about my Heavenly Parents which I am so grateful for. They are outstanding individuals and an

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson

inspiration to me. I am grateful to have them not only as our children but as best friends to us and to each other. I am also grateful for their spouses who we love as our children, Keith, Rob, Micah, Chris, Matt and Judy. I am thankful for each of our dear grandchildren and great grandchildren. I am so thankful for the love each family member shows for me and Steve.

I am so very thankful for my husband Steve. He is an outstanding man in every way. Many have referred to him as a Renaissance Man. This is a definition that certainly fits him: a cultured man of the Renaissance who was knowledgeable, educated, or proficient in a wide range of fields. A present-day man who has acquired profound knowledge or proficiency in more than one field. He is a genius! He has honed his writing skills and is an excellent speaker. He has been a marvelous spiritual leader in our home, and he leads a Christ centered life in every way. He has always encouraged me to develop my gifts and talents and take advantage of opportunities to use them by serving in public, church and home settings. I am grateful for the patience and forgiveness he shows me. He makes me feel beautiful, valued and loved. I am thankful for all who have been an influence for good in my life. Above all I am thankful to my Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ who are the Givers of all good things.

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



2010



My parents and sisters

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Sisters 2015



Our children 2022

Some Things About Me | Joyce Swenson Hanson



Our children and spouses 2023



Extended Family 2022

