

MAKE MISTAKES- LEARN- REPEAT

The past few weeks I've made several blatant mistakes. First, instead of the standard "sticky buns" recipe, I opted for a new one for Easter brunch. My son reminded me to stick with the tried and true.

Next, I was scheduled to take a friend to an appointment and I wrote it down in my calendar on the wrong day and caused her to miss an appointment.

A document that was proofed many times by several people, was mailed to several hundred people. Of course after the mailing went out it was brought to my attention that there was a typo.

Given my expertise in mistake- making, I searched for information on the topic. I thought an article titled, *Make mistakes- Learn- Repeat*, by Shahnawaz Alam, might offer some comfort for me, a "mistake-maker." Alam wrote, "We're here to make mistakes and learn from them- that's what I call - a life." Below is a short list of life lessons to give us comfort from our inadequacies, encouragement to move on and wisdom to push back criticism and move toward our good intentions.

1. "Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself." - ~Eleanor Roosevelt.
2. Never say "That will never happen to me." Life has a funny way of proving us wrong.
3. "It isn't making mistakes that's critical; it's correcting them and getting on with the principal task." ~Donald Rumsfeld
4. People can be mean. Don't take it personally. It says nothing about you, but says a lot about them.
5. "People think computers will keep them from making mistakes. They're wrong. With computers you make mistakes faster." ~Adam Osborne
6. "The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything." ~Edward Phelps
7. "Good people make mistakes and hurt others - then they learn from their mistakes and TRY not to make them again." ~Bob Anderson
8. "I skated, fell down and learned to pick myself up in front of millions." ~Michelle Kwan

So, let us press onward! Remembering we all make mistakes. It's time we stop dwelling on them and move forward. Ask for forgiveness from others, forgive yourself and then move on. Darkness has no greater companion than a self-loathing un-forgiven or unforgiving heart. Paul writes in Philippians: "...But one thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal..."

Reflecting and applying this to our community, I am encouraged and reminded of the many who have set goals to make our community better, who volunteer to help others, who give time to serve on boards and committees. Let's all look for the good (and forget the mistakes) and become involved in positive community activities. In the words of the great Jackie Robinson, "Life is not a spectator sport. If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life. "