

Boomer Babes with Brilliant Dreams

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boomer
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rock!

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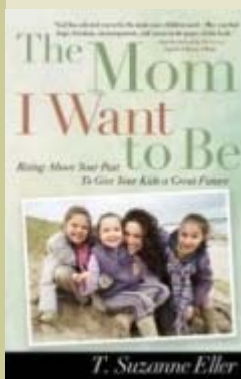
Author, Columnist and Speaker



#1. Our Dream-Zine encourages boomer babes to achieve the dreams of our heart ...please share a dream you have achieved in your life and what you learned as a result of that achievement.

My greatest dream was to be a mom who loved her children and provided a safe and loving home. When I first held Leslie in my arms, I saw her as a miracle. She was blond, fuzzy-headed, with beautiful blue eyes. She rocked my world. But I prayed as I held her, “God please help me not to screw this up.”

You see, I was raised in abuse and dysfunction. My mom alternated between sanity and rage. She loved us, and desperately wanted to be a good mom, but wasn’t sure how to cope with 5 children. She needed help, and no one heard her cries for help. No one heard ours’.



Today, when I look at Leslie, Ryan and Melissa, I’m amazed at the awesome human beings they have become. Their home was normal. We dealt with conflict and every day situations, but it was also a place of laughter, love and consistency. Our home was fun and my relationship with my grown children is tight, and whole, as am I.

I learned God is a healer, but words aren’t enough. When people say “have faith”, that needs practical and spiritual steps attached. We need God with “skin on”, people who mentor and encourage and who understand the challenges when you’ve faced abuse or addiction or chaos.

This is one reason I’m so privileged to travel and speak to parents all over the nation. That’s why I write to parents, and mentor and minister to teens. There are a lot of women who are good moms, but still struggle with the past—whether in relationships, trust, or as a parent. I love connecting with these women, and teens.

Maybe it's surprising that parenting well is the dream of my heart; after all, my children are grown. But I've discovered that parenting continues as I'm now a mother-in-law, and have a great deal of power to encourage, embrace, and impact my grown children's lives. I also have power to impact it negatively. That is something I believe. Parenting goes on; it just changes, and as women we can make a huge difference in our children's and grandchildren's world.

#2. Please share a life lesson that has altered your world significantly.

I'm a breast cancer survivor. I was 32 with a husband I loved and three small children. I was given a 40% chance of surviving five years. It's been 16!

Cancer reminded me that life is worth fighting for, with or without a diagnosis of cancer. The small things that seemed to be important really mean nothing. Cancer slowed me down and took me out of my self-imposed rat race. I enjoy life and relationships and the small things that delight me every day, like cheesecake!

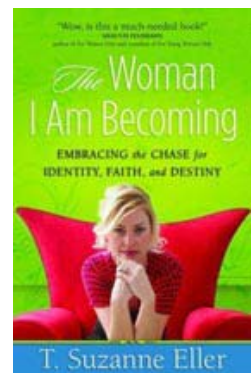
#3. What can you do now, as a boomer babe, you would never have done, or never could do, when you were younger?

I'm far more confident at 48 than I was at 25. I love my age, and I love birthdays (another lesson learned from cancer). At 25, I would step back and wait for people to talk to me. At 48, I'm always ready to make and talk with a new friend. I love "open doors" and opportunities, and even if I have to do it afraid, I'm excited to at least experience it and grow as a woman.

I sometimes think that God has an incredible sense of humor. He picked the "shy girl" to stand in front of thousands of women to speak. I love that. It shows that He knows me in a way that I continue to explore and discover facets of His plan in my life. Very cool!

#4. When you look at the boomer generation in general, what are you most proud of in the way of our accomplishments?

I'm one of several women in my community that speak and mentor girls in four area high schools. This generation of boomer women really care, and aren't afraid to put action behind their words. They volunteer. They care about more than fashion—though we can love fashion too! They don't stop at 50. They learn new skills and embrace new challenges, whether that is cooking or communication or creating a new career for the 2nd half of their lives. I absolutely love hanging out with strong women.



#5. If you could give other boomer babes only ONE piece of important advice, what would it be and why?

Don't get caught up in the busy traps that so often robs women of time, of dreams, of deeper relationships, and of the pursuit of our passions.