

Final Words: Write Your Legacy

Mimi Holmes



Allyson, Grammie and Mimi 1958

Mimi, Rick,
Grammie, Clay,
circa 1975



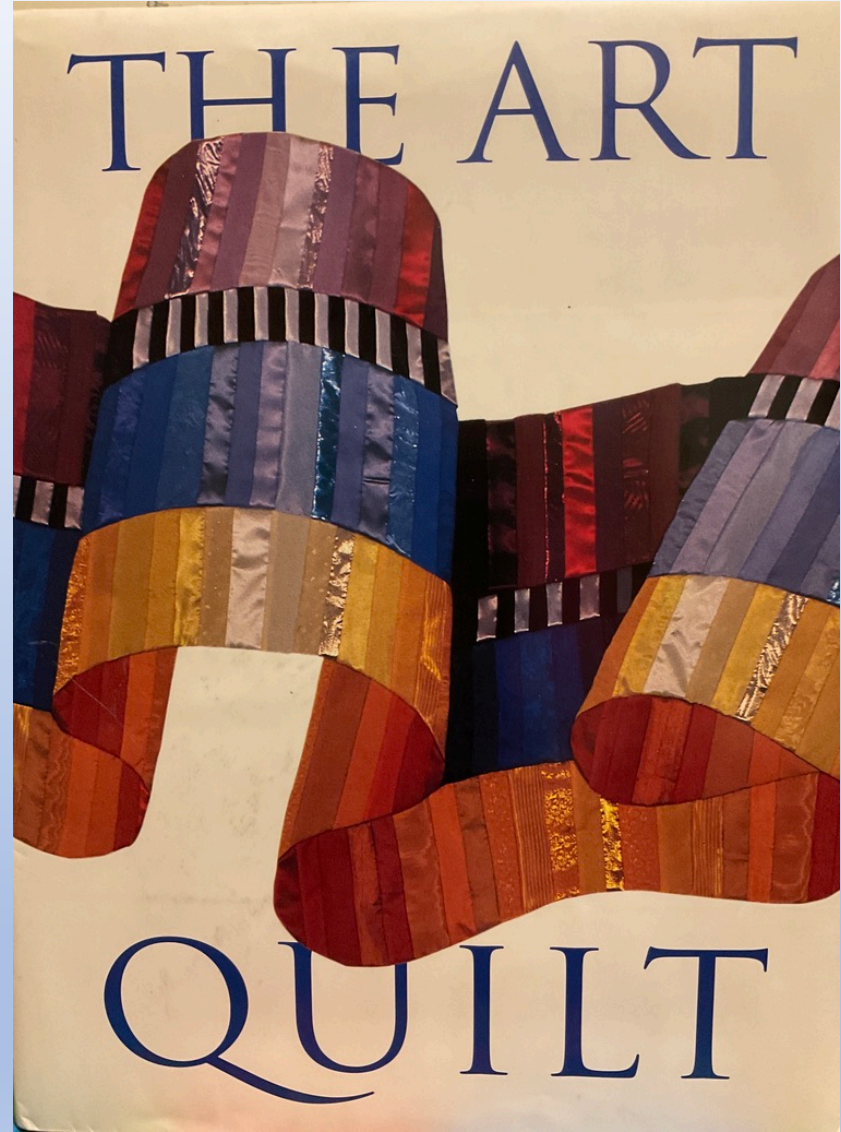
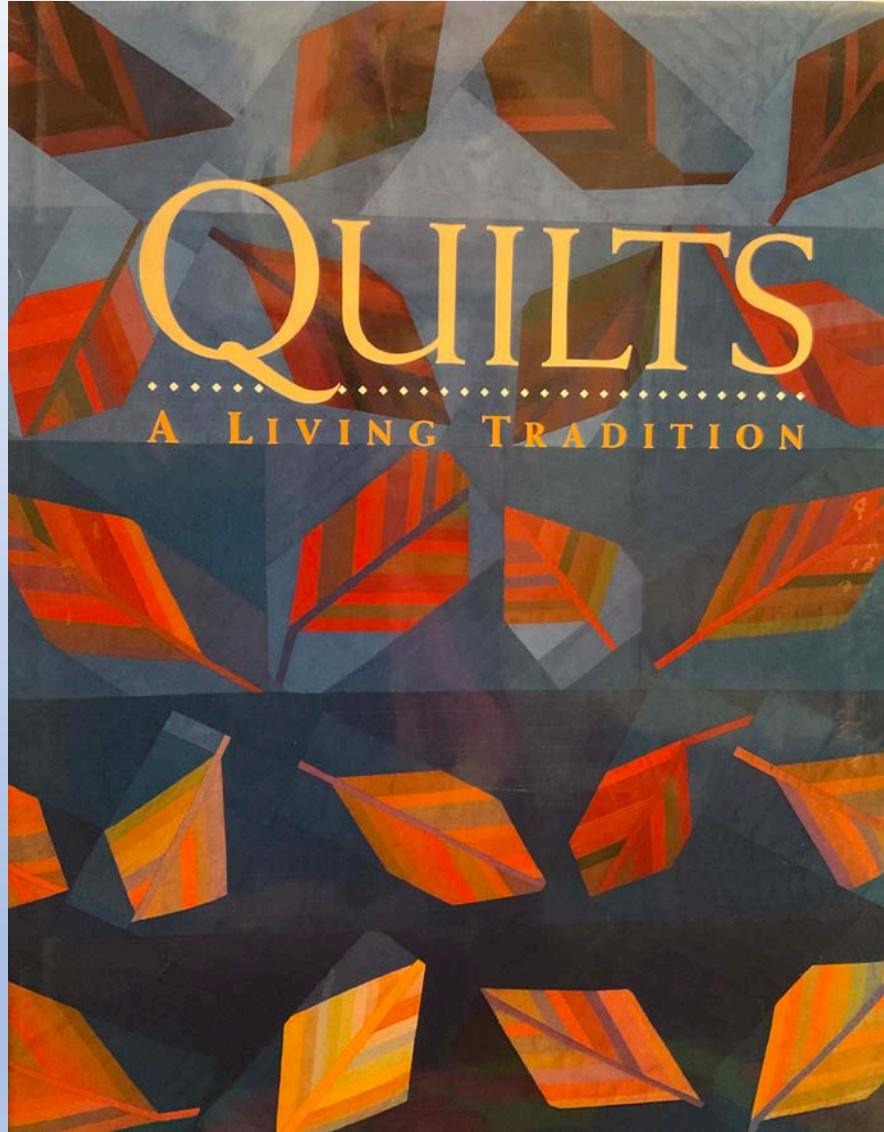
Mimi & Grammie



Quilt for the
Death of One
I Love(d)









International Quilt Festival 1999

The Quilt Show of the Century

Recognizes

Quilt for the Death of
One I Love(d)

Made by

Mimi Holmes

Named as one of the 382 finalists
in the ultimate Quilt Search to find

The 20th Century's

100 Best American Quilts

The Ultimate Quilt Search was conducted cooperatively by four nonprofit quilting groups—The Alliance for American Quilts, the American Quilt Study Group, the International Quilt Association, and the National Quilting Association—and by representatives of the International Quilt Festival, Quilter's Newsletter Magazine, Quiltmaker, and McCall's Quilting.

The search was sponsored by the International Quilt Festival and Prima, publisher of the three magazines.

Six-word life summation

Do you read the obits in the paper?

- What makes a good obit?
- What makes a bad obit?

“Leslie Ray ‘Popeye’ Charping was born in Galveston on November 20, 1942, and passed away January 30, 2017, which was 29 years longer than expected and much longer than he deserved.”

“At a young age, Leslie quickly became a model example of bad parenting combined with mental illness and a complete commitment to drinking, drugs, womanizing and being generally offensive. Leslie enlisted to serve in the Navy, but not so much in a brave & patriotic way but more as part of a plea deal to escape sentencing on criminal charges.”

“Leslie’s hobbies included being abusive to his family, expediting trips to heaven for the beloved family pets and fishing, which he was less skilled with than the previously mentioned. Leslie’s life served no other obvious purpose, he did not contribute to society or serve his community and he possessed no redeeming qualities besides quick whitted [sic] sarcasm which was amusing during his sober days.”

“With Leslie’s passing he will be missed only for what he never did; being a loving husband, father and good friend.”

“Leslie’s passing proves that evil does in fact die and hopefully marks a time of healing and safety for all.”

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/02/13/health/obituary-charping-texas-man-trnd/index.html>

Louis Holmes, Jr.

Louis Holmes, Jr., 81, died on July 17, 2006, in Virginia Beach.

He was a former resident of Jacksonville who was born on Aug. 18, 1924, in Laurel, Miss.

He served in World War II and the Korean War. He saw combat action in both the South Pacific and Korea.

He was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and four Purple Hearts, among other medals.

He was a graduate of the University of Alabama, where he played football and was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

He retired from Bristol Myers in 1987 and enjoyed his retirement as an avid fishermen and boater. He was also very involved in the local Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter. He is survived by his four children, Rick Homes (Marianne) of Ponte Vedra Beach, Clay Holmes of Jacksonville, Mimi Stern (Ed) of Minneapolis, and Allyson Holmes of Arvada, Colo. He is also survived by his two granddaughters, Alex and Britton Holmes of Ponte Vedra Beach. He has numerous nieces and nephews in California through his sister Delores Ashby (George, both deceased).

A memorial service was held on Thursday in Virginia Beach.
The Beaches Leader, Jacksonville Bch, FL – 7/27/2006

Instructions: Replace all items in CAPITALS below with the appropriate information.

[GIVEN NAME] [MIDDLE NAME (AND NICKNAME)]

[SURNAME], [AGE], of [CITY], [STATE], passed away on [DATE OF DEATH] in [LOCATION OF DEATH].

[NAME] was born in [LOCATION OF BIRTH] to [PARENT'S NAMES] on [DATE OF BIRTH]. He/she went to high school at [SCHOOL NAME] and graduated in [YEAR]. He/she went on to earn a degree/certificate in [DEGREE TYPE] from [SCHOOL NAME]. He/she worked as a [JOB TYPE] for [COMPANY] for [NUMBER OF YEARS]. He/she enjoyed [ACTIVITIES/HOBBIES]. He/she received [AWARDS/HONORS] and was involved in [CHARITIES/ORGANIZATIONS].

[NAME] is survived by his/her [RELATION], [NAME] of [CITY]. (List all survivors: spouse children, siblings, parents, grandchildren, nieces and nephews). He/she is preceded in death by his/her [RELATION], [NAME]. (List predeceased: spouse, parents, children and siblings.)

Funeral service will be held at [LOCATION] on [DATE] at [TIME] with Rabbi [NAME] of [SYNAGOGUE] officiating. Burial will follow at [CEMETERY NAME], [CEMETERY LOCATION]. Shiva will be held at [LOCATION] on [DATE] at [TIME]. [NAME OF FUNERAL HOME] will be handling the funeral arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to [ORGANIZATION NAME], [MAILING ADDRESS]. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to [ORGANIZATION/NAME].

[FINAL WORDS].

Remember most newspapers charge by the word, this template is good for getting all the information necessary in as few words possible. However, this template can be changed based on what you feel is necessary.

Question # 1

How will people remember you? Why?

- Or -

How do you want people to remember you?

(5 minutes)

Question # 2

Who was the real you, all along?

- Or -

Who did you become?

(5 minutes)

Question #3

What did you say 'no' to?

- Or -

What did you say 'yes' to?

(5 minutes)

Question #4

How did you make the world a better place?

- Or -

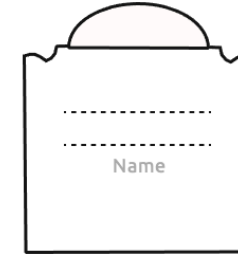
How did you work *tikkun olam* over your lifetime?

(5 minutes)

Write the main body of your obituary in one or two paragraphs.

(10 minutes)

WRITE YOUR OWN OBITUARY



How did you work tikkun olam over your
life time? How did you make the world a better place?

How will people remember
you? Why?

How do you want
people to remember
you?

Who was the real you, all
along?

Who did you
become?

What did you say 'no' to?

What did you
say 'yes' to?

Who will miss you the most?

Write your obituary in one or two
paragraphs

Legacy Letter, Forever Letter, or Ethical Will

Legacy Letter

- Who is your letter for?
- Thank you: what you appreciate and are grateful for in this relationship
- Life lessons: three things life taught me
- Life Values: what matters most to me
- In closing: a special saying, favorite poem, Torah quotation

<https://sixtyandme.com/write-legacy-letter/>

Legacy Letter Sentence Completions from *The Forever Letter* by Elana Zaiman

1. The values I believe in are...
2. The values I believe in and find hard to live are...
3. Here's what I learned from my parents...
4. Here's what I wish I had learned from my parents...
5. Here's what I learned. From my grandparents, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, children, teachers, students, aunts, uncles, mentors, friends (choose one for each three-minute write)...
6. The most important people in my life are/were...
7. The stories that have guided me in my life are...
8. The most meaningful lessons I have learned have been...
9. My strengths as a person are...
10. My strengths as a daughter (son), sister (brother), partner (spouse), wife (Husband), mother (father), Grandmother (Grandfather), Aunt (Uncle), other family member or friend are...
11. My weaknesses as a person are...

12. My weaknesses as a daughter (son), sister (brother), partner (spouse), wife (husband), mother (father), Grandmother (Grandfather), Aunt (Uncle), other family friend, member, or friend are. . .
13. The most powerful gift(s) I have to offer is/are. . .
14. The most powerful gift(s) I have received is/has been...
15. My personal challenges and struggles have been...
16. I've lived up to my ideals by...
17. I've fallen short of my ideals by...
18. What I most want to tell the people I love about me...
19. What I most want to tell the people I love about them...

20. I love you because...

21. These are your strengths...

22. Here is what you have taught me...

23. My hopes for you are...

24. As I review my life, I regret...

25. As I review my life, I'm grateful for...

26. Please forgive me for...

27. I forgive you for ...

28. My blessings for you are...

Resources

Resources for Writing a Legacy Letter

- <https://sixtyandme.com/write-legacy-letter/>
- <https://www.joincake.com/blog/legacy-letters/>
- <https://www.legacyletter.org/12-great-tips-on-how-to-write-an-amazing-legacy-letter/>
- <https://psiloveyou.xyz/how-to-write-a-legacy-letter-d041fbe05607>

Six-word stories

- <https://thewritepractice.com/six-word/>

Resources for writing your own Obituary

- <https://www.fearlessculture.design/blog-posts/write-obituary-exercise>