

THE SLG ADVISOR

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One of My Greatest Inspirations

Reflecting on My Mom's Life This Mother's Day

We celebrate Mother's Day every year on the second Sunday of May, and many of us will take a moment to appreciate some of the most important women in our lives. For me, it's a time to share my appreciation for the woman who raised me and helped shape me into the person I am today. My mom was one of the most outgoing and caring people that you would have ever met. She was the pillar of strength in our family for decades, and I'd love to share a little about her this Mother's Day.

My mother was born in 1927 in Boston to parents who had immigrated from Italy. She was the youngest of 11 kids. Her father passed away when she was 13, so she was mainly raised by her mom and older siblings. She met my dad when she was only 15, and the couple stayed together until she passed at age 86. That was nearly 10 years ago. Throughout her life, she always made an effort to be extroverted, vivacious, and social. You couldn't have kept her from dancing on a Saturday night when she was younger, and she stayed as active as possible well into her 80s.

One of the greatest traits that I admired about my mom was her ability to never let anything bring her down. When she was in her mid-50s, she started developing health issues from diabetes that plagued parts of her life. She never let these problems change who she was. If she was having a bad day and you came up to her and said, "Hey Margaret, how's it going?" she would disregard her personal problems and immediately ask about things happening in your life. She never let her illness disrupt her life and lived life on her terms.

I quickly understood how therapeutic and inspiring her personality could be. Mom genuinely tried to enjoy every little ray of sunshine that life gave her. When she was really sick and able to spend some time with her grandchildren, she focused solely on the moment. She could fight through anything and be happy.



While she was an incredibly caring and compassionate mom, she was also one tough son of a gun at times. Throughout my youth, she developed a reputation in our neighborhood as someone you didn't want to mess with. I can still vividly remember an instance before I was a teenager when new concrete was being poured at a house down the street. It was poured right in front of this guy's house, and being the hellion that I was, I decided to carve my name into the wet concrete.

Before long, the guy came out of his house and saw what I was doing. He whacked me in the back with a stick hard enough to leave a welt. I ran home crying to my mom who was in her kitchen garb and asked what had happened. She saw the welt and a wave of emotion came over her. She marched down to this guy's house, pounded on the door,

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Injured While Riding in an Uber?

How to Handle the Situation

Over the past five years, ride-share companies like Uber and Lyft have grown incredibly popular and are now commonplace in many cities across the country. While these ride-share services offer a level of convenience at an affordable price, there is still the same risk of accident that you take when entering any motor vehicle. That's why it's important to understand what to do if you're involved in an accident as a passenger while using a ride-share service.

Personal injury claims filed against ride-share companies can become complicated quickly. Many drivers will try to avoid reporting an accident or admitting fault because it could cost them their employment with the ride-share company. If you're injured in a ride-share accident, you need to be proactive and gather evidence yourself. You need to get insurance coverage information from the driver, including who to contact and where to file a claim. Make sure you get as much information as possible, and don't forget to get the driver's name!

Try to get information from both drivers and take pictures of the scene. Additionally, get contact information from any potential witnesses as they could corroborate your case. Involve the police and get a copy of the accident report for your own records. If you're injured, seek medical attention immediately. Waiting can make it difficult for your claim to get approved.

The ride-share driver is required to carry insurance, but their coverage depends on the current status of their vehicle. They can be off duty, on duty and waiting for an order, on duty and en route to pick up a passenger, or on duty and occupied with a passenger. Their status will determine if the ride-share's or driver's insurance coverage applies. The insurance coverage you see with ride-shares is usually much better than what you see with taxis.

Getting involved in an accident as a passenger and having to deal with the insurance company can be an incredibly stressful situation. If you've been injured while traveling in a ride-share vehicle, we're available and ready to help.

4 Common Mistakes

Summer is just around the corner, and that means it's the perfect time to get your motorcycle out and ready to ride. Whether you're a veteran on two wheels or this is your first summer riding, your safety should be at the forefront of your mind while on the road. There are many mistakes made by new riders that are easily avoidable, so we put together a list of some of the most common mistakes made by new motorcycle riders. Avoid these mistakes and you'll be a seasoned rider before you know it.

Not Having The Proper Equipment

We've all seen people out riding motorcycles without a helmet or jacket, but that doesn't mean you should follow suit. The NHTSA estimates that for every 100 fatal crashes involving motorcyclists without helmets, 37 would have survived if they had worn the proper equipment. In the state of Massachusetts, we have a universal helmet law that requires all riders to wear helmets. Not wearing a helmet can lead to fines, injuries, or worse.

Stalling

An issue that plagues nearly every new motorcycle rider is stalling. A stall can happen when

Review of the Month



"This was my first time ever needing a lawyer and someone recommended me to them. Let me just tell that you they helped change my life. Not only were they responsive and good at what they did, they were also kind and helpful every time I called."

-Nicole A.

s Made by New Motorcyclists

there is not enough power coming from the engine to the rear wheel to get the bike moving. You're going to have to practice your clutch control to prevent stalling. The best way to practice is by going to an empty parking lot and getting comfortable with your clutch and throttle.

Failing to Turn Off Indicators

Another common mistake that new and experienced riders often make is leaving their turn signals on after making a turn or switching lanes. It might not seem like the most egregious mistake, but it can cause drivers around you to get confused about where you're going. Most new motorcycles have auto-canceling indicators, but if you're driving something older, you need to be aware if they're on or not.

Not Inspecting the Bike Before Hitting the Road

Unlike a car, you don't have much exterior protection if something does happen while you're on the road. Before heading out, make sure you inspect your motorcycle's tires, fluid levels, brakes, lights, steering, and anything else you can think of. You'll be able to do this with speed after some practice, but take your time when you're first starting out to get comfortable with your motorcycle's maintenance.



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and started slugging him when he opened it. I still got punished later but felt justified by my mom's protective actions.

My mother had the honor of being both respected and friendly with so many people. My mom's funeral was not small in the way that funerals oftentimes are when people die later in life. She had an entire church full of people. She was involved in everything from campaigning for local politicians to participating in women's groups. Even in her later years, if you didn't catch her first thing in the morning, she may have already been on her way to the casino.

Throughout her life, my mom was able to bring a little bit of happiness into the lives of everyone she encountered. Life hasn't been quite the same since she and my dad passed, but I reflect on our time together often and am beyond thankful for the lessons that they taught me.

Happy Mother's Day!

-Len Spada



My Mom's Italian-Style Stuffed Mushrooms

One of my favorite dishes my mom made was her stuffed mushrooms. It was rare that we had a family get-together that didn't include her specialty, so, in honor of Mother's Day, here's the recipe.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb large mushrooms
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/6 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 tbsp chopped garlic
- 1/2 cup Italian-seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1/8 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley
- 1/2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- Salt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.
2. Remove mushroom stems and finely chop them, leaving the caps intact.
3. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter, then add mushroom stems and onions. Cook for 5 minutes.
4. Add garlic to the skillet and stir for 1 minute.
5. Place bread crumbs in a bowl and stir in the mushroom mixture from the skillet. Add mozzarella, Parmesan, parsley, vinegar, salt, and black pepper. Mix well.
6. Place mushroom caps on a baking sheet and fill the underside with bread crumb mixture.
7. Bake for 25 minutes.

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How Pianists Brought Silent Movies to Life



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When Theaters Provided Their Own Movie Soundtracks Thanks to the Pianists

Early feature films were in black and white, only available in theaters, and perhaps most significantly, silent. But movie theaters still needed sound to keep the audiences engaged. So, they enlisted piano players to accompany the films, conveying excitement, fear, sorrow, joy, tension, and danger through their music. It seems like a job any musician can do, but in truth, it was much more complicated than it sounds.

Silent films usually didn't arrive in theaters with sheet music attached, so theaters were on their own when it came to setting the mood. Since watching a movie in a hushed theater — or worse, one filled with chatter — wasn't very enticing, they had to find their own ways of creating an immersive experience for patrons.

As a result, your movie-viewing experience could vary greatly depending on which theater you visited. Pianists used different methods for creating their film scores, depending on their skill, time, and access to the films in advance. In small towns, only the church organist might be available — and they might choose to play assorted hymns over the entire movie, making for a less than enjoyable experience.

More accomplished pianists worked differently. Since they would often not have the opportunity to view an advanced screening, they would improvise, trying to predict where the film's action was headed and adjusting their playing accordingly. When a film was popular, most players eventually developed a standard score. Eventually, some production companies shipped "mood cues" with their movies, which provided a breakdown of when to play melodies better suited to romance, action, or comedy.

Believe it or not, the tradition still continues to this day. Some theaters show the occasional silent movie, and they turn to one of the 50 or fewer silent film accompanists still working in the U.S. for help. Since the films are often rare and otherwise unavailable, the pianist does not always have the time or opportunity to plan their music. So, like their predecessors, they play it by ear, using knowledge of specific actors, directors, and film conventions to guide them.

Screenings are not particularly common, but if you ever have the opportunity to watch a silent film with live accompaniment, you're in for a real treat. No matter how entertaining the movie is, watching the pianist may be half the show.