

Seizing the Moment, by Suzanne A. Harbison

Editor's Note: Jackie is taking a long, deserved break from this month's column. She'll return in next month's edition.

As many of you know, I absolutely LOVE movies! One of my favorite flicks is "Dead Poet's Society" - it has so many great life lessons and one-liners, including Carpe Diem, or "seize the day." I truly believe that we should live life to the fullest and take each opportunity presented and make the most of it. I also like the movie "The Bucket List" because it got me thinking about all the things I haven't tried and want to do in life. So last year, pretty close to when I hit a milestone birthday, I started plotting some of the things I wanted to pursue.

I love to travel, but I had never ventured outside North America. My fears or phobias have always gotten in the way. "There's no way I can go across the ocean; I get claustrophobic on planes" or "I can't take a cruise; I get motion sickness." Well, no more excuses! Because of my wonderful job at Nexion, including writing the member profiles in the newsletter and meeting agents at Nexion events, I kept hearing about all these wonderful travel experiences you all have taken. I knew I'd have to seize the moment, get over my fears and JUST DO IT!

My first opportunity came last January. I was tired of the weather and looking through the Special Offers page on WebView for some place warm to go for Dave's and my wedding anniversary. Low and behold, Disney was offering two January cruises at an INCREDIBLE travel agent rate (remember, it always pays to check the Special Offers page)! So, I



booked a verandah room to help with the claustrophobia, got my sea bands and ginger Altoids for the motion sickness and packed my bags! Can I just tell you how proud I was, standing on the veranda as we sailed from Port Canaveral to Cozumel with water surrounding us and no land in site - "hey, I can do this!" And not only that, we had a fabulous time, and I'm going to try cruising again.

Which leads me to my other Seize the Moment - don't let your fears keep you from trying things story...

I've always wanted to go to Europe, and river cruising sounded like a great way to check it out. (My mom recently reminded me that I've talked about seeing the Alps since I was a kid - maybe it was "Sound of Music" that did that!) I started talking it up last year, asking Jackie, staff and other agents about the various options and watching the sales. I was determined I was going to give flying over the ocean for 12 hours a try! And then the opportunity presented itself, thanks to Kathleen from Globus/Avalon Waterways.

I just returned from 14 days in Switzerland, France, Germany and Austria, including Sound of Music's Salzburg, of course, on the Avalon *Affinity*. I did fine - actually great - on the nine-hour flight from Dallas' DFW airport to London's Heathrow airport, and fine on the way home, despite a change to Brussels and Chicago. I was prepared in case of anxiety attacks, but all worked out great - piece of cake! My next step is to write a trip report and get it posted, along with photos, so watch for it soon. All I can say is that the experience was everything I had hoped it would be - seeing beautiful scenery, experiencing incredible history and architecture, meeting friendly local people and more. And to further get out of my comfort level, I was open to trying new foods, embraced going to countries where English is not the first language and even took getting



lost in Vienna as a fun adventure - it was all good. I'm not sure if I could have gotten on a cruise ship or plane for that long just a few, short years ago.

So what's on YOUR bucket list? What are you going to try outside your comfort zone? For me, these were personal victories, but for you, think about what you can do and what risks you can take not only personally but in your businesses to grow your agency. Carpe diem!

Here's to your success,

Suzanne

