



## June - What's your view on the world?

Big question! Where is she going with this one? Could mean many things? What does she have in mind?

This question came to me as we were touring Berlin, Germany the other month. Almost twenty years ago the Berlin Wall fell, November 1989, opening the iron curtain between Western Europe and the Eastern Bloc.

At that time I was comfortably working in my first job at Procter & Gamble in Toronto, Canada earning more per year than the average Berliner makes today. We had bought a 3 bedroom home in the suburbs and were comfortably living the life we expected – good jobs, nice home, healthy family, enjoyable friends.

In Canada, the first female was elected head of a major political party. The Skydome was opened for baseball. The Calgary Flames won the Stanley Cup over the Montreal Canadiens. 14 women are killed in the Ecole Polytechnique massacre in Montreal. Heather Erxleman becomes the first official Canadian female combat soldier. Sidney Altman, a Canadian, wins the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. The Canadian-American free trade agreement comes into effect.

In the US, the Exxon Valdez spills millions of gallons of oil in Alaska. Colin Powell is first black elected as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the US. Lucille Ball dies. Rain Man wins the academy award for best picture. Grammy for song of the year goes to Don't worry Be happy. George W. Bush becomes President. Seinfeld and Simpsons premiere.

Elsewhere, first World Wide Web server and browser are developed by Tim Berners-Lee (England) while working at CERN (Switzerland). Fall of the Soviet Union. Tiananmen Square protests. Cuban troops begin withdrawing from Angola. Union Carbide agrees to pay USD \$470 million to the Indian government for damages it caused in the 1984 Bhopal Disaster. In Egypt, a 4,400-year-old mummy is found in the Great Pyramid of Giza. The Dilbert comic strip is syndicated for the first time. Ayatollah Khomeini dies. F. W. de Klerk was sworn in as State President of South Africa. A magnitude 5.6 earthquake hits Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, killing 13 people.

An East Berliner's view of the world prior to the wall falling was very different from mine and those of my friends. Their view prior to the wall falling was very different than their view after it fell. This is called perspectives. We each look at things from our own perspectives, often rooted in those views without really realizing it.

The key about perspectives is that they are all correct – my view of 1989 was right, an East Berliner's view of 1989 was right. Interestingly, this means that there can be many views of something (your life, a situation, an issue...) and each can be "right".

Homework: Look at a situation/topic you are experiencing and develop 6-8 different perspectives for that same topic or situation. For example, grey hair. A simple topic, what's your current perspective/view of grey hair? Getting old. What could another perspective be? Elegant. What's another perspective? Wisdom. What's another perspective? Fun Aunt Sophie. What's another? Unconventional. Another? Authentic. Look at a topic or situation you are experiencing, what is your current perspective? What are other perspectives? See the many perspectives around one situation.

So next time you jump to a conclusion, assume something, become set in your way, believe you are right, feel stuck, or want options – think of another perspective, and another, and another. Then choose the one that best serves you.

**Live your potential!**

**Anne Taylor**

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