

KATY

magazine™

Celebrating Life in Katy Texas

Winter 2007/2008

*Katy Mothers
& Daughters*

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Katy
NEWCOMERS

Pre-K or Preschool
Which is Best?

Katy's
**WIRELESS
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KatyMagazine.com

Terry Edwards
with Jennifer,
Mallory, and
Meredith Ramsey

KIDS & DIVORCE
How Parents Can Help

Celebrating Katy Moms and Daughters



In honor of all the wonderful Katy mothers and daughters in the area, we've packed the pages with dozens of photos for you to enjoy. (See our Katy Mother Daughter feature on page 22 and the pictorial on page 93) I'm sure you'll find a few familiar faces in this issue.

My own daughter, Amy, is my firstborn who is almost 17. She has enriched my life in so many ways and will be graduating from Cinco Ranch High School this spring. Instead of imagining what life will be like when she leaves for college, I'm trying to savor each and every moment and live in the now. Daughters are great because they really "get" us. My daughter understands all my idiosyncrasies and quirks because she knows my history and my wacky personality. Although we look alike, she's the first to tell you- we're very different. She is gracefully reserved while I'm more of a wisecracking ham. She is exceptional at math and science and I have no interest or ability in this area. I sing obnoxiously in the shower while she sings beautifully on a stage. She has plans to travel the world, but I'm happy to stay home and spend time with my family.

But over the years, we have discovered a lot of common ground too. Like me, she is an animal lover who enjoys pretty things and is a true girly girl. She takes up for a cause when she sees an injustice. So do I. She's the one sitting next to me while both of us cry over a sad TV show. And I know she will be the one sitting next to me holding my hand when it's my time to leave this world. As she grows up and moves away from home, I know she'll take a little piece of her mom in her heart wherever she goes- no matter how far across the world she travels.

See you out and about in Katy!

Katrina

Katrina Katsarelis
Editor-in-Chief & Publisher

Don't miss our Moms & Daughters Pictorial on page 93!



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Katy Area Mothers and Daughters

From Protection to Admiration to Acceptance Moms and Daughters Have a Lifelong Bond

ON THE COVER: Terry Edwards (left) with her daughter Jennifer Ramsey (center) and her twin daughters Mallory (upper) and Meredith Ramsey (lower) | Photo by Suzi Issa

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Don't Miss Our Moms & Daughters Collage on page 93!



CELEBRATING KATY AREA

Mothers AND Daughters

From Protection to Admiration to Acceptance,
Moms and Daughters Have a Lifelong Bond

Whether your mother-daughter relationship is a great one or not, we all know the bond that exists is a tight one. Many people feel the mother-daughter relationship is the original relationship of our lives. It starts as a relationship of protection and admiration and can move to one of tension and rebellion. With luck, it rounds out to one of close friendship and acceptance. Through all the years, the emotional qualities stay constant; moms know what it is to be a girl and have walked the roads of their daughters. A daughter may be close to her father, but the relationship to her mother is quite different— it is easier to talk to mom and besides moms are “just so much softer.”

WRITTEN BY SHETYE CYPHER

“I care more about the fingerprints I leave on her character than anything else in this world.”—ANGELIA JEFFERSON, MOTHER OF JAZMINE



Jazmine Jefferson and Mother Angelia Jefferson

Miracle Baby

When the daughter is young, the relationship is one of protector of the innocent, especially when there are health issues at hand. “My daughter, Jazmine, came out a fighter. She stopped breathing after birth and was in ICU for 5 days,” says 32-year old mother, Angelia. “She was sent home with an Apnea monitor and took three different types of medications daily for her first year.” Jazmine was born Sept. 14, 2001 during the week of 9/11. It was a very stressful time for the country and just as stressful for Angelia.

“She fought so hard to be here and I fought even harder to keep her here,” she says.

Since then, 6-year old Jazmine has been hospitalized at least seven times and has had pneumonia around three times a year. “I have slept in baby cribs with her under breathing tents at the hospitals and I have held her while she wheezed with temperatures of 104,” says Angelia. “Nothing on earth could stop me from keeping her going. I care more about the fingerprints I leave on her character than anything else in this world.”

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Kahla Nelson and mother Terri Nelson

Navigating Through Adolescence

As daughters enter the age of adolescence, the relationship can be tricky due to the surge for independence. Relationships can be tested and authority questioned. "I think there comes a time when children want to be independent of their parents. They may question the advice we give because they don't realize the wisdom of our years," says 41-year old mother, Terri. "They may roll their eyes for a while, but eventually they realize they still need us and that our advice is meant with their best interest in mind, whether they agree with us or not. The tricky part is balancing the line that separates friend and mother, cool and not cool, when to jump in and when to pull back in hopes that she will always trust me and want to share her life with me," she adds.

As expected, the budding adolescent girl offers her own perspective. "Sometimes we have insecurities that no one wants to talk about and you feel like sometimes your mom just doesn't get it," says 12-year old Kahla. However, "anytime I am scared, my mom is always there for me. I can always count on her to help me whenever I need it (especially for math homework.)" Spending quality time together through this period is key for maintaining closeness. "I am really happy that we have not really experienced the strain. I believe our bond is so great because of the time we spend together and the way we trust and support each other. We eat, play sports, read, play board games, work on homework, watch movies and pray together to name a few," says Terri.

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CELEBRATING KATY AREA *Mothers* **AND** *Daughters*



Alex Kelton, mother Ann Kelton, and Morgan Kelton

Growing Up Together

Sometimes women are plunged into motherhood at a young age due to the unexpected arrival of a child. And as daughters grow up and leave the house, a different type of respect enters the relationship. "My husband and I were young when we had our first daughter. I made a lot of mistakes as a young mother. It was hard financially and emotionally, but I wouldn't change a thing," says Ann, 44. "For me, I was in love with my girls from the moment of conception and now they are truly my best friends."

"The birth of my daughters made me a better human being. It showed me how to care about someone other than myself," she adds. "It's not that a young mother is being selfish, it's just that she still has some growing up to do herself."

Morgan, 21, has moved away for college and realizes the skills that her mother gave her helped her become more independent. "I know it sounds a little silly, but there are so many young women my age who can't cook. Whenever I was home or when I go back home, I always watch her very carefully when she's cooking. It's awesome because I can make food that she used to make for me and it makes me feel like I am at home," says Morgan.

As the teenager of the house, 17-year old Alex and her mother's relationship is transitioning to a more adult one. "My mom and I like to stay up and watch movies and shows together. This is the time when we are able to share anything from random daily happenings to our personal philosophies on life. There's nothing holding us back and we can talk about anything," says Alex.

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Brenda Kerr and mother Wilma Brooks

Caring for Each Other

The mother-daughter relationship can take on a new and fresh tone, as the now grown-up daughter finds herself in the role of primary caregiver for her mother. "If mom weren't living with us, she would probably be living by herself and after a scare we had earlier this year, we all realize that is not an option," says Brenda, 42. "Mom and I each work part time jobs and we still need to schedule with each other if we want to do something. I think sometimes we take each other for granted because we see each other every day."

"Living together has not always been easy; we can get on each other's nerves. It is only by the grace of God that this arrangement works." This has not been the first time Brenda and her 71-year old mother, Wilma, have lived together as adults. When Brenda's husband died she was only 24 years old with two small children. She and her children then moved in with her mother. Brenda has always felt her mother has "been there for her." Wilma says, "When Brenda was widowed, she moved back home until I could take early retirement. I had to make some adjustments, like letting her raise the children. As a single mom, I needed to work so I was not home from the time Brenda was a year and half. I felt someone else had raised her. God gave me a second chance because I was able to be there for Brenda and her children. Now, I have lived with my daughter for about 17 years." ☆

S. Shetye Cypher is a freelance writer who lives with her husband and son. She has lived in Katy intermittently since 1976. She has written for several Houston based publications and is also the Journalism teacher and Publications Advisor at Mayde Creek High School.