

FEATURE

Mother's Day

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are missing and most often, the "filled in" truth is far more frightening, shame provoking or debilitating emotionally than the thoughts and feelings that can be built on the simple truth. Any feeling a child experiences can be managed as long as it is understood, not ignored.

Circumstances can't be changed. If a child's parent has died, nothing can change this. We cannot run before a young child protecting him from all the things that relate to mothers or fathers. We can't help children forget. We can't assume that because they were too young to remember a mother or father other situations can be filled in. What has happened to an individual belongs to the individual and they should have the story. Each child's sense of self must be built from his own story. A caring adult should talk about the story in its simplest form for the youngest children and revisit it as they get older and understandings become more abstract.

Children at different stages, will always imagine themselves to be somewhere more wonderful, more understanding, more giving than they

are experiencing in their own homes. "If my mother were here this wouldn't be happening!" "If I lived with Mr. & Mrs. Berkley, things would be better because they never get mad." "If we all moved so that we were closer to Grandma and Grandpa, I wouldn't have to do all these chores."

Certainly situations of loss are difficult for the child and for parents who bring to each situation their own history of different circumstances or losses. They also bring their enormous need to protect their children. They can best deal with these situations by giving children the truth. And they can also think through with their children concrete ways they could respond to other children, other adults and to times when activities are reminders of the differences they feel. Parents can then begin to trust that, although there will be awkward and painful times, their children will eventually learn how to incorporate this knowledge into their emerging selves. And their children will be able to deal, not only with the anticipated, but also the unanticipated events that happen throughout life. ✿

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Confident Kids Happy Parents

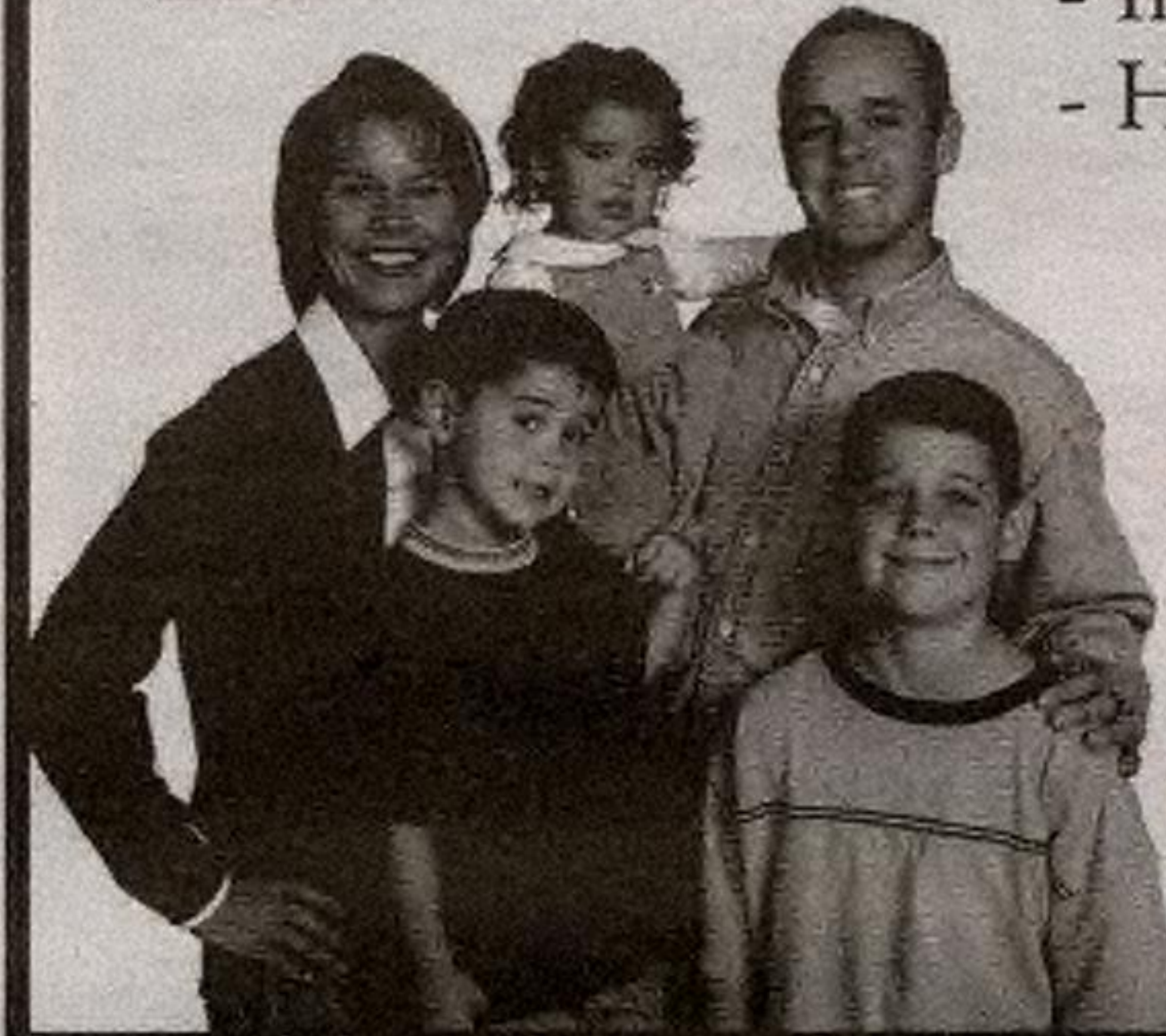
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Summer is approaching and we are gearing up for our annual

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July 2-5th - Beach Party

July 8-12th - Puppets and Pets

July 15-19th - Survivor Week

July 22-26th - Mystery and Mayhem

July 29-Aug. 2nd - Ocean's Alive

Aug. 6 - 9th - Christmas in August

Aug. 12-16th - Medieval Madness

Aug. 19-23rd - Art Attack

Aug. 26-30th - Ready Set School

Which Craft's Summer Camp Flyers and Registration forms are already available at the studio - Space is starting to fill so don't delay, call or pick up forms today.

Which Craft 72 Main St. South, downtown Georgetown, 905-877-8444