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backtalk



By Tanna Guthrie

The Living Years

Hazel and Alice. Those were the names of my late grandmothers. I so miss being in the same room with them. Hugging them. I remember how it felt with my arms wrapped around their shoulders, while kissing their warm cheeks.

They were the caretakers ... connected to what's important, which was providing for their families. I can still see my Grandma Sweeney, with a bandana wrapped around her head, hoisting her ax and chopping off the head of the chicken that she would fry up for supper that night. I also have memories of being chased by that headless chicken. It's where I learned to sprint.

My Grandma Guthrie was the patient one. During sleepovers, she would sit in her chair and hum a song while my sisters and I combed her nearly floor-length hair. In the morning, there was no sleeping in for her. We woke up to the smell of French toast wafting from the kitchen.

When my grandmothers weren't cooking, they were sewing and gardening. No time for a mani or a pedi, and a designer dress was one they stitched themselves, from a pattern they found in a Sears catalog. (Yes, people used to buy from mail-order catalogs. Think online but with an operator instead of a mouse).

My grandmothers seemed more grounded than I am, with my rush-around life. Why do I have trouble dialing it back? I'm technologically connected via text, cell phone, Facebook, and my Mac, but am I missing a connection? If only my grandmothers were here, they'd have the answer. They always did.

Tanna is the afternoon radio host from 2-7 on 98.1 KUDL. She's also a charity fundraising auctioneer and co-heads the auction division of Prudential Kansas City Realty. Connect with her at 913.568.4888, 913.345.3013 or 913.744.3545, or find her on Facebook, or e-mail tanna@kudl.com, tannaguthrieauctions@mac.com or tannaguthrie@prukc.com. See what I mean?!

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