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I received a call from a woman who wanted to sign up for a weekend retreat that I hosted recently with Dr. Jeremy Taylor in Loveland, Colorado. She said, "I want to come to this weekend with my friend, but I haven't been able to remember a dream for over 13 years." The dreamer explained that when her father died, she had two dreams about him and then had not remembered a dream since. I could hear the underlying question, "Will this weekend 'fix' me?"

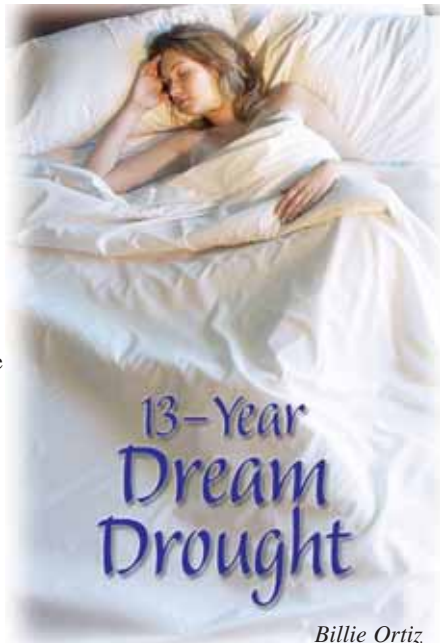
My advice was to come to the dream retreat and, if her name was chosen to share a dream, work on the last dreams she remembered.

I also told her that, if it were me, I would look at working on those two dreams anyway. It could be that the information contained in the dream images is so important that no other information would come through until those deeper meanings had been fully acknowledged and integrated. We also discussed how "dreams do not have expiration dates." The information contained in a dream from over a decade ago can speak to me just as vividly as a dream from the night before.

She decided to attend and at dinner one night we had another discussion about pointers on how to remember dreams. We decided that she should just pretend that she does remember her dreams and have all the materials ready each night before going to sleep. The dreamer and her friend even purchased matching, elegant, leather-bound dream journals at the gift shop as a symbolic gesture to honor their dreams. Reminiscent of the line from the movie *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, they will come," if you have a dream journal, the dreams will be remembered.

The last day of the retreat, Jeremy and I walked towards the meeting room where we spotted the dreamer along with two friends sitting strategically on the steps to block our entrance, making sure we would not get past until we heard the news. The dreamer then stood up and in full Dr. Martin Luther King glory shouted, "I have a dream! I have a dream!"

We excitedly shared congratulatory hugs and then went inside to start the morning session. The news spread and many of the dreamers in



Billie Ortiz

the circle commented that rather than pulling a name from the hat, we should choose to work on her dream. After all, it has been 13 years! I have been relying for many years on the egalitarian method of pulling names at random to decide whose dream is worked on next. In this instance, I was tempted to defer the selection to the dreamer with the longest "dream drought" that I have ever encountered, but I have learned to trust the random method as it removes any human element from the selection. In fact, we often jokingly borrow the phrase from the Harry Potter stories, "Trust the hat."

The person who last shared a dream pulled the piece of paper from the hat and, miraculously, beyond all statistical possibilities, called out the name of the dreamer who was finally gifted with a dream after a gap of over a decade! I will never forget the spontaneous thrill and joy that erupted throughout the room. Everyone

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exploded in uproarious laughter while simultaneously bursting into tears. The dreamer shrieked with sheer delight and quivered with excitement for several minutes. I've seen less enthusiastic recipients of the multi-million dollar Lotto. It was a tremendously powerful moment, as though this had all been scripted out during the wee hours of the night, or planned through a series of synchronistic events over the last 13 years for everything to constellate into one precious morning of dream sharing.

We worked all three dreams; the two from right after the father passed away and the fresh one from the night before and as I have seen many times before, all of the dreams "spoke to each other." These dreams stretching across the years like an exquisitely intricate tapestry reminded all of us in the room that not only do the dreams themselves contain magic, but so does the art of dream sharing.

Billie Ortiz is a certified dreamworker who, since 1997, has helped scores of dreamers on the path to self-discovery through a better understanding of their dreams. She offers private sessions, workshops and bi-annual weekend retreats featuring dream book author Jeremy Taylor. Contact her at [wakeuptoyourdreams@earthlink.net](mailto:wakeuptoyourdreams@earthlink.net) or 303-929-6122 for more information.

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