

Tea-Totaling With Earlene

April 1, 2010

A Newsletter From Earlene Grey®

Volume 6, Issue 3

What's New for You

By Earlene Grey



Well, my dears, it is spring, the economy is coming around, and it is time for newness. We need it. And here at Earlene Grey and company new ideas abound. So, if you will indulge us with a bit of advertising in this newsletter, let me tell you about what is coming your way. From James Patterson to Susan Laird to Joanna DeRungs and back to Earlene, ideas have sprung forth on how we can better serve you.

First off, we are giving **free shipping** to our website customers. It is not a one-time offer. We intend to keep it up as long as we can.

Then there are the new products that are just around the corner. The booklet, "**Wisdom of Tea**" is being reprinted in lovely shades of tea green. Beautiful. Serene. Calming. Next there will come the "just too cute" **whimsical note cards** that will be introduced in May. They are such fun to look at, that you will want to frame them for your favorite tea corner. We hope to have two more whimsy cards before the fall greets us later this year. Then, as they used to say, "You can collect all four!" Of course we will offer the popular Earlene Grey **Tea Poetry contest** again this year. And as promised we will establish the **Tea Poetry Society of America**. Sounds grand, doesn't it? All you may want and more for the tea poetry enthusiast. Each month we will offer you something special. So watch for those monthly announcements in your email.

Thank you once again for all of your comments and kindnesses and warm wishes. Happy teatimes to you. eg

Message for Today

*It's time to be calm and clear.
Take your tea plain and
Keep the Spirit near.*

~Earlene Grey~

The World Tea Expo

This year Earlene will once again be present at the World Tea Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Expo has returned to the Las Vegas Convention Center and is being held June 11th, 12th and 13th.

The World Tea Expo is the largest gathering of the world's tea industry in North America. The Expo features all things tea, and since anything will go with a fine cup of tea, many things you would not associate with a delicate Oolong or an assertive Darjeeling will also be included.

If you are planning to attend this year's Expo, be sure to stop by booth #242 and say hello to Earlene. *Heart to Heart...* will, of course, be prominently displayed along with some new products that are currently at the printer. If you can't make it to Las Vegas in June visit Earlene's website periodically to see what's new.

Besides industry representatives from all parts of the world, the Expo includes numerous classes and workshops covering everything from tea cultivation to tea consumption. Anything you want to know about tea you can learn at the World Tea Expo. Think tea. Learn tea. Drink tea. We will see you there!

Earlene Grey Presents

Inaugural Mother's Day Tea Sunday May 9, 2010

Two seatings: 11:30 am & 2:00 pm

Join Earlene at the Historic Ainsworth House & Gardens
Oregon City, Oregon

Tickets are \$35 each and include:

An Enchanting English Tea~ A Stroll in the lovely spring
gardens~Gift Merchant Tables for some special shopping ~ Tea
Poetry Reading by Earlene Grey~A Special Gift for each guest from
Earlene Grey~ A Tour of the Historic Ainsworth House

Want to know more or make reservations?
Visit www.EarleneGrey.com.



Editor's Note: *Just a friendly reminder.* We at Earlene Grey® knew this was going to be a popular event but since it is our inaugural Mother's Day Tea we had no way of knowing how popular...well, now we know. A quarter of the reservations were sold in the first two weeks after the initial announcement to the public and sales have not slowed. There are only a few weeks left before Mother's Day. *Do not wait.* Make your reservations now. JP

Tea With the Empress...the First Time

By James Patterson



We all have experiences resulting in memories that stick with us throughout the years, experiences that act as markers for the end of one thing or the beginning of another.

Regardless, of how global or personal these experiences may have been, we remember, or at least think we remember, every detail as if recorded and routinely reviewed.

Globally speaking my list of milestone memories are like everyone else - where I was when President Kennedy was assassinated and when Neil Armstrong first stepped onto the surface of the moon. On a personal basis my list does not include anything as historically or culturally significant. Even so the memories remain as vivid as when first created.

Earlene and I have been drinking tea for over forty years. For the first several years the closest I came to having the right tea in the proper setting was drinking green tea in a Japanese restaurant. In the fall of 1980 that all changed

when I experienced my first Afternoon or, if you prefer, Full Afternoon Tea. For most this would not be a life altering experience and I suspect that would be the case with me had it not been for the accompanying circumstances. I had the good fortune of having my first formal tea in the lobby of the Empress Hotel in Victoria, British Columbia. Again nothing too monumental, people have been taking tea at the Empress for many decades. Tea at the Empress, however, was not on the "Things to do in Victoria" list when Earlene and I crossed the US/Canada border. Making reservations for tea was a spontaneous response to an unpredicted opportunity.

The focus of this particular trip to Victoria was so I could run the first Royal Victoria Marathon. To some I realize this would be a seemingly pointless activity without creditable merit. To me, however, this was a formidable but surmountable challenge that appeared to make more sense than climbing up the face of a large rock or putting on a parachute jumping out of a perfectly good airplane.

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Earlene's New Website

Have you visited www.EarleneGrey.com lately? For those of you who have not, we invite you to do so. Although it may look the same, there have been several changes...new layout and photos, new poems to listen to and, of course, free shipping. You will also find Earlene's new book, **Heart to Heart~ Considered Sentiments for Teatime** featured.

Each month there will be something special, either a sale, a featured product or something brand spanking new. Be sure to visit from time to time so you don't miss out on the opportunity to save some money, buy a gift for that special friend, birthday presents, anniversaries, even do your Christmas shopping.

For your convenience all purchases can be made by credit card via PayPal. If you prefer to do things a little less automated you can download an order form from the website and send it in with a check or money order.

We hope to hear from you soon. If you have any questions you can email Earlene directly at: info@EarleneGrey.com.

Cathedral for the Common Woman

*I stand and soak it in,
Each wall and corner,
Every picture and window,
Precious pieces of wood and fiber.
It beats calmness to my heart
And saturates beauty into my soul.*

*This is my shelter on earth that I call home;
Housing family, inviting guests,
Providing solace from the rest.
It is my refuge, my privacy,
My source of sanity and
God's gift of serenity to me.*

~Earlene Grey~

May 9th...Tic, Tic, Tic



Just incase you have missed the memo; Mother's Day is May 9th. Each time an occasion works its way to the top of the things to do list, we all scramble around at the last minute as if we had no idea this holiday or that celebration ever existed.

Unfortunately Mother's Day is no exception. Just when you think you are getting a handle on winter, you slam headfirst right into spring. Before you can get your bearings you are staring Mother's Day right in the face. This year let Earlene help you out.

Earlene has the perfect gift for mother. *The New Tea Lover's Treasury* by James Norwood Pratt, fairy and

Tea With the Empress...

My game plan was simple. Run a sane pace, finish the race and live to tell about it. I managed all three and Afternoon Tea at the Empress was in my future. The four-block walk to our awaiting table was slow but uneventful, and although I did not feel presentable I certainly felt deserving. Deserving though I may be, becoming presentable was going to be a challenge. The combination of partial dehydration, no blood sugar and a pair of legs that had temporarily abandoned me was not easy to conceal particularly when the hotel where we were staying, although or because it was very new, was temporarily absent a functioning water system.

I had come too far and been through too much to let questionable hygiene stand in my way. Prior to leaving our hotel several hours earlier Earlene and I packed what we needed and planned to make some kind of conversion upon arriving at the Empress. Although not ideal, the restrooms at the Empress served as an adequate dressing room. While pretending not to notice the inquisitive glances, I scraped off what I could, threw on whatever I had packed and off I went to meet Earlene in the lobby. I must have satisfied the minimally acceptable dress code standard because upon entering the lobby of the Empress we were seated at a table for two next to a front window that looked out over Victoria's Inner Harbour.

I had entered Canada's western most bastion of provincial culture and after being seated I somehow managed to conduct myself in a fashion commensurate to the occasion. The tea and savories were traditional in selection and presentation but embellished by the surroundings. Being immersed in the influence of Edwardian England and accompanied by those who were

parlour cards by Susan Laird and, of course, Mother's Day Tea tickets are available online. Actually, you had better get several things because you know that someone's birthday is sneaking up behind you right now. You can order your Mother's Day gifts by going to www.EarleneGrey.com. And now, as her gift to you, Earlene will pay the postage. Or...

Need to purchase tea? Visit our friends at *Harney & Sons Fine Teas*. Harney & Sons are purveyors of quality specialty teas, tea accessories, tea gifts and books. And you guessed right, *Heart to Heart...* is one of those books. To see more Harney & Sons products visit their website at www.Harney.com. And as always Happy Teatimes!



the cultural product of that era has a strangely quieting effect on one's spirit. My memories fade with teacup in hand, reflecting on where we were and how we got there. Nothing else was necessary.

Much tea has passed through the spout since my first Afternoon Tea. Today, however, the Empress remains as grand as ever. She still welcomes visitors to the Inner Harbour but her front steps no longer lead to the lobby. The lobby has been moved and for a time Afternoon Tea was being served elsewhere. What was the original lobby still existed but with little remaining to reveal its original purpose. For several years the old lobby's design appeared to more suited for a gathering of the local Rotary Club than Afternoon Tea. In 2008, however, the Empress Hotel celebrated her 100th anniversary. To commemorate the occasion the lobby tearoom, including the corner where we sat, was completely restored. Now, grander than before, the tearoom is the focal point of the entire hotel. The memories of that afternoon in September thirty years ago are still quite vivid. Memories I was fortunate to create with Earlene and, with varying areas of emphasis, we still enjoy revisiting.

As for time's effect on Victoria's marathon, the event was successfully held for the 30th time on October 11, 2009.

*The richest tea
may come from the poorest people.
Enjoy with appreciation.*

~Earlene Grey~

*Tea-Totaling With
Earlene*

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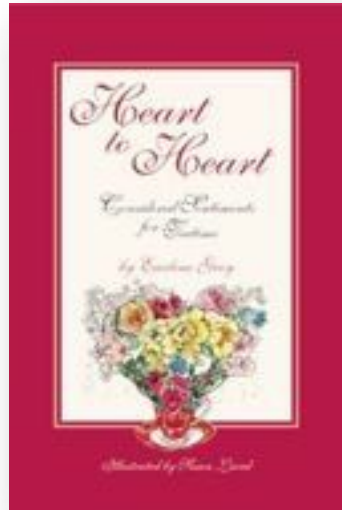
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Now Available:

Heart to Heart~

Considered Sentiments for Teatime



Heart to Heart~ Considered Sentiments for Teatime is a unique hardbound collection of original tea poetry by Earlene Grey®. Easy to understand and enjoy, each 5" X 7" book consists of 38 poems and more than twice as many one line Earlenisms about the life, its complexities and of course, Earlene's favourite subject, tea.

From its rich red cover, through its handsomely illustrated pages, *Heart to Heart* offers wit, intelligence and thoughtful reflections about what is most important in life. It is the perfect gift for you, a friend or even a client. We invite you to sit down, with your cup in hand and enter the world of Earlene Grey®. Each copy of *Heart to Heart* is \$18.00 US (\$22.00 Can.). S&H included.

Also, you can take this opportunity to have your own copy of Earlene's first book, *Musings With a Cuppa*, on compact disc. The entire book comes on one CD with each poem being read by Earlene herself. The price of the CD is only \$16.00 US (\$20.00 Can.) with the S&H included. To order your copy of *Heart to Heart* or *Musings...* or to see other Earlene Grey® products visit Earlene's website at www.EarleneGrey.com.



Earlene Grey®

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