

# The Family Letter

*A service of Banther Family Advisors*

*"Helping families work together in business and live together in harmony."*

## In This Issue:

- **Who's Raining On Your Parade Today?**
- **Walk Toward the Conflict in Your Life!**
- **Recommended Resource:** "100 Simple Secrets of Happy Families: What Scientists Have Learned and How You Can Use It"

## Who's Raining On Your Parade Today?

by Barry Banther, Senior Family Advisor

Have you ever heard the phrase "April showers bring May flowers?" It's a pretty simple thought with far reaching results. If the rain does not fall in April, then the flowers will not be able to blossom in May. This is not a new thought, in fact, the Bible record says, "whatever a man sows he will reap."

As a family, how does this apply to you today? Ask yourself, "What am I sowing right now?" Or, "Who is raining on my parade today?" You might be surprised at how the obstacles you are facing today may be the very source of your blessings tomorrow.

Perhaps there is a family member who is being particularly difficult. Instead of resisting them, why not choose to cooperate? Ask them what else you can do for them or if there is something they need help with right now. In other words...go from victim to collaborator! Your response to this difficulty might result in a new and better working relationship.

Perhaps you recently experienced a difficult conversation or confrontation with a family member. Instead of avoiding them, why not call them and ask what you can do to help them or find a way to be of service to them despite the fact that you may not be seeing eye to eye right now. Sometimes you just have to take that first step or make that initial effort. Put a little more "welcome" in your communication with that family member and it might sprout new blossoms!

Whatever the situation may be, don't try to hide it. Seek out a trusted colleague at work, at church or even in your family and share your burden with them. Ask them what you could do to better handle the situation. You will find that you are not alone.

Very few good things in life come without struggle, like childbirth, graduation, a better job, a promotion, or better health. The list goes on and on. If the sun shone all the time we would be in a desert. So welcome the rain. Don't fight it. Find an umbrella and enjoy the journey!

## Walk Toward the Conflict in Your Life!

by Ruth Banther, Family Services Manager

My family is facing some serious decisions regarding the care of my Grannie. Grannie is 86 years old, has every possible terminal health condition that exists, and worst of all she still thinks she's 60 years old and can do everything by herself. How we can provide the necessary help without sacrificing her pride, dignity and role in the family. How can we show her that she's still an integral part of our family even though her care decisions are shifting from her control to ours?

One thing I have realized as we attempt to address her changing needs is that I can't isolate this situation from other family issues. In fact, just the opposite has happened. Her changing needs have become a catalyst bringing other family issues to the forefront. The stress of the situation has revealed some long-hidden sources of conflict and even some seemingly unrelated issues that now need to be addressed.

Perhaps you have faced a similar scenario in your own family. I mention the situation with my Grannie, but any family member's changing needs can be the catalyst that forces other issues out. How you choose to address these sources of conflict and stress can define you as a family.

My family and I don't know—yet—how we are going to resolve all of the issues that have arisen from my Grannie's changing needs. But, we are all determined to work together; these issues will not be ignored or shoved aside. Perhaps this is what family conflict resolution is all about—not walking away. It doesn't have to mean that

[Click to subscribe!](#)

Connect With Us

Follow Barry  
on Twitter

**BANTHER**  
CONSULTING

**BANTHER**  
Family Advisors

Print this  
issue!



**Barry Banther**  
Senior Family Advisor

Barry Banther is a sought after family advisor, business consultant, and inspirational speaker. This body of work has earned him the highest accreditation from the Institute of Management Consultants as a Certified Management Consultant and from the National Speakers Association as a Certified Speaking Professional. He is one of less than 50 professionals worldwide to hold both designations.

To contact Barry, please call:  
727-938-8927 or email,  
[barry@barrybanther.com](mailto:barry@barrybanther.com)



you know the answers or that you even know what outcome your striving towards. Every time we all come together to address a conflict we learn to trust each other just a little bit more.

I know today, more than I did five years ago or even one year ago, that my family will work together to get to the bottom of the issues that arise. We can't predict the outcome or protect against the conflicts that may arise, but that's ok, we'll figure out a solution—together!

## Recommended Resource

**100 Simple Secrets of Happy Families: What Scientists Have Learned and How You Can Use It**  
(Niven, David; HarperOne, paperback, April 13, 2004, 224 pp)

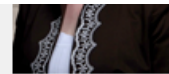
“From raising children to getting along with in-laws, what do people with close and loving families do differently than those with strained or unfulfilling relationships? Sociologists, therapists, and psychiatrists have spent entire careers investigating the ins and outs of family dynamics, yet their findings are inaccessible to ordinary people, hidden in obscure journals to be shared with other experts. Now, David Niven, the international bestselling author of THE 100 SIMPLE SECRET series has collected the most current and significant data from more than a thousand of the best scientific studies on families and then spelled out the findings in plain English.” To get your copy today, call or email Ruth at: 727-946-6848 or [ruth@barrybanther.com](mailto:ruth@barrybanther.com).

For additional information on The Family Letter or Banther Family Advisors, please contact Ruth Banther:  
[ruth@barrybanther.com](mailto:ruth@barrybanther.com) or by calling: 727-946-6848.

Did you enjoy this newsletter? Don't forget to [subscribe!](#)  
Also be sure to check out our official [website](#).

Print this  
issue!

**BANTHER**  
Family Advisors



**Ruth Banther**

**Family Services Manager:**

A graduate of Hillsdale College, Ruth has experience in both the public and private sector; she has worked for several families who balanced prominent leadership roles with the demands of young families. As Family Services Manager she provides resource and communication support to our client families.

Contact Ruth at:  
[ruth@barrybanther.com](mailto:ruth@barrybanther.com)  
or (727) 946-6848