



ABSTRACT

Granville was seven and Norma was five when they first met. They grew up on the same block, Fish Avenue, in The Bronx. They lived eight houses apart. They dated in high school. Granville started college, then, in 1960, for whatever reason, they each went their separate ways. Norma married, moved to Venezuela. Granville married, served four years in the Air Force, and they never saw each other again, until . . .

Devine Intervention?

*A story told from the perspective of
Granville Wheeler Lee and Norma Frances
Palanque'-Chilberry.*

Matthew 7:7-8:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and the one who knocks, the door will be opened”.

Devine Intervention?

By Granville Lee

1 - How the Story Begins . . .

Sunday, May 29th, 2022, Memorial Day weekend, I was home alone, scrolling through my Facebook App and discovered I had over 200+ friends. I said to myself, *“that’s ridiculous”*, “who are all these people”. I’d be lucky to name five friends, much less than 200. “It’s time to, “clean house”, clean-up” my account. So, I started down the list. Delete . . .Delete . . .Delete. I must have “deleted” fifty or sixty names. Moving right along, I noticed a note in the "Messenger" App from a "Frances Bronx". I thought to myself, *“I don’t know anyone named Frances”*, however, I did grow-up in “The Bronx, NY”. Rather than delete the message, I opened it and it read, “Happy 80th Birthday Granville, my great-grands and I wish you umpteen more birthdays, congratulations, Norma of Fish Avenue”. (My 80th birthday was July 30th, 2021). Also, there was a picture of Norma, surrounded by five little smiling faces. I recognized Norma instantly.

2 - Norma Flashback:

I was seven and Norma was five when we first met. We grew up on the same block, Fish Avenue, in The Bronx. We lived eight houses apart. We dated in high school. I started college, then, in 1960, for whatever reason, we each went our separate ways. She married, moved to Venezuela. I married, served four years in the Air Force, and never saw her again.

3 - I Thought?

How did Norma know about me? How did she find me to send a “Happy Birthday” greeting sixty-plus years after we had “gone our separate ways”? The last time I remembered seeing Norma was in the summer of 1960, more than 5 decades ago, when I was working at an ice cream parlor, at an amusement park, in the Bronx. She and a friend passed by me, and I said “Hi”, that was it. Nothing more from that time until now, over a half century later.

4 - My Email Reply:

I was curious, so I replied to the message saying, “Thanks Norma” and included my email address and telephone contact information. Within an hour (it’s still Sunday May 29, 2022), my phone rings, “Hi Granville, this is Norma, how have you been? How nice to hear from you”. Well, I was pleasantly surprised. We continued to talk, sharing many of our memories of the past.

5 - Phone Conversations:

For the next month, we spoke to each other on the phone, every day, for at least an hour at a time. Somewhere during that month, I thought to ask, “*By the way, where are you*”? Norma replied, “I am living in Chicago with my daughter, my husband passed away in 2008”. I had told her that my wife had passed away two years before and realized that Chicago was just up the road. We agreed to meet in Chicago, for the July 4th weekend.

6 - Planning for Chicago:

Now, I thought, what would we do in Chicago? Do I just arrive at her door? Do I ask her what she wants to do? Where does she want to go? I Googled Chicago, and among the many things to do, I found an Architecture and Scenic Skyline River Tour of downtown Chicago. Norma was interested, so I booked the tour for Saturday, July 2nd, at 12:00 noon. My first idea was to leave home early in the morning, drive to Chicago, go on the river tour, turn around and drive back to Ann Arbor. However, the more I thought about the four hour-drive to Chicago, and four-hour return, I thought I should stay overnight before driving back. I made a one-night reservation in downtown Chicago, within walking distance of Navy Pier. Navy Pier is the area that the Skyline River cruise was leaving from.

7 - Drive to Chicago:

I left Ann Arbor early Saturday morning, July 2nd, at about 6:00am. As I was driving, I started to think. What will I do when we first meet. Will I shake her hand? Give her a hug?? It was hard for me to think of how to greet my high school sweetheart, after having not seen or heard from her in over sixty-two years. I arrived about 11:00am and figured out how to park the car in downtown Chicago. As I walked through the door of the hotel, there stood Norma with a floppy hat and a warm smile. I could not resist. Spontaneously, we hugged and kissed.

8 - In Chicago:

Off we went to catch the boat for our 2-hour river cruise. Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful, the sun was shining, the temperature cool, and Norma was as beautiful and exciting as I remembered from our childhood. When the boat tour ended, we talked and walked around Navy Pier. Had something to eat and rode the Ferris Wheel, much like we did as kids at Coney Island. We were having so much fun together, I added two more days to my stay-over so we could go on the July 4th midnight Fireworks cruise on Lake Michigan. On Sunday, July 3rd we walked part of The Magnificent Mile and explored the shops on Michigan Avenue, in downtown Chicago. Also, we had our caricatures made at one of the shops. Monday, July 4th we continued to walk and talk and enjoyed very much being in each other's company. That evening, after the July 4th Fireworks cruise, I knew that I did not want our companionship to end. It is now Tuesday morning, July 5th, time for me to go. How did we reconnect? Was it Divine Intervention? I did not know. But I did know that I did not want to go. However, I had a house in Ann Arbor with a tropical fish tank to take care of. What was I to do. I realized that I did not want to live the rest of my life without Norma. So, I said "*Norma, how would you like to come to Ann Arbor, Michigan with me?*", She looked perplexed, was silent, then looked me straight in the eye and said . . .

9 - Norma's Reply:

"Yes"! And we have been together ever since.



Five (5) Smiling Faces



Fish Avenue

Norma was 5yrs old



Granville was 7 yrs old



Dated in High School



Floppy Hat



Architectural River Cruise



Navy Pier Ferris Wheel



Magnificent Mile



Michigan Avenue



Norma & Granville



July 4th Fireworks



*Yes''!
Matthew 7:7-8*

10 – OK, Nice Story, But Who Are We, Where did We Come From:

According to African Ancestry.com:

Granville		Norma	
Matriclan (Mother)	Patriclan (Father)	Matriclan (Mother)	
Yoruba people in Nigeria	Mbenzele people in Cameroon	<u>Mende people of Sierra Leone</u>	



<u>Born</u>			
<u>Granville</u>		<u>Norma</u>	
Wadsworth Hospital, Harlem, NY		Medical Center, Bronx, NY	
Wednesday, July 30, 1941		Tuesday, February 16, 1943	



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

1940s:

The 1940s (pronounced "nineteen-forties" and commonly abbreviated as "the '40s" or "the Forties") was a **decade** that began **on January 1, 1940**, and ended on December 31, 1949. Most of World War II took place in the first half of the decade, which had a profound effect on most countries and people in Europe, Asia, and elsewhere.

- 1947- Granville's family moves to Fish Avenue, Bronx, NY,
 - o Granville attends P.S. 78
- 1948 – Norma's family moves to the same block on Fish Avenue.
 - o Norma attends Holy Rosary School

1950s Wikipedia:

The **1950s** (pronounced nineteen-fifties; commonly abbreviated as the "**Fifties**" or the "'50s") (among other variants) was a decade that began on January 1, 1950, and ended on December 31, 1959. Throughout the decade, the world continued its recovery from World War II, aided by the post-World War II economic expansion.

- 1952 - Norma transfers to St. Philip and James School
- 1955 - Granville graduates P.S. 78 Elementary School
- 1957 - Granville and Norma begin dating
 - o Norma graduates St. Philip and James School
 - o Norma attends Evander Childs High School
- 1959 - Granville graduates DeWitt Clinton High School

1960s Wikipedia:

The **1960s** (pronounced "nineteen-sixties", shortened to the "'60s" or the "**Sixties**") was a decade that began on January 1, 1960, and ended on December 31, 1969. While the achievements of humans being launched into space, orbiting Earth, perform spacewalk and walking on the Moon extended exploration, the Sixties are known as the "countercultural decade" in the United States and other Western countries.

<u>Granville</u>	<u>Norma</u>
1960: Norma sees Granville working at amusement park: Says "Hi!"	
1960 – Granville enrolls NYU - Joins Air Force ROTC	
1961: Omega Psi Phi, Line of 20	1961 – Graduates Evander Childs HS
1964: Graduates NYU - Commissioned 2Lt. USAF 1965: -Marries - Active Duty to Kansas City, MO	1964: Marries 1965: Milagros Chilberry born
1966: Christopher Lee born	1966: Florencia Chilberry born
1967: Deployed to Vietnam	
1968: Stationed WPAFB, Dayton, OH -Sharen Lee born	1968: Michelle Chilberry born
1969: Released from active duty	

1970s Wikipedia:

The **1970s** (pronounced "nineteen-seventies"; commonly shortened to the "**Seventies**" or the "'70s") was the decade that began on January 1, 1970, and ended on December 31, 1979. In the 21st century, historians have increasingly portrayed the 1970s as a "pivot of change" in world history, focusing especially on the economic upheavals^[1] that followed the end of the postwar economic boom.

1970: Johnathan Lee born, Dayton OH	

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1980s Wikipedia:

The **1980s** (pronounced "nineteen-eighties", shortened to "**the '80s**" or "**the Eighties**") was the decade that began on January 1, 1980, and ended on December 31, 1989. The decade saw a dominance of conservatism and free market economics, and a socioeconomic change due to advances in technology and a worldwide move away from planned economies and towards laissez-faire capitalism compared to the 1970s.

1990s Wikipedia:

The **1990s** (often referred and shortened to as "**the '90s**" or "**nineties**") was the decade that began on 1 January 1990, and ended on 31 December 1999. Known as the "post-Cold War decade", the 1990s were culturally imagined as the period from the Revolutions of 1989 until the September 11 attacks in 2001. The dissolution of the Soviet Union marked the end of Russia's status as a superpower, the end of a multipolar world, and the rise of anti-Western sentiment.

2000s Wikipedia:

The **2000s** (pronounced "two-thousands"; shortened to the **'00s** and known as the **aughts** or **noughties**) was a decade that began on January 1, 2000, and ended on December 31, 2009. The early part of the decade saw the long-predicted breakthrough of economic giants in Asia, like India and China, which had double-digit growth during nearly the whole decade. It is also benefited from an economic boom, which saw the two most populous countries becoming an increasingly dominant economic force.

2010s Wikipedia:

The **2010s** (pronounced "twenty-tens" or "two thousand [and] tens"), variously nicknamed "**the '10s**" ["**the Tens**"], "**the Tenties**", or more rarely "**the Teens**"), was a decade that began on January 1, 2010, and ended on December 31, 2019. The decade began with an economic recovery from the Great Recession. Inflation and interest rates stayed low and steady throughout the decade, gross world product grew from 2010 to 2019. Global economic recovery accelerated during the latter half of the decade, fueled by strong economic growth in many countries, robust consumer spending, increased investment in infrastructure, and the emergence of new technologies.

2020s Wikipedia:

The **2020s** (pronounced "twenty-twenties" or "two thousand twenties"; shortened to "**the '20s**" and also known as "**The Twenties**") is the current decade that began on January 1, 2020, and will end on December 31, 2029. The 2020s began with the COVID-19 pandemic. The first reports of the virus were published on December 31, 2019, though the first cases are said to have appeared nearly a month earlier.