



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I worked hard all year on losing weight, improving my thinking and saving money. This is the first time I've ever been this organized with a positive outlook. I thought that after all of my hard work and efforts, I would be happy. I now feel lonely, depressed and miserable. I was so focused on myself that I isolated my friends and family. It seems things are worse and I don't know what to do with my new life. How can I adjust and become happy again?

Gabrielle
Online Reader

Dear Gabrielle:

You can easily reverse your situation by again becoming fat, happy and broke. However, your program won't be complete until you toss in a few pounds of self-pity. Or you can look at your current situation as a second chance at life and take advantage of all the benefits. You're entitled to put yourself first and if you find yourself alone, then make new friends, renew relationships and find some hobbies.

Dear Deanna!

I initiated a separation from my wife because she was having an affair. We've been living apart waiting for the time to pass so we can legally file for a divorce. I saw her a few weeks ago and I've fallen in love with her again and want to give the marriage another try. I am scared because I have trust issues and a lot of our arguments were caused by my insecurities. How can I work on myself so I can be more of an asset and save my marriage?

Marcus
Houston, TX

Dear Marcus:

If you go into this with a one-sided fantasy, you're going to be crushed. You must find the void in the relationship that caused your wife to cheat. Once this has been done, you have to confirm that your wife is interested in being with you and also saving your marriage. If you're able to get on the same page, you need to participate in joint as well as personal counseling. Anything less than this plan will leave you with pain, dashed hopes and an empty heart.

Dear Deanna!

My family has given me a lot of grief because I didn't celebrate the holidays and I didn't buy anything for my children. We decided as a family to go shopping after the holidays and enjoy the savings and spend less money. My children didn't give this a second thought until my mother and sister started badmouthing me and making them feel sad. Now my kids are mad at me and acting like they're hurt. How can I make them understand my decision?

Conservative Mom
Charleston, SC

Dear Conservative Mom:

You're entitled to run your household as you please unless your mother and sister are helping pay your bills. You know what's in your wallet, as well as the bills that lay ahead. If you made a plan and everyone was okay with it, then that's the plan. Load up your car, head to the stores and shop till you drop and laugh all the way to the bank. As soon as the plan kicks in, the kids will see what you're talking about, and they'll get over the drama and keep it moving.

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Turner remembered in service

GARDENA, Calif. (AP) - Ike Turner's funeral was part memorial service, part rock concert.

The nearly three-hour remembrance Friday at Greater Bethany Community Church City of Refuge in Gardena featured Turner's eight-piece band, the Kings of Rhythm, which performed rollicking renditions of some of the musician's greatest hits, including "Nutbush City Limits" and "Proud Mary." The songs brought the crowd of hundreds to its feet.

"Daddy wouldn't want any of us crying," said Turner's daughter, Mia Turner. "He would want us to throw a party."

Among those eulogizing Turner, who died Dec. 13 at age 76, were music producer Phil Spector and rock 'n' roll pioneer Little Richard, who described his friend as "one of the greatest musicians I have ever met in my life."

Richard said that Turner's breakthrough rock 'n' roll hit, "Rocket 88," "shook my soul."

"I took that same introduction and made 'Good Golly, Miss Molly,' he said. "I took that same thing and made a huge hit."

Turner was responsible for a string of hits throughout his career, including 1959's "A Fool in Love" and 1970's "Take You Higher," but his musical legacy was



Ronnie Turner, Tina Turner's son, and his wife Feda, addresses a memorial service for his father, music legend Ike Turner, at the City of Refuge church in Gardena, Calif. on Friday.

forever tarnished by his image as the drug-addicted, brutally abusive former husband of Tina Turner.

Spector, who produced Turner's song "River Deep, Mountain High," said, "There was only one Ike, and I learned more from Ike than any professors I know."

He went on to say that Turner was "demonized and vilified" by his ex-wife, Tina Turner. He called the 1993 film "What's Love Got To Do With It," based on her autobiography, a "piece of trash movie," inspiring applause from some mourners.

"Ike made Tina the jewel she was," Spector said.

Spector also accused Oprah Winfrey and Whoopi Goldberg of "demonizing" Turner on their talk shows.

Of Turner's 17 months in jail for a drug conviction in 1989, Spector said, "He was sent to prison for no other reason than he was a Black man in America."

Each speech was punctuated with performances by Turner's band, the crowd rising to its feet again and again to sing and dance along.

Concert promoter Charlie Dutton, Turner's friend and colleague for 40 years, called him "the most talented musical person to ever live on Earth."

"He doesn't get his just dues for what he really did," Dutton said.

Other speakers included Ike Turner Jr., who brought his father's two Grammy Awards on stage.

"He made billions and billions and billions of people happy," he said. "He had the best life."

The service began with a photo montage from throughout Turner's life set to his song "Jesus Loves Me," which features the refrain "I'm a bad boy, but Jesus loves me anyway."

A 10-piece horn-and-drum ensemble played as mourners left the church.

Jazz great Oscar Peterson dies at 82

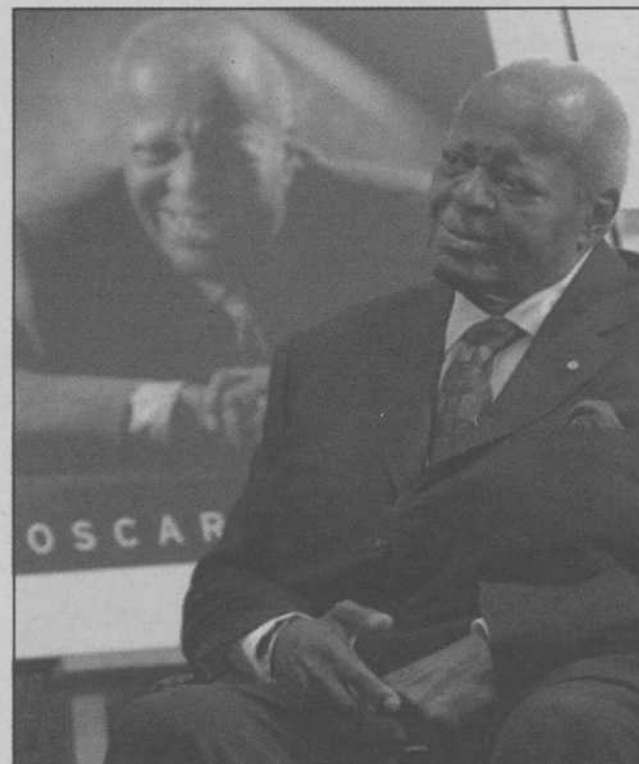
TORONTO (AP) - Oscar Peterson, whose early talent, speedy fingers and musical genius made him one of the world's best known jazz pianists, died at age 82.

He died Sunday in Mississauga, the Toronto suburb where Peterson lived, reportedly of kidney failure, according to local officials.

During an illustrious career spanning seven decades, Peterson played with some of the biggest names in jazz, including Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie. He is also remembered for touring in a trio with Ray Brown on bass and Herb Ellis on guitar in the 1950s.

Peterson's impressive collection of awards include all of Canada's highest honors, such as the Order of Canada, as well as a Lifetime Grammy (1997) and a spot in the International Jazz Hall of Fame.

His growing stature was



Legendary jazz pianist Oscar Peterson smiles while being honored on his 80th birthday with his picture on a Canadian stamp in August 2005 in Toronto.

reflected in the admiration of his peers. Duke Ellington referred to him as "Maharajah of the keyboard," while

Count Basie once said "Oscar Peterson plays the best ivory box I've ever heard."

In a statement, French

President Nicolas Sarkozy said "one of the bright lights of jazz has gone out."

"He was a regular on the French stage, where the public adored his luminous style," Sarkozy said. "It is a great loss for us."

Jazz pianist Marian McPartland called Peterson "the finest technician that I have seen."

McPartland said she first met Peterson when she and her husband, jazz cornetist Jimmy McPartland, opened for him at the Colonial Tavern in Toronto in the 1940s.

"From that point on, we became such good friends, and he was always wonderful to me and I have always felt very close to him," she said. "I played at his tribute concert at Carnegie Hall earlier this year and performed 'Tenderly,' which was always my favorite piece of his."

The American jazz pianist (See Peterson, Page 7)