

Mother Nature

“There was so much guilt I experienced in not becoming a mother. I remember apologising to my dear grandmother that she would never embrace my children...”

After trying for many years to conceive, Susan Gianevsky, 48, discovered abundance in the midst of her barrenness. Hayley Solich shares one woman’s story of a different kind of motherhood...

Ever since Susan Gianevsky was a little girl she wanted to be a schoolteacher. So it was no surprise when her love for children just seemed to grow and grow until she trained as a teacher and graduated in 1983.

Her passion for teaching, fuelled by this enduring love, was at the core of her dedication and competence. She was recognised by the Australian government for excellence in teaching and awarded an International Teaching Fellowship representing Australia in Europe. Susan so enjoyed this dance with inspiring children, however it was not completely satisfying.

You see, Susan had always desired to have children of her own. In fact, she didn’t even consider that she may not be able to and certainly never planned to be in her 40’s without any. Throughout her 20’s and early 30’s she kept insisting that she wanted to meet an amazing man who would be an amazing father, however, it wasn’t until her late 30’s that her dream was realised. Like many others her age, it never occurred to Susan that she might be too old to become a mother, as she was in good physical condition, having looked after her body through proper nutrition.

The reason for delaying starting a family was complex. When Susan met her husband he had grown daughters, and not wanting to upset the flow, she put their needs ahead of her own. She thought it was best to be patient regarding her own desire for a baby in case it made them feel uneasy.

Her husband, even though he had a family of his own, was supportive of Susan’s dream of becoming a mother and neither of them considered that it wouldn’t be a possibility.

“I remember experiencing my first miscarriage and thinking to myself, *It’s okay, there will be another pregnancy,*” recalls Susan.

Again it didn’t at all cross her mind that she wasn’t going to have the family she had always wanted.

By the time her 40th birthday arrived, she remembers trying that little bit harder with supplements and treatment programmes. She spent a small fortune trying all that she knew of that would naturally assist her in falling pregnant.

“I remember one day holding out my credit card and as the practitioner swiped it, thinking to myself, *How on earth did I just spend \$1,300 on a visit?* I guess that when one has a dream, they will do all that they need to in order to make it happen,” Susan reflects wryly.

Another miscarriage followed and this time Susan was left wondering how on earth she would pick herself up again to go through the whole programme.

“Early on I was never going to go through the IVF programme, because of my background in homeopathy. It just went against the grain to pursue an “unnatural” pathway. I stood still in my bathroom after being disappointed yet again and threw out all the pregnancy kits, sprays, tablets and journals that I had written in over the last few years and made a decision then and there to concentrate on what is working in my life, not on what isn’t,” says Susan.

It was at this point that she chose to no longer feel inadequate for not having children of her own, and this proved to be such a turning point. Susan was already Godmother to her sister’s daughter Bailey, which gave her great pleasure.

Registering her business and applying for a trademark for her unique homeopathic formula, Susan started working on promoting the formula and supporting women to shine and break free from all that was holding them back. All this happened around the time of her 43rd birthday. She consciously decided to put all her energy into her business and started calling *Be Free Habit Free Formula* her baby. “After a month or two, my stepdaughter Jodie also asked me to be the Godmother to her beautiful daughter, Annabel. I remember crying and feeling overwhelmed with joy. Two Goddaughters, how lucky was I!” Susan joyfully recalls.

“You see, not having children doesn’t mean you don’t experience motherhood, you just go about it in a different way. Maybe all women who open themselves to children experience motherhood and touch children’s lives in more ways than they will ever know. Marrying my husband allowed me to experience motherhood in a different way than what I had planned and I am so grateful,” explains Susan.

Susan also relates how she has observed these mothers in her world that gave her the opportunity to share in their glory, and how grateful she is to them. She recognises that motherhood is such a demanding job and is amazed at the many wonderful women that surround her life and how they cope.



Photo by Joel Rainford