

**Getting to know the WSDaH Family Members**  
***“Sometimes we live no particular way but our own”***  
***By Jill Matlow, Wall Street Dead aHead Family Member***



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*“Getting to know you, getting to know all about you...”*

Were you a huge fan of *The King and I* like I was? The music from that show is timeless.

But I digress...

I think we can all agree that the songs and lyrics from The Grateful Dead are also timeless. They've resonated with so many people over the years and still do. While Jerry is unfortunately no longer with us, the torch has been passed to Dead and Company, who are carrying on the tradition of evoking memories and striking chords with audiences both young and old. Their sold-out performances are evidence that the music never stopped.

I started listening to The Grateful Dead during my teenage years in the 1970s, a time of deep reflection and angst for me. But then again, what teenager isn't filled with angst? I often found solace listening to their music and could relate to so many of their song lyrics, which seemed (and still do) to reflect my journey through life.

Back in the day, I had prided myself on the fact that I never followed the masses and instead marched to the beat of my own drummer (Mickey Hart). I remember upon high school graduation, when 90% of my classmates headed off to Penn State, I made a left turn and chose a different college. Years later, those same friends would go on to marry and have children, while I remained single, married to my career.

*"Let your life proceed by its own design"*

Validation! The song lyrics from "Cassidy" seemed to describe me to a tee. Do your own thing, stray from the masses and remain true to yourself. It was as if that song was written just for me. Hearing it being played at shows still gives me chills as I can so relate to the lyrics and their meaning.

While still not conforming to the mainstream decades later, I decided to become a member of Wall Street Dead aHead Networking Events® founded by Deborah Solomon. Over the last 5 years, it's been so interesting getting to know the WSDaH Family members (who range in age from their early 20s to their early 60s). Our personalities are all so different, and yet, we are all so connected through the music of The Grateful Dead.

I thought it was time for me to tap into some of the Family members to find out which Grateful Dead songs spoke to them on a personal or professional level and best exemplified who they really were. Perhaps you will identify with some of their choices and the reasoning behind them.

## **“Terrapin Station”**

*“So many songs, so many lyrics, so many words I love. I wanted to find the Dead lyrics that connected to my career—and that means Terrapin. I really use the peak of ‘Terrapin Station’ as a mantra. ‘Inspiration, move me brightly’ means so many things to me usually based on the situation I’m in. I’m a consultant and part of my role is to innovate new ways of thinking about a problem and new solutions. If I am not moving brightly into new areas then I have a hard time being successful. When I face a tough situation with a mentee or team member, I will often ask for ‘inspiration’ on how to deal with it or to give me patience to listen and respond with kindness. It’s an idea and ethos that has served me well—move brightly (happily with joy and a smile) but do so while pushing for a new thought or new approach. Sometimes the mantra is a plea for calmness during a challenging day, other times it is a mantra to keep pushing to find the new insight or idea, but it always helps funnel nervous energy to something valuable. Sure sounds like the Dead to me!”*

[Will Gatziolis](#), Associate Principal, ZS

## **“They Love Each Other”**

*“The Grateful Dead has been a part of my family since I can remember. To paint a picture for you, my family’s computer mouse pad growing up was a stealie and the Dead played in our house all the time. Once my brother and I were old enough to go to shows and Dead and Company started touring, my family would buy tickets for the Mountain View show in California and I would fly back from New York to go with them. One year they played ‘They Love Each Other’. I distinctively remember looking around at my mom, dad and brother singing along and thought, ‘it doesn’t get much better than this’. A friend from college, Reza Zoroufie, saw some of my pictures and videos that I posted from the show and told me I should join the Wall Street Dead aHead Networking group. While I was a little nervous to attend my first Jam session, I was hopeful that everyone would be as friendly and approachable as other Deadheads I had met previously. Needless to say everyone was incredibly welcoming, especially Jill Matlow. She instantly made me feel part of the group and accepted within the community. I joined WSDaH in November of 2018 and instantly felt like I was a part of a family (or as we call it a Jamily!). Time and time again, I look around the room at monthly jams, events and shows and have a similar feeling as I did with my biological family. Even though I’ve only known some of these people for less than a year, the lyrics ‘There’s nothing you can say. Nothing that you need to add or do. They love each other’ seems to be the most fitting way for me to describe my time as a member of the group and being a Deadhead in general.”*

[Caitlin McCann](#), People Development Manager, LiveIntent

## **“The Music Never Stopped”**

*“This song truly speaks to me on many levels and was one of a handful that sparked my interest in the Grateful Dead based not only on the music alone, but truly through the lyrics.*

*‘There seems to be a beat now...I can feel it in my feet now...listen here it comes again...it’s a rainbow full of sound... it’s fireworks, calliopes and clowns... everybody’s dancing...come on children come on children, come on clap your hands’. Wow...powerful! Music has always been an important part in my life and I truly think I could never survive without it. It soothes, calms, and stimulates my mind and being. ‘The Music Never Stopped’ specifically embodies what the Grateful Dead means to me in bringing together people to celebrate music and togetherness. Throwing life’s problems by the wayside and forgetting everything and just enjoying the moment, letting music be the source of that pleasure. It resonates in happiness and dancing, clapping hands and celebration.*

*‘People joining hand in hand.. while the music plays the band...Lord they’re setting us on fire’. Another verse that embodies the happy-go-lucky spirit that I live my life by. Music that brings out the best in people, touching the human spirit and taking us all to another level. ‘Keep on dancing through to daylight... greet the morning air with song’. DANCE ALL NIGHT. And WAKE UP TO MUSIC!!! It’s important to take a second to realize that life means more than work and responsibility. Music that can help one de-stress, relax, an amazing gift that the Grateful Dead gave us for nearly three decades. It’s truly cathartic, necessary, and I try to live every day by ‘GREETING THE MORNING AIR WITH SONG’. Please just ‘DON’T EVER LET THE MUSIC STOP!’*

[Mark Newton](#), CMT, President/Founder, Newton Advisors, LLC

## **“Uncle John’s Band and Scarlet Begonias”**

*“When Jill asked me to write a testimonial about what Grateful Dead song and particular lyrics really spoke to me, I of course thought of ‘Ain’t no time to hate’ from ‘Uncle John’s Band’. I don’t think I really need to explain why but... it’s such a basic truth! Even when you don’t hit it off with someone, enjoy working with someone, even get in a fight with someone (which is bound to happen, we are all human), there’s no justification for hate. Looking at the world we live in, there’s enough hate without my contributing to it, life’s too short and too important to waste time and energy on such a useless emotion that gets us nowhere but more hate. The song lyrics really seem poignant now, especially given the current political climate.*

*On a much lighter note, ‘once in awhile you get shown the light’ from ‘Scarlet Begonias’ is so inspirational, so true that you can see something in a different way than you ever imagined if you just maintain an open mind and communication.*

*I think those two songs really go hand in hand for me. What I love about the people I've met through WSDaH is that they emulate a lot of that loving vibe and that's what makes getting to know new and old members really fantastic. I know the assignment was to pick just one, but that's an impossible task! If the request had been to name one song that I don't like, I might have been able to stick to the rules but hey it's the Grateful Dead; are there any rules?"*

[Dena Milrod](#), Project Manager/Business Analyst, HSBC Securities Srvs (USA) Inc.

Despite the WSDaH Family members' uniqueness in personality, age and profession, the common theme throughout these testimonials was peace, love, kindness and understanding, something The Grateful Dead espoused so many years ago. It's the invisible thread that binds us all together, especially important in today's world filled with so much uncertainty.

What Grateful Dead songs speak to your soul? *"Nothing to tell now, let the words be yours I'm done with mine..."*