

Joan Brock

Author of More Than Meets the Eye

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Courage / Heroism
- Faith / Spirituality
- Inspiration / Achievement
- Overcoming Adversity
- Women's Health & Issues

About Joan Brock

Joan Brock is an extraordinary woman, author and speaker. She has transformed adversity into challenge, and frustration into opportunity.

When Joan Brock spoke at the Million Dollar Round Table, her performance was heralded as extraordinary! Joan's own life has been nothing less than amazing. Her life story was made into an original television film for Lifetime! It is titled "More Than Meets the Eye: the Joan Brock Story", starring Ms. Carey Lowell. It continues to be replayed, and is also being shown around the world!

The movie is based on her book by the same title, published in 1994 by HarperCollins. Since that time Joan has toured the world, sharing her story as an inspirational speaker. Her personal style has won the hearts of her audiences, as they admire her wisdom, courage, faith and humor... and the difference she has made in the lives of so many!

Joan's poignant story of the sudden loss of her sight (WHILE working at a school for blind children), then the loss of her young husband to cancer and the journey of going forward positively and productively, will captivate your audience. As a single parent, widow, blind and disabled young woman... she simply did not allow herself to be told she couldn't do 'it'. Her charm and love for life will instill the gift of putting life in its proper perspective, as the audience also enjoys her humor and the unfolding of the 'happy ending'.

For more than two decades Joan has been encouraging her audiences to choose the path of a positive direction. The importance of organizing your life, personally and professionally, is an important point made with every participant.

Over time, Joan has been featured in many books, sharing her story of hope and courage. Most recently author Clifford E. Olstrom included Joan in his amazing book, *Undaunted by Blindness*. This publication is a concise list of Biographies of Four Hundred People Who Refused to Let Visual Impairment Define Them. She was also honored to be included in a coffee table book as one of 35 inspirational women in America, titled *Believing in Ourselves*.

Joan recently authored a new book titled, *Come to Your Senses*, An inspiring guide for using all of your senses. In a time of change and challenge, this book demonstrates the way in which to put life in its proper perspective and enables the reader to go forward positively and productively in their own life's journey.

No matter the audience size or demographics, Joan will target your theme, goal of the conference or simply inspire your attendees. Don't miss this poignant, humorous and uplifting presentation!

Select Keynotes

- **20/20 Vision Looking to 2020**

2020 theme: It is an obvious connection for me, as a blind woman, to refer back to the world of perfect sight in reaching for your goals.

Joan had 20/20 vision before my vision loss, but the gifts I have been given in recreating my personal 20/20 vision are innumerable.

In clarifying the 2020 theme, it is an obvious connection to refer back to the world of perfect sight in reaching for your goals. Joan focuses to encourage the audience going forward to think positively amidst changes and challenges.



Joan dispels the stereotype of a blind woman. Looking refocusing goals and what is blurring or blocking the vision?

A few of my focus points in the 2020 speech are, asking the attendees:

"How are you using your vision, both literally and figuratively?"

"What life obstacles have blurred the focus of your goals?"

"What steps can you take to make your goals clear?"

- **More Than Meets The Eye**

Joan's keynote address, "More Than Meets The Eye," is a surefire attention grabber as Joan draws parallels between her own story and the challenges which face organizations. The very nature of today's business environment means the possibilities of merger, reorganization, or economic downturn are constantly on the horizon, and organizations must absorb such events with a minimum of disruption. As Joan puts it, "Life is full of irreversible opportunities, and you have a choice to see them as assets or obstacles." Urging audiences to "play the hand you're dealt," Joan helps organizations see corporate challenges from a new perspective.

- **Using ALL of Your Senses**

Using ALL of Your Senses

We all have these five senses - smell, touch, sight, taste, and hearing. When one loses her/his sight, one relies on her/his other senses. The other senses take over. To Joan, touch became important as she relies on guidance from others. Touch can invade someones space, but others do not see that way when helping Joan.

... *What of your senses are you not using in your personal and professional lives?*

- **When Husband Joe Passed Away...Joan Had to Focus on Next Steps**

When Joan's husband, Joe, passed away, Joan, became a widow, single parent, blind woman, disabled woman all at once. Joan had many labels at once. It was Joan's choice to go forward. If one stays bitter, one will not get better. Joan's had to focus on how to go forward. Joan chose to move back to be near her family. Out of this journey, "More Than Meets The Eye" book and subsequent Lifetime movie unfolded.

There is beauty in those blurred years as Joan eventually met back up with a high school friend, Jim Brock, the Butterfly Man. Jim is a renown lepidopterist, butterfly enthusiast. Even though Joan can't see the butterflies, but Joan hears the "awe" in them through Jim and others.

Select Book Titles

- **2020:** More Than Meets The Eye: The Story of a Remarkable Life and a Transcending Love (2nd Edition)
- **2012:** Come to Your Senses: An Inspirational Guide for Using All of Your Senses
- **1994:** More Than Meets The Eye: The Story of a Remarkable Life and a Transcending Love

Select Articles

- [I Love Life: Teacher, Author Joan Brock Overcomes Blindness, Personal Loss](#)

In spite of the blindness, Joan, who truly loves life, maintained a positive mental attitude – an attitude that prevented her from feeling sorry for her.

Select Testimonials

"After being captured by the early chapters of Joan Brock's story, I locked my door, pulled out the telephone jack, and read it from cover to cover...It is an absolutely wonderful book."

— *Betty White, star of The Golden Girls, film & stage*

"Joan's life was literally, physically and emotionally in darkness. But through her great faith she gathered a renewed sight from her soul, shining her love onto everyone she encounters. There is no greater grace than the courage, strength and wisdom that she shares with us."

— *Deacon Jim Knipper, St. Paul Catholic Church, Princeton, NJ*

"In thirty years of conducting FRA Annual Meetings Joan Brock's presentation stands out as the most meaningful and inspiring program we

have ever booked with an outside the industry speaker. Those joint FRA/PFA members who heard Joan speak at an earlier Annual Meeting will agree with my praise, and those members who attend the OFA 2012 Annual Meeting will quickly grasp why I feel the way I do about Joan Brock. Simply put she is a remarkable woman. You will never forget her story."

– *Forest Resources Association President Richard Lewis, January, 2012*

"Your insight, presentation and stage presence capped a wonderful day for our attendees, surely not to be forgotten. Your philosophy and example of overcoming adversity to achieve ultimate success truly inspired those who heard you."

– *George Martin, Bakersfield Business Conference*

"Joan is like the ultimate life astronaut in her unique view of the world with its beauty and challenges." Yes, she gets above it all and shares her findings.

– *Lawrence L. Grypp, President, Goering Center for Family and Private Business at the University of Cincinnati*

"WOW! We knew you were going to be good, but you still managed to exceed all expectations! You truly inspired our people to look for and find those things that will bring them joy and a sense of accomplishment in their lives."

– *Mark Dixon, Children's Miracle Network*

"You changed lives! You inspired our members to be better at work, at play, and at home."

– *Million Dollar Round Table*

"Joan is one of the most powerful speakers I have listened to and know that the approximate two thousand people in attendance with me were touched by her emotional message... Though her story fits perfectly with the educator world, I would recommend her for any speaking venue."

– *Mr. Micah Lewis, Superintendent, Liberty-Eylau Independent School District, Texarkana, Texas*

"Joan inspires all that are touched by her. Through Joan's insights we are given a crystal clear view of the beauty and the blessings in the world around us. "

– *Ronald Price, Senior Vice President, Chief Marketing Officer CLA, American National Insurance Company.*