



## Three Lessons We Can All Learn From a Great Holiday Classic

This past month I took some time to watch a few oldies but goodies that were on television. You know the ones: *The Bells of Saint Mary's* (go get 'em Sister Mary Benedict!), *It's A Wonderful Life* (where are ZuZu's petals?), and *A Christmas Carol* (Tiny Tim – you're my hero!) to name just a few. Call me nostalgic but they just don't make movies like they used to.

I was in a particularly reflective mode while watching *A Christmas Carol*. Seriously, how can you not be when the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future are there to help you along in your thinking?

Here's what I took away from the ghosts of Christmas.

1. **When looking back, focus on the positive.** Yes, this has been a tough year for many but I know there are things that have given all of us joy and for which we can be grateful for. An organization that I have been involved with for over 15 years is closing its doors forever this month. Yet, I had the best time ever at our last conference making memories that I'll treasure forever. Here's a photo to prove it. (Yes, that's me in the pink boa!)
2. **Today, find a way to share your gifts with others.** It has been said that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give" (Henry Bucher). Right now figure out one thing you can do to make someone else's life easier. Then do it. This month I have been coaching job seekers and connecting them with recruiters and other resources. Why? Because coaching and connections are one gift that I can share with others right now that I know will make a difference in someone's life.
3. **Create your own future.** Mary Kay Ash once said, "If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right." So think about what changes you wish to make in the coming year. Make sure your mindset matches up with what you want to change. Before you know it you will have the future you desire. Remember, it's in your hands.

This Christmas season I hope that you will revel in your blessings, share your gifts with others and create the future you wish to experience. If you're lucky, your future will be so bright you'll have to wear shades. What are you waiting for?