

Centennial Bank Rewards Safety with iPad



Jennifer Hawkins of Centennial Bank, Muriel and Kellen Clarke, Jennifer Miller and Stephanie Scuderi of Centennial Bank.

At the beginning of a recent School Board Workshop, Interim Superintendent for the Monroe County School District, Dr. Joseph Burke, recognized Kellen and Muriel Clarke for signing the Contract for Life, committing to safety and responsibility following a recent Florida S.A.F.E. Street Smart presentation to the freshmen class. Dr. Burke also asked Kellen to lead School Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Centennial Bank echoed the recognition and rewarded Kellen with an Apple iPad valued at more than \$500. "It was very eye opening and scary. Some of the photos were kind of gross, but I am glad I saw it. My friends and I thought it was a powerful message. My Mom and I went over the contract together, and we both promised to make good decisions on the road," said Kellen, a straight A student who is currently third in her class.

Kellen was one of 32 students who signed the Contract and for doing so, was entered into the iPad

drawing sponsored by Centennial Bank. Jennifer Miller, Commercial Loan Officer at Centennial Bank and coordinator of the Florida S.A.F.E. presentation said "It amazes me that the majority of the Freshman class raised their hands when asked how many students don't wear their seatbelts EVERYTIME they get into a car. I think the demonstration made a huge impact on this group of kids, and that makes me feel like we made a difference in the safety of the young people in our community." "We intended for the iPad giveaway to entice the kids to sign the Contract for Life - whatever it takes to make these students sit up and listen to something that may potentially save their lives."

Two weeks ago, Centennial Bank sponsored the S.A.F.E. "Street Smart" program for the Coral Shores High School freshmen class. Aiming to increase awareness among teens about the dangers of driving without a seat belt, acting responsibly and staying focused while driving

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Dumbing Ourselves Down Wanting to Join

There is a difference between shifting our energy to accommodate people we are around and dumbing ourselves down.

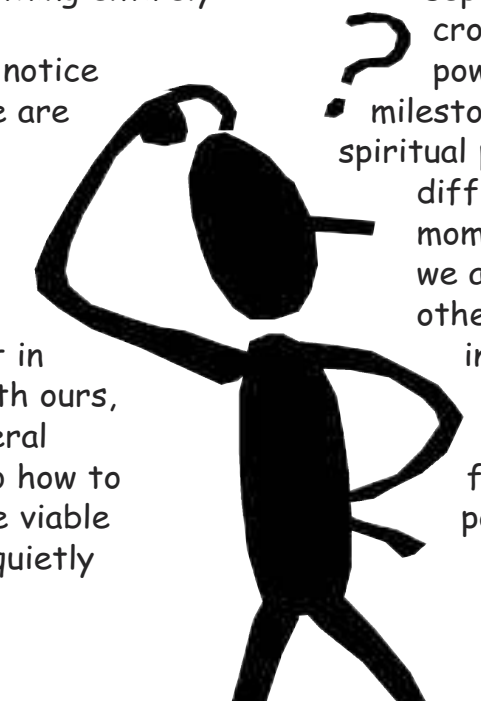
The ability to go into any social situation and sense the level of consciousness is a gift. It enables us to move considerably in a world that holds people of all levels of awareness. However, there is a difference between shifting our energy to accommodate people and dumbing ourselves down to a regrettable degree. Sometimes, when we get into a particular social situation, we may feel pressure to play it small in order to fit in. Perhaps everyone is drinking or smoking excessively, engaging in gossipy small talk, or complaining bitterly about politics. It is one thing to notice this and modify our expectations and another thing entirely to join in.

When we notice where people are coming from and acknowledge to ourselves that their energy is not in alignment with ours, we have several choices as to how to proceed. One viable option is to quietly

endure the situation, keeping to ourselves until it is time to leave. In this way, we take care of our own consciousness and protect our growth process. Another option is to interact in a way that honors and pays respect to the people in the group, while gently attempting to shift the level of consciousness with our input. In order to do this, we must maintain our own vibration, which means that joining in by dumbing down is not an option.

When we choose to dumb ourselves down to fit in, we not only sell ourselves short but we also lose a possible opportunity to influence the situation for the good of all concerned. Our desire to join in may come from our natural yearning to feel connected to the people around us. There is no shame in this, but being able to stand on our own,

separate from the crowd, is a powerful milestone on any spiritual path. It can be difficult in the moment, but when we arrive on the other side, our integrity intact, we may find ourselves feeling positively smart.



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