

## MORNING STORIES TRANSCRIPT

*Thanksgiving and Getting: Julie Nardone thanks friends, her dentist, and the one person in her life who already has everything.*

**Tony Kahn:**

Hi everybody! This is Tony Kahn, the producer and director of Morning Stories from WGBH in Boston. A phrase has been dropping out of the English language. That phrase is: "Your Welcome." In stores, businesses, information kiosks, supermarkets, all over America, wherever people meet to do each other a favor or transact business, the general standard response to "thank you" is ... Gary?

**Gary Mott:**

No, thank YOU.

**Tony Kahn:**

Some people say this is one thank you too many. What does the giver of a kindness have to thank the getter for? Julie Nardone has been mulling over that question and she tells us what she's been learning about gratitude from her own life. We call her story: "Thanksgiving and Getting."

**Julie Nardone:**

I grew up in a wealthy town. The kind that gets an almost embarrassing response when you mention it. My father's business did well and I reaped the benefits. Showed my horse on weekends, played junior golf at a private country club, attended overnight camp in summer, graduated from college without student loans, and always thought I needed more.

[background voices saying: "Good afternoon, how are you?"]

**Julie Nardone:**

One day while inching along in line at the sandwich shop,...

[background voice: "cash or credit?" ..."whatever".]

**Julie Nardone:**

Bonnie, a colleague, leaned over to me and said, "Do you know you never say thank you'?"

[background voice: "Have a great day"]

**Julie Nardone:**

"I do too," I said. Then reconsidered, "Really?"

"It's kinda rude," she said.

[music... and Julie's voice saying in a range of different tones: thank you, thank You, thank you!]

**Julie Nardone:**

In the years that followed, I struggled with my "thank yous." Most of the time, if I listened, I could feel them falling a little flat.

[background voice; "Thanks". Julie: Oh, thank you so much!"]

**Julie Nardone:**

And genuine opportunities weren't all that easy to find.

[Horn blowing and driver yelling: "What are you waiting for? Your favorite color?"]

[sounds of rush hour traffic]

**Julie Nardone:**

"Thanks a lot, buddy!" [traffic sounds]

Until one day at a talk on gratitude, I learned I might be looking in the wrong place. "Being grateful for what you have," the speaker said, "makes you have more to be grateful for! Start a daily gratitude journal and you'll see what I mean."

Intrigued, I started to write.

January 5th: I'm thankful the dentist could save my tooth!

March 19th: I'm...thankful...my grandfather had the courage to immigrate from Italy in 1911!

April 30th: I'm thankful I do not know why I exist. It would spoil the adventure.

June 16th: I'm thankful the town I live in saved its historic town hall from the wrecking ball. The lingering scent of yesterday cannot be replaced.

September 21st: I'm thankful I went on that blind date fourteen years ago. My husband is the best friend I've ever had.

October 18th: I'm thankful I made time to see Uncle Vic before he died. People facing death do not have time for pretense.

November 12th: I'm thankful for Bonnie and the time she told me, I was not thankful.

And one last thank you, not in my journal, but in a letter, to the one person in my

life who already had everything you could buy.

Thanksgiving 2007: "Dear Dad, just wanted to thank you for everything you've ever done for me. For your love and support, for being a great Dad.

To my surprise, here's what I got back:

"Dear Julie, For one of the best gifts I've ever received. [music] Thank you."

[music]

**Tony Kahn:**

Today's morning story: "*Thanksgiving and Getting.*" A great thing happened to me the other day as I was coming into, into GBH, one of our colleagues was getting out of her car at the same time I was getting out of my car. She said, "How are you"? And I said, "Well, I'm one cup of coffee short of being conscious." She said, "Uoo, my coffee! I forgot"!

So, she ran back to her car and got her coffee cup. And we keep on walking to the door, we get to the door and I take out my magnetized pass card to let us in and it's not working. I'd been away and I guess I had handed into the hotel my GBH pass card and had kept the hotel room pass card instead. [laughter] And she lets me in with her pass card. If we hadn't stopped and said hi to each other, we both would've been in trouble.

**Gary Mott:**

Yeah, well 'tis the season, Tony, I mean...

**Tony Kahn:**

I remember more of my Thanksgivings than I do maybe more of my Christmases or Hanukkahs or New Years because it's -- you're celebrating being together. Sometimes [laughing] not necessarily in a nice way.

**Gary Mott:**

Turkey is a powerful, you know, narcotic and that can really bring it out of all of us and, you know, getting family that's far removed from one another together, is always an emotionally charged situation. I guess the best advice is chill out.

**Tony Kahn:**

Do not knock each other over the head with the turkey. [snickers]

**Gary Mott:**

But what an opportunity to make it better...

**Tony Kahn:**

There's always football.

**Gary Mott:**

There's always...

**Tony Kahn:**

That's another part of Thanksgiving for those who may not celebrate it...yes, watching football on television.

**Gary Mott:**

American football, for all our friends in Brazil. [laughter] Lori and I are hosting this year.

**Tony Kahn:**

Yes, how many people are you going to have?

**Gary Mott:**

Twelve people.

**Tony Kahn:**

Family and friends?

**Gary Mott:**

Just kind of a healthy stew of whatever: family, friends...

**Tony Kahn:**

Uh huh.

**Gary Mott:**

...dogs, a couple from Kentucky, my brother and his girlfriend, artists from New York...

**Tony Kahn:**

Mm, hmm...

**Gary Mott:**

...you know possibly a friend of ours from Boston who is dating someone named Ekinay

**Tony Kahn:**

Ekinay?

**Gary Mott:**

...Uh, who's Nigerian,...

**Tony Kahn:**

Uh,huh.

**Gary Mott:**

... and he actually, Tony, he works in the building right across the street,  
[chuckling]

**Tony Kahn:**

That's three miles away!

[laughter]

**Tony Kahn:**

That's another thing about Thanksgiving. If people who otherwise might not meet, are going to end up at the same table, it's likely to be a Thanksgiving table. Anyway, listen: we love to hear from you on any subject. In fact, we've been hearing from you lately about some of the videos that we've been putting up on our website. You've written to tell us that you appreciate the fact that there's another layer that we can add to a story and you both enjoyed listening to the stories and if we have a video version, seeing that as well so, we'll, we'll take that as permission to keep on doing them, and if I've read you wrong, let us know.

**Gary Mott:**

Morning Stories on the web, Morning Stories on Flickr, on Youtube, you can all get there via our website at [wgbh.org/morningstories](http://wgbh.org/morningstories).

**Tony Kahn:**

Well, Gary, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and thanks for everything you've done for the last three years to make my life so easy and, and this show so good. I appreciate it.

Gary Mott:

Your welcome.

[music]

**Tony Kahn:**

You know my, my Thanksgiving this year is going to be a little bit unusual. The person giving it is getting divorced.

**Gary Mott:**

Hmm.

**Tony Kahn:**

Her husband's decision. Just two weeks or so ago. And yet, both of them felt that in spite of their own problems with each other, that they shouldn't deny each other Thanksgiving. And he said to her, "Please have Thanksgiving for your friends and family and I'll have Thanksgiving with my children from another marriage." So we're going to go and have Thanksgiving and it will be the last Thanksgiving that she will be giving in this place that's been her home. It's going to be a very,...very meaningful one.

**Gary Mott:**

Hmm, well you know...

**Tony Kahn:**

I'll let you know about it when I, when I get back.

**Gary Mott:**

You know, there might be a lot of laughter and a lot of levity, I mean...

**Tony Kahn:**

I'm all for that.

Gary Mott:

Yeah, always leave 'em laughing, right? Isn't that the Kahn mantra?

Tony Kahn:

Yeah. . . yeah. . . .

[music]

Transcribed by: Lynn Relyea

[End of recording]