



## Board Members Linda Cox and Artie Isaac Discuss What Home Means to Them

**Artie:** What does home mean to you?

**Linda:** Home is a place that we come to, a place we make peace. It reminds me of the peaceful places in my life, like the home that I grew

up in. My mother and father are both from the South. They really made it homey. My mother believed in cooking. My father would go out and work and come home and everything would be in order. I had a really good childhood. My husband Chris also came from a peaceful home. And so, when we put together this home, I put up pictures of the family. We both came from

strong family backgrounds. We had family reunions, vacationing in the homes of our extended family wherever they lived.

Now home is a place we can just kick back and be ourselves, exhale, and be able to think. There're so many things going on in this world and in our lives, and you just want to be able to be in a place where you can talk to each other and relax and gather up your energy and spirit. So when you go back out into that world, you have the strength that you need to face the day or whatever comes your way. What about you?

**Artie:** I like how you describe it, Linda. Home is a place I go to recover. There used to be the concept of Valhalla. The Vikings would go to Valhalla after a battle, and that's where they would be healed for the next day. For me, home is that way. I know some people go home, and home for them is another battleground. I am lucky that it's not a battlefield for me. What makes it home is that Alisa is here. In fact, sometimes when we're on the road, you know, if we're traveling somewhere together, I still think I'm home, because Alisa is with me.

You mentioned orderliness and I feel the same way. I like home because I can put the furniture where I want it. That might sound insignificant,

but it's our place. We can mess it up the way we want to, and clean it when we want to.

What else makes home different from every other place? I don't like to take pride, but I think



Board members Artie Isaac and Linda Cox

I do take pride—not in the luxury of a roof over our heads, but in the orderliness of it. It may not look orderly to a visitor, but I know where everything is, and I take comfort in that.

The way you spoke about peace in the home reminds me of a Jewish concept, *shalom bayit*, which means a peaceful home. It's the ideal, because a community can only be as strong as the sum of its households and businesses. A healthy community is responsible for the homes and businesses of everyone, because the failure of any becomes a challenge for the community.

**Linda:** Our summers were spent going to visit my grandmother and grandfather on a farm. We loved that. He grew sugarcane and made sorghum. My grandmother would stay at home, where she cooked and cleaned and had a little garden beside the house. They got used to just appreciating simple things. They were peaceful people, not hollering. Just grounded...very grounded people.

**Artie:** Oh, I know some people who grew up in very turbulent homes. And then when they get their own home, they have the chance for peace. I've seen some people take the opportunity to live in a peaceful home that's just completely different from where they came from.

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