

And when I die...

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Okay, maybe a bit of a foreboding title but as this topic occurs to me, it's a very positive, even uplifting idea and I hope after reading, you'll agree.

I've always loved the Blood, Sweat and Tears rendition of Laura Nyro's "And When I Die." One of the first 'big' concerts I ever attended was when my friend Sindy and I went to see BST in San Jose and that song, more than anything else, hooked me.

Next month, I'll be attending my 51st high school reunion and yesterday I found myself looking at the list of classmates who've gone before us. I found myself wondering how each of their lives evolved. Not how they died, but how they lived. And it got me to thinking along with Laura Nyro about how I want to leave things when I go.

So, without further cogitation, my quick list:

- I want to leave behind friends and family who've no question as to how much I loved and valued them and who are glad for the time we've spent together.
- I want to have tried everything on my bucket list for which I've time and resources, but...
- ...I also want to leave undone a healthy list of things I would have gotten to sometime. I hope never to run out of ideas for what to do next, and next, and next...
- I hope that my family (and friends) will keep only those things of mine that mean something to them or that they will find useful for their own reasons.
- I hope that nothing of mine will become a legacy burden (Can't throw away Grandpa's [whatever] because it was his favorite). – If **you** don't love the thing, out it goes.
- I take care to acquire good tools – frequently old, tired ones I restore to full use - that help me do better work. Not necessarily so I can work faster or more easily, but always better. So when the time comes to clear out my workshop, please consider following these three steps:
 - My wife, daughters and brother get the true heirlooms (Uncle Bud's little square that was laying on his bench when he'd passed, stuff like that – I'll make a list);
 - My survivors should take tools / equipment they want and will use;
 - With what's left, please find a young person (or persons?) with a good heart and a passion for the craft, who would otherwise take years to accumulate a useful set of shop tools. Then, you know what to do.
- Do what you will with my writings. Once I'm gone I don't need a vote.
- Please, if you loved me, burn my underwear.