

311 words, column #20  
Java Talk  
(for September 6, 2007 to September 12, 2007)

## **Every Age Is The Best Age**

### *For Grandpeople's Day*

New words are always being added to dictionaries, once they start getting used enough, so I am surprised that the word, grandpeople, isn't listed in any of the 10,009,994 words in the 942 dictionaries indexed on the OneLook Dictionary Search site ([www.onelook.com/](http://www.onelook.com/)), especially since there are, at this moment, 20,800 hits for grandpeople on Google.

I am bringing this up because, in the United States, at least, National Grandparents' Day is always celebrated on the first Sunday after Labour Day. The day includes contests for who's the oldest grandparent, who has the most grandkids, and so on.

However, if you have read, or plan to read, or at least have heard and thought about the personal essays in the anthology, *Nobody's Mother: Life Without Kids*, edited by Lynne Van Luven; or about her current work-in-progress that will include essays by men who have chosen to not have children, too, you might wonder, as I do, how a sequel, *Nobody's Grandparent* might unfold.

My own grandmother, Laura Bergstrom, was 65 years old when I was born, so when I hear about people my age being grandparents already, I am shocked! They seem way too young! Anyway, Gram died when she was in her nineties, having lived a colourful, and dynamic, and impressive lifestyle, to the very end. After raising her eight children and outliving her husband, she lived the rest of her life on her own, and certainly without any loss of her mental faculties. If longevity along with vitality wasn't considered so weird by so many people back then, I am sure she would still be here, actively going about her life. Perhaps, in many ways, she still is.

Also, I have many cousins, and second and third cousins, so I say she wins. But I also think she would win as a grand person as well as a grand parent.

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