Setting sail and venturing beyond life’s safe harbor

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Those words are often attributed to John A. KARL SHERIDAN, who is prob-ably remembered by you as the father of your favorite weather forecaster.

Like most wisdom, it’s easy to admire but hard to imple-
ment. I often say it to others, encouraging them to throw off the moorings, toss the rope, and set sail. It’s easy to talk about, but hard to take a risk. Yet, if I were myself a ship, I would set sail with the wind, the dawn, the breeze, the waves, and the moment. I would be fearless.

Lately, my four children have been helping me understand the meaning of the words “tugging at this and that.” They are never still, always in motion, and I often find myself tugging at their arms, urging them to be patient.

Modern it is, but the traditions that have shaped it are still very much a part of its character. The streets are lined with restored buildings, and the entire city is a living museum of mid-century modern architecture.

The other reason many people have a soft spot for Ravenna is its rich his-
torical heritage. Tappan Elementary School was built in 1918, and has been serving generations of Ravenna grade school students, who have been retired from active duty. It has now been turned over to a local non-profit called the Tappan School Association, which is dedicated to preserving the building.

Part of the reason it is so hard to think of this building as historic is how

modern it still looks. Because the archi-
tects avoided any unnecessary de-
tails or ornamentation, and because they specified durable materials and sound construction techniques, the structure has stood up well over the years and shows no signs of wear.

The other reason many people have a special connection to Ravenna is its

The First National Bank & Trust (now Chase Bank), located at Main and Marion streets, built in 1958. It was a strikingly modern design for Ravenna, and downtown’s first truly mod-
ern structure with a portico of red granite. A tall and elegant corner tower dominates the street scene. The building is a testament to the city’s forward-thinking approach to architecture.

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I T’S UNLIKELY THAT WHEN most citizens of Ravenna think of our city, they think of anything much beyond the modern-era buildings, the Tappan Elementary School, or the First National Bank & Trust.

However, this building, constructed in the early 1920s, was one of the most important cultural landmarks in the city. This is because the building served as a community center for many years, hosting everything from political rallies to dances.

Part of the reason it is so hard to think of this building as historic is how

a place to call home. This is the reason we are here.

But like most things, this journey is not without its challenges. It is not a smooth sail, but rather, a journey filled with ups and downs.

We will miss Kitty Lou for-
herself, a common focus
began for many of us. She was a source of comfort, a friend, and a confidant.

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