AUGUST 2015 HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 8

August Inside Hillcrest

By Cindy Abraham

Welcome to our bi-annual "Whimsy" issue. This is the one that all we have to do is laugh and think good thoughts. Hopefully we have enough of a variety to delight and/or offend almost everyone. Thanks to Sandy Holloway who was one of our biggest contributors this year. One would think that the material on the internet would get better but it doesn't. Sandy has an eye for the good ones.

We still have our Legal Shield and Meditation articles that both keep us on our toes and give us peace of mind at the same time. We have a couple new advertisers. We all have neighbor s who left Hillcrest and are now living at Five Star Premier Residences of Hollywood (we used to call it North Park by Hyatt on N Park Rd and Sheridan.) We deliver Inside Hillcrest to those who let us know they are going there. For those of you who remember Rae Schneeweiss from Building 21, she is doing great...at 103 years old! I had the pleasure of meeting Margie Longstreth, the Executive Director last time I was there. What a woman! She is one of the most passionate, loving, inspiring ladies I have met in a long time. Along with being incredibly forward-thinking and savvy, she has a team at Five Star that is amazing. From the time I walk in the door I feel the energy and happiness of the staff. She sent us a story written by one of her residents that will really make you smile. My friend Sharon, who ended up marrying her high school sweetheart Tommy 40 years later, and I were talking about people who are lucky enough to fall in love late in life with someone they had been in love with early in life. The story is about the proverbial second chance at its finest. See page 2.

If you are not getting our email issues of IH and want to, let us know.

Email us at:

I also had the pleasure of meeting

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Building A Better Community

Kate Pokorny of the Alzheimer's Association who contributed another beautiful and inspiring true story for us on page 9. Dementia and Alzhiemers has or will touch all of our lives. Many of you will remember the story of my mom who passed away after suffering with Lewy Bodies' Dementia. It is great to know we have wonderful people like Kate and Margie taking care of our elderly the way they do; especially when some of us aren't far away from the age where we may need their help. I already picked out my room at Five Star when I was with Margie and Kate has promised to remind me how to get there!

We will get the Hillcrest Leadership Council members back together in the next month or so and invite Margie to talk about what we can do as board members or just concerned neighbors when one of our residents exhibits signs of dementia or Alzheimer's. You will be given a crash course in what to look for and who to call. It is always a sticky situation when we know one of our neighbors needs help; there is a fine line between being helpful and being intrusive. Calling their family can be an uncomfortable experience and the reaction isn't always what we expect. All in all, it would be best to just call Margie and tell her what is going on. She can come to your building to visit and evaluate. She is practiced in speaking with the elderly and their relatives; all in all a much better way to make sure our neighbors stay safe.

We have a Real Estate, Construction and Home Alliance group at the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce that has turned into an invaluable resource for competent, honest, LOCAL service providers in related industries. Thanks to them, the A Team Florida website will soon have a list of vendors that you can call on for estimates when you are buying, selling, moving, remodeling or maybe you would just like your building to employ a property manager who takes good care of a building while staying out of the politics and drama. In the meantime, the RECON Alliance has published a newsletter, a few of which will be delivered along with Inside Hillcrest and everybody's favorite, The SharpSaver magazine. Sam De Carlo, the owner, actually makes a special delivery to Building 26 because the residents don't want to wait for the IH delivery to get their copies. Plus he has a soft spot for Mrs. Smith... If you have a new business or just want more business, the SharpSaver is one of the best print venues to get your message out to the most people.

For your clip and save pleasure, on this page are the words I try to live by; I am definitely a work in progress. When I get there, Etta and Enid will be ever so proud. For now, it is too hot to do anything but relax and enjoy a light read. So go ahead.

Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind. Look at the sunny side of everything and make your **optimism** come true. Think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best. Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future. Give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others. Live in the faith that the whole world is on your side so long as you are true to the best that is in you!

- Christian D Larson

My Travel Plans for 2016

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane, They don't have an airport; you have

to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work. I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, I try not to visit there too often. I've



been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older. One of

my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps

up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there.



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Four Marriages

By By Leo Isen

It was 1944 in the Philippines. Three off-duty pilots, a jeep and a case of beer went looking for the master fortune teller of the Orient. Just about midnight we found his house. He

spoke English very well and was pleased to have my friends and me seeking his knowledge.

He predicted the future for my two semi-inebriated buddies, and then it was my turn. He told me that I would be married four times. I wet my drawers laughing, believing in the vow "Till death do us part"

After living through that vow twice and burying my second wife, I met Victoria. She was a beautiful, smiling, guitarist and dancer, who spoke four languages. Victoria wanted to get married; however I was haunted by the memory of the fortune: I would be married four times. That would make Victoria the third, meaning there was one more remaining.

Eventually, Victoria and I got married. But the specter of Victoria's demise wouldn't leave me.

Victoria's good friend told her she had better find a cure for my unhappiness. Victoria asked, "What can I do?" Her friend, a very ingenious woman, said, 'Marry him again, that way you'll be wife number four."

Needless to say, we did get married again, on the second anniversary of our first wedding. I enjoyed that ceremony more than any of the others, and we lived happily for 45 years. I've used up all my points, but it was worth it.

Margie Longstreth Executive Director

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BELOW IS A LIST OF WAYS TO WIN AN ARGUMENT WITH A WOMAN

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- You can educate ignorance, you can medicate crazy, but you can't fix stupid. Duct tape can't fix stupid either, but it can muffle the sound.
- Teach your daughter how to shoot, because a restraining order is just a piece of paper.
- 1 There are only two ways to handle a woman; and nobody knows either one.
- I wish more of my handcuff stories involved sex rather than police officers.
- **5** I drive too fast to worry about cholesterol.
- 6 Keep a man? It's easy. We are too lazy to leave if a woman does just three things: Keep the candy store open, kill the bitch switch and go into the kitchen and rattle a few pots and pans every once in a while.
- And the Ragin' Cajun's new complaint: I'm fed up with the excuses women come up with to avoid having sex, like: "I'm tired." "I'm washing my hair." "I've got a headache." "I'm your sister-in-law."

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Mark Hahn is a resident in Hillcrest 19. His first gig in 1969 was opening for the Grateful Dead and Joe Cocker in Queens, New York. His bands have opened for Judas Priest, Muddy Waters and the Outlaws. Mark has also played on stage with Alabama and Merle Haggard's band Strangers. Mark can play any of the above band instruments except drums and will play whatever is left after he sees what you can do!

She Will Always Be Your Mom

Consumed by my loss, I didn't notice the hardness of the pew where I sat. I was at the funeral of my dearest friend - my mother. She finally had lost her long battle with cancer. The hurt was so intense; I found it hard to breathe at times. Always supportive, Mother clapped loudest at my school plays, held a box of tissues while listening to my first heartbreak, comforted me at my father's death, encouraged me in college, and prayed for me my entire life. When mother's illness was diagnosed, my sister had a new baby and my brother had recently married his childhood sweetheart, so it fell on me, the 27-year-old middle female child without entanglements. to take care of her. I counted it an

"What now, Lord?" I asked sitting in church. My life stretched out before me as an empty abyss.

My brother sat stoically with his

face toward the cross while clutching his wife's hand. My sister sat slumped against her husband's shoulder, his arms around her as she cradled their child. All so deeply grieving, no one noticed I sat alone. My place had been with our mother, preparing her meals, helping her walk, taking her to the doctor, seeing to her medication, reading the Bible together. Now she was with the Lord. My work was finished, and I was alone. I heard a door open and slam shut at the back of the church. Quick footsteps hurried along the carpeted floor.

An exasperated young man looked around briefly and then sat next to me. He folded his hands and placed them on his lap. His eyes were brimming with tears. He began to sniffle. "I'm late," he explained, though no explanation was necessary. After several eulogies. he leaned over and commented, "Why do they keep calling Mary by the name

of 'Margaret?"

"Because that was her name - Margaret. Never Mary; no one called her 'Mary' "

I wondered why this person couldn't have sat on the other side of the church. He interrupted my grieving with his tears and fidgeting. Who was this stranger anyway?

"No, that isn't correct," he insisted, as several people glanced over at us whispering, "her name is Mary, Mary Peters."

'That isn't who this is."

"Isn't this the Lutheran church?" No, the Lutheran church is across the street."

"Oh."

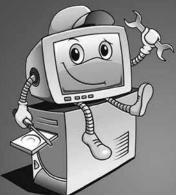
"I believe you're at the wrong funeral. Sir.

The solemnness of the occasion mixed with the realization of the man's mistake bubbled up inside me and came See MOM on next page

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MOM

continued from previous page out as laughter. I cupped my hands over my face, hoping it would be interpreted as sobs. The creaking pew gave me away. Sharp looks from other mourners only made the situation seem more hilarious. I peeked at the bewildered, misguided man seated beside me. He was laughing too, as he glanced around, deciding it was too late for an uneventful exit.

I imagined Mother laughing. At the final "Amen," we darted out a door and into the parking lot.

"I do believe we'll be the talk of the town," he smiled. He said his name was Rick and since he had missed his aunt's funeral, asked me out for a cup of coffee.

That afternoon began

a lifelong journey for me with this man who attended the wrong funeral, but was in the right place. A year after our meeting, we were married at a country church where he was the assistant pastor. This time we both arrived at the same church, right on time.

In my time of sorrow, God gave me laughter. In place of loneliness, God gave me love. This past June, we celebrated our twenty-second wedding anniversary. Whenever anyone asks us how we met, Rick tells them, "Her mother and my Aunt Mary introduced us, and it's truly a match made in heaven"

REMEMBER, God doesn't make mistakes. He puts us where we are supposed to be

BETTER THAN A ROTWFILER

We've disconnected our home alarm system and quit our candy-ass Neighborhood Watch. We even peeled the NRA sticker of the front door.

Bought two Pakistani flags on eBay and raised them in the front yard, one at each corner, plus a black flag of ISIS in the center

Now, the local police, sheriff, FBI, CIA, NSA, Homeland Security, Secret Service and other agencies are all watching the house 24/7.

I've never felt safer and we're saving \$49.95 a month.

MULTI-USE MEDS

A guy found it was time to place his dad in an assisted living home. After about a week, he asked his dad how everything was going. His dad said "It's not bad. The grounds are nice to walk around, and the staff seems nice". The son asked if he was sleeping okay, and his dad said: "Great! Every night they come in with a cup of hot chocolate and a Viagra."

The son was astonished! "Viagra?" He stormed out of his dad's room and went straight to the nurses' station. "What the hell are you people doing? My dad just told me you're giving him hot chocolate and a Viagra every night! Why would you do that?!?" The nurse calmly looked up at him and said "The hot cocoa helps them sleep, and the Viagra keeps them from rolling out of bed!"

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When a mouse was a mouse, surfing involved the beach and blackberries were - well, you know...

When I bought my Blackberry, I thought about the 30-year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a cell phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures & communicates with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, my 13 grand kids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth [it's red] phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Barnes and Noble talking to my wife and everyone in the nearest 50 yards was glaring at me. I had to take my hearing aid out to use it, and I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a right turn instead...well, it was not a good relationship.

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me.

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I lose three phones all at once and have to run around digging under chair cushions, checking bathrooms, and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

I was visiting my daughter last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper. "This is the 21st century", she said, "we don't waste money on newspapers; here...use my iPad". I can tell you this...that fly never knew what hit him.

When my grandkids want something via text or email, their request ends with "plz". I asked them why they couldn't just spell out "please". They said because it is shorter. So now when they ask for something, I say "no". It's shorter than "yes".

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them with me.

Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look.

I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, No, but I do fart a lot."

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Frank Ostrergren's paying it forward

Frank Ostergren and his grandfather shared one key quality: Stubbornness.

Ostergren remembers when his grandfather, Nick DiMarco, visited a second floor apartment where Ostergren's Aunt lived. At the age of 92 and with a cane, DiMarco insisted on going up the stairs by himself. When it got hard, he handed Ostergren his cane and used both hands to pull himself up the steps. He refused help.

Ostergren also remembers when he lost his grandfather at age 95 to Alzheimer's.

The Fort Lauderdale resident used his own stubbornness to honor his grandfather's memory. He biked 3,400 miles



Frank and his grandfather, Nick DiMarco

across the country to raise money for the disease that took away his loved one.

"I feel like taking this ride is a great way to honor him," Ostergren said. "With the same grit and will to not quit."

Ostergren started his journey from Ft. Lauderdale, biked up the

Atlantic coast route straight to St. Augustine and from there took the Southern tier route which heads west through Alabama, Mississipppi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. He finished his ride in San Diego on July 30.

Prior to his trip, Ostergren set up a GoFundMe page. His goal was to raise \$5,000. At the end of the trip, he raised more than \$5,200 and money is still coming in. During the trip, he actively documented his travels on his social media, especially his Instagram account.

Ostergren rode about 70 miles a day, and he rested where he could. He camped at campgrounds, pitched his tent on the side of road, stayed with friends and stayed with strangers he connected with on warmshowers.org, a hospitality exchange website for touring cyclists.

"I thought it would be an awesome adventure," he said. "A challenge mentally and physically, as well as a great way to see our country!"

Follow him on Instagram at ARIDETOREMEMBER, or on his GoFundMe page at http://www.gofundme.com/aridetoremember.

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Frank leaving on his journey to raise awareness for Alzheimer's.



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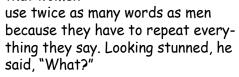
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That's what she said...

A husband, proving to his wife that women talk more than men. showed her a study which indicated that men use (on the average) only 15,000 words a day, whereas

women use 30.000 words a day.

She thought about this for a while and then told her husband that women



From the Mouth of Babes

We who have taught, or love children who have been taught, know this is funny!

From the diary of a Pre-School Teacher

My five-year old students are learning to read.

Yesterday one of them pointed at a picture in a zoo book and said,

"Look at this! It's a frickin' elephant!"

I took a deep breath, then asked..."What did you call it?"

"It's a frickin' elephant! It says so on the picture!"

And so it does ...

" African Elephant" Hooked on phonics! Ain't it wonderful?

SEMANTICS IN ACTION

While working as a radiology technician in a hospital emergency room, I took some X-rays of a trauma patient and took the results to the senior radiologist, who studied the multiple fractures of the femurs and pelvis.

'What on earth happened to this patient?' he asked in astonishment. 'He fell out of a tree,' according to the report. The radiologist wanted to know what the patient was doing up a tree. 'I'm not sure, but his paperwork states he works for Mark's Expert Tree Pruning Service.

Gazing intently at the X-rays, the radiologist blinked and said, "Cross out expert."

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Hillcrest State of the Market - August 2015

By Cindy Abraham, Keller Williams Realty Professionals

Since this is the whimsy issue, let's keep our Real Estate page in the spirit of things. Although we deal with Hillcrest condos, because we live here and love it, our business is mainly single-family homes. As you know, we take 35 pictures to push our listings to the top of the internet searches and we are meticulous about giving detailed information, attention-grabbing text and easy showing instructions. Our database consists of mainly buyer agents and we worked hard to establish our reputation of being a pleasure to work with by being meticulous with contracts, deadlines and courteous, quick responses to phone calls.

Every now and then we have a house that is a tough sell. So we need your help. We can take care of the pictures (we intend to use a lot of "views"); however, we are stumped how to describe this one to attract prospective buyers. We could also use some help with the price point since comparative sales for this one-of-a-kind house are hard to find. We are offering a \$25.00 gift card to the person who comes up with the best wording to describe this unique home.

Please email your submission to Brian@ATeamFlorida.com or mail it to Inside Hillcrest, 3850 Washington #1016, Hollywood, FL 33021. The MLS allows maximum 160 characters. Good Luck and Thank you!





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- 3. Strategy: MARKET to the right audience; ads don't sell homes, realtors do.
- 4. Psychology: Personal SHOWINGS by a professional agent is the fastest path to a quick sale at the highest price.
- 5. Business: Wise NEGOTIATIONS create a win-win situation.

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- 2. Do your homework; online is a great way to research home prices and neighborhoods. Just remember that public websites are yesterday's newspaper. Only realtors have access to the newest listings and those that are currently available.
- 3. Choose a professional realtor whom you trust to negotiate one of the most important decisions you can make for you and your family.

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Puberty, PMS and Menopause

By Cindy Abraham

One of my favorite episodes of "Roseanne" was called "PMS I love you" and was about Roseanne having PMS at the same time as her husband Dan's birthday party. As her behavior got more and more erratic, he took refuge in the hallway. When his sister-in-law Jackie found him and told him to "get back in there!", he whimpered, "But it's my birthday." Jackie answered, "There are no birthdays in HELL!"

As someone who had the worst PMS ever; I actually had bosses who marked it on their calendar and would just point to it and tell me to "come back and talk to me in a few days" when I wanted to bitch about something. It definitely got better after I had my daughter and just about disappeared when I started taking Depo Provera as birth control. Then came menopause which "hit me like a Mack Truck and dragged me five miles" as they say. I hear there is still a woman in Building 22 who keeps the hateful letter I wrote her 10 years ago. So I should have known that Jennifer's puberty years were going to be tough on me.

I believed the actress Jill Eikenberry when she said, "You have a wonderful child. Then, when he's thirteen, gremlins carry him away and leave in his place a stranger who gives you not a moment's peace." Puberty could be God's way of getting us to let go. I loved my daughter so much (8-12 are magic years; they are old enough to be good company but young enough to still need mommy) that I could not imagine ever being apart from her. Then came puberty and it turned into, "Honey, I think going AWAY to college would be good for you..."

She went into puberty the day she turned 13 and pulled out of it at 15 and a half. That was the last day for $2\frac{1}{2}$ year that she displayed any type of humor.



She announced she started her period, I did the Mommy explain/advice thing. She listened quietly and said sarcastically, "But what if I don't feel fresh?" Ah, the commercials of the 80's.

Where she once looked at me with admiration and adoration, it was now with scorn and derision. She wouldn't even watch the same show in the same room with me. She was sarcastic and sullen. In her good moments we would talk about it. She would admit that she felt angry and sad for no reason. I could explain the hormonal thing to her and assure her that it was a normal natural part of growing up and I understood. But she needed to understand that she hurt my feelings with some of her behavior and we set up some ground rules. #1 If she wanted to roll her eyes at me, she had to turn around so I didn't see it. She would actually turn her back and I would know she was rolling her eyes but that was the agreement. #2. She could not say "Chill!" to me ever.

"My So-Called Life" happened to be a new show on television with Claire Danes as the 15-year old going through puberty and coping with various teen situations. It was PERFECT. So I was glad Jen watched it - in her room of course, while I watched it in the family room. Claire Danes was as brilliant then as she is now in "Homeland". If you have a teen, you need to watch every episode. Richie's advice (her gay friend on the show) when her boyfriend (played by Jared Leto) was pressuring her to have sex is classic (fast forward to 34:21). The episode is called "Pressure" - it's well worth googling.

Jennifer was taught to write thank you notes after birthdays and Christmas and phone-call courtesy. When she called friends and a parent answered, it was "Hello, this is Jennifer, may I speak to ____ please?" When she was little, she loved it and so did her friends because the parents would complement them all on their good manners. Then along came puberty. Jennifer had a friend, lan, who spent a lot of time at our house and called frequently - no "hello", just "Is Jen there?" One day I couldn't help myself. He called with "Is Jen there?" and I said, "Is this lan?" He said "yes". I said, "Ian, you know me pretty well, would you mind saying, "Hi Mrs. Abraham, this is Ian, may I speak to Jennifer please?" when you call? He

said OK. A little while later, Ms. Puberty walked into the room and asked, "What did you say to lan?!" I told her. She smiled wryly and said, "He thinks you're cool." Phew! I really liked Ian after that.

I used to tell her, "I am an older mother. When you are pulling out of puberty, I will be going into menopause and it's going to be your turn." Of course her answer was, "I already have my passport."

At the time, I was Director of Training for Tony Roma's restaurants and had a secretary named Pam Johnson. We called her the Manager of the Director of Training. She was like Radar on the show M.A.S.H. She could finish my sentences and had a job done five minutes before I asked her to do it. I cried on her shoulder a lot while Jen was going through puberty. Her answer was, "Let me get this straight...she isn't doing drugs or having sex, she gets good grades and does her chores but you are all weepy because she doesn't hug you...?!"

Her middle school bus stop was four houses away and she wouldn't let me drive her when it was pouring outside. God FORBID I sing along to a song on the radio. We went to a Christmas Carol party and she firmly whispered to me, "Don't sing!" Of course anyone who has heard me singing karaoke at the Club and gave me a walking ovation understands that one but I remember when she loved it when I sang to her. What a difference between 14 months old and 14 years old! I did have to laugh at the times my friends were over and we had the rock music blaring; she would come out of her room and admonish us to "turn it down". Meanwhile she pitched a fit when she could only get lawn seats to go see Aerosmith! I wish I could remember who taught me this line that I use on both kids to this day, "My wish for you is that when you are 100 years old and on your deathbed and someone asks you if you had a good life, your answer is, "Yes, I had a great life...except for the time I got bad seats at the Aerosmith concert." From then on, anytime anyone in our family bitterly complains about a TERRIBLE situation like losing a game, breaking a heel, or getting cut off in traffic, we just say, "My wish for you..." and dissolve into laughter.

Joss Whedon said it best, "Make it dark, make it grim, make it tough, but then, for the love of God, tell a joke."



OBLIGATORY ETHNIC JOKES

How many nationalities can we offend?!

A guy was getting ready to watch the Super Bowl, when there was a knock at his door.

A small Latino man said "Seer, I am sorry to bother joo, but I need some work to make some money to feed my cheeldren. Do joo have some work I can do? The homeowner asked him to come back later, as he was going to watch the big game.

The little Latino said "I reeely need to earn some money. Please. I weel do anyting." So the guy said "Fine. There's some green paint in the shed. You can paint my porch and I'll pay you." A short time later (around halftime), the bell rang and it was the little Latino who said "I'm feenished, and I cleaned everyting up." The guy paid him & thanked him.

As he walked away with his money, the little Latino said "Oh, and by da way, seer, dat ees not a porch, dat ees a Mercedes Benz".

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

An elderly Italian man lay dying in his bed. While suffering the anguish of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite ravioli wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed.

Gripping the railing with both hands, he crawled downstairs. When he reached the bottom of the stairs, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen, where if not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven, for there,

spread out upon waxed paper on the kitchen table were hundreds of his favorite ravioli.

Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of love from his wife of sixty years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

He threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in a crumpled posture. His parched lips parted, the wondrous taste of the ravioli was already in his mouth. With a trembling hand he reached up to the edge of the table, when suddenly he was smacked with a wooden spoon by his wife.

'Hands off!' she said. 'Those are for the funeral.'

An Irishman is stumbling through the woods, totally drunk, when he comes upon a preacher baptizing people in the river. He proceeds into the water, subsequently bumping into the preacher. The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of alcohol, whereupon, he asks the drunk, "Are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk shouts, "Yes, I am."

So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him back and asks, "Brother, have you found Jesus?" The drunk replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus!" The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him again but for a little longer. He again pulls him out of the water and asks, "Have you found Jesus, brother?" The drunk answers, "No, I haven't

found Jesus!"

By this time, the preacher is at his wits end and dunks the drunk again but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds, and when he begins kicking his arms and legs about, he pulls him up.

The preacher again asks the drunk, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?" The drunk staggers upright, wipes his eyes, coughs up a bit of water, catches his breath, and says to the preacher,

"Are you sure this is where he fell in?!"

Oh heck - let's go after the French Canadians while we're at it:

A couple entered a bar and saw a sign, "ALL DRINKS 10 CENTS". Incredulous, they asked the bartender if it was a misprint. He explained, "No, that's right. I hit the Lotto and always wanted to open a bar. I don't need the money and I like meeting new people all the time.

The couple were delighted and ordered martinis. As they sat there sipping their drinks, they notice a couple at the end of the bar with no drinks in front of them.

Curious, they asked the bartender, "Why aren't those people drinking?" The bartender said, "Oh, they're French Canadian - they're waiting for our 2 for 1 Happy Hour."

Neither a Borrower nor Lender be...

I woke up to go to the toilet in the middle of the night and I noticed a masked burglar sneaking through my next door neighbor's garden.

Suddenly my neighbor came from nowhere and smacked him over the head with a shovel, killing him instantly.

He then used the shovel to dig a grave and put the body in it. I could not believe my eyes! That son of a bitch next door still has my shovel!

The Picnic

A rabbi and a priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter. "This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased, "you really ought to try it. I know it is against your religion but



I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia baked ham. Tell me, Rabbi, what are you going to break down and try it?" The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin and said, "At your wedding."

Well, He's Got a Point There

I mowed the lawn today, and after doing so I sat down and had a cold beer. The day was really quite beautiful, and the drink facilitated some deep thinking.

My wife walked by and asked me what I was

doing and I said 'nothing'. The reason I said that instead of saying 'just thinking' is because she would have said 'about what'.

At that point I would have to explain that men are deep thinkers about various topics which would lead to other questions.

Finally I thought about an age-old question: Is giving birth more painful than getting kicked in the nuts? Women always maintain that giving birth is way more painful than a guy getting kicked in the nuts.

Well, after another beer, and some heavy deductive thinking, I have come up with the answer to that question.

Getting kicked in the nuts is more painful than having a baby; and here is the reason for my conclusion. A year or so after giving birth, a woman will often say, "It might be nice to have another child." On the other hand, you never hear a guy say, "You know, I think I would like another kick in the nuts." I rest my case.



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Lifelock Sanctioned Again by the FTC- Refunds for Consumers

By Nancy Fowler, Independent LegalShield Associate If you were one of the unfortunate individuals who thought LIFELOCK was protecting your personal identifying information, the Federal Trade Commission recently announced it is again seeking actions against the company for failing to do so.

According to Consumer Affairs, the FTC has gone to court again charging that LIFELOCK has violated a 2010 settlement agreement where the company agreed to stop making false claims about its service, and improve its security of its customers personal information. Now in 2015, the FTC claims that the company has defaulted in those promises. The FTC states the company 1) failed to protect its members' personal data including credit card and bank account numbers, and social security numbers; 2) deceived consumers by claiming the security it used to safe guard their personal data was equal to that used by financial institutions. The FTC is charged with protecting consumers and is the agency that is

in charge of assisting consumers with identity theft and fraud problems.

Consumer Affairs gives LIFELOCK a 1 and 1/2 star rating out 5. www.consumeraffairs.com

"On March 9, 2010, the Federal Trade Commission and 35 state attorneys general announced a negotiated settlement with LifeLock, Inc. and its cofounders, Richard Todd Davis and Robert J. Maynard. The settlement, which will require the identity theft protection services provider to pay \$11 million to the FTC and an additional \$1 million to the group of participating state attorneys general, resolves charges that LifeLock misrepresented the nature and effectiveness of the identity theft protection services it offers, and made false claims about its own data security practices." This is an excerpt from the FTC website written in 2010 about the problems with the company. The current press release can be viewed at www.ftc.gov

How do you know who to trust? Do you think you can trust the leading risk management company in the world who goes in to fix major security breaches in Fortune 500 companies, is hired by governments to track down criminals hidden assets, who designs security systems for universities, and who hires ex-FBI and forensic specialists to find the bad guys? Wouldn't it be great if you could get them on your side? You can with an IDShield membership from LegalShield. LegalShield has an exclusive partner agreement with KROLL, and KROLL's licensed private investigators work on your behalf if you ever become the victim of identity theft to resolve all the problems the fraud has caused.

Consumer Affairs ranks **LegalShield** a 4.9 out 5.0 and our company has endorsements from the US Chamber of Commerce, the National Black Chamber of Commerce and a number of former State Attorney Generals. I host free ID Theft and Fraud Seminars.

Feel free to contact me to arrange a seminar for your organization or school. 954-534-4694. Visit me at www.nancyfowler.biz for more information on all our legal and ID services.



I forgot I knew this...

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe.

Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so, too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full. Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline.

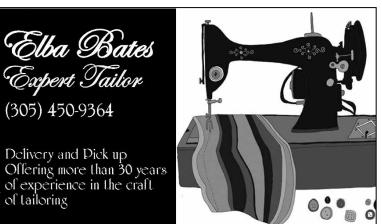
The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because

we have stored more information over time. Brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

As for the fact that older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for; it is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

I know this is true because I saw it on the internet. SO THERE!!





By George Carlin We're so self-important. Everybody's going to save something now. "Save the trees, save the bees, save the whales, save those snails." And the greatest arrogance of all: save the planet. Save the planet, we don't even know how to take care of ourselves yet. I'm tired of this shit. I'm tired of f-ing Earth Day. I'm tired of these self-righteous environmentalists, these white, bourgeois liberals who think the only thing wrong with this country is that there aren't enough bicycle paths. People trying to make the world safe for Volvos. Besides, environmentalists don't give a shit about the planet. Not in the abstract they don't. You know what they're interested in? A clean place to live. Their own habitat. They're worried that someday in the future they might be personally inconvenienced. Narrow, unenlightened self-interest doesn't impress me.

Why Are We Here?

The planet has been through a lot worse than us. Been through earthquakes, volcanoes, plate tectonics, continental drift, solar flares, sun spots, magnetic storms, the magnetic reversal of the poles ... hundreds of thousands of years of bombardment by comets and asteroids and meteors, worldwide floods, tidal waves, worldwide fires, erosion, cosmic rays, recurring ice ages ... And we think some plastic bags and some aluminum cans are going to make a difference? The planet isn't going anywhere. WE are!

We're going away. Pack your shit, folks. We're going away. And we won't leave much of a trace, either. Maybe a little Styrofoam ... The planet will be here and we'll be long gone. Just another failed mutation. Just another closed-end biological mistake. An evolutionary cul-de-sac. The planet will shake us off like a bad case of fleas.

The planet will be here for a long, long, LONG time after we're gone,

and it will heal itself, it will cleanse itself, 'cause that's what it does. It's a self-correcting system. The air and the water will recover, the earth will be renewed. And if it's true that plastic is not degradable, well, the planet will simply incorporate plastic into a new paradigm: the earth plus plastic. The earth doesn't share our prejudice toward plastic. Plastic came out of the earth. The earth probably sees plastic as just another one of its children. Could be the only reason the earth allowed us to be spawned from it in the first place. It wanted plastic for itself. Didn't know how to make it. Needed us. Could be the answer to our age-old egocentric philosophical question, "Why are we here?"

Plastic... asshole.

People who wonder whether the glass is half empy or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.

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The Kitchen Korner

By Cindy Abraham

I have always been fascinated by the concept of Shepherd's Pie and would "make it" for my daughter with just crumbled hamburger topped with mashed potatoes and corn. She was one of those kids who had limited "likes" – how she got into this family, I'll never know. Ok, I do know but still...

Finally I found a recipe that caught my eye. When I made it, we invited Boodro, our Rajun Cajun neighbor who is probably the best cook in Hillcrest. He LOVED it. I was ever so proud.



He even knew what "mirepoix" is. You are going to need it for this recipe.

Mirepoix: 1 cup diced onion mixed with 1/2 cup each diced carrots and celery. It is always a 2/1/1 mixture. I think "diced" is smaller than chopped but bigger than minced. Herbes de Provence is just a mixture of herbs that you can buy in any supermarket in the spice section. But because the secret to the great flavor is how

the beef is prepared, you do need to get the right ingredients. BTW – when Doris' Market has their Shepherd's pie on sale for \$4.99, it is definitely worth it. But this is way better and super easy. As far as how much meat, potatoes and vegetables, after you make it once, you may adjust as far as what proportions you like.

EASY PEASY SHEPHERD'S PIE

2 cups Mirepoix

2 cloves garlic, minced

11/2 lb. ground beef or chuck

1 tsp salt

115-oz. can of tomatoes (pureed until smooth)

11/2 tsp. Herbes de Provence

1½ lbs. mashed potatoes (make them anyway you like or buy the prepared version)

2 cans of peas or cut green beans or corn - your choice.

Heat a heavy bottomed skillet over medium-high heat. When it is hot, add some oil and the mirepoix. Sauté until the veggies just start to turn color – about 3 minutes. Add the garlic and sauté for about 30 seconds. Add the meat break-

ing it up with a wooden spoon. Stir until the meat is completely cooked. Important: DRAIN OFF THE FAT before proceeding. Season with the salt. Add the tomatoes and stir in the Herbes de Provence. Bring to a boil; then reduce heat and let simmer for about 30 minutes stirring every so often.



To assemble: spread the peas, green beans or corn in the bottom of an oven proof dish. Spread the meat evenly over the vegetables. Spread or pipe the mashed potatoes over the meat in an even layer. Bake in a 400-degree oven for 30-45 minutes until the meat is bubbling and the potatoes begin to brown. To make a cheater piping bag, fill a plastic zip bag with the mashed potatoes, cut off a small corner and squeeze.

Easier Peasier!

By Cindy Abraham

This article is dedicated to those people who like to eat well but absolutely will not lift a spatula to cook for themselves.

In my younger days I did not cook at all. I loved prepared meals (we called them TV dinners in those days). But there were few really good pre-prepared foods in those days. I still remember when I found a frozen stuffed Cornish hen that I thought was amazing. I had a freezer full. Thanks to my mom, I did make the best chocolate chip cookies in the world – ok, they were really good.

And then I had my daughter, I was hoping she would stay on baby food until she was old enough to drive herself to McDonalds. It was not to be. When I invited her dad's parents



over for dinner and served them baked chicken breasts with a lovely pink center, my Christmas present was a subscription to Gourmet Magazine for the next 15 years. I loved it! The recipes were delicious and most were easy to make. I ended up LOVING to cook. I made all kinds of "exotic" foods: Penne a la Vodka, Lamb shanks with Merlot and even Duck L'Orange. Hmmm – everything with alcohol...

Then along came the era of prepared foods done REALLY well. Sabra makes hummus as just as good if not better than mine. Everyone from Pillsbury to Duncan Hines can kick my ass at chocolate chip cookies. Mashed potatoes have come a long way. I have Italian friends who spend hours making red sauce and frankly, some store brands taste just as good. You name it and some company will make it for us. Who ever thought we could buy good Sushi at Publix?!

The downside is that the cost of prepared foods is much higher than homemade. However, I just discovered Campbell's new ready-made sauces. I tried the Shrimp Scampi and Chicken Marsala. I think the scampi sauce needed more garlic but the Marsala was excellent. At 2 for \$4.00 and you just add the chicken or shrimp, it is a bargain. The Marsala has the mushrooms and parsley in it already – a package of mushrooms is alone is \$1.89 so it is a good deal. Chicken sales are everywhere lately. You can get 5 lbs. of skinless, boneless chicken breasts at Penn-Dutch for less than \$2.00 per pound and chicken legs at Bravo for 39 cents a pound. If it isn't on sale, we don't buy it.

Side note: I never did take my daughter to McDonalds. I became one of those anti-fast food people. My daughter claims that the reason she never wanted to go was that I told her the burgers were made out of baby kittens.

It's never too late to begin, whatever that means to each of you. So, Begin!

Submitted by Etta Stevens

Several times my daughter had telephoned to say, "Mother, you must come to see the daffodils before they are over." I wanted to go, but it was a two-hour drive from Laguna to Lake Arrowhead "I will come next Tuesday", I promised a little reluctantly on her third call.

Next Tuesday dawned cold and rainy. Still, I had promised, and reluctantly I drove there. When I finally walked into Carolyn's house I was welcomed by the joyful sounds of happy children. I delightedly hugged and greeted my grandchildren.

"Forget the daffodils, Carolyn! The road is invisible in these clouds and fog, and there is nothing in the world except you and these children that I want to see badly enough to drive another inch!"

My daughter smiled calmly and said, "We drive in this all the time, Mother." "Well, you won't get me back on the road until it clears, and then I'm heading for home!" I assured her.

"But first we're going to see the daffodils. It's just a few blocks," Carolyn said. "I'll drive. I'm used to this."

"Carolyn," I said sternly, "Please turn around." "It's all right, Mother, I promise. You will never forgive yourself if you miss this experience."

After about twenty minutes, we turned onto a small gravel road and I saw a small church. On the far side of the church, I saw a hand lettered sign with an arrow that read, "Daffodil Garden .." We got out of the car, each took a child's hand, and I followed Carolyn down the path. Then, as we turned a corner, I looked up and gasped. Before me lay the most glorious sight.

It looked as though someone had taken a great vat of gold and poured it over the mountain peak and its surrounding slopes. The flowers were planted in majestic, swirling patterns, great ribbons and swaths of deep orange, creamy white, lemon yellow, salmon pink, and saffron and butter yellow. Each different -colored variety was planted in large groups so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue. There were five acres of flowers.

"Who did this?" I asked Carolyn. "Just one woman," Carolyn answered. "She lives on the property. That's her home." Carolyn pointed to a well-kept A-frame house, small and modestly sitting in the midst of all that glory. We walked up to the house.

On the patio, we saw a poster. "Answers to the Questions I Know You Are Asking", was the headline. The first answer was a simple one. "50,000 bulbs," it read. The second answer was, "One at a time, by one woman. Two hands, two feet, and one brain." The third answer was, "Began in 1958."

For me, that moment was a life-changing experience. I thought of this woman whom I had never met, who, more than forty years before, had begun, one bulb at a time, to bring her vision of beauty and joy to an obscure mountaintop. Planting one bulb at a time, year after year, this unknown woman had forever changed the world in which she lived. One day at a time, she had created something of extraordinary magnificence, beauty, and inspiration. The principle her daffodil garden taught is one of the greatest principles of celebration.

That is, learning to move toward our goals and desires one step at a time—often just one baby-step at time—and learning to love the doing, learning to use the accumulation of time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with small increments of daily effort, we too will find we can accomplish magnificent things. We can change the world

"It makes me sad in a way," I admitted to Carolyn. "What might I have accomplished if I had thought of a wonderful goal thirty-five or forty years ago and had worked away at it 'one bulb at a time' through all those years? Just think what I might have been able to achieve!"

My daughter summed up the message of the day in her usual direct way. "Start tomorrow," she said.

She was right. It's so pointless to think of the lost hours of yesterdays. The way to make learning a lesson of celebration instead of a cause for regret is to only ask, "How can I put this to use today?"

Use the Daffodil Principle. Stop waiting.....

Until your car or home is paid off

Until you get a new car or home

Until your kids leave the house

Until you go back to school

Until you finish school

Until you clean the house

Until you organize the garage

Until you clean off your desk

Until you lose 10 lbs.

Until you gain 10 lbs.

Until you get married

Until you get a divorce

Until you have kids

Until the kids go to school

Until you retire

Until summer

Until spring

Until winter

Until fall

There is no better time than right now to be happy...

Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

So work like you don't need money.

Love like you've never been hurt, and, Dance like no one's watching.

Wishing you a beautiful, daffodil day!

Don't be afraid that your life will end, be afraid that it will never begin.

LEARN THE PRACTICE OF MEDITATION TO HELP YOUR LIFE MOVE FORWARD

HERE ARE SOME EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS

IMPORTANT: HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB

WEDNESDAY 4-5PM

Other venues continuing: 4 Libraries and the following: Hollywood Upcoming Events

- Aug 16, 6 pm ArtsPark: World Meditation Hour, Downtown Hollywood, third Sunday, Bring a chair or blanket. We meet where Hollywood Boulevard meets the circle, if rain across from Publix.
- August 26 6:30-7:30pm Carver Ranches Library: Ed: Stress Management: Making Your Mind your best friend, One block south of Pembroke Road and 48th Ave. inside fence.
 - Wednesdays 4-5pm Hillcrest Country Club: Meditations
- Friday, September 11, 5:30 PM Hillcrest Country Club, 4600 Hillcrest Dr., 33021, Rakhi Meditation RSVP to Roz 954-962-7447 by September 8 and wear whites.



Stephen Rowe

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