

Jim'sJournal.net - Your Home News

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Exercise Your Intellect

Dear [FirstName],

This June newsletter takes the focus on home, that found its way into May's newsletter, and points it in a whole new direction. The focus of this newsletter is more (dare I say it?) intellectual. For example, you'll learn how to build a terrarium and pick up tips on how to Feng Shui your home office. There is so much in here that is just plain interesting, like the piece where you'll learn the difference between an infusion and a decoction.

If these warm June days inspire you to lighten up your home, let me know and we can talk about what you have in mind. It might be time to implement some creative solutions to make your space more welcoming, or maybe you're thinking it's time to buy or sell a different home entirely. This year has brought some unexpected challenges so if there is anything I can do to help you transition into summer in the most welcome home possible, please know I'm just a phone call away.

Jim Urban

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The Contest That Didn't Exist

In a small mountain town, one family was finding it harder and harder each month to make ends meet. One day, they came up short at the register so the youngest, a little girl about eight years old, was sent to put a couple of items back on the shelves. While she did so, her mother apologized to the person behind her in line, but the gentleman just smiled and replied that he was in no rush.

About a week later, the family was notified that their receipt had come up as the winning number in an ongoing drawing for a \$200 shopping trip. Shocked, they turned up at the store the next morning, still disbelieving their good luck, but ready to stock up on some much needed groceries.

When they reached the register and told the cashier that they were there to use their winning receipt, a look of confusion came over her face. She said she was unaware of any ongoing drawing, but stepped away to check with the store manager.

The manager returned along with the clerk a few minutes later and cheerfully swiped a gift card through the register till. The mother breathed a sigh of relief, had the children pack up their groceries, and repeatedly thanked the manager as she left.

It was only after the family left that the manager told the cashier the truth: the man who had watched the family struggle to pay for groceries a week earlier purchased the gift card out of his own pocket. He had asked the manager to present the situation as a store drawing, with the understanding that their full bags of groceries would be thanks enough.

Fun Day Monday May

In J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter stories, what is the name of Harry's pet owl?

C. Hedwig

Congratulations to Ralph Albi who won a \$30 donation to a charity of his choice.

Herbal Kitchen

Three of the most common herbal preparations are teas, infusions and decoctions. Do you know the difference?

Tea: When you make tea, you usually brew it for just a few minutes and the herbs are generally soft, like flowers, leaves and stems, that make for a gentle, soothing drink.

Infusions: An infusion extracts more nutrients, vitamins, and minerals from hard, woody stems or bark than a tea. To make an infusion, add one cup of dried herbs to a quart jar of boiling water, cap it and let it sit for four to eight hours.

Decoctions: A decoction can be prepared once you have an infusion. Simply steam your infusion very slowly, letting about half the liquid evaporate for a more concentrated product.

There are endless ways to incorporate herbs into your kitchen, but the use of teas, infusions and decoctions are a really easy way to get started.

Innovation Takes Work

Successful organizations don't repeat themselves—continued success depends on innovation, and innovation is hard work. Step up to the challenge by keeping these common misconceptions in check:

- **“Creativity should always be fun.”** People frequently expect brainstorming sessions and creative exercise to be relaxed, low-pressure affairs. But innovation calls for hard questions and tough answers to find out why previous attempts at innovation didn't work. The process can be fulfilling, but it won't always be painless.
- **“There are no bad ideas.”** Brainstorming can be a useful exercise, but in reality, many—if not most—of the ideas you generate, won't work. Be prepared for that, and make sure everyone understands that honesty in evaluating ideas is important. Don't rush to snap judgments, but don't waste time when it becomes clear that an idea isn't going to work.
- **“Innovation is entrepreneurial.”** Many of today's most famous entrepreneurs got their start with an innovative idea but successful entrepreneurs possess a variety of management skills that go far beyond innovation. You need people who are more interested in solving problems than starting a new division.
- **“Creativity is all you need.”** Instead of looking for radically new processes or products, your best bet may be to improve what already works for you. Innovative ideas may spring from unexpected sources when you're not even looking for them. Focus on what will help your organization grow, and be open to innovation without necessarily trying to force it.

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Jim can help with his 5 Star Referral Center.

Just Go To:

Denver5StarReferralCenter.com

In the search engine type in the type of business you are looking for to see the list of businesses Jim refers to his family, friends & clients.

Supper time

Harvard researchers have found that children who sit down and eat dinner with their families are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables.

Eating dinner at home means kids are less likely to consume junk foods that are high in fat, salt and sugar.

The study included more than 16,000 children between the ages of nine and 14.

Feng Shui Your Space

Every home office space has the potential to help us stage our own success. According to the *simpleshui* website, here are eight ways to feng shui your office:

Assume the power position. The ideal placement for a desk is to face the doorway— a little off to the side instead of directly in line with the door. Ideally, when arranging an office, we want the solid support of a wall or heavy furniture behind us, like it's "got our back." This also allows you to see anyone entering your space.

Have your own back. A high-back chair says executive; a lower-back chair suggests managerial. In fact, these are often the design terms for filtering the stylistic difference - so choose accordingly.

Boost support. Horizontal patterns and shapes hold energy in place so use this to your advantage when starting a new project or job. Hang horizontal art and use square baskets or trays as a catch all. If you have an affinity for stripes, make sure they run horizontally to unify your energy.

Keep clutter off the floor. Whether or not the feng shui belief that a messy floor weighs down new business holds any truth, it is also a tripping hazard.

Climb the career ladder. Flank tall bookcases behind your desk, if possible. In addition to being a form of protection and support, their shape suggests upward mobility.

Go the distance. An open landscape print on a facing wall brings in nature and can be liberating.

Find your flow. Moving water represents prosperity, abundance, and steady flow. You can bring this idea in with actual water: fresh flowers, a fountain, a coffee maker, or even imagery of moving water. Make sure the water moves into your space. If the water "flows" toward the door, so will all that potential.

Clear the desk every day. When a workspace is bogged down by paperwork, guess how we feel? Always leave your desk looking organized at the end of the day. Take one guess as to what ritual top entrepreneurs around the world have in common? Yep... a clean desk!

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- Five Big Mistakes Home Sellers Make
- How To Buy A House With Little (Or No) Money Down

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Gardens Under Glass

Why not try your hand at creating a miniature garden under glass? Anyone can have a terrarium and they're great for home decorating! Originally popularized during the Victorian era in the form of the Wardian case, today, terrariums and bottle gardens are making a big comeback.

To get started, you'll need the right supplies:

- A clear container of your choice
- Pebbles, or small stones
- Charcoal (without any additives)
- Decor of your choice
- Plants— choose some that don't grow too large and can tolerate moisture

Then, assemble your terrarium:

- **Leave some room for growth:** Your terrarium won't look instantly lush; plants need time to adjust and settle in.
- **Water after planting:** Soil should be damp, but not soaked.
- **Place your terrarium in bright light, but not direct sunlight:** You want to grow your little plants, not cook them.
- **Leave the container open:** Leave the container open for a few days after planting so that leaves can dry off, then put the lid on your miniature garden.
- **Don't overwater:** Avoid excessive condensation and limp leaves. Open your terrarium and let it dry out a bit if it looks too saturated.

The Old Farmer's Almanac recommends the following as great choices for a first terrarium project: Moss, Ivy, Button Fern, Violets, Aloe, Polka-dot plant and Begonias.



"A problem is a chance for you to do your best."

—Duke Ellington

Thinking of Hue

Whether you want to add energy to a dull room or calm energy to a hectic one, here is what *Home Beautiful* has to say about some of 2020's most popular paint colors:

Orange: Expands Your Thinking

This vibrant hue reduces self-consciousness and allows you to express yourself with confidence. It is the color of laughter and celebration. Add an orange mouse pad to your office, an accent wall to a bedroom, or just a bordered notecard on a side table.

Deep Blue: Encourages Efficiency

Wear dark blue when you need to make a decision. At home, try it on an oversized tray, a wastebasket, a desk lamp or all over the room.

Green: Has Healing Powers

Green represents nourishment and encourages stability. Use it in a rejuvenating space, like a kelly green set of potholders or sage green bath towels.

Light Purple: Enhances Spirituality

Purple encourages a fresh perspective on emotional issues. Use it in your home to enhance compassion and to include friends as family.

Bright Red: Fortifies You

Red is a stimulant that promotes courage. Use this color when you want to increase self-confidence. A little goes a long way: try a bright red candy dish, picture frame, or accent pillows.

Yellow: Increases Your Focus

This cheerful color is known for enhancing intelligence and mental agility. It can help stimulate conversation and clarify thoughts. Try using yellow bookmarks in your home office or tossing a yellow blanket on a side chair.

**Try this June
lifestyle challenge from
Environmental Activist
David Suzuki:**

1. Reduce home energy use by 10%.
2. Replace inefficient home appliances.
3. Eliminate pesticide use.
4. Eat meat-free meals one day a week.
5. Buy locally grown produce.



Smart Advice for You and the People You Care About

When You Have a Thought about Living in a New Home



The 5 Biggest
Mistakes
Home Sellers
Make



Making the
Move Easy on
Kids



How to Stop
Wasting
Money on Rent



How Home
Sellers Price
Their Homes



How to Sell
Your Home for
the Most
Money



The 5 Biggest
Mistakes
Home Buyers
Make

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people you care about.

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