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March 2021

Shamrocks and Rainbows

Dear Friend,

Hi there! Or, should I say, "top 'o the mornin' to you" for this green month filled with shamrocks and rainbows?

March is always such a cheerful month, filled with joy as the chilly winter begins to fade into happy spring. You might even be able to read this month's newsletter outside if you bring a warm drink along with you.

This month, we have some tips from a billionaire on how to create success as well as an article on how to build a learning environment into the workplace.

By the way, did you know the number of towels purchased back in March of 2020 increased? That means you might be looking around your bathroom— or any other room in the house and thinking things are looking a little worn. Maybe it is time to redo that space, or even time to consider whether your house is still working for you. I hope you'll reach out if you're thinking to buy or sell so we can come up with options as you decide what path you want to take, whether or not there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Jim Urban

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Who Are You Inviting Into Your Life?

A woman came out of her house and saw three old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard. They looked harmless and gentle. They greeted her and introduced themselves by the names Wealth, Success and Love. *"Well, those are interesting names," she said. "Why don't you come in and have something to eat?"* "You may only invite one of us," they replied. "But if you will discuss with your family which of us it should be, we will be grateful for whoever it is."

The woman went in and told her husband what they had said. Her husband was delighted. *"How nice!"* he said. *"Since that is the case, let's invite Wealth inside!"*

His wife disagreed. *"My dear, why don't we invite Success? Surely that will lead to wealth and make us the envy of our neighborhood."*

Their daughter chimed in, *"I would rather have Love."*

Fun Day Monday Feb 2021

What was the first item sold on eBay?

A. Broken Laser Pointer

Congratulations to Paul & Susan Ersthaler who won a \$25 donation to a charity of their choice!

She was so sweet and the couple loved her so much, they laughed and said, "Yes, let's invite Love to eat with us."

The woman went out and asked the three old men, *"Which one of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest."*

Love got up and walked toward the house. The other two also got up and followed him. Surprised, the lady said: *"I only invited Love. Why are you all coming?"*

The old men replied together, *"When you invite Love into your house, you also get both Wealth and Success."*

Accentuate the Positive

Here's a quick success tip from career coach Karen Burns via The Seattle Times:



"Pick a positive quality you want to be known for. Of course, you have more than one positive quality. But if you make a point of associating yourself with a single great trait, like always being on time or always appearing alert and cheerful, then people will think of that 'great trait' every time they see you. This is a good thing."

How Did That Start?

Many of us cross our fingers for good luck, but have you ever wondered how customs like that originated? The *Cracked* website explains the beginnings of everyday behavior we take for granted:

• **Painting fingernails.** Babylonian warriors in 3200 BC would paint their nails before heading off to battle to signify their social class.

• **Thumbs up.** English archers in the Middle Ages would use the gesture, which was the correct brace height of a longbow, as a signal that they were ready to shoot.

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• **Encores**. Baroque audiences would demand repeat performances of songs they enjoyed, sometimes right in the middle of the piece.

• **Yawning.** Covering your mouth while yawning developed from an ancient belief that troublemaking spirits could enter your mouth during a yawn.

• **Blowing out candles.** Making a wish while blowing out birthday candles derives from cultures which thought that smoke delivered your wishes.

• **High-fiving.** The first recorded high-five occurred on Oct. 2, 1977, when Glenn Burke of the LA Dodgers reached up to slap the hand of teammate Dusty Baker, who had just hit a home run, and Baker slapped his hand in return.

Veganism Taking Root

Is veganism in the United States on the rise?

Although the *Indiana Daily Student* website reports that only 3% of Americans identify as vegan, there's evidence that it's becoming more and more mainstream. A Harris Poll survey found that one in five Americans sometimes eat vegan when dining out, and data from *Impossible Foods* shows that more than 50% of millennials and Gen Z members eat plant-based meat at least once a month, compared with one in five baby boomers.

Studies suggest that the slow rise of veganism is linked to concerns about the environment, a desire to address animal welfare, and overall health— although nutritionists point out that meatless burgers aren't necessarily healthier than beef because they include more salt and saturated fat.



Exercise Happiness

If you or someone you know suffers from depression, this news could help. An article on the *MedicineNet* website reports that 35 minutes of exercise a day could help lower the risk of depression, even among people with a genetic predisposition for the ailment.

Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston analyzed two years' worth of medical records and genetic information from close to 8,000 people. They calculated a genetic risk score for each person that predicted the likelihood of depressive episodes.

The data showed that people with a higher genetic risk were likely to be diagnosed with depression within two years, but physically active people with the same score— or even a higher one— were less likely to suffer from depression.

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For every four hours of exercise a week, the risk of depressive episodes decreased by 17%. Both intense, aerobic workouts and low-intensity practices like stretching and yoga showed the same effect. Getting active may be the key to mental as well as physical well-being.

Tips From a True Success

As Warren Buffett's right-hand man for more than 40 years, and a vice chairman of Buffett's *Berkshire Hathaway*, billionaire Charlie Munger has had the kind of career and financial success most people can only dream of. Here is his advice for anyone who wants to rise to the top:

"**Don't sell anything you wouldn't buy yourself.**" Be true to your values. Pick a career not for how much money you can make, but for doing something you believe in and are willing to dedicate your life to.

"Don't work for anyone you don't respect and admire." Be careful about who you choose to work with and for. Seek out people you can look up to and learn from them.

"Work only for people you enjoy." Your boss and co-workers can be a source of stress or strength. Find an employer whose culture attracts like-minded people who share your values and your commitment to success.

Five Ways to Build a Learning Environment

Does your organization know how to learn? In a world dominated by the ability to process information, the ability to learn, as an organization, is crucial. Here are five ways you can create a learning organization:

1. Encourage self-directed learning for employees. Instead of telling people what to learn, give permission for them to explore what they think is important. And provide resources like access to information, the Internet, time off, and tuition reimbursement, if possible.

2. Promote cross-pollination of ideas. Bring together team members from different departments to share ideas and strategies. Encourage people to respect different opinions and points of view so meetings produce thoughtful, innovative results.

3. Use open-ended language. In your meetings and discussions, ask questions that stimulate creative thought and learning without simply focusing on finding "correct" answers. If you can say, "Let's explore that further," you'll show everyone on your team that you consider striving for improvement more important than a single "right" answer.

4. Treat mistakes as learning opportunities. Hold honest, straightforward conversations when something doesn't work as anticipated. Look for lessons that might improve the process next time, as well as ideas for new processes that might result in an innovative product.

5. Review the learning process. On a regular basis, ask team members what's working and what isn't. With this information, get to work on fixing what doesn't work and enhancing what's going well.

Beat Boredom

Had enough of tedious tasks?

Try this challenge: Estimate how long it should take you to complete a task, then shorten your allotted time by 50%.

Set a timer and push yourself to get the task done— and get it done right— in half the time you'd normally take. Although this won't eliminate boring tasks, you might be able to make them less dull and it leaves you with extra time to spend on something you enjoy more.

Women's History Month



Did You Know? Women's History Month, celebrated every year in March, started as Women's History Week.

Women's History Month originally began as a local week-long celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration during the week of March 8, 1978 to correspond with International Women's Day. According to *womenshistory.org*, the movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History

Week celebrations the following year. In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance) successfully lobbied for national recognition.

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History Week.

Subsequent presidents continued to proclaim a National Women's History Week in March until 1987, when Congress passed a law designating March as "Women's History Month."

A Dog's Life

A man was walking through the park when he came upon a boy playing a game of chess against a dog.

"This is just incredible," the man shouted. "What a smart dog!"

"He's all right, I guess," the boy replied.

"I've already beaten him two out of three games."



Happy St. Patrick's Day - March 17th



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