

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

APRIL 2011

Timeless Secrets of Happy People

Happy people have common characteristics. That's why a good way to be happy is to learn the common characteristics of happy people and apply them. Below are some quotes that are timeless in nature.

Forget the past. *One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory —Rita Mae Brown* You won't be happy if you carry the burden of the past. Let go of past mistakes and terrible experiences, and focus your energy on the present.

Build relationships. *Life's truest happiness is found in friendships we make along the way — Unknown* Only through relationships can we love and be loved. Make relationships your top priority and you are on your way to true happiness.

Start with what you have. *The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance, the wise grows it under his feet — James Oppenheim* Happy people don't need something they don't have, to be happy. They don't need a certain job or a certain level of income; instead, they have learned the art of contentment.

Beware of small things. *The happiness of most people we know is not ruined by great catastrophes or fatal errors, but by the repetition of slowly destructive little things — Ernest Dimnet* Often it's not big things that ruin happiness. Even small leaks can sink your ship of happiness.



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Make others happy. *Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself. — Ralph Waldo Emerson* Happiness doesn't come through selfishness but through selflessness. You reap what you sow.

Practice compassion. *If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion — The Dalai Lama* Start with thinking about the people around you. Look at their needs and find ways to meet them. Even if you don't do it out of compassion in the beginning, your compassion will grow over time.

All in all, Aristotle can summarize the lessons above:

"Happiness depends upon ourselves."



It's YOU who decides whether or not you are happy in life. We raise a cup of happiness and cheer to YOU!

—Tara and April

Neighborhood News

WOOD STREETS GREEN TEAM

The Wood Streets Green Team (WSGT) has a mission to assist the Wood Streets and all Riverside residents in increasing the sustainability of their lifestyles. WSGT is still in need of volunteers for the community garden on the Riverside Community College campus. If you're interested in volunteering, or joining upcoming workshops, please send an email to woodstreetsgreenteam@gmail.com.

Neighbors of the Wood Streets Association (NOWS)

The recently formed Wood Streets neighborhood organization known as NOWS is a wonderful resource for neighborhood and City-wide information and news. If you are unable to attend the meetings, please at least sign up to be on the email list. Contact Corliss D'Agostino (Secretary and Co-Chair) at babeletf@charter.net.



The meetings are held every **3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.** at the RCC Alumni House at 3564 Ramona Drive). *Volunteers are needed to distribute meeting flyers.*

We now have a Facebook fan page ("The Sister Team") with helpful real estate and neighborhood information! Please check it out and click on the 'Like' button.



"To Your Health"

FREE screenings provided by CVS/Pharmacy

One in two Americans is living with a chronic disease, which is typically either hereditary or the result of factors such as poor diet, obesity or lack of exercise. There are five simple screenings in determining whether or not you are at risk for a variety of treatable — and preventable — chronic diseases. Across the country, there will be more than 800 health fair events providing free screenings for:

Diabetes: A simple finger prick is all that's needed to check your blood glucose levels to see if you are at risk for diabetes.

Blood pressure: A quick, painless test using a rubber cuff that is wrapped around the upper arm and inflated.

Cholesterol: Even though high cholesterol may lead to serious heart disease, most of the time there are no symptoms, which is why it's important to have your cholesterol levels checked. A test involves just a simple blood sample from the finger.

Osteoporosis: A simple bone mineral density test performed via low-dose X-rays.

Vision: A vision screening can help identify whether or not you are at risk for eye disease.

After testing, you can discuss your screening results with a doctor and CVS pharmacist to understand your risk for serious health issues. Take the opportunity to jumpstart your journey to a healthier lifestyle. Here's to your health! For info on a location nearest you, **call 888-604-0333** or visit www.cvs.com/toyourhealth.



ART IN THE YARD

Crafted with You in Mind



Saturday April 30th, 2011

10:00 a.m - 4 p.m

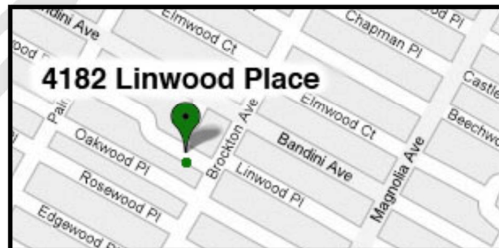


4182 Linwood Place, Riverside, CA

LOCALLY HAND CRAFTED GIFTS

PERFECT FOR MOTHER'S DAY AND BEYOND

- Jewelry - from funky to steampunk, grunge to elegant pearls, stamped sterling and more
- Wood Working, Wood Burning & Ceramics
- Blown Glass and Stained Glass
- Hand Crafted Cards and Mixed Media Art
- Mexican Folk Art and Wearable Textile Art
- Assemblage
- Fine Art
- Garden Art
- Chair Masseuse
- and more...



Cash or Checks Preferred. Enjoy our hospitality by helping yourself to refreshments.
Support local women artists and keep America working.

Friends Referring Friends!

*A great referral is when
you introduce someone you care about,
to someone you trust....*

Anwar and Amanda Catano
(referred by Joe and Anne Deem)

Connie Keesling

Maurice Destouet

*We love giving recognition to our new friends and
our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough
to refer their friends and relatives to us.*

**Absolutely NO ONE
sells more homes in
The Wood Streets
neighborhood than
“The Sister Team”!!**

we **LIVE** in the neighborhood,
we **WORK** in the neighborhood,
we **KNOW** the neighborhood,
we **SELL** the neighborhood!!!

www.TheSisterTeam.com

April Quiz Question

**Which State is called the Pine Tree
State?**

*Everyone (any age)
responding by calling or
e-mailing us with the
correct answer will be
entered into a drawing for:*

**a \$25 VISA
gift card to use
wherever you
like, just like
cash!**

*Drawing to be
held on 4/30/2011*



March Quiz Answer

Question: What is the minimum
number of musicians a band must have
to be considered a “big band”?

Answer: 10

**Congratulations to
The Ward Family
(Jay, Sandra, Denielle & Lorenzo)**

Your name was selected at random
from all of the correct quiz entries
and you'll receive
a \$25 VISA gift card!

The Pet Page

Animals for Easter?

We see images of cuddly rabbits and cute chicks hopping around on green grass littered with colorful eggs. Children see these adorable creatures and beg their parents for one of their very own. Before you dash off and purchase a live animal for your child's Easter basket, please consider your decision.



You must be prepared to care for the animal for its entire lifetime! Rabbits can live 10-15 years when properly cared for. Pet chickens live around 10 years and stop laying eggs around 3-4 years. Children, no matter how many promises they make, are not always able to care for animals on their own; they lose interest quickly. Animals cost money for proper housing, food, and veterinarian care. Perhaps a chocolate bunny or a marshmallow chick or duck would be a better idea.

There's a lot involved with caring for an animal. **Rabbits** can make wonderful companions when cared for properly, but most people don't realize what's involved. Just throwing a rabbit in a small cage and bringing her food and water every day is not enough. Rabbits need proper nutrition like fresh greens, fruits and timothy hay; a large clean enclosure; plenty of time to romp outside of their enclosure; and lots of love and training. Time must be spent teaching a rabbit to be handled by a human so you can safely check the rabbit's teeth and trim its nails. Rabbits also need to be spayed and neutered around 5 to 6 months of age. Unaltered rabbits cannot live together no matter what sex they are (aggression problems will arise).

Although, beware if you place a bunny hutch directly on the ground, because some rabbits will dig burrows. We actually had this happen. The bunnies dug below the ground and came up in another area of the yard after tunneling many feet away from their hutch. One day we went outside and the bunnies were loose in the yard, but their hutch enclosure was secure (no doors were left open). As we tried to gather the bunnies, they disappeared into a hole and within minutes had popped back up into their hutch enclosure! A metal netting was then buried in the dirt under their cage to prevent further digging and day-trips into the yard.

And what about cute cuddly **chicks**? Fortunately, new laws have decreased the number of chicks that are being dyed Easter colors and sold this time of year, but the giving of chicks still occurs. Chicks given as presents at Easter often die within the first week because they do not receive the proper care. Chicks require a heat source, a clean enclosure, and quality food and water every day. Hand-rearing a chick takes a minimum of 10 minutes a couple times each day in order for the chick to bond to the human family. Chicks must also be vaccinated against a variety of diseases.

Any animal is a major commitment and responsibility, not a novelty. Research what is needed to care properly for an animal before having one join your family. If you do decide you have the time, money, patience, and commitment to care for an animal, please consider adopting one from a shelter or local rescue organization. There are many wonderful animals, including rabbits, looking for a wonderful forever home!

If you have young children and aren't ready for an animal to join your family, consider a chocolate bunny or marshmallow chick instead.



"The Sister Team" contributed to the spaying of three cats last month!

Please think about donating your old towels, pillows and blankets to your local animal shelter or Humane Society. They'll use them for bedding, baths, etc.

The animals thank you!

A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone. —Henry David Thoreau



\$220,000
4540 Linwood Place

“Wood Streets”
1400 sq ft home built in 1951,
same owner since 1955
3 spacious bdrms, 2 bthrms
central air conditioning/heat
hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen
indoor laundry
2-car detached garage with
drywalled interior & roll-up door
RV parking
and pool-sized backyard!

\$159,900
3695 Bandini Avenue

“Wood Streets”
California Bungalow built in 1919
approximately 1100 sq ft
2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
central air conditioning/heat
hardwood floors, built-ins
eat-in kitchen
laundry porch
basement
1-car detached garage
spacious pool-sized backyard
with many citrus trees!



\$279,900
4174 Ramona Drive

“Wood Streets”
Two-on-a-Lot
California Cottage built in 1938 by
current owner’s grandfather!
Front house: approx 1500 sq ft
2 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
central air conditioning/heat
hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen
Back house: approx 500 sq ft
1 bedroom, 1 bathroom
4-car garage, pool-sized backyard!



Natural Easter Egg Dyes

Give the Easter Bunny a run for his money by dying Easter eggs the natural way, using common foods, herbs and flowers. The longer you soak the eggs in the following dye liquids, the more intense the colors will be. Wash the hard-boiled eggs in warm soapy water to remove any oily residue that may impede the color from adhering to the eggs. Eggs colored with natural dyes have a dull finish and are not glossy. After they're dry, you can rub the eggs with cooking or mineral oil to give them a soft sheen.



DESIRED

COLOR

Blue

Brown/Beige

Brown Orange

Gold

Green

Greenish Yellow

Lavender

Orange

Pink

Red

Violet/Purple

Yellow

ITEMS TO DYE WITH

Canned blueberries, boiled red cabbage leaves, purple grape juice

Strong coffee or black tea, boiled black walnut shells

Chili powder

Turmeric

Boiled spinach leaves, liquid chlorophyll

Boiled yellow delicious apple peels

Small quantity of purple grape juice, red zinger tea

Carrots, paprika, boiled yellow onion skins

Beets, cranberries or juice, juice from pickled beets

Pomegranate juice

Red wine, hibiscus tea, violet blossoms

Boiled orange or lemon peels, boiled carrot tops, green tea, boiled ground cumin, saffron

EASTER QUIZ

Quiz your friends to see who knows the most about Easter candy:

- 1) Which Easter candy is the most popular among Americans?
 - a. Chocolate
 - b. Peeps
 - c. Jelly beans
- 2) Why are jelly beans part of the Easter tradition?
 - a. Because they're sold only in the spring
 - b. Because of their egg-like shape
 - c. Because they symbolize peace
- 3) How many chocolate bunnies are made each year in preparation for Easter?
 - a. 30 million
 - b. 50 million
 - c. 90 million
- 4) Chick-like yellow is the most popular Peeps color. Which hue comes in second?
 - a. Lavender
 - b. Pink
 - c. Green



ANSWERS:

1) a 2) b 3) c 4) b

The Kids'
Korner



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Chit Chat

Place
Stamp
Here

HAPPY
EASOTEP

Happy 9th Birthday, Chit Chat!

This 8-page Chit Chat newsletter, that we have been personally writing and distributing door-to-door to over 2,100 homes every issue, is celebrating its 9th birthday this year!!

For those of you who have not been in the neighborhood as long as us, you'll be surprised to know that we were delivering real estate tips, sales stats, American flags, and lots of goodies (candy, note pads, calendars, etc.) for 5 years *before* the inception of the Chit Chat!

No other Realtors come close to our success in this neighborhood! Absolutely no one lists and sells more homes in the Wood Streets than "The Sister Team". This is due to our full-time and long-term commitment to the real estate industry (almost 25 years), our knowledge of the Southern California real estate market, and our personal involvement with every single transaction.

Not only do we live here and work here, but we ride our bikes, take walks, and have had our fingers on the pulse of this amazing and wonderful neighborhood for the past 14 years!



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