

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2006

2006 Resolution: Random Acts Of Kindness

We've all seen stories and read headlines about senseless violence. It seems to be an inevitable fact of life. Well, in 1993 Dr. Chuck Wall, a professor of speech communications and business at Bakersfield College, decided to do something about it in the form of an assignment presented to his class: Go out and commit a "random act of senseless kindness" and write about your experience.

Today Dr. Wall's inspiring lesson has blossomed into a worldwide Kindness movement. According to Dr. Wall, "An act that positively influences the life of both the giver and the receiver is a kindness. It doesn't have to cost money or be difficult to perform. It can be spontaneous (random) or premeditated. It can be as simple as a smile or a thank you, and as complicated as starting a non-profit organization to benefit those in need.

"Seeking out opportunities to assist others will naturally bring a certain amount of warmth and feeling of self-worth to each of us. It feels good to help others, and others feel good knowing someone wants them to help."

Here's a wonderful quote from writer/motivational speaker Ralph Marston on the subject of kindness: "Though it may seem that your kindness is not always appreciated, it does indeed have an impact every time. The less it seems to be appreciated, the more it is needed, and the more of a positive difference it can make.



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Kindness is not something that becomes depleted when it is used. The more true, unconditional kindness you offer, the more you will have to offer, and the more there will be for everyone.

Genuine kindness is not an act of weakness or capitulation, but rather a powerful demonstration of confidence in your purpose. Not at all naive or unrealistic, kindness is a sign of true strength and real sophistication.

Live and act with kindness, and the value of each action is multiplied many, many times over. Live with kindness and you live with the power to make a difference in every life you touch."

— Adapted from www.kindnessinc.org

If every one of us committed only one random act of kindness per week, just imagine how many people would be positively affected.

May 2006 be your best year ever!

Tara and April

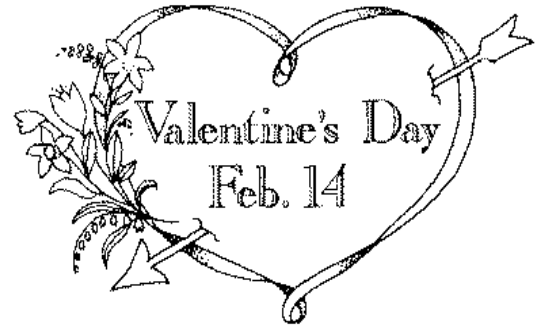
Valentine Facts

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Approximately 85% of all valentines are purchased by women. Valentine's Day is celebrated in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia.

February is also...

American Heart Month: To raise awareness for the prevention and treatment of heart disease and stroke.

African Heritage Month: A time for communities to learn about and celebrate the history, contributions and culture of people of African descent.



International Boost Self-Esteem Month: To focus on nurturing self-esteem to inspire oneself and others to reach for new challenges.

Think Before You Criticize

Is someone in your life driving you crazy? Do you need that person to stop behaving a certain way? If you're going to confront someone about a behavior that you want him/her to change, the most effective strategy isn't to criticize that person. According to Adam Kahn in his article, "Change People Without Criticizing," the easiest thing to do is make a simple request for what you want to happen in the future.

Does a coworker come into work late every morning and you have to cover a task that they are responsible for? Is your anger building because your own work is suffering? If so, think about the different scenarios that could take place when you talk to the person about the problem. What are you going to say? For instance, picture starting the conversation with, “Are you lazy or what? Why can’t you get here on time like everybody else?” It’s likely the person will become defensive since you’ve attacked their personality, not the problem behavior.

Visualize another scenario. Instead of “confronting” the person about what’s wrong, ask for what you want to happen. Try saying, “Hey, Jack, how are you doing? I was wondering if you could get here by 8 a.m., because when you’re not here, I have to answer the phones, and I can’t get the daily schedule typed up and e-mailed out.” That’s much better because it’s a specific request and now Jack knows exactly what you want him to do. In the first scenario, you’re just name-calling and venting your anger. In the second scenario, you’re framing a positive, mutually beneficial behavior pattern. It’s a win-win situation.

Could You Save A Life?

Many people know what to do when somebody sprains an ankle or nicks himself with a razor or knife. But First Aid is not just knowing about bandages and CPR; it's about knowing *when* to do *what*.

Here are answers to frequently asked questions about First Aid:

When do you call an ambulance? When there's even the slightest doubt, call 9-1-1. It's better to be safe than sorry. Until help arrives, stay calm and reassure the victim. If the victim has not hurt his back, neck or doesn't have a broken bone, reposition him so he can keep an open airway for breathing.

Learn the procedure to dislodge an item caught in somebody's throat, otherwise known as the Heimlich maneuver.

If your child has drunk something poisonous, call the Poison Control Center and describe the product that was swallowed. Do not induce vomiting. Some poisons, like abrasive cleaners, can actually do more harm than good to the victim during vomiting. If you have to induce vomiting, use ipecac syrup. It often helps.

For a cut, apply pressure to the wound with a clean, thick cloth and elevate the wounded area above the victim's heart.

Treat a burn by running cool water over the injured skin until the area is pain-free both in and out of water. Wash minor first- and second-degree burns with mild soap and apply antibiotic ointment.

— Adapted from the National Safety Council Website



The One And Only Tupperware

Stretching your food dollar wasn't easy before Earl Tilas Tupper created Tupperware, the well-known plastic container with the airtight lid. Here's a brief overview of the food storage invention:

The development of Tupperware began when Earl, a plastics factory worker, purified and molded pieces of plastic to create light-weight, non-breakable containers, cups, bowls and plates. He then designed liquid-proof, airtight lids by inversely duplicating the lid of a paint can. With these plastic molds in hand, Earl founded the Tupperware Plastics Company in 1938, and in 1946 he introduced Tupper Plastics to hardware and department stores – patented with the Tupperware seal.

Initially, Tupperware sales lagged, mostly because confused consumers didn't know how to operate the lid, so in the late 1940s, Earl tried using "Tupperware Parties" to market the product. Home demonstrations of the product's effectiveness proved highly successful, and by 1951,



Earl had completely pulled it off the shelves and focused directly on home sales presentations. The concept grew to be a household phenomenon: The Tupperware Party.

Today, a Tupperware Party demonstration begins approximately every two seconds some place in the world with yearly net sales exceeding \$1.2 billion.

— Adapted from I-net

Welcome New Clients!

Here are some past clients, and new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" recently. We'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Kimberly Gieniec (referred by Joe Gieniec)

Fran and Michelle Gilleece

Michael MacFarland (referred by Robert St. Genis and Mac McCarthy, past and treasured clients)

Barry and Shareen Romig

Cliff and Emmie Vineyard

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.

Jan/Feb Quiz Question

What is the largest living thing on Earth?

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

A \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Drawing to be held on 03/01/06



December Quiz Answer

Question: Which two breeds of dogs are the only dogs with black tongues?

Answer: Chow Chow and Shar-Pei

Turn to page 5 for detailed article.

Congratulations to Vincent Leonard

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

See An Interesting Home?

No need to wonder about the price. No need to call a high-pressure sales agent who will just make you feel obligated. Our computers can send you the information quickly and easily, for any house, listed or sold, anywhere.

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Free, No-obligation
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Call Tara or April any time:
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We'll fax, mail or e-mail you the information on that listing within 24 hours.

The Pet Page

Dog History

- The dog was one of the first animals domesticated by humans.
- Mosaics meaning “Beware the Dog” have been found on doorsteps in ancient Roman cities.
- People in China stayed warm by carrying toy breeds in their sleeves.
- The heaviest dog weighed 319 pounds.
- The oldest dog died at age 29.
- The tallest dog was a Grate Dane who stood 41 inches high.
- Siberian Huskies have been used to herd reindeer in Siberia for 3000 years.
- Labrador Retrievers were originally bred to retrieve fishing nets.
- The first living creature sent into space was a female dog named Laika, launched by the former USSR on Nov. 3, 1957.

Cat History

- Scientists believe the earliest cat probably lived about 55 million years ago.
- Egyptians mummified their dead cats and buried them along with mummified mice and saucers of milk in special cemeteries.
- Pagan religions held that witches turned into cats.
- By the 17th century, the cat gained favor by virtually saving Europe from the ravages of the great plague by controlling the rat population.
- The heaviest cat weighed 46.8 pounds.
- The oldest cat died at age 38.
- The smallest cat weighed in at 3 pounds and 6.1 inches tall.
- The largest litter gave birth to 19 kittens, with 15 surviving.
- The world’s fastest cat, the Cheetah, is able to reach speeds of 70 mph.

The Great Tongue Debate

Although totally black tongues and gums are typical of the Chow Chow and the Shar-pei, there are many other dog breeds that have black pigment on the tongue.

Also true is that not all purebred chows will have solid pigment on their tongues. Even the best of show breeds can produce chows with incomplete pigment.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

“The Sister Team” is willing to donate money to help those who would like to adopt a needy (and doomed) pet from any animal shelter!

And **remember**....spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help dogs and cats!

We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause!

Together, forever and always for the animals!

--Tara and April

Have You Heard...

- Eighty-five percent of our learning is derived from listening.
- Listeners are distracted, forgetful and preoccupied 75% of the time.
- Most listeners only recall 50% of what they've heard immediately after hearing someone say it.
- People spend 45% of their waking time listening.
- Most people remember only about 20% of what they hear over time.
- People listen at about 125 to 250 words per minute but think at about 1,000 to 3,000 words per minute.
- There have been at least 35 business studies indicating listening as a top skill needed for success.



– Adapted from *The International Listening Association* website

QUOTES

***Do you want to find
local businesses that give
outstanding customer service?***

***Request a free copy of our
service directory, including:***

***PAINTERS,
PLUMBERS,
CONTRACTORS,
TUTORS, etc.***

***All of the businesses listed have
a proven track record for
providing the outstanding
customer service you deserve!***

You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.

– *Naguib Mahfouz*

If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live.

– *Martin Luther King Jr.*

Before you criticize people, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away. And you have their shoes.

– *J.K. Lambert*

I often regret that I have spoken; never that I have been silent.

– *Publius Syrus*

If I had my life to live over again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner.

– *Tallulah Bankhead*

I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.

– *Rita Rudner*

PLEASE POST THIS ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD AT WORK



**“WOOD STREETS” NEIGHBORHOOD
GARDENER’S PARADISE
(METICULOUS ONE-OWNER HOME
SITS ON A QUARTER ACRE LOT)**

\$468,000

Rarely does a home of this caliber, which has been extremely well-maintained since day one, become available for sale. This one-owner home boasts over 1900 square feet, with a new roof, all new dual-paned windows, gorgeous hardwood floors, central air/heat, indoor laundry, massive living room with fireplace and picture window, 3 large bedrooms plus a family room, and 1.75 bathrooms. The impeccable tile, wood cabinetry, and appliances in the kitchen will appeal to the most discriminating homebuyer. The front yard is professionally landscaped with roses, colorful flowers and bushes, while the back yard is filled with fruit trees, a covered patio, a workshop/shed, and room for a pool.



← AVAILABLE
“Wood Street” ranch
3 bd, 1.75 bath & pool for
\$454,900

AVAILABLE →
Magnolia Center 3 bd
1.5 bth plus bonus rm
for \$424,900



← AVAILABLE
“Wood Street” 3 bd
1 bth, 4-car garage \$450,000

AVAILABLE →
“Wood Street” 2 bd
1 bth (new roof) for
\$395,000



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Happy
Valentine's
Day!



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Chit Chat

Referral Reward Program ...

We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....*and deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

If you want any friends, coworkers, relatives or business acquaintances to receive a free subscription to this newsletter, please contact us and we'll put them on the mailing list immediately.

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