

Allendale Lifelong Learners

January 2022

Allendale
Charter Township est. 1849

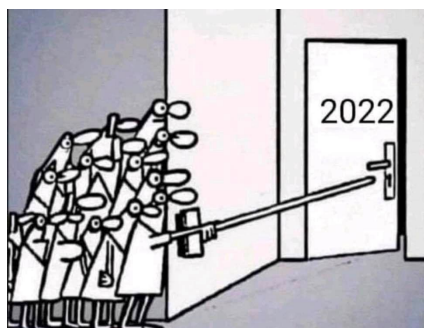
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- All Things Michigan
- Calendar of events
- Rambling Thoughts
- Just to Warm your heart

The Rest of the Story

PLEASE, PLEASE!!! Sign up for the listed activities, but if you sign up, show up!! Or let me know that you can't make it. We have had some number issues lately and need to crack down on this. Thanks for understanding!

Winter Sore Throat "Tea" Make sure you have some of this ready... great recipe for sore throats and chest colds. Makes about 2 cups
2 lemons thoroughly cleaned and sliced
2 piece of ginger about inch thick sliced into thin pieces
Honey (about 1 cup-maybe more)
In a 12-16 oz. jar combine lemon slices and sliced ginger. Pour honey (organic is best) over it slowly. This may take a little time to let the honey sink down and around the lemon and ginger slices. Make sure when the honey has filled in all the voids, there is enough to cover the top of the lemon slices. Close jar and put it in the fridge, it will form into a "jelly". To serve: Spoon jelly into mug and pour boiling water over it. Store in fridge 2-3 months.



These photos were taken 70 years apart and show the same woman on the same bike, in front of the same house.



Being a Grampa is Fun !

I put these clocks up when my four children started travelling and living abroad and I keep them set to the time zone where each of them are. This morning for the first time in almost three years they are all on the same time [#family](#)



Just Pondering

Why is it that a writer writes, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, humdingers don't hum, and hammers don't ham?

A restaurant owner shared this recently:

Fryer oil was: \$.33 cents per pound—12 months ago

\$.95 cents per pound—today

Chicken wings were: \$45 a case 12 months ago

\$175 a case today

Take out boxes were: \$25 a case 12 months ago

\$95 a case today

This is the same for all cleaning supplies, paper products and food. If a local restaurant adds a few dollars to your meal, it's not to get rich. It's to continue to stay in business. Shop local—Eat local.

Call Kathy at 616-843-0572 or email khanes@allendale-twp.org if you would like more information on the Allendale Lifelong Learners or any of the activities listed in this newsletter.



A Little Bit of this and that...



Give me a sense of humor, Lord—Give me the grace to see a joke.
To get some humor out of life and pass it on to other folk!

- Things crazy dog people do...Ask one dog where the other one is when you can't find them.
- Most people are at the age where they are using their phones to document the good times in their lives. I am at the age where I use my phone to take pictures of labels that I can't read and use my phone to enlarge the print so that I can read it.
- I asked this lady if I could touch her hair. She said yes, so I ran my finger across her top lip...and that's how the fight got started!
- I feel like I'm in season 5 of my life and the writers are just making ridiculous stuff happen to keep it interesting!
- My ability to remember song lyrics from the 70's far exceeds my ability to remember why I walked into the kitchen.
- Bruce Lee was fast. His brother, Sudden Lee was faster!
- What if I told you you read the first part of this sentence wrong?
- The cashier told me, "Strip down facing me." By the time I realized they meant the debit card, it was too late!
- Elton John has bought his pet rabbit a treadmill. It's a little fit bunny!
- My friend, Joe, recently went on the Dolly Parton diet. It made Joe lean, Joe lean, Joe lean, Joe lean!
- Today I learned that if you flip a canoe over you can wear it as a hat...because it's CAP sized!
- Getting older is that time of life when you get mad when they rearrange the grocery store!
- And yet again this morning no one was standing next to my bed saying, "Your Royal Highness, here is your coffee!"
- My bed is a magical place where I suddenly remember everything I forgot to do!
- On average, I spend about \$40 a year to watch bananas turn brown!
- Did you know muffins spelled backwards is what you do when you take them out of the oven?
- I ate a kid's meal at McDonalds this morning. His mom was furious!
- Don't expect me to stop if you're broken down by the side of the road. You were offered an extended car warranty several times!
- Hired a handy man and gave him a list. When I got home, only #1, 3 & 5 were done. Turns out, he only does odd jobs
- I just had it brought to my attention that 1980 ad 2021 are as far apart as 1980 and 1939...I'm just going to need a minute!
- My favorite childhood memory is having energy!



MESSAGE BIBLE: Mama, I'm hungry.

AMPLIFIED: Mommy, I am hungry (famished, starving)

NIV: Mother, I am hungry

KJV: Henceforth, let it be known unto thee, birth giver, that my belly consists of



- I was robbed at the gas station today. I called the police and they asked if I knew who did it. Yes, I said. Pump number 6!
- For anybody else who got coal for Christmas...maybe we can get together and get the grill going or something?
- I wish I could drop my body off at the gym and pick it back up when it's ready!

Welcome to the 21st century

Our phones — Wireless

Cooking — Fireless

Cars — Keyless

Food — Fatless

Youth — Jobless

Relationships — Meaningless

Leaders — Shameless

Feelings — Heartless

Education — Valueless

Children — Mannerless

Everything has become less but still our hopes are — Endless

In fact I'am — Speechless

I will never help anyone again EVER! I'm too kindhearted, or I'm too naive....

Yesterday it was so cold out that we took a man into our home out of the kindness of our hearts. We felt so sorry for him, poor thing was standing stiff and frozen out in the cold, but this morning he had just vanished. Not a word...not even a goodbye or a thank you for sheltering him.

The last straw?!?! When I realized he had peed all over the floor! That's the "thank you" I get for being good to people?!?!?

Now I'm going to warn my friends to watch out for this man! He is heavy-set, wearing nothing but a scarf, he has a carrot-like nose, two black eyes, and his arms are stick skinny. Don't bring him into your house! What a mess he made on the floor.



TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

1. Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
2. In style are the clothes that still fit.
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop making you mad!
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it!"
6. On time is when you get there.
7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid...but it sure does muffle the sound.
8. Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
9. Growing old should have taken longer.
10. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
11. You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.
12. "One for the road" means going to the bathroom before you leave the house.

**WALMART:
THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH
YOU CAN GET A HAIRCUT,
EYE EXAM, ICE CREAM
SANDWICH, TIRES FOR YOUR
CAR, AND WITNESS A REAL
LIFE "WHAT NOT TO WEAR"
EPISODE.**

Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you!

Bill: What should we name this new, giant, outdoor advertising?

Phil: How about a philboard?

Bill: I've got a better idea!



An elderly woman called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher. "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried. The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way." A few minutes later, the officer radios in. "Disregard, she got in the back-seat by mistake!"

When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away? Of course not! You change the batteries. When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not! You help them change their batteries.



Some need AA...attention and affection; some need AAA...attention, affection, and acceptance; some need C...compassion; some need D...direction. And if they still don't seem to shine...simply sit with them quietly and share your light.

- A retired man volunteered to entertain people in assisted living home and hospitals. He visited one home and brought along his portable keyboard. After telling jokes and singing some songs, he said, "Farewell, I hope you get better!" One of the residents waved back and said with all sincerity..."I hope you do too!"
- The employee shortage is so bad that 'long-haired, freaky people can now apply!



Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra-curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing!

Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing. Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house ... Walked home... And left it there all night. You gotta love Frank!

Rambling Thoughts

A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farallon Islands (outside the Golden Gate) and radioed for help. Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so badly off, the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her...a very dangerous proposition. One slap of the tail could kill a rescuer.

They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, nudged them, and pushed gently, thanking them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives.

The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the whole time, and he will never be the same.

May you be so fortunate to be surrounded by people who will help you get untangled from the things that are binding you.

And, may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude.



Everyone talks about an inner child. I have an inner old lady who says inappropriate things, has zero tolerance for idiots, loves coffee, wine, & chocolate. She is salty, sassy, and full of gumption. She is exasperated by the world right now and misses the time when people had manners, and could voice an opinion without being attacked. She loves animals more than most people, and will fight fiercely for anyone she loves.



My brain:

1970 was 30 years ago
1990 was 10 years ago
1995 was 10 years ago
2000 was 10 years ago
2010 was 10 years ago
2016 was a couple years ago
2017 didn't happen
2018 was 2 years ago
2019 was last year
2020 was last year
2021 it's only January



DECLUTTER CHALLENGE

30 BAGS IN 30 DAYS

During the next 30 days, clean out your cupboards, closets, and drawers. Fill one bag a day to throw out, donate or sell.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| o Day 1 - Kitchen Cupboard | o Day 17 - Toy Box |
| o Day 2 - Kitchen Pantry | o Day 18 - Desk Drawers |
| o Day 3 - Kitchen Drawers | o Day 19 - TV Cabinets |
| o Day 4 - Under Kitchen Sink | o Day 20 - Laundry Room |
| o Day 5 - Junk Drawer | o Day 21 - Old Magazines & Newspapers |
| o Day 6 - Cleaning Supplies | o Day 22 - Paperwork |
| o Day 7 - Fridge & Freezer | o Day 23 - Art & Craft Supplies |
| o Day 8 - Linen Closet | o Day 24 - Holiday Decorations |
| o Day 9 - Bedroom Closets | o Day 25 - DVD's & CD's |
| o Day 10 - Nightstands & Drawers | o Day 26 - Car |
| o Day 11 - Shoes | o Day 27 - Garage Shelves & Storage |
| o Day 12 - Master Bathroom | o Day 28 - Boardgames |
| o Day 13 - Guest Bathroom | o Day 29 - Purse |
| o Day 14 - Medicine Cabinet | o Day 30 - Electronics |
| o Day 15 - Makeup | |
| o Day 16 - Under the Beds | |

All Things Michigan...



Why does Michigan love playing Euchre?

Euchre is a staple of Michigan card tables and family events. Why?

So, I'm not going to break down the rules of Euchre, mostly because they change by location and household. But if you're up for a refresher, here's a good breakdown of basic rules that are pretty baseline in any scenario. Instead, we're going to look at the history of the card game -- and how it became so popular here in Michigan.

Origins of Euchre

Euchre was played in North America starting in the early 19th century, but originated in Alsace, under the name "Juckerspiel." The game was carried to the New World by German-speaking immigrants. Some of the game's other terms also come from German. In euchre, the jacks are called "bowers" which is derived from "bauer", meaning farmers in German.

That's the most popular theory, of course. There are others. One suggests a "Rich German farmer's daughter" visited Philadelphia and brought home a confused version of the French game Écarté, which later developed into Euchre. It's all a blur. Either way, Euchre's popularity skyrocketed in the mid-1800s.

Euchre was widely regarded as the national card game in the United States in the 19th century, as described in an 1877 book: "No sedentary game is more popular, or so generally played for amusement in domestic circles, throughout the widespread 'eminent domain' of the United States."

Like all popular things, Euchre's glow eventually dimmed, but it remains a popular game in the Midwest, Ontario and in the U.K., Australia and New Zealand.

Why is it popular here?

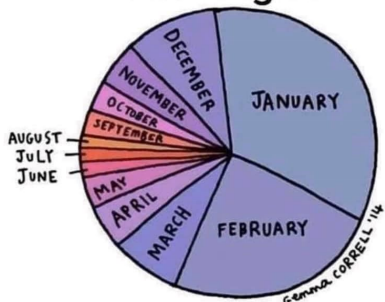
The quick answer to this is: nobody really knows. It's not like there was a huge Euchre tournament that happened here and shaped the Euchre culture for generations.

It's probably because of Midwestern family values. Think about it -- who taught you how to play Euchre? Probably a parent, aunt/uncle, cousin or sibling, right? The game brings families together for a game, keeping those connections alive.

Through the years, we keep teaching each other to play the game and it stays alive through our family framework. Isn't that a beautiful reason?

Don't worry, you can still "go alone" if you think it's the right move.

How Time Passes... in Michigan



WEATHER IN THE UNITED STATES:



WEATHER IN Michigan



In 1983, William Bultman felt shocked and dismayed when he learned no one in the USA seemed to be making wood blocks for children anymore. So he began hand-manufacturing classic wood alphabet blocks in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He called his company "Uncle Goose." Years later Uncle Goose still handcrafts every set in Grand Rapids, Michigan, using sustainable basswood grown from around the Great Lakes. And yes, they are 100% made in the USA. Uncle Goose uses non-toxic, child-safe inks on all their blocks. One set I own are over 30 years old, and a second generation is playing and learning with that same set of heirloom blocks. So get your kid, grandkid, niece or nephew something they'll play with that's made in Michigan. Take a walk down memory lane and make it purely and uniquely Michigan and you'll soon discover you've become a local yokel.



become a local yokel.

In late February each year, the maples that line the Shepherd, Michigan streets are tapped with approximately 2000 spiles and pails. The sap is collected by local volunteers and evaporated to 67% sugar content in their Sugar Bush building located in the town of 1500 people. Why do you ask? The Sugar Bush started in 1958 as a volunteer project with the all the proceeds funding park and recreational activities in the community. 63 successful years later the resident's still practice the art of making maple syrup with Michigan's first agricultural product of the new growing season. Shepherd Sugar Bush is the Sweetest Little Town Around. Shepherd's delicious Maple Syrup is available in pints to gallons through Amazon; 24/7.

January 2022

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 8:30 AM— Breakfast Club at Mur- phy's. Join us as we cele- brate your	4	5 5:30 PM—Bunco Game Night. Come out for s and Din \$6.00 at	6	7	8
9	10	11 10:00 AM— Crafty Tuesday	12 11:30 AM—Lunch Bunch. Meet at the restaurant we choose.	13 11:00 AM— Exercise class	14	15
16	17	18	19 2:00 PM—Hand and Foot at the town hall.	20 11:00 AM— Exercise class 5:00 PM—Supper club. Meet at the restaurant for din- ner and fellow-	21	22
23	24	25 2:00 PM— Euchre at the town hall.	26 12 Noon—Monthly luncheon. Meet at Main St. Pub and enjoy a delicious lunch and catch up with one another.	27 11:00 AM— Exercise class	28	29
30	31					

You can text or call and leave a message @ 616.843.0572 or
send an email to khanes@allendale-twp.org

8:30 AM—Monday, January 3, at 8:30 AM, Breakfast—Join the group as we gather for breakfast at Murphy's restaurant in Allendale. Warm your heart and tummy with good food, good fellowship and hot coffee! No need to call, just show up!

Wednesday, January 5 at 5:00 PM—Bunco and Supper! Bunco on the first Wednesday of each month! Cost is \$6.00 at the door. Sign up so we know how many to plan for! An easy to learn game that's fun for all! Supper will be soup and sandwiches!

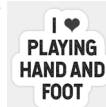
Thursdays at 11:00 AM—Exercise class!!! Join the group as we will be meeting in the gym at Love, INC. Start the new year with a goal to be a part of this class! Class begins again on **Thursday, Jan 13th**.

Tuesday, January 11 at 10:00 AM — Craft time at the town hall. We will have everything ready for you to make a Jute vase. Cost is just \$2 at the door. Everything you'll need to complete this cute little vase will be provided. If you're a crafty person and see something you'd like to try, please feel free to share. Thanks!



Wednesday, January 12 at 11:30, Lunch Bunch We will meet for lunch at Uccello's in Standale. Meet for lunch and prizes for trivia if we have more than 10 there. A fun time for all!

Wednesday, January 19 at 2:00 PM—Hand and Foot —Let's get together and learn this fun card game. Some of you already know a version of this game, but we will have some fun learning with our house rules and maybe making some up as we go! We will be playing at the Town Hall. FREE!



Thursday, January 20, Supper Club at 5:00 PM at Peppino's —Meet with friends as we get together for dinner at Peppino's. Bring a friend! See you there.

Tuesday, January 25, Euchre at the town hall —We are adding Euchre to our growing list of game days. This first time, we will be setting the house rules and go from there. Bring your own foursome or meet some new people and play the afternoon away.

Wednesday, January 26 at 12 noon—Luncheon at Main St. Pub. Order from a limited menu and pay that day. We will have speakers coming in this year at each luncheon. If you have a topic you would like to hear about, please let me know. Remember to call to sign up so we know how many will be there. This month we will hear from Life Circles PACE, a service that provides an alternative to nursing home care and offers in-home care for a loved one. I hope you can join us!



Just to Warm your Heart...

They're gone now. I stood in the driveway and watched my grown children drive off into the distance. I looked down the road until I could no longer see their vehicles.

"They live way too far away from me", I said to myself. "When did they grow up and become parents of small children? Shouldn't that be me?"

I slipped back inside the house and just walked through the rooms for no reason in particular. I was just missing them already and looking for signs of their having been here. There were pillows on the floor where they had been tossed from the couch that had been used for a bed and a few stuffed animals lying around where the children had been playing.

I smiled at the little fingerprints on my mirror. I didn't wipe them off. I thought back to the time when I tried so hard to keep the fingerprints off the mirrors and doors when my children were small. Now, I wanted the tiny fingerprints to stay so that I could see them there just a little longer. Oh, I knew I would eventually clean the glass doors and the mirror but for now, they remained a work of art, a collage of tiny fingerprints for my viewing.

As I walked around the house, I picked up a few items on the floor and straightened a chair. I decided to sort through the toy box and I found a flying dinosaur, a skeleton, and a Frankenstein that had mysteriously taken up residence in my box of toys. It always amazes me how Ben, the five-year-old connoisseur of toys, remembers the items in the toy box and knows whom they belong to and if anything is missing.

I walked into the kitchen and there on the back of the sink was a bottlebrush that had been left behind. "Ah, even Tessa left something behind," I announced. Well, I suppose she had help since she is just four months old.

"I wonder what else has been left behind," I said out loud to no one in particular. My husband heard me and joined the search for things left behind.

It seems like every time our family gets together something is left behind. When I call my children to tell them what they have left behind I am usually told, "Oh, just bring it when you come.", "Keep it for me until I come back the next time", or "Hey, I really need that, would you mind mailing it to me?"

"Oh look! Here's Tegan's tooth," I said to my husband as I picked up a Ziploc bag with her name engraved on it. Tegan had a loose tooth and had managed to wiggle it out earlier in the day. "Now, she can't put it under her pillow. I wonder if it will work if I put it under my pillow. The Tooth Fairy is going to be so confused!" I laughed.

"Here's a pair of tennis shoes," Mike said. "And three socks!" He added. Maybe the mystery of extra socks in the dryer has been solved. Perhaps some people are wearing three socks at a time! "Oh, it will be here when he comes back." He replied. "Not if I can help it." I said as I recalled my last encounter with the creepy artificial arachnid. I remembered how Ben had giggled like crazy the first time I had seen one of his monster spiders he had placed in a strategic place for me to find. He loves to see me jump and he is never disappointed since making Grammy jump doesn't take much with or without spiders. "You just never know when you might need a huge black spider that looks and feels real." I said as I hastily threw it in the box with the shoes to mail to my daughter. "I hope she doesn't have a heart attack when she opens the box but then I imagine she's pretty used to rubber spiders by now." I walked on around the house finding more things that had been left behind: A toothbrush, a ponytail band, an angel figurine, a pie pan, a frozen teething ring in the freezer, and last but not least the insides of a turkey fryer. I was really kind of enjoying myself. It gave me something to do after they left to take my mind off of missing them.

Then my eyes teared up as I noticed the baby outfit beside the sink where it had been left to dry after spots had been scrubbed out of it. The little outfit, now stain free, reminded me of the trip to the emergency room with Rowan due to a gash on her head that was caused from a flower pot pulled over by her curious little fingers.

"Hmmm, things left behind. . .", I pondered to myself. It seems there is one thing that is left behind on every occasion. Memories are always left behind, I reasoned, and what a precious thing good memories are to us. I thought how each item left behind reminded me of the person it belonged to and the story surrounding it. The insides of the turkey fryer that was left behind reminded me of the delicious Thanksgiving meal that we all enjoyed. The empty pie pan reminded me of Katie's delicious pies. The angel figurine reminded me of the white elephant gift exchange game that we play every year. Even the bad memory of Rowan's injury reminded me of how frightened I was at the sound of her cry. It is a bad memory that turned into a good one as it reminded us of how precious little Rowan is to us.

Memories happen even if we aren't aware of it. The stressful and difficult moments often become memories that we look back on later with laughter and joy. They are the stories of the future when one day someone will say, "Remember when ___?", and everyone laughs.

Then, of course, there are some memories that need to be left behind. The memories of past hurts, unforgiveness, bitterness, and anger should be left behind forever. These are the things that we should never keep until the next time, mail back, or bring with us to our next visit.

Yes, I stood in the driveway and watched my grown children drive off into the distance and I remembered my own parents once doing the same thing. I never knew then that I would one day be the one waving from the driveway and feeling my heart drive off down the road. That's because there is one more thing besides memories left behind... and that is love.

"To have a child is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body."

Ancestral Mathematics—In order to be born, you needed:

- 2 parents
- 4 grand parents
- 8 great grand parents
- 16 second great grand parents
- 32 third great grand parents
- 64 fourth great grand parents
- 128 fifth great grand parents
- 256 sixth great grand parents
- 512 seventh great grand parents
- 1,024 eighth great grand parents
- 2,048 ninth great grand parents

For you to be born today from 10 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,096 ancestors over the last 400 years. Think for a moment—How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? How many of these things did your ancestors go through for you to exist today? Be grateful...always!




In 1979, a gold miner in Alaska discovered a well-preserved body of a bison. He named it "Blue Babe" because the bison's mummified hide had a metallic blue sheen. But it was no ordinary bison. Researchers found out that it was a male steppe bison that died 36,000 years ago!

IT'S OK TO CUT NEGATIVE PEOPLE OUT OF YOUR LIFE.

WWW.SLIPPEDSTITCHSTUDIOS.COM

JUST DON'T USE YOUR FABRIC SCISSORS.



JOHN CARPENTER

DID YOU KNOW?

The first guy to win "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" used none of his lifelines until the final question, where he called his dad. During the call, he told his dad he didn't need any help on the final question, but he just wanted to let him know that he was about to win \$1,000,000. John Carpenter answered the question correctly and became the show's first millionaire.



Bridges have no way to trap heat and are exposed to cold air on all sides, so they continually lose heat and freeze shortly after air temperatures hit the freezing point.

A bridge will follow the air temperature very closely.

If the air temperature falls below freezing, a bridge's surface will fall below freezing very quickly causing rain or snow to freeze and stick to the road surface.

DID YOU KNOW?



Your brain will constantly rewire itself to suit the information that you feed into it. If you constantly complain, gossip, find excuses, etc; it will make it much easier to find things to be upset about, regardless of what is happening around you. Likewise, if you constantly search for opportunities, abundance, love, and things to be grateful for, it will make it much easier to find a reflection of those things around you. It takes practice, but over time, this is a very powerful way to reshape your reality.



HISTORY HUSTLE

In 1959, police were called to a segregated library when a Black 9-year-old boy trying to check out books refused to leave, after being told the library was not for Black people. The boy, Ronald McNair, went on to get a PhD in Physics from MIT and became an astronaut. The library that refused to lend him books is now named after him.

This is Dasia Taylor.

She invented a new type of suture that changes color to show if a wound is infected.

She won the state science fair, became a finalist in a national competition, and now has her sights set on a patent.

She's only 17.



DID YOU KNOW?

Music has the ability to repair brain damage and return lost memories.



pianocompanion.info

THE REST OF THE STORY...

I believe in the rest of the story. I believe there's still ink in the pen.... and someday all that's hazy through a clouded glass will be clear at last.

THE TEACHER WHO SAVED DARTH VADER -- (A True Story) -- 72 years ago, a teenage boy named Todd Jones was growing up near the tiny West Michigan town of Brethren, which is located about 20 miles east of Manistee. Born in Mississippi, Todd moved to Michigan when he was five years old to live with his maternal grandparents. The move was psychologically traumatic and it affected his ability to speak: "I was a stutterer," he recalled. "I couldn't talk. So my first year of school was my first mute year, and then those mute years continued until I got to high school."



A compassionate teacher named Donald Crouch challenged Todd to read a poem out loud in front of his English class -- a poem Todd wrote himself. That simple act of encouragement changed American entertainment history: "From that day forward, young Todd Jones — he soon would change his name to James Earl Jones to better suit his yearning to perform on stage and the silver screen — would speak boldly and with such character that his voice has become one of the most recognized in the world.

"That is 'how I found my voice,' Jones would say over and over and when interviewed about overcoming his youthful difficulties with stuttering: it was because of a teacher — a mentor who challenged him, and supported him.

To honor Jones and Crouch, the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Manistee County has commissioned life-size bronze statues of the two, which are expected to be installed in front of the Kaleva Norman Dickson Public School in Brethren, where Jones attended in the late 1940s (he graduated in 1949), and where Crouch taught."

Jones went on to study at the University of Michigan, first in pre-med, but then theater arts. He joined Army ROTC and later served stateside during the tail end of the Korean War.

After his discharge from military service, Jones began his acting career at the Ramsdell Theatre in Manistee, and later on Broadway. His specialty was Shakespearean drama.

Jones' first screen role was in Stanley Kubrick's film, "Dr. Strangelove" (1964). He won an Academy Award for his role in "The Great White Hope" (1970). His Darth Vader voice work for "Star Wars" began in 1976. And the rest is history!

Surround yourself
with women who
would mention your
name in a room
full of opportunities.

"Hi! I want to commend one of your bus drivers who was driving the 205 service from CIT to Kent Station at 15:40. As an elderly lady was getting off the bus she almost tripped. Once she was off, the driver noticed that her lace was undone and he stalled the bus to tell her. When she said that she knew, he realized that she wasn't steady enough on her feet to bend down and tie it herself, so he got off the bus and tied it for her. He was so kind to her and went out of his way to look after a customer. I haven't seen someone do something so kind in as long as I can remember and the lady was so appreciative she blew a kiss as the bus was pulling away. Your driver made my day."



Ten Painful Truths

1. The average human life is relatively short.
2. You only ever live the life you create for yourself.
3. Being busy does not mean being productive.
4. Some kind of failure always occurs before success.
5. Thinking and doing are two very different things.
6. You don't have to wait for an apology to forgive.
7. Some people are simply the wrong match for you.
8. It's not other people's job to love you; it's yours.
9. What you own is not who you are.
10. Everything changes, every second.

I told my friend that I'm emotionally "hitting a wall" and she said "Sometimes walls are there so we can lean on them and rest."

I can't even begin to express how much I really needed to hear that.

last year in a library in Alaska I read a folk tale in a random book on a random shelf & have been thinking about it since & today i wrote the librarian w/ no book title or author & in 2 hrs i had a scan of the story & cover in my inbox – librarians should be running everything.