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"Lucky Larry" Blizzard"

**To:**

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## Great News!

Arriving every month—because you are important to me!

## Lighten Up—Be Happy!

After walking into a small grocery store & Deli, I ordered my sandwich. The girl behind the counter taking my order was roughly in her thirties. Would you like mayo on this sandwich? I respond with, "Yes Ma'am, I sure would."

I must admit that I was caught off guard as to her heated response. From behind the counter, she raised her voice and let it be known that she wasn't that old and didn't appreciate me calling her Ma'am. I looked around at the other customers who were also surprised. They sheepishly looked down, just as shocked as me, and knew if they wanted a nice sandwich, they had better not say any-

thing.

I thought for a brief second on a response but didn't say anything. All I could do is just laugh. Maybe her boyfriend said that morning that she was getting old or she looked in the mirror and saw her face sagging a little who knows but to me it seems more like people are looking for something to be offended with these days.

My mother was from the south and we as kids were taught to say Sir & Ma'am. That was the way we were raised, to show respect and admiration. Well, if you don't know me by

now, this type of thing doesn't affect me and I will keep doing what I know most others appreciate. I am not a guy to walk around worried that I may offend someone or that someone may offend me. I just show respect, affection and genuinely want to be good to others and it shows, usually.



I say, Let's lighten up & Be Happy! Don't take things so personally. Let's stop thinking that we are so special that life has singled out and is against us and that we are the targets of personal attacks.

....continued on the front



# Great News!

Arriving every month—because you are important to me!



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## Lighten Up—Be Happy!

May 2021

....continued from the back

I recently saw on You Tube the roast of Frank Sinatra and the clip with Don Rickles done back in 1978. Now that was some funny stuff right there. Don didn't hold back. He made fun of and joked with each of the roast-ers. He admittedly says that no one gets a free pass as he makes fun of all. Italians, over weight people, blacks, Jewish women, Irishmen, etc. If you haven't seen it, check it out.

Years ago, I became a volunteer fireman. It was an all-male firehouse and, in that world, and I know of many others, everyone had to take their turn of razzing. Yep, me too as the short guy. I am 5'5" and have had to endure that type of kidding all my life. It was all in fun and built a comradery and a special bond that was hard to break. However, when a call came in, we got down to business as a team watching each other's back. I will never forget those times or men.

It seems that most people today have become weak minded, soft and of-fended easily. What happened to the tough self-secure people we once were? Is it the new thing to curl up in a fetal position if feelings get hurt?

If you were around in the 70's, sitcoms like The Jefferson's, Sanford & Sons and All in the Family were at the top of TV viewing. These shows were downright funny. Its interesting to note that although they talked about race and culture, it was done so that we all laughed but it didn't tear us apart as a country. It actually seemed to bring us together in laughing at each other and ourselves. Although we were different, we felt some sort of a bond.

If All in the Family were to air today, it would be the talk on every news channel as racist and would, they say, divide our country, go figure. Archie Bunker would be tared & feathered and run out of town! No, I mean cancelled!

This to me is a shame as we cannot have any real comedy nowadays. Chris Rock, one of the best comedians of today said that no one can be funny anymore with out backlash. Most comedians are paranoid at offending someone and losing a sponsorship, cancelled, labeled as racist or worst. They will not risk saying some things.

As it has been said, none of us will get out of this life alive. We're all in this life together! Why sweat the small stuff! Take it from me, most people genuinely care about others and are not out to hurt or destroy lives.

Its in all of our best interest to Lighten up & Be Happy. We shouldn't take life so seriously.



### “QUOTES “

*"Broken Crayons Still Color..."*

Shelley Hitz, Author



**“There are two types of people in the world: givers and takers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better.**

Marlo Thomas

*“Do Everything With a Good Heart and Expect Nothing in Return, and You Will Never Be Disappointed”*

—Barbara Lowe, Psychologist

All that I am, or ever hope to be, I owe to my Angel Mother.—Abraham Lincoln  
**(Happy Mothers Day to all the Hero Moms!)**

The Weather Channel said dress for the mid 70s today.



*I am looking for my shirt!!*

# Real Estate News From the Trenches!

## A Street View From a Real Estate Renegade

### Your home improvement project just got a lot more expensive.

*Supply-chain issues have made home-improvement projects more expensive. And shipping delays, as well as the Texas freeze, have emptied shelves at stores like Home Depot and Lowe's.*

Many home-improvement goods including appliances, paint, and fertilizer are getting more expensive to combat shortages and rising shipping costs. Price tags on consumer goods have risen over 10% from a year ago and demand for home improvement items caused by the work-from-home boom has pushed prices to new highs.

**The computer-chip shortage has made home appliances difficult to find.** The global semiconductor shortage has impacted most electronics, from dishwashers and refrigerators to wash-

ing machines. And panic buying of products like freezers during the pandemic has only made the problem worse. Last month, data from Home Depot and Lowes indicated freezers had sold out across the country and that the product is not expected to be available until mid summer. Refrigerators and dishwashers are also affected with price hikes and delayed delivery dates.

**The Texas freeze made paint, windows, and vinyl siding more expensive.** Anything that includes resin — vinyl windows, PVC boards, plumbing pipes, and electrical conduits — has become increasingly valuable since the Texas storms. The February deep freeze in the state shut down resin plants and has made windows and vinyl siding increasingly expen-

sive.

### Lumber prices have pushed flooring, cabinets, and deck prices higher.

Any item that is made out of wood is facing significant price hikes and shortages, From cabinets to flooring, decking, and doors, the products' prices are skyrocketing along with lumber prices.

**Price tags on outdoor gear are also spiking.** Increased interest in stay-at-home options has created a renewed interest in outdoor home improvement. One unusual shortage is a lack of cushions for outdoor furniture. Lawn and garden-care products have also had price hikes in recent months. *Unfortunately these issues are effecting builders, rehabbers and homeowners. And even though there is no clear end in sight, this trend is unsustainable and should push policy makers to improve these supply chains.*

## Book Of The Month

This business and self-help creativity guide encourages innovation in aspiring entrepreneurs and business leaders. Have you ever looked at a product and thought, 'Why didn't I think of that?' or, 'I'm just not a creative person!' Im-



## “Your Next Big Idea” By Samuel Sanders

prove problem-solving skills and increase the effectiveness of knowledge management in your organization to come up with the next game-changing idea to hit the market!

In this book you will:

- Learn how others innovate by examining the world

around them

- Practice asking questions, and see how to recognize details in observations
- Complete creative exercises to get into the right mindset
- Understand the importance of sharing ideas, and assess their feasibility.

This book is a breath of

fresh air in letting people let their creative minds run wild. "Whether you're interested in developing your business, artistic inventiveness or communication skills, reading Your Next Big Idea is a great way to get your creative juice flowing"

## For The Health Of It!

### Worry Less and Enjoy More

We are all a little neurotic, right? But true neuroticism—a personality trait that describes people who are prone to anxiety, self-consciousness, irritability, emotional instability and depression, can truly result in many psychological conditions from mood disorders to substance abuse and reeks havoc on physical and mental well being. Every ones level



of worrying varies but if you feel yours may be out of control, try these tips you can do yourself. **Buy a journal** and paste a photo of a loved one who cares about you on the front cover. Imagine them saying to you..."Look at me, take a deep breath...what would be a better option then your worrying? You can get through this." Writing your response acts as a worrying release tool because you can feel seen and heard by a caring empathetic person. **The SSLS (Stop, Look, Listen and Smell)** is another tactic that has long been used by

the military. It encourages you to pause and focus on your surroundings. These action items force you to focus on something other than your worries. Smell in particular, is a game changer when it comes to calming the nervous system. Smelling your environment requires deep inhaling through the nose. This eases anxiety and enhances mood especially if you relate what your are smelling to a pleasant memory...like the smell of gas reminding you of family road trips or a certain perfume or flower that may remind you of a loving parent of grandparent.

### Alcohol Free Hand Sanitizer

*The CDC recommends hand sanitizers that contain alcohol, but new lab testing shows that alcohol-free solutions containing benzalkonium chloride and other ammonium compounds destroyed the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19 just as quickly and effectively as those with alcohol. Alcohol-free sanitizers are easier on the skin and may be easier to find.*

# Money Matters



## Real Estate Commissions May Be Negotiable...

About one-quarter of agents say they would consider adjusting their commission if asked. If you are selling a home, especially in a hot real estate market, talk to multiple agents and ask how they split commissions with buying agents and whether they will make an adjustment. Also ask if they would agree to be paid by the hour for their work—some agents will do this. Alternative: Ask about rebates—some agents will agree to return part of their commission, although at least 10 states do not allow these rebates. *New York Times*

## Avoid Having Your Packages Stolen!

In 2020, 59% of Americans shopped online, and 43% of the reported they'd had at least one package stolen. Here are the steps consumers most often report taking to avoid losing their items and their money!

**-Schedule delivery times with the company.** You can also set up delivery notifications that will let you know exactly when your item will arrive.

**-Add delivery instructions to leave off of the front porch.** Look for delivery options when checking out then add any details to secure your item.

**-Try TaskRabbit.** If you don't want to brave the mail, TaskRabbit will pick up items from just about anywhere and bring them straight to you. This may be pricier but lets you customize exactly when and where you will receive your delivery.

**Watch for deliveries and package thieves with Video Doorbells.** Though these cameras cannot stop a thief, it can act as a deterrent.

**Pick an alternate delivery location** like a relative, trusted neighbor or your office.

If shopping with Amazon, they offer the **Amazon Locker option.** Very easy and secure. Another reliable option is **curbside pickup!** Can't go wrong there.

## Self-Improvement- by Jim Rohn- "Your Lifestyle is a Reflection of Who You Are"

Our lifestyle communicates a clear message about who we are and how we think. Lifestyle is where we go, what we do and how we feel once we are there. Lifestyle is how we dress, what we drive and the type of entertainment we choose to enjoy. The things we do, the things we say, even our appearance, suggests an inner attitude about life. If we are spending more money on donuts than we do on books, that suggests something about the sincerity of our desire for personal progress.

Whether we spend an evening in front of a computer screen or a TV screen, talking with our children or having fun with our "pals from the office," lifestyle is a function of attitude and personal values. We can all afford

to live better. It doesn't take more money to change how we live. It takes more deliberate thought and a greater appreciation of the real values in life. Lifestyle means designing ways to live uniquely. It is a

**Happiness is an Art, not an Accident...**

skill to be mastered, not a condition to be pursued. It is finding new ways to bring joy, pleasure, excitement and substance into our lives and into the lives of those we care for while we are working on our goals, not once we have achieved them. A more abundant existence does not necessarily mean a more enjoyable lifestyle. Many of us dream of becoming wealthy, having a beautiful home that is tended by others so that we will be free to enjoy ourselves. We dream of winning lotteries and quitting our jobs in pursuit of the good life. The big

question is what would we do? In a very short time, most of what we dreamed of is as uninspiring as our current lifestyle. There is only so much traveling, partying, sleeping and "enjoying" that we can experience before this too would become tedious.

If it is not a life of endless fun and laughter that we are after, then what are we in pursuit of? We might all have different opinions of what lifestyle is, but hopefully we will all agree on what it is not: It is not something we get simply as a result of having more. Lifestyle is a result of living more... living more fully, living more consciously, living more joyfully, living more appreciatively. The more fully we live, the more we do and the more we become. Lifestyle is not a reward for all of our hard effort; it is a way of making

our hard effort more rewarding, more meaningful and ultimately more productive.

If we wish to be wealthy, we must study wealth, and if we wish to be happy, we must study happiness. The combination of these two studies create the aura that we call lifestyle. Most peoples plan for finding happiness consists of going through the day with their fingers crossed, hoping that something will work out that will make them happy. But happiness is an art, not an accident. It is not something that falls out of the sky. Happiness—that unique emotion that we mistakenly believe comes to us only when we have become successful—must precede the achievement of success. Happiness is as much a cause of success as it is a result of success, and we can begin to experience happiness whenever we wish, regardless of our current circumstances.



**OUCH!** In Chicago, a 19 year old professed hotdog lover approached a hot dog vendor, brandished a gun, and demanded they empty the cash register. Little did the employees know that their holdup's big finale would culminate in the suspect shooting his own...well let's just say...Oscar Meyer Weiner! After the crook snaffled the money, he put his gun in his waistband. The weapon discharged jeopardizing the future of his manhood. After a brief tussle with the hotdog vendor, he was able to escape. Shortly after, 911 received a call from a young man who said he had been shot in the genitals. The police put two and two together and arrested him for armed robbery. Freud would probably have something to say about a man who shoots his own penis at a hotdog stand perhaps, though, his self inflicted sterilization was for the good of mankind.