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“We have to talk.” Are there any words more terrifying than that sentence when it comes from your “significant other?”

I was in the car with my LML (Love of my Life) Rana when she uttered that frightening phrase. Immediately the hamsters in my brain started spinning on that little wheel as fast as they could trying to figure out what I (apparently) did wrong.

Since moving in with Rana, and notwithstanding such previously unthinkable changes in my life; life is, once again good. Everyone (including yours truly) has noticed my happier disposition and that I smile a lot more nowadays.

My initial fear regarding her “request” was that Rana discovered; or worse - finally figured out my true personality. My four sons have repeatedly warned me about this.

They glibly and continuously advise their dad that Rana is too smart to put up with me. To compound matters, they even emptied the dishwasher; I had not ignored her to watch any sports; and most importantly - the toilet seat was down.

As my mind raced, I frantically realized that she had me in an extremely vulnerable position. I was about to have a conversation over something that I had no idea as to what I did (or even more disturbing - what I did not do).

“Okay, let’s talk” I calmly said. I know it wasn’t much of a comeback, but driving and thinking (while trying not to break out in a cold sweat) all at the same time is not my strong suit.

“I want you to know that I don’t feel very romantic at four in the morning” was Rana’s big announcement.

“That’s it?” I silently wondered. If you thought I had that deer-in-the-headlights-look before, you should have seen my face then.

“Okay, let’s talk” I calmly said. I know it wasn’t much of a comeback, but driving and thinking (while trying not to break out in a cold sweat) all at the same time is not my strong suit.

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“That’s it?” I silently wondered. If you thought I had that deer-in-the-headlights-look before, you should have seen my face then.
The Now Unemployable Generation

Several months ago I wrote an article dealing with our generation and tabbed us the “Disposable Generation.” Now it seems we (those of us not wanting, or afford to be retired completely) are also the “unemployable generation.”

We are not alone in that grouping. According to email I received from our Vegas Voice readers, those over age 45 are right there with us.

In light of this chatter, I reached out to friends and family who had lost jobs (and some who wanted to switch jobs) over the past years and was surprised about what I heard and learned.

While owning my business (a Flag & Sign shop) and when I wanted to fill a position, I will be the first to admit I was prejudiced in my interview strategy.

For sales, I wanted someone over thirty with an outgoing personality. I wanted them to be dressed professionally. I also insisted that they spoke well.

For my sign laborers, being under age 30 was fine. However they needed to be clean in appearance, had to be handy with tools and (male or female) they had to be a quick study in learning how to make signs and do sign installations.

The one thing I would not accept was resumes sent via email. If someone could not be bothered to take the time to come and meet me face-to-face, I didn’t have time for them either.

One time while I was out of town, my daughter hired a secretary/right hand girl for me whom I never would have hired myself. I came back to meet a young woman of 20 dressed very “retro” with a piecing in her tongue, white blonde hair, and bright red lipstick.

At first glance, the bubble above my head read, “Michelle what did you do to me?” As things worked out, this young woman was the most amazing find ever.

She was not only sweet and courteous to my clients, but was the most organized and efficient person I have ever met. Gee! I’d love to have her helping me out these days.

I know things have changed since my retirement, but here is the way it is today. One man who contacted us is 45, with a degree in business management.

This gentleman suffered a stroke last year. After being hospitalized and while recovering, he lost his job.

It took over a year of job searching. And in that time he applied for all kinds of jobs; including driving a medibus, where the employment requirement included being able to perform CPR (and other medical training) along with helping patients on and off the van.

Finally, the only job he was able to get was driving a truck at Home Depot for minimum wage. I guess one might say: “At least he has a job.”

However in interview after interview, he was continuously advised that he was “over qualified.”

Over qualified to me means: “Sorry, you are too old!” We all know that when we apply for a job that is beneath what we have been trained to do, we are able to do so much more.

The point is - if we want to eat, pay the mortgage, buy our medication and feed our family, we need to work or receive government assistance.

In my opinion, our generation would readily agree that pride gets in the way of receiving any government help - unless there is absolutely no other way.

We really don’t need to be told we are “over qualified.” We need employers to realize that with age comes knowledge that should be utilized - not thrown away.

“New brooms do sweep cleaner than the old” but there is really something to be said about those “really comfortable old shoes” too!

AB 201 – A Cancer of Gradualism

The publisher of The Vegas Voice, Dan Roberts, and I previously worked together to get the property tax cap on the books. That law has served us very well - both during the insane boom as well as the subsequent bust.

Now he has asked me to write a companion column to his editorial on AB 201.

What we are dealing with is a numbers crunching, bean counting bureaucrat’s dream. A bill so formulaic, so convoluted and so opaque no one except another bureaucrat can really understand its mechanics.

But you know what? You don’t have to.

The Legislative Counsel Bureau’s "Digest" gets to the bottom line clearly and succinctly:

"Sections 3, 13 and 14 of the bill increase the rate of assessment by 1 percent during each fiscal year for 10 fiscal years resulting in net increase from 35 to 45 percent as of July 1, 2023."

There you have it folks. I call it the cancer of gradualism. A little increase on a little increase on a little increase compounded and ten years later it’s a 35 to 45 percent higher property tax.

So, what can be done? First, sign The Vegas Voice petition. This will give Dan and Vegas Voice political editor/Legislative Liaison Rana Goodman something concrete to give to the chair of the Assembly Taxation Committee (Irene Bustamante Adams) when she comes home for the weekend and/or when they head up to Carson City to testify against the bill.

Next, from the comfort of your home, dial 486-2626 (a local call) and ask for the Message Center. Leave your message for every member of the Assembly (Senate too, if you like) advising: “No way on AB 201” or however you want to say it.

I’m sure you need no help from me in articulating your opposition to a 35 to 45 percent property tax increase.

Then, if you know who your Assembly Member is, call back (486-2626) and ask to speak to his/her office and leave your message with your representative. Don’t know your legislator? Call 455-VOTE (the voter registrar), tell them where you live and they’ll give you the names of your state senator and assemblyman.

Bad laws get passed when elected officials think no one is watching. Show them they’re being watched.

Knight Allen is a former Vegas Voice columnist. He can be reached at: knightallen702@yahoo.com.

Knight Allen
“Hell hath no fury and there is nothing more frightening than angry, retired seniors on a mission.”

That was my main theme when I testified before the Nevada Legislature in 2005. If you were (correctly) angry then, you’re going to go ballistic now!

But as President John Kennedy famously remarked: “Don’t get angry, get even.” Now is that time.

For regular readers of The Vegas Voice, you can understand why I am no longer involved in political issues. That job is now left to our political editor and legislative liaison Rana Goodman.

But despite my best attempts to get out, something (or in this case someone) always seems to “drag me back in.” This time, out of sheer anger, I am jumping in with both feet.

I received a telephone call and email from our former columnist Knight Allen. In essence, Knight “caught” our Nevada legislators attempting to circumvent the property tax cap implemented in 2005.

Enormous credit goes to Knight for discovering this underhanded attempt to circumvent and gut the property tax cap. And (unfortunately for me) Knight was able to get me all riled up over the ruse that is being attempted against homeowners.

My questions to all Vegas Voice readers (and property owners) are:

Why aren’t you angry too? And most importantly, what are you going to do about it?

Allow me to quickly cut through the B.S. rhetoric and technicalities.

Assembly Bill 201 does not change the imposed 3% property tax cap. It does however provide for an automatic increase of the assessed value of your property by 1% per year – and every year thereafter for 10 years.

So when “they” say it is not a tax increase, they are “correct.” But it sure is misleading and the “result” is that you pay more every year for the next decade.

And the saddest part – it will be your own fault.

Take a few seconds and do your part. The Vegas Voice will, of course, keep you updated and stay on top of this issue.

Dan Roberts is the Publisher of The Vegas Voice and was involved in the 2005 Property Tax Cap debate.
The inspiration for this column surfaced when, at 60, I found my life taking unexpected turns and my perceptions of life's ordinary events had vastly changed.

I remember things differently now. For example, every time there's a new, clever and seemingly simple idea advertised on TV, I ask myself “Why didn't I think of that?”

Now I consider that perhaps I did think of it and didn’t remember. Oddly it makes me feel better.

An editor once told me the basic rules of writing and conversation are the “who, what, where, why and when” of any story. It gets frustrating now when all that information doesn’t show up in my head at the same time.

I also have mixed feelings about potato chip bags. I can’t buy chips with a sandwich because I can’t open the bag unless I have a scissor.

And those little peanut packs on airplanes? OMG! Duck when they pass them out! At least one out of two passengers will send nuts flying through the air when the vacuum seal breaks. Considering our mindset on planes, airlines should reconsider snacks so it doesn’t lead to chaos.

Some assembly required doesn’t mean what it used to. That’s self-explanatory.

I am also not a fan of tattoos or body art, although I do admit considering something small placed indiscreetly. At my age, it probably won’t make much difference and an ankle or shoulder won’t sag too much.

Imagine years from now how all these 20 and 30-something people with massive body art will look? What used to be reserved for bikers is now a fashion statement. How fashionable will it be when they all sport droopy dragons and skulls?

Have you ever noticed that young people smiling and talking show their upper teeth and older people show their lower teeth. I didn’t think much of it at first and then I looked in the mirror.

My face dropped and my teeth didn’t. And the lower teeth are the ones that move and look like crooked building blocks.

It now always takes about 4 people to finish a story. No one in my group can remember all the details so you hear “What was that?” “Where was that?” and “Who was that?” a lot.

As if that wasn’t frustrating enough, no one can be patient and wait to hear the end of the story that now went into overtime.

We love dogs. The older we get, the smaller our dogs are. I still have my giant sized dog but now we also have a 13 pound Shih Tzu who rules.

We call ourselves Mommy and Daddy to these canines and act stupid because they’re so cute. I guess I should be embarrassed, but I’m not.

Thank you for reading this. I have now cleared some brain clutter and I’m ready for something new.

For over the past decade, Marty Allen has performed with his on and off stage singing partner Karon Kate Blackwell.

The inspiration for this column surfaced when, at 60, I found my life taking unexpected turns and my perceptions of life's ordinary events had vastly changed.

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For over the past decade, Marty Allen has performed with his on and off stage singing partner Karon Kate Blackwell.
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For those reading my column (and I thank you for that) you know that my newest book “Reel Tears, Take Two” is now out and available on amazon.com or Barnes&Noble.com. (as well as ordering it directly from The Vegas Voice). This month, publisher Dan, insisted that I write how this book came about - so here it is.

Having been in the entertainment industry my entire life, my mother decided long ago that she would write a book about what it was like to be the parent of a child actress. The book was to be called “The Trials and Tribulations of a Hollywood Mother.” She started the book, but sadly was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and the project came to a stop.

Years later, my sister and I found the manuscript tucked away in her desk when we were cleaning out her things. My sister then decided to pick up where our mother had left off and to write it from the perspective of being a sister of a child actress. The book was to be called “Hollywood Child.” She wrote a little more, but then sadly, my sister became ill and the book was never finished. Many years went by and the now revised manuscript just sat there collecting dust. My husband always encouraged me to pick it up and write it myself.

He thought I should make it an autobiography. I wasn’t sure I knew how to do that; so once again, it sat on a shelf with just a more few pages written, gathering dust once again.

After my husband died, I decided to see if I could possibly write it myself. The book name changed to “Reel Tears” which was a play on words, since in most of my films, I always was cast in a role where I would have to bring on the tears.

I decided to write it as a tribute to my mother, sister and my husband. I enjoyed writing the book, as well as this monthly column and I thank all the readers for your kind and loving feedback to my column.

My book is filled with many stories that I have written for The Vegas Voice over the years - along with numerous other stories. It also contains various photos, write ups, and letters from people such as Jack Benny and Bing Crosby.

I am grateful to the many people who have purchased my book and to those who have expressed an interest. It’s my life story starting with when I first got into the movie business along with personal anecdotes and stories; all the way up to the present.

It’s been a joy to write (along with being very cathartic) even as I reflect on some of the not so stellar moments in my life. I talk about my wonderful memories and also delve into times that were quite difficult.

I am proud of my book and all the work that went into it. And of course, I am so thankful for the memories that I share with you.

Until next time, remember: The happiest of people don’t necessarily have the most of everything; they just make the most of everything they have.

Beverly Washburn graced the silver screen as a child actress and is the author of Reel Tears which can be bought online at Amazon.com or ordered through Barnes & Noble bookstores. You can contact Beverly at: bjradell@hotmail.com. Check out her awesome, new website: www.beverlywashburn.com.

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“When the mind rests, the subconscious whispers.”

Although Freud and Jung certainly influenced, enhanced and provoked Western society with their contributions in regard to dreams, they were not the founding fathers of dream analysis. There is evidence of recorded dream analysis found on clay plates dating back from 3,000-4,000 B.C.

In those days, the dream world was seen as an extension of reality. The dream realm was actually thought to be more powerful than the real world.

Dreams have affected every aspect of life throughout history. They have dictated military and political actions, inspired discoveries, and spawned the minds of artists, musicians, etc.

The ancient Greeks and Chinese were known to look for signs in their dreams that would guide their lives. By the early 1900’s however, dreams were considered insignificant - then came Freud, followed by his student Jung.

Dreams serve a specific purpose for our bodies and mind. Ask most people and they will tell you that a dream is what happens when you sleep or that it’s a deeply seeded hope or goal.

In reality, when broken down, there are many different types of dreams. There are also many different ways to interpret them.

The dictionary describes a dream as “a sequence of images that appear involuntarily to the mind of somebody sleeping; often a mixture of real and imaginary characters, places and events.” They are a means for our subconscious mind to communicate with us.

Dreams make sense of our lives while leading us to wholeness and balance through transformation and renewal. The only difference between the dream world of the past and today is the fact that in the past, dream analysts focused more on dream interpretations, whereas today they are more focused on what causes them.

There are many types of dreams: 
- **Daydreams** are a state between sleep and wakefulness.
- **Lucid Dreaming** is when you are dreaming and having the ability to participate or alter the dream.
- **Nightmares** are disturbing dreams that make you feel frightened and anxious.
- **Signal Dreams** solve problems.
- **Prophetic Dreams** tell the future.
- **Progressive Dreams** continue from the night before.
- **Epic Dreams** are usually life changing and very vivid.
- **Mutual Dreams** are when two people have the same dream.
- **Healing Dreams** communicate important information from the body to the mind. They warn you and can help you avoid potential health problems.

To date no one has figured out what causes dreams, nor the exact interpretation of them; though there is no denying that they have proven to have great value. Many experts believe that “dreams are an outlet for our pent up emotions to come out of the dark unconscious, being revealed in a conscious state.”

The Freudian school of thought claims dreams are made up of our subconscious thoughts and desires. Tolkien declared: “one dream is worth more than a thousand realities.”

Like a foreign language waiting to be learned, its coded messages will continue to transmit their encrypted transmission. But, not to worry; it seems that the “dream world is only confusing when you are awake!”

So… dream on and enjoy!

---

**Psychic Phenomenon**

**Ali Guggenheim**

Dreams, Dreams, Dreams!

**Francine Fields**

It’s Time to Get Cracking!

The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, and it’s the perfect time to shake off the winter blues and get cracking.

There are few rites of Spring more satisfying than the annual clean. But cleaning is a lot easier when the clutter is gone – so clear out the stuff you don’t need.

Get your heaviest work out of the way first, well in advance of the hot weather. Start outdoors or with the garage and then wind your way inside to focus on organizing those closets and cupboards.

Spring is also a great time to get a head start on downsizing or a possible relocation. The word is that Las Vegas Valley’s new housing market is off to a strong start this year. And prices are rising, as well.

So spring into action or call the experts, Smooth Transitions of Las Vegas-Henderson and Southern Nevada. From home staging and organizing to downsizing and moving, Smooth Transitions will take care of the details so you can begin fresh with a more streamlined lifestyle.

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So, one day last week, I took my tiny pearl-handled pistol (which I keep in a little flowered Clinique make-up bag) to the local gun emporium to buy some ammo and to have the pistol serviced, because the action on the slide was sticking.

I'd noted the slide problem, when my Dad, who is trying to teach me how to be a responsible - yet, deadly gun owner, took me out to his pond to shoot at floating plastic milk cartons. He almost drowned when he fell in the pond while leaning over to fill up the milk cartons with pond water.

And they say gun ownership isn't dangerous? (And, just FYI: I always keep my pistol and shotgun locked away safely!) I was about 20 minutes down the road, the loaded make-up bag beside me, when I remembered something someone told me about it being okay to have a legal gun in the car, as long as you can't reach it from your seat. So, I picked up the bag and casually tossed it way back to the cargo area of my car.

(The exact second that it left my hand, I thought, “Holy %$#@! You are freakin’ throwing loaded pistols around, you dumb %$#@!”... (ahem)...not that I really did that, Dad...heh heh.

So, I walked into the store with my pouch and headed for the counter, because I have no idea how to find gun things by myself. Finally found a nice man who’d taken care of me on previous visits, talking to another guy on the customer-side of the counter, shootin’ the breeze... (Just one of my plethora of gun-type puns).

“What can I do for you, little lady?” he asked cheerfully. “Hi,” I smiled back, opened my pouch and took out my pistol, careful to check the safety.

The two men’s eyes widened as they realized this adorable, orange and red flowered make-up case was my...well...holster. “The slide on this is really sticky and unpredictable, and my Dad said to bring it to a professional to see what the problem was.” “Be careful,” I cautioned. “It’s loaded.” They nodded solemnly at me rather than rolling their eyes, which I know was difficult.

The other man worked the slide and shook his head in disgust. “Whoever cleaned this gun used the wrong kind of oil in it. That’s why it’s sticking.” “Hmm,” I replied gravely, as if I were well acquainted with oil blunders.

The counter guy began breaking the whole thing apart. While he did this, the man standing beside me, who’d accurately - and charmingly - called me “Miss” smiled at me. “You know, little lady,” he said kindly but seriously. “If you shoot somebody with a gun like that, it’s just going to piss him off.”

“Excuse me?” I replied, somewhat confused. “If I shoot somebody with that pistol, I want them to end up...well, with one gigantic oweee, you know?” He frowned. “Well, if you want an oweee, you’re going to need a different kind of ammunition.” He pulled a gun out of his pocket and removed a bullet. “See the difference in yours, as opposed to mine?” “Yes,” I answered. “Yours is open at the top and mine is pointed.” “Yes, ma’am,” he said - and I was disappointed to have gone from Miss to Ma’am - “Mine will make a mighty big oweee. Yours will not.”

“Seriously?” I responded, “Couldn’t mine at least wound a bad guy?” “Yes, ma’am,” he repeated, annoyingly. “As long as you walk right up to him, touch the barrel to his chest, and pull the trigger.” “But, I don’t want to get that close,” I responded. “Yes, ma’am, I can understand that,” he said gravely, “You want the maximum injury with the minimum exposure, right?” “Exactly!” I agreed. “Well, ma’am, if it’s up to this pistol...you go get yourself a nice baseball bat.”
Love Letters

It will be a show to remember as two stars of television and stage, Hal Linden and Loni Anderson, perform the poignant Pulitzer Prize nominated play, Love Letters. Proudly presented by the Jewish Repertory Theatre of Nevada, it is playwright A.R. Gurney’s Valentine to love, friendship and the lost art of letter writing.

Love Letters is simply written, but rich in emotion. A simple childhood correspondence turned into an impossible love affair. Through letters, the characters grow, mature, and only realize what they truly mean to each other when it is too late.

Hal Linden’s career is legendary and continues to thrive. Hal started out as a singer and played the clarinet with the New York American Symphony at age 15.

He toured with Sammy Kaye and other Big Bands and aspired to be a Big Bandleader. Before embarking on a career in music, he decided to change his name. In an interview he stated, “Swing and Sway with Harold Lipschitz just didn’t parse.” So, his last name became Linden, after spotting that name on a water tower in Linden, New Jersey.

While playing in the Army Band, Hal went to see Guys and Dolls and decided to become an actor. He started in small roles and eventually landed the lead role in The Rothschilds, for which he won a Tony Award for Best Actor.

He was then cast as Captain Barney Miller on the television series that ran for eight seasons and winning praise as one of TV’s finest ensemble comedies. Hal has long been associated with the March of Dimes, and now serves as a spokesperson for the Jewish National Fund.

Loni Anderson, a mother of two children, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was offered the role on TV’s WKRP in Cincinnati when producers saw a poster of her in a red bikini.

The creator of the show, Hugh Wilson, admitted that Anderson got the part because, “She had a body like Jayne Mansfield and the overall sex appeal of Marilyn Monroe.”

Ms. Anderson has appeared as a television series regular in Nurses and with Wonder Woman actress Lynda Carter in the series, Partners in Crime. She also starred as Jayne Mansfield in the made-for-TV biopic, The Jayne Mansfield Story (with Arnold Schwarzenegger as her husband) and as the 1930’s comedienne actress, Thelma Todd, in the TV movie, The Mysterious Murder of Thelma Todd.

Loni continues to do guest star roles on television each season. And while she has been famous for her physical beauty, she is as beautiful inside, donating time to charities, such as the National Lung Health Education Program.

Love Letters is one of the theatre’s most moving, beautifully written plays, and has been performed throughout the world. For JRTN, to present the Tony Winner and television icon, Hal Linden, and Emmy nominated, Loni Anderson for this production is a dream come true. Don’t miss this remarkable theatrical opportunity.

Love Letters will be at the Showroom in The Suncoast Hotel, Saturday, April 13 @ 8 pm, and Sunday, April 14 @ 2 and 7 pm. For tickets call 702.636.7111.

Southern Nevada Beagle Rescue Foundation

As we age, we often wonder if someone could put us in a home or dismiss us easily. For dogs that’s reality. Many elder dogs are discarded like furniture.

Meet Albert. He is a senior needing a home. Albert found himself in a high kill shelter at 10 years old. If not for SNBRF, he would have died. His owner passed away and the family dropped morbidly obese Albert in the shelter. He tipped the scales at 71 lbs, which is huge for a beagle.

His belly touched the ground, his lungs would spasm. He cried in pain and could barely walk.

Fat Albert as we affectionately named him still wagged his tail and barked. You could imagine he was yelling “I want to live!”

It took months but Fat Albert became just Albert. He has lost over 30 lbs and is now weighing in at 34 lbs. He is a complete sweetheart.

He recently was taken off Thyroid medicine. He has gone through water therapy and loves to swim, run and play; something he hasn’t been able to do in a long time. He finally can be a real dog again!

If you cannot handle responsibility of ownership, perhaps you would consider providing a foster home for a senior dog.

Southern Nevada Beagle Rescue Foundation will take care of the cost. You need not worry about their medical bills.

Call us for information at 702-493-9779 or visit our website at www.southernnevadabeaglerescue.com and fill out a foster application.

We cannot save all of them, but each of us can help save one.
Music is the Medicine

A grim cancer diagnosis drove Eric Weisberg to order himself on an aggressive physical and mental healing program. Monday’s treatment was music, dancing and brotherhood at a Charleston Avenue bar and grill. On Tuesday he “plugged in” to a powerful mix of cancer fighting chemicals. Wednesdays - more music and friendship.

There were nights spent with a fanny pack dangling from his belt pumping powerful chemotherapy drugs into a tube, then his jugular as he danced. His story is not singular.

One recent Thursday evening, 84-year old Mary-Nola McCrea rose from her wheelchair and rocked and swayed as popular R&B vocalist Ricco Diamante detonated the Mandalay Bay’s Foundation Room with high energy disco.

Upon release from the hospital and told to enter hospice care, 85-year old Belle Wexler declined, saying, “I’m going to Shifty’s,” a popular blues bar. Shifty’s kept Belle dancing longer than her doctors ever imagined.

When Weisberg’s treatment protocol was first prescribed, he persuaded doctors to move chemotherapy to Tuesday, avoiding conflicts with the Monday night music fest.

Eric Weisberg with dance partner Colleen McMahan at the Tap House. Treatments sometimes left him too weak to attend Wednesday’s Deja’ Vu Band’s performances at the South Point.

Weisberg credits music with helping him maintain an attitude that overcame “nearly stage 4 esophageal cancer.” He shares his story with the passion that he approaches his business. “I feel that I’m a mentor in everything I do,” he says, using a business analogy.

Just a month after robotic surgery at San Diego’s Moore’s Cancer Center, Weisberg returned to the dance floor. “Once I got there and the music came on, the adrenalin kicked in and I was up dancing.”

Later the powerful chemotherapy landed him back in the hospital for 10 days. “I was released at 4:30 in the afternoon and was back on the dance floor that night.” His doctors “loved the fact that I was dancing; it helped me reduce my meds.”

Two years after Eric’s stepmother died, he persuaded his cheerless father, Richard, to join him at Tap House for Open Mic Monday. “Once the music started he looked 10 years younger.”

Eric’s friend, Colleen McMann; a nurse and one of his favorite dance partners, was at his side through much of the ordeal. She accompanied him to San Diego for doctor appointments and surgery.

Their friendship began and developed on the dance floor. His wry sense of humor is exhibited when asked how she helped him through his recovery: “She taught me to drink better wine.”

Weisberg, who began with Caesars Entertainment as a restaurant server in 1979, credits his company’s loyalty to helping his recovery. He received a promotion to Executive Director of Catering, Convention and Events at Planet Hollywood while in treatment.

“They held the job for me. Our Vice President, Mike Massari, told me, ‘What’s a few months based on what you’ve given us.’”

“Cancer told me to live for today,” Weisberg says. “You don’t know what tomorrow will bring. For Eric, today is on the dance floor.”

Eric Weisberg

Humble Beginnings

Since being founded in Germany in the 1930s, Volkswagen has been all about the ride. And since coming to America in 1949, Volkswagen has been an expression of who their customers are and how they choose to live and move through life.

The first Volkswagens were created as affordable, reliable vehicles and were branded as “the people’s car.” The first vehicles Volkswagen introduced were also noted for their fuel-efficiency, reliability and ease of repair.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Volkswagen brand found much success throughout Europe and North America. In 1969, Volkswagon’s popularity soared in the United States when Disney featured a Beetle called “Herbie the Love Bug” in a series of family movies.

In 1955, Volkswagen America was created to standardize sales and services of VW’s in the U.S.A. This was also done to better understand the consumer in order to create a better driving and buying experience to fulfill the needs of the American people.

In the early 21st century, the Volkswagen brand launched a major ad campaign to stimulate sales and spark growth. Combining a number of humorous ads along with a dedication to create cost-effective green TDI clean diesel cars worked and the Volkswagen has become a global sales leader in the automobile market.

There are 5 values that Volkswagen cherishes most, Performance, Design, Quality, Environment and Safety.

Performance- Delivering optimum power is only part of the Volkswagens story. The other part is our commitment to an Autobahn-inspired driving experience.

Design- Form meets function with a flair for simplicity. We design with purpose. And that’s both evident and beautiful.

Quality- To us, every little thing matters. That’s why the quality of a Volkswagen is instantly recognized and felt.

Environment- We believe that when it comes to designing cars that are fuel efficient, you shouldn’t sacrifice any of the fun to get you there.

Design- Safety isn’t just important to us, it’s important to everyone. Every Volkswagen is engineered to keep our drivers safe no matter where life leads them.

Desert Volkswagen certainly understands its roots. As part of AutoNation, they give you a SmartChoice. It’s a computer printout that provides you with all the information you need to make the right decision on the vehicle you want and a price that fits your needs.

Maybe the 2013 Volkswagen Jetta is the vehicle for you. It’s everything you need at a price you won’t believe. The 2013 Volkswagen Jetta is roomy and quite efficient.

The 2013 Passat may suit your fancy. Every button’s been checked. Every gauge has been tested. Distinguishing itself with European-style refinement and an efficient diesel option, the 2013 Volkswagen Passat is a great choice for a family sedan.

The 2013 Beetle is the car that started it all. Sporting that instantly recognizable and timeless shape, it’s an icon and a whole lot of fun all wrapped into one. With an updated exterior and features inside that impress, the next generation of this classic is ready to excite you all over again.

Visit Desert Volkswagen or desertvolkswagen.com to find out more about Volkswagen’s extensive model lineup of intriguing automobiles.
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Spend This: $800.00 or more
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"The Australian Bee Gees Show – A Tribute to the Bee Gees" brings familiar music and good sounds to the Thunder From Down Under Room at the Excalibur. Their musical tribute to the Gibbs Brothers began in February, 2011 in Las Vegas and a sure sign of their popularity is that they have been extended through 2015.

Before settling into Las Vegas, the trio did more than 4,000 performances in over 40 countries. Now, the fans come to them as they pay tribute. You feel like these guys are the real thing as they bring the sound and look of one of the most successful groups in music history to Vegas audiences.

Of course those present want to share their disco moves as the trio sings “Staying Alive” and it isn’t unusual to see audience arms extended ala John Travolta. The physical resemblance to the Gibbs Brothers is amazing and their sound is on target.

The 75 minute show is lively from start to finish. State of the art sound and lighting further enhance your experience. Video clips on the giant screens add to the entertainment value.

“We’re proud to bring this top-notch concert experience to Excalibur for two more years,” said Adam Steck founder and CEO of SPI Entertainment, Inc. “The Australian Bee Gees Show is so much more than just a tribute. It’s the live celebration of more than four decades of a music legend.”

Steck is right in both regards. The performers will have you believing they are the real thing. And the live celebration flows over to audience members who are often on their feet dancing and swaying to the music and songs.

The show includes classics like “How Deep is Your Love” and hits like “Massachusetts,” “Lonely Days,” “How Can You Mend a Broken Heart,” and “To Love Somebody.” Performers Michael Clift (Barry Gibb) – Guitar and Vocals; David Scott (Robin Gibb) – Vocals; Wayne Hosking (Maurice Gibb) - Keyboard, Guitar and Vocals; Tony Richards - Bass Guitar; and Rick Powell – Drummer will make you believe you are seeing the original Bee Gees.

The show takes the stage Saturday through Thursday at 7 pm in the Thunder From Down Under Showroom at Excalibur Hotel & Casino. Tickets can be purchased at the Excalibur office, online at www.excalibur.com or by phone at (702) 597-7600.
In the early 1970s, she was known as Bathhouse Betty after she took a job singing in a gay bathhouse in New York City.

Her piano accompanist was a little known, talented musician named Barry Manilow. He later produced her hit album *The Divine Miss M* beginning her successful career as a singer. It became a million-selling album, earning her a Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1973. That album included a hit single; a remake of The Andrew Sisters hit, *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*.

She is the one and only Bette Midler - singer, songwriter, actor, comedian, producer and entrepreneur.

She went on to make a television special called *Ol' Red Hair is Back*. It won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Special-Comedy-Variety of Music. She has also won three Grammy Awards, four Golden Globes, two Academy Awards, two more Emmy Awards, and a special Tony Award.

In 1979, Midler starred in her first movie, *The Rose*. It was a 1960's era rock and roll tragedy of a drug-addicted rock star, modeled after Janis Joplin.

The song, *The Rose*, written by Amanda McBroom, and movie soundtrack album sold over two million copies in the United States alone. The single version was #1 for five weeks.

In 1988 she co-starred with Barbara Hershey in the movie *Beaches*. The movie soundtrack was Bette's all-time biggest selling record and reached #2 on Billboard's album chart with U. S. sales at 4,000,000. It featured her biggest hit, *Wind Beneath My Wings*.

An interesting side turn of her career was that she turned down the lead role in the 1992 movie, *Sister Act*, which went to Whoopi Goldberg. However she won an Emmy Award that year for singing to Johnny Carson on his next to last Tonight Show. The song - *One for My Baby and One More for the Road*.

Bette Midler was born in Hawaii, in 1945, to Jewish parents. She was named after Bette Davis.

Her father was a painter at the naval base in Honolulu. Her mother was a seamstress and homemaker.

Growing up, she was part of the only Jewish family in a mostly Asian community. She worked her way through school; sometimes at a pineapple cannery. She said she would come home smelling like a compote.

Midler went to the University of Hawaii for a year and began leading the life of actor, entertainer and singer. She also performed as Tzeitel in the Broadway show *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Her first performances as a cabaret singer were summed up by Bette as full of bawdy humor, revealing costumes and a distinctive voice.

She married her first and only husband - artist Martin von Haselberg, just six weeks after meeting him for the first time. They have a daughter who is now 26 years old.

At 63, Bette began a two-year residency at our Caesar’s Palace. She was her zany self, sang her hits, danced, and was fabulous.

There is never a dull moment with Bette Midler, The Divine Miss M.

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Yvonne Cloutier, a former teacher/principal, with a music background, specializes in ragtime piano. She is also an author and has written an easy-to-read book on Scott Joplin. She reports for the Sun City Anthem Channel 99 and on www.suncityanthem99.com. You can also contact her at www.mytimeisragtime.com.
Line up the trumpeters, sound a fanfare and turn on the spotlights! April has arrived and so has the start of the highly entertaining matinees presented on the first Sunday of every month at Sun City MacDonald Ranch.

Collectively titled Sunday Funday, the presentations start at 2 pm and will feature the most outstanding senior talents that Las Vegas has to offer. Dance troupes and performers from all over the Valley will strut their stuff in productions seasonally titled “SIZZLE AND SASS,” “FALL FANTASY” and the eagerly awaited holiday special, “SPARKLE AND SPICE.”

Each of these shows will have a three-performance run, giving residents, visitors and communities the opportunity of seeing each mini season. The summer production, “SIZZLE AND SASS,” will be performed on Sunday, June 2nd; Sunday, July 7th and Sunday, August 4th.

The nostalgic “FALL FANTASY” follows on Sunday, September 1st, Sunday, October 6th and Sunday, November 3rd. “SPARKLE AND SPICE” will kick off the holiday season in high gear on Sunday, December 1st.

We’ll be keeping the programs as varied as possible, ranging from Country and Rock ‘n Roll through great show tunes, laced with the pulsating and exciting rhythms of Africa. It’s a show for the whole family.

Costumes will be gorgeous and age appropriate and we’ll keep the music tuneful and hummable. Not to mention those toes tapping.

We’ll make it modern without rapping your head off and sweet and nostalgic without being boring. The musical canvas to draw from is vast, but I will be composing original songs to keep the programs fresh and unpredictable.

And fun it will be.

Lining up for another show at Sun City MacDonald Ranch: Pat Schmidt, Fay Maria, Barbara Eubanks and Sally Harvey are put through their paces by choreographer and instructor, John Rothman.

(This is where you feverishly grip your diary and jot down all the dates. Yeah, right). Never mind, we’ll beat you over the head with constant reminders to make sure you don’t miss the fun.

And fun it will be.

We’ll make it modern without rapping your head off and sweet and nostalgic without being boring. The musical canvas to draw from is vast, but I will be composing original songs to keep the programs fresh and unpredictable.

I can’t wait. I have some wonderful artists lined up who will add their magic to the mix, garnishing this musical smorgasbord with their own unique styles. There is a wealth of talent in the senior community and nothing will give me greater pleasure than showcasing them in the Zion ballroom.

In the coming months I will be featuring some of these artists in greater detail in this column. There’s no better way to thank them for helping me keep senior entertainment alive and well in Las Vegas.

And we’ll never forget the importance of you - the audience. Without your applause, support and appreciation, life would certainly lose much of its meaning.

So come and join us for a most enjoyable Sunday Funday afternoon. The trumpets are sounding, the spotlights are blazing and the entertainers are eagerly waiting for the curtain to rise.

There really is no business like show business.

---

**Fanfares and Spotlights**

Lining up for another show at Sun City MacDonald Ranch: Pat Schmidt, Fay Maria, Barbara Eubanks and Sally Harvey are put through their paces by choreographer and instructor, John Rothman.

(John Rothman is a dancer/choreographer/singer/composer with a passion for keeping seniors involved in the performing arts. You are more than welcome to drop him a line at johnrothman@cox.net.)

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FREE VIP UPGRADE FOR LOCALS!
The Navy League of the United States

The Navy League of the United States was founded in 1902 with the encouragement of President Theodore Roosevelt. It is unique among military-oriented associations in that it is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including our elected officials, and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families.

The objective and purpose of the Navy League is twofold: educational and motivational. We must acquire and display before the citizens of our country information regarding the condition of our naval and maritime forces. We must awaken interest and support in all matters which aid our maritime capabilities.

To this end, the Navy League works closely with the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and US-flag Merchant Marine through a network of 265 councils in the U.S. and around the world. The Navy League has more than 65,000 active members.

The Navy League supports America's young people through its youth programs, including sponsorship of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Navy League Scholarship Program. Individual councils are also involved in promoting youth-oriented activities in their communities such as NJROTC, MCJROTC, and ROTC units along with other recognized youth programs. Local councils and national headquarters provide over $200,000 in scholarships and awards every year.

Navy League councils support active duty military personnel through “adoption” of ships, installations, and units; commissioning ceremonies; award programs; and other recognition programs.

Over the years, the Navy League has compiled an impressive record of accomplishments. Today the Navy League

CONTINUED on page 21
Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act

Every day our men and women in uniform return home from deployments after serving our country around the globe. When these veterans return, they face a myriad of challenges transitioning back into civilian life. Those challenges manifest themselves not only as physical and psychological difficulties that result from the rigors of war, but also as barriers to finding a good paying job and accessing benefits they have earned and deserve. But the one challenge our veterans should not have to face is keeping a roof over their heads. Unfortunately, a current federal policy results in our most vulnerable veterans being forced to live on the streets. Legislation I have introduced would help reverse this trend.

Currently, severely disabled, low-income wartime veterans are eligible for an enhanced pension benefit known as “aid and attendance.” This benefit is specifically reserved for those men and women who require the aid of another person in order to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting themselves from the hazards of their daily environment.

In order to qualify, veterans must also have an adjusted gross annual income of less than $12,256 for a single veteran with no dependents. Clearly, the VA’s goal is to provide aid and attendance benefits, approximately $8,000 a year, to truly needy men and women who are even more vulnerable than other veterans.

Due to their status as low-income earners, these same veterans are also eligible for housing assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The problem, brought to my attention by a local veterans advisory panel, is that HUD is counting aid and attendance as earned income when calculating how much to allocate for the veteran’s housing benefit.

As we have noted, the aid and attendance benefit is not earned income, it is a benefit strictly used for medical services and in-home care. By adding that $8,000 as “income,” HUD is incorrectly placing vulnerable veterans in a higher income category, thus denying them the full housing benefit they need and have earned.

For some veterans, that faulty income category could be the difference between a veteran staying in a home or apartment and living on the streets. The income formula must be changed.

The current HUD policy has resulted in veterans being forced out of their homes. I recently introduced legislation, the Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act (H.R. 825), that simply exempts from consideration of income by HUD any expenses related to a veteran’s aid and attendance benefits. By appropriately calculating the income formula, we will ensure that our vulnerable veterans receive the proper amount of housing assistance so they can stay in their homes.

Whether on the front lines or in support, regardless of branch of service, our military men and women have made great sacrifices so that we may maintain our way of life and retain the freedoms we cherish. Our duty as citizens, lawmakers, and fellow veterans is to ensure that our brothers and sisters who have served can come home and have a roof over their head.

United States Veterans Initiative (U.S.VETS) is the largest provider of housing and services to homeless veterans in the nation and has the capacity to serve more homeless veterans than any other agency in the Las Vegas community. The mission of U.S.VETS is the successful transition of military veterans and their families through the provision of housing, counseling, career development and comprehensive support.

U.S.VETS opened its main facility at 525 East Bonanza Road in Las Vegas in September 2001. In July 2011, the organization launched a second location, “The Radcliff” at 2566 Sherwood Street.

Since its inception, the organization has provided housing and support services to over 4,000 homeless veterans. Approximately 260 veterans are currently living in the organization’s two facilities, in addition to its permanent housing units scattered throughout the Las Vegas community.

The organization provides a wide range of services including sobriety support, employment assistance, case management, counseling, and both transitional and permanent housing to both male and female veterans who have been homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The organization also provides homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services to veteran families.

Through case management, supportive services and temporary financial assistance, these families are assisted to reach housing stability.

U.S.VETS – Las Vegas is the host of the annual Veterans Stand Down. The Stand Down is an event that is held in cities all over the nation to provide food, clothing, services and referrals to homeless veterans.

The name “Stand Down” comes from a term used in times of war. Exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety.

Today, Stand Down refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation’s estimated 67,000 homeless veterans “combat” life on the streets.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of U.S.VETS hosting this annual event. The 2013 Stand Down was held on March 27 & 28, 2013 at Cashman Center.

The event was designed to give hope to veterans still living on the streets, offer them a temporary respite, and connect them to information and services that can help them. For more information about U.S.VETS, please visit www.usvetsinc.org or contact the organization at (702)366-0456.

Congressman Joe Heck represents Nevada’s Third Congressional District in the House of Representatives. He serves on the Armed Services Committee and is a Colonel in the United States Army Reserves.

From the Hill

United States Veterans Initiative

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The Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) was formed in 1943 to fly military aircraft under the direction of the Army Air Forces during World War II.

Although twenty-five thousand women applied to join the WASP, only 1,830 were accepted - 1,074 of them earning their wings and becoming the first women to fly American military aircraft.

Those female pilots freed male pilots to provide combat service. Despite their valuable service, it is shocking that the WASP were not granted veteran status until 1977.

While these women were not trained for combat, their course of instruction was essentially the same as that of aviation cadets. After training, the WASPs were stationed at 120 air bases across the country.

They engaged in numerous flight-related missions and flew sixty million miles of operational flights - from aircraft factories to ports of embarkation and military training bases.

Thirty-eight WASP fliers lost their lives while serving. Eleven in training, and twenty-seven on active duty.

Making the loss of these brave women even more tragic was that since they were not considered military under the existing guidelines, a fallen WASP was sent home at family expense without traditional honors. The army would not even allow the U.S. flag to be placed on the coffin of the fallen WASP.

The WASP was disbanded on December 20, 1944. All records were classified and sealed for 35 years, so their contribution to the war effort was little known and inaccessible to historians.

The records were unsealed in 1977 and they were granted full military status. In 2010, the 300 surviving WASP came to the U.S. Capitol to accept the Congressional Gold Medal.

One of those women is Madge Megan Moore, a Las Vegas resident. I recently caught up with Madge and asked her to share some of her memories. By the way, she is as beautiful at 91 as she was as a young pilot.

Madge was born in 1922 in Rule, Texas. She fell in love with flying after taking lessons as a teenager. It was after graduating from Southern Methodist University that she read about the WASP. Madge felt the WASP would be one way she could serve her country during wartime.

She applied and graduated in 1943. Madge was stationed at Perrin Field, Sherman, Texas. Madge said she ferried P-19's and AT-6's. Additionally she was assigned to tow live targets while military trainees honed their shooting skills.

Her future husband, Stanley, was also a pilot at Perrin Field. One day he noticed her walking to her plane, carrying her parachute. Walking next to her, he used the classic pilot pick-up line, "May I carry your parachute." She said "yes" and later said "I do." They were married in 1945.

Besides the Congressional Gold Medal, Madge is also a proud member of the Order of Daedalian for pilots who served during war.

** There was a slight error in my March article that I wish to clarify. When I wrote that I moved to California due to my father's transfer, I did not mean military transfer. My father worked for a major construction company and the transfer was to build part of the Orovile Dam.

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Her future husband, Stanley, was also a pilot at Perrin Field. One day he noticed her walking to her plane, carrying her parachute. Walking next to her, he used the classic pilot pick-up line, "May I carry your parachute." She said "yes" and later said "I do." They were married in 1945.

Besides the Congressional Gold Medal, Madge is also a proud member of the Order of Daedalian for pilots who served during war.

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April 18 at 6 p.m.

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Humana is a Coordinated Care plan with a Medicare contract. This plan is available to individuals with certain chronic diseases. To qualify for a Chronic Disease Special Needs Plan, physician diagnosis of the disease must be verified. Enrollees who do not have the condition will be disenrolled. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a comprehensive description of benefits. For more information contact the plan. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. A salesperson will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of people with special needs at sales meetings, call 1-877-713-6174 (TTY: 711), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday–Friday. Applicable to Humana Gold Plus® (HMO SNP) plans: H2949-013 and 014. *Transportation to plan-approved locations, some limitations and restrictions may apply.

Y0040_GHHHFLRHH Accepted
I really don't know where to start for this month's column. There is so much going on with the Vegas Voyagers and I truly do have the entire world to talk about.

Actually, I really DO know where to start. Our next Vegas Voyagers meeting on Sunday, April 28th at 9 am at Palace Station will quite possibly be the best ever. And I really do mean in the 10 years of meetings that we have had, it might be the best ever!

Over the years, we have had presentations from just about everywhere in the world. However, for the first time, our good friends at Chamber Exploration Tours will make a presentation about a trip to Cuba. If you have ever considered a trip to what has been one of the most curious, and in some cases forbidden destinations, then you must attend our meeting on April 28th.

Chamber Exploration Tours is one of the biggest, if not the biggest United States licensed tour operators of People to People tours to Cuba. This seven night/eight day tour is scheduled for November 3 – 10, 2013 and will depart from Miami. This tour will include your round trip airfare from Las Vegas to Miami as well as your round trip airfare from Miami to Havana. It will also include a one night stay in Miami and six nights in Havana. Additionally, the tour will include most meals; 6 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners. Most importantly, the trip includes all of your touring with experienced guides for the entire stay in Cuba.

Space prohibits me from providing an in depth itinerary. Visits include the Plaza of the Revolution, an Old Havana Walking tour, San Jose Craft Market, the National Museum of the Fine Arts and a Tobacco Farm and family farm visit - just to list a few of the highlights.

Please call 1-800-698-1101 and we can send out a detailed itinerary and brochure. The price for this trip is just $3,999 per person if you book by May 31st.

If you have ever considered a trip to Cuba, I do not believe you will find a lower rate than this special pricing we are offering for the Vegas Voyagers.

In addition, at our April 28th meeting, I will also be making a presentation about my recent trip on the Aegean Odyssey with Voyages to Antiquity to Italy and Sicily. This deluxe all-inclusive small 350 passenger vessel with its immersive itineraries is an absolutely marvelous way to cruise the world.

Last, but certainly not least, I will also talk about our Trans-Atlantic cruises and our Bus to the Boat program. So be sure to RSVP for our next meeting of the Vegas Voyagers meeting on Sunday, April 28th by calling 1-800-698-1101. Doors will open at 8:45 am. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

As always, Happy Destinations.
A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust and a hearty Hi-Yo Silver – awaaaaa!

If you remember the radio and television classic *The Lone Ranger* and his famous introduction, you may be pleased to learn that the Lone Ranger and his faithful Indian companion Tonto are soon riding into movie theaters with Johnny Depp playing Tonto.

The first Lone Ranger novel appeared in the 1930's and the story quickly became a radio standard. With the “William Tell Overture” as the Lone Ranger's theme song, before World War II, more than 20-million listeners tuned in three times a week to hear the Lone Ranger ride again.

Trailed by a past clouded in mystery, the Lone Ranger aired on television from 1949 to 1957. It was ABC's first network hit.

Few remember the Lone Ranger's back story and what motivated the honorable lone ranger to combat crime. His aim was to bring down his brother's murderer. His white horse and the Lone Ranger's use of silver bullets are legend. So much so, the Smithsonian displays his black mask and a silver bullet.

There are many people who collect Lone Ranger memorabilia and the largest and rarest collection was owned by a woman residing in Montana. Following her death in 2009, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco was contacted by her executor with an offer too good to refuse. Dolores Taylor's more than 1,000-item Lone Ranger memorabilia was offered to the museum as a gift. The collection was her lifelong obsession and the museum continues to prepare exhibit displays of their prized collection.

The museum is interesting to visit for reasons other than the Lone Ranger collection. Among the firearms on display is the Colt revolver - the "Gun that won the West.” Patented by inventor Samuel Colt in 1836, the five-shooter was the first practical revolving-cylinder handgun, but Colt’s business failed until he made improvements suggested by Samuel H. Walker, a former Texas Ranger. The Texas Rangers were so impressed with the newly developed Colt, they ordered one thousand to fight the Mexican-American War.

Whether you are a fan of the Lone Ranger or simply history of the old west, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco offers a large assortment of both Texas and Ranger history.

“Hi-Yo Silver – awaaaaa!”

Kathy Manney enjoys visiting interesting places and being an Adventure Diva. Her “Must See” travel journeys continue - always with enthusiasm.
There’s so much going on at the Vegas Vacationers, I hardly know where to start. If you’ve read any of my stories in the “Voice” you know we are working with Collette Vacations to bring you some terrific trips across the US. However, we’re also planning motor coach getaways for this year. Four of them are going to be our annual favorites. And whether you favor the Broadway style productions at Utah’s Shakespeare Festival, the excitement of the ponies at Del Mar, the beauty of “The Pageant of the Masters” at the “Laguna Art Festival”, or wine sampling in Temecula, there is something for everyone.

The fifth Getaway is a first and our most requested new destination, San Diego. Since that’s my hometown, I’m excited to tell you this November 5-7 Getaway with 3 day 2 nights is jam packed and features beautiful Balboa Park including the famous San Diego Zoo, and an in depth tour of the City’s number one attraction, the USS Midway.

Whether this will be your first visit to an aircraft carrier or a trip back in time like it will be for my Navy vet husband Ray, you’ll never forget it. We’ll go on board to see what it was really like for the over 3,000 Navy personnel who lived and worked there. And there’ll be countless exhibits with real jet planes, actual flight simulators, and other equipment.

We’ll have lunch on board, and we’ll see the Midway readied for the Veteran’s Day celebration following our visit.

We’ll also stop at the 25’ famous statue, “The Kiss” celebrating the end of World War II. And this Getaway will be really fun, because we’ll be staying at the lovely Hacienda Hotel. Ray and I spent a weekend there recently and found the Hotel is located on the edge of Old Town. Cross the street and you’re there with all the shops, eateries, museums, and sights of old California. You can soak up the atmosphere, or the Margaritas at the Hotel’s restaurant. It’s your choice.

JOIN US!
9am, Wed. May 22, Palace Station Hotel, Salon A
“It’s Everything You’ve Ever Wanted To Know About River Cruising!”
Complementary Coffee & Rolls Reservations Required. Call 702-419-0550

In case you’re new to the area...
The Vegas Vacationers is a local travel group that goes to lots of interesting places with seniors like you. We make the arrangements, and do just about everything except pack your bag for you. And this year we have extraordinary trips through acclaimed travel companies like Collette Vacations, as well as our own getaways, so get out your calendar and start selecting your dream trips. We have lots of things going on!

Five Motor Coach Getaways, Branson for the Holidays and More...

Now another announcement! Through Collette Vacations, we’ve just scheduled a December 5 trip to Branson, Missouri.

Next to San Diego, Branson is our most requested destination and we’re happy to oblige with this 5 day trip that includes seven holiday performances, the Ozarks’ Silver Dollar City trimmed with 100 miles of twinkling lights, and a luncheon cruise on Table Rock Lake aboard a 19th-century paddle wheeler. Speaking of paddle wheelers, we’ve got an upcoming May 22 Travel Meeting where you’ll find “Everything You’ve Ever Wanted To Know About River Cruising”. Don’t miss it!

Fully escorted with hotels, meals, and MORE...
Sign up Now...

New for 2013!
Apr. 28 - May 5 America’s Music Cities 8 days

June 25 - July 1 South Dakota Badlands, Black Hills w/ Mt. Rushmore, 7 Days
Collette’s American West vacation w/ Rapid City, Deadwood, Lakota encampment, Crazy Horse site & one hotel throughout!

Sept. 14-27 Collette’s “Alaska Discovery” 13 days
Spectacular 7 day Princess Cruise & 4 days at luxury Princess Lodges in Denali Park, & more. Travel by ship, rail, motor coach & stern wheeler! Wow! Very ltd. number of cabins available,

Oct. 4-11 New England w/ Nantucket & Martha’s Vineyard 8 Days
Collette Vacation w/day trips to Nantucket & Martha’s Vineyard plus Boston, Newport RI mansions, & cranberry bogs even 3hr dinner train ride through Cape Cod. Wow!

Dec. 5 - 9 Branson Musical Holiday 5 Days
Collette Vacations brings you 7 spectacular holiday performances in Missouri starring Branson’s top entertainers including Yakov Smirnoff, the famous Russian comedian. A luncheon cruise aboard the Showboat Branson Belle, a paddle wheeler. Visit Silver Dollar City, an Ozark Mountain village, trimmed with a 100 miles of twinkling lights and where an 1892 Christmas will unfold before your eyes. This is the Branson you’ve been asking about!

And Special 2013 Overnight Getaways:

June 25 - 26 Utah Shakespeare Festival $289*
July 31 - Aug. 1 Del Mar Thoroughbred Racing $339*
Aug. 26 - 27 Laguna Pageant of the Masters $369*
Oct. 22 - 23 Temecula Winery $289*
Nov. 5-7 San Diego $469*

In case you have any questions, please call us at 702-419-0550. Thank you for your continued support. We enjoy traveling with you!
I visited a church one lovely Sunday morning recently and unexpectedly discovered a familiar face to sit beside, read the appointed scripture in the pew bible, shared silently in the corporate prayers, received the sanctified bread and wine, and sang along with the traditional hymns.

The words to songs were projected on the screen over the choir. One hymn included the line, “...our spirits strengthen with they grace, and give us joy to see they face.”

The congregation consisted mostly of chronologically advantaged types. We know our Lenten hymns.

We sang in unison the correct wording: “...with thy grace ...see thy face.” You have to try hard to confuse experienced worshippers.

Still, I was struck by the typo. I suppose it could be that some weary church worker misspelled the word twice.

More likely, some well-intentioned spell-check program helpfully changed the word “thy” to “they.” We don’t use “thy” much in contemporary English.

It sent me off on a whole mid-worship mental spin, thinking about that one silly mistake. Thanks be to God for wise, kind, Roman Catholic Sister Kathleen who told me once that the things to which our minds wander during worship are our prayers.

I was in college at the time and spent significant chunks of worship missing my enlisted boyfriend, stressing over midterm exams, reminding myself to buy chicken and to order Mother’s Day flowers. What gift to be absolved of guilt, invited to hold mundane bits of life in the presence of a generous God; part of my offering rather than shameful lack of focus! My worship, no longer redolent with shame, became freer after that conversation.

So, I didn’t feel guilty last month thinking about that typo; I felt curious.

What does it mean that our language is more focused on other humans (“they”) than on a gracious Higher Power (“thy”)? Has language evolved to reflect our mindset that corrects away from God?

What effects might such a change have on our society? On our souls?

Webster’s says thy is possessive second person singular pronoun; an archaic adjective originating in Middle English. It’s formal. Perhaps the more contemporary you would have been left uncorrected.

Still, I wonder if we don’t shy away from speaking of the Divine. Perhaps the convolution and judgment so often a part of religious language make it unattractive. Perhaps we are simply trying to hang on, to survive another day, and God feels irrelevant to the effort. Perhaps the concept deeply comprehended is overwhelming.

I dunno...Connecting with people who are trying explicitly to live well, to help one another out, leaves me feeling better equipped to face a day. Occasionally, I find some odd thought that touches my life and starts me pondering. It’s good to ponder. We need more pondering in this world.

Whatever it is, practice being present to something vastly larger than yourself.

Give it a try. It’s not like you have to pay attention every moment.

The Rev. Helen McPeak is a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada. She went to bed at 9:48 pm on the day she wrote this. helen@mcpeak.org www.episcopalnevada.org
On a recent downtown visit to dine at the fabulous “eat” restaurant, on the southeast corner of Carson Avenue and 7th Street, I had to pause at the work being done to our beautiful little urban nucleus. The creations coming out of Chef Natalie Young’s kitchen gave a wonderful taste-track for the re-development of downtown Las Vegas.

As energetic veins grow off the exciting heart of East Fremont area, and the community stills focus from the houses of cards, I am amazed to see islands of culture that survived in a dead sea to the art wasteland.

Reed Whipple Cultural Center on 821 Las Vegas Boulevard North is the poster child for survival!

As part of this column’s yearlong series spotlighting theatres and companies that perform in the physical space, it is this columnist’s pleasure to feature the Reed Whipple Cultural Center.

In 2011, the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company acquired a lease with the City of Las Vegas. Then in late 2012, the group announced a $45 million plan to renovate the 50-year-old building.

From my research, the lease by the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company came at a pivotal time for the cultural center and the City of Las Vegas.

In the opinion of Steve van Gorp, a real estate consultant, “The city was disposing of assets it no longer could afford in the recession.” And all parties involved felt that the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company would “bust their butts,” and make Reed Whipple Culture Center a showplace for downtown Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas Shakespeare Company recently became Nevada’s first professional LORT (League of Resident Theatres). According to the LORT website, they are the largest association (aka, a big union) of professional theatres.

It is my understanding that professional theatre, such as the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company, is an economic engine that works with public and private sectors to create jobs and educational opportunities in the industry. Opinions aside about organized labor, this association continually provides a forum for sharing information regarding all aspects of theatre.

From identifying, mobilizing, and supporting the actors, artists, writers, directors, musicians, and the many support elements behind the scenes – professional theatre brings a business background to the operation. When an organization runs for-profit versus non-profit, they have different challenges and potential pitfalls.

At The Vegas Voice, we believe sharing information and exchanging ideas is the only way for our local live theatre to grow and survive. I applaud the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company for becoming the first LORT, leasing the Reed Whipple Cultural Center, and most importantly, investing a larger sum of money into the space, which marks continual progress in our valley’s local live theatre.

For more information on the Reed Whipple Cultural Center and the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company, go to their website www.lvshakespeare.org. As of press time, they had not released their upcoming production schedule for the spring and summer.
The Sun City Anthem Pet Club is sponsoring Woofstock 2013 to be held at the Anthem Center North Lawn on April 14, 2013. There will be entertainment by The Band Age Restricted, Showcase of Stars, and the Choraliers. There will also be a Henderson Police K9 unit demo. Anthem Clowns will judge Strut Your Mutt and there will be prizes for Best in Show, Most Unusual/Creative, Best Pet & Owner Look Alike and Most Fashionable Pet. Dog Walk begins at 8:00 am. The cost is only $10 and includes T-shirt, Scarf and doggie goodie bag.

Raffle tickets are available for $1 (6 for $5). There will be numerous prizes with the top 3 being a Staycation at the M, an Around the World Wine Basket, and a Spa package. For more information, visit: www.AnthemPetClub.com

Mary Schramski, Ph.D., is author of JASON GATSBY: A Novel, and HAPPINESS REHAB: 8 Creative Steps To A Joyful Life. See all her books on Amazon.com. You can contact her at: drmaryscreatinghappiness@yahoo.com.

Woofstock 2013

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Anthem Clowns will judge Strut Your Mutt and there will be prizes for Best in Show, Most Unusual/Creative, Best Pet & Owner Look Alike and Most Fashionable Pet.

Dog Walk begins at 8:00 am. The cost is only $10 and includes T-shirt, Scarf and doggie goodie bag.

Raffle tickets are available for $1 (6 for $5). There will be numerous prizes with the top 3 being a Staycation at the M, an Around the World Wine Basket, and a Spa package.

For more information, visit: www.AnthemPetClub.com

Mary Schramski

I don’t like controversy. Never have, never will. I’m into happiness and creativity! However my March Vegas Voice column about my journey of standing up for my fellow residents - 288 signatures on a petition to support better treatment of senior monitors at our Fitness Center caused a lot of hullabaloo.

Copies of the petition were sent to the Community Association Manager, and association’s Board of Directors President. Only three people contacted me - two residents who are running for the board of directors this month, and a concerned female incumbent in the same election.

I contacted the Community Association Manager and explained I was thinking about writing a newspaper article on this subject. He asked to speak with me the next day and indicated he believed in total transparency.

I developed a few questions with hopefulness that the manager would smooth this problem out. Maybe people needed training. I was sure no one would tolerate a scintilla of poor treatment in the workplace. We met for two hours. My perception: the manager thought I was an uninformed resident to be set straight.

Could all 288 people who signed the petition be uninformed? And could the senior monitors be uninformed?

The senior monitors are dedicated employees who have had successful careers, raised families, volunteered, and many have served their country. They want to work part time and enjoy their retirement.

I’ve found them to be caring people. Most don’t complain easily, and they are certainly informed about their own work environment.

Management did give me a standard list of what they were doing for their employees: daily e-mail blasts, meetings, more meetings, and a lot of corporate blah, blah, blah. During this part of the meeting, I wanted to tap the desk and say, “Uh, excuse me. Do you think these senior workers are making up all these complaints? That they all got together, concocted their dissatisfaction and they want this craziness in their lives?” But I didn’t think that would go over well because I’d been warned by a senior resident monitor who had tried to discuss problems with management, “Mary, they will stonewall you.”

I did a lot of listening in the meeting, bit my tongue, and I’m sure my eyes grew wider at a few things that management said. Then I wrote my March article.

As a writer, I know readers want a satisfying ending. So the question is: Will this issue be resolved? At this time I hope so because the spotlight has been turned on this subject by at least 288 brave, informed residents.

And that is progress. Also the three board candidates who contacted me are concerned. Senior monitors want to work and be happy in their jobs. That really isn’t asking for a lot at this stage of the life, is it? And I hope they can do that.

Spring is here and it’s time for new beginnings. Be proud when you make even a tiny, positive change in someone’s life. It will bring you happiness and creativity will follow.
I love this town and everything in it, because before I arrived here, I believed I'd seen it all in the Chicago world of politics.

Then I came to Las Vegas discovering we had a former mob attorney as the mayor, a former Lt. Governor, who was a successful Strip entertainer, and a former Governor who evidently preferred chasing skirts to chasing down legislators in the Nevada Senate.

The darndest thing is, the first two of them were terrific in their jobs, and the backgrounds these people brought to the political world should be the example for the entire country. Both knew how to make you feel important and always had a smile to share.

“Oscar” became the best commercial possible for “Sin City”, with martini in hand and always surrounded by his show girls. His wife, THE CURRENT MAYOR, must have the best sense of humor in the West, as they’ve laughed together during their successful marriage.

No one could possibly have succeeded Oscar Goodman…except his wife, Carolyn, and I believe she’ll remain in that position until the term limits won’t allow her to continue.

But not to be outdone with personalities that run for public office, I’m here to say to that:

“LAS VEGAS….you ain’t got nuttin’ like we got in Henderson!”

Why? Because Mayor Andy Hafen is being challenged by six other individuals for re-election. Four years ago, Hafen barely scraped through by a handful of votes, defeating Councilman Steve Kirk.

But this year…he’s going to have his hands full in his re-election.

The way I see it, three of them don’t have a chance…not enough charisma! BUT the others?

THREE CHARACTERS who rival the best Las Vegas could ever offer.

First we have “In Liberty” Hamilton, who once campaigned with the nickname “The Frugal” in 2011 for the Henderson City Council. He was defeated, and to date has run for the US Senate three times…unsuccessfully…twice as a Republican, and once as a Democrat. He’s currently registered as a Republican, though Henderson’s mayoral election is non-partisan. He campaigns on Twitter, using a photo of his wife for his profile picture.

Next we have Joe Scala, making his first attempt at public office. Joe spent five years in the federal pen after pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine, and was released in 1996.

“I’m a pretty straight shooter,” Scala said. “I’ve made my mistakes in life.”

Concluding the horserace, we have another gem from Sun City Anthem - Jerry Sakura. Mr. Sakura lost in the Democratic primary. Mr. Sakura also made an attempt to run for the Sun City Anthem board of directors last year, dropping out prior to the election.

His antics were well known in the Anthem Center for behavior that concerned residents to the extent that Henderson Police were called to “remove the problem” from the premises.

So you have it…election 2013 “Cirque” Henderson…where the candidates appear to be better suited for either an evening at a comedy theatre or a new Cirque Du Soleil show!

And I wouldn’t have it any other way.
Implants are the hottest topic in today's dentistry. Here's the Who, What and Why.

Who: Just about anyone can qualify for implant placement.

Some people with a few select illnesses are discouraged from having implants placed. Relatively speaking, that number is minor although many people feel they cannot have implant dentistry because they have been taking bisphosphonates (fosamax) for osteoporosis.

As I currently understand, the use of fosamax is ineffective after three years. Any patients who have been on this drug that long should discuss it with their physician.

Typically a patient who has taken fosamax for a long period of time is placed on a 3-4 month holiday from taking the drug. A blood test is done before stopping its use and again 3-4 months thereafter.

The results of the blood test are a guideline for the surgeon as to whether the patient would be low, moderate or high risk for successful implant placement. Truth be told, most patients, after discontinuing the fosamax qualify and proceed to successful implant placement.

The decision whether or not to proceed with implant placement will be the surgeon's. The take away message here is that just because a person has taken fosamax does not automatically preclude them from having implants placed successfully.

If one thinks that he or she is not a candidate for implant placement because they have been told that they do not have enough bone, then think again. Bone grafting of various types are now used routinely.

I will go out on a limb and say that anyone who has a lower denture and severe bone loss is still a candidate for at least two implants to hold the denture in place. This is great news for anyone suffering with the flop-around lower denture.

What: Implants are titanium posts which are placed in the bone. The bone attaches itself to the titanium implant. It is similar to how cement sets around a fence post. There are several respected brands from which the dentist can choose; all of which meet very strict quality control requirements.

Implants are placed with the intention of being permanent. Beware: some practices are placing what is called mini dental implants and this author considers them temporary at best.

I have never in my years of practice seen mini implants that are long lasting. They have their use, but I consider such uses very limited.

I would further caution the patient to know what they are buying. One often sees marketing for cheap implant dentistry. Mini implants are probably what are being used.

Why: Because bone heals and attaches to implants, implants save the bone! Saving the jaw bone would be reason enough for having implants placed, but as far as our patients are concerned, the implants are supporting the crown to replace the missing tooth/teeth or holding a denture in place.

Implants and implant technology are here to stay and are a gift to mankind. The technology is easier and more predictable than it has ever been.
We have sewing machines beginning at $99, to the top of the line multi-needle embroidery machines. Let us help you select the machine perfect for your needs.

Considering purchasing or upgrading your embroidery machine? Try before you buy.

You can experience the fun of machine embroidery by creating a fabric greeting card or picture frame. The class is only $20 and includes use of machine and project kit ($69 value). Call 252-0006 to register.

We will also have a 3 Day hands-on “Baby Lock Serge-A-Thon” for everyone! Join Sue Green, independent serger expert for three fun filled days to learn basic to advanced serger techniques. The class is $250 and includes use of machine and project kit. Call 252-0006 to register.

For more information on any of our classes offered in Henderson and Las Vegas and for our next store event, visit our website: www.cynthiassewingcenter.com.

I hear this comment frequently in my practice at The Sims Center LV for Eyelid and Facial Aesthetics. Generally, they are referring to droopy upper eyelids. The medical term for drooping upper eyelid(s) is referred to as “ptosis”, (pronounced “toe-sis”).

There may be a limited droop, or the eyelid restricts or blocks normal vision. It can occur in children as well as adults.

The patient often has difficulty keeping their eyelids open. Ptosis can affect one or both eyelids, be inherited, present at birth, due to trauma, neurologic disease or occur later in life.

In adults, the most common causes of ptosis occurs when the muscle that elevates the eyelid is weakened for a variety of reasons. As we have more birthdays, the tendon that attaches to that muscle can stretch and results in the eyelid drooping. Children may be born with ptosis or may acquire it due to trauma or neurologic reasons.

Ptosis can be corrected as an outpatient surgical procedure. The procedure aims to tighten the muscle that elevates the eyelid(s).

Routinely, testing is performed in the office to determine the best procedure for the individual patient. Sometimes, removal of excess skin (called blepharoplasty) can elevate the upper eyelid(s) sufficiently. Improved visual field is the primary goal.

Choose a surgeon to perform ptosis surgery that has specialized training in eyelid surgery, knows the anatomy and structure of the eyelids.

I will have more articles about topics in Oculoplastic Surgery and if I can assist you, please do not hesitate to contact my office: 702/998-2907.
New Vision Neuropathy and Pain Center

By: Dr. Robert Odell
I am a Stanford trained interventional pain management physician and anesthesiologist. My clinic specializes in the treatment of neuropathy and other difficult chronic pain conditions.

We specialize in full service treatment; including interventional management, chronic pain syndromes, neuropathies and post-operative painful states.

If you suffer from the pain, numbness, balance problems and uncomfortable feelings which accompany neuropathic pain, we may be able to offer you significant life changing relief. We use protocols which I developed over the past 5 years to treat the symptoms of the legs and feet which are common in neuropathies - no matter what the cause.

The treatment is quite safe, with no side effects being reported in my clinic (and others I have trained around the country) among the thousands of patients treated.

Your first consultation will be with me and members of my professional medical staff.

We will then evaluate you using a state of the art, pain free nerve diagnostic test and then review the findings with you and explain our treatment protocol(s).

Many patients find our treatment, which may last 4 – 8 weeks, life changing. They are able to sleep better, walk much better, see balance problems go away and realize an amazing improvement in their quality of life.

For those with neck, back or other spine problems, we offer similar state-of-the-art treatment.

Arthritis is a growing problem in our population. If you suffer from knee, ankle or other joint pain, we have similar programs which are quite effective and do not require steroids.

Our friendly staff is always happy to answer any questions. Most insurance plans, including Medicare are accepted.

Along with fat, protein and carbs, fiber is an important segment of our daily diet. You probably already know that fiber helps keep you feeling fuller longer and that the body works harder to process fiber, so it’s helpful for weight loss.

And did you also know that fiber-rich foods help in the body’s fight against cancer? Researchers have found that both soluble and insoluble fiber reduce the risk of breast cancer - especially for women consuming upwards of 30 grams a day.

Studies have revealed that women who consumed a high fiber diet (38-77 grams/day) had a greater than 20% reduction in their risk of ovarian cancer compared to those with low fiber intake. With this in mind, don’t hesitate to fill your cart with these foods:

- **Fruits:** Prunes, pears, mangos, apples, raspberries, blackberries.
- **Legumes:** Navy beans, kidney beans, pinto beans, lentils, black beans, lima beans.
- **Breads:** Rye bread, wheat bran, bran flakes.
- **Nuts & Seeds:** Almonds, pistachios, peanuts, walnuts.
- **Vegetables:** Artichokes, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, soy beans, spinach, canned pumpkin.
- **Grains:** Whole wheat spaghetti, oat meal.

The fiber content of packaged breads and baked goods varies brand-to-brand. Pay attention to serving sizes and nutrition labels.

- **Nuts & Seeds:** Almonds, pistachios, peanuts, walnuts.
- **Vegetables:** Artichokes, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, soy beans, spinach, canned pumpkin.
- **Grains:** Whole wheat spaghetti, oat meal.

A food must provide at least 20 percent of the recommended daily intake of fiber per serving to be labeled “high in fiber.” Some of the other terms that indicate the same thing are “excellent source of fiber” or “good source of fiber.”

Just be cautious when increasing your source of fiber to prevent bloating. Increase gradually over the course of a few weeks.

Drink lots of water. Remember that half your body weight is that amount of ounces that you need on a daily regimen. Fluid helps to soften fiber so that it passes through your system easily.

Now with Spring here and warm weather ahead, it’s so much easier to relish all those great salads with fresh vegetables and add-ons to your salads. Just be cautious of the dressings.

A trick that I use is to have my dressing on the side and dip my fork into it, then to the salad. You can also use olive oil and balsamic vinegar to dress up your salads. Lots of fiber in those greens and add-ons!

Having a small salad prior to your main entrée will help to digest your food and also to make you feel fuller faster. Drink lots of water with your meals. Enjoy eating!

**Positive attitude and good health to all!**

Mary Richard was crowned Ms. Senior Nevada 2006 and is now a fitness instructor at Sun City Anthem. She can be reached at: mary-vegasvoice@cox.net.

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**Are You “Fiber Smart”?**

Mary Richard

Health Fitness

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While Joint Replacement surgery has been proven to expand a person’s quality of life, the longevity of the replacement can vary. Time, implant wear, loosening or infection can all lead to the failure of the implant. Quality of life thus decreases and a need for another hip replacement is evident.

Hip Revision Surgery is the process by which an artificial hip replacement (prosthesis) no longer functions normally and is replaced in an attempt to allow for proper range of motion, mobility and the like by redoing the prosthesis. Dr. Mario Quesada explains, “Hip Revision surgery is primarily performed due to associated pain and dysfunction. Reasons may include infection, loosening of an implant, dislocation, wearing of an implant or other problem that requires the services of an Orthopaedic surgeon to revise the joint.”

The process of hip revision surgery involves removing the hip implant and replacing it with a new one. There are two components to a hip replacement.

When one component of the hip fails, it would require that only one of the two parts be revised. If both components fail, then a complete revision is required. However, a more intense surgery may be needed depending on the problem.

In the past, revision surgery carried with it negative connotations due to the large incisions and dissections that were needed. New technology allows for smaller and less aggressive incisions at times.

For instance, Anterior Hip Arthroplasty has already been identified as a less invasive, faster recovery than traditional hip arthroplasty. At Black Mountain Orthopaedics, Drs. Roger Fontes and Quesada can revise some hip joints, depending on the failed component, via this approach.

Dr. Fontes states, “The reason for the revision will many times dictate the path the surgery takes.” The simplest form would be doing a plastic liner exchange.

The more difficult revisions are usually infections as the implant must be removed and an antibiotic spacer is placed. The patient gets IV antibiotics for 6 weeks to 3 months. At the end, the surgeon looks at labs and goes back to surgery.

If infection cells are seen at the time of surgery, then another spacer and more antibiotics are needed. When it is finally cleared, surgery can continue and replacement of the hip is done.

‘It may seem a daunting task to a patient that has already endured a hip replacement; whether the surgery was a few months ago, or 20 years ago.

One benefit to performing a hip revision is that it allows the hip to function normally again, which gives the patient their mobility back. Another is a decrease or the absence of pain.

Drs. Fontes and Quesada understand the fear and pain often associated with the idea of another surgery. Because of this, Black Mountain Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine provides fellowship-trained services as well as a multimodal approach to improve the outcome of hip revision surgery.

For more information, please visit www.blackmountainortho.com or call to schedule an appointment at 702.564.1234.
I often have grandparents with questions relating to their rights to see their grandchildren in Nevada. Historically, the Courts were quite liberal in granting visitation rights to grandparents, as it was believed to be in the best interest of a child to have continued relationships with grandparents if they had formed a bond with them.

Recently I had a grandmother come see me about these issues. Her grandson and his mother resided with her for more than a year. The mother passed away and the grandson was then returned to the custody of his father. The father refused to allow the grandmother to visit the grandson even though they had lived together and formed a relationship.

Under Nevada Revised Statute 125C.050 this grandmother would be allowed to establish that she had a meaningful relationship with the grandchild. The Court would review the prior relationship between the child and the grandmother seeking visitation.

Unfortunately, pursuant to recent decisions of the Court, the grandparent must establish first that they not only had a meaningful relationship, but also that it is in the best interest of the child. The Courts are very hesitant to overstep the wishes and desires of the parent.

In my case, the grandmother had formed a bond with her grandson. Her grandson had lived with her for over a year and her grandson participated in all holidays and family gatherings. The Court reviewed these factors and used them to make its determination, including the father’s wishes and determination for what he believed was in the best interest of his son. And while we were able to overcome the extremely difficult task of the "best interests" issue, the Court ruled that the grandmother could have visitation - but limited it to only 2 hours a month.

So while grandparents do have rights to see their grandchildren in Nevada when they have a relationship with them, it is very difficult for them to exercise these rights. Typically in these cases, I suggest that my clients try to set personal emotions aside and work to negotiate with the parents or to set up mediation/counseling sessions where everyone can air their grievances away from the child and work towards making decisions as a family.

If you have any “grandparent issues” or if my office can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call me at 702/448-4962 for a free consultation.

This information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and does not constitute an attorney client relationship.

Rena McDonald is the founder of McDonald Law Group, LLC and passionately cares about her clients. She can be reached at 448-4962 or www.McDonaldLawGroup.com.
It’s that beautiful time of year. The weather is getting warmer, outdoor activities are picking up, and people are getting the itch to spruce things up a bit.

Perhaps it’s a few new plants, or a complete landscaping makeover. Maybe some interior remodeling, painting or even adding a room is what you desire.

Who do you hire for these projects? Often the best way to go is to get recommendations from friends and family who experienced satisfactory results on their projects.

But don’t stop there.

If you’ve received a strong recommendation, don’t assume you don’t need to check them out. Investigate them the way you would if you found someone in the phone book or through an advertisement.

A contractor may have been excellent in the past, but things have a way of changing - especially if it’s been a while since the person giving you the referral had worked done. Perhaps a contractor has different people working for them or has encountered some difficulty that has affected the quality of their work.

Remember the consumer’s mantra - do your homework! The first question to ask - are they properly licensed? To be sure, there are many, many unlicensed people who do great work. However, if you choose to go that route you are forfeiting many of the protections offered under the law. The process for obtaining a contractor’s license in Nevada is quite onerous and it is illegal to operate without one. Once someone obtains a license they have rules they must follow in order to keep it.

If you deal with an unlicensed contractor there is a high probability that they are uninsured. If something happens, for example someone gets hurt, guess who is liable? That’s right, you.

Is that a risk you want to take on? There are reasons licensed contractors cost more and maintaining proper insurance is one of them.

Another factor to consider is that Nevada has a Residential Recovery Fund that allows consumers to obtain monetary compensation if they are financially harmed by a contractor. Consumers are only eligible to collect if they have a contract with a licensed contractor.

By law a contract with an unlicensed contractor is null and void. How can you be sure a contractor is licensed? That part is easy. You can search online at www.nvcontractorsboard.com or call (702) 486-1100.

Before any money changes hands be sure that you have everything in writing. A written document avoids misunderstandings.

Never pay for the job in full before it has been completed. A deposit prior to work beginning is normal; paying everything up front is not.

Larger jobs should have a payment schedule that requires you to pay in installments as work progresses. Do not allow payments to get far ahead of the work completed.

It is strongly recommended that you visit the Nevada State Contractors Board website listed above. There is a wealth of information for consumers that will help you have a positive remodeling experience.

One particularly useful piece is “10 Tips for making sure your contractor is on the level.” A little legwork up front can save you from having a huge headache later. Happy remodeling!

Richard Warren is a passionate consumer advocate. He can be reached at: writer.lv@gmail.com
Our country was in turmoil.

Young men felt the overwhelming need to enlist. Mothers, fathers, relatives and friends feared for their safety.

Young women wanted to answer the call to arms, too. They wanted to assist in some way, instead of sitting at home, worried, angry, heartsick and helpless.

Jenna received the news that her husband had been killed during the attack. She was overwhelmed with despair at his loss.

They had been sweethearts since they were twelve years old. Soul mates. How could she live without him?

The other half of herself was gone. It was a void that would never be filled again.

Was the year 2001? After terrorists attacked New York City?

The necessity inside their soul to fight for freedom, to preserve their way of life, bear arms against a threat which could topple all the United States stood for, was too heavy a risk to brush off like a wayward strand of hair. The danger inherent was a tangible force.

David heard his brother was missing in action; his whereabouts unknown. Sick with fear for his brother, his best friend, his confidant, he searched burned, bombed out buildings, to no avail. He read over lists of wounded or killed then tacked up posters of his brother’s image with a desperate plea for any information.

Was the year 1941? When our country had been attacked?

Fortified by different beliefs, strength in their cause compelled many to fight against others who would destroy a way of life which had been building into a strong, prosperous country. Perhaps the country was too arrogant in their confidence that scars of war would ever shatter their home soil.

Joseph received a letter from the government informing him that his son was wounded and would not survive. Sick with a panic only a parent could feel, having brought up his son since the age of ten. He thought he knew grief after his wife had been killed, but this was unimaginable.

He contacted every government official. Any friend of a friend in high places and called in every favor owed to him for any news of his son.

Was the year 1861? Was it America fighting itself?

Jenna wrapped her arms around herself and rocked in grief. Joseph sat down, gathered her into his arms and held her as she poured out tears of anguish.

He felt his own pain well to match hers. He glanced up to see his other son, David, standing before them; his eyes were hot with anger and misery.

David could not look beyond this shattered moment with any concept of mending from a horrendous wound that would never heal.

They heard footsteps on the front porch and groaned at the intrusion of another friend, relative or neighbor stopping by to give their condolences.

Someone entered without knocking. All three shot an annoyed look at the intruder.

Michael - husband, son and brother stood there; tall, alive, dressed in his uniform, frowning in concern. “Who died?”

Was it, 2001, 1941 or 1861? No matter the year or the years between - whatever the past held; time was relative.
Not all the news from Washington, D.C. is good. In fact, if you are a person making more than $400,000 a year in income or investments, the news is actually bad. Most retirees won’t think twice about considering themselves in this category, but with a new income tax rate of nearly 40% and a capital gains rate of 20% for these high-income earners, retirees must be very careful about liquidating too many investments in any one year.

Let’s begin with a short discussion of when retirees might find themselves thrust into a higher tax bracket, and why that is dangerous. For our example, let’s use a widow who owns some farm land in Iowa that she wants to sell after the death of her husband. The farm land is in excess of $500,000 in value. Immediately, we know that we are dealing with a capital gain.

So in this example, our widow will probably want to consider doing a 1031 tax exchange of property rather than liquidating the land directly in order to avoid paying the 20% capital gain.

If she also liquidates her husband’s IRA or 401(k) in that same year, she could find herself with a large amount of untaxed money. Let’s assume that her deceased husband had a 401(k) of $375,000 and she has decided to take all that money out to pay off her mortgage.

Then let’s assume that she makes $35,000 a year from her own retirement or social security that same year. She doesn’t feel “rich” but if she doesn’t get good legal or tax advice, she now finds herself in the higher tax bracket and subject to a higher capital gain on the sale of the land.

This is a big hit considering it is 5% higher just because she is now over the $400,000 a year “income” bracket because she liquidated the 401(k) – untaxed money.

In the above example, there are many good reasons for the widow to do what she is doing, but without good advice, a simple left turn on a right turn road could be very costly. Now imagine how much that amount would be if the farm being sold was worth $1.5 million or more.

After paying commissions to realtors, local transfer taxes, capital gains, marketing costs, and paying federal transfer taxes under “ObamaCare”, the loss on the sale with the higher capital gain tax could be a staggering 40%.

These circumstances are especially important to recognize in dealing with probate and estate matters when all of the income and sales must occur in the same year and there are fewer options to delay taxes. With probate matters, you can almost guarantee these circumstances will arise.

So the best advice to give here is to get good advice from a tax or probate attorney if you want to make large moves in any one year.
CSI: Experience Critical Thinking Fun

Okay, I admit it. I’m a sucker for crime shows, mysteries and detective novels. It’s probably because when I was a kid I loved reading Nancy Drew and playing the board game “CLUE.” So when my longtime friend, Dr. Mary Cavanagh, (who has authored a multitude of critical thinking games, books & materials) came to town -- we went to play detective at a fun attraction, “CSI: The Experience.”

Critical Thinking Skills

Improve your critical thinking skills and you’ll improve your decision making as it relates to your spending habits, health actions & lifestyle decisions. Yes, it is a thinking decision when you take a walk and choose what foods to eat, auto insurance to buy and tv shows to watch.

Mary and I are seen at left scrutinizing our CSI report after using science and our critical thinking skills to piece together clues in a crime scene mystery. Of course we’re not going to quit our jobs to pursue a career in forensics -- but we’ll probably go back next time Mary’s in town.

Jan Fair is a writer, consultant & public speaker who’s published over 40 books. Check out her website at www.JanFair.com and contact her at jan@janfair.com.

Mental Minutes
“Favorite TV Shows, Movies & Books”
1. In one minute, name characters, actors, words & phrases associated with your favorite TV series, movie or book.
2. Make an alphabetic list.
   “CSI, Miami”: Adam Rodriguez, bomb squad, ... Anthony E. Zuiker”
3. List the names, words & phrases such that they begin with the same letter in which the previous one ended.
   “CSI”: Gary Dourdan, Nick Stokes.

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With all the tremendous growth of new medical care concepts and innovations that are truly transforming the way patients are treated; Caremore Medical Group is proud to be leading the charge. The cornerstone of this innovation, is a collaborative network of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who work seamlessly with each other to make patient care more efficient and effective. Give us a call, and let us transform your healthcare.
Karri Stokely (Lakeland, FL) says, “I feel better now than I have felt in my entire adult life thanks to Louella Harris.” Karri spent days in bed due to fibromyalgia and a lowered immune system disorder. Then she met Louella.

James Tomasi (Oklahoma City, OK) declares, “I would be dead today if it were not for Louella Harris.” James was ready to commit suicide due to the pain of Trigeminal Neuralgia when his wife heard Louella on the radio.

Barbara Ellington (Boston, MA) tells everyone, “I’m back to work because of a woman in a wheelchair.” Barbara, an artist, had lost the use of her hands and arms due to pain. Her career was over. Then she saw Louella on television.

Louella Harris, a master degreed rehabilitation counselor (Lakeland, FL) who contracted polio at age 3, is saving lives by spreading the word about a little-known procedure that is bringing pain relief to thousands.

Thirteen years ago Harris was confined to bed due to fibromyalgia and post-polio syndrome. The pain was so intense that any sort of movement was agony. Her husband Richard had to help Louella with all her needs. She couldn’t even sit up or hold a book. “Like many of my clients,” Harris recalls, “I was told to learn to live with it.”

Then a friend told Louella about a non-surgical procedure practiced by only 200 chiropractors worldwide. Harris says, “I couldn’t get past the word ‘chiropractor’. I was extremely skeptical and had no idea it’s now so advanced. There are many different types that don’t twist or crack. I had never heard of NUCCA (National Upper Cervical Chiropractic Association), a very specific type of chiropractic that meticulously corrects the position of the atlas, the top bone of the spine at the base of the skull. But from the moment my NUCCA doctor corrected my body imbalance, I felt all the pain rush out of me. To this day, it never ceases to amaze me how well it works.”

In 3-months Louella was out of bed, working, pregnant, and forming a national non-profit consumer awareness organization, The National Awareness Campaign for Upper Cervical Care, Inc. to inform the public about how well it works. “I’m back to work because of a woman in a wheelchair,” Barbara, an artist, had lost the use of her hands and arms due to pain. Her career was over. Then she saw Louella on television.

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