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## BEGIN EVERYDAY WITH A SMILE!

Volume 2, Issue 12, December 2021

### Holiday Eating Tips



Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the holiday spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.

Drink as much eggnog as you can, and quickly. It's rare. You cannot find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog alcoholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two.

Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and the New Year. You can do that in January when you

have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.

As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.

Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a holiday party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello?

If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted cookies in all shapes and sizes, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again.

One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read tips; start over. Remember this motto to live by: "Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive well-preserved body, but rather skid in sideways, chocolate in hand, screaming "WHAT A RIDE!"

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# Chatterbox News

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## **LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

Here we are at the end of a year and Christmas fast approaching. On behalf of our advertisers, columnists and myself, I want to wish everyone, the Merriest of Christmas and all the best in the New Year. This issue finds some fun and heart-warming stories for you to sit and sip your eggnog.

As usual say "hi" to our advertisers, take care and keep smiling. Liz Underhill



## **MEREDITH & ABBEY**

This is one of the kindest things you may ever read. It is not known who replied, but there is a beautiful soul working in the dead letter office of the US Postal Service.

Our 14-year-old dog, Abbey, died last month. The day after she died, my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so she dictated these words:

"Dear God, will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to play with balls and to swim. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her You will know that she is my dog. I really miss her. Love, Meredith"

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith

pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, "When a Pet Dies". Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey and Meredith and this note:

"Dear Meredith, Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help. I recognized Abbey right away. Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in, so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much.

By the way, I'm easy to find, I am wherever there is love. Love, God"

*Author Unknown*

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Just wanted you to know I have entered the  
snapdragon part of my life. Part of me has  
snapped and the rest is draggin.

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All women  
should live  
so long as to  
be this kind  
of old lady!

Toward the end of Sunday service, the Minister asked, "How many of you have forgiven your enemies?" 80% held up their hands.

The Minister then repeated his question. All responded this time, except one small elderly lady.

"Mrs. Neely, are you not willing to forgive your enemies?"

I don't have any." she replied, smiling sweetly.

"Mrs. Neely, that is very unusual. How old are you?"

"Ninety-eight", she replied.

The congregation stood up and clapped their hands.

"Oh, Mrs. Neely, would you please come down in front and tell us all how a person can live ninety-eight years and not have an enemy in the world?"

The little sweetheart of a lady tottered down the aisle, faced the congregation, and said, "I outlived the old bats."

## Real Golf Course Stories

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: Do you have a dress code?

Staff: Yes, we do. We require soft spikes.

Caller: How about clothes?

Staff: Yes, you have to wear clothes.

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: Yes, I'd like some info about your golf course.

Staff: OK, what would you like to know?

Caller: I don't know, that's why I called.



### "Soup ta Nuts"

Miss Klara  
'Twas The  
Night Before  
Christmas



'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring Cranky Cat ate the mouse.  
My girdle was hung by the chimney with care,  
in hopes that Saint Nicholas would notice it there.

Cranky Dog was nestled at the foot of the bed  
while visions of doggy bones danced in his head.  
And I in my jammies and a whiskey night cap  
dreaming of Santa, sitting right on my lap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter  
I tripped over Cranky Cat who was now much, much flatter.  
I tore open the window not a second to miss  
I hoped I could catch Santa and blow him a kiss.

A bright moon was lighting the new-fallen snow  
It looked like Santa was beginning to glow.  
Cranky Dog was beside me looking up to the roof  
and there plopped Santa looking quite aloof.

He was a little old man with a beard that was thick  
Now I knew why they called him Old Saint Nick.  
Like a bolt of lightning, the reindeer they came  
I tried to yell out at them and call them by name.

Hey, Masher, hey Stancer, hey Minnie and Vixens  
I lifted my glass added more whiskey and mixins.  
Get off of my roof or the cops I will call  
Hit the road, fly away and don't ever call.

They took off as I staggered and tried to stand up  
Those stale twinkies I ate were trying to come up.  
So off of my rooftop the deer they did fly  
Rudolph's nose lifted up with not a goodbye.

And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof  
They had forgotten old Santa, oh gosh what a goof.  
I reached for my arrows and a rifle as well  
And just then Old Santa down the chimney, he fell.

With a huge bag of goodies tied to his back  
I told Cranky Dog Santa wasn't a snack.  
His breathing belaboured, his feet he were a draggin  
Cranky Dog was delighted, his tail was a waggin.

He was dressed all in red and a sloppy old hat  
He could hardly move cause he was too fat.  
He groaned as he brushed against our huge Christmas Tree  
And politely informed me he just had to pee.

He had a round face and a huge rotund belly  
That was looser and floppier than any bowlful of jelly.  
He came towards me, his lips held a smile  
I could tell by his breath he hadn't brushed for awhile.

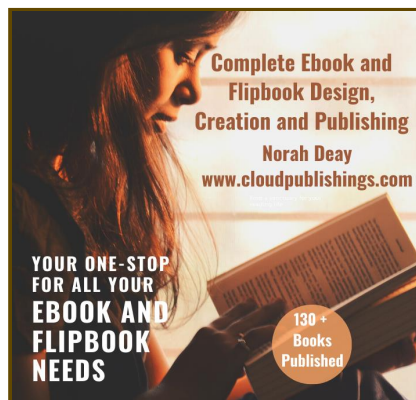
How he came down that chimney without getting stuck  
Is a wonder to me, he was such a schmuck.

I said not a thing and drank from my glass  
My speech it was slurring I let out some gas.

As he flew up the chimney, I got to thinkin  
He must have discovered that I was a drinkin.  
He yelled for the reindeer not to forget him that night  
To come back there to get him and they could continue in flight.

I ran outside and raised my glassy eyes to the sky  
Merry Christmas to all, can they really fly?  
I turned to the tree and saw with delight  
Presents for all of us, it gave such a fright.

A dog bone for Dog, and Cat Nip for Cat  
And a huge bottle of Whiskey wow, I could drink that.  
I ran to the window and smiling out there  
Was Santa, waving his hair in the air.  
"Merry Christmas Ms. Klara", he laughed with good cheer.  
Next year forget whiskey and just leave me a beer.  
Ms. Klara



A man was telling his neighbour, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state-of-the-art. It's perfect."  
"Really," answered the neighbour. "What kind is it?"  
"Twelve thirty."


# Merry Christmas

Why does 'slow down' and 'slow up' mean the same thing.

Why does 'fat chance' and 'slim chance' mean the same thing?

Why is it called 'after dark' when it really is 'after light'?





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# Believe It or Not

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her a quarter.

She said, "You gave me too much money."

I said, "Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back."

She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request.

I did so, and he handed me back the quarter and said, "We're sorry but they could not do that kind of thing." The clerk then proceeded to give me back 75 cents in change. Do not confuse the clerks at MacD's.

We had to have the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener.

I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower.

He shook his head and said, "Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower."

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, "NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two." We haven't used Sears repair since. Happened in Ottawa.

I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road.

The reason: "Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore."

Story from Collingwood, Ontario.

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged; however, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

## Weighting On You!



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## "On the Up and Up"

It's easy to understand UP meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends. We use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

## Inquiring Minds Need To Know

Can you cry under water?  
Why does a round pizza come in a square box?  
Why are you in IN a movie, but you're ON TV?  
Whose idea was it to put an 'S' in the word lisp?  
If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?  
Why is it that no matter what colour bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?  
Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?  
How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?  
Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table, you always manage to knock something else over?

## Drugged By My Parents !!! Priceless

The other day, someone at a store in our town read the Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?"

I replied that I had a drug problem when I was young: I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, or told a lie. I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden. I was drug to the homes of family, friends, and neighbours to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood, and if my mother had known that I took a single dime, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behaviour in everything I do, say or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin.

God bless the parents who drugged us.

Author Unknown

Submitted by a concerned citizen

## A Real Man

A real man is a woman's best friend. He will never stand her up and never let her down. He will reassure her when she feels insecure and comfort her after a bad day.

He will inspire her to do things she never thought she could do; to live without fear and forget regret.

He will enable her to express her deepest emotions and give in to her most intimate desires. He will make sure she always feels as though she's the most beautiful woman in the room and will enable her to be the most confident, sexy, seductive and invincible. No wait... Sorry... I'm thinking of wine. It's wine that does all that stuff. Never mind.



Two robins were sitting in a tree. "I'm really hungry," said the first one. "Let's fly down and find some lunch."

They flew down to the ground and found a nice plot of newly plowed ground that was full of worms. They ate and ate and ate till they could eat no more.

"I'm so full, I don't think I can fly back up into the tree," said the first one.

"Let's just lie back here and bask in the warm sun," said the second.

"OK," said the first.

So they plopped down, basking in the sun. No sooner than they had fallen asleep, when a big fat tomcat gobbled them up.

As the cat sat washing his face after his meal, he thought...

I JUST LOVE BASKIN ROBBINS



## Pet Peeves

Do you have Pet Peeves? Send your pet peeves to:  
liz@lizunderhill.com

A far more accurate account of the events of that fateful morning....

Baby Bear goes downstairs, sits in his small chair at the table. He looks into his small bowl. It is empty.

"Who's been eating my porridge?" he squeaks.

Daddy Bear arrives at the big table and sits in his big chair. He looks into his big bowl and it is also empty. "Who's been eating my porridge?" he roars.

Mummy Bear puts her head through the serving hatch from the kitchen and yells, "For Heaven's sake, how many times do I have to go through this with you idiots?"

It was Mummy Bear who got up first. It was Mummy Bear who woke everyone in the house. It was Mummy Bear who made the coffee. It was Mummy Bear who unloaded the dishwasher from last night and put everything away. It was Mummy Bear who swept the floor in the kitchen. It was Mummy Bear who went out in the cold early morning air to fetch the newspaper and croissants. It was Mummy Bear who set the darn table.



It was Mummy Bear who walked the dog, cleaned the cat's litter tray, gave them their food, and refilled their water, and now that you've decided to drag your sorry bear-butts downstairs and grace Mummy Bear with your grumpy presence. Listen carefully, because I'm only going to say this once.

I HAVEN'T MADE THE !!!\$\$\$ PORRIDGE YET!"

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Editor's Note: Thought we should give equal "peeve" time to our animal kingdom



## From Become a Minimalist:

1. Compliment three people every day.
2. Watch the sunrise at least once a year
3. Be the first to say, "hello"
4. Live beneath your means
5. Treat everyone like you want to be treated
6. Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen
7. Forget the Joneses
8. Never deprive someone of hope. It may be all he has
9. Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage
10. Be tough-minded but tender-hearted.
11. Be kinder than necessary
12. Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated
13. Keep your promises
14. Learn to show cheerfulness, even when you don't feel like it
15. Remember that overnight success usually takes about 15 years
16. Leave everything better than you found it
17. Remember that winners do what losers don't want to do
18. When you arrive at your job in the morning, let the first thing you say

brighten everyone's day

19. Don't rain on other people's parades
20. Never waste an opportunity to tell someone that you love them.



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A London lawyer runs a stop sign and gets pulled over by an Irish Garda. He thinks that he is smarter than the cop because he is a London lawyer, from London, and is certain that he has a better education than any paddy cop. He decides to prove this to himself and have some fun at the Garda's expense!!

The Irish Garda says, "License and registration, please." London Lawyer says, "What for?" Irish Garda replies, "You didn't come to a complete stop at the Stop sign." London Lawyer says, "I slowed down, and no one was coming." Irish Garda says, "You still didn't come to a complete stop. License And registration, please." London Lawyer says, "What's the difference?" Irish Garda says, "The difference is, you have to come to complete stop, that's the law. License and registration, please!"

The London lawyer says, "If you can show me the legal difference between "slow down" and "stop", I'll give you my license and registration and you give me the ticket. If not, you let me go and don't give me the ticket."

The Irish Garda says, "Sounds fair. Exit your vehicle, sir." The London lawyer exits his vehicle.

The Irish Garda takes out his baton and starts beating the lawyer with it and says, "Now do you want me to stop, or just slow down?"

## The Computer Tutor

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*Just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to, doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.*

Red and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Red suddenly jumped into the deep end. He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there.

Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled him out. When the Head Nurse Director became aware of Edna's heroic act she immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital, as she now considered her to be mentally stable.

When she went to tell Edna the news she said, "Edna, I have good news and bad news. The good news is you're being discharged since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of the person you love. I have concluded that your act displays sound mindedness. The bad news is, Red hung himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you saved him. I am so sorry, but he's dead."

Edna replied, "He didn't hang himself, I put him there to dry. How soon can I go home?"

## With a little Bit of Luck

Lessons from Life's Journey by Buzz Lightly

### Picking the Perfect Tree

One year, when I was about 14, my brother and I decided we could help the family out by harvesting our own Christmas tree.

Times were tight and the cost of a tree would be extra money for Christmas celebrations.

There was a large bush about a mile from our home and on a crisp December morning we armed ourselves with a hatchet and headed out.

As soon as we entered the woodlot and started to seriously examine the trees we realized that this would take some time. These were not well-trimmed trees that had been pruned and coddled so they would look great in someone's parlor. These were wind-blown ragged trees that had endured the harsh realities of nature.

As we looked closely, we saw gaps, broken branches, twisted trunks and huge variations in size and colour. A tree that looked perfect from the distance suddenly was too big, too small, or way too ugly when we got up close. It was like the school dance where all the girls look interesting until you decide you are actually going to ask one to dance with you.

I would see a tree that I thought would work and when we got close my brother could find five good reasons for trying again. He would find a candidate and I would challenge his selection. The more we walked and looked the more we realized that this was no easy task.

I had no idea that evergreens could come in such a variety of sizes and shapes.



Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Wal-Mart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time.

Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their 'Older Person-Friendly' policies.

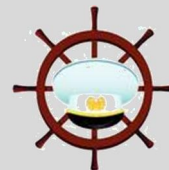
One day the boss called him into the office for a talk.

"Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang up job but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, 'Good morning, Admiral, can I get you coffee, sir?'"



## Top Ten Senior Pickup Lines

10. Come here of often? If so, could you tell me where I am?
9. Do you have an oxygen tank? Because you took my breath away.
8. Like to come by and see my medicine cabinet?
7. Make like a compression sock and give me a squeeze!
6. Ever had a lap dance in a wheel chair before?
5. Do you play bingo, because I swear I've seen you B4
4. Hey, baby. Wanna help me test my new hip replacement?
3. That pretty smile of yours would sure look good in a glass on my nightstand!
2. You're not dead yet either? We have so much in common!
1. Your heating pad or mine?



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