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Bring Out the Best in Others!

If you've ever had anyone appreciate you for your natural abilities, chances are they understood the flower seed principle:

Try to think of every person as a flower seed: He or she already has the disposition to become something amazing and beautiful, but each seed will only become a certain kind of flower. For example, a sunflower seed is only going to produce a sunflower, and how beautiful the flower becomes often depends on how people nurture it.

Unfortunately, often times in the workplace you'll hear a supervisor say, "I think that sunflower over there has some potential, and with a little training, he could become a really great long-stemmed rose." The supervisor then tries to teach the sunflower how to become a long-stemmed rose. The sunflower starts to have lunch with and network with the roses, in the hope that one day he too can become one of them.

Perspective is Everything

After a very long day, Jerry made his way to the train. Along the way, he dropped his briefcase, stepped in gum and had to wait in a long line just to get through the turnstile. When he got on the train, it was crowded and hot because the air conditioning system wasn't working.

Jerry was usually very kind and reasonable, but his nerves and tolerance were wearing thin. At the first stop the train made, a young woman talking very loudly on her cell phone boarded.

People talking loudly on cell phones happened to be one of Jerry's pet peeves and considering that he'd already had a rough day, the blaring voice really bothered him. He thought back to how the day had started. His boss had questioned his competence – and it had all been downhill from there. He thought maybe he would start looking for a new job soon.

But instead, what does the sunflower become? He becomes the world's most insecure sunflower because no one has ever noticed his own innate beauty and the gifts he has for the world.



A good leader would say to the sunflower, "Here's a seminar on how a bunch of beautiful sunflowers got together and did something wonderful," or "Here's a place where you can go and network with other sunflowers."

The best thing you can do for someone is to try and find out how you can help cultivate their natural talents and abilities. Unearth what kind of seed that person already has inside and then help them grow into what they were naturally meant to be.

~ Adapted from *Heart at Work*, by J. Canfield and J. Miller

The dictionary defines "perspective" as "the capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance." How's your perspective?

However, the young woman interrupted his "getting-a-new-job fantasy" as she kept screaming into her phone, "Please, I need to know right now!"

Jerry rolled his eyes at what the woman was saying. "What could be so important?" he thought. He went back to dreaming about the day he would turn in his resignation, but again, he was dragged from his reverie by the woman loudly declaring into her phone, "I need to know right now."

And now Jerry was ready to explode. He was going to tell the silly woman to keep it down. But just then the train pulled into a stop and a young man boarded and hurried over to the woman.

He threw his arms around her, and, tears streaming, he buried his face in her shoulder. "The hospital just called," he said. "She's stable now."

Holly's Household Corner



Stay Safe in the Kitchen

Did you know that glass casserole dishes can explode if you apply direct heat to them? For instance, when one family was on vacation, someone left an empty glass casserole on one of the burners of an electric stove. They accidentally left the burner on, and after a while the glass dish exploded.

Another kitchen hazard to watch out for is setting a hot glass dish or pot on a cold or wet surface. A coffee pot will often break if you fill it with hot liquid and then put it on a cold surface.

Never use a wet or damp potholder when you pick up something hot. The wet or dampness will turn to steam and might burn you. You'll also want to pay attention to the food you're cooking. Putting something on the stove and then engrossing yourself in an online search is a bad idea; many fires have started this way.

~ Adapted from premierkitchens.com

Gardens and Greenhouses

"Shotgun Fungus"



The artillery fungus (i.e. cannon fungus or shotgun fungus) resembles a tiny cream or orange-brown cup with one black egg. The cup is approximately 1/10 of an inch in diameter. Areas of mulch with artillery fungi may appear matted and lighter in color than the surrounding mulch. The fruiting body of this fungus orients itself towards bright surfaces, such as light-colored houses or parked automobiles.

The artillery fungus "shoots" its black, sticky spore mass which can be windblown as high as the second story of a house. The spore mass sticks to the side of a building or automobile, resembling a small speck of tar. They may be found on the undersides of leaves on plants growing in mulched areas. Once in place, the spore mass is very difficult to remove without damaging the surface to which it is attached. If removed, it leaves a stain. A few of these spots are barely noticeable, but as they accumulate, they may become very unsightly on houses or cars. To date, there are no known ways to manage the artillery fungus.

~ <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/ipm/disease/mulchfun.htm>

Where is All of Your Money Going?

Is your budget full of surprises? Do you get to the end of each month, and then things just don't add up? Or do you even have a budget in place? If you don't, do you run out of money during the month and wonder how it happened?

Unfortunately, these are all-too-common scenarios. Today people seem to be afraid of looking at a real budget or they want to hide from the amount of money they actually spend. As a result, they feel controlled by money. To curb that unpleasant feeling, try using some of these budget-related tips:

When you're creating your budget for the month, remember to include recurring monthly expenses. There's also the fact that some months have five Fridays (or other days) a month, instead of four, so if you're making a monthly budget that includes weekly payments, your numbers won't mesh in the end. These hidden expenses can make you feel as though you're failing to stay on your budget.

Keep in mind that small expenses add up fast. Do you go to the movies every week? Did you include that in your budget? It's necessary to be honest with yourself if you want to get control of money issues that have been controlling you. For example, let's say you go to a movie once a week and pay for two tickets (\$20), have sodas and popcorn (\$10) and go out to a simple dinner (\$25). After one year you'll have spent over \$2,500 on your Friday nights out.

Try to think of everything you spend money on – magazine subscriptions, batteries – you name it. These things all add up and can affect whether you end up sticking to your budget or giving up.

Most people react with shock when they see how much money they really spend, as compared to how much they *think* they spend. It pays to be honest with yourself, and once you start, eventually you can feel empowered when it comes to your finances.

September 11...

Monday, September 11 is the fifth year since the 9/11 attacks. Spend some time remembering, commemorating and praying for those we lost, and appreciating our privileges and freedoms.

Congratulations!

So how do you think positive? It takes practice. Here are a couple of things to remember..

- What we think of ourselves is more important than what others think of us.
- Experience is not what happens to us, it is how we deal with it.
- Happiness is one thing you can give without having.
- You are individual and there is nobody else like you.
- Don't be afraid to smile or laugh.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.
- Be proud of who and what you are.
- A happy heart beats longest.
- You are not alone.
- A cheerful thought can drive away a skyfull of clouds.

Referrals are the _____ of my Business!

Planning to Move?

No matter where you're looking, I can help!



4841 Grafton Brunswick Clean and updated. 2 bedrm townhouse with finished rec. rm. Remodeled kitchen & more. \$102,900.

6788 Beresford Parma Hts 2500+ SF tudor colonial with fenced yard. Lots of charm and lots of potential. Bring your ideas to enhance this 1920s home. \$149,900.

26898 Redwood Olmsted Falls 3 bedrm Split on park-like lot. 2-car attached garage. Updated kitchen and bath. Newer roof, furnace and A/C. \$149,900.

PENDING!

If You're in the Market...

Is the negative news about about the market conditions overwhelming you? Don't let it! Think positive and be proactive!

Now is a great time to take advantage of all of the homes for sale. If you have been thinking about buying a home; NOW IS THE TIME! Don't waste another penny in rent! Interest rates are still phenominal. When I bought my first home the rates were at 10%.

Homeowners, if you NEED to sell now, make sure your home 'shines in comparison.' Clean! Orderly! Remove wallpaper, get rid of smoke and pet odors and make those repairs that you have been putting off. (But don't expect the buyer to pay more because of it.) Expect that you will be on the market longer, so that you are not disappointed when it takes time. DO NOT buy another home until yours has sold, unless you can comfortably afford double mortgage payments.

25345 Country Club Blvd North Olmsted Well maintained 3 bedrm, 1.5 bath townhouse condo w/sun porch. Within walking distance to mall, library, schools, pool, playground and more. Updated kitchen. \$97,900.

4123 Gifford Old Brooklyn Charming and well maintained 3 bedrm colonial with 2 full baths. Updated kitchen & baths, beautiful natural woodwork and refinished flooring. Close to highways. Priced below market at \$99,900.