

# Pratt Connection

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## A Sweet Lesson

Years ago, a 10-year-old boy approached the counter of a soda shop and climbed on a stool. "What does an ice cream sundae cost?" he asked the waitress.

"Fifty cents," she answered.

The boy reached deep in his pockets and pulled out an assortment of change, counting it carefully as the waitress grew impatient. She had "bigger" customers to wait on.

"Well, how much would just plain ice cream be?" the boy asked.

The waitress responded with noticeable irritation in her voice, "Thirty-five cents."

Again, the boy slowly counted his money. "May I have some plain ice cream in a dish then, please?" He gave the waitress the correct amount, and she brought him the ice cream.

Later, the waitress returned to clear the boy's dish and when she picked it up, she felt a lump form in her throat. There on the counter the boy had left two nickels and five pennies. She realized that he'd had enough money for the sundae, but sacrificed it so he could leave her a tip.

Quite a valuable lesson for just 15 cents!

## Thoughts of Gratitude



Albert Schweitzer: At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Eric Hoffer: The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings.

Marcel Proust: Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

Happy  
Holidays!



## The Name Game

Are you one of those people who says, "I'm not good at remembering names," as though it were a character trait? You're not alone. Here are a few tips to help you eliminate "what's-his-name" from your vocabulary forever:

### Be interested.

Many of us don't even catch other people's names when they're introduced because we're too focused on ourselves. So the first step to remembering a name is to pay attention as you're introduced.

### Want to remember.

Focus on remembering. This change of attitude and intention will, by itself, greatly increase your awareness and thus your ability.

### Slow down.

Take time with each person and look them in the eyes. Notice something distinctive about the person, especially the face. And speaking of faces...

### Picture it written on their forehead.

Franklin Roosevelt continually amazed his staff by remembering the names of nearly everyone he met. His secret? He used to imagine seeing the name written across the person's forehead. This is a powerful technique if you visualize the name written in your favorite color of Magic Marker.

### Say it aloud.

After you hear their name, say it aloud, and then use the first name occasionally during your conversation with the person. "Hi, Jim, nice to meet you. So, what do you do for a living, Jim?" or "Do you have any kids, Jim? Jim, it was great to meet you!"

### Delete "I'm not good at remembering names" from your brain.

Let go of this limiting belief and install a new belief: "I'm getting better at remembering names."

# Holly's Household Corner

*Love Those Leftovers*



Many people also plan to serve turkey for holiday dinners, and the National Turkey Federation (NTF) website ([www.eatturkey.com](http://www.eatturkey.com)) has some delicious suggestions for making the most of your leftovers:

**The Alternative:** Choose a familiar appetizer or entree and use turkey as a substitute for beef, pork or chicken. Feature turkey in black bean chili, asparagus chowder, Greek pita sandwiches, quesadillas, osso buco, lasagna, and scaloppini.

**"Gobble It Up" Buffet:** Give your lunch or dinner new life with turkey by featuring it in new ways, such as your own signature recipes for creamy wild rice soup, turkey and Szechuan vegetables or turkey salad with Thai dressing. Create a pasta buffet with an assortment of dishes including turkey with herb sauce over rigatoni, penne or risotto.

**The "North-American":** With the increased popularity of using local, indigenous ingredients, what could be better than



## Gardens and Greenhouses

*"Caring for Indoor House Plants"*

Now is a good time to concentrate on your indoor house plants; to give them extra loving care they miss when you're outside in your garden.

In winter, your house plants, like many of your outdoor plants, slow down their growth. The shorter hours of sunshine have convinced them to take a break from growing, so most of them won't need fertilizing again until spring. In general, they also need less water, but with your furnace on, the air is drier and the soil around your plants dries out more quickly. So it is important to check those pots more often, and try to maintain a happy medium.

The drier air affects your house plants directly, in addition to causing the soil to dry out. You can combat this problem by misting your plants regularly (except for the ones with furry leaves, such as African violets). Another approach is to cluster your plants together, and then place low saucers filled with water between the pots. The water will evaporate, providing a tiny oasis of humidity for your plants.

~ Adapted from <http://www.homeownernet.com/articles/houseplants.html>

turkey, native to North America? Serve Creole-flavored turkey burgers topped with melted jack cheese, red onions and tomatoes or a hot Philadelphia-style cheese turkey "steak" sandwich.

If you're planning to freeze some leftover turkey, here are tips for safe handling and storing:

- The maximum time from completion of cooking to refrigerator storage, including deboning, slicing, etc., should be two hours. However, the NTF recommends the time be even shorter, if possible.
- Once the turkey is cool, debone and slice. Carve all leftover turkey from the bone and remove all stuffing.
- Package in small, evenly shaped portions no more than two inches thick. This will maintain quality and help freeze more quickly.
- Use moisture/vapor-resistant wrap, such as freezer paper or heavy-duty aluminum foil.
- Label and date packages.
- Use dated packages in a rotation of first in, first out.

## It Pays to Volunteer

Earlier this year, Microsoft founder Bill Gates announced that he's shifting his focus from his corporation to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a philanthropic organization with an endowment of \$30 billion and where Bill will basically be - a volunteer.

While most of us can't give money on a Bill Gates scale, we can give our time as volunteers to a variety of local organizations from schools and churches to national and international organizations like the American Cancer Society and The Red Cross. And while we're giving, we're receiving much in return.

According to [www.givingandvolunteering.ca](http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca), more than three-quarters of volunteers say volunteer activities help them with their interpersonal skills such as understanding people better, motivating others, and dealing with difficult situations. About two-thirds say volunteering helps them develop better communication skills, and younger volunteers - in the 15-to-24 age group - say that volunteering improves their job prospects and job skills.

Plus, as any volunteer will tell you, you get the satisfaction of knowing you're helping others and making a difference.

## Congratulations!

### Happy Homeowners...

Del & Cheryl Lekan, David & Salma Bishara,  
Georg & Kristen Fotakis, Jonathon Myer  
and Gregory & Linda Hance

### Welcome...

Katie Gordon & Judy Gordon, Suzanne Bagnall,  
Monique & Art Zentgraf, Jim & Diane Hart,  
Connie & Frank Gale and Maf Koskey

### Successfully Sold...

Dan Coleff and  
Kathleen & Galen Herath

### I have time right now to work with 2 BUYERS and 2 SELLERS!

Who do you know that is thinking of buying or selling  
a home? Please call me with their name and number.  
Thanks for your referrals!

*Referrals are the ♥ of my Business!*



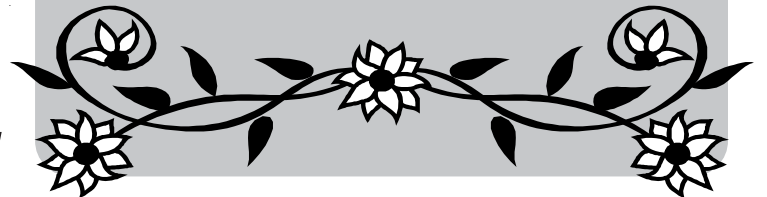
## Positive Thinking Corner

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far,  
go with others. ~ African Proverb

We can't do everything for everyone everywhere, but  
we can do something for someone somewhere.

~ Richard L. Evans

Christmas! The very word brings joy to our hearts. No  
matter how we may dread the rush, the long Christmas  
lists for gifts and cards to be bought and given, when  
Christmas Day comes there is still the same warm feel-  
ing we had as children, the same warmth that enfolds  
our hearts and our homes. ~Joan Winmill Brown



## Now's the Time to Buy!

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

**7243 York Crescent, North Olmsted** - Additional 3 bedrm, 2.5 bath colonial, built in 1979, \$179,777.

**211 Clark, Berea** - Charming century double. Can be converted to single family. Trendy Decor. 50x272 lot. \$114,000

**23629 Woodhill, Brookpark** - 3 Bedroom colonial nestled on wooded half acre lot over looking Metroparks, inground pool, enclosed porch. \$198,900.

**7496 W 130th, Middleburg Hts** - Brick ranch with waterproofed, finished basement, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors. 79x220 fenced yard. \$159,900.

**24137 Noreen, North Olmsted** - Immaculate Split-level on quiet street. 3 bedrm, 1.5 bath, beautiful hardwood floors. Brick and newly vinyl sided. Central air. Spacious Family room. \$159,900.

**5076 Fitch Dr, Sheffield Village** - Clean and pretty 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial built in 2002. Oak kitchen, morning room. All appliances stay, sprinkler & security system. \$209,900.

**10311 Foxwood Dr, North Royalton** - Bright 10 yr. young center hall colonial on 1/4 acre lot. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, Finished rec room and 3- car garage. \$294,900.

**33612 St. Francis Dr, Avon** - French country stone & stucco home built in 2000. Very warm, rich decor! 3 bedrooms, loft, den, 1st floor master with glamour bath. Charming! Priced below market at \$359,900.

**25345 Country Club Blvd, North Olmsted** - Well maintained 3 bedrm, 1.5 bath townhome with 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 \$97,900.

## If You're in the Market...

Be cautious when comparing Loan Programs and Interest Rates. What may sound too good to be true, probably is. Although you want to have the lowest interest rate possible; you don't want to get mixed up with the wrong Mortgage Lender (be it a Bank, Mortgage Company or Broker). Sometimes a low rate can also mean lousy service. Remember, you get what you pay for! Also some of the closing costs & fees have different names but all boil down to the same thing. Ask me for some direction! After almost 20 years in the business, I have had experience with who is reputable and conducts business with integrity and who to be aware of. You wouldn't go to the cheapest surgeon for heart surgery, would you? So why risk your biggest financial investment with a bad lender?