

Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

Soul Nudges and Heart Tingles

by Heather Burke-Cody

I was thrift shopping for dorm stuff. The cashier appeared to be one of the most unhappy, maddest people ever. I was six people deep in the line and it seemed like she got more and more exasperated with each passing customer.

She was especially incensed when one of my unmarked items needed a price check. It sent this poor woman toppling right over the edge and I bore the brunt of her fall.

But as she rang up my items, I felt a little tingle in my spirit. A soul nudge.

I tried to bargain with Jesus and told him that the extra little bit of cash in the back side of my wallet was not meant for her. It surely should go to someone sweeter and kinder, more deserving, or at least appreciative maybe. Not someone downright mean and angry.

But God did not budge. Nor did the tingle.

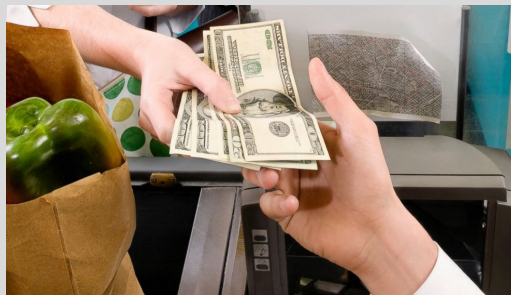
The human heart is our very best compass. It rarely leads us astray.

So I paid my bill and reluctantly found the backside of my wallet. I slipped her some cash as she handed me my receipt. She was caught off-guard by the gesture.

She gripped the folded bills with one hand and paused. Then slid her mask down with the other hand. Her loud, stern voice got quiet when she whispered a single word: "Why?"

To which I answered two words back: "Soul nudge."

(Continued on page 2)



Come Home, Bring Your Laundry, Just Come Home!

I don't understand the whole "I have them until 18" type of parenting. Having children is a LIFETIME COMMITMENT.



Maybe I'm different, but I want my kids to come home and take groceries and toilet paper out of my cupboards when they're 25.

I want them to come home for their favorite meal at 35.

I want to watch their eyes sparkle when they are opening gifts at age 40.

I want them to know that I'm one call away and it doesn't stop at age 18.

They are forever my kids, not just temporary assignments!

Always come home!

(And if you can't stay long, drop off the grandkids so I can spoil them, too!)



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The Crowd in Room 8

A man arrived at the gates of heaven. St. Peter asked, "Denomination?"

"Lutheran," he replied,

Peter looked down at his list. "Go to room 24, but be very quiet as you pass room 8."

Another man arrived at the gates of heaven.

"Denomination?"

"Methodist," he answered.

"Go to room 18, but be very quiet as you pass room 8."

A third man arrives at the gates of heaven.

"Denomination?" he was asked.

"Nazarene."

"Go to room 11, but be very quiet as you pass room 8."

The man was puzzled. "I can understand there being different rooms for different denominations, but why should I be quiet when I pass room 8?"

St. Peter replied, "Because the Episcopalians are in room 8, and they think they're the only ones here."

Soul Nudges and Heart Tingles *Continued from Pg 1*

There was another pause. A brief reckoning of sorts. When she grabbed my hand and held on, I was the one caught off-guard. "Today's my 75th birthday and ain't nobody called me. Not my sister. Not none of my kids. None these people here. Nobody. Nothing. I don't think I can remember ever being so sad. Ain't nobody even remember it's my birthday."

I felt the tingle again. And looked up into the buzzing, broken ballast of the light fixture above us in this old warehouse. Like Jesus is some pie-in-the-sky that we might see if we look hard enough. The light flickered.

"Somebody remembered," I said. While I did not see Jesus, that small soul nudge told me that He saw her.

She bit her bottom lip when her eyes threatened to leak. And I noticed a deep hurt and sweet humility under the figurative and physical mask she wore underneath her chin. We all have our masks, don't we?

The birthday news had made its way beside me and two more customers connected. Talk is cheap and words seem too few—until they aren't. There was a small chorus of chirping "happy birthdays." She just stood there, patting her heart and taking it all in. The words penetrated. Anger dissipated. Hope manifested. The tingle became tangible.

We just never know what someone else may be navigating or battling. Things are not always as they seem. We are living in an upside-down world right now. We may be tempted to return hatefulness with hate. To retaliate. To alienate. To trade out judgment for Grace. But there's a better way.

I thought I needed dorm stuff today. Turns out I needed reminding -- maybe you do too?

Let's be slow to judge. And quick to obey. The human heart, guided by Love, will not lead you astray.



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A STAR IS BORN...AND ADOPTED

Around 1900, a Jewish family named the Karnofskys, who immigrated from Lithuania to the United States, took pity on a seven-year-old boy and brought him to their home. There he stayed and spent the night with this Jewish family, where for the first time in his life he was treated with kindness and tenderness.



When he went to bed, the family matriarch, Mrs. Karnovsky, sang Russian lullabies to him, which he eventually began to sing with her. Later he learned to sing and play several Russian and Jewish songs. Over time, this boy became the adopted son of this family.

Mr. Karnofsky gave him money to buy a cornet, his first musical instrument. Apparently, buying a child's first instrument is a custom in Jewish families.

Later, when this child became a professional musician and composer, he used these Jewish melodies taught to him by Mrs. Karnofsky in compositions such as St. James's Hospital and Go Down Moses.

The little boy grew up and wrote a book about the Jewish family who adopted him. He proudly spoke Yiddish fluently. In memory of this family and until the end of his life, he wore the Star of David and said that in this family he learned "to live a real life and determination."

This little boy's name was Louis Armstrong.



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FRIEND: "I thought you were dieting?"

ME: "I am."

FRIEND: "You just had three donuts!"

ME: "But I wanted four. See, dieting!"

A strange old lady has moved into my house

I have no idea who she is, where she came from, or how she got in. I certainly did not invite her. All I know is that one day she wasn't there, and the next day she was.

She is a clever old lady and manages to keep out of sight for the most part, but whenever I pass a mirror, I catch a glimpse of her. And, whenever I look in the mirror to check my appearance, there she is hogging the whole thing, completely obliterating my gorgeous face and body. This is very rude! I have tried yelling at her, but she just yells back.



The least she could do is offer to pay part of the bills, but no. Every once in a while, I find a \$5 bill stuck in a coat pocket or some loose change under a sofa cushion, but it is not nearly enough. And I don't want to jump to conclusions, but I think she is stealing money from me. I go to the ATM and withdraw \$50 and a few days later, it's all gone! I certainly don't spend money that fast, so I can only conclude the old lady is pilfering from me. You'd think she would spend some of that money to buy wrinkle cream. And money isn't the only thing I think she is stealing.

Food seems to disappear at an alarming rate-especially the good stuff like ice cream, chips, and sweets. She must have a real sweet tooth, but she'd better watch because she is really packing on the pounds. I suspect she realizes this, and to make herself feel better, she is tampering with my scale to make me think I am putting on weight, too.

For an old lady, she is quite childish. She likes to play nasty games, like going into my wardrobes when I'm not home and altering my clothes so they don't fit. And she messes with my

Continued on Page 5

Milestone



Mary Rarick
Sept 14, 1922 - 100 years
Boise

Old-Age in a Nutshell

- Who cares if it looks good? I'm comfortable.
- Has anyone seen my glasses?
- That scale can't be right!
- Did I already take my vitamins?
- I wonder how I got this bruise?
- Why are these instructions printed so tiny?
- A box of cereal for \$5? They shrank the box and raised the price. What a racket!
- Another software update? I don't like updates.
- Sorry, I forgot what I was going to say.



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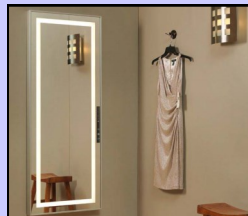
A Strange Old Lady...Continued from Page 4

files and papers so I can't find anything. This is particularly annoying since I am extremely neat and organized.

She has found other imaginative ways to annoy me. She gets into my mail, newspapers, and magazines before I do and blurs the print so I can't read it. And she has done something really sinister to the volume controls on my TV, radio, and telephone. Now, all I hear are mumbles and whispers. She has done other things—like make my stairs steeper, my vacuum heavier and all the knob and taps harder to turn. She even made my bed higher so that getting into and out of it is a real challenge.

Lately, she has been fooling with my groceries before I put them away, applying glue to the lids, making it almost impossible for me to open the jars.

She has taken the fun out of shopping for clothes. When I try something on, she stands in front of the dressing room mirror and monopolizes it. She looks totally ridiculous in some of those outfits, plus, she keeps me from seeing how great they look on me.



Just when I thought she couldn't get any meaner, she proved me wrong. She came along when I went to get my picture taken for my driver's license, and just as the camera shutter clicked, she jumped in front of me.

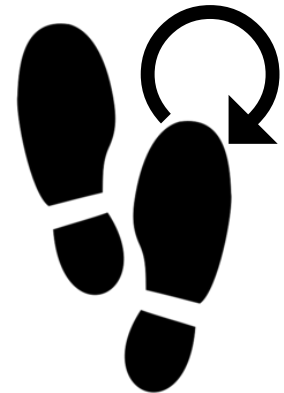
I hope she never finds out where you live!

You Gotta Try This!

How smart is your right foot?

This is fun. Try this. I guess there are some things to hard for the brain to handle.

1. While sitting in a chair, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.



2. Now, while doing this, draw the number '6' in the air with your right hand.
3. Watch your foot change direction!

I told you so. And there is absolutely nothing you can do about it. It feels really stupid, but I bet you are going to try it again, aren't you?



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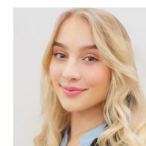
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Shrewd Businessman

A local farmer had set up a stand selling watermelons at the local farmer's market. His sign read:



“Watermelons — 1 for \$3 or 3 for \$10”

One man walked by, took a look at the sign and did some quick math. Thinking he was outsmarting the farmer, he bought 3 watermelons one by one paying \$3 each.

As the man walked away, he turned and said, “Hey, old man, do you realize I just got 3 watermelons for \$9 instead of \$10? Doing business like that isn't too smart.”

The old farmer smiled and mumbled to himself, “Yep, not too smart. Every time they buy 3 watermelons instead of one, they keep trying to teach me how to run my business.”



Reverse Compliments

- ◆ Not the brightest crayon in the box.
- ◆ A few fries short of a Happy Meal.
- ◆ Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.
- ◆ The lights are on but nobody is home.
- ◆ Not the funniest clown in the circus.
- ◆ The elevator doesn't go all the way up.
- ◆ Not the fastest horse in the race.
- ◆ Not the sharpest tool in the shed.
- ◆ The wheel's spinning, but the hamster's dead.
- ◆ A couple of Fruit Loops shy of a full bowl.
- ◆ Not firing with all the spark plugs.

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Wait Your Turn!

During the pandemic, many of us enjoyed the early hours when the grocery stores opened for seniors only.



One morning at 7:45 a.m. there was a long line waiting for the store to open at 8.

A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line.

A little old lady was having none of it and started beating him back toward the parking lot with her cane.

He returned again and tried to cut in, but an old man punched him in the gut and pushed him away.

Finally, the young man approached the line for the third time and said, "Look, if you don't let me unlock that door you're never going to get in there!"

Now That's a Good Question!

Why isn't a "fireman" called a "waterman?"

Why does lipstick not do what it says?

If money doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have branches?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

How do you get off a nonstop flight?

Why are goods sent by a ship called "cargo" and those sent by truck a "shipment?"

Why do we put cups in the dishwasher and the dishes in the cupboard?

Why do doctors "practice" medicine? Are they having practice at the cost of the patients?

Why is it called "rush hour" when traffic moves at its slowest?

Why do noses run and feet smell?

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I found a mistake in my atlas. It was a topographical error.

Typographical Error

Late one night Jack took a shortcut through the cemetery.

Suddenly he heard a tapping sound behind a row of tombstones. Frightened, he quickened his pace.

But the tapping grew louder and now Jack was scared out of his wits.

Peeking around a tree, he saw a man chiseling away on a tombstone.



Steven Senne / AP

“Oh, my goodness,” Jack exclaimed. “You gave me the fright of my life. Why are you working so late?”

“They spelled my name wrong,” replied the man, disgustedly.

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Milestones



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Sept 19, 1924—98 years
Kuna Senior Center



Emma Waddell
Sept 17, 1927—95 years
Eagle



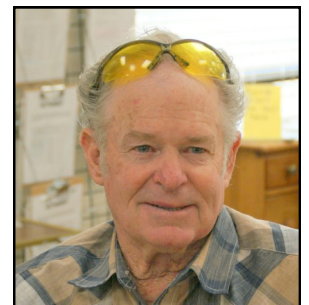
Charlot Feuerhelm
March 21, 1937—85 years
Meridian Senior Center



Edith Teves
Sept 26, 1937—85 years
Meridian Senior Center



Carol Leonard
Sept 8, 1942—80 years
Meridian Senior Center



James Simpson
Sept 18, 1942—80 years
Kuna Senior Center



**When I was a kid,
bedtime was 9 p.m.
I couldn't wait to grow up and go
to bed anytime I wanted.
Turns out that is 9 p.m.**

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