

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

A most common tradition in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behavior, to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life. I stopped making them many years ago because I just never followed through. This year I am reaching for two goals which I have never resolved to strive. (1) To everyday do my best to reach out and offer a kindness to someone, friend or stranger. (2) To make more time for my close and extended family members. What does it cost to "give kindness" to someone? It cost you maybe a minute of your time. What does it prof-

it the receiver? Everything! During the Christmas holidays we heard of so many acts of kind-heartedness. Most of the reported acts involved some type of monetary contribution. That's great if you can afford it. I am talking about an "act of kindness", hold the door for the person behind you, help someone pick up dropped items, write and mail a thank-you card, bring in your neighbor's garbage can, smile at strangers and say hello, give someone a hug, return empty carts to the store, and keep that unpleasant, unfriendly look off your face. None of these things

cost a penny. These things I resolve and are determined to do this year. All through the holidays we had lots of company. My children and grandchildren were in and out several times a day. But I would speculate that like me, everyone has that one person, sibling, close friend, or relative that they rarely see. No reason for the absence, just not taking the time. My brother and sister, and I have agreed to do our best to get together for lunch at least once a month just to catch up on our lives. My husband and I and all our children and grandchildren will be entertaining at one of our houses once a month with each of us providing foods. As a child we, my parents, brother, sister, cousins, all my aunts and uncles gathered at my grandmother's house for dinner at least every other month if not more. I, like Mary, treasure and



Peggy's Take

Mississippi auditor files papers to seek 4-year term

Associated Press

The Republican appointed to become Mississippi auditor last year is now running for a full four-year term. Shad White filed his qualifying papers Tuesday at the state Republican Party headquarters. White says in a video posted to social media that he will "continue to be aggressive in finding embezzlement and fraud." White is an attorney from Flowood. Gov. Phil Bryant

appointed him as auditor in July to succeed Republican Stacey Pickering, who had held the office since 2008. Pickering resigned to lead the state Veterans Affairs Board. Auditor is one of eight statewide elected offices in Mississippi. March 1 is candidates' qualifying deadline for statewide, regional, county and legislative posts. Party primaries are in August, and the general election is in November.



- January 10** - Tina Pierce, Sterling Starns, Ashley Rowlen, Derek Dodd, Angelica Brown, Arthur Sumerall, Corey Garrett, Stacey Riley, Alexandria Rogers
- January 11** - Lavell Thomas, Ricky Winstead, Ricky Winstead, Jr., Angela Spell, Patricia G. Gillespie, Janece Barron
- January 12** - John M. Gilmore, Jesse Gilbert, Daisy Malone, Ashley N. Wallace, Rayne Tate, Betty Byrd, Larkin Kirkwood
- January 13** - Dale McBride, Bra'kiaya Smart, Li Ables, Patrick Roberts, Dani Tate Ramsey, Dan Loffin, Maddie Drennan, Chad Bishop, Kaley McGraw, Leslie Taylor
- January 14** - Angel Gilmore, LaShonda Harrison, Sadie Angell, Payton Grace Ray, Joy Tate, Clyde Dixon
- January 15** - Campbell Atkinson, Dee Word, David Richmond, Daryl Wooten, Bryan Gallagher, Mai Quon, Neely Dodd, Harold Hammett, George Hester, Malcolm Kohn, Jr., Ro'kiyah Logan, Alissa Jones, Josh Haymer
- January 16** - Bonnie Ellison, Guy Taylor, Jana Lewis, Arthur Lamar Melton, Patricia Gary, Mark Chamblee, Davis Ables, Anne Hood

Consider 3 winning plants for landscapes, gardens

**Dr. Gary R. Bachman
MSU Extension Service**

This January's temperatures have been drastically different from what we saw during last year's first month. January 2018 brought one of the coldest and longest cold snaps that my Ocean Springs garden has experienced, and winter protection was critical. Since I primarily garden in containers, I moved almost my whole garden and landscape into my garage to ride out the cold, and these plants lived there for 14 of the first 21 days of the month. This year, while we've had some chilly weather here on the coast, my tomatoes are still going. In fact, we picked fresh cherry tomatoes on Jan. 6. Now, I realize that date is an anomaly, and it will get cold, but I'm enjoying the winter so far.

While there is not much gardening we can do any winter, it is the planning season for the upcoming spring and summer. Plants that every gardener should consider growing are the Mississippi Medallion winners. The Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association established Mississippi Medallion program in 1996 to increase awareness of plant materials and to promote sales and production of ornamental plants in Mississippi. Compared to national campaigns, such as All-American Selections and Perennial Plant of the Year, the Mississippi Medallion program focuses on plants adapted to Mississippi's environment to benefit both consumers and the green industry. Before everyone's attention turns to the 2019 selections, let's reflect on a few

of the great plants from past years. Delta Jazz crape myrtle, a 2015 Mississippi Medallion, was developed right here in Mississippi. Delta Jazz was a new crape myrtle with unusual foliage that emerges a rich raspberry-maroon and then matures to dark mahogany-brown. This foliage color accents the clusters of medium, pink flowers in the late summer. The spectacular flowers are actually large panicles composed of many small flowers. These panicles can be more than eight inches long. The small flowers have a crinkled edge resembling crepe paper, hence the common name. Crape myrtles have other outstanding qualities. As the trees mature, the bark begins to peel or exfoliate, revealing the inner bark colors ranging from gray-green to dark



Iridescent, hot-pink flowers cover Fireworks gomphrena until fall frosts. The bright-yellow tips give the appearance of exploding fireworks and inspire the name for this 2010 Mississippi Medallion winner.

(Photo by MSU Extension Service/Gary R. Bachman)

cinnamon-red. Delta Jazz makes a fantastic landscape feature plant. Fireworks gomphrena, a 2010 winner, is another must-have plant. It continues to be an outstanding garden performer in Mississippi State University trials. Iridescent, hot-pink flowers cover the plants throughout the summer until fall frosts. The bright-yellow tips give the appearance of exploding fireworks. Provide plenty of space because this plant has the potential to be up to 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide. Since we're getting ready for the spring and summer vegetable season, the heirloom tomato Cherokee Purple is a great choice. This is a popular heirloom tomato that is thought to have been selected and grown by the Cherokee tribe in North Carolina. It's known for the purplish color and rich taste that makes a great tomato sandwich. I have grown Cherokee Purple in my garden for almost 10 years, and every year it is a good producer. This plant will have to be trellised or caged, as it is a vigorous indeterminate grower. The fruit start maturing in my Ocean Springs garden around mid-June. Take some time this winter and dream about the plants you want to grow in your garden and landscape this year.

**Holmes County NAACP
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Holmes County Branch of the NAACP will be holding Elections for branch officers on January 12, 2019 at 11:00 at the Milton Olive Building, Highway 17 in Lexington. Any persons interested in holding an office of participating in the Elections are encouraged to come. For more information contact 662-834-6133.

THANK YOU

The family of the late Ethel Haymon, would like to express their sincere thanks for the many prayers, phone calls, cards, visits and other acts of kindness during our time of bereavement. May God continue to richly bless each of you.