

# WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



## Do you have a recommendation?

When asked this question, I will sum up my answer quickly for you; NO! There, now you know where I stand and we both can go about our business.

Actually, I do have recommendations for certain products, events, people, places and things that I share with a select few, privately. As far as putting an answer out there on social media for the rest of the world to see and then tear apart, well, I don't really have time for that and neither does the person asking the question.

True story; years ago when I was a newbie to this world of social media, I would try to be helpful to my friends. For example, what company would

you recommend for such and such a service. I would respond if I really liked, say, Company X and here is why based on my own personal experience.

Well, that recommendation did not sit well with another person we both knew who literally went off the deep end over my four sentence long post regarding Company X. Evidently my opinion on the matter was tantamount to treason, it was unholy and I deserved to be punished for even daring to mention that I preferred Company X. The entire thread of posts went downhill from there throwing the recommendation seeker's timeline into a tailspin.

So, being the clever lad that I am, I attempted to diffuse the situation with humor by

posting the comment to the upset party, "I take it you are not a satisfied customer of Company X." Well, I learned that this person also was not a satisfied user of a sense of humor either. Yikes!

The other person never really made a recommendation for Company Y or Z or anything else but boy they had a large vocabulary to share about Company X and my support. I finally concluded "I apologize for my personal experience being different than yours. I need to go. I have time to waste on other frivolous activities and I'm sure it is time for your medication." The person unfriended me on the spot.

I sent a private message to my friend asking for recommendations for unwittingly turning her request into a nasty, verbal sparring match between so many people. She said she really enjoyed my humorous attempts to point out how ridiculous this all had become so she was going with Company X. That is our inside joke to this day. We both are satisfied users of Company X but beware recommending them at all cost.

By the way, I do recommend reading Wise and Otherwise every week. You can yell at me all you want for making that recommendation!



# Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



## Well, Rats.

I have always had a place in my heart for tiny furred critters. My mom thinks I should have grown out of that by now, but I haven't. It's part of who I am. As much as I am drawn to animals, they are also drawn to me. My husband understands this. My dad understood it too, for he had the same calling.

When others were criticizing me for having and caring for my small pets, my dad reassured me, "I know you love them. They're your little friends. Don't you worry what anybody else thinks." Thank you, Dad. That was the best gift you have ever given me.

Through the last few years, I have lost several of my little furry friends, as they passed on. And just like losing the family dog, it is like losing a member of the family. There is a lot of love in those small little bodies. Tobie, Scotty, Snowflake, Piccolo; I miss you all so much. You WERE my little friends and I will always remember you.

They weren't exactly gerbils. They weren't exactly hamsters. They were...well, rats. I saw you cringe. But let me tell you something about them. Rats have had such a negative stigma for so long, it is an unfair prejudice. Prejudice is a preconceived opinion that is NOT based on knowledge or actual experience. Oops, is your prejudice showing?

The TRUTH about fancy pet rats is:

They have been domesticated just like dogs and cats, and they do not come from a sewer.

They are very clean pets, especially the females, and even use a litter box in their cage.

They do not usually bite unless being attacked. If your fingers smell like food, they make taste them, but they do not bite. I have had pet rats for years and have NEVER been bitten by any of them. I have been bitten by many hamsters, gerbils, and mice.

Rats are highly intelligent and can be taught tricks.

Rats are very much like dogs, come when you call their name, will sit on your lap, like to be petted, will lick you, get excited to see you, and need their nails routinely clipped.

Rats do not need any vaccines.

If purchased from a reputable breeder or pet shop (I highly recommend SailFin Pet Shop in Champaign), you can be confident that you will have a healthy, disease-free pet.

Rats love to be held and spend time with their people. They love to hang out on your shoulder, in the sleeve of your hoodie, or roam around on your bed, provided the door is closed and it's a safe environment.

Rats are not creepy. They don't hiss or growl or stick their tongue out at you. They have cute faces and little pink noses.

Despite people hating their tail, rats tails serve a very needed purpose of regulating

their heat, and for balance. It's just a tail, get over it.

Rats have saved lives throughout history, and continue to do so every day. Every year, millions of rats die in laboratories for the good of mankind. Rats have a greater sense of smell than any dog, and can be trained quicker to sniff out bombs or contraband. They can even sniff out diseases. Rats save lives.

Through APOPO.org, certain types of rats are actually used to save lives in third world countries to sniff out landmines or identify patients who are infected with tuberculosis. They are Hero Rats and you can read more about how they plan to keep their program expanding. Here is a link to their web site: [www.apopo.org/en/adopt](http://www.apopo.org/en/adopt).

Hopefully, this article will give you pause next time the word rat is mentioned. I will miss my little Piccolo very much, and the way she would pop her tiny head out of the window of her Fisher Price house when I rang the doorbell. I still have 2 of her little friends; Cheeto and Stanley. If after reading this, you would like to meet a real live fancy pet rat, and see for yourself that they are not hideous creatures, send me an email at [rudyandrosasmom@yahoo.com](mailto:rudyandrosasmom@yahoo.com). Peace.

## Villa Grove News

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1 South Pine Street,

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Where Lives are Changed!

Pastor Jerry L. Conner

Church 832-7071

Residence 832-8577

Sunday School—10:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.

Evening Evangelistic

Service—6:30 p.m.

Monday

1st one of each month

Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 p.m.

Monday—Friday

Ladies Prayer Group—9:00 a.m.

Tuesday

Youth Service—7:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday

Bible Study—7:30 p.m.

Free Home Bible Study

We welcome you to worship with us in all of our services

## VICTORY CHURCH

100 E. Second St • Camargo,

Illinois 61919

Pastor—Duane Piercy

Church 832-8398,

Email

[info@victorychurch.life](mailto:info@victorychurch.life)

Web Page: [victorychurch.life](http://victorychurch.life)

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Service Times

Sunday

Adult Sunday School—

9-9:45 a.m.

Soul Cafe- 9am-9:45

Worship & Service—10:00 a.m.

RUSH Youth Group

1st & 3rd Sunday 5-7pm

Celebrate Recovery

7:15pm

Wednesday

Men's & Women's Bible

Study-6:30-8 p.m.

Thursday

Prayer Group—6:00-7:00 p.m.

Worship Team 7:00-8:00 p.m.

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302 Second St., Villa Grove

Pastor—Rev. Sandi Hire

Church 832-3971

Summer Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am - noon

Email: [secretary.vgumc@yahoo.com](mailto:secretary.vgumc@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.vgumcweb.org](http://www.vgumcweb.org)

Find us on Facebook for upcoming events

Sunday

9:15 am Sunday School

For All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Child care available during

Worship

Open Communion first Sunday

of each month

Walkers are welcome Monday-

Friday during office hours in the

Henson New Life Center

Quilters- contact the office for

opportunities to join our quilters

Community Vacation Bible-

School

"ROAR!" -

Safari Celebration!

July 7 - 11 Open to All Ages

Save the dates and watch for

more information

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"Come Rejoice With Us"

701 N. Sycamore Street Villa Grove

Phone (217) 832-5231

Fax (217) 832-9348

website: [www.fccvg.com](http://www.fccvg.com)

e-mail: [fccvg@frontier.com](mailto:fccvg@frontier.com)

Minister—Mike Zylstra

e-mail: [fccvgmin@frontier.com](mailto:fccvgmin@frontier.com)

Morning Worship—9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Celebration

9:30a.m.

Age 4-5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Celebration Leaders:

Cecile Cassida & Seth Shunk

Sunday School—10:45 a.m.

Junior High Youth Group (Grades 6-8)

1st & 3rd Sunday 5-6pm

High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

1st & 3rd Sundays, 6-7:30pm

Youth Group Leader: Brenda Logan

Nursery care at all services.

Open Communion offered each Sunday

## CAMARGO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

103 E. Main Street

P.O. Box 122, Camargo, IL 61919

Church—832-9388

e-mail: [umccamargo@gmail.com](mailto:umccamargo@gmail.com)

Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Pastor - Lenny Summar

Traditional Worship - 9:15 a.m.

Contemporary Worship 10:30

"Come just as you are to worship"

Open Communion first Sunday

of each month

Prayer Group - Meets after

Sunday Service

## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

208 N. Pine Stret, Villa Grove

Pastor -Rev. Aloy Ndeanaefo

Office: 832-8352

Hours: M-F 8:30am-1:30pm

Email: [villagrove.hume@gmail.com](mailto:villagrove.hume@gmail.com)

website: [sacredheartandstmichael.com](http://sacredheartandstmichael.com)

Mass Times: Saturday 4pm

Sunday 10:00am

Sunday @ St. Michaels in Hume

8:00am

PSR:

Wed Eve 1st - 8th grade 6:30 - 7:20

and 9th - 12th 7:30 - 8:30 pm.

# Flag Day

June 14, 2019

"And let us never forget that in honoring our flag, we honor the American men & women who have courageously fought & died for it"

-President Ronald Reagan

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