

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



I HAVE A SUGGESTION
(I wrote this column six years ago this month and I think it applies to today perfectly. I must have been seeing into the future and I don't even have a crystal ball. Bet there's an APP for that nowadays!)

I think we all appreciate a good suggestion now and then from family and friends. From total strangers, well, perhaps not so much. If you don't know someone well you might want to wait until you are asked for advice rather than just offer it up.

I also think our phone applications and social media should take the hint. I sign up for a music app on my phone and immediately start receiving suggestions on

what I might like. I'm almost fifty years old, pretty sure at this point I can make my own music choices, thanks. Now how do I shut off your suggestions?

Perhaps even more annoying are the social media sites that recommend content. At least the music people seem to have an idea of my preferences (New Zealand Aboriginal Polka Music, for example) but the content recommendations are almost totally the opposite of anything I would want to read and/or view.

I actually get the feeling it is Yahoo and Facebook who want me to read these things and are introducing them to everyone as some sort of propaganda. I'm not sure they really care about my

preferences at all but would like to convince me to like something or think like they do.

I try to take the steps to get rid of them but they keep sneaking back in on me. On the other hand, they seem totally tuned in to my inner shopper so if I post about New Zealand Aboriginal Polka Music an ad will pop up about how to get a greatest hits album, plane tickets to the land Under Down Under, and ear plugs.

I think back to olden times, the end of the 1980's, and immediately after college before I had made my move to Washington D.C. I held several retail jobs one of which was manager of a shoe store. This seemed like a natural fit for a kid who grew up working in his family business. Dad and Mom actually knew their customers and even remembered sizes and yes, preferences. If they didn't they would listen to what the customer wanted.

Well throw that all out the window in this new place. I was supposed to sell the customer on things they didn't really want. So, if someone came in looking for sandals, I was supposed to also sell them a pair of combat boots and a matching purse. My heart really wasn't into forcing these unwanted suggestions upon people who seemed to already know what they were looking for - in other words, I gave the customers some credit for be- **Cont. on pg. 6**

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Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



My Life As A Sit-Com

If I ever could find the time, I would love to be a screenwriter for a hilarious sit-com. It would be based on a middle class family with a wide range of interesting characters, lots of animals, romance, family feuds, brawls over hurt feelings and the last slice of pepperoni pizza, and secrets from the past throwing a wrench in everyone's monkey business.

There would be the grand queen mother who likes to cause trouble and plays favorites, if only to instigate grief among her offspring. Then the siblings would be 3 families, all very different in lifestyle and values, and cousins and grandchildren, ex's, and spouses, and a whole lot of miscommunication going on. Cats would hiss, dogs would bark, birds would flap wildly in their cage.

A hamster would die a dramatic death in the presence of 8 neighborhood children, clutching it's chest and falling into a file of wood shavings while quivering it's last movement. Many a small funerals and wakes would be performed at all hours of the day or night, under a big oak tree on the corner of the property, (on the insistence of the loved one's owner) and much to the neighborhoods curiosity. Skeletons lie in little boxes around that tree, wrapped in tiny blankets or bits of lace and tied up with string. Hand-written notes accompanying most.

When grandchildren came, chaos came too. Weary grandparents, tired from still raising their late-blooming own offspring, lost easy battles and gave in to jumping toddlers, falling cookie crumbs, and chips, as if confetti, spread

across the living room rug. The teenagers still at home were of little help, as their real life and virtual life had almost merged completely into one glob of partial existence.

The house phone rings, the cell phone rings, feet scramble to answer both. A cat jumps, scaring the rat that has been resting on someone's shoulder, which jumps onto the coffee table, upsetting a glass of cherry Kool-Aid, and a bowl of potato chips.

Just then the lady of the

house realizes that the 1-year old grandbaby is now bare-butt naked and running through the house screaming while carrying a small pillow over her head that says, "My family tree is full of nuts." How absolutely appropriate.

And that is just the opening credits. So yes, I would love to write the screenplay; my life truly is stranger than fiction. I will write it someday. If only I could find the time.



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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
Web Page: victorychurch.life
Find us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram
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.
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Elder — Pete Lake, 832-2400
Sunday Worship Service—
10 a.m.
Communion is observed
each week.
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VILLA GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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
Website: 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
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Fax (217) 832-9348
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e-mail: fccvg@frontier.com
Minister—Mike Zylstra
e-mail: 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

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103 E. Main Street
P.O. Box 122, Camargo, IL 61919
Church—832-9388
e-mail: umccamargo@gmail.com
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Pastor - Lenny Summar
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Prayer Group - Meets after
Sunday Service

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Pastor -Rev. Aloy Ndeanaefo
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website: 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.