

They say half the fun is getting there. I disagree...100% of the fun is getting there & back. ~ Johnnygaza

# Suicide ain't Painless

**A**t least for the living... Our cat-sitter [Jessica Charity](#) (AKA Jenna McCauley/Gline) recently took her own life. She had lived with us for over two years and suffered from often debilitating migraines and disappointment over an unrealized acting career. Our three kitties adored her, and it was because of "Jess" that we were able to enjoy our recent extended travel adventures.



shared some other personal suicide stories with us. What a day that was.

Later, we met with her mom, Clara, who flew in from Hawaii and revealed that her daughter had been hiding from her for over 25 years after having suffered from sexual identity issues and suicidal attempts as a teen in Idaho. And indeed, in the letter we later received she admitted, "This was s long time coming." She would have turned 45 this month.

Her last text message appeared to be innocent but actually provided clues as to her fatal intention: "You will be getting something from me in the mail soon, and there is an envelope with cash in the car for you... Love you both. Please kiss the kitty kids for me.:-)" Soon thereafter, she took her own life by inhaling carbon monoxide fumes from smoldering water-soaked charcoal in a pot on the front passenger seat of the Prius we had given her to help her with her work, parked in the lot next to her Van Nuys Public Storage unit. The LA coroner investigator tells us that "This is an unusual method but not unheard-of; more commonly a cause of accidental deaths and more common in homes."

She had mailed us the car's keys which we didn't receive until later; so when we went to reclaim the car, we had to have a pricey substitute made through AAA's mobile locksmith service by a compassionate man from Israel named Zion, who

We will sorely miss her, and here are two pictures of Jess/Jenna, which are very revealing – one when she first came to Hollywood and a recent one at our home...

We are most grateful for your kind thoughts, observations and sympathetic responses to our loss a which I shared on Facebook, but I accept that death will come to us all, and one of our greatest challenges is to come to grips with that reality in a positive and courageous manner. It has been heartening to hear that some of my friends and even strangers, have decided to prolong their lives because we shared this tale. Love.

*"The heart of Buddhism is Kindness."*  
- from author/musician [Spider Robinson](#)



## I AIN'T GOT NO BODY

Around the same time that I was performing my reading of *Don Quixote* with the LAGQ at the Laguna Beach Music Festival, a team of 20 scientists gathered at the Convent of the Barefoot Trinitarians in Madrid to examine 399-year-old bones from three unidentified graves. Historians have long debated the nature of Cervantes' illness and death. [READ STORY](#)

Cervantes was badly injured in a naval battle in 1571. "He received a blast from a harquebus in the chest and another wound that left him unable to use one hand," says historian Fernando de Prado. If they discover such attributes in the remains, they could then compare that DNA to that of his sister.

There has been speculation that he was a heavy drinker and suffered from cirrhosis of the liver and may have been diabetic in a time when the disease was basically untreatable. In addition, it's been suggested that Cervantes suffered from malaria, heart failure and/or kidney failure. But Gracias a dios, he could still handle a pen!

Cervantes' two-volume tale was considered to be the first modern novel, and although widely circulated, it didn't make him wealthy. He died in 1616 at the age of 68.

Yet, as I say in the final words of the LAGQ's brilliant adaptation, "And so I exist in a novel state: I die unceasingly – and yet I live forever!"

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed."  
~ Dwight David Eisenhower

### FACT AND FICTION

Reviving Quixote in Laguna, top, and exhuming Cervantes in Madrid.



'TIS THE SEASONING

## BETTER THAN A VACINATION

A man and a woman were sitting beside each other in the first class section of an airplane. The woman sneezed, took out a tissue, wiped her nose then visibly shuddered for ten to fifteen seconds. The man went back to his reading. A few minutes later, the woman sneezed again, took a tissue, wiped her nose, and then shuddered violently once more.

Assuming that the woman might have a cold, the man was still intrigued about the shuddering. A few more minutes passed when the woman sneezed yet again. As before she took a tissue, wiped her nose, her body shaking even more than before.

Unable to restrain his curiosity, the man turned to her and said, "I couldn't help but notice that you've sneezed three times, wiped your nose and then shuddered violently. Are you OK?"

"I am sorry if I disturbed you, I have a very rare medical condition. Whenever I sneeze I have an orgasm."

The man, more than a bit embarrassed, was still curious. "I have never heard of that condition before," he said. "Are you taking anything for it?"

The woman nodded, "Pepper."

*Two nuns were riding their bicycles  
and one says to the other, "Oh, my goodness,  
I haven't come this way before."  
The other nun replies, "It must be the cobblestones."*

## NEVERMIND

An aging Boomer was in the Great Walmart of China the other day, pushing his cart around somewhat frantically,

when he collided with a young guy. "Sorry about that," he said, "I'm looking for my wife and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."

The young guy says, "Look, I totally understand. I'm in the same boat -- I can't find my wife either, and I'm actually getting a little desperate. And she didn't bring her phone with her, so I can't even call her."

So the old guy suggests, "Hey, maybe we can help each other. What does your wife look like?"

"Well, OK," the young guy says, "She's 24 years old, tall, with blond hair, big blue eyes, long legs, and she's wearing tight white shorts, a halter top and no bra. What does your wife look like?"

The older guy thinks for a minute and then says, "Doesn't matter - let's look for yours."

*"Space is big. You just won't believe how vastly, hugely, mind-bogglingly big it is. I mean, you may think it's a long way down the road to the chemist's, but that's just peanuts to space." ~ Douglas Adams*

## DON'T YOU JUST WISH

A Canadian farmer, a Muslim fanatic and a Hell's Angel are all biking together on a beach one day. They come across a lantern, half-buried in the sand, and when they rub off the sand, a Genie pops out.

"Thank you for freeing me, and as a reward, I will grant each one of you in turn one wish." So, the Canadian says, "Well, sir, I'm a farmer and my son will be taking over soon.

■ CONTINUED

Can you make our land forever fertile?"

"Your wish is granted," says the Genie, and with a blink of his eye, it is so.

The Muslim is impressed and without a moment's hesitation he says, "I want a wall around Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq and Iran so that no infidels, including Americans and Canadians can ever again set foot on our precious land."

Poof! Once again, with a blink of his eye, there appeared on satellite feeds all over the globe, a visible wall surrounding these countries.

The biker then steps forward and says, "Say, Genie, I'm very curious about this here wall. What exactly does it look like?" So the Genie explains, "It's about 5,000 feet high, 500-foot thick and completely surrounds the countries. Nothing can get in or out."

The biker plops down on his Harley, pops a beer and lights up a big stogie. Then, he smiles and says, "Fill it with water."

*"The Vermont Teddy Bear Company is offering a 50 Shades of Grey stuffed bear dressed in a suit holding a blindfold and handcuffs."  
~ Phil's Phuzzy Phacts*

## HERE'S THE FUNNY PART

"The real difficulty is with the vast wealth and power in the hands of the few and the unscrupulous who represent or control capital. Hundreds of laws of Congress and the state legislatures are in the interest of these men and against the interests of workingmen. These need to be exposed and repealed. All laws on corporations, on taxation, on trusts, wills, descent, and the like, need examination and extensive change. This is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people no longer. It is a government of corporations, by corporations, and for corporations — How is this?"

*From the diary of President Rutherford B. Hayes, March 11, 1888*

*"A reasoning being would lose his reason in attempting to account for the great phenomena of nature, had he not a Supreme Being to refer to; and well has it been said that, if there had been no God, mankind would have been obliged to imagine one."*

*~ George Washington*



## FORWARD, INTO THE PAST

In *LA Times* letters, **Scott W. Hughes** expressed the view shared by many Progressives, responding to an OpEd piece:

"It's about time that someone published what many Americans thought at the time and continue to think today: Bush was a disaster. His legacy will be a stain upon the United States for generations to come.

"Bush didn't act on the warnings of the previous administration about terror threats, and the 9/11 attacks happened on his watch. He attacked the wrong country after 9/11 and allowed Osama Bin Laden to escape. He ran up the debt to astronomical figures

by not putting the costs of two wars on the books. He destroyed any credibility the United States had as being 'the good guys' with the revelations of Abu Ghraib and his administration's embrace of torture. Countless lives of American soldiers and foreign civilians were lost or damaged in war.

"No, it's not too late to judge. It's far too late," citizen Hughes concludes.

*"Every war when it comes, or before it comes, is represented not as a war but as an act of self-defense against a homicidal maniac." ~ George Orwell*

## CLOSE MAIL CALLS

I got this message from my shirttail cousin and Goshen resident, **Dr. Robert Riddle, DDS:**

■ CONTINUED



**LAKE FRONT**  
Other cabins in the Lake Barbee - Lake Wawasee area, these operated by Betty Sheridan's family were also used by Dillinger gang. [MORE](#)

“The **RECENT ARTICLE** in the *Elkhart Truth* about this area’s connection with the infamous **John Dillinger** has a special interest for me. The visit by the Dillinger gang to my grandfather’s home has been part of our family lore since I can remember. My mother’s father, **George Mellinger**, built several cottages on his property on the south side of Lake Wawasee, which were rented out to vacationers.

“When Dillinger was on the lam after the Warsaw police station incident, he visited my grandfather’s home and my mother answered the door. I suppose his picture had been in the newspapers and mom recognized him. Dillinger asked to rent a room or cottage for the night and mom told him there were none available that night. He then went across the road and stole the license plate from **Dr. Grayston’s** Cadillac and left. I suppose this was the same night he eventually went to the cottage on Syracuse Lake.

“I can only imagine the reaction of my Grandfather when he learned of the close call and often wonder what the outcome would have been if he had rented a cottage and the police had been notified.”

And another nominee for The Funny Names Club of America from comic, playwright and author **Steve Bluestein**: “In high school I worked in Filene’s basement. Woman hands me her credit card. Her name? **Mrs. Samuel Fawkoff**. I took one look at the card and could not stop laughing. Every time I tried to compose myself it got worse. I will never forget that name.”

And now, thanks to you, neither will we.

“Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere.” ~ **Erma Bombeck**

### **KNOCK, KNOCK**

A man and his wife were awakened at 3 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.

“Not a chance,” says the husband, “it is 3 in the morning!” He slams the door and returns to bed.

“Who was that?” asks his wife. “Just some drunk guy asking for a push,” he answers. “Did you help him?” she asks. “No, I did not, it is 3 in the morning and it is pouring rain out there!”

“Well, you have a short memory,” says his wife. “Can’t you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself! God loves drunk people too.”

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain. He calls out into the dark, “Hello, are you still there?”

“Yes,” comes back the answer. “Do you still need a push?” calls out the husband. “Yes, please!” comes the reply from the dark. “Where are you?” asks he husband.

“Over here on the swing,” replied the drunk.

“You can only predict things after they’ve happened.”  
~ **Poet Charles Bukowski**

■ **CONTINUED**

- PHACEBOOK
- MYTHSTAKES
- SNOWPROBLEM
- I CAN DIG IT
- WHAT A DAY
- PAST BLAST
- SEE SPOT RUN
- SKYE BIKE

## THERE'S HOPE

So, dear friends, even though this issue is predominantly about death, the news is not all bad. A recent study has revealed that conservatives may actually die sooner than liberals!

Why?

Well one interesting finding of the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* notes that although conservatives tend to be healthier than liberals, "Republicans are less likely to report being in poor health than Democrats."

And although the survey concludes that party affiliation really doesn't affect mortality that much, a person's political ideology reveals that conservatives were about 6% more likely to die in the study period than liberals. So much stress to prove that Obama doesn't like America! But those of us who believe in evolution can only hope that enlightenment will prevail. Maybe.

*"Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand."  
~ Mark Twain*

## GREAT AND GONE

The consistently funny and friendly **Gary Owens** finally succumbed to complications of diabetes at the age of 81.



He had been diagnosed at 9 with the disease and told he had not long to live. That's when he decided to defy the odds and survive, which he did with an indomitable spirit and an evolved sense of humor.

Pursuing a career in radio, he was discovered by **George Schlatter** in a men's room (don't ask) and shot to fame as the iconic announcer on "Rowan and Martin's Laugh In" from "Beautiful downtown Burbank" (his phrase).

We who knew him will sorely miss his bright smile and antic spirit.

Also lost was funnyman/actor **Taylor Negron** – also a gifted artist – whose early genius I got to know through **The**

## Groundlings,

but he started as a model for a Hanna Barbera cartoon series about **Evel Knievel**, "I was on lunchboxes, bedspreads, drapes," he recalled. Describing himself as "famish, not famous," he concluded, "Hey...I haven't done too bad for a struggling cartoon model from Glendale."



*"There are two things you never turn down: sex and appearing on television." ~ Gore Vidal*

## MORE MESSENGERS

**Keith Hebble, Jamie Alcroft, George Riddle, Betsey Brubaker-Strum, Kent McCaman, Richard Fish, Kenneth Wilhite Jr.** and a special thank you to my hosts, **Cort and Diane Kloke**, who so graciously shared their beautiful home with me when I appeared at the Laguna Beach Music Festival earlier this month.

*"What is truly telling is that there are few atheists in prisons and that countries with the lowest rates of religion have the lowest rates of crime "  
~ Eileen Flaxman in LA Times letters*

*"Diplomacy is the art of getting someone to have it your way." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

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