

New Years Resolutions in LAMORINDA

I Resolve...

We couldn't resist! We just had to ask some familiar Lamorindans, "What's your New Year's Resolution? And will you share it with all of Lamorinda?" We said, "Anything goes! Be serious, or be silly!" Perhaps not surprisingly, some familiar themes emerged.

They speak for themselves, so without further ado, "I hereby resolve..."

"...to consume less and recycle more." - **Mike Anderson, Mayor of Lafayette**

"...to just keep my head above water." - **Erling Horn, former Mayor of Lafayette**

"...to make sure that I somehow still find time to take long walks my two beautiful Siberian Huskies."

- **Lynda Deschambault, Mayor of Moraga**

"...(on behalf of the City Council), to make 2008 a safe and productive year for Orinda!"

- **Victoria Smith, Mayor of Orinda**

"...to buy a bike and actually use it in the Spring and Summer to pedal to work. I'm running out of excuses."

- **Philip Vince, Moraga Town Manager (we've assured Mr. Vince that our cameras will be looking for him)**

"...my Daddy told me never to make a promise I couldn't keep, so I never make New Year's resolutions."

- **Mike Hubbard, Police Chief, Lafayette**

"...to return phone calls from the Lamorinda Weekly more promptly, and to get a new Prius patrol car."

- **Bill French, Police Chief, Orinda (we will monitor the Chief's progress and report back)**

"...to continue working with the community in traffic safety and to balance more time with my family and work."

- **Mark Ruppenthal, Police Chief, Moraga**

"...to ask my friends and relatives to please make a donation in my name to groups that offset carbon footprint rather than giving me 'stuff' for my birthday and the Holydays."

- **Steve Woolpert, Dean of Liberal Arts, Saint Mary's College**

"...to create more personal time for myself in order to do the things that I want and need to do."

- **Jim Negri, Superintendent, Acalanes Union High School District**

"... as a superintendent, to encourage the governor and legislature to provide equitable funding to school districts that are experiencing declining enrollment. On a lighter note, my personal resolution is to play some tennis this coming year."

- **Frank S. Tom, Superintendent, Lafayette School District**

Collected by the Team, compiled by Lee Borrowman

"...on a personal level, to budget my time with family and dissertation. Professionally, to continue to build a stronger community."

- **Raul Zamora, Principal, Miramonte High School**

"...to keep expanding the minds of children with mathematical knowledge, inspiring their spirits with mathematical wonderment and touching their hearts with mathematical kindness. Also I'm kind of a porker, so some weight loss would be great too."

- **Mike Plant, Math Dept. Chair, Miramonte High School**

"...both past and present: a) lose weight (not transfer weight from left thigh to right thigh); b) grow some hair (new year's dream); c) play the lottery until I win; d) after the previous 3 resolutions failed my new New Year's resolution is to never make another New Year's resolution again!"

- **Tom Schumann, Math Teacher, Campolindo**

"...to be more present to people, to situations, to life and never miss an opportunity to say that I care."

- **Sophie Braccini, Ace Reporter, Lamorinda Weekly**

"...to procrastinate less, eat more fruit and vegetables, less Chardonnay and potato chips, and finally to proofread more carefully."

- **Cathy Tyson, Ace Reporter, Lamorinda Weekly**

"...to be more patient at home, less sarcastic at work and to trust Tyson's proofreading skills."

- **Ed.**

"...to try to get my family to become "carbon-neutral." Last year's resolution was to reduce our footprint by 50%; in 2008 we'll have to work on transportation."

- **Steve Richards, Sustainable Lafayette**

"...(or rather) I wish for communal wisdom that will instill in us humans the desire to settle our conflicts and differences through all possible peaceful means other than violence. It's absolutely heartbreaking to know that in all corners of the world there are groups of people committing atrocities upon other groups. It is such a horrendous waste of human energy and resources, that also destroys the surrounding environment. What wondrously beautiful things we could instead accomplish if we could somehow harness this cumulative tendency toward violence, transforming it into a positive force to save our civilization and our planet through cooperation."

- **Kay James, Lamorinda Peace and Justice Group**

"...to be a better person, which means more awake, more conscious of my surroundings, the needs of other people and less into self interests and narrow ways of thinking. There is a message of Love out there. I'd like to continue to help promote it."

- **Paul Fillingier, President, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**

"...in 2008 I will drive my bike in the Bay Area at least once a week."

- **Edy Schwartz, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Moraga**

"...to save enough money to be able to go back to Ireland with my wife for our 25th anniversary."

- **Jay Lifson, Executive Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce**

"...to work less and spend more time with my family."

- **Bill Snider, Owner, Moraga Hardware**

"...to work harder, work smarter and make a lot of money!"

- **A.J. Nisen, Mortgage Loan Consultant, Bank of America Mortgages**

"...to ride a 'double century' (200 mile bike ride) and grow hair on my head!"

- **Tom Park, Executive Vice-President, California Bank of Commerce (yup, we'll be watching for the hair)**

"...(it's the same every year), to have fun in the coming year. It will be hard to top 2007 in 2008!"

- **Stacy Spell - General Manager, Oakwood Athletic Club**

"...to find a rewarding, challenging and fun new job in 2008."

- **Glen Zamanian, Vice-President, Experience Unlimited**

"...to lose weight."

- **Chef Dan Leff, Caterer**

"...to have a day off in 2008 that's not on a holiday."

- **Jorge Quintero, Owner, Pet Shoppe in Lafayette and Moraga (if you figure out how to do that, please let us know)**



Stacy Spell



Philip Vince



Jay Lifson



Mark Ruppenthal



Victoria Smith

Make a Phone Call

By Nicolle

The last time I spoke to my sister was on Christmas, 2006. I never knew it would be a last conversation, as we never know a last will be a last. She was 37 years old. My husband told me of her drowning on June 9 of this year. She had drowned that morning. I have never been more grateful for an hour long conversation

between sisters on a Blessed Christmas evening in my life.

Julie was a school psychologist and loved to share stories about the children she worked with. One little child she adored was a 5 year old boy who missed his mother so much he would try just about anything to have an opportunity to speak to her. He would drop large objects on his feet...such as tables or free weights. He would climb as high as possible in the classroom, curling into a little ball on top of the teachers coat closet. He'd tantrum, sending a first year teacher into tears with him. My sister would coax him to her office, then he'd stare into my sister's eyes, clutch the phone, and yell

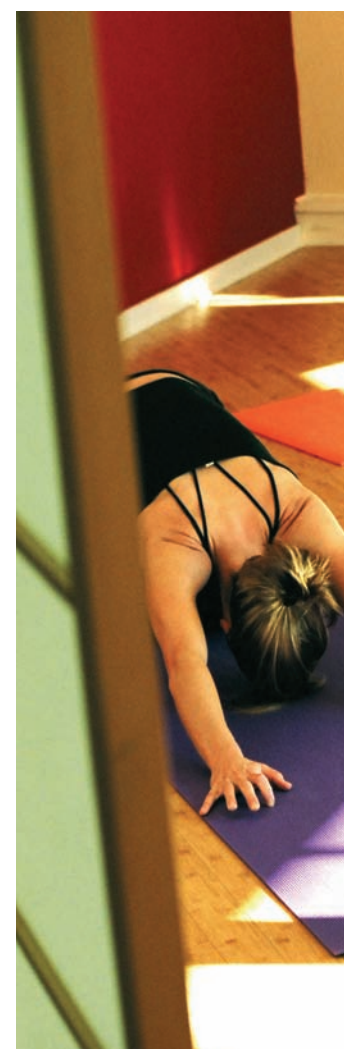
"make a phone call...make a phone call...make a phone call...!!!"

I don't really remember how she managed to remedy the situation with that little guy, he was one of the many that she worked with and helped through their tough transitions. I do know that we would joke often when there were times when we didn't want to make a phone call or felt like we had the time and we would bother one another endlessly. I'd plop down my groceries, children and barking dogs everywhere, play the recorder and hear; "Hi, it's Jules, I know that you have a lot going on right now but so and so didn't sound well and...(muted laughter) make a phone call...make a phone call!!!"

I returned the favor often enough. I never thought the phone calls we were reminding one another to make could have been the 'last'. A last laugh, a last chance to hear that person's voice, maybe an insight never shared, or just an ordinary conversation. At the end of the call, there is always one thing- a last

goodbye, and we need those in life. 2007 has been an exercise in making these calls...it's harder without her reminders, but I try. Julie gave this gift to me and I will always treasure it. Now I would like to offer it to you.

As I sat on a porch in a rocking chair during a light snowfall on Christmas night in Connecticut, I said my last goodbye, Merry Christmas and I love you to my sister. Is there anyone out there who you need to call? Make a phone call, it might be your 'last.'



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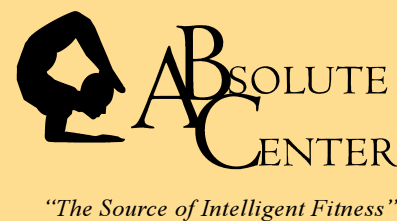
phone caall...call my mmmoooom!!!"

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