

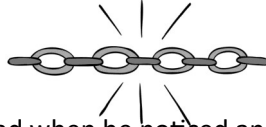
The Journey Journal



February 2025 Edition



Chain of Kindness



Once a man was driving down the road when he noticed an elderly lady stranded on one of the most deserted sections of the road. Even though the light was dim in the evening, the man saw that she needed some help. So, he parked his car in front of hers and approached her. The older woman became concerned because no one had stopped to help her in the past few hours, and now this guy was approaching her with a grin. She became worried that the man would hurt her because he appeared poor and hungry. The man could see she was scared and understood how she felt. 'I'm here to help you, ma'am. My name is Bryan Anderson', he continued, addressing her. Despite her fear, the older woman told him that her car's tire was flat.

"Ma'am, It's cold outdoors; why don't you wait inside my warm car while I change the tire." the man replied. Having said this, the man took his toolbox and began changing the flat tire of the Lady's car. The man quickly replaced the tire. The older woman rolled down her car window and started talking to him as he finished.

She introduced herself, said she was from a far distant place and was passing through, and expressed her gratitude to him for helping her. After setting aside tools and a flat tire for her automobile, the man simply grinned as he shut the trunk. "How much should I pay you?" asked the elderly Lady." The man had no qualms about being paid because this was not his job. Instead, he was assisting her in her time of need. He told her that if she genuinely wanted to repay him, she should help someone in need the next time she saw one. "And at that time, think of it as payment for this deed of mine." the man added.

On the way back to her destination, the old Lady noticed a small cafe a few miles down the road. She pulled over and went in to relax and grab a bite before the final leg of her journey. After she was seated, a waitress approached her and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. The Lady noticed that the waitress was in the later stage of her pregnancy but still smiling and working hard. The elderly Lady wondered how someone with so little could be so kind and generous to a stranger until she remembered how Bryan, a stranger, had just helped her.

After finishing her meal, the Lady paid a bill much higher than her bill amount. The waitress went inside to get change, but when she returned, the old Lady had left. While the waitress was wondering where the Lady was, she noticed something on the napkin. Her eyes filled with tears when she read a note that was written by the old Lady:

"Thank you for your amazing services. You don't owe me anything. Someone once helped me without expecting anything in return. If you truly want to repay me, pass on your kindness, and do not let this chain of love end with you." There was a hundred dollar bill left under the napkin for the waitress.

Later that evening, when the waitress returned to her house, she was pondering about the generosity and the note from the Lady. She wondered how the woman knew that she and her husband were in desperate need of financial help. It would have been tough for them financially with the baby coming very soon had she not helped her. As she slept next to her husband, she could tell that her husband was concerned and worried about the future. So, she whispered into her husband's ears, "Everything will be fine. Today, we were blessed by kindness from a stranger. I love you. Bryan Anderson."

Love and kindness given freely tend to make their way back to you.

*<https://alltimeshortstories.com/chain-of-kindness/>

Pray With Us

The Great Conversation



The great conversion in our life is to recognize and believe that the many unexpected events are not just disturbing interruptions in our projects, but the way in which God molds our hearts and prepares us for his return. Our great temptations are boredom and bitterness. When our good plans are interrupted, our well-organized careers by illness or bad luck, our peace of mind by inner turmoil, our hope for peace by a new war, and our desire for immortality by real death, we are tempted to give in to a paralyzing boredom or to strike back in destructive bitterness. But when we believe that patience can make our expectations grow, then fate can be converted into a vocation, wounds into a call for deeper understanding, and sadness into a birthplace of joy. To start seeing that the many events of our day, week, or year are not in the way of our search for a full life but are rather the way to it is a real experience of conversion. We discover that cleaning and cooking, writing letters and doing professional work, visiting people and caring for others, are not a series of random events that prevent us from realizing our deepest self. These natural, daily activities contain within them some transforming power that changes how we live. We make hidden passage from time lived as *chronos* to time lived as *kairos*. *Kairos* is a Greek word meaning “*the opportunity*.” It is the right time, the real moment, the chance of our lives. When our time becomes *kairos*, it frees us and opens us to endless new possibilities. Living *kairos* offers us an opportunity for a profound change of heart.

- Henry Nouwen

Peace,
Chaplin Jim



Did You Know February is Black History Month?



Black History Month, which began in 1926 as Negro History Week, is in February because it coincides with the birthdays of two important figures in the abolitionist movement: President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Lincoln is known for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, while Douglass became a renowned abolitionist, speaker, and writer after escaping American slavery in 1838. He wrote several books, including *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*.

Many civil rights leaders contributed to Black history and the celebration of Black History Month. Black activists like Rosa Parks, W.E.B. Du Bois, Malcolm X, John Lewis, Barbara Jordan, Marcus Garvey, and Martin Luther King Jr. brought national attention to Black struggles.

The theme of Black History Month changes yearly. This year's theme is *African Americans and Labor* focusing on the significant contributions and experiences of Black people in the workforce throughout history, from slavery to present-day leadership roles.



Cardiac Awareness Program

Friday, February
7th, 14, & 21st
at 2:30pm

Ocean City Library
1735 Simpson Avenue
Ocean City, NJ
Room N111



Complimentary speakers
from the medical field to
discuss cardiac health
and awareness.

RSVP and Questions contact Beth Gebhart
609-760-6073 or bgebhart@lsmnj.org.

Abraham Lincoln

Word Search Puzzle



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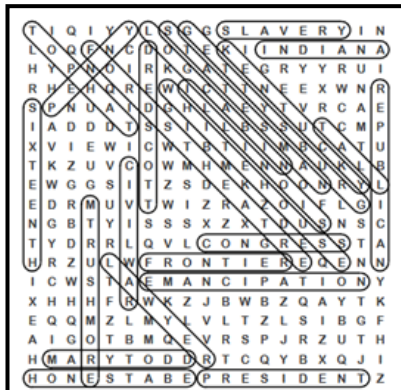
CIVIL WAR	ILLINOIS	PRESIDENT
CONGRESS	INDIANA	REPUBLICAN
DRED SCOTT	KENTUCKY	SIXTEENTH
EMANCIPATION	LAWYER	SLAVERY
FORD'S THEATRE	LOG CABIN	STATESMAN
FRONTIER	MARY TODD	TALL
GETTYSBURG	MT. RUSHMORE	TOP HAT
HONEST ABE	PENNY	WHITE HOUSE

(Answers on page 5)

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February Crossword

ACROSS

- 1) Some computers
- 6) "Father" in the nursery
- 10) Union buster
- 14) Doofus
- 15) Declare firmly
- 16) Henry VIII's sixth wife
- 17) Driving force?
- 18) Rudolph's high beam
- 19) Arsenal contents
- 20) Pouring down, briefly?
- 23) "___ In the Family"
- 25) Coin of Afghanistan, once
- 26) "___ whiz!"
- 27) Brief moment?
- 28) Barely passing grades
- 30) Campus VIP
- 32) Rodeo rope
- 34) Wash one's hands of
- 36) Staircase post
- 38) Baby aids, briefly?
- 41) Trail user
- 42) Pekoe server
- 45) Fooferaws
- 48) Nursemaid in India
- 50) Achieve through hard work
- 51) "Give us this day ___ daily bread"
- 52) Cool, once
- 54) Gun, in a car
- 56) It divides a tennis court
- 57) Enjoying the see-saw, briefly?
- 61) Cathedral section
- 62) Suffix with "scan"
- 63) Bathroom floor pieces, often
- 66) Carnal craving
- 67) Inventor's brainchild
- 68) Give notice to
- 69) Eyelid swelling
- 70) Wilder ending?
- 71) One place for potted plants

DOWN

- 1) Lower, as lights
- 2) Tokyo before it was Tokyo
- 3) Like the runt
- 4) Weaver's apparatus
- 5) Airfield
- 6) Behave like a misused participle
- 7) Solemnly swear
- 8) Hilfiger or Lauren, e.g.
- 9) Sharp mountain ridge
- 10) Bandy words
- 11) Lily-family member
- 12) General assemblies?
- 13) Denver athlete
- 21) Persistent pest
- 22) Curtis of hair care
- 23) Use a plus sign
- 24) Souvenir from Kauai
- 29) Bantu language group
- 31) Furious
- 33) Pond scum, e.g.
- 35) Shush, in the U.K.
- 37) Shivel in the heat
- 39) Low-range sea change
- 40) U.S. anthem word
- 43) Iron man's quest?
- 44) Explosive initials
- 45) Destroys utterly, as a car
- 46) Production in general
- 47) Formal, fashion-wise
- 49) Madison Square Garden and others
- 53) Red cosmetic dye
- 55) All-important
- 58) Network of veins
- 59) Boot tips
- 60) Longest river
- 64) Physics class unit
- 65) Jeanne d'Arc's title (Abbr.)

T MINUS AND COUNTING

By Tim Burr

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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