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White Rose In The Garden, Douglas E. Welch

For the weekend...

from Douglas E. Welch

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Issue #14: March 11, 2022

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Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been running a Discord community for friends and family.

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A little good news, no matter what



Daffodil Closeup, Douglas E. Welch

Looking back over the past few weeks of newsletters, I begin to think that perhaps I chose the wrong time to start writing again. Much like the last two years, life has been filled with chaos – new, old, and in between. Today though, I decided that I was going to focus on the good, no matter what. In times like these, we have to tell ourselves directly and forcefully that there are still some things in the world that are OK.

In the garden

First for me is the garden. If you follow me on [Instagram](#), [Flickr](#), [TikTok](#), [YouTube](#), and everywhere else, you'll see many photos of my garden in bloom. The garden itself might be in a bit of disarray, but the individual parts of it explode with color and bring a lift to our mood every day. Thank goodness for this. On those days when the news is a little too heavy, a little too dark, a little too much, I can spend a few minutes outdoors enjoying the natural beauty. Considering how easy it is to grow flowers and shrubs I highly recommend it to everyone in some way. If you can't grow things yourself, some flowers from the grocery or flower market works just as well.

Sure, I often see all the work that needs to be done, a curse in one's own garden, but there are always those bright spots that distract me from that. All said the front garden is looking quite nice and neat. We have added many plants over Covid time and started growing more food in two raised beds. There is such a pleasure being able to step out gather some basil or some parsley or some nasturtium flowers or – in Rosanne's case, some fresh tomatoes – and include them in your dinner that evening. It is not a lot of work but it brings a great amount of joy and pleasure.

 **douglaswelch**



Wildlife in the garden

Attracting wildlife to the garden is also a great pleasure. Mainly this means birds of various types including hummingbirds, Lesser goldfinches, and phoebes, but also our city squirrels, nighttime possums, and on occasion a raccoon or two. Sure they can cause a little chaos of their own, by digging up our pots and such, but the overall benefit of watching them outweighs most of it. We recently added two more birdbaths to the yard as they seem very popular. Our Cooper's Hawks still visit quite regularly, especially as the summer temperatures start to rise. They always provide a dramatic pause in our day whenever they appear and splash around in the baths. I've also upgraded all the birdbaths with electric pumps so that there is the sound of moving water in the garden at all times. This is a great attraction for all types of birds and animals

Friends

One great personal event that occurred is that a very good friend did a great favor for me and, even more importantly, gave me the ability to be a great friend to someone else. Being able to pass on benefits and goodwill is always a lift for the soul. It was nice to know that I have such good friends and that I can share that

friendship with others, too. Often, helping to make someone else someone else's life easier is one of the greatest joys in your life. Seek it out at every opportunity. It helps you as much, if not more, and the person you are helping.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we have started seeing a few friends here and there again as infection rates dropped. It feels a little like the gopher in this picture. We pop our head out of the small hole, look around for danger, nibble on some food, and then dash back inside. We get a little more adventurous with each excursion.



Gopher in Motion

We are still being very careful and will probably still wear our masks out in public for the foreseeable future, but it is great to sit around and talk face-to-face with friends again. We will also probably start going out for errands and such again which we had started doing before Omicron showed up, but retreated to ordering delivery during that time. Rosanne has been teaching one class face-to-face while still observing COVID protocols and so far we are well. Our fingers remain crossed that that continues.

This week, Take some time to look around you and see the little lights of joy that emerge from the somewhat chaotic and gloomy night. They are still out there although they can be hard to find. You could also say, though, that these bright stars shine brighter when contrasted with the deeper darkness. Unfortunately, we often can't have one without the other.

Be well, be aware, be safe, be happy!

Video



Why should you read "Hamlet"? - Iseult Gillespie



13 Tricks to Help You Remember What You've Learned

via LifeHack

Memory is fallible. If you forget everything in this article, remember this fact: Researchers estimate that we lose 90% of everything we learn immediately after learning it. Ninety percent. Have I got your attention now?

Trying to recall information can be like digging a hole without a proper shovel: Sure, you can implement what you have to make the hole, but the tool you employ is makeshift. Or perhaps you only have your hands.

When our minds begin to absorb new information, there is a limited amount of time before that information becomes useless to us. For several reasons, our brains are in a constant process of forgetting. Most of the details that you learn are lost to you within a short time, because your brain only has limited space. And your brain doesn't actually know how to determine if a detail will be useful to you at a later time... so it just forgets it.

Throughout your learning process make time to ensure that you will remember the information you want to remember by following these 13 simple tricks.

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The curious history of the clothespeg

via The Economist



The clothespeg has an ancient look. The simplest sort, with rounded head and body carved from a single piece of wood, might have come from an Egyptian tomb or a Mesoamerican midden. Their shape is vaguely anthropomorphic, like a forked mandrake root (“dolly peg” is the name in commerce), suggesting an offering to the gods of fertility, or of nature. It would be no surprise to find one in an Iron Age settlement, still attached to an Iron Age loincloth.

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Things I Learnt in 2021

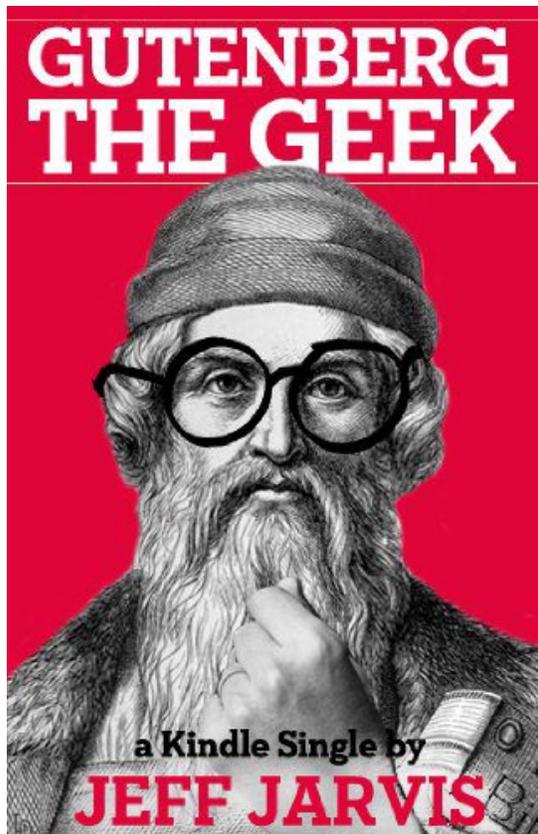
from Vadim Drobinin

I am pretty much a knowledge addict. I use Twitter, RSS, and numerous other mediums of information — from Telegram channels to standalone blogs. Out of a

thousand articles a hundred gets skimmed through. A few dozens make it to my "Read Later" list, and only a fraction I find worthy of sharing. These worthy ones end up in my weekly newsletter, the [Tuesday Triage] (<https://drobinin.com/newsletter/>), where I comment on the most intriguing articles I've read and share facts I learnt over the week. Some of those trivia are not trivial at all, so I decided to condense 10% of this _crème de la crème of the Internet_ in a subjective list of the best ones in no particular order.



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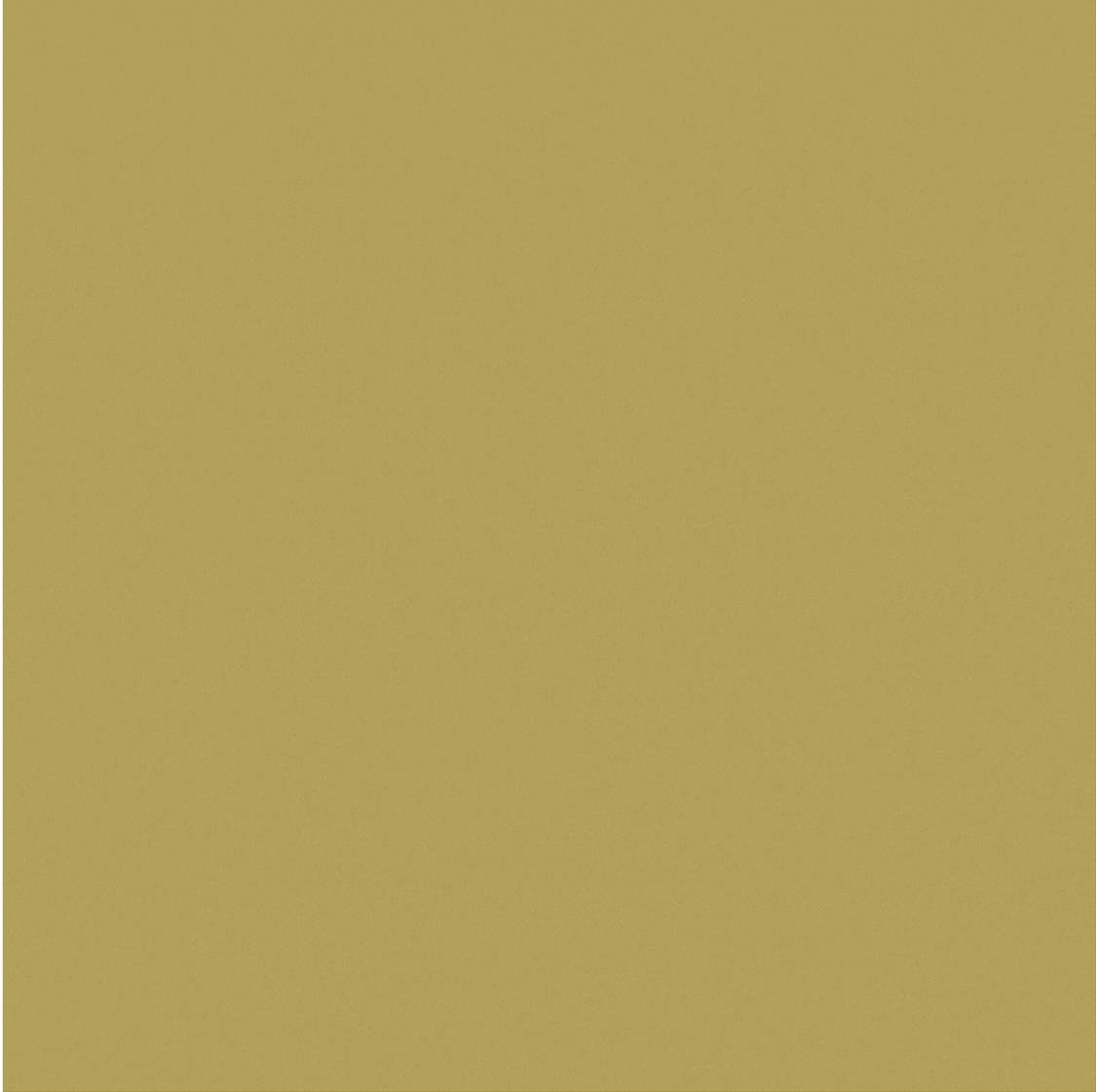


Gutenberg the Geek (Kindle Single)

by Jeff Jarvis

Johannes Gutenberg was our first geek, the original technology entrepreneur, who had to grapple with all the challenges a Silicon Valley startup faces today. Jeff Jarvis tells Gutenberg's story from an entrepreneurial perspective, examining how he overcame technology hurdles, how he operated with the secrecy of a Steve Jobs but then shifted to openness, how he raised capital and mitigated risk, and how, in the end, his cash flow and equity structure did him in. This is also the inspiring story of a great disruptor. That is what makes Gutenberg the patron saint of entrepreneurs.

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