

Choice

The Newsletter Of AARP Chapter 1952

"To Serve – Not To Be Served"

Warner Robins, Georgia

www.Choice1952.com

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Meeting Dates/Time: **Wednesday, October 24th** and Wednesday, November 28th | 10:00 A.M.

Location: Wellston Center - 152 Maple Street | Warner Robins, GA 31093

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			Maureen Echols	953-5060

BIRTHDAYS FOR OCTOBER ☺

Hugh Morris	1 st	Minel Ruth Lasley	11 th	Jack Peck	18 th
Sara Holden	21 st	Frances Roland	25 th	Jane Speer	26 th

Happy Birthday! ☺

BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER ☺

Joan Evans	4 th	Suzanne Baer	6 th	Thelma Padgett	7 th
Lena Farr	10 th	Agnes Bell	14 th	Mae Lamendola	15 th
Sam Hendry	20 th	William Hyslip	22 nd	Joyce Lanier	25 th
Jean Tucker	27 th				

Happy Birthday! ☺

WE CARE

For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, For love and friends, For everything Thy goodness sends. - **Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)** "Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted." **Matthew 5:4**

Attention Readers Of This Newsletter: "Local Chapter Membership" Has Its Rewards And Privileges! Members: Please keep your dues (only \$5.00/year) and membership directory information (birthday, address/phone number, etc) current! If you are NOT a member of our local chapter **but** you are a member of AARP please consider joining us ... only \$5.00/year! Thank you! ggd ☺

Note From The President

511 NOW IN GEORGIA

Georgia's DOT has implemented 511 throughout the state to provide drivers with real-time traffic, travel, tourism, and transit information. We are joining the network of 29 states in the country currently operating 511.

To access the system you dial 511 on your phone. If 511 cannot recognize what you are saying, just press 9 or say

"Operator". Live 511 operators are available 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

If your mobile service provider does not support 511, then preprogram 877-694-2511 into your phone.

If you need to reach 511 in Tennessee, Florida, or North Carolina you may do so through Georgia's 511 by pressing or saying 6. The option may be different in connecting to Georgia from one of the other states in the national network.

John Echols

Program Note

This month's guest speaker will be **Mr. Todd Cowart** – Executive Director Houston County Association for Exceptional Citizens (Happy Hour Service Center). Contact: 478/929-6613

Editor's Notes

Our Newsletter – *Choice* - is online! Visit www.Choice1952.com! Please get your newsworthy information and/or photographs to me as soon as possible!

Our member's exciting life experiences have been informative, educational and inspirational!

As **your** Editor I'm open to suggestions for our newsletter! Additionally, **please contact me to be featured in future newsletters!**

Our newsletter - in addition to being online – is distributed to members, non-members and businesses. If **ANYONE** is interested in advertising in our newsletter please contact me at **478/318-0471** and/or via e-mail at gdavismail@gmail.com!

Sincerely,

Greg (I'm Da Baby) Davis ☺ (ggd)

New Series

Recently I ran across some fascinating information that discusses several important ***“emerging technologies for humanity.”***

The author states “In modern society, there's very little discussion about what's needed to fundamentally improve our collective quality of life. How do we evolve our societies into something more productive, more rewarding, and more in harmony with our natural environment?

Answers are found in many disciplines: psychology, spirituality and religion, health and wellness, and even sociopolitical theory.” He further states that his focus is on answers that may be provided by **technology**.

Additionally, “The technologies covered each hold tremendous promise for uplifting our collective quality of life on planet Earth. Some of these technologies have already begun to appear; others will take years or decades. A few are stalled out for political reasons or because they threaten the profits of today's influential institutions or industries.

Most of these technologies will, at some point, be hotly debated for their social, economic, and political implications. Like nuclear energy, each of these holds both a promise for creative use and, simultaneously, the risk of abuse by those who seek to gain power and control at the expense of fellow human

beings. Taken together, however, these technologies can not only sharply improve the world in which we live, they can alter who we are as human beings, and in this way, they can forever shape and improve our quality of life.”

One of the items the author discusses is **“The Electronic Global Library – Coupled With Information Search And Retrieval”** Essentially, the author states, *“A Global Electronic Library would combine all the available knowledge on the planet -- all books, periodicals, newsletters, journals, newspapers, web pages, spoken word, and more -- into a single, searchable resource available to everyone on the planet.*

In decades past, intelligence was largely determined by how much an individual could remember. Each person was expected to carry their own personal library in their heads, and a lack of ability in storing or retrieving information from those mental libraries would result in scholastic failure or, in too many cases, being labeled intellectually inferior.

In the near future, the rules will change. Intelligence will be much less about what you can store in your head and much more about your ability to quickly locate, organize and understand information gleaned from global information sources such as the Internet. A person who knows very little about a subject but who can quickly find and organize relevant information on that subject will be far more productive than someone unfamiliar with information search and retrieval technologies, regardless of their mental capacity.”

See Electronic Global Library – Page 5

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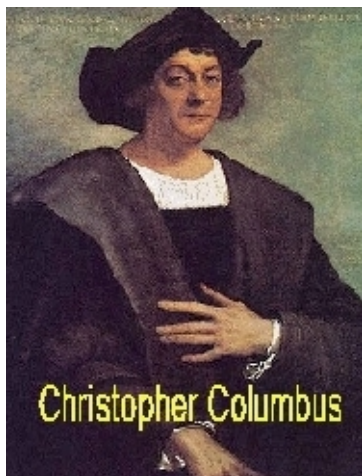
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History Of Columbus Day

From The Website: www.BrownieLocks.com/columbusday.html



Christopher Columbus may be famous today as an explorer, but he died in 1506 in poverty and most of his achievements basically forgotten. Originally born in 1451 in Genoa, Italy (his parents were a wool merchant and weaver) he took off at the age of 14 to sail. A shipwreck off the coast of Portugal in 1470 caused him to swim ashore and there he settled briefly and then moved to Spain.

Christopher Columbus' discovery of America was a combination of pure accident, a big ego and hugely under estimating the real distance between Europe and the East Indies. Back in the 15th Century, many did believe that the earth was round, but they also believed that there was a distance of 10,000 miles of ocean to cross between Europe and the East Indies. And only an elite group actually believed a ship could make this journey successfully.

At the time, Christopher Columbus was 46 years old. He was an Italian explorer, who wasn't so good on calculations. He grossly miscalculated the distance of 10,000 to be only 2,500 (a quarter of what it really is). So some say when he set sail on August 3, 1492, he wasn't courageous, he was misguided. They feel that if he really knew how long it was, he wouldn't have gone. But Columbus had no intention of finding America. He wanted to find the Spice Islands aka Moluccas or East Indies. And his financial backing did not come from Italy, but from Spain. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, were hoping he'd bring them back spices -- especially pepper! Why? Pepper was an essential spice in those days to preserve meat (they didn't have refrigeration yet) and disguise bad tastes. Not only did Columbus underestimate the distance, he somehow had no clue that there was this big huge landmass (aka North America) between Europe and the East Indies. So, after being at sea for 2 months, he landed on the island of San Salvador (historians believe Watling's Island in the Bahamas is where he really landed), haughty and proud thinking he had accomplished his goal of sailing to the East Indies.

The Arawak Indians greeted him, but, they didn't have any spices let alone pepper. They also had no gold or really anything worth bringing back to Spain. You can imagine what Columbus thought! The trip was a total bust. But, the Arawak Indians were peaceful. They served as guides to help Columbus for the remainder of his voyage. I shall insert a joke here. Those of us who are Italian often remark that it's a good thing Columbus wasn't afraid to ask for directions or he'd never have found anything! ;)

Well, Columbus sailed and sailed and sailed. In a 9 year time frame, he made 3 voyages eventually discovering: Dominica, Jamaica, Trinidad and the mouth of the Orinoco River on the South American mainland. On his 4th and final voyage of his life, he made it down to the Isthmus of Panama, but he never did find the East Indies, all those spices, gold etc. that he expected.

He returned back to Spain in 1504 only to have his patron Queen Isabella die a few weeks later. Without her, he basically was a pauper and as I said in the beginning, he died 2 years later in 1506 in poverty.

The first Columbus Day celebration took place in New York City in 1792, the 300th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage. But it took another 100 years before a national celebration was held in 1892. The Knights of Columbus, a Roman Catholic society for men (founded in 1882) petitioned state legislatures over and over to declare October 12 a legal holiday. It wasn't until 1901 that New York became the first state to make Columbus Day a holiday. For the 400th anniversary of Columbus' voyage, President Benjamin Harrison made a commemorative proclamation in 1892. In 1905, Colorado (not New York) became the first state to observe a Columbus Day. This means the entire State, not just a city. People get this confused. Since 1920 Columbus Day has been

celebrated annually by communities, or states in some manner. Although President Franklin Roosevelt in 1937 proclaimed every October 12 as Columbus Day, well proclaiming a holiday and actually making it legitimate are two different things.

In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed a law making the **second Monday in October** a federal holiday to observe Columbus Day! The celebration of Columbus Day is mostly popular in Italy and among Italian-American citizens in the United States ... of course especially in New York City. Philadelphia also has made celebrating Columbus Day popular.

Spain, of course highly celebrates Columbus Day, especially where he launched his 3 ships: The Nina, The Pinta and The Santa Maria. In Mexico, Columbus Day is part of their **Dia de la Raza** (Day of the Race) celebration. The most common way Columbus Day is celebrated is with a parade where mostly Italian-Americans and Knights of Columbus members parade up the street. In New York, over 100,000 people march up 5th Avenue, along with local and state politicians. And some hotels host a Columbus Day dinner. Boston also has a Columbus Day parade of smaller size around 8,000 people that march about 4 miles from the city's Back Bay area to the North End. Los Angeles and San Francisco have the largest parades on the West Coast. Many feel that the parade for Columbus Day is a reflection of the Italian religious processions of the Catholic religion. Another way to celebrate Columbus Day is to reenact his first landing in the new world. Many seaside communities across the United States hold Columbus Day pageants and reenactments. Many people feel that the idea to do the reenactment originates from the painting by John Vanderlyn called "*The Landing of Columbus*." This painting was commission for the U.S. Capitol rotunda in 1839 and was later reproduced on postage stamps.

Now You Know More About The History Of "Columbus Day!" 😊 ggd

Electronic Global Library (Continued)

"Today, Internet search engines like Google and desktop search software like dtSearch are pioneers that will likely pollinate emerging technologies in this area. Yet even Google, as advanced as it may seem on the Internet, is little more than an early prototype in search technology. Google has no technology to understand the intent of the searcher, for example, other than a rudimentary analysis of a string of text characters. A more advanced search engine would operate through voice queries and be capable of retrieving results deemed relevant to the interests of the particular user. A nutritionist who searches for "pizza," for example, would likely be interested in something quite different from a hungry college student entering the same search query.

Even as search personalization advances, there's also the much larger question of what knowledge or content is available to be searched. Google searches only the Internet, and while that may represent a significant quantity of information, it is but a small portion of the total knowledge available on the planet. What's needed to uplift our civilization is a **Global Electronic Library**.

Presently, we are nowhere close to a Global Electronic Library. Astoundingly, with all the technology available today, we still have no way to access printed books online (other than through limited snippets thanks to Amazon.com). Desire for profitability and control of intellectual content coupled with a lack of a micropayment infrastructure have resulted in most content publishers (magazines, books, science journals, etc.) denying the public access to their content unless they buy their books or pay for subscriptions. This arrangement excludes by default the poorer citizens of the planet and, by doing so, encourages a cycle of global poverty by denying the poor access to educational information that might improve their economic outlook. Making knowledge 'open source,' such as like this information is, would offer an opportunity for more people to be more thoroughly educated about the world around them. It offers the promise of uplifting entire societies.

Planet Earth needs to pursue the construction of the modern-day equivalent of the Library of Alexandria (ultimately destroyed by Julius Caesar's military campaigns around 47 B.C.). A freely-available online resource offering instant access to the vast majority of books, publications, and documents on the planet would be considered one of the great wonders of the world and would significantly uplift the intelligence and education of people everywhere. Unfortunately, no one is currently working on such a project.

Of course, the Global Electronic Library would need to be available in many different languages, too, so that world citizens could view content regardless of their country of origin. Most of all, the Global Electronic Library must be coupled with an advanced search technology so people can find the information they want."

I'll continue this fascinating series in future issues! 😊 ggd

Meeting Dates/Time: **Wednesday, October 24th** and Wednesday, November 28th | 10:00 A.M.
Location: Wellston Center - 152 Maple Street | Warner Robins, GA 31093



**** An Article Provided By Mrs. Trudy Deep ****

When Art Berg was 21, a car accident left him paralyzed and life seemed over. Today (2001) he's 39, a successful motivational speaker, married, a father of two. Berg says you don't have to be physically paralyzed to feel helpless. Just don't let it define you. Here are some lessons he taught the Baltimore Ravens, last year's Super Bowl champs. They're in his new book, *The Impossible Just Takes Longer* (Morrow).

- **Don't waste time reliving the past or worrying about the future.** Instead ask: "What can I change today?" Small steps can lead to big improvements.
- **Don't focus on things you can't control,** like the news. It will depress you. Instead, choose how to respond to a situation.
- **Don't be a why-ner,** asking "why me?" Ask a better question: "What do I need to do [or what can I do] in this situation?"
- **Focus on what you have, not what you don't have.** Berg is amazed that so many Americans feel depressed. "This is the land of opportunity," he says. "People risk their lives to come here."