

President's message for 2008 by John J. Zeman.

Year End Review

With all that is happening in the world and economy I really don't want to look back and instead want to focus on what can become a great future...

To all of you I wish to say "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart.

This year as president of the chapter has had its challenges for me, as president, as well as personally and professionally. And as 2008 winds to a close I see more and more challenges arising. But looking back, this has been a great year, even with the struggles. This year I have made a lot of new friends, business partners, and acquaintances, more than should be my share. I have been part of several new businesses and opportunities that have given me chances to have fun, make some money, serve others and learn alike. For this I cannot even come close to expressing my gratitude. As Shakespeare wrote, "No other words can I say, but Thanks, Thanks, and more Thanks."

What is to come, I won't even venture to guess. I found this a while back, and my advice is that you neither try to predict the future nor allow the madness of the crowd to discourage you. Instead, relentlessly focus on the infrastructure of life - the universal principles - and take actions accordingly. I believe this is an important key to finding freedom and happiness in an unfree world, because universal principles will never desert you.

Old Charlie Dickens was right on target back in 1859 when he said, in the very first (and very very long) sentence of *A Tale of Two Cities*:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

In other words, it was pretty much like any other time.

And the same can be said of today. Crises come and go, but at only one time in history is the world going to come to an end - and you won't be around to remember it anyway.

New Year's Wishes

May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-enterologist, your urologist, your proctologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your plumber and the I.R.S.

May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count and your mortgage interest not rise.

May New Year's Eve find you seated around the table, together with your beloved family and cherished friends.

May you find the food better, the environment quieter, the cost much cheaper, and the pleasure much more fulfilling than anything else you might ordinarily do that night.

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them. May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.

May the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until you finish dinner, may the commercials on TV not be louder than the program you have been watching, and may your check book and your budget balance - and include generous amounts for charity.

May you remember to say "I love you" at least once a day to your spouse, your child, your parent, your siblings; but not to your secretary, your nurse, your masseuse, your hairdresser or your tennis instructor.

And may we live in a world at peace and with the awareness of God's love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, every lover's kiss, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

I wish you the very best!

And I will see you next year... Happy 2009

JohnZ

(Read more books, watch less TV, Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Forget about the one's who don't. Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it.)

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW: ABOUT "AULD LANG SYNE"

"Auld Lang Syne" is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country to welcome the new year. It is a very old Scottish song that is attributed to Robert Burns because his transcription -- written down in the 1700s -- is the one that got the most attention. "Auld lang syne" literally translates to "old long ago." In English, we would say "the good old days."

HOLIDAY FACTOID: ABOUT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The tradition of making New Year's resolutions dates back to the early Babylonians -- whose lists probably had something to do with returning borrowed farm equipment.

Nowadays, the 10 most common New Year's resolutions are to (1) lose weight, (2) stop smoking, (3) stick to a budget, (4) save more money, (5) find a better job, (6) become more organized, (7) exercise more, (8) be more patient at work/with others, (9) eat better, and (10) become a better person.