

Missed Opportunities

Leap Year means that you and I have an extra day to take advantage of meaningful opportunities in 2020, and not throw a single one of them away.

I don't want to own-up to a day of missed opportunities; yet like the rest of you, I have done so in the past and I am not particularly proud of it either. Certain situations were mammoth; others were trivial in the full scheme of things.

For some reason that I cannot explain fully, I missed the chance to visit relatives on my father's side living and working in Venezuela before the economic crisis (they have since moved deeper into the countryside I presume with no contact with the outer world) and I can kick myself to this day for my years of procrastination.

It is the same way I feel when I fail to visit someone critically ill simply because I do not want to face the person with the excuse that I will bumble the correct words. Sending a card is so much easier, or ignoring it all together. Maybe I should have thought that just being there would be enough comfort regardless.

Talk about missing the boat literally, I saved myself the two-and-a half torturous agony of sea sickness going from Eastern Long Island to Connecticut on the ferry. It was a rock and roll day on the Sound to begin with, and on top of that I got into a traffic jam heading to the pier. I ended up driving all the way west on Long Island and coming to New England by the longer route. My stomach thanked me later as well as my nerves. Driving was less disruptive than being a captive passenger on a ship.

I wasted my junior year trying to figure out how to make myself taller by one-half inch (my sights were set on become a flight attendant) when truthfully, I should have been taking Latin and improving my math scores to prep me for an easier college experience. Vanity reared its ugly head and took me off in a frivolous direction.

At one point my daughter was contemplating moving to New York City from her home in Texas, and I told her that if she was getting all the right vibes, she should not put off a career move. She was taking a big risk, and with it she would be entering unknown territory.

“I would be sad to hear you say that you when you turn forty that you wished that you had done it back then.”

To sum up, the best advice for you is what I told my own grown child.

