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EARTH'S MOST BEAUTIFUL Flower Displays

Spring is here, which means flora will soon be in full bloom.

Flowers can be an easy pick-me-up or a great way to add color to your home, but some people take their flower obsession to the next level by planning botanical-themed vacations. Here are some of the most impressive gardens and flower displays in the world.

The Netherlands

Holland, most famous for its tulips, always draws visitors at the first sign of spring. One of its most famous destinations, Keukenhof, located in Lisse, is among the world's largest flower gardens. The park is 79 acres and boasts approximately 7 million flowers each year. This colorful garden is open annually from mid-March to mid-May, but mid-April is the ideal time to see the tulips.

Washington, D.C.

Besides the monuments and historic buildings, one of the biggest attractions in Washington, D.C. is the cherry tree blossoms. Travelers

who visit the Tidal Basin during the spring can witness 3,000 trees, which were a gift from Tokyo in 1912, flaunt their beautiful pink blossoms. The best time to see the spectacle is from the end of March through the end of April.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Desert lavender, flowering cacti, pygmy poppies, and rock daisies are just a few of the many wildflowers decorating Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The various native species are often seen weaved together to form a colorful carpet over any barren patch in the park, which is located just two hours from San Diego. In addition to flowers, visitors often spot bighorn sheep. Wildflower blossoms vary in intensity each year, but they typically begin to bloom in late February or early March.

Next time you're planning a spring trip, consider visiting one of the world's most beautiful flower displays. No green thumb required.



GOLDSTEIN & HANDWERKER, LLP
STEVEN T. GOLDSTEIN & MICHAEL HANDWERKER

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280 Madison Avenue, Suite 1202
New York, NY 10016
Phone: 212-679-1330

1199 Route 22 East
Mountainside, NJ 07092
Phone: 973-912-0555

www.ghlawnyj.com



SPRING CHANGES

Thankfully, winter is ending, although I imagine there are some of you out there who actually enjoy the cold weather.

The Super Bowl is over, the Knicks and Nets have no shot at making the playoffs, and baseball training camps have opened. Spring must be right around the corner.

In the last newsletter, I talked about the resolutions I was trying to follow through on in 2018. So far, I have already done five trials! Yes, it is getting more difficult to get cases settled as the insurance companies are taking a harder line on personal injury cases. I can even sense jurors becoming more skeptical of the cases brought before them. So what can we do to help our clients maximize the value of their cases?

I tell all clients before trial that jurors want to judge real people. We all must be ourselves in front of a jury. Jurors can spot insincerity from a mile away.

As for me personally, I am an avid learner and student. I am constantly reading articles and books about the latest trends in successfully

conducting jury trials. In May, for the 13th consecutive year, I will be attending the New Jersey Trial Lawyers Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. And even in my car, I listen to educational materials to help me become a better lawyer and person.

This probably explains why I think spring is the best season of the year. For me, it is about really starting my personal growth for the year. The days are longer, and I feel like I have more energy. I exercise more. It is truly the time of year for rebirth and rejuvenation.

On another note, my daughter will be starting Penn State University in the fall. Her mom and I are very proud of her!

-Steven Goldstein



KEEPING UP WITH YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

What You Need to Do to Stay On Track and Push Forward

March is the month of springtime and rejuvenation. It's also the time when most people have forgotten about the resolutions and goals they set earlier in the year. Have you neglected or given up your goals? If you have, you are far from alone. Most people let their goals fall to the wayside at least by March, if not long before. It comes down to four simple reasons:

1. **They set goals that were out of reach or unrealistic.**
2. **They had zero accountability.**
3. **They set abstract goals.**
4. **They didn't track progress.**

Setting goals is the easy part. A lot of people say they want to lose weight, eat better, learn a new skill, or try a new hobby, but they don't define their goals any further. Vague goals aren't really goals at all.

The best way to stay on track is to be as specific as possible. Understand what you need to do to accomplish your goals. Make sure you have access to the appropriate resources that will help you make progress. Resources come in all forms. Look to the people around you for accountability — your family, friends, neighbors, or colleagues. If you don't want to involve anyone else, keep a notebook or diary to track progress. Or if you are learning a new skill, such as a foreign language for a trip next year, the resource you need may be an app on your phone.

When you bring specific goals together with the necessary resources, achieving your dreams becomes more possible than ever before. You just have to take steps to avoid falling into the mistakes listed above. Set attainable concrete goals, track your progress, and check in with someone to keep you accountable. Since it's been a few months, take a moment to review how far you've come since January. What do you need to do to make 2018 your best year yet?



TESTIMONIAL

“My car was rear-ended, and I had to have shoulder surgery. The driver of the other car made up a story that I was driving recklessly when the collision happened. Steven believed in me the whole time, despite what the police report said. He took the case all the way to arbitration and got me the maximum amount from the insurance policy. I have referred many of my family and friends to him and will continue to do so in the future.”

—Juana Jaimie (Bronx, New York)

HOW TV SHOWS ABOUT LAWYERS GET IT WRONG One Case Harvey Specter Would Lose

Let's be honest; there's nothing quite like a gripping law show. Whether it's Casey Novak, Ally McBeal, or even Matlock fighting the good fight, these shows captivate Americans more than almost any other genre. There's only one issue: They are completely inaccurate. To illustrate this point, here are three major areas where law shows miss the mark.

Proceedings Take Time

What takes Jack McCoy and the team of “Law & Order” an hour of TV duration actually takes years in real time. According to New York World, the average time to try a murder case is 750 days. Proceedings aren't resolved with witty dialog and a few meetings. They are completed with thousands of hours of preparatory work. While trying a new case every week makes for great television, the amount of time it takes to actually create a case is nothing like it's portrayed.

Last-Minute Evidence

It's satisfying seeing a case dwindling in its 12th hour saved by miraculous new evidence, but this situation simply doesn't happen. The constitution forces attorneys to disclose all evidence, so neither party



is blindsided by new information. In most cases, there's a large portion of evidence that isn't even used.

Every Case Is a Thriller

Nothing gets you munching through a bag of popcorn faster than Lt. Kaffee addressing Col. Jessep in “A Few Good Men,” but in reality, most cases are quite dull. Sure, there are highs and lows, but what really goes on in a courtroom wouldn't make for great television. Outside of the courtroom, lawyers spend their time pouring over a mountain of documents and consulting with sometimes hundreds of other lawyers. It's never a one- or two-person show.

While characters like Perry Mason and Saul Goodman will always have a place on the screen, their shows are just that — shows. Even Harvey Specter couldn't win if he took on an actual case. Real law is hard work, and it requires an attention to detail that wouldn't make for great television. That being said, law-related shows do get it right in one area: Lawyers are incredibly passionate about what is right and wrong. We believe in our clients, and we are resilient people. Contact us today and find out for yourself how a *real* lawyer handles a case.

HAVE A LAUGH ON US!



**BE THE PERSON
YOUR DOG THINKS
YOU ARE.**



ZESTY ZUCCHINI ENCHILADAS

[Adapted from delish.com]

INGREDIENTS

- 4 large zucchini
- 1 tablespoon olive oil or ghee
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 3 cups cooked, shredded chicken
- 2 cups shredded cheese
- 1 can enchilada sauce

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat oven to 350 F. In a large skillet, heat oil. Add onion, garlic, cumin, chili powder, and salt to taste. Stir to combine. Sauté chicken for 2 minutes, then add 1 cup of the enchilada sauce.
2. Use vegetable peeler to thinly slice zucchini lengthwise. Lay out three slices, slightly overlapping, and spoon chicken mixture on top. Roll the zucchini “tortilla” and place on baking sheet. Repeat until all zucchini and chicken is used.
3. Cover the enchiladas with remaining sauce and sprinkle with cheese. Bake 20 minutes, and enjoy!