

Tired of Complaining

by Judy Diehm

Where to begin? Where does this end? Am I a pessimist when I think of these things, or could I become an optimist?

Reading the paper, hearing the news on TV, talking to friends, is there no end to the cruelty, talk of wars, accidents that happen, and death? Some days it is such a struggle to ignore these happenings. Do I just say, "Oh well, I'm just glad it didn't affect me?" I sometimes yearn for childhood when the worst thing I felt that I had to deal with was whether someone in my class liked me or not, was I pretty, would I be invited to Jane's birthday party. But time marches on and I become aware that I am but a small cog in all that happens around me. This is too depressing to contend with right this minute so I will move on to more mundane things that crop up daily, weekly, or monthly that I am tired of.

I am tired of disrespectful children and young people. I know they think the world revolves around them and they are unaware of how their actions affect others. What happened to please and thank you, can I do anything to help, let me take those dishes over to the sink for you? Whatever happened to cleaning up your mess after you have made one? How many of them even think of writing a thank you note these days? How many of them pick up their trash at the movie theater or sporting event? Where were their parents, or are they now the ones leaving trash and not writing thank you notes? I know people think we are old fashioned and fogeys, but how did we somehow lose sight of our own personal responsibility. GRR, moving on.

I am tired of surly sales clerks who view us as just another customer they need to get rid of before they can clock out. In turn, I am so grateful for the ones who greet me with a smile, ask how I am today, and thank me before I leave.

I am tired of people/friends who after a funeral or sad event say, "We'll have to get together after this," then never call or get in touch again. The next time you do this or even think this, remember the phone is close at hand. One of the most difficult things as a spouse is to lose track of friends that you have known as a couple. Pick up the phone and just say, "Hi, I was thinking about you today and wanted you to know. How are you doing?"

And last but not least, I am tired of myself complaining, so turn to the person next to you and say, "Hi, how are you doing?"