



LEADERSHIP AURORA CLASS OF 2016/2017

Education Day

2/9/17

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Happy Birthday Alexa!

by Alexa Pecorella

Haikus from an overly-emotional Alexa on her birthday sloth encounter

How are you so sweet?
Full happy tears running down
The greatest surprise

Your name: Chalupa
You eat grapes and so do I
Feeding you was grand

Beautiful sloth girl
You may have some sloth babies
And I will cry more



Eric's Top 5-NEW YEARS

Check out this cool dude's take on New Year Resolutions

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COME TO HAPPY HOUR!!!

Hey team! Our social is at Cheluna this session! And we have exciting things in store!

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Point in Time Homeless Count

By Terry Spencer

Well, it was a bit early in the morning, as I hid under my covers and my alarm went off at 2:55am—but then I slowly began to crawl out of my warm bed as I realized the importance of the volunteer duty I had signed up for.

The meeting point for Aurora's Point in Time Homeless count was the District One police department. As we pulled up (I had convinced my husband, Colin to come along) to the station I was surprised to see a rather large group of fellow volunteers huddled around the front door of the station.

We all began to shuffling into the police station to find Shelley McKittrick, Director of Homelessness for the city smiling enthusiastically at the amount of people who had volunteered for such an important night/morning of counting homeless people in the city. Fellow Leadership Aurora classmates Jamie, Alexa, Lamont, and Joke were also there.

After Shelley told us all of our routes we would be surveying, we jumped into cars and vans to begin our journey. Our guide for the trip was Max, from the Comitis Crisis Center. Max skillfully drove the van and knew the areas to look for homeless people. Max's knowledge of the area is a result of driving

throughout the city and letting homeless people know about the resources available to them. Donna, a homeless woman accompanied us and shared her story.



HOMELESS COUNT

Pictured above:

Lamont Browne, Jamie LaDuke, Alexa Pecorella, Terry Spencer and Joke Alao

David cant handle the truth!



Eric's Top 5

by Eric Franks

New year's resolutions -love them, hate them, do them, or don't them - they still are a part of most people's lives. So let's take a look at some of the more common New Year's resolutions and maybe identify their nemesis, or is it nemeses, or nemeses - I don't know but grammar ain't one of my New Year's resolutions...maybe it should be. Here are Five resolutions and their undoing "thoughts" (I looked up the most common, on a computer, on the world wide web...some call it the interweb I think) :

1. I am eating a lot less sugar this year! - "Hey, King Soopers still has Christmas/Holiday Candy and it is 70% off!"
2. I am going to exercise more! - "WOW, Netflix just released 10 new seasons...BINGE, BINGE, BINGE!"
3. I am going to drink less alcohol! - "Why and how are the Patriots in the Super Bowl again...and they won...and Brady's "super model" girlfriend is taking selfies...Ugghhhh give me another beer" (sorry Patriot's fans - GO BRONCOS)
4. I am going to spend more time meditating and be more calm! - "Oh wait -I have a job, and/or I have kids, and/or I have to drive in Denver traffic, and/or all this 70% off Christmas candy makes me jittery.
5. I am going to broaden my "Horizons" and improve myself! - "That was easy...I'm in Leadership Aurora 2016-17!"

What Great Teams Are Made Of

by David Grossman-Contribution from David Leski

Before launching their study, Google executives thought the best teams were those that combined the best and brightest people. However, their study of 180 teams from all over the company debunked that idea. After examining reams of data on individual employees, Google found nothing to indicate that the mix of personality types, skills or backgrounds of the team members made a difference.

Instead, Google determined that the most important indicators of an effective group were strong communication skills and overall engagement with each other.

In an [article](#) for the *New York Times Magazine* on Google's findings, Charles Duhigg described how important it was for a team to communicate better and get to know one another on a more personal level. The concept of "psychological safety" was highlighted -- where the team culture encourages individuals to be vulnerable and freely share their views, even when the ideas might be controversial or against the grain.

However, Duhigg underscored how difficult it can be to establish psychological safety. Employees can be encouraged to take turns during a conversation, listen to each other more, or be sensitive to how their colleagues feel, but many people will remain cautious and uneasy when it comes to revealing true emotion in a work setting.

"Google was trying to build the perfect team. Along the way, they

learned that teams where people shared their feelings and talked more about their personal lives – their lives outside work – built a stronger rapport and were more effective," Duhigg wrote. "The paradox, of course, is that Google's intense data collection and number crunching have led it to the same conclusions that good managers have always known. In the best teams, members listen to one another and show sensitivity to feelings and needs."

Still, no matter how messy open communication can be at times, clearly it will become even more important in the future for today's employees as an increasing number of organizations move to a team-focused approach. A study published recently in the *Harvard Business Review* found that the time spent by managers and employees in collaborative activities has ballooned by 50 percent or more over the last two decades.

The message is clear: paying attention to how teams interact is critical for effective leadership. That means more courageous approaches and conversations, the kind that take us all out of our comfort zones and closer to what truly matters – real communication and real results.

What has been your experience on teams? For the teams that worked well, what do you think were the keys to success?

THIS IS WHAT GREAT TEAMS ARE MADE OF



THESE KIDS ARE BRILLIANT!



DONATION STATION



CUTE PIC LADIES!

Aurora Race Forum Series presents play “Incognito” and talk by mail-bomb survivor during Black History Month

AURORA, Colo. – The city of Aurora Community Relations Division’s Race Forum Series is presenting two events to inspire dialogue and understanding during Black History Month: “Incognito,” an acclaimed one-man play starring Michael Fosberg; and “Targeted Delivery,” a discussion with mail-bombing survivor Don Logan.

Fosberg will perform “Incognito” at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the Larry D. Carter Theater in the Fine Arts Building at the Community College of Aurora’s CentreTech Campus, 15900 E. Centretech Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011.

“Incognito” is the story of Fosberg’s personal journey of nearly 20 years ago when he discovered he was part African-American. Over the course of 50 minutes, Fosberg portrays over a dozen characters as he recounts his search for his biological father. It is a story about race and deception of skin color, about the loss of childhood and about forgiveness.

The Chicago Sun-Times called “Incognito” a “fascinating journey of self-discovery...a profoundly American story...an engrossing one-man show.” Learn more about the play and about Fosberg at IncognitoThePlay.com.

There will be brief question-and-answer sessions at the conclusion of the performances. “Incognito” is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. An RSVP is required at AuroraGov.org/forums.

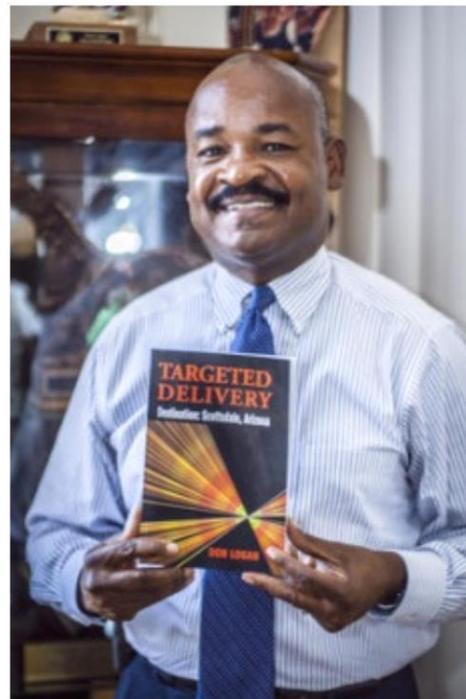
“Targeted Delivery” is the title of the book written by Don Logan, who will talk about his experience surviving a

mail bomb. His presentations will be at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23, at the City Council Chamber in the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, CO 80012.

Logan was the director of Scottsdale, Arizona’s Office of Diversity and Dialogue when he opened a package that exploded on Feb. 26, 2004. He was the subject of national news as the victim of a suspected hate crime. He has since recovered and is an advocate for diversity by encouraging the creation of an environment of respect and inclusiveness.

“Targeted Delivery” is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. An RSVP is required at AuroraGov.org/forums.

“Aurora’s Race Forum Series was created to bring our diverse communities together so we can understand our differing perspectives and work to promote our common goals,” said Dr. Barbara Shannon-Banister, manager of the city’s Community Relations Division. “Michael Fosberg and Don Logan will be great facilitators of this mission, and we are excited to bring them to Aurora.”



“Targeted Delivery” is the title of the book written by Don Logan, who will talk about his experience surviving a mail bomb.



Michael Fosberg ~ Author/Activist

Shout out to the Photography Committee!

Hello everyone, and thanks for keeping those camera's clicking at all our events. Here is a reminder of the google drive to load your photos.

Login: leadaurora2015@gmail.com

Password: Bestclass2016

Once you access the drive, look for the main folder for LA 2016-2017, click on that and you will be taken to a directory of folders for all our events. Please load your photos into the appropriate folder and please make sure to name your photo rather than just leaving it as 4589698.JPG---for example "Mayor Hogan at Mock City Council.JPG works great for identification.

Women in Business

Women in Business "Unsung Hero" Luncheon

Friday, February 10th, 11:30am, DoubleTree Hotel, 13696 E. Iliff

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Connie Johnson from Colorado Technical University

Join us as we celebrate extraordinary women, in our community, who have made a positive impact.

Please register on the Chamber's website.

Volunteer for the Aurora Public Schools National History Day Contest – March 18th

What is National History Day (NHD)?

NHD is a literacy and social studies program for middle and high school students. Students research topics and produce projects in one of five categories: website, paper, documentary, exhibit or performance.

Over 100 students make it to the APS regional contest held at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Finalists advance to the state contest.

The contest requires over 40 volunteer judges to rank student projects. All volunteers must be 18 or older. Half day or full day shifts are available (8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or noon – 4 p.m.). No experience is necessary and online training is provided.

For more information, contact Jessica Lira, jlira@auroragov.org or 303-739-6663.



The next Social Happy Hour will be held after Healthcare Day on February 16th at Cheluna Brewery at Stanley Marketplace!



What: Join us for Mexican Eats, Craft Brews, Games courtesy of Heather Wydock, and MORE to be announced!

Where: Cheluna Brewery located inside Stanley Marketplace
2501 Dallas Street, Aurora, CO 80010

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS KEY. Let's all make a commitment to visit with one another at Cheluna and foster the bonds that make Leadership Aurora great! Stay tuned for an email from [Alexa Pecorella](#) early next week with more fun plans for the night!