

AMCHAM NEWSLETTER 7TH MAY 2020

Dear Members and friends

I had this Desiderata poem as a poster on my bedroom wall at home while I was in High School, University and during the start of my Career. It gave me considerable comfort during difficult periods of my life and helped me to stay strong, focused, be the best I could be and find my success. It likewise helped me stay hard working, humble, caring and kind.

In the world we live in today, this message appears to me to be every bit as valid as when the poem was first published in 1927. I hope you enjoy it and find that it has value for you and the people you love. Feel free to share it with others.

For those who knew him, I dedicate this poem to Tun van Rijswijck, of BCE, who passed away last Thursday in Luxembourg at age 59. He lived these values every day, and will be greatly missed...

Continue to be strong, have a passion for life, be healthy and successful and continue to enjoy many adventures!

**With respect and my very best wishes,
Paul-Michael Schonenberg**

Desiderata

GO PLACIDLY amid the noise and the haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

By Max Ehrmann © 1927

- 1. Excellent article written by Jazmin Campbell for Chronicle.lu reproduced here with permission entitled "Where Luxembourg stands in comparison to other countries worldwide regarding COVID-19"**

<https://chronicle.lu/category/international/32575-covid-19-crisis-management-in-luxembourg-and-beyond>

- 2. SECURITYMADEIN.LU**

As more and more of us are working from home and doing home schooling online, we all naturally want to make sure we do so in the safest possible way and with the best protection against criminal activity or invasion of personal and family privacy. The attached two information guidelines coming from the experts at SecurityMadeIn.lu will help to ensure the safety of your business and your family. Thank you SECURITYMADEIN .LU

<https://securitymadein.lu/news/ecole-%C3%A0-distance-les-bonnes-pratiques-de-cybers%C3%A9curit%C3%A9-1/>

<https://securitymadein.lu/news/covid-19-safety-and-cybersecurity-can-go-hand-in-hand/>

- 3. Our friends at the European Commission have produced a very interesting article Misinformation & disinformation in times of the COVID-19 pandemic - Monday 27 April 2020. to access that website, users have to first register at the EU Health Policy Platform:**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf>. Then go here:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/item/item/26134>

4. Dr Christian Barkei of St. Georges School shares his thoughts on Remote Learning:



Remote learning – some thoughts

This is an unprecedented situation globally not just for companies and businesses, but also for schools and universities. Although there is some solid prior experience of offering remote learning (such as the radio schools in the Australian outback), the recent rapid response of schools internationally has been unprecedented.

In Luxembourg, teachers across different schools and age groups have deployed several online tools to deliver the curriculum to students. At St George's we have been using online platforms and a certain amount of remote teaching to communicate with students and families.

Parents and students can generally log in securely at home and in their own time. This is particularly helpful for homes where one or both parents are also trying to work remotely. Students can access their own workspace, and teachers can upload all sorts of work and media for them to view. Teachers upload work each morning and provide suggested activities for the students and parents to choose as well as additional extension work.

The teachers can annotate or comment on work and students are able to send video clips or comments in reply. Our platform is quite interactive and we make sure that content is standardised so that all students in the same year work on the same material. The regular teaching day is not copied as this might not match the needs of the household but where possible students are encouraged to do most of the activities they would do at school, just at home. Art, Foreign Languages, Physical Education and Music are providing additional online projects too.

With older students our academic faculties coordinate the curriculum and follow a general school timetable as usual. We upload documents, provide links to YouTube and other media and monitor the students as they work.

Most families will have found this new type of learning challenging with one or both parents working from home, whilst looking after small children as well as older students, all learning at home and competing for access to technology and the internet.

One important point to remember is that parents do not need to replace the subject knowledge of teachers in this context. The work that schools set should be of a level where a student can complete it independently; where parents can help is in guidance and encouragement so

that the work is completed. Remember that the technical elements of uploading and transmitting work back to teachers can also be a challenge!

Flexibility, patience and good humour is key here - and remember that adequate breaks and activities that are non-screen based are also essential. Sticking to a realistic and achievable daily schedule is also important for both student and parent.

For our older students, the cancellation of international school leaving examinations will also be a challenge and reassurance and encouragement from parents at this stage is equally important. Universities are already working on alternative learning programmes in case actual lectures in September may not be possible. Remember that this situation is affecting everyone – and everyone can play their own part in managing it correctly.

And it is equally important, as we plan the gradual return of classes to school in the coming weeks, to keep yourself informed on what your school is doing and the procedures they are putting in place to re-open.

It will be wonderful to see students back at school – it is not the same without them!

Dr Barkei



**5. Statement of United States Ambassador
Evans Regarding Commemoration
of the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day**

J. Randolph

United States Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg J. Randolph Evans announced today the Embassy’s plans for commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE-Day).

Ambassador Evans said: “VE Day is too important to simply let it come and go under the cover of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Indeed, it remains as important as ever. As a result, the Embassy of the United States will honor it with renewed appreciation of its significance.”

Recognizing 75 years ago that victory in Europe did not mean World War II was over, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said this in his national radio broadcast at 3:00 p.m. on VE Day: “We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead.”

Ambassador Evans echoed Churchill’s comments, saying: “We have all suffered much during the pandemic, but we can now begin to see signs of better days ahead of us. What better time

than this 75th Anniversary of VE Day to take a brief moment to reflect back on the costs we have endured while gazing hopefully forward toward a brighter future –just as so many others did some 75 years ago.”

Like many other events of historical or religious significance, the Embassy of the United States will **on Friday, May 8, 2020 at 1:00 PM post an event recorded at the Luxembourg American Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg on VE Day itself.**

Please note that no visitors will be allowed to attend the commemoration at the cemetery. However, we invite everyone to watch and participate in their own way at home or work through a video of the visit which will be posted on the [Embassy website](#), [YouTube](#), and [Flickr](#) platforms.

For more information please contact the Public Affairs section at the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg at +352 46 01 23 ext. 24 or at LuxembourgPublicAffairs@state.gov





6. Our Corporate friends at the DoubleTree for Hilton have released their famous cookie recipe so we just had to include it into our newsletter this week!!

Ingredients

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter at room temperature
3/4 cup + 1 Tablespoon granulated sugar
3/4 cup light brown sugar, packed
2 large eggs
1 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
1/4 tsp lemon juice
2 1/4 cups all purpose flour
1/2 cup rolled oats
1 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp salt
2 2/3 cups semi sweet chocolate chips
1 3/4 cups chopped walnuts

Instructions

Preheat oven to 300F Line a baking sheet (s) with parchment paper

Cream the soft butter, and both sugars in a stand mixer for 2 minutes until light and fluffy, Scrape down the sides of the bowl as necessary. You can use electric hand beaters if you like.

Beat in the eggs, vanilla, and lemon juice. Beat for 2 minutes, scraping down the bowl as needed.

Lower the speed and blend in the flour, oats, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Fold in the chocolate chips and walnuts, making sure to get them evenly distributed.

Use an ice cream scoop to scoop out the dough (3 tablespoon amounts) and place 2 inches apart on your lined cookie sheets. I flatten the balls slightly. Bake for 20-23 minutes until starting to turn golden. I found that 20 minutes worked for me.

Let the cookies cool on the baking sheets for 15 minutes, then transfer to a cooling rack.



7. AMCHAM offers to each of you and your families our best wishes for your health and happiness. Be strong. Stay connected with your families and friends by phone and email. Use this time wisely and

productively so you come out of this crisis stronger than when you started.

For all those who don't know AMCHAM yet, please find our website here: <https://www.amcham.lu> and particularly our mission statement here: <https://www.amcham.lu/about-us/mission-statement/> and how you can join AMCHAM here: <https://www.amcham.lu/membership/>

**If you need us, we are here and will do all we can do to help.
Feel free to pass on our newsletter to your colleagues and friends and if you would like to make a contribution to our next newsletter contact jane@amcham.lu**

**With respect and our very best regards,
Your AMCHAM team**