

The Grey Area

Eastern NC Edition – 919.637.6973

Distributed in Edgecombe, Franklin, Johnston,
Nash, Wake, Wilson & beyond

Local and National Unusual News

Online: www.greyareanews.com

Teen Group Seeks Mentors, Tutors, Presenters & Sponsors

Two Wendell clubs are seeking assistance from educators and counselors who are willing to help teens stay on a positive life course.

You or someone you know are welcome to participate as a mentor, tutor or presenter. Financial contributions or gift cards are welcome as incentives for two groups of local students.

Ladies Of Tomorrow (LOT) and Men Of Excellence (MOE) are school organizations which focus on positive educational, social and emotional development, as well as employment preparation.

Professional educators and community counselors mentor high school students aged 13-19 in order to prevent at-risk behaviors. Both clubs are involved with motivational speakers, educational field trips, recreational activities, discussion sessions, service learning, conflict resolution, and tutoring in math, writing and reading. Parents and guardians are invited to participate as field trip chaperones.

This event is Sponsored by the Alternative Learning Center at East Wake School of Integrated Technology, located at 5101 Rolesville Road in Wen-

dell. Structured meetings are held each Tuesday (Room 2210) for MOE and each Thursday (Room 2233) for LOT.

To find out more or offer your services, contact Deborah Israel at 919.855.1118 or disrael@wcpss.net.

Candle Lighting Memorial

To remember those loved ones lost during 2014 and before, a Candlelight Memorial gathering is being held on December 31, 2014, 4-7pm.

A new beginning is offered by the upcoming New Year. Moving forward with hopes and dreams, the group will pray and support each other. Join the group at the steps of the Wilson County Courthouse (115 Nash Street E, Wilson). Bring a white candle to represent a person lost, a red candle for friends and family that still here with us, and a balloon to release at the end of the evening — representing future hopes and dreams. Optionally, bring a sign or wear a t-shirt appropriate for the event.

Registration is not required, so just come and join the gathering. This event is hosted by I.B. and Crystal Sweetrichies Richardson.

Shades of Grey

*Some situations are viewed in black and white; right and wrong. Yet, many people think situations also have a **grey area** where solutions are not so easily discerned. This is about the choices people make, and the thought process they go through to arrive at decisions.*

Consider: Submitted for Discussion

One of your co-workers discovers their wallet missing after returning from lunch break. She begin blaming everyone — even calling a few people thieves.

She says that she is going to call police. About 15 minutes into her tirade, the boss walks in. He has her wallet, which he tells her he found in the parking lot.

Nothing is missing, but she does not apologize.

Do you think that you would want to work with her anymore? Would you think about saying something to her, or the boss, about her outburst and inappropriate allegations?

Breakfast & Economic Forecast Planned

Knightdale is hosting an Eye-Opener Breakfast, with speakers covering economic topics of interest relating to the new year.

This economic event is scheduled for January 6, 2015, at 7:20am. It includes breakfast at Knightdale Town Hall, located at 950 Steeple Square Ct in Knightdale.

The guest presenters are: Dr. Mike Walden, NCSU Economist; Jim Hartmann, Wake County Manager; and Knightdale's Mayor Russell Killen.

Registration is \$15 for Chamber members or \$20 for the general public. There is an Early Bird Discount of \$5 for all who are registered before December 19, 2014. Register now by calling the Knightdale Chamber at 919.266.4603.



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**Merry Christmas
and
Happy Holidays
to All!**



New Feature Coming in 2015: *Crossing the Line?*

Here at *The Grey Area* news, we strive to provide positive, good news rather than bad news. Even when writing the Good News/Bad News segment, we find bad news with a silver lining on it.

Next issue, which comes out January 2, 2015, we are introducing a new feature called *Crossing The Line?* This feature is like the *Shades Of Gray* and *The Strange-ness* in that we will provide facts or unknowns relating to an issue, leaving it for you to consider and draw your own conclusions.

The *Crossing The Line* feature will deal with controversial issues. Articles will focus more on how this world of ours is, and how we might make it

more like its creator may have intended — more of a nirvana and less an industrialized, institutionalized pattern.

Topics include issues ranging from medicine to food to social structure. The questions posed look at how you — or *we* — might make better choices. With eyes open, consider what is real and what is constructed. It poses larger pictures of how society might benefit from change, moving to a more human-oriented and less profit-oriented society.

Just because things have been a certain way for a long, long time, doesn't mean that is the only way it could be. Choices made over hundreds of years brought us here, and it is fair to say that mistakes were made along the way that cannot be undone; fortunately, the forward path can always be corrected.

The creator gave us this Earth and everything on it. All living things may find food, shelter, companionship, and healing plants.

Looking at specific issues, we hope you will consider how all its residents may use this planet and focus on living a quality life, rather than life revolving around borders, money, taxes, bills, and making-do.

The Strange-ness

Sri Yantra Mandala Carving in Oregon Desert

The Oregon desert is home to a mysterious design carved into the desert soil. A US Air National Guard pilot reported the design's discovery in 1990 in a dry lake bed in the Alvord Desert of Oregon, west of Idaho's Gowen Field Air National Guard Base.

The intricate design, a sri yantra mandala (a visual representation of a verbal mantra), is aligned precisely North-South, with perfectly sculpted lines 10 inches wide and 3-4 inches deep. The total lines carved add up to over 13 miles. Images online show intricate triangles meeting at precise angles, an ornate flowering circle, and a surrounding square.

While credit for creation of the lines was claimed by a group of artists, they could not duplicate their efforts when challenged. Skeptics questioned their ability to have created such an intricate and measured design with minimal tools, and without being noticed by the pilots flying over during its creation.

Scientists have posed different theories of the design's creation, ranging from magnetic or sound waves causing the design to UFOs.

The questions remain, however. How was it created so quickly? Could it have been there all along, and uncovered by a weather event? What are the minimum tools and manpower needed to make such a design in the hardened earth of the lake bed?

While many online articles may be found, a lengthy one at www.labyrinthina.com/sriyantra.htm includes video and photographs.

The Trinity Baptist Church Worship Ministry

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Friday, December 19, 2014 7:00pm

Dessert immediately following in the Family Life Center

Sunday, December 21, 2014 10:30 am

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Things to Do in NC When You're Bored

12/19 Popcorn & Movie (Dec 19 @ 2pm)

Movie is *Miracle on 34th Street*. Pre-register. At Nash Cty Senior Ctr, Rm 112, 103 N Alston St., Nashville.

12/19 19th Festival of Trees -23 (thru Dec 23 @ 8:30-4:30)

Over 100 trees transformed into a different theme or meaning for Christmas. Proceeds benefit Family Support Network. See www.fsnenc.org. At Greenville Convention Center, 303 SW Greenville Blvd, Greenville.

12/20 Christmas Sidewalk Sale (Dec 20 @ 9 am-5pm)

Sidewalk sale with items to appeal to many tastes. At Zynique Creations & Art, 123 Barnes Street W, Historic Downtown Wilson.

12/21 World Spirit Day Meditation (Dec 21 @ 6-7pm)

Worldwide Global Synchronized Meditation that, for Eastern NC, takes place at the exact point of Solstice: 6:03pm EST. Sign up at www.unify.org for updates about what we hope will be the largest synchronized meditation so far. No experience in meditation is required. Bring a cushion. At Saint Anne's Chapel and Event Center, McNair Rd, Tarboro.

12/22 Kids Story Time (Dec 22 @ 10:30am-11am)

Story time fun at The Nashville Library, 114 W Church St., Nashville.

12/22 Movie "Second Chances" (Dec 22 @ 10am)

Film *A Grandpa for Christmas*. Senior movie time at Mt Pleasant comm. center, Bailey.

12/23 Gamers & Dart League 12/30 Night (Tuesdays @ 6-9pm)

Come out & get your game on! Board gamers kick off at 6pm. Darts kick off at 7pm. At Common Grounds Coffee & Music House, 20 Cheves Rd, Bunn.

2015: First Friday Coffee (Jan 2 01/02 @ 7:30am-8:30am)

Monthly on the first Friday. At Nashville Exchange, West Washington Street, Nashville.

2015: Find It: Classic Ebooks 01/06 (January 6 @ 4-5pm)

Let us help you find classic books to read on your computer or tablet! From Animal Farm to Dr. Zhivago, we have you covered! Drop in any time during the hour to learn about great resources for finding eBook classics! Please note that this is not a technical class on how to download eBooks to your eReader. No registration needed. At East Regional Library, 946 Steeple Square Court, Knightdale.

2015: Brainstormer Trivia 01/08 (Jan 8 @ 7:30-10pm)

Thursdays at the Underground Pub! Not too hard, not too easy - just right! Team registration begins at 7:30pm & game kicks off at 8pm. Ad hoc teams are often formed for the evening to compete against local powerhouses. At 101 E Church Street, Tarboro

2015: Free Movie & Popcorn 01/09 (Jan 9 @ 7pm)

Second Friday of each month. For all ages. Parent or guardian must be present for all children. Call 919.823.0432 for movie title. At the Zebulon Community Center, 301 South Arendell Avenue, Zebulon.

2015: Movie Classic Remake 01/08 (January 8 @ 1-5:30pm)

Film Double Feature: *Ocean's 11* from 1960 & 2001. This is a program geared toward adults, rather than children. In the Warner Meeting Room, Braswell Memorial Library 727 N Grace St, Rocky Mount.

2015: A Book to Film Presentation 01/10 (Jan 10 @ 3-5:30pm)

Hollywood knows a good story when they read it. Do you? Join this special movie event! Popcorn and refreshments provided. *Divergent*. At Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N Grace St, Rocky Mount.

2015: "Cash" the Lifeline of Your 01/13 Business (Jan 13 @ 6-9pm)

Free event. Many small businesses focus on the profit & loss, & not enough attention is given to the day-to-day cash flow. This seminar teaches why the cash flow is so important. Register at 252.738.3240. Held in Room F401, at Vance-Granville Community College Small Business Center's Franklin Campus, 8100 NC-56 Highway, Louisburg.

2015: Teen Advisory Board 01/14 (January 14 @ 5:30-7pm)

The TAB meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Wiley Room. For info, contact Scott Houston 252.442.1951 x. 257. Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N Grace St, Rocky Mount.

2015: Making the Customer Experience 01/15 rience Magical in Your Small Business (Jan 15 @ 6-8pm)

Free. A *must* program for those serious about having a successful business. Register by Jan 14 (required). In Room G-240, Wilson Community College, 902 Herring Avenue, Wilson.

2015: Braswell Teen Readers 01/17 (Jan 7 @ 4:30-5:30pm)

Dystopia & Armageddon. For info, contact Scott Houston at 252.442.1951 x.257. In the Wiley Conf. Room, Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N Grace St, Rocky Mount.



Katie Watson
Manager



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2015: How to Use Social Media 01/20 & Online Resources to Super Charge your Business (Jan 20 @ 6-9pm)

Free workshop. Register: 252.451.8233. At Nash Community College Small Business Center, 522 N Old Carriage Rd, Rocky Mount.

2015: Overwintering Plants in Pots 01/20 (Jan 20 @ 8:30-9:30pm)

Speaker is Dan Carpen, Berry Farms. This extension service workshop is free to the public. At Wilson Co. Agricultural Center, 1806 SW Goldsboro St. Wilson.

2015: Raleigh Small Business 01/22 Expo for Women & Minorities. (Jan 22 @ 4-7pm)

Special expo. Held at City of Southeast Raleigh High School, 2600 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh.

2015: Teen And Family Game 01/22 Night (Jan 22 @ 5-7:30pm)

Put aside your troubles, and go to the library for a night of games with friends & families. Upstairs, in the Braswell Library Young Adult Area and in the computer lab. Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N Grace St, Rocky Mount.

2015: Small Business Labor & 01/22 Wage Issues

(January 22 @ 6-8pm)

Do you know the difference between hourly, salary, exempt, or non-exempt employees? Are you familiar with the minimum wage for this state and what postings are required? If you are thinking of starting a business or already own a small business, this seminar is for you. In Room G-240. Last Day to Register: January 21. At Wilson Community College Small Business Center, 902 Herring Avenue, Wilson.

2015: See Spot Read

01/24 (Jan 24 @ 11am-12pm)

Practice reading to a therapy dog! At Zebulon Library, 1000 Dogwood Dr, Zebulon.

These "Things To Do..." listings are free, at publisher's discretion, and as space allows. Up to 5 lines of description may be included with an event. Priority is given to free, public events. Sponsor names may not be included. Event organizers may purchase regular advertising space to provide more details for events.

Try Your Hand at Christmas Pine Needle Painting

Make a wall hanging or gift at a unique painting workshop, scheduled for December 20, 2014, at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park.

The free event starts at 3pm in Cliffs of the Neuse, located at 240 Park Entrance Road, in Seven Springs NC.

At 70 years of age, B.W. Wells, a North Carolina Ecologist, took a painting class, where he created a new method of painting — pine needle painting.

The public is invited to join the free workshop that shows how to make pine needle paint brushes and experience this natural way of painting.

Registration is required, so call 919.778.6234 to reserve a space. Students will meet at the Visitor Center before the 3pm class starts.

Ed. Note: Cliffs of The Neuse park rangers are also holding the annual "First Day Hike" on January 1, 2015, with optional 5K run. Pre-register by December 31, 2014, by emailing candace.rose@ncparks.gov or calling 919.778.6234. The hike cost is a \$5 donation to the Friends of the Cliffs, or canned goods — which will then be taken to the local soup kitchen.

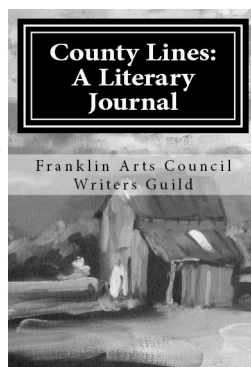
Local Artists and Writers Showcased in Franklin County Publication

The second *County Lines: A Literary Journal* is in print and available for giving as holiday gifts.

A first-look was given during the December 11, 2014, Writers Guild event in Louisburg.

For those wishing to purchase copies, they are available at the FCAC Gallery, 22 S Main Street, in downtown Franklinton.

Journals may also be ordered online from Amazon.com for delivery to home, or shipping directly to a gift recipient.



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The Queen of Neo-Soul Returns

Contributed by Suzanne Golden, Golden Relations

Spend Valentine's Day with Grammy® award-winning musician and socially-active artist Erykah Badu as she returns to DPAC, Durham Performing Arts Center, on February 14, 2015 with special guest and Grammy® nominee Mali Music. Badu's last performance at DPAC in March 2011 was a sell-out. This performance is being presented by the DOME Group, Inc.

Tickets are for sale at DPACnc.com, Ticketmaster.com, and at DPAC Ticket Center in Durham.

Friends of DPAC members may place their orders on December 10. Joining Friends of DPAC is free, and you can register at <http://www.dpacnc.com/fod>.

"We're really excited to have Erykah Badu return to the DPAC stage. Her artistry never ceases to impress, and she always gives the Triangle an amazing performance. Featuring her with Grammy®-nominated Mali Music will guarantee concert-goers the unique experience they've come to expect from our shows," said Sulaiman Mausi, President and CEO of the DOME Group, Inc.

The New York Times described Badu's groundbreaking debut, 1997's *Baduizm*, as "traditional soul vocals, staccato hip-hop rhythms and laid-back jazzy grooves." Propelled by the lead single "On & On," the album went multi-platinum, winning her two Grammys® for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance and Best R&B Album. Badu topped Rolling Stone's Reader's poll for Best R&B Artist, and Entertainment Weekly named her Best New Female Singer of 1997.

Badu's other critically acclaimed works followed including: 1997's *Erykah Badu Live*, 2000's *Mama's Gun*, 2003's *Worldwide Underground*, 2008's *New Amerykah Part One: 4th World War* and 2010's *New Amerykah Part Two: Return Of The Ankh*.

In addition to reinforcing her reputation as a dynamic live performer, Badu's big screen debut as Rose Rose in the 1999 film *The Cider House Rules* added another credit to her list of artistic talents. And in 2000, she opened her trophy cabinet once again to welcome a Grammy® award for Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group for her appearance on "You Got Me" by The Roots, followed in 2003 with another Grammy® Award for Best R&B Song "Love Of My Life (An Ode To Hip Hop)."

In 2003, she founded her non-profit group, B.L.I.N.D. (Beautiful Love Incorporated Non-Profit Development), which is geared toward creating social change through economic, artistic, and cultural development. Among B.L.I.N.D.'s many accomplishments, the organization has provided arts, crafts, and dance classes to children displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Erykah currently studies and apprentices to masters Queen Afua, holistic health guru and spiritual teacher; Dr. Jewel Pookrum, neurosurgeon, physicist and midwife; and Dr. Laila Africa, scientist, health practitioner and theorist. In 2006 Erykah was certified as a Holistic Health practitioner thru Dr. Laila Africa and she is also a 3rd Degree Reiki Master-Teacher. Badu hasn't stopped yet; she continues to study sound and vibration healing, and she presently assists and apprentices as a direct-entry midwife.



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NASA Voyager: 'Tsunami Wave' Still Flies Through Interstellar Space

Released by Elizabeth Landau, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

The “tsunami wave” that NASA’s Voyager 1 spacecraft began experiencing earlier this year is still propagating outward, according to new results. It is the longest-lasting shock wave that researchers have seen in interstellar space.

“Most people would have thought the interstellar medium would have been smooth and quiet. But these shock waves seem to be more common than we thought,” said Don Gurnett, professor of physics at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Gurnett presented the new data Monday, Dec. 15 at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco.

A “tsunami wave” occurs when the sun emits a coronal mass ejection, throwing out a magnetic cloud of plasma from its surface. This generates a wave of pressure. When the wave runs into the interstellar plasma — the charged particles found in the space between the stars — a shock wave results that perturbs the plasma.

“The tsunami causes the ionized gas that is out there to resonate -- “sing” or vibrate like a bell,” said Ed Stone, project scientist for the Voyager mission based at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

This is the third shock wave that Voyager 1 has experienced. The first event was in October to November of 2012, and the second wave in April to May of 2013 revealed an even higher plasma density. Voyager 1 detected the most recent event in February, and it is still going on as of November data. The spacecraft has moved outward 250 million miles (400 million kilometers) during the third event.

“This remarkable event raises questions that will stimulate new studies of the nature of shocks in the interstellar medium,” said Leonard Burlaga, astrophysicist emeritus at NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, who analyzed the magnetic field data that were key to these results.

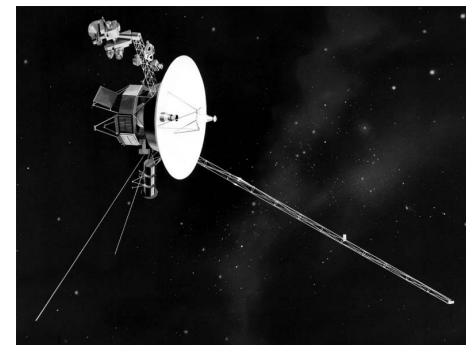
It is unclear to researchers what the unusual longevity of this particular

wave may mean. They are also uncertain as to how fast the wave is moving or how broad a region it covers.

The second tsunami wave helped researchers determine in 2013 that Voyager 1 had left the heliosphere, the bubble created by the solar wind encompassing the sun and the planets in our solar system. Denser plasma “rings” at a higher frequency, and the medium that Voyager flew through, was 40 times denser than what had been previously measured. This was key to the conclusion that Voyager had entered a frontier where no spacecraft had gone before: interstellar space.

“The density of the plasma is higher the farther Voyager goes,” Stone said. “Is that because the interstellar medium is denser as Voyager moves away from the heliosphere, or is it from the shock wave itself? We don’t know yet.”

Gurnett, principal investigator of the plasma wave instrument on Voyager, expects that such shock waves propagate far out into space, perhaps even to twice



the distance between the sun and where the spacecraft is right now.

Voyager 1 and its twin, Voyager 2, were launched 16 days apart in 1977. Both spacecraft flew by Jupiter and Saturn. Voyager 2 also flew by Uranus and Neptune. Voyager 2, launched before Voyager 1, is the longest continuously operated spacecraft and is expected to enter interstellar space in a few years.

JPL, a division of Caltech, built the twin Voyager spacecraft and operates them for the Heliophysics Division within NASA’s Science Mission Directorate in Washington.

For more information on the Voyager mission, visit: voyager.jpl.nasa.gov.

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Dr. Nicholas' Corner: The Joy of Hobbies, Part V



*Contributed by By Nicholas
Padiaditakis, MD, DLFAPA*

In preparing today's write up, I remembered a line from an old poem that goes like this: "Man and boughs break, bless life when walk and awake, it is only lent." Remember these lines are relevant for all of us.

And now as I promised, let's talk about wind surfing, scuba diving, and hang gliding.

First, wind surfing. You have a contraption which allows you to glide — often at great speed — on the surface of the sea using the wind just like a sailboat, except in this case, you yourself are part of the boat!

You need four things. First, a surfboard with a slit in the middle where you insert the center board acting like a keel in order to create resistance, so the wind will not push you sideways but propel you straight ahead.

Second, you need a mast plus the boom connected to the center of the surfboard with a round peg at one end and to which you hoist a sail. The boom is a round four-foot-long wooden drum, of which one end is attached to the middle of the mast while the other half you hold, standing up on the board to control the sail. The wind from the side does the rest.

The third thing you need is persistence for a little while to master the skill.

The fourth and final thing is throw away your vanity and pride for a while, because during your initial efforts, you will fall in the water time and again. But, once you master it, it is magic! It is a joy as if you are playing heavenly music with a violin! Walking the waves as it were. I have done it all over the world. I stopped it 10 years ago when I was 76. I am getting a

little older now as my children tell me. All three are avid users of the sport. So next time at the seashore, rent one and try it. Who knows, it may stick. You can use the nearby lakes or, better yet, the Pamlico Sound where the water is smooth.

And now on to scuba diving. It is an ingenious devise by which you can swim safely down to 60 feet under water for up to 60 minutes at a time. That is where the action is, with lovely corals and the multicolored life. Deeper than 60 feet is dangerous and useless, since the sunlight energy no longer reaches so far below. Then the sea floor becomes a desert and it becomes very difficult to see.

To scuba dive, you need a steel, cylindrical bottle filled with compressed air on your back, from which through a long-but-thin tube you inhale and exhale air. You breath through a device held between your teeth from which a tube containing a valve senses the amount of air you need each time you dive. That is all! You are weightless under water and, with your fins on your feet, you can propel yourself here and there visiting the multicolored fish, the waving corals, the octopuses, and the sea horses — all a miracle for you to marvel. I often felt like praying, saying hello to all the sea creatures, literally in another world, feeling grateful that our human ingenuity enabled me to do so. The best place to learn it is the YMCA, and the best place to do it is in Key Largo, Florida.

Next issue write-up: *hang gliding*.

So once more, "Don't just stand there staring at the tube. There is magic all around you. Move and do things, so you can be involved and in touch and excited and happy being alive."



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Little Bits

Chuckle of the Issue

Farmers Fred and Luke were fishing on the side of the road. They made a sign saying “The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it’s too late!” and showed it to each passing car.

One driver that passed didn’t appreciate the sign and shouted, “Leave us alone you nuts!”

All of a sudden they heard a big splash.

Fred grinned at Luke. “Do you think we should just put up a sign that says: ‘Bridge Out’ instead?”

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SOLSTICE

Quote of the Issue

Chuck Norris

“A lot of times people look at the negative side of what they feel they can’t do. I always look on the positive side of what I can do.”

Word of the Issue

Renewal

Definition: Something being made new, fresh, or strong again.

Example: She posted photos of butterflies to symbolize her feeling of rebirth and *renewal*.

Translation of the Issue

English — “apple”

German — apfel

Spanish — manzana

Korean — 사과 (sagwa)

Italian — mela

Irish — úll

Dutch — appel

Translations for these and many languages may be found online and print resources.

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Cryptogram of the Issue

Replace the letters in this Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote or message within the puzzle.

Hint: M = E.

W M X R Q C A M H

J M V C S

C M S R W Q X Y R A

O M X P Y S : H M

H Y W W O M X P M C M

B R C R A M V A R X P M C

V S B M W W R H

G M G O M C S R B

P Q G V A Y X J ' Y A

X P M B Y A M S X

S M A S M R B X P M

H R C K .

-- I R C V A F M C S S R A

Answer to the previous issue’s cryptogram:

Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present. --Bil Keane

Cryptogram Note:

For a second Cryptogram hint, email trivia@greyareanews.com.

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