

LIA Briefs ♦ ♦ ♦

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The following article came across my desk recently and I felt it would be something good to share with each of you as we start 2011.

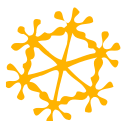
There's really nothing inherently special about the New Year. Sure, the calendar turns over to the next year, but it's really only the next day which turns into the next week which eventually turns into another month and so on. We've placed some sort of magical line of demarcation that rolls around on December 31st at 12:00 a.m. It seems that on the other side of that line there's a road that's clear of everything that's on the backside of that line. It's seen as a fresh start, a new beginning, an opportunity free of whatever was grinding against us previously.

The fact that we have a holiday that embraces a new start mentality suggests our deep need to believe in new beginnings. We need to know that we can start over, or start again, or start differently. We need to believe that we get more than one shot at things; that life is not always scripted as a "do or die" scenario. Life must provide us a mulligan or two along the way; giving us permission to regroup, recalculate, reorient and reengage. We have a need for all of that.

What we often don't realize is that life is really a fresh start waiting to happen whenever we're ready for it. We're not dictated by the calendar, nor does the calendar sweep the obstructions from our lives when the second hand reaches midnight in the wee and fleeting hours of December. We can choose to move toward something new at any time. We can try over. We can take another shot at it. We can pick up the pieces and give it another go. We can.

NOTE: The author of this article is Craig Lounsborough for more information, here is the contact information.

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Twin Falls Session this week: The third session for LIA Class 31 will start this week in Twin Falls. Special thanks to the following who are sponsoring breaks and meals: Twin Falls Canal Company, **Pattie Jo Courtney, Class 29**, Idaho Sugarbeet Growers Association (Tuesday evening meal); Pioneer Hi-Bred International, and **Clark (Class 13)** and Debbie **Kauffman** Farms.

ALUMNI NEWS:



Jim Lanting, Class 17, has been selected as a board member for the Twin Falls County Fair.



Robin Wylie Lindquist, Class 21, has been elected to sit on the Canyon County FSA Committee to represent LAA District #3.



Jason Bohrer, Class 23, has been named Legislative Director in Washington, DC for Congressman Raul Labrador



Gayle Batt, Class 18, will be sitting in for State Representative **Pat Takasugi, Class 4**, while Pat deals with some health issues. The Legislature starts on January 10.



Congratulations to **Josh Huff, Class 31**, and his wife Mercedes on the birth of a daughter, Suzannah, born December 21, 2010, weighing in at 8 lb and 8 oz.