

# Chronicles of Diversity

*Your leadership weekly*



*Color your wilderness*

## The Order of Wilderness Stuff Trekking International, Season's Stuffing

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### *Recipe 1*

Take a loaf of old stale bread. Cut it into cubes about one half inch in size. Let dry naturally on a baking sheet, or hurry the process along in the oven. Chop onions, celery, mushrooms, and other vegetables of your choice. Saute briefly in a skillet with sliced bacon, ham, sausage, and gobs of garlic. (Ya Baby!) Mix veggies with bread and season to taste with salt, pepper and other seasonings, be sure to use lots of sage, like twice as much as you would expect. Moisten ingredients with water, broth, or other liquid. Stuff turkey, or bake in baking dish and enjoy with lots and lots of gravy. Life is good.

### *Recipe 2*

Buy Newspaper for Thanksgiving Day. Discard all the news sections or use to start a fire in the fireplace. Ponder through the two inches of ad circulars from all the stores, making sure to highlight the early shopping bargains. Get up early on Friday morning and make a trip to the mall with thousands of others. Buy a bunch of stuff that really no one needs, to keep the economy growing. Return home exhausted with large vehicle full of stuff. Eat turkey leftovers with Recipe 1 stuffing, smothered in lots of gravy. Is this the good life?

Of all the things I have done in my life, as best I can recall, I have never participated in Recipe 2. But because of all that has happened to me over the last year, I was at least contemplating a rehearsal of this real recipe for Season's Stuffing.

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Jerry Bannon

**Wonder Springs**

7950 Seward Park Avenue South

Seattle, Washington USA 98118

phone: 206.723.7433

eFax: 425.675.8022

email: [bannon@createleaders.org](mailto:bannon@createleaders.org) or [chronicles@createleaders.org](mailto:chronicles@createleaders.org)

Please forward prayer requests to: [prayer@createleaders.org](mailto:prayer@createleaders.org)

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As I drove to some friends house for Thanksgiving, I made a mental note to buy a paper on my way home, so I could check out all the deals. Arriving at their home, seeing they already had a paper, I made a quick search of their stack of flyers, and decided that I really didn't need to spend two bits for my own paper. As I brought up my All American stuffing idea to my friends, they wished me good luck, saying that this was not something they would choose to participate in. As the day wore on, I began to decide, that this mall trip really wasn't going to be worth the effort. Even if I was going, not to buy stuff, but to do stuff research.

All that changed when I went out to start my car to go home. The battery was dead. I needed a jump. Now the car had been acting a little strange for a few days before Thanksgiving, but I had no idea that anything was going to happen to the battery. Since it was a Delco battery in a GM car, and the car was five years old, I had strong suspicions that it was time for a new purchase. On the trip home the car ran fine, no indication that it was anything but the battery. When I got home, the car started. When I got up the next morning it was dead once more.

Costco was rather deserted at 9 AM that Friday morning, but then they really don't have unique stuffing specials on this unique day, and I needed to get gas for my truck anyway. A quick dash into the store and with one battery, I was ready to head home. As I ventured down the street I thought to myself, "Just one of those coincidences, I suppose I should stop at least one place, just to do a little stuffing research."

As I passed Circuit City there was a line of cars over a block long waiting to get in the parking lot. My curiosity aroused, I drove a block down the street and pulled into a more reasonably filled lot at Lowe's. I browsed through the isles of the home improvement center, looking at their half priced bargains. I finally settled on a shop vacuum for only twenty bucks. Bargains are bargains and you can never be too clean. This is to be a once in a lifetime remembrance.

Once the vacuum was securely stowed in the back of the truck, I hoofed it up the street a block or so to Circuit City. Now this is what Friday after Thanksgiving shopping is supposed to be about. By now the block long line to get into the parking lot had dwindled to only about a half a dozen vehicles. But in the lot itself there were still the mad dashes to the empty spot, and the block all the traffic until I get my spot by the door amusements.

Inside, as best as I could see, I was the only person without my hands full of stuff. "What are these people buying?" I thought to myself. Searching through the store the only things that seemed to be a deal to me were the CDs. All CDs from eleven to fifteen bucks were on sale for only ten dollars. But looking at the check out line, it stretched from the front to the back of the store. Such a deal.

Having my appetite whetted to see how real America shops, I left Circuit City for the two block safari to SouthCenter Mall. Walking to the monolithic shoppers heaven, I noticed that there was a pedestrian sidewalk on only one side of the entry street. Don't plan on hiking in, the place is made for the idols of American industry, the automobile, the SUV, the mini-van, foreign or domestic.

My plan was to walk from the Penny's end to the Sears end and back, checking out the people and any irresistible items I might encounter. I quickly learned that walking, like driving, on the right side of the kiosks was the only way to fly. Actually flying would have been an improvement. "So this is retailers paradise. What are all these people doing?"

I made it to Sears just after their half price specials ended. Such is life, now there is just the super sale items to whet the consumers fancy. But no one seemed to care that the great deals had expired. I'll have to admit that Sears was the only anchor store into which I ventured, actually it was the only store into which I embarked, but I did look into some of the widows, the ones which I could get close enough to see in. Many, many people just strolling with the flow of humanity, let's hear a chorus of "Shop to you drop."

Hallelujah, on my stuff trekking against the flow, in one of the kiosks on the way back to my car I did get the opportunity to see the most totally frivolous item I have ever seen in my life. This item was a secondary cover for a cell phone that was imbedded with different color light emitting diodes, that seemed to flash in random order. I'm sorry to say, I didn't check it out further to see for just which brands of phones these covers were available, or to see if they were self powered or whether they ran off the cell phone battery. Alas some time another trip to check out this engineering marvel.

### ***Recipe 3***

Take captive thoughts that price or quantity of Season's Stuffing is in some way related to the depth or breadth of love. Dispose of these thoughts with the weekly garbage. Continually search and sweep house and home for these deadly Season's Stuffing societal diseases. Substitute time and money spent acquiring typical Season's Stuffing with service for others, family and friends. Make sure this time is totally embalmed not with what Jesus would do, but the unsearchable love of What Jesus Did. Endeavor to receive His gift of love and pray that His love for you will become the passion that drives your life. Not just in the Season's Stuffing season, but every day of your life. God is good and life in Him is outstanding!

***May it be so.***