

January 1 2024



"As we say goodbye to the old year and welcome the new, may your heart be filled with gratitude and anticipation. With every new year comes greater challenges and obstacles in life. I wish you courage, hope, and faith to overcome all of the hurdles you may face. May you have a great year and a wonderful time ahead."

**Mark your Calendars** For details check our website at [www.slrlondon.com](http://www.slrlondon.com)



**Our Winter Program will begin the week of January 22nd, 2024.** We are certain you will have found a course or two to register for. If you have not registered you still can.



**Winter Open House (Grosvenor Lodge)  
Tuesday, January 9, 10:00 – 12:00 noon**

This is one more chance to talk with course leaders and register in person. Short information sessions will be presented for prospective and current members who would like an overview of SLR. Bring

your friends! All are welcome.



**Presentation Workshop (Online)**

**Friday, January 12, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

Designed for all study group participants (current or potential) who want to learn how best to make a good-to-great presentation. This workshop will take the worry out of the task and help you to enjoy the process. You

will receive advice on researching, preparing and presenting your topic. All are welcome – whether this is your first time to present or you want tips on how to improve your skills.



## Course Leaders' Workshop (Online) Friday, January 12, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

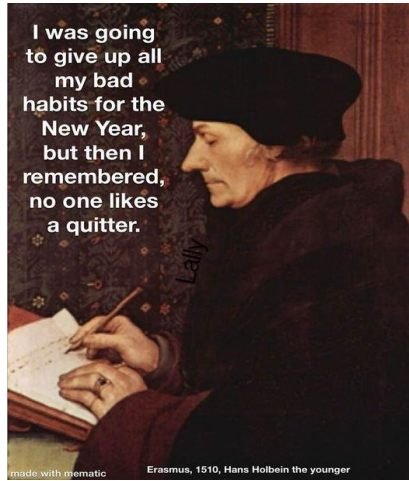
For all course leaders who could benefit from an overview of the very important role you are about to play to ensure that your course is successful and your participants are fully and happily engaged.



SLR Coffee Socials – Winter and Spring 2024  
 Fridays at 1:30 pm; Saturdays at 10:30 am starting on Friday January 5th.

Come join us and enjoy the laughter, opinions and facts shared by your peers in SLR. Each chat will have a host to help keep us moving along and help with any practical issues. As a member not living in London the Chats provide a great opportunity to keep in touch with new and old members on a regular basis.

## Laughter is the Best Medicine



Why should you stand on one leg on New Year's Eve? To start the new year on the right foot.



**Q:** What is a New Year's resolution?

**A:** Something that goes in one year and out the other.

RD

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in

A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves

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## ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS RIDDLES

1. How many times does the letter 'f' appear in the following statement?  
Fanny Filinger was of the impressions that eighty-six years of history show that scientific research is of the utmost importance in every case of future generations. **8**
2. What is the third hand on a clock called? **The second hand**
3. What do you call ten Arctic hares hopping backwards through the snow together?  
**A receding hare line.**

## NEW RIDDLES

- 1 How do you spell COW in thirteen letters?
- 2 Where is the only place where today comes before yesterday?
- 3 I have four wings, but cannot fly, I never laugh and never cry; On the same spot I'm always found, toiling away with little sound. What am I?



*Best Wishes to our members who will celebrate their Birthday in January*

*"January born Birthday means you are amazing and incredible enough to be synonymous with a happy new year"*

## FROM OUR MEMBERS



The Friends of the Hyland film group recently collected the sum of \$300 from members, enabling us to purchase two seat plaques, as shown. Some of you may recall that a number of years ago, SLR purchased a similar plaque with donations from the general membership. If you attend the Hyland Cinema regularly, keep your eyes peeled and you may spot one of our plaques. If you missed donating, it is possible to make an individual donation either in person at the Hyland or through their website. This great family-run business is struggling to survive, and needs our support. It would be a great loss if it closed down.



Subject: The CHANGE Generation. Thanks to *Ann Vandenbosch*

They call us "The Elderly"  
We were born in the 40-50-60's.  
We grew up in the 50-60-70's.  
We studied in the 60-70-80's.  
We were dating in the 70-80-90's.  
We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90's.  
We venture into the 80-90's.  
We stabilize in the 2000's.  
We got wiser in the 2010's.  
And we are going firmly through and beyond the 2020's.

Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades...  
TWO different centuries...  
TWO different millennia...

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.  
We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and Whats App.  
From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, colour TV and then to 3D HD TV.  
We went to the Video store and now we watch Netflix.  
We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones.

We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits & blue jeans.  
We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and now COVID-19.  
We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric.

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!  
They could describe us as "exennials," people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.  
We've kind of "Seen-It-All"!  
Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.  
It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE."  
A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be UNIQUE! –Author unknown

## NEW YEARS TRADITIONS

Over the past years, I have celebrated many New Year's Eve traditions. Some from my parent's culture and some I experienced with friends from other cultures. As I sit here tonight on New Year's Eve (Only 2 hours left in 2023) I wonder how you may be celebrating. Have a look at this list of only some of the New Year's Eve traditions. I hope you are having a wonderful time even if it's sitting curled up with a good book.

- Hosting a Party: probably the most popular tradition for New Year's Eve.
- Getting together with friends to watch fireworks is a fun tradition for all!
- Listening to "Auld Lang Syne" Bidding farewell to the passing year.
- Making a Toast to all the good times from the previous year?
- Banging Pots and Pans together to commemorate the final strike of midnight.
- Using Noise Makers. A more modern option, party horns can be quite festive.
- Throwing a coin in the air at midnight is said to increase wealth.
- Champagne has been widely accepted as the drink to have on New Year's Eve.
- Countdown to Midnight. Increase the anticipation as your whole crowd joins together in counting down the seconds to midnight!
- Kiss at Midnight. Starting off the new year with a smooch is a good way to ensure that you have romance throughout the year and symbolizes a strengthening of ties with your special someone.
- Lighting sparklers is thought to dispel evil spirits and bring luck into your life.
- Throwing water out a window on New Year's Eve symbolizes renewal and thought to ward off evil.
- Making Resolutions as to how you'd like to change your life for the upcoming year.
- Smash a Plate It doesn't have to be a plate, it could be any old or already broken dish. In Denmark, it is a tradition to throw a dish at a loved one's front door.
- Leaping off of a chair and into the new year brings good luck and banishes bad spirits, or so say the people of Denmark.
- Open Doors and Windows to air out the old year and welcome the new into your home.

*Best Wishes for a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year*

*Margaret*