

# Planet Pandemonia

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## Gilda's Guide to 2021

"I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it without knowing what's going to happen next." – *Gilda Radner* (1946-1989)



"Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas and progress."  
~ Charles Kettering

"All along the untrodden paths of the future, I can see the footprints of an unseen hand." ~ Irish politician  
**Sir Boyle Roche**



## Happy New Drear

**S**OMETIMES I WONDER JUST WHY I HAVE to stay here on earth. What good am I? Certainly, no good to society – worthless to my friends and family – and fit company only for myself... Is there a way out? Is there a way which will enable me to forget, to fly away and to leave all this worthless furor, this world of sweaty, money-loving skunks, this world of fat, putrid, God fearing, machine-controlled robots?

– From the diary of **Doodles Weaver**, 1934

*"When you retire, how do you feel about the void that is no longer there?"*

~ **Larry Richardson**  
BBC sports commentator

## Newspeak 2021

**N**OBODY IN MY QUARANTEAM IS A **covidiot** or has **maskne**, and none of us have a **coronacut**. I don't do social media, but on news websites I've been dividing my time between **doomscrolling** and **gleefreshing**.

When it gets to be **Blursday** I usually have a **quarantini**. I haven't yet made a **Zooty** call, and I am looking forward to the return of the **Before Times**. See **TRANSLATION**.

THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING **DARK RED TYPE** OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

*"Never let your memories be greater than your dreams."*

~ **Douglas Ivester**

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## The jist of Christmas past

As conjured by Planeteer **Richard Fish**

*'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the town,  
People wore masks that covered a frown.  
The frown had begun way back in the Spring,  
When a global pandemic changed every thing.  
They called it corona, but unlike the beer,  
It didn't bring good times, or any good cheer.  
Airplanes were grounded, travel was banned.  
Borders were closed across air, sea, and land.  
As the world entered lockdown to flatten the curve,  
The economy faltered as folks lost their nerve.  
From March to July we all rode the first wave,  
Most people stayed home, and tried to behave.  
When summer emerged, the lockdown receded,  
But sadly, that wasn't the action we needed.  
For now it's December, with many more cases.  
They call it Wave Two, and it's right in our faces.  
And now it's upon us - the holiday season.  
How can it be merry? Is there any reason?  
I could hang up mistletoe, put up a tree,  
But who's going to see it? No one but me.  
Then outside my window the snow gently falls,  
And I think to myself, yes! Let's deck the halls!  
So I gather my ribbons, and garlands, and bows.  
When I hear the old carols, my happiness grows.  
It's true that this old year had sadness a-plenty,  
We'll never forget scary old 2020.  
Now better news is reaching my ear,  
Vaccines seem to promise a better New Year.  
We've reason to celebrate! Reason to hope!  
If we lean on each other, I know we can cope.  
We'll emerge from our walls and we'll go back to work,  
And hugging and kissing we won't have to shirk.  
So let's keep being careful, and join in the call:  
"Joy, love and cheer – Happy New Year to all!"*

## Thanks a million, MacKenzie

**M**ACKENZIE SCOTT IS GIVING AWAY HER fortune at an unprecedented pace, donating more than \$4 billion in

four months after announcing \$1.7 billion in gifts in July. Scott's wealth has climbed \$23.6 billion this year to \$60.7 billion, as Amazon.com Inc., the primary source of her fortune, has surged.

"This pandemic has been a wrecking ball in the lives of Americans already struggling," she wrote. "Economic losses and health outcomes alike have been worse for women, for people of color, and for people living in poverty."

I applaud her rare generosity, but she can't top the mad emperor **Caligula**, who announced he was going to shower his citizens with gold from a Roman tower. Then he dropped gold ingots on them, killing and maiming many ... or so the legend goes!

"To be truly radical is to make hope possible rather than despair convincing."  
~ Welsh radical  
**Raymond Williams**

## Aliens! Register Now!

**A** FORMER ISRAELI space security chief has claimed that earthlings have been in contact with extraterrestrials from a "galactic federation" for years.

"The aliens have asked not to publish that they are here; humanity is not ready yet," Professor **Haim Eshed** told Israel's **Yediot Aharonot** newspaper. He said the aliens were equally curious about humanity and were seeking to understand "the fabric of the universe."

"There is also an agreement between the U.S. government and the aliens. They signed a contract with us to do

### GREAT SCOTT!

Right: Alien monoliths in Romania?  
Below: MacKenzie's rollout of riches rewards a good cause.



experiments here," and he added that President **Donald Trump** was aware of their existence and had been "on the verge of revealing" it when silenced in order to prevent "mass hysteria."

"They have been waiting until today for humanity to develop and reach a stage where we will understand, in general, what space and spaceships are," he wrote in **The Universe Beyond the Horizon** by **Hagar Yanai**.

"If I had come up with what I'm saying today five years ago, I would have been hospitalized, but today, I have nothing to lose." And this is exactly what my psychic friend, **Sharron**, revealed to me about the aliens' plans back in the 1970s, as revealed in my book, **Where's my Fortune Cookie?** co-authored by **Brad Schreiber!**

### WATCH REPORT

"Those who don't believe in magic will never find it."  
~ **Roald Dahl**

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## Who, NU?

**P**RESIDENT TRUMP CALLS THE HEAD OF the CIA and asks, "How come the Jews know everything before we do?" The CIA chief replies, "The Jews have this expression: 'Vus titzuch?'" The President asks, "What does that mean?"

"Well, Mr. President," he replies, "it's a Yiddish expression that roughly translates to 'what's happening?' They just ask each other, and that's how they find out about everything." The President decides to go undercover to determine if this is true.

He dresses up as an Orthodox Jew, wearing the traditional black hat, beard, long black coat the whole megilla. He is then secretly flown to New York, picked up in an unmarked car, and dropped off in Crown Heights, Brooklyn's most Jewish neighborhood.

Soon a little old man comes shuffling along, and Trump stops him and whispers, "Vus titzuch?" The old guy whispers back, "That schmuck Trump is in Brooklyn today."

*"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way.  
On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."  
~ Indian activist Arundhati Roy*

## Penn's Pandemic Panic

*As published by AARP*

**W**hat makes me happy: Being able to spend all of my time with my family.  
What did I learn: You sure don't want to spend all your time with your family.

What makes me happy: Not having to shave!

What did I learn: With or without a beard, I don't look like **Keanu Reeves**, **Hugh Jackman** or even **David Letterman**.

What makes me happy: Not seeing **Teller** every day.

What did I learn: Without Teller around, I don't make any money.

What makes me happy: Not wearing underwear.

What did I learn: Gym shorts should still be changed every two weeks.

What makes me

happy: Finishing my novel.

What did I learn: Even during a pandemic, my agent doesn't have time to read my novel.

What makes me happy: Having time to learn a new language.

What did I learn: Foreign languages are impossible to learn.

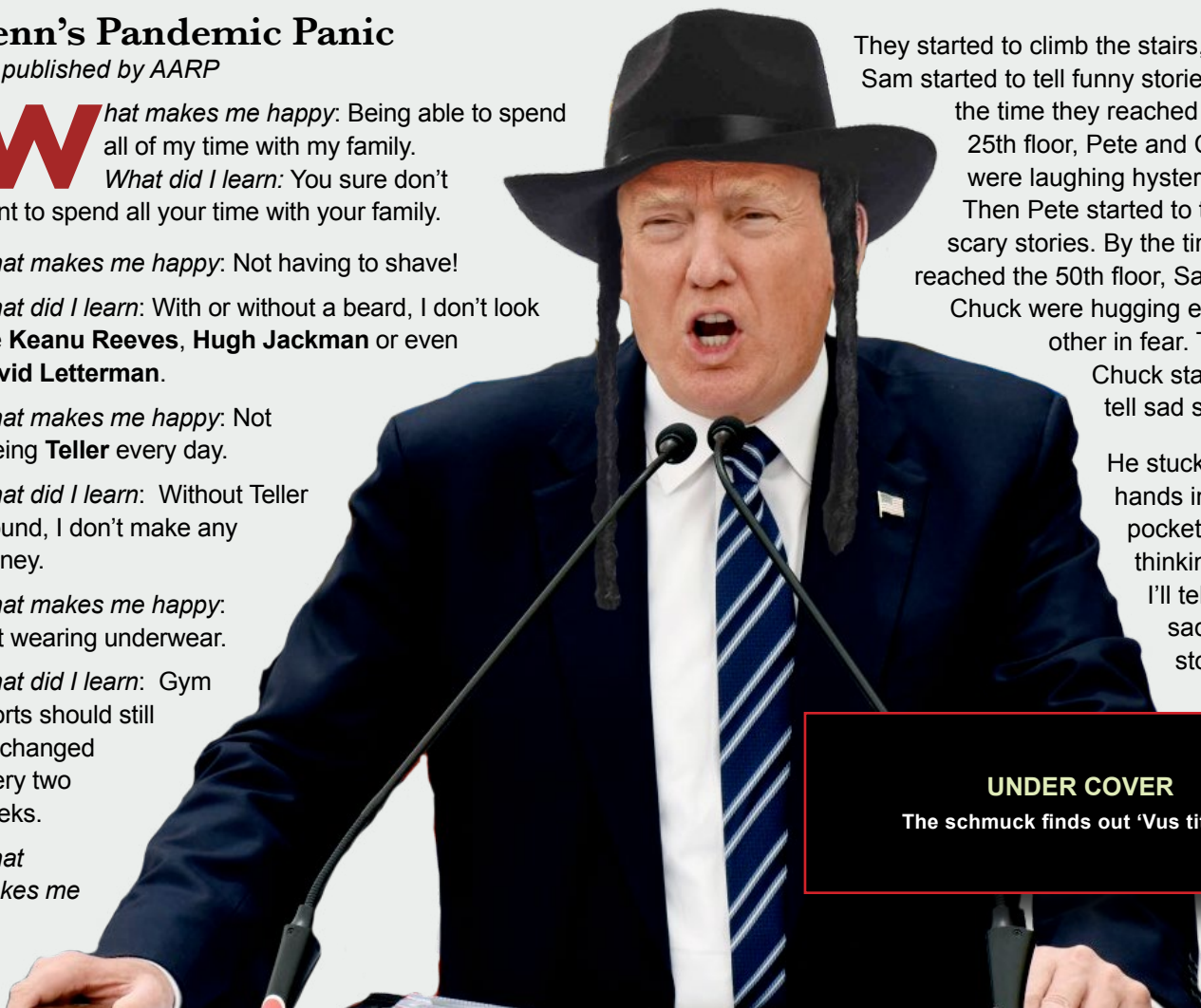
*"The secret of getting ahead is getting started."  
~ Mark Twain*

## A sad tale

**T**HREE WRITERS, **SAM, PETE, AND CHUCK**, who were attending a writing convention, booked a room on the 75th floor of a hotel. When they arrived back at the hotel from the convention, the receptionist told them, "I'm terribly sorry, but the elevator is broken. In the meantime, you will have to take the stairs."

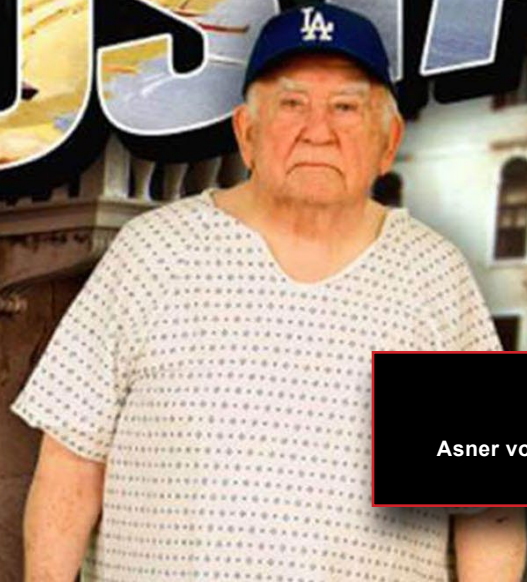
Now, Sam was a writer of funny stories, Pete was a writer of scary stories, and Chuck was a writer of sad stories. The three of them agreed that, to make it less boring, Sam would tell the other two his funniest stories while they climbed from floors 1 to 25, Pete would tell his scariest stories from floors 26 to 50, and Chuck would tell his saddest stories from floors 51 to 75.

They started to climb the stairs, and Sam started to tell funny stories. By the time they reached the 25th floor, Pete and Chuck were laughing hysterically. Then Pete started to tell scary stories. By the time they reached the 50th floor, Sam and Chuck were hugging each other in fear. Then Chuck started to tell sad stories. He stuck his hands in his pockets, thinking. "Ah, I'll tell my saddest story of all



**UNDER COVER**  
The schmuck finds out 'Vus titzuch'

# a Man and his PROSTATE



## EDS ON MEDS

Asner voices Weinberger in this look back.

first.” he said. He coughed nervously. “There once was a man named Chuck, who left the hotel room key in the car...”

“Keep your face always towards the sunshine,  
and shadows will fall behind you.”  
~ Walt Whitman

And the reporter asks, “When do you drink water?” The old guy thinks for a moment and then says, “Gee. I don’t think, I’ve ever been that sick.”

“When you reach the end of your rope,  
tie a knot in it and hang on.” ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Good advice

**A** 105-YEAR-OLD MAN IS being interviewed for an article on Centenarians, and the reporter asks, “To what do you attribute your long life?”

“Well,” he says, “For better digestion I drink beer. In case of appetite loss, I drink white wine. In case of high blood pressure, I drink scotch. When I get a cold, I drink Schnapps.”

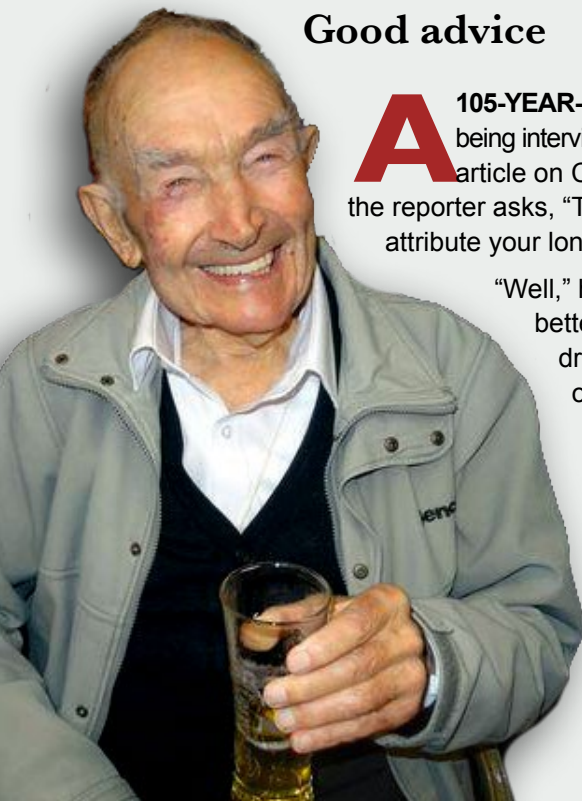
## Ed acts

**G** LASS HOUSE DISTRIBUTION JUST LAUNCHED its first release of 2021 on Amazon, the hilarious stand-up special, ***A Man and His Prostate***, starring screen legend and seven-time Emmy Award-winner **Ed Asner** (*Elf*, “The Mary Tyler Moore Show”).

A man discovers his inner self in more ways than one in this super funny monologue about a sudden, unexpected trip to a foreign emergency room. Written by his friend and award-winning screenwriter **Ed Weinberger**, Asner delivers a masterful performance that dives into gut-wrenching details like a rectal exam, enemas, the fear of post-surgery impotence and sex after 70.

Directed by **Leonardo Foti**, the play was produced by **Fabio Golombek** with executive producer **Marco Gomez**.

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"If you must choose between two evils,  
pick the one you've never tried before."  
~ a Fortune Cookie

# PLANETCLICK

## Deep pockets

**A** NAUSSIE TRUCKER WALKS INTO AN outback cafe with a full-grown emu behind him. The waitress asks for his order and the trucker responds, "A hamburger, chips and a coke," and says to the emu, "What's yours?"

"Sounds great, I'll have the same," says the emu, and a short time later the waitress returns with the order. "That will be \$9.40 please," and the trucker reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact amount.

The next day, they come again, and he says, "A hamburger, chips and a coke, please," and the emu says, "I'll have the same." And once more, the trucker reaches into his pocket and pays with exact change. This becomes routine until one day the waitress asks, "The usual?"

"No, luv, it's Friday night, so I'll have a steak, baked potato and a salad," and the emu adds, "Sounds good to me," and when the waitress brings the order she says, "That will be \$32.62." And as always, the bloke pulls the exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table. The waitress cannot hold back her curiosity any longer. "Excuse me mate," she asks, "but how do you manage to always pull the exact amount from your pocket every time?"

"Well," says the trucker, "a few years ago, I was cleaning out the back shed, and I found an old lamp, and when I polished it, a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there."

"That's wizard" says the waitress. "Most people would ask for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want, for as long as you live! Whether

## Planet Yelp

**X-MAS  
THE BOTTLES  
COMO  
I SWEAR  
CRUISIN' FOR A  
BRUISIN'  
FAREWELL FRED**

it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce!  
But what's with the emu!?"

The trucker pauses, sighs, and answers, "My second wish was for a tall chick with a big rump and long legs who agrees with everything I say."

"Stress is an ignoble state. It believes that everything is an emergency. Nothing is that important."  
~ Natalie Goldberg

## Planet help

**G**erald Alan Miller, Brenda Lunsford Lilly, Hope Willard, Sarah Silverman, Glen Banks, Penn Jillette, Richard Fish, Baba Mail, Melinda Peterson, and Alan Shearman.

And farewell to Chad Stuart of Chad & Jeremy fame, John le Carré, Pierre Cardin, Marge Champion and Dawn Wells, our teenage crush as Mary Ann on "Gilligan's Island." We all wanted to go on a "three-hour cruise" with her!

"Courage is fear that has said its prayers."  
~ South African film star Dorothy Bernar



**ET TU, EMU?**

A Big Bird booty call.

"You can't teach a dogma, new tricks." ~ Dorothy Parker

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