

Alan's Cre8ng™ Challenges 2004

The following is the complete collection of my Cre8ng Challenges from 2004. I hope you will find them beneficial in helping you with your ongoing plans for increasing, expanding, and enriching your natural creative thinking skills.

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges™ 2004-01 Dream Your Way to Success

Beginning with this CC I am sending them out only to people who have directly requested them. Then periodically I will post them on my website. Years 97, 98, 99, 01, 02 are already on my website. The directory of the 03 is on but the contents are not completely yet. Soon I will begin placing the 2004 CCs on the website as well monthly to quarterly.

In 2004 my plan is to use 52 traits as the super-structure for generating and focusing the CCs.

20 traits are those measured by my mentor, E. Paul Torrance with his TTCT (Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking). 32 traits are those that I discovered were more commonly written about by creativity researchers from 1950 to 1980 and have used as an exercise for recognizing creative thinking skill potential.

Then I will combine these traits with 52 separate creative thinking tools.

So let's get started.

2004-01

trait: "Future Orientation"

creative thinking tool: Checklisting

Each day this week use your "Creativity Development" time to focus on a specific area of your life to generate wishes, dreams, imaginings, and possibilities about your future.

The Challenge is to....

Begin by generating a collection of 12 Dreams, wishes, possibilities, fantasies related to your _____ that you want to have happen in 5 years or less.

Second take those 12 ideas and generate 12 to 24 more ideas using Bob Eberle's Checklist, S.C.A.M.P.E.R. (Substitute some aspect for each idea to generate a new possible idea, Combine aspects of the idea or 2 or more ideas to generate new ideas, Adapt some aspect to or about the ideas to generate new ideas, Minify/Magnify, Put some aspect to other uses, Eliminate a factor or variable, Reverse some detail(s) or step about each idea and generate more ideas.

MONDAY

Finances

TUESDAY

Health

WEDNESDAY

Career

THURSDAY

Daily Entertainment

FRIDAY

Vacations, Time Off

For more about the use of Bob Eberle's Checklisting Creative Thinking Tool S.C.A.M.P.E.R. read Michael Michalko's book: THINKERTOYS

Have a fabulously creative week.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-02

What If? What If? What If?

This weekend due to a change in configuration systems (I have no @#\$\$%& idea what the #\$\$%@ that means) I am

experiencing tremendously annoying problems with my email/internet/www capabilities.

So thanks to What If-ing? I believe I have beaten or gotten around whatever has/is happening and sent you this CC.

When all else fails, blow off steam, get over it, then create ways for getting thru, over, around, under or without it and accomplish your task.

So this week's challenge is to generate ways to first "BLOW OFF STEAM AND GET OVER IT". Some people drink, smoke, and take long walks, bang their head against walls...

Going along with my theme for 2004 CCs let's use a technique from Andy van Gundy's classic book:

TECHNIQUES OF STRUCTURED PROBLEM SOLVING

(randomly chosen)

SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATIONS

quoting Andy directly...

"SR uses abstract symbols related to a problem to generate ideas." Intuitively create the symbols without attempting to relate them to your challenge (doodle, free-draw).

1. draw anything
2. draw the first thing that the first drawing sparks
3. draw the first thing the second drawing sparks
4. draw the first thing the third drawing sparks
5. draw the first thing the fourth drawing sparks

repeat this until you have 6 to 12 drawings/sketches/doodles/symbols

The problem you are generating ideas for is 'BLOWING OFF STEAM AND GETTING ON WITH IT'.

Monday

Use abstract symbols

Tuesday

Use animal drawings/symbols

Wednesday

Use images from nature

Thursday

Pick up a newspaper and copy randomly drawings of 6 to 12 cartoon characters

Friday

Use images/symbols of objects in the room you are sitting in.

Once you have your 6 to 12 images/symbols/drawings per day then use them to generate 6 to 12 to 24 to 144 or whatever number of ideas for "BLOWING OFF STEAM AND GETTING OVER IT!"

Have a fun week learning how to always have fun in each week.

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Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-03

Murphy was an Optimist

No matter how much you plan. No matter how much your prepare. No matter how many resources, skills, training, etc. you have. Something can still go wrong and screw it all up.

So this week take the pragmatic to idealistic optimistic

approach of many highly creative people (trait) and the "What Else?", "What Might we do?", "In What Ways MIGHT We/I...?" (tool of asking open idea sparking questions) and practice generating ideas: old forgotten or not used in awhile ones, discovered ones others use, some others might use if in your situation, brand new ideas, combinations of old ideas.

MONDAY

Imagine you have lost all ELECTRIC power.

Generate 12 to 144 ideas of how you would manage and move on.

TUESDAY

Imagine you have lost WATER ACCESS.

Generate 12 to 144 ideas of how you would manage and move on.

WEDNESDAY

Imagine your cars died.

Generate 12 to 144 ideas of how you would manage and move on and travel.

THURSDAY

Imagine all forms of public transportation in your area were shut down by strike and your cars did not work.

Generate 12 to 144 ideas of how you would manage and move on.

FRIDAY

Imagine you were stranded in a forest you had never been in before.

Generate 12 to 144 ideas of how you would manage and move on.

Have fun beating and outthinking Murphy this week.

Alan

Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-04

Don't Let the Facts Get in the Way of a Good Story

This weekend I attended the 22nd Southern Order of Storytellers Winter Festival held near Atlanta at Kennesaw State University. I have attended 19 since the second. One of the featured tellers was Gayle Ross, a noted Native American teller. Part of one of her workshops sparked this CC.

Throughout all cultures the image of the "trickster" appears. The trickster is usually the one who uses lots of creativity to get out of trouble, solve problems or help people.

This week go to your local library or do some Google.com type searching and collect trickster stories from 5 separate cultures and read sample tales and examine the stories for the creative thinking that the main character, the trickster, uses.

MONDAY

Find some "tricksters" from Europe

TUESDAY

Read some "Anansi" tales from Africa

WEDNESDAY

Seek out "Coyote" tales from Native America

THURSDAY

Seek out a "trickster" from Asia

FRIDAY

Seek out a "trickster" from New Zealand or Australia

During the day each day try to think like the tricksters you read about.

Please share what you discover.

Have a creative week. It is always your choice.

Alan

Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-05

Collecting to Creativity

One trait I have discovered about highly creative people is that they collect things. Let's use that trait to learn about the creativity that surrounds us this week. Each day select one item and search for as many different examples of it you can find during the day. At the end of the day examine the collect of items, photos of the items or your list and descriptions of the items and search for the creative thinking or technique that might have been used to create them.

Using Bob Eberle's S.C.A.M.P.E.R. Checklist may give you some clues.

- S. SUBSTITUTE
- C. COMBINE
- A. ADAPT, ALTER
- M. MINIMIZE, MAXIMIZE
- P. PUT TO OTHER USES
- E. ELIMINATE
- R. REVERSE

MONDAY

Paper clips or devices for holding several sheets of paper together temporarily without changing them.

TUESDAY

Watches or time pieces

WEDNESDAY

Desserts using ice cream

THURSDAY

Select a garden tool of your own choice

FRIDAY

ink writing devices

Please share what you discover in your growing collection of examples of creative thinking.

Alan

Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-06 **A Creative Jungle or a Zoo**

This past week I was in San Diego attending and presenting at the CPSI Winterfest Annual Creativity Conference. One day just for fun I walked from near Old Town San Diego at my hotel Hanalei Red Lion up over a mountain (tall hill) through Old Town State Park and Old Town, tourist area onto Mission Hills to Hillcrest and onto Balboa Park passing by the famous San Diego Zoo.

The sites, sounds, tastes, smells, textures and images I experienced during my 3 1/2 hour walk inspired many thoughts and a series of CCs for 2004 and beyond.

This week's was inspired by the Zoo and many great graphics and paintings I saw during my walk.

Highly Creative People are CURIOUS (trait) and they often use METAPHORS (tools/technique) to generate ideas.

MONDAY

Flip through a dictionary in your language and find 3 to 6 animals. They use them as metaphors for a

problem/challenge you are working on. Think "How is my problem/challenge like ____ animal?"

What ideas does that metaphor generate for you?

TUESDAY

Open a photographic book of your country, state and look for native animals. Then ask how are those animals like your challenge/problems?

WEDNESDAY

Randomly virtually travel through television shows during the day looking for animals. Then ask how are those animals like your challenge/problems?

THURSDAY

What through a toy store looking for 3 to 6 animals you have not thought of recently. Then ask how are those animals like your challenge/problems?

FRIDAY

Ask 3 to 6 friends or fellow employees for the names of animals. Then select 3 to 6 of the total you collect. Then ask how are those animals like your challenge/problems?

Have a great creative week. Please share what you discover.

Wandering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-07 Creativity from Silver Linings

5 days and counting. 5 days of dull skies and off and on again rain here in Athens, Georgia. If you are in northern Europe or North America you may be experiencing the same lack of sunshine this week. Then during this coming week let's create some sunshine, at least virtual sunshine. For me I have added a mixture of color into my home this week to offset the dullness of the weather outside.

Though highly creative people may not always be positive or upbeat they can create even out of the dull. This week practice your creativeness by using the tool: Attribute Listing and the trait of always finding possible to probable solutions even in the poorest of situations.

If you are not familiar with the Creative Thinking Tool of ATTRIBUTE LISTING it basically consists of taking a challenge, problem, situation, process, product, etc and break it into all its individual attributes: physical, virtual, real, imaginary, processes, etc and working on one at a time being aware of potential integrations between separate attributes: color, shape, size, material, function, etc.

MONDAY

Focus on the challenge of a week of miserable weather, whatever that means for your climate. Break it down into its attributes and then generate 6 to 12 to 144 ideas for how to enjoy and benefit from the conditions.

TUESDAY

Choose a business problem that generally produces negative results. Break it down into its attributes and then generate 6 to 12 to 144 ideas for how to enjoy and benefit from the situation

WEDNESDAY

Select something randomly from the front page of your newspaper. Break it down into its attributes and then generate 6 to 12 to 144 ideas for how to enjoy and benefit from the conditions.

THURSDAY

Think like Murphy (Murphy's Law) and think of a situation going completely bad even in good times. Break it down into its attributes and then generate 6 to 12 to 144 ideas for how to enjoy and benefit from the conditions.

FRIDAY

Mentally or physically visit a junk yard and choose samples of castaway or thrown away items to recreate from. Break them down into their attributes

and then generate 6 to 12 to 144 ideas for how to create even more creative products or uses out of them.

No matter what happens we can always create.

Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-08

Explore with No Destination Except Experiencing New

I have been in Osaka, Japan and Singapore since I sent out the last CC2004 and still in Singapore for a few more days. Each day during free time I practice what this challenge is about.

Each day I challenge myself by simply exploring with no specific outcome or goal except to simply experience new things or old things newly or in new ways.

Allow yourself the pleasure this week of simply exploring to explore for the pure enjoyment of exploring for the experience and what you can learn.

MONDAY

Deliberately go somewhere you have not been or have not been in a long time and wander around for 30 minutes to an hour. Take a friend along. Strive to keep all your senses open for is new or to experience old things in new ways.

TUESDAY

Take out some building type toys: Lincoln Logs, Tinkertoys, Legos, etc. Poor a whole container on the floor or a table. Without consciously aiming to do anything specific begin assembling them with your other hand. Learn from the pieces what you can do with them. Perhaps do it with your eyes close part of the time.

Let what your creating guide you to what it can become.

I just did this at Winterfest in San Diego during a session on the use of Legos materials in marketing planning and strategic thinking. I simply assembled until I completely used ever piece I had.

WEDNESDAY

Pick up a collection of magazines. Randomly select pages in each. Take post it notes and mark a paragraph on 6 to 12 different pages scattered throughout

different magazines. Then proceed to randomly read paragraphs from each as if they were all parts of one article. See where it goes and where your mind goes when shifts occur.

THURSDAY

Play small sections of a variety of music for about 90 seconds to 2 minutes each simply to hear the music and see where your mind goes and what images or thoughts come.

FRIDAY

Have a lunch or dinner that is composed of pieces or portions of several meals. That is easy here in Singapore because they love to eat that way and so do the Japanese and Chinese. Eat for taste and enjoyment not for quantity or to get filled up.

Have a fantastically creative week. Please share some of the things you do and discover and I will share them with other readers.

Wandering Alan

Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-09

Are You Creative? How Are You Creative?

The more I travel around the world and the United States the more I experience confusion among people as to what creativity, creative thinking, creative problem solving and innovation are. When people are asked if they think they are creative their standard answer is "no". Afterward when I interview them and review their work, hobbies and life I continue to discover evidence of creativeness, much of it not tapped in their workplaces, while often at home in their hobbies and relaxation activities.

This week my challenge for you is for you to explore these two questions: Are You Creative? and How Are You Creative?

First take a moment to answer the first question. Rate yourself on a scale of 0 to 100 with 50 being average, 75 range very creative, 85 and above extremely creative. You may want to rate yourself in more than one aspect or part of your life: work, hobbies, just for fun, recreational activities, with friends, with family, alone.

Then each day examine the key term I have provided. Look it up in a dictionary. Look it up in a thesaurus. Look up each of the synonymous (spelling?) terms. Then rate yourself on each of the other terms/words. If English is a second or third language look up the words in your language for the terms rather than the English words I have provided.

MONDAY

creativity...first what does it mean to you. Then look it up in a large dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia. Rate yourself on each of its meanings.

TUESDAY

creative thinking...first what does it mean to you. Then look it up in a large dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia. Rate yourself on each of its meanings.

WEDNESDAY

innovation...first what does it mean to you. Then look it up in a large dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia. Rate yourself on each of its meanings.

THURSDAY

non-conformist...first what does it mean to you. Then look it up in a large dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia. Rate yourself on each of its meanings.

FRIDAY

problem solver...first what does it mean to you. Then look it up in a large dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia. Rate yourself on each of its meanings.

After you have completed this week's challenges please share your results. It will be interesting to see how the personal and published definitions vary for each of us and especially those for whom English is a 2nd, 3rd or 4th language.

Best wishes for a creative week, whatever that means to you.

Wandering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges™ 2004-10

Let Your Mind Wander Creatively

Having completed 3 weeks of working and making business contacts in Singapore, Japan and Columbus, Georgia I have spent today letting my mind do what this week's Challenge is all about: creatively wandering.

The creative trait for this week is a "fruitful imagination".

The Creative Thinking Tool for this week is "random connections."

So let's get started.

Begin by collecting a group of videos, DVDs, CDs, audio tapes, books, magazines, newspapers.

Each day randomly choose one of each and play the video and audios simultaneously, i.e.: I have a television and cd player on plus the window to my deck and small forest in my backyard open all providing background sound that I can tune into and out of randomly while trying to think.

If the weather allows it in your area also open your windows so that the sounds around you from nature or the streets near you can enter where you spend your "creative development time".

Also select a book or two, a magazine or two, a copy of a newspaper or two and randomly wander through them with a small pad of Post-It™ notes and blindly mark 2 or 3 pages.

MONDAY

While thinking about creating a short story about your life wander through the resources you have chosen for today and capture all ideas that you come across or generate.

TUESDAY

While thinking about creating a cartoon strip about your work wander through the resources you have chosen for today and capture all ideas that you come across or generate.

WEDNESDAY

While thinking about creating a colorful graphic design for your living room wander through the resources you have chosen for today and capture all ideas that you come across or generate.

THURSDAY

While thinking about creating a party theme for some of your closest friends wander through the resources you have chosen for today and capture all ideas that you come across or generate.

FRIDAY

While thinking about creating a fantastic vacation for later this year wander through the resources you have chosen for today and capture all ideas that you come across or generate.

Practice letting your mind wander in and out of varied resources, consciously and preconsciously or subconsciously.

I wish you a very creative week.

Alan

Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-11 **Internal Perspective**

One trait that E. Paul Torrance, PhD's Tests of Creativity measure for is Internal Perspective as a learnable trait of highly creative people.

This week let's focus on developing stronger skills of internal perspective. Tool is mental excursions (Synectics)

MONDAY

Collect 6 to 12 objects. Randomly choose one and think about what you can not see about the object. What might be inside?

TUESDAY

Collect 6 to 12 fruit. Imagine what the inside looks like. Draw a sketch of it. Then cut them open to see what really is inside.

WEDNESDAY

Collect 6 to 12 natural objects you have never seen inside. Explore your imagination for what they might look like inside. Then if possible cut them in half to check them out.

THURSDAY

Randomly select a few insects and imagine what their tunnels, colonies look like from their scale and perspective. See yourself as an ant, roach, etc. They explore some reference books for actual photographs or drawings of examples.

FRIDAY

Choose a series of photographs of people and explore what is internally going on in their minds.

Please share what you discover what you experienced and learned this week.

Alan

Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-12 Season is Changing

First I want to apologize for the confusion I may have created this past few weeks with the sending out of the cc2004 exercises. I have been getting use to using my laptop on the road and using my new distribution list to send the exercises each week no matter where I am. The result is that they have not always got out on time or in order. I thought I had sent cc2004-11 while I was in Columbus, Georgia last Sunday afternoon. Obviously I did not because no one seems to have received it. So today I sent out another cc2004-11 that I had written a couple months ago and did not send out.

So hoping this week I will become more organized and systematic about the new cc's for 2004.

This week's trait is fluency and the technique will be Mind Mapping.

Today is the first day of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of Fall in the Southern Hemisphere. Here in Athens, Georgia in the southeastern portion of the US it has been an absolutely beautiful Spring day with pleasant temperatures, light breezes, full sunshine and lots of flowers and birds to enjoy.

This week let's practice increasing our fluency skills using Mind Maps/Mind Mapping. If you are not familiar with Mind Mapping do a quick Google.com search for Mind Mapping or Mind Maps and do some reading, perhaps buy a basic book such as Tony Buzan's "How to Mind Map" or Nancy Margulies' "Mapping Inner Space". I have found both very useful and fun.

Here are a couple basics for those who know nothing about Mind Mapping.

Take a blank piece of paper. Turn it horizontally (long dimension from side to side). Write the topic of the day in the middle of the page and draw a round shape around it. As you think of ideas jot them down on the page around the center shape and draw lines linking them to the main topic. As you think of ideas that relate to the sub-ideas write them near those and draw light lines connecting to them.

MONDAY

Map a Mind Map of everything you can do in Spring or Fall (depending upon which season you are experiencing now) using just words. Work on it for 12 to 15 minutes.

TUESDAY

Map a Mind Map of everything you can do in Spring or Fall (depending upon which season you are experiencing now) using just symbols. Work on it for 12 to 15 minutes.

WEDNESDAY

Map a Mind Map of everything you can do in Spring or Fall (depending upon which season you are experiencing now) using cartoons or stick figures. Work on it for 12 to 15 minutes.

THURSDAY

Map a Mind Map of everything you can do in Spring or Fall (depending upon which season you are experiencing now) using a rainbow of colored pencils or pens using words. Work on it for 12 to 15 minutes.

FRIDAY

Map a Mind Map of everything you can do in Spring or Fall (depending upon which season you are experiencing now) using colored pencils and pens using words, symbols, cartoons, stick figures and other visual images you can think of. Work on it for 12 to 15 minutes.

If you can capture a sample of what you have done one day as a pdf or jpg file please share it and I will send it out to other CC-ers.

Have a HIGHLY creative week.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-13 Metaphorical Thinking

This week's CC was inspired by many experiences at the 2004 ACA Think Tank in Houston.

One of the richest and easiest ways to think more creatively is to think in and with metaphors.

Using the following list of metaphors or a list you generate on your own do the daily challenges.

- A - alligator
- B - bumblebee
- C - can, any size you choose
- D - dairy barn
- E - envelope
- F - fig newton
- G - glass house
- H - honey bun
- I - ingot of gold
- J - jello, bowl of
- K - Kleenex, box of
- L - loops, frosty
- M - mouse, animal or computer
- N - necklace
- O - octopus
- P - pin cushion
- Q - Don Quixote
- R - razor blade
- S - steam kettle
- T - toy

U - umbrella
V - vacuum cleaner
W - watermelon
X - xylophone
Y - yellow submarine
Z - zipper

MONDAY

Choose a personal or work problem. Then pick 6 of the metaphors randomly and spend a few minutes examining how your chosen problem is like your problem

TUESDAY

Choose a problem from a news item from the paper, radio or television. Then pick 6 of the metaphors randomly and spend a few minutes examining how the chosen problem is like your problem

WEDNESDAY

Choose an organization you are part of's problem. Then pick 6 of the metaphors randomly and spend a few minutes examining how your chosen problem is like the problem

THURSDAY

Choose a friend's problem. Then pick 6 of the metaphors randomly and spend a few minutes examining how the chosen problem is like your problem

FRIDAY

Choose a family member's problem. Then pick 6 of the metaphors randomly and spend a few minutes examining how your chosen problem is like the problem.

Have fun metaphorically thinking this week.

Please share some of the results and I will share them with others in the growing 2004 CC family of creatively growing people around the world.

Remember being creative is a personal choice.

Alan

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Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-14 Creativity with Seemingly No Resources

This week's CC was sparked by a request on the CREA-CPS internet creativity discussion list. A newer member asked for help with the following.

Games when traveling with 2 young children (girl 10, boy 7) to keep them from being noisy and/or fighting with each other.

Each day use your imagination to put yourself in the situation of having 2 young children along with you and your spouse on a long trip. Your goal is to keep peace, have fun, make the trip enjoyable as much as you possibly can. Each day you will be challenged to deal with a different travel situation. Your goal is to generate 12 different games using only resources that might be in the situation or that you might carry in preparation for the situation.

If you work with or have children this age or older you might include them as resources for ideas.

MONDAY

Taking a 12 mile hike through the woods.

TUESDAY

Taking a train ride across country that will take 6 hours or might possibly last 2 1/2 days such as from Sydney to Perth, Australia..

WEDNESDAY

At a large amusement park or resort where you must stand in lines for 60 to 90
3 or 4 times in the same day.

THURSDAY

A long auto trip through monotonous, non-changing countryside.

FRIDAY

Taking the two children with you to work as a sales people who are making calls
on different clients each hour, using public transportation.

Please share your ideas. Perhaps among us we can generate 144 or more ideas
this week to share with each other.

Adding creativity to your life can make it more fun.

Alan

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Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC2004-15 Kissing Frogs to Find Princes

This challenge was inspired by the inventor Dean Kamen,
famous for his one-person standing mobile vehicle scooter
(searching for its real name). He is often quoted for
saying how he works is like "Kissing Frogs" based on the
idea that when a princess under a wicked witch's magic
spell

is searching for her magic prince she may have to kiss a lot
of frogs, much like the way most inventor's work: Nikomats,
Charles Kettering, Charles Goodyear, Joseph Swan, Marconi,
Edison, and most others you could name.

So this week let's practice "kissing frogs" to converge
onto
some possible princes.

MONDAY

Imagine that you were either Joseph Swan, Thomas Edison or

any of the other inventors over 75 years who attempted to create a practical, long-lasting filament for an electric lamp. Make a list of every material you can think of that could be formed into a thin filament or strand of fiber or combination.

TUESDAY

Imagine you are a waste management site owner and you have been hired to provide packing material from your waste site. Make a list of as many items that might be in your site that could be turned into packing material.

WEDNESDAY

Pretend to be an automobile designer. Look through catalogs. Study cars you see on the road or in a parking lot. Visit car lots. Collect images or notes about the shapes of 12 to 24 different tail light designs. Then list as many shapes that you have seen and those that have not been used on any of the cars you found.

THURSDAY

Daydream about broken things you have discarded recently and generate a list of 12 to 24 different things those objects might be used for.

FRIDAY

Randomly choose some stories from the newspaper or a news magazine, read them quickly and choose one. Then generate 12 to 24 possible ways it could also have been solved, resolved or done differently.

Your goal is to produce "Frogs" that you might kiss this week.

Have fun simply being creative.

Alan

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to see CCs from 1997 thru 2003 visit

<http://www.cre8ng.com>

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC2004-16 Converging For Fun and Profit

This CC was inspired by a new friend from Belgium who is a creative thinking consultant. Visit his website in June for the new English version

www.yellowideas.com

Today he gave a 90 minute session on Converging and stressed the significance of planning a equal or at least equal amount of time for the converging of Brainstormed Ideas.

Then he shared the following that I am offering for you to practice with this week.

Go to my website under the Ideas section, the second from last crayon section and use the following converging tools for 15 to 30 minutes this week. Then try them at work at school for additional practice.

MONDAY

Choose a list of 50 to 100 ideas and choose the yellow ones.

Yellow means sky or seemingly impossible. Red wild, rule breaking or break thru ideas. Green ideas are those that improve existing conditions. Blue ideas are those that can be done immediately. White ideas are naive ideas, typically generated by people with very little knowledge about the problem or challenge.

TUESDAY

Choose a list of 50 to 100 ideas and choose the red ones.

WEDNESDAY

Choose a list of 50 to 100 ideas and choose the green ones.

THURSDAY

Choose a list of 50 to 100 ideas and choose the blue ones.

FRIDAY

Choose a list of 50 to 100 ideas and choose the white ones.

See y'all next week when I have returned from CREA 2004 in Sestri Levante, Italy.

Wandering Alan

Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-17 **Creativity is a Matter of Making Connections**

Often when reading books about creative thinking and creativity in general the authors stress the importance of "Creativity is a Matter of Making Connections" whether direct, common, indirect, of totally obscure seemingly unconnected connections.

Currently one of the books I am "slowly" reading, piece by piece and digesting is by Jeff Mauzy and Richard Harriman from Harvard: CREATIVITY, INC. In the section I read yesterday they were stressing the importance and significance of strengthening our abilities to "make connections" to generate more creative ideas that might lead to even more creative solutions.

So let's spark our creative thinking this week with practicing making connections. The trait of "highly creative" people is "connection making". One possible technique is called "Bionics", the searching for commonalities, similarities, relationships between human problems and how nature: plants, animals or insects solve the same or similar problems.

Each day spend your creative thinking development time

making connections...12, 24, 36 or more each day between the given and any connections you can generate.

Many designers I have studied or been fortunate enough to hear speak and meet: Frank Lloyd Wright, le Corbusier, Bruce Goff, Herb Greene, Picasso plus many graphic designers and artists to name a few often looked to nature or other cultures for "connections" to generate new creative ideas and solutions for their designs.

MONDAY

Today start with the active verb FLOWING and list as many different types of it or connections to it from nature or the human-made world.

TUESDAY

Today start with the active verb OPENING and list as many different types of it or connections to it from nature or the human-made world.

WEDNESDAY

Today start with the active verb STOPPING and list as many different types of it or connections to it from nature or the human-made world.

THURSDAY

Today start with the active verb COVERING and list as many different types of it or connections to it from nature or the human-made world.

FRIDAY

Today start with the active verb RAISING and list as many different types of it or connections to it from nature or the human-made world.

Share some of your results and I will share them with the growing list of CC fans.

Please tell your friends about CCs and tell them to contact me and I will add them to the growing global community of readers and users.

Best wishes for a highly creative week.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC-2004-18
Mosaic Thinking

From broken shards beautiful masterpieces can be created. Perhaps bad ideas can be combined to create beautiful solutions.

This week's challenge is to practice using shards of ideas to produce new better solutions.

First visit my website...

<http://www.cre8ng.com>

specifically the section titled Idea Generators

<http://www.cre8ng.com/ideas.shtml>

“Ideas by the Ton”

from each of the sections randomly choose 6 to 12 ideas.

Second

Print them out. Cut the individual ideas separate.

Third

Each day randomly select 1 or 2 ideas from each group of 6 to 12.

Fourth

Mix the ideas together and let the combination lead you to new combined solutions.

Try not to begin with preconceived ideas or plans.

Let the ideas lead or guide you and provide potential solutions.

There is no guarantee what may happen. Simply let the process happen and experience it.

MONDAY

Use the ideas to create a new game.

TUESDAY

Use the ideas to create a new product for senior citizens

WEDNESDAY

Use the ideas to create a new area of knowledge to learn, a college subject or major.

THURSDAY

Use the ideas to create a theme for a movie

FRIDAY

Use the ideas to create a style of clothing

Best wishes for a highly creative week.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC-2004-19

Search Search Search

You More Your Search the More Your Find

One characteristic that is found in highly creative people is their observational skills. Let's practice our observational skills in a different way each day.

MONDAY

Let's be logical today in our approach. Using the Roman alphabet as a guide or structure take some time to search through your home, office, school for 26 different things, one per letter of the alphabet

starting with the different letters: a - apple, b - brush

TUESDAY

Let's use the rainbow today and search for things of various colors. Be systematic about it. Start with red and find something. Then find something that is orange. Then yellow, green, blue, purple. Then repeat until you can reach 6 to 12 of each or until your 15 to 30 minutes of creative skill development time is up.

WEDNESDAY

Let's use textures as our structure or guide today. Find things one by one based on textures: rough, smooth, slick, soft, hard....list 6 to 12 different textures and then go seeking examples of them.

THURSDAY

Let's use tastes as our structure or guide today. Make a list of 6 to 12 different tastes then during the day try to eat samples of foods from each of the taste types.

FRIDAY

Let's use our sense of smell today. Make a list of 6 to 12 different smells. Then during the day see how many you can find or experience during the day. Flowers, food, perfumes, colognes, nature.

Have fun being observant using your senses this week.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-20
Communicate without using words

The past several days I have been in Gurzuf, Ukraine attending and presenting at a Russian Scientific conference. I am the attender who is making the term "international" correct for the conference this time. ha ha.

The men and women have been wonderful and very interesting to learn from and talk with on the site of the conference, walking through Gurzuf, walking along the promenade of the Black Sea or spending an entire day touring Crimea with a Ukrainian man (the tour man) and two Polish women also touring for the day in the car.

The 8 days have inspired this week's CC: Communicating without words or with words in languages you do not speak, read or write.

MONDAY

Today spend 15 to 30 minutes communicating with a new person using drawings and some words from another language that neither of you speak.

TUESDAY

Today spend 15 to 30 minutes communicating with a new person using facial expressions and head nodding and some words from another language.

WEDNESDAY

Today spend 15 to 30 minutes communicating with a new person using body language and some words from another language.

THURSDAY

Today spend 15 to 30 minutes communicating with a new person using props and some words from another language.

FRIDAY

Today spend 15 to 30 minutes communicating with a new person using a combination of the above techniques and some words from another language.

Yes it can be challenging and you have experiences you had not planned on having or had no expectations about. These experiences can truly spark and provoke your creative thinking skills.

Best wishes from the northern rocky beach shore of the beautiful Black Sea in Gurzuf, Ukraine.

Wandering Alan

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Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004 21 Wander to Let Your Mind Wander and Discover

This week's challenge was sparked by my recent wandering throughout the Crimean Peninsula while participating in a Scientific Thinking Conference based in Gurzuf, Ukraine near Yalta on the Black Sea.

Each day I was there I wandered several times each day by foot or car, alone and with various other people I met and got to know, with or without the benefit of having a common verbal language to use.

Typically on this day, May 30th, often Merry and I would be climbing up Stone Mountain to the top to watch the sunrise. Merry would be facing the east meditating to honor and celebrate her birthday. Me enjoying being there seeing to the horizon 30 miles plus in all 360 degrees and being with her. Until I wrote that in the first draft of this, which I lost when, I tried to send it to you because my connection to Yahoo.com had expired I had not thought about doing the same this year. Now I have it written on my calendar for next year to honor her 56th birthday.

Also as I thought about what the challenge might be and this idea flashed I got thinking about the many of you who I have had the opportunity to visit in your towns, cities, countries: Kobus, my great friend in South Africa and his beautiful home in Pretoria or the Neethling Place, his conference center near Warmbad in the bush country 150 km from Pretoria. I thought about Cathy in Auckland, New Zealand and the museum we toured on one of the great hills in Auckland, Gregg and other CPSI friends in Chicago, Alice in Washington state, Paul and

Marcia in northern suburbs of Atlanta, Andy in Oklahoma, and so many of the rest of you throughout the US, Europe and those in other parts of North and South America, Africa, Australia (Brisbane, Sydney, Perth, Hobarth...), and Asia.

Have fun taking advantage of this challenge. In fact I hope you will use it often in the future.

Set aside various times, perhaps a different one each day to simply wander for 30 to 60 minutes or more.

MONDAY

Wander throughout a 2 mile radius of your home. Look for things you have never noticed before.

TUESDAY

Wander throughout a 3 to 4 mile radius of where you work or go to school.

WEDNESDAY

Wander throughout a commercial or shopping center and mentally collect products representing the 26 letters of the Roman alphabet...a - artist palette, b - bookcase, c - cookie jar, through to z - zipper or whatever you discover and find.

THURSDAY

Wander through a sports field, stadium or complex. Discover as much about the sport, the field, stadium or complex you can: history, the sport, the details, the future.

FRIDAY

Wander through and around a natural area: park, river bed, valley, field, countryside. Look for as many life forms you can discover: animals, insects, plants, etc.

Have fun wandering and discover what happens in your mind and spirit.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC-2004-22
Creatively Show Support

Today I received a very kind story and message from another student of E. Paul Torrance who graduated before me.

The message is a wonderful story about how teachers can truly impact their students' lives.

First I will describe the daily challenges. Following them will be the story as an example that you can use to generate your creative ideas each day. As the message suggests I too encourage you to share the story with people you care about: family, friends, co-workers, other students. Challenge yourself to be more creative this week helping other people.

MONDAY

Make a list of relatives or friends who have passed: grand parents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.

Then spend 2 or 3 minutes each creatively talking to them, one at a time, in your imagination telling them about the wonderful things you remember about them and wish you could have told them.

TUESDAY

Make a list of all of your living relatives.

Then take 2 to 3 minutes writing messages to each of them about the wonderful things you remember about them and will say to them some time soon.

WEDNESDAY

Make a list of all of your closest friends.

Then take 2 to 3 minutes writing messages to each of them about the wonderful things you remember about them and will say to them some time soon.

THURSDAY

Make a list of people you have met during the past 6 to 12 months.

Then take 2 to 3 minutes writing messages to each of them about the wonderful things you remember about them and will say to them some time soon.

FRIDAY

Make a list of all of a dozen fellow students or co-workers.

Then take 2 to 3 minutes writing messages to each of them about the wonderful things you remember about them and will say to them some time soon.

In a few moments I will send the story that sparked this CC for you to read and hopeful pass on to many other people.

Alan

**Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC2004 22
Support Story**

Subject: Story to share with friends

May Your Day Be Blessed As Special As You Are

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name.

Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down.

It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each

student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. "Really?" she heard whispered. "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!" and, "I didn't know others liked me so much." were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Viet Nam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature.

The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin.

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. She nodded: "yes." Then he said: "Mark talked about you a lot."

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.

"We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it."

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

"Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it."

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home."

Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album."

"I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary."

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. "I carry this with me at all times," Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: "I think we all saved our lists."

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be.

So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

And One Way To Accomplish This Is: Forward this message on. If you do not send it, you will have, once again passed up the wonderful opportunity to do something nice and beautiful.

If you've received this, it is because someone cares for you and it means there is probably at least someone for whom you care.

If you're "too busy" to take those few minutes right now to forward this message on, would this be the VERY first time you didn't do that little thing that would make a difference in your relationships?

The more people that you send this to, the better you'll be at reaching out to those you care about.

Remember, you reap what you sow. What you put into the lives of others comes back into your own.

May Your Day Be Blessed As Special As You Are

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC2004-23
Creating Coins to Cities

One thing I have discovered very often is that the more creative people I meet in any country like to play with their creativity and often do just that.

This week let's play with our creativity, our imaginations, our curiosity. Each day the spark will be different. Each day the goal will be the same...explore, experiment, examine and use our imaginations to create new ideas.

Each day experiment with Bob Eberle's simple "checklist" approach S.C.A.M.P.E.R. (Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Minify/Magnify, Put to other uses, Eliminate, Reverse.

MONDAY

Take one our your country's coins and design new ones.

TUESDAY

Choose you favorite form of vehicle and design a new one(s).

WEDNESDAY

Create new meals for an entire day. Be creative with as many aspects of the meals: foods, combinations, display/presentation, tools for eating them, etc.

THURSDAY

Create a new tree.

FRIDAY

Create your concept of an ideal city for you, your

friends and relatives.

Have fun simply creating for the fun of it.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC2004-24 Creative Stretchers

Since I attended my first CPSI and just this week while attending my 30th CPSI type program I have discovered many approaches to sparking creative thinking. One sparker category involves stretching your normal ways of doing things beyond your current limits with them. This past weekend one of the speakers during the pre-CPSI leader weekend shared a list of his "Creative Stretchers". He is a toy designer who also does workshops on creative thinking: Charlie Gersch from the Minneapolis area.

His handout sheet sparked this week's CC.

MONDAY

Explore what you normally do with just one hand and periodically during the day do them with the other hand.

TUESDAY

Examine things that you do with one specific foot and experimenting doing them with the other foot.

WEDNESDAY

Drive or travel to work or school a new way and then return home another new way.

THURSDAY

If your work or school classes require writing deliberately turn note paper 90 degrees and write your notes on the pages in this new directions.

FRIDAY

Explore habits you have throughout the day and change as many as you can that would not be dangerous: such as driving on the reverse or opposite of the road.

Have fun creating new habits for the fun of it.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC2004-25 Nature's Wonders Spark Creativity

Reading a short chapter in LIFE CAN BE THIS GOOD by Jan Goldstein I was touched by his discussion of the significance of "pausing for a moment, we willingly open our spirits to the gifts of the universe."

Often during my life when I have met highly creative people, no matter what their passion was/is one of the commonalities is their awareness and tendency of pausing to enjoy "gifts of the universe."

So this week and every week I encourage you to "pause to enjoy 'gifts of the universe'" for a short time each day, actually several times during the day.

Each day for a week...

1. watch the sunrise each day
2. watch the sunset each day
3. study clouds for a few minutes
4. stop and enjoy some flowers
5. stop and enjoy the beauty of the trees, shrubs or plants in your area
6. take a few minutes and use each of your senses to experience where you are.
7. take a few minutes with each of your loved ones just to be with them
8. take a few minutes with some friends just to be with them
9. add your own 'gifts from the universe'.

Have a creative week every week of your life.

Wandering Wondering Alan

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Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-26 Ooops! Time to be creative

This week's challenge was sparked by my needing to use the Osborn-Parnes CPS Process.

I just returned from the 50th CPSI in Buffalo very, very late Friday night due to weather problems and flight cancellations and delays. Then I spent a leisurely day yesterday washing clothes, preparing to leave today for Taipei, Taiwan where I am to speak on July 1st and 2nd at the Creativity Conference there.

This afternoon after having a peaceful morning slowly organizing and packing, cleaning up some business work and bowling for fun I had a flash while I was beginning to narrow down my materials to pack

What time is my flight from Athens to Charlotte where I will catch my flight to LA where I will wait for my flight to Taipei?

When I got out the ticket it showed me that my flight had left at 10:40 am this morning.

Time to use the CPS process.

So this week practice the first step each day...

review your challenges, goals, wishes, problems, except in this case focus on "Problems" or "unexpected and unwanted change of events or situations".
Murphy's Law. "If something can go wrong, it will go wrong". Remember that Murphy was an optimist.

BTW I have finally after about 2 1/2 hours of phone calls to different airlines and emails have my flights arranged originating and returning to Atlanta, leaving one day later than planned.

So each day generate lists of things that could possibly change or go wrong.

Monday
automotive challenges or problems

Tuesday
work related challenges or problems

Wednesday
family related challenges or problems

Thursday
favorite sports teams challenges or problems

Friday
national challenges or problems

Imagine Murphy at his or her best. List 12 to 24 different things that might go wrong that you would never suspect would go wrong.

If we think about Murphy we can usually win.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC 2004 27
Its in All in How You See It!

I have been wandering around Taipei, Taiwan and touring to the north coast of Taiwan and far into the south to visit an aboriginal village this week. The visual stimulus has been fantastic and sparked this Challenge this morning while I was walking to the river from my hotel in order to walk along the Riverside Park.

Focus on visuals this week and use your imagination to create completely new stories.

MONDAY

Look through your photo albums, closets, dressers or wherever else you store all those photos/prints you have taken over your life. Randomly select about 100 of them from different times, different trips, different events, different people.

Then during your creative development time randomly select 6 to 12 of them. Then arrange them in a pattern or sequence and create a story with them to tell your grandchildren now or far in the future.

TUESDAY

Randomly select another 6 to 12 of your photos. Arrange them in a sequence and create a murder mystery story.

WEDNESDAY

Randomly select still another 6 to 12 of your photos. Arrange them in a sequence and create a situation comedy for television.

THURSDAY

Randomly select still another 6 to 12 of your photos. Arrange them in a sequence and create a story you could tell someone from a country that can not read English yet understands spoken English.

FRIDAY

Randomly select still another 6 to 12 of your photos. Arrange them in a sequence and create a historic story or portion of a historic novel to tell your grandparents or someone much older than you.

Have fun being visually stimulated to use your imagination and create wonderful new stories.

Wandering Alan

Over the past 6 to 12 years I have spent a great deal of time connecting with people who share my common commitment to the development of creative thinking and creativity throughout our workplaces around the world. I just spent a week in Taiwan because of one of those connections made through attending and being a member of the ACA-American Creativity Association and meeting Jon-Chao Hong, Ph.D., a professor of creativity as department head of the graduate school for Toy and Games Design at the Taiwan Teachers College in Taipei. He is also the main promoter of the Chinese Creativity Development Association in Taiwan.

This week I am going to the Alden B. Dow Creativity Conference in Midland, Michigan to participant, connect with new creativity friends and to give a dinner presentation on “People Geometry”-Understanding Yourself and Others in Order to Reach Higher Creativity.

Both of these have inspired this week’s Alan’s Cre8ng Challenge: To Create Connect

Each day spend time reaching out and connecting with people who have a common interest as you do, whether it be creativity development or anything from a to z.

MONDAY

Reach out and connect with people in your continent. Ask what they are doing. Share what you are doing. Ask how you might help each other. (as an example if North American reach out to Canada, the US, Mexico)

TUESDAY

Reach out and connect with people in South America. Ask what they are doing. Share what you are doing. Ask how you might help each other.

WEDNESDAY

Reach out and connect with people in Europe. Ask what they are doing. Share what you are doing. Ask how you might help each other.

THURSDAY

Reach out and connect with people in Asia. Ask what they are doing. Share what you are doing. Ask how you might help each other.

FRIDAY

Reach out and connect with people in Australia, New Zealand, island countries of the Pacific. Ask what they are doing. Share what you are doing. Ask how you might help each other.

Have fun connecting with people around the world this week...one of the great benefits of the internet and technology.

Please share some of the outcomes and benefits of your connecting and sharing.

Wandering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges CC2004-29 Hit the Bull's Eye for Creativity

Over the past 15 or so years I have heard about a converging and idea strengthening technique often taught at CPSI that was developed by a mix of people in the Buff State Creative Studies Program

They called it Targeting.

At CPSI-50 in the Tools & Techniques Program that I co-lead with Paolo Benetti from Brazil and Nancy Myers from Florida, Nancy introduced the basics behind the following technique. What follows is based on my loose notes and fuzzy memory.

1. step one draw a target/bull's eye on a chart, sheet of paper or create it with masking tape on a floor.
2. ask a group of people to place where they particular think an idea fits from off the target meaning...not much hope or value or commitment to in the Bull's Eye meaning...great idea let's do it.
3. then look at the various places the group's marks have been placed. If

they are scattered then move onto step 4.

4. ask each of the people who have concerns about the idea to describe what they are and ask them what might they do if those concerns were taken care of.

5. after asking for input from all the people who rated the idea weak in some area then ask them to reassess the idea if all the concerns were addressed.

6. repeat the process until people no longer feel they can improve the idea or give any stronger support.

When Nancy did it to explain the process to our group of 20 participants she used a floor version that she and I created using masking tape. It was about 15 feet in diameter at the outer circle and had a series of 6 inner circles representing improvement or higher potential for the idea.

When you use this CC I encourage you to use a paper size version, poster size or even a floor or outside version.

Preparation....collect 12 to 24 ideas from newspapers, radio/TV news or shows, magazine articles, books representing several parts of life: personal, professional, family, civic, international, commercial, industrial.

Then decide what the values of the various circles in your target/bull's eye will represent....fantastic, doable, possible, has problems, weak idea, not doable or whatever you choose.

MONDAY

randomly choose 6 ideas from your collection of 12 to 24.

place them on your target based upon how you think about them individually

TUESDAY

choose 3 of the ideas you placed on your target on Monday and analyze each of them for weaknesses or improvements they need in order for you to move them closer to the center of your target.

WEDNESDAY

randomly choose another 6 ideas and place them on your target based on

your value system you have chosen.

THURSDAY

choose 3 of the ideas from Wednesday and analyze each of them for weaknesses or improvements they need in order for you to move them closer to the center of your target.

FRIDAY

Take the 6 ideas from Tuesday and Thursday and replace them on your target. Then use your target to decide which 2 ideas you believe have the greatest potential at this time.

The goal of this week's CC is to practice with a visual tool for selecting and evaluating while improving ideas preparing them to become chosen solutions.

Have a creative week.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-30 Making Choices from Creative Ideas

My traveling schedule has kept me on the road for most of the past 5 weeks with limited access to the internet, especially on Sundays when I normally send out my CCs.

This coming Sunday I will try to straighten out my CCs for 2004 and get the numbers back in line.

Here's a mid-week challenge that you may try. It is time to CONVERGE. Start by putting together collections of very varied things: nuts, silverware, business cards, glasses, automobiles, clothing, shoes, rocks, etc.

Then each day select one of the collections randomly.

Monday

Choose first collection randomly.
Spend your time generating criteria you might use to select the best from the collection completely rational. All your criteria need to be measurely numerically or geometrically: SIZE, COST, LENGTH OF TIME...

Tuesday

Choose second collection randomly.
Spend your time generating criteria you might use to select the best from the collection totally based on intuition, gut feel, newness, etc. with no measurement.

Wednesday

Choose third collection randomly.
Spend your time generating criteria you might use to select the best from the collection totally based on whether it feels good and others will like it--the goal is to feel good with your solution or to select a solution that others will "FEEL" good about without any form of measurement or analysis.

Thursday

Choose fourth collection randomly.
Spend your time generating criteria you might use to select the best from the collection totally based on what experts would measure to determine the best of the best. You may want to check with experts or standards books or industry standards.

Friday

Choose fifth collection randomly.
Spend your time generating criteria you might use to select the best from the collection totally based on a mix of criteria: some rational, some intuitive, some based on feelings, some based upon what is industry standards of measurement.

At the end of the week spend some reviewing how

different these approaches to converging and selection were and which you preferred using.

Please share your thoughts, reactions, results.

Wandering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-31 Creating Chaos In Order to Choose Creativity

First I apologize for the confusion I have created with the numbering of the 2004-CCs. I have discovered during the past day or so that there are 2 missing CCs for 2004, #25 and #29 and that #30 or so is actually #30 after all. This week I will create #25 and #29 and send them out to complete this year's collection. Next Sunday I will send out #32 and get us back on schedule for 2004.

Thank you for your interest and support. I hope you are continuing to find them interesting, challenging and useful. Please share some time how you are using them and how the ones you use are benefiting you, your employees, students, etc.

now back to
Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-31
Creating Chaos In Order to Choose Creativity

Over my 60 years I have often experienced and created chaos in my life. Coming out of the chaos has often yielded my greatest creative products and growth as a creative thinker.

This week let's experience chaos, especially if you are someone who does not normally experience or create chaos in your life.

MONDAY

Gather up things you collect randomly from around your home, office, studio and put them all together in one spot without any deliberate effort to organize them. Just pile them randomly. Deliberately do not neaten the piles. Then periodically spend 5 to 15 minutes just looking at the chaotic assemblage of stuff.

Then ask yourself how did it feel to experience the chaos. Ask yourself what ideas or thoughts or questions popped in your mind because of the experience with the chaos.

TUESDAY

Gather up a random collection of magazines and throw them on the floor somewhere you would not normally such a messy pile.

Then randomly pick one magazine up and open it up to any spot unintentionally and read the first sentence or two your eyes fall upon. Then continue doing this at a rapid pace with 5 to 7 other magazines.

Then ask yourself how did it feel to experience the chaos. Ask yourself what ideas or thoughts or questions popped in your mind because of the experience with the chaos.

WEDNESDAY

Set aside a half hour time block. Set yourself up in front of a television. If you do not have a television go to a television store and do the following. Pick up the control and begin switching from channel to channel randomly every minute to two minutes.

Then ask yourself how did it feel to experience the chaos. Ask yourself what ideas or thoughts or questions popped in your mind because of the experience with the chaos.

THURSDAY

Go to your local library and gather up several newspapers from around the US or the world and take them to a table where you can be alone for 30 minutes.

Begin reading the second paragraphs of 6 to 12 different articles from different sections of the various newspapers, switching from newspaper to newspaper between each article.

Then ask yourself how did it feel to experience the chaos. Ask yourself what ideas or thoughts or questions popped in your mind because of the experience with the chaos.

FRIDAY

Go driving or ask someone to drive you throughout your town/city, preferably during a quiet and safe time of the day.

With pre-warning turn corners (SAFELY) randomly to the left, the right going one block one time, 3 another time, then 2 or 4 then turn again. Do this for about a half-hour.

Then ask yourself how did it feel to experience the chaos. Ask yourself what ideas or thoughts or questions popped in your mind because of the experience with the chaos.

Please share what it felt like. What you may have learned. Did you have any AHAS!?

Wandering Wondering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-32

To Be Creative Do Creative Things

In many books about creativity development often the authors say..."to be creative do creative things" or "to become creative do things creatively".

This week let's focus on the first one.

During our lives most of us did lots of creative things when we were young and progressively less and less as we got older. Hopefully that is not true for

you. This week spend a little time each day reviewing the creative things you have done in your life or may do.

MONDAY

Think about the creative things you did from your earliest memory until you were 10 years old or the 5th or 6th year in school. List as many as you can remember and describe them in as much detail as you can.

TUESDAY

Think about the creative things you did from when you were 11 to 20 years old or before you started working fulltime. List as many as you can remember and describe them in as much detail as you can.

WEDNESDAY

Think about the creative things you did from when you were 21 to 30 years old or when you had been working fulltime for awhile and starting a family if you did. List as many as you can remember and describe them in as much detail as you can.

THURSDAY

Think about the creative things you did from when you were 31 to 40 years old as your family grew and your kids got older and you got more established in your occupation and/or career or want to be doing when you reach this age bracket. List as many as you can remember or desire and describe them in as much detail as you can.

FRIDAY

Think about the creative things you did from when you were 41 to 50 and

beyond years old or you want to be doing. List as many as you can remember or desire and describe them in as much detail as you can.

On the weekend take some time to look over all that you have written and look for patterns, surprises, changes, "tipping points" or distinct life changes that took place and think about why they may have happened.

Have a creative week. Remember it is generally to always your choice either way.

Alan
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Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-33 Their All Around Us

This week let's practice expanding our abilities to SEE Fluency and Flexibility in our environments.

Each day will ask you to "find" as many examples as you can. Your goal is quantity. Get yourself a timer, a watch or clock you can use to time you approximately so that you can do 4 trials of 4 to 5 minutes each. Each day you will do one "warm-up" run and one "beat the warm-up" run for fluency and one "warm-up" run and one "beat the warm-up" run for flexibility. Write down or verbally record your responses, whichever works best for you or use a mix.

MONDAY

The subject is examples of straight lines in the environment. You might try different environments for each run. Your goal is the highest quantity and to exceed each prior run.

TUESDAY

The subject is examples of curved lines in the environment. You might try different environments for each run. Your goal is the highest quantity and to exceed each prior run.

WEDNESDAY

The subject is examples of irregular lines in the environment. You might try

different environments for each run. Your goal is the highest quantity and to exceed each prior run.

THURSDAY

The subject is examples of angular shapes (squares, rectangles, triangles, pentagons, hexagons, octagons) in the environment. You might try different environments for each run. Your goal is the highest quantity and to exceed each prior run.

FRIDAY

The subject is examples of circular or round shapes in the environment. You might try different environments for each run. Your goal is the highest quantity and to exceed each prior run.

Strive to reach higher and higher numbers throughout the week.

Take a couple moments after each set of runs and write down observations, thoughts, feelings.

Wandering Wondering Alan
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Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-34 Reading for Inspiration and Ideas

This week I have been reading Twyla Tharp's (dancer, choreographer) book: THE CREATIVE HABIT: Learn It and Use It for Life. It is a very interesting discussion of how she has "explored, enriched and expanded" creativity in her life to become a daily habit. You may find it a very fruitful read.

One of her habits when searching for ideas or needing to generate ideas is to "read" as a form of a technique she calls "scratching", exploring for seeds of ideas.

So let's "Scratch" each day this week. Each day spend your creativeness and skill development time simply reading books you normally would not read with a notepad and pen or pencil with you.

Each day read for 5 to 10 to 20 minutes in 5 different books during the day.
Set a goal of reading a chapter, a section within each book.

MONDAY

Read nursery rhyme or children's books (suggestion different countries)

TUESDAY

mystery books (suggestion short mystery stories)

WEDNESDAY

romance novels

THURSDAY

poetry (read from anthologies of different poets)

FRIDAY

opening chapters from biographies of people from different cultures or
different times in history

As you read record ideas that come to mind.

At the end of the week review all of your notes. What did you discover?

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-35

L.I.T.T.E.R. - Lotta Ideas To Test Every Resource

This CC was inspired by seeing a driver of a large shiny huge truck, pulling a long trailer with new looking golf carts on it toss an empty beer can out of his window while entering a highway.

While traveling in Africa last Fall I saw products made by people in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa out of what the truck driving without care tossed so easily out of his window.

Let's use the "highly critical" trait of highly creative people this week to

generate ideas of what might be made out of the wasted resources people so often unthinkingly or uncaringly throw away.

And let's combine some tools from Allen Fahden's book:
INNOVATION ON DEMAND from pages 56 and 57.

FORNESS
MORENESS
EXPLORENESS
GALORENESS
SOARNESS

MONDAY

Today focus on ideas for turning empty beer and soda cans into useful products from recreational to business products. Be open to any ideas that come to your mind. Look around and be open to adapt or adopt the material to as many uses as possible. Be "for it"

TUESDAY

Today focus on generating ideas for turning fast food containers into useful products or toys for children. Focus on "Moreness" providing more fun, more joy, more excitement, and more love from the toys you imagine.

WEDNESDAY

Today focus on generating ideas for turning cigarette butts into useful products in your garden. Explore your imagination, the impossible, the unlikely, the crazy and generate many ideas.

THURSDAY

Today focus on ideas for turning broken appliances into useful products for your church or synagogue. Think Galore. Glorify. Make exciting. Make inspiring.

FRIDAY

Today focus on generating ideas for turning glass objects found along a road into useful products in your school. Focus on Soaring to higher levels of education and learning and progress for all children and your community.

Have fun and find ways to lessen waste of useful resources and the uglifying of our countryside and roadsides.

Being more creative is up to you.

Wandering Wondering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-36 Creative Support and Influences

Many biographies, autobiographies, whether in print, movies or on A&E's Biography show have discussed the significance of friends upon highly creative people. Some were in the same fields, had the same passions. Others were from completely different fields yet had similar commitments or degrees of passion.

This week explore your life for your friends during different stages.

MONDAY

Make a list of your friends from your early childhood from birth until you entered high school. Then write down things you remember about them. What was it you liked about them? How might they have influenced you? Did they support you and your interests? How?

TUESDAY

Make a list of your friends from your high school days. Then write down things you remember about them. What was it you liked about them? How might they have influenced you? Did they support you and your interests? How?

WEDNESDAY

Make a list of your friends from your part-time jobs, summer jobs, jobs you had before you entered your initial life profession, career, occupation. Then write down things you remember about them. What was it you liked about them? How might they have influenced you? Did they support you and your interests? How?

THURSDAY

Make a list of your friends from your adult workplaces, career, profession, occupation. Then write down things you remember about them. What was it

you liked about them? How might they have influenced you? Did they support you and your interests? How?

FRIDAY

Make a list of your adult friends outside of work or career. Then write down things you like about them. What is it you liked about them? How might they influence you? Do they support you and your interests? How?

At the end of the week explore all the things you wrote and look for patterns, lessons, discoveries you find.

Alan

Alan's Creativity Challenges 2004-37 **My Heart's in San Francisco**

This week my son Scott and I are in San Francisco to attend Giants and Oakland Athletics baseball games. So far two fun Giants games with lots of action. One more this afternoon and then we take the BART to Oakland and start going to 3 of their games.

Each morning I spend about 3 to 4 hours walking the streets of SF.

This week's challenge is for you to spend time walking virtually or in reality through the streets of different cities. Use books, magazines, slide shows, videos, filmstrips or simply walk them yourself.

Use all of your senses, virtually or physically. Make notes of what you see, smell, taste, hear, touch. How are the cities the same? How are the cities different?

Make notes of what you experienced that you did not expect.

MONDAY

Choose a city in North America

TUESDAY

Choose a city in South America

WEDNESDAY

Choose a city in Africa

THURSDAY

Choose a city in Europe

FRIDAY

Choose a city in Asia

Make the choice to have a creatively filled week.

Wandering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-38 Solutions Are Often Just Sitting There

Often solutions or links to solutions are surrounding us on shelves, on bookcases, in closets, in filing cabinets in drawers or on mantels,

The solutions or links may be specific, generic, inferential, or metaphoric.

This week's challenge is to test a principle that often solutions or links to solutions are surround us. Each day spend time seeking solutions or links to solutions for one of your challenges: personal or professional.

Each day spend up to 30 minutes scanning the given resource.

MONDAY

Look at bookshelves at home or work.

TUESDAY

Look in a closet or two.

WEDNESDAY

Look in filing cabinets. (legally that is (ha ha))

THURSDAY

Wander around your home or office/workplace and explore the objects on mantels, display cases or shelves.

FRIDAY

Explore storage spaces: attics, crawl spaces, basements.

Approach your searches with an open rational and/or intuitive mind.

Have a creative week.

Wandering Wondering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-39

To Become More Creative Spend Time with Other Creatives

This week's CC was inspired by an email from a creativity list cyberspace friend's 19 year old daughter's website.

Often over the years of exposing myself to highly creative people and to people who study highly creative people or creativity as a subject itself one process or thought reappears over and over.

"To become more creative spend times with children."

The principle to me behind this thought or premise is "spend time with creative people".

Since 1976 when I first truly became hooked on studying and learning about creative thinking that lead to my life journey ever since of developing my own creativity and creative thinking skills I have developed the habit of spending time face to face, indirectly and virtually with many creative people of all ages.

That is the challenge this week (should you choose to take on the challenge).

MONDAY

Visit websites about today's creative people. One sample is ...

<http://www.g2gnow.com/bp/bpIndex.html>

Borderless Promotions (BP)! This is a site is dedicated to bringing people

interviews, latest entertainment news, concert and meet and greet pictures, exclusive contests, and anything and everything else that people, mostly the fans, love to see of all of their favorite artists.

Go to the interview section and read what Jessica is learning about the musicians of her generation.

TUESDAY

Visit websites about artists.

WEDNESDAY

Visit websites about inventors

THURSDAY

Visit websites about famous business people: Ford, Gates, Patterson (NCR), Watson (IBM)

FRIDAY

Visit websites of or about leaders from around the world that you know nothing about, YET!.

So the challenge is to spend time (15 to 30 to 60) minutes a day exploring and learning about other creative people of different ages.

Have a more creative week. It is always your choice if you try and work at it.

Wandering Alan

PS

Wednesday I leave for South Africa to present at two conferences focused on creativity: one in Natal-Zulu area for 300+ teachers and school administrators, one in Warmbaths (not far from Pretoria in the countryside)...the 10th Annual Africa Creativity Conference that was created and is directed by my world famous creativity consultant friend and fellow student of E. Paul Torrance, Kobus Neethling.

I am sitting in the Crown Plaza Hotel in downtown Tulsa, Oklahoma about to

leave for the airport to fly to Atlanta and just discovered that the 2004 CC-40 apparently didn't go out to you when I sent it. Sorry about the snafu. Here it is.

Wandering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-40 Creating with Friends

Often highly creative people are introverts or extreme loners. Yet in our workplaces or schools we seldom have the opportunity to work totally alone. This week practice being creative with other people like or unlike you. Choose a simple exercise such as brainstorming new uses for a paper clip, brick, a stick.

Write a list of people you know: people like you, different, opposite yet supportive of you. Think of at least four types of people: highly logical or scientific, highly imaginative, highly group or team focused, highly organized and systematic.

MONDAY

Deliberately choose a close friend this first day and spend 15 to 30 minutes "brainstorming" novel ideas with a friend who is very much like you.

TUESDAY

Deliberately choose a close friend this second day and spend 15 to 30 minutes "brainstorming" novel ideas with a friend who is similar to you.

WEDNESDAY

Deliberately choose a close friend this third day and spend 15 to 30 minutes "brainstorming" novel ideas with a friend who different from you. If you are rational choose a highly imaginative person or vice versa. If you are a group or team, people liking person choose a highly systematic and a little introverted friend.

THURSDAY

Deliberately choose a close friend this fourth day and spend 15 to 30 minutes "brainstorming" novel ideas with a friend who is opposite you. If you are rational and a bit of a loner choose a very people person who is very flexible in groups. If you are highly imaginative, choose a highly organized person who prefers not to break the rules or get out of the box much of the time.

FRIDAY

Deliberately choose a close friend this fifth day and spend 15 to 30 minutes "brainstorming" novel ideas with a friend who you have not seen for a long time.

Please share some of you experience.

I am currently traveling and speaking in South Africa with several consultant friends from a mix of countries, many SA friends and audiences of new SA people. This week Zulu teachers. Next week a cross section of SA people.

Wandering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-41 Creating with New Friends

Yesterday after traveling from Warmbad, South Africa in the Limpopo Province leaving at 11:30 am on Friday the 8th their time and arriving in Atlanta at 8:00 am on Saturday I flew from there to Tulsa, Oklahoma at 11:20 am arriving at 12:00 noon Central time in order to give a short testimonial speech about my doctoral major professor, E. Paul Torrance as he was honored this weekend by a local foundation devoted to the perpetuation of creative thinking and behavior. The two-day program was put honor at the OSU campus in Tulsa at their beautiful Conference Center.

Kobus Neethling, my long time creativity friend, from South Africa also flew to Tulsa to give a testimonial speech about our favorite and greatest teacher.

Around 6:00 pm we were picked up to attend a wonderful dinner at the Department Head of Educational Psychology and Gifted Education's beautiful home on a lake outside of Tulsa. Her home was filled with doctoral and

masters students and faculty all honoring E. Paul Torrance this weekend

All that lead in to spark this week's CC-2004-41

Spend time with NEW creative friends.

MONDAY

Meet two or three NEW friends today at work or school who you think are very creative.

TUESDAY

Meet two or three NEW creative friends today doing something you enjoy doing.

WEDNESDAY

Sign up for a class or attend a class for something you enjoy and meet two or three NEW creative friends today doing something you think you will enjoy.

THURSDAY

Explore internet chat rooms in search of two or three NEW creative friends today.

FRIDAY

Go to a library and check out one to three books about famous creative people you will read about in order to make them NEW virtual friends.

Spending time with NEW creative friends can help spark and enliven our creative abilities and desire to be creative.

Even the most reclusive artists, writers, scientists, inventors, business people have their friends that help spark their creativeness.

Best wishes for a highly creative week.

Wandering, Wondering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-42

"Was Humpty Dumpty's mom a big fat chicken ?"

This week's CC was inspired by Mark Mayfield in the book "humor me" America's Funniest Humorists on the Power of Laughter", an anthology of some of the finest humorist speakers.

To further quote Mark Mayfield...

"You don't stop playing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop playing."

"Humor is the ha-ha; creativity is the 'ah-ha.'" both Joel Goodman of the Humor Project and Mark Mayfield are given credit for this observation.

"Look past the obvious."

This week each day spend time looking beyond the obvious.

MONDAY

Make a list of questions about fairy tales like the Humpty Dumpty question above.

TUESDAY

Collect funny headlines or revise some dumb ones.

WEDNESDAY

Find humor in what you hear people say all day today.

THURSDAY

Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Modify, Put to Other Uses, Eliminate, Reverse what you see or hear to create humor.

FRIDAY

Find humor in dumb things people do today wherever you go.

Have fun creating, experiencing or making humor.

Please share some of your best examples from the week.

Choose to be funny, look funny, see funny, hear funny and become more creative this week.

Wandering Wondering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-43

A Note, A Chord, A Melody Away From a Solution

Often I have found inspiration, connections, or even an unconscious link to an idea that lead to a solution through music whether listening consciously or simply having it playing in the background or even just noticing it being played in the background wherever I happen to be.

This week let music of different types help spark your imagination.

One of the things I have often bought the past 6 years since I began traveling extensively around the world are cds of music from the countries or the areas: Aboriginal music in Australia, Maori Music in New Zealand, traditional instrument music in Japan, Korea or Thailand, flute music by native American musicians. Typically I purchase one mostly traditional or favoring traditional instruments and one the most contemporary instrumental music I can find.

Yesterday during the hour-plus ride drive to see my daughter, son-in-law and grandson I was listening to first music from Ireland and then music from the

American southwest. Both provoked different images, different thoughts.

This week gather up a mixture of types of music that you either have, you can borrow from your local library or friends or can rent. Then listen for the music for periods of 15 to 30 minutes at a time while you are doing other things as background music or simply sit and enjoy the music while letting your mind to wander freely.

The assignment to enjoy the music and experience what images and thoughts are sparked by simply listening to music of different types consciously or subconsciously.

MONDAY

Listen to Native American music

TUESDAY

Listen to music from the British Isles: Irish, Welsh, Scottish

WEDNESDAY

Listen to African music

THURSDAY

Listen to South American music

FRIDAY

Listen to Asian music

Share your results and your selections of music.

Have a creative week. Make your week more creative deliberately.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-44

Your Librarian is Your Contact to Creativity

Though we seldom get to know the name of our librarians, whether at school, work or at our public libraries, they can be great resources for helping us access our creativity.

This week's CC may actually take 5 weeks to accomplish unless you can take the time to go to a library each day this week. If you can not go each day this

week, then make library dates on your calendar or bookstore visit dates. Your goal is to ask for help in sparking your creativity using the knowledge of your local librarians or bookstore owners/employees from the local independent bookstore to one of the various large chains, rather than simply discount stores that just sell books.

MONDAY

Go to a bookstore or library and ask for suggestions on a mix of the most diverse mystery writers and read the first 3 chapters of 3 to 6 different writers
looking for how their creativity is different.

TUESDAY

Go to a bookstore or library and ask for suggestions on a mix of the most diverse suspense writers and read the first 3 chapters of 3 to 6 different writers
looking for how their creativity is different.

WEDNESDAY

Go to a bookstore or library and ask for suggestions on a mix of the most diverse travel writers and read the first 3 chapters of 3 to 6 different writers

looking for how their creativity is different

THURSDAY

Go to a bookstore or library and ask for suggestions on a mix of the most diverse science writers and read the first 3 chapters of 3 to 6 different writers
looking for how their creativity is different.

FRIDAY

Go to a bookstore or library and ask for suggestions on a mix of the most

diverse sports writers and read the first 3 chapters of 3 to 6 different writers looking for how their creativity is different.

Please report what you discover.

Choose to have a creative week.

Willfully Wondering Wandering Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-45 Analogies from A to Z

I have been reading "Juice" by Evan I. Schwartz which about Inventors and various thinking approaches they tend to use. It is an interesting book focused primarily on today's inventors.

One section is focused on the importance of the use of ANALOGIES by inventors when searching for clues that often lead to breakthroughs in thinking.

This week experiment each day with using ANALOGIES.

Take a challenge you are working on and use it throughout the week with different analogies.

MONDAY

Today using the alphabet to spark fresh thoughts examine analogies from the physical sciences: chemistry, biology, physics

TUESDAY

Today using the alphabet to spark fresh thoughts examine analogies from sports.

WEDNESDAY

Today using the alphabet to spark fresh thoughts examine analogies from the arts.

THURSDAY

Today using the alphabet to spark fresh thoughts examine analogies from nature.

FRIDAY

Today using the alphabet to spark fresh thoughts examine analogies from the various fields of entertainment: music, fiction, movies, theatre, dance, poetry.

The goal is to list analogies, as many as you can.

_____ (your challenge) is analogous to a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, z!

Each day simply list as many potential analogies as you can.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-46 To Puzzle of Not to Puzzle

This weekend I presented at and participated in a Creativity Conference, the 13th Double Festival sponsored by Project Renaissance directed by Win Wenger, a long time creativity friend and leader from CPSI. The conference was held at the beautiful home of Kate James, famous games and puzzle artist and creator and manufacturer through her company KADON.

Every artist's, designer's, writer's, architect's, actor's home (highly creative person's home that is) that I have visited have been fascinating because they generally are 3 to 4 dimensional creations of their art and creativeness. Kate's home certainly is. Puzzles, puzzles, puzzles as art, two dimensional, three dimensional, four dimensional are found everywhere on walls, floors, in corners, on tables, shelves, etc everywhere you look. Each time you walk around you see more that you missed the first, second, third, fourth through umpteenth time you walked past.

The experience sparked this week's Cre8ng Challenge for helping us further expand, enrich and develop our creative thinking skills and abilities.

Each day this week during your creativity development time experiment with different types of puzzles and games.

To prepare take a tour around your home or your friends' homes or local toys and games stores or Kate's wonderful website. Do a google.com search for KADON and visit her great website, a great source for gifts for yourself, friends, relatives...Christmas and Channukah are coming.

MONDAY

PUT TOGETHER PUZZLES play with a series of varying types of this type of puzzle ranging from easy to very hard. These include jigsaw puzzles and many others that involved the arranging of miscellaneous pieces to form a specific image or design.

TUESDAY

CROSSWORD PUZZLES work on some to test your mind.

WEDNESDAY

EYEBALLERS or picture recognition puzzles (find a copy of GAMES magazines of any of the books GAMES has published for samples)

THURSDAY

SHAPE FITTING puzzles. The objective is to take various pieces and arrange them into specific shapes or designs without a game board.

FRIDAY

LATERAL THINKING puzzles, games that require us to figure out mental or visual puzzles based on clues, case study examples, or stories. There are many books and websites that provide samples of them.

During the week test, challenge yourself. At the end of the week review the experiences and write down your observations, reactions, thoughts and choose which you enjoyed the most and which you found the most challenging and then which were the most frustrating.

Please share your learnings.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-47

Cleaning, Organizing, Tossing to Find New Ideas

Happy Thanksgiving to those of you who are Americans and other countries that also celebrate a Thanksgiving at this time.

Happy Holiday season to the rest of your around the world.

This week's challenge was provoked by my persistent reading of a book by a creativity friend located in San Diego, who I have met over the internet, then in person at the 2004 Winterfest held in San Diego where he spoke at one of our lunches/

Lee Silber. Lee is a very right brain person who has developed a reputation and a budding career because of his "RIGHT BRAINEDNESS". He has written several books of how to use "right brainedness" as a strength and not fear it as a curse.

My only point of difference with him is one I have held with many writers, speakers, consultants, educators, researches who use the terms "creative" and "right-brainer" (or any of many variations of the term that derive from the initial work of Roger Sperry, Joseph Bogen, Jerre Levy and Michael Gazzinga in the 1960s thru 1990s) as

equal or synomonous

I live by and accept the concept that ALL people are born with vast capacities to be creative (able to generate new and unique ideas and solutions or new and unique ideas and solutions that are combinations of existing or old ideas and solutions...thank you E. Paul Torrance - teacher, mentor and friend and others)

Lee's list of books include:

MONEY MANAGEMENT for the Creative Person

SELF-PROMOTION for the Creative Person

CAREER MANAGEMENT for the Creative Person

TIME MANAGEMENT for the Creative Person and the one that I am reading now....

ORGANIZING from the RIGHT SIDE of the BRAIN

The book is fun, filled with many, many helpful and very useful tips, suggestions and ideas for helping people who may not be as organized as they prefer and generally have problems in their lives due to "CHAOS" they create physically and mentally.

I was one of a 100 or more people that Lee interviewed via the internet when he was researching the book and have a short passage included in it.

My goal since my copy arrived via Amazon.com has been to read it completely through, much like trying to read the Encyclopedia completely through from A to Z (whatever number of volumes or pages it is now). I started at the 30 pages per day and made a great clip through 180 pages. Then I left it behind last weekend when I went to Win Wenger's 13th Project Renaissance Double Festival Creativity Conference and picked it up again on Tuesday reading about 10 pages a day and have 36 pages left.

All that up front to set the scene for your challenge, "SHOULD YOU DECIDED TO TAKE IT ON, JIM", ala Mission Impossible).

Begin by making a list of areas you want, wish, need, desire to have more organized by the end of the week: garage, basement, attic, closet, dresser drawers, bookshelves, filing cabinets, pile of stuff on the floor somewhere, a storage shed out back or you rent somewhere, etc. Break the areas down into a doable amount, meaning an amount of space or volume you can work on organizing during 15 to 30 minutes.

Have a pad of paper, laptop, Blackberry or whatever other device you use for recording ALL those GREAT ideas that just pop into your head while you are doing something else other than working on the problems or challenges the ideas might be used to lead to solutions.

Then each day during your DEVELOPING MY CRE8NG™ and Creative Thinking skills time with your recording device with you simply sort, simplify, sift through and organize for 15 to 30 minutes. As ideas pop up in your mind or before your very ideas in a flash write them down.

At the end of the week spend some extra time processing what happened

what you learned what it felt like.

MONDAY

Choose a bench, shelf, section of your Garage and organize being open to any ideas that pop.

TUESDAY

Choose a closet somewhere in your home, office, classroom and organize being open to any ideas that pop.

WEDNESDAY

Choose a bookshelf somewhere in your home, office, classroom and organize being open to any ideas that pop.

THURSDAY

Choose a filing cabinet somewhere in your home, office, classroom and organize being open to any ideas that pop.

FRIDAY

Choose a box or pile somewhere in your home, office, classroom and organize being open to any ideas that pop.

I wish you a fun week sampling your organizing.

Alan

Have a greatly creative week!!!

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-48 Ooops-ing to Creativity

In many books I have read about creativity there are stories of how:

mistakes, errors, blunders, accidents, phopahs (fo-pahs)
lead to discoveries
or creative ideas.

Penicillin, masonite, Kellogg's Corn Flakes, Eureka!,

vulcanization of rubber and so many other breakthroughs or simply creative solutions were first found through errors, even catastrophes.

This week spend your 15 to 30 minutes of creative thinking skill development time Monday thru Friday thinking about examples of creativeness that have happened in your life or the lives of people you know.

MONDAY

Today think about mistakes that led you to creativeness

TUESDAY

Today think about errors that led you to creativeness

WEDNESDAY

Today think about blunders that led you to creativeness

THURSDAY

Today think about accidents that led you to creativeness

FRIDAY

Today think about phopahs/fopahs/Freudian slips that led you to creativeness

Please share some of what you discover or remember.

Have a great creatively filled week.

Alan

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Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-49
Idea Combining

Wristwatch, camera-phone, car-radio, motorcycle, airboat are all examples of combined ideas. Often inventors combine unrelated ideas or solutions to

generate a new solution. Often marketers combine ideas to produce new products or services.

This week search for combined ideas.

MONDAY

Look in the grocery store for new products that are combined ideas of previous products

TUESDAY

Look in a toy store for new toys or games that are combined ideas of previous products.

WEDNESDAY

Look in a high-tech store for new products that are combined ideas of previous products.

THURSDAY

Look in a music store for new music that is the result of combining previous music or styles.

FRIDAY

Look into new ways of learning in your classrooms that are combinations of old ways or combinations from many fields or industries.

May the various combinations you discover will help you discover new solutions for yourself at work, school or home to creatively solve problems for you.

Alan

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Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-50

52 Traits to Improved Creative Thinking

Since 1980 I have been using a list of 52 (plus 1 for good measure) human traits that can be developed that generally show as strong characteristics of "highly creative" people. Each of the 52+ can be practiced, developed, learned, taught.

This week as we come to the end of 2004, the 8th year I have been sending out these weekly challenges lets explore how you might improve specific characteristics or traits in yourself. Each day you will have 10 to choose from. Choose 1, 2, or 3 from the given lists either directly or randomly. Then spend 5 to 10 minutes generating ways you might enrich and expand that chosen traits in yourself in 2005.

MONDAY

1. Abstract, can easily move from reality to
2. Adaptable
3. Breakthrough from Current Limits, can
4. Change of Context (cross-interpretation)
5. Combination of Ideas/Facts (Synthesis)
6. Curious
7. Divergent thinker
8. Elaborative - in drawing, speaking
9. Energetic
10. Fantasy life when young

TUESDAY

11. Fantasize, able to
12. Feelings & Emotions, expresses
13. Feelings & Emotions, senses
14. Flexible in problem situations
15. Flexible thinker - creates different types of ideas
16. Fluent - produces many ideas
17. Future oriented
18. Humor, unique sense of
19. Humor, varied sense of
20. Humorous Perspective

WEDNESDAY

21. Idealistic
22. Imaginative
23. Independent
24. Ingenious
25. Learning, always
26. Movement & Sound (Sense change)
27. Multiple Idea Combinations
28. Non-conforming
29. Not motivated by money
30. Observant, highly

THURSDAY

31. Open-ended
32. Openness-resisting early closure or completion
33. Original - uniqueness
34. Passionate about their work
35. Perceives world differently
36. Perspective, Internal - easily sees in to problems & things
37. Perspective, Macro Scale [seeing from larger view]
38. Provocative Viewpoint, takes
39. Question asker
40. Richness & Colorful Detail in thinking and communicating

FRIDAY

41. See possibilities
42. Self- knowledgeable
43. Self-actualizing
44. Self-disciplined
45. Sense of destiny
46. Sensitive
47. Severely critical of self, their work, potential of area of focus 48. and the potential of other people
49. Specific interests
50. Synthesize correctly often intuitively
51. Tolerant of ambiguity
52. Unusual Viewpoint, sees from, easily

53. Visualize – sensory or imaginary/intuitive

Best wishes for a highly creative week.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-51 Luck Provides Creativity

Often I have come across stories about how luck has played an important part in creativity, innovation, invention and problem solving.

Alexander Fleming and penicillin
the creator of masonite

Dr Seuss and his book about Horton and the Egg

I just read the story behind Horton and the Egg. Dr Seuss (Ted Geisel had been a successful illustrator, cartoonist, writer for a few years using both of his names. He was working on a book about an elephant. He had left his studio for a break. One of the windows was open. The wind blew the sketch of the elephant off his drawing board and it landed on top of a drawing of a tree.

When Dr Seuss returned and saw the two drawings together it sparked the initial storyline that lead to his first very famous book about Horton.

This week let's look for examples of luck in creativity whether in business, science, sports, history, or any other field and in your own life.

MONDAY

Today look for examples of creativity that have come to you or were sparked for you by luck in your life so far.

TUESDAY

Today look for examples of creativity that have come to your friends or relatives or were sparked for them by luck in their lives so far or in the distant past.

WEDNESDAY

Today look for examples in business.

THURSDAY

Today look for examples in science.

FRIDAY

Today look for examples in entertainment or sports.

The creative mind most of time is the "prepared" mind. Luck comes to those who are prepared and ready and willing to be aware of it when it comes.

Happy Holidays. My wish for you and your family and friends is that this season is filled with joy, wonder and happiness.

Alan

Alan's Cre8ng Challenges 2004-52 A Year of Creative Thinking

In a few days 2004 will come to an end and 2005 will begin. During the past 52 weeks you have done and experienced many creative things or creative ideas. Take some time each day this last week of the year to review your own creativity and the creativity you have experienced or observed.

MONDAY

Take time to think about and list creative products you have purchased and used this year.

TUESDAY

Take time to think about and list creative ways you have solved problems this year.

WEDNESDAY

Take time to think about and list creative books you have read this year.

THURSDAY

Take time to think about and list creative movies you have seen this year.

FRIDAY

Take time to list the types of creative things you want to do in 2005.

Best wishes for a happy celebration on New Years Eve and New Years Day.
May your 2005 far surpass your wildest and most dramatic dreams.

Happy New Year,

Alan

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