

FROM THE COVER



“In The Box”

*Dear Readers of
BoomerTimes & SeniorLife*

*Each month we feature a story or highlight something very special,
worthy of reading.*

Always Remember the Cleaning Lady’s Name

First Important Lesson—The Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one:

“What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?” Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50’s, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

“Absolutely,” said the professor. “In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say ‘hello.’”

I’ve never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

Second Important Lesson—Say Hello to Strangers

Another case where saying hello to a stranger and wishing them “a good day” was recently addressed to celebrity poet and author, Maya Angelou. She is known for speaking to strangers on the street with “Good Morning” or “Good Afternoon” and with a big smile, says, “Have a good day.” In one instance, she said this to a man who was considering suicide and walking along to the river, he encountered Ms. Angelou. After she greeted him with her infectious smile and wished him well, he decided that maybe he did matter. Years later, after becoming a physician, he called into a radio show where she was being interviewed and thanked her personally.

We never know when and how we make a difference...just be assured that we do!