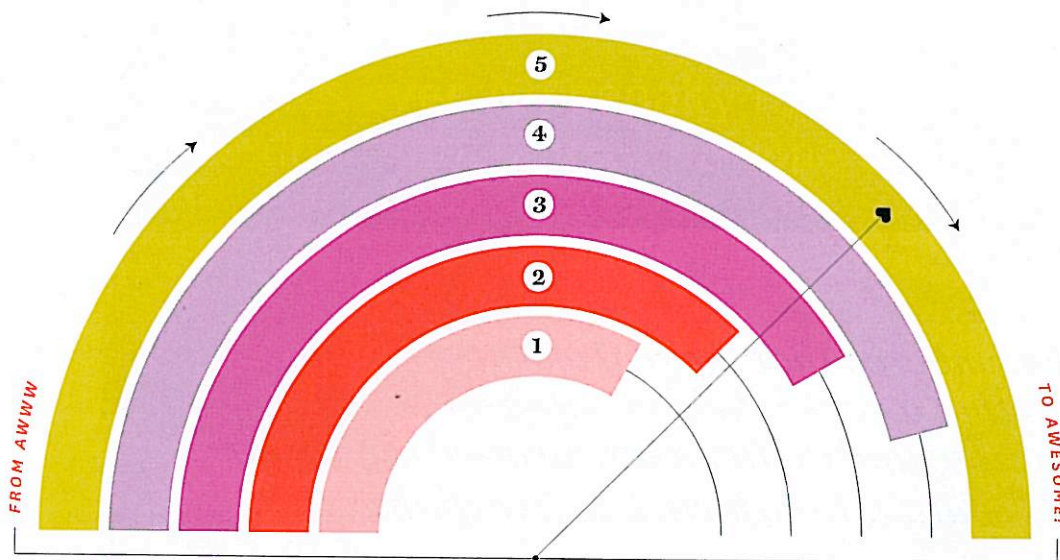


THE GRATITUDE METER

5

Things We Can't Stop Smiling About This Month BY EMMA HAAK



1

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

In a Paraguayan slum, the students in the Recycled Orchestra play classical music on instruments made of repurposed trash. Check out the trailer for *Landfill Harmonic*, the upcoming documentary about the group, on YouTube.



2

SMELL TEST

Researchers in the Netherlands trained Cliff, a 2-year-old beagle, to sniff out a common bacteria called *C. difficile*, which can cause extreme intestinal distress. Cliff's uncanny accuracy means that future doctor visits may involve fewer stethoscopes and more cold, wet noses.



3

NEW ORDER

Former McDonald's executive Mike Roberts has traded burgers and fries for Brussels sprouts and kabocha squash with LYFE Kitchen, his new, healthy fast food joint. With two restaurants in California, Roberts is planning up to 250 more across the country.



4

KINGS OF CABLE

HBO's epic *Game of Thrones* returns March 31. Watch it for the war, sex, betrayal, and mythical creatures—or just tune in for the breathtaking vistas of Northern Ireland, Iceland, Morocco, and the Croatian coast, where the series was filmed.



5

(SUGAR) HIGH ART

Caitlin Freeman, pastry chef at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's coffee bar, has written a new cookbook, *Modern Art Desserts*. Check it out next time you need to astonish dinner guests with intricate Mondrian- and Lichtenstein-inspired confections.

OPEN BOOKS

Little Free Libraries help forge new friendships.

One day in 2009, as a tribute to his late, book-loving mother, entrepreneur and amateur carpenter Todd Bol, 57, erected a dollhouse-size red wooden box, decorated to resemble a schoolhouse, in his Hudson, Wisconsin, front yard. Inside, he stocked two dozen or so books, and he put up a sign inviting his neighbors to take one and then return one. Soon his "magic little cottage," as he calls it, was drawing dozens of people to his lawn, not just to peruse the offerings but to strike up conversations. "Everyone loved it," says Bol. "They stood there reading right in my yard."

Sensing he was onto something, Bol dialed up Rick Brooks, a University of Wisconsin-Madison outreach program manager he'd met at a workshop on local business development. Brooks, 64, was fascinated by Bol's idea for tiny libraries, and the two decided to promote them on a larger scale. They started by selling fully constructed library models, then a kit of wood, screws, and Plexiglas, and offering them on littlefreelibrary.org. After the pair was interviewed on Wisconsin Public Radio, the calls and orders poured in. Now there are more than 8,000 "LFLs" around the world. "People who live near an LFL say they're meeting more folks than they've met in 25 years," Brooks says. Adds Bol, "Somebody said it's like having a front porch that extends to your sidewalk." —LESLIE GOLDMAN



LIBRARY: CHRISTY BAKER; INSTRUMENTS: LANDELL HARMONIC; DOG: JEAN PIERRE JANS; PIZZA: ANDREW; CAKE: JENNIFER HARRIS