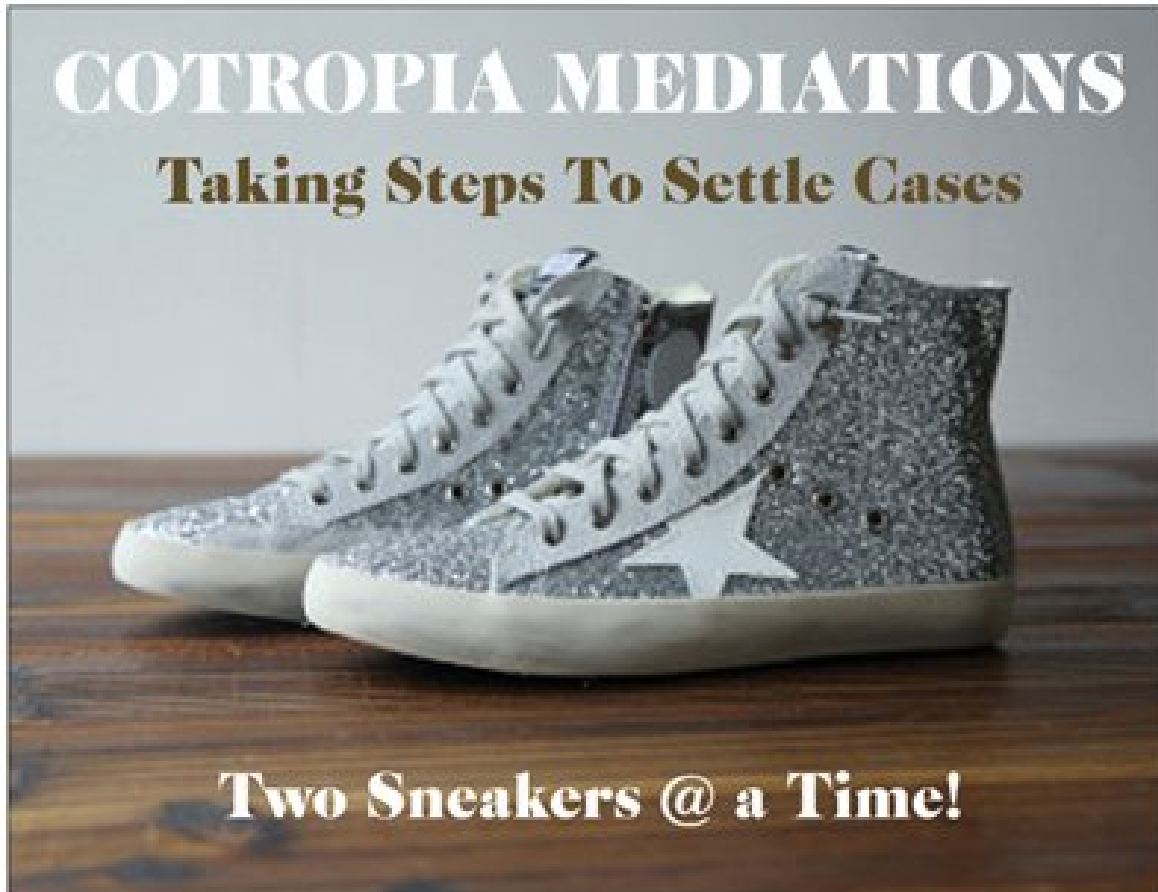


# NEWS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEED

2018, Issue 4

Carla Cotropia



## *What's in This Newsletter?*

Carla's Thoughts of the month

Quote of the Month - A quote from Teller.

Grip of the Month - Houston Drivers

Worry Eliminator of the Month - Asteroids?

## Selected Articles

*My Crazy Decorating-for-Holidays Obsession* - Blog Post



## *Carla's Thoughts of the Month*

### Quote of the Month

Nothing fools you better than what you tell yourself.

- Teller



### Grip of the Month

People driving like race car drives on the freeway.



### Worry of the Month

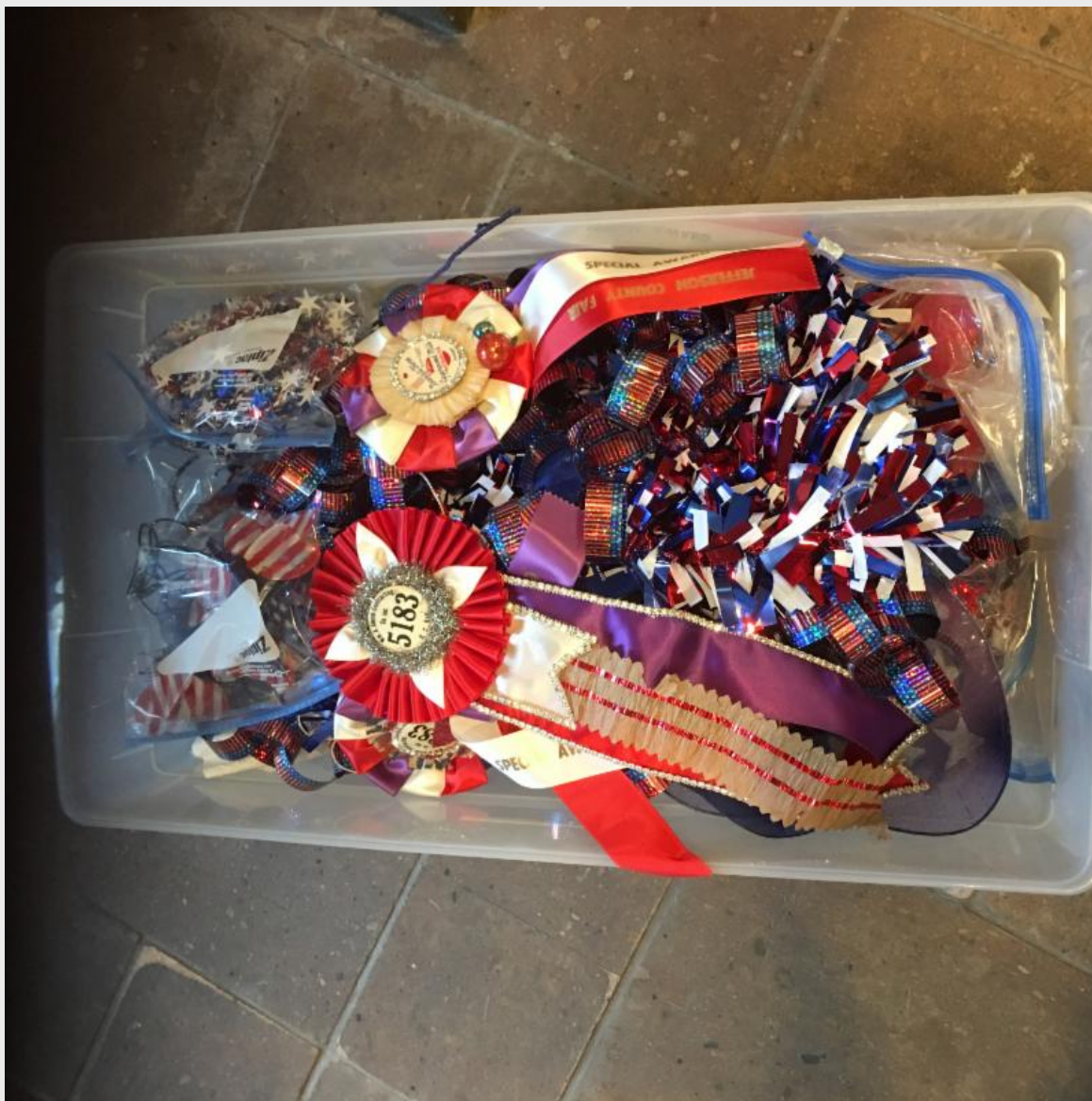
In case you are worried about being hit by an asteroid, NASA says it knows of no asteroids that pose a serious risk to Earth in the next 100 years, though there is a one in 714 chance of an impact in 2185.



By Carla Cotropia

Ok, I admit it. I have a kitschy-maybe tacky-obsession with decorating for the holidays. It goes like this, Christmas, Mardi Gras, -this year St. Patrick's, but I don't always do that holiday-Easter, Memorial Day/Fourth of July, Halloween/Day of the Dead/ and back again with Christmas. I scratched off Valentine's Day from the rotation. Even I had to admit that was too much.

My recent decorated holiday is Memorial Day/Fourth of July. It works like this. I go upstairs to my decorating closet where I have everything stored in bins.



Inside the bins, I keep the lights and tinsels in separate zip lock bags. When you are this obsessed, you have to have order. I take out the appropriate bin and decorate with it as my mood and time allows. I don't do the same thing every year.



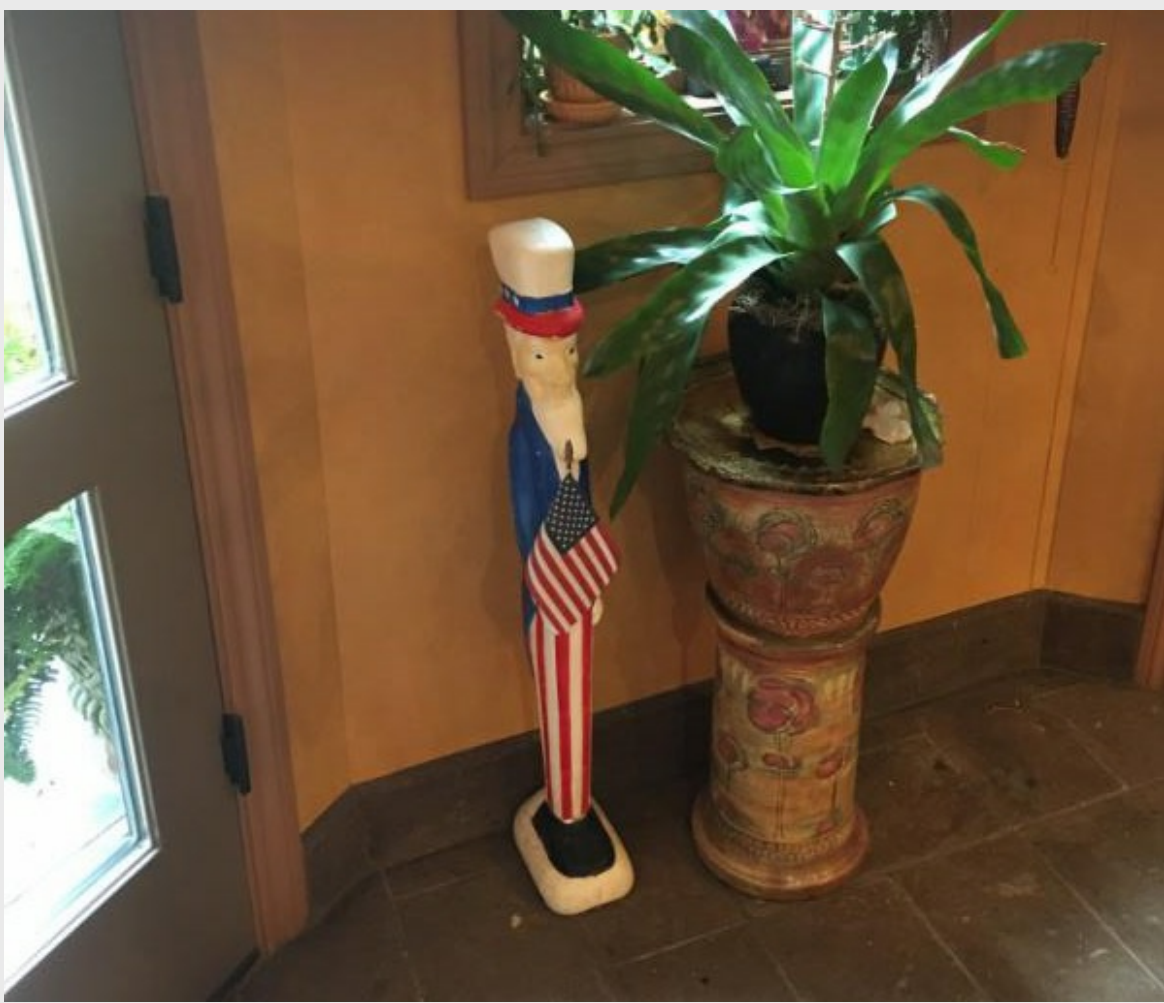
I always decorate my mirror with tinsel and a string of lights. Tinsel is the tacky girl's savior. It hides the cords of the string of lights. Lights are key. I have them on timers, so I am always greeted with a cheery holiday spirit when I come home from work.



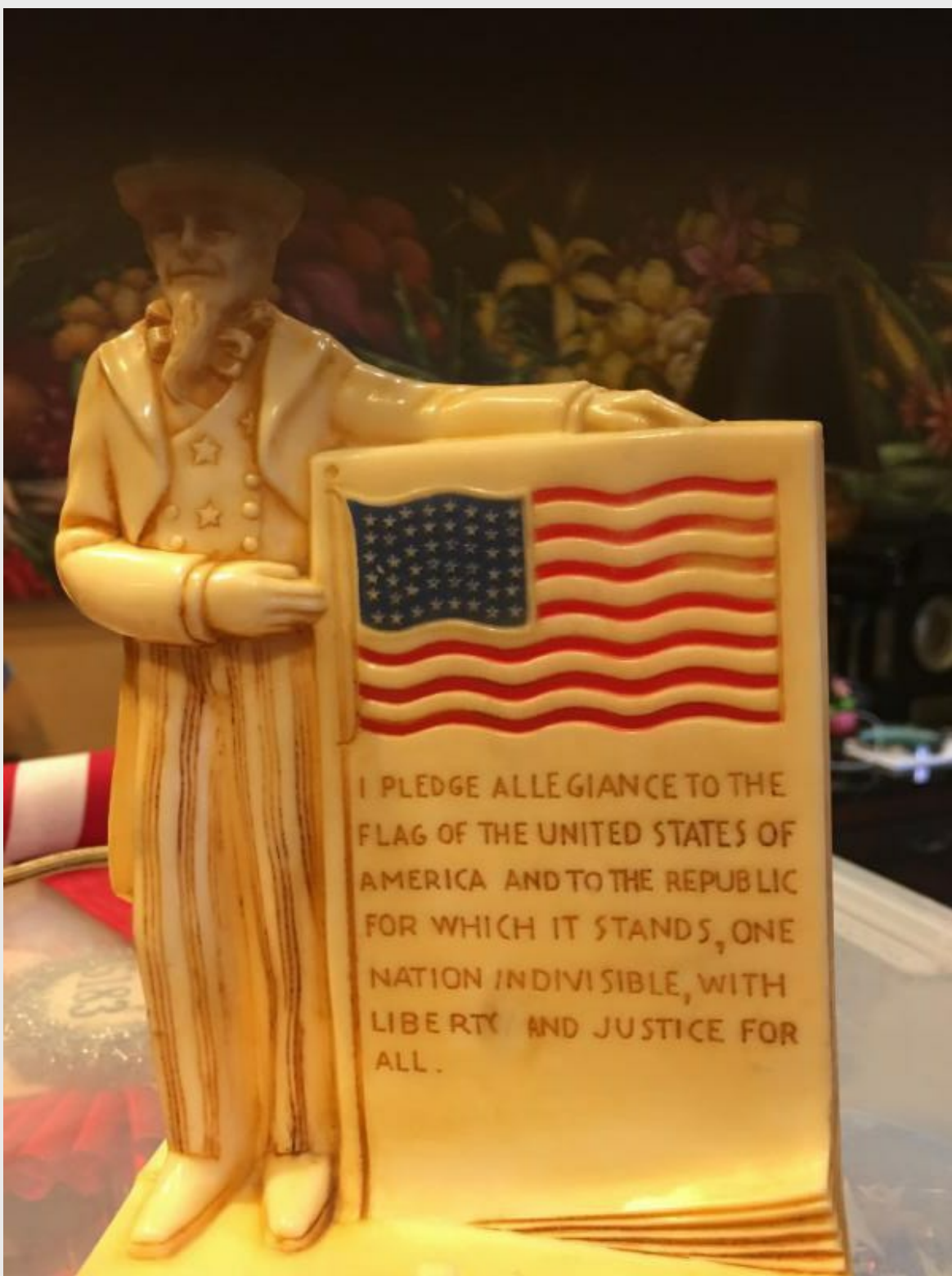
The next step is to decorate my chandelier. The Fourth of July theme includes red, white and blue butterflies I bought years ago in a Galveston shop. I place the butterflies in the chandelier, add some tinsel and there you have it.



I also like the blow plastic decorations from the 1950/1960s. Here is my Fourth of July Uncle Sam I found on eBay.



Antique fourth of July mementos are hard to find. I found this one, which lights up, in Round Top. Notice that the flag only has 48 stars. This means it was made prior 1959. Hawaii was admitted as the 50th state on August 21, 1959.



My sister decorated vintage horse ribbons with a Fourth of July theme. I put these out every year.



My next decorating stop will be Halloween. The obsession continues.....

## ***MDO YOU WORK WITH A PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE COWORKER?***

By Carla Cotropia

The term passive aggressive is bantered around a lot but what does it really mean? Passive aggressive types, PA for short, cause their coworkers much grief. What are the signs of a PA, other than having a coworker that drives you crazy?

First, is the co-worker difficult to work with because they don't respond? Or maybe they are never wrong? Do they make everything your problem? Do they wait to the last minute to give their team members work, even if it greatly inconveniences them? If you complain about their behavior, do they act like they have no idea what YOUR problem is? Do they make you feel crazy? Are they nice in person yet you hate working with them?



If these descriptions describe your coworker-VIOLA-you are the lucky winner that works with a passive aggressive co-worker.



Some people believe a PA person only creates hostility by subtle insults or criticism delivered in a passive way, rather than being just plain old aggressive. I am no psychologist but my sister is, and she says the above descriptions are also classic signs of a PA person.

How do you survive working with a PA? First, I think it helps if you understand what you are dealing with so that you don't think you are the crazy one. According to Psychology Today, passive-aggressive behavior is a way of expressing hidden anger. Instead of being honest and expressing their emotions, they stuff the anger down, but it doesn't go away. Instead, it gets expressed in passive-aggressive behaviors. Instead of saying I am frustrated or have personal issues, the PA will act out anger by not responding to you. If this creates issues for you, that is just too bad. Their problems/issues are more important than yours.

Passive aggression is often a crime of omission. If they wait until Friday afternoon to give you work or their part of the team project, this is your problem, not their problem. If the job doesn't get completed in time, the PA is the victim because his coworker didn't get the job done.

The PA feels powerful because by denying feelings of anger and withdrawing from direct communication, they make their coworkers ride an emotional roller coaster. When a PA procrastinates, and someone else gets mad because of it, they have, in a classic passive-aggressive way, gotten let their coworker to act out their hidden anger for them. The PA is the master of the universe. If you point this out, you are the problem, not them.

So, what's the bottom line here? My answer is try not to work with them, but if you are trapped working with them, get others involved, so they understand you are dealing with a PA. There is safety in numbers when dealing with a PA. Don't try to tell a PA they are passive aggressive or even point out that what they are doing is not only wrong but unfair. This will get you nowhere. In the end, just keep telling yourself, thank goodness, you are not them. And get other non-Pa's on your side.

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## *WRAP YOUR MIND AROUND A WHALE*

Nick Pyenson - New York Times

The facts of a blue whale seem improbable; it is hard to wrap your mind around an animal with jaws the height of a football goal post. Those jaws are not just the ocean's utmost bones (to borrow from Melville) but the utmost bones in the history of life on Earth.

And yet these superlative whales haven't been huge that long. In fact, they emerged just about 4.5 million years ago, coinciding almost perfectly with the human era.



[Click here to read the full article!](#)

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## Taking Steps To Settle Cases 2 Sneakers @ A Time

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