



# The VOICE

A Newsletter for the  
Residents of Teravista

Volume 2, Issue 1

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## Yoga for Weight Loss?



We've all heard the formula for weight loss. Just "burn more calories than you take in." But if weight loss is so simple, how come so many of us have a hard time with it? If we all know what to do, how come we're not doing it? There are many factors to weight loss, and there's a big gap between knowledge and action. It's a lot more than calories in, calories out. In between the "I know what I should be doing," and "how come I'm not doing that?" is a pause (and sometimes frustration). This 'pause' is where yoga can help.

Being aware of your actions - what you're eating, when you're eating it and why, are keys to weight loss success. Tuning in to your inner voice and actually hearing your body's signals is difficult. Diets fail a great deal of the time. What if you were able to smooth out your brain waves, so that you could notice the moment of choice? Yoga for weight loss? Maybe you've thought in the past that only heavy-duty cardio would do the trick, and the pounds would magically melt away. But if you are successful at this heavy-duty huffing and puffing, how come the pounds come back, and the change isn't permanent? It may surprise you to know that a recent study at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle found that an ongoing yoga practice correlates nicely with a healthy weight - and not only because of the calorie burn. (Excerpts from Natural

Health, "The New Weight-Loss Math," by Hillari Dowdle). Yoga practitioners were found to be "more aware of what they were eating and better able to stop when they were full," characteristics that the study attributes to mindfulness.

In yoga, postures are practiced slowly, which is counter-intuitive to what the mind wants. We want to burn calories, and lose weight this instant, so we think we have to move fast. But, by practicing the postures slowly, we allow our minds to catch up with our bodies. We use the breath to actually feel what our muscles are doing. And this introspection, this reflection, will bring about an awareness. An awareness of choice. "Smoothing out the brain waves and calming down the nervous system give you an opportunity to notice the moment of choice," explains Ashley Turner, M.A. "You get to ask yourself, 'Do I really want to eat more?' Most of us never even encounter that moment," she adds.

Yoga can help you develop that awareness. And, it can also help you remove toxins from your body. New studies indicate that toxins in the body suppress thyroid function, slowing metabolism. "Scientists now believe that the obesity epidemic is going hand in hand with an increase in environmental toxins," says Gaetano Morello, N.D. from British Columbia. And fasting only slows your metabolism and causes more toxins to

be released from your fat stores. Yoga can help remove these toxins.

You will get more benefits from yoga than you could ever imagine. And over time, it gets easier and more fun. No, it will not be a quick "fix" overnight. But what if you could develop the awareness to be more mindful of what you were eating, and better able to stop when you were full? These are all characteristics of mindfulness, which is practiced in every yoga class.

*Hope to see you in class soon!  
Submitted by Melinda Jennings*



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## Setting S.M.A.R.T Fitness Resolutions

By Hjalmar Perez, BS, CPT, LMT and Humberto Estrada, CI-PT, MTI

Oh YES! Another New Year. Time to turn over a new leaf, to start fresh, to renew, to revive! We've heard it all, year after year. How could this year be any different than the others? A study conducted by Franklin Covey concluded about one in three people fail at maintaining their resolutions by the end of January and about four out of five individuals ultimately end up giving up by the end of the year. The top reasons: taking on too much and lack of commitment. So, what can you do to increase your chances of completing your goals for 2012? The answer, get back to basics and being S.M.A.R.T. Studies have shown goals should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound. Let's revisit each, so grab a pen and paper and let's prepare you with your own S.M.A.R.T resolutions.

### I. SPECIFIC

First, make goals are clear and unambiguous. Make them specific by clearly stating what you

expect to achieve. Think about why your goal is important. How do you plan to accomplish it? For example, setting a goal to get stronger or have more energy is too vague. Instead, come up with a statement that leaves no doubt about what you are trying to accomplish. For example, to get stronger so I can take my family on a hiking trip to Colorado or to start exercising so I can run my first 5k. Now that has purpose and clarity!

### 2. MEASURABLE

Second, set criteria for measuring progress along the way. This one is all about answering "how much or how many" in order to quantify your results. For example, stating you are going to lift weights and do cardio is not as effective as deciding you are going to lift weights for 40 minutes 3 times a week. The latter one leaves little room for misinterpretation. Therefore, by the end of each week you should be able to easily determine if you are moving towards your goal.

### 3. ATTAINABLE

Third, goals should be realistic and attainable! Come up with goal that is challenging. However, be realistic about factors such as your skills level, your current knowledge and how much time you can reasonably devote. You're looking to be committed to your goal by making it attainable. Allow it to take you slightly pass your comfort zone and have a support system to assist you if you happen to side step it!

### 4. RELEVANT

Next, the goal must be important to you. Furthermore, you must believe you can accomplish it and you must take ownership for completing it. Asking family members or friends for their input is perfectly fine. However, we often put the responsibility of our goals on others. Using phrases as "my wife says I need to exercise" or "my doctor

*(Continued on Page 4)*

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# THE VOICE

## Setting S.M.A.R.T... - (Continued from Page 3)

wants me to lose weight” shifts the ownership of the goal away from you. There is good news; studies show those who take an active role in defining and owning their goals are likely to have a higher level of commitment and success!

### 5. TIME-BOUND

Last, set deadlines, keep it moving! Focus in setting daily, weekly and monthly mini-milestones to serve as guideposts for your journey. This strategy provides you with a chance to regularly assess how you are progressing and to adjust if necessary. Here's a quick example: you've decided to lose 10 pounds. So establish a daily goal to decrease your caloric intake by 200-300 calories, a weekly goal to lose one half to one pound & a monthly goal to complete 10 miles of walking. Mini-milestones provide you with guidance on specific actions you can take to move closer to your future goal while decreasing the failure rate!

By applying the principles of S.M.A.R.T you prepare yourself to achieve your New Year resolutions. Also, it is highly recommended to consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program.

*Cheers to a New You and a New Year!*

## Start the New Year by Attending AUSTIN NEWCOMERS CLUB JANUARY LUNCHEON

Austin Newcomers Club is a non-profit social and recreational organization of 500 member- households celebrating its 60th year. It is dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Attend the January luncheon to learn about the forty-five Interest Groups, including book clubs, card and board games playing, dining, gardening, kayaking, golfing, hiking, dancing and special events for both couples and singles. The Austin Chronicle has named the club as the “Best Way to Get Acquainted with the Best of Austin.”

The January luncheon speaker will be **Mike O'Krent**, founder of *LifeStories Alive, LLC*, specializes in making personal history videos for families that value their heritage. They create family heirlooms in video – digitally mastered records of life stories with personal accounts, photos and mementos of family history.

- **When & Where:** Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 West Live Oak Street, pre-payment \$20.00. Reservations are required by: January 11th.
- **Time:** 11 a.m. Social Hour, Luncheon begins at noon.
- **For Luncheon Reservations: Email:**  
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**Want to make your  
new year's resolution stick?**

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Sexual Addiction Group (men's group)  
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## A Focus on Resolutions - Resolve to Be a Better You

*Submitted by Concentra Urgent Care*

The New Year is a great time to make healthy lifestyle changes. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, the most common resolutions focus on losing weight, getting fit, quitting smoking, and reducing stress. These are important themes that can reduce your risk of disease. Here are ways you can achieve your goals this year.

### LOSING WEIGHT

A weight loss of five to seven percent of your body weight can improve your health and quality of life. It can also help prevent weight-related health problems, like diabetes. Changing your eating habits and increasing your physical activity are keys to successful weight loss and help to maintain optimal weight for the rest of your life. Create a plan for healthy eating and increased physical activity, while taking in fewer calories than you use.

***Your healthy eating plan should include:***

- Taking into account foods you like & dislike

- Focus on fresh fruits, vegetables, & whole grains
- Consuming fat-free or low-fat dairy products such as yogurt, cheese, and milk
- Protein sources such as lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts
- Avoiding saturated and trans fats such as animal fat, butter, and hydrogenated oils
- Staying away from foods high in sodium and added sugars

For more information on weight management and improving nutritional practices, visit the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at [www.win.niddk.nih.gov/publications/for\\_life.htm](http://www.win.niddk.nih.gov/publications/for_life.htm).

### GETTING FIT

Regular physical activity for at least 30 minutes each day, or broken up into several shorter periods of 20, 15, or 10 minutes, can help you lose weight, keep it off, and stay fit. It can also improve your energy and mood

and lower your risk for heart disease, diabetes, and some cancers. Try some of these physical activities:

- Walking (15-min. miles or 4 miles per hour)
- Biking
- Tennis
- Aerobic exercise classes (step aerobics, kickboxing, dancing)
- Yard work or house cleaning (gardening, raking, mopping, vacuuming)

Taking the first step can be the hardest part. Start slowly, at a level that is comfortable for you and add activity as you go along. Sometimes, it helps to have a friend or activity buddy when you start out. It is recommended that adults get at least two and a half hours of moderate physical activity each week. Strengthening activities, such as pushups, sit-ups, or lifting weights, at least two days per week are also encouraged. For more information on getting fit, visit the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports at <http://fitness.gov/>.

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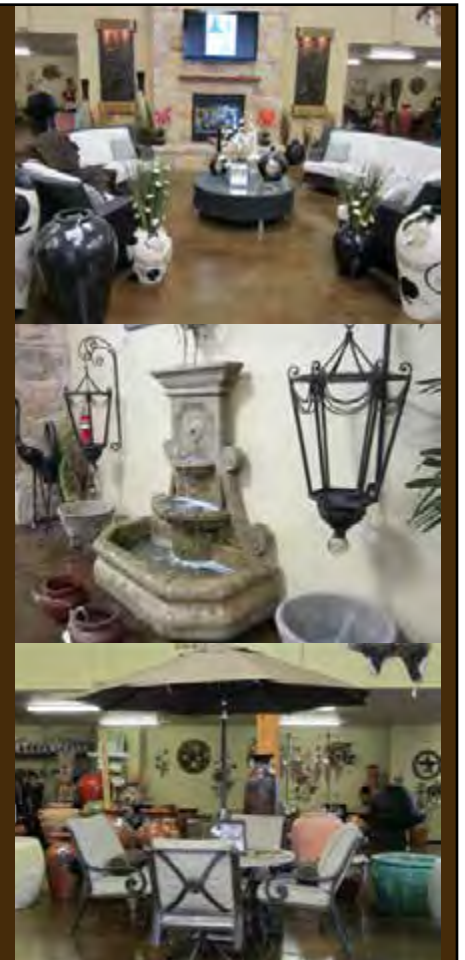
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## TOP TEN TIPS *for Protecting Your Enamel from Erosion*

The outer coating of enamel on your teeth may be the hardest substance in your body, but if it erodes, there's no way to get it back. Follow these top ten tips for keeping your enamel — which will help you keep your teeth! Enamel, the outer coating on your teeth, is the hardest substance in your body. But while it's tougher than bones, enamel has a key weakness: it lacks the ability to regenerate itself as bones do. If you break a bone, it can grow back together. If your enamel wears away, it's gone and you can't get it back. Since enamel defends your teeth against cavities, it's extremely important to take care of this protective layer.

Enamel erosion can occur for a variety of reasons, and the three major categories are diet, health issues and physical wear and tear. Many people are unaware of the effect diet has on enamel. Acid sources like carbonated drinks and citrus drinks, when consumed with regularity, can have a serious effect on your enamel. Health issues including dry mouth, acid reflux disease, gastrointestinal problems and bulimia can also lead to enamel erosion. Wear and tear includes friction from your teeth rubbing against each other, fractures due to stress on the teeth, and damage from outside sources, such as brushing your teeth too vigorously or chewing on hard objects. Watch your diet



### FOLLOWING ARE OUR TOP TEN TIPS FOR HOLDING ON TO YOUR ENAMEL.

- **4** - Chew sugar-free gum to increase saliva, which helps clean your teeth.
- ADDRESS HEALTH ISSUES**
- **5** - If you experience dry mouth, let us know; your dentist can help you with this condition.
  - **6** - If you suffer from acid reflux, gastrointestinal problems, or bulimia, talk to your family doctor to address the issue; each of these conditions affects more than just your teeth.
- BE GENTLE WITH YOUR TEETH**
- **7** - Always avoid biting pens and other hard objects, and use your teeth for chewing food only — not as tools to open containers.
  - **8** - If you are a habitual tooth-grinder, your dentist can help you address the habit.
- STAY ON TOP OF ORAL HYGIENE**
- **9** - Brush with fluoride toothpaste to strengthen your teeth.
  - **10** - Keep up with your regular oral care, including brushing and flossing daily and getting professional cleanings every six months.

- Submitted by Dr. Flury

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