



Luck

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“Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity” - *Seneca*

March marks the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day for many; the one day each year when the luck of the Irish will hopefully smile on us all.

What is luck?

Defining such an intangible concept may be the first step in determining how we might harness luck to work for us all year round.

The dictionary defines luck as:

1. the force that seems to operate for good or ill in a person's life, as in shaping circumstances, events, or opportunities. 2. good fortune; advantage or success, considered as the result of chance: 3. a combination of circumstances, events, etc., operating by chance to bring good or ill to a person.



If luck really is preparedness meeting opportunity, as the old Roman philosopher Seneca said, then what can we do to make sure we are prepared when opportunity comes knocking at our door?

“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

– *Winston Churchill*

St. Patrick’s Day Events in Richmond

Shamrock The Block:

If you're in the mood for lots of food, music, fun and people, this is the place to be on St. Patty's Day! This yearly tradition is held in historic Shockoe Bottom. For details visit: www.shamrocktheblock.com

Local Pubs:

Several local breweries, such as Siné Irish Pub, O'Toole's and Capital Ale House, will be celebrating St. Patty's Day with special Irish brews, food and festivities.

Church Hill Irish Festival:

The Church Hill Irish Festival is usually held the weekend after St. Patrick's Day. This two-day event March 24-25 boasts Irish food, folk music, and traditions. For more info. visit: www.churchhillirishfestival.com

Creating Your Own Luck

Be prepared- knowing what you want to achieve, setting goals and being educated and knowledgeable about the field you are looking to enter into will help guarantee you a foot in the door.

Be open to new people and new experiences- networking is one of the best and most well known ways of making new friends and connecting to new opportunities. Challenging yourself, saying yes more often when offered new experiences and stepping outside of your comfort zone are all ways to court new opportunities.

Believe in yourself and your abilities- having a positive attitude and outlook, not only of yourself, but of the world around you, can attract people to you. Not to mention the influence it has over your peace of mind and the quality of your life.

Don't let failure stop you- everyone who has ever been successful at anything has failed at least once before. Stay positive and focus on achieving your goals, even if you experience defeat. Imagine how different the world would be if someone you admire hadn't persisted in what they were passionate about.

Be aware of your surroundings- and know where to find the opportunities you're looking for. A big part of coming across the right opportunity is being in the right place to find it. If what you want to do isn't offered in the town or city you live in, it may be time to move to a place where it is.

Ask for help when you need it -and offer it when it is requested. It's unlikely that anyone who has succeeded at something has done so completely on their own. Having a support system and being one for others is a part of networking and helps to ensure that if you do fail at something, you have a way to get back to at least where you were. It's also a part of being a good friend to others.