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Make 2014 a 'WOW' Year



Instead of simply letting 2013 bleed into 2014 and limp into 2015... let's figure out how to make 2014 a year of 'WOW'.

In 2011 we [featured](#) Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook on our *SUCCESS* cover. Each year Mark sets a new and interesting challenge for himself like learning Mandarin, wear a tie to work every day, only eating food he kills or grows himself. This simple action sets Zuckerberg up for a year that will inspire him, test him and most of all improve his way of living.

Let me give you some other examples of this and how it can not only make your year unique, special, memorable and WOW, but might even change the rest of your life.

After a devastating divorce, Elizabeth Gilbert spent a year traveling with the intent to explore one aspect of her self in each place. Those travels took her to Italy, India and Indonesia. She chronicled her journey, which became the book [Eat, Pray, Love](#) and has since sold 5 million copies, become a feature film (starring Julia Roberts as her) and made her fabulously rich.

If you can't spend a year traveling the world trying to find yourself, you can do something as simple as (well, not simple, but it doesn't require quitting your job and packing a bag) what Julie Powell did. She decided to cook every recipe in Julia Child's [Mastering the Art of French Cooking](#). As she did she began chronicling her journey on a blog at Salon.com. Unexpectedly it soon became a national best selling book deal and a film adaptation directed by Nora Ephron (staring Amy Adams as her and Meryl Streep as Julia Child) called *Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen*.

In fact over 50 books fall under the "year experiment" theme.

Here are a few others to tickle your creative mind for ideas:

In 2005 A. J. Jacobs wrote, [The Know It All](#), in which he spends a year reading every volume of the Encyclopedia Britannica, and then again in 2007 where he spends a year following every rule in the Bible, literally called [The Year of Living Biblically](#).

There's also Danny Wallace's [Yes Man](#), published in 2005, in which he says yes to every offer and opportunity that comes his way and documents the crazy hijinks that ensue.

Maria Dahvana Headley did something similar but different in [The Year of Yes](#), published in 2006, in which she agrees to go out with any single guy who asks her on a date.

Judith Levine did [My Year Without Shopping](#) in 2006, where she does exactly the title says.

Sara Bongiorni did [A Year Without 'Made in China'](#) and published it as a book in 2007.

All of these are probably inspired by Henry David Thoreau's 1854 memoir [Walden](#), in which the transcendentalist roughed it in a cabin for two years.

For the real challenge seekers there is [365 Nights: A Memoir of Intimacy](#) where Charla Muller, after ten years of marriage started to feel like roommates and not lovers with her husband any more, on his 40th birthday promised him sex every day for the entire year regardless of whether the two of them were in the mood. Before that she says she could probably count the number of times they'd had sex in a year on one hand," After 11 months the Penguin Group paid her to write the book about the experiment.

For the less risqué there is [The Wishing Year: An Experiment in Desire](#) where Noelle Oxenhandler chronicles a year where she suspends her Buddhism-bred skepticism about "the power of wishing" in order to see if she could get a new house, a new love and a resolution to some spiritual turmoil she had suffered.

Have you gotten any ideas for yourself yet? It could be as simple as making every Sunday "fun day" where you start with mimosas in the morning and do something unique and consistent every Sunday.

Or like what I did a couple years ago, when I wanted to spend more time quieting my mind so I set a goal to watch and capture a picture [50 sunsets](#) that year. I ended up with 89 and it made a BIG difference to my year let me tell you.

So I challenge you to find your one 'WOW' idea—one thing you will do this year that will challenge you, stretch you, be unique, different and make 2014 memorable. 20 years from now you might not remember that you did it in 2014, but you will remember the experiment and how it effected you and made it a 'WOW' year.

Share this challenge with your circle of friends—get them in on the adventure.
The 'WOW' factor is significantly increased when you take the challenge with friends.

Tell us what your 'WOW' experiment idea will be for you.

The one who gets the most 'Shares', 'Likes' and 'Comments' will be the most WOWsome!

Look forward to reading your 'WOW' ideas in the comments below.

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Judi Barnett · Owner/Psychologist at Center for Transition

This is another affirmation that I need to write my book, "Just 2013" So onwards I go. Thanks for sharing!

Reply · 2 · Like · Follow Post · about an hour ago



Darlene Neilsen · Follow · Works at Entrepreneur

Me too! I started a book a year ago now!

Reply · Like · 43 minutes ago



Annemarie Brown · Asheville, North Carolina

Darren, great challenge. This year starting tomorrow, scheduled a lunch with the 7 women in my couples clan that we do things with several times a month. Decided the gals could have fun having just a girl talk lunch once a month, first Wednesday of the month. This may not count since I intended it end of last year. Now I want to up the ante with your challenge and come up with a more WOW factor intention., really stretching ithmmmm ...exhilarating just thinking about all the possibilities..... Happy New Year.....amb

Reply · Like · Follow Post · 53 minutes ago



Darlene Neilsen · Follow · Works at Entrepreneur

You have inspired me to continue and possible finish my book in 2014! "My Kids All that and a bag a chips" a sneak peek into the life of having kids in rep hockey

Reply · Like · Follow Post · 41 minutes ago



Helen Mays · Owner/Director at Disbin Ltd

I think I'll make mine a year without packaging.. Grow more, leave the packaging I can't escape at the supermarket for them to process!

Reply · Like · Follow Post · 32 minutes ago



Katrina La Force

Sounds like a blast!! Count me in!!

Reply · Like · Follow Post · about an hour ago



Kristen Becker · Maryland Institute College of Art

Wow! Inspiring :-)

Reply · Like · Follow Post · 17 minutes ago

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1. **Maureen** says:
[January 7, 2014 at 12:38 pm](#)

I'm up for it! I'm going to do like Darren did several years ago and write down – every day – one thing that I appreciate or am grateful for about my husband (of 28 years). I will do it on my computer on a file I save on my desktop.

[\[Reply\]](#)

Rico Reply:
 January 7th, 2014 at 1:20 pm

@Maureen, That will change your life...and that of your husband! Gratitude is the key to abundance and joy. Good for you!

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- **About Darren**



Darren Hardy is the visionary force behind SUCCESS magazine as its Publisher and Founding Editor.

As the central leader in the personal development industry, Darren gets the unique privilege of sitting down with the leading experts on human performance and achievement, as well as many of today's top CEOs, revolutionary entrepreneurs, superstar athletes, entertainers and Olympic champions, to learn their unique secrets to their extraordinary success.


Darren is also an accomplished entrepreneur, author, keynote speaker, private equity investor, corporate advisor and high-performance mentor. [Learn more about Darren](#)

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Darren Hardy
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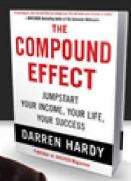
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