

3 on 13

3 things from EP
to make life
better.

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Emanuelson-Podas produces the **3on13 Newsletter** on the 13th of every month in the hopes of putting in your hands three things that will help make your life better. Entries may include quotes, reminders, jokes, random recipes, book recommendations, advice, or anything else that might make you think, make you smile, or make you a better, happier human being. **Got something worth sharing? Send it to 3on13@epinc.com**

1 | Drama + Structure

An oldie but a goodie to kick things off: A reminder from [Patrick Lencioni's *Death by Meeting*](#). We've all been in (or have run) lousy meetings. Lencioni says that ineffective meetings lack two important elements: drama and structure. Drama — the productive, respectful, interesting kind — is an outgrowth of emotion, of passion, of caring deeply. Structure is about context and organization and discipline, and about deciding [what kind of meeting](#) is needed.

A good meeting is filled with healthy tensions: time for relationship building vs. using time to get things done; gentle pushing vs. holding on too long; too in-the-weeds vs. necessary focus on details; challenging your colleagues vs. trusting your colleagues; and countless others. Progressive companies embrace — and accept responsibility for — the need to run great meetings. And they understand that once a decision is made the group must get on board... together.



2 | The Case for Coffee (Shops)



Many of us are making our “First Five” lists right now: the list of the first five people we’re going to meet face-to-face once the pandemic lifts and we feel comfortable doing so. *(Actually, there's a chance we just invented the “First Five” concept. Feel free to steal it — it's pretty good.)*

Many of these meetings will happen in coffee shops (remember those?). As the great debate on the pros and cons of working from home continues, experts generally agree that regardless of what the future workplace might look like, meetings and solo-but-not-isolated work will once again thrive in coffee shops.

But why? Why is some work (but definitely not ALL work) easier in a coffee shop? Why can business relationships flourish faster over a cup of coffee than over a conference room table?

[BBC Worklife takes us back into coffee shops](#) to answer these questions.

3 | Odds and Ends

- February 14 is Valentine's Day. It's a great reason to re-read [The Gift of the Magi](#). (Yes, we are aware that it's a Christmas story. Never mind that, just read it.)
- It's been really, really cold. Here's a rundown of [what to eat](#) and [what to drink](#) in this weather.
- The Super Bowl ads were... well... [here they are](#). (The [Toyota ad with Jessica Long](#)...? Whoa. I'm not crying, you're crying.)
- Passed along in [ENTER](#) by our friends at AIA Minnesota: [The Secret, Essential Geography of the Office](#).



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