

Days and Ways to Celebrate 2015



365 Days of Celebrations

by Marcie Connelly Lynn

Nine of Cups Publications
Nineofcups1@yahoo.com

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Please don't give this digital book away or share it. This is one of the ways we support our cruising kitty and our liveaboard lifestyle. We've priced it inexpensively - think of it as buying us a beer. Thanks!

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For David.. my editor, partner, lover, captain and best friend
who always provides me a reason to celebrate.

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Introduction

Every day of the year can be a reason to celebrate. We've lived aboard *Nine of Cups* for nearly 15 years. Sometimes when we're at sea, we forget holidays ... they just slip by us. So when we're on land, we try to make up for it. I've been a Net Controller for cruiser information radio and provided daily holiday information along with the local weather reports. Some folks tuned in just for the daily holiday ... the zanier, the better ... the heck with the weather.

You certainly don't have to live aboard a boat to enjoy celebrating holidays though. In fact, it's probably easier on land. You just have to enjoy celebrating the obvious and the not so obvious. Perhaps you're looking for an idea for a different sort of party or get-together with friends. Are you a teacher and need a way of getting your kids motivated with history or geography? Maybe your children are spending way too much time playing video games or watching TV and you're looking for some fun alternatives for them. Maybe you just need a pick-me-up during a long, cold winter or on a rainy, summer afternoon. Pick a day ... any day and make it into a holiday. Tailor it to your own needs.

It seems that in my research, I've usually been able to find a reason to celebrate 365 days a year ... some years 366. Quite honestly, when I can't find an applicable holiday, I make one up. That's permissible. Life's short and you have to celebrate when and what you can.

Some holidays are celebrated on the same day each year and some float. Sometimes there's disagreement as to when the day should actually be celebrated. Really, it makes no difference ... go with the flow. Some days have several holidays/commemorations assigned. I tried to choose the most appropriate ones with a little discussion of each. Some trivia, some history, some cultural awareness, some total nonsense!

So welcome to 2015...the 2015th year of the Common Era (CE) and *Anno Domini* (AD) designations, the 15th year of the 3rd millennium, the 15th year of the 21st century and the 6th year of this decade.

Life's an adventure to be explored and celebrated. So enjoy!

Marcie

January 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 31 | 31 | |



January is named after Janus, the Greek god with two faces. He could look behind at the old year and ahead at new year at the same time. Left, a print from Bernard de Montfaucon's *L'antiquité expliquée et représentée en figures* with different images of Janus.

Full moon(s) in January 2015: January 5th
January's moon is called the Wolf Moon.

Gemstone: Garnet
Flower: Carnation
Zodiac Signs: Capricorn December 22 - January 19
 Aquarius January 20 - February 18

January 1

New Year's Day

... on the Gregorian calendar anyway. It's the first day of the New Year and usually celebrated by recuperating from the festivities of the night before.

First Foot Day

First Foot is celebrated in several countries including Greece and Scotland. The first person to set foot in your home (or on your boat maybe?) after the stroke of midnight on New Year's is thought to bring good luck. It's not usually a resident family member and the person cannot be in the house at the stroke of midnight. The visitor usually brings some traditional gifts like bread, a coin and perhaps some whiskey or wine signifying that you'll have enough to eat, drink and spend for the upcoming year.

Start the First Foot tradition by spreading the word in advance and then visiting friends and neighbors with the traditional gifts to insure their good luck.

January 2

Sci-Fi Day

It's Isaac Asimov's birthday (1920-1992). His most famous work is the *Foundation Trilogy*. Try reading or watching some sci-fi to celebrate.

Swiss Cheese Day

Not only eat Swiss cheese, but if you're up to your eyeballs in projects, consider the [Swiss cheese time management](#) and scheduling approach ... leave a few holes in your schedule.

January 3



The Festival of Sleep

was created to allow folks to get some rest and relaxation after the chaos of the holidays. After the Christmas shopping marathons and the New Year celebrations, it's time to take a nap. So ... snooze away.

January 4

World Hypnotism Day

celebrates bringing the power of hypnosis to the world. Its intent is to educate folks about the positive aspects of hypnosis e.g. quitting smoking, losing weight. [Check out their website.](#)

You're getting sleepy, very sleepy!

January 5



Bird Day

celebrates our feathered friends. [Check out their site](#) for lots of free information, activities and games. Can you identify all the birds in your own back yard? Consider doing some birdwatching or learning more about birds in your area. You can also check out the [Nine of Cups bird pages.](#)

Howl at the Moon

There's a full moon tonight. It's okay to howl, but don't scare the birds.

January 6

Twelfth Night

This is the 12th night after Christmas and commemorates the official end of the Christmas season. Remember the *Twelve Days of Christmas*...this is the 12th day/night ... the drummers should be drumming.

Solve a Mystery Day

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes crime mysteries were written at the turn of the 20th century and still hold their appeal today. Sherlock and Watson first appeared in *A Study in Scarlet* in 1886. You can download one of his 56 stories or four novels for free at [Project Gutenberg](#).

January 7

Fruitcake Toss Day

Yup, this is the day to get rid of that fruit cake you received for Christmas. Don't have one? If you can't borrow one to throw away, or buy a discounted one from the piles of them at the local grocery, perhaps you can [bake one](#) and then toss it.

Old Rock Day

Nobody seems to know the origin of this holiday, but all agree it's an opportunity to learn about old rocks and fossils. You can discover your state's fossil, visit a natural history museum or perhaps listen to some old rock on the radio or your iPod.

January 8



Elvis' Birthday

Celebrate the King's birthday by dancing to *You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog*, *Blue Suede Shoes* or *All Shook Up*. Or maybe watch one of his 31 flicks like *Blue Hawaii* or *Viva Las Vegas*.

Bubblebath Day

After dancing up a storm, you'll need to relax. Take a bubble bath with your favorite rubber duckie and maybe drink a little bubbly.

January 9

National Static Electricity Day

I don't know why today of all days is the day we celebrate static electricity, but hey, I'm just the messenger. [Learn more about static electricity](#) ... it'll make your hair stand on end.

January 10

Houseplant Appreciation Day

Appreciate those little fellas (or big fellas perhaps) that keep our homes green in winter and light and airy in the summer months. Give 'em a drink and a little plant food as you're shouting their praises.

January 11

International Thank You Day

This is a day when you go out of your way to be polite and kind. Celebrate by learning how to say thank you ... in at least five languages. Merci! Try it ... it's contagious.

January 12

Rubber Duckie Day

Rubber duckies have become the iconic symbol of bath time since Jim Henson as Ernie on *Sesame Street* sang *Rubber Duckie* back in 1970 . [Have a listen to Ernie](#) or learn about those [29,000 rubber duckies](#) that fell off a freighter and floated around the world.

January 13

International Skeptics Day

A good day for a Doubting Thomas. All you Luddites out there can argue that the world's not really round. Or perhaps Global Warming is a hoax? Even the day is an issue ... some think it's today; some say October 13th and others say it's the first Friday the 13th of the year. Play a game of I Doubt It today. [Need the rules?](#)

January 14



Dress Up Your Pet Day

I think that pets hate this, but it's their day so get out those doggie glad rags and kitty costumes and go to town.

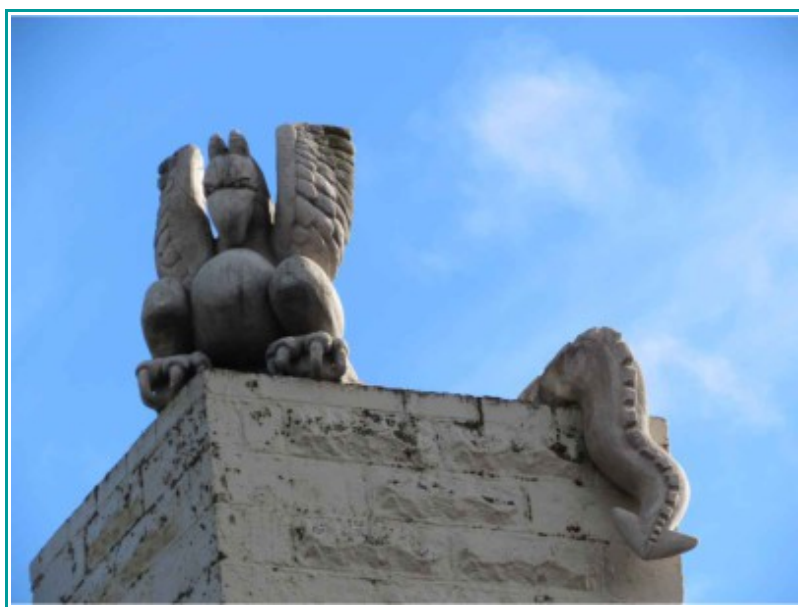
January 15

Strawberry Ice Cream Day

This one's easy. Just linger over a scoop of thick, fresh, rich strawberry ice cream. Even better, [make some yourself.](#)

It's also **Hat Day**...so wear a hat while you're licking your cone. Any hat will do.

January 16



Appreciate a Dragon Day

In many cultures, a dragon symbolizes power, boldness, and nobility. It's also a mythical creature which brings prosperity, abundance and fortune to the society. Choose your favorite dragon in literature or in a film and celebrate the day by reading or watching. How about *Pete's Dragon* or the Good Luck Dragon in *The Neverending Story*. [Better yet, how about creating your own dragon?](#)

January 17

Popeye's Birthday (1929)

Eat some spinach and watch some old Popeye cartoons.

Ditch Your New Year's Resolutions Day

This is easy ... forget all about those silly resolutions ... then eat some spinach and watch old Popeye cartoons.

January 18

Winnie the Pooh Day

It's A. A. Milne's birthday (January 18, 1882). Read a Pooh story or listen to the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band sing [*House at Pooh Corner*](#). Hey, don't be an Eeyore

January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

A US Federal holiday to commemorate a great man. It has been promoted as a day of public service. So go out there and volunteer to do something positive for your community in the name of Dr. King.

January 20



Penguin Awareness Day

Did you know there are at least 20 different penguin species and the Galapagos penguin lives near the Equator? Today, wear black and white (tuxedo not required), [tell a few penguin jokes](#) and [learn more](#) about these flightless birds.

January 21

National Squirrel Appreciation Day

Really? They're cute, they're quick, they're rodents and they're really a pain if they get into your attic. Nevertheless, [go nuts and celebrate](#) these little critters.

January 22

Polka Dot Day

Yes, wear polka dots today...a tie, a blouse, a skirt. Boxer shorts count if you're willing to show that you're wearing them.

January 23

Measure Your Feet Day

Hmmm, mine are big. This might take awhile. Luckily, it's also **Pie Day** and if I can figure out how to eat pie AND measure my feet at the same time, it will be cause for celebration.

January 24

"Just Do It" Day

You don't even have to get out your Nikes for this one. Think of something you've been meaning to do for a long time and JUST DO IT.

January 25

Burns Night

Celebrating the life and poetry of the Scottish poet, Robert Burns, many folks in the world enjoy special dinners while reading Burns' poetry. You can celebrate by singing *Auld Lang Syne*, one of Burn's works.

January 26



Australia Day

Celebrating the landing of the First Fleet in Sydney Cove in 1788, this is Australia's national day. Take the time to learn something about this great country and continent down under. Have a sausage sizzle; eat a pie; [try some Vegemite!](#) If you're an Australian, celebrate and have a barbie.

TV's birthday

Try NOT watching TV for a whole day. You'll appreciate it more tomorrow. Can you do it??? Sure you can, you'll be celebrating Australia Day.

January 27

Mozart's Birthday

Play a little *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* for a quick pick-me-up. Don't know the tune? Sure you do. [Give a listen.](#)

January 28

Kazoo Day

That's right. If you don't play a musical instrument, you're in luck. Just grab your kazoo and hum. How about starting a [kazoo marching band](#)? The possibilities are limitless.

January 29

Puzzle Day

Crossword, jigsaw, logic, mathematical, Sudoku, anagrams, word searches, ciphers, Rubik's cube...Pick your favorite and have a go.

January 30

Douglas Englebart Day

I know he's a pretty obscure guy, but in fact, he invented the computer mouse. Celebrate his day by being nice to your mouse.

January 31

Backwards Day

Wear your clothes backwards today. You can also try eating your dessert first and your salad last. Somewhere in between you need to eat some Brussel Sprouts because ... you guessed it... it's **Eat Brussel Sprouts Day**.

February 2015

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|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |



February is derived from the Latin *februum* after the Roman purification ritual. It was one of the last months to be added to the Roman calendar and it is the shortest month of the year.

The print shown is from *Petit Livre d'Amour* (*Little Book of Love*), an ornate book given by the 16th-century Lyon-born poet Pierre Salas to his then lover and future wife, Marguerite Bullioud.

Full moon(s) in February 2015: February 3rd/4th (right about midnight)

February's moon is called the Snow Moon.

Gemstone: Amethyst

Flower: Violet

Zodiac Signs: Aquarius January 20 - February 18
Pisces February 19 - March 20

February 1

National Freedom Day

commemorates the signing by Abraham Lincoln on February 1, 1865, of the joint resolution adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives that proposed the 13th amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal. This is an actual holiday signed into law by President Truman in 1948, though it's not celebrated as a paid day off in the United States.



Serpent Day

This is a day to celebrate our slithery friends. Pet a snake today. Hug a snake handler. Head to the local zoo and check out the boas.

Work Naked Day

It's more like a "[work from home](#)" day, away from the corporate brick walls, although if you did work naked at home, nobody would really need to know.

February 2

Super Bowl Sunday

Super Bowl XLIX (49) is played today in Phoenix Arizona. Armchair quarterbacking is allowed.



Groundhog Day

This is my kind of day. We're going to watch *Groundhog Day* tonight. Check out what Punxsutawney Phil is doing in Pennsylvania and see if Spring's right around the corner or another six weeks away. Really...I'd be at Gobbler's Knob if I could.

February 3

The Day the Music Died

February 3, 1965 – on this day the plane in which Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper were flying, crashed, killing three of America's rock'n'roll legends. Sing along with [Don McLean's American Pie](#) or listen to some classic [Buddy Holly](#)?

Howl at the Moon

Full moon tonight ... sing some rock'n' roll and don't miss your chance to howl!

February 4

Homemade Soup Day

It's mid-February, homemade soup will taste good tonight for dinner. How about some [Lemay Special](#)?

February 5

World Nutella Day

Never tried [Nutella](#)? It's a chocolate-hazelnut spread. Good day to try it!

February 6



Waitangi Day

New Zealand celebrates the signing of the [Waitangi Treaty in 1840](#), making New Zealand part of the British Empire and guaranteeing the Maori their land and the rights of British citizens. Surprisingly, it didn't all work out as agreed. Learn a little about the Maori culture in New Zealand.

Wear Red Day

While you're learning about New Zealand and the Maori people, put on a red shirt or a red sweater or better yet, put on your red dress, baby!

February 7

National Fettuccine Alfredo Day

It's easy to celebrate. Make Fettuccine Alfredo for dinner, then learn five words in Italian! [Here's an easy recipe](#). Buon appetito!

February 8

Opera Day

The first opera was *Daphne*, performed in 1598 during Carnival in Florence, music by Corsi and Jacopo Peri, libretto by Ottavio Rinuccini (1562-1621). Not into opera? Think about it ... did you enjoy *Evita* or *Phantom of the Opera*? These scores employed classical operatic structures. Back in 1735 on this date, *Flora* was performed in Charleston, SC ... the first opera ever performed in the USA (or at that time, a colony). If you love opera, listen to your favorite. If you're not familiar with opera, give it a chance today.

February 9

National Lox & Bagels Day

Bagels are not as easy to come by in some countries as they are in the US. There's nothing like Einsteins or Brueggers or a good deli in New York City. Revel in bagelry today. Toast it up. Smear on the cream cheese. Add thinly-sliced smoked salmon. And don't forget the capers.

National Read in the Bathtub Day

Hmm ... reading in the bathtub with a bagel. Nah, eat the bagel, then climb into the tub with a good book or magazine.

February 10



Umbrella Day

The basic umbrella has been around for over four thousand years, used in Egypt and Greece as shade from the sun ... parasols. The Chinese waxed and lacquered them to make them waterproof. Celebrate by grabbing your umbrella or your brolly, your Hanway or your gamp when you head out today. But whatever you do, DON'T open it inside the house. It's [bad luck](#).

February 11

Peppermint Patty Day

Have a refreshing chocolate-covered [peppermint patty](#) to celebrate.

It's also **White T-Shirt Day** which honors the men and women who participated in a sit-down strike at General Motors in 1937. These autoworkers helped the United Auto Workers (UAW) union to become the sole bargaining agent for General Motors autoworkers. The strike ended on this day in 1937. Wear a white t-shirt, but don't get your peppermint patty all over it.

February 12

Abraham Lincoln's (real) Birthday

One of America's most honored and brilliant Presidents. From the penny to the Lincoln Memorial, we've immortalized our 16th president for his contribution to the country. So lift a toast to Honest Abe tonight and maybe [read a little more](#) about him.

International Darwin Day

It's Charles Darwin's birthday, too! Think evolutionary theory and natural selection and learn more about [Darwin Day](#) here. Or if you want a real chuckle, read about the [Darwin Awards](#).

February 13

Get a Different Name Day

Don't like your given name? Today's the day to take care of it. Give yourself a name you like and use it all day. See if it grows on you.

Friday the 13th

It's also **Friday the 13th**. If you're superstitious, beware the day!

February 14

St. Valentine's Day

Rather than buy a commercial Valentine for the person you love, [make one](#) and wear red.

Ferris Wheel Day

It's also George Washington Ferris' birthday...the inventor of the Ferris Wheel which made its first appearance at the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. Got time on your hands? How about [building your own mini Ferris wheel](#) with Popsicle sticks?

February 15

International Gumdrops Day

It might be easy to just buy some gumdrops in your favorite flavor and pop them in your mouth, but where's the celebration in that? They're not hard to make yourself. [Give it a try!](#)

February 16

President's Day

Honoring all the Presidents of the USA in one fell swoop. A US national holiday making for a long winter weekend. Enjoy!

February 17

Mardi Gras

Traditionally, the day before Ash Wednesday which signifies the beginning of Lent and a time of abstinence and repentance, also known as Shrove Tuesday. Get out your beads and your mask. Wear purple, green and glittery gold and whoop it up! It's Carnival...live it up.

February 18

Ash Wednesday

It's the beginning of the Lenten season for Christians; a time of penance and penitence. No more candy till Easter.

Drink Wine Day

Now we're talking. This is definitely my day to celebrate. Cabernet sauvignon, merlot, shiraz, sauvignon blanc, pinot grigio, chardonnay...so much wine, so little time. Have a glass with dinner tonight. Don't overdo ... it's Lent, remember. That's why I gave up candy.

February 19



Chinese New Year 2015

Celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Sheep. The Sheep ... righteous, sincere, gentle, compassionate, dislikes schedules and change. Whether you're a sheep or not, how about wearing red and going out for Chinese food? Don't forget to use chopsticks.

February 20

Northern Hemisphere Hoodie Hoo Day

Go outside at Noon and shout "Hoodie Hoo" to scare away the winter. Then [check out this website](#) for ways to overcome the winter doldrums.

By the way, Southern Hemisphere Hoodie Hoo Day is August 22. I'll remind all the down under folks then.

February 21

International Mother Language Day

Originated by UNESCO, this day promotes international language and cultural diversity. It's estimated that there are between 6800-6900 distinct languages spoken in our world today. Learn how to [say thank you in five new languages](#). Gracias.

February 22

George Washington's Birthday

February 22, 1732. Really! Eat some cherry pie.

Pebbles Flintstone's Birthday

Not quite on a par with the first American president, but yes, that darling little red-haired cave girl was born on February 22, 1963. Celebrate by watching [an old Flintstone's cartoon](#).

National Margarita Day

End of a busy day celebrating? Wash down that cherry pie and relax with this wonderful [tequila-based concoction](#) OR enjoy it just as much [without the alcohol](#).

February 23

Tootsie Rolls' Birthday

Tootsie Rolls were first introduced in 1896 and were, in fact, the first penny candy to be individually wrapped. How's that for trivia? They're still manufactured by the same Chicago-based confectionery company, Tootsie Roll Industries, that also makes Tootsie Pops among other candy brands. So eat an iconic American candy today ... then brush your teeth.

February 24

National Tortilla Chip Day

I have no idea why this day in particular celebrates tortilla chips, but who needs a reason. Grab a bag of tortilla chips and some salsa and munch away. Make your own ... not impossible. [Try this recipe](#).

February 25

Let's Eat Right Day

This day celebrates healthy eating in honor of Adelle Davis, one of the America's best-known and earliest nutritionists. She advocated eating whole unprocessed foods, criticized food additives, and claimed that dietary supplements and other nutrients played a huge role in preventing disease and keeping bodies sound. You are what you eat. Eat healthy today!

February 26

Tell a Fairy Tale Day

What's your favorite fairy tale? *Cinderella*, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Snow White*? There are hundreds to choose from. Pick a new one, read an old favorite or make up a new one. [Download fairy tales for free](#)...Hans Christian Andersen, Grimm, Aesop...just tell a tale today.

February 27

International Polar Bear Day

Polar bears are the first mammal considered endangered due to global warming. Their habitat is melting. [Learn more about polar bears](#), get great pix, videos and information. You can even adopt one!



Uncle Sam Day

On this day in 1813, the United States government got a nickname... Uncle Sam. The name is linked to a meat purveyor, Samuel Wilson. [Read more](#).

February 28

World Sword Swallower's Day

Sponsored by *Ripley's Believe It or Not*, this is the real thing. Sword swallowing at its best. Considering I'm a girl who still gags brushing her teeth, this is so NOT a hobby I'd want to pursue BUT, that's just me. I don't recommend trying this at home, but give a look at the [website](#) ... it's cutting edge.

National Pancake Day

Since 2006, [IHOP](#) has offered a free stack of their signature buttermilk pancakes for free, encouraging folks to donate money for charity. (Check with your local IHOP to confirm the date in your area). No IHOP in your neighborhood (or country)? Make some up yourself and don't forget the maple syrup. Don't swallow pancakes and swords at the same time and remember to give a little to your favorite community charity today.

March 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |



March comes from the Latin *Martius* which was originally the first month of the Roman calendar. Named after Mars, this Roman god of war was also considered the guardian of agriculture. This month, with the spring equinox, is the beginning of the farming season for the northern hemisphere and the autumn season for those in the southern hemisphere. Ernest Lawson's *Spring Thaw* left, oil on canvas, c.1910.

Full Moon in March 2015: March 5

March's moon is called the Worm Moon.

Gemstone: Aquamarine
Flower: Jonquil or Daffodil
Zodiac Sign: Pisces February 19 - March 20
 Aries March 21 - April 19

March 1



National Pig Day

Yup, Pig Day. Celebrate our porcine friends by having a pork chop and spare ribs (ouch!) OR feeding a few pennies to your Piggy Bank. Watch Miss Piggy or Babe? Maybe wear your hair in pigtails? Whatever you do, don't hog anything and for heaven's sake, don't pig out.

Peanut Butter Lover's Day

A day to celebrate the wonder and flavor of peanut butter. Only an American can appreciate this wonderful peanut-y paste. Give me Skippy Super Chunk, please. Have a PB&J sandwich and count your blessings. Learn more about [peanut butter history](#) here.

Whuppity Scoorie

A traditional Scottish festival dating from the early 19th century which welcomes Spring. If you've got the winter blues, this is a great way to get into the Spring spirit. Take a look at your Burpee seed catalog, plan a garden, take a walk (even if you have to shovel first). Spring is coming...really, it is!

March 2

Cat in the Hat Day - Dr. Seuss' Birthday

Theodore Geisel aka Dr. Seuss, was born on March 2, 1904. I prefer to think of him as a philosopher as well as the author and illustrator of 44 children's books. His honors included two Academy awards, two Emmy awards, a Peabody award and the Pulitzer Prize. [He had something to say](#). Read a little Dr. Seuss today and listen to what you read.

March 3

National Anthem Day

Written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812, the national anthem officially became America's national song on March 3, 1931. Play it, hum it, sing it today. [Here's some help with the lyrics](#), just in case. My favorite rendition? Whitney Houston

March 4

Dance the Waltz Day

Max Graf, Austrian musician and scholar wrote "If there exists a form of music that is a direct expression of sensuality, it is the Viennese Waltz...." Makes you want to dance, huh? Listen to [Strauss' Vienna Waltz](#) for some inspiration.

March 5

Purim

This is the first day of Purim when Jews celebrate their deliverance from the evil Haman. It's a fun holiday. [Learn more about Purim's history](#) and ways to celebrate.



Chinese Lantern Festival

Another colorful Chinese holiday to celebrate. [Learn more about this holiday](#) which lights up the sky and [make your own Chinese lantern](#).

Howl at the Moon

Full moon tonight. Howl while you're lighting your Chinese lanterns.

March 6

Frozen Food Day

Thank Clarence Birdseye for this one. He patented flash freezing in 1929 and the first frozen food to hit the market occurred in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1930. Skip the peas...go straight to the ice cream.

March 7

National Be Heard Day

This is a day to celebrate entrepreneurs and small businesses. They employ nearly half the workers in the US (higher percentages in other countries), work long hours, have less dollars to spend, get less attention and still have to compete with large corporations. So support your local Mom & Pop shops. Spend locally.

Alexander Graham Bell Day

It's also the day that Bell was granted the [patent for the telephone](#). Talk about being heard!

March 8

Plant a Flower Day

Maybe it should be shamrocks...St. Patrick's Day is coming soon.

Daylight Savings

Daylight Savings Time began at 2AM this morning. Did you remember to set your clocks to "spring ahead"? Celebrate the lengthening of the days. Note that [not every country changes](#) its clocks when the USA does and in some countries, some places do and some places don't observe daylight savings ... like some states in the USA and Australia, for instance.

March 9

Porky Pig's Birthday

Porky's first cartoon appeared on March 9, 1935. "[Th-Th-Th-Th-Th... That's all, folks.](#)"

March 10

Mario Day

Are you into video games? Then this is your holiday, so-named because it spells out Mario when you write out the date as MAR IO. Clever, huh?

International Bagpipe Day

Oh, my, get out your bagpipes and start playing *Amazing Grace* OR if you don't play, perhaps you can check out the [Bagpipe Society website](#) and even [give a listen to some good pipers](#).

March 11



Johnny Appleseed Day

American legend John Chapman aka [Johnny Appleseed](#) was born in September, but we celebrate his day in March because it's planting season. Read more about Johnny while enjoying a crisp apple ... maybe a Jonathan?

March 12

Alfred Hitchcock Day

The master of cinema suspense and thrillers... even now watching *Psycho* or *The Birds* gives me an adrenaline rush. Why not rent one of these old classics and give it watch tonight?

March 13

Breathe Deeply Day

Today is Joseph Priestley's birthday, English clergyman and scientist who discovered oxygen (was it hidden?) and invented a method for making carbonated water. So breathe in deeply, get a good lungful of oxygen and sip a carbonated beverage in Joe's honor.

Friday the 13th

While you're breathing deeply, keep in mind it's also Friday the 13th. If you're a triskaidekaphobe and fear thirteens, perhaps it's a good day to breathe deeply ... indoors.

March 14



Save a Spider Day

Fat chance

Pi Day

A day to celebrate that mathematical constant (π) and its never-ending value 3.14159... The earliest written approximations of π are found in Egypt and Babylon, both within 1% of the true value. Some folks attempt to memorize the value of π with increasing precision on this day which has led to records of over 67,000 digits. Me ... I'm going to eat a piece of pie.

It's also **Albert Einstein's Birthday** (1879). Makes you want to calculate the area of a circle, huh?

March 15

Brutus Day - Ides of March

This is the day Marcus Brutus et al assassinated Julius Caesar. "Beware the Ides of March". Unless you're an *Imperator*, you probably don't need to worry, but it might be a good day to review your Roman history. When's the last time you read Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*?

Buzzard Day

Capistrano has its swallows and many cities celebrate the return of the sandhill cranes. There are hummingbird festivals and bluebirds fests. Hinckley, Ohio celebrates the return of its buzzards (turkey vultures actually). They come back around this time every year and the folks in Hinckley thought it was worth a celebration. Perhaps you need to learn more about [turkey vultures](#). I mean, who wouldn't?

March 16

Lips Appreciation Day

Where would we be without them? It'd be hard to whistle or smile or kiss. Put on some lip gloss and pucker up!

March 17



St. Patrick's Day

The wearing of the green, corned beef and cabbage, Irish soda bread, the Clancy Brothers, green beer. It doesn't get much better than this ... even if you're not Irish.

March 18

Diesel Engine Day

Rudolph Diesel's birthday. How about a nice oil change for that favorite diesel engine of yours. Don't have a diesel? Wave at a trucker!

March 19

Wyatt Earp Day (1848-1929)

Gambler and legendary lawman in the wild, wild west was born on this day. If you like cowboy movies, try *Wyatt Earp* (1994) or even better, a vintage flick, *Gunfight at the OK Corral* (1957).

March 20

Snowman Burning Day

It's the vernal equinox in the north...Spring's officially here. Time to burn a snowman in effigy. It's the autumnal equinox for those of down under. Winter's coming soon.



Festival of Extraterrestrial Abductions Day

Ah, yes. This would be especially meaningful if you were one of the abductees, but if not, just watch a good alien flick at home. My favorite ... *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Interestingly enough, there's a total solar eclipse today in keeping with extraterrestrial happenings.

Unfortunately, it's best viewed from the Northern Atlantic. If you plan to be in the North Sea AND it's a sunny day, you might get a chance to see it.

March 21

Bach Day

Johann Sebastian Bach was born this day in 1685 (Julian calendar). Celebrate by listening to one of his most famous pieces *Toccata and Fugue in D minor* for the organ. Don't know it? Oh, I bet you do ... [give it a listen](#).

March 22

World Water Day

A UN sponsored event which advocates the necessity for proper management and conservation of fresh water throughout the world. Try shutting off the water when you're brushing your teeth or cutting down on your shower time. Conserve. [Check out their website](#) for free poster downloads and activities.

March 23

International Puppy Day

Thinking about adopting a puppy? Today's the day. No dogs for you? [Take a look at the site](#) anyway ... it's entertaining and you just might be tempted.

March 24

Longitude Day

On this day in 1693, John Harrison, British clockmaker, was born. It was his lifelong effort to develop a precision timepiece which would work at sea and thus allow sailors to finally be able to calculate longitude. Read Dava Sobel's book *Longitude*. It's available as a paperback or a Kindle download from Amazon and it's a great read. It's also available as a DVD movie.

March 25

Waffle Day

This holiday is celebrated traditionally in Sweden, but of course, celebrations have no boundaries. According to Wikipedia, the name comes from *Vårfrudagen* or in English, Our Lady's Day, which in vernacular Swedish sounds almost like *Våffeldagen* (waffle day). Eat waffles and don't forget the toppings.

March 26



Spock Day

Not Doctor Spock, but the legendary Spock the Vulcan (Leonard Nimoy) on *Star Trek*. Dig out your pointy ears and your StarTrek paraphernalia and venture where no man has gone before OR watch some old *Star Trek* movies.

March 27

Shoelace Day

Did you ever wonder who invented shoelaces and why? It was NOT Harvey Kennedy! Or maybe you wondered what those little plastic things on the ends of a shoelace are called? [Dr. Shoelace aka Ian Fieggen](#) has all the answers. Tie your shoes before you trip.

March 28

Eat Something on a Stick Day

Popsicle, yes! Corn dog, NO!

March 29

WalMart Day

It's Sam Walton's birthday (1928-1992). From his humble beginnings in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, he became one of the richest entrepreneurs in the world. The first WalMart opened on July 2, 1962 in Rogers, Arkansas. Some folks dislike WalMart ... others love the store, but I say "Hats off, Sam! Happy Birthday."

March 30



Vincent Van Gogh's Birthday (1853)

A Dutch post-Impressionist painter for those of you who've been living in a cave for your whole lives. Visit an art museum today, listen to [Starry, Starry Night](#) or view some of his paintings on line.

Pencil Day

I love pencils...you can erase your mistakes. Unfortunately, I usually use up the eraser before the lead. [Learn more about pencils](#) ... fascinating stuff!

March 31

Crayola Day

Yesterday, pencils ... today, Crayolas. Crayolas were first introduced in 1903. Remember getting a new box of crayons as a kid? No broken tips. All those wonderful new colors. That waxy smell. Check out the [Crayola website](#) for some fun things to do and then check [Wikipedia for a list of colors](#) ...WOW!

Bunsen Burner Day

Remember chemistry class? This day celebrates the invention of the Bunsen Burner by German chemist Robert Wilhelm Eberhard von Bunsen. Do not melt your crayons!

April 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |



April from the Latin *Aprilis* stems from the verb *aperire*, "to open", the season when trees and flowers begin to open and bloom. Photo (left) taken in the Tasmanian springtime by the author.

Full moon(s) in April 2015: April 4th
April's moon is called the Seed Moon.

Gemstone: Diamond
Flower: Sweet pea
Zodiac Signs: Aries March 21 - April 19
 Taurus April 20 - May 20

April 1

April Fool's Day

The reference to this day dates back to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in the 14th century. It's celebrated in many countries by sticking a paper fish to someone's back without them knowing it, a tradition known in France as poisson d'avril, literally April fish. Go ahead, do it, fool someone!

Sliced Bread Day

In 1928, Holsum Bread introduced commercially sliced bread for the first time, followed by Wonder Bread in 1930. It was advertised as "the greatest forward step in the baking industry since bread was wrapped" which led to the expression "the greatest thing since sliced bread". And now you know the rest of the story.

April 2



Ferret Day

Even furry ferrets have their day. Here are [some hints for celebrating!](#)

PB & J Day

While celebrating ferrets, have the sandwich Americans love...PB & J. Do you prefer smooth or chunky? What kind of jelly?

April 3

Good Friday

For Christians, this day signifies the day Jesus Christ was crucified and died on the cross at Calvary. It's a religious holiday for millions and in many countries (not the USA), a national holiday as well. Observe Good Friday by going to church or maybe watching a "passion play".

Passover (Pesach) Begins

Passover is an 8-day celebration beginning today and ending April 11. It celebrates the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Want to learn more? This [Passover megasite](#) has tools, guides, insights, stories, inspiration—and just about everything you need to celebrate Passover (but bring your own wine).

April 4

World Rat Day

“To the world, you are one person. To a rat, you are the world.” Wow ... that's deep, huh? Go ahead ... get RAT-ical. Celebrate fancy rats today at the [National Fancy Rats Society's](#) website.



Total Eclipse of the Moon

There's a total lunar eclipse tonight. You better schedule this in advance and not dawdle, because it will only last 4 minutes and 43 seconds. The eclipse will be visible over western North America, the Pacific, east Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Check here to see the [best times for viewing](#) in your area.

April 5

Easter Sunday

Put on your Easter Bonnet and join the Easter Parade. Go to church, celebrate Spring, see what the Easter Bunny brought or participate in an egg hunt. Of course, if you're in Australia, you'll be looking for a chocolate [Easter Bilby!!!](#)

April 6

White Walls Day

In 1934, Ford Motor Company offered white wall tires as an option for the first time at the exorbitant rate of \$11.25/set. The price has probably gone up by now. If you got 'em, give them a wash. Otherwise, you could just celebrate “walls”, white and otherwise.

April 7

No Housework Day

No explanation required. Just say “NO!”

April 8

Zoo Lover's Day

The [first zoo was in Egypt](#) in ~3500BC. Celebrate by finding out what's new at your local zoo. No zoo nearby, how about checking out some of the [world's most popular zoos](#)?

April 9

Listening Day

Many people don't listen, but rather formulate replies or comments while the speaker is still talking. Try listening to others today, really listening. Give your tongue a rest. Here's some [tips to make you a more effective listener](#).

April 10

Siblings Day

A day to appreciate your sibs. Call your brother; call your sister. Get together. Are you an only? No problem, adopt a sib for the day.

April 11

International Louie, Louie Day

This is the 51st anniversary of the release of the 60's frat anthem *Louie, Louie* by Richard Berry. Even the FBI was involved in deciphering the controversial lyrics. [Read more](#).

April 12



Big Wind Day

This day celebrates the [record high surface wind recorded](#) on Mount Washington back in 1934.

Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day

This one's easy. Everyone likes grilled cheese sandwiches. Grill one up for lunch while you're thinking about the Big Wind.

April 13

Songkran

This is the beginning of the Thai New Year (Apr 13-17). The custom is to throw water to wash all the bad away! [Read more!](#)

April 14

Titanic Day

This day needs to be observed rather than celebrated. The “unsinkable” luxury liner, Titanic, left Southampton, England on April 10th on her maiden voyage bound for New York City. She hit an iceberg at 11:40pm on April 14th and sank two hours later with a loss of more than 1,500 people, one of the largest peacetime maritime disasters in history. Watch the movie or, on the lighter side, read more about the [Unsinkable Molly Brown](#).

April 15



McDonald's Day

McDonald's Corporation was incorporated in Des Plaines, IL on April 15, 1955. Do you remember when you had your first McDonald's burger and fries?

IRS Tax Day (USA)

Make sure you file your taxes by today or at least file an extension.

April 16

National Stress Awareness Day

After filing income taxes yesterday, the stress levels will be high! Calm down, calm down.

April 17

Blah, blah, blah day

This is the day to do all those things that people have been nagging you to do ... clean out the garage, fix the sprinklers, empty out the attic. Go ahead, give it a go OR wait till next year.

April 18

Newspaper Columnists Days

This day is celebrated in memory of Ernie Pyle. Have you got a favorite? Dave Barry, Anna Quinlen, Dear Abby?

Animal Cracker Day

The first animal "biscuits" originated in England and were introduced in the US in 1902 as Barnum's Animal Crackers. The most recent animal addition to the 37 animals in the cracker's history? The koala.

April 19

National Garlic Day

Crush it, mince it, add it to your favorite savory sauce or recipe. Today's the day to [celebrate garlic](#). Then go brush your teeth.

April 20

Patriot's Day

Celebrated primarily in Massachusetts, this is a state holiday and commemorates the Battles of Lexington and Concord and the “shot heard round the world”. The Boston Marathon is always run on this day. Begun in 1897, the Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon and ranks as one of the world's best-known road racing events.

April 21

Happy Birthday, Rome!

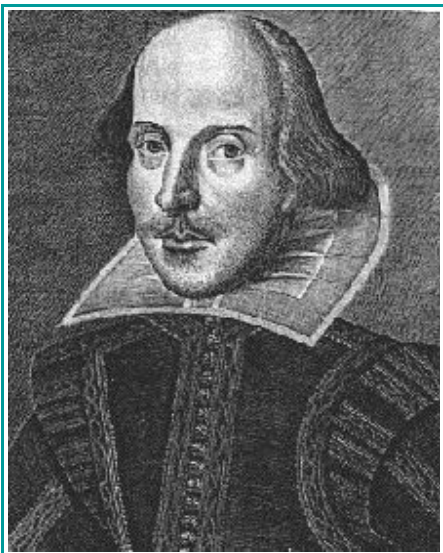
It's Rome, Italy's 2,768th birthday today ... April 21, 753 BCE. Learn a phrase or two in Latin; eat Italian tonight.

April 22

Earth Day

Celebrated throughout the world on this day, [Earth Day](#) aims to inspire awareness of and appreciation for earth's environment. Take care of her ... she's the only planet we have.

April 23



Talk Like Shakespeare Day

Tis the Bard's day. Doth thou not celebrate when the moment presents? Read a play, read a poem, [talk like Shakespeare](#)!

April 24

Sylvester's Birthday

Sylvester J. Pussycat made his first debut in 1945. Watch that well known [Puddy Tat on YouTube](#).

April 25

ANZAC Day

In Australia and New Zealand, a day of remembrance for those killed in military service. [Read more](#).

World Penguin Day

A day to celebrate the world's 20 different species of penguins. How about watching *March of the Penguins* or *Happy Feet*? Or you can wear black and white and waddle. Your choice.

April 26

National Arbor Day

Founded in 1872 in the USA, [this is the day to plant a tree!](#)



National Pretzel Day

Eat pretzels today or better yet, [how about making them?](#)

April 27

Woody Woodpecker Day

Walter Lantz' loveable, screwball woodpecker character made his debut in 1940. [Take a look](#) at one of his cartoons today.

Morse Code Day

It's Samuel Finley Breese Morse's birthday today (April 27, 1791- April 2, 1872). One of his many inventions was the single-wire telegraph system and the Morse Code, still used today, to communicate with. Do you know Morse Code? [Try it ... it's like learning a new language.](#)

April 28

Hairball Awareness Day

According to Science Diet, we should be aware of hairballs today. Okay, cough one up and let's get on with it.

April 29

Shrimp Scampi Day

I'm all for food days and I love shrimp scampi. Lots of garlic though, so make sure your partner enjoys some, too. [Here's a recipe.](#) Mangia!

Zipper Day

This is also Zipper Day commemorating the invention of the “Separable Fastener” by Gideon Sundback in 1917. It was the B.F.Goodrich company which decided to use this new fastener on their boots that gave it the name “zipper” because of the sound it made. Read more about [Sundback's original patent](#) and then [XYZ](#).

April 30



Mr. Potato Head Day

When I was a kid, we actually stuck plastic face and body parts onto real veggies. Today, all the parts, including the veggies, are plastic. No matter, it's still fun. Mr. Potato Head was the first toy ever advertised on TV on April 30, 1952. He's still available today.

International Jazz Day

An annual celebration organized by UNESCO to tout “the virtues of jazz as an educational tool, and a force for peace, unity, dialogue and enhanced cooperation among people.” Head to a jazz bar to celebrate or listen to a little jazz on the radio. Put on some Thelonius Monk, John Coltrane, Miles Davis or my favorite, Billie Holiday, and just chill out.

May 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |



May from the Greek Maia, the goddess of fertility. No other month this year begins on a Friday or ends on a Sunday.

Left, *May Day 1901 in Central Park, New York City*, a watercolor by Maurice Prendergast.

Full moon(s) in May 2015: May 4th

May's moon is called the Milk Moon.

Gemstone: Emerald
Flower: Lily of the Valley
Zodiac Signs: Taurus April 20 - May 20
 Gemini May 21 - June 20

May 1

May Day - Beltane

A [pagan holiday](#) that celebrates the fertility of springtime. Think May Pole, planting, bonfires. Plant a garden today!

Save the Rhino Day

Don't get carried away with the May Pole. Save some energy to learn more about saving [endangered rhinos](#) in Asia and Africa.

May 2



Play Your Ukelele Day

Play your uke or [watch others play theirs](#).

May 3

Kite Day

Nothing better than flying a kite. Buy one, [make one](#), borrow one, fly one. Take your kids or be a kid yourself.

May 4

Respect for Chickens Day

The United Poultry Concern designated this day to [celebrate chickens throughout the world](#) and the bleak lives they live. Hmmm. BBQ for dinner?

Star Wars Day ... May the Fourth Be With You

The unofficial, fan-created day to celebrate Star Wars. Watch all six episodes and may the force be with you or maybe dress up like a wookie. And don't forget to howl at tonight's full moon!

May 5

Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)

A celebration of the Mexican culture tradition and heritage. Eat Mexican tonight, swat a pinata, wear a sombrero, talk Spanish, take a siesta ... the possibilities are endless.

May 6

International No-Diet Day

Remember Garfield says "Diet = Die with a "T". Give yourself a break today. Forget about diets just for the day. Indulge.. and then get back to business tomorrow!

May 7

Fire Escape Ladder Day

The first fire escape ladder was patented on May 7, 1878 by Joseph Winters, an African-American abolitionist and inventor. Mr. Winters' invention was a wagon-mounted escape ladder. In 1882, he received a patent for an improved fire escape ladder that could be affixed to buildings. Might be a good day to figure out an escape plan for you and your family in case of fire ... and check the batteries in your smoke alarm, why don't you?

May 8

Have a Coke Day

The world's largest soft-drink company celebrates the 129th birthday of Coca-Cola today. Coca-Cola was created on May 8, 1886 in Atlanta, Georgia by Dr. John Pemberton. With over 3,500 products available in over 200 countries, Coca-Cola is the best known soft drink in the world. Diet, Zero, Vanilla, Original...whatever...have a Coke today.

May 9

Peter Pan Day

It's J. M. Barrie's birthday today. For folks who will never grow up, read *Peter Pan* or watch the movie ... with or without your kids!

May 10



Mother's Day

A day to celebrate Moms, step-moms, grandmothers, aunts, sisters ... any woman who's been important in your life. Flowers are always nice!

Song and Dance Day

It's Fred Astaire's birthday. Known as the ultimate song and dance man, he, along with Ginger Rogers, danced up a storm in over 31 musical films. Take a look at some of his classic footwork in *Top Hat*, *Daddy Long Legs* or *You'll Never Get Rich*. Maybe watch with your mom, then try a little fancy footwork?

May 11

Eat What You Want Day

This sounds to me a lot like No Diet Day. So eat what you want today...a hot fudge sundae, a lobster dinner, a thick juicy steak with all the fixin's and then get real again tomorrow.

Jigsaw Puzzle Day

Jigsaw puzzles were originally paintings on wood cut into small interlocking pieces with a jigsaw, hence the name. British mapmaker and engraver, John Spilsbury, is credited with introducing the first commercial jigsaw puzzles around 1760. Go grab one out of the closet, brush off the dust and get the whole family working on it today ... while eating what you want.

May 12

International Nurse's Day

To commemorate Florence Nightingale's birthday, this day is celebrated around the world to remember the important contributions that nurses make to the society. Know a nurse? Take the time to thank him or her today. Of course, you can play doctor and nurse, too.

Limerick Day

The limerick was popularized in England by Edward Lear back in the mid-19th century. Sometimes naughty, sometimes nice, but always clever. [Try writing one yourself.](#)

May 13

Leprechaun Day

If St. Patrick's Day celebrates Irish pride and heritage, this day is special to the little Irish elves. Catch one to get his pot of gold (end of the rainbow's a good place to look) or watch *Leprechaun*, a horror comedy starring Jennifer Anniston. This was her first feature film (first and worst, probably).

May 14

Dance Like a Chicken Day

Along with the hokey-pokey, the electric slide and the macarena, the [chicken dance](#) is one of those fad dances you can't avoid at weddings and bar mitzvahs. Go ahead, do it ... it's obligatory today.

May 15



Over the Rainbow Day

This is L. Frank Baum's birthday, author of *Wizard of Oz*, written in 1901. [Try reading this story on-line, it's free](#) or if you're lazy, watch the movie.

May 16

Disgusting Canned Foods Day

Today in food history, SPAM was introduced, as was Spaghetti-Os. I think just acknowledging these foods is enough ... don't eat.

May 17



Merry-Go-Round Day

Do you like the carousels? I love them. They've been around since the 12th century, but it wasn't until 1620, that the first horse-powered merry-go-round was introduced for entertainment. [Learn more about carousels here.](#)

May 18

International Museum Day

As many as 35,000 museums from 143 countries on five continents participate in this day to celebrate how museums contribute to our society and culture. It's a great day to go to your local museum or perhaps visit a museum you haven't ever visited before.

May 19

Circus Day

On this day in 1884, five of the seven Ringling brothers founded the Ringling Bros. Circus. [Read about the circus](#), go to the circus or stage a circus of your own. What about a flea circus?

May 20

Strawberry Day

This is delicious holiday to celebrate. Luscious, succulent, big, juicy strawberries, nectar of the gods. On a shortcake, with cream, with ice cream, au naturel ... whatever way you like them, today's the day to celebrate them and enjoy.

May 21

It's the great Greek philosopher **Plato's birthday** today and in China they're celebrating the **Feast of the Goddess of Midwifery**. What are we celebrating? It's **Triple Scoop Day** ... wow. Give that some thought.

May 22

Toothpaste Tube Day

Way back in 1892, toothpaste first became available in tubes. Look at that...you can celebrate today just by brushing your teeth!

May 23



Taffy Day

That delightful, stick to your fillings, confectionery delight, also known as chews, is celebrated today. It's called saltwater taffy in many places, but only because it's sold by the seaside. Buy some taffy or maybe orchestrate a taffy pull, just for the fun of it. [Here's the recipe.](#)

May 24

Scavenger Hunt Day

I love scavenger hunts. They're fun, and with a little planning, they're easy to put together. Make a list of items to “scavenge”, then set the hunters loose. This can be tailored to the seashore or a forest or a backyard ... kids or adults. [Need some ideas ... click here.](#)

May 25

Vesakha

Throughout the world, millions of people will celebrate Buddha's birthday today. Learn more about it and [how it's celebrated](#).

Memorial Day

Like many countries, the USA has set aside a day to commemorate those who have lost their lives serving in the US military. Originally known as Decoration Day, this day of mourning and recognition was established shortly after the Civil War and occurs every year on the last Monday in May. Say a prayer or give a moment of silent thought to those who have passed.

Geek Pride Day

Celebrate the [glory of geekness](#) (and the wonder of all of the neat equipment and apps they provide us with). Hug a geek ... even if they don't hug back. I'll be hugging my own geek hubby – who incidentally does hug back.

May 26

Dracula's Birthday

Bram Stoker introduced his famous vampire, Count Dracula, on this day in 1897. Read a scary vampire story tonight or watch one of the many movie versions of Dracula.

Blueberry Cheesecake Day

Not much to say about this except ... Yum!

May 27

Grape Popsicle Day

According to the official Popsicle website...

"In 1905, 11-year-old Frank Epperson left a mixture of powdered soda, water, and a stirring stick in a cup on his porch. It was a cold night, and Epperson awoke the next morning to find a frozen pop. He called it the "Epsicle." It was a hit with his friends at school, and later with his own kids. They constantly called for "Pop's 'sicle." So in 1923, Epperson changed the name and applied for a patent. A couple of years later, Epperson sold the rights to the brand name Popsicle® to the Joe Lowe Company in New York. The rest is history. Over 2 billion popsicles are sold annually. Why not take a lick today ... your choice of flavors.

May 28

Feast of Zerowork

This was the day when slaves were freed, debts forgiven and generally, people had the day off. Be idle, but maybe a bit forgiving, too!

Bond ... James Bond Day

It's Ian Fleming's birthday. As long as you're idle, watch a Bond flick.

May 29



Reach the Summit Day

On this day in 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary, New Zealand mountaineer, and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay become the first men known to have reached the summit of Mount Everest. Read his incredible memoirs *View From the Summit*, for a taste of Everest, the highest mountain above sea level in the world.

May 30

Hole in the Bucket Day

Remember that song made popular by Harry Belafonte and Odetta (1960)? Today's the day to celebrate a hole in your bucket. [Listen to it](#), sing it ... you'll be humming it all day long.

May 31

Indy 500 Day

Touted as the “Greatest Spectacle in Racing”, the Indianapolis 500 will be held at the legendary Indianapolis Motor Speedway today. The first Indy 500 was held in 1911 ... we've come a long way, baby! Hey, no speeding today.

Clint Eastwood's birthday (1930)

Go ahead, make my day ... watch an old Eastwood flick.

June 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |



June is named after Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage. Hence the reason so many weddings still occur in June. Left, 14th century miniature of Maria of Brabant's marriage to Philip III of France from the *Chroniques de France ou de St. Denis*.

Full moon(s) in June 2015: June 2

June's moon is called the Mead Moon.

Gemstone: Pearl
Flower: Rose
Zodiac Signs: Gemini May 21 - June 20
 Cancer June 21 - July 22

June 1

Go Barefoot Day

Summer's nearly here. Kick off your shoes and wiggle your toes! Go barefoot and give your dogs a break. Then think of all those folks out there who have no shoes to wear. Consider going through your shoes and donating to charity those you don't need. If you're south of the Equator, hold onto your shoes for the winter. You'll need them.

June 2

Bubba Day

Celebrating all those named Bubba. Really? Well, if your life is lacking Bubba-tude, here's a list of some [famous Bubbas](#) you probably know.



Oscar the Grouch's Birthday

The green monster from the Sesame Street trash can is his grouchiest this day. Have a listen to his [Un-happy Birthday Song](#).

June 3

Itch Day

This could be the 7-year itch, an itchy palm, jock itch or poison ivy itch. Not sure I'd want to "celebrate" any of them. On the other hand, you could just be itchy to take a walk or get out of the office. That would count.

June 4

World Hug Your Cat Day

Cats usually hate being hugged; they strive for aloofness. Hug your cat today anyway. No cat? Visit the SPCA and adopt one. Might be easier to borrow a neighbors ... just sayin'.

June 5

World Environment Day

The biggest, [most globally celebrated day](#) for positive environmental action promoted by the United Nations. Do something for your environment today ... pick up trash, use less water, use less electricity. Don't drive ... walk!

Hot Air Balloon Day

Today also marks the first hot air balloon flight in France in 1783. Celebrate by taking a hot air balloon ride or, probably more feasible, [make a mini-hot air balloon](#) that really flies.

June 6



Yo Yo Day

It's Donald Duncan's birthday ... as in Duncan YoYos. Dig out your yoyo and “Walk the dog” or “Go Round the World” today and perhaps [learn something about yoyos](#) just for fun.

Be-Bop-A-Lula Day

On this day in 1956, Gene Vincent and the Blue Caps first recorded [Be Bop A Lula](#), now considered an excellent example of early rockabilly. Too young to remember it? Have a listen and practice your yoyo skills at the same time.

June 7

June Bug Day

June bugs are those huge beetle critters that buzz around the lights on hot summer nights and signal that summer is upon us. (not to be confused with cockroaches ...ick!). They're actually related to scarab beetles (love that trivia!). Lots of little towns hold fairs and annual June Bug Days. I'd rather sip a [June Bug cocktail](#). Then, of course, there's the song by the B-52s and the 2005 film of the same name. Take your pick.

June 8

World Ocean Day

A global celebration to recognize our [world's oceans](#), acknowledging the waters that link us all, the benefits we derive and the efforts to protect them.

Upsy Daisy Day

Get up gracefully and gleefully and be thankful for such a wonderful day ahead of you. Really ... that's what you're supposed to do.

Name Your Poison Day

No, it's not about drinking or swallowing toxic substances. It's about choosing one of things you really hate to do and doing it because it's gotta get done. No arsenic involved!

June 9

Donald Duck Day

In 1934, Donald made his debut. Watch a Donald Duck cartoon and have a duckie day. (Did I just say that? So lame. I must be quacking up.)

June 10

Black Cow Day

We're not talking Angus here. Nope, a black cow (or a brown cow) is root beer soda with a scoop of vanilla ice cream in it. Try one. You'll like it.

Ballpoint Pen Day

No more quills or ink pots. No more fountain pens or blotters. This is the day to celebrate the invention of the [first useable ballpoint pen](#) by Hungarian, Laszlo Biro. So pick up your Bic and write already ... if you remember how.

June 11



Great Barrier Reef Discovery Day

On this day in 1770, Captain James Cook discovered the [Great Barrier Reef](#) ... the hard way ... he went aground on it. We've discovered a reef or two this way ourselves.

June 12

Do Magic Day

Sleight of hand, illusion, magic. Perform a little magic today. Here are a [few easy tricks](#) to get you started.

June 13

Weed your garden day

Weed your garden, mow your lawn, do yard work. Today's the day. No lawn? No garden? Help a neighbor, work in a community garden, read a Burpee seed catalog. Get with the program.

June 14



Flag Dag (USA)

A day to be patriotic and fly your flag. Read about the [origins of Flag Day](#) here.

World Juggling Day

This is an [international celebration](#) for those folks who love to keep several things in the air. Give it a try!

Pig Caller's Day

Suuuuu-ey, Suuuu-ey, pig, pig, pig! Come on, you can do better than that. [Have a listen](#) and then try again or maybe call pigs and juggle at the same time?

June 15

Fly a Kite Day

Ben Franklin's kite and key experiment in 1752 led to a better understanding of lightning and electricity. So go fly a kite today in his honor.

Magna Carta Day

In 1215, King John signed this historical document giving religious and personal freedom to British citizens (at least the noblemen). It was definitely the start of something big!

June 16

Crackerjacks Day

Yup, that caramel coated popcorn treat with the special prize inside was first introduced in 1893 and it's still available today. Prizes are still as lame as they ever were.

Bloomsday

James Joyce's character Leonard Bloom in *Ulysses* found June 16th to be an out of the ordinary day. In Ireland, this day is celebrated by going to the pub (surprise? I think not), wearing Edwardian clothing and reading James Joyce. The rest of world just goes to the pub.

June 17

Eat Your Veggies Day

Not sure who invented this one, but it's a healthy holiday. Eat carrots and broccoli.

June 18

International Picnic Day

We love picnics. Pack up a sandwich or two, an apple and we're all set. Or maybe, make it a romantic interlude...wine, cheese, bread and thou! Here are [some ideas](#).

June 19

World Sauntering Day

A day to take it easy. You can mosey along or even sashay. These would be in keeping with the day's philosophy. No rushing or jogging though!

Juneteenth

This day commemorates the ending of slavery in the USA. Learn more about the [Juneteenth celebration](#) here.

Eat an Oreo Day

Introduced in 1912 by NaBisCo, more than 362 billion of these cookies have been sold. Wow! So ... how do YOU eat an Oreo?



Garfield's Birthday

That loveable comic strip cat celebrates his birthday today. Check out [Garfield's website](#) while you're eating your Oreo.

June 20

Ice Cream Soda Day

This is an easy one. Mix one scoop (or two) of your favorite ice cream with your favorite soda, then sip it up. I like strawberry ice cream sodas best. What about you?

World Refugee Day

A UN-sponsored day to increase awareness of the plight of religious and political refugees around the world. [Learn more.](#)

National Eagle Day

A day to celebrate the American national symbol. Get your [Eagle screen saver](#) here.

June 21

Father's Day (USA)

Whether he's Dad, Daddy, Papa, Pere, Da, Father, Padre ... let's celebrate all the fathers out there on this special day.

Summer/Winter Solstice

Depending on your hemisphere, this could be the longest day of the year or the shortest. If it's the longest, it's Midsummers Eve, so grab a book and read Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the park. If it's the shortest, read Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* while snuggled up near the fire.

Cuckoo Warning Day

There's a saying "If the cuckoo sings, the summer will be wet." Let's hope the cuckoo's quiet today. You've been warned.

June 22

Take Your Dog to Work Day

Some places might allow this. Other employers might frown on this a bit. Take your dog to the park and tell him that's where you work. He won't care.

Chocolate Eclair Day

Chocolate icing drizzled over rich custard-filled pastry. Oh, my, this is going to be a good day.

June 23



Pink Flamingo Day

This day honors Don Featherstone, [creator of the original Plastic Pink Flamingo](#). Decorate your lawn with all those plastic pink flamingos you have stored away in your garage or basement or, better yet, "flock" someone else. No pink flamingos? Well, you could buy a couple or even better, draw a few and stick 'em on your fridge.

June 24

Lion King Day

On this day in 1994, the Disney animated film, *The Lion King*, was released. Join Simba, Mufasa et al for a classic revival.

Bathe Naked Day

Icelandic legend has it that if you bathe naked in the morning dew on the morning of June 24th, you won't age as quickly. Might be worth a try!

June 25

LEON Day

Noel spelled backwards. Six months till Christmas. Yikes!

June 26

Bicycle Day

Leave your car at home and ride your bike today commemorating the first bicycle patented in 1819.

June 27

Helen Keller Day

Commemorating the birth of Helen Keller. She overcame the tremendous adversities of being born both deaf and blind and became a political activist, an author, a humanitarian and an extraordinary woman. Read her biography [*The Story of My Life*](#) or watch *The Miracle Worker* for a glimpse into her incredible life.

International Sunglasses Day

Sunglasses! Some wear them to protect their eyes from the sun. Some wear them to protect their identity. Some only wear them at night. Some have thousands of pairs. They're so cool, they deserve a holiday of their own.

June 28

Descendants Day

Today's the day to take a look at the impact your activities over the past year will have on generations to come. What did you do that was positive? Negative? How can you do better?



Paul Bunyan Day

Lumberjack extraordinaire in US folklore. Learn more about larger-than-life [Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, Babe](#) and his outstanding feats and adventures.

It's also **National Tapioca Day**, but let's just forget about that.

June 29

Camera Day

Digital photography has made picture-taking so easy and inexpensive. Head out with your camera and take some photos today. Capture some memories.

June 30

Meteor Day

Look up! For 2,000 years, Perseid has been observed in the night sky of the northern hemisphere. Probably the best known meteor showers, Perseid provides you with your own personal pyrotechnic display. Best seen from late June till mid-August. Take a look.

Corvette Day

First introduced in 1953 by Chevrolet, this iconic sports car conjures up images of freedom on the road, speed, and, of course, Route 66. The new Corvette starts at ~\$54,000 if you're interested. Otherwise, how about a trip down memory lane [watching Buzz and Marty?](#)

July 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |



July was named in honor of Julius Caesar, Rome's most famous general. It's typically the warmest month of year in the Northern Hemisphere and conversely, the coldest month of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. At left, a fireworks display taken by the author.

Full moon(s) in July 2015: July 2 and July 31

July's first full moon is called the Hay Moon, and the second is a Blue Moon.

Gemstone: Ruby
Flower: Larkspur
Zodiac Signs: Cancer June 21 - July 22
 Leo July 23 - August 22

July 1



Canada Day

On this day, Canada celebrates their heritage and all things Canada with fireworks, cookouts and lots of Maple Leaf flags on display. [Learn more here.](#)

Build a Scarecrow Day

Time to get those crows out of the garden? [Have fun building a scarecrow.](#) You can keep him around for Hallowe'en.

July 2

World UFO Day

Yes, there's a day to celebrate extraterrestrials and today's the day. Check out [all things UFO'ish at this website.](#)

Howl At the Moon

It's a full moon tonight. Take this opportunity to howl a little. It'll do you good.

July 3

Eat Beans Day

Whatever kind of beans you like (other than Jelly Beans!!), today's the day to fix these good-for-you legumes. Here's a [bunch of recipes](#) to help you out.

July 4



Independence Day (USA)

Let the fireworks begin. The United States of America celebrates its 239th birthday today. Get patriotic; fly your flag; light a sparkler; march in a parade; and definitely, go watch the fireworks.

July 5

Workaholics Day

We remember the days of being workaholics. Up at 5am, to work by 7am and home at 7pm, six sometimes seven days a week. Living on a boat and sailing took care of that problem. If you're a workaholic, relax today. Shut off your cell phone, ignore the e-mails and just kick back. It's your day.

Salvation Army Day

This worldwide charitable organization was founded in 1865 in London. We've seen their distinctive red shield and the Red Kettle throughout the world. Go through your closets and donate some clothes today OR better yet, visit a Salvation Army Thrift Shop and get some great bargains while supporting a worthwhile organization.

July 6

Fried Chicken Day

Sounds wonderful with potato salad and/or corn on the cob. Fried though? Not good for you. How about grilled on the BBQ? Okay, okay ... you're insisting on fried? [Here's a recipe](#) for you, but don't say I didn't warn you.

July 7

Macaroni Day

Pasta ... what a wonderful invention. It's been around since the 12th century with its origins in Sicily. So make it a Mac'n'cheese night, or whip up some pasta sauce with meatballs and sausage. "Yankee Doodle ... stuck a feather in his hat and called it macaroni." What do you think that was all about?

World Forgiveness Day

A day to forgive and be forgiven. Life's too short to hold a grudge.

July 8

Be a Kid Day

Remember those carefree days when you were a kid? Kick off your shoes and walk through the grass in your bare feet. Stomp in a puddle. Run through a field. Catch a butterfly. Better yet ... do this with your kids...they'll figure out what to do and lead the way.

July 9

Rock Around the Clock Day

Commemorating Bill Haley and the Comets rise to fame and hitting #1 on the charts in 1955. Give a listen to some [old time rock'n'roll](#).

Sugar Cookie Day

While you're rock'n'rollin', nibble a sugar cookie. None on hand? They're [easy to make](#).

July 10



Don't Step on a Bee Day

Does this mean that the rest of the year you should try to step on bees? Nah...it's a reminder of how important these little insects are to our world. Their numbers are dwindling, believe it or not. Besides, stepping on a bee bare foot ... bad news.

The "Real Thing" Day

Since it was first introduced in 1886, Coca-Cola, the world's #1 soft drink, has been noted for its [great slogans](#). Have a Coke today and enjoy the real thing and [give a listen](#) to one of my all-time favorite Coke commercials.

July 11

Eat Vegetarian Day

Just for one day, try eating vegetarian. It's really not hard with so many fresh veggies available. There are [whole websites dedicated to veggie meals](#). Take a look.

Cheer up the Lonely Day

Want to perk up someone's day? Try visiting a Nursing Home or a Rehab center and just saying hello to folks there. Know a shut-in nearby? Stop by for a visit.

July 12

Cow Appreciation Day

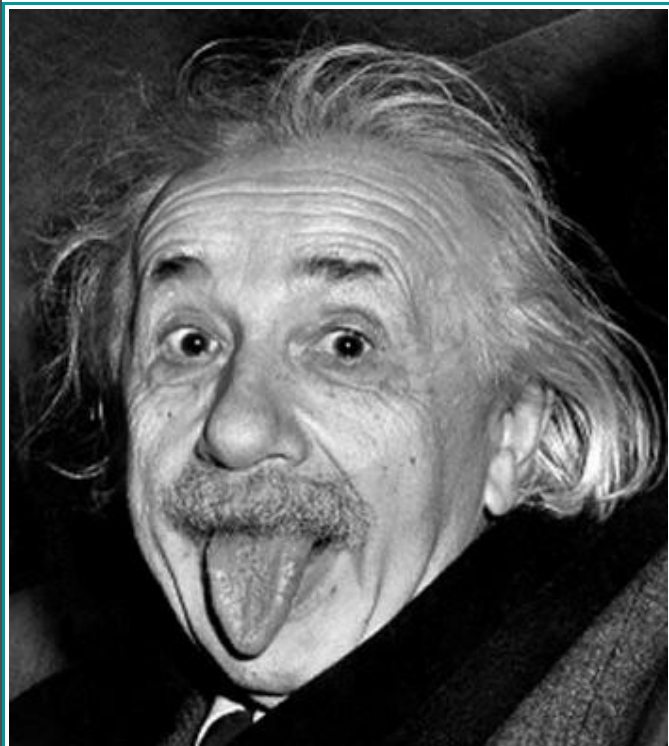
Thank goodness for those bovine critters who supply us with milk, cheese, butter and most importantly, ice cream. Don't have a cow ... just appreciate them. Dress up like a Holstein. Go pet a cow. On second thought, it might be easier to just eat an ice cream cone.

July 13

International Puzzle Day

It's puzzle day commemorating the 68th birthday of Erno Rubik and his puzzle sensation, the Rubik's Cube. Ever figure it out? Here's a [bunch of puzzles](#) to help you celebrate and exercise your brain.

Embrace Your Geekness Day



Are you a geek? Today's your day. Step up and embrace your glorious geekness.

July 14

Bastille Day (France)

Known in France as La Fête Nationale, this national holiday celebrates the storming of the Bastille prison-fortress, symbolic of the rise of the modern French nation. Talk French ... vive la France. Eat French fries? (Les frites) and watch The History Channel's *The French Revolution*. Too serious for a summer's day? Try Gene Wilder in *Start the Revolution Without Me*.

July 15

Shark Awareness Day

I'm most "aware" of sharks when I'm swimming in an area where there are lots of them. I'm told that they are misunderstood marine critters, but that doesn't stop me from getting out of the water quickly when I spot them. That said, today's the day to learn a little bit more about them. [Check it out.](#)

Be a Dork Day

The Urban Dictionary defines dork as "Someone who has odd interests, and is often silly at times. A dork is also someone who can be themselves and not care what anyone thinks." Based on that definition, I guess most of us are dorks now and then, so just be your dorky self today.

July 16

World Snake Day

They slither. They're sneaky. They're predators. Some are harmless; some are extremely poisonous. Lots of people are afraid of them. These all sound like good reasons to celebrate ... don't you think? [Learn more.](#)

July 17

Wrong Way Day

On this day in 1938, Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan, an Irish-American aviator, flew to Dublin, Ireland instead of his intended route of Brooklyn to Long Beach, California. It's always been postulated that perhaps, "Wrong Way" actually went the way he intended in search of a good Irish pub. Here's to being directionally challenged.

July 18

Fry An Egg on the Sidewalk Day

In the northern hemisphere, this is the hottest time of the year. Time to see if you can fry an egg on the sidewalk. Head to Las Vegas ... you can surely do it there.

July 19

Flitch Day

In Medieval England, monks offered a flitch of bacon to any married couple proving a year and a day after their wedding that they had lived in harmony and fidelity for the past year and had not wished they were single again. Seems we could up the ante from a flitch of bacon to say, a couple of steaks, but the idea is outstanding.

July 20



Lollipop Day

Lollipops, known as lollies or suckers in other countries, have been around for ages ... literally. Grape, cherry, lemon, lime, orange, choose your favorite and enjoy. You can listen to the [Lollipop song](#) while you're slurping.

July 21

Cousins Day

My mom was one of 14 kids and I have hundreds of cousins. Today's the day to appreciate them all. Call your cousin, send a note, have lunch.

July 22

Rat Catcher's Day

This day commemorates the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin who led away the children back in 1376 according to Robert Browning's poetry. Stuck as to how you might celebrate this day? [Read more here.](#)

July 23

National Hot Dog Day

A chili dog, a Chicago dog, a Coney Island dog, a Hot Dog Annie Dog, a wiener on the grill, all beef, turkey ...whatever suits your taste. Have a dog today! While you're chomping, learn a little about [hot dog history!](#)

July 24

Amelia Earhart Day

It's Amelia Earhart's birthday today (July 24, 1897). Celebrate the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She was lost somewhere over the Pacific in January 1939. Learn more about this [pioneer female aviator.](#)

July 25

Candles on a Cake Day

Celebrating the first birthday cake ever ... 55 BC. Really! It's not your birthday? No problem, buy your favorite cake anyway ... just to celebrate. Don't forget the candles.

July 26

Post Office Day

The US Post Office was formed on this day in 1775. Buy a stamp, thank your postman or just play Post Office. Learn more about philately ... [stamp collecting!](#)

July 27



Walk on Stilts Day

There's evidence that folks in Greece were walking on stilts as early as the 6th century BC. Amazing! You, too, can walk on stilts. Take a look at this [“how-to” video](#) and walk tall.

July 28

Hamburger Day

Well, we celebrated Hot Dog Day earlier in the month, so the mighty Hamburger must have its day, too. The ground-beef hamburger and bun sandwich combination first appeared in America at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Fire up the grill and learn a little more [hamburger trivia](#).

July 29

Cheese Sacrifice Purchase Day

“If you wish to catch some mice,
First, some cheese you must sacrifice...
So, purchase the cheese upon this day,
And a mouse-free house is here to stay!”

Well, there you have it. Got mice? Here's the solution. No mice? Eat the cheese yourself ... no sacrifice required.

July 30

Make Someone Laugh Day

Make a face, tell a joke, be wacky, act crazy. Go ahead, make someone laugh, guffaw, chuckle, chortle, giggle, snicker, snigger, howl, belly laugh. It's good for the soul.

July 31

Cotton Candy Day

A sugary, sticky, spun confection that conjures up images of circuses, carnivals and county fairs. In Australia, it's called fairy floss. The French call it la barbe à papa (Papa's beard). Other places call it candy floss. You can buy your own [cotton candy maker at Amazon](#), just in case the circus isn't in town.

Once in a Blue Moon

Tonight is July's second full moon which is called a blue moon. It doesn't happen often. All the more reason to celebrate. You could try howling again, or maybe drink a Blue Moon Belgian-style witbier.

August 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24/31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |



August was named by the Roman Senate in honor of Augustus, who celebrated many victories in this month. Above, an oil by Claude Monet entitled *Poppy Field in Argenteuil*.

Full moon(s) in August 2015: August 29

August's moon is called the Corn Moon.

Gemstone: Peridot

Flower: Gladiolus

Zodiac Signs: Leo July 23 - August 22

Virgo August 23 - September 22

August 1

Lughnasadh (Lammas)

A ancient Gaelic holiday celebrating the harvest, and on this day, traditionally the first corn was cut and a bull was sacrificed. You might try burgers and corn on the cob on the grill to get into the spirit.

National Mustard Day

Perhaps put mustard instead of catsup on your burger? Try growing your own. Check out this [“How to grow mustard”](#) link.

August 2



Dinosaur Day

Celebrate these big prehistoric beasts by watching *Jurassic Park* or maybe heading to your local Natural History Museum.

Sister's Day

There's nothing like a sister. Call yours; send an e-mail; send a card; give her a hug; go to lunch. Ain't got no sister? Close girlfriends qualify.

August 3

Fly Me to the Moon Day

It's astronaut, Neil Armstrong's birthday today. He was the first person to walk on the moon. Gaze at the moon tonight and lift a toast to Neil.

August 4

Coast Guard Day

Celebrate the founding of the US Coast Guard back in 1790. Learn more about the [U.S. Coast Guard](#) here.

August 5

Underwear Day

Hmmm...flaunt your underwear today. If you don't usually wear any, today's the day to splurge. If you do wear just your underwear, make sure they're your good ones!

August 6

World Wide Web Day

On this day in 1991, the World Wide Web became available to the public. Try NOT using Internet today. Dare you!

August 7



International Beer Day

Some of man's earliest histories refer to the production and distribution of beer. In ancient Babylon, there were laws regulating beer and beer parlors. Today's the day to visit a pub, a local watering hole or just sit in the backyard with friends and drink a cold one. Or maybe brew your own?

Sea Serpent Day

Oh, they're out there. They're just sneaky and we can't always find them. Celebrate these monsters of the deep with one of these [sea monster movies](#).

August 8

Dollar Day

Today we celebrate the introduction of the first paper dollar bill in the USA in 1862 ... prior to this, there were only coins. Known as singles, ones and simply bucks, these guys really get around. So spread the wealth today. Spend a few bucks or maybe donate a few to charity ... that would be a good thing to do.

August 9

Book Lovers Day

Who doesn't love books? If you like to read, this is your day. E-books, paperbacks or hard cover. Check out the [NY Times Best Seller List](#).

August 10

Lazy Day

If you're in the northern hemisphere, this is usually the hottest month of the year. Take it easy, lay back and be lazy for the day. If you're in the southern hemisphere? Keep warm and wait another six months for your turn.

S'Mores Day

While you're lazing around, perhaps you can start a campfire and have some more ... S'Mores. Learn more about these [popular North American treats](#) here.

August 11

Presidential Joke Day

I'm sure everyone has their turn making major verbal gaffes, but when you're the President or a prince or a Prime Minister, more people find out about it. This day commemorates President Reagan's major faux pas in 1984. Learn more about [his gaffe](#) and many others here.

August 12

Middle Child Day

The middle child, thought to be neglected and misunderstood. Not the first nor the oldest, not the last nor the youngest. Celebrate your in-between-ness today and read up on the [Perks of Being a Middle Child](#).

Daughter Day

If you're a middle child and a daughter, it's really your day. Otherwise, if you're just a daughter, let mom or dad take you to lunch. Just remember: "A son is a son till he takes a wife. A daughter is a daughter for all her life."

August 13

International Left Hander's Day

In a right-handed world, left-handed folks have it tough. Only 10-12% of the population are southpaws. So today, celebrate your left-handedness. And you "righties" out there ... try just using your left hand all day and see how that works for you. Check out these [interesting facts about lefties!](#)

August 14



Felix the Cat Day

That loveable feline was the first animated movie star and today's his day. [Visit his official website.](#)

August 15

Julia Child Day

It's Julia's birthday today, so cook up something wonderful for dinner. Consult her classic *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* or [get some ideas here](#).

August 16

Love Bratwurst Day

Lots of Brat Fests going on this time of year, especially if you have a German neighborhood in the area. You either love 'em or you hate 'em, but who can pass up something that goes so well with a cold beer?

Elvis Presley Memorial Day

This day celebrates the day the King of Rock and Roll died. Play a little Elvis today.

August 17

National Thrift Shop Day

Go thrifting today. It doesn't get much better than this. Why buy new, when recycled and cheap is available? Check out your local Salvation Army or Good Will thrift shop today. All proceeds go to a good cause AND you end up with a new wardrobe for a fraction of the cost of new. How green-conscious is that?

August 18



Sandcastle Day

A day at the beach and who can resist turning all that sand into a work of art? Check out these [best sandcastles and sculptures](#) ever.

August 19

World Photography Day

I couldn't live without my digital camera; it's so much a part of me and my travels. Enjoy taking photos today and [learn more](#).

National Aviation Day

It's Orville Wright's birthday and it's a day to celebrate flight. We've come a long way, baby, since the Wright Brothers (1903). Check out the [NASA website](#) to see what I mean.

August 20

World Mosquito Day

Observed annually on this day, it's a commemoration of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross' discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes are the transmitters of malaria to humans. Wear your insect repellent today ... that's the only way to celebrate.

August 21

National Senior Citizen Day

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan (no spring chicken himself at the time) proclaimed this day as National Senior Citizen Day. It's a day to celebrate the older generation(s). How do you celebrate? Most seniors just like to be remembered ... touched ... called. Go out of your way to spend time with a Senior today.

August 22

Southern Hemisphere Hoodie Hoo Day

Go out at noon and shout "Hoodie Hoo" to scare away the winter spirits and make way for an early Spring. If you're in the Northern Hemisphere, do it anyway ... help out those Down Under. [Check out this website](#) for ways to overcome the winter doldrums.

Clair de Lune Day

That would be "Moonlight" in English because it's French composer, Claude de Bussy's birthday today (1862-1918). Here's celebrating his most famous music. Don't know the tune? Oh, I bet you do. [Have a listen!](#)

August 23

Ride Like the Wind Day

On August 23, 1977, Bryan Allen pedaled Dr Paul B. MacCready's *Gossamer Condor* around a one-mile, figure-eight course. This was the [first recorded man-powered flight](#). Imagine the amount of pedaling necessary to keep aloft.

August 24



Vesuvius Day

Afternoon, August 24th, 79A.D. the long dormant Mount Vesuvius erupts, burying the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum under meters of lava and debris. [Learn more here.](#)

August 25

Kiss & Make-Up Day

Got a quarrel going on? Holding a grudge? Today's the day to talk it out, forget the small stuff and move on to bigger and better things. In my book, it's almost worth the falling out, because the kiss and make-up part is usually outstanding!

August 26

National Dog Day

A fine day to celebrate man's best friend. [Appreciate your dog today.](#) No dog and want one? Visit the local pound.

Toilet Paper Day

Yup, on this day in 1398 in China, toilet paper was invented. Thank goodness, because you might need a little to pick up after the puppy you adopted earlier today. [Read more here!](#)

August 27

Just Because Day

Isn't it great to receive a gift “just because”? Wouldn't you feel great giving a gift to someone “just because”? Give it a try ... it's contagious.

August 28

Race Your Mouse Day

That would be your computer mouse because it's Race Your Mouse Around the Icons Day. I guess if you've got a real mouse, you could race him, but you've definitely got more control on your desktop. [Try it ... it's fun!](#)

August 29

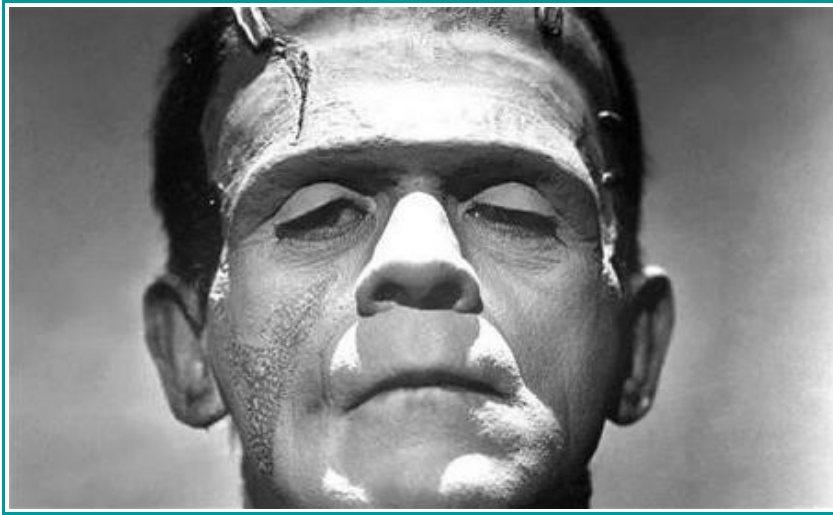
According to Hoyle Day

Are you a card playing fanatic? Not a fanatic, but like to play cards once in awhile and you disagree with your opponent over the rules. You've come to the right place. Edmond Hoyle (1672-1769) documented rules and strategies for card games and to this day, [According to Hoyle](#) is the ultimate “go-to” book when it comes to resolving disputes.

Howl at the Moon

Full moon tonight ... do what you gotta do.

August 30



Frankenstein Day

It's Mary Shelly's birthday (1757-1851). She first published *Frankenstein; or the Modern Prometheus* in 1818 anonymously. This Gothic/romantic horror novel is also considered to be one of the first works of science fiction. Read the book; watch the movie.

August 31

Eat Outside Day

It's the end of August and nearing the end of summer if you're in the Northern Hemisphere. Don't waste the opportunity to eat outside ... on the back porch or veranda or the patio or pack a picnic and head to your favorite park.

September 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |



September, from the Latin *septem*, was originally the seventh month of a ten month year until the Romans changed their calendar by adding January and February and a few extra days. Above, an 1882 oil on canvas by Camille Pissarro entitled *The Harvest*.

Full moon(s) in September 2015: September 28

September's moon is called the Harvest Moon.

Gemstone: Sapphire

Flower: Aster

Zodiac Signs: Virgo August 23 - September 22
Libra September 23 - October 22

September 1

Emma Nutt Day

Emma was the first female telephone operator on September 1, 1878 in Boston. Hooray .. Emma. Check out a [Ruth Buzzi telephone operator skit](#).

Chicken Boy's Day

Oh, this is an odd one. Chicken Boy is an iconic statue on Route 66. [Learn more about him](#) ... before you celebrate and perhaps, enjoy chicken for dinner.

September 2

International Beheading Day

Today, heads will roll. Perhaps, rather than participating, you could read about famous beheadings ... Marie Antoinette, Goliath, John the Baptist, Charles I of England. Who comes up with these weird holidays anyway?



ATM Day

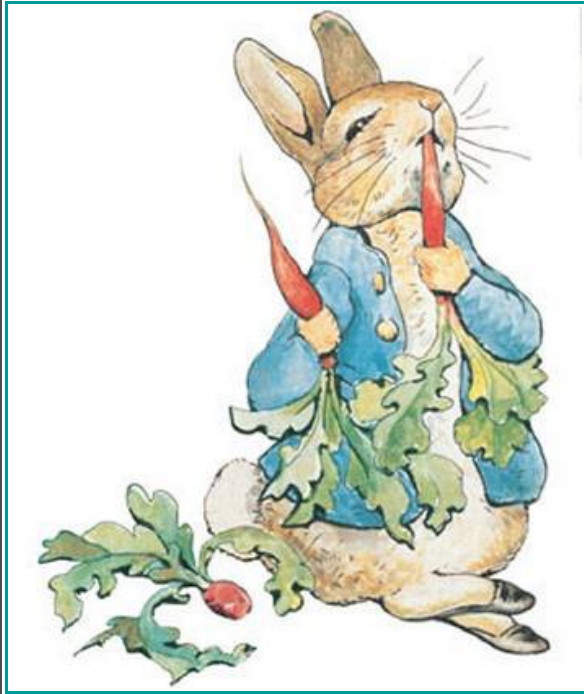
Chemical Bank installed the first ATM (automatic teller machine) in Rockville Centre, New York. Withdraw some cash from your local ATM to celebrate.

September 3

Skyscraper Day

A good day to look up and appreciate the engineering and construction expertise that goes into designing and building skyscrapers. Did you know, according to Guinness Records, the world's first skyscraper was the Home Insurance Building in Chicago, erected in 1884-1885. The so-called "Father of the Skyscraper" rose 10 stories with its peak at 138 feet. Take a look at some of the [world's highest buildings](#).

September 4



Peter Rabbit's Day

Beatrix Potter's beloved Peter Rabbit character debuted on this day in 1893. The book *Peter Rabbit* was not published until October 1902. Read the book or watch *Miss Potter* (2006) for a little background on Beatrix Potter.

Eat an Extra Dessert Day

Eat an Extra Dessert? No problem. A piece of carrot cake while reading *Peter Rabbit*, perhaps?

September 5

Lord Krishna's Birthday, aka Janmashtami

Celebrating the birth of the Hindu deity, Krishna, people fast and stay up until midnight, the time when Krishna is believed to have been born. Images of Krishna's infancy are placed in swings and cradles in temples and homes. At midnight, devotees gather around for devotional songs, dance and exchange gifts. Sound familiar?

Jesse James' Birthday

Celebrate the bad boys of the Wild West today. Jesse Woodson James was an American outlaw, gang leader, bank robber, train robber, and murderer from the state of Missouri and the most famous member of the James-Younger Gang. Watch a [Jesse James movie](#) ... there are lots of them.

September 6



Iguana Awareness Day

What's not to love about an aggressive, cold-blooded, reptile with poisonous teeth and a powerfully strong tail? This day is actually designated as a day to consider the care and handling of exotic pets and a reminder of the responsibility inherent in owning one.

September 7

Labor Day USA

No work today ... whatever will you do?

Grandma Moses Day

Folk artist, Anna Mary Robertson Moses, used house paints and began her career in her 90's, proving it's never too late. Take a look at [some of her work](#), after all, you've got the day off.

September 8

International Literacy Day

First celebrated in 1966 and promoted by UNESCO, its aim is to highlight the importance of [literacy](#) to individuals, communities and societies. Read a book today. Help someone else learn ... to read.

Pink Panther Day

It's also Peter Sellers birthday. Watch a classic Pink Panther film tonight.

September 9

KFC Day

It's Harland David Sanders birthday, founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken. The first franchise opened in 1952 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Have some finger-lickin' good chicken today in honor of the Colonel.

September 10

Rin Tin Tin's Birthday

Who's Rin Tin Tin? The most famous German shepherd of them all, plus he was in the Army. [Take a peek.](#)



TV Dinner Day

Swanson introduced its first TV dinner back in 1954. They sold 10 million in their first year at 98 cents each. Today there are lots of choices. If you're in a hurry, at least [choose a healthy option.](#)

September 11

Remember 9-11

Where were you when the first plane struck the Twin Towers?

September 12

Video Games Day

Yes, you can hole up today and play video games to your heart's content without feeling guilty. You're just celebrating the day.

Just in case you wanted to know, Henry Hudson discovered the Hudson River today back in 1609. By the way, the locals didn't realize it was lost and they certainly didn't refer to it as the Hudson. Obviously, Hudson didn't have video games at his disposal.

September 13

Grandparents Day

A day to celebrate with Grandma and Grandpa and all those folks that play grandparent roles in your life.

September 14

Rosh Hashana - Jewish New Year

Celebrate the Jewish New Year with family gatherings and meals and sweet foods like the traditional challah bread and apples dipped in honey. You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy it.

Let's Adopt a New Calendar Day

The British Empire adopted the Gregorian calendar back in 1752. They lost eleven days (from 9/2 to 9/14) and I doubt they'll ever get them back.

September 15

Read A Good Mystery Day

It's Agatha Christie's birthday. Settle in and read or watch a good Christie mystery. Better yet, check out the [Official Agatha Christie](#) website and collaborate on writing a mystery yourself.

September 16

National Play-Doh Day

Introduced as a wallpaper cleaner way back in the 1930's, Play-Doh has come a long way and today's its day. Grab some colored Doh and let your imagination run wild. None around? Here's an [easy recipe](#).

Blues Day

It's blues musician, B.B. King's birthday. [Play some blues](#) and get mellow tonight.

September 17

Time's Up Day

A reminder that you've run out of time ... to make up with a friend or relative, to get done whatever you need to get done. Time's Up ... just do it!

September 18

New York Times Birthday

Celebrating “All the News That's Fit to Print”, the [*New York Times*](#) published its first newspaper on September 18, 1851. Winner of 112 Pulitzer Prizes, it's the largest metro newspaper in the USA.

September 19



Talk Like a Pirate Day

Arrrh! Need I say more? [Check it out.](#)

Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest begins today and lasts for 16 days in Munich, Germany. Talk about a party! By the way, the World's Largest Chicken Dance is performed as part of the festivities. Drink a few extra pints to get primed for this.

September 20

National Punch Day

Not a punch in the nose, but a punch to drink. Originating from the Hindustani word panch, it translates to the word five in English representing the five basic ingredients for [a classic punch](#): lemon (or other fruit), sugar, water, tea and spices. Want it spiked? Add alcohol.

September 21

World Peace Day

Established by the UN in 1981, this day has been declared a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples of the world. [See how you can participate.](#)

Miniature Golf Day

A good day to play 18 holes with the whole family. Can't get out today? How about a [round on the computer?](#)

September 22

Hobbit Day

Frodo and Bilbo Baggins both celebrate their birthdays today and you can celebrate by reading *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. See how the official [Tolkien Society](#) celebrates.

White Chocolate Day

Some people like dark; some like milk; I like white chocolate. White chocolate with hazelnuts is good. [White chocolate mousse](#) with fresh raspberries ... now that's divine.

Dear Diary Day

Don't keep a personal journal? Try starting one today. It's a great way to express yourself and get your ideas, thoughts and words on paper.

September 23

Yom Kippur - Day of Atonement

The holiest day of the year for Jews, [Yom Kippur](#) is about fasting, repentance, atonement and prayer. Learn more about this holiday's significance to Jews.

Autumnal Equinox 2015

It's the first day of autumn for the Northern Hemisphere. Winter's on its way. If you're in the Southern Hemisphere, it's the Vernal Equinox and summer's right around the corner. Celebrate by digging out your winter or summer clothes for the upcoming season.

September 24

Muppets Day

Today is Jim Henson's birthday. Celebrate this world-renowned puppeteer by watching *The Muppets Movie* OR [make a puppet](#) of your own.



National Punctuation Day

Thank goodness for punctuation. How would we know when to pause and stop when we're reading? You probably know the comma, period and semi-colon, but I'll bet there are few you don't know like the "Sheffer stroke", for instance. [Read more here.](#)

September 25

National Comic Book Day

Enjoy the world of comic book heroes ... Superman, Spiderman, Batman, Green Lantern and don't forget Archie.

September 26

Rocky Horror Picture Show

A musical horror comedy, this crazy cult film first debuted in 1975 and still plays at many independent theaters regularly at midnight. Dress the part ... shout out the lines ... enjoy.

September 27

Crush a Can Day

Why Crush a Can Day? Who knows? But, hey, why not? Today's as good a day as ever to crush a can, relieve a little tension, see how flat you can get it. It certainly makes it easier to recycle.

Ancestor Appreciation Day

Dig out those old photos and give some thought to the generations of family that came before you. Share the stories and the family heritage with the younger generation so they can appreciate their roots.

September 28

Confucius Day

Today is Confucius' Birthday (551-479BC). Philosopher, politician and advocate of ethical virtues and standards, his birthday is celebrated in many parts of the world. [Read more.](#)

Museum Day

In association with the Smithsonian Museums, many museums offer two free admissions today. The Smithsonian is always free ... how wonderful is that? Check with your local museum to see if they're participating.

Full Lunar Eclipse

There's a full lunar eclipse tonight. Pray that it's clear because it should be good visibility from North and South America, Europe and Western Asia.

September 29



International Coffee Day

Smell the beans, inhale that rich aroma and enjoy a good cup of joe! Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts and several other chains participate by giving customers free or reduced price coffees today. Check it out.

September 30

Chewing Gum Day

Break out the Juicy Fruit or Bazooka bubble gum or better yet, choose any sugar-free gum and give it a chew, a pop, a blow or make a bubble. Chewing gum has been around for a long, long time. Learn more about [its origins here](#).

October 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |



October, from the Latin *octo* meaning eight, was the eighth month of the old Roman calendar and has retained its name despite the fact it's now the tenth month. Autumn is in full swing now unless you're down under where Spring is nearly sprung. Photo above *Pumpkins For Sale* by the author.

Full moon(s) in October 2015: October 27

October's moon is called the Hunter's Moon.

Gemstone: Opal

Flower: Marigold

Zodiac Signs: Libra September 23 - October 22
Scorpio October 23 - November 21

October 1

World Vegetarian Day

This is the first day of a month-long awareness celebration of the joy of veggies and meatless meals. It's healthy ... try it ... at least for tonight.

October 2

World Farm Animals Day

In keeping with Vegetarian's Day yesterday, this day reminds us of the role farm animals play in our lives, their contributions to society and the poor conditions under which some of them live. It was created in memory of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday (1869-1948) who believed in treating all living beings with respect. Hug a cow!

October 3



National Hummingbird and Butterfly Day

That seems like a lot to celebrate in one day, but that's how it is. Learn more about [hummingbirds and butterflies](#) today and how to attract them to your garden.

International Frugal Fun Day

A day to realize that you can have lots of fun without spending a lot of money. Like learning about hummingbirds and butterflies, or going to the park or the library or any number of free local events. Try it ... your budget will appreciate it.

October 4

World Day for Animals

Celebrated annually on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, this day reminds us of the importance of the preservation of endangered species. Learn more about endangered species in your area.

October 5

World Teachers Day

This UNESCO-inspired holiday advocates awareness, understanding and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and the development of our children. Give the teachers in your life a thankful pat on the back today.

October 6

Noodle Day

While you're enjoying noodles today, here's four pieces of noodle trivia to contemplate:

- Australians consume more than 18 million kilograms of noodles every year – that's almost one kilogram per person!
- In Japan, it is considered good form to loudly slurp your noodles as a way of telling your host that you are enjoying your meal.
- Noodles symbolize longevity in China.
- Noodles have been created from flour and water since 1000BC and today they are more popular than ever.

October 7

Bald and Free Day

A day to celebrate those shiny, smooth, hairless heads. A day to contemplate how much you save on shampoo and mousse and fancy haircuts. If you're not bald, celebrate with a relative or friend who is. Tell a few bald jokes. Live it up. Some celebrate on October 14th, but you've got a head start.

October 8



International Cephalapod Awareness Day

First, figure out what a cephalapod is! This is a day to celebrate squids, cuttlefish, octopi and other tentacled-invertebrates. Read or watch *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* to get into the mood. No calamari for dinner though.

October 9

Leif Erikson Day

Celebrate the legendary Norse explorer who is reputedly the first European to set foot on North America. The day commemorates the arrival of the first ship of Norwegian immigrants coming to America in 1825. Do something Viking ... [build a model longship](#).

October 10

World Mental Health Day

An international initiative to recognize, educate and manage mental health issues. Want to learn more? Take a look at some of these [publications](#).

October 11



Take Your Teddy Bear to Work or School Day

Ah, but it's a weekend. We suggest you take your Teddy Bear to church or maybe just snuggle up with your favorite Teddy and tell him a story.

October 12

Thanksgiving Day (Canada)

It's Thanksgiving Day in Canada ... a national holiday and day of thanks. Call your Canadian friends and wish them a happy holiday. Canadians celebrate with turkey, too. Have a turkey sandwich to get into the spirit.

Columbus Day (USA)

The day when Columbus purportedly "discovered" America in 1492 (as if the locals didn't know it was already there!). It's a national holiday in the USA, and for many, a 3-day weekend and time for a little autumnal getaway. Learn more about the [Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria](#).

October 13

International Skeptics Day

Believe it or not, it's Skeptics Day. It's a day to remember that it's okay to be inquisitive and okay to question things that don't make sense. There's even a [Skeptics Society](#) and Skeptics magazine. Check it out if you don't believe me.

Days and Ways Day

Hurray! *Days and Ways 2016* should be ready for release today! Visit our blogsite, www.JustALittleFurther.com to order next year's edition, packed full with a whole host of new and great reasons to celebrate the upcoming year.

October 14

Chocolate-covered Insects Day

Oh, wow! If you love chocolate, maybe this is a good way to appease your chocoholic side and cut down on exterminator bills at the same time. The most popular varieties of chocolate-covered insects, by the way, are crickets, ants and grasshoppers. Shop on line or make them yourself. [Here's a recipe](#). Bon appetit!

October 15



Mushroom Day

It's Mushroom Day which in my mind is better than chocolate-covered insects. Fungi trumps insects any day. Get crazy... try enoki, shitake, oyster or huge, delicious portobellos. How about some mushroom sauce over pasta, or sauteed mushrooms with your steak or maybe stuffed mushrooms?

October 16

World Food Day

Across the globe, many different events are organized to raise awareness of problems in food supply and distribution and to raise money to support projects to aid in the cultivation of food plants and the distribution of food. Donate some canned goods, money or your time to a local food bank.

October 17

Black Poetry Day

In honor of Jupiter Hammon (1711-1806), born into slavery and believed to be the first African American to publish poetry in the USA. His poem *An Evening Thought* was published in 1761. Read a little black poetry by Langston Hughes, Phyllis Wheatley, Paul Laurence Dunbar or Maya Angelou. Broaden your horizon ... get inspired.

October 18

No Beard Day

Hair today ... gone tomorrow. Well, actually gone today. Yup, today's the day to shave off that beard, remove the stubble, become a clean shaven man. Family and friends can watch.

October 19

Evaluate Your Life Day

Sounds serious, huh? It's a day to reflect on your life, where you are, what you're doing and where you're going. Don't like what you find? This is a perfect day to start making some changes.

October 20

Nothing to Celebrate Day

I looked everywhere for something to celebrate today and found nothing (other than Brandied Fruit Day which doesn't count). So I thought it would be worth taking a day off. Celebrate by not celebrating.

October 21



Reptile Awareness Day

A perfect day to celebrate all things reptilian. Snakes, iguanas, lizards, crocs, alligators and of course, turtles. All need a day for recognition. Say howdy and keep your distance.

October 22

National Nut Day

Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't. Today's the day to celebrate almonds, walnuts, pistachios, macadamias ... all those luscious nuts. Then, perhaps watch *The Nutty Professor*.

October 23

Mole Day

Celebrated annually on October 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m., Mole Day commemorates Avogadro's Number (6.02×10^{23}), which is a basic measuring unit in chemistry. Really, I got this verbatim from the [National Mole Day Foundation](#) site. Check it out.

October 24

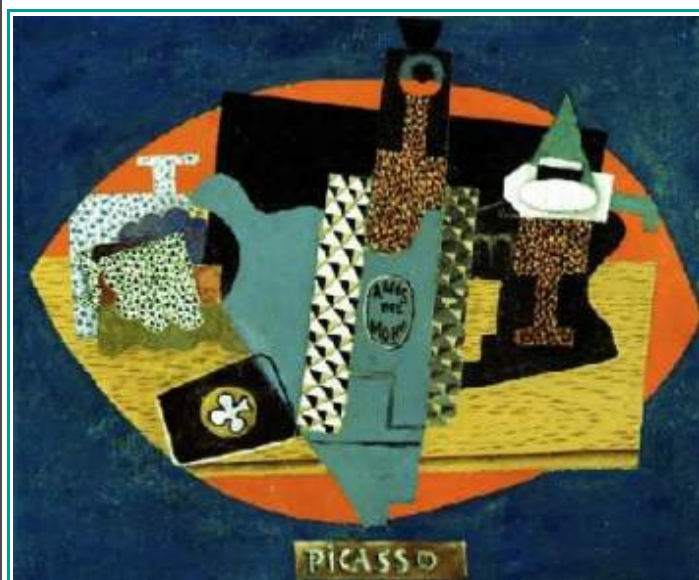
United Nations Day

“In a world more connected, we must be more united.” Today is UN Day ... celebrate our world diversity as well as our sameness.

October 25

Greasy Food Day

No health foods today. We're talking high fat, high cholesterol, high calorie. Here are some [suggestions](#) ... I'm thinking deep-fried Oreos myself.



Picasso's Birthday

While you're sucking down all that grease, have a look at some of Pablo Picasso's (1881-1973) works. Keep the grease off the keyboard please.

October 26

Pumpkin Day

It's almost Hallowe'en and time to buy your pumpkin and carve it up. You can drink pumpkin beer while you're carving with a piece of pumpkin pie or pumpkin bread on the side. All things pumpkin are relevant today.

October 27

Navy Day

Many countries celebrate Navy Day ... if they have a Navy, that is. We salute the US Navy today. Kiss a sailor.

Howl At the Moon

It's that time of month again. Howl away.

October 28



Lady Liberty's Birthday

The Statue of Liberty National Monument officially celebrates her 129th birthday today. The citizens of France gave the Statue to the people of the United States in 1886 in recognition of the friendship established during the American Revolution. Learn more about this [American icon](#) here.

October 29

National Cat Day

Got a kitty? Give it an extra treat today. No cat? Maybe time to visit the SPCA and adopt one. They make great pets. You can always pet your neighbor's cat in a pinch.

Hermit Day

It's also Hermit Day. Hug one if you can find one.

October 30

Frankenstein's Monster Day

This night is all about dressing up like Frankenstein's Monster ... the scarier, the better. Watch an old Boris Karloff movie to get you in the mood.

Create a Great Funeral Day

Oh, my. This day encourages people to think about their funeral plans and express their last wishes so family and friends will know how you want it all to be handled. It certainly takes the stress off the survivors, so give it a little thought. You never know. Here are a [few tips](#) to get you going.

October 31



Hallowe'en - Samhain

Samhain (pronounced Sow-en) is the most important day of the Wicca calendar ... it's the Witches' New Year. It's celebrated worldwide as Hallowe'en with masks and costumes and trick-or-treating. Learn a little more about [its origins](#) here. Boo!

November 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23/30 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |



November from the Latin *novem* meaning nine, this month too has retained its moniker as the ninth month of the Roman year though it's the eleventh. Some things just don't change. This painting by Robin Raab of Delavan, Wisconsin will appear on the 2015 Wisconsin wild turkey stamp.

Full moon(s) in November 2015:
November 25

November's moon is called the
Beaver Moon.

Gemstone: Topaz
Flower: Chrysanthemum
Zodiac Signs: Scorpio October 23 - November 21
 Sagittarius November 22 - December 21

November 1

All Saint's Day

All Hallow's Day and also known as Hallowmas, All Saint's Day celebrates all saints, especially those who don't have their own special feast day. It's a go-to-church day for some and a day for sorting out Hallowe'en candy for others.

World Vegan Day

Eating vegetarian is one thing, eating vegan is another. No dairy, no eggs, no meat, no honey. Try it for a day ... it's quite the challenge. The word "tofu" takes on a whole new meaning.

Daylight Savings ends today ... fall behind an hour.

November 2



Plan Your Epitaph Day

It's good to be prepared and today's the day to write your own epitaph, just to be sure nothing is left out. If you don't do it, someone else will.

Cookie Day

It's Cookie Monster's birthday. That big, blue furry Henson puppet first appeared in 1969, airing on *Sesame Street*. He's been eating cookies ever since.

November 3

Sandwich Day

Brown bag it today or head to the nearest sandwich shop. Celebrating anything between two slices of bread.

Election Day

It's also Election Day in the USA. Make sure you get out and vote. It's your right and your responsibility.

November 4



King Tut Day

On this day in 1922, Howard Carter and his team of archeologists discovered the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb. Learn more about Egyptology and King Tut or watch [Steve Martin](#) do his King Tut number. Your choice.

November 5

Guy Fawkes Day

Guy Fawkes Night or Bonfire Night or Gunpowder Plot Night originates from the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, a failed conspiracy by English Catholics to assassinate the Protestant King James I of England. Masks are worn and there are fireworks and bonfire displays. Sound familiar? Hallowe'en all over again.

November 6

March to the Music Day

Today is John Philip Sousa's birthday (1854-1932). Composer and conductor, Sousa was best known for his patriotic and military marches. He composed over 136 of them. [Give a listen](#) and march in his honor.

November 7

Hug a Bear Day

Give Teddy a hug today ... and while you're at it ... hug someone else you love.

November 8



X-Ray Day

X-rays were discovered in 1895 by a German physicist, Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, while experimenting with electron beams in a gas discharge tube. The first x-ray was of his wife's hand. Learn more about x-rays today or maybe talk to an x-ray tech.

Try a New Recipe Day

It's also Try a New Recipe Day. I'd say learn a little about x-rays then get out the cookbook to find a new recipe for tonight's dinner.

November 9

Giant Panda Day

Celebrating the discovery and capture of the first giant panda in China on this day in 1927. Learn more about [pandas](#) and how they were thought to be as elusive as Bigfoot.

November 10

Trivial Pursuit Day

Way back on November 10, 1981, the trademark for Trivial Pursuit was registered. It was the board game Time magazine called the "the biggest phenomenon in game history." Play a trivia game today.

November 11

Veteran's Day (USA)

Today we recognize and honor veterans of the US military. Attend a parade. Hug your favorite veteran. Fly the flag.

Remembrance Day (Canada)

Also known as Armistice Day and Poppy Day in several Commonwealth countries. The theme is the same everywhere it is celebrated. Honor your country's veterans today.

Diwali - Festival of Lights

Diwali is an ancient Hindu festival celebrated each year as the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and hope over despair. Dress up, share a meal with friends and maybe even exchange a small gift. It's all part of the custom. Learn more about this beautiful [Festival of Lights](#).

November 12

Happy Hour Day

Originated by the US Navy as a term for being somewhat inebriated, today's a good day to stop in to the local pub and have a half-price drink with your friends. Some places serve doubles instead of offering half price. Watch out ... you've got to drive home sober, remember!

November 13

The REAL Sandwich Day

John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, (1718-1792) celebrates his birthday today. A British statesman, he's best remembered for creating and popularizing the sandwich. Not wanting to be disturbed from his card game, he opted to have some meat between two slices of bread while continuing to play. Have a sandwich today ... twice in one month.

Gingerbread House Day

After the sandwich, how about making a gingerbread house. It'll last throughout the holiday season as long as you don't nibble too much. Here's a [recipe for a simple one](#), but you can get imaginative and create a whole edible village.

Friday the 13th

It's the third Friday the 13th of 2015. Friggatriskaidekaphobes can lay low today, but other people consider the day lucky. Sailors consider the day unlucky. Read about the urban legend of the [HMS Friday](#).

November 14

Guacamole Day

I love guacamole ... don't you? It's easy to make and great with chips. Here's a [good recipe](#) or just buy some pre-made if you're short of time.



National Pickle Day

Also known as Pickle Appreciation Day, enjoy a dill or a half sour or a bread and butter or a sweet pickle today ... whatever suits your taste.

November 15

Clean Out the Fridge Day

You know it's overdue and with the holidays coming, it's a job well done today.

November 16

Button Day

Back in 1235, the button was invented (as if!). Today is button day. You can collect them, display them, button and unbutton to your heart's content. There are all sorts of buttons, so it's up to you. There are belly buttons, political buttons, the buttons you push, the buttons you don't push and button up, baby, because it's cold outside.

November 17

Homemade Bread Day

Nothing smells quite so good as baking bread in the kitchen. Bake up a loaf today. Be traditional, use your breadmaker or if you're lazy, just buy a frozen loaf and pop it in the oven. Don't forget the butter.

November 18

Married to a Scorpio Support Day

If you're married to a Scorpio (as my husband is), you really need some support ... especially during birthday month.

William Tell Day

And way back in 1307, today marks the day that William Tell shot the apple off his son's head or so legend has it. [Read a little more.](#)

November 19



World Toilet Day

A whole day celebrating sanitation and clean toilets. Give yours a swish and an extra flush today. Then check out the [Poo Pee Sculpture](#) dedicated to this organization.

Great American Smokeout

Always celebrated on the third Thursday in November, this is a chance for smokers to go smoke-free for the day and maybe forever. Take that cigarette and toss in the toilet.

November 20

Universal Children's Day

A United Nations declared holiday to remind us we were all children once and taking care of our children is a universal desire of us all. Hug a kid today.

November 21

National Adoption Day

National Adoption Day is an effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent, loving families.

World Hello Day

It's easy to celebrate this day. Just smile and say Hello to ten strangers you meet today.

November 22

Snowmobile Day

Carl Eliason of Saynor, Wisconsin received the first US patent for a motorized toboggan on this day in 1927. Take your snowmobile out for a ride today. No snow? How [about making some?](#)

November 23



Jukebox Day

Play a song on a jukebox today. No jukebox handy? Easily remedied. Try listening to some old classics from the [Library of Congress Jukebox](#) collection.

November 24

D.B.Cooper Day

In 1971, a nondescript, middle-aged man hijacked a Northwest Airlines flight, demanded \$200K in cash and then parachuted out of the plane somewhere north of Portland. He was never found. Today we celebrate mysterious disappearances and unsolved mysteries.

November 25

Tie One On Day

Always celebrated the day before Thanksgiving, this gives everyone a chance to brace themselves before the holiday season begins. Ease into it ... try eggnog laced with a bit of brandy or rum. Oh yeah, and just a reminder ... one month till Christmas.

November 26



Thanksgiving - USA

Always the 4th Thursday in November, Americans commemorate the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock in 1620 and give thanks for a bountiful feast. Get out the good china, roast a turkey with all the fixings and make sure to bake a pumpkin pie.

November 27

Sinkie Day

Celebrate by eating some of those Thanksgiving leftovers while standing over the sink.

Black Friday - Buy Nothing Day

The biggest shopping day in the USA is the day after Thanksgiving. Most retailers go into the “black” this day, i.e. they become profitable for the year. If you're opposed to all that consumer spending, then you can celebrate by buying nothing.

November 28

French Toast Day

Sick of all that turkey? How about a French Toast breakfast today? It's [easy and tastes great](#). Don't forget the maple syrup.

November 29

Square Dance Day

Swing your partner and dosey-doe. Burn off some of those Thanksgiving Day calories with some traditional square dancing. Come on ... give it a try ... you'll love it.

November 30

Cyber Monday

More consumer spending, but this time via the internet. If your dogs are tired from traipsing from store to store doing your Christmas shopping, today is the day to take advantage of all the on-line sales.

December 2015

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |



December, from the Latin decem meaning ten, originally signified the tenth month of the year. Like the three months preceding it, it retained its former name though it's now the twelfth and final month of our year. Left, Slate and Shadow get into the Christmas spirit. Photo by author.

Full moon(s) in December 2015:
December 25

December's moon is called the Oak Moon, but this year it should be called the Christmas Moon, don't you think?

Gemstone:

Turquoise or Tanzanite

Flower:

Narcissus

Zodiac Signs:

Sagittarius November 22 - December 21

Capricorn December 22 - January 19

December 1

World AIDS Day

It's estimated that over 36 million people worldwide are living with HIV. Be aware. Be careful. Help if you can.

December 2

Fritters Day

There's corn fritters, clam fritters and frittering away your time. Here's a [recipe for fritters](#). You'll have to figure out frittering on your own.

December 3

Roof Over Your Head Day

A day to give thanks for having a warm, dry place to live. This would be a good day to volunteer at Habitats for Humanity in your area.

December 4



Santa's List Day

Time to get that list together for Santa and get it sent off to the North Pole. Have you been naughty or nice?

December 5

Blue Jeans Day

Levi Strauss introduced his first denim blue jeans on this day way back in 1880. So wear your Levis proudly and salute the King of Jeans.

December 6



St. Nicholas Day

In many Europe countries, St Nicholas Day is celebrated by children putting their shoes outside their bedroom doors or hanging an empty stocking by the fireplace on the evening of 5 December. St Nicholas then comes during the night. On the morning of 6 December, those children are sure to find their shoes/stockings filled with gifts and sugary treats. Sound familiar?

December 7

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (USA)

The bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on December 7, 1941 ... “a date which will live in infamy” was America's introduction to World War II. On this day, we remember all those who died in the infamous attack.

Chanukah

It's the first day of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. Learn more about how to [celebrate this Jewish holiday](#). You've got plenty of time ... Chanukah lasts for eight days.

December 8



Brownie Day

From the box, from scratch or from the bakery, this chocolate delight is an American classic. Eat some brownies today to celebrate.

December 9

Christmas Card Day

Time to get your Christmas card list together and write out your Christmas cards. You've got a bit more time if you use e-cards and letters. It's also the day that Wrigley first acquired a registered trademark on chewing gum back in 1924. Write cards and chew gum.

December 10

Human Rights Day

This year celebrates the 65th United Nations observance of Human Rights Day which promotes the preservation and protection of the rights and dignity of all people of the world.

Festival for Souls of Dead Whales Day

This is an Inuit holiday (so they say) to honor the whales who have been killed during the past year and used in the traditional way of life in the Arctic. If you have not killed a whale or eaten any whale meat during this past year, perhaps you can beg off the celebration.

December 11

Kaleidoscope Day

On this day in 1781, David Brewster invented the kaleidoscope. [Make your own kaleidoscope](#) today to celebrate.

December 12

World Harmonica Day

Break out your harmonicas as we celebrate Matthias Hohner's birthday. Originally a clockmaker, Hohner was the first to start making and selling harmonicas commercially back in 1857. Hohner Musikinstrumente still manufactures over a million harmonicas today along with ukeleles, kazoos and accordions.

December 13

Hot Cocoa Day

Cocoa, also known as hot chocolate or drinking chocolate, originated with the Mayans over 2000 years ago and was an essential part of the Aztec culture by 1400 AD. Recent studies suggest that hot chocolate may possess health benefits due to antioxidants found in cocoa...not to mention those endorphins that make you feel happy. Until the 19th century, hot chocolate was even used medicinally to treat stomach ailments. So make good use of that cocoa tin in your cupboard. Enjoy a hot cup of cocoa and smile all day.

December 14



International Monkey Day

It's an annual celebration of all things Simian...a festival of primates, a chance to scream like a monkey, beat your chest or just hang out and monkey around.

December 15

Cat Herder's Day

Cat herding usually refers to trying to do the impossible like managing software engineers and programmers, for instance. For an [hilarious video clip](#), check this out.

December 16

Boston Tea Party Day

“No taxation without representation!” ... and all that wonderful British tea was dumped into Boston Harbor in 1773. Today we celebrate this event signifying American independence and revolutionary spirit.

Chocolate-Covered Anything Day

It's also chocolate-covered anything day ... I wouldn't suggest waterlogged tea, but most anything else works.

December 17

Saturnalia

The Romans loved to celebrate holidays just like we do. Saturnalia, named for the agricultural deity, Saturn, celebrates the bounty of the earth with public banquets, followed by private gift-giving and continual partying for several days. It was a festival of lights leading up to Winter Solstice.

Wright Brothers Day

This day commemorates the first successful flight of a mechanically propelled airplane by Wilbur and Orville in Kitty Hawk, NC in 1903. We've come a long way, baby!

December 18



Snowflake Appreciation Day

Appreciating snowflakes? Sure, Snowflake Bentley did and you can, too. Learn more about [Wilson A. Bentley](#) and snowflakes. Eat Sugar Frosted Flakes while you're checking it out.

December 19

Wear Your Suspenders Day

On this day in 1871, suspenders (aka braces) were patented in the USA by none other than Samuel Clemens aka Mark Twain! He obviously saw the need to hold up his britches. Wear yours with pride!

December 20

Go Caroling Day

It's getting close to Christmas and it's fun to carry on an old tradition in your neighborhood or at a home or assisted living facility. Get a group together, copy the lyrics of your favorite carols, bundle up and head out the door singing. Couldn't be easier!

December 21

Crossword Puzzle Day

The most popular and widespread word game in the world was invented by Arthur Wynne in 1913 and appeared in the Sunday edition of the *New York World*. Do a crossword puzzle or create a crossword puzzle... it's good for your brain. Stuck on a word? Take a break and look at the very [first puzzle ever published](#).

December 22

Winter/Summer Solstice

Depending on your hemisphere, it's either the shortest day of the year or the longest day of the year. Whichever it is ... celebrate the solstice.

December 23

Festivus

Based on a Seinfeld episode, "Festivus for the rest of us" is a parody of the upcoming holidays and the commercial aspects and pressures associated with it. Need some help figuring out [how to celebrate](#)? It's easy.

December 24

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is a family celebration for our family. We get together, eat and drink heartily, finish up that last minute wrapping and then wait patiently for Santa to arrive. We've been known to go to a midnight celebration at church or just hang out at home and enjoy the moment. How do you celebrate Christmas Eve?

December 25



Christmas Day

If you're Christian, this is your big holiday. Open stockings, unwrap presents, go to church, eat a big Christmas dinner, enjoy the family, take a nap when no one's looking. Not Christian? Find one and help celebrate. It's all about celebrating our differences and embracing them.

And don't forget ... there's a beautiful full moon tonight.

December 26

Boxing Day

A traditional celebration in British Commonwealth countries, this holiday is not so much celebrated in the States. Traditionally, servants and tradesmen had the day after Christmas off and their bosses would give them gifts ... in boxes ... hence Boxing Day. Nowadays, since Christmas is usually a family day, Boxing Day is reserved for friends and visiting ... and shopping. Akin to the day after Thanksgiving in the States, Boxing Day is the day for after Christmas sales in some countries and they even have the day off! I think we should embrace this holiday ... I really think we should.

Whiner's Day

For those who didn't get what they wanted from Santa or spent too much and now regret it, this is your day. Instead of whining, how about celebrating Boxing Day. It'll take your mind off what you were whining about.

December 27

Happy Birthday, Radio City Music Hall!

Financed by John D. Rockefeller, it's been dubbed "Showplace of the Nation". Home to the famous Rockettes and a New York City landmark, Radio City opened for the first time on December 27, 1932 and has been the venue for movie premieres, concerts and shows ever since. By the way, given any thought to your New Year's Resolutions yet? 2016 is right around the corner.

December 28

Card Playing Day

The stress and hubbub of Christmas is over. It's a good time to gather round the table and play some cards. Deal 'em up! Squabbling over the rules? [Check out Hoyles](#), the definitive source for card game rules.

December 29

Charles Macintosh's Birthday

Macintosh, a Scottish chemist, patented waterproof fabric - hence the name of Macintosh for waterproof jackets and rainwear. This is the time of year you'll need one. The apples, however, are not named after him.

December 30

Asa Griggs Candler's Birthday

So, who the heck is Asa Griggs Candler? From his humble beginnings as a drugstore clerk and purveyor of patent medicines, Candler purchased the formula for Coca Cola in 1888 from its inventor, John Pemberton for \$550 and proceeded to make it famous. You might not know Asa, but you're certainly familiar with his legacy. Drink a Coke in his honor.

December 31



New Year's Eve

2016 is just minutes away. Celebrate the year past and welcome the New Year.

First Night

A major event in many cities, First Night is a celebration of a community's local culture and performers featuring music, dance, comedy, art, fireworks, ice sculptures and so much more. Venues are inside and outside in downtown areas. How will you celebrate the last night of 2015?

Days and Ways 2016

If you enjoyed *Days and Ways 2015*, don't forget to order next year's edition, *Days and Ways 2016*. It is full of a whole host of interesting reasons to celebrate. Plus, since 2016 is a leap year, you get 366 days – what a deal! It's available electronically on our blogsite, JustALittleFurther.com.

While you are there, take a look at the rest of the blogsite or visit our website, www.nineofcups.com, to learn more about our lifestyle aboard the sailboat Nine of Cups.