

March 2019

New Haven Assisted Living and Memory Care

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**Join us to
celebrate...**

March 5th

MARDI GRAS NECKLACE
MAKING

March 20th

SPRING PAINTINGS WITH
FAMILIES

March 15th

ST. PATRICK SOCIAL PARTY



Religious Roots to Raucous Parties

As March arrives, many look forward to the holidays of St. Patrick's Day and Mardi Gras. Yet both of these holidays are more modern American inventions than age-old religious traditions.

St. Patrick's Day, as a religious celebration, has a lengthy history. It dates back to the mid-17th century and was initiated to honor Saint Patrick and his work to bring Christianity to Ireland. The Feast of St. Patrick was held each year on the date of his supposed death, on March 17, 461 AD. The observance of the date was a solemn occasion, mostly involving quiet prayer. As recently as the 1970s, pubs were closed in Ireland on St. Patrick's Day. The rollicking revelry typically associated with the day was decidedly un-Irish and an American invention. During the Irish Famine of 1845–1850, many Irish immigrated to America, where they were not welcome. As the Irish community in America grew and prospered, they began to celebrate both their Irish-ness and their newfound American-ness. Corned beef, shamrocks, and leprechauns were never part of true Irish St. Paddy's Day celebrations, but they were integrated into Irish-American identity and so became celebrated symbols of St. Patrick's Day. The American version of St. Patrick's Day is so strong that many Irish-American traditions have even returned to Ireland.

Mardi Gras, like St. Paddy's Day, originated as a solemn religious holiday. As the day before the start of the ritual fasting of Lent, it was an opportunity to indulge in sweet, fatty foods, giving rise to the name "Fat Tuesday." Over the centuries, these small indulgences led to greater hedonism, practices that were heavily discouraged by the Church. The elaborate Mardi Gras celebrations held in New Orleans emerged in 1857 when a group of men created a secret society called the Mistick Krewe of Comus. They held a lavish ball and parade, setting the secular foundations for many wild Mardi Gras to come.

A Shakespearean Mystery

For a week in March each year, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, celebrates the life of William Shakespeare. From March 18 to 24, fans of the bard are invited to visit the Shakespeare family home and view his many famous works. However, there are some who believe that William Shakespeare did not write the many plays and sonnets that he is credited for. These doubters assert the existence of an alternate writer.



Toward the end of the 19th century, some scholars began to doubt the identity of William Shakespeare. At first, these doubters were thought to be crackpots. Over the years, the conspiracy gained traction. In 2007, a group of Shakespeare skeptics, consisting of performers and scholars, made an official "Declaration of Reasonable Doubt." Ample evidence exists to prove that Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon and became a well-known actor and theater-owner in his time. But these skeptics believe that there is simply not enough evidence to prove that this Shakespeare was the same man who wrote so many famous works. They believe Shakespeare's modest upbringing could not have afforded him the quality education that such a talented writer would have needed. The true author, they argue, must have been a traveler, writer, or aristocrat such as philosopher Francis Bacon, poet Christopher Marlowe, or Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford.

Of course, Shakespeare has a wealth of defenders, too. They argue that Shakespeare's elementary education would have been adequate for his talents. Paper evidence may not exist because paper was a scarce resource back then and no one would have kept scraps of notes or letters. It instead would have been reused. Regardless of your belief in Shakespeare's identity, Shakespeare Week may be a time to enjoy the bard's words rather than question his good name.

DID YOU KNOW?

New Haven has gone
SOCIAL!!!



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New Haven Assisted Living and Memory Care



Night Owls



The International Festival of Owls, a celebration of these mysterious nighttime creatures, will occur during the first three days of March. Is it the owl's nocturnal nature, their swift silence, their chilling calls of "who," or their bizarre rotating necks that make them so fascinating? These birds have figured prominently in our imaginations for millennia. In ancient Greece, the owl was the symbol of Athena, goddess of wisdom. It was believed that an "inner light" gave the owl its superb night vision, and it was considered a good omen if an owl was spied overhead watching you. Because an owl is a bird of darkness, it has often been associated with death. During the Middle Ages, owls were thought to be witches or witches' helpers. American Indians, too, held many beliefs about owls and death. To some, owls were the spirits of the dead. To others, owls were guides of the recently deceased to the underworld. During the Festival of Owls, take the time to encounter one of these magnificent animals up close and you, too, may begin to think they are more than just birds.

Girls Guiding Girls

The Girl Scouts is one of the largest and most successful organizations for girls in the world. Juliette Gordon Low, finding inspiration from the Girl Guide movement in England, established the first Girl Guide Troop in America on March 12, 1912. For this reason, the week of March 10–16 is celebrated as Girl Scout Week.



Born in Savannah, Georgia, just before the American Civil War, Gordon Low was raised with traditional Southern values emphasizing duty, loyalty, and respect. Gordon Low was also an American aristocrat born to successful parents. As such, she attended boarding schools, met many influential people, married well, and moved to England. Gordon Low's marriage was not a happy one, however, and she spent much time alone painting, learning metalworking and woodworking, and doing charity work. After her husband died, she met Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, a guide movement for boys that taught the skills of military preparedness and outdoor adventuring. Scouting proved to be the perfect unity of values that she had enjoyed all her life: duty and respect combined with practical skills for survival. It was not long before Gordon Low met Agnes Baden-Powell, Sir Robert's sister and founder of the Girl Guides, and so Gordon Low organized Girl Guide troops in London herself.

Gordon Low returned to her beloved Savannah in March of 1912 with the mission to grow the girl scouting movement in America. On March 12, she registered 18 girls, establishing the very first Girl Guide troop. Thanks to her family's extensive social connections and the help of Sir Baden-Powell, Low was able to quickly grow her local troop into a nationwide movement. She faced one competitor, the Camp Fire Girls, but this organization believed that girls should not participate in strenuous outdoor activities meant for boys. Gordon Low held fast to her love of scouting, and for over 100 years, the Girl Scouts have given young girls the confidence, skills, and character to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Monthly Events

Every Tuesday
BINGO

March 8th and March 22nd
ED PLAYS THE PIANO

March 21st
THERAPY DOG VISIT

Daily Events

Daily Exercise Class
@ 10:00

Breakfast 8:00
Lunch 12:00
Dinner 5:00

Tips for adjusting into Assisted Living or Memory Care

1. Decorate the Room Like Home

At New Haven we highly recommend bringing your own furniture, decorations, and pictures to place throughout the room to make it as much to home as possible.

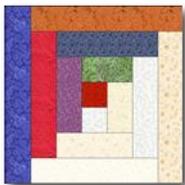
2. Continue to be as Active as Possible

We offer many daily activities for our residents to socialize, build relationships, and stay active. We understand the importance of exercise and socializing.

3. Visit Often

Our doors are always open for visitors, and we will even host birthday parties, anniversaries, or any other special occasions for your family here at New Haven!

The Patterns of Life



The third Saturday in March has been designated Worldwide Quilting Day, a global celebration of quilters and their fabulous creations. Quilts began not as the intricately patterned blankets

we often use today, but as padded clothing. The first evidence we have of humans wearing quilted clothing comes from ancient Egypt. Quilted clothes were uncovered at the Temple of Osiris dating back 5,000 years. Modern quilting of clothes dates back to the Middle Ages in Europe when these soft garments were worn over and under chain mail armor. The first evidence we find of quilted blankets comes from 15th-century England, but all this evidence is merely written about; few, if any, blankets from that era have survived.

English immigrants brought their sewing and quilting skills with them to America, where quilting grew into more than a practical skill—it became an art form. Patterns grew into symbols and stories. When President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act of 1862, which opened up the West for settlement, families prepared for their westward journeys by sewing quilts. These quilts have become records of history.

One of the earliest patterns, known as the Nine Patch, was simply nine squares in a three-by-three pattern. This was the quickest quilt to sew and a great and thrifty use of leftover scraps of fabric. Often, girls as young as age three or four could be taught to sew the Nine Patch pattern. A more elaborate pattern was known as the Log Cabin. This pattern was symbolic of the home. The center square was always red, to symbolize the hearth at the heart of the home. Narrow strips of fabric, like logs used to build frontier cabins, radiated from the center square in stacks. Light fabrics representing the light of day were sewn on one side of the quilt. Dark fabrics representing night were sewn on the opposite side. This pattern was also known as the Sunshine and Shadow. Patterns depicting pinwheels, stars, flowers, animals, crops, biblical stories, and even schoolhouses followed. Women sewed as they lived, a tradition that continues to this day.



March Trivia



WHAT INSECT IS KNOWN FOR CARRYING ITEMS MANY TIMES ITS BODY WEIGHT?

~The Ant

WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF SWITZERLAND?

~ Bern

WHAT GARDEN PLANT IS COMMONLY PLANTED IN THE NORTHEASTERN US ON SAINT PATRICK'S DAY?

~Peas

WHICH CITY DYES ITS DOWNTOWN FOUNTAINS GREEN FOR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY?

~Savannah, Georgia

WHICH ARMY USED SAINT PATRICK AS ITS SECRET PASSWORD?

~ Continental Army used it during the Revolutionary War

The March of Women's History



The month of March is Women's History Month, in recognition of women and their impact on culture and society all around the world. The movement to establish recognition of women's history began

in Sonoma, California, in the 1970s. A group of women formed the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women. Their goal was to include women's history in the local school curriculum. For too long, men had dominated the study while women's contributions had nary a mention. The movement in Sonoma was such a success that it gained traction nationwide. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter established the first Women's History Week, and then in 1987, Congress declared the entire month of March as Women's History Month. Politicians, writers, freedom fighters, scientists, soldiers, athletes—women have made contributions in virtually every field. Honor them this March.