

Holidays & Crazy Daze

A reason to celebrate every day of the month!

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Aug. Is? AUGUST 2009						
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1st Clowning Around Day - It is the beginning of [International Clown Week](#). Invite a local clown to visit the facility to perform and demonstrate how he puts on his make-up. Ask him to give a short lesson on "clowning" and share how he got started in the business. Have clown make-up on hand for residents, volunteers, and staff to try. Visit our [Lighten Up!](#) page for more humor programs every month. Also, "clown around" with a set of [C-L-O-W-N Bingo Cards](#) this month.

Twist Day - On this day in 1960, Chubby Checker's "The Twist" was released. Do "the twist" during your exercise class today. Plan a "Twist Party" and play the game "Twister" with visiting children.

Happy Birthday Chopsticks! - The song, not the eating utensil. On this date in 1877, "Chopsticks" was published for the first time. It was written by a 16-year-old girl named Euphemia Allen, and was the only song she ever published. It originally included instructions for the notes to be played by the sides (edges) of the hands in a chopping motion. Play "Chopsticks" and eat rice with chopsticks today. Also, make a [Chopstick Picture Frame](#) and check out these [5 Reuses for Chopsticks](#).

Rounds Resounding Day - The day is sponsored by the [Rounds Resounding Society](#). Their motto is, "As rounds resound, all the world's joined in a circle of harmony." Celebrate the day by "rounding" up your group for a "Round and Round We Go Sing-along." Try singing a few familiar rounds, such as "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," "Frere Jacques" (Are You Sleeping), "Down by the Station," "Sailing, Sailing," "This Old Man," and "Edelweiss." If you want to go [Beyond Row, Row, Row Your Boat](#), you can try some of these songs - many dating back centuries - like "[Early to Bed.](#)" (Each song has accompanying sheet music and a sound clip in midi format.) If you need some direction, see [How to Sing a Round](#).

Cutting the Mustard Day - In celebration of National Mustard Month - annually the first

Saturday in August. Share some [Mustard Facts, History, and Myths](#). Visit the [Mustard Museum](#) for some interesting trivia, recipes, and more. Try this [Catfish with Dijon Sauce recipe](#) since August is also Catfish Month.

Lughnasadh - [Lughnasadh](#) (Loo-`na-sa) is an ancient grain harvest festival still celebrated in some parts of the world today. The American small town country fair is a descendent of the Lughnasadh fairs. Many American state and county fairs are held in late August or early September and include a celebration of the harvest, games, and a marketplace, like the Lughnasadh fairs. When is your town's county fair?

Girlfriend's Day - Start a [Red Hat Society](#) this month.

2nd Sisters' Day - Annually the first Sunday in August. Plan a "Sisters Are Special Social" for the ladies today.

International Friendship Day - [International Friendship Day](#) is celebrated the first Sunday in August. Check out the [International Friendship Day](#) page for poems, cards, and other ways to celebrate the day. We also celebrate Best Friends Day ([Aug. 15](#)) this month.

Ice Cream Sandwich Day - Always celebrated on August 2. Create your own ice cream sandwiches today. All you need is a variety of ice cream flavors and some cookies. Try chocolate chip cookies, oatmeal cookies, sugar cookies, and .. well, you get the idea.

Kids' Day - Celebrate [Kids' Day](#) by inviting children to visit for a special program. See our [Bridging the Gap](#) page for a great activity to do with visiting children this month.

Queen of Hollywood Day - [Myrna Loy](#) was born on this day in 1905. She was an American actress who was famous for playing the role of [Nora Charles](#), wife of detective Nick Charles ([William Powell](#)), in [The Thin Man](#) series. In 1938, she was voted the "Queen of Hollywood" in a contest that also voted Clark Gable "King." Whom would you vote "King" and "Queen" of Hollywood today?

Psychic Sunday - I bet you already know that tomorrow ...

3rd Psychic Week Begins - Are you psychic? Take the [Psychic IQ Test](#) to find out. Have you ever been thinking about a person and suddenly they call? Have you ever sensed something was going to happen and it does? Do you sometimes feel you can read people's minds? Serve fortune cookies and discuss the topic of psychic power today.

Civic Day (Canada) - The first Monday in August is observed as [a holiday](#) in some Canadian provinces. Visit [Canada Info](#) for more.

Australia Picnic Day - Celebrated the first Monday in August. Play cricket and plan an "Aussie Picnic" today.

Tony Bennett Day - On this day in 1926, singer [Tony Bennett](#) was born Antonio Dominick Benedetto in Queens, New York. By 1965, he had 24 top 40 hits under his belt, including "Rags to Riches" (1953), "Stranger in Paradise" (1953), "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" (1962), and "Fly Me to the Moon" (1965). Plan a birthday party for Tony and listen to [some Bennett](#) today.

Set Sail Day - Christopher Columbus set sail for the New World on August 3, 1492. Make [Paper Boats](#) today and solve the [Sailing, Sailing](#) crossword puzzle.

4th "Well, Hello Dolly" Day - Jazz singer and musician Louis Armstrong was born on this day in 1901 (or 1900). In 1963, Armstrong scored a huge international hit with his version of "Hello Dolly." This number one single even knocked The Beatles off the top of the charts! Learn more about [Louis Armstrong](#), play some jazz music, and sing "[Hello Dolly](#)" today.

Make Your Own Luck Day - Decide what you want and go for it! Learn [How to Create Your Own Luck](#) and make it happen today!

Poppin' Fresh Day - "Poppin' Fresh" was trademark registered by the Pillsbury Company on this day in 1970. How much do you know [about the Pillsbury Doughboy](#)? Plan a little [Doughboy Fun](#) today. FYI: The Doughboy made his debut in October of 1965.

Champagne Day - Dom Perignon discovered the process for making champagne on this day in 1693. Upon tasting champagne for the first time, he called out to his assistants, "Come quickly, I'm drinking the stars!" Plan a "Champagne Cocktail Hour" today.

5th Wiggle Your Toes Day - In celebration of Foot Health Month. Put your best foot forward with foot massages today. Visit the [Foot Care-4-U](#) site to learn more about "The Agony of De-Feet." Also, try to find all the words in this [Put Your Best Foot Forward](#) puzzle.

Watermelon Wednesday - "When one has tasted it, he knows what the angels eat." ~ Mark Twain. Serve watermelon and try to solve the [Seedless Watermelon](#) word search. Also, play a game of [M-E-L-O-N Bingo](#) today.

American Bandstand Day - [The famous rock and roll dance show](#) first debuted on ABC-TV on this day in 1957. Have a sock hop today.

Little Orphan Annie's Birthday - On this day in 1924, Harold Gray's [Little Orphan Annie](#) comic strip first appeared in the *New York Daily News*. Read "[Annie](#)" today. Can you name [all the characters](#) in the comic strip?

6th Pamper Yourself Day - Pamper your clients today with back rubs, manicures, and [facials](#). We also celebrate Spa Day ([Aug. 11](#)) and National Relaxation Day ([Aug. 15](#)) this month.

American Artists' Day - Celebrated on [Andy Warhol's](#) birthday (81st this year). Learn about his life and [his art](#). View one of his most famous paintings, the [Campbell Soup Cans](#). Since it is also American Art Appreciation Month, feature other American artists this month, such as Jackson Pollock or Norman Rockwell. Plan a trip to your local art museum or invite a docent to speak to your group. See our [Brush to Canvas](#) page and become an artist yourself this month. Also, try solving the [Searching for Famous Artists](#) and the [Artists Corner](#) word searches and the [Art-ful Puzzle](#) crossword today.

Alfred Lord Tennyson's Birth Anniversary - English poet Alfred Lord Tennyson was born on this day in 1809. Tennyson succeeded Wordsworth as Poet Laureate in 1850. Learn more [about him](#) and read some of [his poetry](#) today.

Lucy's Birthday - Lucille Ball was born on this date in 1911. Plan a Lucille "Ball" and take the [I Love Lucy Trivia Quiz](#) today.

7th Professional Speakers Day - Celebrate [Professional Speakers Day](#) by inviting a speaker to give a talk.

Seeing Double Day - [Twins Days](#) begin today in Twinsburg, OH. According to Guinness Book of World Records, it is the largest gathering of twins. Double up on everything today. See the [Twins Network](#) for some interesting trivia and facts about twins. Also, watch the movie [Twins](#) and see how many "twin" words you can list (twinkling, twinge, twine, twin engine, etc.). Discuss [some famous twins](#). See our [It's Puzzling](#) page for a [Double Up](#) puzzle this month.

A Prairie Home Companion Day - Garrison Keillor, the voice behind one of America's favorite radio programs, *A Prairie Home Companion*, was born on this day in 1942. Learn more [about him](#) or [listen to an episode](#) today. Watch the 2006 movie [A Prairie Home Companion](#), starring Garrison Keillor himself.

Hatfield-McCoy Day - The long-simmering conflict between the Hatfields and the McCoys, who lived at Tug Fork near the Kentucky-West Virginia border, erupted into full-scale violence on Election Day in 1882. How much do you know about the [Hatfield-McCoy Feud](#)? They must have made up because now there is a [Hatfield-McCoy Reunion](#) every year.

8th We're Having a (Magic 8) Ball! Day - It is the 8th day of the 8th month. Don't get caught [Behind the Eight Ball](#). Plan 8 activities today, play 8 games of bingo where the number 8 is "free," play a game of [Crazy Eights](#), serve 8 kinds of cookies for snack time, see who can come up with the longest [list of words that contain "eight."](#)

Hawaiian Eye Day - Actress/Singer [Connie Stevens](#) was born on this day in 1938. She first became famous for her role as Cricket Blake on the TV show [Hawaiian Eye](#), which ran from 1959 - 1963. Do you remember the show? See our [Theme of the Month](#) for all of our Hawaiian ways to celebrate the month.

Dustin Hoffman Day - [Dustin Hoffman](#) was born on this day in 1937. See our [Reel to Real](#) page for more.

Happiness Happens Day (formerly Admit You're Happy Day) - The holiday is sponsored by the [Secret Society of Happy People](#). Their website suggests that you celebrate the day by wearing your SILVER shades, donating your SILVER coins (take up a donation for your favorite charity), or passing out SILVER kisses. Why SILVER? Because happy people have a way of finding the SILVER lining in even the darkest clouds. The page also suggests everyone put a happy description in front of their name today - such as Chipper Cathy, Smiling Sam, Cheerful Cindy, etc.

National Garage Sale Day - Annually the second Saturday in August. Host a garage sale for your local community. Check out the [Shopping Tips for National Garage Sale Day](#). Also, try solving the word search puzzle, [Searching for Yard Sale Bargains](#).

The Date to Create - In celebration of Inventors' Month. Give everyone some miscellaneous items (such as construction paper, pipe cleaners, playdough, bingo chips, etc.) and ask them to create something. Give prizes for the most ingenious "inventions." Also, try solving the [Inventive Word Search](#) today.

"America's Mermaid" Day - Celebrated on the birthday of [Esther Williams](#). The professional swimmer and actress was born on this day in 1921 in Los Angeles, California. In her honor, go out for a swim and/or show one of [her movies](#) today.

9th Resurrect Romance Week Begins - The week focuses on celebrating creative romance. See our [Lighten Up!](#) page for an activity about funny personal ads. After all, a

sense of humor may be the most important quality to look for in a mate.

Boop-Oop-A-Doop Day - It's Betty Boop's birthday. She debuted in Max Fleisher's animated cartoon *Dizzy Dishes* on this day in 1930. Go to [Betty Boop's](#) official site and click on "Fun Stuff."

"Catch of the Day" Day - August is National Catfish Month. Have you tried catfish? Serve catfish and discuss [Catfish Facts](#) this month. Check out [The Catfish Institute](#) for recipes and more. Since it is also Mustard Month, try this delicious [Catfish with Dijon Sauce recipe](#).

Smokey Bear's Birthday - On this day in 1944, the first [Smokey Bear](#) poster was released by the Ad Council. The beloved character devotes his life to preserving the forests by instructing countless generations of children "Only YOU can prevent forest fires!" (The slogan was changed in 2001 to "wildfires.") Learn more about [Smokey Bear](#) and share some [Forest Facts](#) today.

10th PGA Championship Begins - It is the [91st PGA Championship](#), held at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minnesota. Watch the event on television and cheer for your favorite golfer. Plan a "Par-Tee" for the winner. See Puttering Around Day below ([Aug. 23](#)) for more ideas.

Museum Day - It is the anniversary of the founding of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC (1846). Discuss [what is on display at the Smithsonian](#) or visit a museum today. Watch the 2009 movie *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian*.

Electric Guitar Day - [Leo Fender](#), American inventor and manufacturer of electronic musical instruments, was born on this day in 1909. He was the first to mass produce solid-body electric guitars. Call your local music store and ask if they can visit your community and demonstrate the differences between electric and traditional guitars.

Charles Darrow Day - Born on this day in 1889, Charles Brace Darrow designed the board game [Monopoly](#). Share some [Monopoly Fun Facts](#) today. A new, more modern game, [Monopoly Here & Now](#), was released in 2006. Some people are [upset about the changes](#), especially the people in Atlantic City. Ask your group what they think. FYI: Monopoly Day (the anniversary of the day the game was introduced) is celebrated on November 5 and December 31 is the anniversary of the day the game was patented in 1935.

"You're on Candid Camera" Day - On August 10, 1948, *Candid Camera* premiered on TV. Borrow or rent a video camera, if you don't already have one. Take candid shots of people and show the video the following evening. They'll love it! FYI: We also celebrate Movie Camera Day ([Aug. 31](#)) this month.

11th Spa Day - August is Relaxation Month. What better way to relax than to spend a day at the spa! Plan a "Spa Day" for your clients. Select a quiet spot for your "spa." Play soft background music. Burn some aroma scents. (Light bulb scent rings work well.) Check out [Relax to the Max](#) from Activity Basket. Serve cheese and crackers, fancy chocolates, and some "bubbly." Have hot hand towels available. Give facials, manicures, pedicures, shoulder rubs, and hand rubs. Sound relaxing? See [Aug. 6](#) and [Aug. 15](#) for other relaxing days.

Beatles Apple Week - The Beatles proclaimed this week to be "National Apple Week" in 1968 when they launched their Apple recording label. Try one of these [Apple Crafts](#).

Serve apple snacks today.

Antiques Day - Plan your own "Antiques Road Show" today. Ask clients, staff, families, and volunteers to bring in their favorite antiques. Ask local experts to evaluate and give their opinions about the objects.

Make a Panini Day - August is National Panini Month. The panini is a sandwich typically served hot or grilled with ciabatta bread. You can get very creative with ingredients while making paninis. Check out [these recipes](#) and [other tips](#) and serve a variety of paninis for lunch today.

12th Gymnastics Day - Dallas, Texas, hosts the 2009 Visa Championships starting today (through August 15). The competition showcases the brightest stars in gymnastics, and Texas is the perfect state to host the event because many of the [top competitors live there!](#) NBC Sports broadcasts the event. Watch the competition if you can or attend a local gymnastics class - just to watch, of course. Alternatively, invite a group to give a performance at your facility.

Cecil B. DeMille Day - Film director [Cecil B. DeMille](#) was born on this day in 1881. He directed more than 70 major films, including *Cleopatra*, *The Ten Commandments*, and *The Greatest Show on Earth*. Show a [DeMille movie](#) today.

Sew What! - On this date in 1851, Isaac M. Singer of New York City was granted a patent for the first sewing machine with a rocking treadle. Think of other inventions that help you at home. Plan an "Alterations Day" and invite a local seamstress to take up hems, sew on buttons, etc., today.

Dollar Day - On this day in 1955, the U.S. minimum wage was raised from 75 cents to \$1.00. Visit a Dollar Store today.

Vinyl Record Day - Celebrated annually on the day that Thomas Edison invented the phonograph in 1877. The day encourages celebrating music memories of vinyl records with family and friends and preserving this type of audio history. Listen to music on records today. Just for fun, make these [vinyl record bowls](#) or [bookends](#).

13th Don Ho Day - [Don Ho](#), Hawaiian musician and entertainer, was born on this day in 1930. Play some of [his music](#) today. Blow "Tiny Bubbles" and listen to [the song](#). See our [Who Am I?](#) page for more. FYI: We also celebrate the day Hawaii became a state in 1959 ([Aug. 21](#)). See our [Theme of the Month](#) for all of our Hawaiian ideas.

A Suspenseful Day - [Alfred Hitchcock](#) was born on this day in 1899. Show one of his suspense thrillers such as *Rear Window*, *Dial M for Murder*, *Spellbound*, or one of [his other famous movies](#) today. Hitchcock made [cameo appearances](#) in many of his films. Challenge viewers to [find him](#) in the movie you watch.

Bambi's Birthday - The animated movie [Bambi](#) premiered in the U.S. on this day in 1942 at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Share some [Bambi Trivia](#) today.

Southpaw Day - It is [International Left-Handers Day](#). Check out a list of interesting [left-handed people](#). Bill Clinton, Queen Elizabeth, and Prince William are all left-handers. Don't forget to celebrate your favorite left-handed actors/actresses today - like Tom Cruise, Angelina Jolie, or Julia Roberts! Share some [Lefty Trivia](#).

14th Kool-Aid Days Begin - [Kool-Aid Days](#) are celebrated the second full weekend in August. Try making [Kool-Aid Sodas](#), [Kool-Aid Cookies](#), and [Diabetic Kool-Aid Popsicles](#) today.

Fan Friday - Celebrated the second Friday of Beat the Heat Month. Make a [paper fan](#) today. See this month's [Alzheimer's Focus](#) page and make "I'm Your Biggest Fan Door Decorations." Plan a "fan-tastic" day with other "fan-tastic" activities. Keep your cool with [Cool Whip Angel Food Cake](#) and [Cool & Creamy Salad](#).

Paint a Picture in the Park Day - Take a trip to a local park and paint a picture. If your group isn't up to painting an original picture, go to the [Brush to Canvas](#) page and print some pictures to take along.

Steve Martin's Birthday - This "wild and crazy guy" was born on this day in 1945. Plan a humor program and discuss some of Steve Martin's characters. Show one of [his funny films](#), such as *Roxanne*, *The Out-of-Towners*, or *Cheaper by the Dozen*. Don't forget to check out our [Lighten Up!](#) page for some laughs this month.

15th National Relaxation Day - Celebrated annually on August 15th. One way to relax is to use your imagination and let it take you away from the pressures of the day. Try "Imagine That" as a relaxing exercise with your group today. Begin by suggesting some favorite places - such as a favorite room, favorite vacation spot, favorite restaurant, etc. Ask the group to close their eyes and picture themselves being there. Ask them to use as many of their senses as possible. (Example: Pretend you are having a picnic beside a lake on a beautiful spring day. Can you hear the ducks flapping on the water, smell the lilacs in the air, taste the peanut butter sandwich, etc.?) At the end of the activity, ask everyone to share what they imagined. See [Aug. 6](#) and [Aug. 11](#) for more "relaxing" days.

Best Friend's Day - Discuss what qualities we look for in our best friends and how to be a best friend. Share some [Friendship Quotes](#) today. We also celebrate International Friendship Day ([Aug. 2](#)) this month.

Hippie Day - It is the 40th anniversary of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, a three-day rock concert that drew a crowd of over 400,000 people to an alfalfa field in Bethel, New York. Celebrate the tie-dye culture of the '60s by [Tie-Dyeing T-shirts](#).

Sandcastle & Sculpture Day - This event, sponsored by the [Nantucket Island](#) Chamber of Commerce, takes [sandcastle](#) building to the highest level. Every year, teams converge on the beach just outside Nantucket Town to create [art out of beach sand](#). A panel of judges chooses winners in a number of classes. Ask everyone to make a [Sand Mosaic](#) today or [Sand Casting](#) and judge the "best of show." Discuss an incident where a [toddler destroyed a Buddhist sand painting](#). Make [sand art](#) or a [beach in a jar](#) today.

French Cooking Day - [Julia McWilliams \(Child\)](#) was born on this day in 1912. [Learn more](#) about her. Plan a French menu today, and be sure to include [Julia Child's Quiche](#).

16th Aviation Week Begins - Celebrated the week of Orville Wright's birthday ([Aug. 19](#)). FYI: Aviation History Month is celebrated in November.

Sports Illustrated Day - The first issue of [Sports Illustrated](#) was published on this day in 1954. The cover showed Milwaukee Braves star Eddie Matthews at bat in Milwaukee County Stadium. Share some of the other [1950's covers](#). Pick up a recent copy of the magazine to read and discuss. What do your residents think of the yearly swimsuit

issue?

Klondike Day - On this day in 1896, George Carmack and his wife Kate discovered gold in what is now known as Bonanza Creek, Yukon, which set off the Klondike Gold Rush. Serve [Klondike Bars](#) today. Ask people to fill in the blanks in these gold-related sayings and song titles: "Where the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the _____ (Day)." The goose that laid the golden _____ (egg). Make new friends but keep the old. One is _____ (silver) and the other gold. King Midas has the golden _____ (touch). All that _____ (glitters) is not gold. "Silver _____ (Threads) Among the Gold." "She's Only a _____ (Bird) in a Gilded Cage."

Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone Day - [Fess Parker](#), the man who played Davy Crockett on television and in the movies, was born on this day in 1924. He went on to play [Daniel Boone](#). Show one of [his movies](#) today, such as [Old Yeller](#) (1957).

17th The Real Davy Crockett Day - [Davy Crockett](#) himself was born on August 17, 1786. Plan a "Wild Frontier Day."

Weird Contest Week Begins in [Ocean City, New Jersey](#). The competitions change each year, but there are a few mainstays - such as the contests for "Wet T-shirt Tossing," "Celebrity Super Hero Impersonations," "French Fry Sculpting," and "Putrid Puns." The grand finale is the "Miss Miscellaneous Contest." Plan your own "Weird Contest Week" with such events as "Oreo Cookie Stacking Contest," "Silly Door Decorating," "Bizarre Baking Contest," etc.

Melon Monday - Serve melon balls for snacks and play a game of [M-E-L-O-N Bingo](#) today. How many [Types of Melons](#) can you name? We also celebrate Watermelon Wednesday ([Aug. 5](#)) this month.

Maureen O'Hara Day - Famous Irish actress [Maureen O'Hara](#) was born on this day in 1920. She was famous for starring in westerns with John Wayne. Show [The Wings of Eagles](#), [Rio Grande](#), [McLintock!](#), or [The Quiet Man](#) today.

18th Trademark Tuesday - In celebration of Inventors' Month. Registered trademarks are identified with an ®. Look through magazines and see how many registered trademarks you can find.

Robert Redford Day - Award-winning actor [Robert Redford](#) was born on this day in 1937. Show *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* or one of [his other movies](#) today.

Mail-order Catalog Day - The first mail-order catalog was published by Montgomery Ward on this date in 1872. It was only one sheet of paper! Thumb through some modern-day mail order catalogs. Give your group a list of things to look for and have a "Catalog Scavenger Hunt."

19th Aviation Day - It's [Orville Wright's](#) birthday (1871-1948). Do something that is just ["plane" fun](#) today.

Ogden Nash Day - Frederic Ogden Nash was born on this day in 1902. He was an American poet best known for writing pithy and funny light verse. "Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker." Share some of [his works](#) today.

Coco Chanel Day - One of the most important fashion designers of the 20th century was born on this day in 1883. [Gabrielle Chanel](#) started a fashion revolution when she began using men's fashions (pants) for women's wear. She popularized the "little black

dress" and sportswear for women. She was the first fashion designer to put her name on a perfume, Chanel No. 5. Discuss women's fashions and how they have changed over the years.

Black Cow Day - Frank J. Wisner, owner of Cripple Creek Brewing, served the first [Black Cow](#) root beer float in Cripple Creek, Colorado, on this day in 1893. Inspired by the moonlit view of the snow-capped Cow Mountain (which reminded him of vanilla ice cream floating on top of the pitch-black mountain), he added a scoop of ice cream to his root beer and began serving it as the Black Cow Mountain. Kids loved it and shortened the name to Black Cow. Make one today. Slowly pour root beer over 2 scoops of ice cream. Garnish with whipped cream and a cherry. Yummy!

20th Snow White Day - Since yesterday was Black Cow Day, make today Snow White Day. What is a [Snow White](#)? (7-Up and vanilla ice cream float.)

People's Poet Day - Edgar Guest, the "people's poet," was born on this day in 1881. Guest's "poem a day" appeared in over 250 newspapers. With a poem in print every day for thirty years, Guest's poems reached a wide and admiring audience. At the suggestion of readers, Guest compiled his nearly 15,000 poems into books, twenty books in all. Read some of [his poetry](#) today. FYI: Tomorrow is Poet's Day.

Strange Music Day - Try making your own musical instruments with such items as pie tins, wooden spoons, and empty cans filled with beans. Then, make your own "strange music." Play the instruments during your exercise class.

Lemonade's Birthday - On this date in 1630, lemonade was invented in Paris, France. Plan a "Pucker Up Punch Hour." Serve Oprah's [Watermelon Lemonade](#) and play the [Lemonade Stand Game](#). FYI: We also celebrate Lemonade Lucy's Day ([Aug. 28](#)) this month.

21st And Then There Were 50 Day - It is [Hawaii](#) Admission Day! President Eisenhower proclaimed Hawaii the 50th state on August 21, 1959... 50 years ago today! See our [Theme of the Month](#) page for more Hawaiian ideas. FYI: The third Friday in August is observed as a state holiday each year.

National Senior Citizens Day - President Ronald Reagan declared August 21 as [National Senior Citizens Day](#) in 1988. Have a ceremony for your seniors and read [the proclamation](#) today.

Poet's Day - A day for all poets to celebrate their talents. Read some poetry today or try writing poems. FYI: We celebrate the birthdays of Alfred Lord Tennyson ([Aug 6](#)), Ogden Nash ([Aug. 19](#)), Edgar Guest ([Aug. 20](#)), and Oliver Wendell Holmes ([Aug. 29](#)) this month.

Men's Grooming Day - Participating salons and barbershops host a day of grooming events for men. Celebrated annually on the third Friday in August, the event is sponsored by [American Crew](#), a leading maker of men's grooming products. Do you know what a mullet looks like? Discuss men's hairstyles today. Pick up a copy of [Verse by the Side of the Road](#) and read some Burma-Shave slogans and the history of Burma-Shave signs.

Slinky Day - Richard James applied for a patent for the [Slinky](#) toy on this day in 1946. Learn more [about Slinky](#) today. Invite some children to a "Slinky Social." Try one of these activities from [Slinky Science](#) - such as racing slinkys. At the end of the activities,

sing "[The Slinky Song.](#)"

22nd Ramadan Begins - Today begins the Islamic Month of Fasting. Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is holy because it was during this month that the Koran was revealed. Over 1 billion Muslims from around the world fast from sunrise until sunset every day of the month to achieve physical and spiritual purification. It is a time of prayer and feeling a bond with those who are poor or needy. See our special [Ramadan](#) page for more.

Be an Angel Day - A day to do one small act of service for someone. Ask everyone to do something nice for someone today. Try making some of these [Angel Crafts](#). Show *Angels in the Endzone*, *Angels in the Outfield*, *Heaven Sent*, or *The Littlest Angel* today. Serve [Angel Food Cake](#) or [Cool Whip Angel Food](#).

Cadillac's Birthday - The Cadillac Company was "born" on this date in 1901. It was named after the eighteenth century French explorer Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, founder of the city of Detroit. The company would come to be known as the maker of America's luxury car. Check out [Cadillac History, Facts, and Trivia](#) for more. See our [It's a Guy Thing](#) page for "Tailfins" - a discussion about old cars.

Match Maker Day - [Ezra Butler Eddy](#) (1827 - 1906) was the "Match Maker of the World" (not the dating service type). Born in Vermont, he moved to Hull, Quebec, where he began producing wooden friction matches using discarded wood from the nearby sawmills. His company eventually expanded into other wood and paper products. The Eddy Match Company is still a major manufacturer of matches. Try solving some [Matchstick Puzzles](#). Play a matching game (such as Concentration) today. Many people collect matchbooks. Ask everyone to share their matchbook covers. Give awards for "most unusual," "from farthest away," "oldest," etc. FYI: There are two other "matches" dates to celebrate - the birthday of the inventor of the friction match, John Walker (November 27), and the anniversary of the first sale of friction matches (April).

23rd Health Unit Coordinators Day - [Health Unit Coordinators Day](#) is sponsored by the [National Association of Health Unit Coordinators](#). Do something special for your unit coordinators today - such as a "Thank You Tea."

Jeannie in a Bottle Day - [Barbara Eden](#) was born Barbara Jean Moorhead on this day in 1934. Show [I Dream of Jeannie](#) today. If a genie popped out of a bottle and gave you three wishes, what would you wish for? Share some [I Dream of Jeannie Trivia](#) and discuss [the show](#) today.

Singin' in the Rain Day - [Gene Kelly](#) was born in Pittsburgh on August 23, 1912. Plan a [Tribute to Gene Kelly](#) today.

Puttering Around Day - It's Golf Month. Have a "19th Hole Happy Hour." Play miniature golf. Invite a golf instructor to give a golf clinic. Also, try to find all of the words in the [Golf Course #1](#) or [Golf Course #2](#) word searches. Discuss the [Timeline of Golf History](#) and [Famous Golfers](#). Take the [Golf Ball Quiz](#) and share some [Golf Quotes](#) today. FYI: The PGA Championship is also held this month ([Aug. 10-16](#)).

24th Weather Quotation Day - On this day in 1897, [Charles Dudley Warner](#), newspaper editor for the *Hartford Courant*, published this now-famous and oft-quoted sentence: "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." The quote is often mistakenly attributed to his friend and colleague Mark Twain. Share these [Weather Quotes and Sayings](#). Keep track of the weather with our new [Daily Weather Sign](#).

Palindromic Day - A [palindrome](#) is a word or phrase that is spelled the same forwards and backwards. "Madam" is an example of a palindromic word. "Madam, I'm Adam" is a palindromic phrase. "Was it a car or a cat I saw?" is another palindromic phrase. There are also palindromic numbers - like 16461. Challenge your group to come up with a list of palindromic words (noon, eye, peep, etc.), phrases, and numbers today.

Wear Your Birthstone Day - In celebration of Gemstone Month. Can you name [all the birthstones](#)? See A Gem of a Day ([Aug. 30](#)) for more.

Waffle Iron Day - On this day in 1869, Corneilius Swartwout patented the waffle iron. Share the [Legend of the Waffle Iron](#) today. FYI: Waffle Week is celebrated in September.

25th BK2HK Day - [Be Kind to Human Kind Week](#) begins today. Organize your own "Be Kind Club" this month. Write letters to soldiers, organize community projects, and engage in other philanthropic activities.

Secondhand Wardrobe Day - The purpose of this day is to encourage thrift shop donations and to remove the stigma attached to wearing used clothing. Ask residents to volunteer to be models. Take them to a local Salvation Army store and ask them to choose an outfit. Then plan your luncheon and fashion show. Be sure to invite families. Also, learn [How to Build a Secondhand Wardrobe](#) and discuss wearing hand-me-downs. We also celebrate National Garage Sale Day ([Aug. 8](#)), which might be a good place to pick up something for your wardrobe.

P.I. Day or Detective Day - Celebrated on the birth anniversary of [Allan Pinkerton](#) (1819), the "father of the American private investigator." Plan a "The Butler Didn't Do It Mystery." Take a picture or piece of furniture from the lobby area and leave behind some clues. See if anyone can find the missing item. Read a detective story today. Or, listen to "[Detectives Old Time Radio Shows.](#)"

Leonard Bernstein Day - [Leonard Bernstein](#), American composer, conductor, and pianist, was born on this day in 1918. He is probably best known for writing the music for [West Side Story](#). Plan a Leonard Bernstein tribute today.

26th National Dog Day - Every dog has its day. Check out the [Animal Miracle Foundation](#) for ways to get involved. Also, learn [How to Draw a Dog Face](#) today.

Toilet Paper Day - It's the birthday of toilet paper, invented in 580 A.D. Pass around a roll of toilet paper and ask everyone to take as many sheets as they want. Don't tell them what it is for. (This can be quite funny to watch.) Then, ask everyone to tell one thing about themselves per sheet. This could take a while. Once you have used up all the toilet paper, make some [Toilet Paper Roll Crafts](#).

Women's Equality Day - In 1971, at the behest of Representative Bella Abzug (D-NY), the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. Encourage the women in your community to wear the women-suffrage colors (white and purple) today. FYI: The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920.

La Tomatina Day - Every year, on the last Wednesday in August between 11am and 1pm, the little town of Bunol in the east of Spain is almost literally painted red - by over 125,000 kilos of tomatoes. [La Tomatina](#) is the largest food fight on the planet.

Approximately 30,000 tomato enthusiasts turn up every year for the biggest tomato fight in the world. Instead of throwing them, try one of these [Tomato Recipes](#) today.

27th Set a Record Day - Today is the anniversary of the first printing of the [Guinness Book of World Records](#) (1955). Read and discuss some of the world records. Ask your group if they would like to try to break a record. Write your own "Book of Records" based on your residents' accomplishments.

"The Duchess" Who Wasn't Day - At least once today, repeat the following now-famous quotation from the novel *Molly Bawn*: "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder." [Margaret Wolfe Hungerford](#) often wrote under the pseudonym "The Duchess," which was the title of her most popular novel. A popular romance novelist who published over 40 books, Hungerford was born in Ireland on this day in 1850. Read a romance novel today.

King of the Jungle Day - On this date in 1912, the first Tarzan story (written by Edgar Rice Burroughs) appeared in a magazine. Plan a "Tarzan and Jane Party." Use a jungle decorating theme. Serve bananas, coconut, and pineapple. Have a ["Tarzan Calling Contest."](#)

28th Ringer Day - It is Horseshoe Pitching Month. Play a game of horseshoes this month. Also, share the [History of Horseshoe Pitching](#) with your players. See our [Bridging the Gap](#) page for some "Colonial Days Games," including quoits, a game similar to horseshoes.

First Radio Commercial Day - On this date in 1922, the first radio commercial aired on New York City's WEAJ. It was an advertisement from Queensboro Realty for an apartment complex in Queens. The cost was \$100 for 10 minutes on-air. Discuss radio commercials today. What is the cost for a 10-minute radio commercial today? Ask your group to write a radio commercial for a product. It could be great fun.

Patently Fun Friday - It is Inventors' Month. Try to correctly answer all of the ["Patently True or False"](#) questions.

Lemonade Lucy's Day - [Lucy Ware Webb Hayes](#), the wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes, was born on August 28, 1831. She was a temperance advocate, and liquor was banned from the White House during this administration. She was affectionately nicknamed "Lemonade Lucy." It's a perfect day for a glass of lemonade. See Lemonade's Birthday ([Aug. 20](#)) above for more.

29th Hurricane Katrina Anniversary - On this day four years ago, and after hitting the southern Florida coast four days earlier, Hurricane Katrina moved into the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in the most devastating hurricane in U.S. history. Louisiana had the highest death toll, though Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida were also greatly impacted by the storm. An estimated one million people evacuated their homes, the largest number of relocated Americans since the Great Depression. Their difficulties are still going on today. Check [here](#) for ways to help Hurricane Katrina survivors. Another idea: have a craft fair and donate the proceeds.

Old Ironsides Day - [Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.](#) was born 200 years ago on this day. He was a physician by profession, but he achieved fame as a writer, becoming one of the best-regarded American poets of the 19th century. Read some of [his poetry](#) today, including ["Old Ironsides,"](#) and share some of [his quotes](#).

More Herbs, Less Salt Day - It's about thyme! Ask your food services department to plan a special menu. Use herbs for seasoning in place of salt. Did you know that mustard is an herb? See Cutting the Mustard Day ([Aug. 1](#)) above for ideas.

According to Hoyle Day - On this day in 1742, English barrister and general know-it-all Edmond Hoyle published his "Short Treatise on the Game of Whist," a tutorial on the card game that he sold to friends and clients. Shuffle up and deal the cards today. Pick up your copy of [Play According to Hoyle: Hoyle's Rules of Games](#).

Spoonful of Sugar Day - [Mary Poppins](#), the award-winning movie, premiered on this day in 1964. Show the movie, sing [songs from the movie](#), share some [Mary Poppins Trivia](#), and see who can spell "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" today.

30th First "First Baby" Day - It's the anniversary of the first presidential baby to be born in the White House. President Grover Cleveland's wife, Frances, gave birth to daughter Esther on this day in 1893. Share baby pictures today.

Toasted Marshmallow Day - Let's have S'mores! Sandwich chocolate and marshmallow between two graham crackers. Press firm. Microwave for 10-20 seconds. Share campfire stories while you enjoy "S'mores." If you are looking for something a little different, try one of these [S'mores Recipes](#).

Fred MacMurry Day - [Fred MacMurry](#) was born in Kankakee, Illinois, on this day in 1908. He appeared in such films as *The Absent-Minded Professor*, *Shaggy Dog*, and *The Happiest Millionaire*. However, he is probably best remembered as the father in *My Three Sons*, the popular sitcom of the 1960s. Show one of [his movies](#) today.

A Gem of a Day - Invite a gemologist to visit and talk about different gemstones. Share some [Gem Trivia and Mythology](#). Try to unscramble all of the [Mixed-Up Gemstones](#) today. See this month's [Making Sense](#) page for a "jewel" of an activity. Serve [Carat \(aka Carrot\) Cake](#) today.

31st Arthur Godfrey Day - [Arthur Godfrey](#) was born on this day in 1903. He was a ukulele-playing, TV/radio entertainer. [His TV show](#) was sponsored by Lipton Tea. Have a "Ukulele Tea Time" today. See our [Music Matters](#) page for more about the ukulele and some music you can download.

Solar Car Day - On this day in 1955, William G. Cobb demonstrated the first solar-powered car. Discuss today's hybrid cars and the importance of energy efficiency. What do you think of ethanol and the price of gasoline?

Mad Mad Mad Mad World Day - It's [Buddy Hackett's](#) birth anniversary. He is known for his roles in such movies as *The Love Bug*, *The Music Man*, and [It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World](#). Show one of his movies today.

Movie Camera Day - On this day in 1897, Thomas Edison was granted a patent for a kinetographic camera, which was remarkably similar to today's movie film cameras. Borrow a camcorder and record some videos of your activities today. Then, plan an evening viewing.

There's More!

See the [Daily Chronicles](#) and [This Month Is?](#) if you need MORE ideas.