

Monthly Gazette

Lanessa Extended Care Facility 751 School Street Webster Ma 01570 508-949-1334



Celebrating

August

Learn Japanese Month

Win with Civility Month

Rounds Resounding Day
August 1

Sisters' Day
August 5

Folkorama –
Canada's Cultural Celebration
August 5 - 18

Date to Create
August 8

Edinburgh International Festival
(Scotland)
Aug 12 – Sept 2

Best Friend's Day
August 15

National Relaxation Day
August 15

National Dog Day
August 26

Lunar Eclipse
August 28

Plein Air Painting as a Pastime

August 8 is "A Date to Create." Consider celebrating by taking a palette and paintbrush into the sunlight. Summertime, with its long days and lovely lingering light, is a perfect time for this pastime.

Painting outdoors (which is what "en plein air" means) has been popular for more than a century. It first became practical in the 1870s. It was around this time that paints began to be produced in tubes and the French invented a "box easel" - an easel with telescoping legs and built-in paint holder. Suddenly it became easier to move one's studio outdoors. Prior to that, easels were large and bulky and paints were made by artists grinding and mixing pigment powders with linseed oil. In the intervening 130+ years, outdoor artists have added sunscreen, bug repellent and zip lock bags (to carry their wet brushes) to their backpacks, but their purpose hasn't changed much.

Artists step outdoors to capture true color and light. Claude Monet, one of the most famous of the outdoor painters, said, "Color is my day-long obsession, joy and torment." He was especially intrigued by the way light changed colors as the day progressed. Monet is famous for painting the same subject, such as haystacks, water lilies and the Rouen Cathedral, at various times of the day and different seasons of the year.

Plein air painting became highly popular in the late 1800s. However, not all Impressionist painters embraced it. Edgar Degas is said to have loathed painting outdoors. He was much more interested in portraying movement than color. But many others were attracted to the concept, and places of remarkable light, such as the American southwest, soon became home to artist colonies.

Resources: <http://www.p-a-p-a.com>



Summer Celebrations

It's summertime and people are creating hundreds of reasons to draw people out of their homes and bring them together. There are agrifests, artfests, blissfests, bluesfests, jazzfests, folkfests, filmfests, musicfests, ribfests, riverfests, summerfests and tugfests. There are:

- bashes, dashes and splashes
- contests and concerts
- dances and derbies
- festivals and fiestas
- flings and frolics
- extravaganzas and exhibitions
- galas and gatherings
- holidays and hoedowns
- jamborees and jubilees
- pageants and parades
- picnics and pigouts
- rodeos and roundups
- races and rendezvous
- shows and shindigs



And if that's not enough, check out this word search with even more choices. Then get out and enjoy!

C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	S	H	I	P
O	G	F	E	A	S	T	X	T	O	U	R
M	A	F	E	T	E	Y	T	R	A	P	E
P	M	A	R	I	A	F	A	F	U	N	M
E	E	I	I	S	O	U	N	D	X	Z	I
T	S	R	O	U	L	F	S	P	R	E	E
I	D	X	S	N	A	T	T	A	G	E	R
T	N	E	V	E	X	H	I	B	I	T	E
I	A	D	I	W	I	N	G	D	I	N	G
O	B	I	B	X	T	U	B	E	D	A	L
N	X	R	E	C	A	R	N	I	V	A	L

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| AFFAIR | FAIR | REGATTA |
| BAND | FEAST | RUN |
| CARNIVAL | FETE | RIDE |
| CHAMPIONSHIP | FUN | SOIREE |
| COMPETITION | EXHIBIT | SPREE |
| DAYS | GAMES | SUN |
| DEBUT | PARTY | TOUR |
| EVENT | PREMIERE | WINGDING |

Play Fair

If you would rather spend your summer days inside with air conditioning, you might want to play cards. Just be sure to play them "according to Hoyle." That expression originated with Edmond Hoyle, whose birth date is unknown but whose death date was August 29, 1769. It's believed he was a barrister early in life, but by 1741, he was tutoring members of high society in the game of Whist. To make his job easier, he sold his clients a short booklet of rules and approaches, which he later copyrighted as "A Short Treatise on the Game of Whist." He later followed with treatises on backgammon, chess, quadrille, piquet and brag.

His Whist booklet held sway for more than 100 years, but in 1864, new rules were written. His name, however, still stands for "fair play." Because of his contributions to gaming, he was made a charter inductee into the Poker Hall of Fame in 1979.

Rounds Resounding

Most of us remember singing rounds, starting with songs like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and "Frere Jacques" ("Are You Sleeping?") when we were still in kindergarten. August 1 (Rounds Resounding Day) is the day to resurrect that "full circle harmony." If you're a little beyond "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," then "Duct Tape Madrigal" might be for you.

Duct tape, masking tape and electrical tape, I have tried every single color, each variety and every shape. But only duct tape can bind you to me. Oh, find my duct tape. Oh, where can it be?

Perhaps "Chocaholic Confession" is more to your "taste."

I get a yen every evening around 10. I know what you're thinking, but it's not about men.



Language Lapses

August is Learn Japanese Month. It won't be easy. *Washington Post* reporter and NPR commentator T.R. Reid spent years living in Japan during the 1990s and wrote a book, *Confucius Lives Next Door*, about his experiences. Although he is fluent in Japanese, he recognizes the challenges.



1) The Japanese alphabet, known to Westerners as “kanji,” is made up of 2,000 Chinese characters. These characters have no phonetic value, often have multiple pronunciations and cannot be looked up alphabetically in a dictionary (since they have no phonetic spelling or sound). They must simply be memorized. Japanese students learn about 200 in each school grade.

2) The Japanese also have two more alphabets (“hiragana” and “katakana”), which represent 47 distinct sounds used in the Japanese language.

3) Some English letters do not exist in Japanese. For example, everyone has heard of Mount Fuji, but the Japanese pronounce it “Hoo-ji.” There is no f sound in Japanese, but there is a strong aspiration of the h sound, which early visitors to Japan heard as an f. There is also no r, l or th sound in Japanese. English words with these sounds are stretched out by the Japanese into the closest approximation their language allows. Thus Wendy's, Burger King and McDonalds – all fast food chains that are highly visible in Tokyo and beyond – are pronounced “Oo-EN-day-zu” (say it fast), “Bah-gah Kingu” and “Ma-ku-do-na-ru-do-zu.” Baskin Robbins 31 Flavors is known as “Satay-Wan.” Habla Espanol, anyone?

Accidental Art

If you know anything about French Impressionism, you probably know that many of the artists, among them Monet and Degas, were strongly influenced by Japanese prints. However, you might not know how they became acquainted with this Japanese art form. Many of the French artists of the late 19th century were rebelling against the French Academy's tightly governed style of painting, and they were looking for inspiration elsewhere. It is suggested that they discovered Japanese prints quite by accident.

In the late 1800s, Japanese trade with the western world was still quite sparse. Among the first and most valuable commodities exported from the islands were fragile Japanese porcelains. These exquisite art objects had to be packed very carefully to survive the torturous sea voyage to Europe and eventually Paris, that hotbed of Impressionist insurrection. Those precious art objects came wrapped in another form of artwork – discarded Japanese prints. One man's trash is another man's treasure.

Win with Civility Month

“Life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
(American poet, 1803-1882)

Sisters' Day

“For there is no friend like a sister, in calm or stormy weather, to cheer one on the tedious way, to fetch one if one goes astray, to lift one if one totters down, to strengthen whilst one stands.”

~ Christina G. Rossetti
(English poet, 1830-1894)



Cock-Eyed Canines



August 26 is Dog Day, and whether or not you are attached to any special pet, here's a bit of trivia you may not have known. Canine eyes are set further apart in their

skulls than human eyes, which means there's a blind spot directly in front of their faces. This explains why they don't pay close attention – or look at you cock-eyed – when you stand directly in front of them to talk. On the other hand, while our field of vision is about 180 degrees, theirs is 240 – 250 degrees. That's why they get distracted by everything going on around them. Dogs also react more to scent than to visuals, so if you are trying to get their attention with anything that doesn't intrigue their nose, they will also tend to ignore you. ~ Source: *Mental Floss*.

August Birthdays

This month we are highlighting some very old people with August birthdays, including explorers William Clark (Aug. 1, 1770) and Meriwether Lewis (Aug. 18, 1774). What characteristics do you share with these famous folks? Their confidence? Energy? Enthusiasm? Creativity? Love of attention?

Percy Bysshe Shelley - August 4, 1792
Annie Oakley - August 13, 1860
Napoleon Bonaparte - August 15, 1769
T.E. Lawrence (of Arabia) - August 16, 1888
Mae West - August 17, 1893
Coco Chanel - August 19, 1883
Claude DeBussy - August 22, 1862
John Locke - August 29, 1632
Maria Montessori - August 31, 1870

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY!



Special Events at Lanessa!

August 2nd – Resident Council Meeting
August 9th – Coffee Social and Music with Robert McMahon
August 24th – Out Trip to Point Breeze
August 25th – Entertainment with John Grunstrom
August 31st – Birthday Social and Entertainment with Bob Quiry