

December 2020

Caraton Commons De Pere

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Celebrating December

**Universal Human Rights
Month**

Bingo's Birthday Month

Cookie Cutter Week
December 1-7

Hanukkah
December 10-18

Gingerbread House Day
December 12

Christmas Bird Count
December 14-January 5

Free Shipping Day
December 17

Christmas
December 25

Kwanzaa
December 26-January 1

New Year's Eve
December 31

Resident of the Month-



Genrose V.

This month our resident of the month is sweet Ms. Genrose!

Genrose grew up in Hillbert, WI with two boys and one daughter. While her children were young Genrose decided to stay home and raise her children and help take care of her parents as they needed an extra hand!

When Genrose isn't playing with her precious cat, Patches, you'll find her knitting, making baby blankets and working on needle points.

When I asked Genrose what her favorite part about living here at Caraton Commons, she responded "the relationship between her, the other residents and staff."

When asked if there was any advice she'd like to give us she said, "be friends with others, stop judging one another."

Merry Christmas

Shining Star:



Johnathan L.- Maintenance Man

Johnathan was chosen to be this month's shining star because he has gained the trust from our residents, and goes above and beyond to fix whatever may be broken!

Johnathan has been employed at Caraton Commons for a little less than a year.

When I asked Johnathan what his favorite part of his job was, he replied EVERYTHING!!!

He grew up in Nuremberg, Germany with his small family of one brother and one sister.

Johnathan has two beautiful children, and a somewhat cool wife ☐.

Some of his hobbies include remodeling his family house, playing video games and bombing things with stickers!!!!

His favorite place to visit was Las Vegas with his wife because it was fun!

Johnathan's favorite time of the year is Summer because then he isn't cold.

When he was asked where he sees himself in ten years, he replied sitting on a beach somewhere sipping Mimosas!

Johnathan's favorite meal is Lasagna, "the more layers, the better!!!"

If Johnathan was to win the lottery he would buy investment properties and invest his money in the stock market!



Sitting Down for Equal Rights

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks was commuting home after working a long day at a Montgomery, Alabama, department store. Segregation was written into law and Blacks were required to sit in the back of the bus, with seats in the front reserved for white riders. When a white man entered the bus and found no open seats, the bus driver asked four Black riders seated in the first row of the "colored" section to stand. Three complied, but Parks did not. This was not because she was tired from working all day. In her own words, she "was tired of giving in."

Parks was arrested and later released on bail, but not before word of her arrest reached civil rights activist E.D. Nixon. Nixon quickly organized a boycott of the Montgomery buses and enlisted the support of Martin Luther King Jr. Despite threats and bombings of both Nixon and King's homes, the boycott continued. Nearly a year later, the Supreme Court ruled Montgomery's bus segregation unconstitutional. Parks' story has remained an inspiration for generations of civil rights activists seeking equality, justice, and equal protection under the law.

Word Unscramble:

1. STIUFGFN _____
2. DRBARGGNIEE _____
3. MMIETENCA _____
4. WSEET SPTETOAO _____
5. CSARROT _____
6. NRRRABECIES _____
7. SPAMGULSRU _____
8. TFKAEURCI _____

Word Key-

Gingerbread, Mincemeat, Stuffing,
Sweet Potatoes, Cranberries,
Carrots, Sugarplums, Fruitcake

Strange Christmas Traditions

Christmas brings with it many beloved traditions: trimming the tree, hanging stockings, and singing carols. Many countries around the world enjoy traditions you may be less familiar with.



In Japan, an estimated 3.6 million families eat Kentucky Fried Chicken during the Christmas season. This is largely thanks to Takeshi Okawara, who managed the first KFC

franchises in Japan. In 1970, Okawara marketed the Christmas “party barrel,” a complete fried chicken dinner replicating American turkey dinners. There were so few existing Christmas traditions in Japan that KFC filled the void. These days, if you do not pre-order your KFC dinner weeks in advance, you will have to stand in line for hours to get your “Kentucky Christmas.”

If you happen to be in Norway for Christmas, you’ll be hard-pressed to find a broom, for they are all hidden away. Norwegian folklore tells of how evil spirits and witches emerge on Christmas Eve. Norwegians hide their brooms so that witches cannot steal them for riding.

In Caracas, Venezuela, Christmas morning brings presents and roller skates. Authorities close down the city streets on Christmas morning so that thousands of residents can roller-skate to church in safety. One tradition tells of how children go to sleep with one end of a skate lace tied around their toe and the other end dangling out the window. In the morning they are awakened by skaters tugging at the lace to alert them that it is time for mass.

In Ukraine, trees are not decorated with tinsel and ornaments but with faux spider webs. A common folktale tells the story of a poor woman who could not afford tree decorations. When she awoke on Christmas morning, she found her tree glistening with spider webs, courtesy of the spiders in her house who took pity on her.

These traditions may seem strange to you, but does your family have any Christmas traditions that others may find nontraditional?

The Tale of Beatrix Potter

On December 16, 1901, 35-year-old Beatrix Potter was so fed up with receiving rejection letters that she decided to publish her book *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* on her own. The book had begun as a letter to the sick son of Potter’s former governess. Potter had written and illustrated a letter in 1893 detailing the silly adventures of a family of rabbits, Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail, Peter, and their mother. The rabbits of the story were modeled after Potter’s own pet rabbits, Peter Piper and Benjamin Bouncer. Potter later asked for the letter back, so that she could turn it into a children’s book.

Potter first printed 250 black-and-white copies of her book. In 1902, it was picked up by the publisher Frederick Warne & Co. and reprinted in color. The book was such a success that it had to be reprinted six times in its first year, selling 20,000 copies. Ever the self-starter, when Potter and Warne disagreed over her next book, *The Tailor of Gloucester*, she again published 500 copies on her own.

The Bermuda Triangle



On December 5, 1945, five bombers, collectively known as Flight 19, piloted by experienced veterans, took off from a naval air station in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on a routine training flight over the Atlantic. But then something strange happened. The flight’s leader, Lieutenant Charles Taylor, suddenly believed that his compass was malfunctioning. Soon, all the pilots were disoriented and lost. Some believed they were flying out over the open ocean, while others believed they were heading into the Gulf of Mexico. Then the planes vanished. This disappearance is perhaps the most dramatic of those involving the infamous Bermuda Triangle. Scientists today insist that the pilots made several mistakes under poor flying conditions, yet many still fear the Bermuda Triangle as an inexplicable place of menace and mystery.

Hogmanay in Scotland

Consider yourself lucky if you find yourself ringing in the New Year in Scotland. Their Hogmanay holiday is one of the world's greatest New Year's celebrations.

No one is exactly sure what the term *Hogmanay* means. It first appeared in writing back in 1604, and historians believe the festival was celebrated decades earlier. Some speculate that *Hogmanay* derives from the French word *hoganine*, meaning "gala day." Others believe it comes from the Norman French word *hoguinan*, meaning "New Year's gift." Historians agree that both the term and the celebration likely appeared after Mary, Queen of Scots, returned to Scotland from France in 1561.

One of the foremost Hogmanay traditions is *redding the house*. This involves a deep cleaning of the home for the new year. It was traditional to clean the ashes from the hearth. Some community members were called upon to read the ashes, the way some soothsayers read tea leaves. The cleaning wasn't complete until a smoking juniper branch was carried from room to room, dispelling evil spirits. One last way of keeping house was to clear up all family debts before midnight.



The stroke of midnight brings the *first footing*. The *first foot* refers to the first person to set foot in your house on New Year's Day, and this first footing is symbolic of the year to come. This is why many new year's visitors come bearing gifts of shortbread and black buns, both considered luxurious foods. Hosts are obliged to offer their first footers a small drink, or *wee dram*, of whiskey. First footers often visit many homes, and the wee drams certainly add up.

Bonfires are also traditional. Since ancient times, fire has symbolized purification in Scotland. This is yet another means of cleaning for the new year. Of course, Hogmanay wouldn't be complete without the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*, written by Scotland's national poet Robert Burns.

December Birthdays

In astrology, those born between December 1–21 are the Archers of Sagittarius. The Archer's open mind, optimism, curiosity, and enthusiasm make them the travelers of the zodiac. They treasure freedom: freedom to roam, freedom of thought, and freedom to express themselves. Those born between December 22–31 are Capricorn's Goats. Goats are responsible masters of self-control. They are practical planners and leaders who value experience and expertise.

Richard Pryor (comedian) – December 1, 1940
Andy Williams (singer) – December 3, 1927
Kirk Douglas (actor) – December 9, 1916
Ada Lovelace (programmer) – December 10, 1815
Rita Moreno (actress) – December 11, 1931
Brad Pitt (actor) – December 18, 1963
Jane Fonda (actress) – December 21, 1937
Humphrey Bogart (actor) – December 25, 1899
Susan Butcher (musher) – December 26, 1954
LeBron James (athlete) – December 30, 1984

December Birthdays:

Building One-

Rosalie L.- December 16th

John J.- December 27th

Building Two-

Betty J.- December 9th

Tom H.- December 14th

Richard M.- December 17th

Building Three-

NO DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS