

January 2020

Harmony Hall



Celebrating January

Get Organized Month

Skating Month

Polka Music Month

First Foot Day

January 1

Bird Day

January 5

Static Electricity Day

January 9

International Kite Day

January 14

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20

Compliment Day

January 24

Inspire Your Heart with Art Day

January 31

The Texas Oil Boom

Texas is known around the world as a leading producer of oil, but this booming industry did not exist until January 10, 1901, when the black gold was struck at Spindletop in Beaumont. Spindletop Hill was a small hill of earth pushed upward by an underground dome of salt. Self-taught geologist Patillo Higgins suspected that oil might be hidden somewhere under Spindletop. The area was known for its sulfur springs and seeps of gas that could be lit on fire. Higgins convinced engineer Anthony Lucas to finance a drilling operation at Spindletop, but they soon ran out of money. Lucas, unwilling to give up on Spindletop, sought the support of Pennsylvania oilmen to continue his drilling. Higgins, sadly, was excluded from the deal. Too bad, too, because on that fateful January day, after drilling had reached 1,020 feet, Lucas struck oil. Texas had never seen such a geyser. Oil shot 150 feet into the air, making it the most powerful gusher ever struck. The Lucas Geyser, as the Spindletop find came to be known, was shooting off 100,000 barrels of oil a day, more than all the other oil wells in America. It took nine days before the gusher was brought under control.

Beaumont suddenly grew from a sleepy Gulf-Coast backwater into a Texas boomtown. Its population tripled in a mere three months. New oil companies formed and searched for new wells. Refineries sprang up all over the Gulf Coast. In its first year, Spindletop produced 3.5 million barrels of oil. In its second year, it produced 17.4 million. John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil, which had previously held a monopoly in the petroleum industry, was crushed by new Texas-based competitors like Texaco and Gulf Oil.

By 1904, production at Spindletop had declined significantly, dropping to 10,000 barrels per day. This prompted more drilling and more significant finds, but by World War I, oil production at Spindletop had mostly ceased. Texas, however, had changed forever, and the Texas oil boom became the engine that propelled the growth of America. Today, visitors to Beaumont can find the Boomtown Museum and its exhibits chronicling the lasting importance of the Lucas Geyser at Spindletop.



Music Appreciation

January 8th: Music Appreciation Class with Mike Ottorino Respighi's "Ancient Airs and Dances."

January 15th: Music Appreciation Class with David

January 22nd: Music Appreciation Class with Mike: Ottorino Respighi Sinfonia Drammatica

January 29th: Music Appreciation Class with Mike: Ottorino Respighi: Concerto in Modo Misolidio.

Opera

January 3rd: Giuseppe Verdi's "Il Trovatore."

January 10th: Gaetano Donizetti's "Lucrezia Borgia

January 17th: Antonin Dvorak's "Rusalka."

Broadway

January 4th: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

January 11th: Dein Perry's "Tap Dogs."

UPCOMING Events

January 10th

Q&A with Debbie, Danny & Tim –
10:00am 2nd Floor

January 16th

Just Bead It – 10:30am 2nd Floor

January 18th

River Hill High School – 11:00am Lobby

January 22nd

Dr. Lazris Talk – 10:00am 2nd Floor

January 23rd

A Day at the Races – 2:30pm 2nd Floor

Religious Services & Events:

Tuesdays & Thursdays: Rosary Communion Service - Located in the Parlor at 3:00pm

Sundays: Catholic Communion Service- Parlor at 9:00am

4th Wednesdays: Catholic Mass Services at 2:30- Located in the Parlor

Sundays: Grace Christian Church - Located on 3rd Floor at 11:00am

2nd Sundays: St. John's Baptist Church at 2:30pm - Located on 3rd Floor

2nd and 4th Fridays: Jewish Services with Rabbi Baron at 11:00am - Located in the Parlor

On our updated website you can find the month's activity calendar, newsletter, and movie listings!

www.lorienhealth.com/locations/harmony-hall

Health Concerns

For Questions regarding Audiology, Dental, Eye Care and Podiatry services – please call HEALTHDRIVE AT (888) 964-6681, Option 3. If you want to sign up for any of these services contact Claro or Gimly at ext. 4026/4032.

Thank You

Please do not hesitate to call the Recreation Office at 410-531-6000 x 4022, and we will be happy to sign you up for the events you wish to attend.

Transportation Trips

1st Monday – Walmart

2nd Monday – Target

3rd Monday – The Dollar Store

**4th Monday – The Mall in Columbia
10:30am to 12:30pm**

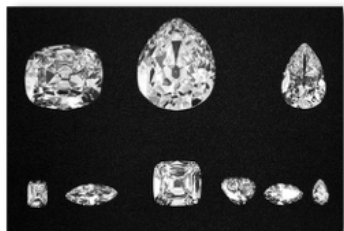
Giant

Tuesday at 2pm (1 hour)

Friday at 11:15am (1/2 hour)

- Recreational trips are subject to time changes and cancellations when deemed necessary by Transportation
- If you need to schedule a transportation appointment, ask the Front Desk for more information

The Cullinan Diamond



On January 26, 1905, Frederick Wells, the surface manager of the Premier Mine in Transvaal, now South Africa, made one of the world's most

stunning discoveries. Just 29 feet below the surface, he found a massive, blue-white diamond, which he cut from the rock with his pocketknife. He immediately took it to his office to be weighed and inspected. At 3,106 carats, it was the largest diamond the world had ever seen. Newspapers called it the "Cullinan diamond," after Sir Thomas Cullinan, owner of the mine. It was such a fantastic discovery that it was put on public display at the Standard Bank in Johannesburg, where visitors could catch a glimpse of the world's largest diamond.

In April of that year, the Cullinan diamond was destined for London. A team of detectives guarded its transport on a steamboat, where it was locked securely inside the captain's safe... or so people thought. This, in fact, was a diversion. The real diamond was shipped to England in an unmarked box via regular post. Upon its safe arrival in England, it went to Buckingham Palace, where it was admired by King Edward VII. The Transvaal government had purchased the diamond and in 1907 presented it as a gift to His Majesty the King, who accepted it and declared that it would become part of the Crown Jewels.

Splitting and cutting the diamond into various workable pieces took eight months, with three people working 14 hours a day. It is said that Dutch diamond cutter Joseph Asscher had a doctor and nurse on hand while he was cleaving the massive diamond. Thank goodness, for he fainted after successfully dividing the gem. The two largest stones remain part of the Crown Jewels, set in the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross and the Imperial State Crown, respectively. The seven remaining large stones and 95 smaller brilliant gems were set in various pieces of jewelry for the royal family.

January Birthdays

Byung Lee – Jan. 2nd
Barbara Ehrlich – Jan. 4th
Frances Bond – Jan. 7th
Hazel Martin – Jan. 23rd
Darlene Sweeney – Jan. 23rd
Paul Roach – Jan. 24th
Florence Vogel – Jan. 27th
Markusha Amiryan – Jan. 27th
Audrey Bradshaw – Jan. 28th



Hubby's Day

According to old Viking calendars, the Friday of the 13th week of winter is celebrated as Husband's Day in Iceland. Also known as *Bóndadagur*, it is the first day of the month of Þorri, or Thorri, in honor of Thor, the god of thunder. There are many traditions associated with this holiday honoring both the god and the master of the house or farm, or *bóndi*. In olden times, husbands were expected to rise first and welcome Thor with a special ceremony where they would go outside dressed in a shirt, with one leg of his trousers on and the other dragging behind him. He would then hop on one leg as a welcome to Thor. Since the mid-19th century, though, this day is more like Valentine's Day, and men are given gifts and treated to dinner. Not to be forgotten, Wife's Day arrives a month later on February 24.