

January 2021

LORIEN ELKBRIDGE

7615 WASHINGTON BLVD, ELKBRIDGE MARYLAND 410-579-2626

**Celebrating
January 2021**

Get Organized Month

**International Creativity
Month**

Trivia Day
January 4

**Martin Luther King
Jr. Day**
January 18

**Inspire Your Heart
with Art Day**
January 31

Goodbye 2020
Hello 2021
Please Be Nicer





Coronavirus Inspires Bowie Maryland Priest To Offer Drive-Thru Confessions

The Rev. Scott Holmer of St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church in Bowie was facing a dilemma. All public Masses in the Archdiocese of Washington had been suspended effective in response to the spread of the new coronavirus. Holmer was at his church Saturday knowing that the evening's Mass had been canceled — waiting, as usual, for the 4 p.m. weekly confessions to begin. They, too, had been suspended, but some parishioners who came every week to have their confessions heard likely didn't know that.

"It was 10 minutes before Saturday night confessions, and I'm like, 'Well, I can't really open up the church, because then you risk infection and everyone's coming to the same confessional,'" Holmer said. "And I'm wondering, 'How are we going to do this?'"

Then, as if by divine intervention, the priest remembered hearing about how coronavirus tests were being conducted in South Korea at drive-thru testing facilities. "Why not just do drive-thru confessions?" Holmer said. "I just grabbed some cones and the usual confession sign we have to direct people to the confessional in the church, pulled out a chair and just kind of sat down. "With the help of a seminarian directing traffic, Holmer began that night giving confessions to parishioners in the parking lot of the church. "Some people wanted to go to confession," he said. "Some just wanted to talk, and that's how it happened. It was really just 10 minutes before, and I just said, 'I can't use the church, so what else can I do?'"

"It gave me an opportunity to talk with them and just to let them know what's going on. Also, confession is supposed to be something given in privacy. If a car drives up with a family in it, family members must each wait their turn a distance away while their loved one has their confession heard in private. "I also give the option for anonymous confession," Holmer said. "They tell the seminarian, 'I want to be anonymous.' He tells me to pull my blindfold on, and I just blindfold myself. I haven't had anybody want to be anonymous yet, but we're ready if they do."

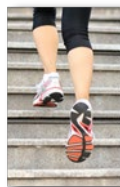
Basketball for All



On January 27, 1927, the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team played their first game in Hinkley, Illinois. It was an era when Black players were not allowed to play on professional teams. Abe Saperstein, a Chicago sports booking agent, was impressed with the talent of a team known as the

Savoy Big Five, so named because they played in Chicago's Savoy Ballroom. He recruited them to play on a new team, the New York Harlem Globetrotters, named after the neighborhood that was the center of African American culture at the time. The team competed throughout the country, even beating the Minneapolis Lakers, the best team in the NBA, in 1948. The Globetrotters never joined the NBA but instead became one of the world's most beloved and talented basketball teams, delighting crowds with their play and playful on-court antics.

Better Health, Step by Step



The American Lung Association wants you to Take the Stairs on January 13, hoping that this holiday encourages you to get exercise one step at a time. Stair climbing strengthens your leg muscles, improves balance, burns fat, and increases blood flow and heart rate, which help lower blood pressure and boost good cholesterol. You don't need to climb 100 flights of stairs to enjoy the benefits. A sustained workout of 20 minutes, or even taking a couple of flights up and down, is often enough to experience some health benefits. For more ambitious athletes, there are plenty of exotic staircases to challenge your stamina. Lion Rock in Sri Lanka is home to a 1,500-year-old-palace carved into a rock with 1,200 steps that allow you to reach the 660-foot peak.

The Greatest Generation

It was the journalist Tom Brokaw who coined the phrase “The Greatest Generation” as a tribute to those born in 1924 and earlier. This generation faced more than its fair share of hardship, coming of age during the Great Depression and fighting the evils of World War II. There are still many lessons to be learned from this generation, and if we listen carefully enough, we might even learn that any generation can be called the “greatest.”

The Greatest Generation has also been called the G.I. Generation by historians, due to the fact that 16 million Americans served in the military during World War II. This shared trial created what has been called a “collective ethos,” a united mindset that grew out of the rally against the oppressive tyranny of the Nazis in defense of freedom. America was a small country reeling from the Great Depression. The United States Army was smaller than that of Portugal. The Great Depression had also decimated government coffers, making it difficult to find money to support the military. But thanks to a never-say-die, can-do attitude forged in the hardships of the Great Depression, Americans went to work and by 1945 had built a massive army capable of fighting the Pacific, Asia, Europe, and in the Mediterranean, as well as a civilian workforce to support it. Surely there were defeats and missteps in battle, but the Greatest Generation never did cast blame or look for a scapegoat. They instead forged ahead to the next challenge. Perseverance, bravery, and mutual respect would become their generational hallmarks.

Lessons learned during the war were put to use in postwar America. There was little room for patience or endless hemming and hawing on the battlefield. So, too, in the boardroom, in laboratories, and in politics. The most vicious policy fights on the floor of Congress gave way to mutual respect when the day was done. An entire generation had struggled together, fought together, and sacrificed together. This common experience united the Greatest Generation in bonds that could not be broken.

Ploughs on Parade

In England, January 11 is Plough Monday, a holiday that marked the return to working in the fields after the Twelve Days of Christmas. As early as the 15th century, the holiday was celebrated by pulling a plough through the streets and requesting donations for “plough lights,” candles that were burned in the local church as a blessing for those tilling the fields. In some villages, funds were gathered for local churches that kept a “common” plough, one that could be lent out to locals who could not afford to own one. The parade of the plough through the village streets was full of merry pageantry. Several musicians, a man dressed up like a farm animal known as the “Fool,” and either a woman or a man dressed as a woman known as “the Bessie,” accompanied the plough on its rounds. In many instances, these paraders would perform the “Fool Plough Dance” in return for donations. The end of the day brought a meal of plough pudding, a savory boiled suet pudding containing meat and onions. Plough Monday is still celebrated each January at Maldon in Essex.

Snow Angel

Wilson Bentley was a young farmer in Vermont when he snapped the first photograph of a snowflake on January 15, 1885. He was not a scientist or photographer, but after his parents gave him a microscope at age 15, he became fascinated with the natural world. Taking photographs of snowflakes was not easy.

After all, their crystals melt at the slightest hint of warmth. Bentley had to invent his own equipment, rigging together a microscope and camera, to capture his ephemeral subjects. He would stand in the cold for hours, waiting for the perfect flake and then transfer it under the lens using a feather as a tool. Until his death in 1931, Bentley photographed 5,000 different snowflakes and was the first to argue that no two snowflakes were alike. Some scientists attempted to replicate Bentley’s work to no avail. They even accused him of fraud. But Bentley’s images were more than scientific research; they were artistic masterpieces, secret glimpses into nature’s wonderful geometry, and they fascinated the public. Bentley died doing what he loved, struck down by pneumonia he contracted after working in blizzard conditions near his family farm.

The January Diet Resolution

'Twas the month after Christmas
and all through the house,
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste at the
holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales, there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber),
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared:
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared.
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese,
and the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt,
and prepared once again to battle with dirt,
I said to myself, as only I can,
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip.
Get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip.
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished,
'Til all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie—not even a lick. I'll only just chew
on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or cornbread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm grouchy, can't fit through the door,
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!



January Birthdays

In astrology, those born between January 1–19 are Capricorn's Goats. Goats are responsible masters of self-control and considered some of the hardest workers in the zodiac. They are practical planners and leaders who value experience and expertise. Those born from January 20–31 are the Water Bearers of Aquarius. These deep-thinking intellectuals have big and original dreams. The world is full of possibilities, and Aquarians seek freedom in order to reach their greatest potential.

Betsy Ross (upholsterer) – January 1, 1752
Diane Keaton (actress) – January 5, 1946
Zora Neale Hurston (writer) – January 7, 1891
Elvis Presley (musician) – January 8, 1935
Max Roach (drummer) – January 10, 1924
Martin Luther King Jr. (minister) – January 15, 1929
Michelle Obama (first lady) – January 17, 1964
Etta James (singer) – January 25, 1938
Oprah Winfrey (TV host) – January 29, 1954
Jackie Robinson (ballplayer) – January 31, 1919

Going Cuckoo



Each year beginning on January 11, fans of the comedic duo of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy celebrate Cuckoo Dancing Week in honor of Laurel and Hardy's Cuckoo theme song. Marvin Hatley first composed the tune known as "The Dance of the Cuckoos" as an on-the-hour musical chime for the Hal Roach Studio's radio station in 1930. When Laurel heard the tune, he asked Hatley if he and Hardy could use it in their act. Laurel thought the tune perfectly captured their characters: pompous and dramatic for Hardy, while discordant and goofy for Laurel. The duo's slapstick comedy routines, featured in over 100 short films and features, gave Laurel and Hardy worldwide fame. And everywhere Laurel and Hardy went, "The Dance of the Cuckoos" followed. When they visited Ireland in 1953, the church bells of Cork's Cobh Cathedral rang out "The Dance of the Cuckoos" to welcome them.