

May 2019

Harmony Hall



Celebrating May

**Physical Fitness & Sports
Month**

Older Americans Month

Meditation Month

Be Kind to Animals Week
May 5–11

Teacher Day
May 7

Mother's Day
May 12

Nylon Stockings Day
May 15

Memorial Day: U.S.
May 27

Paper Clip Day
May 29

Road Trip to the Odd and Awesome

May 5–11 is Travel and Tourism Week, and while you could spend all seven days visiting popular destinations such as Niagara Falls, Mount Rushmore, or the Grand Canyon, you could also pile into the car and take the path less traveled to see some of America's odd and awesome roadside attractions.

In Houston, Texas, you'll find the home of John Milkovisch. Back in 1968, he grew tired of mowing the lawn, so he decided to landscape his yard entirely in brick, marbles, concrete, rock, and wood. He didn't stop there: Milkovisch continued to cover his house entirely in siding made from aluminum beer cans. For the next 18 years, he used an estimated 50,000 beer cans to both insulate and decorate his home. The "Beer Can House" is not just a monument to the power of recycling, but it is an artistic center complete with guided tours and a gift shop.

If you're interested in giant-sized sculptures, options abound along America's highways. Thirty-foot-tall dinosaurs loom above Interstate 10 south of Palm Springs, California. An 80-foot-long blue whale rests in a lagoon along Route 66 in Catoosa, Oklahoma. Two giant milk bottles are all that remain of the Benewah Dairy Company of Spokane, Washington. The Longaberger Basket Company of Newark, Ohio, spent \$30 million to build its headquarters in the shape of a seven-story picnic basket with two 150-ton handles. (The Longaberger Company has since vacated the property but the unique building still remains.)

For those with an itch to see the exotic, you can find a replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Niles, Illinois, but it's only half as tall and half as leaning. A small-scale replica of China's Forbidden City exists in Katy, Texas, complete with a miniature army of 6,000 tiny terra-cotta soldiers. You need travel no farther than Lake Havasu City, Arizona, to see the London Bridge. Oil baron Robert McCulloch moved all the pieces of the "fallen down" London Bridge to Arizona and put them together again as a ploy to draw tourists, which it has for almost 50 years.



Music Appreciation

May 1: Music Appreciation with David: father and Son Keyboard music. Johann Sebastian Bach, and Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach.

May 8: Music Appreciation with Mike; Felix Mendelssohn, Symphony No.5 (Reformation).

May 15: Music Appreciation with David Sergei Rachmaninov: Etudes, Tableaux.

May 22: Music Appreciation with Mike Richard Strauss: Horn Concerto No.2 in E Flat major.

May 29: Music Appreciation with Mike; Dvorak for Two: Gil Shaham, violin. Orli Shaham, piano.

Opera

May 3: Gioachino Rossini's "Armida."

A sorceress tries to divert the Crusaders from their mission in Syria by seducing their best knight.

May 10: Conclusion of Rossini's Armida

May 17: Vincenzo Bellini's "I Puritani."

May 24: Charles Gounod's "Faust."

A Fan Calls Foul

By May 16, the Major League Baseball season is well underway. If you have ever attended a game and caught a foul ball, you know how exciting that can be. May 16 marks the beginning of Foul Ball Week in honor of Reuben Berman, the man who fought to allow fans to keep foul balls.

Berman was a businessman attending a New York Giants game at the Polo Grounds back on May 16, 1921, when he caught a foul ball. As was customary, an attendant showed up to retrieve the ball from Berman. Berman did not keep it but tossed it into the crowd, at which point he was forced from his seat, reprimanded in a ballpark office, and then ejected from the park. Berman felt humiliated and so sued the Giants. While Reuben did not win the \$20,000 in damages he sought, the court ruled that Berman should have been allowed to keep the ball. "Reuben's Rule" was instituted, allowing fans to keep foul baseballs as souvenirs forevermore.

May Upcoming Events

May 3rd: Q&A with Debbie, Danny & Terry

May 12th: Mother's Day Entertainment – 2:00pm Lobby

May 14th: Resident Association Meeting – 2:00pm 2nd Floor

May 16th: Just Bead It – 10:30am 2nd Floor

May 22nd: Dr. Lazris Discussion – 10:00am 2nd Floor

May 23rd: Resident Trip to Longhorn Steakhouse – 10:30am Lobby

May 25th: River Hill High School – 11:00am Lobby

May 27th: Memorial Day Service – 10:30am Lobby

May 30th: A Day at the Races – 2:30pm 2nd Floor
Upcoming Events

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.

May Day

For many, the first rite of spring comes on May 1, May Day, with the raising of the maypole. The celebration of May Day dates back thousands of years. The Celts of the British Isles celebrated May 1 as Beltane, their most important holiday. It was believed that this holiday marked the halfway point of a year split between the dark and light. Massive fires were burned to herald the start of the return of life. The tradition of raising and dancing around a maypole came much later, during the Middle Ages. It was common for villagers to dance around the maypole bearing colorful streamers, ribbons, and baskets of flowers, symbolizing the fertility of the earth and blooming of trees and flowers. It wasn't until May 1, 1886, that May Day became associated with the labor movement. In those days, workers of all ages suffered from abhorrent working conditions. It was on that May Day that 300,000 workers marched across America to demand better working conditions and higher wages. Today, while May Day is considered a major holiday in many countries, it is not widely celebrated, least of all in the United States.

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 Big Cheese



Every May a wide field of intrepid contestants converges on Cooper's Hill outside the small village of Gloucester in England. They will throw themselves down the 650-foot hill, risking life and limb, to chase a rolling nine-pound wheel of double Gloucester cheese. This is the extreme sport of cheese rolling.

No one knows how this strange pastime originated. Some say that it came from an ancient pagan rite of spring, where bundles of burning brushwood were rolled down the hillside to represent the rebirth of spring after the dead of winter. After the burning bundle was rolled down the hill, buns, biscuits, and sweets were scattered over the hilltop as an offering to the spirits and to ensure a plentiful harvest. Likewise, no one knows when the rolling bundle of burning sticks became a wheel of cheese. What we do know is that the event was first recorded for posterity in 1826. Notes on that year's cheese rolling were recorded by the town crier, and from those notes, it is understood that even then the event had long been a pastime.

The event is rather simple. Contestants assemble at the top of Cooper's Hill and wait for the master of ceremonies to push the cheese down the slope. A second after the cheese is released, the contestants follow. The first to grab the cheese is the winner. However, the cheese may reach speeds of up to 70 mph, so usually no one catches the cheese. In that case, the first to cross the finish line is declared the winner. As simple as the competition sounds, there is nothing easy about chasing the cheese down the hill. Each year, many people suffer serious injuries. Paramedics wait at the hill's foot, ready to cart the injured off to local hospitals. Chris Anderson, a repeat champion, has suffered bruised kidneys, a concussion, and a torn calf for his victories. In 2013, in an attempt to mitigate the risk, the speeding wheel of cheese was swapped with a foam replica. Not to worry, the grand prize still remains. Winners, of course, get to take home the cheese.

May Birthdays

In astrology, those born May 1–20 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls are stable, reliable, patient, and determined. They will work hard and finish the job no matter what gets in their way, but they expect to be rewarded! Those born May 21–31 are Gemini's Twins. Twins seem to have two personalities and can blend into any situation. They have an energetic and fun-loving side that is the life of the party but also a deep and emotional side that needs love and nurturing.

Bing Crosby (singer) – May 3, 1903
Audrey Hepburn (actress) – May 4, 1929
Nellie Bly (journalist) – May 5, 1864
Orson Welles (director) – May 6, 1915
J.M. Barrie (author) – May 9, 1860
Salvador Dali (artist) – May 11, 1904
Florence Nightingale (nurse) – May 12, 1820
Liberace (pianist) – May 16, 1919
Lorraine Hansberry (playwright) – May 19, 1930
Peggy Lee (singer) – May 26, 1920
Bob Hope (comedian) – May 29, 1903

Dancing Ghawazee



May 11 heralds the arrival of World Belly Dance Day. The term *belly dance* is a Westernized description of what was originally traditional Middle Eastern dancing. The earliest form of belly dancing came from the Egyptian *ghawazee* dancers. The *ghawazee* were popular street dancers, unveiled women who rapidly shook their hips and played brass cymbals or castanets with their hands. While audiences enjoyed the art form, it was often frowned upon as improper. In the early 1800s, Europeans became fascinated with all aspects of orientalism, including belly dancing. It was the French who first called it *danse de ventre*, or belly dance. In the 20th century, the dancing of the *ghawazee* evolved into *raqs sharqi*, a classical Egyptian style of belly dance. This modern style rose to fame during Egypt's golden age of film, but despite its popularity, *raqs sharqi* is still considered disreputable.