

Fountain View of Lowell

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Celebrating November

Inspirational Role Models Month

Alzheimer's Disease Month

American Indian Heritage Month

Author's Day *November 1*

Men Make Dinner Day *November 7*

Veterans Day: U.S. *November 11*

World Kindness Day *November 13*

Rock Your Mocs Day *November 15*

Thanksgiving: U.S. *November 28*

Bread for Breaking and Baking

This November, there are a variety of holidays that encourage the gathering of families and friends: Día de Muertos in Mexico, Diwali in India, Thanksgiving in the United States, Saint Andrew's Day in Scotland, and many others. These holidays offer the perfect opportunity to "break bread" with loved ones. While many will literally be breaking bread at their feast tables, the expression "break bread together" denotes sharing more than just food, but also feelings of love, trust, and togetherness.

Many believe that the phrase "breaking bread" originated in the New Testament of the Bible, where Jesus broke bread and shared it with his apostles during the Last Supper. It was this Scriptural sharing of bread that provides the basis for the Eucharist, or "Holy Communion." However, the ritual breaking of bread dates back to before the Last Supper and has a long Jewish history, a history with which Jesus, as a Jew, was familiar. The Jewish ritual of Shabbat involves breaking bread. Indeed, according to laws given to Moses by God, 12 breads were supposed to be placed in the Tabernacle each Sabbath. It is from these Jewish traditions that we get the expression "breaking bread."

As luck would have it, Homemade Bread Day falls on November 17, offering a chance for novice and expert bakers alike to try baking their own bread. When we think of bread, we mostly think of yeast breads, which must be allowed to rise and rest before baking. Quick breads, on the other hand, rise with the help of leavening agents like baking powder or baking soda, so there is no need to wait for the yeast to work. Regardless of your leaven, baking homemade bread fills the house with wonderful smells that are bound to attract a crowd. Challah is the traditional Jewish Sabbath loaf, a portion of which was separated as a gift for the *kohanim*, or priests. A yeast bread with honey-sweetened and egg-enriched dough, challah makes a light, tender loaf that is golden brown. The braided loaf looks like intertwined arms, symbolizing love or the interlocked principles of peace, truth, and justice. Its 12 humps recall the 12 ritual breads meant for the Tabernacle and the 12 tribes of Israel. With such a storied history, it is easy to see how sharing bread has come to symbolize a nourishing meal for both the body and the spirit.

Grow a Mo, Bro

This November, you may notice that a lot more men than usual are sporting beards and moustaches. These facial hair aficionados may be following the premise “Grow a Mo, Save a Bro,” in honor of Movember, a worldwide movement of growing facial hair to raise awareness of men’s health issues.



The Movember movement began in a bar in 2003, when two Australian men, Travis Garone and Luke Slattery, shared a beer and a laugh over the demise of the moustache. It seemed as if that particular piece of facial hair’s heyday was long over. Moustaches

had not just fallen out of fashion, but they were deemed corny. Inspired by a friend who was fundraising for his mother’s breast cancer, these two friends decided that they would grow big and funny moustaches as a fundraiser for men’s health issues such as prostate cancer. They would ask people to donate 10 dollars per moustache. Before long, they had found 30 friends willing to grow a “mo” in support of their cause. Today, their worldwide moustache movement numbers five million “mo bros,” and over the past 15 years, they have raised \$837 million to combat men’s health problems such as prostate and testicular cancer, mental health problems, and suicide prevention. Thanks to Movember, many men are living longer and healthier lives.

Men can join Movember by growing a moustache, and women can support the men who choose to grow a mo. You can also support the movement by just explaining why you’ve chosen to grow a moustache. Many men will kick off the month of Movember with a “shave down” event, where they gather over dinner or drinks and shave their faces as a group, beginning their month of growing their moustaches as a team. Whether you grow a handlebar, a walrus, a goatee, or a pencil moustache, your facial hair will help prevent men from dying too young.

Pride of the Pilgrims

In 1620, the pilgrims departed England on the *Mayflower*, looking for religious freedom in the New World. They had contracted with the Virginia Company to establish a colony in Virginia, but storms drove their ship far off course, and they landed instead on what is now Cape Cod. Far from Virginia, the pilgrims aboard the *Mayflower* began to argue that they were no longer bound to the laws of Virginia Company. Pilgrim leader William Bradford knew that without laws the colonists would turn against themselves. And so, on November 11, 1620, the colonists signed the Mayflower Compact, a set of laws establishing order within their new colony. It fell upon Myles Standish, as chief military officer, to enforce the compact. Historians now believe that it was this document that allowed the colonists to work for each other and survive that first, harsh winter. The Mayflower Compact remains the first document that established self-government in the New World and is regarded as the earliest successful example of democracy in the colonies.

Easy-Baked Success



On November 4, 1963, the Kenner toy company introduced the Easy-Bake Oven, a real baking oven for children that was powered by nothing more than a lightbulb. Toy salesman

Norman Shapiro was inspired after taking a trip to New York City, where he saw street vendors heating their pretzels with lightbulbs. Inventor Ronald Howes was tasked with turning the idea into reality, which he did by using two 100-watt bulbs. Despite a high price tag of \$15.95, which is equivalent to \$127 in today’s marketplace, the toy was a hit, selling half-a-million units in its first year alone. Now, over 50 years and 10 different designs later, it remains popular.

Jukebox Heroes



The day before you gather around the turkey for Thanksgiving, gather around the jukebox for Jukebox Day! After all, both are American pastimes, and both offer perfect reasons to gather together and have a party.

The very first jukebox was installed by Louis Glass in San Francisco's Palais Royale Saloon on November 23, 1889. His nickel-in-the-slot machine was little more than an Edison wax cylinder phonograph fitted with Glass's own invention, a coin slot. The machine did not have any speakers or means of amplification, so listeners had to put their ear to one of four listening tubes to hear the music. And listen they did! In the first six months of operation, the single nickel-in-slot phonograph machine earned over \$1,000. Glass quickly installed other machines throughout the area, which helped him earn thousands. Before long, other inventors got in on the game, creating coin-operated music players of their own.

In 1918, Hobart Niblack created a device that could automatically change records. This led to the invention of the first machine that could play a wide selection of music from different records, by the Automated Musical Instrument Company in 1927. Then in 1928, Justus Seeberg combined a loudspeaker with a coin-operated player that allowed for multiple records. The modern jukebox was born, and the 1930s became the jukebox's golden era.

So why was the device named the "jukebox"? The term *juke* comes from the Elizabethan English word *jouk*, meaning "to dance or act wildly." Before the jukebox, there were juke bands that played in juke joints. These were rowdy establishments filled with heavy drinking and good times. But with the invention of the automatic, coin-operated playing machine, live juke bands gave way to the far cheaper jukeboxes, which suddenly appeared in every juke joint in America.

That's So Cliché

Each year, Cliché Day is celebrated on the same day, November 3, which is apt considering that a cliché is a phrase or expression that is used over and over again until it becomes unexciting or boring. Perhaps the saddest part of any cliché is that it was once original and exciting. Take the story opener, "It was a dark and stormy night." This phrase was originally penned by Edward Bulwer-Lytton in his 1830 novel *Paul Clifford*. Bulwer-Lytton is not only responsible for this cliché but also for incorporating the phrases "the pen is mightier than the sword" and "pursuit of the almighty dollar" into his books. It seems that if anyone should be celebrated on Cliché Day, it is Bulwer-Lytton. So, feel free to use any number of worn-out expressions on this day, as long as you give credit where credit is due.

The Descent of Dunce



November 8 commemorates the death of the medieval Catholic scholar and philosopher John Duns Scotus in 1308. It is from Duns Scotus that we get the term *dunce*, meaning "a stupid person." How would such an esteemed scholar give rise to a term for a know-nothing? Duns Scotus earned great renown for his sweeping philosophical tracts, including arguments for free will, the existence of God, and the Immaculate Conception of Mary. He rivaled the great minds of Thomas Aquinas and William of Ockham. Hundreds of years later, during the Renaissance of the 16th century, many scholars thought that the ideas of Duns Scotus were behind the times. Many began to use the word *Duns*, or *dunce*, as an insult, meaning one who was incapable of scholarship. Furthermore, since Duns Scotus was often depicted in his signature pointy cap, which he believed was a sort of funnel for knowledge into the head, his detractors derided the "Dunce Cap" not as a badge of intelligence, but as a symbol of ineptitude.

The Queen of Queens

On November 17, 1558, Queen Mary I died, and her 25-year-old half-sister Elizabeth ascended the throne to become Queen Elizabeth I. Queen Mary was Catholic and had spent much of her reign trying to restore the supremacy of the Pope to England. Upon her death, Queen Elizabeth I, a Protestant, was heartily welcomed by lords and laypersons alike. Queen Elizabeth's reign was



one of peace and prosperity and has been called by historians both the "English Renaissance" and England's "Golden Age." Indeed, the period of Queen Elizabeth's reign is known in history books as the Elizabethan Era.

Much of England's prosperity was due to trade across the Atlantic, especially the slave trade. This new wealth combined with a strong government and the establishment of a religious doctrine known as the Elizabethan Religious Settlement (which made Protestantism the law of the land) created stability that allowed England to flourish. Perhaps the era's most notable achievements were in literature, poetry, and drama, led by writers William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, and Ben Jonson. The court of Elizabeth watched the same plays as the commoners, and so drama became a unifying art form for the country.

While England remained unified at home, it expanded its interests abroad. Queen Elizabeth's favorite explorer was Sir Francis Drake, a sea captain who turned pirate at the queen's behest, raiding rivals from Spain and France. When Drake returned to England after his circumnavigation of the globe in 1580, he was celebrated as a national hero and as a symbol of England's power. Queen Elizabeth never married, which led commoners to nickname her the "Virgin Queen," and also helped her consolidate her power. She was celebrated and idealized in poetry, portraiture, and pageantry. Even today, she remains an icon of majesty and perfection, and her continued worship is known as the cult of Queen Elizabeth.

November Birthdays

In astrology, those born November 1–22 are the scorpions of Scorpio. Scorpions are passionate and assertive, yet they are also known to keep cool and calm. This composure makes them good, steadfast leaders and loyal and honest friends. Those born between November 23–30 are centaur archers of Sagittarius. Archers are curious, energetic, and enjoy change, the restless travelers of the zodiac. They are funny and enthusiastic, cherishing freedom as their greatest treasure.

Burt Lancaster (actor) – November 2, 1913
Art Garfunkel (singer) – November 5, 1941
Alfre Woodard (actress) – November 8, 1952
Carl Sagan (scientist) – November 9, 1934
Whoopi Goldberg (comedian) – Nov. 13, 1955
Georgia O'Keeffe (painter) – November 15, 1887
Alan Shepard (astronaut) – November 18, 1923
George Eliot (author) – November 22, 1819
Charles Schulz (cartoonist) – November 26, 1922
Mark Twain (writer) – November 30, 1835

Japan's Movie Monster



On November 3, 1954, the movie *Godzilla* was released throughout Japan. The tale of a giant dinosaur-like monster awoken by an atomic bomb was not an instant hit. Many critics believed that the filmmakers were exploiting Japanese fears of nuclear devastation, fears that were still fresh in the minds of many Japanese less than 10 years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When the film was released in America two years later, critics had a different view. They believed that the movie accurately captured the horrors of nuclear war. Soon, even Japanese critics were praising *Godzilla* for its social commentary. Today, *Godzilla* remains an enduring part of Japanese pop culture. The movie spawned 32 more films, as well as a bevy of comic books and toys. According to Guinness, *Godzilla* is the longest-running film franchise in history.