

Music Box

Poem By: Francine Diprima

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When I was one, I hadn't begun to listen to the sound of music playing while the ballerina spun around.

When I was Four of not much more, I watched in fantasy

As she would spin and dance along the carpet gracefully.

When I was five, she came alive, you know she spoke to me, and told me that in spite of things she really wasn't free.

Eight years old and I was told to put my toy away It served no purpose but to make me daydream life away.

Twenty-one and still so young, I found my toy today.

I heard the music playing and the ballerina say, So long a time we've been kept

Inside this little box

I think it's time to find the key

And to see if it unlocks.

So I freed the ballerina now stiff from all those years

And I watched her limp and I watched her dance And still my hands with tears.

And then we sealed the box that kept us captive for so long

Still we could find another path,

Still we could find another song.

Employee Spotlight

Lykia our beloved Activities Coordinator working with our Memory Support Residents. Lykia was raised in Long Branch. She has 4 grandchildren. The oldest is 13 and the youngest is 10 months old. Lykia enjoys reading, writing, comedy, cooking, and spending time outside, and especially enjoys the beach in the summer.

Lykia has worked with Seniors since she was in High School. Her favorite aspect of her job is group activities, learning about what the residents enjoy most and using that information to introduce new activities that enrich their lives.

May Birthdays

In astrology, those born from May 1–20 are Bulls of Taurus. While Tureens enjoy the comforts of luxury, they are unafraid of hard work and dedicate themselves to the tasks at hand. Their steadfast nature makes them reliable. Those born from May 21–31 are Twins of Gemini. With a feeling that something or someone is always missing, Twins forever seek new friends and opportunities. They are curious, intelligent, and sociable communicators, which makes them valuable colleagues and empathetic friends.

- Joan K. 3rd
- Kenneth H. 8th
- Jerald S. 9th
- Doris S 18th
- Helen S. 18th
- Cheryl S. 20th
- Paula H. 26th
- Madeleine 28th
- Barbara 30th

Resident Spotlight



Jacqueline Weisman was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. At 18 years of age Jackie moved to Manhattan and got a job working for Eastern Airlines. A year later Jackie moved to Atlantic City. Jackie worked at The Ambassador Hotel and the Ritz Carlton. Jackie marched in the Miss America Parade where Jackie met her husband. Her husband who managed Lits Department store in Atlantic City got her a job as a Personal Shopper. They later moved to Metuchen so Jackie's husband could manage the Monmouth Mall. Jackie began dealing Antiques. Jackie loves participating in our Activities here at Allegria such as crafts, happy hour, celebrations of all kinds, and morning exercise. Jackie is super social, creative, intelligent, and fun. If you are new here with us at Allegria please reach out and introduce yourself. Jackie is a true and dear friend to all.

Allegria Gazette

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Celebrating May

Creative Beginnings Month

Meditation Month

Physical Fitness & Sports Month

Lemonade Day
May 2

Teacher Day
May 4

Cinco de Mayo
May 5

Mother's Day (U.S.)
May 9

International Nurses Day
May 12

Ride a Unicycle Day
May 16

NASCAR Day
May 21

Victoria Day (Canada)
May 24

Memorial Day (U.S.)
May 31

A Note from Kathleen

Dearest Residents,

April showers have brought us May flowers and as Spring has blossomed so have we here at Allegria. We are getting vaccinated and working to open the doors like before. It has been a tough fight but we, as a community we are tougher! This month we celebrate Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful mothers. In our eyes every day is Mothers Day. Without mother's, who would we be?

Many blessings,

Kathleen



The Hart of the West

Billy the Kid. Jesse James. Wyatt Earp. America's Wild West has plenty of memorable names, but few of those names belong to women. History has largely forgotten the name Pearl Hart, even though she staged the last stagecoach robbery of the Wild West on May 30, 1899.



Pearl Taylor was born in Ontario, Canada, to a respectable family that provided her with a good education, but not good enough to keep her from falling in love with a gambler named Frederick Hart. She ran away to marry Hart at age 17 and endured years of abuse. The couple's drinking, gambling, and joblessness drew them to the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 in search of work. Instead, Hart found Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and was enamored of the cowboy lifestyle.

What we know of Hart's life is spotty, but sometime after her experience in Chicago, she ended up in the mining town of Globe, Arizona, where she met another drifter, named Joe Boot. Hart and Boot were both broke, so they decided to rob the Globe-to-Florence stagecoach. Armed with a .38 revolver and dressed like a man, she made off with \$431, after returning one dollar to each traveler so they could buy something to eat once they reached Florence.

After her capture, Hart regaled reporters with a dramatic retelling of her exploits. Her fans begged for autographs, and she obliged them, signing as the "Bandit Queen." Hart was sent to Yuma, the nearest city with jailing facilities for women, but it took just a few days for her to sweet-talk some accomplices into helping her escape. Hart was later found in New Mexico and returned to the Yuma prison. When she became pregnant a year later, Hart was released with a pardon from the Arizona governor, who hoped to avoid a scandal. The rest of Hart's life is a mystery. Some say she may have joined the vaudeville circuit. Others say she settled down with a rancher and lived out her days as a law-abiding citizen. Either way, Hart's wild life story has earned her a place in the fabled history of America's West.

Better Nature

May 28 is Bermuda Day, a celebration to encourage civic and cultural pride in Bermudian ways of life. Bermuda Day marks the unofficial beginning of summer and is celebrated with parades featuring decorated floats, a half-marathon, and plenty of music and dancing.

Bermuda Day also marks the start of Bermuda shorts season. Is there anything more symbolic of Bermuda than Bermuda shorts? They are the official national dress for men, worn three inches above the knee with knee socks, tasseled loafers, a jacket, and tie. They are worn as business attire, evening wear, and are even part of Bermuda's police uniform. The shorts originated with the British Royal Navy. Soldiers working desk jobs in the tropics were issued lightweight shorts and knee socks. Civilians in Bermuda first started copying the military style in the 1920s. Unfortunately for businessmen beyond Bermuda, the shorts never caught on as business attire. But for casual occasions, like celebrating Bermuda Day on May 28, Bermuda shorts are a must.

Fee Parking



Inventor Carl Magee filed the patent for the world's first parking meter, which he called the Park-o-Meter, on May 13, 1935. With automobile ownership reaching all-time highs, many urban areas were suddenly battling a new scourge—the lack of parking! When the first meters were installed in downtown Oklahoma City, drivers were not too keen on their installation. Some outraged citizens found them un-American and likened the nickel-an-hour fee to an unlawful tax. Businesses, however, loved the meters, as they encouraged the turnover of motorists, which meant a steady stream of new customers. By 1940, more than 140,000 parking meters lined American streets.

Blasting Off in May

Each May, just before the onset of the rainy season, villages across Thailand celebrate the Bun Bang Fai Rocket Festival, a ceremonial festival that has roots in millennia-old rites.

Anthropologists believe that long before the introduction of gunpowder in the ninth century, it was common for villages to welcome the arrival of the rainy season with rites and rituals. Legend tells of how the god of rain, Phaya Thaen, grew upset and withheld rain for seven years. The Toad King, a mythological spirit, went to war against Phaya Thaen, and the rains returned only with his victory. In the town of Nai Mueang, a gargantuan five-story toad statue overlooks the Chi River. It is not just a statue but inside is a museum dedicated to Thai folklore, and its open mouth acts as a viewing platform so that visitors can watch the many rockets that the festival is named for.



The festival's rockets are absolutely massive, with some measuring up to 30 feet long and weighing over 200 pounds. Traditional rockets are made from hollow stalks of bamboo filled with black powder, but PVC piping is also common. The rockets are ornately decorated and paraded through the streets on large floats while local musicians play folk music and lead dances in traditional costumes. Some men even cover their bodies in white powder and wear frog masks to honor the Toad King.

At last, the moment arrives to launch the rockets into the heavens, an annual reminder to Phaya Thaen to bless the earth with nourishing rain. The higher the rockets fly, the more auspicious the weather will be for the coming farming season. Betting often accompanies the launches, with locals placing wagers on which rockets they think will reach the highest heights. Losers (and sometimes innocent bystanders) are thrown into giant puddles of mud. There are often so many rockets that the launches last all day, leaving ears ringing from the massive booms, a visceral reminder of the age-old ritual.

The Old Ball Game

On May 2, 1908, songwriters Albert von Tilzer and Jack Norworth submitted their song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" to the United States copyright office, unaware it would come to be called America's second national anthem. Even though the song's chorus is sung by millions, few know the rest of the lyrics or their feminist inspiration: the celebrity vaudeville star and outspoken suffragette Trixie Friganza.

Norworth was dating Friganza when he wrote the lyrics. While riding the New York City subway, he saw a sign that read "Baseball Today—Polo Grounds." Inspiration so overwhelmed Norworth that he scribbled the lyrics on the back of an envelope that is now on display at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. The star of Norworth's tune is a woman named Katie Casey, a baseball superfan who "Saw all the games / Knew all the players by their first names." She even "Told the umpire he was wrong, / All along, / Good and strong." This outspoken female fan in the song was undoubtedly modeled after his progressive girlfriend, the indomitable Trixie Friganza.

Honoring Mother Ocean



Good sons and daughters will remember that May 9 is Mother's Day, a day to shower mom with love and appreciation. But will we also remember that May 10 is Mother Ocean Day? Just as our mothers gave us life and nurtured us, so too do our oceans sustain life on planet Earth. Oceans produce half of all the world's oxygen and absorb massive amounts of carbon dioxide. Covering 70% of Earth's surface, our oceans are also responsible for regulating climate and weather patterns. Preserving the health of our oceans is our first line of defense against a rapidly warming planet. On this day, perhaps you can visit the beach for a local cleanup or watch a documentary about undersea life.