


Thanksgiving
blessings  Gatherings
GRATEFUL Family
Give Thanks Prayers  Blessed 

Let us come before Him
with Thanksgiving

Psalms 95:2

“The turkey.
The sweet potatoes.
The stuffing.
The pumpkin pie.
Is there anything else
we all can agree
so vehemently about?
I don’t think so.”

—NORA EPHRON



November Birthdays

In astrology, those born from November 1–21 are Scorpions of Scorpio. Scorpions are passionate, dedicated, and resourceful. Scorpions may seem intimidating, but they are just no-nonsense people who value honesty and loyalty above all else. Those born from November 22–30 are Archers of Sagittarius. The Archers are the travelers of the zodiac, curious and energetic, with open minds craving new experiences and challenges.

Ernest R. Nov. 3rd
Carol D. Nov. 19th
Mary Jacobs Nov. 28th (HH)

Lynell L. Nov. 8th
Alauna T. Nov. 19th
Erin R. Nov. 24th
Eric B. Nov. 27th

All Spruced Up



Howard Hughes rose to fame in the 1920s as a film director but later gained infamy as a recluse and eccentric. In 1932, Hughes used the fortune he had built in film to found his own aircraft company. When the United States entered World War II in 1941, the U.S. government commissioned Hughes to design a massive flying boat that could carry men and supplies over long distances. Steel was hard to come by thanks to wartime rationing, so Hughes’ team used wood, laminated birch, and spruce, to construct what was then the world’s largest aircraft. The so-called *Spruce Goose* had a wingspan longer than a football field, boasted eight propeller engines, and could carry 700 soldiers. By the time the massive plane was completed in 1946, the war was over. But Hughes swore it would fly and it did, once, on November 2, 1947.

Halstad Living Center & Heritage House

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Celebrating November

Native American Heritage
Month

Inspirational Role Models
Month

Adopt a Turkey Month

Dia de Los Muertos
November 1

Diwali
November 4

World Chili Day
November 6

Veterans Day
November 11

International Men’s Day
November 19

Game & Puzzle Week
November 21–27

Thanksgiving Day
November 25

Hanukkah
November 28–December 6

Mason Jar Day
November 30

Deliberate Acts of Kindness

The phrase “survival of the fittest” is often used to describe the tough tactics people use to get ahead in modern society, but scientists have determined that a far more effective coping strategy might be “survival of the kindest.” The second week of November is World Kindness Week, a perfect opportunity to make kindness a part of our everyday routines.

Humans have evolved into one of Earth’s most social species. While many people tend to think of humans as inherently competitive with each other, fighting for resources, mates, or even promotions at work, scientist and psychologist Dacher Keltner takes another point of view. He believes that humans are built to be kind. Our generosity, self-sacrifice, play, modesty, compassion, awe, gratitude, and even embarrassment all present powerful evidence of our innate drives for kindness and caring. Research shows that when people act kindly toward others, they take more pleasure in society and are more likely to feel satisfied and happy. New research suggests that our vagus nerve in particular may have evolved to support and encourage altruistic behaviors. Perhaps stimulation of the vagus nerve is what prompted writer Anne Herbert to write, “Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty” on a placemat in a California restaurant in 1982.

Herbert’s notion that we should practice random acts of kindness is not new. Jews have practiced *mitzvahs*, or good deeds for others, for millennia. In the cafés of Naples, Italy, hardworking people who unexpectedly come into money pay for two coffees, a tradition called *caffè sospeso*, taking one for themselves and leaving the other for someone less fortunate. In 2006, the Free Hugs Campaign was launched on YouTube, encouraging people to share the simple act of a hug with others in need of comfort. For some, kindness is easy. For others, sharing public acts of kindness may take practice. Start by doing one small, kind thing for someone. As the Greek fabulist Aesop once said, “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”



VETERANS DAY

By Cheryl Dyson

On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call.
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.
Some have lived, while others died,
And all of them deserve our pride.
We're proud of all the soldiers who,
Kept thinking of red, white and blue.
They fought for us and all our rights,
They fought through many days and nights.
And though we may not know each name,
We thank **ALL** veterans just the same.



www.jbonzer.com

Better Off Red

November 5 is Love Your Red Hair Day, and love it while you still can because rumors persist that the recessive redhead gene is causing redheads to go extinct! Luckily, this rumor is not true. Red hair is caused by a mutation of the MC1R gene, which carries instructions for making a protein called the melanocortin 1 receptor. Due to the mutation, this protein creates a type of melanin, or pigment, called pheomelanin, that causes red hair, freckles, and light skin that can burn easily. Because the MC1R gene is recessive (like blue eyes), two parents both have to carry the gene for the possibility of it being expressed in their offspring. With only about 1–2% of the world's population possessing the recessive genes for red hair, some folks worry that the number of redheads will shrink until there are none left. Luckily, even those who do not have red hair may still carry the gene. All it takes is a lucky roll of the genetic dice for red hair to be expressed in an individual. This is why red hair sometimes skips generations and appears years down a family line.

First in Space



On November 3, 1957, a stray dog from the streets of Moscow named Laika made history by becoming the first organism to orbit Earth in outer space, a journey that paved the way for human space flight. In 1957, humanity knew little about the effects of space conditions on organisms. Many scientists believed that living things would not survive the launch off the planet's surface, much less the conditions of outer space. While Laika's trip was always considered to be one way, this did not stop the scientists from growing to love her. Before the launch, one scientist brought her home to play with his children. When Laika was placed inside the rocket capsule, the technician kissed her on the nose. Over the decades since Laika's trip into space, she has become a prominent figure in both Russia's history and popular culture around the world.

Homecoming Week Shenanigans!



Carve, Paint or Decorate!



Contest Winners!

Halloween Costumes! BOO!



Costume Contest Winners!

