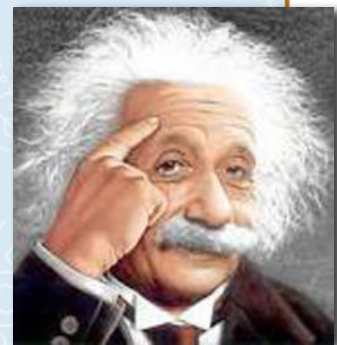




Notable Quotable

“Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain’t goin’ away.”

~ Elvis Presley (born January 8, 1935)



January Horoscopes and Birthdays

Those born between January 1–19 are Capricorns, the Sea Goat. Capricorn is the most stable and serious sign of the zodiac. Reliable, resourceful, and determined, Capricorns make excellent leaders and managers. Those born between January 20–31 are Aquarius, the Water Bearer. Witty, clever, and honest, Water Bearers desire independence above all

and are not afraid to deviate from the crowd to pursue their own interests.

- Isaac Asimov – January 2, 1920
- Diane Keaton – January 5, 1946
- Zora Neale Hurston – January 7, 1891
- Elvis Presley – January 8, 1935
- Vidal Sassoon – January 17, 1928
- Edgar Allan Poe – January 19, 1809
- Wayne Gretzky – January 26, 1961
- Oprah Winfrey – January 29, 1954

Down the Rabbit Hole in January

(cont. from pg. 1)

wordplay, logic, and fantasy. Carroll was not just a writer but also a mathematician, which explains the whimsical logic and puzzling riddles that fill the story. His love of paradoxes and mathematical theories shines through in scenes like the Mad Hatter’s tea party and the Queen’s curious rules for croquet. This blend of intellectual play and imaginative adventure is what makes *Alice* a timeless favorite for readers of all ages.

January is a perfect time to embrace the whimsical world of *Alice in Wonderland*. Lewis Carroll’s beloved tale, now over 150 years old, continues to captivate readers of all ages and inspire countless adaptations. This January, whether by rereading the book or exploring a new adaptation, it’s worth revisiting Wonderland to marvel at the unique genius of Carroll and his enduring creation.

Celebrate the Unusual

January 10 is the day to hug the nonconformist in your life—it’s Peculiar People Day. The word *peculiar* is not an insult. Some of the most creative scientists and artists were known for their eccentricities. Albert Einstein picked up cigarette butts off the street to collect tobacco for his pipe. Salvador Dalí gave lectures in a deep-sea diving suit to represent being submerged in the subconscious mind and walked an anteater on a leash through

the streets of Paris. Ben Franklin began his days with an “air bath,” standing in front of an open window to catch a breeze in his birthday suit. All of these people may have shared a trait that psychologists call “cognitive disinhibition,” a failure to ignore irrelevant information. While many filter out unhelpful information, creative types make offbeat connections all day long, leading to peculiarity, yes, but also wonderful innovations.

Newsletter Title

January 2025

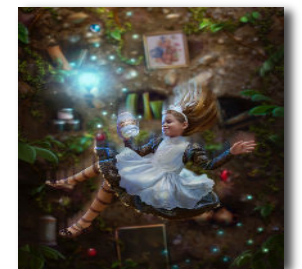
Name of your community | Address | Phone number | Other information

Down the Rabbit Hole in January

January is a significant month for *Alice in Wonderland* enthusiasts. Lewis Carroll, born Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, entered the world on January 27, 1832, and passed away on January 14, 1898. His famous tale, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, began in 1862, during a boat trip where he entertained the Liddell children with an improvised story. Young Alice Liddell, the inspiration behind the heroine, urged Carroll to write it down. After two years of writing, the book was finished in 1864 and published the following year, quickly becoming a literary sensation.

The book introduced the world to memorable characters like the Mad Hatter, whose tea party never ends, and the grinning Cheshire Cat, who can disappear at will. Carroll even invented a new type of poetry, the “nonsense poem,” one of the best examples of which is “Jabberwocky.”

What makes *Alice in Wonderland* so fascinating is its mix of (cont. on pg. 4)



The Language of Touch

The ingenious system of raised dots that are “read” through the fingertips by the blind is known as braille and is named for Frenchman Louis Braille. As a student, Braille loved to read and craved a wider variety of books. His mission was to create a new alphabet for the blind, and at age 15, he developed braille. January 4, World Braille Day, celebrates his achievement and his birthday.

military code developed by Captain Charles Barbier de la Serre for Napoleon’s army as a way for soldiers to communicate at night.

Braille mastered the system, discovered its flaws, and developed a new one. When he presented his improvements to Barbier, the old army captain was offended. But history has proven Braille’s contribution to be as important as Gutenberg’s printing press.

Braille based his alphabet on a

Celebrating January

Adopt a Rescued Bird Month

Mentoring Month

International Creativity Month

Universal Letter-Writing Week
January 12–18

Buffet Day
January 2

Twelfth Night
January 5

National Word Nerd Day
January 9

Belly Laugh Day
January 24

Chinese New Year
January 29

A Magical Start to the Year



The word magical means “beautiful or delightful in such a way as to seem removed from everyday life.”

It turns out that January is a magical month. First, January 16 is Appreciate a Dragon Day. In Eastern cultures, dragons are powerful beings of wisdom, magic, and longevity, and their symbolism is often used by emperors and leaders. European cultures tend to view dragons as fearsome fire-breathing foes.

Then January 19 is Brew a Potion Day. Potions are believed to heal, bewitch, or poison others. In olden days, traveling salesmen and charlatans would travel across the land selling snake oil panaceas, promising to heal any and every possible ailment. Even in modern times, we see television infomercials selling products guaranteed to clear our skin, regrow our hair, or clean our upholstery. In lieu of these potions, concoct your own magical mixture and give it to someone you love on January 19.

Rails of Adventure

On January 17, Cable Car Day, cable cars all over the world will garner attention. Cable cars use cables to pull them up or lower them down. San Francisco’s iconic cable cars are moved by a system of cables underneath the street. The high-flying cable gondolas of Rio de Janeiro carry people to the Christ the Redeemer statue atop Mount Corcovado. The valley

of Gulmarg—the Himalayan “meadow of flowers” in India’s Jammu and Kashmir regions—boasts the second-highest cable car ride at 13,500 feet. One of the longest cable car rides is in Switzerland’s Alps. The 19-minute journey from the village of Grindelwald to Männlichen allows visitors to enjoy the rugged Alps without a pair of hiking boots!

If the magic of fantasy is too far-fetched for you this month, you could instead engage in another sort of magic: January 2 is Science Fiction Day. The mysteries of science can sometimes be even more baffling than dragons and potions. After all, who could have foretold rovers roaming Mars? A person falling to Earth in a 24-mile free dive from the edge of space? The ability to hold a computer in the palm of your hand? Of course, all of these achievements are mere science. For them to become science *fiction*, the scientific advancement must present some dreadful and unforeseen challenge.

This January, the biggest challenge may be to allow your imagination to take flight and consider dragons, potions, and scientific calamities. Then February will bring us firmly back to Earth.



San Francisco’s cable cars use wooden brake shoes.

Gold Rush Gab



When the “panning for gold” attraction opened at Knott’s Berry Farm, gold sold at \$33 an ounce.

Dagnabbit, it’s time for Talk Like a Grizzled Prospector Day on January 24. You’ve never heard of it, you say? Perhaps you have heard of James Marshall, who, on January 24, 1848, discovered gold that started the California Gold Rush. Almost 100 years later, a farmer named Walter Knott built a western-themed ghost town on his berry farm. Knott’s Berry Farm drew a wide

audience, thanks to its guarantee that anyone who found gold on the property as part of the “panning for gold” attraction could take it home. Every January 24, Knott’s Berry Farm holds its annual Prospector’s Day parade. So dadgummit, hitch up yer overalls, grab yer dumfangled pan, and get ready to pan the whole territory for the sockdolager of payouts!.

Galloping into Radio History

The call of “Hi-Yo, Silver! Away!” first echoed on Detroit’s WXYZ radio station on January 30, 1933. A mysterious masked cowboy known as the Lone Ranger went on to become one of the most famous and influential western heroes of the 20th century and beyond.

WXYZ station owner George Trendle and writer Fran Striker co-developed the idea of *The Lone Ranger*, yet neither of them had any experience with cowboys or the Wild West. To them, this hardly mattered. After seeing the success of the movie *The Mask of Zorro*, they wanted to develop an American version of a masked swashbuckler. Furthermore, they wanted their hero to set an example of good morals and to stand for truth, justice, and freedom. The show was an instant success and eventually drew an audience of 20 million faithful listeners three times a week.

The writers did not worry about historical accuracy. This was perhaps most evident in the character of Tonto, the Lone Ranger’s faithful Native American sidekick, who uttered simple phrases and groans. During early episodes, the Lone Ranger was often stuck talking to his horse, Silver. The writers realized they needed a second character, so they introduced Tonto on February 25, 1933. Like the Lone Ranger, Tonto was also a model of justice and truth, often providing the brains of the duo.

By the 1950s, *The Lone Ranger* had moved to film and television and starred Clayton Moore as the masked hero. The western craze hit full stride, and a string of hit shows followed: *The Roy Rogers Show*, *The Adventures of Wild Bill Hickok*, *Bonanza*, *Gunsmoke*, *Maverick*, and *Rawhide*. *The Lone Ranger* struck gold in 1933, and westerns have been treasured ever since.



Tonto’s name for the Lone Ranger, Kemo Sabe, means “trusted friend.”