



OFFICE: 100 Hampton Road • Clearwater • FL 33759 • (727) 796-0500

# ISLAND IN THE SUN

• S E N T I N E L •

**January • 2024**

**Issue 11  
47<sup>th</sup> Year**

**Happy New Year!**

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Thanks to Randy Spencer from Blue Jay MHP for these photos!*



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## Island in the Sun Community Newsletter

**Manager Editor:** Tammy Blaisse      **Proofreader:** Rusty Leslie

**Media Delivery Team:** Nancy Bilcheck, Ernie Grow, Roy and Jan Wisdom, Sudie Borders, Cheryl D'Andrea; Sue Morley; Mike Malliet; Colleen Marshall, Cynthia Sadusky, Phil Tursi, Sonny Dumlao and Cecile Morock

**January 2024 Media Deadline December 4, 2023**

**Please e-mail articles and photos submissions to: iits.sentinel@gmail.com**

You can also drop off articles not sent via e-mail at Lot 297.

### Representative to the Federation of Manufactured Home Owners (FMO):

Tate McIntyre, Lot #23

Please submit corrections to LindaIITSmedia@gmail.com or report to an HOA Board member.

### Island in the Sun HOA Board

President..... Jill Norwick ..... Lot 253 ..... 727-243-4592.....jillnorwick@yahoo.com

Vice Pres .....

Treasurer ..... Tammy Blaisse..... Lot 297 ..... 580-301-4828..... tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com

Secretary ..... Kathy Stevens ..... Lot 47 ..... 952-221-0878

### Directors

1 Yr ..... Steve Malara ..... Lot 202 ..... 732-977-4867..... smbombers@aol.com

2 Yr ..... Nancy Bilcheck..... Lot 184 ..... 203-913-9450..... nbstuff@sbcglobal.net

3 Yr ..... Rusty Leslie..... Lot 310 ..... 865-232-9072..... kohanadancer@gmail.com

### HOA Liaison Committee:

..... Jill Norwick ..... Lot 253 ..... 727-243-4592.....jillnorwick@yahoo.com

..... Tammy Blaisse..... Lot 297 ..... 580-301-4828..... tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com

### Non-Board Positions

Robo Call ..... Sharon Carnes ..... Lot 169 ..... 727-506-1601

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## 2023 Committees

Committee.....	Name/Chair.....	Lot#.....	Phone#.....	Email.....	Co-Chair .....	Lot # . Phone #
Activities.....	Committee .....	297	580-301-4828	iitsactivities@yahoo.com	Committee .....	253 .... 727-243-4592
Bingo.....	Linda Olone.....	73	727-214-7334			
Bingo Callers .....	Linda Olone.....	73	727-214-7334			
Dominoes.....	Jan Wisdom.....	70	214-336-6834			
Ladies Lunch.....	Cindy Sadusky ...	14	717-587-2498			
Library.....	Cindy Sadusky ...	14	717-587-2498		Nancy Bilcheck..	184 .... 203-913-9450
Media Delivery .....	Nancy Bilcheck ..	184	203-913-9450			
Membership .....	Tammy Blaisse ...	297	580-301-4828	tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com		
.....	Rusty Leslie.....	310	865-232-9072	kohanadancer@gmail.com		
Phone Book.....	Tammy Blaisse ...	297	580-301-4828			
Pickleball.....	Paul Ranck .....	134				
Potluck .....	Ciel Gordon.....	182	952-486-1507			
Remembrance Corner....	<b>OPEN</b>					
Shuffleboard .....	Elaine Ranck .....	134				
Rummikub.....	Rose Leduc.....	160	727-797-8026			
Sign Board .....	Clayton Malseed. 83	83	707-510-7981	Pblaisse@aol.com.		
.....	Phil Blaisse .....	297	580-301-4826	pblaisse@aol.com		
Texas Hold'Em .....	Rick Morabito ....	174	303-704-9772		Rose Leduc .....	160 .... 727-797-8026
Welcoming .....	Rusty Leslie .....	310	865-232-9072	kohanadancer@gmail.com		
Yoga .....	Kathy Bowen					

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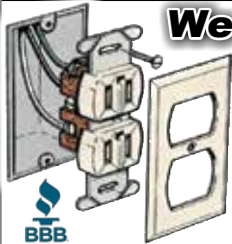
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16



16

# Attention Island In The Sun Residents

## Editor Needed!!!

Would you like to see Island In The Sun related articles in your newsletter?



Do you have a computer with email capabilities?

Then you could be the next editor of Island In The Sun!

If you would be interested please email  
[iits.sentinel@gmail.com](mailto:iits.sentinel@gmail.com)  
or Call Monthly Media at 727-484-7488

## FROM THE EDITOR

I need someone to step forward to take over the monthly media by February 2024 or we may not have one.

If you have any suggestions for articles you think would interest our community, please feel free to reach out to me. We love to hear good news! In addition, if you come across an article that you think would be of interest, please share. I will need the original source as well.

Please send any articles, suggestions, or photos to me at [iits.sentinel@gmail.com](mailto:iits.sentinel@gmail.com) or stop by Lot 297 If you would like to be highlighted or have a resident event highlighted in an upcoming edition for any of our sections, please let me know. See you all soon!

Thank you,  
Tammy Blaisse



This publication, *Island in the Sun Sentinel*, also referred to as the *Monthly Media*, contains names, contact information, community articles and information, an activities calendar as well as general interest articles. IITS residents can contribute ideas, articles, and photos to the publication. Contact Tammy Blaisse at [iits.sentinel@gmail.com](mailto:iits.sentinel@gmail.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Hope you have enjoyed your Holidays with family and friends. A couple of reminders, I and the HOA officers are here to help and assist with concerns you have with Property Management. If you have a concern, please make sure you have filed out a concern form, have someone in the office sign and date the form when you turn it in myself or Tammy Blaisse receive a copy of the form, so we can follow up for you. The HOA cannot help you if you do not do this in the order stated above. Pictures are very helpful.

I know lawn service is a big issue. I will be speaking with Melinda about this concern to see how this can be resolved.

It's that time of year to renew your HOA dues. The HOA dues are \$15 per household. You can contact me, Tammy Blaisse or Rusty Leslie. Our information is in the front of the media guide.

There will be certain events where the HOA will provide delivery of a dinner for shut ins. These notices will be posted on face book and in the media guide. This will not be every event.

The HOA has some great events with different entertainment coming up after the first of the year.

I was very glad to see how many residents helped with Halloween (HOA event) and Thanksgiving (resident event). When they say it takes a village.... Yes, it does!! Thank you all!

One of the things the HOA is asking everyone for is door prize donations.

The HOA is moving the February monthly HOA meeting to February 13, 2023.

The HOA invites you to participate anyway you can. The HOA is always here to support you!

**Jill Norwick**

IITS HOA President

jillnorwick@yahoo.com

## TREASURER MESSAGE

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Happy New Year Everyone!

I am so excited to begin a New Year here at Island in the Sun, moving here has proven to be one of the best decisions my husband and I ever made. I hope everyone had a great holiday season!

As usual, just a reminder to everyone HOA dues are still only \$15 a year and should be paid by February 1st. Remember, if you want to vote for your board next year or on any issues you need to become a member. Your membership allows you to have a voice in how the HOA is ran, provides the community as a whole to have a louder voice with Cal-Am when needed, such as community issues and negotiations. As a perk to being a member your tickets to events are cheaper. Membership cards will be delivered to the members in February.

Please reach out to your Board Members if you have any questions or concerns, we all will do our best to help you.

Tammy Blaisse

IITS Treasurer

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## OPEN POSITIONS:

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We have a few open positions if you are interested in volunteering for anything.  
NON-Board Positions

1. We need volunteers for Bingo. We are looking for callers. Duties would be once a month or so. The computer does most of the work, and almost all of the calling (with the exception of one game). It is a very simple program to use, and we are a fun bunch to spend time with! If you are interested, please call Linda at 727-214-7334.
2. I need someone to review the birthday and anniversary list every 3 months for accuracy before it goes to print. If you are willing to look at that list for me **in advance**, please let me know. See **Tammy Blaisse** (Managing Editor). Update for new residents and remove any residents that are no longer here.
3. Remembrance Corner - OPEN - Need this person to report obits or to **Tammy Blaisse** for adding to Media and so I am able send a card from the community.
4. Neighbor Helping Neighbor – OPEN - need Volunteer.
5. Bocci Ball - OPEN - Need Volunteer
6. Media Guide

## January Birthdays

---

01 Jackie Meyers  
03 Tom Thostenson  
10 Robert Burke  
12 Jim Walker  
12 Cindy Sadusky  
14 Brenda Gerry  
21 Donald Blue  
21 Clayton Malseed  
23 Susan Ceuvels  
27 Theresa Amato  
28 John Meyn



## January Anniversaries

---

03 Harry & Terry Black



We would love to add your birthday and anniversary to our list! E-mail your name and date to [iits.sentinel@gmail.com](mailto:iits.sentinel@gmail.com) so your friends and neighbors can help you celebrate your special days!

Please help me keep this list up to date. If you notice a resident listed who no longer lives in IITS, please give me a heads up. Thanks!

## FROM THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

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### 4 ways to find out all about our events:

1. Make sure you sign up for the robocalls as well, as event information is being sent via robocall, too. Contact Jill Norwick at [jillnorwick@yahoo.com](mailto:jillnorwick@yahoo.com) with your lot #, telephone number and name to join the list. These numbers are shared with no one.
2. Check out the Marquee at the park entrance by the clubhouse for upcoming events. HOA Events and announcements are located on the front and Resident Sponsored Activities are located on the back, if you would like your activity listed on the back please let Jill Norwick or Tammy Blaisse know.
3. The calendar is kept current in the glass case at the Clubhouse.
4. Please join any or all of these IITS FaceBook Groups, we post activities on these pages.
  - a. Island in the Sun Social Group
  - b. IITS uncensored, sort of
  - c. Island in the Sun Residents
  - d. The Official Island in the Sun HOA - 2022 (HOA Members only)

This page is only for HOA business.

Please contact the activities committee for activities you would like to start at [iitsactivities@yahoo.com](mailto:iitsactivities@yahoo.com). We will provide you with help to get started. The activities committee will remain as a committee and no longer has a chairperson. The committee works as a group, if you email the above address the emails will be brought to each meeting for discussion and action.

## RESIDENT ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**L**adies Luncheon is held monthly, a different restaurant is chosen each month and announced on the various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse.

Shuffleboard is held on Fridays at 1 pm, join the fun.

Like to play Texas Hold 'Em, join the group at 6:30 pm on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Pickle Ball is a fun activity that is enjoyed by many in the community. They play Mondays and Tuesdays at 6:30 pm and would love to see more players. The group is willing to teach new players.

Chit Chat is on Friday nights at the Clubhouse from 5 to 7pm. Bring whatever you would like to drink. You may bring a snack if you would like to share, but that is not necessary to join us for some good old fashioned chatting around the table. Be aware, Politics, Religion and HOA are not discussed during this time.

Anyone wanting a resident activity to be spotlighted in the Media Guide please contact Tammy Blaisse.

See the calendar in the Media or on the clubhouse board for upcoming daily activities, HOA activities and Cal-Am activities.

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## Notice:

Cal-Am has a new way of communicating information to the residents. Would you like to receive text messages? Just go into Rent Café and edit your profile and select text messaging. (no texting and driving please)

HOA will continue to use Robo call.

Sign-up for our Robocall phone messages for upcoming events. Please email Jill Norwick at [jillnorwick@yahoo.com](mailto:jillnorwick@yahoo.com) and provide your name, lot number and your phone number with area code.

If you provide a cell number, please add 877-333-9336 to your contacts so the call is not blocked.

Your number will not be shared. You can also provide your info to a Board Member to pass along to Sharon by filling out the sign-up form in this issue.

## **SIGN UP FOR IITS ROBOCALL TO STAY INFORMED**

**M**essages about IITS activities and events can now delivered to your phone. This service is provided free to IITS residents by the HOA. Calls are made to phone numbers in the US or Canada to either a landline or cell phone. This service is limited to one number per household.

Part time residents can forward the messages to another phone or pause messages while away.



**The phone messaging service is used to:**

- Remind residents of HOA meetings
- Announce/Remind/Poll activities and events
- Communicate information to specific groups (Bocce, Shuffleboard, etc.)
- Announce safety concerns in the community and surrounding area
- Other uses approved by the IITS HOA Board of Directors.

Please provide your information to Jill Norwick at 727-243-4592 or [Jillnorwick@yahoo.com](mailto:Jillnorwick@yahoo.com). Your information will be used strictly for this messaging service and will not be shared with anyone else.

Lot # \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**A Complete Listing of Resident Services  
can be found on the page before your calendar**

# SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE HOA EVENTS



In February we are planning a Mardi Gras party on the 17th. We will have music and dinner and King Cake Cupcakes, there will be five babies in the cupcakes and the people who receive a baby will get a door prize.

March brings us St Patrick's Day and we will be celebrating with traditional Irish Food and a DJ.

In April we will be having the popular Tampa Game Night back. They bring a live Game Show Experience, this is an interactive game show with buzzers, podiums, videos and sound effects.

May is the Kentucky Derby. Get ready for another one of Tammy Jackson's and her wonderful crew of volunteer's fantastic parties!

We need hosts to continue these events. People have asked for certain events and while we would like to make them happen, we cannot without people volunteering to host. People are also needed to help with the set-up, replenish food if needed and most of all clean up. We are required to completely clean up like we were never there and that takes some effort.

## WELCOME WAGON CORNER

by Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie

Happy 2024 to all from my little corner of the world. January brings us a brand New Year. Let's welcome some new members to our wonderful community here at Island in the Sun

Jay and Nancy Ice - Unit 239

If you are a new to our community and manufactured home living, I will be happy to give you information on how it all works here and answer any questions you might have. I love doing welcome visits and meeting new people. I hope you love living here as much as I do and take advantage of all the activities we offer.

Thank you for taking to time to read this

Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie



Lot 310 - corner of Nassau and Windward – first intersection as you come in, blue house on the left with yellow SUV – that's me. Come to my side door and ring the bell.

Call or text me at 865.232.9072

Email me at kohanadancer@gmail.com

## PRECIOUS PETS

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As a company, we want your business and there is no need for any contact if you so choose. Our business is deemed an "Essential Business" and we are here for you when you need us. You can schedule your inspection by calling 1-800-681-3772.

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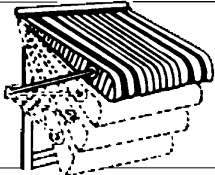
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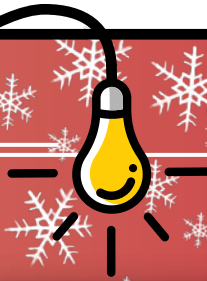
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# JANUARY • 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29</p>	<p>1</p> <p><i>New Year's Day</i></p>	
<p>7</p> <p>6:30 pm Poker</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1 pm Dominoes</p> <p>6:30 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>1 pm F</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>7 pm H Mtg</p>
<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm Poker</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1 pm Dominoes</p> <p>6:30 pm Pickleball</p> <p><i>Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday</i></p>	<p>1 pm F</p> <p>6:30 pm Pickleball</p>
<p>21</p> <p>6:30 pm Poker</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1 pm Dominoes</p> <p>6:30 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>1 pm F</p> <p>6:30 pm Pickleball</p>
<p>28</p> <p>6:30 pm Poker</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1 pm Dominoes</p> <p>6:30 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>1 pm Run</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>7 pm Left</p>

# Island In The Sun

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	3 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	4 7 pm Bingo	5 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	6 10 am Activities Mtg  Epiphany
9 Rummikub 5 pm Pickleball HOA Board	10 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	11 7 pm Bingo	12 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	13
16 Rummikub 5 pm Pickleball	17 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	18 7 pm Bingo	19 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	20
23 Rummikub 5 pm Pickleball	24 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	25 7 pm Bingo	26 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	27
30 Rummikub 5 pm Pickleball Left, Right, Center	31 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker			



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John 3:16

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# Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving was very nice, quite a few people came we had turkey, ham, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni and cheese fried rice, dinner rolls, baked chicken with mushrooms, sweet potato casserole, corn casserole, peas, deviled eggs, And quite a few desserts.

The people that organized Thanksgiving dinner for everyone was Melissa Lynch, Jill Norwick, Heather Lynch, and Sharon Carnes.

Thank you to the people who came the day before and helped set up tables up and get all the crockpots set up with extension cords was Bridgette Kane, Sharon Carnes, Anne, Jill Josh Norwick.

We hope everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving with good food, good friends and neighbors!!!



## IITS Rules and Regulations

---



I have had several complaints about neighbors not respecting each other. While the HOA cannot do anything we can bring it to your attention. One area is noise, living so closely together we need to make sure we are respecting our neighbors and keep noise to a minimum during from 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. I have had several complaints about neighbors not respecting each other. While the HOA cannot do anything we can bring it to your attention.

Also, we have had several new stop signs added to our community. Please stop at them. This past month I have witnessed several people running the 4 way stop shortly after entering the community. These stop signs have been there forever. One I would have hit had not been for my quick reaction. Someone is going to get seriously hurt.

## Today's Inspiration

---

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing, but rising every time we fail."  
— Nelson Mandela

## January Holidays and Observances

---

January

- Jan. 1: New Year's Day, National Hangover Day
- Jan. 2: National Science Fiction Day, National Thank God It's Monday Day
- Jan. 3: J.R.R. Tolkien Day, Festival of Sleep Day, International Mind-Body Wellness Day
- Jan. 4: Trivia Day, National Spaghetti Day
- Jan. 5: National Bird Day
- Jan. 6: National Take Down the Christmas Tree Day, Cuddle Up Day, Bean Day
- Jan. 7: Old Rock Day
- Jan. 8: Bubble Bath Day
- Jan. 9: Coming of Age Day, National Word Nerd Day
- Jan. 10: Houseplant Appreciation Day, National Bittersweet Chocolate Day
- Jan. 11: Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day
- Jan. 12: Stick to Your New Year's Resolution Day, National Hot Tea Day
- Jan. 13: Make Your Dream Come True Day, National Rubber Ducky Day
- Jan. 14: Dress Up Your Pet Day, Organize Your Home Day
- Jan. 15: National Hat Day, National Bagel Day
- Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, National Nothing Day
- Jan. 17: Benjamin Franklin Day, Ditch New Year's Resolutions Day
- Jan. 18: Thesaurus Day, Winnie the Pooh Day, National Gourmet Coffee Day
- Jan. 19: National Popcorn Day, National Good Memory Day
- Jan. 20: National Cheese Lovers Day, Take A Walk Outdoors Day
- Jan. 21: National Hugging Day, Own Your Own Home Day
- Jan. 22: National Blonde Brownie Day, Lunar New Year

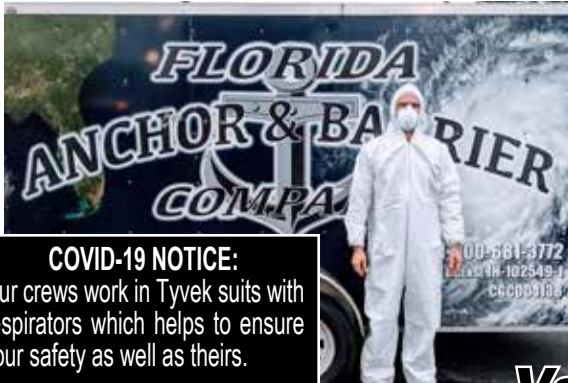
*...continued on page 29*

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Jan. 24: Compliment Day, Belly Laugh Day  
Jan. 25: Opposite Day  
Jan. 26: Spouse's Day  
Jan. 27: National Chocolate Cake Day, Punch the Clock Day  
Jan. 28: Visit Your Local Quilt Shop Day, Data Privacy Day  
Jan. 29: National Puzzle Day, National Carnation Day  
Jan. 30: National Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day  
Jan. 31: Backward Day, Inspire Your Heart With Art Day



## Positive thinking

---

“**B**e yourself, everyone else is already taken” — Oscar Wilde



## Fun January Facts

---



### History of January

The months of January and February were not originally in the ancient Roman calendar as the winter months were considered dormant, both in terms of agriculture and also in terms of making war. This was a time of peace. Until 450 BCE, the Roman calendar was 10 months, beginning in March (Martius), due to the March Equinox. Remember, March was named for “Mars,” the god of War who was also an agricultural guardian.

### January Calendar

January 1 is New Year’s Day. While you’re still recuperating from the prior night’s parties, read about some other New Year’s traditions you might not know about and celebrate with some Hoppin’ John for good luck.

January 5 brings Twelfth Night, an English folk custom that marked the end of Christmas merrymaking and, in ancient Celtic tradition, the end of the 12-day winter solstice celebration. On Twelfth Night, it was customary for the assembled company to toast each other from the wassail bowl.

January 6 is Epiphany. According to the New Testament’s Gospels, on this date, the Magi—the three wise men or kings—venerated and brought gifts to the infant Jesus. Bake a beautiful Epiphany Tart or a King Cake with a lucky bean inside!

January 15 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed). This holiday is held on the third Monday in January and honors the principles of this civil rights leader and Nobel Prize Winner dedicated to nonviolence.

January 17 is Benjamin Franklin’s birthday. He was not only a world-renowned statesman, inventor, and scientist but was also fascinated by agriculture. Here at the Old Farmer’s Almanac, we consider him the father of almanacs!

*...continued on page 32*



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## “Just for Fun” Days

January 1: Z Day

(On this day, those whose last name begins with “Z” get to go first instead of last.)

January 3: National Chocolate-Covered Cherry Day

January 6: National Bean Day

January 8: Elvis Presley’s Birthday

January 10: National Houseplant Appreciation Day

January 14: National Dress Up Your Pet Day

January 20: National Penguin Day

January 22: National Answer Your Cat’s Questions Day

January 29: National Puzzle Day



## Forgotten Customs: Going Back to Work!

January 7: Distaff Day

The day after Epiphany (January 6) was once called Distaff Day and marked when the women went back spinning after the 12-day Christmas celebration. A distaff is a wooden rod (staff) that holds flax or wool. Before the Spinning Wheel arrived, spinning was slowly and tediously done on a Drop Spindle. As is often the case, it’s hard to go back to work after the holidays and not much got done! The women’s husbands would mischievously try to set fire to the flax on their wives’ distaffs, while the women, lying in wait, would retaliate with humor by dousing them with buckets of water.

January 8, 2024: Plough Monday

Dating back to the fifteenth century, the first Monday after Epiphany (January 6) marked the start of the agricultural season, specifically for ploughing the fields for spring-sown crops. Of course, not much work was actually done on the first day! Dressed in clean white smocks decorated with ribbons, the men dragged a plow (plough) through the village and collected money for the “plow light” that was kept burning in the church all year. Often men from several farms joined together to pull the plow through all their villages. They sang and danced their way from village to village to the accompaniment of music. In the evening, each farmer provided a Plough Monday supper for his workers, with plentiful beef and ale for all.

Did You Know: According to folklore, the weather of the first 12 days of the year is said to be indicative of the following 12 months. See your long-range weather predictions for the year.

## January Astronomy

Perihelion: Earth Passes Its Closest to the Sun

On January 2, 2024, Earth reaches perihelion, which is the point in the planet’s orbit where it is closest to the Sun. At perihelion, Earth will be 91,403,034 miles from our bright star. Don’t forget your sunscreen! Read more about perihelion (and aphelion) here.

## The Full Wolf Moon

January’s Moon is called the Wolf Moon. The Saxon word for the month was Wulf-monath or “wolf month.” This year, the full Moon reaches peak illumination on Thursday, January 25, at 12:54 P.M. EST. It can be seen rising from the horizon around sunset that evening.



*...continued on page 35*



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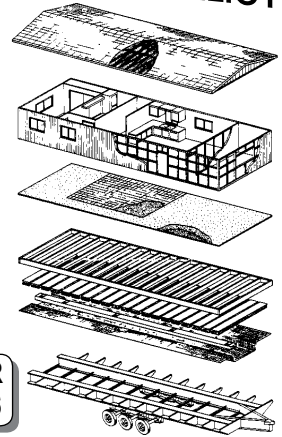
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## The Quadrantid Meteor Shower

The Quadrantid meteors appear in the early January sky, producing up to 25 meteors per hour at their peak. They'll be at their best on the night of January 3 into January 4. For the best chance at spotting them, venture out between midnight and dawn (if you can stand the cold). See our Meteor Shower Calendar to learn more about the year's meteor showers.

## New Year traditions around the world

**M**any New Year's traditions that we take for granted date from ancient times. This year, ring out the old and ring in the new with a New Year tradition—or two! From singing “Auld Lang Syne” to eating black-eyed peas for good luck, discover different ways to celebrate the start of 2024!



### Make Some Noise

- In Thailand, it was once tradition to fire guns to frighten off demons.
- In China, firecrackers routed the forces of darkness.
- In Denmark, they throw plates and glasses against each others' front doors to banish bad spirits.
- In Ecuador, it is tradition to burn the effigies of famous people to destroy bad “juju” from the past year and start fresh.
- In the early American colonies, the sound of pistol shots rang through the air.
- In the United States today, many watch the ball drop in New York's Times Square.
- In other countries, many folks wait for the church bells or the chimes of clock towers to ring out.


### Eat Lucky Food

- Hoppin' John: A Traditional Southern Dish for New Year's Day
- In Spain, people attempt to eat 12 grapes during these 12 strokes of midnight! Tradition says that if they succeed before the chimes stop, they will have good luck for all 12 months of the coming year.
- In the southern US, black-eyed peas and pork foretell good fortune. See our recipe for Hoppin' John!
- In Scotland—where Hogmanay is celebrated—Scots also hold bonfire ceremonies where people parade while swinging giant fireballs on poles!
- Eating any ring-shaped treat (such as a doughnut) symbolizes “coming full circle” and leads to good fortune. In Dutch homes, fritters called *olie bollen* are served.
- The Irish enjoy pastries called *bannocks*.
- In India and Pakistan, rice promises prosperity.
- Apples dipped in honey are a Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) tradition.
- In Swiss homes, dollops of whipped cream, symbolizing the richness of the year to come, are dropped on the floors—and allowed to remain there!



*...continued on page 36*





## Have a Drink

- Wassail, a punch-like drink named after the Gaelic term for “good health,” is served in some parts of England.
- Spiced “hot pint” is the Scottish version of Wassail. Traditionally, the Scots drank to each others’ prosperity and also offered this warm drink to neighbors along with a small gift.
- In Spain, Cava (a sparkling white wine) is often served to guests for making toasts.



## Give a Gift

- New Year’s Day was once the time to swap presents.
- Gifts of gilded nuts or coins marked the start of the new year in Rome.
- Eggs, the symbol of fertility, were exchanged by the Persians.
- Early Egyptians traded earthenware flasks.
- In Scotland, coal, shortbread, and silverware were traditionally exchanged for good luck.



## Put Your Best Foot Forward

- In Scotland, December 31 is known as Hogmanay. Along with fireworks and fireworks, “First footing” (or the “first foot” in the house after midnight) is still common across Scotland. The first person to cross the threshold into one’s home, called the first footer, indicates the year to come. Although the tradition varies, if the first footer is tall and dark, the year will be a good one. Of course, the entire spirit of a Hogmanay party is to welcome friends and strangers with warm hospitality and lots of kissing all around!



## Turn Over a New Leaf

- The dawn of a new year is an opportune time to take stock of your life.
- Jews who observe Rosh Hashanah make time for personal introspection and prayer, as well as visiting graves.
- Christian churches hold “watch-night” services, a custom that began in 1770 at Old St. Georges Methodist Church in Philadelphia.
- The practice of making New Year’s resolutions, said to have begun with the Babylonians as early as 2600 B.C., is another way to reflect on the past and plan ahead.



## New Year’s Folklore

- On New Year’s Eve, kiss the person you hope to keep kissing.
- If New Year’s Eve night wind blow south, It betokeneth warmth and growth.
- For abundance in the new year, fill your pockets and cupboards today.
- If the old year goes out like a lion, the new year will come in like a lamb.
- Begin the new year square with every man. [i.e., pay your debts!] –Robert B. Thomas, founder of The Old Farmer’s Almanac
- So, whether we resolve to return borrowed farm equipment (as did the Babylonians) or drop a few pounds, we’re tapping into an ancient and powerful longing for a fresh start!



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<p><b>OTHER</b></p>	<p>Point West MHP Annual Bazaar and Flea Market Jan. 27th, 8am-2pm. 12651 Seminole Blvd. Largo. Furniture, Clothes, Household, Jewelry, Electronics &amp; Misc. Chinese Auction, 50/50, Food. Contact: Judy Master 708-602-3144</p>	<p>Flea Market Sat. Feb. 24th, 8-12 pm. Colonial Village, 2000 East Bay Drive, Largo. Furniture, Kitchen appliances, housewares, bicycles, clothing, home-baking.</p>
<p>GOLF club re gripping and repair in Largo. Call/text 301-466-7090</p>	<p>Sat. Jan. 27, 2024 -Community Sale- 8:30am-1pm. Paradise Island Section of Lake Haven MHP. Main St. (SR580) &amp; Lake Haven Rd. (W of Keene/CR1), Dunedin. Housewares, Linens, Small Appliances, Jewelry, Bakery, Raffle Baskets, Lunch.</p>	<p>Gateway MHP Community Sale, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 8am-2pm. 10100 Gandy Blvd. St. Petersburg</p>
<p><b>WANTED</b></p>	<p>Embassy Mobile Park, Inc. Saturday January 27th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Park Wide Yard Sale, Off of East Bay just west of Tri City Plaza, come in by Wendy's onto Pine Forest Dr. 16416 US Highway 19 N, Clearwater -Largo area.</p>	<p>HELLO CANADIANS! Canadian Club Canadien Gulf Coast Florida, having survived COVID, is now regrowing to promote fellowship among Canadians in Pinellas County, and foster goodwill with American people. Join us; for our monthly lunch with informative speakers, weekly golf, MLB game, dinner/theater, museums, deep sea fishing. Your first lunch is FREE! For information, email: cccgcf1@galt.biz.</p>
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<p>Bingo Lake Seminole Resort 10245 110th Ave. Largo. Monday, January 8th at 6:50 pm. Doors open at 5:30, Cards on sale until 6:30</p>		

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