

Flannery Oaks Guest House  
1642 North Flannery Road  
Bato Rouge, La. 70815

Postage  
Information



# The Acorn

February 2012

1642 Nth Flannery Rd, Baton Rouge, La. 70815 (225) 275-6393



**Bird Feeding  
Month**

**Black History  
Month**

**Ballet Day  
February 7**

**Westminster  
Dog Show  
February 13–  
14**

**Valentine's  
Day  
February 14**

**Leap Year  
Day  
February 29**

**Congrats!!!  
Jasmine Jones  
January  
Employee of  
the Month**

## Calendar Confusion

Ever feel the need to make up for lost time? You're not alone. In fact, the entire world will be making up for lost time on February 29, the Leap Day for 2012's Leap Year.

Ancient cultures kept calendars like we do today, but these were based on lunar cycles that followed the phases of the moon, making each month only 29.5 days long. One year would last only 354

days, not nearly enough days for an actual year, which lasts 365.242 days, the amount of time it takes the Earth to orbit the sun.

These 354-day calendars wreaked havoc when it came to celebrating annual holidays. As the years passed, autumn harvest festivals were celebrated during the spring planting season! The Egyptians were the first culture to correct the

amount of days, and they even added an extra day, a Leap Day, to the calendar every fourth year to prevent these problems.

Cleopatra shared this system with her boyfriend Julius Caesar, and Caesar decided to fix the Roman calendar. In the year 46 B.C., Caesar instituted a year that lasted 445 days – later called the Year of Confusion – to reset the *continued on pg. 4*

## February Birthdays

If you were born between February 1 and 18, you are an Aquarius. Water Bearers have attractive personalities, and are very imaginative and intuitive. People born between February 19 and 29 are Pisces.

These Fish have boundless imaginations and often become gifted artists.

Pauline Giles- Feb. 5, 1926

Catherine Michel- Feb. 6, 1910

Irene Tregre- Feb. 8, 1931

Mabel Francis- Feb. 14, 1919

Lawrence Crain- Feb. 14, 1929

Mary Bridges – Feb. 14, 1920

Hazel Chapmen – Feb. 17, 1917

Lois Harris – Feb. 19, 1945

Orleia Augustus – Feb. 18, 1931

Viola Lacombe – Feb. 20, 1927

Nelda Viger – Feb. 23, 1927

Ruby Cambre – Feb. 24, 1931

George Cutrer – Feb. 24, 1934

## Calendar *continued from pg. 1*

entire calendar. Then he started a new 12-month-long year of 365 days, with an extra Leap Day added every fourth year to make up for the lost time. But this still was not perfect. This extra day was still 11 minutes too long, which meant that an entire extra day would be added to the calendar every 128 years. That may seem small, but 1,000 years later, this created major problems. Now it was Pope Gregory XIII's turn to fix the calendar. He decided to keep the Leap Day, but only one out of every four "century years" would observe a Leap Year. The years 2000 and 2400 are Leap Years, but 2100, 2200, and 2300 are not. We still use this Gregorian calendar today. As for people born on February 29, known as Leaplings, no official ruling has yet been made on how to count their age.



## Backyard Bird Feeding

Since February is one of the most difficult months for birds to find food, they could use some human help. A typical backyard bird weighs less than two nickels, and in northern climates, loses about 15 percent of that body weight overnight just trying to stay warm. Birds spend most of their waking hours searching for food.

According to the National

Bird Feeding Society, the favorite meal of most seed-eating birds is the black oil sunflower, because its shell can be easily cracked, even by small birds. In addition, its high oil and fat content ensures that the birds will receive needed energy. Safflower seeds are a favorite of northern cardinals, and they have the added benefit of being a turn-off to squirrels.



Getting started is as easy as buying a bird feeder and some seeds. And, if you hurry, you can participate in the "Great Backyard Bird Count" (February 17–20, 2012). Last year, volunteers observed 594 species and counted 11,471,949 birds.

## Friends and Neighbors



On February 19, 1968, Fred Rogers first invited children to be his neighbor on his hit show *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*.

Fred Rogers once said, "One of the greatest gifts you can give anybody is the gift of your honest self. I also believe that kids can spot a phony a mile away." Taking this belief to heart, he created a show that did not follow a plot, but instead allowed him to talk to his audience about issues. He demonstrated experiments, met members of his community,

did crafts, and played music. His show was simple, natural, and wonderful.

Fred Rogers himself wrote the song, "Won't You Be My Neighbor." One of his famous cardigan sweaters hangs in the Smithsonian Institution as a national artifact. And his sneakers? He found them to be quieter than his work shoes when he was walking around the set, so he decided to change into them on the air at the beginning of every episode.

### Notable Quotable

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."

~ Fred Rogers

## Food for Thought

*Reader's Digest* may be the most popular magazine in the world, with millions of readers worldwide in over 70 countries and with editions translated into over 20 languages. This magazine was started by a man named DeWitt Wallace, who conceived the idea while recovering from shrapnel wounds suffered in World War I. He launched the first issue in February of 1922.

Wallace's idea was simple. He would gather his favorite articles from a wide variety of magazines and publish them together in one journal. Wallace hoped that his little magazine would earn him \$5,000 a year, and by 1929, it was generating \$900,000 a year. Surprise, surprise. I wonder how long it took Wallace to digest that.

## Happy New Year With a Toast!!!



## J-E-L-L-O

There is no other dessert as wiggly and as jiggly as Jell-O. In fact, there is nothing quite like this gelatinous children's treat, so why shouldn't it have its own weeklong celebration? February 12-18 is Jell-O Week.

During the 1800s in England, gelatin desserts were popular among the rich and famous. Party hosts would present fantastic

jelly moulds of different shapes and sizes to their guests. But these fabulous jellies were expensive and hard to make. It wasn't until 1845 that Peter Cooper, the inventor of the first steam-powered locomotive, invented powdered gelatin. Cooper, though, never thought much of his idea and sold the product to a cough syrup maker named Pearl B. Wait. It was

Pearl Wait who christened this new product Jell-O.

Consumers were, at first, suspicious of this strange, colorful, and wiggly food. In 1904, thousands of salesmen were sent door-to-door to give away free Jell-O cookbooks, a very innovative practice at the time. Popularity surged and by 1906, sales topped \$1 million dollars.



## Welcome to Flannery!!!!

- Emogene Ainsworth**
- Tommie Charlton**
- Mary Cifreo**
- Franklin Cooper**
- Vida Cooper**
- Len Coor**
- Deedre Crawford**
- Harris Gaspard**
- Annie Lewis**
- Lottie Mixon**



"Someone So Special can Never be Forgotten"

Helen Rodosta  
Kermit Schexnyder  
Hazel Allain

## Best In Show

Tune in February 13-14 to see canines of all breeds strut their stuff at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. The first Westminster Dog Show was held in 1877, making it the second-longest-running annual sporting event in America after the Kentucky Derby. The show originated as a show for hunting dogs. A

group of hunters who met at the Westminster Hotel in New York City wanted to see who had the best setter or pointer.

Today, 2,500 dogs compete in seven groups: Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding. In the end, the winners of the seven groups compete for Best

In Show. The wire fox terrier has won this honor the most, at 13 times. America's most popular dog breeds, the Labrador retriever and the golden retriever, have never won... unless you count the hearts of their owners.

