

# SunnyBrook of Carroll

April 2019

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**Global  
Astronomy  
Month**

**Poetry Month**

**Golden Rule  
Week  
April 1-7**

**No Housework  
Day  
April 7**

**Barbershop  
Quartet Day  
April 11**

**Scrabble Day  
April 13**

**Easter  
April 21**

**Hug an  
Australian  
Day  
April 26**

## William's Fair Shake

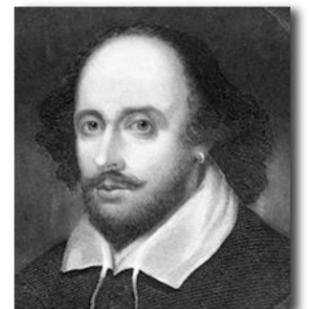
Historians believe that the famous playwright William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564, and then died on that same date in the year 1616. Some argue that too little is known about Shakespeare to prove he was a famous writer, yet a wealth of records of his life exist.

William Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare, was a prominent figure in his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon. John was a successful glove maker,

tanner, and wool dealer as well as a respected city councilman and town mayor. William Shakespeare's mother, Mary Arden, also came from a prosperous family. Her father ran a successful farm near Stratford. The Shakespeare family's wealth, sadly, did not last. By the time William was about 10 years old, his father's business had collapsed, and they were forced to mortgage even his wife's inheritance. William Shakespeare

desired to be more than the son of a farmer, so he left Stratford for London, where he became an actor. He progressed from acting to playwriting and eventually became the owner and manager

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## April Birthdays

In astrology, those born April 1-19 are Rams of Aries. Like rams, Aries charge forward with courage, confidence, and enthusiasm. They embrace action, take risks, and will fight for their goals. Those born April 20-30 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls are stable, reliable, patient, and determined. They will work hard and finish the job no matter what gets in their way, but they expect to be rewarded!

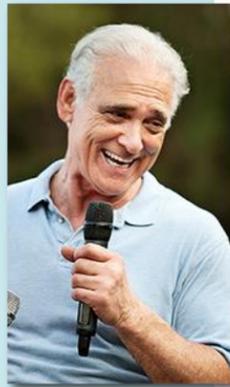
Buddy Ebsen (actor) – April 2, 1908  
Maya Angelou (poet) – April 4, 1928  
Bette Davis (actress) – April 5, 1908  
Billie Holiday (singer) – April 7, 1915  
David Letterman (TV host) – April 12, 1947  
Henry Mancini (composer) – April 16, 1924  
John Muir (naturalist) – April 21, 1838  
Ella Fitzgerald (singer) – April 25, 1917  
Samuel Morse (inventor) – April 27, 1791  
Harper Lee (author) – April 28, 1926

## William's Fair Shake *cont. from pg. 1*

of the very venues where his plays were performed, the Globe and Black Friars Theatres. As Shakespeare's fame grew, he caught the notice of the noble classes. His drama company became the official troupe of both Queen Elizabeth I and King James I, and his works were regularly performed before the royal court. Shakespeare's success won him the respect of his peers and garnered him vast wealth. As a show of his success, he returned to Stratford-upon-Avon to purchase the largest house in the town. Where Shakespeare's father had lost a fortune, William had built one. Surprisingly, a definitive collection of Shakespeare's plays wasn't compiled until after his death. In 1623, two members of his troupe published the so-called *First Folio*, which remains to this day one of the most important works in the English language.



## Singing Machine



The fourth week in April is Karaoke Week! The word *karaoke* is a combination of two Japanese terms: *kara*, meaning “empty,” and *oke*, meaning “orchestra.” What is an “empty orchestra”? This describes an orchestra that has a lead part missing and that lead is the voice of the singer. Sing-alongs have been an important part of Japanese get-togethers for centuries. But it wasn’t until 1971 that musician Daisuke Inoue invented a machine that could do the work of an entire band.

Inoue was a drummer and not a very good one at that. When he couldn’t make it in a band, he found work playing drums for businessmen who liked to sing during amateur nights. When one businessman asked Inoue to play backup at another event,

Inoue declined the invitation but came up with another idea. He taped his drum solo so that the singer could play the tape and sing along in his absence. It wasn’t long before Inoue realized the genius of this idea and invented a music machine that allowed singers to perform without a full band. Inoue leased his machines to local bars, where they were an instant hit. By the 1980s, it seemed that every bar in Japan had a karaoke machine. Unfortunately for Inoue, he never patented his invention. It was a Filipino inventor named Roberto del Rosario who claimed that honor. However, Inoue’s name has entered the history books for his efforts. In 2004, he even was awarded a mock “Peace Prize” for inventing a machine that brings people together.

## Wild Guesswork

There may be no prize for guessing what holiday falls on April 15, but you’d be right if you guessed Take a Wild Guess Day. It is no fluke that this holiday coincides with Tax Day in the United States. Take a Wild Guess Day inventor Jim Barber wanted to celebrate the random nature of wild guessing in contrast to the exact science of filing taxes. This

is the perfect day to follow hunches, leap to conclusions, and not listen to reason. You can celebrate by filling a jar with jelly beans and guessing the amount. After all, what’s the worst that can happen if you take a wild guess? A wild guess may be better than no guess at all. Jim Barber guessed that his holiday would be a hit. And guess what? He was right.

## The Ballad of John Parker

On April 19, 1775, a farmer and mechanic named John Parker rallied his militia of farmers against a battalion of 700 British troops. The British were on the march to Concord, Massachusetts, in search of weapons and supplies hidden by the American colonists. As the “red coats” approached, Parker’s men stood their ground in Lexington, on the road to Concord. They were under Parker’s strict orders not to shoot. Alas, a fateful shot was fired, the now-famous “shot heard round the world,” and the American War for Independence began. Today, a statue known as *The Lexington Minuteman* stands on the Lexington Battle Green. It represents John Parker and every other brave soldier who fought for American independence.



### Notable Quotable

“Expert: a man who makes three correct guesses consecutively.”

~ Laurence J. Peter, educator and author

## Wet Monday

The Irish have St. Patrick’s Day. Mexicans have Cinco de Mayo. Even the Italians have Columbus Day. For those of Polish descent, there is Dyngus Day, always celebrated the Monday after Easter.

Just as Easter is filled with symbolism of rebirth, so, too, is Dyngus Day. One of the major rituals of Dyngus Day is for boys to splash water on girls. Nowadays, this is most often achieved with squirt guns, but in the past, this was done with buckets of water. For this reason, Dyngus Day is also known

as Wet Monday or even Water Plunge Monday.

There are two explanations behind this wet tradition. The first refers to the pagan ritual of watering the Corn Mother. A doll woven of corn represented the goddess of fertility. Watering this Corn Mother every spring ensured a bountiful growing season. The second explanation references the baptism of Prince Mieszko I on Easter Monday in the year 966 AD. The baptism of the prince signified the acceptance

of Catholicism as the national religion of Poland. In these two ways, Dyngus Day is both a celebration of Catholicism and an homage to pagan fertility rituals. For many, Dyngus Day is also a flirting festival, where young men anoint the women they would like to court with water. On the Tuesday following Easter Monday, women have their chance to soak the boys, or, as an alternative to water, they may throw dishes or crockery. On Dyngus Day, love is in—and sailing through—the air.



### Notable Quotable

“The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created Spring.”

~ Bernard Williams, philosopher

## Spring Festivals Around the World

- Which country is famous for its Songkran Water Festival each Spring?
  - Thailand
  - Malaysia
  - New Zealand
- What is the name for Persia’s New Year, which is the first day of Spring?
  - Ashura
  - Nowruz
  - Tirgan
- The holiday of Walpurgis Night is celebrated with what tradition?
  - Walpurgis cakes
  - large bonfires
  - herding cattle

ANSWERS: 1. A; 2. B; 3. B

## Hula is Life

From April 21–27, the greatest hula dancers in the world will converge on Hilo, Hawaii, for the annual Merrie Monarch Festival. The festival celebrates the ideals of King Kalakaua, the last King of Hawaii, known as the “Merrie Monarch,” and an ambassador of

Hawaiian culture all around the world. Hula dates back to ancient Hawaii. When written language did not exist, history was preserved and shared in song and dance. Every movement—a hand gesture, a swaying hip, a stepping foot—told

part of the story. When missionaries arrived, Hawaiian language and music were discouraged; even the hula was banned. The Merrie Monarch changed all that and today, hula remains a quintessential and proud expression of Hawaiian culture.

