



Healthy Home News

"Secrets For Living A Healthy, Wealthy & Happy Life..."

703-925-0022

Valentine's Day Around the Globe

Valentine's Day has regional traditions in the UK. In Norfolk, a character called 'Jack' Valentine knocks on the rear door of houses heaving sweets and presents for children. Although leaving treats, many children were afraid of this mystical person.

In **Wales** many people celebrate *St. Dwynwens' Day* on January instead of or as well as St Valentine's Day. The day commemorates St. Dwynwen, the patron saint of Welsh lovers.

In **Spain** and **France**, Valentine's Day is known as "*San Valentin*" and is celebrated the same way as in the UK, although in Catalonia it is largely superseded by similar festivities of rose and/or book giving on Saint George's Day.

In **Portugal** it is more commonly referred to as "*Dia dos Namorados*" (Boy/Girlfriend's Day).

In **Sweden** it is called "*All Hearts' Day*" and was launched in the 1960s by the flower industry's commercial interests, and due to influence of American culture. It is not an official holiday, but its celebration is recognized and sales of flowers for this holiday are only bested by those for Mother's Day.

According to **Jewish** tradition the 15th day of the month of Av - Tu B'Av (usually late August) is the festival of love. In ancient times girls would wear white dresses and dance in the vineyards, where the boys would be waiting for them. In modern Israeli culture this is a popular day to pronounce love, propose marriage and give gifts like cards or flowers.

In **Brazil**, the *Dia Dos Namorados* ("Day of the enamored") is celebrated on June 12, when couples exchange gifts, chocolates, cards and flower bouquets. It is the day before the Saint Anthony's day, known there as the marriage saint, when many single women perform popular rituals in order to find a good husband or a boyfriend.

In **Colombia**, the *Dia del amor y la amistad* ("Love and Friendship Day") is celebrated on the third Friday and Saturday in September. In this country the "Secret friend" tradition is quite popular, which consists of randomly assigning to each participant a recipient who is to be given an anonymous gift (similar to the Christmas tradition of Secret Santa).



February Birthstone: Amethyst

Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz often used in jewelry. The name comes from the Ancient Greek word for "*not intoxicated*."

The ancient Greeks and Romans wore amethyst and made drinking vessels of it in the belief that it would prevent intoxication, while medieval European soldiers wore amethyst amulets as protection in battle, believing that amethysts could heal people and keep them cool-headed.

From Myth: In Greek mythology, Dionysus, the god of wine and drunkenness, was pursuing a maiden named Amethystos, who refused his affection. Amethystos prayed to the gods to remain chaste, a prayer which the goddess Artemis answered, transforming her into a white stone.

Humbled by Amethystos' desire to remain chaste, Dionysus poured wine over the stone as an offering, dyeing the crystals purple.

*Love is a game that two can play
and both can win.*

Eva Gabor

Get Free Cleaning Tips and Specials at our Website www.absolutecarpetcare.com!

Outstanding Client Of the Month!

**Mr. Kerry Stewart
Remax Riverside**

Thank you for the referrals!

Every month I choose a very special **Client of the Month**. It's my way of acknowledging good friends and saying "thanks" to those who support me and my business with referrals, word of mouth and repeat business... YOU might be my next **Client of the Month**! Watch for your name here in an upcoming issue!

*A kiss is a lovely trick designed by
nature to stop speech when words
become superfluous.*

Ingrid Bergman

*At the touch of love everyone
becomes a poet.*

Plato

*Being deeply loved by someone gives
you strength, while loving someone
deeply gives you courage.*

Lao Tzu

*Can miles truly separate you from
friends? If you want to be with
someone you love,
aren't you already there?*

Richard Bach

Fortune and love favor the brave.

Ovid

*Looking back, I have this to regret,
that too often when I loved,
I did not say so.*

David Grayson

See Insert This Issue:



**Here's Why
You Should
Reconsider
Waiting to
Call Me...**

www.absolutecarpetcare.com

The Famous *Cardiff Giant* Hoax

The **Cardiff Giant** was one of the most famous hoaxes in United States history. It was a 10-foot tall "petrified man" uncovered on October 16, 1869 by workers digging a well behind the barn of William Newell in Cardiff, NY. The giant was the creation of a New York tobacconist named George Hull.



Hull, an atheist, decided to create the giant after an argument at a Methodist revival meeting about the passage in Genesis 6:4 stating that there were giants who once lived on Earth.

Hull hired men to carve out a 10-foot long block of gypsum in Fort Dodge, Iowa, telling them it was intended for a monument to Abraham Lincoln in New York. He shipped the block to Chicago, where he hired a stonecutter to carve it into the likeness of a man and swore him to secrecy.

Various stains and acids were used to make the giant appear to be old and weathered, and the giant's surface was beaten with steel knitting needles embedded in a board to simulate pores. In November 1868, Hull transported the giant by rail to the farm of William Newell, his cousin. Nearly a year later, Newell hired Gideon Emmons and Henry Nichols, ostensibly to dig a well, and on October 16, 1869 they found the giant. One of the men reportedly exclaimed, "I declare, some old Indian has been buried here!"

Newell set up a tent over the giant and charged 25 cents for people who wanted to see it. Two days later he increased the price to 50 cents. People came by the wagon load.

Archaeological scholars pronounced the giant a fake, and some geologists even noticed that there was no good reason to try to dig a well in the exact spot the giant had been found. Some Christian fundamentalists and preachers, however, defended its authenticity.

Eventually, Hull sold his part-interest for \$23,000 to a syndicate of five men headed by David Hannum. They moved it to Syracuse, NY for exhibition. The giant drew such crowds that showman P. T. Barnum offered \$50,000 for the giant. Hull confessed the hoax to the press, and on February 2, 1870 the giant was revealed as a fake in court.

Black History Month



Carter G. Woodson

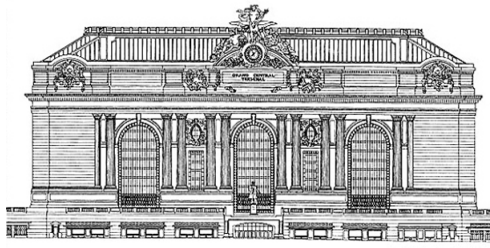
Black History Month was established in 1976 by *Afro-Americans for the Study of Afro-American Life and History*.

The month-long celebration was an expansion of Negro History Week, which was established in 1926 by **Carter G. Woodson**, director of what was then known as the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

Woodson selected the week in February that embraced the birthdays of both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

703-925-0022

2/2/1913 NYC's Grand Central Terminal opens



GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL - NEW YORK

Grand Central Terminal is a terminal station at 42nd street and Park Avenue in Midtown Manhattan in New York City. Built by and named for New York Central Railroad in the heyday of American long-distance passenger trains, it is the largest train station in the world by number of platforms: 44, with 67 tracks along them.

Although the terminal has been properly called "Grand Central Terminal" since 1913, many people continue to refer to it as "Grand Central Station." *Grand Central Station* is the name of the nearby post office, as well as the name of the previous rail station on the site.

The Other 9/11: On September 11, 1976 a group of Croatian nationalists planted a bomb in Grand Central Terminal, which was discovered by authorities who unsuccessfully tried to defuse it. The resulting explosion killed a NYPD bomb squad specialist, and wounded more than thirty people.

Following the 9/11 attacks, it was briefly thought that the significant date of September 11 signifying an attack against a New York landmark might indicate Croat nationalist forces at work again.

February 3rd is Four Chaplains Day

1943 The Allied troopship **S.S. Dorchester** was torpedoed by a German sub and went down with a loss of 600 lives. As it sank, four chaplains gave up their lifejackets to shipmates, thereby also perishing in the icy waters. The bravery of **Rev. Clark Poling** (Dutch Reformed), **Rev. George Lansing Fox** (Methodist), **Father John Washington** (a Catholic priest) and **Alexander David Goode** (a Jewish rabbi) led Congress afterward to mark February 3rd as "**Four Chaplains Day.**"

The torpedo knocked out the Dorchester's electrical system, leaving the ship dark. Panic set in among the men on board, many of them trapped below decks. The chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship, and helped guide wounded men to safety.

As life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They helped as many men as they could into lifeboats, and then linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship.

"As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets." - Grady Clark, survivor

On December 19, 1944, all four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross.



Rev Clark V. Poling



Rev George L. Fox



Rabbi Alexander D. Goode



Father John Washington

Thank You!

Thanks to YOU the word is spreading! Thanks to all of my wonderful clients and friends who graciously referred me to their friends and neighbors last month!

My business runs on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you! I couldn't do it without you!

A special thanks to all these fine folks who referred me...

**Jessica Deering, Mandy Wren, Randi Dolphin, Lisa Scott,
Rashon McMullin, Melitta Bucciero, Susan Vietmeyer,
Mary Sullivan, Adina Short**

Thanks for

All the Kind Words!

Every contact with your company from start to finish was wonderful. It is so refreshing to deal with a company that is proactive and not reactive! Excellent experience again!! Thank you.

Sheri von Briesen



45921 Maries Rd., #180
Dulles, VA 20166

Your New Issue Has Arrived!

Look Inside For Some Amazing Money-Saving Tips and More!

Congratulations!! This month's Birthday winner is Ms. Zandra Kern! It's never too late to enter – send us an e-mail – put Birthday in the subject line – then include your name, address, Month & Day of your birthday and you will be eligible during your birthday month for \$200.00 worth of free cleaning! You may also enter your spouse's birthday!

Smart, Smarter, Smartest

A man walks into the bank and, after a short line, asks the bank teller, "Can I get a \$200 loan?" The teller replies, "What do you have for collateral?"

The man hands over the keys to his Bentley and says, "Will this do?" The teller looks surprised and says, "Yeah, I suppose."

Six months later, the man returns to the bank, pays off his \$200, plus \$10 interest, and takes his keys back. Before he leaves, however, the teller asks, "Sir, no offense but... why would a man who owns a Bentley need a \$200 loan?"

He replies, "I needed to go overseas for 6 months. Where else could I store a Bentley for 6 months, for \$10, and expect it to still be there when I get back?"

*If you live to be a hundred,
I want to live to be a hundred minus one day
so I never have to live without you.*

A. A. Milne
www.absolutecarpetcare.com

Who Wants To Win Movie Tickets?

**Take my Trivia Challenge
And you could win too!**

This is one of my favorite parts of the newsletter! Each month, I'll give you a new trivia question. The first 3 people who call my office with the correct answer will win **two FREE movie tickets**. Enjoy a night out on me with someone special in your life! Take your best guess, and then call me at **703-925-0022!** Remember, your chances of winning are better than you think!

This month's Mega Trivia Question:
According to myth, which ancient Greek goddess turned Amethystos into a white stone?

- A) Gaia B) Artemis C) Athena
- D) Hera E) Aphrodite

HINT: The answer is somewhere in this newsletter
Last month's winners were: Julie Frawley, Alfred Tomczyk and Barbara Coulson