

January 2023

# THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

*"You are never too old to set another goal  
or to dream a new dream."*

~ Les Brown



## Bird of the Month – Owl

Owls, with their huge eyes and stoic, patient, knowing faces, have long been considered to hold great wisdom. These impressive birds of prey are found nearly all over the world, the exceptions being the polar ice caps and some secluded islands. Owls have large broad heads, flat faces, binocular vision, and necks that can turn quite far around (as much as 270 degrees) to let them completely view their surroundings from a fixed position. Owls are predators that hunt insects, small mammals, and smaller birds. Their sharp talons, silent flight, excellent hearing, depth



perception, and vision give them a big advantage when pursuing their prey, particularly in low light. There are two types of owls: true owls (also called typical owls) and barn owls. When these primarily solitary creatures gather in a group, it's called a parliament—a nod to these birds' symbolic association with intelligence and leadership.

## Special Days

**New Year's Day**  
January 1

**National Trivia Day**  
January 4

**Epiphany**  
January 6

**Martin Luther King Day**  
January 16

**Chinese New Year  
(Year of the Rabbit)**  
January 22

**National Puzzle Day**  
January 29

## Flower – Carnation



January's flower is the sweet and pretty yet hearty carnation. The carnation dates back to ancient Greek and Roman times when it was used in art and décor. Some Christians believe that the first carnation bloomed on Earth when Mary wept for Jesus as he carried his cross. Carnations in those early days were primarily found in shades of pale pink and peach, but the palette of available colors has grown significantly to include red, yellow, white, purple, and green.

## Birthstone – Garnet



The birthstone of January is the deep red garnet. This gemstone also comes in other colors, such as pink, orange, and green. Its name comes from the Latin word *granatus*, which means "seed-like." In the Middle Ages, garnets were carried by travelers to protect them against accidents. In ancient Asia and the American Southwest, garnets were used as bullets because their glowing red color was said to increase the ferocity of a wound. According to legend, garnets light up the night and ward off nightmares.



## Take a Birthday Bough

People born in January branch out differently depending on which day they were born.

### Willow (January 1–7)

Strong but fanciful, those linked to the willow tree excel at diplomacy, patience, and friendship. They are a creative, grounded lot who relish the beauty in the world.

### Fir (January 8–14)

Those who come from the fir tree are ambitious, industrious, and mysterious. They have superb taste and love luxurious things. They are loyal and take care of those close to them.

### Elm (January 15–24)

People who fell off the elm tree are noble-minded, pleasant, and generous. They are natural leaders with ample charisma and do not like to take orders.

### Cypress (January 25–31)

Those who fell from the cypress tree are generally content, optimistic, and adaptable. They do not love to be alone and sometimes crave acknowledgment.



## You Look Fabulous

Be sure to tell your friends, family, neighbors, and strangers just how wonderful they are on January 24. Why? It's National Compliment Day. Let them know what you appreciate about them—it's sure to make their day!

### January Zodiacs

Capricorn (Sea Goat)  
January 1–19

Aquarius (Water Bearer)  
January 20–31

**January** is named for the ancient Roman god Janus who is thought to have presided over the dawning of each new year. He was often referred to as the “god of beginnings.” The image of Janus is often symbolized by a face that looks both backward and forward at the same time—a reminder to reflect on the events of the previous year and to recognize the proverbial clean slate of opportunity that waits immediately ahead.

## In the Good Old Days of January

Today's prices seem quite high when you compare them with what things cost 100 years ago. Back then, the cost of an average new house was \$6,000. A loaf of bread was 5¢, a dozen eggs cost 47¢, and a gallon of milk was 44¢. Stamps were 2¢ each. A new car cost about \$525 on up, and gas was around 33¢ per gallon. A movie ticket was 15¢. However, the average income was around only \$2,000.

## What's Lucky in January?

Lucky Color: Purple  
Lucky Animal: Rabbit  
Lucky Letters: S and L  
Lucky Day: Tuesday  
Lucky Plant: Ivy



## January Birthdays

E. M. Forster (author) – January 1, 1879  
Dyan Cannon (actress) – January 4, 1937  
Danny Thomas (actor) – January 6, 1912  
Katie Couric (journalist) – January 7, 1957  
Stephen Hawking (physicist) – January 8, 1942  
Joan Baez (singer) – January 9, 1941  
Andy Rooney (journalist) – January 14, 1919  
Muhammad Ali (boxer) – January 17, 1942  
Mary Ellen McAnally (poet) – January 21, 1939  
Mary Lou Retton (gymnast) – January 24, 1968  
Wolfgang Mozart (composer) – January 27, 1756  
Alan Alda (actor) – January 28, 1936  
Oprah Winfrey (talk show host) – January 29, 1954