

THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

*"March brings breezes loud and shrill,
stirs the dancing daffodil."*

~ Sara Coleridge



Plant of the Month – Peace Lily

Peace lilies are a popular, low-maintenance houseplant that typically bloom in the spring and sometimes in the fall. This lovely decorative indoor plant wows with its snowy white petals and bright green leaves. Despite its name, the peace lily is not a true lily. Instead, it is part of the Araceae family, which also includes calla lilies. In addition to their beauty, peace lilies function as natural air purifiers, absorbing toxic substances from the air like carbon monoxide and formaldehyde. They can also absorb some excess air moisture, which may contribute to reducing



mold. Adaptable and hardy, the peace lily thrives in low light and requires watering when the soil feels dry. Its blooms symbolize peace, solace, and remembrance and are often given to people in times of struggle or grief. Due to its tranquil, calming qualities, placing a peace lily in your bedroom can create a restful environment.

Special Days

Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday
March 4

Ash Wednesday
March 5

Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 9

Purim Begins at Sunset
March 13

St. Patrick's Day
March 17

Doctors' Day
March 30

Flower – Daffodil



March's flower is the daffodil, also known as the jonquil or narcissus. In the language of flowers, giving jonquils signals a desire for affection to be returned. However, if you give daffodils as a gift, make sure to give a full bouquet. A single daffodil is said to bring the recipient bad luck and make them narcissistic. Also, according to superstition, a bride should not carry yellow daffodils, as they will cause her to become vain (although white daffodils are acceptable, apparently).

Birthstone – Aquamarine



As its name might suggest, March's stunning blue birthstone is inherently associated with water. *Aquamarine* comes from the Latin words for "sea" and "water," and indeed, its calming, light-blue shades remind us of the cool, refreshing, melodic waters of the ocean. Aquamarine is believed to absorb the energy of young love, so grooms would often give an aquamarine to their brides as a wedding gift. The gemstone for the 19th wedding anniversary, aquamarine is also said to reawaken the love of married couples.

Celebrate the Arrival of Spring

The vernal equinox falls on March 20 this year. It is a day when daylight and darkness are approximately equal in length. On this day, the sun crosses the celestial equator—the “line” in the sky above Earth’s midline. It marks the end of winter and the start of spring in the northern hemisphere and the end of summer and the start of fall in the southern hemisphere.

The Chinese have celebrated the equinox with feats of egg balancing, where an unbroken egg, a symbol of fertility, is said to bring good luck and prosperity for the rest of the season.

Early equinox celebrations in Germanic countries centered around Ostara, the Germanic goddess of spring. In Persia, the Achaemenid dynasty celebrated the equinox with the festival of *Nowruz*, meaning “new day.” And finally, in Central America, the Mayans celebrated this day for centuries with a viewing of the sun as it sets on the El Castillo pyramid in Mexico.



Punny Spring

Spring is the ideal time to turn over a new leaf.

Q: How do you tell someone winter is over?

A: You spring it on them!

Q: What did the florist say when it was springtime?

A: Business is blooming!

March Zodiacs

Pisces (The Fish)
March 1–20

Aries (The Ram)
March 21–31

March gets its name from Mars, the Roman god of war. The name seemed like a logical choice to Romans because with the gradually warming weather, military campaigns could begin again. The Finnish call March *maaliskuu*, which means “earthly month.” That also makes sense, for as the snow melts, you can once again see the ground. March is also a good time to begin planting gardens. *März* is German for March. In Spanish, it is *marzo*. In French, it is *mars*.

March’s Full Moon

The full moon of March is known by a few names. Some Native American tribes call it the worm moon because, as the temperature warms and the ground begins to thaw, earthworms appear, which brings the return of the robins. Others call it the full crow moon because the cawing of crows signals the end of winter. The full moon that occurs after March 21 is called the paschal moon and is used to determine the date of Easter.

What’s Lucky in March?

Lucky Color: Green

Lucky Animal: Rabbit

Lucky Letters: Z and E

Lucky Day: Saturday

Lucky Plant: Fuchsia



March Birthdays

Ron Howard (director) – March 1, 1954

Desi Arnaz (actor) – March 2, 1917

Howard Pyle (illustrator) – March 5, 1853

Ina Boyle (composer) – March 8, 1889

Agathe von Trapp (singer) – March 12, 1913

Hank Ketcham (cartoonist) – March 14, 1920

Anna Atkins (photographer) – March 16, 1799

Mia Hamm (soccer player) – March 17, 1972

Bruce Willis (actor) – March 19, 1955

Marcel Marceau (mime) – March 22, 1923

Dorothy Height (activist) – March 24, 1912

Sarah Vaughan (jazz singer) – March 27, 1924

Jerry Lucas (NBA center) – March 30, 1940

Liz Claiborne (fashion designer) – March 31, 1929