

Ferris Hills at West Lake



Specials Day in January

Hot Tea Month

**National Eye Health Month
Celebrate Bowling Month**

New Year's Day
January 1

Wheel of Fortune Day
January 6

National Chess day
January 8

**Maintenance
Appreciation Week**
January 15–21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 16

Inauguration Day
January 20

Activity Professionals Week
January 22–28

Chinese New Year Begins
January 28

An Explosive New Year

The new year is celebrated all around the world, and its arrival is most often heralded with fireworks. Why are fireworks associated with ringing in the new year all over the globe? It turns out they are part of a larger story and much more than just a loud and raucous display of joy and revelry. This story begins with their invention in China.

China is very proud of its Four Great Inventions: the compass, papermaking, printing, and gunpowder. Like so many important inventions, gunpowder was discovered by accident. In the ninth century, Chinese alchemists searching for the elixir of immortality instead discovered the formula for gunpowder. It was, of course, eventually adapted for use in warfare, but other uses were discovered more immediately, such as in the development of flares and eventually fireworks.

While the emperor may have been treated to elaborate and spectacular fireworks shows, fireworks were not all fun and games. They served another important purpose: when fireworks exploded at the beginning of each new year, they were believed to frighten away evil spirits, banish bad luck, and bring good fortune. From these superstitious beginnings, fireworks have become a mainstay of new year traditions around the world.

There may be no better time to watch a fireworks display than on the Chinese New Year, which falls on January 28. Beijing and Hong Kong often vie for the most amazing displays, which may mean—if ancient superstitions are true—that these two cities will enjoy the greatest luck. In the Chinese zodiac, 2017 is the Year of the Rooster, an animal that, thanks to its relentless crowing, is considered adept at shooing away evil spirits. It is also the year of Fire, so be on the lookout for greater, more elaborate, and more powerful fireworks displays.



The Baseball Hall

Not many people are thinking about baseball, that great game of summer in the middle of January. But every year, baseball is front and center on the minds of those voting for the newest members of the Baseball Hall of Fame.



The idea for the Hall of Fame was born in 1935, when the Clark Foundation of Cooperstown, New York, was searching for a way to revive the small town's economy, which had been suffering since the Great Depression. The foundation, capitalizing on the legend that former Cooperstown resident Abner Doubleday had invented the game of baseball, moved ahead with plans to build the museum and Hall of Fame.

In January of 1936, five charter members were voted in by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. After the ballots had been counted, five players received at least 75% of the votes cast, establishing the standard by which players are still elected today. Ty Cobb, winner of nine straight American League batting titles, won the most votes. Tying for second was Babe Ruth, the all-star left-handed pitcher and home run king. Honus Wagner, star shortstop, eight-time National League batting champion, and member of the 3,000 hit club received the third-most votes. Christy Mathewson, the National League's winningest pitcher, placed fourth, and Walter Johnson, the reigning strikeout leader, rounded out the class. The likes of Tris Speaker, Lou Gehrig, and Cy Young did not earn enough votes and would have to wait until later to join the Hall.

Who are this winter's potential inductees? Astros great Jeff Bagwell, closing pitcher Trevor Hoffman, and the multi-talented Tim Lincecum have remained just shy of the magic 75% number, but 2017 might be their year. New to the ballot are catcher Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez and sluggers Vladimir Guerrero and Manny Ramirez. When it comes to being enshrined in Cooperstown, anything can happen.

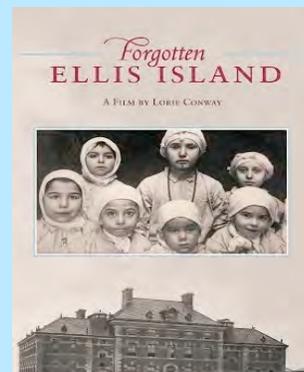
Immigration Station

Three large ships waited in New York harbor on January 1, 1892, for the official opening of the Ellis Island Immigration Station. On that first day, hundreds of immigrants entered America. The very first person to be processed was 17-year-old Annie Moore, from Cork, Ireland. It is estimated that between 1900 and 1914 (the peak years of the station's operation), up to 11,000 people passed through Ellis Island every day. It has been estimated that 40 percent of all Americans can trace their lineage back to Ellis Island. For this reason, Ellis Island was made a National Park in 1965 and designated an Immigration Museum in 1990. Today, visitors to the island are invited to search a database to discover whether their ancestors were part of the great surge of immigrants passing through the center's halls between 1892 and 1924. The list of famous names who passed through Ellis Island is astounding; it includes composer Irving Berlin, bodybuilder Charles Atlas, Hollywood starlet Claudette Colbert, psychologist Sigmund Freud, and silent movie star Charlie Chaplin.

January Marks the 125th Anniversary of Ellis Island!

Don't Miss the You Tube Feature January 6th at 3pm- Community Room "Forgotten Ellis Island"

Visit the abandoned immigrant hospital on Ellis Island. During the great wave of immigration, 22 medical buildings sprawled across two islands adjacent to Ellis Island, the largest port of entry to the United States. Massive and modern, the hospital was America's first line of defense against contagious, often virulent, disease. In the era before antibiotics, tens of thousands of immigrant patients were separated from family, detained in the hospital and healed from illness before becoming citizens. FORGOTTEN ELLIS ISLAND is a powerful reminder of the best — and worst — of America's dealings with its new citizens-to-be. Elliott Gould narrates (55 minutes).



Ferris Hills Holiday Photos...

A visit from Santa...



Our beautiful Elbow areas ...



Singing Carols with Carmine...



New Year's Eve with Mary K & Melanie...



*Upcoming Events...



Wellness:

- Blood Pressure Checks Jan 9th
- Paraffin Hand Treatments Jan 10th
- Eye Health Presentation Jan 11th

Education:

- History of Horticulture Jan 30th
(6 week series taught by FLCC Professor)
- Egypt: Beyond the Pyramids Series

Music:

- At the RPO - Jan 14th
- At the RPO - Jan 22nd
- Chamber Music Concert Jan 25th

Social:

- Bowling Trip Jan 13th
- Ladies Tea & Harp Music Jan 16th
- Chinese New Year Party Jan 27th
- Puzzle Day Jan 29th

Spiritual:

- Worship Service Jan 17th
- Spiritual Care Group Every Friday AM
- Catholic Communion every Sunday AM

*See your calendar for specific times and locations for above events

Papal Protectors

Any visitor to the Papal Palace at the Vatican in Rome is bound to notice the Swiss Guards in their baggy striped uniforms and floppy hats. But these troops are more than a photo op. They have a rich history of bravery, loyalty, and nobility. The Swiss Guard first took up its duties protecting the Pope on January 22, 1506, but prior to this assignment they were Swiss mercenaries—soldiers for hire. These fighters came from an impoverished part of Switzerland and fought to earn money and food for their families. They earned renown for their fearlessness and their ingenious tactics in battle. The kingdoms of Spain and France even hired the soldiers as instructors of their own armies. But since 1506, they have officially stood as stalwart, if clownish-looking, “Defenders of the Church’s freedom.”



January Birthdays



In astrology, those born between January 1st and 19th are Capricorn’s Goats. Capricorns are independent, detail-oriented, patient, and self-sufficient. These qualities help the sure-footed goats achieve stability and security. Those born between January 20th and 31st are Water Bearers of Aquarius. Aquarians may be shy and quiet, but they are energetic, unique, and independent visionaries. They are often unemotional, intellectual, and will pursue wisdom to the ends of the earth.

- Jan 4th Julie Davis (PCA)
- Jan 18th Ben Eagley (Kitchen)
- Jan 22nd Mike Goff (Kitchen)
- Jan 27th Rick Stevens (Business)

