

April Newsletter



Fun Days in April

Celebrating April Arab

American Heritage Month

Poetry Month

Jazz Appreciation Month

Passover Begins April 8

Easter April 12

Gardening Day April 14

Bulldogs Are Beautiful Day

April 21

Earth Day April 22

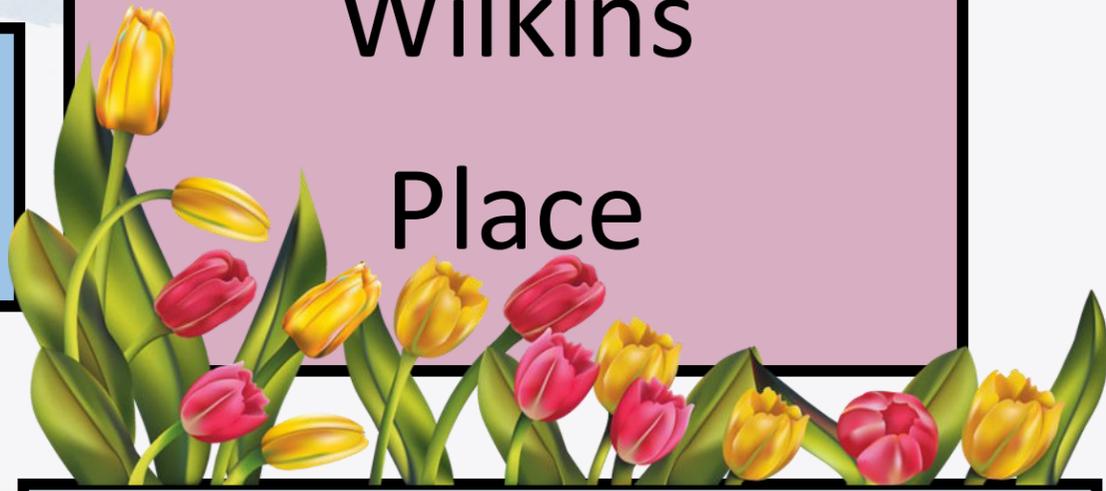
Arbor Day April 24

International Dance Day

April 29



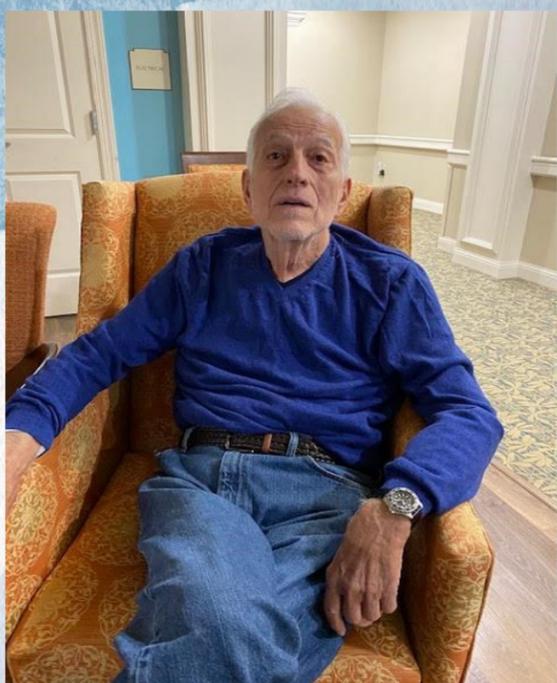
Wilkins Place



Britain's Great "Bulldog"

On April 9, 1963, Winston Churchill was made an honorary citizen of the United States, which is why that day has ever since been celebrated as Winston Churchill Day. Winston Churchill has been hailed as one of the greatest statesmen of the 20th century. He was born into an aristocratic family to a father descended of British politicians and a mother who was heiress to an American fortune. Winston, though, did not want to live an easy life of luxury. After military school, he traveled throughout the British Empire as a soldier and journalist, finally returning to England to begin his career in politics in 1900. He started as a conservative but suddenly shifted to the liberals, championing progressive causes such as the eight-hour workday, a government-mandated minimum wage, and a system of public health insurance. Years later, however, in the face of the rise of German nationalism and the Nazis, Churchill returned to the conservatives. In May of 1940 after Hitler invaded Poland, Winston Churchill was elected prime minister of England and vowed to guide Britain through the war. Victory in World War II was not easy. As the Nazis bombed London, Churchill convinced the Americans to support the Allied war effort. Churchill's efforts were not in vain, and Germany finally surrendered in 1945. Churchill had earned the nickname the "British Bulldog" for epitomizing the unrelenting courage and tenacity of Britain's favorite pet. After the war, Churchill still had work to finish. He was elected prime minister again in 1951, won a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953, and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1963. While Winston Churchill was far from perfect—he suffered political and military defeats, struggled with mental illness, and made controversial remarks regarding race and class—he dedicated his life to his country, and for that he received the honor of a state funeral in 1965, despite not being a member of the royal family.

Taking A Look BACK!!



Selfies Around the World

Even NASA is getting in on the selfie photo craze, declaring April 22 Global Selfie Earth Day. April 22 is well known as Earth Day, a day to demonstrate support for the conservation of the planet. Global Selfie Earth Day proposes an interesting twist. Everyone is invited to step outside, snap a selfie, and share it with the world on social media. By the end of Global Selfie Earth Day, NASA hopes to create a photo tapestry of our planet, aggregating tens of thousands of images and sculpting them into a unique image of the globe. During years past, over 50,000 images have been submitted from over 100 different countries. It's your planet, so snap a picture of yourself wherever you are on the globe and post it. You just might be included in NASA's next photo tapestry



Before Gatsby Was Great

On April 10, 1925, F. Scott Fitzgerald published *The Great Gatsby*. Fitzgerald's tale of love and lavishness during the Roaring Twenties is today hailed as perhaps the greatest American novel, but when it was published, it was deemed mediocre at best. By 1925, F. Scott Fitzgerald was a fading literary star. Even he believed that his best books, *This Side of Paradise* and *The Beautiful and Damned*, were behind him. The initial reviews of *The Great Gatsby* weren't flattering. It was called "unimportant" and "painfully forced," and sold just 21,000 copies. When Fitzgerald died in 1940, he believed the book to be a failure. A year after his death, though, the book took off, and by 1945 it was considered one of Fitzgerald's most successful works.



The "Surgeon's Photograph"

On April 21, 1934, *The Daily Mail* newspaper published the "Surgeon's Photograph," a black-and-white photo snapped by London surgeon Kenneth Wilson that shows the enormous neck and head of the Loch Ness monster plying the waters of the Scottish lake. Thanks to Wilson's photo, the world became gripped with "Nessie" fever. Although it was the most popular and exciting "evidence" of the Loch Ness monster, the Surgeon's Photo was not the first historical mention of such a beast. A seventh-century biography of Saint Columba, an Irish missionary who brought Christianity to Scotland, tells of how St. Columba faced off with a monster at the Ness River that flows into Loch Ness. Columba, seeing the monster's attempts to eat a man in the river, invoked the name of God, and the creature fled, never to be seen again. That is, until April of 1933 when a couple was traveling on a new road that had been paved alongside Loch Ness. From the roadway, the couple witnessed "an enormous animal plunging and rolling on the surface" of the loch. Their story hit the newspapers, and news of the monster spread. The Surgeon's Photograph was published a year later, heightening the rumors of a magnificent creature lurking the depths of the lake. In 1994, after 60 years and countless expeditions to Loch Ness, the photo was revealed to be a hoax. The Surgeon's Photograph was not a picture of a fantastic beast but of a toy submarine affixed with a plastic sea serpent's head. Of course, revelations that the Surgeon's Photograph was a fake have not dimmed the enthusiasm of Nessie's believers. Indeed, as recently as September of 2019, scientists were still searching for evidence of Nessie. DNA was collected from Loch Ness, and although 3,000 different types of species were identified— including fish, pigs, deer, birds, humans, and bacteria—no DNA matching a giant reptile or aquatic dinosaur was found.

