

January 2023

# The Periodical

Parsons House on Eagle Run | 14325 Eagle Run Dr, Omaha, NE 68164 | 402-498-9554



## Celebrating January

### International Brain Teaser Month

**New Year's Day**  
*January 1*

**Someday We'll Laugh About  
This Week**  
*January 2-8*

**Martin Luther King Day**  
*January 16*

**International Sweatpants  
Day**  
*January 21*

**Compliment Day**  
*January 24*

Happy New Year! Can you believe it is 2023? I find it utterly amazing how fast the time goes by. Although wouldn't it be nice to be able to slow down the good times and speed through the rough patches? I suppose that is just wishful thinking. Time doesn't slow down or wait; it just keeps ticking on whether we like it or not. It is probably best we all hold on tight and enjoy the ride.

Getting back to 2022, it definitely went out with a "bang" here at Parsons House, as I'm sure you're all aware of by now. The bitter cold days that we had late in December really tested the integrity of our pipes in parts of the newly remodeled areas. Despite us having some devastating water damage on Christmas Eve, I can undoubtedly say that the teamwork and grit of our staff was nothing short of amazing. Thank you to all residents and their families for understanding and compassion throughout this event. The restoration process has already begun and before you know it things will be back to normal.

From everyone here at Parsons House, we wish you all an amazing 2023! We look forward to what the new year has in store for us.

## Circular Logic



January 8 is Earth's Rotation Day, commemorating the day in 1851 when French physicist Léon Foucault first demonstrated that Earth indeed rotates on its axis, completing a rotation every 24 hours, measuring one day. To prove this, Foucault used a pendulum. Following Newton's law, which states that a body in motion will remain in motion until influenced by outside forces, Foucault swung his pendulum expecting it to swing continuously in the same arc in the same direction. Strangely, the pendulum's path appeared to change. Foucault rightly postulated that the pendulum's path had not changed, but the earth beneath the pendulum had rotated. The pendulum completed its rotation, returning to its original path after 24 hours.

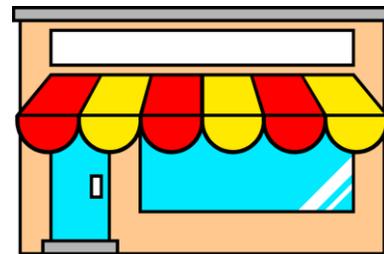
Of course, before 1851, humans understood that a day had 24 hours. Foucault was simply the first to prove it using instruments on Earth's surface. It was the Egyptians who first broke the day and night into 12-hour segments. The number 12 held high significance to the Egyptians. Today, we often break numbers into groups of 10, which we call our *decimal* system, perhaps owing to counting on our 10 fingers. The Egyptians used a base 12, or *duodecimal* system, perhaps counting the finger knuckles of the hand, minus the thumb, which may have been used to do the counting. Twelve proved a powerful number—12 hours of daylight, 12 hours of darkness corresponding to 12 stars in the night sky, and 12 moon cycles leading to 12 months. Hours were kept by a sundial broken into 12 parts.

So, who then gave us 60 minutes and 60 seconds? This sexagesimal, or base 60, counting system was developed by the Sumerians and Babylonians. Perhaps the base 60 system was chosen because it had 12 factors, easily allowing users to break down one hour into 12 different fractions: 30 minutes, 20 minutes, 15 minutes, 12 minutes, 10 minutes, 6 minutes, 5 minutes, 4 minutes, 3 minutes, 2 minutes, and 1 minute. We still use the sexagesimal system to measure time, angles, and geographic coordinates.

## Use It or Lose It

The third Saturday in January is Use Your Gift Card Day, a reminder to use those valuable presents before they are misplaced or lost forever. Gift cards were born in 1994 when the luxury department store Neiman Marcus first manufactured and sold them. But it was Blockbuster Video that mass-marketed the gift card in 1995. Prior to the gift card, gift certificates were popular, but they were too easily counterfeited. With a new era of computer tracking, gift cards would be virtually impossible to forge.

Of course, gift cards have their own share of problems. They were touted to be "as good as cash," but stores ran into trouble when they declared old gift cards expired after just a year of unuse. Today, federal laws govern the use of gift cards, including mandatory expiration dates of five years after the card is issued. The convenience of gift cards and their universal purchasing power, however, often overrule any inconveniences. They remain the ultimate last-minute gift idea.



The Corner Store will be open  
January 16<sup>th</sup> and January 30<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:30pm. Location to be determined.

## January Recipe

### Cookie Dough Boxed Brownies



### Ingredients

for 9 servings

- 1 box brownie mix, prepared according to package
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons milk

### Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).
2. Prepare brownie mix according to package instructions.
3. Sprinkle flour on a baking sheet and bake for 5 minutes to kill any lingering bacteria.
4. In a medium bowl mix together the flour, milk, sugar, butter, salt, and vanilla.
5. Stir in chocolate chips.
6. Pour cookie dough on top of baked and cooled brownies and spread evenly with a spatula.
7. Cool in the refrigerator.
8. Enjoy!

## Hopping into the New Year

The Chinese New Year on January 22 rings in the Year of the Rabbit. When the Jade Emperor invited the animals to his palace to determine the order of the zodiac, Rabbit proudly, perhaps arrogantly, believed that his speed would certainly make him first. Rabbit set off and did arrive first, but thinking that he had plenty of time, he took a nap. When Rabbit awoke, he found that three other animals had beaten him: Rat, Ox, and Tiger. The arrival of Ox irked him most of all because Rabbit had always considered himself faster and superior to the slow, plodding Ox.

At first glance, those born during the Year of the Rabbit may appear weak or soft, but this belies their natural strength and confidence. Rabbits are social with a natural charisma that attracts others. Smart, reasonable, and always paying attention to detail, Rabbits make excellent scholars. While Rabbits may appear careful and conservative in their actions, they need surprises in their life to prevent things from becoming too routine. Rabbits enjoy a peaceful life taking care of others.

## Bobblehead Mania



In the 1960s, baseball teams began giving away bobblehead dolls that did not even resemble players. As ticket sales climbed on bobblehead giveaway days, the craze swept from park to park. And it wasn't children who wanted the dolls but grown men and women. Why would someone show up to a ballgame two hours early to wait in line for a wobbly-headed doll?

Marketing psychologists chalk it up to escapism. People collect bobbleheads for the same reason they read tabloid magazines, go to the movies, and vacation in Las Vegas—adults use these outlets to escape the rigors and stresses of everyday life. And some are amassing bobblehead collections worth thousands! Some bobbleheads from the 1960s are worth \$10,000. Bobbleheads are so popular they have their own holiday on January 7.

## The Road to Adulthood

The transition from childhood to adulthood is never easy, and many cultures have coming-of-age rituals to mark this passage. In Japan, the second Monday of January is Coming of Age Day, a national holiday to celebrate and congratulate all who have turned 20 years old within the past year.

Turning 20 is a cultural milestone in Japan and means that young men and women can now legally drive, smoke, consume alcohol, and gamble. But adulthood means far more than these allowances. Adulthood brings with it the burden of new societal responsibilities and expectations. The weight of independence is heavy, and ceremonies and celebrations are designed to lighten the burden.



Every municipality in Japan holds a ceremony at a local city hall, gym, or community center. The new adults wear fabulous kimonos, sure to look their best for their special day.

A mayor or special guest delivers a speech declaring them legal adults. After all the photographs and congratulations, families may venture to a shrine to pray for success and good health. And then it is off to celebrate, where the new adults enjoy their first legal drink of alcohol with their families.

Coming-of-age ceremonies are part of several cultural traditions. Thirteen-year-old Jews celebrate bar and bat mitzvahs. Hispanic cultures celebrate *quinceañeras*, marking a 15-year-old girl's transition from girlhood to womanhood. American girls hold Sweet 16 parties. Sixteen-year-old Amish youth enjoy the rite of passage known as *Rumspringa*, where they formally join the Sunday night singings that are so important for courtship. Some choose to leave the Amish community to experience the world beyond.

In all of these instances, coming-of-age ceremonies serve to assist children in their journey to adulthood and to feel supported by their parents, peers, and community.

## January Birthdays

In astrology, those born from January 1–19 are Capricorn's Goats. Patience, perseverance, and dedication help Goats climb to the highest of heights. Their drive to the top makes them excellent partners and collaborators. Those born from January 20–31 are the Water Bearers of Aquarius. Although they bear water, Aquarius is an air sign, signaling that they are innovative, progressive, and rebellious. They nurture and support new ideas.

**Margaret C. 1-12**  
**Kathy B. 1-31**  
**John R. 1-19**  
**Margaret G. 1-31**  
**Barbara B. 1-30**  
**Mary Ann S. 1-26**  
**Dale C. 1-15**  
**Carol M. 1-9**  
**Dee P. 1-28**  
**Faye S. 1-9**  
**Brenda N. 1-15**  
**Joseph L. 1-30**

### WHEELS GO ROUND AND ROUND



**Just a reminder that transportation requests must be submitted by Friday Noon the week prior to your appointment to your transportation company.**

**If you cancel your appointment or it is rescheduled, you need to let transportation know so we get your travel arrangements changed.**

**We have been paying a lot of cancelled appointments and I don't want to get to the point where we must pass those non-notification of cancellation fees on to residents.**