

# WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# Mansion House News

February 2018

## February Flowers



The VIOLET signifies watchfulness, loyalty, and faithfulness.

Give a violet to someone to let them know you'll always be there for them



The PRIMROSE is the flower of choice to let someone know you can't live without them.

It is also a flower that can be used in the manufacture of wine.

## DESSERT of The Month

Treat your family to a yummy dessert which pre-dates the Revolutionary War.

### SYLLABUB

- One sweet cake—angel food or pound
- Fresh fruit
- Jelly (if desired)
- One quart rich milk or cream—luke warm
- One cup wine or brandy
- One/half cup sugar

Cube cake and alternate layers of it with layers of fresh fruit in a large dessert bowl.

Put the sugar and wine or brandy in a bowl. Put the luke warm milk or cream in another bowl. When the sugar has dissolved in the wine or brandy, pour in the milk, holding it high pour it back and forth until it is frothy. Grate nutmeg over it.

Pour milk and wine or brandy mixture over the cake and fruit. Enjoy!

## Happy Groundhog Day, Happy Valentine's Day, & Happy President's Day!



February 2 is Groundhog's Day! This holiday originated in the United States but it has its basis in folklore. According to legend, if it is cloudy when the groundhog emerges from its burrow, then spring will arrive early.

On the other hand, if it is a sunny day and the groundhog sees his shadow, he will retreat back into its den forecasting six more weeks of winter.

February 14 is Valentine's Day! This February day of romance, which we call Valentine's Day, is named for a Christian martyr and dates to the 5<sup>th</sup> century.



Many people exchange cards, candy, gifts and flowers with their special Valentine. The most common Valentine's Day symbols are red and pink hearts and pictures of a winged cupid. Popular Valentine's Day gifts are flowers, chocolates, champagne and wine. Some people use the occasion to present lavish gifts, such as jewelry.

Presidents' Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 to recognize President George Washington. Traditionally celebrated on February 22—Washington's actual day of birth—the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, to create more 3 day weekends.



While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Lincoln etc, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents



## Clean Out Those Closets!

It's a New Year and time to clean out our closets, but where to begin. A good place to start is to ask the questions listed below. If the answer is NO to any of the questions, it is time to make four piles: Keep, Sell, Donate, and Toss.

1. Have I worn this in the last 12 months or the last season?
2. Is it likely that I will wear this again?
3. Does this fit?
4. Is the piece in style?
5. Does the piece reflect my style?
6. Do I feel confident when I wear this piece?
7. If this is damaged in any way (stains, holes, etc)... will I actually make the effort to get this repaired in the near future?
8. If I were shopping right now, would I buy this?



## Beautiful Pearls

Pearls are more fragile than most other gemstones, so they must be handled very carefully to keep them in the best condition.

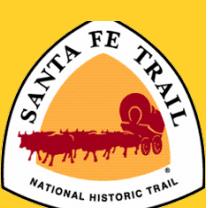
In order to keep your pearls in their best condition, follow the tips below:

- Put pearls on AFTER make-up and perfume have been applied.
- Take off pearl rings before body and hand creams are applied.
- Wipe pearls with a soft, lint-free cloth after wearing. The cloth can be dampened with water, or it can be dry. If damp, allow the pearls to air dry before putting them away. Wiping the pearls will remove body oils.
- Dirty pearls may be cleaned with a small amount of mild soap and water solution (try Ivory bar soaps flakes).
- DO NOT submerge pearls in liquid. Dampen a lint free cloth with the mild cleaning solution. Rinse off solution with another cloth and rinse off all the solution and pat dry.
- NEVER clean pearls with solutions that contain ammonia or harsh detergents or rub with an abrasive polishing cloth.
- NEVER PUT PEARL JEWELRY IN AN ULTRASONIC CLEANER. Vibrations will damage the pearls.
- DO NOT CLEAN PEARLS TOO OFTEN.

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# Winter Game: Clipart BINGO

When the kids are looking for something to do on a snowy day, try this twist on a popular game:

Choose bright pieces of colored paper. Locate various winter-themed clipart. The top line on the page should spell B-I-N-G-O.

Then, line the images in columns and rows of 5 each on the paper. Switch the order of clipart on each sheet of paper. You may place a FREE space in the center of the card, if desired. Print an extra sheet with the clipart images and cut out each image and place in a bowl. You will use these to call the game of BINGO.

For added fun, use mini marshmallows, snowman styled candy, gummy bears, red and white mints or other pieces of candy for the BINGO card markers. Let the kids eat the candy when the games are over!



## Questions or Comments?

Please let us know at [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com)

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