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Celebrating December

Holidays Around the World Month

**National Pearl Harbor
Remembrance Day**
December 7

Entertainer Tom
2:00, PM 394 Building
December 7

Family Holiday Dinner
December 14

Path Finder's Carolers
December 17

First Day of Winter
December 21

Entertainer Rogers Polkas
2:00 PM, 400 Building
December 21

Christmas
December 25

New Year's Eve
December 31

Holiday Humbug

It was Ebenezer Scrooge, from Charles Dickens' classic novel *A Christmas Carol*, who famously uttered, "Bah, humbug!" London publisher Chapman & Hall released the book on December 19, 1843, and it became an instant success. Scrooge, the central character of the book, is a bitter miser and a hater of Christmas. But after being visited by a series of ghosts, Scrooge eventually learns to love and appreciate the holiday.

Despite his change of heart, Scrooge has always been remembered for saying "Bah, humbug." To this day, anyone not in the Christmas spirit may even be called a "Scrooge." Christmastime should be a joyous season, but let's face it, buying gifts, visiting family, cooking dinners, and hosting parties can be stressful. For that reason, even the most enthusiastic lovers of Christmas may find relief in muttering "Bah, humbug" on December 21, Humbug Day.

The term *humbug* is actually unrelated to Christmas and dates back much further than Ebenezer Scrooge and Charles Dickens. A humbug is a hoax or a sham. Some speculate that the term comes from the Irish *uim-bog*, referring to soft copper coins that are monetarily worthless; or perhaps from *Hamburg*, in reference to the city in Germany from which many worthless coins entered England during the Napoleonic wars. Others think that the term originated in Italy with *uomo bugiardo*, which means "lying man." Regardless of its origins, the word *humbug* was not only used in *A Christmas Carol* but also in *The Wizard of Oz*, where Oz refers to himself as "just a humbug."

So when Scrooge says, "Bah, humbug!" he is effectively saying, "Christmas is a sham." The overwhelming evidence suggests that the holiday, indeed, is very far from it.

Egregious English



Every December for the past 41 years, Lake Superior State University in Michigan has issued a “List of Banished Words from the Queen’s English for Mis-Use, Over-Use and General Uselessness.”

Past words and phrases that have been banished include: *polar vortex*, *selfie*, *frankly*, *prequel*, *man cave*, and *app*. You might even have a few choice words to banish yourself.

The idea for such a list sprang from the mind of W.T. Rabe, the university’s former public relations director. It all began at a New Year’s Eve party in 1975, when Rabe and fellow faculty and staff came up with their first list of words that made them crazy, including: *macho*, *input*, *meaningful dialogue*, and *at this point in time*. Rabe admits that his intent all along was to draw media attention to the university. He wanted the public to know that his school was no longer a branch of Michigan Technological University, but a full-fledged university offering more than 60 degree programs.

Rabe’s Banished Words List wasn’t his only PR stunt. He also established the Unicorn Hunters, complete with a published hunting season and hunting permits. Rabe also instituted an annual Snowman Burning holiday on the first day of spring, World Sauntering Day, and the World Stone-Skipping Tournament. None of these endeavors, though, has lasted as long or garnered as much attention as his now famous banished word list.

This year’s list contains doozies like *vape*, *price point*, and *manspreading*. The list also disallows using the word *so* to begin the answer to any question. Following tradition, the new list will be decided on New Year’s Eve and revealed on New Year’s Day. There’s still time to add your word for consideration. Anyone can offer their words for banishment through the university’s website. May we suggest the words *staycation*, *literally*, and *retweet*?

December Birthdays

Those born between December 1st and 21st are Archers of Sagittarius. Archers are both confident and lucky, so they often find success. Their infectious enthusiasm attracts friends to help them achieve their ambitious and lofty goals. Those born between December 22nd and 31st are Capricorn’s Goats. Capricorns are independent, detail-oriented, patient, and self-sufficient. These qualities help the sure-footed goats achieve stability and security needed in their lives.

Bette Midler (singer) – December 1, 1945
Walt Disney (animator) – December 5, 1901
Beau Bridges (actor) – December 9, 1941
Frank Sinatra (singer) – December 12, 1915
Ava Gardner (actress) – December 24, 1922
Mary Tyler Moore (actress) – December 29, 1936
John Denver (singer) – December 31, 1943

Resident Birthdays

Arlene S. – December 10
Margaret C. – December 14
Carol Y. – December 22
Betty B. – December 22
Irene S. – December 23
Marie H. – December 27

From The Activity Directors Desk

We still have many who have not made their reservations for the Christmas Dinner on December 14. Reservations need to be made before December 4. Again we will offer you a choice of attending at 4:30 or 6:00 PM. Please make reservations with **Lena** only, to ensure your reservation is not misplaced and the seating of your choice is not full. Reservations can be made by calling or text to 920-680-2420 or email arlena_leurquin@yahoo.com. All messages will be confirmed with a return message. Please resend if you do not receive a confirmation. We ask that you do not make reservations for more than a group of 6 as we would like to accommodate all our families comfortably. Please only one member call from your family. Be sure to bring your cameras as I hear Santa will be here again this year! **Happy Holidays!**