

THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

“The roofs are shining from the rain. The sparrows tritter as they fly, and with a windy April grace the little clouds go by.”

~ Sara Teasdale



Animal of the Month – Cat

The domestic cat, often referred to as a house cat, is part of the feline family, Felidae. Cats share over 95% of their DNA with tigers. They first became pets in ancient Egypt around 7500 BC and in Cyprus around 9500 BC.



Today, the world is home to over 500 million domestic cats. These carnivorous mammals sleep an average of 12 to 16 hours a day, can run up to 30 miles per hour, and live on a diet of small critters, such as birds, rats, and mice—unless they are eating a bowl of cat food. Cats walk by moving the two legs on each side at once.

The only other animals to walk this way are giraffes and camels.

Cats are known for being feisty, independent, and landing on their feet—hence the belief that they have nine lives, which explains why they symbolize rebirth. Black cats are thought to be magical and/or bad luck, while legend has it that white cats bring good fortune.

Special Days

April Fools' Day
April 1

Good Friday
April 2

Easter
April 4

Last Day of Passover
April 4

Tax Day
April 15

Earth Day
April 22

Arbor Day
April 30

Flower – Daisy



April's flower is the daisy, one of the oldest and best-known English flowers. It retains its Anglo-Saxon name, “day's eye,” because of its appearance and the fact that it closes according to the amount of available sunshine. According to legend, the first daisy appeared when a young nymph turned herself into one to avoid unwanted attention. Thus, the flower has come to symbolize modesty, chastity, and innocence. The daisy is also used to tell if “he loves me” or “loves me not” by pulling off the petals one-by-one.

Birthstone – Diamond



The birthstone for April is the diamond. For centuries, this stone has signified romance, intrigue, power, greed, and magic. In the Middle Ages, it was used to cure headaches and to create love potions. Today, it symbolizes everlasting love. Formed nearly 100 miles beneath Earth's surface in temperatures that exceed 2700°F, the diamond is the world's hardest naturally occurring substance. It is also the purest of all gemstones, composed completely from crystallized carbon. Its name comes from the Greek word *adamas*, which means “unconquerable.”

Birthday Colors

April 1–7: Blue

If your birthday color is blue, you have strong feelings about almost everything. Other people might say you are opinionated but also tend to see you as a leader. You love your life but seek to improve it.

April 8–16: Silver

Those with a birthday color of silver are creative, sensitive, and imaginative. You like to try new things and do the unexpected. You can be shy, but you like to challenge yourself. You enjoy the chase, and in love, you are attracted to a romantic partner who loves adventure.

April 17–23: Green

You make friends easily and are often the person people go to for advice or a shoulder to cry on. You are intuitive and caring but often put yourself last. You have an adventurous spirit but also enjoy the comforts of home and a familiar routine.



April 24–30: White

Although you are highly respected, most people think of you as being a little unusual—in a good way. You set goals, go after them with abandon, and like to dream big. You are always prepared and rarely surprised by what comes your way, but do love a mystery.

April Weather Lore

We all know April showers bring May flowers, but have you heard of these April weather sayings?

- Cloudy April, dewy May
- The louder the frog, the more the rain
- Moist April, clear June

April Zodiacs

Aries (The Ram)

April 1–19

Taurus (The Bull)

April 20–30

April is the fourth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar. It was originally the second month of the Roman calendar, before the addition of January and February. No one knows for sure how April got its name. Some say it comes from the Latin *aperire*, meaning “to open,” alluding to the opening of buds in springtime. Others say April was named after Aphrodite, and still others say it was named for the goddess Eostre. Whatever the case, the onset of April means that spring has arrived.

Easter & April

Have you ever wondered why Easter isn't always in April? The holiday falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. (The first full moon after the equinox was March 28 this year.) Thousands of years ago, Christians would often make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to celebrate Easter. Most traveled by foot, and they needed a light in the darkness of night to guide them as they walked. Thus, the holiday's date was set to follow and center around the full moon.

What's Lucky in April?

Lucky Color: Orange

Lucky Animal: Fox

Lucky Letter: H

Lucky Day: Saturday

Lucky Plant: Snapdragons



April Birthdays

Wayne Newton (entertainer) – April 3, 1942

Maya Angelou (writer) – April 4, 1928

Bette Davis (actress) – April 5, 1908

Billie Holiday (singer) – April 7, 1915

Sonja Henie (ice skater) – April 8, 1912

Joseph Pulitzer (journalist) – April 10, 1847

Tom Clancy (writer) – April 12, 1947

Wilbur Wright (aviator) – April 16, 1867

Elizabeth II (queen) – April 21, 1926

Charles Grodin (actor) – April 21, 1935

Shirley Temple (actress) – April 23, 1928

Al Pacino (actor) – April 25, 1940

Harper Lee (writer) – April 28, 1926

Duke Ellington (composer) – April 29, 1899