

May 2020

Chisholm Trail Newsletter

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Celebrating May

May 5th

Cinco de Mayo

May 10th

Mother's Day

May 25th

Memorial Day

Picture Perfect

May is Photography Month, a time to not only enjoy snapping photos and capturing memories, but a time to look at the world differently, through the eyes of a photographer. And with pocket-sized cell phones equipped with powerful cameras that rival the top traditional cameras, it seems as if everyone these days is capable of high-quality photography.

Photography has always seemed a bit magical. After all, photography gives us the ability to freeze a moment in time and cherish it forever. Photographers may record important moments in history, capture the energy and emotion of a single memory, or stage scenes to send political messages or make social or cultural critiques. In the end, however, what makes a photograph special is its subject matter and composition. What is the play between light and shadow? Is color saturated or muted? Are faces joyful and energetic or melancholy and lonely? A simple photograph communicates so much—both a message to the viewer and the self-expression of the photographer. And now that cell phones put cameras in the hands of most everyone, photography has become a part of many peoples' daily lives. In this way, photography has never been more democratic than it is today.

Just as a cell phone is a device used for communicating via voice or text, the cell phone camera is also a mode of communication, but via picture. The first camera phone was unveiled in 1995 to little fanfare. At first, it seemed strange to pair a phone with a camera. Today, cell phones without a camera are both unthinkable and unmarketable. The most powerful cell phone cameras are filled with sensors and meters that allow users to simply point and click to make mini masterpieces. Apps like Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, and Pinterest share photos with millions of people instantaneously. We share images of our children, vacations, artwork, and even our food. In Egypt and China, cell phone cameras captured images that broadcast revolutions to the world. In these ways, photography is more than art—it is a means to make your voice heard.

Let's Hear It for the Birds

International Migratory Bird Day, celebrated on the second Saturday in May, is a day to celebrate the 4,000 different species of birds that migrate around the globe. That's over 40% of all bird species. For these birds, migration means survival. As the seasons change, birds leave areas where resources are scarce and embark on journeys to areas with more resources, such as abundant food sources and protected nesting grounds where they can hatch and raise their young. For many birds, the scale of their migratory journeys is mind-boggling.



The Arctic tern has rightly earned worldwide fame for embarking on the longest migration in the animal world. Each year they fly round-trip from the Antarctic to the Arctic and back again, covering nearly 49,700 miles. Moving back and forth from the south pole to the north has its advantages. These birds enjoy the benefit of two summer seasons, rife with food and warm weather. Arctic terns have 30-year lifespans. Over such a lifetime, the miles add up quickly. One bird may fly the equivalent of three trips to the moon and back.

Not to be outdone is the bar-tailed godwit. This shorebird flies 7,000 miles from New Zealand on its nonstop migration to Alaska. It takes eight days of flying for the birds to reach the tidal flats of the Yellow Sea, which lies between China and the Korean peninsula. This is their only stopover before they continue their journey north. The flight back is just as grueling, a nonstop journey over the open ocean of the Pacific from Alaska back to New Zealand.

Before undertaking such awesome and taxing journeys, birds enter into a state known as *hyperphagia*, where they eat tremendous amounts of food in order to bulk up and store fat that can later be used as energy during their flight. Some birds have been known to double their body weights before migrating. One such bird is the tiny northern wheatear, which typically weighs less than an ounce. This bird swells up to two ounces before setting out on a three-month, 9,000-mile journey from Alaska to Eastern Africa.



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO
SERVED BEFORE.**

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE
NO MORE.**

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO
SERVE TODAY.**

**REMEMBER THEM ALL ON
MEMORIAL DAY.**

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo



Cinco de Mayo enjoys widespread popularity across the United States, despite many Americans mistaking the holiday as Mexico's Independence Day. Cinco de Mayo revelers take note! Mexico's Independence Day is

held on September 16. It commemorates the day in 1810 when a Catholic priest known as Father Hidalgo made a speech in the town of Dolores calling for independence from Spain. Hidalgo's speech has since been called the "Cry of Dolores," and the town is now known as Dolores Hidalgo. Cinco de Mayo commemorates a very different event on a date over 50 years later.

In 1861, Benito Juárez was elected the new president of Mexico, but the country he was elected to run was bankrupt after decades of civil war. Juárez was forced to put off repaying all debts to Europe for two years, a decision that angered France, Britain, and Spain. These countries responded by sending their naval fleets across the Atlantic to collect their due. Juárez negotiated a deal with Britain and Spain. France, however, saw an opportunity to invade Mexico. Napoleon III ordered the landing of French troops at Veracruz, and the French forces chased Juárez and his government out of the city.

French General Charles Latrille de Lorencez soon marched his force of 6,000 upon the town of Puebla de Los Angeles. Juárez was desperate. He rounded up a group of 2,000 locals and fortified the town under the command of General Ignacio Zaragoza. On May 5, 1862, Lorencez surrounded Puebla and began shelling the town with heavy artillery. Yet by nightfall, the French were forced to retreat, having lost 500 soldiers. Zaragoza's victory at the Battle of Puebla was not a major one, but it was symbolic. Juárez's government used the victory to rally support against the French. Five years later, the United States sided with Mexico against the French and put an end to the war. Americans celebrating Cinco de Mayo are not celebrating America's successful intervention. It is more a general celebration of Mexican culture, fueled by the marketing influence of the beverage industry.

May 5th Cinco de May



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for all you do
you do with love
you are so special
a gift from above
and with all my heart
I want to say
I LOVE YOU MOM
happy mother's day



To all our special mom's
on

Mother's Day!!

Mother's Day is May 10th



May Birthdays

David Worlow 6th
Nancy Mizher 18th
Katie Wilkins 19th



Bing Crosby (singer) – May 3, 1903
Nellie Bly (journalist) – May 5, 1864
J.M. Barrie (author) – May 9, 1860
Bea Arthur (actress) – May 13, 1922
Mr. T (actor) – May 21, 1952
Sally Ride (astronaut) – May 26, 1951
Bob Hope (entertainer) – May 29, 1903

**Of all special joys in life, The
big ones and small,
A Mother's love and
tenderness
Is the greatest of them all**

