

September 2021

Edgeworth Park

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Celebrating September

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Southern Hospitality

During September in Savannah, Georgia, cooling winds blow away the oppressive, swampy heat of summer, and this “Hostess City of the South” gets to show what its famed Southern hospitality is all about. For non-Southerners, the notion of “Southern hospitality” might seem disingenuous, like a marketing pitch employed by southern businesses. For many Southerners, though, Southern hospitality is truly a way of life.

Southern hospitality is more than welcoming visitors with a neighborly sense of charm. Southern hospitality has six foundational characteristics: 1. *Politeness* and manners matter. When engaging with visitors, polite talk is a sign of respect. 2. Nothing says “Welcome to my home” better than good *home cooking*. Every Southern cook knows a few time-tested recipes that will warm the stomach, heart, and soul, such as peach cobbler, hummingbird cake, fried green tomatoes, or shrimp and grits. 3. *Kindness* extends not just to friends and neighbors but to strangers as well. 4. If someone is lost and needs directions or if a neighbor needs help fixing their lawnmower, one must always offer to *help*. 5. Southern *charm* can be magical. Witty small talk, compliments, and pleasantries put guests at ease and make them feel like old friends. 6. What some might call *charity*, others call the *golden rule*. Do unto others what you would have done unto you, and most importantly, do it freely and without any expectation of reciprocity. These characteristics provide a foundation on which Southern hospitality is built.

For those looking to experience firsthand the best of Southern hospitality, look no further than September in Savannah. The city’s marquee event is Jazz Fest from September 23–26. Savannah’s jazz scene is as old as that in New Orleans, and Jazz Fest has offered the best local acts for 40 years. Savannah’s art walks also begin this month with free tours of galleries in the Historic District. For foodies, the annual Pin Point Seafood Festival features plenty of local dishes, from Gullah Geechee classics to modern cuisine. Everywhere you go, you’re sure to be charmed by this lovely southern city.

Happiness on the Wing

Bluebirds, with their striking plumage and warbling song, are a pleasant sight to behold. But in many cultures, a bluebird is more than just another pretty bird: It is a powerful sign that happiness is just around the corner. For this reason, September 24 is Bluebird of Happiness Day.



In many Native North American cultures, the bluebird is a symbol of prosperity, fertility, and hope. The Cochiti people of New Mexico believe that the bluebird is the first-born offspring of the sun, and to this day it sings at first light to wake us up. The Ojibwa spirit Nanabozho, while putting color into the world, had his paint stolen by bluebirds. As the bluebirds flew through a waterfall's mist, the paint was scattered to create a rainbow. Nanabozho liked it so much that he decreed that every time the sun touches the mist of a waterfall, a rainbow should appear.

The Chinese have revered the bluebird for millennia. During the Shang Dynasty, dating back to 1766 BC, a bluebird was considered the messenger of Xi Wangmu, the Queen Mother of the West. The goddess began life as a fearsome immortal but evolved into a protector fairy queen. The appearance of a bluebird meant that Xi Wangmu was protecting young women who chose to break from traditional family roles: singers, nuns, and priestesses.

The bluebird of happiness features so prominently in the folklore of the Lorraine people of France that it inspired a stage play called *The Blue Bird*. Throughout the 20th century, it was developed into a children's novel, an opera, and seven films.

Of course, bluebirds are not the only birds with symbolic significance. Owls have been associated with wisdom since the worship of the Greek goddess Athena. Eagles are symbols of strength, courage, and freedom. Ravens symbolize knowledge and act as intermediaries for the gods. Cranes are symbols of healing and hope. But amongst all birds, perhaps none is more lighthearted and joyous than the bluebird.

First, the News

On September 25, 1690, the first newspaper in America was published. Sadly, for publisher Benjamin Harris, his *Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick* lasted for just one edition before British censors shut it down. Harris was the owner of Boston's London Coffee-House, an establishment frequented by the city's intellectual elite. The cafe was the premier venue for sharing news of the world and debating the philosophies of the era. Harris, a savvy businessman, knew he had a captive audience for his monthly publication. But Harris was also a known rabble-rouser. He had published inflammatory pamphlets in England before fleeing to the colonies to evade fines and imprisonment. Harris would eventually return to London and the news business, publishing his *London Post* from 1699 to 1706.



What's Lucky in September?

Lucky Color: Yellow

Lucky Animal: Tiger

Lucky Letters: K and S

Lucky Day: Wednesday

Lucky Plant: Goldenrod



Animal of the Month – Dog

Dogs are descended from domesticated wolves. They were domesticated by humans over 15,000 years ago and have become well-suited to living among people. Selective breeding over thousands of years has resulted in a large variety of breeds that have various preferred behaviors, talents, and capabilities. Dogs come in a range of sizes, shapes, and colors. They specialize in a variety of tasks, such as hunting, herding, safeguarding, therapy, and companionship. Popular breeds include the golden retriever, bulldog, labradoodle, German shepherd, beagle, and pug. Dogs have an amazing sense of smell that is estimated to be 40 times stronger than ours—their wet noses help maximize this ability. Some dogs can even detect medical issues just by a person's smell. Other dogs are super fast runners or excellent swimmers. Dogs are associated with loyalty, protection, and unconditional love—as well as just being downright adorable.

Special Days

Labor Day

September 6

Rosh Hashanah

September 6–8

**National Day of Service
& Remembrance**

September 11

Grandparents Day

September 12

Yom Kippur

September 15–16

World Gratitude Day

September 21

First Day of Autumn

September 22

September Zodiac Sign's

In astrology, those born from September 1–22 are Virgo's Virgins. Virgos pay attention to details and like to keep things organized. Their deep sense of humanity and love for others makes them defenders of justice, goodness, and purity. Those born from September 23–30 balance the scales of Libra. Peaceful and fair, Libras value balance and symmetry. For this reason, they often champion justice and equality. Using tact and calm, they resolve conflicts among family and friends.



Shining Star

Athena Bell
&
Jacquelyn Wilson

Birthstone – Sapphire



The sapphire is the birthstone for September. This gem is similar to a diamond in that it's one of the hardest materials on Earth. Though sapphire means “blue” in Greek, the gemstone comes in nearly all colors except red. And even the blue stones come in different shades—from dark royal blue to light gray-blue. The finest sapphire, however, is a rich, velvety blue. Per gemstone lore, sapphires contribute to mental clarity and lead to financial success.

September Birthdays

Jacquelyn Wilson – 9/2
Shakimia Overby – 9/10
Tabitha Shivers – 9/13
Nikita Meekins – 9/18
Kelvin Dillard – 9/21
Paula Peterson – 9/30

