

Charles Perrault

compiled *Tales of Mother Goose* at age 69 after retiring from civil service. Thanks to him, the words “Once Upon a Time” still enchant us.

January
2023



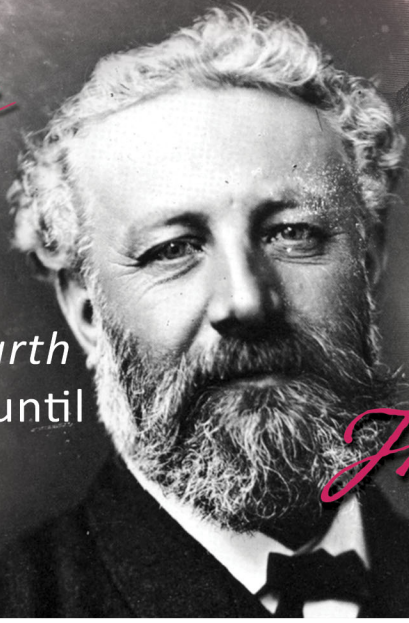
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer</i></p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY</p> <p>1</p>	2	3	4	5	<p>1822: Birth of Heinrich Schliemann, who discovered the legendary city of Troy at age 49</p> <p>1891: Birth of author and anthropologist Nora Zeale Hurston, best known for <i>Their Eyes Are Watching God</i>, published when she was 46</p> <p>6</p>	7
8	9	<p>1903: Birth of writer and activist Alan Paton, who published his first book <i>Cry, The Beloved Country</i> at age 45</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1628: Birth of Charles Perrault, godfather of the fairytale</p> <p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	13	14
15	<p>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1706: Birth of Ben Franklin, who, at age 70, helped draft the U.S. Declaration of Independence</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1779: Birth of Peter Mark Roget, who compiled his famous <i>Thesaurus</i> at age 73</p> <p>18</p>	<p>1896: Birth of outsider artist Tressa "Grandma" Prisbrey, who built her famous recycled Bottle Village in Simi Valley, CA between ages 60 and 85</p> <p>19</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>
<p>CHINESE NEW YEAR</p> <p>22</p>	23	<p>1862: Birth of Edith Wharton who, at age 59, became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction</p> <p>24</p>	25	<p>1914: Birth of Marion Downs, who, at age 39, pioneered the first national infant hearing screening program</p> <p>26</p>	27	28
29	30	<p>1893: Birth of Freya Stark, famous explorer who wrote her first travel memoir at age 41 and her last one at 83</p> <p>31</p>				

Notes

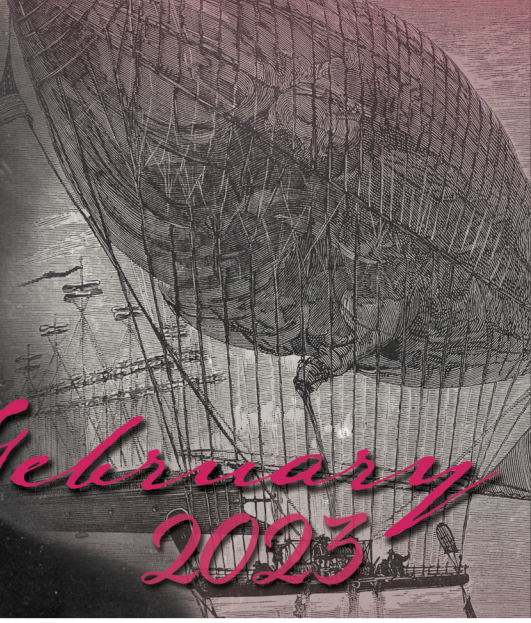
“To feel, and think, and learn—learn always: surely that is being alive and young in the real sense.” —Freya Stark

Jules Verne

wrote mediocre comic operas and sold stock before creating his famous tales. He published *Journey to the Center of the Earth* at 36 remained a stockbroker until age 42. Many view him as the “father of science fiction.”



February 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer</i></p>				1948: Birth of The Barefoot Contessa, Ina Garten, who analyzed nuclear policy before her Food Network debut at age 54	1907: Birth of James Michener, who started writing at age 40 and published over 40 books	
				1	2	3
Full Snow Moon ☉		1867: Birth of Laura Ingalls Wilder, who published her first <i>Little House on the Prairie</i> book at age 65	1828: Birth of Jules Verne, father of science fiction			4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1809: Birth of Charles Darwin, who published <i>On the Origins of Species</i> at age 50, after more than two decades of writing and research			1820: Birth of Susan B. Anthony, who was arrested at age 52 for voting illegally. Forty-eight years later, the U.S. granted women voting rights.			1931: Birth of Toni Morrison, a college professor who published her iconic first book, <i>The Bluest Eye</i> , at age 39
12	13	VALENTINE'S DAY	14	15	16	17
	New Moon ●	1927: Birth of humorist Erma Bombeck, who started her newspaper column at age 37 and published her first book at 40				1917: Birth of author Anthony Burgess, who published his first novel at age 39 and <i>The Clockwork Orange</i> at 45
19	PRESIDENTS DAY (U.S.)	20	MARDI GRAS	21	22	23
						24
						25
26	27	28				

Notes

“Your life is already artful—waiting, just waiting for you to make it art.” —Toni Morrison

Caroline Herschel

battled abuse and chronic illness to become the first woman to discover a comet. In 1787, at age 37, King George III put her on royal retainer, making Caroline the first professional female astronomer. She received the Astronomical Society's gold medal at age 77.



March 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer</i></p>				1919: Birth of athletic prodigy Olga Kotelko, who took up track and field in her 70s and broke records into her 90s	1893: Birth of artist Beatrice Wood, who took her first ceramics class at age 40 and plied her craft for sixty more years	
				1	2	3
		Full Worm Moon ☾	1859: Birth of Kenneth Grahame, who published <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> at age 48	1454: Birth of Amerigo Vespucci, who, at age 45, was the first European to recognize South America as it's own continent (not India)	1841: Birth of Ina Coolbrith, who was named California's first poet laureate at age 74	4
5	6	7	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8	8	9	10
1920: Birth of Rose Will Monroe, "Rosie the Riveter," who earned her pilot's license at age 50				1750: Birth of Caroline Herschel, the first professional female astronomer		
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (U.S.) 12	13	14	15	16	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17	18
		New Moon ●				1871: Birth of Frances Glessner Lee, who pioneered crime scene investigation (CSI) in her 50s
MOTHER'S DAY (UK) 19	SPRING EQUINOX 20	21	RAMADAN BEGINS 22	23	24	25
	1922: Birth of Dick King-Smith, who published <i>The Sheep-Pig</i> , which became the movie <i>Babe</i> , at age 61		1931: Birth of Ruth Flowers, also known as Mamy Rock, who became a celebrated nightclub DJ at age 78	1820: Birth of Anna Sewell, who finished <i>Black Beauty</i> at age 57		
26	27	28	29	30	CESAR CHAVEZ DAY 31	

Notes

"Now I say that with cruelty and oppression it is everybody's business to interfere when they see it." —Anna Sewell

John Muir

realized his calling as a naturalist at age 29 after an industrial accident almost blinded him.

He explored North America until he discovered Yosemite, his soul's home. At age 54, he founded the Sierra Club to protect it.



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on *Later Bloomer*

						1961: Birth of Susan Boyle who, at age 48, astounded the world with her singing voice on <i>Britain's Got Talent</i>
						1
1647: Birth of Maria Sybilla Merian, a botanical artist who journeyed to South America at age 52. Many now consider her the world's first ecologist.		1928: Birth of Maya Angelou—poet, author, actor, singer, civil rights leader—who wrote her first memoir <i>I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings</i> at age 41	Full Pink Moon ☉			1910: Birth of Harriet Doerr, who finished her Stanford BA in History at age 67 and published her first book at 74
2	3	4	PASSOVER BEGINS	5	6	7
	1827: Birth of Lew Wallace, the Civil War general who wrote <i>Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ</i> , at age 53		1947: Birth of Tom Clancy, who published <i>The Hunt for Red October</i> at age 37, after years as an insurance agent			1885: Birth of Isak Dinesen, who published <i>Out of Africa</i> at age 52
EASTER	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Daniel Defoe published <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> on this day in 1719, at age 59			New Moon ●	1838: Birth of John Muir, father of the U.S. National Park System
	16	17	18	19	20	21
						EARTH DAY 22
	23					
30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Notes

"We may encounter many defeats but we must never be defeated." —Maya Angelou

Mary Delany

created a new method of botanical illustration at age 72 using dried leaves and tissue paper. Many artists consider her the inventor of mixed media collage.



*Rosa gallica
The Red Rose*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer</i></p>		<p>1929: Birth of Joanna Macy, activist and religious scholar who earned her Ph.D at age 49 and published her first book five years later</p>	<p>1849: Birth of Berta Benz, who learned to drive at age 39, then made the world's first road trip</p>		<p>Full Flower Moon ☉</p>	
	MAY DAY	1	2	3 STAR WARS DAY	4 CINCO DE MAYO	5
						6
		<p>1920: Birth of Richard Adams, who wrote his first book, <i>Watership Down</i>, at age 52</p>				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>1700: Birth of Mary Granville Delany, who invented mixed media collage at age 72</p>					New Moon ☿	
MOTHER'S DAY (CAN/U.S.)	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>1844: Birth of Henri Rousseau, who didn't pick up a paint brush until he was nearly 40</p>						20
	21 VICTORIA DAY (CAN)	22	23	24	25	26
						27
<p>1908: Birth of Ian Fleming, who wrote his first book, <i>Casino Royale</i>, at age 45</p>			<p>1819: Birth of Walt Whitman, who published his final edition of <i>Leaves of Grass</i> at age 72</p>			
28 MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)	29	30	31			

Notes

“The most radical thing any of us can do at this time is to be fully present to what is happening in the world.” —Joanna Macy

Julia Margaret Cameron

received her first camera as a gift in 1863 at age 48 and soon turned professional. Critics disparaged her soft-focus portraits but she's now considered far ahead of her time.



June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer</i></p>					<p>1913: Birth of Barbara Pym, who first published at age 37, was rejected by publishers through her 50s, and enjoyed a spectacular come-back at age 64</p>	<p>Full Strawberry Moon ☉</p>
					1	2
<p>1937: Birth of Robert Fulghum, who published his first book, <i>All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten</i>, at 50</p>				<p>1957: Birth of Scott Adams of <i>Dilbert</i> fame, who became a full-time cartoonist at age 38</p>	<p>1932: Birth of Melissa Zink, who achieved artistic success in her 40s after her art teachers told her she had no talent 20 years earlier</p>	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>1815: Birth of Julia Margaret Cameron, portrait master who started at age 48</p>						
11	12	13	<p>FLAG DAY (U.S.)</p>	14	15	16
<p>New Moon ●</p>		<p>1913: Birth of Lilian Jackson Braun, author of <i>The Cat Who...</i> mysteries, which she published from age 53 to age 94</p>				
<p>FATHER'S DAY (U.S./UK)</p>	<p>JUNETEENTH</p>	20	<p>SUMMER SOLSTICE</p>	21	22	23
18	19					24
	<p>1910: Birth of Margaret Dunning, business woman and philanthropist, who received a scholarship to finish college at age 101</p>	<p>1912: Birth of E.R. Braithwaite, the school teacher who wrote his first book, <i>To Sir With Love</i>, at age 47</p>				
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Notes

"So long as we learn it doesn't matter who teaches us, does it? —E.R. Braithwaite

Beatrix Potter

originally studied mycology, but the Linnean Society rejected her work because of her gender.

At age 36, she published *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. In her 60s, she became an avid conservationist.



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

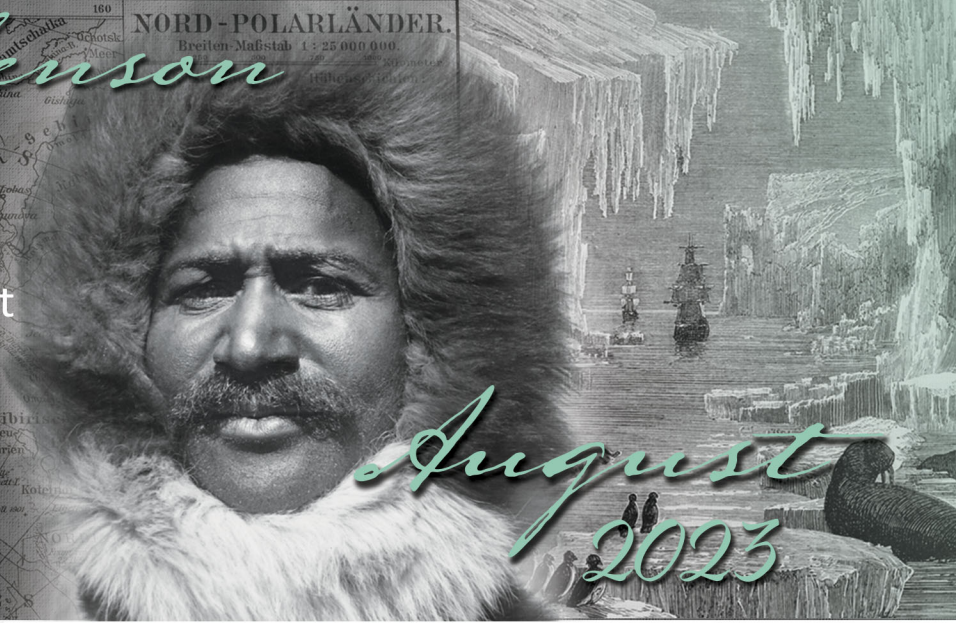
Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						CANADA DAY 1
	Full Buck Moon ☉					
2	3	INDEPENDENCE DAY (U.S.) 4	5	DALAI LAMA'S BIRTHDAY 6	7	8
1885: Birth of Mary O'Hara, who published <i>My Friend Flicka</i> at age 56			1895: Birth of Buckminster Fuller, a visionary twice expelled from Harvard who invented the geodesic dome at age 50			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	1917: Birth of Phyllis Diller, who began her comedy career in 1955 at age 38	● 1908: Birth of Mildred Norman, who called herself Peace Pilgrim and started a lifelong walk for non-violence at age 46. She was still going at 73 when she passed away.	18	19	20	21
16	17					22
1888: Birth of Raymond Chandler, who published his first Philip Marlowe novel, <i>The Big Sleep</i> , at age 51	1930: Birth of Sister Madonna Buder who, at age 82, became the oldest woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon		1897: Birth of Paul Gallico, a sports writer who became famous for his children's book, <i>The Snow Goose</i> , written at age 44		1866: Birth of Beatrix Potter, who, in 1997, received a posthumous apology from the Linnean Study for for rejecting her study of mushrooms	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

"The more you reason the less you create." —Raymond Chandler

Matthew Henson

was born to black sharecroppers a year after the Civil War ended. At age 24, he joined Robert Peary's first Arctic expedition. At 43, on their seventh attempt, he cleared Peary's way to the North Pole, becoming the first non-native to reach it.



August 2023

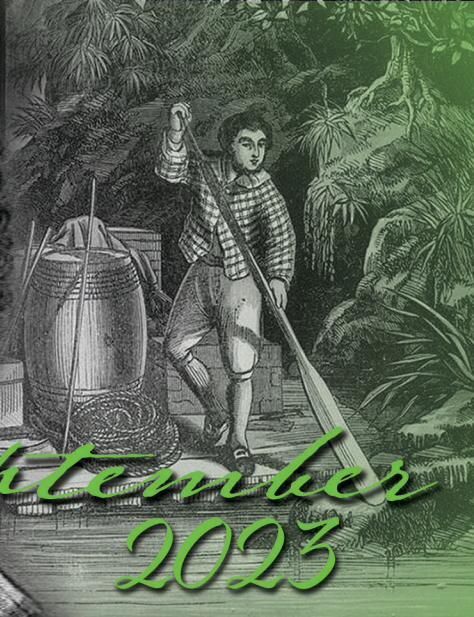
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer</i></p>		<p>On this day in 1786, 36-year-old Caroline Herschel became the first woman to discover a comet</p>		<p>1920: Birth of Dame P.D. James, who published the first of many well-loved mysteries at age 42 but didn't quit her day job until 59</p>		
		1	2	3	4	5
		<p>1866: Birth of explorer Matthew Henson, who, at age 43, became the first non-native person to reach the North Pole</p>	<p>1924: Birth of artist and dancer Marta Becket, who created Amargosa Opera House in Death Valley at age 43 and performed there for almost 50 years</p>	<p>1909: Birth of Leo Fender, who created his famous Stratocaster at age 41, after careers in accounting and electronics</p>	<p>1921: Birth of Alex Haley, who published his iconic book, <i>Roots</i> at age 55</p>	<p>1948: Birth of Sue Monk Kidd, who published <i>The Sacred Life of Bees</i> at age 54</p>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		<p>1912: Birth of the inimitable Julia Child, who published her first cookbook at age 49 and landed her famed TV show at age 51</p>	<p>1920: Birth of beat poet Charles Bukowski, who first saw publication at age 40 but remained a postal worker until age 49</p>			<p>1689: Birth of Samuel Richardson, credited with writing the first English romance novel at age 51</p>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		<p>1949: Birth of Diana Nyad, who, at age 64, became the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida</p>				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>1939: Birth of travel writer William Least Heat-Moon, who wrote his first book, <i>Blue Highways</i>, at age 43</p>			<p>Blue Moon ☾</p>			
27	28	29	30	31		

Notes

"We are far from irrelevant at age 60...This should be the prime of our lives." —Diana Nyad

Daniel Defoe

went bankrupt at age 32 selling wool, wrote political pamphlets until imprisoned for slander, and turned his pen to fiction at age 59. The result was *Robinson Crusoe*, one of the most-popular novels of all time.



September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1875: Birth of Edgar Rice Burroughs, who sold pencil sharpeners before publishing <i>Tarzan</i> at age 36. At 66, he became the oldest WWII correspondent.	
				1860: Birth of Grandma Moses, who took up painting at age 77 and had at spectacular 25-year career		
3	LABOR DAY (U.S./CAN)	4	5	6	7	8
			1660: Birth of Daniel Defoe, author of <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> and <i>Moll Flanders</i>	New Moon ●	1890: Birth of best-selling mystery novelist Agatha Christie, who became an archaeologist in her 40s	9
10	PATRIOT DAY	11	12	13	14	15
			1918: Birth of Peg Phillips, who started acting in her late 60s. She's best known as Ruth-Anne Miller on <i>Northern Exposure</i> .		1958: Birth of Andrea Bocelli, a former lawyer who started his classical singing career at age 36	16
17	RESPECT FOR AGED DAY (JAPAN)	18	19	20	21	22
					AUTUMN EQUINOX	23
					1547: Baptism of former soldier Miguel de Cervantes, who wrote <i>Don Quixote</i> at age 58	
YOM KIPPUR BEGINS	24	25	26	27	28	29
						30

Notes

“Destiny has a lot to do with it, but so do you. You have to persevere, you have to insist.” —Andrea Bocelli

Alexandra David-Neel

trekked in disguise through a fierce Himalayan winter to become the first Western woman into Lhasa, Tibet in 1924 at age 56. She died 45 years later, after writing more than 30 books about her lifetime of adventure.



October
2023

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer

1879: Birth of attorney Wallace Stevens, who won the Pulitzer for Poetry at age 75 while vice-president of the Hartford Accident & Indemnity Co.

1916: Birth of veterinarian James Herriot, who wrote *All Creatures Great and Small* at age 57

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New Moon ●

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1850: Birth of teacher and famous mountaineer Annie Smith Peck, infamous for summiting The Matterhorn at age 45 in pants (the horror!)

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21

1868: Birth of explorer Alexandra David-Neel, who renewed her passport at age 100 in anticipation of her next adventure

1941: Birth of author William Gay, a carpenter who wrote his first short story at 15, but wasn't published until age 57

Full Hunter's Moon ○

22

23

24

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28

1954: Birth of author Lee Child, who started his bestselling Jack Reacher series after being made redundant at age 41

29

30 HALLOWEEN

31

Notes

"To one who knows how to look and feel, every moment of this free wandering life is an enchantment." —Alexandra David-Neel

LaterBloomer.com

Bram Stoker

spent 20 years as manager to England's most famous (and narcissistic) actor, Henry Irving, before writing *Dracula* at age 50. One biographer thinks the novel is Stoker's revenge on his soul-sucking boss.



November 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer</i></p>						1950: Birth of author Charles Frazier, who published his first novel, <i>Cold Mountain</i> , at age 47
			DAY OF THE DEAD 1	ALL SOULS' DAY 2	3	4
			1847: Birth of Bram Stoker, who wrote his first novel at age 43 and <i>Dracula</i> at age 50			REMEMBRANCE DAY (CANADA)
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (U.S.) 5	6	7	8	9	10	VETERANS' DAY (U.S.) 11
	New Moon ●					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			1819: Birth of Mary Ann Evans, better known as George Eliot, who wrote her first novel, <i>Adam Bede</i> , at age 40			1895: Birth of Helen Hooven Santmyer, published her best-selling epic "...And the Ladies of the Club" at age 87
19	20	21	22	THANKSGIVING (U.S.) 23	24	25
1911: Birth of Robert Marchand, whom Guinness recognized as the world's oldest competitive cyclist at age 105	1920: Birth of Buster Merryfield, a former bank manager who broke into acting at age 59		1918: Birth of Madeleine L'Engle, who wrote <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> at age 42	1937: Birth of former stutterer David Seidler, who won an Oscar for <i>The King's Speech</i> at age 70		
26	27	28	29	30		

Notes

"Time—our youth—it never really goes, does it?
It is all held in our minds." —Helen Hooven Santmyer

LaterBloomer.com

Mary Somerville

studied math and astronomy, despite her first husband's vehement opposition. At age 51, she translated Laplace's *Mechanism of the Heavens*, which brought her accolades and launched a 40-year career in science.



December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Click on "red letter" days to read that person's full story on Later Bloomer</i></p>						<p>1949: Birth of explorer Sue Hendrickson, who discovered the largest and most complete T. Rex skeleton at age 40, and never studied paleontology</p>
						1 2
<p>1857: Birth of Joseph Conrad, a sailor who published his first novel at age 38 and <i>Heart of Darkness</i> at age 42</p>						
3	4	5	6	HANUKKAH BEGINS	7	8 9
<p>1903: Birth of Mary Norton, who wrote <i>Bedknob and Broomstick</i> at age 39 and <i>The Borrowers</i> at 49</p>	<p>1921: Birth of English actress Liz Smith, who started in her 40s and appeared in <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i></p>	New Moon ●				
10	11	FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE	12	13	14	15 16
<p>1916: Birth of Penelope Fitzgerald, who wrote her first novel at age 61 and won the Booker for her third at age 63</p>			<p>1939: Birth of actress Kathryn Joosten, who started in her 40s and appeared in <i>Desperate Housewives</i></p>			<p>1902: Birth of Norman Maclean, who wrote <i>A River Runs Through It</i> at age 74</p>
17	18	19	20	WINTER SOLSTICE	21	22 23
24		<p>1780: Birth of Mary Somerville, "Queen of 19th century science"</p>	○			
31	CHRISTMAS 25	FIRST DAY OF KWANZAA	26	27	28	29 30

Notes

"Begin somewhere; you cannot build a reputation on what you intend to do." —Liz Smith