



The Rocket Review

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The History Of Mother's Day

By: Zak Carter

The History

Mother's Day is a fantastic holiday to celebrate and honors some of our favorite people. This holiday has not only been around for a very long time, but is celebrated by different cultures in many different ways.

The holiday was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and was made an official US holiday in 1914. Jarvis created the holiday to memorialize the death of her own mother. Soon after, once the holiday became more commercialized, she wanted the holiday rescinded, as she did not like its popularization. This attempt to rescind the holiday was not successful however, and she later died in a sanitarium.

Before she died, Jarvis created Mother's Day work clubs to teach local women how they were supposed to raise children. This was important during the civil war as many people were divided, so these clubs acted as a unifying force. In 1868 Jarvis created Mother's Friendship Day, where they gathered former Union and Confederate soldiers in order to reconcile the two sides.

Ways Mother's Day is Celebrated

The traditional way to celebrate Mother's Day is with flowers, cards, candy, and various other gifts, but there are many other ways that people celebrate the holiday. In the UK, Mother's Day is known as Mothering Sunday, and children would give their mothers Simnel cakes. Lent was also put aside for this holiday so the celebration could continue. However, as times have changed, the UK has also begun celebrating Mother's Day in a similar manner to the US.

In Brazil, Mother's Day is a very celebrated holiday rivaling Christmas. There will be special children's performances and church gatherings along with large barbecues.

In Germany, Mother's Day is also known as Muttertag. The giving of Mother's Day cards is very popular in Germany and during WWII this holiday was very important. It was then made a day to acknowledge mothers for producing children. Medals were awarded based on how



many children were in the household, but the day changed to a more softer feel following the war, with the celebrations being more along the line of US celebrations.

The Kentucky Derby

By Sal DiMaggio

Every May, people across the country gather in front of their TVs- or, for a lucky few, at Churchill Downs itself- to watch the Kentucky Derby. This event is the biggest horse race of the year. Huge bets are made and people glue their eyes to their screens just to watch a bunch of people ride horses for a minute or two.

But how did this tradition begin? Well, it was started by Meriwether Lewis Clark, Jr. (the grandson of the famous explorer, William Clark) in 1875. He was inspired by horse races in Europe and decided to build Churchill Downs on land he had inherited. 10,000 people watched the first Kentucky Derby. Fifteen three-year-old thoroughbred horses raced one-and-a-half miles. The winning horse, Aristides, was ridden by jockey Oliver Lewis, who was African-American, as were many of the early jockeys. The winning time was 2:37.75.

As the years went on, there were less and less black jockeys due to racial jealousy and the distance of the race was shortened to a mile and a quarter, as the racing community had complaints about it. Also, twenty horses now race instead of fifteen. The fastest time ever in the history of the race is 1:59.40, by horse Secretariat, ridden by jockey Ron Turcotte, in 1973. The first female jockey to win the Derby, Diane Crump, won in 1970.

Betting is also a huge part of the tradition. There have been numerous stories about people becoming rich overnight because of the race, including a woman in Texas who bet \$18 and won \$1.2 million when she bet on the winning horse Justify in 2018, as well as betting on other long odds for other races. But the biggest winner in this race will be Churchill Downs, the host of the race. Churchill Downs makes an estimated \$100 million each year from the event.

As of this writing, the horses and jockeys participating in this race haven't been announced, but I'm still sure it'll be a great race, as it is every year. So get ready to sit in front of your TVs on May 3rd and 4th and watch as an American tradition takes place again.

International Workers Day (aka May Day)

By Alisa Valdez



Today is a day all about you. Yes, I'm talking to you the person reading this right now. Whether you work part-time, full-time, or even if you do small jobs from time to time; this is still all about you. International Workers Day is a celebration of labourers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labour movement which occurs every year on May 1st. May 1st was chosen to be International Workers' Day to pay tribute to the 1886 Haymarket affair in Chicago where there was a general strike for the eight-hour workday. Workers make up a big majority of our society. Millennials are in the working class to make money whether its to get out of their home situation, a trip, car, school, or whatever they need the money for. Even for adults, they work hard every single day to keep a roof over their head, provide clothes for themselves (and or others), making sure they stay healthy and eat properly, etc. It's time to give yourself a pat on the back for all the hard work you've done. Even though we don't celebrate 'Labour Day' until September it's still good to go and treat yourself for all the hard work you did. Here's to you all.

Cinco de Mayo

By: Madelyn Primiano

In 1861, Benito Juárez, a lawyer, was elected president of Mexico. During this time, Mexico was in great debt and declared a temporary moratorium or embargo on these foreign debts. These financial problems stemmed from internal strife, leading to their payments to the European governments of France, Spain, and Britain. By April of 1862, the three governments sent naval forces to Veracruz, Mexico, in demand of these payments. Britain and Spain withdrew their forces after an easy negotiation, while France remained. Lead by Napoleon III, France saw this as a good



opportunity to establish a monarchy out of the Mexican territory. Late in 1861, a well-armed French force drove President Juárez and his government to retreat. With success now nearing close, General Charles Latrille de Lorencez lead the 6,000 French troops to attack Puebla de Los Angeles in east-central Mexico. Juárez, from the safety of his new headquarters, sent a small and poorly supplied army lead by General Ignacio Zaragoza to fight against the French. In the end, Mexico won and the French left empty-handed. This battle began on May 5th, 1862, which is now known as the Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla. Or more famously known as Cinco de Mayo.

Cinco de Mayo (The Fifth of May) is a mainly Mexican celebrated holiday, but it's celebrations and traditions have also spread into various parts of the United States. The holiday is celebrated through various parades and dances. There are different foods and traditions that are also a way of showing pride in the Mexican heritage. For Cinco de Mayo, people even reenact the battle itself that the holiday is centered around. Contrary to popular belief, Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico's fourth of July. Mexico's Independence Day is on September 16th. Cinco de Mayo is only celebrated to remember the unlikely win the Mexicans got during the Battle of Puebla.

The Yankees Season So Far

By: Matthew Fedorco

The Yankees season so far has certainly been a rocky one. First of all, they have piled up even more on their already crowded injury list. In fact, almost half their MLB roster is on the sidelines right now. Before the season even started, shortstop Didi Gregorius, center fielder Aaron Hicks, and starting pitcher Luis Severino all went down with injuries. Then star power hitter Giancarlo Stanton tweaked his shoulder just a few games into the season while swinging and missing, something he does quite often. Next, third baseman Miguel Andujar also caught the

bug in the shoulder area, and he was even considering surgery on his labrum which would have ended his season. The latest injury is another big power bat in catcher Gary Sanchez, who was looking like the best hitter in the lineup at the time. He looked like he couldn't hit a beach ball last year, with the few times he did connect being home runs. But this year he was putting the ball in play a lot more, which lead to more singles and doubles to supplement the long ball. Tack on reliever Dellin Betances, first baseman Greg Bird, and shortstop Troy Tulowitzki to the injury list and you have one depleted roster. Even Aaron Judge has been lackluster thus far, with the few times he has hit home runs only coming when the Yankees already had a big lead. Luke Voit, first baseman and last year's breakout star, has also struggled quite a bit at times. He has certainly come up with some big hits to jumpstart the offense at times, but there are other times where he just strikes out way too much, something that occurred rarely last year. There is still hope he can be more consistent at putting the ball in play as the season moves on. It is no secret leadoff hitter Brett Gardner has continued to regress with age in the past couple of years, but it looks like the decline of his play has gotten even steeper this year. He has been doing a bang up job in center field in the absence of Aaron Hicks, but his hitting has gotten bad to the point where Aaron Boone has to consider moving him down in the lineup. Dare I say, move him out of the lineup altogether when Hicks comes back. The reason for this has been one of the few bright spots so far this year, Clint Frazier.

When Gardner moved to center, somebody had to take over his spot in left field. The Yankees called up top prospect, Clint Frazier. After a bit of a rocky start at the plate, he has become one of the most consistent hitters in the lineup. He looks like a completely different hitter from the very start of the season. This sudden change came one night in the late innings

against the Orioles when he connected with a three run bomb to left field to give the Yankees a come from behind victory. Since, this clutch moment sent a surge of confidence in him, and he is now second on the team in batting average behind second baseman D.J. Lemahieu, who is probably the MVP of the team so far. He doesn't hit towering moon shots like Judge but he is by far the most consistent player on the team. You rarely see a game where he doesn't have a base hit or two in the box score. Gleyber Torres has been pretty solid at the plate so far, but as I predicted, he is a very shaky shortstop. The Yankees tried their best to keep him at second base by having Troy Tulowitzki start at shortstop. But once again Tulo can't seem to stay on the field, so Gleyber had to move to shortstop. This was a blessing in disguise, as that brought Lemahieu into an everyday starting role. As I said before, he has been by far the best player on the team so far. The Yankees starters have been a lot better this year, with new acquisition James Paxton looking like he is coming into his own after pitching an 8 inning, 2 hit shutout against the rival Red Sox. The bullpen needs to be more consistent though, as they have given up the lead late in games on several occasions.

The Yankees start has not been exactly what they wanted, as it has been plagued by injuries and some guys underperforming. There have been some huge bright spots in veteran D.J. Lemahieu and young prospect Clint Frazier. It is still early in the year though, so they still have plenty of time to get back on track in time for some major players to get healthy again.

National Missing Children's Day
By Miechel Krulik

Not many people know but May 25th is National Missing Children's Day (NMCD) and was started in 1983 by Ronald Reagan. Every year the US Department of Justice honors NMCD by honoring the efforts of agencies, organizations, and individuals who protect children. Missing



Children's Day is dedicated to supporting parents, guardians, caregivers, and others who are concerned with the well being and safekeeping of children. NMCD serves as a reminder to keep looking for the children who are missing, and it honors the people who are helping to find them. In order to support this effort the Department of Justice created a poster contest for fifth graders to take part in, the poster has to include the theme "Bringing our Children Home". The Department of Justice teams up with organizations and agencies every year and gives out awards to recognize the people who are doing extraordinary work to unite missing children back to their families. If you would like to look at the poster submissions from 2018 [click here!](#)

The Moms of Journalism

By: Everyone!

For Mother's day, the wonderful writers and editors behind every article have decided to write about our wonderful mothers! So if you are any of the wonderful mothers being spoken about sit back relax and enjoy!

Zakariah Carter

Since Mother's Day is right around the corner, I want to show my mom how much I appreciate her. I appreciate my Mom because of all of the things she has done for me in the past up to now. There are still so many things I remember doing with her that make me smile to this day.

When I was younger, we went on a family trip to Disney. This trip was amazing and brings back very fond memories. During that trip, my Mom bought me a hat that had pins stuck to the sides of it. I loved that hat and still have it to this day. As we went along the trip, I noticed that one of the pins in my hat was gone and I became very sad. We continued along the day and just when I thought things couldn't get any better, my Mom found



the pin for me. We then went out to eat and had a great time, which I wouldn't have been able to do without my Mom.

Another reason why I love and appreciate my mom is because she is always there for me, even through thick and thin. Right when things get tough, I can always count on my mom to turn to and I know she will help me out. She has supported me through everything and I can't thank her enough for that.

There have been many enjoyable times that wouldn't have been able to happen without my mom, which is why I love her so much.

Sal Dimaggio

I'll be the first to admit it: my relationship with my mom isn't perfect. We have more than our fair share of arguments, and more often than not you can hear one of us screaming from a block away. World War Three seems to break out every single day. But that doesn't mean that I don't love my mom. Yes, we may fight every single day of our lives, but we both care for each other deep down in our heart of hearts. But what I fail to recognize so often is how much my mom does for me. She has a life and problems of her own, but yet she can somehow find time to clean the house, pay the bills, go grocery shopping, be my personal Uber drive, feed me, and so much more. What's more, she also does this for my two other brothers as well. As Mother's Day is right around the corner, it really makes me think about how lucky I am to have the mother I have. I can be the most unappreciative, selfish and arrogant person at times, but yet my mom puts up with me 24/7. I sometimes wonder how she does it. My mom is the most selfless person I know. She just keeps on giving, no matter what. And to be honest, I haven't given much back. I just keep on taking what she gives me as if I deserve it. But since I haven't done anything for

her, I really don't. I need to start to give back and make sure my mom knows how much I care for her, and how much I appreciate what she does for me. I need to show her that she is the most important person in my life. So thank you, Mom, for all that you do for me. I may not be perfect (far from it, actually), but I will try to make sure that I repay you for all that you have done for me. You are the one who does everything for me, and from now on I will try to do the same for you. Happy Mother's Day.

Madelyn Primiano

To all the moms reading this, I must say, I'm sorry but my mom is the best mom. She deserves this title for various reasons. And I'm not talking about the cliché "she takes care of me and makes me feel better when I'm sick". She's a great mom for shaping me into the person I am now. Parents have a large impact on their children, and I believe my mom's impact on me is a great one. She's taught me how to deal with various situations I've encountered. She explains how to remain calm, reasonable, and logical during times of stress. She understands the things I have a difficult time explaining. My mom won't question it when I randomly just need to cry or rant about anything. She supports me with everything I do and will encourage anything new I'd like to try. Of course, she will sway me from things she'd prefer me not doing. But in the end, it's all for the best. She's also very funny and we constantly make each other laugh. Hanging out with my mom is always a fun time because she always manages to make me smile. From driving all over the east coast to just watching tv, my mom is able to make anything fun and enjoyable. I love my mom. She's the most wonderful and incredible mom there is and ever was. I'm lucky to have my mom. She really is the greatest mom in the world.

Miechel Krulik

To say that my mom is amazing would be an understatement. My mom in my eyes is like a superhuman. She always listens to me, she takes me to the doctor when I'm not feeling well, and she provides shelter food, and also her love. My mom can tell when I have a bad day and if I'm just feeling under the weather. I can always talk to her when I'm having a hard time with school, even though she doesn't understand what high school is like nowadays she really does try her best to understand what I'm dealing with. My mom also knows that when I get stressed I tend to get... How do I say this? Snappy, irritable and many other words that I could use to describe myself. I have no clue how she deals with it but she usually tells me to take a break or we go for a drive somewhere. I give my mom a lot of credit she has to deal with me and my sister (which by the way does not live in the US), she deals with my issues and problem on top of my sister's college/ life issues. I know I don't say it enough but I am really grateful for all that she does for me and I love her for that.

Matthew Fedorco

To start off, I don't know a single darn thing about women. Then again, who really does. But the one thing in my life that I have learned is that women, and men too, want to be desired. They want to be told they are beautiful and they want to be noticed. And girls understand this need that one another have, so they tell each other how good they look in their pictures because they have that same want of being told they look pretty. Maybe I'm just rambling on here and going off topic but this is kind of a weird subject for me to talk about. It might sound weird, but it kind of reminds me of my mom. I know she gets sad because she doesn't look the same that she always has because she is getting older. She looks on Facebook and sees all these other people posting pictures, and yet she is too afraid to post anything because she thinks she is too

old and ugly. She looks at younger pictures of herself and wishes she was that pretty again. And that gets me so sad man, it tears at my heart you know. She is so beautiful, she really is. I wanna tell her that every day, but I know she will dismiss it as me trying to be nice. I think about how much of an amazing woman she is and I can't believe how someone so good can have such a low self-esteem. She has dedicated her life to my brother and I, and I just can't be more grateful. And there are times when I mistreat her because I deal with my own problems and she is so nice and understanding that I take advantage of her. I think she knows that anything wrong I have done to her really has nothing to do with her, and is just me being an ass because I have crappy days and get frustrated. I think about how my dad and her have slowly been drifting away for as long as I could remember, and that gets me so sad too. Like how could my dad not love this beautiful woman that would walk through hell for any of us. Maybe it's got something to do with him being tired of everything, or maybe they just grew apart. It's one of those things where you can't really comprehend what it is unless you've experienced it. I have never seen my dad kiss my mother, I've never heard them say they loved one another, and I've never really seen them be truly happy to be around one another. And again, I think about how unfair that is to her. It's something I've always known wasn't right even when I was a kid, that parents just didn't act like that together. I know if my brother and I were never here, there isn't a shot in hell they would still be together. Honestly, I don't know which scenario is better. I feel like such a burden sometimes you know. It would crash google docs if I told you how many times she has bent over backwards for me, so I'm not even going to bother. I just want her to know how thankful I am to have her and how beautiful I think she is.

Tyler Herbert

My mom had me 18 years ago. She was in college and working as a waitress. Very similar to what I'm doing now, but plus a kid. But even as a kid, even though she was dealing with all the other woes of life. I never felt neglected. Eventually her, my dad, my brother, and I moved out of our apartment into a house. And my mom went back to college to get her masters in speech pathology. She took more classes than I believe anyone in the history of Kean University. She did all of this with 2 kids. All while doing everything else she decided to run and a few marathons. Just for fun. She finished all of them. In conclusion, it couldn't have been easy raising me and my brother. But my mom found the time to do it, where most parents wouldn't. She's taught me to be kind and hard work brings you anything you want. Now today she's a speech therapist, special needs advocate, a mom, and much more. She's come a long way from it being just me and her in my grandparent's basement. I'm very proud of her. And wouldn't change anything.

Alisa Valdez

Everyone claims that they have the "best mom ever" but I'm here to say that I truly do believe that my mother is the best person out there. My mom grew up in Harlem, New York and she lived in a single parent household with my Abuela who came from Puerto Rico and didn't know how to speak any English. My mom, her older brother, and her younger sister all had to help around the house 24/7 so she never really had much time to hang out but when she did she mostly stayed close to home. She went through a lot of hardships growing up but she never let that hold her back from what she



wanted to do.

She even almost joined the navy but a little thing called love happened and she ended up not enlisting but she was able to marry my dad. I have to hand it to my mom she is a trooper for putting up with my dad's antics at times. After marrying my dad they moved to a nice little apartment in Grant City, Staten Island, New York and that's where my family started to grow bigger. Unlike my older brother I wasn't really planned, I was more like an accident even though my parents would never admit it but I think it's funny, but no one supports me more than my mom and for every accomplishment, she's always been right there. I'm lucky enough to not only have a great mom but to also have her as my best friend, sometimes I think I gossip to her more than my actual friends but her advice is always good and sometimes really funny. Even though we buttheads at times and disagree on a lot of things I still wouldn't trade her for the world, everything I hope to be when I grow up I hope I can be because of my mom. I don't think I will ever meet someone who is as determined, smart, funny, wise, caring, badass, sarcastic, or real than my mother. Today this is dedicated to you mom. Thank you for all that you do and for raising me into the person I am today, I hope one day I can buy you your dream house in New Mexico and we can sit on your front porch and I'll look at you and say "I told you I'd get you that house." Until then start designing the house. Happy Mother's day mom I love you.

