

## What's the Buzz at Reformation?

July 7, 2019

July 3	Weds.	Red, White, and Boom!
July 4	Thurs	Independence Day
July 13	Sat.	Men's Group
July 15	Mon.	Ronald McDonald House
July 28	Sun	Christmas in July service

### Ignace Paderewski, musician and statesman (1860-1941)

Ignace (also called Ignatz and Ignacy) Jan Paderewski was born in Poland into a well-off family. His mother died when he was still a baby, so he was sent to live with relatives, as was often done in those days. When his father was arrested as a political prisoner, Ignace was adopted by an aunt.

He studied music at the Warsaw Conservatory, and taught there for a while after graduation. Sadly, within one year, his wife died. In 1881, he moved to Vienna to study with the famous Theodor Leschetizky, and by 1897 Ignace was so famous as a concert pianist that after hearing him, Moriz Rosenthal quipped, "Yes, he plays well, I suppose, but he's no Paderewski." Audiences loved his virtuosity, and ladies loved his thick, wild mane of hair. He married again in 1899, this time to a baroness, but she passed away a few years later.

Paderewski moved to California and bought acreage in San Luis Obispo County, where he planted Zinfandel grapes that are made into wine by York Mountain Winery, one of California's most noted wineries.

Always looking to help others, Paderewski established two music contests, one for American-born composers, and another in Leipzig, Germany. He also became active in promoting Polish independence, and in 1919 he became Poland's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Despite his vast popularity in the concert hall, he often had to deal with people who did not want to negotiate. After he signed the Treaty of Versailles, his political popularity nosedived, so he resigned from political office soon after and went back to music, composing piano works such as the famous Minuet (which he grew to regret after hearing many incompetent pianists butcher it). and an opera, *Manru*, which is probably the only Polish opera ever performed in the United States. He played to a sold-out crowd in Madison Square Garden and traveled the world, also living in Switzerland for a time.

Sources:

Wikipedia, "Ignacy Paderewski."

Victor.library.ucsb.edu, "Ignace Paderewski."

Biography.com, "Ignacy Paderewski."

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## **Chicken and Kimchee Lettuce Wraps (adapted from *Chatelaine*, July 2016)**

Time: 10 minutes

Serves 4

**1/4 c. apple cider vinegar**

**2 T. honey**

**1 1/2 c. kimchee (homemade or from a jar)**

**1 rotisserie chicken, skin and bones removed, meat shredded**

**8 to 12 iceberg lettuce leaves**

**1 T. toasted sesame seeds or roasted cashews for garnish (optional)**

In a large bowl, whisk vinegar and honey. Add kimchee and chicken. Toss.

Scoop kimchee mixture onto lettuce leaves. Garnish with sesame seeds or cashews if you like.

## What's the Buzz at Reformation?

July 14, 2019

### Happy Birthday, Van Cliburn! (1934-2013)

Van Cliburn, born Harvey Levan Cliburn, Jr., in Shreveport, Louisiana, was the most famous classical pianist in America. His mom, who was an accomplished pianist, noticed his musical talent when he began trying to copy one of her students at age 3. From that point on, she taught him every single day until she grew too infirm to continue. Her solid teaching method, including singing every piece, should get a lot of the credit for Van's rich tone and elegant sense of timing.

At age 6, his family moved to Texas. When he was 12, as the result of winning a statewide piano competition, Cliburn made his professional debut with the Houston Symphony, one of the top flight of orchestras in the US. At age 17, he entered The Juilliard School in New York City, studying with Rosina Lhevinne, one of the greats of the Russian school of piano playing, still noted today. He was a night owl, often practicing until 5am.

When the first Tchaikovsky Competition began in 1958, it was during the Cold War. The competition was designed to show Soviet superiority in music, but when Van Cliburn played the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto and The Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto #2 (both long-standing favorites by Russian composers), the audience gave him an eight-minute standing ovation. Nikita Krushchev was asked by the awards committee what to do, saying, "Is he the best? Then give him the prize!".

Back in the United States, the press went wild. The tall young redhead was treated to a ticker-tape parade in New York City (the only classical musician to receive this honor), and subsequently a prestigious piano competition was established in his name in 1962. His career took him around the world, and his recording of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto was the first classical album ever to go platinum. He performed for every US president since 1958. He was the recipient of both the US Medal of Freedom and the Russian Order of Friendship, the highest civilian honors in these two countries.

Cliburn gave a touching speech after being honored: "I appreciate more than you will ever know that you are honoring me, but the thing that thrills me the most is that you are honoring classical music. Because I am only one of many. ***I'm only a witness and a messenger***" [italics mine]. Humble to the end, he attended the local Baptist

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church whenever he was in town, and never hesitated to help aspiring musicians, even me! Here's the story:

When I was a kid, Cliburn played in our small town of St. Joseph, Michigan. Because I felt sick to my stomach and the concert was in the local high school auditorium, my mom snuck me into the green room which served as his dressing room just before intermission. When Cliburn came in, instead of being indignant or snooty (or horrified that he was being introduced to a sick kid), he asked about my dream of becoming a pianist, and generously gave me lasting inspiration. Thank you, Van Cliburn!

Sources: *Wikipedia*: "Van Cliburn".

*Biography.com*: "Van Cliburn".

*Youtubecom*: 1962 recording of the Tchaikovsky Concerto mvt. III.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.

It turns what we have into enough,

It turns denial into acceptance,

Chaos into order,

Confusion into clarity.

It can turn a meal into a feast,

a house into a home,

a stranger into a friend.

Gratitude makes sense of our past,

brings peace for today,

and creates a vision for tomorrow.

~ Melody Beattie, *The Language of Letting Go*

## What's the Buzz at Reformation?

July 21, 2019

### John James Audubon (1785-1851)

John James Audubon is most famous as an American painter of birds. He was also a naturalist and ornithologist (studier of birds), both of which enhanced his artwork. A few years ago, the Hawk Gallery in downtown Columbus had a copy of his folio, each page of which was about 2 feet tall and 4 feet wide. My mom and I were amazed at the amount of detail, not only in the portrayal of the birds, but in the habitat. You could look at a painting and tell what part of the country it showed by looking at trees or other plants, or sometimes the buildings and landscape.

Audubon's father ran a sugar plantation in Santo Domingo (now Haiti). The little boy was named Jean-Jacques, but soon the family moved to Nantes, France. As a well-off, handsome, and popular youngster, Audubon played the flute and violin, and was also taught to ride, dance, and fence. His "frenzy", though, was birds. He loved their flight and plumage, and always noticed when they migrated to and fro. When he boarded a ship for the United States at age 18, he changed his first and middle names to John James.

In the United States, in addition to looking after his father's interests in mining for lead (a crucial ingredient in the making of bullets), he studied birds. He was the first to attach leg bands to birds, which proved to him that those particular birds return to the same nesting spots every year.

In 1805, Audubon risked conscription in France, returning there to ask his father's permission to marry his longtime American sweetheart Lucy Bakewell. While there, he studied taxidermy and how to carry out scientific research. His return trip was marked by an attack by pirates, but his cache of coins was not discovered.

Back in the US, Audubon continued his studies and opened a nature museum, featuring birds, snakes, fish, raccoons, opossums, other animals, and eggs. His father sold off the mine, though, so Audubon had to find another way to earn a living (and convince Lucy's father that he was a good prospect for marriage). Living in a log cabin, he supported the family by hunting and fishing, making portraits, giving drawing lessons, and was co-owner of a general store in Louisville, Kentucky. Living close to the Ohio River, he claimed to have met Daniel Boone, and also learned the ways of Osage and Shawnee native Americans.

Audubon was riding horseback in Missouri when the 1811 New Madrid earthquake struck with a magnitude estimated from 8.4 to 8.8 on the Richter scale. He later wrote that his horse suddenly started groaning, spreading out his forelegs as if afraid of falling. At first, Audubon thought the horse was deathly ill, but then the ground began heaving, with trees and shrubs becoming uprooted.

In 1812, Audubon became an American citizen, and opened a flour mill in Kentucky. He planned to move to New Orleans, but the War of 1812 started. In 1819, he went bankrupt and was thrown into jail for debts. Once out of jail, Audubon continued to paint, having made up his mind to find and paint all the birds of North America. For a short time, he worked as a naturalist and taxidermist for a museum in Cincinnati.

At Oakley Plantation in Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, Audubon landed the perfect job teaching drawing. This job gave him plenty of time to do field studies, research, and paint. The place is now the Audubon State Historical Site. He also studied painting and developed his talent, learning oil painting in 1823. For his book, *Birds of America*, he worked rapidly, sometimes one painting per day.

In 1826, he took his work to Europe to have it engraved. After at least 14 years, he had put together this work and managed to raise \$115,000 (over \$2 million today) to get the huge book printed. The English in particular went crazy over the so-called Double Elephant folio, and one Frenchman claimed that it transported one to the New World. Audubon also sold copies of individual paintings from the folio; the originals are owned by the New York Historical Society, but his widow Lucy sold all the original copper plates for scrap metal. Over 1000 copies of the smaller "octavo" edition were also sold. The last time a large copy was sold by Sotheby's Auction House, it brought in over \$11 million.

Although he was granted awards and honors, this man just wanted to work, not only to support his family, but to educate the world about the birds he so loved. Audubon kept working, making expeditions out west to look for more bird species until 1848, when he had to stop work due to what may have been Alzheimer's. Through the books, family of museums and parks in Louisiana and , bird sanctuary in Audubon PA, and the Audubon Society, he continues to inspire and enlighten us.

## What's the Buzz at Reformation?

July 28, 2019

### Dogs - some familiar, some not

**Affenpinscher** - often called "Monkey Dog" due to personality and flat face.

**Boston Terrier** - this was the first breed recognized as American.

**Briard** - during the reigns of Louis XIV and XV, this was the favored dog of the French monarchy. It was first brought to the US by Thomas Jefferson, who was the ambassador to France in 1785-1789.

**Brussels Griffon** - was bred to kill vermin in stables.

**Cairn terrier** - Dorothy's Toto was of this breed, named for its talent at exterminating vermin from the rocky piles (cairns) of Scotland.

**Chart Polski** - this Polish greyhound nearly went extinct in 19th-20th century, but has come back since the 1960s.

**Chinese Crested** - comes either hairless or "pompadour", sometimes in the same litter. Often needs baths, moisturizing, and sunscreen on hairless parts.

**Corgi** - its name means "dwarf dog" in Welsh. The two kinds are Pembroke ("rumpy") and Cardigan ("stumpy").

**Entlebucher Mountain Dog** - this Swiss export, the smallest of the Swiss farm dogs, is loyal to its family but slow to warm up to with strangers. It has a big bark for its size.

**Havanese** - this cute dog hails from Havana, Cuba, and often wins dog contests.

**Ibizan Hound** - this dog originated in Egypt, can jump 6 ft. from standing position.

**Icelandic Sheepdog** - was brought to Iceland by the Vikings.

**Large Munsterlander** - these hunting dogs are energetic and often have spots around the midsection. They look like a large spaniel with feathered tails.

Sources: [csmonitor.com](http://csmonitor.com)

Seymour, Kristen "Unusual dogs you're not likely to see at the dog park", [VetStreet.com](http://VetStreet.com)

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## **Dog IQ Test**

This is how it works: if you are willing to spend \$12.99 on a dog IQ test, then your dog is smarter than you are!

## **Puppy Chow (for humans)**

Time: 10 minutes

Yield: 9 cups

Equipment needed: 6-8 qt. pot

1 baggie (gallon size or larger)

**9 cups Rice Chex cereal or similar**

**1/2 cup creamy peanut butter**

**1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips, regular or mini**

**1/2 cup powdered (confectioner's) sugar**

In a 6-8 qt. pot over low heat, melt the chocolate chips. Add peanut butter, stir until smooth. Remove from heat.

Add rice chex, stir until combined.

Pour powdered sugar into baggie. Add rice chex (might have to do this in batches if bag is gallon size), close bag, and shake until rice chex is coated.

Serve in a bowl. Store in airtight container.