

PANTHERETTE

- SCHUYLKILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL -

MARCH 2023

Volume 63, Issue IV

National Holidays in March

by Aiden Clemens '26

March is a month that is marked by change. Whether it be the change of seasons, the changing of clocks, or the change of the year in some calendars, March is filled with celebrations to mark these changes. Humans have held festivals and celebrations for thousands of years in what is now the month of March to traditionally ring in times of field preparation, season change, or giving thanks. These celebrations over time have evolved into the holidays that we know today as Saint Patrick's Day, Holi, Ramadan, and Passover to give examples. However, we will discuss national holidays in the United States.

To begin, possibly the biggest holiday in March is Saint Patrick's Day. This is a traditionally Irish holiday that celebrates the now deceased Saint Patrick and his achievements. Born as a slave in Roman England during the 5th century, Saint Patrick was brought to Ireland at 16 and lived there until he escaped. Later in life, Saint Patrick returned to Ireland, and performed the act of "driving the snakes from Ireland." The meaning of this has become clouded with time and whether this is meant to be taken

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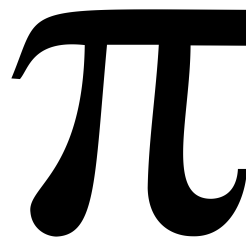
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literally or metaphorically is unknown. Many believe that this is a figurative saying, meant to denote him bringing Christianity to the Emerald Isle, thus "driving out" the paganistic religions of old. While realistic, some also argue the latter, that it is a literal telling of events, using the fact that Ireland has no known native species of snake to accredit this story. Whichever story is true does not matter, for his legendary actions

are why the people named him a saint and why we now celebrate Saint Patrick's Day on March 17th every year. You will typically see people celebrating this holiday by wearing green, going to pubs, and holding parades in his honor. Though never having been named a saint officially, people still honor and revere Saint Patrick as though he was one.

There are also many little known holidays in March that accompany Saint Patrick's Day, such as Pi Day, and International Women's Day. Pi Day, falling on March 14, is named for the mathematical constant that is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, or Pi. March 14 was named national Pi Day, due to the calendar date (3/14) lining up with the first 3 digits of pi. People celebrate Pi Day by eating Pie, throwing pies, and pondering the mathematical and scientific significance of pi. Pi Day is celebrated this way due to the obvious pun based on "pi" and "pie" being homophones in the English language.

International Women's day is a holiday on March 8 that is used to celebrate the social, economic, political, and historical achievements of women across the world, as well as bring awareness to issues such as inequality and violence against women. International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th, because that is the date that Russian women were given the right to vote in 1917. While WW1 was still being waged, women in Russia began to strike and protest, stating "Bread and Peace" in late February. Eventually, the Czar abdicated and the provisional government allowed women to vote, and began making moves to exit the war.



*The **Pantherette*** is published by students of Schuylkill Valley High School, Leesport, Pennsylvania, 19533.

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Top Ten Nostalgic Items

by Alyssa Armpriester '23

As the world progressively gets worse and our generation travels farther away from good memories and closer to technology, here's a somewhat accurate list of the most memorable things for the early 2000's to bring back our childhood.

1. Silly Bands
2. Gym Scooters
3. Pencil Grippies
4. Led-Stacker Pencil
5. Razor Scooters
6. Kid Cuisine
7. Nintendo DS
8. Beyblades
9. Heelys
10. iPod/MP3 Players



MAMMA MIA! Here we go again!

by Marty Welch '24



Pictured from left to right: Abigail Tenney (Tanya Creshman), Leila Howe (Donna Sheridan), and Charlotte Baumgard (Rosie Mulligan)



Remember to mark March 31st and April 1st off of your calendars this year! In just over one week, Donna and the Dynamos will arrive at Schuylkill Valley High School. The show is based on songs from the wildly popular band: ABBA. You likely have heard of some songs, including "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!," "Dancing Queen," and of course, "Mamma Mia!"

The cast is led by Leila Howe and Gracie Torres (Sophie Sheridan, Donna's daughter). The two are preparing for Sophie's wedding to Sky (played by Nathan Searfoss), but when Sophie invites three men who all have a possibility of being her father, things get complicated! Who are these dads? Sam Carmicheal (Seth Geiger), Bill Austin (Michael Orth), and Harry Bright (Emmitt Mackes). If you're ready to go on an emotional rollercoaster of anger, despair, and happiness while grooving to your favorite dance songs, *Mamma Mia!* is for you.

The talented cast and crew of Panthers on Parade are working tremendously hard to put together jaw-dropping performances, so make sure to buy your tickets as soon as possible! The due date for pre-order forms is March 27th and they can be picked up in Mrs. Cammauf's room or printed online. Otherwise, you can buy tickets at the door of the show.

Art Club's Souper Bowl

by Helene Yerger '23



This February, the Art Club advised by Mrs. Harle hosted the annual Souper Bowl! This fundraiser helps to get new materials we need for the art program, in addition to giving back to the community! To begin this fundraiser, it all comes down to the ceramic class who made all the bowls that used to be filled with soup. We had to make four bowls a week for months in order to ensure we would have enough for everyone! We then trimmed and glazed the bowls so that when people showed up for the fundraiser, they could pick their bowls and buy their soup! This was a fantastic personal experience for me in ceramics because it taught us the value of trying, trying, and trying again while making the bowls. During the fundraiser, all you could see were smiles from customers. Art club will continue this wonderful tradition each year, so keep a lookout for next year's Souper Bowl!



Chinese Spy Balloon

by Phoenix Barlet '24



On January 28th, a Chinese spy balloon was spotted over Alaska before going over Canada into the U.S. On February 2nd, it was being tracked by the defense department, then was spotted to be moving as fast as it could into the East Coast. Two days later the balloon was shot down off the coast of South Carolina. It had high-tech equipment that showed that China could move over specific locations. The balloon weighed more than a couple thousand pounds and it was about 200 feet tall.

On February 5th, they started recovering the debris from the balloon, which fell from 60,000 feet and the debris spread about seven miles. On February 8th, they collected most of the debris that was on the surface of the water and they collected the debris that sank to the oceans floor by February 13th. February 10th to the 12th they spotted three more flying objects over Alaska, they shot them down by the 12th. None of the objects seemed to be a threat but they could be hazardous to the civilians. They were the size of a small car and were octagonal shaped with strings hanging off of them.

Biden spoke about the balloon on February 16th, stating that the most recent incidents were not a part of China's spy balloon program. He said that they were most likely studying weather or looking for other scientific information. On February 17th, the U.S. stopped searching for the objects shot over Alaska after not being able to find other debris. It raised the possibility that they would never be able to know what they were.

Parade's Urgency in a Modern World Wrought with Antisemitism

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

NOTICE: This article discusses sensitive topics such as sexual assault and antisemitism.

On April 26, 1913 — a day that will forever live in infamy — 13-year-old Mary Phagan was sexually assaulted and brutally murdered inside the pencil factory she worked for in Atlanta, Georgia. In an attempt to appease the angered and terrified citizens who were desperate to avenge the precious young girl, authorities scrambled to find a culprit. They managed to pin the crime on National Pencil Company superintendent Leo Frank, claiming he was the only person present at the factory at the time of Phagan's death. Frank — one of the only Jewish citizens in Georgia — was met with pestilent hatred from authorities, Georgia's deeply confederate population, and the press that covered the conviction. During his case, despite the prosecution presenting no substantial evidence against him, by the forces of powerfully worded testimonies and a state's raucous prejudice, he was quickly found guilty of the crime and sentenced to death by hanging in 1913. As the nation stirred with the confusion, anger, and vengeance this case brought about, he sat quietly in prison, clinging to his innocence and his faith while he and his wife Lucille Frank fought for an appeal on his case. They were unsuccessful in this bid but they managed to convince Governor John M. Slaton to commute his sentence from death by hanging to life in prison. Shortly after this breakthrough, Frank was abducted from prison by an angry, white, antisemitic mob and lynched near Marietta — he was 31. Modern historians widely agree that Frank was falsely accused of this crime.

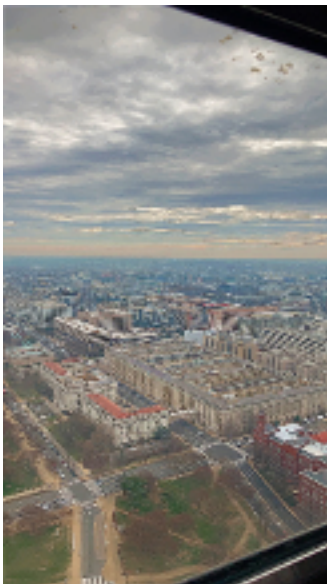
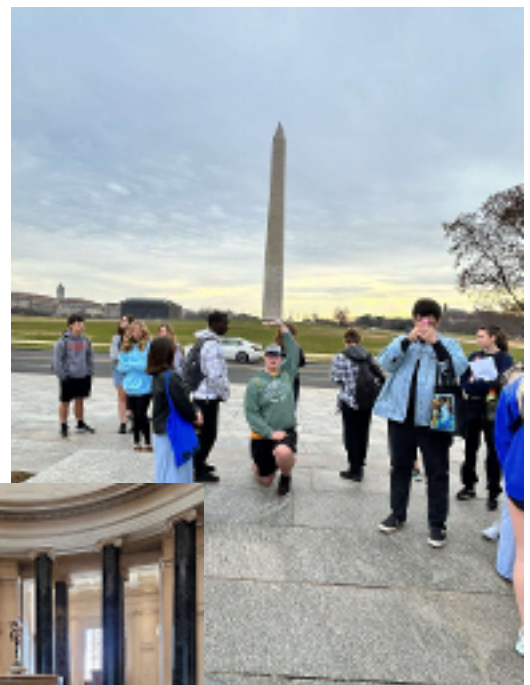
Jason Robert Brown and Alfred Uhry's daring 1998 musical, *Parade*, captures the life, the spirit, the sentencing, the fight for appeals, and the untimely death of Leo Frank with bold conviction. With every lyric, every verse, and every melody, Robert Brown and Uhry — two proudly Jewish creators — fight for the posthumous justice of Leo Frank and the justice of the entire Jewish population. The show quickly gained notoriety, being nominated an impressive ten times at the 1999 Tony's Awards and winning two. It also sparked a nationwide conversation about Leo Frank and the implications that his case and the public's reaction to it have in modern-day America. Last November, the show was given a fresh, innovative revival led by acclaimed theatre director Michael Arden and starring Ben Platt and Micaela Diamond as Leo Frank and Lucille Frank at the New York City Center. It shocked both crowds and

critics alike with its relevance and its rawness. This popularity led to a Broadway transfer with most of the original cast and the entire original creative team, holding its first Broadway preview on February 21st. On the preview night that should've been a joyous night full of celebration and triumph, the show's cast and attendees were ruthlessly taunted by neo-Nazi protestors gathered outside of the Broadway venue. They shouted antisemitic rhetoric, claiming Leo Frank to be a pedophile and a murderer, flashed posters with garish and offensive messages plastered on them, and handed out neo-Nazi pamphlets to those waiting in line to see the show. The disgusting irony of this "demonstration" — especially in our modern age — should not be lost and anybody and shows the true pervasive nature of antisemitism, even in a world that insists that it's an issue of the past. Following the night of the first preview, Parade's creative team issued this powerful statement about the attack, "If there is any remaining doubt out there about the urgency of telling this story in this moment in history, the vileness on display last night should put it to rest. We stand by the valiant Broadway cast that brings this vital story to life each night."

Now more than ever — during a time in history when Kanye West can spew blatant antisemitism and only get "canceled" for a few months, many high-profile stand-up comedians can deliver countless jokes devoid of humor yet full of hate against Jewish populations with little to no repercussions, and violent antisemitic attacks are steadily on the rise — Leo Frank's story is unbelievably important to tell and to consume. So much of America's non-Jewish population tends to ignore these scary facts, assuming that antisemitism "isn't a huge issue anymore." But it absolutely is. This revival serves as a bitter reminder that antisemitism still swells with unrelenting rancor in our contemporary society. Everyone — especially the non-Jewish population — needs to open their eyes to this prejudice and understand the implications of their actions in relation to how they could affect the Jewish population.



Pictures from Pantherette, Lit Mag, and Book Club's Trip to Washington DC!



POP's Concert Recap

by Randy Rosado '26 and Pantherette staff

Ah yes the concert; the audience cheering, the nervous feeling many performers have, the fun, and most of all the music. Everything goes down all in one night. Here we all were fourth to twelfth grade inside of the gymnasium with the audience all on the bleachers in front of us. Starting with middle school, the growing chorus and band students showed promising talents that will certainly be expanded upon within their next few years as music students at Schuylkill Valley.

Moving forwards with the high school performances, jazz band as always was an amazing performance to listen to.

Progressing on to a concert band, with some listening it's very obvious that "Michael Jackson Through the Years" was the crowd favorite of all the songs that were played. Off to chorus, using nothing but their voices, they sounded like something straight from a movie. Also, the POP performances throughout the concert were wonderful and hearing what the people inside of this school can do was impressive.



Student Survey: If you could share a meal with any celebrity, who would it be?

by Sara Pyne '25 and Pantherette staff

As I was making my way around the valley of our school, I stopped and asked fellow students a very fun and interesting question: "If you could share a meal with a celebrity -- dead or alive -- who would it be?" Many people had different opinions and reasons why. A few students had said Elvis Presley. I asked a couple of family members and my mom said Dolly Parton because she is very big-hearted. Also, my grandma said Kenny Rodgers because he was the cutest next to Elvis Presley and my cousin chose Jalen Hurts. Overall, students had numerous answers that were different and meaningful.

Honestly, it was a little difficult asking everyone because some did not want to answer. I found the best way was to write the question on the paper and have my peers answer. In my opinion, that is the smartest way to go about asking people without saying too much. Overall, a lot of students had many different answers from many different genres of celebrities both generations and comedy and people who represent their own personalities. I got a wide variety of celebrities including Em Bold and Jalen Hurts. Others have said Mitski, Elvis Presley, Bryson Tiller, Adam Sandler, Michael Jackson, The Rock, Kevin Hart, Luke Homes, Trump, DaBaby, J.k Rowling, and Marilyn Monroe this student picked this celebrity because she said that the conversations that they would have with each other would be absolutely unforgettable. Some people also said Cardi B, J.F.K, Packgod, and Bob Ross. As you can tell, people had many different perspectives on this question.