

SEPTEMBER 2020

# OPENING



# STATEMENTS

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## FROM THE DESK OF *JOHN RAZUMICH*



## BOLDLY GO!

Two extremely important things happened on Sept. 8, in American history. The first was "Star Trek" premiered on television.

"Star Trek" has always been one of my favorite shows, especially the "Original Series," featuring the adventures of Captain James T. Kirk, Mr. Spock, and the rest of the Enterprise crew. I was fortunate enough to meet Captain Kirk himself, William Shatner, last year at what has turned out to be the last convention that I have attended. Mr. Shatner was incredibly kind and generous with his time, taking pictures, signing autographs, and answering questions. It's incredible to think that a small television show that first aired 57 years ago still has legions fans today.

This month's issue also includes a story about how Lucille Ball (of "I Love Lucy" fame) was responsible for saving "Star Trek." It's a great story.

And the other important thing that happened on Sept. 8? The birthday of the one and only me. See everyone next month!



*-JOHN RAZUMICH*

## WHAT CAN I USE THIS APPLE FOR?

### The Ultimate Guide to Apple Season

**T**hey say an apple a day keeps the doctor away, but they never specified how to prepare the apple. From pies and tarts to sauces and marinades, there are many ways to consume apples and many varieties to choose from. In the U.S. alone, bakers, snackers, and wannabe cooks alike can choose from more than 100 varieties of apples.

This September, as apple trees start to bear the freshest, fullest form of this popular fruit, consider this your go-to guide for some of the most popular varieties of apples.

#### Red Delicious

You likely saw these popular apples in your sack lunch as a kid or have noticed them in nearly every supermarket produce section. Red Delicious apples are one of the most well-known varieties. They have a mild-tasting flesh and thick skin. Pick Red

Delicious apples in the fall, and harvesters recommend adding this deep-red variety to your salads or sandwiches. Do not cook the Red Delicious, however. The apple's skin can't handle the pressure.

#### Fuji

Easily the most diverse apple, the Fuji is sweet and juicy, making it the perfect snack for those with a sweet tooth. This versatile fruit is also ideal for making pies, salads, or applesauce. Fuji is a cross between the reliable Red Delicious and the less common variety known as Ralls Janet. Developed in the 1930s, it has a firm skin and sweet flavor that make it one of the most popular apple varieties today.

#### Granny Smith

Some people love 'em, others hate 'em. But Granny Smith apples are the classic choice for making pies and applesauce,

*Continued on Page 2 ...*



and they've been around for generations. The Granny Smith originated in Australia in 1868. With a tart, intense flavor, this apple pairs perfectly with cinnamon and can be used to bring balance to dishes that are overly sweet. The Granny Smith offers a balance that sweeter varieties like the Fuji or Gala (see below) cannot. In addition, it

can add a zing to salads or a fresh crunch to any sandwich.

### Gala

What are Gala apples good for? The better question is what can't they do? The Gala is a cross between two sweet varieties of

apple, with a flavor that pairs well with many foods. It can accent soft cheese in a salad, sweeten a tart dish, bring out the juiciness of a roast, or serve as the perfect afternoon snack.

### Golden Delicious

Not to be confused with its red counterpart, the Golden Delicious has a tender yellow skin that is easily bruised. This makes it perfect for baking, and its sweet nature only makes baked dishes better. Through its understated flavor, the Golden Delicious adds sweetness to any dish without the overwhelming sugary taste that can often ruin the most well-intentioned pie or applesauce.

This guide is just a start! For more information on different varieties of apples and ideas for how to use them, check with growers at nearby orchards. They're the experts on our local varieties and many have family secrets they just might be willing to share with fellow lovers of this crunchy fruit.

## WHAT HAPPENED ON THE 21ST NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER?

### 4 DECADES OF EARTH, WIND + FIRE'S 'SEPTEMBER'

*"Do you remember the 21st night of September?"*

In 1978, Maurice White of the band Earth, Wind & Fire first asked this question in the song "September," a funky disco song that quickly topped the charts. While disco may be dead today, "September" certainly isn't. The song is still featured in movies, TV shows, and wedding playlists. On Sept. 21, 2019, the funk hit was streamed over 2.5 million times. It's no wonder that the Los Angeles City Council declared Sept. 21 Earth, Wind & Fire Day.

The story behind "September" is almost as enduring as the song itself. It was co-written by White and Allee Willis, who eventually became a Grammy-winning songwriter and Tony nominee. But before any of that, Willis was a struggling songwriter in Los Angeles living off food stamps. When White reached out and asked Willis to help write the next Earth, Wind & Fire hit, it was truly her big break.



White and Willis proved to be excellent songwriting partners, but they clashed over one key element of the song: the nonsensical phrase "ba-dee-ya," which White included in the chorus. Throughout the songwriting process, Willis begged to change the phrase

to real words. At the final vocal session, Willis finally demanded to know what ba-dee-ya meant. White replied, "Who cares?"

"I learned my greatest lesson ever in songwriting from him," Willis recalled in a 2014 interview with NPR, "which was never let the lyric get in the way of the groove."

The groove is why "September" has stood the test of time, right from that very first lyric. For decades, people have asked Willis and members of the band about the significance of Sept. 21. As it turns out, there isn't much beyond the sound.

"We went through all the dates: 'Do you remember the first, the second, the third, the fourth ...' and the one that just felt the best was the 21st," Willis explained.

The truth is that nothing happened on the 21st night of September — except a whole lot of dancing.



# BEAM ME UP, LUCY

## HOW LUCILLE BALL SAVED 'STAR TREK' IN THE 1960S

**D**id You know that Lucille Ball — the iconic comedian best known for her 1950s show “I Love Lucy” — is the reason “Star Trek” exists today? Ball was a Hollywood force in the ‘50s and ‘60s, and she produced hit after hit with her production company.

In fact, Desilu, co-founded by Ball and her then-husband, Desi Arnaz, was responsible for hits like “The Andy Griffith Show” and “The Dick Van Dyke Show.” The two were partners in the company until their divorce in 1960, and in 1962, Ball took over Arnaz’s share.

In that moment, Ball became one of the most powerful women in Hollywood, and Desilu, one of the biggest independent production companies at the time, had a lot of pull in the industry. In 1963, one of Desilu’s biggest hits was coming to an end. “The Untouchables” was a crime drama starring Robert Stack. Ball needed a replacement, and two potential shows hit Ball’s desk: “Star Trek” and “Mission: Impossible.”

In 1965, Ball took the pitches to her longtime network collaborator, CBS. They said no to “Star Trek” (but yes to “Mission: Impossible”), but Ball wasn’t about to give up on this new science fiction show, so she took it to NBC. The network was skeptical at first but ordered a pilot.

The pilot starred Jeffrey Hunter as Captain Pike and Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock. There was no James T. Kirk to be found — not yet, anyway. The pilot, titled “The Cage,” was a disappointment. NBC executives weren’t about to put it on air, but they decided to order a second pilot after Ball agreed to help finance it.

The second pilot starred William Shatner as Captain Kirk, and he was joined again by Leonard Nimoy as Spock. NBC executives liked what they saw. The new pilot, titled “Where No Man Has Gone Before,” was put on NBC’s fall schedule, though it wasn’t the first episode aired on NBC. That honor went to the episode titled “The Man Trap,” which aired on Sept. 8, 1966.

While Gene Roddenberry’s original “Star Trek” only lasted three seasons, it went on to become a major TV and film franchise. One of its recent iterations, “Star Trek: Discovery,” is about to enter its third season on the streaming service CBS All Access — all because Lucille Ball saw potential in a little show back in 1965.



## BE INSPIRED

“No Great Achiever

— even those who  
made it seem easy —

ever succeeded  
without Hard Work.”

(Jonathan Sacks)

STAY POSITIVE.  
WORK HARD.  
MAKE IT HAPPEN.



## BALSAMIC MARINATED FLANK STEAK

Inspired by FoodandWine.com

*The summer isn’t over yet! Get out the grill for this delicious steak dinner.*

### Ingredients

- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1 tbsp fresh rosemary leaves
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- 2 tbsp whole-grain mustard
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for grilling
- 1 3-lb flank steak
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste

### Directions

1. Combine garlic, rosemary, oregano, mustard, and vinegar in a blender. Purée until garlic is minced.
2. Add oil and continue blending until creamy, then season with salt and pepper to taste. Reserve 1/4 cup.
3. Place steak in a ceramic or glass baking dish and cover steak with the remaining marinade. Turn to coat the other side, cover, and let marinate in the fridge for at least 4 hours.
4. Remove steak from marinade and let excess marinade drip off. Sprinkle the steak lightly with salt and pepper.
5. Light grill and oil grates with olive oil.
6. Grill steak over moderate heat for 10–12 minutes, turning halfway through, until steak is lightly charred and the internal temperature reaches 125 F.
7. Let the steak rest for 5 minutes. Thinly slice, drizzle reserved sauce, and serve.



# RAZUMICH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Desks of Razumich & Associates  
**PAGE 1**

Don't Let Your Apples Go to Waste With This Handy Guide  
**PAGE 1**

The Truth Behind the 21st Night of September  
**PAGE 2**

Did You Know Lucille Ball Saved 'Star Trek'?  
**PAGE 3**

Take a Break  
**PAGE 3**

Balsamic Marinated Flank Steak  
**PAGE 3**

Should You Be Able to Change Your Legal Age?  
**PAGE 4**

## WHAT IS AGE BUT A NUMBER? A DUTCH MAN'S QUEST TO CHANGE HIS LEGAL AGE

In 2018, Dutch native Emile Ratelband was 69 years old. The thing was that the motivational speaker and founder of the Ratelband Research Institute didn't want to be 69. So, he went to a Dutch court and petitioned for the right to change his legal age. His intention was to change the year of birth on his birth certificate — bumping it up by 20 years. As a result, all records would show him as 49.

Why did Ratelband want to change his age?

He told the court he didn't feel like a man who was going on 70. He said he felt good — he felt like a man 20 years younger. He even said his doctors agreed and that they'd told him he had the body of someone younger.

But there was another major reason Ratelband wanted to change his age. He said doing so would increase his overall happiness and

would be helpful on dating apps. He would no longer have to deal with the ageism that came with being 69. Ratelband even went as far as to say he would be willing to delay his pension benefits another 20 years if need be.

In an interview with Dutch newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad*, Ratelband said, "When I'm 69, I am limited. If I'm 49, then I can buy a new house, drive a different car. I can take up more work. When I'm on Tinder and it says I'm 69, I don't get an answer. When I'm 49, with the face I have, I will be in a luxurious position."

Interestingly enough, Ratelband's request wasn't dismissed outright by the court. The judge found merit in the argument and said that people desire to change things about themselves all the time, adding that maybe age was one of those things we should consider — "maybe" being the operative word.



The court ultimately decided that "Ratelband is at liberty to feel 20 years younger than his real age and to act accordingly." But the judge added that changing his legal documents would have "undesirable legal and societal implications." The court added "[T]here are a variety of rights and duties related to age, such as the right to vote and the duty to attend school. If Mr. Ratelband's request was allowed, those age requirements would become meaningless."

Today, Ratelband is 71 and continues his battle to change his age. While he may have lost in his initial quest to legally change his age, according to NPR, he intends to appeal the decision.