

Cabrillo Civic Club #24 Santa Cruz

P.O. Box 4223

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Happy New Years! January 2011

We will start out our new year with Soup and Stew Potluck Dinner on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00pm and the meeting will start right after. So cook up a pot of your favorite soup, or chili, or stew and bring it to the meeting to share. Pack up your place settings and come to the meeting. What could be better on a cool day than having a nice hot bowl of soup with friends?

Don't forget membership dues are due. They are \$15.00 per person. So, please pay as soon as you can and why not try to bring in a new member at the same time.



#### Just a little Trivia

The celebration of the new year on January 1st is a relatively new phenomenon. The earliest recording of a new year celebration is believed to have been in Mesopotamia, c. 2000 B.C. and was celebrated around the time of the vernal equinox, in mid-March. A variety of other dates tied to the seasons were also used by various ancient cultures. The Egyptians, Phoenicians, and Persians began their new year with the fall equinox, and the Greeks celebrated it on the winter solstice.

Early Roman Calendar: March 1st Rings in the New Year  
The early Roman calendar designated March 1 as the new year. The calendar had just ten months, beginning with March.





That the new year once began with the month of March is still reflected in some of the names of the months. September through December, our ninth through twelfth months, were originally positioned as the seventh through tenth months (septem is Latin for "seven," octo is "eight," novem is "nine," and decem is "ten.")

#### January Joins the Calendar

The first time the new year was celebrated on January 1st was in Rome in 153 B.C. (In fact, the month of January did not even exist until around 700 B.C., when the second king of Rome, Numa Pontilius, added the months of January and February.) The new year was moved from March to January because that was the beginning of the civil year, the month that the two newly elected Roman consuls—the highest officials in the Roman republic—began their one-year tenure. But this new year date was not always strictly and widely observed, and the new year was still sometimes celebrated on March 1.



#### Julian Calendar: January 1st Officially Instituted as the New Year

In 46 B.C. Julius Caesar introduced a new, solar-based calendar that was a vast improvement on the ancient Roman calendar, which was a lunar system that had become wildly inaccurate over the years. The Julian calendar decreed that the new year would occur with January 1, and within the Roman world, January 1 became the consistently observed start of the new year.

#### Middle Ages: January 1st Abolished

In medieval Europe, however, the celebrations accompanying the new year were considered pagan and unchristian like, and in 567 the Council of Tours abolished January 1 as the beginning of the year. At various times and in various places throughout medieval Christian Europe, the new year was





celebrated on Dec. 25, the birth of Jesus; March 1; March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation; and Easter.

#### Gregorian Calendar: January 1st Restored

In 1582, the Gregorian calendar reform restored January 1 as new year's day. Although most Catholic countries adopted the Gregorian calendar almost immediately, it was only gradually adopted among Protestant countries. The British, for example, did not adopt the reformed calendar until 1752. Until then, the British Empire—and their American colonies—still celebrated the new year in March. New Years Day did not become a Federal holiday until June 24, 1870 when President U.S. Grant signed the bill making January 1<sup>st</sup> New Years Day, December 25 Christmas, July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day and a day in November to Give Thanks "Thanksgiving" it was to be a day of fasting (boy did that change).



Also keep saving the Box Tops for Education and the Campbell's Labels for Education.

Happy Birthday to James Andrade 12<sup>th</sup>, Jo Ann Cacace 14<sup>th</sup>, Mary Mattos 11<sup>th</sup>, Stan Nacsimento 15<sup>th</sup>, and Ed Perry 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Things to Remember**  
**Your soup and place settings**  
**You're Dues of \$15.00 per person.**



Jo Ann Cacace Secretary  
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