# An Attitude of Gratitude

A thankful heart is a happy heart — it may sound cliché, but science says it's true. Making gratitude a regular habit boosts positive emotions and helps you be more resilient when dealing with life's challenges. These exercises in gratitude can lead to a happier you.

**Keep a journal** — A dedicated journal, in which you write down a few things you are thankful for each day, is a simple and effective tool for cultivating gratitude. Rereading past entries can offer a healthy perspective when you need an emotional boost.

**Create a collage** — Put together a collage of photos of friends and family members, as well as other items that bring you joy, such as a meaningful postcard or a wise saying from a fortune cookie. Place it where you'll see it every day as a visual reminder of the good things in your life.

**Say "thank you"** — Express your thanks when interacting with food servers, store clerks, medical staff and customer service employees. Send personal thank-you notes to people who've left lasting impressions.

**Give back** — Donating your time, skills and money to those in need gives you the chance to reflect on things you may take for granted. Helping others also increases your sense of purpose and overall well-being.

## **Gobbling Up Turkey for Thanksgiving**

Chances are, on Thanksgiving Day, turkey will be on the menu for the holiday meal. How did this bird become the symbol for the day?

The Pilgrims of the Plymouth colony and local Wampanoag Indians marked the first Thanksgiving in 1621. Although written accounts of the food offered mention wild fowl, and turkeys were plentiful in the area, they likely weren't the focus of the spread then.

However, the Pilgrims' tradition of giving thanks for harvests became common, and in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday. Magazine editor Sarah Josepha Hale had lobbied for such a day, and she wrote about New Englanders serving roast turkey for the festivities. Others then adopted the menu.

Historians point to the fact that turkey is native to North America and widely available across the U.S. The pick is also practical because a turkey can feed a large gathering of people. At the same time, turkey as a main dish on holidays and special occasions was reflected in popular books throughout the 19th century.

All this helped reinforce the turkey's image as a symbol of Thanksgiving, a celebration now nicknamed Turkey Day.

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## **Stay Active in** Autumn

As the calendar changes to a new month, let it inspire you to change up your exercise and activities routine. Turn over a new leaf with these options:

**Go for a stroll:** Take in the fall scenery where you live with a walk outdoors. Savor the fresh air, cooler temperatures and views of nature.

Take your pick: Get some exercise while walking through a farmers' market or local farm or orchard to pick fresh produce.

Warm up to a new workout: If the weather keeps you inside, try a new workout. Tai chi, yoga, dancing, and chair exercises are low-impact and don't require a lot of equipment or space.

**Go digital:** Older adults are growing fans of video games. Whether it's playing a virtual sport, an arcade game or word puzzles, digital gaming has been shown to provide cognitive and emotional benefits.

Get hands-on: Knitting, painting, woodcarving and other crafts can be both relaxing and engaging. Taking pride in your handiwork boosts self-confidence.





**NOVEMBER 2020** 

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## Preserving **Veterans' Stories**

With thousands of stories of service and sacrifice, the Veterans History Project preserves and shares the firsthand accounts of America's war veterans.

Created in 2000 by the U.S. Congress, the ongoing program is part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The personal narratives of men and women who served in all branches of the military from World War I to present-day conflicts are being collected. Their memories help document history and provide a better understanding of the realities of war for future generations.

Veterans are encouraged to share their experiences by submitting video or audio interviews, written memoirs, letters, photos and other historical documents. Families of deceased veterans can also contribute.

To date, the project has collected 108,000 stories, making it the nation's largest archive of oral history of its kind. Some accounts have been digitized and are available for viewing online.

To learn more about the Veterans History Project and how to participate, visit LOC.gov/vets.



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### NOVEMBER 2020

#### Locations

Activity Room, Memory Care, ARMC

Outing, O

TV Room, Memory Care, TVMC Villas, Upstairs Gathering Place, VUGP Villas, Dining Room, VDR

### **Birthdays**

Venice Singletary, 19th Benjamin Boyd, 21st John Calhoun, 30th

"Thanksgiving just gets me all warm and tingly and all kinds of wonderful inside."

-Willard Scott

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 1	2	ELECTION DAY 3	Practice Social 4	
Practice Social	Practice Social Distancing 9:45 Chair Yoga, VDR 10:30 Individual Snack Social 2:30 Afternoon Snack 3:00 Bingo, VDR	Practice Social Distancing 10:30 Individual Snack Social 10:30 Country Drive w/Ramon, O 2:00 Book Club, VUGP 2:30 Afternoon Snack	Distancing 10:30 Individual Snack Social 10:30 Virtual Travel Greek Islands, VDR 2:30 Afternoon Snack 2:30 Dining Experience w/Phil, VDR 3:00 Bingo, VDR	Practice Social Distancing 9:30 Chair Yoga, VDR 10:30 Individual Snack Social 1:30 Bible Study, VUGP 2:30 Afternoon Snack
Practice Social	9 Practice Social Distancing 9:45 '50s Dance Party, VDR 10:30 Individual Snack Social 2:30 Afternoon Snack 3:00 Bingo, VDR	10 Practice Social Distancing 9:30 Current Events: Self-Directed, VUGP 10:30 Individual Snack Social 2:00 Book Club, VUGP 2:30 Afternoon Snack	VETERANS DAY 11 Practice Social Distancing 10:30 Individual Snack Social 10:30 Spelling Bee, VDR 2:30 Afternoon Snack 2:30 Dining Experience w/Phil, VDR 3:00 Bingo, VDR	12 Practice Social Distancing 10:30 Individual Snack Social 11:00 Knitting Circle, VUGP 1:30 Bible Study, VUGP 2:30 Afternoon Snack
	16 Practice Social Distancing 10:30 Individual Snack Social 10:30 Trivia, VDR 2:30 Afternoon Snack 3:00 Bingo, VDR	17Distancing9:30Current Events: Self-Directed, VUGP10:30Individual Snack Social10:30Country Drive w/Ramon, O2:00Book Club, VUGP2:30Afternoon Snack	Practice Social18Distancing9:15Morning Walk, O10:30Individual Snack Social2:30Afternoon Snack2:30Dining Experience w/Phil, VDR3:00Bingo, VDR	19 Practice Social Distancing 10:30 Individual Snack Social 1:30 Bible Study, VUGP 2:30 Afternoon Snack 3:00 Zumba Class, VDR
22 Practice Social Distancing 10:30 Individual Snack Social 11:00 TV Church Service, Chan 9, VUGP 2:30 Afternoon Snack	23 Practice Social Distancing 9:30 Morning Drawing, VDR 10:30 Individual Snack Social 2:30 Afternoon Snack 3:00 Bingo, VDR	24 Practice Social Distancing 9:30 Current Events: Self-Directed, VUGP 10:30 Individual Snack Social 2:00 Book Club, VUGP 2:30 Afternoon Snack	25 Practice Social Distancing 10:00 Thanksgiving Centerpiece Making, VDR 10:30 Individual Snack Social 2:30 Afternoon Snack 2:30 Dining Experience w/Phil, VDR 3:00 Bingo, VDR	THANKSGIVING 20 Practice Social Distancing 10:30 Individual Snack Social 1:30 Bible Study, VUGP 2:30 Afternoon Snack
29 Practice Social Distancing 10:30 Individual Snack Social 11:00 TV Church Service, Chan 9, VUGP 2:30 Afternoon Snack	30 Practice Social Distancing 10:00 Town Hall Meeting, VDR 10:30 Individual Snack Social 2:30 Afternoon Snack 3:00 Bingo, VDR			

		FRIDAY		SATURDAY
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	<b>Distar</b> 9:30	Some Good News: Self-Directed	Distar	ce Social
Р	2:30	Individual Snack Social Afternoon Snack Bingo, VDR		Afternoon Snack Cinema Saturday, VUGP
12		13		14
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	3:00	Bingo, VDR		
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