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Emerald News

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Journey Back to Oz

August marks a celebration for fans of *The Wizard of Oz*—the 86th anniversary of the beloved film's release on August 25, 1939. In addition, the 125th birthday of the classic book, first published in May 1900, was celebrated earlier this year. Whether you first met Dorothy and Toto on the page or the silver screen, their journey down the Yellow Brick Road continues to charm audiences of all ages.

L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was a sensation from the start, quickly becoming a staple in American children's literature. Over the decades, the story has inspired sequels, stage plays, and, most famously, the 1939 MGM film starring Judy Garland as Dorothy. The film dazzled audiences with its Technicolor magic, memorable songs, and a cast of unforgettable characters: Scarecrow, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, and, of course, Toto (who was played by a female Cairn terrier named Terry).

The book and the movie differ in small ways—Dorothy's slippers are silver in the book but ruby red in the film, for example—but both deliver the same heartwarming message about friendship, courage, and finding your way home. The story's appeal has lasted in part because it offers both adventure and comfort. As author Ray Bradbury once said, "Oz is what we would hope and like to be," a place where villains aren't so villainous and hope always wins out.

The Wizard himself is a memorable figure, too. When his secret is revealed, he admits, "I'm really a very good man, but I am a very bad wizard," reminding us all that sometimes, good intentions matter more than magical powers.

So this August, why not revisit Oz? Dust off the book, queue up the movie, or share the story with a grandchild or other young friend. After all, as Dorothy reminds us, "There's no place like home"—and for many, Oz will always feel a little like home, too.



Fun at Emerald Lanes



Beautiful day at McKenzie River Lavender Farm's annual Lavender Bloom event



Helping in the kitchen

August Birthdays

In astrology, those born between August 1 and August 22 take on the lion star sign of Leo. Leos are dignified, strong, and powerful, making good leaders and honorable friends. They're also ambitious—reaching for the stars, working hard, and accomplishing their goals. Those born between August 23 and August 31 are Virgos, known for being industrious and efficient. They pay close attention to details and get the job done right on the first try.



Peggy V. – August 6th

Staff:

Jade – August 2nd

Zayne – August 3rd

Kimmie – August 11th

Caroline – August 17th