



April

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

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DAY BY DAY ROMANS 14:5-6

Anniversaries of special events such as birthdays and marriages are intended as opportunities to relive special moments. The problem is when we become stalled in the moment and our relationships or experience never grow beyond the experience of that moment.

One of the difficult things that I observe as a pastor is people who become “stuck” in life trying to “relive” an experience or relationship of the past. Paul addresses this in Romans 14. When we become fixated on a ritual or experience we are “stuck”.



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DAY BY DAY ROMANS 14:5-6

God had planned special days into the Jewish calendar to remind the people of Israel of their relationship with him not to become their relationship with him. That is why Jesus said “the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath”. He wanted his disciples to develop a relationship with him and not depend on the observance of a special event to determine their spiritual well-being.



ROMANS 14:7-8

For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS

HOSEA 6:1-6



The book of Hosea was written sometime during the period of 740-722 BC. Hosea and Jonah were likely contemporaries. Jonah was probably older. Their ministries seem to have been in different parts of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Hosea what focused on the unfaithfulness of Israel and the need to repent. He married the “prostitute” Gomer and had 3 children. She left him to return to prostitution.

Hosea’s attempt to restore his relationship with Gomer is compared to the God’s attempt to woe Isreal back to their commitment to His covenant.

Jonah and Hosea - Raphael
1510 [Jonah is standing]

HOSEA 6:1-6

1 Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. 2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. 3 Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter *and* former rain to the earth. 4 “O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, And like the early dew it goes away. 5 Therefore I have hewn *them* by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments *are like* light *that* goes forth. 6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.



CrossCards

*Life is like riding a bicycle.
To keep your balance,
you must keep moving.*

Happy Bicycle Day!

2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS HOSEA 6:1-6

A card made for National Bicycle Day, reflecting the same misunderstanding I had of the day.

Last year [2020] National Bicycle Day fell on Sunday. Each year I buy a calendar with special days marked on them. I have noticed National Bicycle Day on calendars over the years. I have even remarked on it in sermons over the years. Last year following the death of my Dad, for some reason I glommed on to this day and centered a message around it. It spoke to my love of bicycles and I shared about the beginning of bicycles and the impact they have had. I assumed that is what the day celebrated. Many have made the same mistake I have. For the 1st time I actually looked up the origin of National Bicycle Day on April 19. I was dumbfounded. It was completely different than I supposed. In fact it has almost nothing to do with bicycles at all. It is a celebration of the introduction of the drug LSD on April 19, 1943. I thought about how my own desires had led me to celebrate a day which is diametrically opposed to what I believe.

LUKE 13:6-9

6 He also spoke this parable: “A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 “Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’

8 “But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize *it*.

9 ‘And if it bears fruit, *well*. But if not, after that you can cut it down.’ ”

2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS HOSEA 6:1-6



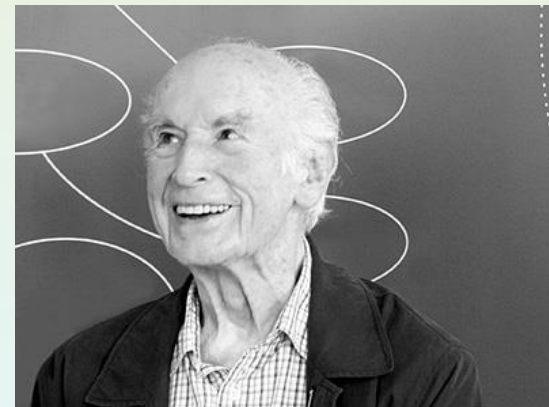
Ergot fungus growing on
barley

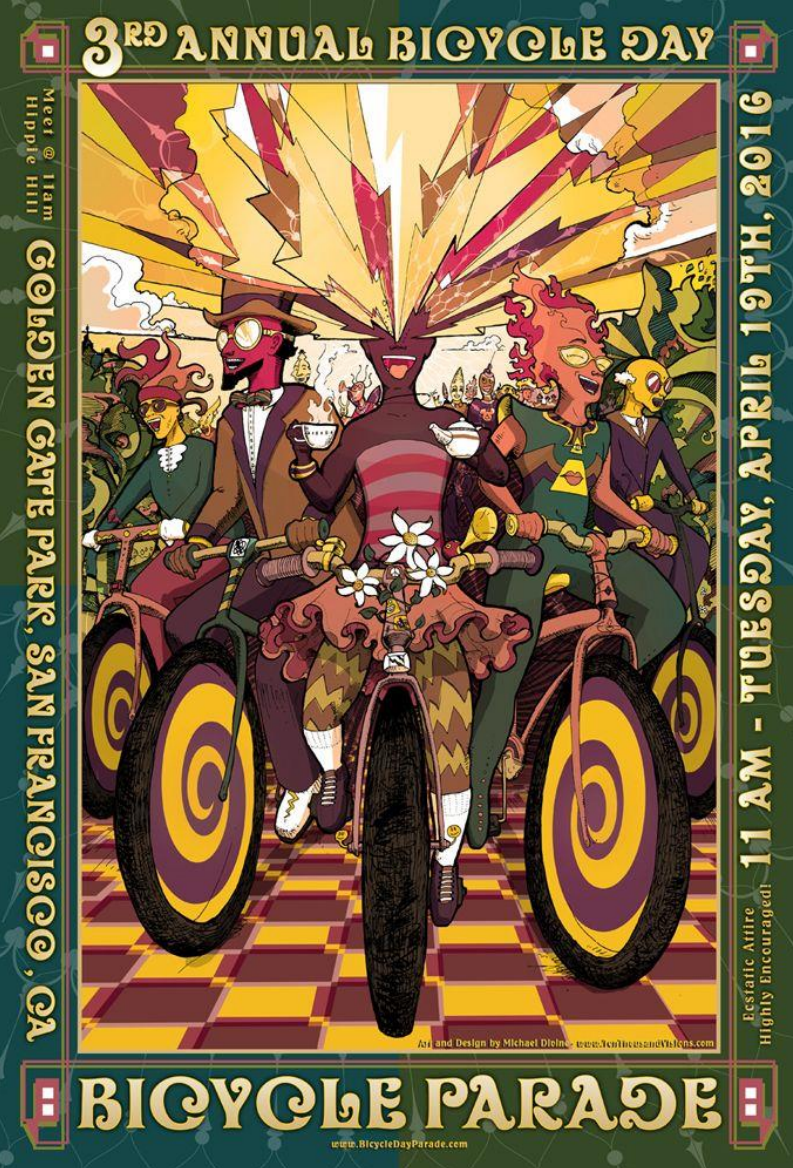
Ergot fungus is a common grain fungus that infects grains during cool wet springs and summers. The effects of ergot poisoning are well known from ancient times. Ergot causes “ergotism” in humans and animals that ingest infected grain. Symptoms include: a condition of a burning sensation in the exterior limbs of the body, constriction of blood vessels causing very high blood pressure, hallucinations, gangrene of the limbs and severe convulsions.

It also causes severe contractions of the uterus leading to miscarriage. In 1918 the basic chemical was extracted for use in treatment of migraines and post-partum bleeding.

In 1938 Lysergic Acid was extracted by Hofman. It was an unstable molecule until 1943 when he stabilized it as LSD-25.

Albert Hofman,
2006





National Bicycle poster 2016
for San Francisco

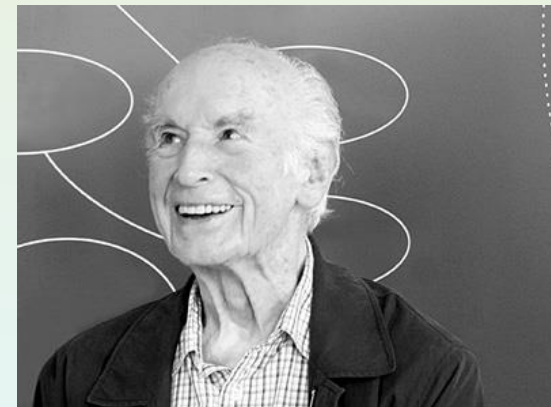
National Bicycle Day began in DeKalb IL in 1985, initiated by college Professor Thomas B. Roberts not as a celebration of the bicycles, but as remembrance of Albert Hoffman's intentional ingestion of LSD-25 or Lysergic Acid Diethylamide. It was in the midst of WW2 when he synthesized LSD in Switzerland.

On April 16th he had accidentally absorbed some through his skin have a mildly hallucinogenic experience. On the 19th he intentionally took a sizable dose. The reaction was at first paranoid then gave way to kaleidoscopic, euphoric hallucinations. A friend helped him get home on his bicycle during the trip home he had vivid hallucinations.

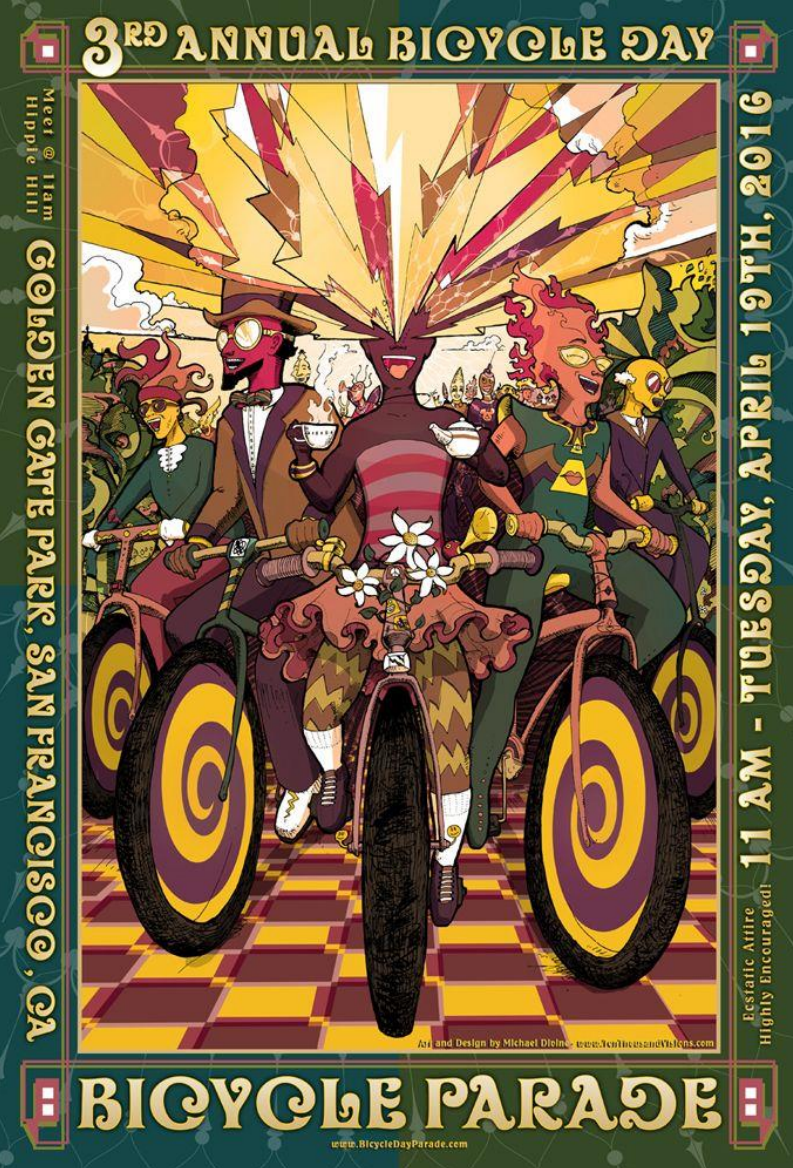
Professor Roberts decided to celebrate the day on April 19 rather than the 16th because in 1986 the 19th fell on a weekend and was a better day for a "party".

2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS HOSEA 6:1-6

Albert Hofman,
2006



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National Bicycle poster 2016
for San Francisco

LSD is a schedule 1 drug which requires a special license to produce. It is extremely dangerous. In overdose it can cause severe convulsions, paranoia and extremely high blood pressure. People under the influence of LSD are highly suggestable.

The CIA experimented with the use of LSD in counter-intelligence.

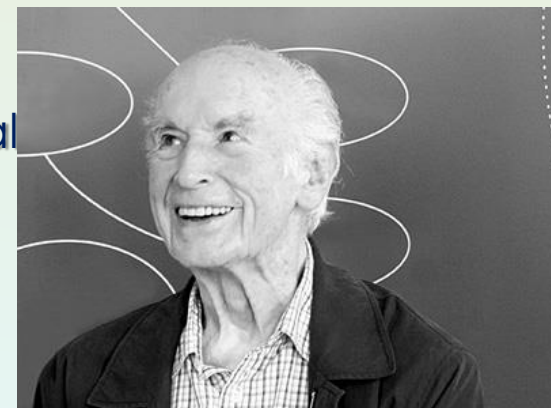
Its use has also been suggested in treatment of PTSD and other psychological disorders. It has not been well studied due to severe reactions and unstable dosages it has.

It is part of a class of drugs that are called "entheogens" since the 1970s. These are typically psychoactive drugs used for religious, spiritual, magical and shamanistic practices. The mildest is Cannabis while LSD is considered among the strongest. These are used to induce strong "spiritual experiences".

Entheogen means "full of a god".

2 OF MY
FAVORITE
DAYS
HOSEA 6:1-6

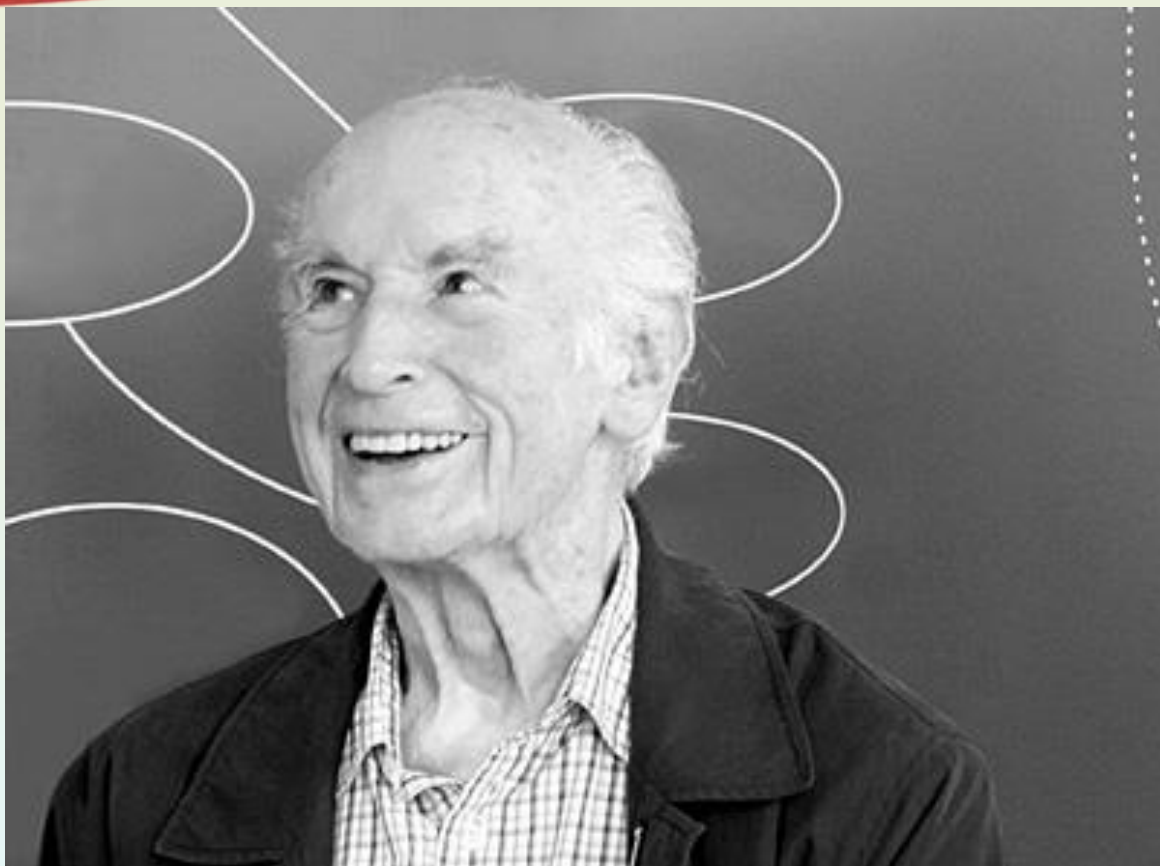
Albert Hofman,
2006



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2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS

HOSEA 6:1-6



Albert Hofman, 2006

It [LSD] gave me an inner joy, an open mindedness, a gratefulness, open eyes and an internal sensitivity for the miracles of creation.... I think that in human evolution it has never been as necessary to have this substance LSD. It is just a tool to turn us into what we are supposed to be. - *Albert Hofman in a speech on his 100th birthday*

Jeremiah 24:5-7

JEREMIAH 24:5-7

5 “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge those who are carried away captive from Judah, whom I have sent out of this place for *their own* good, into the land of the Chaldeans.

6 ‘For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull *them* down, and I will plant them and not pluck *them* up.

7 ‘Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.

2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS

HOSEA 6:1-6



The shield of the the Order of St. Anthony in a hospital established in 1695.

During to middle ages erotism out brakes became sever. Ergot infects rye grasses easily which were used for flour supplies. The primary manifestation of hallucinations and sever burning sensations in the limbs came to be called “St. Anthony’s Fire”.

These out brakes brought into existence in 1095 the Order of St. Anthony. It was named after a 4th century monk. This order established the 1st hospitals and specialized in the treatment of ergotism.

Their efforts led to treatments that helped to lessen the impact of ergotism. They also connected the disease with grain supplies and worked to protect grain supplies from infection. Out brakes could be severe, with one outbreak causing the death of 40,000 people.

When we seek our own religious experience outside a relationship with God through Christ it lead to destruction.

Jesus would say “I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” [John 14:6]

ROMANS 14:7-9

7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.

8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS

HOSEA 6:1-6



National Bike Month is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists.

National Bike month was established in 1956 to recognize the value and importance of Bicycling. I think I will make this one of my 2 favorite day celebrations.

I am not interested in the false religious experience offered by either my own personal desires, fancies or euphoric experiences.

The danger of frenzied experience, no matter how it is induced, is to seek the experience rather than a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

God said through Hosea, “**For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.**” [6:6]



Stauffer's Animal crackers date back to 1871. The recipe has remained unchanged.

Series: Day By Day – Romans 14:5-6

2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS HOSEA 6:1-6

No one know when National Animal Cracker Day began. We do know when animal crackers became a part of American culture. Around 1850 British baker began to make “biscuits” [what we call cracker and cookies] in animal shapes which were dubbed “animals”. They quickly became popular in the USA through imports. Stauffer's Biscuit Company in York, PA became the first American company to make “Animal crackers in 1871. Many bakeries followed suit.

They became a very popular snack because they could be stored for long periods of time without loss of quality and they paired well with various beverages like milk, coffee, tea and coca. They were also relatively inexpensive.

This made them quite popular during the Great Depression. Their simplicity, practicality and sense of whimsy are what endeared them to the American public. It is no wonder that they got a special day in the calendar.

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HEBREWS 5:12-14

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS

HOSEA 6:1-6

The National Biscuit Company [NABISCO] created the primary rival to Stauffer's in 1902. Their recipe is sweeter and more "cookie" like. Their recipe has been adjust several times.

Their primary sales approach was to play off the Barnum Baily Circus theme. They were careful not to infringe on the Trademark. They were never licensed to use of the Barnum Circus name, but certainly packaged their product to reflect a circus theme.

In 2018 they bowed to pressure from PETA to change their box from "caged" circus animals to animals roaming the African plains.

When we become too conscious of the culture there is a temptation to "sweeten" the gospel message and package it to appeal to the popular narrative.

It is tempting to stay at the childhood level of our spiritual development.



NABISCO launched
Barnum's Animals in 1902

HOSEA 13:12-14

12 “The iniquity of Ephraim *is* bound up; His sin *is* stored up.

13 The sorrows of a woman in childbirth shall come upon him.
He *is* an unwise son, For he should not stay long where children are born.

14 “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes.”

2 OF MY FAVORITE DAYS

HOSEA 6:1-6



God rescues us from ourselves and the sinfulness of others.

There is a temptation to surrender ourselves to our own desires or the whims of others. We avoid real relationship with God through Jesus Christ by seeking experiences ahead of relationship.

Jonah and Hosea - Raphael
1510 [Jonah is standing]

Series: Day By Day – Romans 14:5-6

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