## Mother’s Day – Trivia

**You’ve almost certainly heard people refer to the school they attended as their alma mater, but do you know where the term comes from? In Latin, “alma mater” means “bounteous mother,” and it was in the early 1800s that graduates began using it to designate their beloved schools. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

**No full time babysitter should forget that “Alma Mater” is Latin for “foster mother.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Women buy far more greeting cards year-round than men do, except before Mother's Day. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Think Mother's Day is too commercialized? So did Anna Jarvis, who fought to have the day made a national holiday in 1914. Fed up with the hype, she was arrested in 1925 for disturbing the peace while protesting the growing commercialization of the event. *(Family Circle)***

**Anna Jarvis, Mother's Day creator:
- Never married, had no kids
- Took nine years to gain national holiday
- Later spent inheritance to stop commercialization
- Filed lawsuit to stop Mother's Day festival
- Disturbed the peace at Mother's Day convention. *(World Features Syndicate)*

The dictionary defines “mother” as: “a woman who has given birth to a child,” but Tenneva Jordan's definition differs: “A mother? She is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of apple pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.” *(Kathy Wolfe, in Tidbits)*

The founder of Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis, ended up hating Mother's Day, and not just hating it, but suing to end it. She had worked hard to persuade President Woodrow Wilson to establish the yearly commemoration, but believed it had become overly commercialized and superficial, a day of profits for the greedy instead of renewed devotion to the ideals of service and love that she had envisioned. Decades later, the profits continue. Few days bring more business to florists or greeting card companies. It does not follow, however, that these firms are greedy or that even the mushy sentimental or cutesy cards somehow shove sincere affection off the map. Even if it is the only day of the year that a mother receives flowers, it is difficult to imagine many mothers mind receiving them on this second Sunday of May. Behind the commercial and shallower aspects of the day, something real resides. Here is what most of us know: Our mother sacrificed for us and adored us unconditionally; they took us from crying and crawling to talking and walking, restored us when we were broken, boosted us in ways beyond counting. We know, too, that, despite all their protests, many mothers have some of their happiest moments when their offspring -- and the fathers of those offspring -- show some sign of appreciation. *(Denver Rocky Mountain News)***

**Mothers of Invention? What Their Moms Did
1. Chevy Chase -- concert pianist
2. Lucy Liu -- biochemist
3. Helena Bonham Carter -- psychotherapist
4. Humphrey Bogart -- portrait artist
5. Robert De Niro -- abstract expressionist artist
6. Luciani Pavarotti -- cigar factory worker. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Mothers were originally named Mama or Mommy (in many languages) because they have mammary glands. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 72)***

**In 1942, mothers of U. S. servicemen met in Flint, Michigan, to organize the Blue Star Mothers of America, which became a national troop-support group. Participating mothers displayed flags with a blue star to indicate a child in service and a gold star to signify a casualty. *(American Profile magazine)***

**In the United States, Mother's Day has been a very special occasion since 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a resolution recommending that Congress and all the departments of the government observe Mother's Day. The second Sunday in May is set aside in the United States as Mother's Day. In numerous other countries Mother's Day, or its equivalent, falls at a different time of the year. *(Richard Ames, in Plain Truth magazine)***

A U.S. winery is suing another one for using the word “Mommy” on its label. The New Jersey-based distributors of “Mommy’s Time Out” say that California winery Clos LaChance violated their trademark by selling a wine named “Mommyjuice.” A Clos LaChance spokesman responds, “Mommy” is a generic word that they don’t have a monopoly on.” *(The Week magazine, May 6, 2011)*

**The word for “mother” begins with an “m” sound in almost every language on earth. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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