

# CAPE COD TIMES

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## Column: Something about April

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T.S. Eliot began his epic poem with the words, “April is the cruellest month.” And based on the weather alone, he might have been right.

It’s tough to warm up to a month that begins with the very first day being known as April Fool’s Day when people are encouraged to play practical jokes on one another. April’s consistently wet weather begat the saying “April showers bring May flowers.” It’s probably the wrong month to go on a cruise; the Titanic hit an iceberg and sank in April. Space travel too suffered in April; it was in April, 1970 that the phrase “Houston, we have a problem” was uttered onboard the Apollo 13 mission to the moon. Military actions have had their April problems, just look at the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961. Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King were assassinated in April. And as we all know, April 15th is normally the last day to file your taxes.

But is there another case to be made that April is not that bad? Poets have disagreed with Eliot. Carl Sandburg wrote “Just before April Came” beginning with the line “The snow piles in dark places are gone”; William Wordsworth wrote “It was an April morning: fresh and clear;” Longfellow chimed in with “Sweet April! Many a thought is wedded unto thee;” Robert Louis Stevenson penned, “Over the land is April, over my heart a rose, do you hear the songs of spring;” And Sir Charles Roberts wrote “Winter’s done, and April is in the skies; Earth, look up with laughter in your eyes.”

There are some positive historical notes in April. Shakespeare was born in April and wrote 36 plays and hundreds of sonnets; John Audubon, the naturalist was born in April; Frederick Law Olmstead who designed New York’s Central Park and the parks in Boston was another April baby; George Washington became the first President in April, 1789; and the shot heard round the world was fired in Lexington, Massachusetts, on April 19, 1775 beginning the American Revolution.

What side of the debate do you fall on? Are you the glass half full or half empty type? Maybe you can be nudged out of the dark side if you live on Cape Cod. Many of the restaurants shuttered for the winter open their doors in April. Your neighbors start returning from Florida like the snowbirds and their homes come alive for the upcoming season. This month, there were Easter egg hunts for kids and even dogs all throughout the Cape’s small towns. I cannot keep track of the different landscapers driving new trucks and cleaning up the winter debris. Even the Corp of Engineers gives us a preview of bridge lane traffic about to come.

I’ll admit and some of my friends will tell you that I can hover on the dark side; shivering in the April winds and shaking a fist at the dreary sky. But deep down, like that sleeping hydrangea bush waiting for the sun to help it unleash its color, I’m ready to release my chlorophyll and put on my Ray Bans for another season on this beautiful resort we call Cape Cod.

*East Falmouth resident Jim Carroll’s career as a lawyer talking to jurors taught him the importance of speaking from the heart.*