



Gettin' LIT with Jack-o-Lanterns!

Every year, we carve spooky, goofy, and ghoulish faces into pumpkins to adorn our porch. But... where did this tradition come from? And why pumpkins?

According to Britannica, their origin comes from an Irish legend about "Stingy Jack", a man of ill repute to local townspeople. The legend says Jack invited the Devil for a drink and tricked him into transforming into a gold coin (to pay for both of their cocktails), and trapped him in his transfigured state.

When Jack died, neither God nor the Devil wanted his soul, and was doomed to roam the earth for eternity. People started to carve frightening faces out of turnips and putting them outside to scare away Jack's wandering soul. When Irish immigrants began moving to America, they started carving these faces into pumpkins instead (as these were native to the region.)

Now that you've carved it, how do you make it last as long as possible?

Tips for a longer-lasting Jack-o-Lantern:

- **Cut your hole in the bottom or backside, not the top-** Without its stem, your pumpkin will rot much faster.
- **Buy fresh-** When buying pumpkins from smaller businesses that source directly from farmers, you'll get a fresher pumpkin than grocery or big-box stores.
- **Wash your pumpkin and carving tools with soap and water first.** This helps remove bacteria which is transmitted to the interior during carving (and speeds up the degradation process.)
- **Try etching, not carving-** The fewer holes you carve into it, the longer it will last. Instead, try scraping designs into the flesh at varying depths- light still shines through thin flesh if you want to place a light inside your finished piece.
- **Store your pumpkins in the fridge (or outdoors) before carving it.**

Remember to enter our Porch Pumpkin Decor contest!

Post a picture and tag Alice's [Garden](#) to show us your creative pumpkin displays! Our followers will choose their favorite, and the winner gets a FREE glass skull planter and 4-inch Monstera Deliciosa plant!

To enter: Post a picture of your pumpkin porch displays and tag Alice's [Garden](#) on Instagram or Facebook (make sure the audience is set to "Public" so we can see it!) The vote will commence on October 28th with the winner announced on Halloween!

Featured Houseplant:



This week's featured houseplant is the (Rest In) **Peace Lily**! Often associated with funerals, they originally grow in warm, humid environments. So place them where they get medium to bright indirect light, and water them when the first inch of soil is dry. Their leaves will often wilt when it needs a drink- but don't worry, it will perk back up! Peace lilies love humidity, so a bright bathroom or kitchen is an ideal place!

Upcoming Classes:

- October 21st, 1pm: Pumpulent Building
- October 28th, any time between 11am-1pm: Kids' Pumpkin Painting
- November 4th, 1pm: Bulb Lasagna Planter Pot
- November 4th, 3pm: Winter Wonderland Terrarium Building

To purchase tickets to any of these events, head to our [Eventbrite Page](#) or call us at [\(317\) 291-1441](tel:3172911441) to reserve your spot today!



Macramé- KNOT your ordinary plant holders...

Big in the 1970s, macramé is re-emerging today as a trendy and space-saving way to house your favorite plants. Alice's [Garden](#) has a huge variety of macramé plant holders and wall hangings from local Indiana artists, all hand made! Or rather, hand macra-made! (If you think our puns are terrible, you're knot alone...)



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