

Cultural News

**UC Davis Health System
Medical Interpreting Services**

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100th Anniversary of International Women's Day

The United Nations said on the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day that despite remarkable progress women remain second-class citizens in many parts of the world. "Although the gender gap in education is closing, there are wide differences within and across countries, and far too many girls are still denied schooling, leave prematurely or complete school with few skills and fewer opportunities," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a message on Tuesday.

All over the world, major disparities remain between female and male access to education, employment and salaries, with women earning only 10 per cent of the world's income and own less than one per cent of property worldwide.

"Women and girls also continue to endure unacceptable discrimination and violence, often at the hand of intimate partners or relatives. In the home and at school, in the workplace and in the community, being female too often means being vulnerable. And in many conflict zones, sexual violence is deliberately and systematically used to intimidate women and whole communities," Ban added. The secretary-general cited the urgent need for significant progress in women's and children's health. He added that equal access to education, training, science and technology can help women to break the cycle of poverty.

Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile and Executive Director of UN Women, the new entity grouping together the work of four previous UN bodies, highlighted the gains made since those marches of 100 years ago, when only two countries allowed women to vote. "But despite this progress over the last century, the hopes of equality expressed on that first International Women's Day are a long way from being realized. Almost two out of three illiterate adults are women. Girls are still less likely to be in school than boys. Every 90 seconds of every day, a woman dies in pregnancy or due to childbirth-related complications despite us having the knowledge and resources to make birth safe," she added.

Ban also noted that fewer than 10 per cent of countries have female heads of State or government, and are often severely underrepresented in other areas of decision-making, including at the highest levels of business and industry. According to Bachelet, women still make up only 19 per cent of legislatures, 8 per cent of peace negotiators, and only 28 women are heads of State or government.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay devoted her message to the courageous role women played in the recent peaceful mass movements that saw the ouster of the entrenched leaders of Tunisia and Egypt. "The work, however, is far from over," she said. "In these moments of historic transition in Egypt and Tunisia, it is important to ensure that women's rights are not set aside as something to be dealt with after the 'crucial' reforms are won. Women's rights should be at the top of the list of new priorities."

Source: <http://channel6newsonline.com>



March Calendar

**National Women's History Month
National Deaf History Month**

- 1- International Pancake Day
- 2 – Dr. Seuss Day
- 8 – International Women's Day
- 8-14 – Universal Women's Week
- 10 – World Kidney Day
- 13 – Daylight Savings Time begins
- 14 – Nanakshahi (Sikh New Year)
- 17 – St Patrick's Day (Christianity)
- 20 – Purim (Judaism)
- 20 – Atheist Pride Day (USA)
- 20-26 – National Poison Prevention Week
- 21-27 – Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Week
- 22 – World Water Day
- 30 – Doctors' Day (USA)

**UC DAVIS
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National Deaf History Month

National Deaf History Month, which begins on March 13, was originally envisioned as just one week to promote a greater understanding of the deaf community. Today, National Deaf History Month is a month long, nationwide celebration of contributions of the hearing impaired and deaf community to American society.

National Deaf History Month was the creation of two deaf employees at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in Washington DC. They began teaching their colleagues sign language, and these initial lessons grew into Deaf Awareness Week, celebrated and recognized by library administration.

In 1996, the National Association of the Deaf suggested the week become a full-fledged month, and in 1997, the first annual, nation-wide National Deaf History Month was celebrated, March 13 - April 15.

The mid-month start and end of National Deaf History Month is based on three historic dates. On March 13, 1988, Gallaudet University - the only university in the world exclusively for deaf students - selected their first deaf president. On April 8, 1864, President Lincoln signed a charter that allowed degrees to be granted to deaf students, and on April 15, 1817, the first permanent school for the deaf in the Western Hemisphere was established in Hartford, CT.

In the spirit of education and promoting a greater understanding of hearing loss and deafness, there are many resources available online and at local libraries. Many libraries also host events celebrating National Deaf History Month.

Source: <http://prweb.com>



St. Patrick's Day

by Socorro Farias, Medical Interpreter

Today when we hear "green," we think eco-friendly, recyclable and biodegradable to name a few. In March, green, has a totally different meaning. In March, we equate green with the shamrock, green bear and of course, green eggs and ham (courtesy of Dr. Seuss). But traditionally, the celebration of St. Patrick's Day stems from Catholicism.

St. Patrick was a saint who went to Ireland (also known as the "Emerald Isle") to spread Catholicism. St. Patrick was known for using his surroundings to explain the mysteries of God, like the Holy Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit). He used the shamrock, which grows naturally and abundantly in Ireland, to explain the Holy Spirit. Just like the shamrock had three leaves but was one plant, so was the Holy Spirit three persons in one. And so we get our green theme from the country of Ireland, where St. Patrick's mission was to spread the Catholicism and we get the shamrock from him using it to illustrate his teachings.

Now the drinking and green eggs and ham. Well, during this time Catholics begin the season of Lent. For Catholics and Christians the season of Lent is observed as a season of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter. But on St. Patrick's Day we are allowed a "break," a "time-out," a "free pass" from fasting and penitence. On this day, we can drink and do the things we were abstaining from and over the years and generations, this one day has become more and more elaborate in how it is celebrated it.

Of course, St. Patrick's is now "celebrated" by many Christians and non-Christians. It has become a holiday for all to celebrate. However, it is appropriate to reflect back on the historical significance and origin of the holiday and pass that knowledge on to younger generations. Much like the fourth of July is not just about the fireworks; St. Patrick's Day is not just about "being green." When we do not take the time to get in touch with how, where and why we have certain holidays and celebrations, then it is easy to lose those traditions with each passing generation. The perseverance of a culture is not solely dependent on language, food or music, but also on how we pass on traditions AND their significance. Without this background knowledge, how can traditions and celebrations continue with our children?

St. Patrick's Day is good holiday to celebrate and have fun, but do we know what we are celebrating and why? This year, when I make green eggs and ham, my kids will know why. Have a safe and fun St. Patrick's Day!