Women’s History Month USA, UK National Women’s History Month began as a single week and as a local event. In 1978, Sonoma County, California, sponsored a women’s history week to promote the teaching of women’s history. The week of March 8th was selected to include ‘International Women’s Day.’ This day is rooted in such ideas and events as a woman’s right to vote and a woman’s right to work, women’s strikes for bread, women’s strikes for peace at the end of World War I, and the U.N. Charter declaration of gender equality at the end of World War II. This day is an occasion to review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace, and development.

Mar 1 Shivratri Hindu On Shiva’s night, the Hindu deity Lord Shiva performed the Tandav, the cosmic dance of creation and destruction. A 24-hour fast is kept and devotees make pilgrimages to major shrines for worship.

Mar 1 Shrove Tuesday Christian This is the day before Lent. Taken from the old word ‘shrive’, it means forgiveness. Traditionally it was a time to give up meat and dairy foods.

Mar 1 Pancake Tuesday UK Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras in French which means Fat Tuesday) is the last day before the beginning of Lent. Strict Christian Lenten rules prohibited the eating of all dairy products during Lent, so pancakes were made to use up their supplies of eggs, milk, butter and other fats. Pancake races are held in many parts of England.

Mar 1-19 Alá (19-Day Fast Begins) Bahá’í The nineteenth and final month in the Bahá’í calendar and the time of the 19-day fast in preparation of their new year, Now Ruz. The English translation of Alá (Arabic) is Loftiness.

Mar 1 Martenitza Bulgaria Bulgarians celebrate spring by exchanging red-and-white yarn designs to symbolize health. They wear the yarn designs on their clothing until they see a stork or a blossoming tree. They then either put the martenitza on a tree branch to bring on spring or hide it under a rock to represent the wish that the evil spirits in nature (and humankind) will go to sleep.

Mar 1 St. David’s Day Wales He is the patron saint of Wales and died on this day.

Mar 2 Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) Christian This day marks the beginning of Lent. Ash symbolizes sorrow for wrong doings and foreheads of churchgoers are marked with the shape of the cross with ashes as a sign of penitence.

Mar 3 Losar (New Year) Tibet, Buddhist The Tibetan New Year is called Losar and is celebrated for three days by visiting, feasting and the relaxation the monastic discipline.

Mar 7 Great Prayer Festival Tibet Monks from the Three Great Monasteries of Tibet assemble in Jikhang to pray to Shakyamuni’s image as if it were the Living Buddha. Philosophical debates are held among the candidates for the Doctor of Metaphysics.

Mar 7 Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox It is the beginning of the forty-day fast when Christians imitate Jesus’ withdrawal into the wilderness before his crucifixion.

Mar 12 Girl Scout Day Canada, USA Juliette ‘Daisy’ Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Mar 16-20 Gałambar Hamaspaspatmaedem Zoroastrian This day celebrates the creation of human beings.

Mar 17 Purim Jewish Purim is known as the Feast of Lots, which celebrates the deliverance of Jews in Persia from the machinations of Haman. Jews dress in costume and give gifts of food to each other.

Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day N. Ireland, Ireland The death anniversary of their patron saint. He used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Christian idea of the Holy Trinity, thus the idea of wearing a shamrock.

Mar 18 Holi Sikh, Hindu According to myth, a tyrannical king’s son, Pralad, refused to worship his father as God and was condemned to death by burning. However, the boy’s aunt, named Holika, transferred her own immunity from fire to Pralad, and burned to death in his place. This festival of colour celebrates Spring, where people play with liquid and powdered colours, light bonfires and blow horns to celebrate the destruction of Holika.

Mar 18 Butter Lamp Festival Tibet, Buddhist To celebrate Shakyamuni’s victory over non-Buddhist opponents in 1409, Lord Neu Dzong, a noted patron of Tsongkapa, illuminated numerous butter lamps. The tradition has since then flourished.

Mar 19 Hola Mohalla (Bikarami) Sikh Mock battles are fought and martial arts are displayed in honour of Guru Gobind Singh, who took to armed struggle against tyranny.

Mar 20 Eostre Wiccac A fertility festival celebrating the birth of Spring. The word Easter is derived from the Maiden Goddess. Celebrations including lighting fires at sunrise, ringing bells, and decorating hard-boiled eggs, an ancient Pagan custom associated with the Goddess.

Mar 20 Shunshin Shori-Sai Shinto Ancestors are given reverence at home altars and considered active members of the living family. Gravesites are cleaned and purified.

Mar 20 Shun bun no hi Japan During the time of the Spring Equinox, Buddhists meditate on the harmony in the universe.

Mar 21 Now Ruz (New Year) Afghanistan, Iran, Zoroastrian, Islam Ismaili, Bahá’í Nowruz means “New Day” and is the traditional celebration of the ancient Persian New Year. Iranians celebrate it on March 20th. It is also a holy day for Zoroastrian, Sufi, Ismaili and the Bahá’í faiths. Persians (Iranians, Afghans and Tajiks) and other Indo-Iranian groups (Kurds, Armenians, Azerbaijans and Balochs) start preparing for the Nowruz with a major spring-cleaning of their houses and the purchase of new clothes to wear for the new year.

Mar 25 Arbor Day USA Communities across the United States plant trees in an ongoing effort to conserve American forests.

Mar 25 Evangelismou Greece The Greeks combined the national Independence Day with the Annunciation and what was earlier believed to be the spring equinox. Greeks wear traditional clothes and celebrate with speeches and folk dancing.

Mar 26 Birth Of Prophet Zarathustra (Fasli) Zoroastrian Zarathushtra (Zoroaster in Greek; Zarathosht in India and Persia) is the founder of the Zoroastrian religion dating back to some time between 1500 and 1000 BCE. He lived in Persia, modern day Iran. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7th Century CE.

Mar 27 Mothering Sunday UK, Ireland Mothering Sunday is the celebration of motherhood in UK, and takes place on the fourth Sunday of Lent.