



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

CENTER for MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

Dear campus colleagues,

Thank you for choosing to present the **CME “Bulletin Board in a Bag”**: **Spring Holidays** in your area this **April!**

In this packet, and any attached documents, you will find everything you need to begin a great bulletin board.

### **How to use**

We’ve provided several flyer-sized pages of information, intended to get your board started; researching and adding additional information that would be of most interest to your particular residents (relevant communities in their home states/nations, campus/community activities that appeal to their majors and hobbies) can help expand the board and improve its impact.

For the most part, the Board is just print and post ready. Color is obviously most eye-catching, but most of the graphics should be fine in black and white/grayscale if necessary. If we had it available at the time of publication, we’ve also included or attached information about campus/community events observing this month, that you can post as well. If there isn’t any, you can check our calendar ([www.du.edu/cme/cme\\_calendar.html](http://www.du.edu/cme/cme_calendar.html)) and/or with the relevant Joint Council student organizations ([www.du.edu/cme/joint\\_council.html](http://www.du.edu/cme/joint_council.html)) to see what events they have scheduled, and add them to your Board. And, consider making attending one of these events a program for your floor!

### **Feedback**

To help us know where our boards have been, and how residents have responded to them, please email us ([igr@du.edu](mailto:igr@du.edu)) any/all of the following:

- Your name, hall and floor where the board is posted
- A photo or two of the board up on your floor
- A brief description of any reaction/feedback the board generated on your floor community,
- And any feedback you have about this board or ideas for other Inclusive Excellence-related identities/issues/observances we could provide for the future.

(And in the unfortunate event there’s any defacement or other negative reaction to the board, please follow your hall’s reporting procedures, and let us know.)

THANKS for sharing this important, and interesting, info with your residents!

Sincerely,

Center for Multicultural Excellence

[www.du.edu/cme](http://www.du.edu/cme)

[facebook.com/DUCME](https://facebook.com/DUCME)

# Spring Celebrations Around the World

**Presented by:**



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For more information  
visit our website at:  
[www.du.edu/cme](http://www.du.edu/cme)

# Spring Fun Facts

*Spring is coming to the Earth's Northern Hemisphere (autumn to the Southern). Whichever side of the equator you're on as it approaches, here's some interesting info about this time of year:*

- If you stand at the equator on the first day of spring, you will see the sun pass directly over head. This is only true two times a year; the first day of spring and the first day of autumn.
- Often, the first bloom to be seen is a dandelion. Dandelions first came from Asia, and now call the entire world home. Dandelions can be used both as food and medicine.
- Spring fever is real! This occurs when a sudden warm spell follows a long cold period. When the temperature rises, there's a dilation or expansion of the blood vessels so that blood can be carried to the body surface where heat can be lost quickly. Some people experience an energetic feeling to this reaction.
- It has been suggested that spring cleaning dates back to the Persian New Year where they practice "Khoneh Tekouni" which means "Shaking the house." Another possibility of the origin can be traced to the ancient Jewish of cleansing the home in anticipation of Passover.
- Baby birds learn to sing in the spring. Baby birds are born with the ability to sing, but they must learn the specific songs of their species. They are thought to acquire these songs between 10 to 60 days of age, and begin to sing them the next spring when they have matured at about 300 days old.



## Purim

This holiday is held to commemorate the rescue of the Jewish people of the ancient Persian Empire from Haman's plot to exterminate them as is recorded in the Biblical Book of Esther. It is celebrated on the Jewish calendar date of 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar, which occurred this year on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The holiday involves a public recitation of the Book of Esther, giving mutual gifts of food and drink, giving charity to the poor, and a celebratory meal.

(Huffpost)

# Nowruz

A traditional Iranian or Persian New Year marking the first day of spring, this holiday takes place on or near the vernal equinox. The celebration begins with a traditional spring-cleaning and the Wednesday Suri. During the Suri, the Iranian festival of fire is held where participants jump over bonfires to symbolize light (the good) winning over darkness (the bad). A major part of the New Year involves setting a special table, known as Haft Sin, with seven specific items to present. Modern Iranians celebrate the New Year for 13 days. The first few days are spent visiting older members of the family where gifts are exchanged and sweets are eaten. On the last day, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, people leave their homes to go to the parks or rural areas to spend a day in nature.

(Huffpost)





## Holi

Known as the Festival of Colors, Holi is a popular Hindu spring festival celebrated in India, Nepal, and other countries with large Hindu populations. People throw colored powder and water at each other. Bonfires are lit the day before, also known as Holika Dahan (death of Hoika) or Chhoti Holi (little Holi). The bonfires are lit in memory of the miraculous escape that Prahlad had when Demoness Holika carried him into a fire. Holika was burnt, but Prahlad, a staunch devotee of Lord Vishnu, escaped safely because of his strong devotion.

(Huffpost)

# Easter

Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus three days after his crucifixion. For Catholics and some other Christians, Easter marks the end of Lent, a season of prayer and penitence beginning on Ash Wednesday. The Easter bunny has become a modern symbol for the holiday and many celebrate with an Easter egg hunt.

(Huffpost)





## Higan

The word translates to the 'other shore' and refers to the dead spirits who reach Nirvana after crossing the river of existence. Higan essentially celebrates the spiritual move from the world of suffering to the world of enlightenment. It is a week of Buddhist services in Japan during the March and September equinoxes. Both equinoxes have been national holidays since the Meiji period (1868-1912).

(timeanddate.com)

# Passover

Passover is an eight-day long holiday commemorating the Jewish Exodus from Egypt and the liberation of the Israelites from slavery written about in the Torah (Pentateuch). When the Egyptian Pharaoh freed the Israelites, it is said that they left in such a hurry they could not wait for bread to rise. In commemoration, for the duration of Passover, no leavened bread is eaten. Matza, the unleavened, flat crispy bread is the primary symbol of the holiday. The start of the holiday is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the Hebrew month of Nisan and is celebrated with a large Passover meal and reading of the Hagadah, called the Passover Seder.

(Huffpost)





## **Songkran**

In Thailand, Buddhists celebrate the New Year with a special three-day water festival on April 13-15. Parades feature huge statues of Buddha that spray water on participants. In small villages, young people throw water at each other for fun. People also release fish into rivers as an act of kindness.

(scholastic.com)

# Basant

In Pakistan, men, women, and young people celebrate the first day of spring with kite-fighting contests. After putting powdered glass on their strings, they use the strings to try to cut off each other's kites. Whoever keeps their kite aloft the longest, wins. The kites will sometimes carry special messages written to God. This first began as a Hindu festival that the people of the Punjab province celebrated, but as the days passed on, the festival became common around the country.

(unesco.org)





## **Aboakyer**

The Effutu people of Ghana make a special offer to the God Panche Otu each spring with the deer-hunting festival. Two teams of men and boys, dressed in bright costumes, compete to be the first to bring back a live deer to present to the chief; then they all dance and celebrate together.

(scholastic.com)

# May Day

To celebrate the return of spring, children in England dance around tall poles decorated with ribbons called maypoles. Their dance wraps the ribbons tightly around the pole.

(scholastic.com)



# How we DU Spring

**DU**  
**MAY**  
**DAYS**



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uofdenver/>

## **DU May Days**

May Days is the final Tradition event of the school year at DU. Taking place in late May, May Days is a celebration of spring days and the approach of summer. The week long on-campus event includes activities like lawn games, an outdoor carnival, musicfest, and lots of good fun to wrap up the year!

([www.du.edu/studentlife/studentactivities/maydays.html](http://www.du.edu/studentlife/studentactivities/maydays.html))