

## Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Martin Luther King, Jr.** (January 15, 1929–April 4, 1968), was one of the main leaders of the American civil rights movement. A Baptist minister by training, King became a civil rights activist early in his career, leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott and helping to found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. His efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, raising public consciousness of the civil rights movement and establishing King as one of the greatest orators in American history. In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means.

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter in 1977. Martin Luther King Day was established as a national holiday in the United States in 1986. In 2004, King was posthumously awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.

## Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)



African-American author and folklorist.

One of her best-known works is her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Hurston spent years collecting folklore among the Black people of the rural South, including the Caribbean and Latin America, and celebrated their culture in her stories and novels. While in New York, Hurston became part of the Harlem Renaissance literary circle that included Langston Hughes, Wallace Thurman, and Jesse Fauset.

## Elisabetta Sirani



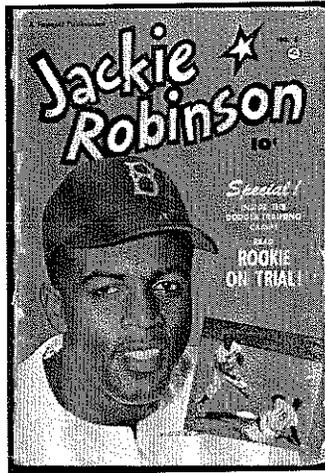
Italian Renaissance artist, founder of an art school for women, her 1663 work of the Virgin and Child was a 1994 United States Postal Service holiday stamp.

She was born in Bologna. By age 17 she was a full-fledged engraver and painter and had completed over ninety works. By the time she died at the young age of 27, she had added at least eighty more to her repertoire. Besides being an independent painter by the age of 19, Elisabetta Sirani also ran her family's workshop. When her father became incapacitated by gout, she was burdened with having to support her parents, her siblings and herself, entirely through her art. The stress created by such heavy responsibilities may have been the cause of her early death. It is estimated that in all she produced some 200 paintings, drawings, and etchings. She painted themes such as the Virgin and Child, self-portraits, and many more.

Elisabetta Sirani used dramatic light and great movement in her work, which classified it in the Baroque style. She painted many of her larger scale and heavy-themed works publicly and in front of large (and adoring) crowds of on-lookers. Sirani's portraits, mythological subjects, and especially her images of the Holy Family and the Virgin and Child, gained international fame.

She painted an *Assumption of the Virgin* at the parish church of Borgo Panigale; a *Saint Eustache*, and *Judith with the Head of Holofernes* (Burghley House, Stamford, England); the *Baptism of Christ* (1658); and *Madonna with child and Infant Saint John* (Museo Civico, Pesaro); *Saint Jerome* (Pinacoteca Nazionale, Bologna), and *Portrait of Anna Maria Ranuzzi*.

## Jackie Robinson



2007 marks the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's rookie season for the Brooklyn Dodgers. When he stepped onto Ebbets field on April 15th, 1947, Robinson became the first African American in the twentieth century to play baseball in the major leagues -- breaking the "color line," a segregation practice dating to the nineteenth century. Jackie Robinson was an extremely talented multi-sport athlete and a courageous man who played an active role in civil rights. This presentation was created to commemorate his achievements and describe some aspects of the color line's development and the Negro Leagues. Materials that tell his story, and the history of baseball in general, are located throughout the Library of Congress. This web presentation was made possible by a generous gift from the Citigroup Foundation.

## Nellie Tayloe Ross



Nellie Tayloe Ross was born November 29, 1876 near St. Joseph, Missouri. She was educated in public and private schools, and attended a kindergarten training school in Omaha, Nebraska. She taught school for a few years in Omaha before coming to Cheyenne in 1902, following her marriage to William B. Ross. Mr. Ross began a law practice in Wyoming and eventually became active in politics. He was elected as Wyoming's governor in the 1922 election.

Mrs. Ross was an avid supporter of her husband. When he died in office in October, 1924, the Secretary of State, as Acting Governor, called for a special election. The Democratic party nominated Mrs. Ross to complete her husband's term. She initially declined, but upon reflection accepted the nomination. She felt she was the best qualified to understand her husband's goals and work to realize them. Mrs. Ross won the election handily and became the first woman governor in the United States when she was inaugurated 16 days before Miriam A. Ferguson of Texas. She served from January 5, 1925 to January 3, 1927, losing a bid for reelection.

Following her defeat Mrs. Ross continued to be a much sought speaker. She was appointed as a vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1928, and directed the party's women's division. She campaigned extensively for Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. Following his inauguration in 1933, Roosevelt appointed Mrs. Ross to the position of Director of the United States Mint, a position she held until 1953. After her retirement she continued to reside in Washington, D.C., and kept busy with speaking engagements. She died in 1977 at the age of 101. Interment was in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

# Three Kings Day



Three Kings Day is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, twelve days after Christmas. It is often viewed as the last day of the Christmas season (the end of the 12 days of Christmas).

Also known as The Epiphany, Three Kings Day (Día de los Reyes) is a Christian celebration that commemorates the Biblical story of the three kings who followed the star of Bethlehem to bring gifts to the Christ child. According to the Biblical story, the Three Kings – named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar – presented the Baby Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Three Kings Day was the gift-giving time, rather than Christmas day. Just as it is common for children to leave cookies for Santa in the U.S., in some regions, it was customary for children to leave their shoes out on the night of January 5, often filling them with hay for the camels, in hopes that the Three Kings would be generous. Children would awake on January 6 to find their shoes filled with toys and gifts.

Also traditional is for families to gather together and share the Rosca de Reyes. The Rosca de Reyes is crown-shaped sweet bread decorated with pieces of orange and lime. It is filled with nuts, figs, and cherries. Hot chocolate is traditionally served with the Rosca de Reyes.

## **Emancipation Proclamation**

### **January 1, 1863**

The Emancipation Proclamation consists of two executive orders issued by United States President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War. The first one, issued on September 22, 1862, declared the freedom of all slaves in any state of the Confederate States of America as did not return to Union control by January 1, 1863, and the second one, issued on January 1, 1863, enumerated the specific states where it applied. The Emancipation Proclamation was widely attacked at the time as freeing only the slaves over which the Union had no power, but in practice, it committed the Union to ending slavery, which was controversial in the North. It was *not* a law passed by Congress, but a presidential order empowered, as Lincoln wrote, by his position as "Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy" under Article II, section 2 of the United States Constitution.

The proclamation did not free any slaves in the border states (Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia), or any southern state already under Union control. It first directly affected only those slaves that had already escaped to the Union side, but as the Union armies conquered the Confederacy, thousands of slaves were freed each day until nearly all (approximately 4 million, according to the 1860 census<sup>[1]</sup>) were freed by July of 1865.

After the war there was concern that the proclamation, as a war measure, had not made the elimination of slavery permanent. Several former slave states had prohibited slavery; however, some slavery continued to exist until the entire institution was finally wiped out by the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment on December 18, 1865.

# Hors D'oeuvres

**Jean Nigro**  
of Wethersfield

**"Things"**  
(Makes appx. 48 pcs.)

**Ingredients**

1 stick butter  
1 tbs. mayonnaise  
1 jar golden cheese  
1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
2 cans shrimp or crabmeat  
- Fresh is excellent opt.

Lemon Juice  
English Muffins

**Preparation:**

Mix all above together. Spread on English Muffins then cut into quarters. Bake at 350° for approx. 12 minutes or until bubbly. Can be frozen on a cookie sheet then removed from freezer and placed in plastic bags.

**Anna Purinton**  
of Wethersfield

**Mozzerella-Ham-Stromboli**  
(serves 10)

**Ingredients**

1-11 oz. tube refrigerated crusty French loaf  
2 cups part-skim mozzarella  
1/4 lb. thinly sliced deli ham  
1 tbs. butter, melted  
1 tbs. parmesan cheese

**Preparation:**

On a lightly floured surface, unroll dough at seam. Pat dough into a 14x12-inch rectangle. Sprinkle mozzarella cheese over dough to within 1/2-inch of edge. Top with a single layer of ham. Roll up tightly from short side; pinch seam to seal. Place seam-side down on an ungreased baking sheet. Brush top of loaf with butter; sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Bake at 375° for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire rack for 5 minutes. Cut with serrated knife.



*Recipe for A Happy New Year*  
*Author Unknown*

*To leave the old with a burst of song  
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;  
To forget the thing that binds you fast  
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;  
To have the strength to let go your hold  
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old,  
To dare to go forth with a purpose true,  
To the unknown task of the year that's new;  
To help your brother along the road  
To do his work and lift his load;  
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,  
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.*

## What is New Year's Day?



New Year's Day is the first day of the year, in the Gregorian calendar, falling exactly one week after Christmas Day of the previous year. In modern times, it is January 1st. In most countries, it is a holiday. It is a holy day to many of those who still use the Julian calendar, which includes followers of some of the Eastern Orthodox churches, and is celebrated on January 14th of the Gregorian calendar due to differences between the two calendars. It is usually celebrated with fireworks.

## First United Nations General Assembly

The **United Nations General Assembly (GA, UNGA)** is one of the five principal organs of the United Nations and the only one in which all member nations has equal representation. Its powers are to oversee the budget of the United Nations, appoint the non-permanent members to the Security Council, receive reports from other parts of the United Nations and make recommendations in the form of General Assembly Resolutions. It has also established a wide number of subsidiary organs.

The General Assembly meets under its president in regular yearly sessions which last from September to December, although it can reconvene for special and emergency special sessions. Its composition, functions, powers, voting, and procedures are set out in Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter.

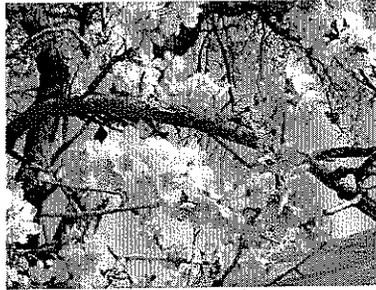
The first session was convened on 10 January 1946 in the Westminster Central Hall in London and included representatives of 51 nations.

Voting in the General Assembly on important questions – recommendations on peace and security; election of members to organs; admission, suspension, and expulsion of members; budgetary matters – is by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Other questions are decided by majority vote. Each member country has one vote. Apart from approval of budgetary matters, including adoption of a scale of assessment,

Assembly resolutions are not binding on the members. The Assembly may make recommendations on any matters within the scope of the UN, except matters of peace and security under Security Council consideration. The one state, one vote power structure theoretically allows states comprising just eight percent of the world population to pass a resolution by a two-thirds vote.

## Tu Bishvat



**Tu Bishvat** (Hebrew: ט"ו בשבט) is a minor Jewish holiday, occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat (in 2011 this occurred from sunset on January 19 through sunset on January 20). It is also called "The New Year of the Trees" or (Hebrew: ראש השנה לאילנות, *Rosh HaShanah La'llanot*). Tu Bishvat is one of four "New Years" mentioned in the Mishnah.

The name Tu Bishvat is derived from the Hebrew date of the holiday, which occurs on the fifteenth day of Shevat. "Tu" stands for the Hebrew letters Tet and Vav, which together have the numerical value of 9 and 6, adding up to 15. Tu Bishvat is a relatively recent name; the date was originally "Ḥamisha Asar BiShvat" (טבשב רשע-השמח), also meaning "Fifteenth of Shevat".

Tu Bishvat appears in the Mishnah in Tractate Rosh Hashanah as one of the four new years in the Jewish calendar. The discussion of when the New Year occurs was a source of debate among the rabbis: "And there are four new year dates: - The first of Nisan - new year for kings and festivals - The first of Elul - new year for animal tithes. Rabbi Elazar and Rabbi Shimon say: the first of Tishrei. - The first of Tishrei- new year for calculation of the calendar, sabbatical years and jubilees, for planting and sowing - The first of Shevat, according to the school of Shamai; The school of Hillel say: the fifteenth of Shevat" (*Rosh Hashana:1a*)

The rabbis of the Talmud ruled in favor of Hillel on this issue. Thus the 15th of Shevat became the date for calculating when the agricultural cycle began or ended for the purpose of biblical tithes.