

Monday

2nd January

WALK. If you have been eating a lot in the last weeks, put on comfortable shoes, make some tea in the thermos and go for an extended walk!

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06

Tuesday

3rd January

UN-PLUG. We are constantly being fed with information – news, adverts, radio, music.. Our brain slowly turns to an information consuming machine, doesn't it? Have you ever thought that maybe the more information we consume, the less our brain is capable of creating new ideas? How about spending a day without listening to the radio or watching TV? Invite friends to do the same and see, what ideas you would come to.

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06

Wednesday

4th January

BRAIN GYM. Someone said that humanity is not getting any smarter from the point when people started to write things down. Through writing things down we „outsource“ the function of our brain - memory. But our brain is a muscle and needs exercise too! Therefore, try to learn your favourite poem by heart. If you don't like that one, give it a go and learn 30 new words of a foreign language you are learning!

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06

Thursday

5th January

LANGUAGES. Most of the people think that it is very difficult to learn a new language. If you do not learn the usual way, it could be very easy. Decide what new language you would like to learn. Then look for the people speaking it and observe them. Don't panic if you do not understand anything - just let your brain work for itself without forcing it. Listen to the radio in that language as if it was music, find a newspaper, read it as if it was a game. Then consider spending some time in the country, where this language is being spoken. If you like the people and enjoy the process, following these instructions and you could learn the language very quickly. Go for it!

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06

Friday

6th January

WISE MEN. According to the legend, there were three wise men, who came from the Orient to greet the Jesus baby on this day. In Germany children sing songs in the neighbourhood and collect sweets or money for development projects in other countries of the world. And it's also Armenian Christmas today!

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06

Saturday

7th January

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Congratulations for the people from Russian, Greek and other cultures, where the Orthodox church uses the Julian Calender and celebrate Christmas today!!!

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06

Sunday

8th January

WASTE. Don't throw your waste until next Sunday. Check, how much waste you produce a week. Imagine if all the people in the world would produce the same amount!

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06

Monday

9th January

DAY OF HALL commemorates in Islam the last revelation of the Prophet shortly before his death. Hajj is intended to remind practitioners of the cycle of life and death as well as the gathering on the day of judgment.

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Tuesday

10th January

SLEEP on the floor. Many of us are used to comfortable beds. But many people in the world sleep on hard surfaces – on the floor at home or in the streets... Try it out for one night!

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Wednesday

11th January

BENCH. Look for a bench in the park and spend 15 minutes doing nothing!

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06

Thursday

12th January

EAT today without using a knife, spoon or fork! In many countries people eat using only their hands. “We know that the vast majority of people living in India eat primarily with their hands, and the population of India is roughly one billion people. Many countries in south-east Asia (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos) also have a sizable portion of the population eating with their hands – these countries comprise another one-hundred million people. Throughout Africa many people rely on their hands as their primary utensil – Tanzanians and Ethiopians, for example, prefer this method of eating to using a knife and fork.”

(<http://www.wisegeek.com>) Try it out yourself! The food fills you up more, if you eat it with your “eyes” enjoying the colours and beauty of it and with your “hands” sensing it’s texture with your fingers!

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Friday

13th January

DEADLINE. Yes, you are reading right, it is Friday the 13th! How about checking the deadlines for the YOUTH programme applications today, in case you want to apply for a grant for your youth project?

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Saturday

14th January

MAHAYANA is Buddhist New Year! According to the Mahayana Buddhists the new year begins with the full moon in January. Congratulations! "Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world, being exceeded in numbers only by Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. It was founded in Northern India by the first known Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. In 535 BCE, he attained enlightenment and assumed the title Lord Buddha (one who has awakened)." www.religioustolerance.org

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Sunday

15th January

Birthday of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Is everything alright around you? Or do you see unfair, unjust things happening to people in the place where you live? Talk about it with the others. Maybe you will come up with an idea of what you could do about it! Just as Martin Luther King did for the rights of black people in the United States of America.

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20 06

Monday

16th January

WASTE. Try to produce as little waste as possible. Refuse to take plastic bags in the stores, plastic cups to parties – instead use cloth bags and glass cups and encourage your friends to do the same. You could even wear a tin mug with your keys on your trousers!

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20 06

Tuesday

17th January

AYUBOWAN – may you live long! This is what people in Sri Lanka say. Find Sri Lanka on the map!

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Wednesday

18th January

INSIGHT. What is your main insight of the last seven days? What did you learn? Note it here.....

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Thursday

19th January

FRIENDS. Check your calendar today. When are the birthdays of your friends? If they don't live in the same place as you and you would like to do something special, you might want to write them a real paper postcard. Nowadays everyone sends them on the internet, but remember how incredible it is to get snail mail...

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Friday

20th January

EID-AL-ADHA. Today begins Eid-al-Adha – a three day Festival of Sacrifice, which marks the end of the holy pilgrimage, which is one of the 5 pillars of Islam. What does sacrifice mean to you?

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Saturday

21st January

Do you have a MESSAGE for the world?
C'mon, write it here:

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Sunday

22nd January

MERHABA! It means „hello“ in Turkish!

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Monday

23rd January

NOTHING. What do you know nothing about and would like to find out more about? It is not only schools and universities where we learn. Find a person to teach you or tell you about things you would like to learn!

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Tuesday

24th January

Is everything fine? TAMAM – is what you can say in Arabic, if you mean „good, well, right“.

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20 06

Wednesday

25th January

NEIGHBOURS. Who are they? Do you know them? Not all of them yet? How about baking a cake and inviting them to your place? Ok, ok, tea would do the job too.

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Thursday

26th January

ORIGAMI. One of the Shinto practices is Origami (“Paper of the spirits”). This is a Japanese folk art in which paper is folded into all kinds of beautiful shapes. They are often seen around Shinto shrines. Out of respect for the tree spirit that gave its life to make the paper, origami paper is never cut. You can find instructions to this paper folding art on the internet, putting the word „origami“ in your search engine.

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Friday

27th January

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY. Find out, if there were any Jewish communities in your country before the II World War. Maybe there are some museums around, where you can find out how the Jewish everyday life looked like. In many European countries Jewish towns were called „Staedtl“.

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Saturday

28th January

SAWUBONA! That's how you say hello in Swaziland, a small country in the southern hemisphere. Find it on the map! The official language is Swati and SAWUBONA means literally 'I see you'.

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Sunday

29th January

Kung Hey Fat Choy - means HAPPY NEW YEAR in Chinese! It is the beginning of the year 4704 and in the circle of the twelve animals of the Chinese calender it is dog („gou“ in Chinese). If you are not Chinese, Vietnamese or Korean yourself, do you know any people from these countries in the place where you live? Congratule them and celebrate the „Spring Festival“ with them!

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Monday

30th January

HAPPY NEW YEAR once again! Muslim people celebrate the beginning of the year 1427 with the Al-Hijra (New Year's Day). Congratulations! It is also the first day of the month of Muharra. This festival commecorates the Hijra (or Hegira) in 622 CE when the Prophet Muhammad moved from Mecca to Medina. If you are not muslim yourself, you might want to find Muslim people in the place where you live and congratulate them!

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Tuesday

31st January

Winking Game. In this calendar we also would like to give you few ideas to run sessions. These are from the SALTO-Toolbox. You can also look up for more directly under:

www.salto-youth.net/toolbox. This game is good to activate the non-verbal communication skills and connect participants to each other. Group: 20-30 (larger group should be split) Material needed: chairs Duration: 10-15 Mins. Description: Half of the group sits in chairs – the other half stands behind them with their arms down at their sides (one person behind each chair except for one, which stays empty). The person standing behind the empty chair is the “seducer”. S/He has to try to “seduce” someone so that they come to his chair – they do this by winking at those sitting in the chairs. If they are winked at, the people sitting must try to jump out of their chair before the one behind them can grab them. If they escape, then they take up the “seducer’s” empty chair and it is someone else’s turn to wink. If they are caught, then they return to their seat and the seducer must try to wink at someone else.

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Wednesday

1st February

DEADLINES. Thinking of a YOUTH programme project to set up? Youth initiative? Exchange? Check the deadlines for the projects of the programme „Youth“ in your country. If you haven't started yet, do it NOW!

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Thursday

2nd February

Vasanta Panchami. This festival is a celebration of the Saraswati, the goddess of learning, wisdom and fine arts by people of Hindu religion, which is practiced in Nepal, India, Mauritius, Guyana and other places. Saraswati is known as a water deity and was revered for purifying, fertilizing and enriching powers. She is said to have invented Sanskrit, the language of the Brahmins, of scriptures and scholarship.

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Friday

3rd February

Today is the UNICEF day for CHANGE. What kind of change do you wish? For the world? For yourself? For the place and community you live in? Make notes.

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Saturday

4th February

Did you know, that URDU is the language spoken in Pakistan?

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Sunday

5th February

DO NOTHING. Are you busy those days?
Can you allow yourself to do nothing one day?
Just thinking, contemplating, meditating?

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Monday

6th February

MONDAY. How about a silly idea to celebrate an ordinary Monday? Take some cardboard, paper and decorate your windows, balcony, the walls of your house from the outside! It would be a surprise to everyone passing by!

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06

Tuesday

7th February

CHOPSTICKS. Cook some rice and try eating it with chopsticks, like in China or Japan. If you are not used to it, it will take some time for you to manage eating your dish. Rice is main food in many parts of the world, like China, India, South American countries.

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Wednesday

8th February

PARTICIPATION. If you are developing a project make sure that the people who will be involved in the project have a say from the very beginning! Then everyone can identify themselves with the idea and willingly contribute to it's realisation!

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Thursday

9th February

TASHARAFNA! Means „nice to meet you“ in Arabic, spoken in countries like Jordan, Marrocco, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Palestine, among others. And maybe in your street too? Check if you find any Arabic speaking neighbours and learn from them, how to say „how are you?“.

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Friday

10th February

WATER. Just checking, if you're drinking enough water. Your body needs around 2 Lt water each day.

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Saturday

11th February

MAP. When you see the world map next time, check where is meridian. It is a North-South line between the North and the South Poles. If you live in the North Part of the globe, the meridian on the map you will be examining will be most probably not in the center of the map, but in lower. The North Part will appear bigger and the South smaller. What do think, why is it like that?

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Sunday

12th February

NIRVANA DAY celebrated by Buddhists.
According to Mahayana tradition it is a date of Shakyamuni Buddha's death and passing into Mahaparinirvana (complete extinction of ego-self and reunification with the universe).

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Monday

13th February

Tu B'shevat. Known as the New Year for Trees, Tu B'shevat is the 15 day of the Shevat month in the Jewish Calendar. "Jewish tradition holds that the people should have a special relationship with nature and that we should guard the sanctity of the trees and the environment as part of our natural world. The Torah teaches us that the children of Israel were commanded to plant trees and other foliage as they conquered Eretz Yisrael "for the tree of the fields is man's life". (Deuteronomy 20:19). As part of Jewish tradition, on this day, we eat from among seven special species of vegetation. These species are all native to the land of Israel: barley, dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives and wheat. (www.wzo.org.il) Have you ever planted a tree? If not, the time is NOW!

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Tuesday

14th February

CARNEVAL. In Rhineland (Germany) celebrating carnaval is for many people the most important event of the year. Rheinländer (people of Rhine country) call it the „fifth season“, because all of a sudden the well-organised Rhine country with it's capital Cologne turns to a big circus of singing, drinking and crazy dressed up celebrating folks. Almost forgot, it is also St. Valentines day today, the day of lovers. But isn't it a shame to have only one day for lovers in a year, eh!?!?

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Wednesday

15th February

BRAINSTORMING. This method for a creative solution development is most probably not new to you. But do you still remember all the rules to run a brainstorming session? Just in case you forgot here are some. In the beginning the moderator has to make clear, for what issue or question solutions are being developed. Let your fantasy flow and think with the others of weirdest, seemingly unrealistic and crazy ideas. All the inputs should be short. Write them all down immediately, otherwise you might forget them. Do not criticise or „kill“ them with negative comments. Do not discuss. The maximum you could do is supporting each other with short encouraging comments. Connect to the ideas of others and develop yours.

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Thursday

16th February

RECYCLE. Take a closer look at the milk or juice box or bottle. What you could make out of them? How about the money purse? Envelopes for CD? Or you could cut off the top and use it as a container?

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Friday

17th February

SHOES. Before entering a bathroom, put on different house shoes. People in Japan have different house shoes for the bathroom.

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Saturday

18th February

ACTIVE LISTENING. Turn with your body to a person you are listening to. Look at her/him, when s/he is talking. Ask questions, to make sure you understand the person right. Once in a while repeat in your own words, what the person has said. Try to express in your own words, what the person might be thinking: "So, you think, that you could set up a project, if you find few more people to join you". Try to put in your own words what the person might be feeling: „It sounds that now you are very excited to find out if your youth project has been approved“.

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Sunday

19th February

RELAX. Breath deeply (if you are a smoker - as if you would be smoking, just without a cigarette) – it supplies your body with oxygen and helps you to relax!

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Monday

20th February

LA REVEDERE! – is how you say
'goodbye' in Moldovian.

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Tuesday

21st February

MAP. You still don't have a world map on the wall in your kitchen? Then get one today!

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Wednesday

22nd February

LOSE. Lose a book today you have already read. Someone will find it!

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February						
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06

Thursday

23rd February

FISH NAMED WILLIAM. Once upon a time there was a fish named William. He was very very very very clever. He could be silent in ten languages: English, French, Hottentot, Portuguese, Russian, German, Italian, Welsh, Chinese and Swedish. And always, before he was silent in any language, he went, 'Brlp,' and popped a little bubble of air from his mouth to the top of the water. The other fish were impressed. 'Oh, William,' they said, 'please be silent in English.' 'Brlp,' went William and was silent. Then they said, 'Oh, William, please be silent in French.' 'Brlp!' went William and was silent. Then they said, 'Oh, William, please be silent in Hottentot. 'Brlp!' went William and was silent. 'Be silent in Portuguese,' they said, 'Brlp,' went William and was silent. The other fish were pleased. 'Now, William, be silent in Russian, ' they said. 'Brlp!' went William and was silent. 'Now, German.' 'Brlp!' 'Now, Italian.' 'Brlp!' 'Oh, William! Now, Welsh. We're sure you can't be silent in Welsh. 'Brlp!' went William and was silent. 'Now,' said the other fishes, 'dear William, you are clever.' 'Brlp!' went William and was silent. 'Brlp! Brlp! Brlp!' He was a very happy fish. Donald Bisset "Please Yourself", 1991, London

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 06

Friday

24th February

SHALOM is how you can say hello in Jewish!

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06

Saturday

25th February

SEPARATE. Separate your waste and bring it to the special containers – plastic, glass, paper, organic waste, etc.

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06

Sunday

26th February

NEEDS and SATISFIERS. We eat, sleep, buy, work, it seems that we could not complain about anything, but it feels, that something is still lacking. Think for a second about what needs you have in general: subsistence, affection, protection, creativity, freedom, idleness.. What satisfiers do you choose to meet your needs? In Europe we tend to choose material means to meet our needs. We buy things and this is good for the producing companies, but it really good for us? Do things satisfy our needs for freedom, participation, creativity? If we buy things, we need money, for money we need to spend our time of life to earn it, and thus we might not have enough time to enjoy what we already have or are. Seeing small everyday things as if we would see them for the first time with admiration, sharing with people our time and experience, taking some free time to play and create could meet many of our human needs without spending any money and without polluting the earth, or contributing to the unfair trade.

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 06

Monday

27th February

TIME. We all perceive time differently. You can find it out in a group of people using this method as a relaxing energiser. Take a watch. Ask people to close their eyes and open them when they think that one minute has passed. It is funny to see it that obviously, all of us have individual perception of time.

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06

Tuesday

28th February

PANCAKE DAY! Before the Christians start the fasting season, in Netherlands, just as in many other European countries they give it a go and celebrate the departing of winter making a feast of pancakes!

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February						
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06

Wednesday

1st March

ASH WEDNESDAY. In the Christian tradition this day is dedicated for the idea, that our bodies are material and that us and everything what is material will turn to ashes anyway. Christians put today a cross on the forehead with ashes.

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Thursday

2nd March

TREE. Spring is good time to plant a tree.
Check your local market, find the right
space for the tree and plant it!

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Friday

3rd Month

WORLD BOOK DAY. Do you have any books you do not need anymore? Free your books! Register them in the booksharing project www.bookcrossings.com and lose them on purpose, so that someone can find them! Maybe you will find a book too?

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March						
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 06

Saturday

4th Month

LOOK UP. Look at your shoes, shampoo, clothes. Where are they produced? Look up in the internet to find out, what people earn producing those goods. If you cannot find anything, write to a company and ask them. You might be scared at a sudden to realise the difference from your income...

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20 06

Sunday

5th March

FREEDOM is always and exclusively the freedom for the one who thinks differently“. This phrase comes from Rosa Luxemburg, who was a Polish-born German Marxist political theorist, socialist philosopher, and revolutionary, born on March 5, 1870. She started the newspaper The Red Flag, and cofounded the Spartakusbund, a Marxist revolutionary group that became the Communist Party of Germany and took part in an unsuccessful revolution in Berlin in January, 1919. The uprising was carried out against Rosa's advice, and crushed by the remnants of the monarchist army and freelance right-wing militias collectively called the Freikorps, which were sent in by the government. Luxemburg and hundreds of others were captured, tortured, and killed. Rosa Luxemburg was killed in Berlin in 1919 during the German revolution.

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Monday

6th March

MARCH 6 is the 65th day of the year in the Gregorian Calendar (66th in Leap years). There are another 300 days remaining!

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 06

Tuesday

7th March

ARMENIA. Did you know, that Armenia was the first country (early 4th century) which formally adopted Christianity?

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06

Wednesday

8th March

International Day for Women's Right. How many women musicians do you know? How many men? Women politicians? How many men do you know, who stay away from the work to take care of their children? Do you know, that in most of the European Countries women are still paid less than men for the same work? What can YOU do for more gender justice?

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March						
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 06

Thursday

9th March

SOCKS. Wear today different socks.
Or different shoes. Watch peoples' reactions.

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March						
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06

Friday

10th Month

CHANGE THE PERSPECTIVE. Arrange the dinner tonight on the floor, in a different room, from a different angle – or do not use tables or chairs! In many parts of the world people do not use furniture as we do.

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06

Saturday

11th March

COMPUTER. How much time a day do you spend on the computer? C'mon, shut the thing off, I want to see you in the street!

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 06

Sunday

12th March

MONGOLIA. „Mongolians sing to their animals: there are lullabies to coax sheep suckle their lambs, croons to control a goat, to milk a cow or imitate a camel's cry – there are far more Mongolian songs about the love of a good horse than the love of a good woman“. Lonely Planet's Mongolia

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20 06

Monday

13th March

PLANNING AN ACTIVITY. Do you want to do something to change things around you into better and more just? Here are some helpful questions to start with.

„Why do you want to plan an activity? What are you trying to achieve by running the event? You have to decide early what for or against you would like to demonstrate with your activity. Don't forget: an activity must not necessarily be „against“ something (for example racism), also ‚positive‘ action (for example showing the richness of cultural life of an intercultural society) can be very effective. Successful activities must always have a clearly defined target. Decide what change you want society or policies to undergo, what needs to change and how that can be achieved. Whom do you want to reach with your activity? Do you have a specific target audience (for example school kids, workers or women)? What makes you or your organisation an expert on the topic of your activity? Is there a certain reason to organise your event „now“ and „here“? Do you feel passionate about the subject?“ (taken from the UNITED FOR INTERCULTURAL ACTION, a European Network Against Nationalism, Racism, Fascism and in Support of Migrants and Refugees, www.unitedagainstracism.org)

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Tuesday

14th March

PURIM the Jewish Feast of Purim celebrates how Queen Esther and her cousin Mordecai saved the Jews from the wicked Haman. The word Purim means “lots” in reference to the lottery Haman used to determine the day of the planned slaughter.

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March						
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 06

Wednesday

15th March

HOLI. Amongst India's innumerable festivals, Holi ranks as the most colourful. It celebrates the arrival of spring and death of demoness Holika, it is a celebration of joy and hope. Holi provides a refreshing respite from the mundane norms as people from all walks of life enjoy themselves. In a tight knit community, it also provided a good excuse for letting off some steam and settling old scores, without causing physical injury.

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Thursday

16th Month

RADIO. Find the radio station in a foreign language you don't understand and listen to it! Just listen to the sound of it. We are sometimes so stuck in the world around us, that we don't realise any more that there are other cultures beyond ours. True?

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March						
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06

Friday

17th March

COFFEE. Guess, in what European country people drink most coffee? Italy? Spain? Nope, it's Norway with it's 10.7 kgs of coffee consumed by person per year. Finland is on the second place, (10.1 kg) followed by Denmark (9.7 kg). Germany – 5.7 kg, Italy – 3.2 kg, Ireland 0.7kg.

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Saturday

18th March

ORIGAMI. Look in your public library for a book with the instruction of this japanese paper folding art and fold a few cranes!

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Sunday

19th March

CRANES. Take the cranes from yesterday and when you go out, leave them everywhere on your way.

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March						
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06

Monday

20th March

FIRST DAY OF SPRING. Speaks for itself...

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March						
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06

Tuesday

21st March

NOROOZ. It's New Year again! This time it is Persian (Iran)! Today is also an International day for the Elimination of Racism. Are there any activities in your town or city you could join? Maybe you could start one yourself?

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March						
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 06

Wednesday

22nd March

COUNT. Count, how many times you celebrated NEW YEAR according to this calender!

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March						
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06

Thursday

23rd March

Bomb and shield. Theatrical games serve to heighten our senses and de-mechanize the body, to get us out of habitual behaviour, as a prelude to moving beyond habitual thinking and interacting Group (whom for?) 15 - 30 people Material needed: Space to run around Duration: 5 min Description: Have in mind one person from this room (silent, don't say who is that). Then have in mind another one. Now, the first person is your bomb, the second is your shield. On my sign, you all should start to run away from your bomb, and hiding behind your shield. When I shout "STOP", you should stop. To survive, it must be line between you and your bomb, and your shield in between. We'll see who is very dead, who almost and who is alive. OK, start. Further info/Source: Games for Actors and Nonactors, by Augusto Boal

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Friday

24th March

SURPRISE. Think of a surprise you could do for your friends tonight!

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March						
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 06

Saturday

25th March

WALK. Go for an extended walk
and watch everything grow!

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March						
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06

Sunday

26th March

SAKURA. „The cherry blossom is Japan's national flower. The advent of the cherry blossom season between late March and early April not only heralds the coming of spring but the beginning of the new academic year for schools and of the new fiscal year for businesses. During this period, the weather authorities at the Meteorological Agency report on the advance of the sakura zensen, „ the cherry blossom front, „ as warm weather moves northward, and people begin to look forward with anticipation to its arrival and the true end of winter's cold that it signals. As the trees begin to bloom, people gather beneath them to enjoy the flowers.“ <http://www.tjf.or.jp>

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Monday

27th March

HANAMI. History of Hanami In the ancient period, flower viewing - hanami -- referred to enjoying the blossoms of the Japanese apricot -- ume, but since the Heian period (794 - 1185) it has meant cherry-blossoms. Originally a religious ritual, the hanami was held on a particular day. With the coming of spring it was customary to perform ceremonies prior to the beginning of planting, forecasting the harvest for the year from the condition of the cherry blossoms. Then, likening the cherry trees in full bloom to a bumper harvest of rice, they would celebrate with food and drink under the trees. In those days it was a tradition observed only by the nobility and upper classes.

From medieval times, the way cherry petals fall at the height of their beauty (that is, before they have withered and become unsightly) and the transience of their span assumed symbolism both in the warrior code and in Buddhism. Soon the cherry blossoms became an expression of the samurai way of life. The custom of hanami spread to the warrior class, and the warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537 - 98), who played a major role in the unification of the country, held historically grand hanami to flaunt his power. Cherry blossom parties spread to commoners in the era of cultural ferment toward the end of the seventeenth century known as Genroku (1688 - 1704). Families, groups of friends, or workmates would gather for merry feasting and drinking.

Today, hanami is no more than a private, popular opportunity for having a good time.

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Tuesday

28th Month

FOOTSTEP. „As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind. To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again. To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives.“ - Henry David Thoreau

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Wednesday

29th March

WHAT? What would you put in a calendar like this?
Send me your ideas! evelina@candycactus.net

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06

Thursday

30th March

HINDU NEW YEAR The birth of a New Year is a whole new beginning and marks the time when the world awakens from it's wintry slumber. So almost all the Hindu New Year festivals fall on the beginning of the spring months when nature turns bountiful and blesses the earth with fruitful greenery. The beautiful flowers that bloom in spring, the early bird songs, the fresh harvests which are the fruits of past labour and the commencement of a new agricultural cycle. All these symbolise the dawn of another year. Thus, every colourful spring festival of the hindus, with all the expectations, apprehensions, hope and joy woven in the festivities, is essentially a New Year celebration. <http://www.hindunewyear.com/>

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March						
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06

Friday

31st March

Domino. Here is an exercise you might want to try out next time you work with a group, available on www.salto-youth.net/toolbox. Domino is good to find out more about participants hobbies, families etc. and to show connections among participants. Suitable for any group bigger than 5. Material needed: Enough space in the room for making a circle of participants, it can be done with or without chairs

Description: The facilitator invites the participants to share smaller or bigger "secrets" or interesting information about themselves (hobbies, family, etc.). The facilitator can start him/herself telling that on his/her left side shall sit/stand a person who likes Jazz music and on the right side shall sit a person who has 1 brother just like the facilitator. Then participants are welcome to sit/stand in the places next to the facilitator if they have such interests or things in common. It might happen that people „fight" for the places, but there is only one participant on either end of the facilitator. The new persons can then mention one characteristic or secret that links another participant to their free side. if nobody shares this particular characteristic, another characteristic should be chosen until one of the remaining participants shares this characteristic.

In a small reflection at the end the facilitator can make the point that the whole group made a one circle where everybody has something in common with somebody else from the group.

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Saturday

1st April

YASU! That is what they say in Cyprus to say ,hello'. Today it is CYPRUS national day. The capital of Cyprus is Valletta.

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Sunday

2nd April

FOOL. Well, yesterday it was FOOL'S day. But we fooled you only on one point – the capital of Cyprus is Nicosia. Valetta is a capital of another Mediteranean Island – Malta. The rest is correct ;)

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April						
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