## The Easter Egg



During Lent, Christians abstained not only from meat but also from eggs. Thus, Easter dawned as a feast—a chance to savor both. In England's royal accounts, 450 eggs gleamed, gilded and dyed, ready for Easter gifts. But curiously, in Mexico, South America, and Native American cultures, eggs play a quiet role during this celebration.

For Christians, the egg holds deeper layers. It mirrors Jesus' emergence from the tomb,

a fragile shell cracking to reveal life triumphant. Five centuries ago, the first mention of "Easter eggs" graced parchment. Yet, even earlier, North African Christians colored eggs, treasuring them like rare gems after harsh winters.

According to custom, the Easter Hare would bring brightly painted eggs for well-behaved children, hiding them around houses and gardens.

Even Queen Victoria enjoyed egg hunts at Kensington Palace, organized by her Germanborn mother, the Duchess of Kent.

So whether you're painting playful Easter eggs with your family or creating intricate pysanky, these egg-centric traditions celebrate the joy of spring and the promise of new beginnings

## International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated annually on March 8, is a global holiday that honors the achievements of women and advocates for their rights. It serves as a focal point in the women's rights movement, emphasizing issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and combating violence and abuse against women12.

The United Nations officially recognized IWD in 1975, declaring it "International Women's Year." Since then, it has been celebrated worldwide, .

So, on this day, let us celebrate the resilience, achievements, and contributions of women everywhere. Together, we can continue to inspire inclusion and drive positive change for a gender-equal future.









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The Life of St. Patrick

In the mist-shrouded hills of ancient Ireland, a young man named Patrick walked a path of shadows. His heart, once captive, now yearned for freedom—a freedom not of earthly chains, but of spirit and purpose.

Patrick's tale began in the green valleys of Britain. Irish raiders descended upon his village, tearing him from hearth and home.

Enslaved, he toiled under the harsh sun.

Yet adversity breeds resilience. Amidst the rocky cliffs and windswept moors, Patrick found solace in prayer. Dreams visited him and in the dead of night, he fled, guided by unseen hands.

The sea welcomed him, its waves cradling his escape. Back in Britain, he embraced his family, tears mingling with joy. But destiny had more in store. Another dream—a voice, soft as the morning mist, calling him back to Ireland.

Patrick hesitated. Ireland, a wild and pagan realm, held memories of chains and hardship. Yet he obeyed. With staff in hand and faith as his compass, he returned. The Emerald Isle welcomed him—a tapestry of rolling hills, ancient oaks, and mist-kissed lakes. Here, he would sow seeds of belief.

Legends sprouted—the shamrock, a symbol of the Holy Trinity, danced in his hands. Snakes, once feared, vanished from the land, their slithering darkness banished.

And so, the light spread.

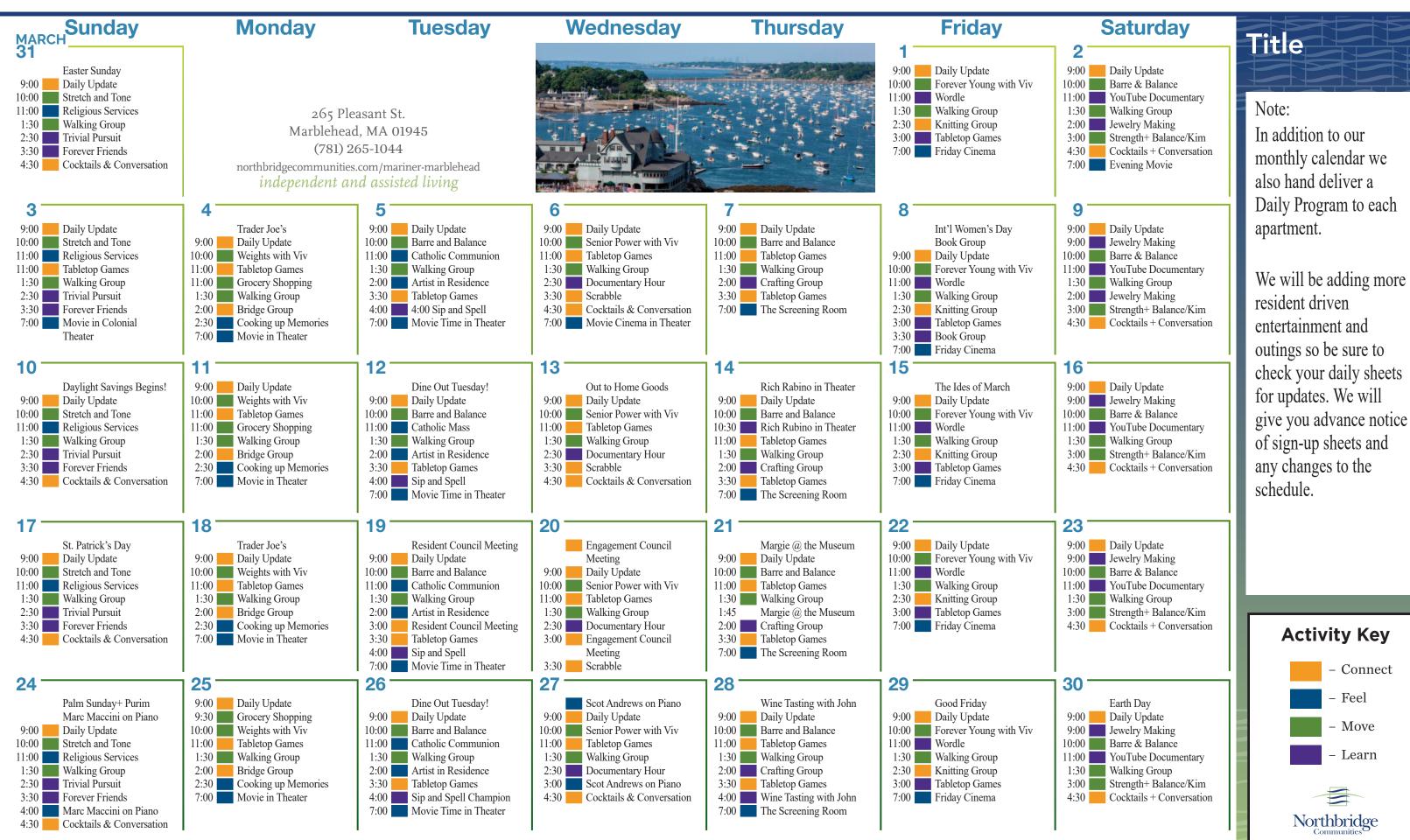
On March 17, the world dons green, celebrating the man who turned darkness into dawn. St. Patrick, the wanderer, the dreamer, the saint—his footsteps echo across emerald hills, whispering hope to all who listen.





## **MARCH 2024**





Events are subject to change.