

## Father's Day Traditions Around the World

How the World Celebrates Its Fathers & Parents  
in the Month of June



Mongolian family outside their 'ger' (nomadic tent) in the Alag-Erdene area. ©UNICEF/UN0188831/Njikiktjien VII

Father's Day is celebrated around the world throughout the calendar year and in diverse fashions. Nations such as the USA, South Africa and Japan honor their fathers in June, whereas other countries do so in different months – Russia in February, Portugal in March, Nepal in late summer, New Zealand in September and Finland in November. Also, June 1<sup>st</sup> is marked as the Global Day of Parents since the UN proclaimed it in 2012 to recognize the important roles parents and guardians have in children's well-being. Similarly, South Korea celebrates "Parents' Day" for both mothers and fathers on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Whenever Father's Day is observed, the spirit of appreciation of and gratitude for our fathers, father figures and guardians is similar around the world. Cards and gifts are among the most popular ways to express love and give thanks. Children in Japan buy their fathers sweets, flowers and gourmet food such as Japanese steak,

*wagyu*. In Germany, Father's Day is a public holiday called *Vatertag* or "men's day" when not just fathers but all men are celebrated and pull beer-filled wagons and indulge in booze and food. Thailand commemorates Father's Day on the King's birthday in December with a range of cultural events, firework shows and dressing in yellow to express their profound respect for their King. Father's Day in Nepal is celebrated during a Hindi festival, *Gokarna Aunsi*, when sons and daughters return home with gifts to spend quality time with their fathers or visit shrines to pay respect to their late fathers. These examples are just a few of many that reveal both the variance and similarity of Father's Day commemorations worldwide.

Compiled by Soyun Kim, MIS Supervisor

Source: [10 Father's Day Traditions Around the World](#), [Global Day of Parents](#), [Father's Day in Japan](#), [Father's Day in Germany](#), [Father's Day in Thailand](#), [Father's Day in Nepal](#)



### June 2019 Calendar

Caribbean-American Heritage Month  
LGBTQ Pride Month  
PTSD Awareness Month

- 1 – Global Day of Parents
- 2-8 – Community Health Improvement Week (US)
- 5 – Eid al-Fitr (Muslim)
- 5 – World Environment Day
- 9-15 – National Flag Week (US)
- 9 – Sahuuot (Judaism)
- 9 – Pentecost (Western Christian)
- 16 – Father's Day (International)
- 17 – Saka Dawa (Tibetan Buddhist)
- 19 – Junettenth (US)
- 20 – World Refugee Day
- 21 – Lith (Pagan/Wiccan)
- 21 – Summer Solstice

## Being Bilingual Is Not Enough

By Frank Johnson, "The Interpreters Voice"

Many people consider bilingualism a requirement of any good translator. For instance, Roger Chriss states, "A good translator is by definition bilingual." Some persons go even further and counsel that the "best translators are those who were raised bilingual or multilingual." Many good translators, including some who do not consider themselves bilingual, probably would disagree with both of these statements. When we consider bilingualism in relation to translation and interpreting, the issue is usually whether being bilingual is enough to be a good translator or interpreter. Can almost anyone with high-level bilingual skills do a good job of translating or interpreting? The natural assumption of many people is that translation and interpreting are inherently bilingual activities. After all, both activities involve communicating in two languages; therefore, the persons who engage in the activities must be bilingual. Thus, the implied question asks whether bilingualism by itself is enough.

### Two Distinct Tasks

Including both translation and interpreting in a discussion of bilingualism can be confusing. Although some translators interpret and some interpreters translate, the two activities are distinct. When we speak of bilingualism, we are usually making a judgment about some perceived level of oral fluency in two languages. Since interpreting is an oral activity, most people would agree that a certain degree of bilingualism is a requirement for an interpreter. At first glance, defining bilingualism seems like an easy task. A simple definition is that bilingualism is "using or being able to use two languages, especially with equal fluency." Another definition that adds the oral element is "the ability to use either one of two languages, especially when speaking." This last definition opens the door to acquiring bilingualism at just about any stage of life by eliminating the requirement that one's speaking ability be the same in both languages. On the other hand, true bilingualism can be described as a skill that relatively few people possess. "[A] true bilingual is someone who is taken to be one of them by the members of two different linguistic communities, at roughly the same social and cultural level." In other words, when among native speakers, a true bilingual can "pass" as a native speaker in either language. This degree of bilingualism is usually obtainable only by people raised in a bilingual household in which both languages and cultures are active. These definitions of bilingualism are not very helpful in discussing the bilingual skills of interpreters and translators. The first two are not specific enough and the third is too restrictive. In assessing student readiness to take my introduction to interpreting course, I have found the following definition helpful as a minimum acceptable level of bilingualism. For the beginning interpreting student, at a minimum, a person who is bilingual is able to carry on (to understand and be understood) "adult" conversations (conversations about matters of daily living using language normally used by adult speakers) in a second language with a monolingual adult speaker of the second language.

*(Continued in the next issue)*

Source: [http://www.ata-divisions.org/ID/newsletters/Voice\\_2009\\_Fall.pdf](http://www.ata-divisions.org/ID/newsletters/Voice_2009_Fall.pdf)

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## New Staff Profile: Saul Ruvalcaba



Saul Ruvalcaba has joined the Spanish-language team at Medical Interpreting Services, UC Davis Health very recently. He was born in and raised in Woodland, Ca. After high school, he worked in management in warehousing and logistics while attending college. He became a real estate broker in 2006 and a certified income tax preparer in 2014. He is passionate about helping others and interpreting has allowed him to fulfill that passion day in and day out. He worked as a medical interpreter at the Sacramento County Primary Care Center in Sacramento before joining UCDHM. His favorite aspects of the medical interpreting field are the opportunity to experience the diversity, and learning and growing while helping patients from all different countries and backgrounds. He is married and has 3 children and 2 dogs. In his personal life, He enjoys the outdoors such as camping and hiking with his family. He enjoys travelling and has visited Canada, Poland and Czech Republic. He is grateful and extremely excited to be a part of the diverse team at UC Davis Health Medical Interpreting Services.

Welcome onboard, Saul!