

January 2022 observances

2022 is the Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture **International**

Jan-Feb Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony **Indigenous** The Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony lasts for 8 days and each day is dedicated to an event, i.e. Tobacco Invocation. Days vary according to community.

- Jan 1 St. Basil's Day **Greece**** The Greeks call New Year, St. Basil's Day. Traditionally, gifts are exchanged.
- Jan 1 Gantan-Sai **Japan, Shinto**** Gantan-sai, also referred to as Shogatu, is the Shinto New Year holiday. The faithful visit shrines, often at midnight, praying for renewal of heart, health, and prosperity. During the seven-day holiday, people wear their best clothing and visit the homes of friends and family to express their wishes for the coming year.
- Jan 2 Berchtold's Day **Switzerland**** This day honours Duke Berchtold V, who founded Bern, the capital of Switzerland. He promised to name the city after the first animal he killed on a hunt. The bear (bern in German) then provided the city's name.
- Jan 5 Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday **Sikh**** He was the 10th and last living Guru of the Sikh faith. He founded the 'Khalsa' brotherhood where the initiated adopted the five 'K's: Kangha (wooden comb), Kara (steel bracelets), Kirpan (sword), Kaccha (pair of shorts), and Kesh (long hair).
- Jan 6 Three Kings' Day **Christian**** In South America, Latin America and parts of Europe, the end of the Christmas season is a traditional time for gift giving.
- Jan 6 Epiphany **Christian**** In the Western church, this day celebrates the journey of the three Wise Men to Bethlehem to offer gifts to the infant Jesus. In the Eastern Church it is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. On this day as well, the Armenians celebrate Christmas.
- Jan 7 Christmas **Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox**** On this day, some Eastern churches celebrate the birth of Jesus according to the Julian calendar, which is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian or Western calendar.
- Jan 10 Seijin No Hi **Japan**** This day celebrates Coming-of-Age of the youth of Japan who are twenty years old. They wear traditional clothes and visit the shrines where the family announce their adulthood to the spirits. This is a national holiday.
- Jan 13 Lohri **Sikh, Hindu**** Bonfires are lit to mark the change from the decrease to the increase of the sun.
- Jan 13 St. Knut's Day **Finland, Sweden**** King Knut who ruled Sweden from 1080-1086 is honoured as a saint for his virtue and generosity. He had declared that Christmas should be celebrated for twenty days, officially ending the season on January 13th.
- Jan 14 Makar Sankranti **India, Hindu**** The transition of the Sun from Sagittarius to Capricorn during the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere is known as Makar Sankranti. The days gradually lengthen in the northern hemisphere.
- Jan 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day **USA**** This day commemorates the leader of the Civil Rights movement in USA. People of all races and religions have benefited from the sacrifices and accomplishments made by this great man. He was a Nobel Prize winner (Peace Prize 1964) and a prominent advocate of nonviolent protest. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968.
- Jan 17 Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) **Jewish**** This day celebrates Judaism's roots in the natural world. It is a holiday and known as the New Year for Trees. Special meals include eating the seven fruits of the land - wheat, barley, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives and dates. Trees are also planted.
- Jan 18 Thaipoosam Cavadee **India, Mauritius**** Celebrated by Hindus of Tamil origin in honour of Kartikeya, Granter of Wishes, and the second son of Shiva. Devotees with their tongues, cheeks and body pierced with needles, hooks and skewers, dance their way trance-like to the temple carrying the 'Cavadee' - a wooden arch covered with flowers with a pot of milk at each end of its base.
- Jan 20 Timkat / Theophany **Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox**** The Eastern Orthodox Church associates Theophany with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.
- Jan 25 Robert Burns' Night **Scotland, Ireland**** Robert Burns' Night honours Scotland's national poet, born in 1759. The night is celebrated by the Scots with a sit down 'Burns Supper' and with speeches, poetry and song.
- Jan 25 Kitchen God Celebration **China**** The custom is based on the traditional farewell ceremony for T'sao Wang, Prince of the Oven, before he leaves for his annual trip to heaven to report on families' good behavior during the year.
- Jan 30 Sadeh **Iran, Zoroastrian**** Sadeh in Persian means "hundred" and refers to one hundred days and nights past the end of summer in ancient Persia/Iran. Sadeh is a mid-winter festival where bonfires are lit to honor fire and to defeat the forces of darkness, frost and cold. People gather and pray, and then they will hold each other's hands, form a circle and dance around the fire.

February 2022 observances

Black History Month Canada In December of 1995, the Parliament of Canada recognized February as Black History Month following a motion introduced by the first African Canadian woman elected to Parliament, Jean Augustine. The presence of peoples of African descent in Canada dates back farther than Samuel de Champlain's first voyage down the St. Lawrence River.

Black History Month USA Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, is greatly owed to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who first launched "Negro History Week" in 1926. Woodson chose February because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the American black population. Abraham Lincoln (president of the United States who freed slaves during the Civil War), and Frederick Douglass (who worked to end slavery) have birthdays in February. The purpose of this month is to recognize the contributions of Black Americans and develop a better understanding of the Black experience.

Jan-Feb Hopi Holy Cycle Indigenous Buffalo dances are performed in Hopi reserves. Days may vary according to community.

Feb 1 Chinese / Lunar New Year Buddhist - China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam The year of the Tiger. This is the year 4720 in the Chinese Lunar calendar and the most important holiday. It is a three-day holiday in China and Hong Kong. The Chinese clean and decorate their homes with the 5 lucky signs of happiness; new clothes are worn and even the poorest buy new shoes, for it is considered bad luck to step down on the ground into old shoes. Vietnamese call it the 'Tet' Festival.

Feb 1 Seollal Korea The Korean New Year lasts three days. During this time, many Koreans visit family, perform ancestral rites, eat traditional food, and play folk games. Additionally, children often receive money from their elders.

Feb 1 Abolition of Slavery Mauritius The struggle for freedom of the slaves in Mauritius during the Dutch period between 1638 and 1710 is remembered and honored.

Feb 2 Imbolg Wicca 'Imbolg' comes from an archaic Gaelic expression 'in the belly', which signaled the first stirrings of life within the womb of mother earth. Corn dolls are burned as offerings to the sun to hasten his return.

Feb 3 Setsubun-Sai Japan Setsubun-sai is known as Bean Throwing Night. Beans are thrown to protect against demons with shouts of 'Devil out, Good Fortune in'.

Feb 5 Basant Panchami Hindu Basant Panchami in Northern India heralds the approach of spring and yellow coloured clothes are symbolically worn. Even the food is coloured yellow by using saffron. This festival honours Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning, Wisdom and the Creative arts.

Feb 6 Waitangi Day New Zealand This day commemorates the signing of a treaty at Waitangi on 6th February 1840 by a group of Maori chiefs and the British Government. It honours the rights of the British Crown and also the rights of the Maori people, which are now in the process of being reclaimed.

Feb 8 Boy Scout Day Canada, USA William Boyce, a Chicago publisher, founded the Boy Scouts of America on Feb 10, 1910. The purpose was to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues.

Feb 14 Valentine's Day Canada, UK, USA One version states that a priest named Valentine was martyred on February 14, 269 A.D. in Rome for secretly marrying couples against the orders of the Roman Emperor, Claudius II. This was the night before a festival called Lupercalia associated with fertility. Probably both customs became associated with this day.

Feb 16 Louis Riel Day Indigenous He was the famous Metis leader who in 1885 led a rebellion and lost against the Canadian authorities because he feared more Metis land would be taken away by the settlers. Today his name is a symbol for Native independence.

Feb 22 Abu Simbel Festival Egypt Built by Ramses II, his temple is angled so that the inner sanctum lights up twice a year - once on the anniversary of his rise to the throne and on Oct. 22, celebrating his birthday. Crowds pack in the temple before sunrise to watch the shafts of light illuminate the statues of Ramses, Ra and Amon. The other date for this event is Oct. 22.

Feb 22 Girl Guides Thinking Day Canada, USA This is the joint birthday of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and his wife Olave who became the World Chief Guide.

Feb 23 Heisei Emperor's Birthday Japan This is the current Emperor's birthday. His reign has been named Heisei (Succeed at Peace).

Feb 25-Mar 1 Intercalary Days Bahá'í There are four or five days inserted into the calendar called Ayyam-i-ha adjusting the Bahá'í year to the solar cycle. This precedes a month of fasting from March 2-20. Gifts are exchanged, parties and public meetings are held to share the faith.

Feb 25 People Power Day Philippines Commemorates the bloodless revolution in 1986 in which President Ferdinand Marcos was toppled from power.

Feb 26 Anti-Bullying Day Canada Encourage everyone to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that you do not tolerate bullying.

Feb 28 Kalevala Day Finland Elias Lonnrot, a country doctor, folklorist and philologist compiled the Kalevala, Finland's national epic in 1835. This day is observed country wide with lectures, parades and recitations to honour him.

March 2022 observances

Women's History Month USA, UK National Women's History Month began as a single week and as a local event. In 1978, Sonoma County, California, sponsored a women's history week to promote the teaching of women's history. The week of March 8th was selected to include 'International Women's Day.' This day is rooted in such ideas and events as a woman's right to vote and a woman's right to work, women's strikes for bread, women's strikes for peace at the end of World War I, and the U.N. Charter declaration of gender equality at the end of World War II. This day is an occasion to review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development.

- Mar 1 Shivratri Hindu** On Shiva's night, the Hindu deity Lord Shiva performed the Tandav, the cosmic dance of creation and destruction. A 24-hour fast is kept and devotees make pilgrimages to major shrines for worship.
- Mar 1 Shrove Tuesday Christian** This is the day before Lent. Taken from the old word 'shrive', it means forgiveness. Traditionally it was a time to give up meat and dairy foods.
- Mar 1 Pancake Tuesday UK** Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras in French which means Fat Tuesday) is the last day before the beginning of Lent. Strict Christian Lenten rules prohibited the eating of all dairy products during Lent, so pancakes were made to use up their supplies of eggs, milk, butter and other fats. Pancake races are held in many parts of England.
- Mar 1-19 Alá (19-Day Fast Begins) Bahá'í** The nineteenth and final month in the Bahá'í calendar and the time of the 19-day fast in preparation of their new year, Now Ruz. The English translation of Alá (Arabic) is Loftiness.
- Mar 1 Martenitza Bulgaria** Bulgarians celebrate spring by exchanging red-and-white yarn designs to symbolize health. They wear the yarn designs on their clothing until they see a stork or a blossoming tree. They then either put the martenitza on a tree branch to bring on spring or hide it under a rock to represent the wish that the evil spirits in nature (and humankind) will go to sleep.
- Mar 1 St. David's Day Wales** He is the patron saint of Wales and died on this day.
- Mar 2 Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) Christian** This day marks the beginning of Lent. Ash symbolizes sorrow for wrong doings and foreheads of churchgoers are marked with the shape of the cross with ashes as a sign of penitence.
- Mar 3 Losar (New Year) Tibet, Buddhist** The Tibetan New Year is called Losar and is celebrated for three days by visiting, feasting and the relaxation the monastic discipline.
- Mar 7 Great Prayer Festival Tibet** Monks from the Three Great Monasteries of Tibet assemble in Jikhang to pray to Shakyamuni's image as if it were the Living Buddha. Philosophical debates are held among the candidates for the Doctor of Metaphysics.
- Mar 7 Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** It is the beginning of the forty-day fast when Christians imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness before his crucifixion.
- Mar 12 Girl Scout Day Canada, USA** Juliette 'Daisy' Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually.
- Mar 16-20 Gahambar Hamaspathmaedem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of human beings.
- Mar 17 Purim Jewish** Purim is known as the Feast of Lots, which celebrates the deliverance of Jews in Persia from the machinations of Haman. Jews dress in costume and give gifts of food to each other.
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day N. Ireland, Ireland** The death anniversary of their patron saint. He used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Christian idea of the Holy Trinity, thus the idea of wearing a shamrock.
- Mar 18 Holi Sikh, Hindu** According to myth, a tyrannical king's son, Pralad, refused to worship his father as God and was condemned to death by burning. However, the boy's aunt, named Holika, transferred her own immunity from fire to Pralad, and burned to death in his place. This festival of colour celebrates Spring, where people play with liquid and powdered colours, light bonfires and blow horns to celebrate the destruction of Holika.
- Mar 18 Butter Lamp Festival Tibet, Buddhist** To celebrate Shakyamuni's victory over non-Buddhist opponents in 1409, Lord Neu Dzong, a noted patron of Tsongkapa, illuminated numerous butter lamps. The tradition has since then flourished.
- Mar 19 Hola Mohalla (Bikarami) Sikh** Mock battles are fought and martial arts are displayed in honour of Guru Gobind Singh, who took to armed struggle against tyranny.
- Mar 20 Eostre Wicca** A fertility festival celebrating the birth of Spring. The word Easter is derived from the Maiden Goddess. Celebrations including lighting fires at sunrise, ringing bells, and decorating hard-boiled eggs, an ancient Pagan custom associated with the Goddess
- Mar 20 Shunki-Sorei-Sai Shinto** Ancestors are given reverence at home altars and considered active members of the living family. Gravesites are cleaned and purified.
- Mar 20 Shunbun no hi Japan** During the time of the Spring Equinox, Buddhists meditate on the harmony in the universe.
- Mar 21 Now Ruz (New Year) Afghanistan, Iran, Zoroastrian, Islam Ismaili, Bahá'í** Nowruz means "New Day" and is the traditional celebration of the ancient Persian New Year. Iranians celebrate it on March 20th. It is also a holy day for Zoroastrian, Sufi, Ismaili and the Baha'í faiths. Persians (Iranians, Afghans and Tajiks) and other Indo-Iranian groups (Kurds, Armenians, Azerbaijanis and Balochs) start preparing for the Nowruz with a major spring-cleaning of their houses and the purchase of new clothes to wear for the new year.
- Mar 25 Arbor Day USA** Communities across the United States plant trees in an ongoing effort to conserve American forests.
- Mar 25 Evangelismou Greece** The Greeks combined the national Independence Day with the Annunciation and what was earlier believed to be the spring equinox. Greeks wear traditional clothes and celebrate with speeches and folk dancing.
- Mar 26 Birth Of Prophet Zarathustra (Fasli) Zoroastrian** Zarathushtra (Zoroaster in Greek; Zarthosht in India and Persia) is the founder of the Zoroastrian religion dating back to some time between 1500 and 1000 BCE. He lived in Persia, modern day Iran. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7th Century CE.
- Mar 27 Mothering Sunday UK, Ireland** Mothering Sunday is the celebration of motherhood in UK, and takes place on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

April 2022 observances

Multicultural Communications Month International Multicultural communications may seem difficult at first - differences in languages, backgrounds, customs and the like all seem a challenge. By learning more about our different cultures, it becomes easier to interact. This month has been dedicated to further this cause.

- Apr 1 Farvardin Iran** It is the 13th day after Nowruz or New Year. The number 13 is considered an unlucky number for the Persians, and therefore everyone leaves home for the day to go on picnics or trips.
- Apr 2 Ugadi India, Mauritius, Nepal** Ugadi marks the beginning of the new Hindu lunar calendar. Celebrated mainly in the southern states of India, people awake before the break of day, bathe and decorate the entrance of their homes with mango leaves.
- Apr 3 Ramadan Begins Islam** This is the holiest month in the Islamic Year and begins at the sighting of the new moon. It commemorates the period during which Prophet Mohammad received divine revelations. Observing Muslims fast between the hours of sunrise and sunset during the entire month, read the Qu'ran and worship in the mosque or at home. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.
- Apr 5 Ch'ing Ming Festival China, Taiwan** A national holiday when family graves are visited to ask for the blessings of the departed spirits.
- Apr 6 Chakri Day Thailand** A national holiday to honour King Rama I, who founded the Chakri Dynasty in 1782 and the founder of Bangkok as the capital of Thailand.
- Apr 10 Ram Navami Hindu** Ram Navami celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of God Vishnu. Hindus read the Ramayan, a Hindu epic, which tells the story of Rama, during the previous eight days.
- Apr 10 Palm Sunday Christian** Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was cheered by crowds who strew palm branches in his path. It is observed by worship services and parades using palm branches.
- Apr 13 Songkran/New Year Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand** In southeast Asia, Songkran is recognized as the New Year for Buddhists. For Thais, it is a three-day religious festival in which homes are routinely cleaned, and water is sprinkled on monks paying visits and on statues of Buddha.
- Apr 14 Baisakhi Bangladesh, Sikh, Bangladesh, Hindu** The first day of the solar year, this is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest, especially in North India. Tamils and Sri Lankans celebrate their New Year on this day. In Kerala, South India this day is called Vishu. Especially important to the Sikhs, it marks this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, established the order of 'Khalsa'.
- Apr 14 Holy Thursday Christian** On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed the feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.
- Apr 14 Mahavira Jayanti Jain** This day celebrates the birthday of Lord Mahavira who was the 24th leader of the Jain religion and born around 599 B.C.
- Apr 15 Adam's Peak Pilgrimage Sri Lanka** It is an ancient pilgrimage site to the sacred mountain, Sri Pada. According to legend, when Buddha visited Sri Lanka, he planted one foot on the north of the royal city, and the other foot on Sumana-Kuta (Adam's Peak), about a hundred miles distance.
- Apr 15 Pongol India** A three-day rice harvest festival in South India is celebrated with a cultural evening of song and dance.
- Apr 15 Good Friday Christian** This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Italian Catholics have a procession called the Way of the Cross.
- Apr 16-23 Pesach/Passover Jewish** Begin previous sundown at 6pm, Pesach lasts for eight days. This time commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. It begins with a ritual meal 'Seder' when no leavened bread is consumed with special prayers and symbolic foods.
- Apr 17 Easter Christian** This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.
- Apr 18 Easter Monday Christian** Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death. It is observed as a holiday in some countries.
- Apr 20 Feast Of Ridvan thru May 2 Bahá'í** 'Ridvan' means paradise and the 12-day festival is the holiest time for the Bahá'ís. It commemorates the 12 days that Baha'u'llah spent in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad and announced that he was the prophet whose coming had been foretold. The Bahá'ís do not work on the first, ninth and twelfth day of Ridvan.
- Apr 21 Maundy Thursday Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed the feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.
- Apr 22 Holy Friday Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Eastern Orthodox members fast on this day. Macedonians make a plashtanitsa or picture of the dead Jesus on a large cloth to be carried in a procession.
- Apr 23 Matsu Festival China, Taiwan** Matsu saved her brother from drowning and at the age of 28 and ascended into heaven. She earned the title of Goddess of the Sea and is the patron of fishermen. There are rites and processions at Matsu temples.
- Apr 24 Pasha/Easter Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.
- Apr 25 Easter Monday Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death. It is observed as a holiday in some countries.
- Apr 28 Yom HaShoah Israel, Jewish Holocaust Memorial Day** commemorates the death of 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime.
- Apr 28 Laylat al-Qadr Islam** Night of Power, commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad in 610 CE. It begins the previous evening.
- Apr 28-30 Gathering Of Nations Pow Wow Indigenous American** Albuquerque, New Mexico is the venue of over 700 tribes and nations participating in a three-day event where over 3,000 participants share, teach and exchange traditions with each other.
- Apr 29 Showa no hi Japan** An annual holiday, it honors the birthday of Emperor Showa (Hirohito), the reigning Emperor before, during, and after World War II (from 1926 to 1989).
- Apr 30 Walpurgis Night Sweden** Walpurgis is Sweden's annual feast of the witches. Huge bonfires are lit all over the country to scare them away as they fly overhead, headed for their annual sabbath in Brocken in the Harz Mountains in Germany.
- Apr 30-May 4 Gahambar Maidyozarem Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of the sky.

May 2022 observances

Asian Heritage Month Canada The Senate of Canada passed a motion in December 2001, designating May as Asian Heritage month. Canadians take part in festivities commemorating the legacy of Asian Canadians and their many contributions which have helped Canada become the multicultural and diverse nation it is today.

Asian Heritage Month USA Generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have strengthened the US as a nation. Many ethnic groups worked tirelessly to build a national railroad, paving the way for western expansion. The first Asian/Pacific Heritage Week was celebrated in 1979, in response to little recognition of this population during the 1976 bicentennial. By 1990, the celebration was one month long and then made official in 1992.

National Older Peoples Month USA It was established by presidential proclamation in 1963. The entire nation is encouraged to pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. It is celebrated across the country through ceremonies and events.

Jewish Heritage Month Jewish May is declared Jewish Heritage Month in Canada and USA. It provides an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the incredible contributions that Jewish people have made to the country and in communities across North America.

May Hopi Kachina Dances Indigenous During late spring and early summer, long lines of Kachina Dancers representing many spirit-powers, perform dances in Hopi pueblos.

April-May Iroquois Strawberry Season Indigenous Thanksgiving and Great Feather Dance. Early summer.

May 1 Beltane Wicca Greets the summer. It takes its name from the Celtic God Bel who unites with the Earth Goddess on this day. It was a mid summer fertility festival in Celtic paganism. Maypole dances are presently held.

May 1 Santa Cruzan Day Philippines Filipinos consider this the first day of spring. It commemorates the corresponding day in the 4th century A.D. when St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine of Rome found the holy cross on which Jesus was crucified.

May 3 Eid-ul-Fitr Islam This marks the end of the Ramadan fast and is celebrated for 3 days. Date of observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates, which are a day later.

May 3 Akshaya Tritiya Jain This day celebrates the day when Lord Rishabha broke his first year-long fast by drinking sugar cane juice. To begin anything new is considered very auspicious on this day.

May 4 Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) Israel This is Israel's Memorial Day honouring soldiers who died fighting for their country.

May 4 Midori No Hi Japan This day is also known as Greenery Day to appreciate nature.

May 5 Cinco De Mayo Mexico It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the 'Batalla de Puebla' in 1862. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, it came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. It is celebrated on a much larger scale in the United States than it is in Mexico.

May 8 Mother's Day Canada, USA In 1914, the 2nd Sunday in May was officially declared Mother's Day by President Wilson. Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia first suggested a day on which to honour mothers and motherhood.

May 8 Buddha's Birthday Hong Kong, Korea Buddhism, the fourth largest religion in the world, being exceeded in numbers only by Christianity, Islam and Hinduism 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).

May 9 Victory Day Russia Commemorates the 1945 surrender of German forces in Eastern Europe and honors the 20 million Soviet people who died in World War II.

May 13 Our Lady of Fatima Portugal On May 13, 1917 in Portugal, three shepherd children saw and conversed with the Virgin Mary in a vision. This event occurred on the 13th day of the month for six months in a row.

May 16 Wesak Buddhist The most important Buddhist festival, Wesak celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha as one event. Different cultures observe this day with different customs, for example, **Sri Lankans** light lanterns, **Vietnamese** purchase captive animals and release them, and **Koreans** host a lantern parade.

May 23 Victoria Day Canada Queen Victoria's birthday (May 24, 1837-1901) was declared a holiday by the Legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845. United Kingdom celebrates her birthday in June.

May 23 Day of the Patriots-Quebec Canada Commemorates the French patriots of 1837-1838 for their contribution to freedom and national recognition.

May 23 Declaration of Báb Bahá'í The Bahá'í faith began in Persia (now Iran) on this day in 1844, by the prophet Báb who announced his mission as the founder. The event is celebrated about two hours after sunset.

May 24 Indigenous Awareness Week Indigenous. Canada first introduced in 1992, is held on the four days that follow the Victoria Day long weekend. It was designed to increase awareness of Indigenous peoples among federal public service employees.

May 26 Ascension Christian This day commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

May 26 National Sorry Day Australia Also known as Journey of Healing Day commemorates the history of forcible removal of Indigenous & Torres Strait Islander children from their families and the painful repercussions of that action. In 1998 over half a million Australian people responded, signing Sorry Books and taking part in ceremonies on Sorry Day.

May 28 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í The prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith passed away near Haifa, Israel. The event is observed at the actual time of his passing at 3am.

May 29 Yom Yerushalayim Israel This day marks the anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

May 30 Memorial Day USA A day of remembrance for those who have died in service to their country. The 3rd U.S. Infantry place small American flags at about 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery.

May 30 Joan of Arc Day France St. Joan of Arc is the patroness of soldiers and of France. A peasant girl who, believing that she was acting under divine guidance, led the French army in a momentous victory at Orléans.

June 2022 observances

National Indigenous History Month Canada June is National Indigenous History Month as declared by the Canadian Parliament in 2009. It is a fitting tribute to the heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities across Canada. Indigenous History Month is an opportunity not only to recognize the historic contributions of Indigenous peoples to the development of Canada, but also the strength of present-day Indigenous communities and their promise for the future.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month USA, Canada, Australia Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Pride Events are celebrated by communities across Canada and United States on different dates during June through to early August. There is a Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia annually in February/March. During this time people find that they are not alone and can take pride in their community's history. The most significant date in LGBT history occurring in June, was the 3-day protest in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, an event that marked the first time the gay community joined together to fight for its rights, thereby gaining national attention. Anniversary of this event was one of the reasons June was chosen as the nationally proclaimed month to celebrate LGBT Pride.

National Caribbean American Heritage Month USA Proclaimed in May 2011 by the US President, it commemorates a time to celebrate the history and culture of Caribbean Americans.

Jun 1-3 Red Earth Fair Indigenous, Canada, USA Cultural Festival takes place in Oklahoma City for 3 days. Over 150 Native tribes from U.S. and Canada gather in downtown Oklahoma City to share and participate in their rich and diverse heritage through highest quality original art, drum and dance juried competitions.

Jun 1 Gawai Dayak Malaysia This day marks the traditional rice harvest. Rituals are performed to express thanks to the spirits of the paddy with requests for a better harvest during the next planting season. It is an open house for friends and relatives with celebrations usually lasting three days.

Jun 2 Ascension Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox This day commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

Jun 3 Dragon Boat Festival China, Hong Kong This day honours the patriot poet Chu Yuan who drowned himself in the Milo River, south of China in protest of the political injustice in 277 B.C. The villagers raced to the river and jumped into dragon boats but never found him. As they searched, they beat drums to scare off fish and dragons that might attack his mortal remains. It is a holiday celebrated by boat races in the shape of dragons.

Jun 5 Pentecost Christian The holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12 apostles after Jesus' death. New members of the church are baptized on this day. It is called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

Jun 5-6 Shavuot Jewish Begins previous sundown at 6pm. Called the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost which means 50 and therefore celebrated on the 50th day at the end of Passover. Shavuot celebrates the time when the Ten Commandments were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. This feast lasts 2 days.

Jun 11 Trooping The Colour UK, England The official birthday of the Queen is marked each year by a colourful and historic military parade and march-past, known as Trooping the Colour. It takes place in June on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, England.

Jun 12 Pentecost Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox The holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12 apostles after Jesus' death. New members of the church are baptized on this day. It is called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

Jun 16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sikh He was the fifth Guru (1563-1606) and the first Sikh martyr executed by the Mughal emperor Jehangir. He built the Golden Temple in Amritsar with doors facing all four directions to emphasize that the Sikh way was open to all, regardless of caste.

Jun 19 Juneteenth UK June 19, 1865, also known as National Freedom Day, is considered the official end of slavery in the United States. Slaves in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas were not told about their freedom until this day, even though other Southern states had known since April, 1863.

Jun 19 Father's Day Canada, UK, USA The origins of the day to honor fathers began in 1910, when Louise Dodd of Spokane, Washington, suggested to her minister that a day be set aside. Her own father was a Civil War veteran who raised his six children on the family farm after his wife died in childbirth. Interest in the day grew, and in 1966 a presidential proclamation established Father's Day as the third Sunday in June.

Jun 20 Litha Wicca Litha falls on the summer solstice. The Latin word solstice means 'the sun stood still'. Wiccans celebrate the Sun at the height of its power for providing good harvests.

Jun 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day Canada This is an event growing in importance in Canada when the outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis are recognized.

Jun 24 Matariki Indigenous/Maori, New Zealand When the star cluster Matariki (Pleiades) appears in the dawn sky, Maori New Year starts. It is a time for connecting with, and giving thanks to the land, sea and sky, for the community to come together to farewell the dead and to begin planning ahead for the coming year.

Jun 24 Inti Raymi Peru Inti Raymi is celebrated in Cusco, and is the second biggest festival in Latin America. This Inca festival celebrates the winter solstice, where the God of the Sun, Wiracocha, is honoured.

Jun 24 Dia de San Juan Puerto Rico This day commemorates the island's patron saint, St. John the Baptist. People gather at the beaches in the afternoon. Then at midnight, they jump into the ocean backwards three times to symbolize baptism, immersion and new life.

Jun 24 St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec) Canada He is the patron saint of French-Canadians in Quebec, Canada. It is a national holiday and there are parades, bonfires and fireworks to celebrate his birthday.

Jun 27 Multiculturalism Day Canada The Government of Canada officially recognized June 27th as Canadian Multiculturalism Day on Nov. 13, 2002. This day acknowledges the contributions that various communities make to Canadian society and to celebrate the country's richness and diversity.

Jun 28 Stonewall Rebellion Day LGBT This day commemorates the U.S. anniversary of the protest against police harassment in New York City's Greenwich Village in 1969. The event has been commemorated by a Pride Parade each year in New York City on the last Sunday in June. Events and Pride Parades are held in many metropolitan cities throughout the United States and Canada.

Jun 29-Jul 3 Gahambar Madyoshem Zoroastrian This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.

July 2022 observances

July-August Sun Dance Ritual Indigenous For many tribes of the Plains Indians, the Sun Dance was a major communal religious ceremony. Generally held in early summer, the four-day dance ceremony involves sacrifice and supplication to insure harmony between all living beings. Iroquois - late spring; Cree, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Sioux and other Plains Peoples - summer.

July-August Green Corn Ceremony Indigenous Performed by some Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal. The ceremony involves participation in sweatlodge ceremonies, dances, offerings and fasting.

Jul 1 Canada Day Canada On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act created the Canadian federal government. The BNA proclaimed 'one Dominion under the name of Canada,' hence the original title of the holiday, 'Dominion Day.' Dominion Day was officially renamed 'Canada Day' by an act of Parliament on October 27, 1982.

Jul 1 SAR Establishment Day Hong Kong Hong Kong was a British colony ruled by a British Governor until it was reunited with China as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on 1 July, 1997.

Jul 3 NAIDOC Australia NAIDOC stands for "National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee". A week-long celebration around Australia during the first week in July to focus on the history, culture and achievements of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people.

Jul 4 Independence Day USA In 1776, the 13 Colonies signed the declaration of Independence proclaiming their separation from England and formed the United States of America. It is celebrated with picnics, fireworks, parades and outdoor activities.

Jul 6 Dalai Lama's Birthday Tibet, Buddhist His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people. Born to a peasant family in northeastern Tibet, he was recognized as the 14th Dalai Lama (Mongolian for 'Ocean of Wisdom'). In Tibetan Buddhism, the Dalai Lama is believed to be an incarnation of Avalokitesvara, the Buddha of Compassion.

Jul 7 Tanabata Japan Meaning "Seven Evenings" is a Japanese star festival, derived from Obon traditions and the Chinese star festival, Qi Xi. The festival is usually held on July 7, and celebrates the meeting of Orihime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair).

Jul 8 Day of Hajj (Day of Arafat) Islam Muslims perform the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. The pilgrimage is one of the five Pillars of Islam. All Muslims are expected to perform the Hajj at least once in their lifetime if they have the physical and financial capacity. About 6 million Muslims from over 70 countries journey to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. In one of the rites of the Hajj, pilgrims move in a circular, counter clockwise procession around the Ka'bah.

Jul 9 Martyrdom of The Báb Bahá'í The Báb was executed at the age of 31 by a firing squad in Tabriz in 1850 C.E. The event is observed at noon. Work and commerce are suspended on this day.

Jul 10 Eid-ul-Adha Islam It concludes the Hajj and is a three-day festival celebrating Abraham's test of obedience to Allah when he was asked to sacrifice his son Ismael. Since Eid is determined by the first sighting of the new moon, the date varies by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabian or North American sighting is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

Jul 11 Imamat Day Islam Ismaili Imamat Day is celebrated every year by Ismailis on the day that the Imamat or religious leader transferred from the past Imam to the present Aga Khan.

Jul 11 Nadaam Festival Mongolia The festival lasts for three days where the men compete in the Three Manly national sports of archery, wrestling and horse riding.

Jul 13 Wassana / Dhamma Day Buddhist This day marks the beginning of the 3-month 'Rains Retreat' for self-examination and peace-making for monks and nuns. It also celebrates Buddha's first teaching.

Jul 13 Guru Purnima Jain, Hindu Is celebrated by disciples to revere and honour their Gurus (spiritual masters).

Jul 14 Bastille Day France Commemorates the event that launched the French Revolution. On this date in 1789, the Bastille, which held political prisoners and became a symbol of oppression by the monarchy, was stormed and prisoners freed.

Jul 18 Umi no hi Japan Japanese honour the importance of the sea and its role in Japanese history on this day.

Jul 20 Munoz-Rivera Day Puerto Rico This day celebrates the anniversary of Luis Munoz-Rivera, a Puerto Rican patriot, poet and journalist.

Jul 24 Pioneer Day Christian - Mormon This day honours the U.S. pioneers led by Brigham Young, who first settled in Utah in 1847. This day is celebrated with parades to remember their pioneering ancestors.

Jul 24 Simon Bolivar Day Venezuela, Ecuador Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was one of South America's greatest generals. His victories over the Spaniards won independence for Bolivia, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

Jul 30 Oh-Harai-Taisai Shinto During the Grand Purification Ceremony, Japanese worshippers walk through a large ring of woven grass and reeds that are placed at the entrance of the shrines as an act of inner purification for sins and offenses committed during the first half of the year.

Jul 30 1st Muharram - Islamic New Year Islam Islamic New Year, 1443 AH. The first of Muharram marks the first day of the first month (Muharram) of the Islamic year. Muharam lasts for 29-30 days depending on the moon sighting. It begins at sundown the previous day. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

Jul 31 Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola Spain Commemorates the life of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), who founded the Society of Jesus, the Roman Catholic religious order whose members are known as Jesuits.

August 2022 observances

August Native Wild Rice Harvest Indigenous Northern Cree, Ojibwa, Algonkians. Celebrates last full moon in August.

August Hopi Snake Dance Indigenous This dance requires two weeks of ritual preparation and snakes are gathered and kept watch over by children. The dancers then take an emetic and dance with the snakes in their mouths, with an Antelope priest in attendance. After the dance, the snakes are released to carry their prayers.

Aug 1 Lughnasa Wicca Its name is taken from the Celtic God Lugh, or Samildanach, which means 'he of many gifts'. It celebrates the ancient festival of the first harvesting of grain in August.

Aug 2 Ilinden Macedonia Commemorates the Macedonians revolt against the Ottoman army on August 2, 1903, on Ilinden, or St. Elijah's Day.

Aug 6 Hiroshima Day Canada, Japan, USA This solemn day commemorates the day that United States dropped the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. People from different backgrounds unite on this day to declare their commitment to never letting another nuclear bomb be used against humans again.

Aug 7 Tish'a B'Av Jewish Jews mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E. and 70 C.E. It is a day of mourning and fasting.

Aug 8-17 Fravardeghan Zoroastrian Fravardeghan lasts ten days in preparation for Now Ruz for those who follow the Shenshai calendar. Ancestors are memorialized during this time.

Aug 8 Ashura Islam The tenth day of the first Islamic month (Muharram). For Shi'ite Muslims, this day mourns the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Devout Shi'a commemorate this day of sadness with retelling the story of the battle fought in Kerbala.

Aug 11 Raksha Bandhan Hindu According to legend, God Indra was warring with demons. His wife tied a silk charm around his wrist to protect him and he was able to defeat his enemies. Hindu girls now tie a threaded amulet or 'rakhi' on their brothers for protection against evil.

Aug 15 Assumption Christian This refers to Mary's death and ascent to heaven and is celebrated by Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Special mentions: Sicilian-Canadians hold an outdoor procession for the Madonna del Assunta, Polish-Canadians celebrate the Feast of the Mother of God of the Herbs, an early harvest festival, Armenian Orthodox bless the first grapes of the season, Ukrainians take flowers to the church to be blessed.

Aug 18 Now Ruz (Shenshai) Zoroastrian Now Ruz means 'new day' and is celebrated by Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar and by all Ismaili Muslims around the world. The New Year celebrates the creation of fire on this day on which Zarathustra received his revelation.

Aug 19 Janmashtami Hindu Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna and his rescue from potential death by the demon Kansa. Lord Krishna was born in a prison, then carried by his father to another village where he was secretly exchanged with a cow herder's daughter for his safety.

Aug 24 Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai) Zoroastrian Zarathustra (Zoroaster in Greek; Zartosht in India and Persia) is the founder of the Zoroastrian religion, dating back to sometime between 1500 and 1000 BCE. He lived in Persia, modern day Iran. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7th Century CE. When Arabs, followers of Islam, invaded Persia in 650 CE, a small number of Zoroastrians fled to India where most are concentrated today.

Aug 25-Sep 1 Paryushana-Parva Jain Celebrated for eight days, Paryushana-Parva is the holiest time of the year and is marked by fasting and worship of the 24 realized teachers of the Jain faith known as Tirthankaras or Jinas.

Aug 27 Notting Hill Festival UK, England The Notting Hill Festival is held during the last weekend in August. This is a West Indian Street carnival with floats, bands, and stalls. It began in 1964 with the focus of deterring racism toward Caribbean and other Black immigrants and bringing together the people of the Notting Hill area.

Aug 30 St. Rosa of Lima Peru Commemorates a Peruvian saint who lived in Lima. Her home is now a pilgrimage site, where every 30th of August, people come to pray and throw coins, messages and icons into a water well near her home.

Aug 31 Ganesh Chaturthi Hindu It is in honour of one of Hindu's major deities, Ganesh, the elephant-headed god. He is known as the 'remover of all obstacles' and is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings.

September 2022 observances

National Hispanic Heritage Month USA Initiated in 1968 as 'National Hispanic Heritage Week' but was established in 1988 by the U.S. Congress, and includes the days between September 15 through October 15. Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 because this day marks the anniversary of independence for five Hispanic countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico achieved independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18. Latinos from all across the nation take a moment to reflect upon their history, customs and culture, as well as the contributions their people have made to the U.S.

September Sunrise Dance Indigenous Apache This is an ancient rite of passage for 14-year old girls and lasts four days. After a girl's first menstruation, the girl is massaged and prayed for by an elder female relative. Then, the girl's family decides which ceremony will be sponsored, which medicine man to choose, and whom to ask to be her godparents and co-sponsors of the ceremony.

Sep 1 Samvatsari Jain This day is dedicated to introspection, confession and penance, especially for the Shvetambara sect.

Sep 1 Dashalakshani-Parva Jain Celebrated by the Digambara sect and lasts ten days, each day dedicated to a virtue: humility, honesty, purity, forgiveness, truthfulness, selfrestraint, asceticism, study, celibacy and detachment.

Sep 3 Red Earth Native American Fair Indigenous, USA Cultural Festival takes place in Oklahoma City for 3 days. Over 150 Native tribes from U.S. and Canada gather in Downtown Oklahoma City to share and participate in their rich and diverse heritage through highest quality original art, drum and dance juried competitions.

Sep 7 Onam India Onam is a Hindu festival celebrated by the people of Kerala in India. Lasting for four to ten days, it is a harvest festival commemorating the homecoming of the legendary Emperor Mahabali from Patala (the underworld) who visits every Malayali home and during this time.

Sep 9 Ananta-Chaturdasi Jain 'Festival of Ten Virtues' is a 10-day fast and meditation for the Jains.

Sep 10 Harvest Moon Festival China, Hong Kong, Taiwan The festival is celebrated with family reunions, moon gazing and eating of moon cakes. In **Vietnam**, it is called 'Trung Thu.' On that night children form a procession and travel through the streets with bright lanterns, singing and dancing to the beat of drums. In **Korea** it is called 'Chusok'. It is observed by paying homage to ancestors and expressing gratitude for rich crops.

Sep 10 Ksamavani Jain Ksamavani is the 'day of universal forgiveness' for wrongs committed by them and to them.

Sep 11 Day Of Remembrance USA The effects of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in 2001 impacted Americans and most other nations and has brought us to focus on the devastation terrorism has caused in the world.

Sep 11 Meskerem (New Year) Ethiopia Coptic Orthodox Christians are found in all of Africa. They include Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Ethiopia. During the time of Pharaohs 4,000 years ago, the appearance of Soothis (Dog Star) marked the signal that the Nile River would rise, flooding the fertile plains so that planting could begin. The end of the rainy season became known as the New Year.

Sep 12-16 Gahambar Paitishahem Zoroastrian This day celebrates the creation of earth.

Sep 17 Oktoberfest Germany Originally it was meant to be just a simple horse race event but the bavarian character quickly took over and it became a happy gathering of cheerful beer drinkers. The Oktoberfest attracts approximately 7 million visitors each year and lasts for three weeks.

Sep 19 Keiro No Hi Japan Respect of the Aged Day, or Keiro no Hi, was established as a national holiday in 1966 to express respect for the elders in the community, and to recognise and thank them for their contributions to society and last but not least, celebrate their long lives.

Sep 23 Mabon Wicca This day celebrates the fall equinox and the end of the harvest season. Apples are juiced for cider and grapes for wine.

Sep 23 Shuki sorei sai Japan, Shinto On this Autumnal Equinox Day, the Japanese honour family ancestry, visiting ancestral graves and having family reunions.

Sep 23 Chichen Itza Festival Mexico During the Autumn Equinox, thousands gather at the Mayan Temple of Kukulcan to see the interplay of sun and shadow as it forms the impression of a long-tailed serpent leading downward to the stone head of the serpent Kukulcan.

Sep 24 Our Lady of Las Mercedes Dominican Republic, Peru In Carhuaz, Peru celebrations are held in honor of the virgin, with traditional processions, bands of musicians, bullfights and fireworks. In the Dominican Republic, a procession is held at the site of the 16th-century shrine of Our Lady of Las Mercedes, where Columbus fought a battle against the Indians and the Virgin Mary appeared to him.

Sep 26-27 Rosh Hashanah/New Year Jewish Begins previous sundown at 6pm and observed for two days. Literally 'Head of the Year' marks the first and second day of the Jewish New Year and the anniversary of the creation of the world. It, ends 10 days later with Yom Kippur. It is celebrated with prayers and religious services.

Sep 28 Fiesta San Miguel Mexico The festival of the Archangel San Miguel is in honor of the Patron Saint of the city of San Miguel. Cultural, social, artistic and sporting events are held throughout the city, along with bullfights.

Sep 30 San Geronimo Day Indigenous, USA Named after St. Jerome (1829-1909), an Apache fighter, this day is celebrated by the Native Americans in Taos Pueblo, New Mexico. Among the ceremonies are the morning races, the sacred clowns and the pole climb.

October 2022 observances

Disability Employment Awareness Month USA In 1945, in an effort to assist disabled veterans, Congress designated the first week of October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In the 1970s, a historic shift in disability public policy occurred. For the first time, the exclusion of people with disabilities was viewed as discrimination. The efforts of disability activists led to significant changes in laws, such as the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the designation of a full month to recognize the potential of America's millions of working-age people with disabilities.

Women's History Month Canada Established in 1992 by the Government of Canada, this special month provides an opportunity to learn more about women's historic accomplishments and their contributions to Canadian society.

Black History Month UK In Britain, Black History Month was first celebrated in October 1987 as part of African Jubilee Year. The decision to make this an annual event each October was endorsed by the Association of London Authorities. It has since grown to recognise and embrace the contributions and traditions of other black communities.

Latin American Heritage Month Canada Proclaimed by the Parliament of Canada on June 21, 2018, this month is an opportunity for Canadians to recognize the valuable contribution of members of the Latin American community to this country's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.

Oct 2 Mehragan Iran, Zoroastrian The word 'Mehr' in Persian means kindness, love and friendship. Mehragan is celebrated by Zoroastrian and Persian (Iranian) people and was based on the concept that all of the farmers would bring their harvest in the middle of the town square and split it up evenly.

Oct 3 Gandhi's Birthday India Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) is the National Father of India, who adopted 'non-violence' in fighting for the country's freedom.

Oct 3 Durga Puja Hindu This day celebrates the divine creative force of the universe and honours the 10-armed goddess Durga, wife of Shiva, and the destroyer of demons.

Oct 4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Italy St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals was born in 1182 at Assisi. He founded the Franciscan Order, which today has about 33,000 members.

Oct 4 Chung Yeung Festival China, Hong Kong, Taiwan Families visit the graves of their ancestors.

Oct 5 Yom Kippur Jewish The Day of Atonement is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the Jewish year. They believe that once you atone for your mistakes, you can be 'at one' with God. Jews do not work, and they fast, from sunset to sunset.

Oct 5 Dussehra Hindu Dussehra means 'the tenth' and celebrates the triumph of Lord Ram over the demon Ravan who stole his wife Sita. The great Hindu epic poem, the Ramayana, is read and enacted, called Ram Lila. A big effigy of Ravan is burnt accompanied by fireworks.

Oct 9 Han-Gul Day Korea This day commemorates the creation of the Korean alphabet of 29 phonetic symbols called han-gul by King Sejong between 1443 and 1446.

Oct 9 Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi Islam Anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad. Some Muslims mark this occasion by special prayers, whilst other Muslims may mark the occasion by dedicating more time to reading the Koran.

Oct 9 Pavarana Buddhist Buddha went into intensive practice during the rainy season. This marks the end of the retreat.

Oct 10-16 Sukkot Jewish Begins previous sundown at 6pm. The Feast of Booths is a joyful harvest festival lasting 9 days. A little hut called 'sukkah' is built outdoors where families eat to remember the time Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, sleeping and eating under the stars.

Oct 10 Taiiku no hi Japan Also known as Health-Sports Day or Sports Day, is a national holiday in Japan held annually on the second Monday in October.

Oct 10 Thanksgiving Canada Early Canadian settlers gave thanks for good harvests by decorating their churches with fruits and vegetables and celebrated dinner with venison and waterfowl.

Oct 10 Kathina Buddhist New robes and necessities are given to ordained monks and nuns.

Oct 12 Nossa Senhora de Aparecida Brazil In 1717, a group of Brazilian fisherman pulled up a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary which was followed by an abundant catch after a fruitless fishing day. They enshrined the statue and in 1929, the Brazilian nation declared Nossa Senhora De Aparecida the Patroness of Brazil.

Oct 12-16 Gahambar Ayathrem Zoroastrian This day celebrates the creation of plant life.

Oct 13 Karva Chauth Hindu A one-day fast kept by married Hindu women for the well-being and longevity of their husbands. The husbands feed the first bite to their wives only after they see the moon.

Oct 17 Shemini Atzeret Jewish On the eighth day of Sukkot, special prayers for rain are offered.

Oct 18 Simchat Torah Jewish Simchat Torah or Rejoicing in the Torah is the beginning of the synagogue's annual reading cycle. It begins at previous sundown.

Oct 18 Birthday Of The Báb Bahá'í Born Siyyid 'Ali Muhammad in Southwestern Iran in 1819. His title, in Arabic, means 'The Gate'. Work is suspended and Bahá'ís come together for prayer and festivities.

Oct 19 Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í Born Mirza Husayn 'Ali into one of the leading noble families of Persia in 1817. His name is a title, in Arabic, meaning 'The Glory of God'.

Oct 22 Abu Simbel Festival Egypt Built by Ramses II, his temple is angled so that the inner sanctum lights up twice a year: on the anniversary of his rise to the throne and, once again, on his birthday. Crowds pack the temple before sunrise to watch the shafts of light illuminate the statues of Ramses, Ra and Amon.

Oct 23 Chulalongkorn Day Thailand This day commemorates the birth of Rama V, a progressive ruler who lived in 1868-1910.

Oct 24 Diwali Sikh, Hindu It means 'row of lights' and is the Hindu New Year. Diwali lasts for 5 days: Day 1 - New Year for business, Day 2 - the triumph of god Vishnu over the evil demon, Day 3 - Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity visits homes lit by lamps, Day 4 - Bali worship day, Day 5 - devoted to brothers and sisters.

Oct 24 Mahavira Nirvana Jain This day celebrates the attainment of Moksha by Lord Mahavira and is the 'Festival of Lamps'.

Oct 31 Samhain Wicca Traditionally, animals were slaughtered for winter provisions and the spirits of those who have died in the last year are invited to a final celebration.

Oct 31 Halloween Canada, USA This tradition goes back to the Celtic people 2,000 years ago who celebrated their New Year in late autumn and honoured Samhain or Lord of the Dead. The Irish traditionally carved lanterns out of turnips or potatoes, but in North America they use pumpkins.

November 2022 observances

National Indigenous Month USA. Since 1900, many have sought to recognize the great influence American Natives have had on the history, cultural development, and continuing growth of the US. Various dates and weeks were acknowledged until 1976, when Congress authorized a week in October as Native American Awareness Week. Finally, in 1990, the month of November was chosen because it is traditionally a time when many American Natives gather for fall harvest festivals, world-renewal ceremonies, and powwows.

Oct-Nov Iroquois Harvest Ceremony Indigenous This is a day-long ceremony to give thanks to the earth spirits for providing now and in the future.

- Nov 1 All Saints' Day Christian** This day is for honouring saints, known and unknown.
- Nov 2 All Souls Day Christian** Catholic Christians day of prayers of intercession for the dead. Prayers of the faithful are seen as helping to cleanse the souls of the departed.
- Nov 2 Dia de los Muertos Mexico** This day is also known as the Day of the Dead, and is celebrated in parts of the United States and Central America. Families build altars in their homes surrounded with flowers, food and burning candles.
- Nov 2 Dia de Finados Portugal** This holiday is celebrated by people visiting the deceased. They bring hearts and crowns made of flowers to the graves.
- Nov 2 Take Our Kids to Work Canada** Parents are encouraged to bring their daughters (and/or sons) to work on this day, and to use this opportunity to educate their children on the nature of employment.
- Nov 3 Bunka No Hi Japan** A national holiday dedicated to the love of freedom and promotion of Japanese culture.
- Nov 5 Guy Fawkes Day UK, England** This is also known as Bonfire Night. Guy Fawkes was a leader of a group of Catholic men who were plotting to blow up the king and Parliament but were arrested in time. The English and Irish burn bonfires topped by a figure known as the guy. West Indians from the Bahamas and Barbados also celebrate.
- Nov 8 Guru Nanak's Birthday (Bikarami) Sikh** Born in 1469 CE, he was the first of the Ten Gurus of the Sikh faith and founded Sikhism. An accomplished poet, 974 of his hymns are in the Sikh scriptures, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.
- Nov 8 Lokashah Jayanti Jain** This day commemorates the birth of a famous 15th century reformer, Lonka Saha, who opposed temple worship and use of images.
- Nov 11 Veterans Day USA** It was first proclaimed as Armistice Day in 1919 to commemorate the termination (at 11 AM on November 11, 1918) of World War I.
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day Australia, Canada, UK** This day commemorates the soldiers killed in World Wars I and II and is in remembrance for all those who have given their lives in service of their country. Canadians always set aside this day in memory of those who gave their lives for freedom. Many observers wear red poppies as a symbol of this day.
- Nov 15 Shichi-Go-San Japan** Prayers are offered for children's growth. The ages of three and five for boys, three and seven for girls--are celebrated. On this day, children dress up in their gala dresses and go with their parents to a Shinto shrine to pay a visit to the tutelary deity.
- Nov 18 Day of Covenant Bahá'í** The eldest son and appointed successor of Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, referred to this day as the 'Centre of the Covenant' which was established to safeguard the unity of the community.
- Nov 20 Transgender Day of Remembrance LGBT** Begun in 1999, vigils, services and a variety of other events are held to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.
- Nov 23 Kinro Kansha No Hi Japan** This is the Japanese Labour Thanksgiving Day when people express gratitude to each other for their labours throughout the year.
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day USA** Early American settlers gave thanks for good harvests by decorating their churches with fruits and vegetables and celebrating dinner with venison and waterfowl.
- Nov 24 Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur Sikh** This day commemorates his martyrdom (1621-1675). He was the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus and executed in Delhi by the Mughal emperor. He died for the Sikh faith and also for religious liberty.
- Nov 25 St. Catherine's Day Canada, France** She is the patron saint of virgins and philosophers, lived in Alexandria in the 4th century A.D. and was martyred after being tortured on a spiked wheel. At one time, match-making balls were held on this day.
- Nov 27 Ascension Of Abdu'l-Bahá; Bahá'í** After years of serving his father and safeguarding the unity of the Faith, Abdu'l-Bahá; passed away in Haifa, Israel in 1921.
- Nov 27 First Sunday of Advent Christian** The Christian church year begins with Advent (from the Latin adventus meaning 'coming' or 'arrival') which is also a time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- Nov 30 St. Andrew's Day Scotland** This day commemorates the life of the patron saint of Scotland.

December 2022 observances

Universal Human Rights Month UN The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN in 1948 as a response to the Nazi holocaust and to set a standard by which the human rights activities of all nations, rich and poor alike, are to be measured. Some of the Rights are: No one shall be subjected to cruel and inhuman punishment, being entitled to a fair and public hearing by an impartial tribunal, the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to a standard of living.

Dec 1 Rosa Parks Day USA Commemorates the arrest of Rosa Parks, in 1955, for defying segregation by refusing to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. The incident led to the end of segregation.

Dec 6 St. Nicholas Day Christian He is the patron saint of Russia and came from a town in Turkey. Being known as a protector of children, the tradition of leaving shoes out in the hopes of receiving treats is practiced in the Dutch, German and Eastern European communities.

Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day USA This day commemorates the attack of the Imperial Japanese Navy and Air Force on the armed forces of the United States stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing two thousand people. This caused the United States to enter into World War II.

Dec 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Christian According to the Catholic religion, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without Original Sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

Dec 8 Bodhi Day Buddhist In Japanese Zen, Bodhi Day is called "Rohatsu" and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days. On the last night of a Rohatsu sesshin, monks and students often sit in meditation until dawn, as the Buddha did 25 centuries ago.

Dec 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mexico An important religious festival in Mexico. It commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to an Indian boy in 1531. Processions, dances and visits are led to her Mexico City shrine.

Dec 13 Luciadagen Sweden This day is also known as 'Queen of Light'. A candlestick parade takes place.

Dec 15 Navidades Puerto Rico Marks the beginning of the Christmas season and ends with Three Kings Day on January 6th.

Dec 16-24 Posadas Mexico A nine-day traditional celebration throughout Mexico. Processions of pilgrims go door to door asking for posada, which means shelter, commemorating the search by Mary and Joseph for shelter.

Dec 16 Bijoy Dibash Bangladesh Signifies independence after a 9-month Liberation War against Pakistan in 1971. East Pakistan became Bangladesh.

Dec 19-26 Hanukkah Jewish Begins previous sun down at 6pm. The Festival of Lights is celebrated for eight days. Approximately in 164 B.C., Maccabees, a small group of Jews fighting for religious freedom won victory over the Syrians. The legend goes that to rededicate the Temple, they found only one jar of holy oil and miraculously the candelabra remained lit for 8 days. An eight candle menorah is lit.

Dec 21 Yule Wicca During the winter solstice – the longest night of the year, the rebirth of the sun which is life sustaining is celebrated. The Yule tree is decorated with fruit and candles are lit to represent the sun.

Dec 21 Tohji-Tasai Shinto The sun is of central importance in Japan and this day celebrates the end of the Yin period of the Sun in its declining strength and the growing power of the Yang period.

Dec 23 Joseph Smith's Birthday Christian - Mormon He was the American Mormon Leader, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Dec 25 Christmas Day Christian This day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth over 2000 years ago. Customs include lighting candles, exchanging gifts and using ever green decorations to celebrate this day, the most widely observed Christian festival of the year. In most communities it is a family day.

Dec 26-1 Kwanzaa African-American / Canadian A professor who wanted to encourage African Americans to celebrate their heritage started Kwanzaa's in California in 1966. Kwanzaa means first fruit in Swahili and is a harvest festival. Families exchange gifts and have African-style feasts. Seven-pronged candleholders are lit on each consecutive night for the seven principles: unity, self-determination, working together, sharing, purpose, creativity and faith.

Dec 26 Wren Day/St Stephen's Day Ireland On Wren Day, boys in wren costumes go from house to house with a captured wren, singing songs and gathering coins. These coins help to pay for a big celebratory feast in the evening.

Dec 31-Jan 4 Gahambar Mailyarem Zoroastrian This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.

Dec 31 Omisoka Japan To usher in the new year, families clean their homes, eat toshi-koshi buckwheat noodles in the hope that one's life will be stretched out as long as these noodles. As midnight approaches, Shinto temples around the country begin ringing out the old year, sounding the temple bell 108 times, signifying the 108 human worldly desires removed by the striking of the bell.