

NEWS LETTER

May 2023



● ● ● Multi-Cultural
and Diversity



SANTA CRUZAN DAY (PHILIPPINES)

May 1- 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.

KODOMO NO HI (JAPAN)

May 5- Childrens' Day promotes family unity in Japan celebrating the relationship of parents with their sons and daughters.



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CINCO DE MAYO (MEXICO)

May 5- 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. People of Mexican descent (Chicanos) in the United States celebrate this significant day by having parades, mariachi music, folkloric dancing and other festive activities.

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WESAK (BUDDHIST)

May 5- 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.

LAG B'OMER (JEWISH)

May 9- In Israel, it is celebrated as a symbol for the fighting Jewish Spirit.



MAZU FESTIVAL (CHINA, TAIWAN)

May 12- Mazu 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 Mazu temples.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA (PORTUGAL)

May 13- 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.

MOTHER'S DAY (CANADA AND USA)

May 14- 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.



DECLARATION OF BÁB (BAHÁ'Í)

May 24- 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.



INDIGENOUS AWARENESS WEEK (INDIGENOUS, CANADA)

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

SHAVUOT (JEWISH)

May 26-27-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.



BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY

May 26- 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).