

MULTI-CULTURAL AND DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER



Oct 2023

Mehragan (Iran and Zoroastrian)

Oct 2- 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.



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Oct 7- On the eighth day of Sukkot, special prayers for rain are offered.

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Han-Gul Day

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



Navratri (Hindu)

Oct 15- It means 'nine nights' beginning on the new moon and ending on Dussehra. It is dedicated to the goddess Durga who had nine incarnations and has the power of good to destroy demons.



Dia de la Raza (Mexico)

Oct 12- This day celebrates the Hispanic and Latino heritage in the Americas.



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Birthday of the Báb (Baha'i)

Oct 16- He was born as Siyyid 'Ali Muhammad in Southwestern Iran in 1819. His title, in Arabic, means 'The Gate'. The Báb is a prominent figure of the Baha'i Faith.

Abu Simbel Festival (Egypt)

Oct 22- Built by Ramses II, this 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. The other date for this event is Feb. 22.



Durga Puja (Hindu)

Oct 22- 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.



Chung Yeung Festival (China, Hong Kong, Taiwan)

Oct 23- Families visit the graves of their ancestors.



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Dussehra (Nepal and India)

Oct 24- 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. In Nepal it is called Dashain and is a major holiday.



Samhain (Wicca)

Oct 31-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.



Halloween (Canada and USA)

Oct 31-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. They put candles on windows and lit bonfires to scare the disembodied spirits off. They wore disguises so as not be recognized and always carried a lantern. The Irish traditionally carved lanterns out of turnips or potatoes, but in North America they used pumpkins which were more readily available. Black and orange are the traditional colors of Halloween.

Other Important Events

- Oct 8- Simchat Torah (Jewish)
- Oct 9- Indigenous People's Day (USA)
- Oct 10- Independence Day (Cuba)
- Oct 11- International Day of Girl (UN)
- Oct 17- Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh (Baha'i)

