

2004 Multicultural U.N. International Decade



MAIRA

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day: first day of the Gregorian calendar year ✦ Emancipation Proclamation takes effect 1863.
- 2 Ancestor's Day (Haiti).
- 6 Armenian (Orthodox) Christmas, Epiphany, Día de los Reyes, Twelfth Day: Christians celebrate the visits of the Magi ✦ Birthday of Kahlil Gibran, Lebanese American poet
- 7 Ethiopian, Greek, and Ukranian (Orthodox) Christmas, also other countries following the old Julian calendar
- 8 Midwife's or Women's Day (Greece): Men do all the housework and women spend time in cafes.
- 9 Birthday of Rigoberta Menchú (1959-): Quiche Maya activist for the rights of Indigenous peoples in Guatemala.
- 14 Makar Sakranti, Gujarat (India), Hindu holiday celebrating the sun's changing position. During the day kites are flown; at night they are strung with oil lamps.
- 15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1929-68): birthday of African American civil rights leader ✦ Humanitarian Day: celebrates those who changed racial segregation laws in America.
- 16 Día de San Antonio (Mexico): Blessing of Animals.
- 17 Birthday of Alan Alexander Milne (1882-1956): author/creator of Winnie the Pooh.
- 19 World Religion Day: dedicated to increasing interfaith understanding and cooperation.
- 20 Ati-Atihan (Philippines): celebrates an ancient peace pact between the Ati of Panay and the Malays, early migrants to the islands.
- 22 Yuan Tzan: Chinese New Year 4702, Year of the Monkey ✦ Tet begins: week-long Vietnamese celebration. Children pay respect to their elders and receive gifts of money.
- 23 Babin Den (Bulgaria): Grandmother and Midwives' Day.
- 25 Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) addressed the first African American women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio, in 1851.
- 27 Day of Remembrance for Victims of Nazism.



ERICA GARCIA

FEBRUARY

African American History Month

- 1 National Freedom Day: commemorates the 1865 abolition of slavery in the U.S. ✦ African American students staged a nonviolent protest of segregation in 1960 at a lunch counter in North Carolina, launching widespread civil rights activities ✦ Birthday of Langston Hughes (1902-67): African American writer.

- 2 Groundhog Day ✦ Día de la Candelaria (Mexico): celebration with dances and processions ✦ Candlemas: commemorates Bridget, Celtic goddess of fire, hearth, fields, poetry, and childbirth (Ireland, France, Canada).
- 4 Setsubun (Japan): Bean-throwing Festival celebrates the end of winter ✦ Birthday of Rosa Parks (1913-): civil rights activist.
- 5 Teng Chieh (Lantern Festival) marks the end of the Chinese New Year holiday period.
- 6 Tu B'Shevat: Jewish holiday to show respect and appreciation for trees and plants begins at sundown ✦ Birthday of Bob Marley (1945-81): influential reggae musician in the Rastafarian movement.
- 9 Birthday of Alice Walker (1944-): African American author and activist.



ADAN REYES

- 12 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) established in 1909.
- 14 Valentine's Day.
- 15 Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906): early women's rights advocate ✦ Birthday of John Trudell (1946-): Lakota activist, poet, spoken-word artist.
- 16 Presidents' Day.
- 17 International Friendship Week.
- 18 Birthday of Toni Morrison (1931-): African American author.
- 19 Japanese Internment National Day of Remembrance: commemorates the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II ✦ Birthday of Amy Tan (1952-): Chinese American author.
- 22 Awwal Muharram/Al Hijra begins the Islamic New Year (1425).
- 23 Birthday of W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963): sociologist who helped found the NAACP.
- 24 Carnival, Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras (Brazil, Caribbean, Italy): celebration of the cycles of life with music, costume balls, and parades, the last day before Christian Lent ✦ Día de la Bandera (Mexico): Mexican flag day ✦ Elizabeth Gurley Flynn (1890-1964) led 20,000 women in the 1912 "Bread & Roses" textile strike in Massachusetts.
- 29 Leap Day.

MARCH

Women's History Month

- 2 Birthday of Dr. Seuss (Theodore Geisel, 1904-91): children's book author.
- 3 Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival, Japan): a special festival for girls ✦ First law regulating hours of employment for children passed in 1824.
- 4 Peace Corps founded 1961.
- 6 Holi (India) Hindu Spring Festival ✦ Birthday of Gabriel García Márquez (1928-): Colombian author ✦ Purim (Jewish): celebrates the ancient rescue of the Jews from religious per-

secution with plays and pastries, begins at sundown.

- 8 International Women's Day: widely observed holiday started by U.S. women garment workers demonstrating for the right to vote.
- 9 Barbie debuts 1959.
- 10 Death of Harriet Tubman (1821-1913): leader of the Underground Railroad and self-liberated slave.
- 11 Girl Scouts USA founded in 1912, Savannah, Georgia.
- 16 National Youth Service Day (U.S.)
- 17 St. Patrick's Day (Irish) ✦ South African referendum to end Apartheid, 1992.
- 20 Vernal Equinox (Northern Hemisphere): first day of spring ✦ Ibo Afo Festival (Nigeria): celebrated with shouts driving out the old year and applause greeting the new year ✦ Noruz (Persian New Year): rebirth of nature celebrated with 3,000-year-old rituals, which include preparation of seven symbolic dishes all beginning with the Farsi letter 's'.
- 22 Varsha-Pratipada begins the Hindu New Year (2061).
- 22 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (U.N.) ✦ Birthday of Benito Juárez (1806-72): Zapotec leader of resistance to foreign invasion in Mexico ✦ Day of the Indian Child (Mexico).
- 24 Birthday of Harry Houdini (1874-1926): magician and escape artist.
- 29 Youth Day (Taiwan).
- 31 Cesar Chavez Day (1927-93): celebrates the birthday of Mexican American labor leader who organized migrant farmworkers in the U.S.

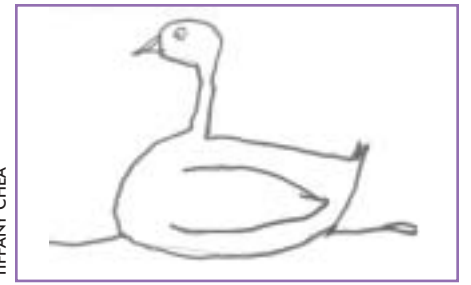


ANONYMOUS

APRIL

Child Abuse Prevention Month

- 1 April Fool's Day (U.S.)
- 4 Birthday of Maya Angelou (1928-): African American author ✦ Ch'ing Ming (China), Han Sik'il (Korea): celebrates the coming of spring and honors ancestors.
- 5 Birthday of Booker T. Washington (1856-1915): African American leader and educator ✦ Gayanashagowa (Great Binding of Nations): Iroquois confederacy was established uniting six Native American nations, became the model for the U.S. constitution ✦ Passover begins at sundown: Jewish celebration of liberation from slavery.
- 8 Day of Vesak: birthday of the Buddha (India) (563-483 B.C.)
- 9 Birthday of Paul Robeson (1898-1976): African American actor, singer, activist.
- 10 Birthday of Dolores Huerta (1930-): Chicana labor rights leader and social activist.
- 11 Easter Sunday.



TIFFANY CHEA

- 14 Thingyan (Burma), Songkram (Thailand): water is splashed on others and on Buddha images to bring in new year.
- 16 Birthday of Selena (1971-95): legendary Chicana singer.
- 18 Week of the Young Child begins.
- 21 Birthday of Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852): the father of kindergarten and an originator of the progressive education movement ✦ Birthday of John Muir (1838-1914): naturalist and conservationist.
- 22 Earth Day: first celebrated in 1970 to honor the earth and promote environment-friendly living.
- 24 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day (U.S.).
- 25 Arbor Day.
- 27 National Child Care Professionals Day ✦ Deaf Moms and Dads Day (CODA).
- 30 Día de los Niños (Mexico, U.S.) ✦ Spank Out Day, promoting alternative methods of discipline.

MAY

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

- 1 Worthy Wage Day, established to increase awareness of the need for adequate wages for child care workers to ensure quality care for children ✦ International Workers' Day, May Day: celebrated around the world to honor workers ✦ Lei Day (Hawai'i): leis are made and worn to celebrate May Day ✦ Mother Goose Day: reappraise old nursery rhymes.
- 2 Mawlid al Nabi celebrates the birthday of Muhammad (570-632), the Islamic prophet.
- 4 World Asthma Day ✦ National Teachers' Day.
- 5 Cinco De Mayo (Mexico) ✦ Occupation of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, by the American Indian Movement ended in 1973 ✦ Children's Day (Japan and Korea).
- 9 Mothers' Day (U.S.).
- 17 Desegregation in public schools mandated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 (Brown v. Board of Education).
- 19 Birthday of Malcolm X (1925-65): African American nationalist and civil rights activist.
- 22 Birthday of Harvey Milk (1930-78): gay rights leader.
- 25 African Freedom Day commemorates the independence of Chad, Zambia, and other African countries with sports contests, political rallies, and tribal dances.
- 31 Memorial Day (U.S.) ✦ World No Tobacco Day (U.N.).

JUNE

Gay and Lesbian Pride Month

- 1 Stand for Children Day (U.S.) ✦ Children's Day (China).

tural Calendar de for a Culture of Peace

- 6 Birthday of the Dalai Lama (1935-): Tibet's spiritual leader.
- 7 Multicultural American Children's Awareness Day: share the talents of all children.
- 12 Philippines Independence Day ❖ Birthday of Anne Frank (1929).
- 14 Flag Day (U.S.).
- 16 Cherokees were forced to begin the 1,200 mile Trail of Tears to Oklahoma in 1838.
- 19 Juneteenth: African American celebration of the day in 1865 when Union General Granger proclaimed the slaves of Texas free ❖ Birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi (1945-): Burmese leader for democracy and nonviolence.
- 20 Fathers' Day ❖ World Juggling Day.
- 21 Summer solstice (Northern Hemisphere).
- 24 Inti Raymi (Incan): festival of the sun god celebrated with bonfires, dances, processions.
- 26 Release of *Smoke Signals*, the first major U.S. movie to be entirely written, directed, and produced by Native Americans, in 1998.
- 28 Stonewall Riot in New York City (1969), considered the beginning of the gay liberation movement.
- 29 Birthday of Julia Lathrop (1856-1932): pioneer in the struggle to establish child labor laws.



CAROLINA MEIA

JULY

- 1 Canada Day.
- 2 Birthday of Thurgood Marshall (1908-93): first African American Supreme Court justice.
- 3 Child laborers struck for an 11-hour work day and a six-day work week in Patterson, New Jersey, in 1835.
- 4 Independence Day (U.S.).
- 7 Star Festival (Japan): children tie poems, wishes and decorations to bamboo sticks and offer them to the stars.
- 12 Birthday of Pablo Neruda (1904-73): Chilean poet and diplomat.
- 15 Bon Festival (Japan): lanterns and bonfires lit to honor the dead.
- 18 Birthday of Nelson Mandela (1918-): South African black leader against apartheid. Imprisoned for 27 years, he was president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999 ❖ Children's Defense Fund (then the Washington Research Project), founded by Marian Wright Edelman in 1967.
- 19 Seneca Falls convention (1848): where women drafted the "Declaration of Sentiments" asserting women's right to equality.
- 20 First Special Olympics held in Chicago in 1968.
- 24 Birthday of Amelia Earhart (1897-1937?): record-setting aviator.
- 26 Americans with Disabilities Act signed 1990.
- 29 Parents' Day (U.S.).



JOSE & DEIRAM GARDUNO

AUGUST

- 1 International Clown Week begins.
- 6 Hiroshima Day commemorates the 1945 atomic bombing and promotes peace.
- 9 Birthday of Jean Piaget (1896-1980): Swiss philosopher and psychologist who studied children's mental development ❖ International Day of the World's Indigenous People (U.N.).
- 11 American Indian Religious Freedom Act, giving Native Americans the right to practice their traditional religions, passed in 1978.
- 12 Youth Day (Zambia).
- 15 Birthday of Oscar Romero (1917-80): archbishop who worked for justice and peace in El Salvador.
- 18 Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ratified in 1920, giving women the right to vote.
- 27 Birthday of Mother Teresa (1910-97): devoted her life to caring for the destitute of Calcutta, India.
- 28 March on Washington in 1963, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave the "I Have a Dream" speech.
- 30 Raksha Bandhan (Brother and Sister Day, India): brothers and sisters promise to be good to each other. Trung Nguyen: Buddhist Day of Wandering Souls (Vietnamese).

SEPTEMBER

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)

- 1 Childhood Injury Prevention Week begins.
- 3 Frederick Douglass (1817-95) escaped from slavery in 1838 and became a leader in the struggle.
- 6 Labor Day (U.S., Canada): honors the working class.
- 11 Columbus Day. Ethiopian New Year (1995) ❖ Coptic New Year (1718).
- 12 Grandparents' Day.
- 15 Mexican Independence Day ❖ Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) begins at sundown (year 5765).
- 17 U.S. Constitution signed in 1787.
- 21 United Nations International Peace Day. Autumn Equinox (Northern Hemisphere): first day of autumn.
- 22 Banned Books Week begins ❖ Birthday of the ice cream cone in 1913, originated by Italo Marchiony, who sold lemon ice from a pushcart in New York.
- 24 Yom Kippur: Jewish Day of Atonement begins at sundown.
- 26 Tet Trung Thu: Vietnamese autumn celebration. Children parade through the streets with lanterns and mooncakes are baked. Also Hong Kong moon festival.

- 28 Teachers' Day and Confucius's birthday (551-479 B.C.E.), Taiwan, China ❖ Chusok (Korea): harvest thanksgiving festival.
- 29 Succot: Jewish harvest festival begins at sundown.

OCTOBER

Child Health Month

- 1 Universal Children's Day (U.N.).
- 2 Walk to School Day ❖ Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948): leader of the nonviolent struggle for Indian independence ❖ Birthday of Charlie Brown and Snoopy (1950).
- 5 Death of Tecumseh (1768?-1813): Shawnee leader who spoke out against unfairness of treaties with white settlers.
- 7 Birthday of Desmond Tutu (1931-): South African archbishop and leader in the struggle against apartheid.
- 9 Lights on Afterschool! celebrates after-school programs and publicizes the need for additional programs.
- 10 Birthday of Ken Saro Wiwa (1941-95): Ogoni environmental and human rights activist in Nigeria ❖ White Sunday (Samoa): a feast is prepared by parents and served to children.
- 12 Día de la Raza (Mexico) ❖ Indigenous People's Day (U.S.).
- 15 Ramadan begins: Muslim holy month of fasting and prayer.
- 24 Establishment of the United Nations in 1945 to work for world peace.
- 31 Halloween.



JOSE GARDUNO

NOVEMBER

Native American Indian Heritage Month

- 1 Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead, Mexico): Cemeteries are visited and shrines decorated to honor departed loved ones.
- 2 Election Day (U.S.).
- 3 Wuwuchim (Hopi New Year): celebrating with songs, prayers, and dances.
- 4 Child Protection Act banning hazardous toys and articles passed in 1966.
- 9 Berlin Wall opened in 1989, symbolizing the end of the Cold War.
- 10 Sesame Street, the children's educational television program, premiered in 1969.
- 11 Veteran's Day (U.S.): honors veterans of U.S. wars.
- 12 Diwali (Festival of Lights, India): a 5-day festival of lights and fireworks celebrates fortune, wealth and generosity.
- 14 Eid-ul-Fitr: celebrates end of Ramadan. Day of feasting and praying.
- 15 Children's Day (India): commemorates the birthday of Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964), India's first prime minister ❖ National Children's Book week begins.



DEIRAM GARDUNO

- 18 Birthday of Wilma Mankiller (1945-): Chief of the Cherokee nation from 1985-1995 ❖ Children's Advocate newspaper began publication in 1973.
- 20 Parent Involvement Day: encourages parent participation in children's development and education (U.S.).
- 25 Thanksgiving (U.S.).
- 26 Buy Nothing Day: activists urge no shopping on this day to draw attention to overconsumption (U.S.).
- 29 Education for All Handicapped Children Act passed in 1975.
- 30 Andres Bonifacio Day (1863-97): Birthday of Filipino leader who led the nation's revolt against Spain.

DECEMBER

- 1 World AIDS Day ❖ Arrest of civil rights leader Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat in a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. This set off a bus boycott which ended segregation on buses throughout the southern U.S.
- 3 International Day of Disabled Persons (U.N.) ❖ Birthday of Anna Freud (1895-1982): authority on mental disorders in children. She warned against the effects of neglect and harsh discipline.
- 7 Chanukah (Jewish Festival of Lights) begins at sundown.
- 10 U.N. Human Rights Day ❖ Birthday of Thomas H. Gallaudet (1787-1851), pioneer in the education of deaf people.
- 11 United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) established in 1946.
- 12 Feast of the Virgen de Guadalupe: patroness of Mexico.
- 16 Las Posadas (U.S., Mexico), Simbang Gabi (Philippines): candlelight parades commemorate Joseph and Mary's search for shelter in Bethlehem, lasts until January 6.
- 20 Birthday of Sandra Cisneros (1954-): Mexican American author.
- 21 Winter Solstice (Northern Hemisphere).
- 24 Birthday of Ricky Martin (1971-): Puerto Rican singer and actor.
- 25 Christmas.
- 26 Kwanzaa begins: seven-day African American family festival in recognition of traditional African harvest festivals.
- 30 Rizal Day: Date of execution of Dr. Jose Rizal (1861-96), Filipino reformer and writer.
- 31 New Year's Eve ❖ World Peace Meditation.

Calendar originally compiled by Daphne Muse. Revised and updated this year by Meg Hamill, Mahin Ibrahim, and Julieta Santana.

Drawings by students in the LaFayette School Mentoring Program in Oakland.