

Calendar Resource Section

Introduction

The Multicultural Resource Calendar™ does not purport to be all-inclusive, but rather seeks to highlight people, holidays, and events that may have been historically overlooked. The calendar includes entries for over 100 different countries. Entries include birthdays, cultural/historical events, days of religious observance, and public holidays. Months that have been declared by either presidential or congressional proclamation to reflect particular themes are so designated. The selection of events is a sampling. The choices of what to include reflect the judgments of the publisher, editors, and representatives of various cultures and religions. For historical figures, we have included only those people who are no longer alive, using their birthdays when known or the day of their death.

We have also included a Resource Section with detailed information about most events to encourage an informed awareness of these events that will make interactions with other cultures an experience of learning, appreciation, and mutual respect.

Some entries include a section on Recognizing the Festival/Holiday. This provides information about how someone who is unfamiliar with the customs of a particular culture or religion may join in recognizing the event. Many entries also include a guide on how to pronounce the name of the entry.

Since many people use the calendar for scheduling events and for meetings or travel involving people in countries other than the United States, we have included the public holidays for over 100 countries.

Every entry is identified with one of the following symbols:

- ◆ birthday
- cultural/historical event
- ✦ religious observance
- ✦ commemorative
- ◇ public holiday

Religious and cultural events that vary in their date of observance from year to year are marked with an (m).

Notes on Calendar Entries

The terms used for various ethnic and cultural groups reflect, as far as possible, the preferred usage within that cultural group. We have tried to be as sensitive and contemporary as possible, while recognizing that preferences may vary among members of particular groups.

For example, we use both the terms *Hispanic* and *Latino*. The term *Hispanic*, as used to identify a cultural group, was created by the United States Census Bureau in 1970 as an ethnic category for persons who identify themselves as being of Spanish origin. In the 1980 census, the Census Bureau further broke down this very broad category into Mexican/Mexican American, Puerto Rican, or Cuban/Cuban American, and then added the categories Central or South American, and “Other” Spanish/Hispanic to the 1985 census questionnaire. The term *Latino* first appeared in the 2000 U.S. Census, when all respondents were asked to identify whether they were of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. Unlike all other Census Bureau designations, the term *Hispanic* distinguishes between neither race nor color; thus, a Hispanic may be White, Black, or Indian. *Hispanic* is a general term that covers a very diverse population. Hispanics may include (1) Mexican Americans/Chicanos, (2) Puerto Ricans/Boricuas, (3) Hispanos (U.S. Hispanics who identify themselves as “Spanish”), (4) Cuban Americans, and (5) Latinos (Hispanics from countries other than those already mentioned). Terms other than *Hispanic* may be preferred. For example, many Mexican Americans prefer *Chicano*, Puerto Ricans may prefer *Boricua*, while others may prefer the more general term, *Latino*, which emphasizes Latin American, rather than Spanish colonial, origins.

The term *Native American* began to be used in the 1960s to denote the groups served by the

Bureau of Indian Affairs: American Indians and Alaska Natives (Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts of Alaska). Later the term also included Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in some federal programs. Since 1986, the term for the month of November has changed from Native American Heritage Month to National American Indian Heritage Month.

The Eskimos and Aleuts in Alaska are two culturally distinct groups and are sensitive about being included under the “Indian” designation. They prefer *Alaska Native*.

China refers to both the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan); if the entry applies to one and not the other, the specific country is indicated. *Korea* refers only to South Korea.

For the translation and spelling of non-English terms, we have generally used the English translation and spelling most widely accepted for academic purposes. Where possible, we have also used appropriate diacritical marks for non-English terms and names. In some cases, there is also a phonetic guide to help in pronouncing the event.

Entries commemorating people generally appear on the day of their birth. If the birth is unknown, anniversaries of their death are used. Some people are entered for both birth and death dates because different cultures honor the person at these different times. This is the case, for example, with Sun Yat-sen, whose memory is celebrated on the day of his birth in the Republic of China and on the day of his death in the People’s Republic of China. Independence days are not included for all countries; we have included as many as possible given the constraints of space.

Years of birth dates that occurred before year 1 of the Common Era are designated as B.C.E. (Before the Common Era).

Days of religious observance are included on a fixed date or a moveable date as appropriate. Many cultures use a lunar calendar, with dates of religious observance varying from year to year. Except for *Visakaha Day*, all Buddhist holidays are indicated on the dates observed according to the Japanese Buddhist calendar.

The actual day of observance for holidays that move from year to year may vary a day or two for any given year. This is true, for example, of Islamic and Hindu festivals. If the exact date is important, consult those in your local community who observe the holiday.

Dates for the summer and winter solstices and the autumnal and vernal equinoxes are based on either eastern standard or eastern daylight time. Since the autumnal equinox and vernal equinox are celebrated as holidays in Japan, because of the difference in time, the holiday may be celebrated on the day following the occurrence of the equinox in the United States.

Days of Religious Observance

Most Christians belong to the **Western Christian** churches, of which the Roman Catholic Church is the largest, both in the United States and in the world. Other Western Christian churches include the Protestant Churches and the Churches of the Anglican Communion. Denominations that belong to the Western Christian faith follow the Gregorian calendar, which was established by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 and is remarkably accurate, differing from the solar year by only 26 seconds. Easter is the holiest day of observance with the exception of Christmas, which is on the fixed date of December 25.

Easter falls on the first Sunday after the ecclesiastical full moon date following the ecclesiastical vernal equinox. The ecclesiastical full moon dates were predicted by astronomers in 325 A.C.E. at the First Council of Nicaea. Easter can fall as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

Religious holidays and festivals vary in the timing of their observance. **Jewish holidays** start at sundown the day before the first full day of the holiday and end at sundown on the last day of the holiday. For example, the Jewish holiday of Passover is March 30, 2010, although the holiday begins at sundown on March 29 and continues for eight days.

Baha’i and **Pagan/Wiccan holidays** also begin at sunset the day preceding the holiday.

Islamic holidays are based on a lunar calendar and begin at sundown the day before the first full day of the holiday. Since the Muslim lunar year is about eleven days shorter than the solar year, Islamic holidays shift earlier every year with respect to the Gregorian calendar. Thus Islamic holidays move through different seasons over the years, and a holiday may occur twice in the same Gregorian year. The Islamic lunar calendar (the *Umm al-Qura*), used in Saudi Arabia and most of the Arabian Peninsula, relies on astronomical calculations with sunrises, sunsets, moon phases, moonrises, and moonsets based on the geographical location of Mecca to determine the start of each Islamic month. In countries outside the Arabian Peninsula, however, the start of each month is determined by direct observation with the naked eye of the moon's first crescent (*hilar*) following the new moon. For example, the holy month of Ramadan begins at the sighting of the first lunar crescent following the new moon, which is predicted to be sundown on August 10, 2010. If the first crescent is not visible due to atmospheric or other conditions, then the new month begins at sundown the following day. Islamic holidays that fall on the first day of an Islamic month, such as Al Hijrah (New Year) and Eid al-Fitr, also begin at sundown at the sighting of the first crescent. This is why Islamic months and holidays may begin a day later in countries outside the Arabian Peninsula. Moreover, because Muslims rely on different locations for the observation of the crescent moon, with some requiring reports of its sighting from within their national borders and others accepting reports from other locations such as Mecca or Jerusalem, different Muslim communities start months on different days. In this calendar we have used the dates for Islamic holidays based on the Umm al-Qura calendar used in Saudi Arabia and most of the Arabian Peninsula.

Followers of the two main sects of Islam differ in their observance of some Muslim holidays. While the beginning of Ramadan and the feasts of Eid al-Fitr (the end of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (the end of the Hajj) are equally important to both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, the holiday of Ashura differs greatly in importance to the two sects. For Sunnis, Ashura is a minor holiday with a voluntary fast, while for Shi'a Muslims, Ashura is perhaps the defining holiday of their faith and the holiest day of the year. It commemorates the event that deepened the schism between the two sects—the martyrdom of Hussein ibn Ali, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, in Karbala. For Shi'as, Ashura is a day of commemoration and pilgrimage to the shrine of Hussein at Karbala, as is the observance of Arbaeen, which marks the end of the 40-day mourning period following Ashura.

Coptic Orthodox Christian and Eastern Orthodox Christian holidays begin with the celebration of vespers at sundown the day before the first full day of the holiday, which is the beginning of the liturgical day. Coptic Orthodox Christians and most Eastern Orthodox Christians follow the Orthodox Old Calendar, or Julian calendar, in which fixed holidays currently fall thirteen days later than Western Christian holidays in the Gregorian calendar. For example, Christmas is celebrated on December 25 by Western Christians, while Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7. Since the vernal equinox is used in calculating the date for Easter, the dates for Orthodox Easter and all related moveable holidays usually differ from those in the Western Christian Churches. Several Eastern Orthodox Churches, such as the Greek and Cypriot Orthodox Churches, follow the Orthodox New Calendar, in which the Gregorian calendar is used for fixed holidays such as Christmas, and the Julian calendar is used for calculating Easter and all related moveable feasts.

There are two different branches of **Buddhism**. *Theravada*, the only surviving school of the original sects of Buddhism and the predominant religion of continental Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka, also found in parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam; and *Mahayana*, the later revisionist school of Buddhism found primarily in China, Japan, and Korea, and parts of the Republic of China and Vietnam. Offshoots of the *Mahayana* tradition include *Vajrayana*, found in Tibet and Mongolia, *Jodo* (Pure Land), and *Zen Buddhism*. Buddhists who follow the *Theravada* tradition celebrate holidays according to the lunar calendar, in which dates of observance vary from year to year, while those who follow the *Mahayana* tradition celebrate holidays on fixed dates, based on the Japanese Buddhist calendar. In this calendar, *Visakha Day* is observed in accordance with the *Theravada* school, while all other Buddhist holidays follow the *Mahayana* tradition.

Hinduism is one of the oldest of the world's religions, having originated in what is now India in the second millennium B.C. It has an estimated 900 million followers worldwide, predominantly in India, Nepal, and Southeast Asia. Hinduism is a complex of polytheistic religion and philosophy that evolved from Vedism and seeks to help people move beyond human imperfection. The Hindu calendar is based on a year of 12 lunar months, with the discrepancy between this lunar year and the solar year of 365 days

resolved by adding an extra month every 30 months.

The **Sikh** community has traditionally followed the Hindu *Bikarami* calendar, a lunar calendar in which the dates of Sikh holidays move from year to year. Since the *Bikarami* calendar does not conform to the tropical year length, this continual shifting of dates has led to festivals being celebrated out of season. In order to remedy this discrepancy and also to give the Sikh community their own separate calendar, the *Nanakshahi* calendar was created, named after the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak. Introduced in 1999 and officially approved by the Sikh clergy in 2003, the *Nanakshahi* calendar converts all *Gurupurabs*, the festivals marking events in the lives of the Gurus, to fixed dates in the Gregorian solar calendar. All Sikh festivals are now celebrated on their *Nanakshahi* dates, with the exception of *Hola Muhalla*, *Bandi Chhor Day*, and *Guru Nanak Ji's Birthday*, which are still celebrated according to the traditional *Bikarami* calendar.

Holidays & Work Schedules

In addition to fixed public holidays when public offices are closed and workers have time off, each country has certain religious or other moveable holidays when offices are closed and people do not work. Before arranging meetings, travel, or work schedules, check with the embassy or other representative of the countries involved to see which holidays are also days when people do not work. For bank holidays, consult the Chart of National & Public Holidays by Country.

Fixed Holidays—General The first day of January is observed as New Year's Day and is a public holiday in almost every country. December 25 is celebrated as Christmas and is a public holiday in many countries worldwide. In the United Kingdom and in many countries of the Commonwealth of Nations, the day following Christmas is celebrated as Boxing Day and is a public holiday. In some European countries, Christmas is celebrated from December 25 to December 26, with December 26 celebrated as St. Stephen's Day in predominantly Roman Catholic countries. The last day of December is also a half-day or full-day holiday in many countries. October 12, the birthday of Christopher Columbus, is celebrated in many Latin American countries as either Discovery Day or as *Día de la Raza*.

Baha'i Faith Baha'i festivals take place from sunset to sunset, and followers may wish to leave work early in order to be home by sunset on the evening prior to the festival day. Baha'is also refrain from working on the nine key festival dates, including the first, ninth, and twelfth days of the Festival of Ridvan, and during the Baha'i Fast, which occurs annually from March 2 to March 20.

Buddhism Buddhist holidays are often celebrated in more industrialized societies on the weekend closest to the day on which the holiday occurs. Different Buddhist traditions celebrate holidays on different dates and various traditions may observe festivals unique to them. Please consult the followers of the tradition in your area for the exact date they will celebrate a given holiday.

Islam Business openings and work schedules may be significantly affected by Islamic religious festivals and holidays. This is especially true of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, which observant Muslims may celebrate for three days. Also, work schedules are often affected during the month of Ramadan. Friday prayer is obligatory and is held from noon until mid-afternoon, although it is also allowed before noon. Since the Muslim population is very large and geographically diverse, variations in customs will occur. This calendar gives a general idea of traditions and customs surrounding each holiday.

Judaism Strictly observant Jews keep the laws of *kashrut* (keep kosher), and refrain from work on the Sabbath and holidays, except where life is at risk. Prohibitions include traveling (except on foot), writing, switching electricity on and off, using a telephone, and performing transactions of a commercial nature (i.e., buying and selling). Work schedules may be affected by Jewish holidays, especially *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkoth*, *Passover* (8 days), and *Shavuot*. Jewish religious holidays are public holidays in Israel.

Western Christianity Countries with a majority Christian population will celebrate the major Christian holidays as times when people do not work. In addition, many European countries celebrate the Thursday before through the Monday after Easter as holidays. In some countries where Roman Catholicism is the major religion, the entire Lenten period includes many days when people do not work. Seventh-day Adventists observe the Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday.

1

- **Emancipation Proclamation (1863): United States** On this date Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in territories of the Confederacy. (See entry for *Lincoln's Birthday* on February 12.)

That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

—*Emancipation Proclamation (1863)*

- ❖ **Independence Day: Haiti** This day commemorates gaining independence from France in 1804 as a result of the only successful slave revolt in history.
- ❖ **New Year's Day: International** New Year's Day is the only secular holiday that the entire world observes regardless of race or religious beliefs. It is based on the solar calendar established by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 and adopted by most countries. However, many Eastern Orthodox churches follow the Orthodox Old Calendar, or Julian calendar, in which the New Year begins on January 14. Some cultural groups, including Jews, Chinese, Hindus, and Muslims, use a lunar calendar or some combination of a lunar and solar calendar. The date of the Chinese New Year may fall on any date between January 21 and February 19. For 2010, the Chinese New Year occurs on February 14 and the first day of the Jewish New Year begins on the first day of the month of Tishri, or sundown on September 8. Different cultures also count years from different starting points. For example, January 1 is year 2010 according to the Gregorian calendar, but falls in year 5770 according to the Jewish calendar and in year 1431 according to the Islamic calendar.

2

- ◆ **John Hope Franklin (1915–2009): African American** Historian, educator, author. John Hope Franklin was a historian, scholar, and author who in his best-known work, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* (1947), challenged the idea of a separate African American history apart from American history. Born in Oklahoma, Franklin attended the segregated Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa and then went to all-Black Fisk University. After earning his Ph.D. in History at Harvard in 1941, he returned to Fisk to teach, then taught at Howard University. In the early 1950s, Franklin served on the NAACP Legal Defense Fund team led by Thurgood Marshall that worked on the case for *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), which overturned the “separate but equal” doctrine of *Plessey v. Ferguson* (1896) and ended legal segregation in public schools. In 1956 Franklin became chair of the history department at Brooklyn College, the first African American department head at a predominantly white university. In 1964 he joined the faculty at the University of Chicago and served as chair of the history department from 1967 to 1970. Franklin marched alongside Martin Luther King Jr. in the historic Selma to Montgomery march of 1965. He was appointed the James B. Duke Professor of History at Duke University in 1983 and later was Professor of Legal History at the Duke University Law School. In 2000 Duke University established the John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies in his honor. In 1995 President William J. Clinton awarded Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.
- ❖ **Berchtold's Day: Switzerland** This day honors Duke Berchtold V, who founded Bern, the capital of Switzerland, in the twelfth century. According to legend, the Duke left on a hunting trip declaring that he would name the city for the first animal he killed, which was a bear, or Bär in German. The city was named Bärn, which later became Bern.

4

- ◆ **Louis Braille (1809–1852): French** Educator. Blinded in an accident at the age of three, Braille attended the Institution Nationale des Jeunes Aveugles (National Institute for Blind Youth) in Paris on a scholarship and began teaching there in 1826. While still a student he became interested in a form of writing that used raised dots to encode a message. He developed this idea into a complete writing system that bears his name, a series of arrangements of six dots. Braille's writing system, published in 1829, has become the most widely used form of writing for the blind.
- ❖ **Elizabeth Ann B. Seton Feast Day: Roman Catholic** This feast honors the first American-born saint and founder of the American Sisters of Charity, the first American order of Roman Catholic nuns.

5

- ◆ **George Washington Carver (1864–1943): African American** Scientist. This day marks the anniversary of Carver's death. As director of the department of agricultural research at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama from 1896, Carver developed hundreds of new uses for common agricultural products, including the peanut, sweet potato, and soybean. His research provided the foundation for the change in the economy of the South from dependence on a single crop (cotton) to a more diversified base.
- ❖ **Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday: Sikh** This celebrates the birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji (1666–1708), the Sikhs' tenth great master and teacher, who sought to abolish the caste system in India by creating a single community. Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birthday is celebrated on this date according to the Nanakshahi calendar. (See discussion under “Days of Religious Observance” and entry for *Vaisakhi: Sikh on April 14.*)

6

- ◆ **Zora Neale Hurston (1891–1960): African American** Author and folklorist. Hurston was a pioneer in the study of African American folklore. She spent years collecting folklore among the Black people of the rural South and celebrated their culture in her stories and novels. Hurston was part of the Harlem Renaissance literary circle in the mid-1920s. Her best known work is the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937).
- ◆ **Danny Thomas (born Amos Alphonsus Muzyad Yaqoob) (1912–1991): Lebanese American** Actor, comedian, and television producer. Born in Deerfield, Michigan, Danny Thomas was a comedian and actor, and one of the best known Lebanese Americans. He starred in the television show *Make Room for Daddy*, and in the 1953 remake of the movie, *The Jazz Singer*, later becoming a successful television producer. In the 1950s, Thomas protected two black-listed writers who continued to write for his television series under assumed names. Known as a philanthropist, Thomas founded the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee in 1962, for which he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.
- ❖ **Christmas: Armenian Apostolic Church** The Armenian Church, also known as the Armenian Orthodox Church, has one of the oldest traditions in the Christian world. In the early fourth century, Armenia became the first country to accept Christianity as a state religion. In A.D. 506, the Armenian Apostolic Church broke from the Eastern Orthodox Churches, becoming one of the original Oriental Orthodox Churches. In 1923 the Armenian Orthodox Church adopted the Gregorian calendar with one significant difference: the Church celebrates the birth of Jesus on Epiphany rather than on December 25. In the original Christian tradition, the feast of Epiphany celebrated three events that revealed God to mankind: the nativity, the visit of the three Magi, and the baptism of Christ. However, in the fourth century, the Roman Church adopted December 25 as the new date to celebrate the nativity. The Armenian Apostolic Church is the only Christian church that still celebrates the nativity on Epiphany, its original date of celebration. In Jerusalem, the Church continues to follow the Orthodox Old Calendar and celebrates Christmas on the Julian date for Epiphany, or January 19.

❖ **Epiphany: Christian** This is also known as “Little Christmas” and “Twelfth Day.” It commemorates the visit of the three kings, Magi, to the infant Jesus.

❖ **Three Kings Day (Día de los Tres Magos): Puerto Rico** This traditional holiday corresponds to the Christian Feast of Epiphany. It commemorates the arrival in Bethlehem of the three kings, or Magi. Traditionally, children leave straw or grass under their beds and find a gift in its place in the morning. **Recognizing the Festival/Holiday:** For both Epiphany and Three Kings Day, in many cultures it is common to eat cake containing a trinket, sometimes shaped like a cross, or to give some kind of sweet candy.

7

❖ **Christmas: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian, and Rastafarian** Christmas is celebrated on this date, set according to the Julian calendar, by the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt and several Eastern Orthodox Christian communities (e.g., Russian, Serb, and Ukrainian Orthodox Christians). Christmas is also observed on this day by Rastafarians, who follow the Ethiopian calendar, which has its roots in the Coptic Orthodox tradition. In Gregorian leap years, Coptic Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on January 8. (*See discussion under “Days of Religious Observance.”*)

9

❖ **Martyrs’ Day: Panama** This marks the January 9, 1964 riots over sovereignty of the Panama Canal Zone. After three days of fighting, about 22 Panamanians and four U.S. citizens were killed. The incident is considered to be a significant factor in the U.S. decision to transfer control of the Canal Zone to Panama through the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

11

❖ **Independence Manifesto Day: Morocco** This day celebrates the declaration of independence from France in 1944.

❖ **National Unity Day: Nepal** This celebration pays homage to King Prithvīnarayan Shah (1723–1775), founder of the present house of rulers of Nepal and creator of today’s unified Nepal.

❖ **Coming of Age Day (Seijin No Hi): Japan** This public holiday celebrates the coming of age of everyone who turned 20 in the past year. Those who reached age 20 in the past year gather at public halls for commemorative ceremonies. (m)

❖ **Eugenio Maria de Hostos’ Birthday: Puerto Rico** This public holiday commemorates the birth of Eugenio Maria de Hostos (1839–1903), patriot, distinguished scholar, and writer of works ranging from treatises on law to children’s stories. Eugenio Maria de Hostos spent most of his life in exile, working as a university teacher and leading educational reform efforts in the Dominican Republic and Chile. He traveled widely to promote cooperation among Latin American countries and advocate freedom for Puerto Rico and Cuba. (m)

12

❖ **Helen Haje (1929?–1998): Lebanese American** Public relations activist. Sometimes referred to as the “mother of Arab American organizations in the United States,” this daughter of Lebanese immigrants joined the National Association of Arab Americans, the first political Arab American organization, as its first executive secretary in 1972. She continued her work to champion Arab American interests in the United States until her death.

❖ **Mordecai Johnson (1890–1976): African American** University president. In 1926 this 36-year-old Baptist minister became the first African American president of Howard University in Washington, D.C. The 30 years of his presidency saw the transformation of the institution to a distinguished university with a faculty tripled in size, a law school distinguished for its leadership in the field of civil rights, and a multimillion dollar campus.

❖ **José Limón (1908–1972): Mexican American** Dancer and choreographer. Soon after his debut as a performer with Doris Humphrey’s modern dance troupe, Limón began creating his own dances, many of them drawing on the traditional dances he had seen as a boy in Mexico. His greatest works, including *The*

Moor’s Pavane, based on Shakespeare’s tragedy *Othello*, are distinguished for their combination of emotional expressiveness and formal elegance. Limón’s dance troupe was the first to be sent abroad on a tour sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s cultural exchange program.

13

❖ **Ernestine Potowski-Rose (1810–1892): Polish American** Political activist. After immigrating to the United States in 1836, Potowski-Rose worked for the economic emancipation of women, the abolition of slavery, and the improvement of conditions for working people. Her leadership in the 12-year campaign to secure property rights for married women in New York State led to the state legislature’s passage in 1848 of the Married Women’s Property Act, the first law in the United States to give married women control over their own property and shared legal guardianship of their children.

❖ **Charlotte Ray (1850–1911): African American** Lawyer. While working as a teacher in the teacher-training program at Howard University, Ray studied in the university’s law department. In 1872 she was admitted to the District of Columbia bar, becoming the first Black woman lawyer in the United States and the first woman to practice in the District of Columbia.

14

❖ **John Dos Passos (1898–1976): Portuguese American** Writer. An important novelist of the period between the two world wars, Dos Passos is best known for his trilogy *U.S.A.* (1930–1936), a set of three novels in which he depicted the United States as “two nations,” one of the privileged and one of the powerless.

❖ **Carlos P. Romulo (1899–1985): Filipino** Diplomat, author, and educator. Romulo received a commission in the U.S. Army when the United States entered World War II. He spent the war working on the staff of General Douglas MacArthur and in the Philippine government in exile in Washington, and participated in the liberation of Manila in early 1945. For the remainder of his career he served in diplomatic positions: as representative to the United Nations, ambassador to the United States, secretary of foreign affairs, minister of education, and president of the University of the Philippines.

❖ **New Year: Eastern Orthodox Christian** This date marks the observance of New Year’s Day according to the Julian calendar followed by several Eastern Orthodox Christian Churches (e.g., Russian, Serb, and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches).

15

❖ **Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968): African American** Civil rights leader. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gained national prominence during the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott of 1955–1956 and soon became the acknowledged national leader of the growing movement to obtain civil rights for African Americans. (*See entry for Rosa Parks Day on December 1.*) His commitment to non-violence, his courage, and the moral power of his vision, eloquently expressed in masterful oratory and writings, won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Toward the end of his life King became convinced of the interrelatedness of all forms of social, economic, and military oppression, and broadened the sphere of his activism. He spoke out against U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam and was preparing to lead a massive Poor People’s March on Washington when he was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968, while helping to organize the city’s sanitation workers. His birthday is celebrated on January 18 as a federal holiday.

16

❖ **Ruhiyyih Rabbani (1910–2000): Baha’i** Religious leader. Ruhiiyyih Rabbani became a prominent leader of the Baha’i faith after the death of her husband, Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, the last official leader of the faith. Since his death, the Baha’is have been governed by a legislature. Rabbani was a member of the “nine hands” who oversaw the affairs of the Baha’i community and interpreted matters of faith. This is the day of her death.

❖ **Hiram Revels (1822–1901): African American** Legislator and university president. In 1870 Revels became the first African American elected to the United States Senate when he was chosen to fill the Mississippi seat vacated by Jefferson Davis. After serving his term in the Senate, he became president of Alcorn University in Mississippi. He died on this date.

18

- ✦ **Revolution Day: Tunisia** Also known as Remembrance Day, this commemorates the nationalist movements that led to Tunisia's gaining independence from France in 1956 and the abolishment of the monarchy in 1957.
- ✦ **Martin Luther King Jr. Day: United States** National observance of Dr. King's birthday. (m)

19

- ✦ **Epiphany: Coptic Orthodox Christian and Eastern Orthodox Christian** This day commemorates the visit of the three kings, Magi, to the infant Jesus. Coptic Orthodox Christians and several Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate Epiphany on this day based on the Julian calendar. The Armenian Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas on this day in Jerusalem, where Armenian Orthodox Christians still follow the Julian calendar. In Gregorian leap years, Coptic Orthodox Christians celebrate Epiphany on January 20. (See entry for *Armenian Orthodox Christmas on January 6 and discussion under "Days of Religious Observance."*)

22

- ◆ **Pilar Barbosa (189?–1997): Puerto Rican** Historian and political activist. Pilar Barbosa de Rosario, historian and mentor to generations of Puerto Rican politicians, scholars, and intellectuals, was widely regarded as the conscience of the New Progressive Party. She started her career as the first woman to teach at the University of Puerto Rico and later created the departments of history and social studies. She became an authority on Puerto Rican political history and was named the Commonwealth's official historian in 1993. Professor Barbosa led the movement to make the Progressive Party both the party of statehood and of social justice. She died on this day at the age of 99.

23

- ◆ **Thomas A. Dorsey (1899–1993): African American** Gospel songwriter, blues singer, and pianist. The son of a Georgia revivalist preacher, Dorsey began his career as a pianist, composer, and arranger of blues pieces. When he turned to composing church music, he introduced elements of the blues into his work, thereby creating the sound of contemporary gospel music. In 1932, Dorsey became musical director of Chicago's Pilgrim Baptist Church, a position he held for more than 40 years. In the same year he cofounded the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses. The most famous of Dorsey's more than 1,000 gospel songs is "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," written in 1932 after the death of his first wife and infant son.

24

- ◆ **Arthur Alfonso Schomburg (1874–1938): Puerto Rican** Scholar and collector. Son of a Black laundress and a German-born merchant, Schomburg left Puerto Rico at age 17 to continue his education in New York City. His growing involvement in efforts to improve conditions for Black and Latino people led him to become fascinated with African American culture, and he began collecting books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and prints documenting the history of Black people in America. His personal collection became the finest of its kind in the nation and was purchased in 1926 by the New York Public Library. The Arthur A. Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and Art opened to the public in 1934 with Schomburg as its curator.

25

- ◆ **Robert Burns (1759–1796): Scot** Poet. Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland, is known throughout the world for poems, including *Comin' Thro' the Rye* and *A Red, Red, Rose*. The celebration of Burns' birthday focuses around a Burns' Night Supper that features the procession into the dining area of the haggis, accompanied by playing of the bagpipes. The haggis is a sheep stomach filled with a mixture of chopped lamb and oatmeal cooked just below boiling point. It is eaten with bashed neeps, which are turnips. The preferred drink is well-aged scotch. This feast often features the reading of

Burns' poem "To a Haggis." His birthday is celebrated throughout the world where there are Scottish communities, including Japan, other parts of Asia, and Russia.

26

- ✦ **Australia Day: Australia** In order to relieve the pressures of crowding in British prisons, the British government established a penal colony in Australia. The first prisoners arrived on this date in 1788. This has been celebrated as Foundation Day or Anniversary Day, and now as Australia Day, since 1817. The trend in Australia is to celebrate this day on the actual day of its occurrence rather than on the nearest Monday to that day. The exact day of celebration, however, is determined by each state or division within Australia rather than by the federal government and, therefore, may vary from one part of Australia to another.
- ✦ **Juan Pablo Duarte's Birthday: Dominican Republic** This holiday marks the birthday of one of the founders of the republic.
- ✦ **Republic Day: India** This commemorates two events: the declaration in 1929 by the Indian National Congress to work toward independence from Great Britain and the day in 1950 when India became an independent republic.

28

- ◆ **José Julian Martí (1853–1895): Cuban** Poet, essayist, and patriot. A distinguished writer as well as a political leader, Martí was the chief organizer of the Cuban movement for independence from Spain. Although he lived much of his adult life in exile, in April 1895 he helped to lead a revolutionary invasion of Cuba. He was killed in battle on May 19.
Recognizing the Festival/Holiday: In many large Cuban American communities, Martí's birthday is often celebrated with speeches, community events, and parades.

29

- ✦ **Martyr's Day: Nepal** This public holiday commemorates the deaths in 1942 of four Nepalese martyrs who spoke out against the ruling Rana family.

30

- ◆ **Osceola (1800–1838): American Indian (Seminole)** Military leader. Osceola organized the Seminoles to resist the U.S. government's takeover of their ancestral lands and led the guerrilla resistance to federal forces from 1835 until his imprisonment in 1837. He died in captivity on this date.
- ✦ **T'u B'Shvat (two-bish-vat) (New Year of the Trees): Jewish** Although a minor Jewish holiday, New Year of the Trees is widely celebrated—especially with a focus on children—as a time to renew the land and to plant trees. (See *introductory material at beginning of Calendar Resource Section.*) (m)
Recognizing the Festival/Holiday: It is a custom to honor a person by having a tree planted in Israel in his or her name. One of many web sites for information about this custom is <http://www.treesfortheholylnd.com/>.

- ✦ **King Abdullah's Birthday: Jordan** This day celebrates the birthday of His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein (born 1962), the current King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

31

- ◆ **William Apess (1798–1840?): American Indian (Pequot)** Writer, Methodist minister, and political activist. Apess published in 1829 his autobiography, *A Son of the Forest*—the first book written and published by a Native American. In this and subsequent writings, and in his public life as a spokesman for the Pequots, Apess challenged the racial assumptions of European Americans and asserted the rights of all people of color to be considered the equals of Whites.
- ◆ **Ella Cara Deloria (1889–1971): American Indian (Dakota Sioux)** Researcher and writer. Deloria worked as a teacher and health educator and did extensive work as a research specialist in American Indian languages and cultures. Her novel *Waterlily* is a fictional portrait of traditional Sioux life

◆ **Jack Roosevelt “Jackie” Robinson (1919–1972): African American** Athlete. An outstanding hitter and fielder known for his daring base runs, Robinson broke the color barrier in major league baseball when he signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

2010 Resource Section

February

❖ **African American History Month** In 1926 Dr. Carter Woodson chose the week of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday to institute a week-long celebration of the contributions of African Americans to history. Now the entire month of February is celebrated as African American History Month. Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, founded by Dr. Woodson in 1915, sets the theme for the month. For more information, contact the association at 202-865-0053 or visit its web site at www.asalh.org.

1
◆ **Langston Hughes (1902–1967): African American** Writer. Hughes emerged as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s and became the most influential African American writer of his time. His poetry, which drew on the traditional Black art forms of spirituals, blues, and jazz, won an especially wide audience, but Hughes also distinguished himself as a writer of fiction, drama, essays, and history.

◆ **Thomas Lantos (born Lantos Tamás Péter) (1928–2008): Jewish American** Politician and statesman. The only Holocaust survivor ever to serve in the U.S. Congress, Lantos was born in Budapest, Hungary, and joined the resistance against the Nazis during the German occupation of Hungary in World War II. Placed in a Hungarian forced labor camp when he was a teenager, Lantos escaped to a safe house set up by the Swede Raoul Wallenberg. In 1947 he immigrated to the United States on an academic scholarship and attended the University of Washington and the University of California at Berkeley. From 1981 until his death he served in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat representing California’s 12th District, becoming chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in 2007. Initially a strong supporter of the Iraq War, Lantos became increasingly critical of the administration’s conduct of the war. Throughout his career Lantos championed human rights issues worldwide, advocating for religious freedom in Saudi Arabia, supporting Tibetans’ right to cultural and religious freedom, and protesting against the Sudanese genocide in Darfur.

2
❖ **Candlemas: Christian** This religious holiday originated with the ancient Jewish custom that required mothers to present their first male child in the temple. As a Jewish mother, Mary would have presented Jesus on February 2. The day is associated with light and purification. The holiday takes its name from the custom of blessing the church’s supply of candles for the year on this date.

❖ **Imbolc: Pagan and Wiccan** Imbolc, which like all Pagan and Wiccan holidays begins at sundown on the day before, is a celebration of fire and light and the return of life. It is also the holy day of St. Brigid, the Goddess of fire, healing, and fertility. Wicca is the common term for many different traditions of Neo-Pagan nature religions that celebrate seasonal and life cycles and revere a Goddess and a God. Most Wiccans celebrate eight Sabbats, or days of power, that comprise the Wheel of the Year: Samhain (the Wiccan New Year), Yule, Imbolc, Ostara, Beltaine, Litha, Lughnasadh and Mabon. Wiccans also celebrate thirteen Esbats, or ritual observances of the full moon, every year. Pagan and Wiccan traditions have a long history preceding that of any of the major Western religions. Originating as agricultural festivals going back for thousands of years, many Sabbat practices were incorporated into Roman, Greek, and other traditions and also found their way into subsequent Western religions. Pagans and Wiccans are not anti-Christ or in opposition to any religion. Their beliefs and practices focus on the earth’s seasons and the natural cycles of the world. They stress reverence for nature and belief in ecological principles. As such, Pagans and Wiccans are largely pacifist in nature. Their only “rule” is to “harm none.” Pagans and Wiccans believe that the divine is in everything, and that there are multiple deities and many different pathways to the divine. They also believe in reincarnation. The circle with five points, the “Pentacle,” is

the most common symbol used in Wicca. Its five points symbolize Air, Fire, Water, Earth, and Spirit, in the circle of eternity. Countries with large Wiccan populations include the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, and Holland.

3
◆ **Gertrude Stein (1874–1946): American** Lesbian. Author. An avant-garde American writer whose Paris home became a salon for the leading artists and writers of the period between World Wars I and II, Gertrude Stein attended Radcliffe College, studying psychology with the philosopher William James. After further study at Johns Hopkins medical school, she went to Paris where she lived with her lifelong companion, Alice B. Toklas. Stein was among the first collectors of works by the Cubists and other experimental painters of the period, such as Pablo Picasso (who painted her portrait), Henri Matisse, and Georges Braque. These painters were introduced to expatriate American writers, such as Sherwood Anderson and Ernest Hemingway, and other visitors drawn by her literary reputation. Her first published book, *Three Lives* (1909), the stories of three working-class women, has been called a minor masterpiece. Her only book to reach a wide public was *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* (1933), actually Stein’s own autobiography. The performance in the United States of her *Four Saints in Three Acts* (1934), which the composer Virgil Thomson had made into an opera, led to a triumphal American lecture tour in 1934–35.

● **Bean Scattering Festival (Setsubun): Japan** This festival expresses everyone’s desire for good health and good fortune in the new year. At home, children throw beans at the “devil” and shout “out with the devil, in with good luck.”

4
◆ **Betty Friedan (born Bettye Naomi Goldstein) (1921–2006): Jewish American** Feminist, activist, and writer. A pioneer in the modern feminist movement, Betty Friedan ushered in the “Second Wave” of feminism with the publication in 1963 of her book, *The Feminine Mystique*, one of the most influential books of the twentieth century. She chronicled the growing dissatisfaction of women as homemakers in postwar suburban America, identifying their discontent as “the problem that has no name.” Friedan’s work was one of the forces leading to the women’s liberation movement of the late 1960s, a social upheaval reminiscent of the earlier turn-of-the-century campaigns for women’s suffrage. Friedan was one of the founders of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966, and served as its first president until 1970.

❖ **Arbaeen: Islamic** This marks the end of the traditional 40-day mourning period following Ashura, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hussein ibn Ali, grandson of Islam’s prophet Muhammad and third Imam of the Shi’a Muslims. For Shi’a Muslims, Arbaeen is a day of commemoration and pilgrimage to the shrine of Hussein at Karbala. (See discussion under “Days of Religious Observance” and entry for Ashura on December 16.) (m)

5
❖ **Constitution Day: Mexico** On this day in 1917 Mexico adopted its first constitution. (See entry for Anniversary of the Revolution on November 20.)

6
◆ **Bob Marley (1945–1981): Jamaican** Musician. Marley was the most influential star of reggae, a Jamaican form of popular music that draws on Afro-Caribbean dance and American soul music and was one of the first musical idioms from the Third World to become popular in Europe and the United States. Marley’s intense, compelling presence and the stirring messages of his songs brought him the acclaim of

January/February