

JANUARY

January 1

Emancipation Proclamation (1863): United States. On this date Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in territories of the Confederacy.

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. 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 XII in 1582 and adopted by most countries. However, the Orthodox Eastern churches continue to use the earlier Julian calendar with the New Year falling on January 14. Some cultural groups, including Jews, Hindus, and Muslims, use a lunar calendar or some combination of a lunar and solar calendar. The date of the Chinese New Year occurs on January 24 and the first day of the first day of the Jewish New Year begins on the first day of the month of Tishri, or sundown on September 17. Different cultures also count years from different starting points. For Example, January 1 is year 2001 according to the Gregorian calendar, but falls in the 5761 according to the Jewish calendar and in year 1421 according to the Islamic calendar.

January 4

Louis Braille (1809-1852): French. Educator. Blinded in an accident at the age of three, Braille attended the Institution Nationale des Jeunes Aveugles (Nations 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.

Cyril Lionel Robert James (1901-1989): Trinidadian. Historian, literary critic, and philosopher. The writings of C.L.R. James include one of the first novels written in English in the West Indies (*Minty Alley*, 1927), but James' most significant achievements were as a leader of the Pan-African movement. In his writings (*World Revolution*, 1937, *A History of Negro Revolt*, for example) and in his work as a teacher in England, the United States, and his native Trinidad, he articulated and encouraged the aspirations of African peoples for freedom from colonial rule. Eric Williams of Trinidad and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana were among the many political leaders influenced by James' thought.

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.

January 5

Alvin Ailey (1931-1989): African American. Dancer and Choreographer. As founder, director, and principal choreographer of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (established in 1958), Alvin Ailey blended elements of classical ballet, Afro-Caribbean dance, jazz, and modern dance. He received his greatest acclaim for works that vividly and eloquently evoked the historical experience of African Americans, including the exuberant ensemble piece *Revelations*, with a score drawn from spirituals. Tours sponsored by the State Department brought Ailey's company an international following.

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, Culver 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 (1666-1708): Sikh. This celebrates the birth of the Sikhs' tenth great master and teacher, who sought to abolish the caste system in India by creating a single community. The Sikh religious order has decided that beginning in 1999 the Nanakshahi calendar would be aligned with the Gregorian calendar. This change results in Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birthday being celebrated on this date in 2001. However, some members of the Sikh community may continue to observe this birthday according to the Bikarami calendar, which defines the date as January 2.

January 6.

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) : African American. Author and folklorist. Hurston spent years collecting folklore among the Black people of the rural South and celebrated their culture in her stories and novels. Her best known work is the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Born in the all black town of Eatonville, Florida, she left Eatonville in 1917 to attend Morgan Academy in Baltimore, where she completed high school. She then attended Howard Prep School and Howard University and earned an associate's degree. She completed her undergraduate education at Bernard College and studied under the well-known anthropologist Franz Boas. While in New York, Hurston became a part of the Harlem Renaissance literary circle that included Langston Hughes, Wallace Thurman, and Jessie Fauset. She became well known not only for her writing, but also for her outspokenness, her distinctive way of dress, and her refusal to be ashamed of her culture. Hurston was a pioneer in the study of African American folklore. For her folklore writing, she traveled "down South" to the Caribbean and Latin America. Her most active years were the 1930s and early 1940s. During that time she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, joined the Federal Writers Project in Florida, Published four novels and an autobiography, and worked as a story consultant for Paramount Pictures. Since 1989, there has been an annual festival in her honor in Eatonville. For more information, contact The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc., 227 East Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville, FL 32751, Tel. No. 4076473307 or the web site at www.longwood.cs.ucf.edu.

Christmas: Armenian Apostolic Church. As part of the Orthodox Christian movement, Armenians celebrate Christmas on this day.

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 (Dia 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.

January 7

Christmas: Coptic Orthodox Christian and Eastern Orthodox Christian. 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 Orthodox Christians).

January 8

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.

January 10

Dean Dixon (1915-1976): African American. Orchestra conductor. Although recognized as one of the finest American conductors of his generation Dixon was blocked by racial prejudice from obtaining a regular conducting position in the United States. He spent much of his professional life in Europe, where he conducted nearly every major orchestra on the continent and served as principal conductor of the Goteborg (Sweden) Symphony and later of the Hessian Radio Symphony in Frankfurt, Germany.

January 11

Carlo Tresca (c. 1882-1943) :Italian American. Journalist and human rights activist. Tresca was a lifelong crusader for social and economic justice and individual rights. After his opposition to the powerful political leader of his southern Italian town brought him a conviction for libel, he fled to the United States, where he continued to speak out as editor of radical Italian newspapers, first in Philadelphia and then in New York. Gentle and courtly in person, Tresca was an out-spoken foe of Fascism in Germany and Italy and of Communism in the Soviet Union. He was assassinated by an unknown gunman on this date in 1943.

Eugenio Maria de Hostos (1839-1903) : Puerto Rico. Educator, writer, and patriot. A distinguished scholar and a 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.

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

January 12

Helen Haje (1929?-1998) :Arab American. Public relations activist. Sometimes referred to as the “mother of Arab American organizations in the United States,” this daughter of Lebanese immigrants grew up in Altoona, Pennsylvania. The mother of three children, Haje left Altoona in the early 1940s after her husband died and moved to Washington, D. C., to work for Catholic Charities. Becoming increasingly concerned about the negative image of Arabs among the American public, in 1972 she joined the National Association of Arab Americans, the first political Arab American organization, as its first executive secretary. 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 multi-million dollar campus. Johnson also served on numerous government commissions and advisory boards.

Jose Limon (1908-1972) : Mexican American. Dancer and choreographer. Soon after his debut as a performer with Doris Humphrey’s modern dance troupe, Limon 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. Limon’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.

January 13

Ernestine Potowski –Rose (1810-1892) : Polish American. Orator and political activist . After immigrating to the United States in 1836, Potowski-Rose gave her energies to the economic emancipation of women, the abolition of slavery, and the improvement of conditions for working people. Her first political success was her leadership of the 12-year campaign to secure property rights for married women in New York State. Her efforts 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 the right to control their own property and share 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, Char-

lotte Ray began studying in that university's law department. Soon after her graduation in 1872 she was admitted to the District of Columbia bar, becoming the first African American woman lawyer in the United States and the first woman to practice in the District of Columbia. Although she was admired by colleagues, she had to give up active practice when the prevailing prejudices of the day made it impossible for her to obtain sufficient legal business.

January 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. After an early career in journalism, Romulo received a commission in the U.S. Army when the United States entered the 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. He also wrote a number of books on the history and public affairs.

New Year: Eastern Orthodox Christian. This date marks the observance of New Years Day according to the Julian calendar by several Eastern Orthodox Christian Churches.

January 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. His commitment to nonviolence, 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 on April 4, 1968. His birthday is celebrated on January 15 as a federal holiday.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: United States . National observance of Dr. King's birthday.

January 16

Ruhiyyih Rabbani (1910-1969): Baha'i. Religious Leader. Ruhiiyyih Rabbani became a prominent leader of the Baha'i faith after the death of her husband, Soghi 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.

January 17

Pablo Manlapit (1891-1969): Filipino. Labor leader. A worker who came to Hawaii at the age of 19 to work on sugar plantations, Manlapit was discharged from his first job for involvement in labor organizing. While working as a janitor in a law office, he studied for a law degree, eventually becoming the first Filipino to pass the bar examination in Hawaii. Rather than practicing law, he resumed his efforts to organize unions that would press the powerful Hawaiian Sugar planters Association (HSPA) for improvements in the harsh living and working conditions of laborers, most of them Filipino and Japanese. Manlapit succeeded in building a united movement, but the HSPA repeatedly thwarted the workers' efforts, breaking strikes and using the resulting violence to charge Manlapit with criminal activity. He was permanently deported to the Philippines in 1935.

Sending Off the Kitchen God Day. China. This festival is associated with the New Year. In traditional Chinese homes, a paper image represents a home deity that is thought to keep track of the deeds of the household for the year. The chief deity then determines the fate of the family for the next year. On this day the family burns the image, whose spirit is believed to go to heaven and report to the chief deity on the family's behavior during the past year. The chief deity then determines the fate of the family for the next year. To positively affect the report of the Kitchen God, the family may put honey or sticky candy over its mouth – some say, to make sure that it reports only sweet things; others say, so that it will not be able to speak at all. This holiday is also celebrated on January 18.

January 18

Daniel Hale Williams (1858-1931) : African American. Surgeon and hospital administrator. After founding Provident Hospital in Chicago to provide a medical center open to doctors of all races, Williams made medical history in 1893 by performing the first successful heart operation on record.

January 19

Epiphany : Eastern Orthodox Christian. Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate this holiday on this day based on the Julian calendar.

January 22

Pilar Barbosa (1897): 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.

January 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.

January 4

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, which he amassed as a hobby, 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, a position he held until his death.

New Year: China. This is beginning of a three-day celebration of the Chinese New Year. The festivities mark the beginning of year 4699 (The Year of the Snake) since the mythical founding of the Chinese people. It is a day when all business accounts are settled and grudges forgotten. Traditional Chinese celebrate New Year's Day as a birthday and count themselves one year older. Celebrations include fireworks, a dragon dance and the beating of drums and cymbals, visits to temples, and prayers for blessings
In the new year. This is called "Spring Festival" in the People's Republic of China because the official New Years Day is January 1, based on the Gregorian calendar.

New Year (Sol) : Korea. This begins the traditional Korean New Year 4334 of the era of Tan'gun, the mythical progenitor of the Korean people. It is celebrated from January 24 to January 26.

New Year (Losar): Tibet. This begins the Tibetan lunar year 2128. This is a day of celebration that links all people in the Tibetan diaspora, resulting from the decision of many Tibetans, led by the Dalai Lama in 1959, to flee the Communist Chinese.

New Year (Tet Nguyen Dan) : Vietnam. This is the most important holiday in Vietnam. People dress in their best clothes to welcome the new year. There are ceremonies to bid farewell to the gods that attend each household, the kitchen gods, who go to heaven to report on the household's behavior during the past year. Fireworks mark the departure of the kitchen gods.

January 25

Robert Burns (1759-1796): Scottish. Poet. Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland, is known throughout the world for poems, including Comin Thru' 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.

January 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, 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.

January 27

Samuel Gompers (1850-1924) : Jewish American. Labor leader. Gompers founded the first major labor union in the United States, the American Federation of Labor, and served as its president from 1886 to 1924.

January 28

Jose Julian Mart'i (1853-1895): Cuban. Poet, essayist and patriot. A distinguished writer as well as a political leader, Mart'i 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.

January 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.

Granville T. Woods (1856-1910): African American. Inventor. An electrical engineer who formed his own company to make and sell electrical instruments, Woods patented more than 50 inventions, including the "Induction Telegraph System" a device for telegraphing messages from moving trains. By making it possible for engineers to communicate with trains ahead of or behind them, Woods' invention made train travel much safer. He also developed a system that freed electric railroads from the use of wires by introducing iron blocks that transmitted power through the rails. This was the prototype of the "third rail" system used in modern subways.

January 31

William Apess (1798-1840?): American Indian (Pequot). Writer and civil rights activist. A traveling Methodist preacher, 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. 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.

FEBRUARY

African American History Month. In 1926 Dr. Carter Woodson instituted a week-long celebration of the contributions of African Americans to history. Dr Woodson chose the week of Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12). In recent years the observance has expanded, and now the entire month of February is celebrated as African American History Month. Because of the variation in terms used, this month is also known as Afro-American History or Black History and Black Experience Month. Each year, the Association for the Study of Afro- American Life & History, founded by Dr. Woodson, sets the theme for the month. For information contact the association at 202-667-2822.

February 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, jazz, won an especially wide audience, but Hughes also distinguished himself as a writer of fiction, drama, essays, and history.

February 2

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848): Mexico. This treaty, which marked the end of the Mexican War, established U.S. sovereignty over 1,193,061 square miles of formerly disputed Mexican territory including the present states of Texas, Arizona, California, and Utah, and parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming.

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 candles for the year on this date.

February 3

Gertrude Stein (1874-1946): 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, 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), Henry 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 Steins's own autobiography. The performance in the United States of her *Four Saints in Three Acts* (1934), which the composer Virgil Thompson 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".

February 4

Outbreak of Philippine revolt against the United States (1899) : Philippines. During the Spanish American War the United States encouraged the Philippine people to organize an army of resistance against Spanish rule. When the treaty ending the war transferred control from Spain to the United States, the rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo called for the people to declare their independence. On February 4, they rose in armed insurrection. An American force of 700,000 men succeeded in the ending organized resistance by the end of the year. However many influential Americans denounced the government's policies.

February 5

Constitution Day: Mexico. On this day in 1917 Mexico adopted its first constitution. November 20 marks the anniversary of this holiday.

February 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. Reggae is associated with Rastafarianism, a faith founded by Marcus Garvey, whose adherents see the late Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia as a divine figure and themselves as black Hebrews exiled in the Babylon of western colonial capitalism. Marley's intense compelling presence and the stirring messages of his songs brought him the acclaim of international audiences and influenced singers and songwriters throughout the Western Hemisphere, Europe and Africa.

Waitangi Day: New Zealand. This commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 between the indigenous Maoris of New Zealand and the European colonists, providing for British sovereignty in exchange for guaranteed possession by the Maoris of their lands.

February 7

Lantern Festival (Yuan-hsiao): China. This celebrates the end of the New Year season. In Taiwan people make elaborate lanterns to hang in the temples and hold contests to choose the most beautiful one. They also write riddles on the lanterns and compete to solve them. In the People's Republic of China the lanterns are hung in public parks.

February 8

Martin Buber (1878-1965): Jewish Austrian. Theologian. Buber developed a theology of Jewish existentialism that emphasized a strong relationship between God and the individual. His most famous work is I and Thou.

Constitution Day: Philippines. This holiday commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of the Philippines in 1935.

Dawes General Allotment Act (1887): United States. This law dissolved American Indian tribes as legal entities and divided formerly tribal lands among individual property owners.

T'uB'Shvat (New Year of the Trees) : 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.

February 9

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906): African American. Dunbar became nationally known for his poems and tales, many of them depicting the life of Blacks on southern plantations. He also wrote essays protesting the conditions of Black Americans.

February 11

National Foundation Day (Kenkoku Kinen Bi): Japan. This holiday celebrates the ascension to the throne of the first Japanese Emperor, Jimmu, and the founding of the Japanese nation in 660 B.C.E.

February 12

Tadeusz (Thaddeus) Kosciuszko (1746-1817): Polish. Soldier and statesman. As a colonel in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, Kosciuszko planned the fortifications that helped defeat the British at the battle of Saratoga. For his service to the cause of American independence, Congress awarded him American citizenship. After returning to Poland in 1784 and becoming a major general in the Polish army in 1789, Kosciuszko emerged as a military and political leader, pressing for democratic reforms in Polish government and society and leading Polish forces against Russian armies sent to suppress the Polish movement for independence in 1791 and again in 1794. After his final defeat in 1794, he spent the rest of his life in exile.

February 14

Richard Allen (1760-1831): African American. Minister. In 1787 Allen founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church to give African Americans the opportunity to worship in a setting free of racial discrimination. His Bethal Church in Philadelphia became a focal point of organized protest by African Americans against slavery and racial discrimination in the North.

Frederick Douglass (1817-1895): African American. Writer, lecturer, editor, and civil rights activist. Born a slave, Frederick Augustus Bailey escaped at the age of 21, changed his name, and became a renowned campaigner for the abolition of slavery. After publishing his autobiography in 1845,

Douglas made a lecture tour of England, where friends raised money to buy his freedom. Upon his return he founded a newspaper, the North Star. During the Civil War Douglass held a variety of federal offices, including that of Minister to Haiti.

Masao Satow (1908-1977): Japanese American. Civic leader. Born in California to Japanese American parents Satow joined the Japanese American Citizens League, an emerging national organization for persons of Japanese ancestry born in the United States, in 1932. He became its national secretary in 1947, when the organization had only two chapters, both on the West Coast, and 3,100 members. At the end of his twenty-five years of leadership, the organization had 94 chapters across the nation and 27,000 members.

Valentine's Day: United States. The origins of this day are confused. There appear to have been two or three early Christian martyrs named Valentine. One was probably executed on February 14. One man named Valentine secretly married young sweethearts in opposition to the Roman Emperor Claudius' ban on marriage (a policy designed to prevent young men of military age from forming family ties). Another legend mentions flowers grown by Valentine and given to children. When Valentine was imprisoned the children remembered him by throwing nosegays and notes into his prison window. These were the original Valentine greetings.

February 15

Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906): Suffragette. Born in Adams, Massachusetts, Anthony was a leader of the movement to gain women the right to vote. As a leader of the Women's Temperance Movement along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she secured the first laws in New York State giving women control over their children, property, and wages.

Felix Frankfurter (1882-1965): Jewish American. Lawyer, teacher, jurist. Frankfurter taught law at Harvard Law School, was an advisor to President Wilson, and helped to found the American Civil Liberties union. He was appointed to the United States Supreme Court by President Franklin Roosevelt.

Nirvana (Buddha's Death): Buddhist. In the Mahayana Buddhist tradition, this day marks the death of Buddha in 483 B.C.E. and commemorates his attainment of final Nirvana. The date is based on the Japanese Buddhist calendar.

Randy Shilts (1952-1994): Gay. Author and journalist. The national correspondent for the San Francisco Chronicle, Shilts was one of the first openly gay journalists hired at a major newspaper. Shilts' best selling books include *The Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk* (1982), *And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic* (1987), and *Conduct Unbecoming: Lesbians and Gays in the U.S. Military* (1993). *And the Band Played On* was made into a docudrama that was broadcast on HBO on September 11, 1993. *Band* has been translated into seven languages and released in 16 nations. *Conduct Unbecoming* won numerous awards, earning Shilts the designation of Author of the Year in 1988 from the American Society of Journalists and Authors. This is the date of his death from AIDS.

Independence Day: Lithuania. In 1918 Lithuania declared its independence from Russia. However, in the aftermath of World War II, the Soviet Union absorbed Lithuania into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and it was not until August 19, 1991 that Lithuania regained its independence.

February 17

Marion Anderson. (1902-1993): African American. Singer. Gifted with a rich contralto that the conductor Arturo Toscanini called "the kind of voice heard once in a hundred years," Marian Anderson rose from modest beginnings in Philadelphia to become an internationally acclaimed concert artist, renowned for her interpretations of the classical repertoire and of African American spirituals. During her 1933 Scandinavian concert tour, Anderson was encouraged by her accompanist Kosti Vehanen, a Finnish pianist, to learn some songs by the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius and perform for him at his home. Sibelius was so impressed by Anderson that he wrote an original composition for her.

In 1939, Anderson was barred from performing at Constitution Hall in Washington D. C., by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) because of her race, whereupon First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the DAR in protest. The federal government invited Anderson to sing instead at a public recital on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939, Marion Anderson gave her now-historic recital before a crowd of more than 75,000 people, the largest to date ever assembled at the Memorial. In 1955, thirty years after beginning her concert career, she became the first African American to sing a leading role at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Widely admired for her humane spirit, she served on the United States delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in 1958 and won the United Nations peace prize in 1977.

Goyaaale (1829-1909): American Indian (Chiricahua Apache). Military leader. As chief of the Chiricahua Apache Indians, Geronimo escaped repeatedly from reservations and led attacks on settlers and soldiers in northern Mexico and the southwestern United States during the late 1870's and early 1880s. He surrendered to U.S. government forces in 1885. This is the anniversary of his death.

February 18

Sholom Aleichem (born Solomon Rabinowitz) (1854-1916): Jewish Russian American. Writer. Born in Ukraine, Rabinowitz began writing in Yiddish in 1883, using as his pseudonym the Yiddish greeting "Peace be with you." His best known works are his stories of Jewish life in the villages of Eastern Europe. Along with I. Peretz and Mendele Sforim, he is considered one of the founders of modern Yiddish literature.

Audre Geraldine Lorde (1934-1992): Lesbian. Poet and essayist. Audre Lorde was a Black lesbian who fought for justice through both her writings and her political activities. She held a number of teaching positions and toured internationally as a lecturer, forming coalitions between Afro-German and Afro-Dutch women, founding a sisterhood in South Africa, starting the Women of Color Press, and establishing the St. Croix Women's Coalition. Her poetry collections include, *From a Land Where Other People Live* (1973), *The Black Unicorn* (1978), *Our Dead Behind Us* (1986),

and *The Marvelous Arithmetics of Distance* (1993). She won the American Book Award in 1989 for *A Burst of Light* and was appointed New York State's Poet Laureate by then Governor Mario Cuomo in 1991. Lorde chronicled her 14 year battle against breast cancer in works such as *The Cancer Journals*, before finally succumbing to the disease in 1992.

Luis Munoz Marin (1898-1980): Puerto Rico. Political leader. Elected Puerto Rico's first governor in 1948, Munzo Marin served in that office until 1964, instituting programs of economic development and social reform. He also proposed a plan for maintaining Puerto Rico's union with the United States while establishing the island as a self-governing unit exempt from U.S. taxes. This proposal became the basis for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, created by an act of Congress and proclaimed in 1952.

February 19

Beginning of Japanese internment (1942) United States. On this date President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order requiring the removal of most persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast to internment camps in rural Arizona, Colorado, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. This act, a response to anti-Japanese feeling in the country after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, uprooted 120,000 people, including 71,000 U.S. citizens.

Presidents Day: United States. The birthdays of U.S. George Washington (February 22, 1732) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809) are observed on this day.

February 21

Barbara Jordan (1936-1996) : African American. Lawyer, politician, teacher. Born in Houston, Texas, Jordan graduated magna cum laude from Texas Southern University and Boston University Law School. In 1966, she was the first Black woman to be elected to the Texas State Senate. She later became the first woman and first African American elected to Congress from Texas.

First publication of the Cherokee Phoenix (1828): American Indian. In 1828 a system of symbols developed by Sequoyah to give written form to the Cherokee language made possible the publication of the Cherokee Phoenix, the first newspaper printed in an Indian language.

Maha Shivaratri (Shiva's Night) : Hindu. This festival honors Shiva who, along with Vishnu and Krishna, is one of the most important deities in Hinduism. It is observed in the spring and is celebrated with fasting and prayer and meditation.

February 22

Santiago Iglesias (1872-1939): Spanish Puerto Rican. Labor organizer and political leader. Iglesias first became involved in activities demanding civil rights for workers as a 12 year-old apprentice carpenter in his native Spain. Immigrating to Cuba three years later, he continued to organize laborers to demand better working conditions first there and then in Puerto Rico, where he rose to leadership of the *Federacion Libre de Trabajadores de Puerto Rico*. He was the organization's president from 1900 to 1935. An active Socialist, he eventually entered electoral politics, serving in the Puerto Rican senate from 1917 to 1933 and as Puerto Rico's representative to the U.S. Congress from 1933 until his death.

Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Bonnin) (1876-1938): American Indian (Sioux). Writer and activist. Born in South Dakota to a full-blooded Sioux mother and a white father, Zitkala-Sa became an eloquent writer of essays and memoirs and a leader in the movement to advance the civic, educational, and economic opportunities of American Indians while recognizing and preserving American Indian cultures. As secretary of the Society of American Indians and then president of the National Council of American Indians, she lectured, wrote, and lobbied on behalf of Indian legislation, and was instrumental in the passage of the Indian Citizen Bill of 1924. On June 2, Congress extended the rights of citizenship to all American Indians born in the United States. Previously, only part of the American Indian population had been granted citizenship through treaties, statutes, naturalization, and service in the armed forces.

Peoples Power Day: Philippines. This commemorates the overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled the Philippines as a dictatorship from February 22 to February 25. It was on February 25 that Ferdinand Marcos left the Philippines and Corazon Aquino was recognized by the United States as president.

February 23

William Edward Burkhardt DuBois (W.E.B. Dubois) (1868-1963) : African American. Writer and civil rights activist. Scholar, Writer and editor, DuBois was the most important leader of the effort to secure basic civil and human rights for African Americans in the first half of the twentieth century. Trained in sociology, history, and philosophy, he wrote a number of scholarly works about the social conditions of blacks in America. The most famous of these, *The Souls of Black Folk*, was especially influential; it attacked Booker T. Washington's strategy of accommodation and urged a more activist approach to improving the conditions of Black Americans. DuBois founded the Niagara Movement, an organization of Black intellectuals working for civil rights, in 1905, and in 1909 helped to found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He edited the NAACP magazine *The Crisis* until 1934, when he resigned to devote his time to teaching and writing.

Casimir Funk (1884-1967): Jewish Polish American. Scientist. Funk discovered Vitamins as well as making contributions to understanding sex hormones, hormone-vitamin balance and cancer treatment. His work stimulated public interest in diseases caused by vitamin deficiencies.

February 25

Enrico Caruso (1873-1931): Italian American. Opera singer. The most acclaimed operatic tenor of his time, Caruso was also the first great singer whose voice is preserved in recordings.

Haing Ngor (1951-1996) Cambodian American. Physician, actor. Haing Ngor arrived in the United States after escaping imprisonment by the Khmer Rouge following the 1975 take over of Cambodia by that party, and endured four years of torture and starvation. He had to conceal his medical training to escape, which after a Vietnamese invasion ousted the Khmer Rouge. He immigrated to the United States in 1980 to resume his medical practice. In 1984, Ngor won the Academy Award for Best supporting actor for his portrayal of Dith Pran in the movie *The Killing Fields*. Ngor was the first nonprofessional to win an Oscar for acting since Harold Russell in 1946 for the Best years of Our Lives. He was shot to death outside his in this date. He was 45 years old.

Jose de San Martin (1778-1850): Soldier and statesman. With Simon Bolivar, San Martin led the movement of Spain's South American colonies to win their freedom from Spain. In 1811 he resigned from the Spanish army to organize the armed resistance to Spanish rule in the land of his birth, modern day Argentina. He raided an army there and led it over the Andes to Chile, taking Santiago in 1817, and then organized a Chilean navy to transport the rebel army to Lima. There he proclaimed the establishment of a new country on July 28, 1821. Although he was made leader of the new nation, he came into political conflict with Bolivar and retired to France.

Nation Day : Kuwait. Also observed on February 26, this two-day holiday marks the successful pushing back of Iraqi troops from Kuwait during the Gulf War in 1991.

February 26

Beginning of Lent: Eastern Orthodox Christian. This begins the Lenten season based on the Julian Calendar followed by Eastern Orthodox Christians.

Intercalary Days: Baha'i. The days from February 26 to March 1 adjust the Baha'i year, which consists of 19 months with 19 days each month, to the solar calendar. These days are observed with gift-giving, special acts of charity, and preparation for fasting that precedes the New Year.

Shrove Monday: Christian. Christians in some countries customarily make treats to use up butter and eggs before the 40-day fast of Lent.

February 27

Independence Day: Dominican Republic. This day commemorates the retreat in 1844 of the Haitians who had controlled the country.

Occupation of Wounded Knee (1890): American Indian. On this date a group of American Indian activists began the occupation of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, site of the 1890 massacre that ended the Plains Indian wars, to demand reforms in tribal government. The occupation, which erupted into sporadic violence after armed federal marshals surrounded the area, continued until May 8 and brought increased national attention to the grievances of American Indians.

Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras): Christian. Shrove Tuesday marks the final midwinter fling before Lent begins.

February 28

Ash Wednesday (beginning of Lent): Christian. This marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of prayer and fasting preceding Easter Sunday (February 28 to April 15, excluding Sundays). It is observed in memory of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert. In the early centuries of Christianity, there were strict requirements for fasting during the period of preparation for Easter. Although these rules have been relaxed in the Western church, many Roman Catholics and Protestants choose to give up a favorite food or activity during Lent. There are many symbolic meanings to the use of ashes on this holiday. Generally, ashes symbolize death. The priest or minister's placing of ashes on one's forehead in the shape of a cross is part of the preparation for fasting and resistance to temptation by those observing Lent that ends in the symbolic renewal of life on Easter.

MARCH

National Women's History Month. This was established by presidential proclamation to draw attention to and rectify the limited focus on women in historical studies.

March 1

Blanche K. Bruce (1841-1898): African American. Legislator. Born into slavery, Bruce represented Mississippi in the United State Senate from 1875 to 1881. The only African American to serve a full term in the Senate before Reconstruction. Bruce opposed the exclusion of Chinese from the United States and fought for citizenship rights for American Indians.

Ralph Ellison (1897-1998): African American. Writer. Introduced to literature by his mother, who worked as a domestic, Ellison attended Tuskegee Institute on a music scholarship. However, in 1936 he moved to New York City, where he began to write short stories while supporting himself as a freelance photographer and audio engineer. He served in the merchant marines during World War II. After seven years of effort, he published *Invisible Man* in 1952, which won the National Book Award. Since then, the book has become a classic of African American literature and has been translated into seventeen languages. He taught and lectured widely, was appointed to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, served on the National Council on the Arts and Humanities and the Carnegie Commission on public television, and was a trustee of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He died on this day at his home in New York City.

Independence Movement Day: South Korea. Although Japan annexed Korea in 1910, a movement for independence arose in 1919. However, it was not until the end of World War II that Korea became independent, and then only as the two separate states of North and South Korea.

Three –One Day (Samil-Jol): Korea. From 1905 to 1945, Japan dominated Korea. This day commemorates the March movement of 1919 of massive demonstrations against Japanese rule. The movement was suppressed and Korea, although divided at the 38th parallel, became independent only after the end of World War II.

March 2

Granting of citizenship to Puerto Ricans (1917): United States. On this date the United States Congress passed the Jones Act, which conferred U.S. citizenship on Puerto Ricans and gave them the right to elect representatives to both houses of the territorial legislature. The act was opposed by some of the most prominent Puerto Rican leaders because they felt it was a poor substitute for full independence.

March 3

Alexander Crummell (1819-1898): African American. Minister, missionary, and writer. After his ordination as an Episcopal minister, Crummell traveled to England to raise funds to support his work among African Americans. He decided instead to enroll at Cambridge University, where he took a degree. From 1853 to 1873 he worked as a missionary and teacher of theology in Monrovia, Liberia. He then returned to the United States and served as rector of a church in Washington D.C. Crummell's published works include collections of sermons and essays on contemporary topics of concern to African Americans.

Doll Festival (Hina Matsuri): Japan. This is one of the major social festivals in traditional Japan. There is much visiting among family members and friends, and visitors bring gifts of dolls. The traditional holiday foods are red-bean-flavored rice, rice dumplings wrapped in cherry leaves, and a special sweet cake.

Indian Appropriations Act (1871): United States. This act declared that no American Indian tribe was to be recognized as a nation empowered to make treaties with the U.S. government. It asserted the right of the federal government to manage American Indian affairs without tribal consent.

National Day: Morocco. In 1915 Morocco became independent from France and Spain. The king is especially honored on this day. The holiday feast traditionally includes *mechoiu* (whole roasted lamb) and *pastilla* (salted pie filled with lamb, eggs, pigeon, chicken, vegetables, and spices.)

March 4

Garrett Morgan (1877 – 1963): African American. Inventor, Morgan patented two widely known inventions, the gas mask (1914) and the three-light traffic signal system (1923).

Kazimierz (Casimir) Pulaski (1748 – 1779): Polish. Soldier. An aristocrat and patriot, Pulaski left Poland after participating in a failed uprising protesting the increasing dominance of foreign powers in Polish affairs. He then offered his services to the American Revolution. He fought in a number of engagements before being mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah, Georgia.

March 5

Eid al-Adha (The Feast of Sacrifice): Islam.

This religious observance commemorates the story of Abraham and Ishmail as told in the Qur'an. God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his only son as a proof of his faith. Before Abraham completed the sacrifice, God stopped him and provided a ram for sacrifice in place of Ishmail. After a solemn service at the mosque, worshippers visit cemeteries to pay tribute to the dead. When they return home, a festive meal is eaten. This is also the time when many Muslims observe one of the Five Pillars of Islam, which requires those who can to make a pilgrimage once in their lifetime to Mecca's Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia, Islam's holiest site.

March 6

Independence Day: Ghana. On this date in 1957, the British territories of the Gold Coast and Togoland became the independent nation of Ghana.

March 8

Holi: Hindu. This two-day holiday celebrates the coming of spring throughout India. Large bonfires are lit, and coconuts and other foods are thrown into the fire. Games and folk dancing take place as well as the throwing of colored powder and water on friends.

International Women's Day. The movement to create an International Women's Day began as part of the socialist movement for greater women's rights, particularly the right to vote. First designated as the last Sunday in February by the Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1910, it was later changed to be uniformly celebrated on March 8 to honor women's role in the Russian Revolution. With the resurgence of feminism in the late 1960s, International Women's Day gained renewed interest as a day to celebrate women's lives and work.

March 9

Raul Julia (1940-1994): Puerto Rican. Actor. One of the most versatile and successful actors of his generation, Julia won acclaim in dramatic and musical roles in the New York theater and for a variety of performances in films and television. His stage roles ranged from Shakespeare's Othello and Prospero to Mack the Knife in the Three Penny Opera and Don Quixote in Man of La Mancha. His best known film roles include that of Gomez, the comically macabre father in The Adams Family, and Valentin, the courageous political prisoner in the drama Kiss of the Spider Women.

Purim (Feast of Lots): Jewish. The festive holiday celebrates the rescue of the ancient Persian Jews from a plot to destroy them. The king's advisor, Haman, cast lots to choose the day for carrying out his plan. Esther, the Jewish queen, persuaded her husband to spare the Jews. Fasting on the

day before Purim commemorates Esther's fasting before seeing the king to plead for the Jewish People. The "Megillah," the story of Purim, is read in the synagogue. Children twirl gragers (noisemakers) to drown out Haman's name each time it is mentioned. Homentashen, special pastries in the form of Haman's hat, are eaten. Gifts are distributed to the poor as well as exchanged among family and friends.

March 10

Lorenzo da Ponte (1749-1838): Italian American. Librettist, businessman, and teacher. Da Ponte immigrated to the United States at the age of 57, having won fame in Europe as the librettist for Mozart's opera *Le noose di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan tutte*. After arriving in the United States, da Ponte worked as a grocer, impresario, and teacher of Italian at Columbia University. As one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Italian Opera House in New York in 1832, da Ponte helped to promote the appreciation of Italian culture in the United States.

Harriet Tubman (1820-1913): African American. Tubman became the "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, a clandestine system for helping slaves escape to freedom in the North. An escaped slave, she earned the name "Moses" for her heroic works in leading some 400 slaves to freedom. She died on this date.

March 12.

Sun Yat-sen's Death (1866-1925): Peoples Republic of China. Revolutionary leader. Sun Yat-sen was the leader of China's 1911 revolution, which overthrew the Ch'ing Dynasty that had ruled China since 1644, and founder of the Republic of China. He is remembered on the anniversary of his death in 1925 in the People's Republic of China.

March 14.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955): Jewish German American. Physicist. The leading theoretical physicist of the twentieth century, Einstein received the Nobel Prize for physics in 1921. When the Nazi government confiscated his property and deprived him of his German citizenship in 1933, Einstein immigrated to the United States, where he became a naturalized citizen and took a post at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

March 15

Eusebio Francisco Kino (1645-1711): Italian. Jesuit missionary and explorer. Kino is noted for his success in making converts among the Pima Indians while respecting their customs, and for the historical value of his letters, journals, and maps. From 1687 to the end of his life he worked in Pimeria Alta (now southern Arizona and northern Sonora in Mexico), where he founded a number of missions and introduced the Indians to cattle and to new crops. This day is the anniversary of his death.

March 16

First publication of Freedom's Journal (1827): African American. On this date Samuel E. Cornish and John B. Russwurm began publication of the first African American newspaper. The first edition of Freedom's Journal was devoted entirely to issues of slavery and discrimination.

March 17

Bayard Rustin (1912-1987): African American. Civil rights activist and pacifist. Rustin worked from 19141 to 1953 for the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a group seeking peaceful solutions to world problems; served as executive director of the War Resisters League from 1953 to 1955; and worked for the next five years with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. One of the chief organizers of the 1963 March on Washington for civil rights, Rustin also traveled to Africa, Europe, and Asia to support local protest movements for social justice.

St. Patrick's Day: Ireland. Tradition holds that Ireland's patron saint died on this date in A.D. 493 at the age of 106. The anniversary of his death is celebrated in Ireland as a national holiday, with green, the color of the day signifying undying gratitude to the memory of St. Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland. The shamrock is worn to commemorate its use by the saint as a symbol of the Trinity. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of Irish decent all over the world as an expression of pride in their heritage.

March 19

Feast of St. Joseph: Roman Catholic. This feast day honors St Joseph, the husband of Mary. The celebration is especially important in Italy, because during the Middle ages when Sicily was plagued with a horrible drought, St. Joseph (San Giuseppe) answered the people's prayers to him by ending the drought. A giant feast was held to honor San Giuseppe, a tradition that continues to this day. On the eve of March 19, bonfires are lit in the streets. The next day, an elderly carpenter is chosen to act the part of San Giuseppe, while a poor girl is chosen to play the part of Mary, and a young orphan boy plays the infant Jesus. A midday mass is held, followed by an outdoor banquet where *respoli di riso* (rice made into sausages and fried in honey) and *sfinci* (cream-puff fritters with ricotta filling) are eaten. After the banquet, the Holy Family mounts richly adorned mules and leads a procession while being showered with gifts. The feast became widespread in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and in 1621 Pope Gregory XV made the Feast of St. Joseph a holy day.

March 20

Independence Day: Tunisia. This holiday commemorates the treaty of March 20, 1956, by which France recognized Tunisia as a sovereign nation.

Now Rouz (New Year): Iran. This is the traditional New Year in Iran, coming at the time of the spring equinox and marking year 1380. The two days before Now Rouz are celebrated as holidays, as are the thirteen days following Now Rouz.

Vernal Equinox Day (Shumbun No Hi): Japan. This celebrates the beginning of spring and is a public holiday in Japan.

March 21

Benito Pablo Juarez (1806-1872): Mexico. Political leader. One of the national heroes of Mexico, Juarez served his country as minister of justice, vice president, and president during the turbulent period from 1855 until his death. Among Juarez's achievements are both the successful military resistance to the French emperor's attempt to impose a puppet ruler, the archduke Maximilian of Austria, as emperor of Mexico, and the institution of a number of civil reforms.

Human Rights Day: South Africa. This day commemorates those Blacks who were killed at Sharpeville in 1960 and those who lost their lives in the struggle against apartheid.

Naw Ruz (New Year): Baha'i. The Baha'i year consists of 19 months with 19 days in each month. The new year is preceded by a 19 day period of fasting from sundown to sunset beginning on March 2 and ending on March 20, during which Baha' is set time aside for prayer and meditation. Children under 15, the ill and pregnant women and nursing mothers are exempt from the fast. Baha'i days begin at sunset, so the New Year starts at sundown on March 20.

March 22

Robert Smalls (1839-1915): African American. War hero and legislator. As a slave forced to serve in the Confederate navy, Smalls took control of his vessel and turned it over to Union forces. He then served as a pilot and later captain in the United States Congress.

Emancipation Day: Puerto Rico. On this day in 1873 the Spanish colonial government of Puerto Rico abolished slavery, fulfilling the commitment made after the Lares uprising of 1868. (September 23 is commemorated in Puerto Rico as the anniversary of the uprising that initiated the movement for Puerto Rican independence. On this date, a 400-man army of liberation led by Manuel Rojas, under orders from the exiled leader Ramon Emeterio Betances, gathered and took the town of Lares. They formed a provisional government and issued four proclamations, including one promising freedom for all slaves who joined the rebel army. Although the army was defeated and disbanded the following day, some of its aims were realized nearly immediately (the Spanish government decreed the gradual abolition of slavery by 1873), and the revolt is remembered as the first large-scale armed rebellion against Spanish colonial rule.

March 23

Republic Day: Pakistan. In its movement for independence from Great Britain, India had an internal conflict as well between its Hindu and Muslim populations, each wanting a separate area over which they could rule. On this day in 1940, the All India Muslim League adopted a resolution calling for a separate Muslim homeland. In 1947, under the provisions of the Indian Independence Act from Great Britain, two states, a predominantly Hindu India and a predominantly Muslim Pakistan, were established. On this day in 1956, Pakistan declared itself a republic.

Independence Day: Greece. During the early 19th century, Greeks throughout the world joined a secret society, the Philike Hetairia (Friendly Association), whose purpose was to collect money and arms for a revolution to free Greece from Turkish rule. In March of 1821 the head of the organization, Alexander Ypsilanti, entered Turkish territory with a group of armed followers and declared the independence of Greece. Although his uprising was crushed, it is remembered as the first event in Greece's struggle for independence.

March 25

Arturo Toscanini (1867-1957): Italian American. Orchestra conductor. Toscanini, one of the great virtuoso conductors of the early twentieth century, first came to prominence as a conductor of operas. After serving as musical director of La Scala, the opera house of Milan in his native Italy, and then of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, he became conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, and finally of the NBC Symphony, sponsored by the radio network, which broadcast his performances to millions of homes across the nation. He was legendary for his phenomenal memory, his attention to detail, and his powers of interpretation, particularly in his performances of Verdi, Beethoven, and Wagner.

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The Annunciation: Christian. Based on the gospel in Luke 1:266-56, this holy day celebrates the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of Galilee that she would become the mother of Jesus.

March 26

Henry O. Flipper (1856-1940): African American. Military officer. Henry Flipper was the first Black West Point graduate. Although the fifth Black accepted to West Point, he was the first to graduate and in 1877 became the first Black commissioned officer in the United States Army. Flipper described his successful struggle against ostracism and prejudice in *The Colored Cadet at West Point* (1878). He joined the Tenth Cavalry, one of two all-Black army units. At Fort Sill in the Oklahoma territory, he perfected a system for draining mosquito-infested stagnant water that caused outbreaks of malaria at the fort. In 1881, he was court-martialed on charges of embezzlement. A review of the trial record at the time concluded that the charges were dubious, but President Chester Arthur refused to set the verdict aside. In 1976, the United States Army lifted Flipper's dishonorable discharge, recognizing that the conviction was racially motivated. On February 19, 1999, President Clinton granted a posthumous pardon to Flipper. Flipper has also been honored at West Point with an annual award given in his name to an outstanding cadet, and with a section of the library named after him.

National Day: Bangladesh. Formerly the eastern part of Pakistan, Bangladesh is the world's 139th independent nation, having emerged as a sovereign, independent state on December 16, 1971. March 26, 1971 marks the day the newly formed Bangladesh government declared independence from Pakistan.

Muharram (New Year): Islam This begins the New Year of 1422 based on the Islamic lunar calendar for Muslims. The Islamic lunar calendar dates from the hegira, the flight of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 (based on the solar calendar.)

March 28

Edmund Muskie (1914-1996): Polish American. Governor, senator, presidential candidate, secretary of state. Edmund Muskie was a long-time leader of the Democratic Party, holding many high offices in both state and federal government. Born in the mill town of Rumford, Maine, and later its senator for 21 years. He ran as the Democratic Party's vice presidential candidate with Hubert Humphrey in 1968. Under the Carter administration, he became secretary of state.

March 29

Respect for Ancestors Day (Thanh Mimh): Vietnam. This is similar to the holiday in all other Asian cultures for paying respects to one's ancestors by visiting and decorating their graves.

March 30

Sean O'Casey (1880- 1964): Irish. Playwright. O'Casey is best known for his tragicomic dramas set in the poor neighborhoods of Dublin during the Irish uprising against the British and the subsequent civil war.

March 31

Cesar Chavez (1927-1993): Mexican American. Labor leader and activist. A migrant farm worker who became a nationally respected voice for social justice, Chavez spent his life combating the poverty and discrimination suffered by Mexicans and Mexican Americans, particularly agricultural laborers. In 1962 he began organizing farm workers into a union that three years later joined with a Filipino union in a strike against California grape growers for better wages and more humane working conditions. (The two groups later merged as the United Farm Worker) Table grape producers helped out for five years while Chavez focused national attention on the plight of farm workers. A national consumer boycott helped bring the strike to a successful conclusion in 1970.

Jack Johnson (1878-1946): African American. Prize fighter. Johnson was the world's first Black heavyweight champion, holding the title from 1908 to 1915.

Octavio Paz (1931-1998): Mexican. Writer. Octavio Paz was Mexico's leading poet and essayist and one of the world's leading figures in literature. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Literature in 1990 and praised for "impassioned writing with wide horizons, characterized by sensuous intelligence and humanistic integrity." He was widely known for his essay "The Labyrinth of Solitude" and his epic poem "Sunstone." In addition to his writing, Octavio Paz had a distinguished diplomatic career, serving as Mexico's consul and ambassador to such countries as France, Japan, and India.

APRIL

April 2

Ramanavami (Birthday of Rama): Hindu. The story of Rama, one of the incarnations of the god Vishnu, is told in the Ramayana, which along with the Mahabharata is one of the great epic poems of Hinduism. Rama is celebrated in literature, music and art throughout India and South-east Asia. This holiday is observed with sanctity and fasting. Temples are decorated and parts of the Ramayana are recited at home.

April 3

Founder's Day: Vietnam. This holiday commemorates the founding of the Vietnamese nation by King Hung Vuong around 1000 B.C.E

April 4

National Day: Senegal. This day commemorates Senegal's gaining full independence from France in 1960.

April 5

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) :African American. Educator. Organizer and first director of the Normal and Industrial Institute for Negroes at Tuskegee, Alabama (later Tuskegee Institute), Washington became the nation's foremost advocate of education for African Americans. His cautious and conciliatory approach to race relations was criticized by W.E.B. DuBois and other leaders who urged more active efforts to achieve civil and political rights for Black Americans.

Respect for Ancestors Day (Ch'ing-ming): China This is also called Cold Food Day. It is the only traditional Chinese holiday celebrated according to the solar calendar. This is a day for paying homage to one's ancestors by visiting graves and leaving flowers and food.

April 6

Chakri Day: Thailand. This holiday commemorates the founding of the present dynasty by King Rama I (1782-1809).

April 7

Francois Dominique Toussaint-Louverture (c.1743-1803): Haitian. Military and political leader. Born a slave on the island of Saint-Domingue, a French colony (later called Haiti), Toussaint-Louverture became the leader of his country's independence movement. As a Guerrilla leader of insurgent slaves, Toussaint-Louverture sided with the French Republic in 1793 when other rebel leaders supported Spain's war against France. Appointed lieutenant governor of the colony, he succeeded in driving out the Spanish and the British. In 1801, defying Napoleon's orders, he freed the slaves on the island and established an independent government with himself at its head. After an invasion by French troops, he was removed from office, then arrested and imprisoned in Switzerland, where he died in captivity on this date in 1803.

April 8

Ramon Emeterio Betances (1827-1898) : Puerto Rican. Physician, writer, and revolutionary leader. Betances studied medicine in Paris and lived there most of his life, working from exile for the cause of slavery while writing fiction, journalism, and translations from Latin. His "Ten Commandments of Free Men," issued on November 4, 1867, while he was living on the island of St. Thomas, sets forth the ideals of political and social justice to which he dedicated his life.

Dennis Chavez (1888-1962): Mexican American. Legislator. A Democrat from New Mexico, Chavez served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1933 to 1935, when he was appointed to a vacant seat in the U.S. Senate. Elected in his own right in 1936, he won reelection four times, serving until his death. During his career he championed bills to benefit American Indians and Puerto Ricans, and as a founder and later member of the federal Fair Employment Practices Commission, worked to outlaw racial and religious discrimination in the workplace.

Buddha's Birth (c.563-B.C.E.) : Buddhist. Siddhartha Gautama, who became known as Buddha, or "enlightened one," was an Indian prince who left his family at the age of 29 to seek the truth of life. After years of wandering, meditation, and self-denial, he attained the enlightenment he sought at a place now called Buddha Gaya or Bodh Gaya. The religion he founded spread throughout central and Southeast Asia, China, Japan, and Korea, and has also attracted followers in the West. It is celebrated on this day in the Mahayana Buddhist tradition based on the Japanese Buddhist calendar.

Palm Sunday: Christian. On the Sunday before Easter, Christians remember Jesus' last entry into Jerusalem when his way was strewn with palms by those gathered to see him. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week in Western Christian churches. Such processions are common in Spain. Seville is especially famous for its Easter Week solemnities.

Palm Sunday : Eastern Orthodox Christian. Palm Sunday is observed on this day by several Eastern Orthodox Churches that use the Julian calendar. In 2001, the dates for Christian holidays for those using the Gregorian calendar and those using the Julian calendar are the same. This occurs approximately every five years.

Passover: Jewish. This holiday, which is observed for eight days, celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Moses, an Israelite born into slavery, raised in the Pharaoh's household, and later banished as a young man for defending his people, returned to Egypt and confronted the Pharaoh in the name of God, demanding freedom for his people. The Pharaoh capitulated only after God sent ten plagues, the last of which killed the first son of every Egyptian family, including that of the Pharaoh. The Israelites marked their doors to identify their homes for the angel of death, who passed over and spared them. Moses then led the Israelites through the desert for 40 years until they reached Palestine. The celebration of Passover, a spring festival commemorating freedom and new life, begins the previous evening with a Seder, a meal during which the story of Passover is read from the Haggadah. The menu includes a number of traditional foods such as matzoh or unleavened bread, which recalls the unleavened bread eaten by the Israelites in the desert.

April 9

Chandler Hovey, Jr. (?-1998) American. Lawyer and sailor. A lawyer until his retirement from a New York investment banking firm. Hovey and his family had a long association with sailboat competition, particularly the America's Cup. This involvement continued even after Hovey began to suffer from multiple sclerosis in 1947. He used crutches during sailing trails competition, and in 1995 the Independence Cup, the national trophy for the disabled, was named in his honor. This is the date of his death.

Paul Robeson (1898-1976): African American. Singer and actor. A bass-baritone, Robeson won international acclaim for concert performances of classical works, spirituals, and folk songs, and for stage performances, particularly in the title role of Shakespeare's Othello.

Valor Day: Philippines. This marks the anniversary of the forced march to a prison camp of 70,000 Americans and Filipinos captured in Bataan in 1942 by the Japanese. Only 54,000 prisoners survived the march; 7,000-10,000 died and the rest escaped into the jungle.

April 13

Samuel Beckett (1906-1989): Irish. Playwright and novelist. The winner of the 1969 Nobel Prize for literature, Beckett is best known for his novels and plays in which characters are confronted with mysterious situations in bizarre, timeless settings.

Founding of the University of Mexico (1551): Mexico. The University of Mexico was the first university to be founded in the Western Hemisphere.

New Year: Cambodia and Laos. This is one of the most important holidays. In the morning food is brought to Buddhist temples, and in the evening

more secular celebrations with food and music are held. The holiday continues through April 15.

Baisakhi (New Year): Sikh. This is the date based on the Bikarami calendar, and April 14 on the Nanakshahi calendar for the beginning of the new year for the Sikhs, one of the largest religious groups in India. It commemorates Guru Gobind Singh's founding of Khalsa, the ritual of bringing all those who become Sikhs into a community of equals.

Good Friday: Christian. This is the day Christians commemorate Jesus' crucifixion.

Good Friday: This is the day Eastern Orthodox Christians commemorate Jesus' crucifixion.

Vaisakhi (New Year): Hindu. This celebrates the new year based on the Hindu calendar.

April 14

Pan American Day: Latin America. Pan American Day has been observed each year since 1931 on April 14 by the twenty-one American republics. The holiday honors the bonds of friendship between the United States and the nations of Latin America.

April 15

A (sa) Philip Randolph (1889-1982) : African American. Labor leader and civil rights activist. Randolph organized the first major union of African American workers, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in 1925 and became its first president. Throughout his long life he was a leader in the movement to improve job opportunities and working conditions for African Americans. He was one of the chief organizers of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Easter: Christian This is the holiest day for Christians. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after he was crucified and died in Jerusalem. It is Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, often referred to as the "passion" followed by his resurrection that is central to Christian faith. Easter culminates the penitential period that starts with Ash Wednesday. Palm Sunday, which marks the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, occurs one week before Easter. Easter is a joyous holiday, since it marks for Christians the fulfillment of the Biblical prophecy of the coming of the Messiah. In addition to its religious significance, Easter is also celebrated as a spring holiday with themes of rebirth, gathering together with family and friends, and sharing special foods.

Easter (Pascha): Eastern Orthodox Christian. Easter is celebrated on this day by several Eastern Orthodox Christian denominations.

April 16

Jose de Diego (1866-1918): Puerto Rico. Attorney, poet, and patriot. A public holiday honoring this eloquent orator and accomplished poet. Jose de Diego wrote and spoke in support of the independence of his homeland. He served as Secretary of Justice in the short-lived government of 1897, after Spain had granted autonomy to the island and before the United States reimposed its governance. He later became first president of the Puerto Rican House of Representatives. As a prominent political figure, he opposed the Jones Act establishing Puerto Rico as a commonwealth of the United States.

Easter Monday: Christian. The days from Good Friday through Monday after Easter are public holidays in many countries. Governmental service and banks are closed, and most people have time off from work. Countries for which this is the case include England, Northern Ireland, Wales, Canada, Australia, France and Germany. When making plans, please check to see whether or not this holiday is observed.

Mahavir Jayanti: Jain. Jainism is a religious system practiced by approximately 2 million people in India. It arose in the 6th century B.C.E. as a protest against some aspects of Hinduism. This festival is dedicated to the birthday of Jain, the religion's twenty-fourth Guru. It is celebrated with prayer and visits to shrines.

April 18

Independence Day: Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe, formerly called Rhodesia, gained independence from Great Britain on this day in 1980.

April 19

Glenn Seaborg (1912-1999): Scandinavian American. Scientist and governmental advisor. Although a chemist by training, Dr. Seaborg did much of his work in nuclear physics, leading the research that created nine artificial elements, including plutonium. In 1951, he shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for these achievements. Dr. Seaborg became the director of the Lawrence Berkley Laboratory and remained emeritus director after he retired. He was a scientific advisor to a number of presidents, serving as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission for 10 years. He also served as chancellor of the University of California.

April 20

Tito Puente (1923-2000): Puerto Rican. Musician and bandleader. A pioneer in bringing Latin music to lead the United States, Puente brought percussion to the center of his orchestral presentations with the Tito Puente Orchestra. He became known as the "Mambo King." Puente was also a leader in fusing Latin rhythms with jazz and other forms of music. He recorded over 120 albums, including Cuban Carnival, Mamborama, The Legend, and Tito Puente Live at Birdland Dancemania '99.

Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day): Jewish. This day has been designated by Israel's Knesset, of Parliament, as a memorial to the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis in their program of mass extermination of all Jews in Germany and the countries under German occupation. This pro-

gram, building on long-standing anti-Semitism, began with arrests and imprisonment of Jews in the early 1930's and extended in the 1940's to forcing Jews into slave labor camps and extermination in death camps such as Treblinka, Sobibor, and Auschwitz.

April 21

Tiradentes Day: Brazil. This commemorates the execution on this day in 1792 of Jose da Silva Xavier, a leader of the revolt against Portugal.

Festival of Ridvan: Baha'i. On the first, ninth, and twelfth day of the Baha'i month of Ridvan (April 21, 29, and May 2), Baha'is commemorate the declaration of Baha'u'llah in 1863 of his mission as the last messenger of God to the world. Although Baha'is observe all twelve days, these three days are ones on which they refrain from work. The word "Ridvan" means paradise, and refers to the garden in Baghdad where Baha'u'llah proclaimed his mission as the prophet of God.

April 22

J. Robert Oppenheimer (1904-1967): Jewish American. A pioneer in the field of atomic energy, Oppenheimer was director of the Los Alamos laboratory where the first atomic bomb was developed during World War II. Troubled by the use of science to produce weapons of mass destruction, Oppenheimer joined other scientists in refusing to work on developing the even more powerful hydrogen bomb.

April 24

Genocide Memorial Day. Armenia. This day, also known as Armenian Martyrs Day, commemorates the massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks in 1915-1916. Most Armenians living in the United States are the children or grandchildren of survivors of the genocide. This day has been chosen to commemorate this tragic event since on this day in the 1915 many of Armenia's leading politicians, writers, and professionals in Constantinople were deported and/or killed.

April 25

Ella Fitzgerald (1917-1996): African American. Singer. Ella Fitzgerald, who was to win more Grammy Awards than any other jazz musician, began as a singer with Chick Webb and his band. She later sang with Dizzy Gillespie and became known for her improvisations and "scat" singing, playing with words and musical notes. She demonstrated expert taste in material. Her recorded songbooks of music by the Gershwins, Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, and others remain definitive. Lyricists loved to have her record their works; her razor sharpness guaranteed that every work would be meaningful. Composers loved her dedication to melody, and jazz musicians loved her improvisation. Along with Billie Holiday, she is generally considered to be one of the greatest female jazz singers of her generation.

Anzac Day: Australia and New Zealand. This is Australia's most important national occasion of commemoration, marking the anniversary of the first major military action by Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) during World War I. Religious services are held at dawn across the nation. Later in the day, former servicemen and women meet and join in special marches, rekindling memories of their experiences. Commemorative ceremonies are held at war memorials around the country, including observing one or two minutes of silence.

Liberation Day: Italy. This commemorates the day in 1945 that Italy was liberated from German occupation during World War II.

Liberation Day: Portugal. This commemorates the bloodless revolution in 1974 that overthrew the dictatorial regime of Antonio Salazar and the reestablishment of democracy.

Sinai Liberation Day: Egypt. This day commemorates the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in 1982.

April 26

Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzma'ut): Israel. This holiday marks the establishment of the independent state of Israel and its provisional government on May 14, 1948. The date varies according to the lunar calendar.

April 27

Freedom Day : South Africa. This commemorates the day in 1994 when for the first time all South Africans had the right to vote.

Independence Day : Sierra Leone. This day commemorates Sierra Leone's independence from Great Britain in 1961.

April 28

Ann Petry (1908-1997): African American. Writer. Born in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, Ann Petry later married and moved to Harlem where she held a variety of jobs, including editor of the women's pages of *The People's Voice*, a weekly paper started by Adam Clayton Powell Jr. She published a story – "On Saturday, the Sirens at Noon" – in *The Crisis*, the magazine of the NAACP, that was later explained into a novel and published by Houghton Mifflin in 1946 as *The Street*. This novel was the first major literary work to focus on every day life in Harlem. It achieved critical and popular acclaim, selling 1.5 million copies. This is the day of her death.

April 29

Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington (1899-1974): African American. Composer, pianist, and jazz orchestra leader. A prolific composer and arranger and brilliant leader whose orchestra included some of the finest jazz soloists of his time, Ellington was one of the preeminent figures in jazz from the 1920's until his death. His compositions include such classic songs as "Mood Indigo" and "Satin Doll," and concert works on jazz themes – some of them with religious texts.

Golden Week: Japan. This is a holiday that incorporates Greenery Day on April 29, Constitution Day on May 3, Holiday for Nation on May 4, and Children's day on May 5. This is a period when children have vacation from school and many workers have time off.

Greenery Day (Midori No Hi): Japan. This was originally the day to celebrate the birthday of the Showa Emperor but it is now also celebrated as a day for fostering the planting of trees and other vegetation.

MAY

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Asian /Pacific American Heritage Month began in 1979 as Asian Heritage Week, established by congressional proclamation. From then until 1993, the period for recognizing Asian/Pacific Americans was created by congressional proclamation each year. President George Bush, on October 23, 1992, signed legislation into law that made May of each year Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. For more information, contact the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Council at 703-354-5036.

Older Americans Month. Established by presidential proclamation to honor the contributions of older Americans to society.

May 1

May Day (Labor Day): International. In many countries the first day of May is celebrated as a spring festival, a time to celebrate the rebirth of life after winter. Some May Day customs can be traced back to ancient observances. The tradition of dancing around a pole hung with ribbons probably had its origin in the tree worship of the Celtic Druids, and the custom of filling baskets with flowers is derived from the ancient Romans' practice of gathering spring flowers on the festival of Floralia. May Day later took on another meaning: In 1884, the Federation of Organized Trade and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada drafted a resolution in support of an eight-hour working day to begin on May 1, 1886, and called for a general strike to achieve that goal. This strike led to the infamous Haymarket Affair in Chicago on May 4, 1886. On that day an anarchist labor rally was held in Haymarket Square to protest the police killing of strikers at a factory the day before. When the police tried to disperse the rally, someone threw a bomb that killed several policemen, and a riot ensued. Despite a lack of evidence, eight of Chicago's leading anarchists were charged with conspiracy to murder – four were hanged, one committed suicide in prison, and the remaining three were later pardoned. The Haymarket Affair was a pivotal event in the history of the labor movement, leading to a crackdown on labor organizations and a splintering of the Knights of Labor, the strongest U.S. labor organization, which was eventually supplanted by the American Federation of Labor. In 1889, an international Socialist congress convened in Paris and voted to support the United States labor movement's demands, choosing May 1 1890 as a day of demonstration in support of an eight-hour working day. Many countries now celebrate May Day, sometimes called Labor Day, as an official holiday honoring working people. The United States and Canada, however, celebrate Labor Day on September.

May 2

Satyajit Ray (1921-1992): Indian. Filmmaker. Ray's films depicting the lives of ordinary people in his native Bengal brought him international recognition as one of the great creators in the medium. He was involved in every aspect of the filmmaking process; in addition to writing and directing each film, he sometimes wrote the musical score, designed the sets, and even operated the camera. His best-known work is a trilogy (Pathar Pachali, Aparajito, and The World of Apu) tracing the life of a single character, the young boy Apu, from his village through his education and migration to the city.

May 3

Septima Clark (1898-1997): African American. Teacher and civil rights activist. Septima Clark played a vital role in the civil rights movement as the chief organizer of freedom schools that taught thousands of Black people throughout the South to read and helped them register to vote.

Paul G. Hearne (1950?-1998) : American. Activist for the disabled. Mr. Hearne was a founder or officer of virtually every national organization devoted to the disabled. He started the first legal service office for the disabled, ran the first job placement agency for the disabled, served as director of the National Council of Disability, and was influential in writing the landmark Americans with Disabilities, the Association of People with Disabilities, and the Disabilities Study Group. Born with a debilitation disorder that limited his growth to four feet tall and caused him to spend his childhood in body casts and traction until he was 15, Hearne finally was able to enroll in a new school for the disabled, the Human Resources Center in Albertson, New York.

Golda Meir (1898-1978): Jewish Israeli. Prime minister. Born in Kiev in Ukraine, Meir came to the United

States as a child and grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She immigrated to Palestine at the age of 19. In 1969 she became Israel's fourth prime minister.

Constitution Day (Kempo Kinen Bi) : Japan. This holiday celebrates the establishment of the current constitution in 1947.

Constitution Day: Poland. This holiday commemorates the passage in 1791 of Poland's first constitution, which was the second written constitution in the world after that of the United States and the first in Europe. It provided for the separation of powers between the executive (the king and his Ministers), the legislative (the Sejm), and the judicial branches of government. Although the constitution was hailed throughout the West as a triumph for progressive forces, it was suppressed in 1792 by the invading army of Catherine II of Russia, who saw the movement toward democracy across her western border as a threat to her own absolute rule.

May 4

Keith Haring (19159-1990): Gay. Pop artist. Haring created a wide variety of public art, such as subway drawings of animals and human images and murals, including the first mural in a school yard on New York City's Lower East Side and a mural on the Berlin Wall. He also created designs for performances and for Swatch watches. In 1987, he used his art to support campaigns for AIDS awareness and created the Keith Haring Foundation to contribute to a wide variety of social concerns.

Henryk Sienkiewica (1846-1916): Polish. Writer. Sienkiewicz's best known works are his historical novels, which include *Quo Vadis* set in Rome in the early Christian era, and a trilogy depicting the Poles' struggles against foreign invaders in the seventeenth century. He won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1905.

May 5

Children's Day (Kodomo No Hi): Japan. Formerly known as Tango No Sekku or Boy's Day, Children's Day is celebrated by attaching wind socks in the shape of carp to poles. The carp symbolizes perseverance, power, and strength. A special meal including a rice dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaves is served.

Children's Day (Tano): Korea. This holiday is celebrated as a day of rest from work. Wrestling matches are held, as are swinging contests in which girls use swing hung from high branched of trees to see who can swing with the widest arc.

Cinco de Mayo: Mexico. Mexicans and Mexican Americans celebrate the triumph of Mexican forces over the French army in Mexico on May 5, 1862.

Liberation Day: Netherlands. This day marks the end of the World War II Nazi occupation of the Netherlands in 1945.

May 6

Martin Delany (1812-1885): African American. Physician and anthropologist. Trained as a natural scientist and physician, Delany became an advocate for the abolition of slavery and the emigration of free Negroes to Africa.

Amadeo Giannini (1870-1949): Italian American. Banker. One of the most creative and successful financiers of the early twentieth century, Guanine founded the Bank of Italy in San Francisco as a bank for small businessmen. His innovations, which included branch banking and home mortgages with monthly payments, brought him tremendous success, and when he resigned as chairman of the board in 1945, his bank, renamed Bank of America, was the largest commercial bank in the world. Giannini also founded Transamerica Corporation, one of the nation's largest business conglomerates.

Edwin H. Land (1909-1991): Jewish American. Inventor. Land invented the "Land Camera," later called the Polaroid. His Polaroid Company became one of the major enterprises in the creation and production of photographic cameras and processes.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941): Indian. Writer and composer. A prolific and versatile readership and brought him the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913. (This date for celebrating his birthday is based on the Bengali calendar.)

Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882: United States. This federal law prohibited the immigration of Chinese laborers to the United States and denied Chinese residents the right to become citizens. Extended in 1892 and made permanent in 1902, the law remained in effect until December, 1943, when congress repealed the laws.

May 7

Visakaha Day: Buddhist. In the Theravada Buddhist tradition that predominates in Burma, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia, Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and nirvana are all celebrated on this day.

May 8

Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla (1753-1811): Mexican. Political and military leader. A village priest who helped lead the insurgency against Mexico's Spanish rulers in 1810-1811, Father Hidalgo is best known for ringing the church bell that signaled the beginning of the rebellion. As a revolutionary leader he freed slaves in areas under the control of his army and advocated redistribution of land from Spanish owners to poor Indians and mestizos. After early military successes, his army was defeated by a Spanish military court and executed by a firing squad.

Victory Day: France. This holiday commemorates the defeat of the German army in Europe in 1945.

May 9

Victory Day: Russia and the Ukraine. This day Commemorates the victory of the Allies over Nazi Germany ending World War II in Europe in 1945. This day also honors the 20 million Soviet people who died during the war.

May 10

Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback (1837-1921): African-American. Soldier and legislator. Born free, Pinchback joined the Union Army during

the Civil War and raised a company of African American volunteers. After the war he entered politics and served as lieutenant governor and acting governor of Louisiana. Elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1872 and to the United States Senate in 1873, he was prevented from taking office by the opposition of Whites who claimed there had been voting irregularities on his election.

Inauguration of Nelson Mandela (1994): South Africa. On this day Nelson Mandela became the first Black president of South Africa, after the nation's first elections in which citizens of all race were allowed to vote. The inaugural ceremonies, attended by leaders from around the world, marked the end of South Africa's system of white minority rule, which for decades had maintained the brutal system of racial separation and inequality known as apartheid.

May 11

Irving Berlin (1888-1989): Jewish Russian American. Song writer. Berlin wrote the lyrics and music to some 1500 songs, including the scores for many stage and screen musical comedies. Among the Berlin songs that have become classics of American popular music are his first, "Alexander's Ragtime Band" (1911), "White Christmas," "Easter Parade," and "God Bless America."

William Grant Still (1895-1978): African American. Composer and Conductor. Still was the first African American to compose a symphony and the first to conduct a symphony orchestra, but he made his living playing in orchestras and jazz bands. In his own compositions, the most famous of which are his Afro-American Symphony (1951) and the opera *Troubled Island* (1949), he often incorporated jazz elements.

Lag B'Omer: Jewish. This holiday occurs thirty-three days from the second night of Passover, called the "counting of the omer," during the seven weeks between Passover and Shavuoth and allows a break from the usual prohibitions during this period, such as having weddings. It is a minor holiday and work is permitted.

May 12

Oscar de Priest (1871-1951) District of Illinois in the House of Representatives from 1929 to 1933. His election signaled the return of African American citizens to the legislative branch of the federal government for the first time since Reconstruction.

May 13

Jo Louis (Barrow) (1914-1981): African American. Prizefighter. Joe Louis was the world heavyweight champion from 1937 to 1947, defending the title 24 times.

Our Lady of Fatima Day: Portugal. This commemorates the miracle of the vision of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to shepherd children on May 13, 1917.

May 15

Independence Day: Peru. This day commemorates the declaration of independence from Spain in 1821 and its fulfillment through the final defeat of Spanish forces by Jose de San Martin and Simon Bolivar in 1824.

May 16

Betty Carter (1929-1998): African American. Jazz singer. Betty Carter was unique among jazz vocalists, composers, and arrangers, her distinctive style embodying an approach to jazz that created the model for modern jazz singing. Growing up in Detroit, Carter sang with Charlie Parker and later joined the Lionel Hampton band. In 1961, she recorded the classic album, *Ray Charles and Betty Carter*. Carter received the National Medal of Arts in 1997.

May 17.

Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka (1954): African American. On this date the Supreme Court unanimously issued its historic decision holding that segregation in public education was a denial of the right to equal protection under the law and directing the lower courts to oversee the desegregation of the nation's schools "with all deliberate speed." This decision, which established the principle that segregation is unconstitutional, formed the legal basis for the civil rights movement of the late 1950 and 1960s.

National Day: Norway. On this date, Norwegians celebrate the 1814 signing of the Norwegian Constitution, Signifying Norway's breaking away from its 434-year union with Denmark. The focus of the celebration is on children and family. Virtually every community has a parade that features students and teachers marching, often in national costumes, singing patriotic songs, and carrying the Norwegian flag. Many midwestern communities in the United States with large numbers of people of Scandinavian ancestry, such as in Wisconsin and Minnesota, have their own celebrations of Syttende Mai.

May 18

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955): African American. Educator. Founder of a girls' school that eventually became Bethune-Cookman College, the largest institution for the training of African American teachers in the southeastern United States, Mary McLeod Bethune became a nationally respected advocate for youth and for African Americans. She was appointed to a number of federal offices by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. As director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration from 1936 to 1944, she was the first African American woman to head a federal agency. This date is the anniversary of her death.

Frank Capra (1897-1991): Italian American. Film director. From the 1920s to the 1950s, Capra was one of Hollywood's most successful directors.

Remembered especially for his comedies celebrating the integrity and spirit of the common man, Capra won three Academy Awards as best Director for *It Happened One Night*, *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, and *You Can't Take It With You*.

Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965) : African American. Playwright and civil right activist. Hansberry is best known for her play "A Raisin in the Sun", the first play by an African American woman to be produced on Broadway. The play was an enormous success with critics and audiences when it opened in 1959, was made into a popular film, and has attained the status of a modern classic. Before her brilliant career was cut short by cancer, she wrote several other stage and television plays and a number of essays, and devoted much of her time to working and speaking out for the civil rights movement.

Malcolm X (1925-1965: African American. Civil rights leader. Malcolm Little adopted the name Malcolm X when he joined the Nation of Islam (Black Muslims), a religious movement advocating Black separatism, while serving a prison term for burglary. Upon his release in 1952 he became a leading spokesman for the Muslims. In 1964 he broke with the group, rejecting racial separatism and forming his own group, the Organization of Afro-American Unity. He continued to speak out until his assassination on February 21, 1965, urging Blacks to take pride in their race and to take action to claim their civil and human rights.

Ataturk Commemoration and Youth & Sports Day: Turkey. Kemal Ataturk was the first president of the Turkish Republic, which he founded in 1923 and served until 1938. Ataturk westernized and secularized Turkey, creating the basis for a modern nation state.

Santo Christo Day : Portugal. This holiday begins on the fifth Sunday after Easter and is celebrated for a full week. It commemorates the gift to the Cathedral of Sao Miguel in the Azore Island (off the coast of Portugal) of a statue depicting Jesus wearing a crown of thorns. The holiday is celebrated by processions, religious services, and festive gatherings.

May 21

Lazaro Cardenas (1895-1970): Mexican. Political and military leader. As president of Mexico from 1934 to 1940, Cardenas did more than any other Mexican chief executive to achieve the goals of the Mexican Revolution: redistributing land from large landowners to peasants, organizing confederations of workers and peasants, and taking control over foreign-owned industries. He emerged from retirement in 1943 to serve as defense minister and then chief of the army, retiring again in 1945.

Victoria Day observed: Canada. This public holiday in Canada commemorates the birth of Queen Victoria, who lived from 1819 to 1901 and ruled Britain from 1837 to 1901, during which time England became the world's leading industrial power and the center of the British Empire.

May 22

Leo Baeck (1873-1956): Jewish German. Religious leader. Baeck was a leader of German Jews and of Progressive Judaism. He became head of the World Union of Progressive Judaism and a leader of Reform Judaism, the branch of the faith that emphasized Judaism as a system of ethical monotheism.

Declaration of the Bab: Baha'i. This holiday commemorates the Bab's prediction in Shiraz, Persia, in 1844 of the imminent appearance of the new messenger of God.

May 24.

Ines Mexia (1870-1938) : Mexican American. Botanical explorer. Mexia discovered her vocation at the age of 55, when she took a summer course on flowering plants at the University of California. Over the next 13 years she traveled throughout the southwestern states, to Alaska, and through much of South America, often living in primitive conditions as she gathered thousands of specimens, many of them previously unclassified, for academic institutions and government agencies. Her intrepid spirit and her careful preservation of plant materials in difficult field conditions won her the admiration of her colleagues.

James Francis (Jim) Thorpe (1888-1953): American Indian (Sauk and Fox). Athlete. Chosen as the best athlete of the first half of the century in an Associated Press poll, Jim Thorpe won the decathlon at the 1912 Olympic Games and went on to play professional baseball and then professional football, and to be named to the college and professional football Halls of Fame. Thorpe was forced to give up his Olympic medals when it was discovered that he had briefly played professional baseball, disqualifying him from competition as an amateur. This action was rescinded in 1983 by the International Olympic Committee, which retroactively recognized his amateur status and presented his heirs with duplicates of his medals.

Coleman A. Young (1918-1997): African American. Politician. Coleman Young became the first African American Mayor of Detroit, Michigan, in 1973 and served in that office for the next twenty years, the longest period of time that any mayor had served in that position. During his administrations, Detroit rebuilt much of its business area, created the Renaissance Center and fought tirelessly the social and economic problems facing many of America's cities.

Ascension Day: Christian. This marks the anniversary of the day Christians believe that Jesus rose to heaven.

Ascension Day: Eastern Orthodox Christian. This marks the anniversary of the day Eastern Orthodox Christians believe that Jesus rose to heaven.

May 25

Africa Day: Zambia and Zimbabwe. In these and some other African states, this is a holiday commemorating independence from colonial rule.

Anniversary of the May Revolution: Argentina. This commemorates the beginning of the war of independence from Spain in 1810 by Jose de San Martin.

Independence Day: Argentina. This day commemorates Argentina's declaration of independence from Spain in 1816.

Independence Day: Jordan. This marks the day in 1946 that Jordan under the Hashemite Monarchy gained independence from Britain.

May 26

Susette LaFlesche Tibbles (1854-1903): American Indian (Omaha). Activist. Daughter of a chief, Susette La Flesche joined with her father, her brother, and her future husband, journalist Thomas Tibbles, to bring national attention to the plight of the Poncas, a kindred tribe that had been forcibly removed to Indian territory. This is the anniversary of her death.

Dragon Boat Festival (Tuan-wu): China. This is a holiday in honor of Ch'u Yuan, China's first major poet, who drowned himself in 278 B.C.E. to protest the injustice and corruption of his prince's government. In the traditional dragon boat races, teams from different towns compete in long boats with bows shaped like large dragon heads. The customary holiday food is a dumpling made of rice with a sweet filling wrapped in a bamboo leaf.

May 28

Restoration of Statehood Day: Armenia. On this day, Armenians celebrate the establishment in 1918 of the first republic following the genocide of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire and the collapse of the Russian Empire under the Czars.

Shavuoth Festival of Weeks): Jewish. Shavuoth, taking place seven weeks after Passover, is the festival of the first fruits, and the weeks between are the most important in the harvesting season. The holiday is also celebrated in commemoration of the day when Moses received the Torah and the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

Memorial Day observed: United States. Originally a day of remembrance for those who died for the Union in the Civil War, this national holiday, observed on the last Monday in May, now honors those who gave their lives in all wars. (A number of southern states also have designated days for honoring the Confederate dead.) Many American families observe Memorial Day as a time for paying respect to deceased family members.

May 29

Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997): Chinese American. Physicist. Dr. Wu was one of the giants and the first woman to gain equal stature for her accomplishments in experimental physics with men in the field. Born near Shanghai, China she came to the United States in the 1930s and received a doctorate in physics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1940. She joined the physics faculty at Columbia University after World War II and was named a full professor in 1958 and the first Pupin professor of physics in 1973. In 1957, she and her colleagues conducted an experiment that overthrew a law of symmetry in physics called the principle of conservation of parity that had been considered incontrovertible. In 1975, Dr Wu became the first woman to be elected president of the American Physical Society. She also received the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest award for achievement in science, as well as the Wolf Physics.

Ascension of Baha'u'llah: Baha'i. This observance commemorates the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Baha'i faith in 1892.

May 31.

Founding of the NAACP (1910): African American. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was formally established on this date. The NAACP is the largest membership organization supporting African American interest in the United States.

JUNE

Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. On June 11, 1999, President Clinton issued a presidential proclamation designating June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. In that proclamation the president said "..... Since our earliest days as a nation, Americans have strived to make real the ideals of equality and freedom so eloquently expressed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We now have a rare opportunity to enter a new century and a new millennium as one country, living those principles, recognizing our common values, and building on our shared strengths. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities that celebrate our diversity, and to remember throughout the year the gay and lesbian Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our national life."

June 1

Brigham Young (1801-1877): Mormon. Religious leader. Religious leader Brigham Young was converted to Mormonism after reading the Book of Mormon. He became the second president to the Mormon Church and, fleeing persecution, led its followers to establish Salt Lake City as the center of the Mormon Church.

Madaraka (Self-Rule) Day: Kenya. This marks the day in 1994 that Kenya attained self-rule as a republic with Jomo Kenyatta as its first president.

June 2

Dorothy West (1907-1998): African American Writer. Nicknamed “the Kid” by Langston Hughes, Dorothy West was, when she died, the last remaining member of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. Born into a Black upper class Boston family, West first published at 14 and later attended Boston University and the Columbia School of Journalism. In 1934, she founded the literary journal, *Challenge* to give young Black writers a place to publish. West later joined the Federal Writers Project. In 1947, she left New York for Martha’s Vineyard, where she lived the rest of her life. West’s novel, “The Wedding”, begun in the 1960s and published in 1995, focuses as much on class as on race; in 1998 it aired as a television miniseries produced by Oprah Winfrey.

June 3

Charles Richard Drew (1904-1950): African American. Physician. A Pioneer in blood research, Dr. Drew introduced the use of plasma on the battlefield; organized the world’s first mass blood bank project, Blood for Britain; and established the American Red Cross Blood Bank, of which he was the first director.

Roland Hayes (1887-1976) : African American. Concert singer Roland Hayes was one of the first African Americans to have an international concert career. His magnificent tenor voice brought him wide acclaim from 1917 until his retirement from the concert stage in the 1950s.

Republic Day (Constitution Day) observed: Italy. The Italian Republic was established on June 2, 1946, by a popular referendum in which the people chose a Republic over a Monarchy.

Pentecost (Whit Sunday): Christian. This spring festival takes its name from the Greek word for 50, because it comes on the 50th day after Passover. It originally corresponded to the Jewish festival of Shavuoth. Christians celebrate Pentecost on the seventh Sunday after Easter to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. The day is sometimes called Whit Sunday (White Sunday) because the newly baptized wore white baptismal robes. Among foods associated with Pentecost is Sopa do Espirito Santo, Holy Spirit Soup, a hearty mixture of meats, from the Azores. Azorean communities in Massachusetts retain the custom.

June 4

Maulid an-Nabi (Prophet Muhammad’s Birthday): Islam. This occurs on the 12th day of the Muslim month of Rabi ul-Awwal and marks the birth of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam in 570 A.C.E.

June 5

Constitution Day: Denmark. This day commemorates Denmark’s adoption of a constitutional monarchy in 1849, ending absolute rule by the monarchy.

June 6

Alfred Kazin (1915-1998): Jewish American. Writer, critic, teacher. Born of immigrant parents, Kazin attended the City College of New York, receiving both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English. In 1942, Kazin published his first book, entitled *On Native Ground*. A wide-ranging review of the history of American literature from William Dean Howells to William Faulkner, the book set a new standard for literary criticism. Kazin continued to write many articles and essays, as well as novels and literary criticism. His works include the postwar novel, *A Walker in the City*, and literary volumes such as *A Writer’s America* and *God and the American Writer*.

National Day: Sweden. This day commemorates Sweden’s gaining independence from Denmark and the ascension to the throne of King Gustavus in 1523.

June 8

Leroy (Satchel) Paige (1906-1982): Baseball player. Perhaps the most talented baseball player in the history of the game, Paige became a legend for his showmanship, his fast ball, and his longevity. Beginning in the 1920s in the Black leagues, Paige played some 2,500 professional games, of which he won at least 2,000; 250 of these were shutouts, and 45 were no-hitters. In 1948, after the integration of major league baseball, Paige signed with the Cleveland Indians. In 1952, as a pitcher for the St. Louis Browns, he was named to the American League All-Stars. This is the date of his death.

June 10

Portuguese National Day: Portugal. This national holiday commemorates the death in 1580 of Luis Vaz de Camoes, author of the greatest literary work in Portuguese, the epic poem *Os Lusíadas*.

June 11

Queen’s Birthday: Australia. This holiday honors the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, the monarch of Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Canada, and Australia. As queen of both England and Australia, Elizabeth II is head of state and represented by the governor general. This holiday is not celebrated in Western Australia.

June 12

Anne Frank (1929-1945): Jewish Dutch. This young girl hid with her family from the Nazis in a secret apartment during the occupation of the Netherlands. The hiding place was eventually discovered and the family deported to concentration camps, but Anne’s diary, discovered and published after her death, became the most widely read of all personal accounts of the Holocaust.

Independence Day: Philippines. On this day in 1898 the Philippines declared its independence from Spain.

Independence Day: Russia. This holiday celebrates the first democratically elected president of Russia in the one-thousand-year history of the state.

June 13

Luis Alvarez (1911-1988): Mexican American. Physicist. Alvarez's greatest Contribution to science was his research on subatomic particles, for which he won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1968. During World War II he created a ground-controlled radar system for aircraft landings, and later collaborated in the building of the atomic bomb. In 1970 he and his son Walter proposed the theory that the extinction of the dinosaurs had been caused by the collision of a comet of asteroid with the earth.

Mary Antin (1881-1949): Jewish Russian American. Writer Coming to the United States at the age of 13 with her family, Mary Antin flourished in her new country, going from first to fifth grade in the Boston public schools in half a year. She soon showed herself to be a gifted writer, published her first poem at 15 and her first book, a narrative of her journey from Russia to the United States, at age 18. She is best known for her autobiographical work "The Promised Land," a classic account to immigration and assimilation.

Carlos Chavez (1899-1978): Mexican. Composer, conductor, and educator. In The course of his long career, Chavez left his mark on nearly every aspect of musical life in Mexico's first symphony orchestra and conducted it for 20 years, introduced modern European music to Mexican audiences, directed the National Conservatory, and overhauled the system of music education in Mexican schools as head of the department of fine arts in the ministry of education. His field research into Mexican folk music enriched his own compositions, which are notable for their complex rhythmic patterns, simple melodic lines and strong percussive effects.

June 17

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938): African American. Writer, diplomat, educator, and civil rights leader. Johnson's writings include songs (among them "Lift Every Voice and Sing," that became to be known as the "The Negro National Anthem." Poetry, fiction, an autobiography, and critical and historical

Works on African American culture. He also compiled anthologies of African American poems and spirituals. A former high school principal, journalist, attorney and diplomatic representative in Venezuela and Nicaragua, he served the NAACP from 1916 to 1930 as field secretary and then executive secretary, greatly expanding the organization's membership and influence spent the remainder of his life in university teaching.

Susan Flesche Picotte (1865-1915): American Indian (Omaha). Physician. Youngest daughter of Chief Joseph LaFlesche (Iron Eye) and his wife Mary (Iron Woman). After her education in the East, Picotte returned to the reservation as a doctor and spent four years traveling among the 1,300 widely scattered Omahas, caring for the sick and hurt and educating them about health and sanitation. Widowed in 1905 and with two sons, she moved in 1906 to the new town of Walthill on the reservation, where she spent her life practicing medicine, establishing a hospital, and serving her community as a leader in church and civic activities.

June 18

Evacuation Day: Egypt. This marks the proclamation of the Egyptian republic after a military coup deposed King Farouk in 1952.

June 19

Juneteenth: African American. This Commemorates the emancipation of all slaves in Texas by the Union general Gordon Grange.

June 21.

Joseph H. Rainey (1832-1887): African American. Congressman. The first African American elected to the United States House of Representatives, Rainey was elected to five terms. He served his North Carolina district from 1869 to 1879, supporting improvement of conditions for Indians on reservations and the granting of full constitutional rights to Blacks.

June 23

Wilma Rudolph (1940-1994): African American. Athlete. Although Wilma Rudolph spent her childhood wearing a leg brace to support a lame leg, she overcame her handicap and became a champion sprinter, eventually setting a world record in the 200-dash. In the 1960 Olympics she was the most successful competitor in track and field events, as the individual winner of the 100- and 200-meter dashes and a member of the winning team in the 4x100-meter relay.

National Day: Luxembourg. Also celebrated as the King's birthday, this day commemorates Luxembourg's gaining independence from Belgium and the Netherlands in 1848.

June 25.

Battle of Little Bighorn (1876): American Indian. On this date at Little Bighorn River, General George A. Custer was killed and his command annihilated by combined forces of Sioux and Cheyenne Indians. The determined resistance of the nomadic Plains tribes in the protection of their hunting grounds and way of life earned them a number of military victories before they were defeated by the stronger U.S. government forces.

June 27

Helen Keller (18-11968): American. Author and educator. Left deaf and blind by illness at the age of 19 months, Helen Keller learned to speak and

then to read and write Braille with the help of her remarkable teacher, Annie Sullivan. After graduating cum laude from Radcliffe College in 1904, she devoted her life to writing and social activism, particularly in aid of people with one or both of her disabilities. She traveled throughout the world, spoke out on public issues, and wrote numerous books, including "The Story of My Life (1902) and Helen Keller's Journal (1938). Her Extraordinary achievements made her an international heroine and an inspiration to millions.

Stonewall Rebellion (1969): Gay/Lesbian. In the early morning of this day, New York City police entered a gay bar on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village and began harassing and taunting the patrons with anti-gay comments. The patrons fought back in a protest that lasted for the next three days. For Many gays and lesbians, this protest marks the first organized effort in the United States by gays and lesbians to openly gain equality under the law.

June 29

Stokely Carmichael (1941-1998) : African American. Civil rights leader. Known later in his life as Kwame Ture, Stokely Carmichael was a charismatic civil rights leader. A graduate of the Bronx High School of Science and Howard University, Carmichael became chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1966, a committee that had two years earlier sent volunteers to the South to teach, set up clinics, and register Black Southerners to vote. Carmichael originated the term "Black Power" in a speech in 1966 that called for a more militant approach to the civil rights movement. Becoming more militant and radicalized, Carmichael resigned from SNCC and became prime minister of the Black Panther Party in 1968. The following year Carmichael moved to Guinea, West Africa, where he spent the latter part of his life as an advocate for a unified, socialist Africa.

June 30

McCarran-Walter Act (1952): United States. This U.S. immigration act, passed during the Korean War over President Truman's veto, generally reaffirmed earlier, restrictive immigration policies but removed the ban against naturalization of Asian and Pacific immigrants. This provision was greeted with jubilation by Japanese-born residents of the United States, who had been barred under previous laws from seeking citizenship. Another provision of the law, however, empowered the Attorney General to deport immigrants for Communist sympathies even if they had become citizens. This provision led to wide-spread investigations and deportations of Chinese residents.

JULY

July 1

Canada Day: Canada. Known as Dominion Day until 1982, this day celebrates the confederation of upper and lower Canada into the Dominion of Canada in 1867. Observed on Monday, July 2.

Republic Day: Ghana. On this day in 1960, Ghana gained independence within the Commonwealth of Great Britain.

July 2

Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993): Civil rights leader and Supreme Court justice. As head of the legal services division of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1938 to 1962, Thurgood Marshall led the legal effort to advance the civil rights of all Americans, particularly those belonging to minority groups. His most famous victory was the 1954 Supreme Court decision ending racial segregation in public schools. He continued to work for civil rights and equal opportunity as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, second circuit (1962-1965), Solicitor General of the United States (1965-1967), and finally as the first African American associate justice of the Supreme Court, where he served from 1967 to 1991.

July 3

Independence Day: Algeria. Ruled by the Ottoman Turks since the mid-sixteenth century and populated mainly by Arabs who introduced Islam as the country's predominant religion, Algeria became a colony of France in 1848. A war of independence from France began in 1954, and Algeria became independent in 1962.

July 4

Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882): Italian. Military leader. Garibaldi led the military forces of the revolutionary movement for the unification and independence of Italy from 1848 to 1867. A national hero, Garibaldi is considered one of the great guerrilla generals of modern times.

Edmonia Lewis (1845-unknown date, after 1911): African American and American Indian (Ojibway). Sculptor. Lewis largely self-taught, first came to public attention in 1864 with a medallion of the head of John Brown and a portrait bust of the late Civil War hero Robert Gould Shaw. Sale of copies of the Shaw bust earned her enough to travel to Rome, where she established a studio and pursued a successful career, which peaked in the late 60s and early 70s. Much of her work is lost today, but it is known to have included a number of works depicting African American and Indians themes.

Independence Day: United States. This commemorates the day in 1776 that delegates of the Thirteen Colonies signed the Declaration of Independence announcing their separation from Great Britain and the establishment of the United States of America.

Philippine- American Friendship Day: Philippines. This celebrates the day in 1946 that the United States granted independence to the Philippines after ruling it since 1905.

July 5

Independence Day: Venezuela. First colonized by Spain in the fifteenth century, Venezuela began a war of independence led by Francisco de Miranda and Simon Bolivar that lasted from 1810 to 1821. It is on this day in 1811 that Venezuela declared its independence from Spain. This day is celebrated in Venezuela as a national holiday.

July 9

Martyrdom of the Bab: Baha'i. This holiday commemorates the arrest, torture, imprisonment, and eventual execution of the Bab in Tabriz, Persia, in 1850. The Bab's body is buried at the Baha'i temple in Haifa, Israel.

July 10

Arthur Ashe (1943-1993): African American. Athlete, writer, and activist. The first Black tennis player to win the men's titles at the U.S. Open (1968) and Wimbledon (1975), Arthur Ashe became known for his power and skill as a player and for his dignity and eloquence as a leader, particularly in efforts to combat racial discrimination. He helped integrate professional sports in South Africa and founded and worked to maintain tennis programs for inner-city youth in the United States. After heart problems led to his retirement from professional play in 1980, he researched and wrote "The Hard Road to Glory, published in 1988. After announcing in the spring of 1992 that he had contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion, Ashe spent the last year of his life campaigning for greater public awareness of the disease and raising funds for research and treatment programs.

Nicolas Guillen (1902-1989): Cuban. Poet. A Cuban of mixed European and African ancestry, Guillen became a major exponent in the late 1920s and 1930s of poetry that is often called Afro-Cuban. He is also known for his poetry of social protest and his other writings advocating political and social reform.

Independence Day: Bahamas. This commemorates the Bahamas' gaining independence within the Commonwealth of Great Britain in 1973. This holiday is observed from July 3 through July 10.

July 11

Flemish Community Holiday: Belgium. Celebrated in Flemish communities in Belgium, this day commemorates the battle in 1302 in which the Flemish declared their independence from France.

July 12

Constantine Brumidi (1805-1880): Italian American. Painter. A successful painter in Italy, Brumidi came to the United States in 1852 as a political refugee. In 1855 he began a quarter century of work at the U.S. Capitol building, decorating it with frescoes on patriotic themes. His most famous work is "The Apotheosis of Washington" in the Capitol Dome.

July 14

Isaac Bashevis Singer (1904-11991): Jewish American. Writer. Singer was the leading writer in the Yiddish language after World War II and the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978. Most of his works have been translated into English.

Bastille Day: France. This celebrates the fall of the Bastille prison, marking the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789.

July 15

(Saint) Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917): Italian American. Founder of a religious order. A women of phenomenal energy and organizational genius, Sister Frances Cabrini founded the Missionary /sisters of the Scared Heart, an order of nuns devoted to service in schools, orphanages, hospitals, and prisons. Under her direction the order spread between 1880 and 1910 from a single convent in her native Italy to an international institution, with 65 housed spread across Europe and the Americas and 1,500 sisters. She became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1909. Canonized in 1946, she is the first American saint.

July 16

Ida B. Wells-Barnet (1862-1931): African American. Journalist and civil rights activist. Ida B. Wells-Barnet devoted her life to drawing attention to the widespread practice of lynching—the murder of Blacks by mobs of whites—in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. She launched her crusade in 1892 in the pages of the Memphis, Tennessee, weekly newspaper of which she was part owner. After a white mob destroyed her newspaper office, she moved to New York City, where she continued writing against lynching and carried her crusade on lecture tours of the United States and Britain.

July 17.

Constitution Day: South Korea. After the division of Korea into North Korea and South Korea at the end of World War II, South Korea formed a republic with its capitol I Seoul and Syngman Rhee as its first president.

Luis Munoz Rivera (1859-1916): Puerto Rico. Poet, journalist, and political leader. When Spain granted political autonomy to Puerto Rico in 1898, Luis Munoz Rivera became its leader. Only five months later, however, the United States invaded and took possession of the island, and Munoz Rivera spent the rest of his life working to regain the independence of his nation. As Resident Commissioner in Washington in 1916, he denounced the proposed Jones Act, which was to give citizenship to Puerto Ricans but retain the island as a U.S. possession. The act was passed shortly after his death.

July 19

Alice Dunbar-Nelson (1875-1935): African American. Author, teacher, and social worker. Briefly married to the Poet Laurence Dunbar, Alice Dunbar-Nelson was an accomplished writer of poems and short stories, newspaper columns, diaries, and speeches. Her career as an educator included 18 years of teaching and administration at Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware, and 4 years at a school she helped to found for delinquent African American girls. Deeply committed to racial equality, women's rights, and world peace, she devoted much of her energy to writing, lecturing, and political organizing in support of these causes.

First Special Olympics Games (1968) : United States On this date the first Special Olympics, an athletic competition for children and adults with cognitive disabilities, opened at Soldiers Field in Chicago. The first Special Olympics had 1,000 participants from the United States and Canada; by 1995, this competition expanded to include Winter Special Olympics (added in 1977 and to involve 7,000 participants from all 50 states and 143 countries). The program of event has also grown dramatically, from three at the first Special Olympics to more than twenty. The international competition is held in the year before the regular Olympics.

National Liberation Day: Nicaragua. The family of Anastasio Somoza ruled Nicaragua as a dictatorship from 1937 to 1979. After an uprising led by the National Liberation Army, the Somoza family fled Nicaragua on this day in 1979.

July 20

Independence Day: Columbia. Beginning in the fourteenth century, the region that is now Columbia was the center of the Spanish colony known as New Granada, which included Panama and most of Venezuela. Beginning in 1810, Simon Bolivar led a war of independence from Spain, which ended with victory over Spanish forces on this day in 1819. This day is celebrated in Colombia as a national holiday.

July 21

National Holiday: Belgium. This day marks the day in 1831 that Belgium became independent from the Netherlands and Leopold I ascended the throne as Belgium's first king.

July 23

Revolution Day: Egypt. This day marks the beginning of the military coup in 1952 that led to the proclamation of the proclamation of the Egyptian republic.

Bella Abzug (1920-1998): Jewish American. Women's rights advocate and politician. A graduate of Hunter College and Columbia Law School, where she was an editor of the Law Review, Abzug began her career as a civil rights lawyer and became a leading advocate for equal rights, peace, and political reform. In the 1960s she became a fervent antiwar activist and a founder of Women Strike for Peace, a group opposing nuclear testing and the war in Vietnam. In 1970, Abzug won a seat in the United States Congress and served until 1976, when she ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for the Senate. While in the House, she cosponsored the Equal Rights Amendment and the Freedom of Information Act, as well as the legislation that established August 26 as Woman's Equality Day. After leaving Congress, Abzug dedicated the rest of her life to achieving women's rights as a founder of the lobbying groups National Women's Political Caucus and Women USA, as well as the Women's Environment and Development Organization.

Pioneer Day: Mormon. This marks the day in 1847 that Brigham Young led other believers in the teachings of Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, into the valley of the Great Salt Lake, where they would establish the center of the Church of Latter Day Saints and build Salt Lake City.

Simon Bolivar (1783-1830): Ecuador and Venezuela. Military and political leader. This public holiday honors Bolivar. Known as "The Liberator," Simon Bolivar led the rebellion against Spanish rule that established the independence of Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

July 25.

Constitution Day : Puerto Rico. The constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico was approved in 1952 on this day, which is now commemorated each year with official government ceremonies.

Republic Day : Tunisia. This day commemorates the end of the Tunisian monarchy and the establishment of a republic in 1957.

July 26

Hector P. Garcia (1914-1996): Hispanic American. Medical doctor and civil rights activist. Dr. Garcia practiced medicine in Corpus Christi, Texas, after receiving his medical degree from the University of Texas. He was also involved in the civil rights movement for Hispanic Americans, and in 1948 founded the American G. I. Forum, a national advocacy organization for Mexican American war veterans. In 1968, he became the first Hispanic to serve on the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and in 1984, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This is the day of his death at age 82.

Americans with Disabilities Act (1990): United States. Signed into law on this date, this milestone of U.S. civil rights legislation protects people with disabilities from discrimination in the areas of employment, transportation, and public accommodation. (Earlier legislation had addressed discrimination in housing.) The law requires a wide range of public and private establishments to make new and renovated facilities accessible to people with disabilities and to make "readily achievable" changes to existing facilities in order to increase accessibility.

July 27

Jose Celso Barbosa: Puerto Rico. This is a public holiday honoring Barbosa, a doctor and a politician born on this day in 1857. In 1899, he found-

ed the Republican Party if Puerto Rico that advocated statehood for the island.

Seventh Night (Ch'i-hsi), or Weaving Maid and Herd Boy Festival, is a romantic festival based on a tale of a couple who disobeyed the chief deity and are, therefore, held in the sky as stars on either side of the Milky Way. On this night, magpies fly up from earth and join their wings to form a bridge over the Milky Way so that the lovers can meet.

July 28

Independence Day Celebrated: Peru. This two-day national holiday celebrates the final defeat of Spanish forces by Simon Bolivar along with Jose de San Martin 1824.

July 29

Tisha Brava: Jewish. This holiday commemorates the destruction of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E. and again in 70 C.E.

AUGUST

National Day: Switzerland. This holiday commemorates the founding in 1291 of the Swiss Confederation.

James Baldwin (1924-1987): African American. Writer. In his novels and plays and especially in his essays, Baldwin bore powerful witness to the harsh realities of racial injustice in United States. Although he made his permanent home in France beginning in 1948, he returned to the United States periodically in the decades thereafter and was an active participant in the civil rights movement as well as its most prominent literary voice.

Louis Armstrong (1900-1971): African American. Musician and orchestra leader. Affectionately known as "Satchmo," Armstrong was one of the leading figures in the history of jazz. He was given his first instrument and taught to play by the New Orleans jazz coronetist Joe "King" Oliver. After taking Oliver's place in Kid Ory's Jazz band, Armstrong played with a number of groups in Chicago and New York, then founded his own big band 1929. Later he played with smaller groups, notably the Louis Armstrong All Stars, a sextet. Armstrong's virtuosity and musicianship—he expanded his instrument's range to three octaves without losing and his fluency and fullness of tone—brought him worldwide acclaim.

Ghost Festival (Kui chieh): China. A special ceremony is performed in temples with offerings of food to the lonely ghosts of those who are not cared for in their family's ancestral rituals. This ritual protects the community from harm by the lonely ghosts. This festival is celebrated in communities outside the People's Republic of China.

August 6

Independence Day: China. Conquered for Spain in the sixteenth century by Gonzalo and Hernando Pizarro, Bolivia became part of the general war for independence from Spain led by Simon Bolivar, along with Jose de San Martin and Antinio Jose de Sucre, defeated the Spanish armies and declared independence on this day in 1825. This day is celebrated as a national holiday.

Independence Day: Jamaica. After centuries of British rule, Jamaica achieved its independence on this day in 1962.

Ira Aldridge (1805-1867) : African American. Actor. The son of a freed slave, Aldridge grew up in New York and began his theatrical career when he met the great English actor Edmund Kean, who was touring America. Accompanying Kean back to Britain, Aldridge studied at the University of Glasgow and made his acting debut as Othello in London in 1827. Although he returned to the United States for a brief tour in 1830-1831, he made his career in Europe, touring the continent frequently and winning wide acclaim. He died on this date.

Battle of Boyaca : Colombia . This holiday commemorates the decisive battle of 1819 led by Simon Bolivar in Columbia's war of independence from Spain.

August 8.

Emiliano Zapata 1877-1919) :Mexican. Revolutionary leader. A poor farmer in the southern state of Morelos, Zapata became a local leader and spokesman for the rights of villagers. After the outbreak of revolution in 1910, he led the insurgent forces in the South. Incorruptible and unwaveringly devoted to democratic ideals and economic justice for the poor, Zapata proposed the Plan of Ayala, a blueprint for redistributing land to Indians and peasants. His conflict with the leadership of the revolutionary government led to his entrapment and murder by government soldiers on this date in 1919.

August 9

National Day: Singapore. Populated by Indians, Chinese, and Malays, Singapore became independent from Malaysia in 1965.

August 10

Pueblo Revolt (1680): American Indian. On this date the Pueblo peoples of the colony of New Mexico rose in revolt against the Spanish Friars, soldiers, as colonists who had seized their lands, enslaved them, and forced them to renounce their ancestral gods. Inspired by a medicine man named Pope, Pueblo leaders planned a coordinated uprising, which began on this day with simultaneous attacks on many Spanish settlements and came to an end on August 21, when the governor and his remaining forces abandoned Santa Fe and began a retreat south. The victorious Indians restored their shrines and resumed practicing their religion. In the next decade drought, hunger, and disease brought renewed hardships and fueled

factional disputes among the Pueblos and the Spanish re-conquered the territory by 1692.

August 11

Accession of King Hussein: Jordan. This marks the day in 1952 that Ibn Talal Hussein became King of Jordan at the age of 17. He ruled from 1952 until his death in 1999.

August 12

Metacomet (Philip) (c.1639-1676): American Indian (Wampanoag). Political and military leader. Metacomet became leader of his people in 1662. The expansion of European settlements into Indian lands and the persistent efforts of the settlers to subjugate the Indians led to increasing tensions. After fighting broke out in June of 1675, the conflict spread to most of New England. Metacomet led his own people, allied with the neighboring Narragansetts and Nipmucks, in the 14 months of bloody conflict that have come to be known as "King Philip's War." More than 1,000 colonists were killed, crops and settlements were destroyed on both sides, and uncounted Indians were killed or sold into slavery. Betrayed by an informer, his wife and child captured and enslaved, Metacomet was hunted down and killed on this date in 1676.

Janmashtami (Birth of Lord Krishna): Hindu. This is one of the great Hindu night festivals. Worshippers fast and go to temples to see dance dramas enacting scenes from the life of Lord Krishna, one of the incarnations of Vishnu and one of the most popular deities in Hinduism.

August 14

Ernest Everett Just (1883-1941): African American. Scientist. Born in Charleston, South Carolina, and a graduate of Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, Just became a zoologist with an international reputation for his research in marine biology. He was a Professor of Zoology at Howard University from 1912 to 1929 and directed the physiology department at its medical school. He wrote *Biology of the Cell Surface* and founded Omega Psi Phi, one of the country's largest Black fraternities. In February 1996, he was honored with a United States Postal Service commemorative stamp as part of the Black Heritage Stamp series.

August 15

Independence Day: India. This marks the day in 1947 that India became a self-governing country within the British Commonwealth. This was one of the critical steps that led to full independence in 1950.

Liberation Day : Korea. In North Korea, this commemorates the surrender of Japan in 1945, ending World War II and the Japanese occupation of Korea. In South Korea, it marks both the Japanese surrender and the creation in 1948 of an Independent South Korean government.

Feast of the Assumption: Roman Catholic. This celebrates the belief by Roman Catholics in Mary's assumption to heaven.

August 17

Marcus Garvey (1887-1940): West Indian. Political activist. Born in Jamaica, Garvey was a Black Nationalist leader who founded a movement advocating self-help, racial separation, and the liberation of Africa from White colonial rule. His Universal Negro Improvement Association, established in 1914, moved in 1916 from Jamaica to New York City, where he began publishing a weekly paper, *Negro World*. His movement at its height claimed nearly a million followers, but its numbers declined after 1923, when Garvey was convicted on charges of mail fraud stemming from his methods of selling stock in the steamship line he had founded to link Black communities throughout the world.

Charlotte Forten Grimke (1837-1914): African American. Teacher and writer. Daughter, granddaughter, and niece of prominent abolitionists, Charlotte Forten Grimke made her own contribution to the advancement of her people through her service during the Civil War as a teacher of former slaves on the islands off Georgia and South Carolina. She wrote vivid accounts of her experience in magazine articles published at the time and in a journal published after her death.

Death of General Jose' de San Martin : Argentina. Soldier and statesman. Jose' de San Martin with Simon Bolivar, led the movement of Spain's South American colonies to win their freedom from Spain, formed an army in Argentina and led it over the Andes and took Santiago Chile, then he organized a Chilean navy to transport the rebel army to Lima where he proclaimed a new country and was named the leader. He retired to France.

Independence Day: Indonesia. Nationalists declared Indonesia an independent nation after the withdrawal of the Japanese in 1949. The Netherlands, which had ruled Indonesia, ceded sovereignty to an independent government on this day. Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country and has the world's largest Muslim population.

Roberto Clemente (1934-1972): Puerto Rican. Baseball player. An outstanding hitter, base runner and fielder during his 18 year career with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Clemente led the National League in batting four times and had a lifetime batting average of .317, with a total of 3,000 major league hits. He was voted Most Valuable Player of the National League in 1969 and Most Valuable Player of the 1971 World Series. Clemente died in a plane crash in December of 1972 while on a humanitarian mission to carry relief supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

August 19

Manual Quezon (1876-1944): Filipino. Political leader. An attorney who became majority leader of the first Philippine Assembly under U. S. rule in 1907, Quezon later served as resident commissioner in Washington D. C. In this capacity, he advocated independence for his country. As president of the Philippine Senate from 1916 to 1935, he helped to craft the 1934 laws that granted commonwealth status to the Philippines and prom-

ised full political independence in ten years. In 1935 he was elected president of the commonwealth.

August 20

Rose Hum Lee (1904-1964): Chinese American. Educator and writer. Rose Hum Lee was a sociologist who produced pioneering studies of Chinese-American communities in the United States, including the 1960 book *The Chinese in the United States of America*. She taught at several institutions, including Roosevelt University and Phoenix College, and was active during World War II in relief organizations that sent aid to people in China.

Constitution Day: Hungary. This day commemorates the adoption of the first Hungarian constitution in 1920.

August 23

Joyce Chen (1918-1994): Chinese American. Chef, restaurateur, and writer. After immigrating to the United States with her family in 1949, Joyce Chen developed a career from her knowledge of classic Mandarin cooking. Through her restaurant in Cambridge, Massachusetts, her *Joyce Chen Cookbook*, and eventually her nationally broadcast PBS program "Joyce Chan Cooks", she popularized Mandarin cuisine in the United States, expanding Americans' knowledge and appreciation of Chinese cooking beyond the Cantonese dishes that had been the standard fare of Chinese restaurants in this country. She died on this date.

August 24

Independence Day : Ukraine. This day commemorates the Ukraine's gaining independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

August 26.

Women's Equality Day : United States. A law passed by Congress in 1974 sets this day aside to mark the certification in 1920 of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting discrimination in voting based on sex

August 28

James Wong Howe (1898-1976): Chinese American. Cinematographer. During his 53 year career in films, James Wong Howe became known as one of the most innovative and skillful cinematographers in the industry. In pursuit of realistic and vivid images, he experimented with using a hand-held camera, rather than a camera mounted on a wheeled stand, and even filmed with the camera underwater. He won Academy Awards for his work in the films "The Rose Tattoo" (1955) and *Hud* (1962)

August 30

Victory Day: Turkey. This holiday commemorates the end of the war of independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1922.

August 31

National Day: Malaysia . This marks the day Malaysia achieved independence from Great Britain in 1957.

SEPTEMBER

National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15. Starting in 1968 as National Heritage Week and incorporating September 15 and 16, the independence days for Central American nations and Mexico, respectively, the period was expanded in 1988 to National Hispanic Heritage Month. Each year the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers Council and the Hispanic Foundation select a theme for the month and commission a poster to reflect that theme. Information about the theme and poster can be obtained by calling the Hispanic Management Services Company at 202-882-8934.

September 2

Liliuokalani (1838-1917): Hawaiian. Monarch. The last sovereign of Hawaii, Liliuokalani succeeded to the throne after her brother's death in 1891. The growing influence of American missionaries and sugar planters had led to a weakening of the monarchy, and she attempted to reassert the royal authority in government and the economy. When she tried to proclaim a new constitution in 1893, a group of residents, mostly Americans or descendants of Americans or descendants Moon Festival (Chung-ch'iu of Americans, set up a provisional government, declared the monarchy abolished, and applied for annexation to the United States. After a delay of several years, while Liliuokalani tried to build support for her restoration, the islands were annexed in 1898.

Independence Day: Vietnam. This marks the day in 1945 of the surrender of Japan, ending World War II, and the creation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Mid-Autumn): China. This festival is associated with traditional moon lore. For example, girls wish upon this moon for a good husband; they play games that foretell the future of their marriages. Many people have a picnic dinner at night to enjoy the moon.

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival (Tet Trung Thu): Vietnam. This celebrates the harvest moon with lantern processions and trips for children. Moon cake and candy are also eaten.

September 3

Labor Day: Canada and the United States. This day is celebrated as a public holiday in the United States and Canada to honor all working people. In most other countries, this celebration occurs on May 1.

September 4

Lewis H. Latimer (1848-1928): African American. Inventor. In 1882, Latimer patented the first electric light bulb with a carbon filament. An employee of the Edison Company, Latimer also wrote the first textbook on the Edison electric system and supervised the installation of electric lights in Philadelphia and New York City.

Richard Wright (1908-1960): African American. Writer. The most widely read African American writer of the early twentieth century, Wright was the author of powerful novels, the best known of which is *Native Son* (1940), and volumes of short stories and essays. His work exposed the brutal realities of racism in both the Deep South, where he was born, and the urban North, where he spent much of his adult life.

September 5

Tashunka Witko (Crazy Horse) (1842-1877) American Indian (Oglala Sioux). Military leader. Tashunka Witko, an Oglala Sioux chief, was one of the leaders of the Sioux and Cheyenne in the war of 1876. In June of that year he defeated U.S. army forces at Rosebud and eight days later at Little Bighorn where General George A. Custer was killed and his command annihilated. He voluntarily surrendered to American troops in 1877. On this date in that year, he was shot to death as he was being put into a jail cell.

September 6

Christy Brown (1932-1981): Irish. Writer. Born with cerebral palsy, Christy Brown was unable to move any part of his body except his left foot. With the help of his mother, who also raised twelve other children, he learned to read, to paint holding the brush with the toes of his left foot, and to write by typing with his little toe. His first book, *My Left Foot*, was published in 1954. His autobiographical novel, *Down All The Days*, written in 1970, was translated into fourteen languages. He died on this day.

Marie E. Zakrzewska (1820-1902): Polish American. Physician. Zakrzewska founded hospitals for women and children as well as the first American school for nurses and was known as the "Mother of the Playground Movement" for her efforts in establishing playgrounds. She was also active in the causes of women's rights and the abolition of slavery.

September 7

Independence Day. Brazil. Unlike the other areas of South America, the region now known as Brazil was colonized by the Portuguese in 1500 led by the explorer

Pedro Alvares Cabral. On this day in 1822, the son of Portugal's king and regent of Brazil independent of Portugal and himself Emperor Pedro I. He was succeeded by his son Pedro II in 1831, who until his death in 1889 led the development of Brazil as a modern nation.

September 9

Confucius' Death (551-479 B.C.E.) : Peoples Republic of China. The day honoring Confucius is celebrated on the anniversary of his death. Confucius is revered by all Chinese as the "Teacher of All Generations"

September 10

Alice Brown Davis (1852-1935): American Indian (Seminole). Civic activist. Alice Brown Davis was prominent in tribal affairs for much of her life. She acted as an interpreter and spokesperson for her people in the courts and once as part of a delegation to Mexico that sought unsuccessfully to from a new homeland for the tribe, which was under increasing economic and legal pressure from the influx of white people into Indian territory. She also served briefly as director of a tribal boarding school for girls. In 1922 the U.S. government briefly appointed her chief, an office which had lapsed with the end of tribal government years before, but stripped her of the office when she refused to sign over tribal property without reimbursement.

September 11

New Year: Coptic Orthodox Christian. This begins the year for the Coptic Orthodox Christian Church of Egypt, which follows a Julian calendar very similar to that of the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church. Christmas falls on January 7, Epiphany on January 19, and Easter follows the date of the Orthodox calendar as well. The Coptic Orthodox Church is based on the teachings of Saint Mark, who brought Christianity to Egypt in the first century. The Coptic Church has a structure distinct from the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches. The head of the church is Pope Shenouda III, believed to be the 117th successor of St Mark. There are approximately 9 million Copts living in Egypt, out of a total population of 57 million. The Copts religious observance often involves fasting. Out of the 365 day of the year, Copts fast for about 210 days, during which time no animal products are eaten, no and food or drink of any kind can be eaten between sunrise and sunset. Lent, known as the "Great Fast," starts with a pre-Lenten fast of one week and is then followed by a 40-day fast preceding Easter.

September 12

Jesse Owens (1913-1980): African American. Owens won fame as the greatest track star of the century with victories in the 100-meter dash, broad jump, 200-meter dash, and 400-meter relay at the 1936 Olympics held in Berlin, Germany. His victories were and embarrassment to Adolf Hitler, who presided at the games as Chancellor of Germany and whose National Socialist (Nazi) Party held that African Americans were genetically inferior to whites.

September 13

Alain Leroy Locke (1886-1954): African American. Educator, writer, and philosopher. The first African American Rhodes Scholar, Locke studied at Harvard, Oxford, and the University of Berlin. He chaired the philosophy department at Howard University for nearly 40 years. During his distinguished career, he published widely as an essayist, anthologist, and critic, and encouraged and interpreted the work of African American artists. He is generally regarded as the leader and chief chronicler of the Harlem Renaissance. This is the anniversary of his death.

September 14

Anthony J. Celebrezze (1910-1998) : Italian American. Lawyer and politician. Born in Italy, Celebrezze immigrated to Cleveland with his family and rose from poverty to become Mayor of that city from 1953 to 1962, serving an unprecedented five terms. In 1962, he became Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under John F. Kennedy, the first Italian American to serve as a cabinet officer. Celebrezze later served for 30 years as a member of the United States Court of Appeals based in Cincinnati.

Lola Rodriguez de Tio (1843-1924): Puerto Rican. Poet and patriot. A supporter of the Puerto Rican independence movement, Rodriguez de Tio spent much of her life in exile in New York, where she worked with the Cuban exile Jose Marti to plan his revolutionary invasion of 1895. She wrote several volumes of poetry. Her most famous work is the patriotic verses of "la Borinquena" the national anthem of Puerto Rico.

September 15

Jan E. Matzeliger (1852-1889) : African American. Inventor. Matzeliger produced machines that revolutionized the shoe industry. By using the machine he patented in 1883, cobblers could make 1,000 pairs of shoes in one day.

Independence Day : Central American nations. This commemorates the declaration of independence from Spain of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua in 1821.

Respect for aged Day (Keiro No Hi) Japan. This is one of twelve public holidays in Japan and a day for paying respect to the aged and celebrating their longevity.

September 16

Independence Day (El Dia de Independencia) : Mexico. On September 16, 1810, in the small town of Dolores, in the province of Guanajuato in Mexico, a handful of people were summoned by a parish priest to take up arms against the Spanish colonial government. This began the fight for independence that ended 350 years of Spanish rule. To this day, the church bell that was used to call people to revolt hangs in the National Palace in Mexico City and is rung on the eve of September 16 by the President of the Republic.

September 17

Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000): African American. Painter. Jacob Lawrence was one of America's leading modern figurative painters whose work chronicled the African American experience. His best-known work is *The Migration of the American Negro*, depicting the mass Migration of Southern Black to the North in search of work following World War I.

September 18

Independence Day: Chile. This holiday commemorates Chile's gaining independence from Spain in 1818.

Rosh Hashanah (New Year): Jewish. The holiday, like most Jewish holidays, begins at sundown on the evening before the first (full) day of the holiday. This begins the Jewish New Year 5762 and the Jewish month of Tishri. Rosh Hashanah signifies the beginning of the Days of Awe, a period of serious reflection about the past year and the year to come. This period, which continues until Yom Kippur, is a time for asking forgiveness from both God and people and for committing oneself to live a better life in the year to come. Traditionally, this is the time that God decides the fate of each Jew in the new year.

September 19

Rosh Hashanah (New Year): Jewish. Second day of observance. Because of the difficulties of calculation the time of the full moon, it was impossible before modern astronomical calculations to determine the exact beginning of the holiday. For this reason, Orthodox and Conservative Jews celebrate two days of this and other Jewish holidays

Sarah (Sadie) Delaney (1889- 1999) : African American. Educator and writer. Born to slaves in Georgia, Delaney attended and taught school both in the South and in New York City. The first Black woman to receive a master's degree from the Columbia School of Education, she also became the first Black woman to teach home economics to whites in New York City schools. With her sister, Dr. A. Elizabeth Delaney, a dentist, she gained fame in 1993 after the publication of their memoir, "Having Our Say: The Delaney Sister's First 100 Years." Now a part of the curriculum in many high schools and colleges, the memoir was on the New York Times hard cover best-seller list for 28 weeks and on the paperback list for 77 weeks. The memoir was adapted into a Broadway play that was nominated for three Tony awards. Delaney died in 1999 at 109 years of age.

September 20

Dalip Singh Saund (1899-1973): Indian American. Activist and legislator. Born in a village in India, Saund came to the United States in 1920 after earning his college degree. As a founding member and early president of the Indian Association of America, he campaigned for changes in the immigration laws to permit East Indians to become naturalized citizens. These efforts succeeded, and he became a U. S. citizen in 1949. In 1956 he became the first Indian American to win election to the U.S. Congress. He served three terms, representing his California district in Washing-

ton D.C., until 1962.

September 21

Independence Day: Armenia. This celebrates Armenia's reestablishment as a free republic after the collapse of the Soviet Union. A referendum was held on this day 1999 declaring Armenia an independent Republic; independence was declared on September 23.

September 23

Mary Church Terrell (1863-1954): African American. Civil rights activist. A lifelong champion of equal rights for Blacks and for women, Terrell served on the District of Columbia School board, was a founding member of the National Association of Colored Women and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and represented the United States at several international conferences.

Autumnal Equinox Day (Shubun No Hi): Japan. This is a public holiday to celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of the fall harvest season.

Grito de Lares (1868): Puerto Rico. This day is commemorated in Puerto Rico as the anniversary of the uprising that initiated the movement for Puerto Rican independence. On this date, 400-man army of liberation led by Manuel Rojas, under orders from the exiled leader Ramon Emeterio Betances, gathered and took the town of Lares. They formed a provisional government and issued four proclamations, including one promising freedom of all slaves who joined the rebel army. Although the army was defeated and disbanded the following day, some of its aims were realized nearly immediately (the Spanish government decreed the gradual abolition of slavery by 1873), and the revolt is remembered as the first large-scale armed rebellion against Spanish colonial rule.

Unification of the Kingdom : Saudi Arabia. Since the end of the seventh century, Saudi Arabia was a collection of separate kingdoms. In 1932, however, King Ibn Saud began unifying these kingdoms under his rule into the single nation of Saudi Arabia.

September 24

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911): African American. Lecturer, writer, and civil rights activist. The long career of this remarkable woman integrated political and social activism with notable literary achievement. A brilliant speaker, Harper lent her eloquence first to the movement to abolish slavery, and later to efforts on behalf of educational and economic opportunity for African Americans, the temperance movement, and the campaign for women's suffrage. She was also a talented and successful poet and fiction writer. Her 1859 short story "The Two Offers" is believed to have been the first short story by an African American to be published in the United States, and her 1892 novel *Iola Leroy* went into three editions.

September 25

Eric Williams (1911-1981): Trinidadian. Political leader and writer. Educated in Trinidad and in England, Williams taught at Howard University before returning to Trinidad in 1955 to enter politics. His party, the People's National Movement, won a landslide victory in the elections of 1961, making him prime minister of the colony and then, in August of the following year, of the newly independent republic of Trinidad and Tobago. He was repeatedly returned to office, serving as prime minister until his death. Under his leadership the republic became the most prosperous Caribbean nation in the British Commonwealth. A scholar as well as a statesman, Williams also wrote a number of books on Caribbean history.

Cabrillo Day : Portugal. This holiday, celebrated most commonly by Portuguese on the West Coast, commemorates the discovery of California by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo when he sailed into the harbor of what is now San Diego in 1542.

September 26

George Gershwin (1898-1937): Jewish American. Composer. Gershwin won international fame in the 1920s as a composer of scores for Broadway musical comedies, collaboration with his brother, the lyricist Ira Gershwin; their songs include "I Got Rhythm," "The Man I Love," and "Swonderful." Gershwin also wrote successful concert music using blues and jazz themes, notably the *Rhapsody in Blue*, and the African American "folk opera" *Porgy and Bess*.

Bessie Smith (1894-1937) : African American. Blues singer. Bessie Smith's authentic country blues style was first recorded in 1933. During her first year as a recording artist, she sold over two million records. Known as the "Empress of the Blues," she achieved her greatest fame between 1924 and 1927, when she was accompanied by some of the great jazz artists of the time.

September 27

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement): Jewish. The ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are known as the Days of Awe or the Days of Repentance. During this time Jews are to remind themselves of their sins and seek forgiveness for their wrongdoings. Wrongdoing against God can be forgiven by God, but wrongdoing against others can be forgiven only by the person wronged. Because sin corrupts not only the person who commits it, but the entire community as well all sins are confessed by the whole congregation. The last service of Yom Kippur, the Closing, occurs as the sun begins to set. Initially, the "closing" pertained to the gates of the Temple. The deeper meaning, however, is that the Book of Life, is sealed for the ensuing year. Thus, freed from sin by repentance and sealed in the Book of Life, the worshippers turn from the past to the future.

September 28

Confucius' Birthday (551-479 B. C. E.): Republic of China (Taiwan). Celebrated as Teacher's Day in Taiwan, this date is the anniversary of the birth of Confucius, the founder of the main doctrines of Chinese philosophy, and is one of the eight national holidays observed in the Republic of China. "Confucius" is a Latin version of his title K'ung fu-tzu, meaning "Master K'ung." Confucius is revered by all Chinese as the "Teacher of All Gener-

ations.” Colorful rites are performed at all Confucian temples on this day.

September 29

Enrico Fermi (1901-1954): Italian American. Scientist. Fermi was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 1938 for his research on radioactivity. In 1942 he created the first self-sustaining chain reaction in uranium, an achievement that made possible the development of the atomic bomb and other devices using nuclear energy.

September 30

Jose Morelos (1765-1815): Mexican. Political and military leader. A village priest, Morelos joined the uprising led by Father Miguel Hidalgo in 1810 to fight for Mexico's independence from Spain. Appointed a lieutenant, Morelos became the most successful commander of the rebel forces, rising to the position of supreme commander. His victories culminated in the capture of Acapulco in 1813. He then led the effort to convene a congress, which issued a declaration of independence and a constitution for Mexico. Factional conflicts among the leaders weakened the insurgent movement, however, and Morelos lost his command. In 1815 he was defeated, captured, tried, and executed by the Spanish.

National Farm Workers Association (1962): Mexican American. On this date Cesar Chavez founded a union of agricultural laborers, most of them Mexican and Mexican American migrant workers. The event was one of the signs of a rising activism among Latinos and a new resolve to press for economic and social justice.

OCTOBER

National Disability Employment Awareness Month. By presidential proclamation in 1988, October has been designated to enhance public awareness of those with disabilities and encourage their full integration into the work force.

October 1

Ronald H. Brown (1941-1996): African American. Lawyer, civil rights activist, politician. Appointed by President Clinton on January 21, 1993, Ron Brown became the first African American to hold the office of secretary of commerce. He was born in Washington D.C., and later graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont. After serving four years in the army in both Germany and Korea, he earned a law degree from St. John's University. He served as chief counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee under the chairmanship of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and became a leader in the civil rights movement as deputy executive director, general counsel, and vice president for Washington operations for the National Urban League. In 1988, he became chairman of the Democratic Party. He died in a plane crash while on a trade mission to Bosnia and Croatia.

Independence Day : Nigeria. This national holiday commemorates the nation's achieving independence from Britain in 1960.

National Day : People's republic of China. This marks the anniversary of the victory of the Communist Party led by Mao Zedong over the Nationalist. Forces led by Chiang Kai-shek and the declaration of the People's Republic of China in 1949. This holiday is celebrated on October 1 and October 2.

October 2

Nat Turner (1800-1831): African American. Leader of a slave revolt. In August 1831 Turner led a bloody uprising in Southampton County, Virginia, in which 57 whites were killed. Nearly 100 Blacks died in the manhunt that led to his capture. Turner was eventually tried and hanged.

Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948) : India. Political leader. This is a national holiday in India honoring Gandhi's leadership of the Indian resistance to British rule that culminated in the establishment of an independent Indian state in 1947. Honored all over the world as one of the moral heroes and most influential figures of the century, Gandhi articulated and lived a doctrine of nonviolence, insisting that those who struggle for justice must respect the sanctity of life. This is the day of his birth.

Sukkoth: Jewish. Sukkoth, the first of three holidays celebrated over a nine day period, begins five days after Yom Kippur. It is named for the huts that are erected and hung with fruits and vegetables to recall the temporary field dwellings that Hebrew farmers traditionally used during harvest time. Sukkoth, which ends on the evening of October 8 (also known as Hashanah Rabba), is followed by Sh'mini Atzeret (October 9), which celebrates the end of the holiday season that began with Rosh Hashanah. The next holiday is Simchat Torah (October 10), which commemorates the reading of the last part of the Torah and the beginning of the first part, to start the cycle of scriptural readings for the new year.

October 3

John Ross (1790-1866): American Indian (Cherokee). Political leader. Ross served as chief of the Cherokee nation from 1827, when the tribe established a constitutional government, to his death. After trying unsuccessfully to prevent the forced removal of his people from their land in the Southeast, he led the Cherokee on their journey over the "Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma and devoted himself to maintaining the unity of the resettled people.

German Unity Day : Germany. After World War II, Germany was divided between West Germany, under a democratic government, and East Germany, under a communist government. With the collapse of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, the final reunification of Germany under a democratic government took place on this day in 1990.

National Foundation Day (Kaech'on-jol) Korea. This commemorates the founding of the first Korean state in 2333 B.C.E. by Tan'gun.

October 4

George I. Sanchez (1906-1972) : Mexican American. Educator and writer. Sanchez was an authority on Latin American education and on educational and social needs of Mexican Americans. He wrote or edited hundreds of articles and many books, directed research projects, and advised governments, universities, and foundations. He was one of the architects of bilingual and bicultural education programs and an advocate of increased political and economic opportunities for Mexican Americans.

Tecumseh(1768?-1813) : American Indian. (Shawnee). Political and military leader. Tecumseh led the resistance to the advance of white settlement in the Northwest Territories in the last years of the eighteenth century, refusing to sign a treaty that surrendered most of Ohio to the United States. He organized the northwestern tribes into a confederation pledged to make no further land concessions and allied himself with the British in the War of 1812. He was killed in battle on this date.

Republic Day: Portugal. This holiday celebrates the establishment of the Republic of Portugal in 1834.

Surrender of Chief Joseph (1877): American Indian. When the U.S. government ordered the Nez Perce Indians to move from their ancestral lands in the Northwest to a reservation, Chief Joseph led his people on a 1,321 – mile trek northward, hoping to resettle in Canada. After fending off army attacks and suffering terrible losses to cold and sickness, Chief Joseph surrendered on this date with a moving speech, concluding “I will fight no more forever.”

October 6

Henri Christophe (1767-1820): Haitian. Military and political leader. One of Toussaint-Louverture's lieutenants in the war for Haitian independence, Christophe set up an independent kingdom in the North and later joined in the effort to defeat the French and drive them permanently from the island. Thwarted in his ambition to lead the new nation, which he thought needed the strong hand of a despot, he withdrew again to the North and from 1811 ruled his own kingdom as Henri I. After a reign of general prosperity, he suffered a stroke in 1820, and revolts broke out. When he was unable to restore civil order, he shot himself, and his kingdom soon became part of the Republic of Haiti.

Fannie Lou Hamer (1917-1977): African American. Civil rights leader. The daughter of sharecropper parents in the Mississippi Delta, Fannie Lou Hamer became one of the most courageous and inspiring leaders of the civil rights movement as one of the first African Americans to register to vote and then as an organizer. Frequently arrested and beaten, she continued her work and inspired followers with her courage, her faith, and her persistence. She was a major force in the successful effort to integrate the Democratic Party in Mississippi. She also helped to establish agricultural cooperatives, build low-income housing, and bring industry to poor rural areas.

October 8

Health Sports Day (Taiiku No Hi): Japan. This is a day to promote physical health and also to commemorate the Olympic Games held in Tokyo, Japan.

Thanksgiving Day: Canada. This is observed as a harvest festival and an occasion for families to get together for visiting and traditional foods.

Columbus Day observed: United States. This is the day set aside for observing the anniversary of the landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World. Columbus Day is a national holiday that has come to be especially important to Italian Americans. At annual Italian American get-togethers, there are speeches by celebrities, and citizens of Italian heritage are honored for their rich contributions to community life.

October 9

Mary Shadd Cary (1823-1893): African American. Journalist and antislavery advocate. Mary Shadd Cary was born to free black parents in Delaware. After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, she went to Canada and started a newspaper called The Provincial Freeman, the first antislavery newspaper in western Canada.

Han'gul Day: Korea. This commemorates the creation of the alphabet of 29 phonetic symbols called han'gul by King Sejong between 1443 and 1446. Korean is one of the Ural-Altai family of languages.

Independence Day. : Uganda. This holiday commemorates the nation's achieving independence from Britain in 19162.

October 10

Lin Yutang (1895-1976): Chinese. Writer and teacher. After attending missionary schools and college in China Lin Yutang earned advanced degrees at Harvard and the University of Leipzig. He returned to China and began a career in university teaching and administration. In 1930 he came to the United States, where he lived for thirty years, publishing books on Chinese culture and on his view of America. He retired to Hong Kong.

Elijah Muhammad (born Elijah Poole) (1897-1975): African American. Religious leader. Elijah Muhammad was the leader of the Nation of Islam (Black Muslims) in the United States from 1934 until his death. His advocacy of hard work, a puritanical moral code, and pride and solidarity among Black people attracted a large following for his movement.

Double Tenth Day (Shuang-shih): Republic of China (Taiwan). This national holiday commemorates the outbreak on October 10, 1911, of the revolution led by Sun Yat-sen against the Ch'ing Dynasty (Manchu), which led to the founding of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912.

Grito de Yara. (1868) : Cuba. The Revolt of Yara began Cuba's struggle for independence from Spain on this day, when Nationalist leaders proclaimed the island a republic and set up a provisional government. When the ensuing ten years of warfare ended with the reestablishment of Spanish rule, many Nationalists left the island to continue working for the freedom of their homeland. Cuba finally achieved its independence in 1898.

October 11

Robert Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943): African American. Composer and educator. Dett was the first American to incorporate Negro folk tunes into classical compositions, chiefly piano works and choral pieces. He also taught music and directed choral groups at several colleges, notably at Hampton Institute, where he worked from 1913 to 1932.

National Coming Out Day/March on Washington (1987) : Gay/Lesbian. On October 11, the largest gay and lesbian gathering of its time—some estimate as many as 200,000-600,000 people—took place to protest anti-gay discrimination and demand a stronger federal government response to the AIDS crisis.

October 12

Charles Gordone (1925-1995): African American. Playwright. In 1970, Charles Gordone became the first African American playwright to win the Pulitzer Prize. The play for which he won the prize, "No Place to Be Somebody", opened in 1969 and became an immediate success. Gordone challenged the idea of a distinct "black theater," seeking instead a multiracial American theater. Like Ralph Ellison, whose first published novel also won outstanding critical acclaim, Gordone never published a second play.

Dia de la Raza (Columbus Day) : Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela. This day commemorates the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus and the common Spanish and Indian heritage of Latin American Countries.

Liberation from France: Laos. This day commemorates Laos' liberation from its protectorate status with France and establishment of a monarchy in 1954.

National Day: Spain. This holiday commemorates the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus and Spain's gaining of a colonial empire.

October 13

Arna Bontemps (1902-1973): African American. Writer and anthologist. Bontemps won acclaim for poems, stories, novels, nonfiction writings, and his works of children's literature. He also edited anthologies of African American stories and poems and served as librarian at Fisk University from 1943 to 1965.

October 14

(William) Allison Davis (1902-1983): African American. Anthropologist and educator. After attending Williams College and receiving a M. A. in anthropology from Harvard University, Allison Davis taught at Dillard University and later at the University of Chicago where he received a Ph.D. in education in 1942. In 1948, he became one of the first African Americans to receive tenure at a non-historically Black academic institution. His work in psychology and education includes the development of the Davis-Ellis intelligence test and several studies on social and class influences on the education of children. When he died in 1983, he was the John Dewey Distinguished Professor at the University of Chicago. In 1994, the United States Postal Service honored Dr. Allison Davis with a postage stamp bearing his picture.

Frank Yankovic (1915-1983): Polka musician. Known as the Polka King since 1948, Yankovic became the Premier figure in Slovenian polka style. Beginning his playing on local Slovenian radio programs in Cleveland, he formed the Slovenian Folk Orchestra. After serving in World War II, he recorded "Just Because," the first polka record to sell more than a million copies. In 1986, Yankovic won a Grammy Award when polka first became a Grammy category. He continued to record and perform until shortly before his death. October 14 is the anniversary of his death.

October 15

John L. Sullivan (1858-1918): Irish American. Prizefighter. Sullivan won the world heavyweight championship in 1882.

October 16

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins (1844-1887): American Indian (Northern Piute). Writer and lecturer. While working as an interpreter, Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins observed the injustices perpetrated against her people by federal officials. Her book "Life among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims (1883) blended autobiography, history, and ethnographic description with advocacy of the Piute claim to autonomy and to ownership of their homelands. She died on this date.

Mahalia Jackson (1911-1972): African American. Gospel singer. Mahalia Jackson's rich contralto voice and the powerful spirituality that she conveyed won her an international following and greatly increased the audience for gospel music.

Henry Lewis (1932-1996): African American. Musician and conductor. Henry Lewis was the first Black conductor and music director of a major American Orchestra, and the first Black to conduct the New York City Metropolitan Opera.

Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953): Irish American. Playwright. O'Neill expanded the range of American drama with his tragedies focusing on ordinary

people and his expressionistic experimental plays.

John Brown's raid at Harper Ferry (1859): African American. A passionate foe of slavery, Brown led a band of 21 men in an attack of a federal armory at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, on this date. After seizing the armory and the bridges leading to it, he was forced to surrender, tried for treason, and hanged. Brown, a white man, was hailed by abolitionists as a martyr.

October 17

Jean Jacques Dessalines (1758-1806) Haitian. Revolutionary leader. Dessalines, born a slave, joined the revolt against French rule by Francois Dominique Toussaint-Louverture. After Toussaint-Louverture's capture in 1802, Dessalines, along with Henri Christophe, led the successful effort to defeat the French army of Napoleon I. He declared independence from France on January 1, 1804, gave the land the name of Haiti (Indian for "hills"), and proclaimed himself Emperor Jacques I. He ruled Haiti as the first independent nation in Latin America from 1804 to 1890. This is the day of his death.

October 20

William (Will) Rogers Jr. (1879): American Indian (Cherokee). Humorist. Rogers' homespun humor won him national fame and great popularity as a stage and film actor, radio personality, and writer of a syndicated newspaper column. The targets of his barbs ranged across the entire political spectrum.

Birthday of the Bab (1819-1850: Baha'i. The Bab (which means "the Gate") is honored by the Baha'is as the one who announced that the messenger of God would soon appear. He was the forerunner of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i faith. On this day Baha'is throughout the world suspend work and come together for prayer and festivities.

October 23

Chulalongkorn Day: Thailand. This day commemorates the death in 1910 of King Chulalongkorn the Great, who abolished slavery in Thailand.

October 24

Durga Puja: Hindu. This is a fall festival that honors the Mother-goddess, Durga. It is a ten day festival. The days of observance are October 24 (Maha Saptami), October 25 (Maha Ashtami) and October 26 (Vijaya Dasami).

United Nations Day: United Nations. This day commemorates the founding of the United Nations in 1945.

October 26

Miriam Kressyn (1912-1996): Jewish American Yiddish actress. Born in Bialystok, Poland, Kressyn came to the United States in 1925 and, along with her husband, Seymour Reicht, was a primary force in the survival of Yiddish theater in the United States. Together, they were known as the romantic idols of Yiddish musicals. Considered by many to be the "First Lady of the Yiddish Theater," Kressyn taught Yiddish theater at Queens College in New York and for

40 years she and her husband broadcast in Yiddish on WEVD in New York City. This is the day of her death.

National Day: Austria. This commemorates Austria's regaining full sovereignty in 1955 after its occupation by the United States and the Soviet Union at the end of World War II

October 28

So Jae-P'il (Philip Jaisohn): (1866-1951) Korean American. Physician and activist. After participation in a failed political movement in opposition to Korea's Japanese rulers, So Jae-P'il fled to the United States, where he eventually earned a medical degree. He returned to his country and founded a newspaper, The Independent, but was asked to leave again. So Jae-P'il eventually settled permanently in the United States, where he practiced medicine and continued to be active in the Korean independence movement. He was able to return to his country for a visit after it was liberated from Japanese rule in 1945.

Ohi Day: Greece. This day commemorates the resistance of the Greeks during World War II to the Italian army's invasion in 1940.

October 29

Republic Day: Turkey. After World War I and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, the Treaty of Sevres established the current boundaries of Turkey and declared Turkey a republic. Kemal Ataturk became its first president, ruling until 1938. Ataturk westernized and secularized Turkey, creating the basis for a modern nation state.

October 30

Francisco Madero (1873-1913): (Mexican.) Revolutionary leader and statesman. Madero called for an uprising in 1911 to depose the dictator Porfirio Diaz and establish democracy in Mexico. After Diaz was driven from office, Madero became Mexico's president, serving from 1911 until his deposition and death at the hands of a rival faction in the revolutionary movement.

October 31

Halloween: United States. This festival, which takes its name from All Hallows Eve (the eve of the feast of All Saints) originated among the Celts of Britain and Ireland, for whom October 31 was new year's eve. On this night it was believed that the souls of the dead revisited their earthly homes, and huge bonfires set to frighten away evil spirits. With the rise of Christianity the autumn festival came to be associated with All Saints Day. Secular Halloween customs, vestiges of pagan observance, were introduced to the United States by immigrants especially the Irish, in the nineteenth century. These customs included mischief-making, sometimes resulting in serious damage to property. Today, whoever, the most widely observed Halloween custom is a benign version of "trick or treat", in which costumed children go from door to door collecting sweets or Money for UNICEF.

Reformation Day: Protestant. This day commemorates the Protestant Reformation, the movement that led to the establishment of the Protestant denominations of Christianity. Reformation Day is the anniversary of the act that began the movement in 1517-Martin Luther's nailing of the manuscript of his 95 theses to the door of the place church in Wittenberg, Germany. These statements denounced a number of practices then common in the Roman Catholic Church, including the selling of "indulgences," or documents granting the forgiveness of sins. This is a public holiday in Protestant parts of Germany.

NOVEMBER

National American Indian Heritage Month. The term "American Indian" incorporates hundreds of different tribes and approximately 250 languages. Starting in 1976 as Native American Awareness Week, the period was expanded by Congress and approved by President Bush in August 1990 by designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month. In his proclamation for 1996, President Clinton noted, "Throughout our history, American Indian and Alaska Native peoples have been an integral part of the American character. Against all odds, America's first peoples have endured, and they remain a vital cultural, political, social, and moral presence." For more information, contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 202-219-4150

November 1

All Saints Day: Christian. This Christian holiday celebrates the memory of all the early martyrs and saints. It is a Roman Catholic holy day of obligation.

Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos): Mexico. Beginning on the evening of October 31 and celebrated through November 2 by Mexican and Mexican Americans, this holiday has its roots in two traditions: the Christian observance of All Saints and All Souls Day, and two Aztec festivals on which the souls of the dead were welcomed back to visit those who remembered them. Central to the observance is the creation of an ofrenda, or altar, in the home, with flowers, food and favorite possessions to honor the memory of deceased loved ones and to welcome their visiting souls. The holiday is celebrated with family and community gatherings, music, and feasting, and the festivity of its observance acknowledges death as an integral part of life.

November 2

All Souls Day (Day of the Dead): Christian. This is a Christian holiday to remember those who have died.

November 3

Culture Day (Bunka No Hi): Japan. This public holiday was established in 1948 to promote the appreciation of peace and culture. The emperor awards Cultural Orders of Merit to those who have made major contributions to Japanese culture.

Independence from Columbia: Panama. After the Spanish conquest of Columbia in the fourteenth century, Spain established colonies in Panama, which became part of Colombia. In 1903, Panamanians, supported by the United States which wanted to build a canal across the country, revolted and declared Panama independent of Columbia.

November 4

Victory in World War I: Italy. This marks the end of the war in Italy in 1918.

November 6

John Philip Sousa (1854-1932): Portuguese American. Composer and band conductor. Sousa wrote a number of marches that by virtue of their military vigor, tunefulness, and instrumentation brought him the title "March King." Perhaps the most famous of the marches he composed was "Stars and Stripes Forever." He also invented the Sousaphone, a tuba-like instrument named for him.

November 7

Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) Japanese American. Sculptor and designer. Noguchi was a distinguished sculptor and respected designer whose creations ranged from stage costumes and sets for the modern dance works of Martha Graham to interiors, gardens, lamps, and furniture.

Marie Sklodowska-Curie (1867-1934): Polish French. Scientist. A Polish-born researcher who became the first woman professor at the Sorbonne, Marie Sklodowska-Curie was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics (shared with her husband, Pierre Curie, and Henri Becquerel) in 1904 for her elements radium and polonium, the latter named for her native country.

Day of Accord and Reconciliation: Russia and the Ukraine. This commemorates the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia that began in October 1917.

November 9

Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806): African American. Astronomer and mathematician. Largely self-taught, Banneker mastered mathematics, mechanical principles, and the use of astronomical and surveying instruments. As a young man he designed and carved an accurate wooden clock; in 1791 he assisted the surveyor of the site where the new national capital city was to be built. After teaching himself to predict eclipses, Banneker published a widely read almanac.

November 11.

Independence: Poland. The kingdom of Poland had been partitioned among Austria, Prussia, and Russia since 1772. After World War I ended in 1918, Poland was declared independent, with Josef Pilsudski as its first head of state.

Remembrance Day. : Canada. This day is set aside to honor the more than 1,500,000 Canadians who served and 100,000 who died in World Wars I and II and in the Korean War. Canadians observe this day as a public holiday and commemorate it by wearing poppies, the flower of remembrance, and by pausing for two minutes of silence. November 11 is the day in 1918 that fighting stopped on the western front in Europe.

Veterans Day: United States, Belgium, and France. This day of observance, originally called Armistice Day, was instituted to commemorate the signing of the armistice that ended World War I in 1918. It was meant to honor the millions who had died in the war and to serve as a day of reflection and rededication to world peace. In the United States its name has been changed, and it now honors all who have served in all the nation's wars. Veteran's Day is also celebrated on this day in Belgium and France.

November 12

Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz (1651-1695): Mexican. Poet. Recognized as the greatest poet of the Spanish colonies in America, Ines de la Cruz was an intellectual prodigy who learned to read at the age of three and became famous as a young woman for her beauty and brilliance. After her retirement to a convent, she studied theology, literature, history, science, and music, and corresponded with leading poets and scholars in both America and Europe. Her poetry won

acclaim on both on both continents. When her religious superiors questioned the appropriateness of her secular pursuits, she wrote a passionate defense of women's right to learning.

Sun Yat-sen's Birthday (1866-1925): Republic of China (Taiwan). Revolutionary leader. Sun Yat-sen is honored on his birthday in Taiwan and on March 12, the anniversary of his death, in the People's Republic of China. Sun Yat-sen was the leader of the revolution of 1911, which brought an end to the Ch'ing Dynasty, and founded the Republic of China.

Birthday of Baha'u'llah (1817-1892): Baha'i. This date marks the birthday of the prophet-founder of the Baha'i faith. Baha'u'llah was a member of one of the great aristocratic families of Persia who renounced his wealth and position to embrace the teachings of the Bab. He was subjected to imprisonment, torture, and exile. During his exile in Baghdad in 1863, he declared that he was the messenger of God predicted by the Bab. He preached the coming unification of all humanity and the emergence of a world civilization.

November 13

Louis D. Brandeis (1856-1941): Jewish American. Lawyer and jurist. Throughout his distinguished career and particularly during his service on the Supreme Court from 1916 to 1939, Brandeis became known for his vigorous defense of civil liberties and of the interests of those threatened by the activities of large corporations, as well as for his insistence that legal issues be viewed in their economic and social context.

November 14

Aaron Copland (1900-1990): Jewish American. Composer. One of America's most distinguished composers of orchestral music and a beloved teacher and mentor to younger composers, Copland wrote a number of works that achieved the status of classics in his lifetime. The best known of these are his scores for the ballets "Rodeo," "Billy the Kid," and "Appalachian Spring."

Diwali: Hindu. This is one of the most important festivals of the year for Hindus. It lasts for five days and combines a number of festivals to celebrate different gods and goddesses and events in their lives as described in Hindu tradition. The day before Diwali is spent cleaning the house, shopping, and decorating with flowers. A design is painted in white in front of the door of the house to bring good luck. Lamps are lit for the entire five days beside roads, streams, edges of roof, and on window sills to enable Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of prosperity, to find her way to every home.

Dutch American Heritage Day: United States. On November 14, 1991, President Bush signed a proclamation later adopted by Congress establishing this day to recognize the contributions made by people of Dutch ancestry living in the United States. The Dutch settled in North America in the 1600s, creating in 1625 the colony of New Amsterdam in what is now Manhattan. Approximately 8 million people of Dutch ancestry live in the United States, including many who played an important role in American history, such as both Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, both descendants of Claes Martenszen van Rosenvelt, a farmer who settled in New Amsterdam in the 1640s.

November 15

Proclamation of the Republic: Brazil. This commemorates the day in 1889 that Brazil's second Emperor, Dom Pedro II was deposed and the United States of Brazil was declared.

Seven, Five, Three Festival (Shichi-go-san): Japan. This day is celebrated by children who are seven, five and three years old. They are dressed in their best clothes. Little girls sometimes have their faces powdered white and their hair dressed in adult styles. The children are given bags of “thousand-year” candy to ensure a long, happy, and healthy life and are taken to shrines by parents to express thanks for good health and to pray for future blessings.

November 16

William Christopher Handy (1873-1958) : African American. Composer, band leader, and publisher. Handy is known as the “Father of the Blues” for both his work in collecting and popularizing blues and other African American folk music, and his own compositions based on the blues tradition. His best known work is “St. Louis Blues,” published in 1916.

Ramadan (The Month of Fasting): Islam. This begins the first day of the Islamic month of Ramadan, the holiest month of the Muslim year. The festival of Laylat al-Qadr occurs during Ramadan and commemorates the revelation of the Qur’an (the holy book of scriptures) to the Prophet Muhammad. During this month, no water or food may be taken from sunrise to sunset by Muslims who have reached puberty. Observant Muslims pray, read the Qur’an, and worship at home or at a mosque. At sunset, the daily fast is often broken by taking a sip of water and a bite into a sweet fruit, usually a date.

November 18

Jan Ignacy Paderewski (1860-1941): Polish. Composer, pianist, and statesman. Paderewski, an internationally known virtuoso, interrupted his concert career to work for Poland’s independence from Russia. He headed the Polish government briefly in 1919 and was elected president of the Polish Republic in exile in 1939, after the invasion of his country by the Germans and the fall of independent Poland.

November 19

Discovery of Puerto Rico Day: Puerto Rico. This holiday commemorates the discovery of Puerto Rico by Christopher Columbus in 1493.

November 20

Anniversary of the Revolution: Mexico. This holiday marks the anniversary of the social revolution launched by Francisco Madero against the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz that eventually led to the creation of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the creation of a constitutional democracy.

Capture of Alcatraz Island (1969): American Indian. On this date a group of American Indians led by Richard Oakes took over Alcatraz Island, site of a former federal prison, demanding that it be made available to Indians as a cultural center and declaring that all federal surplus property must by law revert to American Indians. The occupation of Alcatraz, which lasted until June 11, 1971, dramatized the long-standing grievances of American Indians against the federal government and signaled the rise of a new activism among Indians.

November 22

Independence Day: Lebanon. This holiday is Lebanon’s celebration of its gaining independence from France in 1946.

Thanksgiving Day: United States. This legal holiday in all territories of the United States is a time for giving thanks for the harvest and for the blessings the year has brought. Although the celebration at Plymouth in 1621 is considered the first American thanksgiving observance occurred in 1863, when Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the fourth Thursday of November as a day of national thanksgiving. In 1941 Congress made Thanksgiving Day a federal holiday.

November 23

Carlos Bulosan (1913-1956): Filipino American. Writer and labor organizer. Arriving in the United States at the age of 17, Bulosan worked as a migrant agricultural laborer and eventually became involved in efforts to organize packinghouse and cannery workers. After he began to write for a union paper, he discovered writing as his vocation. With the coming of World War II and the involvement of the United States in combat in the Philippines, Bulosan rose to literary prominence, publishing poetry and essays in magazines and volumes of poetry and autobiographies. His most famous work, his memoir, *America Is in the Heart*, speaks eloquently of the economic exploitation and ethnic discrimination suffered by poor Filipinos in his adopted country.

Jose Clemente Orozco (1883-1949): Mexican. Painter. Along with Diego Rivera and David Siqueiros, Orozco was a leader of the Mexican muralist movement, one of the major creators of large-scale paintings on patriotic themes in the public buildings of the nation. His powerful works embody his own strong belief in the ideals of revolutionary Mexico and his faith in the courage and resilience of the common people. He also worked in the United States, where he painted an important series of frescoes at Dartmouth College.

Labor Thanksgiving Day (Keiro Kansha No Hi): Japan. This observance began as a harvest festival when Japan was primarily an agricultural society and now is a public holiday celebrating all those who work.

November 25

Joe DiMaggio (1914-1999): Italian American. Baseball player. Joe DiMaggio was one of the greatest baseball players of the century. During his career from 1936 to 1951 playing for the New York Yankees, DiMaggio won three Most Valuable Player awards and led the team to eight World Series championships. In the 1941 season, he had a 56 game hitting streak, a record many believe will never be broken. He retired at 37 with a lifetime batting average of .325. DiMaggio will be remembered by many baseball fans for his complete command of center field, which he covered in graceful, gliding strides that earned him the nickname, “the Yankee Clipper.” In 1955, DiMaggio was inducted into the Baseball hall of Fame.

November 26

Sojourner Truth (1797?-1883) : African American. Evangelist and social reformer. Born a slave, Isabella Baumfree fled her slave master in 1826 and became free in 1828 under the New York State Anti-Slavery Act. In 1843 Isabella experienced what she regarded as a command from God to preach. She changed her name to Sojourner Truth and became a traveling speaker and an eloquent advocate of the abolition of slavery and the grating of civil rights to women. Sojourner Truth visited President Abraham Lincoln in the White House in 1864. After the Civil War, she settled in Washington, D.C., and worked to help impoverished former slaves. She died on this date.

November 27

Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952): Jewish German. Political leader. This German chemist was a leader of the Zionist movement to establish a Jewish state and served as the first president of the State of Israel from 1948 to 1952.

November 28

(Sir) Grantely Herbert Adams (1898-1971): Barbadian. Political leader. Educated in Barbados and England, Adams practiced law before being elected to the Barbados House of Assembly in 1934. An advocate of progressive causes, he achieved an important victory with the electoral reform act of 1944, which gave women the right to vote and lowered the income requirement for voters. In 1950, Adams became the colony's prime minister, an office he held until 1962, when he returned to private law practice. For the last four years of his term he was also prime minister of the West Indian Federation, a group of British Caribbean colonies that dissolved in 1962. This is the anniversary of his death.

Independence from Spain: Panama. This day commemorates Panama's gaining independence from Spain in 1821.

November 29

Education for All Handicapped Children Act. (1975): United States. Signed into U.S. law on this date, this act establishes the right of every child with a disability to a free and appropriate public education. It requires states to identify such children and develop individualized education programs for them, and to provide educational services in the least restrictive environment possible. The law also protects the rights of such children and their parents in educational decisions.

November 30

Bonifacio's Day: Philippines. This holiday commemorates the birth in 1863 of Andres Bonifacio, leader of the Philippine revolt against Spain in 1896.

Independence Day: Barbados. This holiday commemorates the independence of this Caribbean Island from Great Britain in 1966.

Guru Nanak Ji's Birthday (1469-1539): Sikh. Nanak was the founder of Sikhism, which comes from the Hindi word sikh, meaning "disciple." Sikhism is one of the three religions most widely practiced in India with approximately 16 million followers, mostly concentrated in the state of Punjab in northern India. Sikhism is based on the revelations of its founder, the mystic guru Nanak. It opposes idolatry and emphasizes the unity of one god and all peoples. Sikhs also celebrate the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji (1666-1708).

DECEMBER

December 1

Minoru Yamasaki (1912-1986): Japanese American. Architect. A highly successful designer of public buildings, Yamasaki is best known for his designs for the Wayne State University campus in Detroit and the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City.

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965: United States. This law substantially revised the system of immigration quotas that had been in effect since 1924. The former system, which had set specific ceilings on the number of immigrants who could enter the United States from a particular country, was replaced by limits of 170,000 for immigrants from outside the Western (with a maximum of 20,000 for any one country) and of 120,000 for the Western Hemisphere, with no limitations on any one country. U. S. citizens and political refugees were exempted from the quotas. The act greatly expanded immigration opportunities for non-Europeans.

Independence Day: Portugal. This commemorates the restoration of Portugal's independence in 1640 after a 60-year period of union with Spain.

Rosa Park's Day: African American. On this day in 1955 Mrs. Rosa Parks, A Montgomery, Alabama, seamstress and member of the local chapter of the NAACP, refused to surrender her seat to a white man, defying the established practice of racial segregation in public transportation. After her arrest, the Blacks of the city organized to boycott the buses, causing the bus company's profits to drop by 65 percent. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. first came to national prominence as a leader of the boycott. After a Supreme Court decision in November 1956, the boycott was ended and integrated service began.

World AIDS Day. Also known as United Nation World AIDS Day. This has been declared by the World Health Organization as a time to increase education and awareness of AIDS.

December 2

Advent: Christian. Advent, which means “arrival,” begins the Christmas season and includes the four Sundays before Christmas: December 2, December 9, December 16, and December 23.

December 3

Joseph Conrad (born Jozef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski) (1857-1924): Polish British. Writer. After spending his youth as a merchant seaman on French and British ships, Conrad settled in England and began a career as a novelist and short story writer. His works, many of them set on the high seas, are absorbing stories that raise profound questions about the nature of fate and individual responsibility.

Giuseppe Maria Francisco Vigo (1747-1836): Italian. Trader and supporter of the American Revolution. After amassing a fortune in the fur trade in the Northwest Territory, Vigo supplied arms and supplies to the colonial forces led by his friend George Rogers Clark. During a brief period of captivity at the British-held fort at Vincennes, Vigo provided Clark with information that led to Clark's capture of the fort in 1779, a key victory in the securing of the Northwest.

December 5

Josef Pilsudski (1867-1935): Polish. Political and military leader. Born to a Polish family when the territory of historic Poland was divided and ruled by Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia, Pilsudski devoted his energies to the cause of restoring his nation's independence, beginning as a youthful revolutionary and evolving into a statesman who became the chief of state when Poland was reestablished as a nation in 1918. He served until 1922, leading Polish forces in their successful war against Russia in 1919-1920. He seized power again in 1926 and dominated the government until his death.

Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784): African American Poet. This is the anniversary of the death of the first distinguished African American Poet, who was brought to America as a slave at about eight years of age. Educated in Latin and English by her master and mistress, Wheatley became famous for her learned and elegant poetry.

Discovery Day: Haiti. This day commemorates the discovery by Christopher Columbus of Haiti in 1492.

National Day (King's Birthday): Thailand. On this holiday the people of Thailand renew their commitment to democracy while celebrating the birthday of the king with religious ceremonies in the temples.

Saint Nicholas Day: Netherlands. This begins the Christmas season in the Netherlands. On this day Saint Nicholas, Sinterklaas, arrives. Cities have parades where he comes riding on a white horse or in a barge or even on a motorcycle wearing a bishop's hat and a red cape. That evening, adults have parties and exchange gifts, while children set out shoes filled with carrots and hay for Saint Nicholas' horse. In the morning, they find the shoes filled with gifts.

December 6

Ira Gershwin (1896-1983): Jewish American. Lyricist and playwright. Ira Gershwin collaborated with his brother, the composer George Gershwin, to write

Many of the classics of American popular song, of them scores of musical comedies for the stage and movies. The Gershwins' shows include “Funny Face”, “Lady Be Good”, and the Black “folk opera” Porgy and Bess”.

Constitution Day: Spain. After the death of Spain's dictator, Francisco Franco, in 1975, Spain became a democracy and on this day in 1978 a new constitution was adopted by referendum.

Independence Day: Finland. This day celebrates Finland's gaining of independence from Russia in 1917.

December 8

Diego Rivera (1886-1957): Mexican. Painter. With David Siqueiros and Jose Clemente Orozco, Rivera led the mural painting movement that flourished in newly independent Mexico. His vision of an art created for the people found its most memorable expression monumental wall paintings depicting the ideals of the common people.

Bodhi Day (Buddha's Enlightenment): Buddhist. Among Mahayana Buddhists, this holiday celebrates Buddha's attaining understanding of the truth of existence, freeing himself from all human suffering, and finding perfect happiness. The date is based on the Japanese Buddhist calendar.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Roman Catholic. This celebrates the Roman Catholic belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived free from original sin.

December 9

Independence Day: Tanzania. On this date in 1961, the East African nation Tanganyika gained independence from Great Britain. In 1964, Tanganyika united with several islands in the Indian Ocean, including Zanzibar and Pemba, to form the United Republic of Tanzania.

December 10

Ralph Bunch (1904-1971): African American. Diplomat, political scientist, and United Nations official. For his work in negotiating an agreement

between Israel and Arab nations in 1949, Bunch was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Thomas H. Gallaudet (11787-1851): French. Educator. An American teacher, Gallaudet established the first school for the hearing impaired in the United States in 1817.

Hanukkah: Jewish. This holiday, often misunderstood as the Jewish Christmas since it occurs in December, commemorates the victory of the Jewish people, led by the Maccabee family, over the Syrian Greeks in 165 B. C. E. This victory marked the end of a three-year period of religious persecution, restored Jewish independence, and ensured the survival of monotheism (belief in one God). According to legend, when the Jews returned to cleanse their Temple, which had been defiled by pagan worship, they discovered only enough consecrated oil to keep the holy lamp burning for one day. However, the oil miraculously lasted eight days, the time needed to secure a new supply. Hanukkah is celebrated by lighting a candle on each of the eight days of celebration. On the first night, one candle is lit in a branched candlestick called a Menorah, and an additional candle is lit each night until the eighth night. This ceremony has given the holiday the additional name of "Festival of Lights." Hanukkah is joyfully celebrated. Special Hebrew hymns, including "Rock of Ages," are sung, family members exchange gifts, and children play with a dreidel, a four-sided top inscribed with the Hebrew letters for "a great miracle happened there." Potato pancakes (latkes) are a traditional food treat, with the oil used for cooking recalling the oil in the sacred lamp. The holiday ends at sundown on December 17.

Human Rights Day. On this day in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first such statement of principle by an international body. The document, conceived as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations," sets forth the basic civil, economic, political, and social rights that should be guaranteed to every person.

December 11

Fiorello LaGuardia (1882-1947): Italian American. Political leader. Energetic, colorful, and incorruptible, LaGuardia was the first Italian American political figure of national importance. During his three terms as mayor of New York City (1934-1945), LaGuardia instituted political reforms and public works projects and achieved the adoption of a new city charter.

Republic Day: Upper Volta. On August 5, 1960, the republic of Upper Volta, already a self-governing state within the French community, gained complete independence.

Latlat al-Qadr: Islam. This festival occurs during the month of Ramadan and commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

December 12

Frank Sinatra (1915-1998): Italian American. Singer, actor, entertainer. Frank Sinatra became the modern popular superstar with a singing and acting career that spanned more than 50 years. Although probably best known for his singing career, Sinatra made over 58 films and received an Academy Award for best actor for "The Man with the Golden Arm" and won an Academy Award for the best supporting actor for "From Here to Eternity." He invented the solo singing style that has become the model for most other singers since the 1940s. His single recordings and albums have become American music classics. Sinatra was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, the only child of Sicilian immigrant Martin Sinatra and his wife Natalie Garavante.

Composition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (1900): African American. On this date the brothers James Weldon Johnson and James Rosamond Johnson completed the words and music to the hymn of pride and hope that became known as the "Negro National Anthem."

Constitution Day: Russia. The new Russian Constitution was adopted on this day in 1993 by referendum. The constitution grants sweeping powers to the president, making him the person to name the government while the parliament is restricted to participating in setting the national agenda and, most importantly, passing the yearly budget.

Fiesta de Guadalupe: Mexico. Feast day of the patron saint of Mexico. The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe is Mexico's most sacred religious site. December 12 is the anniversary of the day on which Juan Diego, an Aztec peasant, is said to have seen a vision of the Virgin Mary, who ordered him to go and tell the Bishop of Mexico to build a church on that spot.

Independence Day: Kenya. Kenya, the last of Great Britain's dependencies in East Africa, became a sovereign republic on this day in 1963.

December 13

Younghill Kang (1903-1972): Korean American. Writer. Kang came to the United States in 1921, three years before the passage of the law that would bar Koreans and Japanese for 28 years from settling in the United States. He attended university classes and read widely in American literature, beginning to write in English in 1928. He published translations of Korean works, book reviews, a memoir, and two novels recounting the experiences of Korean immigrants, *The Grass Roof* and *East Goes West*. Though he achieved only modest recognition during his lifetime, he is now acknowledged as an important figure, perhaps the first writer to express the claim of Asian immigrants to be full participants in American society.

Santa Lucia: Sweden. This holiday, also celebrated in states such as Minnesota where there are many Scandinavian communities, honors an Italian martyr named Santa Lucia. Like many winter festivals, its central feature is lights. In Sweden, a young girl wearing a white robe and a crown of seven lighted candles serves special buns and coffee.

December 15

Tatanka-Yatanka (Sitting Bull) (1830s-1890): American Indian. (Sioux). Spiritual and military leader. Sitting Bull fought and negotiated throughout his life to maintain his people's way of life and their right to their lands in the Black Hills. Leader of the army of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors who annihilated General George Custer's command at Little Bighorn in 1876, Sitting Bull continues to lead the resistance to displacement and assimilation even after most of his followers had capitulated. He was killed on this date while under arrest, in a confrontation between his followers and federal police officers.

December 16

Victory Day: Bangladesh. This marks the day in 1971 that Bangladesh won independence from Pakistan.

Eid al-Fitr (The Feast of Breaking the Fast): Islam. This marks the end of Ramadan. It begins at the sighting of the new moon and is the time for breaking the fast. This is a three-day festival of feasting, buying and wearing new clothes, and celebrations. Since Islamic holidays are based on the lunar calendar, Eid al-Fitr may occur twice in the same year.

Las Posadas: Mexico. Las Posadas, celebrated from December 16 to December 24, commemorates Mary and Joseph's effort to find an inn and the events associated with the birth of Jesus. The holiday takes its name from the Spanish word *posadas*, meaning "a dwelling." A candlelight procession represents the star in heaven that guided the three wise men on their way. After a religious ceremony on December 24, there is a traditional celebration centering on the pinata, a decorated clay container filled with toys and candy. A child is blindfolded, turned around a few times, and given a wooden stick and three chances to break the pinata. When the pinata is broken, the children scramble for the candy.

December 17

Repeal of Chinese Exclusion Acts (1943): United States. On this date, as the United States fought side by side with China in World War II, Congress repealed the laws that had excluded Chinese from immigration to the United States since 1882. The new law also permitted Chinese immigrants to become naturalized citizens. The yearly quota was set at only 105 immigrants, however, and applicants for citizenship were required to document their legal entry into the United States and pass tests in English language, American history, and knowledge of the Constitution.

December 18

Alaska Native Settlement Act (1971): United States. This act gave Inuit, Indian, and Aleut people title to 40 million acres of U. S. federal land that native people claimed had been taken from them by provisions in the Alaska Statehood Act. The Alaska Claims Settlement Act also provided close to \$1 billion to native villages and regional corporations.

December 19

Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950): African American. Historian. Dr Woodson, for many years the lone voice in American Negro historiography, organized Associated Publishers in 1921 in order to produce textbooks and other material on African Americans. A year later, he retired from academic life in order to devote his full time to research as director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and as editor of the *Journal of Negro History*. It was through Dr Woodson's efforts that Negro History Week was established in 1926. It is now celebrated as African or Black History month.

December 20

Sacagawea (?-1812): American Indian (Shoshone). Guide and explorer. This day marks the anniversary of the death of the young Shoshone woman who joined the Lewis and Clark expedition at Fort Mandan (near present-day Bismarck North Dakota) and accompanied the explorers on their journey through the newly purchased Louisiana Territory to the Pacific Coast. Sacagawea was the expedition's chief interpreter. The journey reunited her with her tribe, from whom she had been abducted several years earlier.

December 21

Maria Cadilla de Martinez (1886-1951): Puerto Rican. Educator, folklorist, writer, and activist. Maria Cadilla de Martinez made outstanding contributions to every field in which she worked. As a professor at the University of Puerto Rico, she inspired generations of students to study and preserve their cultural heritage. Her own research into Puerto Rican folklore and customs helped ensure the preservation of important aspects of the island's culture. Her writings included collections of folktales, retold in contemporary language, and volumes of her own poetry, as well as scholarly books and articles. She was also a pioneering feminist who worked ardently for women's causes, including the campaign for the right to vote.

Henrietta Szold (1860-1945): Jewish American. Activist. Szold was the founder and first president of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization that had been responsible for fostering improved health care in Palestine. She also cofounded the Jewish Publication Society of America.

December 22

Thomas Rivera (1935-1984): Mexican American. Writer and educator. The son of migrant farm workers, Rivera devoted most of his life to education, which he saw as the key to bettering the lives of Mexican Americans. He became a university teacher and then an administrator, holding a succession of posts at public universities in Texas and then at the University of California, Riverside, where he served as chancellor for the last five years of his life. He is best known, however, for his novel...y no se trago la tierra (...and the Earth Did Not Part), based on his own youthful experience. Published in 1971, it won widespread acclaim, signaling the emergence of Latino writers as a vital force in the literature of the United States.

December 23

Joseph Smith (1805-1844): Mormon. Joseph Smith was the founder and first president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormon Church). In 1830 he published the Book of Mormon, considered by members of the Church to be divine revelation.

Sarah Breedlove Walker (1867-1919): African American. Businesswoman and philanthropist. Madam C. J. Walker, as she preferred to be known, was an entrepreneurial genius whose business, the manufacture and distribution of a line of hair products for African American women, became the largest enterprise owned by an African American in the United States and an important source of opportunity for African American women. Having invented the formula in 1905, she began by selling her product door-to-door. Her company eventually had 3,000 employees, many of them women who were licensed to sell her products through home visits to clients. Madame Walker used her personal wealth to support African American causes, funding scholarships for young women and giving generously to the anti-lynching campaign of the NAACP.

Emperor's Birthday: Japan. This is a day of national festivities to honor the birthday of the current emperor. The emperor gives speeches throughout the day, and houses and buildings are decorated with the national flag.

December 24

Scott Joplin (1868-1917): African American. Composer. Joplin was the leading composer of ragtime music. He is best known for his short "rags," but he also composed a ragtime symphony, *Treemonisha*, and was working on a ragtime opera at the time of his death.

December 25

Wendell Chino (1923-1998): American Indian (Mescalero Apache). Indian spokesman and activist. Chino, who was president of his tribe for 34 years, was a key figure in the movement to demand that the federal government honor its treaties with Indian nations regarding the use of land and other natural resources. He was hailed by Roy Bernal, chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, as "the Martin Luther King Jr. or Malcolm X of Indian Country." When the Bureau of Indian Affairs' contracts for such activities as mining, lumber production, and water use began to expire in the 1960s, Chino refused to renew the contracts. Instead he formed companies to manage the resources that would be controlled by the Mescalero Apaches living in southern New Mexico. They built the Inn of the Mountain Gods, Casino Apache, a timber mill, Indian schools, a hospital, and a health center. Promoting "red capitalism," or Indian control of Indian land, Chino traveled widely as a spokesman for Indian issues and served as president of the National Congress of American Indians.

Philip Vera Cruz (1904-1994): Filipino American. Labor leader and activist. Born in Ilocos Sur in the Philippines and immigrating to the United States to work in the agricultural fields of California, Cruz served as vice president of the United Farm Workers union, working with its president, Cesar Chavez, to gain recognition of the union as the representative of the grape workers in California. With Chavez, he helped initiate the Delano Grape Strike that led to the formation of the union. In 1965, he joined the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee of the AFL-CIO and led the successful Filipino farm workers' strikes in Coachella and Delano. Later that year, he allied his movement with that of Chavez to form the United Farm Workers Union.

Filippo Mazzei (1730-1810): Italian. Adventurer and writer. An importer of Italian products, Mazzei came to America from London in 1773 at the invitation of Thomas Jefferson to set up an experimental farm where he planned to raise olives, grapes, and citrus fruit. He became a supporter of the cause of American independence and in 1779 was sent to Europe to borrow money for the revolutionary armies. He remained in Europe until the end of the revolution, working in support of the American cause.

Qaid-I-Azam's Birthday: Pakistan. Political leader. Qaid-I-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a leader of the movement for Indian independence from Great Britain and founded the independent state of Pakistan. His birthday is celebrated as a national holiday on July 27.

Christmas: Christian. Followers of all Christian faiths observe Christmas on this day to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas has been celebrated on this day since the Roman Catholic Church established it in the fourth century as the official day for celebration. Eastern Orthodox Christians, however, continue to follow an earlier practice of using the Julian Calendar and celebrate Christmas on January 7. Christmas is a family-oriented holiday with special foods, colorful decorations, and exchanging of gifts. Families often have their own traditions, especially concerning when gifts are exchanged and what foods are served.

December 26

Boxing Day: Britain. Observed in many of the territories that belonged to the old British Empire, this is the day to throw away the boxes in which one received Christmas gifts.

Originally including Canada and Australia, it was the day when a box was passed for small holiday donations to be given tradespeople. When Boxing Day falls on the weekend, the following Monday is often observed as a holiday in most countries of the current or former United Kingdom.

Kwanzaa: African American. Celebrated from December 26 to January 1, Kwanzaa began in the United States in 1966 and is patterned after an East African harvest festival. Symbols of Kwanzaa are set upon a low table laden with tropical fruits and vegetables. Kwanzaa decorations traditionally use a color scheme of red, black, and green: black to represent the faces of Black people and their collective beauty, red to represent the struggle and the blood of ancestors, and green to signify youth and renewed life. The Kwanzaa observance includes storytelling about the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imami (Faith).

December 28

Holy Innocents' Day: Mexico and Morocco. In an attempt to find the infant Jesus and kill him, King Herod ordered the killing of children in Bethlehem. Current research indicates that between 6 and 20 children were killed.

December 29

Wounded Knee Massacre (1890): American Indian. This date is the anniversary of the massacre of some 150 Sioux men, women, and children by soldiers of the United States Seventh Cavalry at Wounded Knee, where the Indians had made camp after surrendering. The event marked the end of the Indian Wars on the Great Plains.

December 30

Rizal Day: Philippines. This public holiday celebrated on the anniversary of his birth honors Jose Rizal (1861-1896), the son of a wealthy Chinese-Filipino sugar planter, who studied medicine and liberal arts at the University of Madrid, becoming a leader of a small group of Filipino students studying in Spain. While in Spain, he wrote novels promoting social and religious reform in the Philippines and protesting the strong influence of the Franciscan, Augustinian, and Dominican Catholic orders over the Filipino people, as well as that of the Spanish government and Spanish culture. Returning to the Philippines in 1892, he founded the nonviolent reform society La Liga Filipina, but was deported to an island south of the Philippines. He was arrested in 1896 by the military on the charge of leading a revolt against Spain tried for sedition, and publicly executed by a firing squad. On the eve of his execution, he wrote *Mi Ultimo Adios* (My Last Farewell), a masterpiece of 19th-century Spanish verse. He is considered by many as the first Asian nationalist. This is the day of his death.