

July 2023

Multicultural and Diversity News Letter



Sun Dance Ritual Indigenous

July-August- For many tribes of the Plains Indians, the Sun Dance was a major communal religious ceremony. Generally held in early summer, the four-day dance ceremony involves sacrifice and supplication to insure harmony between all living beings. Iroquois- late spring; Cree, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Sioux and other Plains Peoples- summer.



Green Corn Ceremony Indigenous

July-August- It is performed by some Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal. The ceremony involves participation in sweatlodge ceremonies, dances, offerings, and fasting.



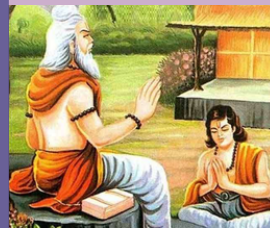
Canada Day (Canada)

July 1- On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act created the Canadian federal government. The BNA proclaimed 'one Dominion under the name of Canada,' hence the original title of the holiday, 'Dominion Day.' Dominion Day was officially renamed 'Canada Day' by an act of Parliament on October 27, 1982.



Wassana/Dhamma Day (Buddhist)

July 3- This day marks the beginning of the 3-month 'Rains Retreat' for self-examination and peace-making for monks and nuns. It also celebrates Buddha's first teaching.



Guru Purnima (Jain and Hindu)

July 3- This day is celebrated by disciples to revere and honour their Gurus (spiritual masters).



Independence Day (USA)

July 4- In 1776, the 13 Colonies signed the declaration of Independence proclaiming their separation from England and formed the United States of America. It is celebrated with picnics, fireworks, parades and outdoor activities.



Dalai Lama's Birthday (Tibet, Buddhist)

July 6- His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people. Born to a peasant family in northeastern Tibet, he was recognized as the 14th Dalai Lama (Mongolian for 'Ocean of Wisdom').



Martyrdom of the Báb (Bahá'í)

July 10- The Báb was executed at the age of 31 by a firing squad in Tabriz in 1850 C.E. the event is observed at noon. Commerce is suspended on this day.



Imamat Day (Islam, Ismaili)

July 11- Imamat Day is celebrated every year by Ismailis on the day that Imamat or religious leader transferred from the past Imam to the present Aga Khan.



Umi No hi (Japan)

July 17- It is a 'Marine Day' in Japan. Japanese honour the importance of the sea and its role in Japanese history on this day.



1st Muharram-Islamic New Year (Islam)

July 20- Islamic New Year, 1443 AH. The first of Muharram marks the first day of the first month (Muharram) of the Islamic year. Muharram lasts for 29-30 days depending on the moon sighting. It begins at sundown the previous day. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. The calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.



Simon Bolivar Day (Venezuela, Ecuador)

July 24- Simon Bolívar (1783-1830) was one of South America's greatest generals. His victories over the Spaniards won independence for Bolivia, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.



Ashura (Islam)

July 28- The tenth day of the first Islamic month (Muharram). For Shi'ite Muslims, this day mourns the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Devout Shi'a commemorate this day of sadness with retelling the story of the battle fought in Kerbala.



Oh-Harai- Taisai (Shinto)

July 30- During the Grand Purification Ceremony, Japanese worshippers walk through a large ring of woven grass and reeds that are placed at the entrance of the shrines as an act of inner purification for sins and offenses committed during the first half of the year. This sacred ritual is observed twice yearly.

Reference

Khanna, A., Mody, P., Powers, S., Raza, R. (2023). Multicultural Calendar 2023. Toronto: O