

May 2024

A newsletter from the City of Dubuque's Office of Equity & Human Rights

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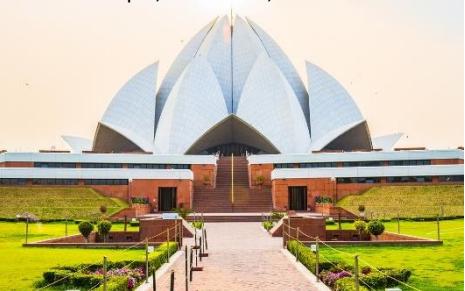
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Baha'i Temple, New Delhi, India



(top): Shalender Kumar/Pixabay, (bottom): Gail Williams/Flickr

Holidays & Celebrations

May 5 – Cinco de Mayo

[Cinco de Mayo](#) is a celebration of Mexico's defeat of the French in 1862, but in the United States, it has turned into a celebration of Mexican American culture. [Wearing a sombrero](#) can be seen as offensive, so let's celebrate without it. Instead let's honor the rich Mexican American heritage, traditions, contributions, and culture.

May 5 – Yom HaShoah

During the Holocaust, Nazi Germany killed approximately six million Jews in brutal concentration camps. [Yom HaShoah](#) is a day of remembrance for the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Jews spend this day in prayer and by holding commemorative ceremonies.

May 21 – World Day for Cultural Diversity

The [World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#) is meant to highlight the rich variety of the world's cultures, but also to stress the importance of intercultural dialogue to achieve peace and sustainability for us all. Use this day to celebrate cultural diversity so that we may live in a world filled more with compassion than bitterness and more understanding than war.

May 23 – Declaration of the Báb

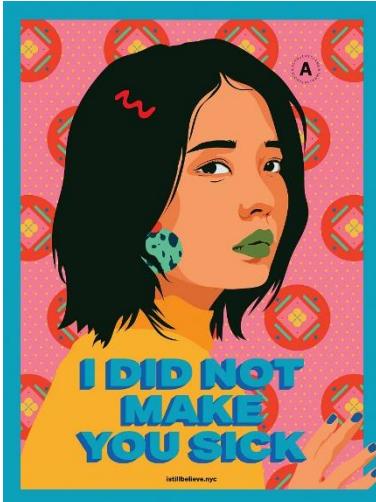
May 29 – Ascension of Baha'u'llah

The central idea of the [Bahá'í faith](#) is one of unity where people work together for the benefit of humanity. The Declaration of the Báb celebrates the day the Báb, the messenger of God, announced the coming of Baha'u'llah, who is the Manifestation of God. The Ascension of Baha'u'llah recognizes the day Baha'u'llah died. Baha'i followers celebrate these holidays with rest and prayer.

May 27 – Memorial Day (U.S.)

[Memorial Day](#) is a day to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. The day is observed by visiting cemeteries, memorials, participating in parades, and gathering with family and friends. Memorial Day is a federal holiday.

Asian American Pacific Islanders Heritage Month



Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders claim heritage from a wide range of countries. These countries include not just China, Japan, and the Marshall Islands, they also include those with heritage from Thailand, Pakistan, Hawaii, India, Vietnam, and many others.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are an integral aspect of the American cultural landscape; however, their path has not been an easy one.

Throughout history, Americans have taken turns discriminating against different ethnic groups wishing to immigrate here: the Irish in the mid-1800s, the Germans in the early 1900s, Middle Easterners after 9/11, and Hispanics today. Asian Americans have been subjected to discrimination intermittently throughout the past 200 years of American history. The most recent acts of discrimination took place during the COVID-19 pandemic when some Americans blamed China (and Asians in general) for the virus.

In the mid to late 1800s, thousands of Chinese immigrants arrived on the West Coast. After being the primary source of labor for thousands of miles of railroads, they were “thanked” with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 which enacted a 10-year ban on Chinese immigration, also Chinese residents of the U.S. were refused citizenship. These racist laws continued in different forms until 1965.

Following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government forcibly relocated 120,000 people of Japanese descent (the majority of whom were American citizens) and held them in internment camps. This blatant act of discrimination forced these individuals

to endure dehumanizing conditions such as poor housing and food, inadequate medical care, and substandard education.

During the war, fighting against the Japanese took place largely in eastern Asia and the Pacific Ocean. After the war, the Pacific islands were unfortunately not left in peace. Between 1946 and 1958 the United States conducted a series of nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands. These tests have had devastating long-lasting consequences on the environment and the health of the Marshallese people.

Exposure to radiation from these tests has led to increased rates of cancer and birth defects. Radiation on the environment led to the destruction of many native plants which meant that Marshallese have had to rely more on processed foods which has led to high rates of diabetes and heart disease. To make matters worse, despite recognizing the role the United States played in the health and environmental difficulties that continue to plague the Islands, in 1996 the United States restricted Medicaid eligibility for Marshallese. This was a shameful act on a nation plagued with cancer due in large part to nuclear testing by the U.S.

Fortunately, many Marshallese have found a home in Dubuque. Their ever-increasing population adds new and welcome diversity and cultural value to the community and state.

Asian Americans have had an important and positive impact on the constantly evolving culture of America. Despite where their ancestors came from, as the name implies, Asian Americans are Americans. Let's honor their contributions, heritage, and culture and acknowledge that “their” story is “our” story.



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Culture Creators

Our Many Cultures

Culture is the shared characteristics of a particular group of people based on a common history, geographic location, language, class, or religion. Culture is a fundamental aspect of the world we inhabit, but it is also ever-changing and evolving. Our many cultures shape our identities, relationships, and society.



Cultural exchange and cooperation can lead to breakthroughs in art, science, and technology.



Cultural sensitivity, empathy, and dialogue, bridges divides & promotes tolerance and peaceful coexistence.



Culture is a medium of communication to share ideas and connect with others.



Diversity of thought and seeing the world in new ways can foster innovation and creativity.



Learning about other cultures helps prevent misunderstandings, conflicts, and violence.

We're a lot more alike than different...

Mexico

- Strong family bonds
- Strong work ethic
- Vibrant art
- Soccer, rodeo
- Predetermined destiny
- Collective responsibility
- Hardworking
- Leisure time valued
- Value in community
- Time/appointments flexible

Guatemala

- Family oriented
- Honesty, honor, loyalty
- Colorful yarn based textiles
- Soccer, Marimba
- Quick to find humor
- Hardworking
- Group valued over the individual
- Indigenous Mayan
- Time/appointments flexible

Marshall Islands

- Family values
- Hospitality, respect
- Coconut fiber art & woven pandanus
- Very sports minded
- Live for the day
- Family & community intertwined
- Traditional education not stressed
- Close knit society
- Time/appointments

Dubuque

- Family values
- Humility, honesty
- Concerts, fairs, murals
- Hawkeyes, Saints
- Conservative
- Welcoming
- Community oriented
- Education important
- Strong work ethic
- Hospitality
- Time/appointments not flexible (on time)

News & Updates



World Labyrinth Day Celebration

May 4, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Shalom Spirituality Center, Dubuque

Celebrate World Labyrinth Day as a moving meditation for world peace.

Walking the labyrinth is a simple act that can be prayerful, meditative, and reflective. Free event but RSVP is required.

Great Give Day Celebration

May 15, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Washington Park, Dubuque

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque celebrates Great Give Day 2024 with a live event in Washington Park. Check out nonprofits in Dubuque and learn about their amazing work towards making Dubuque a great place to live. There will be food trucks and a live radio broadcast.



African American Museum of Iowa: Grand Reopening

May 11, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

AAMI Museum, Cedar Rapids

This family-friendly day will include self-guided exhibit tours through the Museum's permanent exhibit: Endless Possibilities, as well as of the Museum's brand-new temporary exhibit: Thirty Years of the AAMI. Cost is \$1.

“The worst thing that colonialism did was to cloud our view of our past.” — Barack Obama

1868: Iowa integrated schools 86 years BEFORE Brown v. Board of Education

1884: Iowa criminalized segregated business

1909: Iowa's first chapter of the NAACP is established

1948: Edna Griffin held a lunch counter sit-in in Des Moines, more than a decade before North Carolina



DBQ Pride Festival

June 1 @ 12 – 4 p.m.

11th St. between Central Ave. and Iowa St., Dubuque

The DBQ Pride Festival is an annual event that features kid's activities, music, drag performers, resource booths and vendors, and food trucks. Let your rainbow colors shine and come and have some fun while supporting the Dubuque LGBTQ+ community. This event is free, and they are serving free lunch while supplies last.



Marshall Islands Constitution Day Celebration

May 26, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Flora Park, Dubuque

Come celebrate the Republic of the Marshall Islands Constitution Day. This family-friendly cultural event will feature singing by a youth choir, dance performances by Likatu of the Marshall Islands, field games with prizes, live music, food, games, and more. Everyone is welcome at this free event!