



Cedar Rapids

Civil Rights Commission Newsletter

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2011

SPECIAL DAYS, CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

MONTH LONG CELEBRATIONS

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Courtesy Month

OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Ganesh Chaturthi (Hinduism)
Sept. 1

VJ Day, Sept. 2

Labor Day, Sept. 5

Grandparents Day, Sept. 11

National Pet Memorial Day,
Sept. 11

Mexican Independence Day,
Sept. 16

POW/MIA Recognition Day,
Sept. 16

Oktoberfest Begins, Sept. 17

National Women's Friendship
Day, Sept. 18

International Day of Peace,
Sept. 21

World Gratitude Day, Sept. 21

Native American Day, Sept. 23

Autumnal Equinox, Sept. 23

Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
Sept. 28 (sundown) - Sept. 30

Durga Puja (Hinduism),
Sept. 28 begins a ten-day festival
honoring Goddess Durga

LOCAL EVENTS

Lecture:
Globalization and Brain Drain
(for info see page 2)

Celebrate International Peace Day, September 21

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982.

In 2002 the General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.



By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged all

of mankind to work in cooperation for this goal. During the discussion of the U.N. Resolution that established the International Day of Peace, it was suggested that:

"Peace Day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples...This day will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace."

Since its inception, Peace Day has marked our personal and planetary progress toward peace. It has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and

celebrate this day. Events range in scale from private gatherings to public concerts and forums where hundreds of thousands of people participate.

Anyone, anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. It can be as simple as lighting a candle at noon, or just sitting in silent meditation. Or it can involve getting your co-workers, organization, community or government engaged in a large event. The impact if millions of people in all parts of the world, coming together for one day of peace, is immense.

International Day of Peace is also a Day of Ceasefire – personal or political. Take this opportunity to make peace in your own relationships as well as impact the larger conflicts of our time. Imagine what a whole Day of Ceasefire would mean to humankind.

Midwest Peace Day Events

Echo Valley Hope's Celebration of International Day of Peace and Forgiveness

E14604 County Road F

Ontario, WI

<http://www.echovalleyhope.org>

Rogers Park Neighborhood Peace Walk

7700 N. Hermitage

Chicago, IL

<http://triangleparkac.blogspot.com>

Peace Day Chicago

Corner of Jackson and Columbus

Grant Park

Chicago, IL

<http://peacedaychicago.org>

Text and events from:

<http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org>

Hispanic Heritage Month Quiz

Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 - October 15. How many of these Hispanic trivia questions can you get correct? Answers are on page 3.

1) Whose flag has red and white stripes, a blue triangle and one white star?

- A. Mexico
- B. Cuba
- C. Puerto Rico



2) On what day does Mexico celebrate its independence?

- A. May 5
- B. September 16
- C. November 1



3) Whose flag has a yellow sun with a human face?

- A. Uruguay
- B. Mexico
- C. Puerto Rico

4) What's in the beak of the eagle that sits in the center of the Mexican flag?

- A. An olive branch
- B. A sombrero
- C. A snake



5) Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of what country?

- A. Cuba
- B. Mexico
- C. Guatemala

6) Which animal is native to the Andes Mountains

- A. Llama
- B. Horse
- C. Guinea Pig

7) People born in Puerto Rico are citizens of what country?

- A. United States
- B. Spain
- C. Mexico

8) According to the Census Bureau, about how many Hispanics live in the U.S.?

- A. 9 million
- B. 19 million
- C. 39 million

9) Which is the largest group of Central Americans in the U.S.?

- A. Guatemalans
- B. Salvadorans
- C. Hondurans

10) If you had the most common Hispanic last name in the U.S., would you be named...

- A. Rodriguez
- B. Martinez
- C. Garcia



Source: <http://www.infoplease.com>

Answer to Quiz from Page 2

- 1) C - Puerto Rico. The Cuban flag looks similar but its stripes are blue and the triangle is red.
- 2) B - September 16 is the day in 1810 when the struggle for independence began.
- 3) A - The sun on Uruguay's flag is called the Sun of May.
- 4) C - The eagle has a snake in its beak.
- 5) B - Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Virgin Mary and the patron saint of Mexico. She first revealed herself to a Mexican Indian, Juan Diego, in the 17th century.
- 6) C - Guinea pigs are a favorite food in Ecuador and Peru.
- 7) A - United States. Puerto Rico gained U.S. citizenship in 1917.
- 8) C - 39 million. Hispanics are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population.
- 9) B - As of 2000, there were 655,000 people in the U.S. with roots in El Salvador.
- 10) C - Martinez and Rodriguez are the second and third most common.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is Jewish New Year, the day when the year number on the Jewish calendar increases. It occurs between Labor Day and Columbus Day and lasts for one or two days, depending on your branch of Judaism.

Rosh Hashanah is a happy, festive holiday, but somewhat more solemn than American New Year. Like American New Year, it is a time to look back at the past year and make resolutions for the following year. It is also a wake-up call, a time to begin mental preparations for the upcoming day of atonement, Yom Kippur.

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is the Jewish day of atonement, a day of fasting and repentance to reconcile ourselves with the Creator for the mistakes we have made in the last year. It occurs on the ninth day after the first day of Rosh Hashanah (Rosh Hashanah occurs on the first day of the Jewish month; Yom Kippur occurs on the 10th), so it is usually in late September or early October, sometimes falling on Columbus Day.



This holiday starts the evening before the day it appears on your secular calendar. Some secular calendars will mark the preceding day as Kol Nidre, which is the name of the first service of the holiday, in the evening.

Most (but not all) Jews take off from work or school on this day, even ones who are not religious at other times. This is the busiest day of the year for synagogues, even though many synagogues charge for tickets to this day's services (to defray the cost of serving so many extra people). Many will also want to leave work early the night before, so they have time for a large, slow meal before this 25-hour fast. Like Rosh Hashanah, most American Jews expect gentiles to be aware of this day, and almost all will be offended if you schedule important activities on it.

How do you pronounce the name of this holiday? "Yom" rhymes with "home" and "Kippur" sounds like "key poor" with emphasis on the "poor."

Local Events in September

"Globalization and Brain Drain", presented by Professor of Sociology, Mohammad Chaichian, PhD
Thursday, September 15, 2011, 7:00-8:00pm, Flaherty Community Room, Basile Hall, Mt. Mercy University

Chaichian will bring to light compelling information on the waves of emigration the United States has seen from one Southwest Asian nation in particular – Iran. By analyzing Iran's internal political situation and the often turbulent U.S. – Iranian bilateral relations, Chaichian will examine the profile of skilled and educated Iranian emigrants, particularly in the last two decades, and its effect on the United States. He will also examine internal and external socio-economic and political forces, as well as the processes that have facilitated emigration, including costs and benefits for both countries. This event is free and open to the public.

New Books Out in September

Taking A Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights

Written by Juan E. Mendez, Published by Palgrave Macmillan (September 27, 2011)

Juan Méndez has experienced human rights abuse first hand. As a result of his work with political prisoners in the late 1970s, the Argentinean military dictatorship arrested, tortured, and held him for more than a year. During that time, Amnesty International adopted him as a "Prisoner of Conscience." After his release, he moved to the United States and continued his lifelong fight for the rights of others, and the lessons he has gleaned over the decades can help us with our current struggles. Here, he sets forth an authoritative and incisive examination of torture, detention, exile, armed conflict, and genocide, whose urgency is even greater in the wake of America's recent disastrous policies. Méndez offers a new strategy for holding governments accountable for their actions, providing an essential blueprint for different human rights groups to be able to work together to effect change.

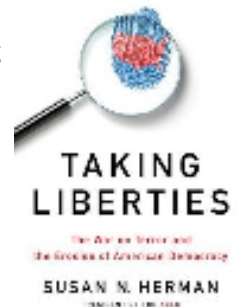


Taking Liberties: The War on Terror and the Erosion of American Democracy

Written by Susan N. Herman, Published by Oxford University Press (September 29, 2011)

In this eye-opening work, the president of the ACLU takes a hard look at the human and social costs of the War on Terror. A decade after 9/11, it is far from clear that the government's hastily adopted antiterrorist tactics--such as the Patriot Act--are keeping us safe, but it is increasingly clear that these emergency measures in fact have the potential to ravage our lives--and have already done just that to countless Americans.

From the Oregon lawyer falsely suspected of involvement with terrorism in Spain to the former University of Idaho football player arrested on the pretext that he was needed as a "material witness" (though he was never called to testify), this book is filled with unsettling stories of ordinary people caught in the government's dragnet. These are not just isolated mistakes in an otherwise sound program, but demonstrations of what can happen when our constitutional protections against government abuse are abandoned. Whether it's running a chat room, contributing to a charity, or even urging a terrorist group to forego its violent tactics, activities that should be protected by the First Amendment can now lead to prosecution. Blacklists and watchlists keep people grounded at airports and strand American citizens abroad, although these lists are rife with errors--errors that cannot be challenged. National Security Letters allow the FBI to demand records about innocent people from libraries, financial institutions, and internet service providers without ever going to court. Government databanks now brim with information about every aspect of our private lives, while efforts to mount legal challenges to these measures have been stymied.



Barack Obama, like George W. Bush, relies on secrecy and exaggerated claims of presidential prerogative to keep the courts and Congress from fully examining whether these laws and policies are constitutional, effective, or even counterproductive. Democracy itself is undermined. This book is a wake-up call for all Americans, who remain largely unaware of the post-9/11 surveillance regime's insidious and continuing growth.

Reviews from <http://www.amazon.com>



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Your Civil Rights

It is unlawful to discriminate in the areas of
**Employment, Education, Public
Accommodations, Credit, and Housing.**

Complaints of unlawful discriminatory treatment must be based on a person's **Age, Race, Color, Creed, Religion, Mental or Physical Disability, Sex (gender), National Origin or Sexual Orientation.** These categories are called *protected class characteristics*.

It is also unlawful to retaliate against a person because such person has lawfully opposed any discriminatory practice.

Additionally, the Commission enforces local civil rights laws in the areas of credit and housing on the basis of familial status (families with children under 18 years), and in the area of credit and education on the basis of marital status.

Contact Jayne Swanson, Newsletter Editor, if you wish to be added to the distribution list at j.swanson@cedar-rapids.org

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Meetings

*Commission Meetings occur the third
Wednesday of each month and are open to the public.*

Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 21, 2011	January 18, 2012
October 19, 2011	February 15, 2012
November 16, 2011	March 21, 2012
December 14, 2011	April 18, 2012

All meetings are held in the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Office, 425 2nd Street SE, Suite 960, starting at 5:30pm

Agendas and minutes can be found on our website (see address above).

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laws and issues affecting Civil Rights!**