



CULTURAL VOICES

May
2009

University of
New Haven

Office of
Intercultural
Relations

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated in May to commemorate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States. Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. This date was chosen because two important anniversaries occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in America on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869. Congress later voted to expand it from a week long to a month long celebration. Wikipedia: Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



Jewish-American Heritage Month

On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month. The announcement was the crowning achievement in an effort by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish community leaders that resulted in resolutions introduced by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania urging the president to proclaim a month that would recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. The resolutions passed unanimously, first in the House of Representatives in December 2005 and later in the Senate in February 2006. The month of May was chosen due to the highly successful celebration of the 350th Anniversary of American Jewish History in May 2004, which was organized by the Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History. This coalition was composed of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration. Jewish Heritage Month.gov

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Jewish-American Heritage Month

Haitian Heritage Month

Cinco de Mayo

May 5

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Contact Us!

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We're on
the web!

The Office of Intercultural Relations seeks to advance the mission of the University of New Haven by providing students opportunities to gain intercultural understanding and to succeed in an inclusive academic and social environment that respects the uniqueness and contributions of all community members.

HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Haitian Heritage Month is a celebration in the United States of Haitian heritage and culture. It was first celebrated in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1998. The Haitian Heritage Month celebration is an expansion of the Haitian Flag Day, a major patriotic day celebration in Haiti and the Diaspora. Haitian President Dumarsais Estime started the Flag Day celebration with parades, cultural and athletic events in many cities in Haiti in the 1930s, when he was minister of education under President Stenio Vincent. Estime wanted to commemorate annually the creation of the Haitian flag on May 18 to encourage the development of patriotic sentiments among Haitian youth.

Beside the Flag Day celebration, the month of May carries a number of significant historical and cultural traditions that Haitians are proud to make aware of and to pass on to future generations. In Haiti, May 1st is celebrated as Labor and Agriculture Day. May 2nd used to be Flower Day. The Congress of Arcahaie that united black and mulatto officers to fight together for Haiti's independence is remembered from May 15 through 18. The Haitian slave and revolutionary general, Toussaint Louverture, was born on May 20, 1743. Teacher's Day is May 17, University Day May 18, and Mother's Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of May. For Haitian Catholics, May is the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus. [Wikipedia: Haitian Heritage Month](#)



CINCO DE MAYO



Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for "fifth of May") is a regional holiday in Mexico, primarily celebrated in the state of Puebla, with some limited recognition in other parts of Mexico. The holiday commemorates the Mexican army's unlikely defeat of French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín. While outnumbered, the Mexicans defeated a much better-equipped French army that had known no defeat for almost 50 years. However, Cinco de Mayo is not "an obligatory federal holiday" in Mexico, but rather a holiday that can be observed voluntarily.

While Cinco de Mayo has limited significance nationwide in Mexico, the date is observed in the United States and other locations around the world as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride. However, a common misconception in the United States is that Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day, which actually is September 16 (*dieciséis de septiembre* in Spanish), the most important national patriotic holiday in Mexico. [Wikipedia: Cinco de Mayo](#)

Upcoming Campus Events

¡Sobremesa!

Sobremesa is the Spanish word for spontaneous conversation after a meal. At UNH it means you can come and join us for a free-flowing dialogue about life's big and little things in Spanish. Open to all skill levels.
Wednesday, May 6th and 13th @ 1 PM, Jazzman's, Bartels

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Mondays @ 8:30 PM, Upper Student (Moulton) Lounge, Bartels

National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
Mondays @ 10 PM, Upper Student (Moulton) Lounge, Bartels

Caribbean Student Association (CSA)
Tuesdays @ 9 PM, Upper Student (Moulton) Lounge, Bartels

Latin American Student Association (LASA)
Tuesdays @ 6:45 PM, Meeting Rooms A&B, Bartels

Black Student Union (BSU)
Wednesdays @ 8 PM, Upper Student (Moulton) Lounge, Bartels

UNH Gospel Choir Concert/Showcase
This concert will also feature choirs from area universities.
Thursday, May 7th @ 7:30 PM, German Club

UNH Gospel Choir Concert/Showcase
Come out to LASA's Voice-Open Mic night and show us your talent. Bring friends with you and enjoy strawberry daiquiri and pina colada mocktails. There will also be prize giveaways!
Monday, May 11th @ 6:30 PM, Alumni Lounge

Academic and Career Resources

Every few weeks, the Director receives information about various scholarships, internships, student leadership conferences, and employment opportunities that would be of interest to (or are targeted towards) students from specific demographic groups (ie students of color, women, various religious groups, members of the LGBT community etc.). Here are a few with upcoming deadlines; you can find additional listings and details on the OIR website:

Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Education Scholarship Fund

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF) is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy, research and educational institute that aims to help improve the socioeconomic circumstances of African Americans and other underserved communities. The performing arts include theatre, motion pictures, drama, comedy, music, dance, opera, marching bands and other musical ensembles.

Applicants must:

- Be preparing to pursue a degree full-time, or be a current full-time student in good academic standing at an accredited college or university
- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Exhibit leadership ability and participate in community service activities
- Reside or attend school in a congressional district represented by a CBC member.

Completed applications must arrive as one packet to the district office by June 1, 2009. Application packets should include:

- A completed CBC Spouses scholarship application
- A sealed official high school or college transcript
- A personal statement essay from the student (500 words or more) that addresses all four (4) of the topics listed on the application in one essay
- Two (2) letters of recommendation. One recommendation should come from a community or public service leader (i.e. church leader, community leader)
- If a first year student, an acceptance letter from the college/university where the student will enroll in the fall of 2009

A recent photograph suitable for publication; i.e., a cap and gown picture, or other professional quality and professionally dressed photograph

Deadline: Must be received by Monday, June 1, 2009

Application: Click [here](#)

For more information: [Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.](#)

National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. / Thomson Reuters Scholarship

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc., promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community.

Deadline: Must be postmarked by Friday, July 31, 2009

Application: Click [here](#)

For more information : [National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.](#)

Congressional Youth Leadership Council Internship

Internships at the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC) provide undergraduate sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students with a great opportunity to gain leadership skills in a working environment. Positions at CYLC are available year-round. Interns work from 20 to 40 hours per week; scheduling is generally flexible. All interns are paid a stipend of \$10 per hour. Additionally, academic credit can be arranged with your school. Applicants should have a strong interest in political science, public policy and education. Internships are available in Vienna, VA (suburban Washington, D.C.) only.

Dates: Varies

Deadline: Fall Session (September through December): Sunday, August 30, 2009

Application: Click [here](#)

For more information: [Congressional Youth Leadership Council](#)

Caribbean Literature Course in the UNH English Department – Fall 2009

E481 Special Topics: Caribbean Literature with Dr. Pamela Asmus

Caribbean writers celebrate a culture that is a unique and vibrant commingling of the islands' African and European heritages. Caribbean writers frequently offer a unique response to familiar stories. For example, why did the "mad woman" in *Jane Eyre* leave Jamaica only to become a virtual prisoner in Rochester's house? And what happened to Tituba before and after the Salem Witchcraft Trials? We will also read novels that deal with emigration from and political unrest in the Caribbean. This course will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:40 PM. It will not be offered during the Spring semester.

For more information: [UNH English Department Featured Courses—Fall 2009; Dr. Pamela Asmus](#), 203-931-7365, Harugari 302

Office of Intercultural Relations: How Useful are the Weekly Emails?

I've developed a brief survey asking you to think about your use of these weekly emails. Please take a few moments to complete the survey by clicking [here](#).