Black Business Month

After struggling to secure financing to establish his small business in 1969, Frederick E. Jordan endured and achieved considerable success at the helm of his San Francisco-based engineering and construction management company. F.E. Jordan Associates Inc. now operates out of three offices nationally and has completed more than 1,000 projects, some for major clients like Procter & Gamble, Bank of America, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the cities of Chicago and St. Louis.

Nine years ago, Jordan and fellow black entrepreneur John William Templeton of the publishing company eAccess Corp. spearheaded an effort to declare August National Black Business Month. Their goal is to get local governments, community leaders and venture capitalists to help create a friendlier environment where black-owned businesses can grow, and to encourage consumers to visit at least one black-owned business on each of the 31 days of August.

“Our research indicates that there should be 2.5 million African Americans in business, and we only have half that many,” Templeton noted in an article in Black Enterprise Magazine in 2010. “If you look at the black and white unemployment disparity, the essential idea is, the only way we’re going to get the level of employment we need is to support black businesses.”

According to the latest U.S. Labor Department data, while the national unemployment rate held steady at 7.6 percent, the African-American unemployment rate rose from 13.5 percent in May to 13.7 percent in June of this year. Jordan maintains that supporting black-owned businesses is the best way to lower that statistic.

Progress is being made, according to the Survey of Business Owners, conducted every five years by the U.S. Census Bureau. The most recent figures, released in 2011, show that between 2002 and 2007 the number of black-owned businesses increased by 60.5 percent to 1.9 million, more than triple the national rate of 18 percent. Over the same period, receipts generated by black-owned businesses increased 55.1 percent to $137.5 billion.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers a vast resource of information and guidance to minority-owned businesses, including start-up and financing suggestions as well as a list of federal programs and resources and state business training and assistance programs.

Another resource mentioned in the Black Enterprise article is Recycling Black Dollars (RBD), a non-profit corporation founded in 1988. Its stated mission is to aid in the economic development of the African-American community by partnering with organizations, churches and Fortune 500 corporations to encourage vending and contract opportunities for black-owned businesses. RBD offers support services including assistance with business plans, marketing and promotional support, internet advertising, mentoring programs for young entrepreneurs and accounting and bookkeeping services.

A tip of the hat to all black-owned small businesses during the month of August!

http://www.transfirst.com/blog/august-is-national-black-business-month
Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi (Gaṇēśa Caturthī or Vināyaka Cāviti) is the Hindu festival celebrated in honour of the god Ganesha, the elephant-headed, remover of obstacles and the god of beginnings and wisdom. The festival, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, is observed in the Hindu calendar month of Bhadrapada, starting on the shukla chaturthi (fourth day of the waxing moon period). The date usually falls between August and September. The festival lasts for 10 days, ending on Anant Chaturdashi (fourteenth day of the lunar month).

The modern festival involves installing clay images of Ganesha in public pandalis (temporary shrines), which are worshipped for ten days with different variety of herbal leaves, plants. These are immersed at the end of the festival in a body of water such as a lake, along with the idol. After adding herbal and medicated plants and leaves (patri) in lakes, the water in the lake becomes purified. This was in practice because, in early days people used to drink lake water, and to protect people from infections and viral diseases especially in this season, this tradition was introduced. Some Hindus also install the clay images of Ganeshas in their homes. It is believed that Ganeshas bestows his presence on earth for all his devotees during this festival. The festival was celebrated as a public event since the days of Shivaji (1630–1680). However, the public festival as celebrated in Maharashtra today, was introduced by Bhausaheb Laxman Javale in 1892 by installing first Sarvajanki (Public) Ganesh idol - Shirmant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganpati, Bhudwar Peth. 1st meeting regarding starting the Sarvajanki Ganesh utsav took place under the leadership of Bhausaheb Laxman Javale at his residence (Bhudwar Peth) now known as Bhau Rangari Bhavan. In 1893 Lokmany Tilak praised the concept of Sarvajanki Ganesh utsav in Kesari Newspaper. In 1894 Nationalist Leader Lokmany Tilak installed Ganesh idol in Kesari wada too and started preaching Ganesh Utsav Lokmany Aradhana (1856-1920).

While celebrated all over India, it is grandest and most elaborate of them especially in Maharastra, Karnataka and Telangana which lasts for 10 days, ending on the day Anant Chaturdashi. And in other parts of Western India and Southern India it is celebrated. Outside India, it is celebrated widely in Terai region of Nepal and by Hindus in the United States, Canada, Mauritius, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Fiji, New Zealand, Trinidad & Tobago, and Guyana.

The Queen’s Birthday is also Mother’s Day in Thailand

Regarded as Mother of the Nation, Queen Sirikit’s birthday has been declared Thailand’s official Mother’s Day. On August 12th of each year, the two occasions are celebrated in concert – with public festivities such as parades and ceremonies and private family get-togethers and intimate outpourings of emotion between mother and child.

How Do Thais Celebrate Mother’s Day?

Like many important occasions, alms giving to monks forms a meaningful part of the traditional Mother’s Day celebrations. Early in the morning, ceremonies are held to give offerings of food to Thailand’s saffron-robed Buddhist monks.

Schools in Thailand typically host a Mother’s Day ceremony. (The ceremony is held perhaps a day before the official holiday as on the day itself all schools, government offices and most businesses are closed.) Students may spend weeks beforehand rehearsing performances and the proper steps of the ceremony. On the special day, mothers come to their child’s school and each child kneels at his or her mother’s feet, paying respect to mom for all that she has done for them. Within these heartfelt moments, it’s common to see mothers wiping tears from their eyes and many children doing the same (and sometimes onlookers as well).

It’s also become quite common for families to celebrate their love for mom by taking her out for a special meal. Particularly in Bangkok and other large cities and developed locations like Chiang Mai and Phuket, many restaurants offer Mother’s Day specials. Hotels and resorts also offer Mother’s Day packages. So if you are visiting or residing in Thailand during this period you may want to be on the look out for restaurant and hotel specials.

Mother’s Day Gifts in Thailand

The traditional Mother’s Day gift in Thailand is jasmine. This delicate white flower is imbued with a sweet perfumed fragrance. Called “dok mali” in Thai, jasmine is used in worship and is also seen as symbol of purity, gentleness and motherhood. Jasmine is sold in open white blossoms (its most characteristic form as a symbol of motherhood) as well as in exquisitely crafted flower garlands and white fabric or other synthetic blossoms.

Like in many other countries, children will often create a handmade Mother’s Day card. Young children and adult children may also give their mother a special gift in addition to or instead of jasmine. Foods, sweets, jewelry, handbags, tech gizmos, warm messages in a phone call, a special lunch, a weekend at the beach, a spring of jasmine – the gifts vary widely according to each family, each child’s age and their circumstances,

http://www.thailandforchildren.com/thailand-family-travel/mothers-day-in-thailand