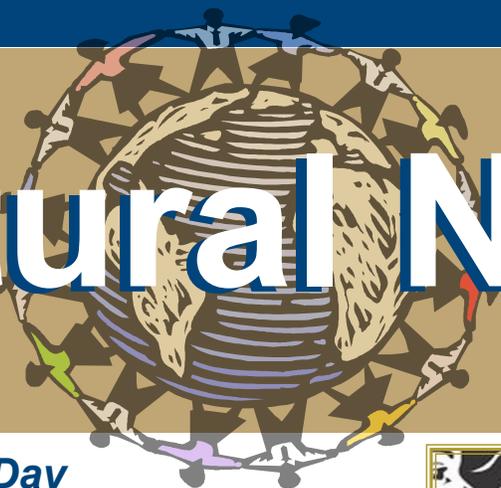


Cultural News

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International Women's Day

International Women's Day is annually held on March 8 to celebrate women's achievements throughout history and across nations. It is also known as the United Nations (UN) Day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

What Do People Do?

International Women's Day events are held worldwide on March 8. Various women, including political, community, and business leaders, as well as leading educators, inventors, entrepreneurs, and television personalities, are usually invited to speak at various events on the day. Such events may include seminars, conferences, luncheons, dinners or breakfasts. The messages given at these events often focus on various themes such as innovation, the portrayal of women in the media, or the importance of education and career opportunities.

Many students in schools and other educational settings participate in special lessons, debates or presentations about the importance of women in society, their influence, and issues that affect them. In some countries school children bring gifts to their female teachers and women receive small presents from friends or family members. Many workplaces make a special mention about International Women's Day through internal newsletters or notices, or by handing out promotional material focusing on the day.

What Do People Do?

International Women's Day, is a public holiday in some countries such as (but not exclusive to):

- Azerbaijan.
- Armenia.
- Belarus.
- Kazakhstan.
- Moldova
- Russia.
- Ukraine.

Many businesses, government offices, educational institutions are closed in the above-mentioned countries on this day, where it is sometimes called Women's Day. International Women's Day is a national observance in many other countries. Some cities may host various wide-scale events such as street marches,

which may temporarily affect parking and traffic conditions.

Background

Much progress has been made to protect and promote women's rights in recent times. However, nowhere in the world can women claim to have all the same rights and opportunities as men, according to the UN. The majority of the world's 1.3 billion absolute poor are women. On average, women receive between 30 and 40 percent less pay than men earn for the same work. Women also continue to be victims of violence, with rape and domestic violence listed as significant causes of disability and death among women worldwide.

The first International Women's Day occurred on March 19 in 1911. The inaugural event, which included rallies and organized meetings, was a big success in countries such as Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. The March 19 date was chosen because it commemorated the day that the Prussian king promised to introduce votes for women in 1848. The promise gave hope for equality but it was a promise that he failed to keep. The International Women's Day date was moved to March 8 in 1913.

The UN drew global attention to women's concerns in 1975 by calling for an International Women's Year. It also convened the first conference on women in Mexico City that year. The UN General Assembly then invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace in 1977. The day aimed to help nations worldwide eliminate discrimination against women. It also focused on helping women gain full and equal participation in global development. International Men's Day is also celebrated on November 19 each year.

Symbols

The International Women's Day logo is in purple and white and features the symbol of Venus, which is also the symbol of being female. The faces of women of all backgrounds, ages, and nations are also seen in various promotions, such as posters, postcards and information booklets, on International Women's Day. Various messages and slogans that promote the day are also publicized during this time of the year.



MARCH 2017 CALENDAR

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
DEAF HISTORY MONTH (3/13 TO 4/15)

- 1- Ash Wednesday (Christian)
- 2-20- Nineteen Day Fast (Baha'i)
- 3- National Anthem Day (US)
- 5- Orthodox Sunday (Orthodox Christian)
- 8-12- American Nurses Association Week (US)
- 10- Salvation Army Day (US)
- 11- Genealogy Day (US)
- 12- Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)
- 13- Hola Mohalla (Sikh) & Holi (Hindu)
- 15- Brain Injury Awareness Day (International)
- 17- St. Patrick's Day (US)
- 21- Norooz- New Year (Persian/Zoroastrian)
- 20- Atheist Pride Day (International)
- 28- Hindu New Year (Hindu)
- 25- Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian)
- 31- Cesar Chavez Day (US)



Deaf History- History of Sign Language How a language of gestures came to be

By Jamie Berke
Updated July 26, 2016

American Sign Language has been around for a long time. But who invented it or how did it come to be?

ASL's European Origins

What we call American Sign Language actually has roots in Europe. It is

also known that in the 18th century, the teacher of the deaf Abbe de l'Epee of France developed an early form of sign language that contributed to American Sign Language. The Abbe de l'Epee developed a system of manual French similar in concept to Signed Exact English.

France's Signing Community

However, there was already a signing French community before the Abbe de l'Epee. This was documented by the deaf author Pierre Desloges. Desloges wrote in his 1779 book *Observations of a Deaf-Mute* that de l'Epee had learned French sign language from deaf people in France. It appears that for years, the manual system and the "true" system of signing co-existed, with the manual probably being used in the classroom and the "true" system outside of the classroom.

Martha's Vineyard's Signing

Nora Ellen Groce's book, "Everyone Here Spoke Sign Language," traces the origin of Martha's Vineyard Sign Language (MVSL), an early sign language

used on the island of Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Massachusetts, where hereditary deafness was common beginning in the 17th century. She traced MVSL back to County Kent in southern England. Groce found in "Samual Pepy's Diary" that sign language was used in the Kentish "weald" (woodland area). Vineyard residents called their sign "Chilmark Sign Language" after the village of Chilmark where there was a good sized deaf community.

MVSL may have had some influence on the development of American Sign Language when some deaf children from Martha's Vineyard began attending the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut.

In addition, as deaf children from around the country attended the school, they probably brought with them "homemade" signs. Over time, these signs probably combined with the other sign language used at the school (including manual English) and developed into what is known as ASL.

Sign Language History Resources

The journal Sign Language Studies from Gallaudet University Press has published articles about the history of sign language.

For example, the article "The Study of Natural Sign Language in Eighteenth-Century France," was in Sign Language Studies, Volume 2, Issue 4, 2002.

Signing in Other Countries

Every country's sign language has a history. The history is often similar to that of ASL's development. For example, Nicaraguan sign language developed when Nicaragua's first school for the deaf was opened. Deaf Life magazine (No.6, December 1996) had a cover story on it.

<https://www.verywell.com/deaf-history-history-of-sign-language-1046551>

César Chávez Day

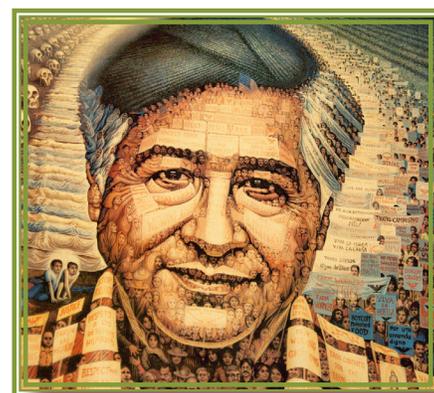
César Chávez was a civil rights activist who worked hard for the rights of farm workers. César Chávez Day is celebrated each year to remember this man who changed the livelihoods of these workers and their families for the better.

César Chávez was born in 1927 in Arizona and died in 1993. As a child, his family suffered a huge loss of property during the Great Depression. Some of this was due to César's father being swindled of his land and the consequence was that his parents and siblings needed to work year in and out picking fruit, vegetables and corn to survive.

César grew up to realize that it was crucial that his own children were educated enough to step out of this cycle of hand-to-mouth livelihoods. César's own education ended after eighth grade but, as he grew older, he did his best to add to his education by joining the navy for two years (which he deeply regretted) and by reading copious books on philosophy, economics and unions.

His work in civil rights involved organizing the Community Service Organisation (CSO) in the 1950s and creating the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) from the 1960s onwards. The NFWA eventually changed its name to the United Farm Workers (UFW) union and functioned to protect the rights of farm workers, particularly those in lettuce and grape farming. The UFW is still working hard today.

César believed in using passive means to achieve the goals of the union. He encouraged the successful, and drawn out, boycott of the consumption of table grapes. He participated in several fasts, one of which became a relay fast through many celebrities and politicians. And he fought in the courts for the rights of the workers for good pay and safe workplaces.



After he died, 50,000 people attended his funeral. In the following year, his wife, Helen, accepted the Medal of Freedom on his behalf from President Clinton who said of César:

"The farm workers who labored in the fields and yearned for respect and self-sufficiency, pinned their hopes on this remarkable man who, with faith and discipline, soft spoken humility and amazing inner strength, led a very courageous life."

<https://publicholidays.us/cesar-chavez-day/>