



May Holiday's / Celebrations Recognition in the United States Virgin Islands



*Building Our Future Through
Education, History and Culture!*

May 2015

St. Thomas Carnival ... Saturday, April 4 - Saturday, May 2

Mothers Day ... Sunday, May 10

Memorial Day ... Monday, May 25

St. John Carnival ... Sunday, May 31st - Saturday, July 4th

*Holidays observed by the United States Virgin Islands
strengthen an important process in the development of the territory.*

Compliments of:

*Virgin Islands Department of Education
Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education*

St. Thomas Carnival 2015



The second largest Carnival in the Caribbean, St. Thomas Carnival 2015 will be celebrated from Saturday, April 4th through Saturday, May 2, 2015.

The theme is "*Culture to the Extreme, V.I. Carnival 2015*". It was submitted by Ms. Carmen L. Figueroa and selected from 25 entries. It defines the spirit and excitement of the Virgin Islands' largest cultural event.

The St. Thomas Carnival dates back to February 14, 1912 when the first Carnival in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands started and the second was held in 1914. In 1952, after 38 years of dormancy, it was revitalized and to date it has been held annually.

The St. Thomas Carnival offers a melting pot of excitement with the culture and treasured tradition. There will be spectacular memorable events, such as dances, pageantry, music, drinks, food, friends and fun! In the last week, the celebration heats up and climaxes with hard core partying at the Village, J'ouvert, Food Fair, two parades and fireworks.

As customary this year will host entertainment with talented bands and musicians, pageants for Carnival royalty and fairs showcasing local crafts, food and drinks. To the right is the 2015 St. Thomas Carnival's calendar of events ...

Meet our contestants and special honorees this year ...

Queen Contestants

Princess Contestants

Carnival Village Honoree

Grand Marshalls Children & Adult Parades

Food Fair Honoree

Suggested Classroom and Family Activities:

Attend a Carnival event

Research the history of Carnival and share what you learned with someone

Interview someone who participates in Carnival about their experience

Courtesy of

Text: <http://www.vicarnival.com/>;

Pictures:

Mother's Day

The modern day celebration of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother in America. She began a campaign to make "Mother's Day", recognized as a holiday in the United States. Her perseverance paid off in 1914, however she became disappointed with its commercialization by the 1920s. In this tradition, each person offers a gift, card, or remembrance toward their mothers, grandmothers, and/ or maternal figure.

In 1872, however the idea of an official celebration of Mothers day in the United States was first suggested by Julia Ward Howe. An activist, writer and poet, who shot to fame with her famous Civil War song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic", she recommended the 2nd of June be annually celebrated as Mothers Day and should be dedicated to peace. She passionately urged women to rise against war in her famous Mothers Day Proclamation, written in Boston in 1870. Initiating a Mothers' Peace Day observance on the second Sunday in June in Boston, the meeting was held for a number of years. She tirelessly championed the cause of official celebration of Mothers Day and declaration of an official holiday on the day. Her enthusiasm spread, but it was later replaced by the modern day celebration of Mother's Day.

Its proven origin dates back during the 1870s and the 1880s, where various observances honoring mothers existed in America, but these only started on the local level. Today Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. Although it is not a holiday, it continues to be a celebration honoring mothers, motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in the community.

In the United States Virgin Islands, Mother's Day is also celebrated on the second Sunday of May. Definitely noted as one of the most commercialized celebrations with the sale of flowers, teddy bears, and balloons, it has also one of the largest church services. Mothers are showered with special gifts of flowers and balloons, and pampered with special meals and programs and events held in their honor.



Suggested Classroom and Family Activities:

Create a special card, poem, etc. which truly expresses your honor and love for your mom, grandmother, and/or special mom of the community.

Attend church service with your mom, grandmother, and/or special mom of the community.

Prepare a special meal, favorite beverage, etc. for your mom, grandmother, and/or special mom of the community.

Study the origin and purpose of Mother's Day, and creatively share it with someone.

Courtesy of

Text http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother's_Day; <http://www.mothersdaycelebration.com/mothers-day-history.html>

Picture: <http://celebrationandpartyblog.com/2013/05/mothers-day-quotes/happy-mothers-day-2014-2015/>

Memorial Day

On May 5, 1862, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later during the month. He proclaimed, “The 30th of May, 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.”

On the first Decoration Day after General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and continued the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Many Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

For decades, it continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day, but in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act establishing Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day as a federal holiday.

Observed annually in the United States on the last Monday of May, Memorial Day is a federal holiday. Originally called Decoration Day, it honored only those who lost their lives fighting in the Civil War. With World War I, the United States found itself in another major conflict and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars. Therefore, by the 20th century Memorial Day was extended to honor all Americans who have died in all wars, which made Memorial Day an official day of remembering the men and women, who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Both on the mainland and the United States Virgin Islands, Memorial Day is observed by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, barbecues and beach outings and participating in parades in full support of our fallen soldiers.

Happy Memorial Day!



Suggested Classroom and Family Activities:

Interview a veteran about his experience serving in the Armed Forces and what Memorial Day means to him / her.

Pay a special tribute to a family member of a fallen soldier in your neighbor, church, and/or community.

Attend a Memorial Day parade

Research the history of Memorial Day and share what you have learned with someone

Courtesy of

Text: <http://theluckyladybug.net/2012/05/18/110-quotes-to-observe-memorial-day-with/>; <http://www.history.com/topics/memorial-day-history>

Picture: <http://allsteelefitness.com/happy-memorial-day/>

St. John Festival and Carnival Season

A grand splendid celebration showcasing the best of the United States Virgin Islands and Caribbean culture *St. John Festival and Carnival Season*. It is a fabulous time to be on St. John.

With a memorable climax including a parade and an evening of spectacular fireworks on July 4th, it promises to have festive music in the air for its duration. The events is for the very young and very senior. The local cuisine delicacies will indeed satisfy your taste buds! You will be culturally entertained by majorettes, Indians, and mocko jumbies dancing on stilts dressed in elaborate pants and jackets made of colorful silks and satins. The parades and night entertainments are some of the most popular parts of Carnival.

To the right is the general schedule of the 2015 St. John Festival and Carnival Season ...

Schedule of Events

Meet our contestants and special honorees this year ...

Queen Contestants

Princess Contestants

Carnival Village Honoree

Grand Marshalls Children & Adult Parades

Food Fair Honoree

Suggested Classroom and Family Activities:

Interview a participant / organizer about their experience

Attend an event at the St. John Festival 2015

Study the origin of the St. John Festival and Carnival and share what you have learned

Courtesy of

Text: <http://www.greatexpectationsusvi.com/st-john-usvi/events-calendar/st-john-carnival>; <http://www.greatexpectationsusvi.com/st-john-usvi/events-calendar/st-john-carnival>;

Photo: <http://www.greatexpectationsusvi.com/st-john-usvi/events-calendar/st-john-carnival>



To receive monthly complimentary electronic holidays celebrations recognition, kindly contact



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