### DID YOU KNOW?

**Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week is September 12 - 16**

- This week, we celebrate you – the people who do so much to empower children, youth, and families facing a variety of life challenges and obstacles. Your hard work and dedication positively impacts and transforms lives, and we can’t thank you enough for tackling this challenging work.

- We recognize our Child Welfare Professionals’ ability to positively influence a life’s trajectory through the heart, the head, and the hands.

- **Labor Day** celebrates the American labor movement and the contributions and achievements of the American worker.

### SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week
- Labor Day
- Hispanic Heritage Month

### SEPTEMBER 2022 Calendar

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**Rosh Hashanah**

- **Navarathri**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

- New Jersey Department of Children and Families
September is Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week

- For child welfare professionals, it’s a time to celebrate achievements, connect with colleagues, and get recharged for the year ahead.
- For child welfare leaders, it’s a time to focus on how to better support and recognize your workforce.
- For social work students, it’s an opportunity to learn about child welfare practice.
- For social work programs and faculty, it’s an opportunity to refresh child welfare curriculum with the latest resources.

September is Labor Day

- Labor Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the first Monday of September annually. The day celebrates the American labor movement and the contributions and achievements of the American worker. In the United States, Labor Day is the three day weekend ending the summer season.
- According to an early history of Labor Day, the event originated in connection with a General Assembly of the Knights of Labor convened in New York City in September 1882. In connection with this clandestine Knights assembly, a public parade of various labor organizations was held on September 5 under the auspices of the Central Labor Union (CLU) of New York. Secretary of the CLU Matthew Maguire is credited for first proposing that a national Labor Day holiday be held on the first Monday of each September after this successful public demonstration.

September is National Suicide Prevention Week

- There are an average of 123 suicides each day in this country. It’s the tenth leading cause of death in America – second leading cause for ages 25-34, and third leading cause for ages 15-24. In order to create awareness and strengthen the fight against suicide, the entire month of September is Suicide Prevention Month. Help to raise awareness by sharing resources such as 988 for hotline support and 911 for emergencies. DCF provides crisis support for children and youth through its Children’s System of Care at 877-652-7624.
- Originally established in 1979 as a support group by family members of individuals diagnosed with mental illness, the National Alliance on Mental Illness is a United States-based organization that serves as a resource. NAMI helps individuals affected by suicide, assists with sourcing effective treatment services, and raises awareness on its prevention.
- Suicidal thoughts can plague anyone regardless of age, gender, or social status. Commonly linked to depression, there is no foolproof indicator of suicidal tendencies. Many people suffering from depression or suicidal thoughts are known to hid it quite well.

September is Patriot Day

- Patriot Day is a United States national observance that honors the memory of individuals who were killed in the September 11 attacks. It was first observed in 2002, after the proclamation by President George W. Bush.
- On September 11, 2001 al-Qaeda launched a series of coordinated terrorist attacks upon the United States, killing almost 3,000 people. In the immediate aftermath of the tragic events, President proclaimed September 14, 2001 as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the
Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001. A year later, September 11 was made a National Day of Mourning, referred to as Patriot Day. This observance has been proclaimed annually since 2002. • In 2009, President Barack Obama rededicated it as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. On Patriot Day, the national flag is flown at half-mast on all United States government buildings and establishments. Individuals are also encouraged to display flags on their homes.

September is National Hispanic Heritage Month

• We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to attain success. The observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. The theme for 2022 is "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation."

• The month has been celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more. The month also celebrates the independence days of several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th. They also include holidays that recognize Hispanic contributions such as Virgin Islands-Puerto Rico Friendship Day that is celebrated in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

September is Rosh Hashanah

• The High Holy Days, The High Holidays, and The Days of Awe are all names for the Jewish Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah, which translates to "head of the year," begins at sundown on the first day of the seventh lunar month (September or October). Rosh Hashanah lasts for ten days and ends with Yom Kippur.

• The start of Rosh Hashanah begins with a candle blessing, followed by a Kiddush, and a special meal. A Kiddush is a blessing recited over wine. The meal includes challah, an egg bread that's usually braided. But for the new year it's baked round, symbolic of the hope for a smooth new year, and into a crown, symbolic of God (King of Heaven). Apples dipped in honey are also served with wishes for a sweet and fruitful new year. Other foods include pomegranates (to symbolize fruitfulness), gefilte fish (a type of poached minced fish), and lekach (a honey-sweetened cake). Nuts are not usually consumed during this time as the Hebrew word for nut is egoz and has a numerical equivalent to the Hebrew word for sin.

• Jewish people worldwide attend services at their local synagogue and hear the sounding of the shofar (a ram’s horn). The days that follow are known as the Ten Days of Repentance. This is an introspective time when people look at what they have done and ask forgiveness of God and of those they have wronged throughout the year.

September is National Family Day

• National Family Day is observed every year on the fourth Monday of September. It is a day for families to spend quality time together, share a meal to talk about their days and their lives so that they can support each other, and become closer.

• National Family Day was created in 2001 by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Use (later renamed Partnership to End Addiction)/ The day has the tagline ‘Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children’. The intention behind this holiday is to encourage families to eat together and in doing so to fight teenage drug abuse. Research shows that teenagers and children in families that have five or more meals together a week are less likely to abuse tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.
September is Navratri

- Navaratri[^1] is a biannual celebration, and one of the most revered Hindu festivals observed in the honor of goddess Mahadevi. It spans over nine nights (and ten days), first in the month of Chaitra (March/April of the Gregorian calendar) and again in the month of Sharada. It is observed for different reasons and celebrated differently in various parts of the Hindu Indian cultural sphere[^2]. Theoretically, there are four seasonal Navaratri. However, in practice, it is the post-monsoon autumn festival called Sharada Navaratri. The festival is celebrated in the bright half of the Hindu calendar month Ashvin, which typically falls in the Gregorian months of September and October.[^3]
- Navratri 2022 starts on September 26, Monday and will end with Vijaya Dasami celebration on October 05, Wednesday.

REFERENCES

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