

Fall is the time of the year in which many cultures worldwide have special rituals or celebrations to remember and honor their ancestors. As the light recedes, the veil between the living and the dead thins. In some cultures, these moments arrive throughout the year and follow the moon's phase in addition to the sun's light.

This Fall, we want to recognize the Latin American tradition of *Día de Muertos*. The countries that remember their ancestors at the beginning of November in the form of *Día de Muertos* include México, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Perú, Venezuela, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. Standard practices vary within each country, state, village, and family but may include placing photos of the dead on an altar, lighting candles, burning incense, providing food offerings, decorating with yellow chrysanthemum/marigolds, and having a celebration of the living. These practices are a mix of Indigenous (Aztec, Maya, Purépecha, Totonacas, and Nahuas) traditions three thousand years old centered in the cycles of death and rebirth and European (Catholic) traditions including All Saints Day. *Día de Muertos* is considered a "living" tradition that evolves continuously and adopts elements from different cultures and traditions.

Steiner said "All historical life, all social life, all ethical life, proceed by virtue of co-operation of the so-called living with the so-called dead." Following that lead, all of us can find common ground in the gesture of sending love to those who came before us and continue to nourish us, by honoring the earth, water, and air from whom we came and to whom we will return.

Educational Resources:

Detroit Waldorf School Diversity Book Fair:

<https://www.detroitwaldorf.org/bookfair>

Sliding Scale Training Opportunity:

<https://urban-adamah.secure.force.com/WebEvent?eid=race-what-our-kids-understand-how-we-talk-about-it-w-dr--20201021>

Community invitation:

The EID committee will hold quarterly open sessions for any non-members to observe the meeting and participate in studying an article. This time, it will be about anti-racism. Please join us on October 27th at 4 pm via Zoom. RSVP:

eidwssd@gmail.com and EID will send you the study article as well as the Zoom link.

Here is the link to the letter that we will be reading and discussing:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wplr_U0mu-g9FfloSd2hAFVMUvqyH0bO/view?usp=sharing

The EID committee would love to hear your family or community's cultural traditions that occur in November. If you would like to share them, please email us at eidwssd@gmail.com.