Father's Day in United States

Quick Facts
Father's Day celebrates the contribution that fathers and father figures make to the lives of their children.

Local names

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<td>Father's Day</td>
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Father's Day 2011
Sunday, June 19, 2011

Father's Day 2012
Sunday, June 17, 2012

Father's Day in the United States is on the third Sunday of June. It celebrates the contribution that fathers and father figures make for their children's lives. Its origins may lie in a memorial service held for a large group of men, many of them fathers, who were killed in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia in 1907.

Father's Day is a day for fathers and father-like figures. ©iStockphoto.com/jkullander
What do people do?

Father's Day is an occasion to mark and celebrate the contribution that your own father has made to your life. Many people send or give cards or gifts to their fathers. Common Father's Day gifts include sports items or clothing, electronic gadgets, outdoor cooking supplies and tools for household maintenance. Father's Day is a relatively modern holiday so different families have a range of traditions. These can range from a simple phone call or greetings card to large parties honoring all of the 'father' figures in a particular extended family. Father figures can include fathers, step-fathers, fathers-in-law, grandfathers and great-grandfathers and even other male relatives. In the days and weeks before Father's Day, many schools and Sunday schools help their pupils to prepare a handmade card or small gift for their fathers.

Public life

Father's Day is not a federal holiday. Organizations, businesses and stores are open or closed, just as they are on any other Sunday in the year. Public transit systems run to their normal Sunday schedules. Restaurants may be busier than usual, as some people take their fathers out for a treat.

Background and symbols

There are a range of events, which may have inspired the idea of Father's Day. One of these was the start of the Mother's Day tradition in the first decade of the 20th century. Another was a memorial service held in 1908 for a large group of men, many of them fathers, who were killed in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia in December 1907[now est. to have killed over 500 men and some children for the worst in US history—Dick]. A woman called Sonora Smart Dodd was an influential figure in the establishment of Father's Day. Her father raised six children by himself after the death of their mother. This was uncommon at that time, as many widowers placed their children in the care of others or quickly married again. Sonora was inspired by the work of Anna Jarvis, who had pushed for Mother's Day celebrations. Sonora felt that her father deserved recognition for what he had done. The first time Father's Day was held in June was in 1910. Father's Day was officially recognized as a holiday in 1972 by President Nixon.

About Father's Day in other countries

Read more about Father's Day.

- Mother's Day —Sunday, May 8, 2011

Other Peace, Justice, and Ecology holidays in June 2011 in United States

- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression —Saturday, June 4, 2011
- World Environment Day —Sunday, June 5, 2011
- Liberty and Justice for All Day (Flag Day) —Tuesday, June 14, 2011
- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought —Friday, June 17, 2011
- Juneteenth —Sunday, June 19, 2011
- World Refugee Day —Monday, June 20, 2011
- Public Service Day —Thursday, June 23, 2011
- International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking —Sunday, June 26, 2011
- International Day in Support of Victims of Torture —Sunday, June 26, 2011
OMNI’S NATIONAL DAYS PROJECT
OMNI’S FATHER’S DAY FOR PEACE, NOT FOR COMMERCIALIZED PROFIT, NOT FOR MILITARIZED MASCULINITY, BUT TO CELEBRATE LIFE-AFFIRMING DAYS FOR ALL FATHERS, TRANSFORMING DAYS OF NEGATION, REPRESSION, DOMINATION, AND KILLING INTO PEACE.

Countering the US SECURITY STATE’S PERMANENT WAR
The most important question of our day in all nations is: How can we provide real security for our citizens? In the US, should we spend more money on the military, even though the Pentagon’s budget is higher now than at the peak of the Cold War? Do we freeze domestic spending on education, health, jobs, transportation and clean energy in order to invade and bomb five other countries simultaneously? Do we wage an endless war on terror when the US is the major cause of global terrorism? Or do we work for the abolition of wars and nuclear weapons and for alternative ways of resolving conflict, for leaving Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan and using the money for the real needs of the world? OMNI seeks change in two ways for a Culture of Peace.

One: Education, expanding awareness, from book forums and newsletters to open mics and art shows to street demonstrations.

Two: Directly modifying the cultural structures of the US Corporate/National Security State. For example, OMNI affirms some NATIONAL DAYS (Bill of Rights Day) and offers alternatives to others. For example, Memorial Day, formerly Decoration Day, now commemorates all members of the armed forces killed in war; commemorates not all killed in a necessary, moral, legal war, but all who have been killed, never mind moral or legal purpose or actions by leaders or actions by individual soldiers. And during Memorial Day no mention is made of the much greater number of “enemy” civilians killed, particularly in WWII and afterward. Our wars are partly sustained by this conditioning system of national, heroizing celebrations.

For Father’s Day, then, instead of the present commercialized fatherhood that reinforces the Security State, let us provide a meaningful, anti-war alternative—Father’s Day for Peace. Parallel to Julia Ward Howe’s Mother’s Day for Peace, let us celebrate Father’s Day for Peace. If male advocates of nonviolence are not part of the debate, the warfare system will never change.

Note the connection of the Monongah Coal Mine explosion, the origin of Father’s Day, and the reenvisioned Father’s Day for Peace. By the late 19th century, West Virginia, a national leader in the production of coal, fell far behind other major coal-producing states in regulating mining conditions. West Virginia had a higher mine death rate than any other state. Nationwide, a total of 3,242 Americans were killed in mine accidents in 1907. In ensuing decades, the United Mine Workers of America labor union and sympathetic legislators forced safety regulations that brought a steady decline in death rates in West Virginia and elsewhere. That is, human greed (the coal company had no safety protection from explosive and toxic methane gas) and
need (poor Italians and blacks were a large number of the miners killed) caused this disaster. Human determination, wisdom, and ability to change economic and social structures have improved mining safety. Similarly, humans have a propensity for violence, for chauvinism and xenophobia, and all help to cause wars, but wars are not inevitable. Men and women can end the slaughters; in countless ways throughout history they have chosen peace to counter wars and killing. Men can say with Julia Ward Howe in her Proclamation for a Mother’s Day for Peace: “Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women [and men] of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

FATHER’S DAY FOR PEACE AND UN WORLD REFUGEE DAY

In 2010 Father’s Day for Peace and UN World Refugee Day occurred on the same day (June 20), and it was inevitable that the two days were linked. In 2011 they fall on the 19th and 20th, but their linkage seems just as appropriate. A Father’s Day for Peace extends our compassion for others beyond our immediate families and national boundaries to encompass the millions of fathers and families in all the world displaced by wars and warming. Fathers of the World. Citizens of the World. Ciudadanos Del Mundo.

World Refugee Day
20 June, 2011

For years, many countries and regions have
been holding their own Refugee Days and even Weeks. One of the most widespread is Africa Refugee Day, which is celebrated on 20 June in several countries.

The UN General Assembly, on 4 December 2000, adopted resolution 55/76 where it noted that 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to have International Refugee Day coincide with Africa Refugee Day on 20 June.

The General Assembly therefore decided that, from 2001, 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day.

This year the UN refugee agency, in its 60th year, will mark World Refugee Day with a rich and varied programme of events in locations worldwide and the launch of a new global awareness campaign. UNHCR will start rolling out the multimedia "One" campaign next week. Over the next six months it will increase awareness about the forcibly displaced and stateless by telling their powerful personal stories. The campaign will carry the message that "One Refugee Without Hope is too Many." Every day, millions of refugees face murder, rape and terror. We believe even 1 is too many.

UNHCR

**Through the eyes**

**of refugees**

In a new, global multimedia series, refugees tell the stories of their lives.

*watch 1 story*

**Longing for Home: The bond between Afro-Colombians and their land**

Mario Riascos has been forced to flee the Afro-Colombian community of La Gloria twice in the past two decades, but he keeps coming back.

*read more*

**UNHCR chief returns to Tunisia to meet refugees from Libya**

Ahead of World Refugee Day, UNHCR chief António Guterres returns to Tunisia to remind the world of its generosity in hosting refugees from Libya.

*read more*

**1 refugee without hope**

**is too many**

Every day, millions of refugees face murder, rape and terror. We believe even 1 is too many.

*read more*

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**Angelina Jolie:** UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie asks you to do 1 thing to help refugees.

*watch the video*
World Refugee Day: UNHCR to mark World Refugee Day in its 60th year with a rich and varied programme of events and the launch of a new global awareness campaign.
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Global Appeal 2011: Alerting donors, organizations and individuals to the plight of millions of refugees and others of concern to UNHCR.
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Somalia: The situation continues to deteriorate in Somalia. UNHCR is struggling to help victims of one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.
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Give Them Shelter: Some two million Somalis have been displaced war. They need your help now.
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Prominent Refugees: From Madeline Albright to Albert Einstein and Chinua Achebe, 200 former refugees who have had an impact.
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- 1 Refugee Without Hope: Canada offers new life to desperate refugee

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Making a Difference

UNHCR co-hosts global discussions on alternatives to the unnecessary and damaging detention of asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants and the stateless.
Setting the Agenda

This paper contains UNHCR's recommendations to Poland for its European Union presidency, which begins on July 1 and lasts until the end of this year. The recommendations focus on four areas.

END OF NEWSLETTER #3, REFUGEE DAY/FATHER’S DAY