

Days of the Dead Resources

Resources for the Classroom

[Similarities and Differences Between Halloween and the Days of the Dead](#)

[The Ritual of *Los Días de los Muertos*](#)

[The *Ofrenda*](#)

[Ritual Objects of the *Ofrenda*](#)

[Creating an Imaginary *Ofrenda* worksheet](#)

Places to visit in your community to celebrate Days of the Dead

Recommended books and videos

Recommended websites

Recommended presenters

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OAKLAND

The 15th Annual Days of the Dead Community Celebration Fruitvale features *ofrendas* created by artists, schools and community groups. The Oakland Museum of California will create a traditional *ofrenda* and will offer a craft activity.

HAYWARD

October 13–November 6, 2009

Hayward Area Historical Society and the East Bay Art Collaborative present *The Art of Remembrance: Days of the Dead* at the Meek Mansion. School tours are available, contact Adriana Abrams, Adriana@haywardareahistory.org. For more information call 510-581-0223.

SAN FRANCISCO

Mission Cultural Center hosts an annual exhibition and related programs. For more information go to www.missionculturalcenter.org.

SOMArts hosts an annual Days of the Dead exhibition. For more information contact info@somarts.org.

Community procession and workshops offered in multiple venues. For more information go to www.sfmission.com.

San Francisco Symphony conducts a Día de los Muertos Family Concert. For more information go to www.sfsymphony.org/season/Event.aspx?eventid=36088

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Mendocino Coast celebrates Days of the Dead Festival—communities throughout Mendocino County showcase crafts and cooking demonstrations. Galleries and wineries host an altar trail. Events include the popular tequila tasting. For more information go to www.gomendo.com or email info@littleriverinn.com.

Gualala Arts Center. Lectures and altars. For more information go to www.gualalaarts.org.

Petaluma Arts Council hosts an annual exhibition and related programs throughout the city. For more information go to www.petalumaartscouncil.org.

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RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND VIDEOS

Anconda, George. *Pablo Remembers: The Fiesta of the Day of the Dead*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1993.

Berdecio, Roberto, and Stanley Appelbaum, eds. *Posada's Popular Mexican Prints*. New York: Dover Publications, 1972.

Carmichael, Elizabeth, and Chloe Sayer. *The Skeleton at the Feast: The Day of the Dead in Mexico*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1992.

Caso, Alfonso. *The Aztecs: People of the Sun*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978.

Childs, Robert V., and Patricia B. Altman. *Vive Tu Recuerdo: Living Traditions in the Mexican Days of the Dead*. Los Angeles: University of California, 1982.

Cordry, Donald. *Mexican Masks*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1980.

Esser, Janet Brody, ed. *Behind the Mask in Mexico*. Santa Fe, NM: Museum of International Folk Art, Museum of New Mexico Press, 1988.

Garciagodoy, Juanita. *Digging the Days of the Dead: A Reading of Mexico's Dias de los Muertos*. University Press of Colorado, 1998.

Greenleigh, John, and Rosaland Rosoff Beimler, eds. *The Days of the Dead: Mexico's Festival of Communion with the Departed*. San Francisco, CA: Collins Publications, 1991.

Oakland Museum of California, and Rafael Jesús González. *El Corazón de la Muerte: Altars and Offerings for Days of the Dead*. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books, 2005.

San Vicente, Luis. *Festival of Bones: The Little-bitty Book for the Day of the Dead*. El Paso, Texas, 2002.

Videos

Food for the Ancestors: Produced by Jan Thompson, 60 minutes

La Ofrenda: Produced by Lourdes Portillo, San Francisco, CA, 52 minutes

La Muerte Viva: Produced by Ma. Victoria Lamas y Asociados, Mexico D.F., 28 minutes

Day of the Dead in Janitzio: Produced by Inside Mexico, 21 minutes

Celebrating the Day of the Dead: Produced by Inside Mexico, 20 minutes

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RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

<http://www.usc.edu/libraries/archives/arc/libraries/boeckmann/exhibits/dead/index.html>

University of Southern California (USC) website has links to several articles, essays, and journals on the topic.

<http://www.mexconnect.com/tags/day-of-the-dead>

Website features articles from various authors on the subject and has great images of Mexico.

<http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/>

Arizona Republic website includes information on crafts, history, and also has video links.

<http://www.dayofthedead.com/>

Beautiful photographs by photojournalist Mary Andrade capturing the Days of the Dead tradition in different regions of Mexico.

<http://latino.sscnet.ucla.edu/research/folklore.html>

University of California, Los Angeles created a list of articles on folklore, customs, and traditions related to the Days of the Dead.

<http://www.mona.uwi.edu/liteng/courses/E29a/documents/dayofthedeadhistory.doc>

Interesting article by Ricardo J. Salvador, "What do Mexicans Celebrate on the Day of the Dead."

<http://www.palomar.edu/multicultural/DiadelosMuertos/>

Bilingual site for Mexican customs, with photos, links, etc.

<http://www.twilightbridge.com/hobbies/festivals/losdias/>

This site offers craft ideas, recipes, and provides historical background on the Aztec and Mayan influence on the Days of the Dead.

RECOMMENDED PRESENTERS

The following teaching artists and educators are recommended for classroom and community group presentations. Arrangements and details for the presentations should be made directly by the community group coordinator and classroom teacher with the teaching artists and educators. Fees for each of the presenters vary depending on the nature of the classroom visit.

Teaching Artists:

Rachel-Anne Palacios has made a name for herself in the Bay Area art world. A self-taught, multicultural artist, her pieces reflect the respect she has for culture, religion, traditional values, elders, and the cycle of life and death. Palacios grew up in culturally diverse Oakland in a household headed by her mother and grandmother. For more information go to www.lastresflores.com. (English)

Ruben Guzman Campos was born in Mexico City and presently lives in Oakland. He graduated with a degree in Graphic Arts from Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, Mexico City. He has exhibited art in Mexico, Switzerland and California. Ruben, who studied the art of *cartoneria* (*papier mache*) from renowned Mexican artists Ricardo and Leonardo Linares, teaches traditional Mexican art to youth throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information go to www.cartoneria.com. (Bilingual)

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Recommended presenters *continued*

Fernando Hernández was born in Mexico City. He immigrated to California in 1986 and settled in Hayward. He has exhibited surrealist mixed-media sculptures throughout the Western states. An educator and artist, Hernandez organizes the collaborative installation "The Columbarium" which involves artists and students in an annual celebration of the Day of the Dead. For more information call 510-415-5054, 510-537-4878 or fernando.ebac@yahoo.com. (Bilingual)

Joaquin Newman was born in Oakland, the son of an artist mother and scientist father. His mixed heritage of Yaqui, Mexican and European ancestry has fueled his creative endeavors. In 2006 he made his public art debut with the completion of a four-panel mural at the Carmen Flores Community Center in Oakland. Joaquin works as a painter, muralist, graphic designer, illustrator and art educator. For more information go to www.forrealism.com. (English)

Ernesto Hernandez-Olmos was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and was first inspired by the arts at the age of five. Formally educated in plastic arts at the highly respected Autonomous University, Benito Juarez of Oaxaca, Mexico, he has been a practicing artist for twenty-five years. In Mexico he was selected as a young artist to display his work at the National Autonomous University of Mexico City, the Delegación Benito Juarez in Mexico City, and the Oaxacan Institute of Culture. For more information call 510-409-5604.