



# MAY

**I**

## MAY DAY, BELTANE

The start of summer by traditional reckoning of time, midway between equinox and solstice, with maypoles, floral nosegays and much celebration.

**5**

## CINCO DE MAYO

An American holiday more than a Mexican one, celebrating Mexican culture and *El Día de la Batalla de Puebla* (the Day of the Battle of the Puebla).

**6**

## HELSTON FLORA DAY

The entire town of Helston in Cornwall celebrates the arrival of summer with the Furry Dance, an ancient processional through the city. “Hal-an-Tow” is the song of the day.

**14**

## MOTHER’S DAY

Honor and cherish them all, mothers given and mothers chosen.

**15**

## COLD SOPHIE

German tradition warns of a blast of cold air in mid May, often today. (Funny how a dip in temperature seems to happen even here in Lake Worth sometimes!)

**22**

## VICTORIA DAY

Canada’s May Two-Four honors Queen Victoria; it is Canada’s unofficial start to summer. It’s also **HARVEY MILK DAY**: “You got to give them hope.”

**23**

## ROSALIA

A festival of Ancient Rome honoring the lovely rose and the goddess Flora.

**25**

## ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Traditional day for dressing water wells.

**27**

## RAMADAN BEGINS (AT SUNSET)

Patience, humility, spirituality in this month of daylight fasting that begins with the new moon.

**29**

## MEMORIAL DAY

The unofficial start to summer in the United States. Its traditional date is May 30.



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Image: An angel from a Shaker gift drawing in the collection at Chosen Land, the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Community in Maine. Most summers when I was in grad school, just about this time of year, I’d head up there to do a printing internship at the Shaker Press. A place of such wonder.

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