



Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

"No one is actually dead until the ripples stop"

—Richard Pratchett

This holiday is acknowledged around the world in many cultures. UNESCO listed it in the Heritage of Humanity. The holiday corresponds to All Saints' and All Souls' Day every year on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2. It is a JOYFUL time of focusing on the gathering of friends and family to celebrate the memories and lives of those who have died.

Traditions connected with the holiday include building of altars (called ofrendas) honoring the deceased. Altars are decorated in a very colorful way and every single object has a meaning, including pictures of the loved one, their favorite food or drink, and a special item or belonging representing the departed. All of these items are arranged on the altar. Also seen are skulls, incense, skeletons, tissue paper decorations, fruit and nuts and muertos— the bread of the dead. The intent is to encourage the souls of the departed to visit and hear the prayers and comments directed to them.

Celebrations can take a humorous tone as family and friends share funny events and anecdotes about the departed. All of this reminds us that death is just a part of life.

Call Maggie Pooley with any questions.
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