



MAY

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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.

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!)

14

MOTHER’S DAY

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

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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