

Celebrating Diaspora Communities in the U.S.

2017



VOA75

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AFRICA

Afan Oromo
Amharic
Bambara
French
Hausa
Kinyarwanda
Kirundi
Ndebele
Portuguese
Sango
Shona
Somali
Songhai
Swahili
Tamachek
Tigrigna
Wolof

EAST ASIA

Burmese
Cantonese
Indonesian
Khmer
Korean
Lao
Mandarin
Thai
Tibetan
Vietnamese

VOA ENGLISH

EURASIA

Albanian
Armenian
Bosnian
Georgian
Macedonian
Russian
Serbian
Ukrainian

LATIN AMERICA

Creole
Spanish

VOA PERSIAN

SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA

Azerbaijani
Bangla
Dari
Kurdish
Pashto
Turkish
Urdu
Uzbek



Voice of America®

**News and Information
in 47 Languages**



CHARTER

President Gerald Ford signed the VOA Charter into law in 1976. It protects the independence and integrity of VOA programming.

- 1. VOA** will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.
- 2. VOA** will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.
- 3. VOA** will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies.

Dear Friends,

The Voice of America celebrates its 75th anniversary on February 1, 2017. In honor of this momentous occasion, we are taking you on a journey around the U.S. to showcase vibrant and exciting celebrations that take place in various diaspora communities every year. From Persian New Year celebrations in Los Angeles to the West Indian American Day Parade in New York City, to Carnival in Puerto Rico, these celebrations highlight the multicultural diversity that makes the United States what it is today. For example, did you know that the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. all started with a gift of cherry trees from the mayor of Tokyo more than 100 years ago?

Voice of America's audience growth has been exponential. In fact, our 2016 numbers were the highest to date. We now reach a record number of 236.6 million people weekly around the globe through various platforms – television, radio, and the web. Every year more people get their news and information from digital platforms, so we placed a greater emphasis on social media this year, and our numbers skyrocketed. VOA sites now enjoy nearly seven million hits weekly from people around the world.

Providing accurate, objective, and comprehensive news and information to global audiences is what we do best. We also have impact around the world. After a VOA report highlighted a Yazidi woman disfigured by a mine blast while escaping enslavement by Islamic State militants, organizations and individuals around the world reached out to help and she received the needed surgery. The impact we have seen firsthand is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of our journalists and staff, who go above and beyond 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

2016 was a terrific year, and there is no doubt that VOA will continue to bring audiences credible, reliable, trustworthy news and information about America and the world. Be sure to keep listening, watching, and visiting us online.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and wonderful 2017.

Sincerely,
Amanda Bennett, VOA Director



Chinese New Year (California) Parades are an integral part of the Chinese New Year celebration in San Francisco and in many cities across the United States. Traditionally, the festival is a time to honor deities and ancestors. Chinese living in the United States, Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, and the Philippines celebrate the Chinese New Year.

DECEMBER 2016

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FEBRUARY 2017

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2017 | **JANUARY** | 2017

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Photo Credit: Dreamstime/Luis Fernandez

Carnival (Puerto Rico) The Ponce Carnival is an annual celebration held in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Traditionally, it was the final celebration before the beginning of Lent but today has transformed into a weeklong party. The Ponce Carnival ends the day before Ash Wednesday and dates back to 1858.

JANUARY 2017

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2017 | **FEBRUARY** | 2017

MARCH 2017

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Persian New Year (California) Dancers in Los Angeles celebrate Norouz, the most widely celebrated holiday in the Islamic Republic of Iran and by those of Persian ancestry in the United States and other parts of the world. Norouz means “New Day” in Farsi and marks the first day of spring and the Persian New Year.

FEBRUARY 2017

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Cherry Blossom Festival (Washington, D.C.) The National Cherry Blossom Festival of Washington, D.C., attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every spring. The festival commemorates the close bond between the United States and Japan that dates back to 1912 when Tokyo Mayor Yukio Ozaki gave the trees to the United States as a gift. The festival is a four-week celebration held in many parts of Washington, D.C.

MARCH 2017

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MAY 2017

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New York City Dance Parade and Festival (New York) Members of the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble take part in the annual New York City Dance Parade and Festival. Since its start in 2007, the parade has showcased the variety of dance styles that the multi-cultural city has to offer.

APRIL 2017

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Grand Floral Parade (Oregon) Marchers from the Indonesian community in Portland, Oregon, take part in the annual Grand Floral Parade. It is the second largest all-floral parade in the United States and the highlight of Portland's Rose Festival. The parade showcases local, regional, and international communities. Started in 1907, the Grand Floral Parade continues to draw hundreds of thousands of people to its route through the streets of Portland.

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Photo Credit: Alamy/ Zuma Press, Inc.

Chedepo-Grebo Cultural Festival (California) A Liberian family performs a traditional African dance at the annual Chedepo-Grebo Cultural Festival in northern California. The festival celebrates African culture, featuring traditional food, music and dance each July in Yolo County.

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Photo Credit: iStock.com/Mccallk69

Dragon Boat Race (Alabama) Dragon boat racing has a long history in China and teams from Central Alabama and other parts of the United States continue the tradition as they compete in the annual Dragon Boat Race in Montgomery, Alabama. Held at the Riverfront Park on the banks of the Alabama River, proceeds from the race benefit local non-profit organizations helping high school students, the elderly, and the disabled.

JULY 2017

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2017 | **AUGUST** | 2017

SEPTEMBER 2017

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West Indian Day Parade (New York) The West Indian Day Parade is one of the largest annual events in Brooklyn, New York. The parade follows a five-day celebration that highlights a number of Caribbean nations, including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Belize. It is known for its colorful costumes and large crowds that line the parade route.

AUGUST 2017

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2017 | **SEPTEMBER** | 2017

OCTOBER 2017

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Photo Credit: iStock.com/laengklak

Parade of Cultures (Maryland) Bolivian dancers in their traditional dress perform in the Parade of Cultures at the World of Montgomery Festival. The event is held annually in Montgomery County, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. The county is one of the most culturally diverse in the nation.

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2017

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NOVEMBER 2017

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BUS STOP
TRANSIT
203-327-7439
Routes:
13:31-32
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PARADE
ROUTE

Thanksgiving Day (Connecticut) Marchers take part in the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade in Stamford, Connecticut, which attracts more than 100,000 people and features floats, clowns, visiting dignitaries, and marching bands. It is just one of many parades that are held throughout the United States to celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

OCTOBER 2017

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2017 | **NOVEMBER** | 2017

DECEMBER 2017

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Las Posadas (New Mexico) Las Posadas is celebrated in Mexico and by Mexican-Americans in the southwestern United States during the month of December. Communities participate in nightly processions that recreate the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem by placing little lanterns (luminarias) along the way. Las Posadas has been a tradition in Mexico for 400 years and is now becoming popular in the United States, especially in Hispanic communities.

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