

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Corner
This Month's Happenings: August 2023

Obon 8/13-15

[Obon](#) is a Japanese Buddhist holiday honoring the spirits of one's ancestors, whose spirits are believed to temporarily return to this world to visit their relatives. While customs vary from region to region, typically Obon is celebrated by hanging lanterns in front of houses to guide the ancestors' spirits, dancing (bon odori), visiting graves, and offering food at altars and temples. At the end of Obon, floating lanterns are placed back into rivers, lakes, and seas to guide the ancestors' spirits back to their world. Interested in learning more? Attend [Japan-America Society of Central Ohio's Obon Festival on 8/12](#).



Raksha Bandhan 8/30

[Raksha Bandhan](#) is a Hindu festival celebrating the relationship between brothers and sisters on the full moon of the Hindu month of Shrawana. The term Raksha Bandhan means "bond of protection," from the Sanskrit word *rakhi*, a bracelet made of thread that sisters tie around their brother's wrists to symbolize the brother's oath to protect his sister throughout her life. Traditionally, the sister ties the *rakhi* on her brother's wrist while chanting a prayer and marking his forehead with Kumkum powder. Once the sister has tied the *rakhi*, she places something sweet in her brother's mouth. He, in return, presents her with a gift, signifying his acceptance of his duty.