



Day of the Dead Día de los Muertos

Saturday, November 3, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.



Day of the Dead will be celebrated at Gualala Arts Center on Saturday, November 3 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Complementing the celebration will be an exhibit, "Memento Mori," and the exciting return of live Mariachis performing with the Coast Folkloric Dancers. The event is open to the public and free, with authentic Mexican food and drinks available for purchase.

While Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a tradition unique to Mexico, it is becoming a very popular holiday in the United States. Javier Chavez, bilingual bicultural family advocate for Action Network, comments, "There is an appeal here which just crosses right over the culture line. People who are Latino, who speak no Spanish, really relate to the experience. I think this is because it's an integration of life and death - it's about family togetherness, and honoring who we are. This eases the

grief of losing someone we care for, and it takes away the fear."

America's traditional Halloween is a fun holiday which most people enjoy, but the spirit (pardon the pun) of the holiday no longer rests on deeply held religious beliefs. It has evolved mostly into wearing elaborate costumes and for kids, collecting a large bag of candy.

Wikipedia elaborates on the history, "The ancient Celts believed that on October 31, now known as Halloween, the boundary between the living and the deceased dissolved, and the dead become dangerous for the living by causing problems such as sickness or damaged crops. The festivals would frequently involve bonfires, into which the bones of slaughtered livestock were thrown. Costumes and masks were also worn at the festivals in an attempt to copy the evil spirits or placate them."

