# Miriam's Nature Calendar 2020



**Photos by Miriam Garfinkle** 



# January

"I don't know what I'll be when I grow up, but it will be me."

— Miriam (age 47) in December 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2019  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30 31		JOBS: JUSTICE. CLIMATE ACTION.	New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	Full Moon (Wolf Moon)	11
12	13	14	Great Horned Owls mate in January. Couples hoot to each other, so they're more conspicuous.	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat)
26	27	28	29	30	31	February 2020 S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29



# February

"Why do you have to test bombs? There really is no meaning to it.

I am sure that me and everybody else will appreciate it if you stopped testing."

— 8-year-old Miriam's letter to President Kennedy & Premier Khrushchev

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March 2020  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30 31				Line 9	Start of Black History Month
World Wetlands Day	3	4	5	6	7	8
Full Moon/Supermoon (Snow Moon)	See Mercury in western sky just after sunset	11	12	13	Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb 14-17)	15
16	17 Family Day (Louis Riel Day in Manitoba)	18	19	World Day of Social Justice	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29



#### March

in late March

"It's true that we want it all. We want proper accountability and democratic process. We want music, J.K., educational assistants, psychological support staff, decent classroom sizes, heat, light, textbooks and librarians. And we want it for all children of Ontario."

- Miriam, public letter to Minister of Education, 1997 Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday 3 Maple syrup season Zero Discrimination Day World Wildlife Day under way **Daylight Savings Time** begins International Women's Full Moon/Supermoon (Worm Moon) Day 20 15 18 6 19 Migrating Tundra Swans gather near International Day Aylmer & Pinery March Equinox (mid-March-early April) 11:49 EDT of Forests St. Patrick's Day 23 25 26 27 See Venus after sunset (look for bright planet Earth Hour World Water Day in western sky) 30 31 February 2020 PUBLIC SCHOOL Spring Peepers & Wood Frogs start calling

Red-breasted Merganser, Toronto Island, March 2014

Start carrot seeds





"My parents brought me up to be a humanist, to look beyond my own life-style and care about other people's problems."

- Miriam in an interview

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2020  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30 31			1	Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Amphibian Survey begins (to June 10)	3	You can – you should! – plant pansies now.
National Wildlife Week begins	Turtles start to emerge from hibernation early April	Full Moon/Supermoon (Pink Moon) Plant Brussels Sprouts seedlings. Miriam (mistakenly) called them "little cabbages from hell."	Passover begins at sunset	9 First day of Passover	10  Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday	13	14	15	Passover ends at sunset	17 Political Prisoners' Day – Palestine	18
19	20	21	22  Earth Day	23	24 Miriam's birthday (1954)	25
26	27	Workers Mourning Day for workers killed at work	29	30	OHIP FOR ALL Healthier Together	May 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31





"My own moral conscience as a human being allows me to do nothing less."

— Miriam on speaking out against Israel's oppression of Palestinians

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2020  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4  5 6 7 8 9 10 11  12 13 14 15 16 17 18  19 20 21 22 23 24 25  26 27 28 29 30		END THE OCCUPATION SUPPORT THE INTIFADA			May Day – International Workers' Day	Early May: first chimney swifts arrive in southern Ontario/Quebec
3	4	5	6	FULL 7	8	9
World Press Freedom Day	Time to plant corn	Karl Marx's birthday (1818)		Full Moon/Supermoon (Flower Moon)		World Migratory Bird Day + Toronto Bird Celebration (May 9–24)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day					Al Nakba Day	National Fiddling Day
17 Endangered Species Day International Day against Homophobia & Transphobia	18 Victoria Day	19	World Bee Day National Chimney Swift Roost Monitoring Day 1 (also 24th & 28th)	21	22	23
24 Eid-al-Fitr	25	26	27	28	29	Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival
31						June 2020  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6  7 8 9 10 11 12 13  14 15 16 17 18 19 20  21 22 23 24 25 26 27  28 29 30





"The interests of corporations cannot be allowed to trump public health and safety."

– Miriam, in an article in NOW magazine

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Swiftwatch Monitoring June–July. Canadian Lakes Loon Survey Season June 1–August 31	National Aboriginal History Month begins	2	World Bicycle Day	4	Full Moon (Strawberry Moon) World Environment Day	6
7	8 World Oceans Day	9 Canadian Rivers Day	10	11	World Day Against Child Labour	13
14	15  Nature Photography Day	16	17	18	19	World Refugee Day June Solstice 5:43 EDT
Peoples Day Father's Day	22 World Rainforest Day	23	24	25	26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	27
28	29	30		JETS T.O.	May 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 4 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Marsh Marigolds, MacGregor Point, Spring 2017





"I certainly wouldn't want anybody making decisions about my health with the little sleep I had."

- Miriam on being a medical intern

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	R	HIGH PARK	<b>1</b> Canada Day	2	3	International Day of Cooperatives
Full Moon (Buck Moon)	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	Jupiter big and bright all night. With binoculars, see four of its moons.  Bastille Day	15	16	Fireflies tend to be most visible in mid-July	18 Canada Parks Day
19	See Saturn! With binoculars, see the rings and several moons.	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	August 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Painted Turtles, Brickworks, Summar 2013





"If we don't hold on to a sense of community, what we are left with is, well, I hate to think. The teacher, the mother, my community – they are reminders of a world that still struggles to maintain decent values and a basic kindness between human beings."

- Miriam, 1995 letter to the *Toronto Star* 

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4  5 6 7 8 9 10 11  12 13 14 15 16 17 18  19 20 21 22 23 24 25  26 27 28 29 30 31		STOP LINE 9				Chimney Swift Fall Monitoring
2	Full Moon (Sturgeon Moon) Civic Holiday	4	5	6 Hiroshima Day	7	8
International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10	11	Peak of Perseids meteor shower (visible July 17 to Aug 24)	13	14	Fall Migration Monitoring (Aug 15–Nov 15)
16	17	18	19	Muharram/ Islamic New Year	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	31					September 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



# September

"The rich are getting richer and the poor getting poorer and human rights are increasingly violated to maintain this. We don't need more and more studies to tell us about the consequences of this. We need to take action."

— Miriam, in a talk

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2020  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	\$15 FAIRNESS	1	Full Moon (Corn Moon)	3	4	5
6 World Shorebirds Day	7  Labour Day	8	Raptor migration early Sept. to late Oct. (Hawk Hill in High Park is a prime viewing site.)	10	11	12
13	14	Monarch migration mid- Sept. to mid-Oct. Prime departure spots: Leslie Street Spit & Point Pelee	16	17	Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset	19
20	21	September Equinox 9:30 EDT	23  National Tree Day	24	25	World Environmental Health Day
Yom Kippur begins at sunset	28 Yom Kippur	29	30		SLAFE WORK	Occtober 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



### October

"Pumpkins are food! It is such a waste to use food for fun and then toss it! It is so typical of our wasteful culture."

- Miriam, every year around Hallowe'en. See her recipes at www.sources.com/Pumpkin.htm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November 2020  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30	Dignity Equality Justice		Start of Women's History Month Full Moon (Harvest Moon)	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10  World Migratory Bird Day
11	12 Thanksgiving Day	See Mars!	14	International Day of Rural Women	16 World Food Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24  International Day of Climate Action
25	26	27	28	29	30	Full Moon (Hunter's Moon) (Blue Moon) Hallowe'en



#### November

"I never thought in a hundred years that I would be learning to play hockey at age 42 or 43. But it's really added to my life," said Dr. Garfinkle. "When you get on the ice it's like floating and gliding. I like the idea of working together as a team and feeling part of the group and I enjoy learning the skills." — Family Practice magazine, 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Savings Time ends		4.0	4.4	10	4.0	4.4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14  Diwali festival of lights
			Remembrance Day			Project FeedWatch begins
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence	26	27	28
International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	Full Moon (Beaver Moon)	STOP ISRAELI VIOLENCE END THE OCCUPATION Independent Jewish Voices Independent Jewish Voices	Against Women		S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December 2020  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5  6 7 8 9 10 11 12  13 14 15 16 17 18 19  20 21 22 23 24 25 26  27 28 29 30 31



## December "All there is, is us. There is no one but us to do this."

- Miriam on our responsibility to work for a better world

		– IVIII	iam on our respons	ibility to work for a t	etter world.	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2020  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30	status for all!	1	2	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4	5 World Soil Day
Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women	7	8	9	Human Rights Day Hanukkah starts at sunset	11	12
Peak of Geminids meteor shower. See 120 meteors/hour. Best from dark location after midnight.	14	15	16	17	International Migrants Day Hanukkah ends at sunset	19
20 International Human Solidarity Day	December Solstice 5:02 EDT Conjunction of Jupiter & Saturn (first in 20 years). Western sky just after sunset.	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26  Boxing Day
27	28	Full Moon (Cold Moon)	30	31  New Year's Eve		S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Chinese watercolour painting by Miriam, 2017

#### Miriam Garfinkle Social Justice Fund

Friends of Miriam have come together to set up the Miriam Garfinkle Social Justice Fund, which will be officially launched in early 2020.

This fund is being established to honour Miriam's lifetime of work for social justice. Its mission is to support projects and initiatives that aim to change the world in large ways and small, with the ultimate goal of building a world based on justice and community where people live in harmony with the planet.

The Fund will prioritize grassroots initiatives, with emphasis on projects designed to raise awareness and stimulate organizing and action.

A variety of projects may be considered for funding, with particular emphasis on causes that Miriam worked for, such as:

- Ecosocialist environmental organizing/climate actions that challenge the logic of capitalism;
- Support for the struggle of the Palestinian people against occupation and for liberation;
- · Workers' rights, including pay and working conditions;
- Indigenous rights, especially in relation to environmental issues and the impact of colonialism;
- · Opposition to militarism;
- · Grassroots democracy;
- · Health care for all regardless of status;
- · Preservation of natural areas;
- · For public services, against privatization.



Miriam took her homemade sign to many demonstrations.

We welcome your donations to support the continuation of Miriam's work. We will shortly offer the ability to make donations online. In the meantime, you can send a cheque, made out to the Miriam Garfinkle Social Justice Fund, to:

Miriam Garfinkle Social Justice Fund c/o Connexions, 401 Richmond Street West, Suite 410 Toronto ON M5G 3A8

Please note that the Fund is not a charity because it will support causes that are considered political – so your donation to the Fund will not be eligible for a charitable tax credit.

www.miriamgarfinklefund.org

#### **Miriam's Nature Calendar 2020**

Photos by Miriam Garfinkle

This calendar presents a selection of Miriam Garfinkle's nature photos. All the large photos (cover + the 12 months + the painting on the penultimate page) are by Miriam. The small photos *of* Miriam are by Ulli. Front cover: Baby raccoon in Miriam & Ulli's backyard, May 2017. The buttons on calendar pages are ones that Miriam wore.

Miriam took many photos. To see more of them, visit www.diemer.ca/Photos/MiriamsSelected1.html

Articles and letters by Miriam, and articles about Miriam and her many involvements, are at www.diemer.ca/Miriam/

The Moments with Miriam page, with many contributions from people who knew Miriam, is at www.diemer.ca/MiriamMoments.html

This calendar was compiled by Ulli Diemer.
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A PDF of this calendar is at www.diemer.ca/Miriam/Calendar2020.pdf



Miriam taking photos in Rosedale Valley, May 2017 (photo by Ulli).

"Judging by the Globe and Mail coverage, it appears that breast cancer only strikes women who have six-figure incomes. This is not the case.

"Working-class women and women living in poverty also get breast cancer. These women also face the fear of dying, the worry of how to tell their children and difficult treatment decisions.

"Their concerns do not revolve around whether or not to wear a wig during their next television appearance. They are worried about feeding themselves and their children decently during the long ordeals of surgery and chemotherapy. They are challenged by often arduous daily trips to and from radiation appointments that some cannot actually manage. Too sick to work, they struggle to cope with the impact of loss of income on themselves and their families.

"Perhaps the Globe and Mail could tear itself away from the concerns of celebrities and devote a story to the realities that these women with breast cancer face."

 Miriam, 2006 letter to the Globe & Mail