

Calendar of Interfaith Observances

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

November
(Full Month)

Adoptees, birth families, adoptive families and adoption professionals reflect on, educate and celebrate adoption practices.

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

November
(Full Month)

Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans and indigenous people in the United States.

ALL SAINTS' DAY • Western Christian

November 1

Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

DIWALI • Hindu

November 1

Also called *Deepavali*, “Festival of Lights”, it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

BIRTH OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í

November 2

Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, “the Báb,” the prophetherald of the Bahá'í Faith, in Shíráz, Persia.

ALL SOULS' DAY • Christian

November 2

Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as *Día de los Muertos* between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.

BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í

November 3

Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, in Núr, Persia.

ELECTION DAY

November 5

A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.

KRISTALLNACHT / THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS

November 9-10

Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna. Leaders of the Nazi Party instigated attacks against Jewish persons and property. Rioters destroyed hundreds of synagogues and damaged or destroyed more than 7,000 Jewish businesses. 30,000 Jewish males were arrested and interned in concentration camps. Estimates of the death toll range from 91 to more than 600.

VETERANS' DAY

November 11

Honors military veterans and the U.S. Armed Services.

GURU NANAK DEV JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh

November 15

A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev's was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE

November 16

Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

November 18-22

Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U. S. receives a quality education.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

November 20

Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

DAY OF THE COVENANT • Bahá'í

November 24

Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, Abdu'l-Baha, as His successor.

THANKSGIVING DAY

November 28

Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims' harvest feast in the autumn of 1621. It is considered by some to be a "national day of mourning," in recognition of the conquest of Native Americans by colonists.

DECEMBER

2024

WORLD AIDS DAY

December 1

International day of action on HIV and AIDS.

ADVENT • Christian

December 1-24

Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

December 3

Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

BODHI DAY • Buddhist

December 8

Also known as *Rohatsu*, commemorates the day that the Buddha, Siddharta Gautama, experienced enlightenment or spiritual awakening (bodhi). Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

December 10

On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian

December 12

Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

December 15

Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.

WINTER SOLSTICE

December 21

Marks the first day of the season of winter. The length of time between sunrise and sunset is the shortest of the year with the sun shining closest to the Southern Hemisphere and the farthest from the Northern Hemisphere.

CHRISTMAS EVE • Christian

December 24

Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

CHRISTMAS • Western Christian

December 2

Commemorates the birth of Jesus.

KWANZAA

Dec. 26 - Jan 1

A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality.

“Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.

CHANUKAH • Jewish

Dec. 26 - Jan 2

Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, also known as *Hanukkah*, celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE.

Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.

WOUNDED KNEE DAY

December 29

On December 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.

NEW YEAR’S EVE

December 31

In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve, the last day of the year, is on December 31. In many countries, New Year's Eve is celebrated at evening social gatherings, where many people dance, eat, drink. etc.

JANUARY

2025

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 1

The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.

GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh

January 6

Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru of Nanak and founder of the Khalsa.

CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian

January 6

Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.

EPIPHANY • Christian

January 6

Known as *Theophany* in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.

CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian

January 7

Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.

MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu

January 14

Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun toward the north.

MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist

January 14

In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.

January 19

WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í

Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

January 20

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is on January 15th but it is observed on the third Monday in January.

January 20-24

NO NAME-CALLING WEEK

Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.

January 27

UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.

January 29

LUNAR NEW YEAR • Confucian, Daoist and Buddhist

Also known as the *Spring Festival*, an important festival celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.

FEBRUARY

2025

February
(Full Month)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

February 1

NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.

February 13

TU B'SHVAT • Jewish

New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.

February 13

MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist

Also known as *Sangha Day*, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 disciples, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.

February 14

VALENTINE'S DAY

Celebrates the idea of romantic love.

February 14

PURIM • Jewish

The “Feast of Lots” marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

February 15

NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist

Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8.

February 15

SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY

A commemorative holiday to celebrate the birth of Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906) and women's suffrage in the United States.

February 17

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.

WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

U.N. day to recognize efforts to achieve fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.

February 20

AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í

The Ayyám-i-ha, or “Days of Ha” are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year by inserting days into the calendar in order to maintain their solar calendar.

February 25-28

MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu

Also called *Shiva Ratri*, the Great Night of Shiva, is a festival in reverence of the god Shiva. The festival is celebrated at the 13th night or 14th day of the waning moon in the Hindu calendar (month of February or March of the English calendar).

February 26

RAMADAN • Islamic

Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the *Qur'an* to the Prophet Muhammad.

Feb 28 - Mar 30

MARCH

2025

March

(Full Month)

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Honors women as significant agents of historical change.

NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í

March 1-19

Bahá'ís between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.

CLEAN MONDAY • Eastern Christian

March 3

The beginning of *Great Lent* for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha), counting Sundays.

SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian

March 4

A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide.

ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian

March 5

The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8

Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.

HOLI • Hindu

March 14

A spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colours or the festival of sharing love.

HOLA MOHALLA • Sikh

March 14-16

An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. Celebrations related to Holla Mohalla may be held in various locations over several weekends preceding the actual date of the holiday.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY • Christian

March 17

Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.

VERNAL EQUINOX

March 20

Marks the first day of the season of spring. The sun shines nearly equally on both hemispheres when it's spring in the Northern Hemisphere and simultaneously fall in the Southern Hemisphere.

NOWRÚZ • Zoroastrian

March 20

A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New Year. Also celebrated as New Year's Day in Baha'i tradition (Naw-Ruz). (This date may vary based on region or sect.)

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

March 21

Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

KHORDAD SAL • Zoroastrian

March 25

The Zoroastrian celebration of the birth of Zoroaster, the founder of the Zoroastrian religion. The holiday is specifically celebrated in India and Iran, immediately following the Persian new year, Nowrúz.

LAILA AL-QADR • Islamic

March 27

Commemorates the night that the *Qur'an* was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. It is known as the "Night of Power." Often set on the 27th day of Ramadan, Sunnis may observe it on the 21st, 23rd, 25th or 29th and Shī'ite (Shiite) observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd day of Ramadan.

March 31

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927– 1993) who was a nationally respected voice for social justice.

March 31

EID AL-FITR • Islamic

The “Feast of the Breaking of the Fast” marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.

APRIL

2025

GENOCIDE AWARENESS MONTH

April
(Full Month)

A month that marks important anniversaries for past and contemporary genocides. Throughout the month, individuals, communities and organizations join together to remember and honor victims and survivors of mass atrocities.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

April
(Full Month)

Introduced in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States.

RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu

April 6

Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.

DAY OF SILENCE

April 11

Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish

April 12-20

The eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” celebrates Israel’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

PALM SUNDAY • Christian

April 13

Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist

April 13

In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.

VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi) • Sikh

April 14

The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.

HOLY THURSDAY • Christian

April 17

Also known as *Maundy Thursday*, it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.

GOOD FRIDAY • Christian

April 18

Known as *Holy Friday* in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.

EASTER • Christian

April 20

Known as *Pascha* in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá'í

Apr 20 - May 1

Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (April 20), ninth (April 28), and twelfth (May 1) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'is suspend work.

YOM HASHOAH • Jewish

April 23

"Holocaust Remembrance Day" memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.

ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY

April 24

Memorializes the genocide of approximately 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

MAY

2025

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May
(Full Month)

Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May
(Full Month)

Recognizes the history of Jewish contributions to American culture, acknowledging the diverse achievements of American Jews.

INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY

May 1

Also known as *May Day*, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a workers' strike for an eight-hour work day.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

May 3

Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.

CINCO DE MAYO

May 5

In 1862, Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla.

MOTHER'S DAY

May 11

Children of all ages show appreciation for their mothers and mother figures.

VISAKHA PUJA • Buddhist

May 12

Also known as *Vesak* or *Buddha Day*, it marks the birth, spiritual awakening and death (nirvana) of the historical Buddha. (This date may vary based on region or sect.)

LAG B'OMER • Jewish

May 16

Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE).

WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

May 21

Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.

May 23

DECLARATION OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í

Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, announced in Shíráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.

MEMORIAL DAY

May 26

A federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces.

ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í

May 28

Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

ASCENSION DAY • Christian

May 29

Also known as *Holy Thursday*, celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

JUNE

2025

LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

June
(Full Month)

Commemorates the anniversary of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riot in New York City, the incident that initiated the modern gay rights movement in the United States.

SHAVUOT • Jewish

June 1-3

The “Feast of Weeks” celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED)

June 5

The United Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment.

EID AL-ADHA • Islamic**June 7**

Commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of a command from God. Marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).

PENTECOST • Christian**June 8**

Also known as *Whitsunday*, the seventh Sunday after Easter/Pascha commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.

RACE UNITY DAY • Bahá'í**June 8**

Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.

ANNE FRANK DAY**June 12**

Birthday of young Jewish girl whose diary describes her family's experiences hiding from the Nazis through assistance of Gentile friends.

LOVING DAY**June 12**

Observes the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia* which struck down the miscegenation laws remaining in 16 states barring interracial marriage.

FLAG DAY**June 14**

Anniversary of the adoption of the United States flag by Congress in 1777.

ALL SAINTS' DAY • Eastern Christian**June 15**

In Orthodox churches observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost, it commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints.

FATHER'S DAY

June 15

Children of all ages show appreciation for their fathers and father figures.

JUNETEENTH

June 19

Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, it is now celebrated throughout the U.S. to honor African American freedom and achievement.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

June 20

Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.

SUMMER SOLSTICE

June 20

Marks the first day of the season of summer. The length of time between sunrise and sunset is the longest of the year with the sun shining the farthest from the Southern Hemisphere and the closest to the Northern Hemisphere.

ANNIVERSARY OF LEGALIZATION OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN THE U.S.

June 26

On June 26, 2015, in the case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples

MUHARRAM • Islamic

June 26

The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. This first day, al-Hijra, remembers the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE. It also marks the beginning of the ten-day Shi'ite Remembrance of Muharram, a period of

intense grief and martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad.

JULY

2025

INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4

Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.

ASHURA • Islamic

July 5

A day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses' exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day remembrance of Muharram, which mourns the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Kerbala.

MARTYRDOM OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í

July 9

Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabriz, Persia, of the 30-year-old Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad, the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith.

DHARMA DAY • Buddhist

July 10

Also known as *Asalha Puja*, it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.

ULLAMBANA (also known as Obon) • Buddhist

July 13-15

Ullambana, a Sanskrit term that means “hanging upside down and suffering,” honors the spirits of past ancestors and strives to relieve aching souls from suffering. It lasts about half of the month of August. Obon, the Japanese transliteration of Ullambana, is only three days and varies from region to region—July in the eastern region and August in the western region.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) DAY

July 26

Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

AUGUST

2025

TISHA B'AV • Jewish

August 3

Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

August 9

Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination and denial of basic human rights.

RAKSHA BANDHAN • Hindu

August 9

Also called *Rakhi*, this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

August 12

Celebrates young people and the integral role they play in helping to create a world fit for children.

KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI (Also known as JAYANTI) • Hindu

August 16

Celebrates Krishna's birthday, Vishnu's eighth incarnation on earth.

SENIOR CITIZEN DAY

August 21

Recognizes the many contributions older adults make in communities across the United States.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION

August 23

Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

August 26

Commemorates the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

August 27

GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu

Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.

SEPTEMBER

2025

GUR-GADDI GURU GRANTH SAHIB • Sikh

September 1

Since 1708, Sikhs have accepted Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their eternal Guru that holds the spirit of all Ten Gurus of the Sikhs. They consider Guru Granth Sahib to be a spiritual guide not only for Sikhs but for all of mankind; it plays a central role in guiding the Sikhs' way of life.

September 1

LABOR DAY

Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.

September 4

MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Shi'a)

The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Sunni Muslims celebrate it five days earlier than Shi'a Muslims.

September 5

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHARITY

Recognizes the role of charity in alleviating human suffering, as well as of the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals, including the work of Mother Teresa.

September 8

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

Call to action for universal literacy.

September 9

MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Sunni)

The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.

**Sept. 15 - Oct.
15**

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

September 17

CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY

Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.

September 22

AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

Marks the first day of the season of fall. The sun shines nearly equally on both hemispheres when it's fall in the Northern Hemisphere and simultaneously spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

September 22

NAVARATRI • Hindu

Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.

Sept. 22-24

ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish

Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

September 23

BI VISIBILITY DAY

Seeks to draw attention to public policy concerns and foster respect for bi+ individuals and communities.

OCTOBER

2025

October
(Full Month)

NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

A campaign to unite communities nationwide to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention.

October
(Full Month)

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.

October
(Full Month)

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.

October 1

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

Marked on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence, a U.N commemoration promoting the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding.

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October 2

YOM KIPPUR • Jewish

The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.

October 2

DUSSEHRA/DASSERA • Hindu

Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as *Durga Puja*, which celebrates the goddess Durga.

October 2

WORLD TEACHER’S DAY

Held annually to commemorate teacher organizations worldwide.

October 5

SUKKOT • Jewish

The week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

Oct. 6-13

October 11

COMING OUT DAY

Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, DC, for gay and lesbian equality.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY (Native American Day)

Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.

[The second Monday of October is also marked as a U.S. federal holiday, Columbus Day. Many people are opposed to the celebration of a man who led and committed atrocities against Indigenous people. Some states and cities in the U.S. have officially changed the day to Indigenous People’s Day. Similarly, it is celebrated as *Día de la Raza*, “Day of the Race”, in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.]

October 13

SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish

“The Eighth (Day) of Assembly” is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.

October 14

SIMCHAT TORAH • Jewish

“Rejoicing in the Torah” celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.

October 15

BANDI-CHHOR DIVAS • Sikh

A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in autumn and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

October 20

DIWALI • Hindu

Also called *Deepavali*, “Festival of Lights”, it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

October 21

BIRTH OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í

October 22

Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, “the Báb,” the prophetherald of the Bahá'í Faith, in Shíráz, Persia.

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October 23

Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, in Núr, Persia.

UNITED NATIONS DAY

October 24

Commemorates the founding of the world organization in 1945.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

October 27

Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

HALLOWEEN

October 31

The eve of All Saints' Day.

REFORMATION DAY • Christian

October 31

Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.