

# AWARENESS & INTERFAITH CALENDAR 2018-2019

This listing contains religious observances, ethnic and cultural festivities, and awareness dates. The goal is to increase awareness and enhance mutual understanding and respect. While the dates of secular holidays are based on the Gregorian calendar, many religions and cultures follow various calendar systems that are based on moon phases with occasional adjustments for the solar cycle. As a result, some dates vary by year. In addition, dates may vary by geography and according to different religious sects.

## AUGUST

**9** International Day of the World's Indigenous People

**20-21** Eid al-Adha (Islamic)

**23** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade & Its Abolition

**25** Ullambana (Buddhist)

## SEPTEMBER

**Month** Deaf Awareness Month

**2** Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)

**9-11** Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)

**11-10/9** Al-Hijra/Muharram (Islamic)

**12** Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)

**15-10/15** Latinx Heritage Month

**16** Mexican Independence Day

**18-19** Yom Kippur (Jewish)

**20-21** Ashura (Islamic)

**23** International Celebrate Bisexuality Day

**23-30** Sukkot (Jewish)

**24** Mid-Autumn Festival

**30** World Deaf Day

**24-28** Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) Ally Week

## OCTOBER

**Month** Islamic Heritage Month

**Month** LGBT+ History Month

**Month** Disability Awareness Month

**Month** Filipino American History Month

**8** Indigenous Peoples' Day

**10** World Mental Health Day

**10-19** Navaratri (Hindu)

**11** Coming Out Day

**17** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

**18** Dussehra (Hindu)

**24** International Day of Climate Action

**26** Intersex Awareness Day

**31-11/2** Day of the Dead

## NOVEMBER

**Month** Native American Heritage Month

**2** All Souls Day (Christian)

**7** Diwali (Hindu, Buddhism)

**11** Veterans Day

**12-16** International Education Week

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Organized by Purchase College Multicultural Center, part of the Office of Diversity and Compliance.

## **NOVEMBER**

- 15** America Recycles Day
- 13-17** Transgender Awareness Week
- 19** International Men's Day
- 20** Transgender Day of Remembrance
- 20-21** Mawlid (Islamic)
- 23** Thanksgiving/National Day of Mourning
- 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

## **DECEMBER**

- 1** World AIDS Day
- 2-10** Chanukah / Hanukkah (Jewish)
- 2-24** Advent (Christian)
- 3** International Day of Disabled Persons
- 10** Human Rights Day
- 12** Our Lady of Guadalupe (Catholic)
- 18** International Migrants Day
- 25** Christmas (Western Christian)
- 26-1/1** Kwanzaa
- 29** Wounded Knee Massacre Anniversary

## **JANUARY**

- 6** Epiphany (Christian)
- 6** Christmas (Armenian Orthodox Christian)
- 12** Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)
- 13** Bodhi Day
- 21** Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
- 21** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day
- 27** UN Holocaust Memorial Day
- 30** Fred Korematsu Day

## **FEBRUARY**

- Month** Black History Month
- 1** World Hijab Day
- 1** National Freedom Day
- 3-9** Eating Disorder Awareness Week
- 5** Lunar New Year
- 14** Race Relations Day
- 15** Parinirvana Day (Buddhist)
- 19** Magha Puja (Buddhist)
- 21** International Mother Language Day

## **MARCH**

- Month** Women's History Month
- 4** Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
- 5** Shrove Tuesday
- 6** Ash Wednesday (Western Christian)
- 8** International Women's Day
- 11** Clean Monday (Eastern Christian)

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## MARCH

**13** Rama Navami (Hindu)

**20-21** Purim

**21** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**21** Nowruz (Persian New Year)

**22** World Water Day

**30** Earth Hour

**31** Cesar Chavez Day

**31** Trans Day of Visibility

## APRIL

**Month** Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

**2** World Autism Day

**8** Buddha Day (Buddhist)

**12** Day of Silence

**14** Palm Sunday (Christian)

**19** Theravada New Year (Buddhist)

**19-27** Passover/Pesach (Jewish)

**21** Easter (Christian)

**22** Earth Day

**28** Pascha (Eastern Christian)

## MAY

**Month** South Asian Heritage Month

**1** International Workers' Day

**1-2** Yom Hashoah (Jewish)

**5** Cinco De Mayo (U.S.)

**5-6/4** Ramadan (Islamic)

**8-9** Yom Ha'atzmaut (Jewish)

**17** International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

**22-23** Lag B'Omer (Jewish)

**30** Ascension Day (Christian)

## JUNE

**Month** Immigrant Heritage Month

**Month** LGBT Pride Month

**8** World Oceans Day

**8-10** Shavout (Jewish)

**9** Pentecost (Christian)

**12** Loving Day

**19** Juneteenth

**20** World Refugee Day

## JULY

**17** Dharma Day (Buddhist)

**26** Americans with Disability Act Day)

## ORGANIZED BY:

Multicultural Center, Office of Diversity and Compliance, [ceg.multicultural.center@purchase.edu](mailto:ceg.multicultural.center@purchase.edu)

# GLOSSARY OF AWARENESS & INTERFAITH DATES

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**ADA (AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT) DAY** – Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

**ADVENT** – (Christian) 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.

**ALL SOULS' DAY** – (Christian) Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as Dia de los Muertos between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.

**AMERICA RECYCLES DAY** – A program of Keep America Beautiful which seeks to promote and celebrate recycling.

**ASCENSION DAY** – (Eastern Christian) Celebrated 40 days after Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven. – (Western Christian) Celebrated 40 days after Easter, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** – (Western Christian) The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.

**ASHURA** – (Islamic) 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 in 680 CE.

**ASIAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH** – Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** – Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

**BODHI DAY** – (Buddhist) Also known as Rohatsu, it observes the spiritual awakening (bodhi) of founder Siddharta Gautama, the Buddha, ca. 596 BCE. Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.

**BUDDHA DAY** – (Buddhist) Also known as Vesak or Visakha Puja, it marks the occasion of the birth, spiritual awakening and death of the historical Buddha.

**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. A day of service and leadership.

**CHANUKAH** – (Jewish) Eight-day "Festival of Lights", 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.

**CHRISTMAS** – (Armenian Orthodox Christian) Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.

**CHRISTMAS** – (Eastern Christian) 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. – (Western Christian) Commemorates the birth of Jesus.

**CINCO DE MAYO** – In 1862 Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla. It is a U.S. commercial "holiday."

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

**DEAF AWARENESS MONTH** – The purpose is to increase awareness of deaf issues, people, and culture.

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

**DAY OF SILENCE** – Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.



**DHARMA DAY** – (Buddhist) Also known as Asala Puja, it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.

**DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH** – Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.

**DIWALI** – (Hindu) Also called Deepavali, "Festival of Lights", it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY** – The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January. A day of service.

**EARTH DAY** – Events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

**EARTH HOUR** – A worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature which encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour, usually from 8:30 to 9:30pm.

**EASTER** – (Western Christian) Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity. The Friday before Easter is Good Friday which commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus. Good Friday is as known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity.

**EID AL-ADHA** – (Islamic) The "Feast of Sacrifice" concludes the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), and is a three-day festival recalling Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.

**EPIPHANY** – (Christian) 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.

**FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH** – Celebrates the heritage and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the U.S. First introduced in 1988 by the Filipino American National Historical Society and recognized by Congress in 2009.

**FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION** – Commemorates the birthday of Fred Korematsu, a Japanese-American civil rights activist who objected to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

**GANESH CHATURTHI** – (Hindu) Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.

**GAY, LESBIAN, & STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK (GLSEN) ALLY WEEK** – Students organize events encouraging more people to become allies against anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) language, bullying and harassment in schools and organizations.

**HOLI** – (Hindu) Also called Holaka or Phagwa, this festival celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.

**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY** – On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH** – A time to celebrate diversity and immigrants' shared American heritage.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY** – Coincides with the federal observance of Columbus Day. Marks Christopher Columbus's landing at San Salvador on October 12, 1492. Known as Día de la Raza, "Day of the Race", in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.

**INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATE BISEXUALITY DAY** – Aims to provide a platform to the bisexual community and to bring global attention to the social, economic and cultural prejudices and challenges faced by bisexual people. On this day the World Health Organization decided in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA, AND BIPHOBIA** – Aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBT rights violations and to encourage LGBT rights work worldwide

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION** – Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide organized by the United Nations. Every year a theme is selected.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN** – Raise awareness that women are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence. On this day the Mirabel sisters were assassinated by Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo due to their political activity.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY** – Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide organized by the United Nations. Every year a theme is selected.

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

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. Organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION –** Promote awareness of the reality of climate change and encourage personal commitment to change.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS –** Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity. Organized by the United Nations.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES –** Aims to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population, an estimated 370 million people who live in 90 countries and represent 5,000 different cultures. #WeAreIndigenous

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK –** An opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

**INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT DAY –** Recognition and celebration of migrant's rights around the world.

**INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY –** This day focuses on men's and boy's health, improving gender relations, promoting gender equality, and highlighting positive male role models. It is a celebration of men's achievements and contributions, especially to community and family while highlighting the discrimination against them.

**INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY –** Promotion of awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY –** Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.

**INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY –** 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.

**INTERSEX AWARENESS DAY –** An international day of action to highlight human rights issues faced by intersex people.

**ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH –** Recognize and celebrate Islamic heritage, culture, and civilization as well as the contributions of Muslim people.

**JUNETEENTH –** 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.

**KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI –** (Hindu) Celebrates Krishna's birthday, Vishnu's eighth incarnation on earth.

**KWANZAA –** A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. "Kwanzaa" means "first fruits (of the harvest)" in Swahili.

**LAG B'OMER –** (Jewish) Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE). Also known as Lag BaOmer.

**LATINX HERITAGE MONTH –** Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

**LGBT HISTORY MONTH –** Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.

**LGBT PRIDE 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. LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) Pride Day is the last Sunday in June.

**LOVING DAY –** 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.

**LUNAR NEW YEAR –** On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.

**MAGHA PUJA –** (Buddhist) Also known as Sangha Day, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 arahants, completely enlightened monks, in Buddha's presence.

**MAHA SHIVARATRI –** (Hindu) Also called Shiva Ratri, it is the Great Festival of Shiva.

**MAHAYANA NEW YEAR –** (Buddhist) In Mahayana countries, the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.

**MAKAR SANKRANTI** – (Hindu) Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.

**MAWLID** – (Islamic) Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims. Also known as Milad-un-Nabi.

**MEMORIAL DAY** – Initiated originally to honor the dead of the Civil War, this observance now pays homage to the dead of all U.S. wars.

**MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY** – Also known as El Grito. Mexicans celebrate the day Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, the father of Mexican Independence, launched the revolution that led to Mexico's freedom from Spain. The celebration starts the night before on September 15 at 11 p.m. when Mexico's president rings the National Palace bell and re-enacts Hidalgo's famous Grito de Dolores, which ends with three shouts of "Viva Mexico!"

**MUHARRAM** – (Islamic) The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. The first day of the month, 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 mourning of the martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad.

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH** – Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.

**NATIONAL 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.

**NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING** – An annual protest organized since 1970 by Native Americans of New England on the same day as Thanksgiving. It coincides with an unrelated but similar protest, Unthanksgiving Day, held on the West Coast.

**NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK** – In addition to educating the public about eating disorders, this event aims to spread the message of hope and putting life saving resources into the hands of those in need.

**NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY** – Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.

**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.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** – The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.

**NIRVANA DAY** – (Buddhist) Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body.

**NOWRUZ** – A festival that marks the beginning of spring and celebrates the rebirth of nature. Name of the Iranian New Year also known as Persian New year. It means "new day" in Persian.

**OBON** – Also known as BON, the Japanese Buddhist festival honors the spirit of past ancestors.

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** – (Christian) Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (also known as 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.

**PALM SUNDAY** – (Eastern Christian) Observed the Sunday before Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. – (Western Christian) Observed the Sunday before Easter to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

**PASCHA** – (Eastern Christian) Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Known as Easter in Western Christianity.

**PASSOVER/PESACH** – (Jewish) The eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

**PENTECOST** – (Eastern Christian) The seventh Sunday after Pascha commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church. – (Western Christian) Also known as Whitsunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.



**PURIM** – (Jewish) The “Feast of Lots” marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

**RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY** – Created in 1922 by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.

**RAMADAN** – (Islamic) A month of strict fasting from dawn until dusk in honor of the first revelations of the Qur’an to the Prophet Muhammad. On the 27th day of the Islamic month of Ramadan is Laylat Al-Qadr, “The Night of Power,” which marks the night in which God first revealed the Qur’an to the Prophet Muhammad. The observance of Laylat Al-Qadr may also be observed on the 21th, 23rd, 25th or 29th. Shi’ites observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd of Ramadan.

**RAMA NAVAMI** – (Hindu) Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.

**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.

**SHAVUOT** – (Jewish) The “Feast of Weeks” celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.

**SHROVE TUESDAY** – (Western Christian) A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras.

**SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH** – A celebration of the presence and heritage of people with roots in South Asian countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives.

**ST. PATRICK’S DAY** – (Christian) 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.

**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.

**THANKSGIVING DAY** – Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims’ harvest feast in the autumn of 1621. Also known as National Day of Mourning.

**THERAVADA NEW YEAR** – (Buddhist) In Theravada countries, the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.

**TISHA B’AV** – (Jewish) Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

**TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK** – Raises the visibility of transgender and gender non-conforming people, and address the issues of prejudice, discrimination, and violence that the community faces. At the end of the week is TDOR.

**TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE** – Also known as TDOR. Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

**TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY** – Also known as International Trans Day of Visibility (TDOV). The day is dedicated to celebrating trans people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by trans people worldwide. The holiday was founded to celebrate trans people following the frustration from members of the trans community that the only well-known trans-centered event each year was the Transgender Day of Remembrance which is a time to mourn the loss of transgender people to hate crimes. Trans Day of Visibility is a time to focus on the positive elements of trans people’s lives.

**ULLAMBANA** – (Buddhist) Buddhist Ghost Festival. The unsettled spirits of dead ancestors are calmed with chanting and offerings to enable them to pass peacefully into the next world.

**UNITED NATIONS 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.

**VETERANS’ DAY** – Honors the U. S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.

**WORLD AIDS DAY** – International day of action on HIV and AIDS.

**WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH** – Honors women as significant agents of historical change.

**WORLD AUTISM DAY** – Aims to increase understanding and acceptance and foster worldwide support for people living with autism.



**WORLD DEAF DAY** – Draws attention towards the achievement of deaf people as well as deaf people community. Organizations are encouraged to fulfill the demands and needs of deaf people as well as increase their rights in society.

**WORLD HIJAB DAY** – Aims to foster religious tolerance and understanding by inviting non-Hijabi Muslim/non-Muslim women to experience the hijab for one day.

**WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY** – Promotion of mental health advocacy and educating the public on relevant issues. Started by the World Federation for Mental Health in 1992. Each year a theme is selected.

**WORLD OCEANS DAY** – A day to celebrate the ocean and the major role it plays in our everyday lives.

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY** – Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.

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

**YOM HA'ATZMAUT** – (Jewish) "Israel Independence Day" celebrates the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. It is fixed as the fifth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar.

**YOM HASHOAH** – (Jewish) "Holocaust Remembrance Day" memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.

**YOM KIPPUR** – (Jewish) The "Day of Atonement" marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.

Source: The Southwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League and Planning to Change the World: A Plan Book for Social Justice Teachers.