

## September

- **1- Installation of the Guru Granth Sahib in the Golden Temple** commemorates the installation of the Sikh scriptures by Guru Gobind Sing; these scriptures were installed as the perpetual guru.
- **4- Labor Day**, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.
- **22- Autumn Equinox** is (near September 22 in the northern hemisphere) when night and day are nearly of the same length and Sun crosses the celestial equator
- **23- Navaratri** is a Hindu Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessings. It is celebrated according to local custom.
- **23-24- Rosh Hashanah** New Year; beginning 10 days of penitence concluded on Yom Kippur.
- **23-10/22- Ramadan** is the ninth month of Islamic calendar; 30 days of strict fasting from sunup to sundown. In honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammed.

## October

- **2- Dusserah** is a festival celebrating good over evil; the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana, the demon king of Lanka.
- **2- Yom Kippur** is a Jewish Day of Atonement. The holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with strict fasting, prayer, and ceremonial repentance.
- **6-13- Sukkot** is a Jewish Feast of Tabernacles or Booths which celebrates the fall harvest and the wandering of Israel in the desert wilderness in tents.
- **9- Columbus Day** is a federal holiday commemorating Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas.
- **11- National Coming Out Day** is an international event which gives GLBT people the opportunity to “come out” to others about their sexuality.
- **14<sup>th</sup>- Shmini Atzeret** is a celebration of the eighth and last day of Sukkot.
- **15- Simchat Torah** Festival celebrating the completion of the reading cycle of the Torah. Symbolized by singing, dancing, and marching around the synagogue. The first book is begun again.
- **20- Birth of Bab** Anniversary of the birth of one of the twin Prophet Founders of the Baha’i faith, Mirza’ Ali-Muhammed, in 1819.
- **20- Installation of the Guru Granth Sahib as Eternal Guru** commemorates the installation of the Sikh scriptures by Guru Gobind Sing; these scriptures were installed as the perpetual guru.
- **20- Martyrdom of Guru Har Rai**
- **21- Diwali** Festival of Lights symbolizing the human urge to move toward the light. One of four seasonal celebrations in India.
- **24- ‘Id al-Fitre** is a three day Islamic fast marking the close of Ramadan.
- **24- United Nations Day** is celebrated internationally on 24 October for the purpose of informing the people of the world as to the aims, purposes, and achievements of the UN.
- **31- All Hallows Eve** is the eve of All Hallows day, better known as All Saints Day. This is a day when the church celebrates and remembers the lives of the saints. The consensus seems to be that the church chose to move All Saints Day to November 1st so that it could supplant the pagan festivities taking place at that time.

## November

- **1- All Saints Day** is a Christian day for honoring all the saints, especially those who do not have a special day.
- **10- Veteran's Day** is a federal holiday to honor military veterans. It commemorates the armistice treaty that ended the fighting in World War I.
- **12- Baha'u'llah's Birthday** Commemorates the birth of the founders of the Baha'I faith in 1817.
- **23- Thanksgiving** What has come down in American tradition as the "First Thanksgiving" was actually a harvest festival. In the spring of 1621, the colonists planted their first crops in Patuxet's abandoned fields. While they had limited success with wheat and barley, their corn crop proved very successful, thanks to Squanto [Tisquantum] who taught them how to plant corn in hills, using fish as a fertilizer.
- **24- Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur** Anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur in 1675 C.E., the ninth guru.

## December

- **3- Advent Begins** period of four weeks in which Christians prepare for Christmas.
- **8- Bodhi Day** Buddhist celebration of the time when Prince Gautama (Buddha) took his place under the Bodhi tree vowing to remain until he attained supreme enlightenment, ca. 596 B.C.E.
- **16-23- Hanukah** Festival of Lights; Eight-day commemoration of the Maacabean recapture and rededication of the second Temple in 165 B.C.E.
- **21- Winter Solstice** is the shortest day of the year, which usually falls around December 21 above the equator and June 21 below the equator.
- **25- Christmas Day** is a mid-winter festival observed as the birth date of Jesus Christ.
- **26- 1/1- Kwanzaa** Seven day celebration of African American values and traditions and their continued vitality. Kwanzaa is Kiswahili and means "first fruits of the harvest."
- **31- 1/2- 'Id al-Adha** Festival of animal sacrifice; commemorates the faith of Abraham; also a memorial of the dead. Meat is given to the poor.

## January

- **12/31-1/2- 'Id al-Adha** Festival of animal sacrifice; commemorates the faith of Abraham; also a memorial of the dead. Meat is given to the poor.
- **1- New Year's Day** marks the beginning of a new calendar year
- **5- Birth of Guru Gobind Singh** Sikh observation of the 1666 C.E. birthday of the tenth and last human guru
- **6- Epiphany** is the end of the 12 days of Christmas; celebrates the visit of the Three Kings to baby Jesus; especially important to Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholics of Hispanic descent.
- **7- Christmas Day** observed as the birth date of Jesus Christ (Orthodox)
- **13- Maghi** Commemoration of the battle in which 40 Sikhs (the immortal ones) laid down their lives for Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- **15- Martin Luther King Day** is a federal holiday honoring the life of civil rights pioneer.

- **20- Al Hijra** Islamic remembrance of the migration of Mohammed and followers to Medina

## February

- **4- Four Chaplain's Sunday** Commemoration of the event in World War II when four Chaplains of Jewish and Christian traditions (Catholic and Protestant) gave their life jackets to others as a troop ship sank in the Atlantic Ocean.
- **8- Nirvana Day** In the Northern tradition, this is the anniversary of Buddha's passing away. In Southern tradition, the Buddha's death is commemorated during Visakha.
- **18- Chinese and Vietnamese New Year** A festive holiday celebrated for about two weeks. Each year is symbolized by a different animal.
- **18-24- Brotherhood Sisterhood Week** is a week where each paired group of students will act as a team of buddies or pen pals, advising one another of special experiences. This pairing of older students with younger ones is the first step toward promoting the district's successful Brotherhood-Sisterhood Week.
- **19- President's Day** Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day) is a federal holiday observed on the third Monday in February in honor of the first president of the United States.
- **19- Lent Begins (Clean Monday)** period of preparation for Easter; usually 40 days.
- **21- Ash Wednesday** Begins Christian Lent. Name derives from symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.
- **26-3/1- Ayyam-i-Ha** This period adjusts the Baha'i year to the solar calendar. It leads to the 19 day feast. Each day of Ayyam-I-Ha is marked by different virtue like hospitality, gift giving, or charity.

## March

- **2-20- Nineteen Day Fast** Baha'is fast for 19 days as part of their annual cycle of holy days
- **4- Holi** Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure. It is a carnival occasion featuring bright colors, pilgrimages, and bonfires.
- **4- Purim** Feast of Lots; celebrates deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from Genocide.
- **20- Spring Equinox** is the date when night and day are nearly the same length, and the Sun crosses the equator moving northward. It is considered to be the first day of spring.
- **21- Naw-Ruz (New Year)** Baha'i and Iranian New Year
- **31- Mawlid al-Nabi** Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed, ca. 570 C.E.

## April

- **3-10- Pesach (Passover)** An 8 day commemoration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.
- **6- Good Friday** the Friday of Jesus' crucifixion
- **8- Easter** is considered the most important Christian holiday. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his death.
- **14- Vaisakhi** Hindu and Sikh solar new year. Anniversary of the creation of the Khalsa ( the army of the Pure Ones) in 1699. It is the most important day of the year for Sikhs.
- **15- Yom Hashoah** Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day. This day has been established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in 1933-45

- **21- First Day of Ridvan** Commemoration of the declaration of the declaration of Baha'u'llah to his followers in 1863. Work is to be suspended for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> days.

## May

- **2- Buddha Day** The day Buddha was born, attained enlightenment, and passed away.
- **5- Cinco de Mayo** Celebrated in Mexico and by Mexican-American, commemorates the battle of Guadalupe in 1862, when a small Mexican army defeated a large French Force.
- **13- Wesak** In the Northern tradition, this is the anniversary of Buddha's birth. In the Southern tradition, this is celebrated during Visakha.
- **17- Ascension Day** Celebrates Jesus' Ascension to heaven
- **22-23- Shavuot** Festival of Weeks; celebrates harvest of first fruits and commemorates Moses' descent from Mt. Sinai with the torah and the ten commandments.
- **27- Pentecost** Observation of the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, following ascension of Jesus. The name indicates 50 days after Easter. (Orthodox)
- **28- Memorial Day** is a day to honor fallen heroes, observed on the last Monday in May.

## June

- **3- Pentecost-** Observation of the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, following ascension of Jesus. The name indicates 50 days after Easter. (Roman Catholic, Protestant)
- **14- Flag Day** Commemorates acceptance of the stars and stripes as the US flag in 1777.
- **16- Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev** Anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev in 1600 C.E., the fifth guru who built the Golden Temple of Amristar.
- **19- Juneteenth** Observed as the day African Americans were emancipated. It is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery.
- **21- Summer Solstice** is the longest period of daylight in the year. It usually falls around June 21 in the northern hemisphere, and December 21 in the southern.
- **27- Anniversary of Stonewall Rebellion** Commemorates the 1969 rebellion when transgender, gay, and lesbian patrons of the Stonewall Inn on NY stood their ground against police harassment and became the catalyst for the modern political movement for GLBT liberation.