

Inclusive Calendar • 2026

Our HGAR community represents a wide range of ethnic, cultural, faith, and religious communities. To assist us in promoting an inclusive community and help enhance the understanding among groups, we are presenting this inclusive calendar of observances to help increase awareness of and respect for religious obligations and ethnic and cultural festivities that may affect members of our community.

Note that this calendar provides a broad outline of significant days within major faith traditions, as well as ethnic and cultural celebrations. We encourage you to use this calendar and add to it as you wish. We hope this helps you become more aware, recognize our colleagues' days of observances/holidays, and avoid the unintentional exclusion of those whose faith/religious traditions are not currently observed nationally.

January

1 **New Year's Day**

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

19 **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.

February

Black History Month

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

1 **National Freedom Day**

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

14 **Valentine's Day**

Celebrates the idea of romantic love.

16 **President's Day**

Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.

17 **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.

17 **Ramadan • Islamic [starting sundown]**

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

18 **Ash Wednesday • Christian**

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

March

Women's History Month

Commemorating and encouraging the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history.

8 International Women's Day

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

17 St. Patrick's Day • Christian

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.

19 Eid al-Fitr • Islamic [starting sundown]

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

29 Palm Sunday • Christian

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

April

1 Passover/Pesach • Jewish [starting sundown]

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

3 Good Friday • Christian

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

5 Easter • Christian

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

22 Earth Day: Invest in our planet.

A day held to demonstrate and promote environmental awareness and calls for the protection of our planet.

May

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

(aka. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month) Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

5 Cinco de Mayo

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

10 Mother's Day

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

21 Shavuot • Jewish [starting sundown]

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

21 World Day for Cultural Diversity
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.

25 Memorial Day
A federal holiday in the United States to remember the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces.

26 Eid al-Adha • Islamic [starting sundown]
Commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to a command from God. Marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).

June

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

19 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.

21 Father's Day
Children of all ages show appreciation for their fathers and father figures.

July

4 Independence Day
Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.

22 Tisha B'Av • Jewish [starting sundown]
Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

26 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Day
Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

August

23 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.

26 Women's Equality Day
Commemorates the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

September

7 **Labor Day**
Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.

11 **Rosh Hashanah** • Jewish [starting sundown 9/11 through sundown 9/13]
The beginning of the Jewish New Year and the first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

15–Oct. 15 Hispanic Heritage Month
Celebrates the contributions, heritage, and culture of Hispanic and Latinx Americans.

20 **Yom Kippur** • Jewish [starting sundown]
The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.

25 **Sukkot** • Jewish [starting sundown 9/25 through sundown 10/2]
The week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

October

Italian American Heritage Month
Celebration of the culture, history, and achievements of Italian Americans who trace their heritage to Italy.

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.

12 **Columbus / Indigenous People's 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.]

31 **Halloween**
The eve of All Saints' Day. A celebration observed on the eve of the Catholic holiday All Saint's Day, which has also evolved into a secular celebration of the dead, scary stories, costumes, and "trick or treating" for candy.

November

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

1 **All Saints' Day** • Christian
Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

3 **Election Day**
A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.

8 **Diwali** • Hindu
Also called Deepavali, the “Festival of Lights”. It celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

11 **Veterans Day**
Honors military veterans and the U.S. Armed Services.

26 **Thanksgiving Day**
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

4 **Hanukkah** • Jewish [starting sundown 12/4 through sundown 12/12]
Also known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday celebrating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in the second century A.D. It is often celebrated with the lighting of menorah candles, as well as traditional foods, games, and gifts.

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

25 **Christmas** • Christian
Commemorates the birth of Jesus.

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

31 **New Year's Eve**
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, and drink. etc.