

# JULY - 2014

## **BAHA'I**

**JULY 9**

**Martyrdom of the Bab:** Anniversary of the martyrdom of the Bab, the forerunner of Baha'u'llah, in 1850. (Work should be suspended on this day.)

## **BUDDHIST**

**JULY 12**

**Asala Dharma Day:** Anniversary of the start of Buddha's teaching – his first sermon, "The Wheel of Truth", after his enlightenment.

## **HINDU**

**JULY 12**

**Guru Purnima:** Celebration of the ancient Gurus. A Guru is seen as a remover of darkness, a teacher.

## **ISLAM**

**JULY 23**

**Laila Al-Qadr:** Islamic night of power and destiny. First revelation of Qur'an to Mohammed. Observed during the last ten days of Ramadan. Prayers to Allah for a good destiny.

**JULY 28**

**End of Ramadan:** this is a month long commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. There is strict fasting from sunrise to sunset.

## **MORMON**

**JULY 24**

**Pioneer Day:** Mormon observance of Brigham Young's arrival with the first settlers to Salt Lake City, Utah on July 24, 1847.

# **AUGUST - 2014**

## **CHRISTIAN**

**AUGUST 15**

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Commemorates the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus, was assumed body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

## **HINDU**

**AUGUST 10**

**Raksha Bandhan:** Hindu festival honouring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in a family.

**AUGUST 17**

**Krishna Janmashtami:** Hindu celebration of the birth of Krishna. Nightlong prayers are held in the temples. A two-day observance.

**AUGUST 29**

**Ganesh Chaturthi:** A day to honor Lord Ganesh, the presiding deity of all Hindu worship.

## **JAIN**

**AUGUST 30**

**Paryushana Parva:** Eight day festival signifying human emergence into a new world of spiritual and moral refinement. Celebration of the natural qualities of the soul.

## **JEWISH**

**AUGUST. 4-5**

**Tisha B'av:** Day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 516 B.C.E. and 70 C.E.

# **SEPTEMBER - 2014**

## **JEWISH**

**SEPTEMBER 24-26**

**Rosh Hashanah:** Jewish New Year beginning 10 days of penitence concluded on Yom Kippur

# OCTOBER - 2014

## BAHA'I

**OCTOBER 20**

**Birth of the Bab:** Anniversary of the birth of one of the twin Prophet Founders of the Baha'i Faith. (Work should be suspended on this day.)

## HINDU-JAIN-SIKH

**OCTOBER 4**

**Dussehra:** Hindu celebration of victory and valor. Lord Rama is remembered as winning a victory over evil.

**OCTOBER 23 - 27**

**Diwali** (Deepavali): Festival of Lights, symbolizing the human urge to move toward the light. Associated with one of the stories about the destruction of evil by Vishnu in one of his many manifestations.

## ISLAM

**OCTOBER 3**

**Waqf al Arafa:** Observance during Hajj when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy.

**OCTOBER 4**

**Eid al Adha:** Islamic Feast of Sacrifice. The most important feast of Islam. It concludes the Hajj and is a three-day festival recalling Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah.

**OCTOBER 16**

**Shemini 'Atzeret':** Eighth day of Sukkot, special prayers for rain. Completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah.

**OCTOBER 17**

**Simchat Torah:** Joyous festival in which the reading cycle of the Torah is completed and its first book begun again. Symbolized by singing, dancing, and marching around the Synagogue with Torah scrolls.

**OCTOBER 25**

**Al-Hajj begins:** Islamic pilgrimage rites at Mecca. Concludes with Eid al Adha when those not traveling to Mecca take part.

## JEWISH

**OCTOBER 3-4**

**Yom Kippur:** Jewish day of atonement, most solemn Jewish holy day, devoted to prayer, fasting and repentance.

# NOVEMBER - 2014

## **BAHA'I**

**NOVEMBER 12**

**Birth of Baha'u'llah:** Commemorates the birth of the founder and teacher of the Baha'i faith in 1817. (Work should be suspended on this day.)

**NOVEMBER 26**

**Day of the Covenant:** Celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha'u'llah. (Work is not suspended on this day.)

**NOVEMBER 28**

**Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha:** This day commemorates the passing of Abdu'l-Baha on this day in 1921. (Work is not suspended on this day.)

## **CHRISTIAN**

**NOVEMBER 1**

**All Saints Day:** Christian celebration of lives of all the saints, especially those not having a special day: Eastern Orthodox churches observe day in mid-summer.

## **CHRISTIAN-EASTERN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN**

**NOVEMBER 30**

**Advent:** First Sunday of Advent begins the season of preparation for the coming of the Savior on Christmas.

## **ISLAM**

**NOVEMBER 3**

**Ashura:** A day of fasting, traditionally to commemorate the day Noah left the Ark and the day Moses was saved from the Egyptians by Allah.

## **SIKH**

**NOVEMBER 6**

**Birthday Of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib:** Observes the birth of the founder of the Sikh religion in 1469 C.E.

# DECEMBER - 2014

## AFRICAN/AMERICAN

DEC. 26 - JAN. 1

**Kwanzaa (7 days):** Beginning of seven-day celebration of African-American values and traditions and their continued vitality. "Kwanzaa," in Kiswahili, means "first fruits of the harvest."

## BUDDHIST

DECEMBER 8

**Bodhi Day:** Buddhist celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha, ca. 596 B.C.E.

## CHRISTIAN

DECEMBER 8

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception:** Celebrates the Christian belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was born without sin.

DECEMBER 12

**Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe:** Honors the patron saint of Mexico.

DECEMBER 25

**Christmas:** Celebrates the birth of Jesus.

## JEWISH

DEC. 17 - 24

**Hanukkah:** Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and nights.

# JANUARY - 2015

## **BAHA'I**

**JANUARY 19**

**World Religion Day:** Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of all world religions.

## **BUDDHIST**

**JANUARY 31**

**Chinese, Korean, Japanese New Year:** The celebrations end on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the First Moon with the Lantern Festival; people take lanterns into the street in a great parade

## **CHRISTIAN**

**JANUARY 6**

**Epiphany:** Christian commemoration of the manifestations of the divine nature of Jesus Christ.

## **ISLAM**

**JANUARY 3**

**Milad al-Nabi:** Commemoration of the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed, in 571 c.e. (Shia Muslims celebrate this 5 days later.)

## **SIKH**

**JANUARY 5**

**Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday:** Observation of the last of the human guru installed Sikh scriptures.

# **FEBRUARY - 2015**

## **BUDDHIST**

**FEBRUARY 8**

**Nirvana Day:** Commemorates the death of Buddha, when he reached total Nirvana, at the age of 80.

## **CHRISTIAN**

**FEBRUARY 18**

**Ash Wednesday:** Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter

## **HINDU**

**FEBRUARY 17**

**Maha Shivaratri:** Festival in honor of Lord Shiva and his marriage to the Goddess Parvati.

## **JEWISH**

**FEBRUARY 4**

**Tu B'shvat:** Celebration of the coming of spring by preparation of foods native to Israel.

# MARCH - 2015

## **BAHA'I**

**MARCH 21**

**Naw-Ruz:** The Baha'i New Year festival that falls on the spring equinox, fixed on this day for countries outside the Middle East. Naw-Ruz is the first day of the month of Baha, the first month in the Baha'i calendar. On this day work is suspended. During the day families spend time together. The evening is saved for fasting and celebrating.

## **BUDDHIST**

**MARCH 16**

**Magha Puja:** The second most important Buddhist festival. Commemorates the occasion when the Buddha predicted his death and recited a summary of his teachings and a code of discipline to his followers.

## **CHRISTIAN**

**MARCH 29**

**Palm Sunday:** On this day Christians celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the week before his death.

## **HINDU**

**MARCH 6**

**Holi:** Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure.

## **JEWISH**

**MARCH 5**

**Purim:** Feast of Lots. A day of joy and feasting to celebrate the deliverance of the Jews from a massacre planned by the Persian minister Haman.

# **APRIL - 2015**

## **BAHA'I**

**APRIL 21 - MAY 2**

**Ridvan:** Commemorates the declaration of Baha'u'llah to his followers in 1863. Work is suspended for the 1st, 9th, and 12th days.

## **CHRISTIAN – EASTERN OTHEODOX CHRISTIAN**

**APRIL 3**

**Good Friday:** The Friday before Easter, it commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus.

**APRIL 5**

**Easter:** Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.

## **JEWISH**

**APRIL 3-11**

**Passover:** Eight day celebration marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt; "Seder" ceremonies emphasize concept of freedom.

**APRIL 16**

**Yom Hasho'ah:** Holocaust Remembrance Day. Memorializes the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust and emphasizes respect for human dignity; observance not limited to Jews.

## **SIKH**

**APRIL 14**

**Baisakhi:** The harvest festival of North India and the beginning of the solar year. Greetings that wish good life in coming days are exchanged. Commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood.

# MAY - 2015

## BAHA'I

**MAY 23**

**Declaration of the Bab:** The Bab announced the new faith and himself as the Forerunner of the "One Whom God Shall Make Manifest", Baha'u'llah. (Work should be suspended on this day.)

**MAY 29**

**Ascension of Baha'u'llah:** Anniversary of Baha'u'llah's death in 1892 concluding 40 years of captivity and exile. (Work should be suspended on this day.)

## BUDDHIST

**MAY 4**

**Buddha Day-Visakha Puja (Wesak):** The most important day of the year for Buddhists - celebrated on the full moon in May. Celebration of the birth of Buddha, and for some Buddhists, marks his birth and death.

## CHRISTIAN

**MAY 14**

**Ascension Day:** Commemorates the ascension of Jesus, which took place in the presence of the apostles 40 days after the resurrection.

**MAY 31**

**Pentecost:** This day commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles following the ascension of Jesus. Name indicates time 50 days after Easter.

# **JUNE - 2015**

## **CHRISTIAN**

**JUNE 24**

**Nativity of St. John the Baptist:** Celebrates the birth of New Testament figure; patron saint of Puerto Rico; observed especially in Latino culture.

## **ISLAM**

**JUNE 18**

**Ramadan:** As a time to purify the soul, refocus attention on God, and practice self-sacrifice, Ramadan is much more than just not eating and drinking.

## **JEWISH**

**MAY 23-25**

**Shavuot' (2 days):** Celebration of Moses' descent from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments.

## **SIKH**

**JUNE 16**

**Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev:** A time of remembering those who have suffered for their faith.