

## **ABOUT THE ADL CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES**

The increasingly pluralistic population of the United States creates diverse communities, student bodies and employees. To enhance mutual understanding and respect among the various religious, ethnic and cultural groups, the Anti-Defamation League offers this Calendar of Observances as a tool to increase awareness and sensitivity about religious obligations as well as ethnic and cultural festivities that may affect students, colleagues and neighbors.

The calendar includes significant multi-faith religious observances of the major faiths represented in the United States. Thus, it can be used as a resource when planning school exam timetables and school activities, or when scheduling workplace festivities and community events. In addition, the calendar notes U.S. holidays that are either legal holidays or observed in various states and communities throughout the country. A third component is the inclusion of important national and international observances that may be commemorated in the U.S.

The dates of secular holidays are based on the Gregorian calendar, which is commonly used for civil dating purposes. Many religions and cultures follow various traditional calendar systems that are often based on the phases of the moon with occasional adjustments for the solar cycle. Therefore, specific Gregorian calendar dates for these observances will differ from year to year. In addition, calculation of specific dates may vary by geographical location and according to different sects within a given religion.

Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at sundown the previous day and end at sundown on the date listed.

---

**JANUARY 2008**

---

<b>January 1</b>	Tuesday	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.
<b>January 1</b>	Tuesday	<b>TEMPLE DAY • Buddhist</b> Many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple.
<b>January 6</b>	Sunday	<b>EPIPHANY • Christian</b> Known as <i>Theophany</i> 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.
<b>January 6</b>	Sunday	<b>CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian</b> Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.
<b>January 7</b>	Monday	<b>CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian</b> 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.
<b>January 10</b>	Thursday	<b>MUHARRAM • Islamic</b> 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.
<b>January 14</b>	Monday	<b>MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu</b> Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.
<b>January 19</b>	Saturday	<b>ASHURA • Islamic</b> 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.
<b>January 21</b>	Monday	<b>DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY</b> The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.
<b>January 21-25</b>	Monday-Friday	<b>NO NAME-CALLING WEEK</b> Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.
<b>January 22</b>	Tuesday	<b>MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist</b> In Mahayana countries, the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.
<b>January 22</b>	Tuesday	<b>TU B'SHVAT • Jewish</b> 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.
<b>January 27</b>	Sunday	<b>UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY</b> 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.

---

**FEBRUARY 2008**

---

<b>February</b>	Full Month	<b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b> Celebrates Black History and African-American culture in the United States.
<b>February 1</b>	Friday	<b>NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY</b> Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.
<b>February 5</b>	Tuesday	<b>SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian</b> A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as <i>Mardi Gras</i> .
<b>February 6</b>	Wednesday	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian</b> The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.
<b>February 7</b>	Thursday	<b>LUNAR NEW YEAR</b> On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.
<b>February 10</b>	Sunday	<b>RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY</b> Created in 1922 by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.
<b>February 14</b>	Thursday	<b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b> Celebrates the idea of romantic love.
<b>February 15</b>	Friday	<b>SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY</b> Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.
<b>February 15</b>	Friday	<b>NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist</b> Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8.
<b>February 17-23</b>	Sunday-Saturday	<b>BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD WEEK</b> Designated by the National Conference of Community and Justice to emphasize the importance of brotherhood and sisterhood.
<b>February 18</b>	Monday	<b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b> Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.

---

**MARCH 2008**

---

March	Full Month	<b>NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</b> Honors women as significant agents of historical change.
March 6	Wednesday	<b>MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu</b> Also called <i>Shiva Ratri</i> , it is the Great Festival of Shiva.
March 8	Friday	<b>INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY</b> Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.
March 10	Monday	<b>CLEAN MONDAY • Eastern Christian</b> The beginning of <i>Great Lent</i> for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter ( <i>Pascha</i> ), counting Sundays.
March 16	Sunday	<b>PALM SUNDAY • Western Christian</b> Observed the Sunday before Easter to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.
March 17	Monday	<b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY • Christian</b> 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.
March 20	Thursday	<b>VERNAL EQUINOX</b> The date when night and day are nearly the same length. It marks the first day of the season of spring.
March 20	Thursday	<b>HOLY THURSDAY • Western Christian</b> Also known as <i>Maundy Thursday</i> , 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.
March 20	Thursday	<b>MILAD AL-NABI • Islamic</b> Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.
March 21	Friday	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION</b> Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.
March 21	Friday	<b>MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist</b> Also known as <i>Sangha Day</i> , it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 arahants, completely enlightened monks, in Buddha's presence.
March 21	Friday	<b>HOLI • Hindu</b> Also called <i>Holaka</i> or <i>Phagwa</i> , this festival celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.
March 21	Friday	<b>PURIM • Jewish</b> The "Feast of Lots" marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.
March 21	Friday	<b>GOOD FRIDAY • Western Christian</b> Observed the Friday before Easter, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus. Known as <i>Holy Friday</i> in Eastern Christianity.
March 23	Sunday	<b>EASTER • Western Christian</b> Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Known as <i>Pascha</i> in Eastern Christianity.
March 31	Monday	<b>CESAR CHAVEZ DAY</b> Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927–1993) who was a nationally respected voice for social justice.

---

**APRIL 2008**

---

<b>April 14</b>	Monday	<b>RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu</b> Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.
<b>April 20</b>	Sunday	<b>PALM SUNDAY • Eastern Christian</b> Observed the Sunday before Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.
<b>April 20-27</b>	Sunday-Sunday	<b>PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish</b> The eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
<b>April 20</b>	Sunday	<b>THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist</b> In Theravada countries, the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.
<b>April 24</b>	Tuesday	<b>ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY</b> Memorializes the extermination of some 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.
<b>April 24</b>	Thursday	<b>HOLY THURSDAY • Eastern Christian</b> Celebrated on the Thursday before Pascha commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.
<b>April 25</b>	Friday	<b>HOLY FRIDAY • Eastern Christian</b> Observed the Friday before Pascha, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus. Known as <i>Good Friday</i> in Western Christianity.
<b>April 25</b>	Friday	<b>DAY OF SILENCE</b> 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.
<b>April 27</b>	Sunday	<b>PASCHA • Eastern Christian</b> Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Known as <i>Easter</i> in Western Christianity.

---

**MAY 2008**

---

<b>May</b>	Full Month	<b>ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH</b> Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.
<b>May 1</b>	Thursday	<b>INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY</b> Also known as <i>May Day</i> , 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.
<b>May 1</b>	Thursday	<b>ASCENSION DAY • Western Christian</b> Celebrated 40 days after Easter, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
<b>May 2</b>	Friday	<b>YOM HASHOAH • Jewish</b> "Holocaust Remembrance Day" memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.
<b>May 3</b>	Saturday	<b>WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY</b> 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.
<b>May 5</b>	Monday	<b>CINCO DE MAYO</b> In 1862 Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla.
<b>May 8</b>	Thursday	<b>YOM HAATZMA'UT • Jewish</b> "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.
<b>May 11</b>	Sunday	<b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> Children of all ages show appreciation for their mothers.
<b>May 11</b>	Sunday	<b>PENTECOST • Western Christian</b> Also known as <i>Whitsunday</i> , 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.
<b>May 21</b>	Wednesday	<b>WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT</b> 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.
<b>May 23</b>	Friday	<b>LAG B'OMER • Jewish</b> Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE).
<b>May 26</b>	Monday	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Initiated originally to honor the dead of the Civil War, this observance now pays homage to the dead of all U.S. wars.

---

**JUNE 2008**

---

<b>June</b>	Full Month	<b>LGBT PRIDE MONTH</b> 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. <i>LGBT</i> (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) <i>Pride Day</i> is the last Sunday in June.
<b>June 5</b>	Thursday	<b>ASCENSION DAY • Eastern Christian</b> Celebrated 40 days after Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
<b>June 9-10</b>	Monday	<b>SHAVUOT • Jewish</b> The "Feast of Weeks" celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.
<b>June 12</b>	Thursday	<b>ANNE FRANK DAY</b> Birthday of young Jewish girl whose diary describes her family's experiences hiding from the Nazis through assistance of gentile friends.
<b>June 12</b>	Thursday	<b>LOVING DAY</b> Observes the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision <i>Loving v. Virginia</i> which struck down the miscegenation laws remaining in 16 states barring interracial marriage.
<b>June 14</b>	Saturday	<b>FLAG DAY</b> Anniversary of the adoption of the United States flag by Congress in 1777.
<b>June 15</b>	Sunday	<b>PENTECOST • Eastern Christian</b> 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.
<b>June 15</b>	Sunday	<b>FATHER'S DAY</b> Children of all ages show appreciation for their fathers.
<b>June 18</b>	Wednesday	<b>BUDDHA DAY • Buddhist</b> Also known as <i>Vesak</i> or <i>Visakha Puja</i> , it marks the occasion of the birth, spiritual awakening and death of the historical Buddha.
<b>June 19</b>	Thursday	<b>JUNETEENTH</b> 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.
<b>June 20</b>	Friday	<b>SUMMER SOLSTICE</b> In the northern hemisphere, the longest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of summer.
<b>June 20</b>	Friday	<b>WORLD REFUGEE DAY</b> Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.
<b>June 22</b>	Sunday	<b>ALL SAINTS DAY • Eastern Christian</b> In Orthodox churches observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost, it commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints.

---

## JULY 2008

---

July 4	Friday	<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.
July 18	Friday	<b>DHARMA DAY • Buddhist</b> Also known as <i>Asala Puja</i> , it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.
July 26	Saturday	<b>ADA (AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT) DAY</b> Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

---

## AUGUST 2008

---

August 9	Saturday	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES</b> 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.
August 10	Sunday	<b>TISHA B'AV • Jewish</b> Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.
August 12	Tuesday	<b>INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY</b> Celebrates young people and the integral role they play in helping to create a world fit for children.
August 15	Friday	<b>ULAMBANA • Buddhist</b> 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.
August 16	Saturday	<b>RAKSHA BANDHAN • Hindu</b> Also called <i>Rakhi</i> , this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.
August 17	Wednesday	<b>NISF SHABAAN • Islamic</b> "Night of Repentance" in preparation for the fast of Ramadan. Fixed as the 15th day or middle (nisf) of the eighth month of Shabaan in the Islamic calendar.
August 23	Saturday	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION</b> 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.
August 24	Tuesday	<b>KRISHNA JAYANTI • Hindu</b> Celebrates Krishna's birthday, Vishnu's eighth incarnation on earth.

---

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

---

<b>September 1</b>	Monday	<b>LABOR DAY</b> Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.
<b>September 2- October 1</b>	Monday	<b>RAMADAN • Islamic</b> A month of strict fasting from dawn until dusk in honor of the first revelations of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.
<b>September 3</b>	Wednesday	<b>GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu</b> Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.
<b>September 8</b>	Monday	<b>INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY</b> Call to action for universal literacy.
<b>September 15 -October 15</b>	Full Month	<b>NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH</b> Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.
<b>September 17</b>	Wednesday	<b>CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY</b> Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.
<b>September 22</b>	Monday	<b>AUTUMNAL EQUINOX</b> The date when night and day are nearly of the same length. It marks the first day of fall.
<b>September 28</b>	Sunday	<b>NATIVE AMERICAN DAY</b> Celebrates Native American history and culture.
<b>September 28</b>	Sunday	<b>LAILA AL-QADR • Islamic</b> "The Night of Power" marks the night in which God first revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. Often fixed as the 27th day of the Islamic month of Ramadan, Sunnis may also observe it on the 21th, 23rd, 25th or 29th. Shi'ites observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd of Ramadan.
<b>September 30</b>	Thursday	<b>NAVARATRI • Hindu</b> 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.
<b>September 30 – October 1</b>	Tuesday	<b>ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish</b> 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.

---

**OCTOBER 2008**

---

<b>October</b>	Full Month	<b>LGBT HISTORY MONTH</b> Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.
<b>October</b>	Full Month	<b>NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH</b> Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.
<b>October 2</b>	Thursday	<b>EID AL-FITR • Islamic</b> The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.
<b>October 9</b>	Thursday	<b>DASSERA • Hindu</b> Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as <i>Durga Puja</i> , which celebrates the goddess Durga.
<b>October 9</b>	Thursday	<b>YOM KIPPUR • Jewish</b> The "Day of Atonement" marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh HaShanah.
<b>October 11</b>	Saturday	<b>COMING OUT DAY</b> 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.
<b>October 13</b>	Monday	<b>COLUMBUS DAY</b> Marks Christopher Columbus's landing at San Salvador on October 12, 1492. Known as <i>Día de la Raza</i> , "Day of the Race", in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.
<b>October 14-20</b>	Tuesday-Monday	<b>SUKKOT • Jewish</b> The week-long "Feast of Booths" commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.
<b>October 17</b>	Friday	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY</b> Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.
<b>October 21</b>	Tuesday	<b>SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish</b> "The Eighth (Day) of Assembly" is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.
<b>October 22</b>	Wednesday	<b>SIMCHAT TORAH • Jewish</b> "Rejoicing in the Torah" celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.
<b>October 24</b>	Friday	<b>UNITED NATIONS DAY</b> Commemorates the founding of the world organization in 1945.
<b>October 28</b>	Tuesday	<b>DIWALI • Hindu</b> Also called <i>Deepavali</i> , "Festival of Lights", it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
<b>October 31</b>	Friday	<b>REFORMATION DAY • Christian</b> Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.
<b>October 31</b>	Friday	<b>HALLOWEEN</b> The eve of All Saints' Day.

---

**NOVEMBER 2008**

---

<b>November</b>	Full Month	<b>NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH</b> Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.
<b>November 1</b>	Saturday	<b>ALL SAINTS' DAY • Western Christian</b> Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.
<b>November 2</b>	Sunday	<b>ALL SOULS' DAY • Christian</b> Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as <i>Día de los Muertos</i> between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.
<b>November 4</b>	Tuesday	<b>ELECTION DAY</b> A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.
<b>November 9</b>	Sunday	<b>KRISTALLNACHT</b> Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.
<b>November 11</b>	Tuesday	<b>VETERANS' DAY</b> Honors the U. S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.
<b>November 16</b>	Sunday	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE</b> 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.
<b>November 17-23</b>	Monday– Sunday	<b>AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK</b> Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U. S. receives a quality education.
<b>November 20</b>	Thursday	<b>TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE</b> Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.
<b>November 27</b>	Thursday	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims' harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.
<b>November 30</b>	Sunday	<b>ADVENT • Christian</b> 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.

---

**DECEMBER 2008**

---

<b>December 1</b>	Monday	<b>WORLD AIDS DAY</b> International day of action on HIV and AIDS.
<b>December 3</b>	Wednesday	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS</b> Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
<b>December 8</b>	Monday	<b>BODHI DAY • Buddhist</b> Also known as <i>Rohatsu</i> , 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.
<b>December 8</b>	Monday	<b>EID AL-ADHA • Islamic</b> 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.
<b>December 10</b>	Wednesday	<b>HUMAN RIGHTS DAY</b> On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
<b>December 12</b>	Friday	<b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian</b> 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.
<b>December 15</b>	Monday	<b>BILL OF RIGHTS DAY</b> Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.
<b>December 21</b>	Sunday	<b>WINTER SOLSTICE</b> In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of winter.
<b>December 22-29</b>	Monday-Monday	<b>CHANUKAH • Jewish</b> 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.
<b>December 25</b>	Thursday	<b>CHRISTMAS • Western Christian</b> Commemorates the birth of Jesus.
<b>December 26-January 1, 2009</b>	Friday-Thursday	<b>KWANZAA</b> A seven-day celebration honoring African-American heritage and its continued vitality. "Kwanzaa" means "first fruits (of the harvest)" in Swahili.
<b>December 29</b>	Monday	<b>WOUNDED KNEE DAY</b> On December 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.
<b>December 29</b>	Monday	<b>MUHARRAM • Islamic</b> 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.