

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar

~ January 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> <i>New Years Day</i> <i>Temple Day – Buddhist</i> <i>Oshogatsu/Shogatsu (Shinto)</i>	2	3	4
<b>5</b> <i>Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Christmas – Armenian Orthodox Christian</i>  <i>Epiphany - Christian</i>	<b>7</b> <i>Christmas – Eastern Christian</i>	8	<b>9</b> <i>Baptism of the Lord (Christian)</i>	10	11
12	<b>13</b> <i>Milad Al-Nabi (Islamic)</i>	<b>14</b> <i>Makar Sankranti (Hindu)</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Seijin Shiki/Adults Day (Shinto)</i>	<b>16</b> <i>TU B'Shvat – Jewish</i>  <i>Mahayana New Year – Buddhist</i>  <i>Religious Freedom Day</i>	17	18
<b>19</b> <i>World Religion Day – Bahá'í</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	<b>27</b> <i>Un Holocaust memorial Day</i>  <i>No Name-Calling Week</i>	<b>28</b>  <i>No Name-Calling Week</i>	<b>29</b>  <i>No Name-Calling Week</i>	<b>30</b>  <i>No Name-Calling Week</i>	<b>31</b>  <i>Lunar New Year</i>  <i>No Name-Calling Week</i>  <i>Birth of Guru Har Rai (Sikh)</i>	<b>Notes:</b> <i>Birthstone: Garnet</i> <i>Flower: Carnation</i> <i>Astrological Sign: Capricorn (till 1/19) &amp; Aquarius (1/20→)</i>

• **Please see next page for January's Holiday information.**

• **Disclaimer:** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## January 2014 Holiday's

- **January 1<sup>st</sup> New Years Day** – New Year's Day falls on January 1 and marks the start of a new year according to the Gregorian calendar.
  - **January 1<sup>st</sup> Temple Day - Buddhist** – Many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple.
  - **January 1<sup>st</sup> Oshogatsu/Shogatsu (Shinto)** – Japanese New Year/a multiple – day celebration of the arrival of the New Year.
  - **January 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)**, celebration of the birth of a Sodhi prince, who would one day become Gobind Singh, 10<sup>th</sup> and last guru of the Sikhs.
  - **January 6<sup>th</sup> Christmas – Armenian Orthodox Christian** – Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - **January 6<sup>th</sup> Christmas – Epiphany Christian** – Known as Theophany in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.
  - **January 7<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - **January 9<sup>th</sup> Baptism of the Lord (Christian)** – Commemorates the baptism of Jesus Christ's by St. John the Baptist.
  - **January 13<sup>th</sup> Milad Al-Nabi - Islamic** – Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than the Sunni Muslims.
  - **January 14<sup>th</sup> Makar Sankranti - Hindu** – Harvest festival and celebration of the sun-god. (Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days).
  - **January 15<sup>th</sup> Seijin Shiki/Adults Day (Shinto)** – Young people who have turned 20 go to a shrine for their "coming of age" ceremony.
  - **January 16<sup>th</sup> TU B'Shvat (Jewish) (Fifteenth day of Shvat)** – Named for the festival of the new Year of Trees. In certain communities, it is customary to eat 15 different kinds of fruit on this day with special preference given to the kinds of fruits grown in the land of Israel.
  - **January 16<sup>th</sup> Mahayana New Year - Buddhist** – In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.
  - **January 16<sup>th</sup> Religious Freedom Day** – American observance of the anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom in 1786. This national day strives to promote and protect religious expression rights.
  - **January 19<sup>th</sup> World Religion Day – Bahàì** – Third Sunday in January. Global day of observance to promote understanding and dialogue between the followers of all religions.
  - **January 20<sup>th</sup> Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday** – Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of January. It celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., an influential American civil rights leader. He is most well-known for his campaigns to end racial segregation on public transport and for racial equality in the United States.
  - **January 27<sup>th</sup> Un 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.
  - **January 27<sup>th</sup> thru January 31<sup>st</sup> No Name-Calling Week** – Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.
  - **January 31<sup>st</sup> Lunar New Year** – On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated. A festive holiday celebrated for about two weeks. Each year is symbolized by a different animal.
- January 31<sup>st</sup> Birth of Guru Har Rai (Sikh)** – Celebration of the birth of the seventh Guru of the Sikhs, known as the caretaker of creation.

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar African American History Month

~ February 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>National Freedom Day</i>
2 <i>Candlemas (Christian)</i> <i>Super Bowl / Groundhog Day</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> <i>Race Relations Day</i>	15 <i>Susan B. Anthony Day</i> <i>Nirvana Day - Buddhist</i>
16	17 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 <i>Ayyam-i-ha or Intercalary Days - Bahàì</i>	27	28 <i>Maha Shivaratri - Hindu</i>	Notes: Birthstone: Amethyst Flower: Violet Astrological Sign: Aquarius (till 2/18) & Pisces (2/19→ )

- ***Please see next page for January's Holiday information.***
- ***Disclaimer:*** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## February 2014 Holiday's

- **February (Full Month) African American History Month** – Celebrates Black History and African culture in the United States.
- **February 1<sup>st</sup> National Freedom Day** – Commemorates the signing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.
- **February 2<sup>nd</sup> Candlemas (Christian)** – Celebration of the purification of Mary and the presentation of Jesus in the temple.
- **February 2<sup>nd</sup> SuperBowl & Groundhog Day – Super Bowl** – American football the main championship game of the sport, held annually in January between the champions of the American Football Conference and the National Football Conference February 2. **Groundhog Day** - when the groundhog is said to come out of its hole at the end of hibernation. If the animal sees its shadow—i.e., if the weather is sunny—it is said to portend six weeks more of winter weather.
- **February 13<sup>th</sup>** – Ash Wednesday – The seventh Wednesday before Easter and the first day of Lent, on which many Christians receive a mark of ashes on the forehead as a token of penitence and mortality.
- **February 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day** - The day was first associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.
- **February 14<sup>th</sup> Race Relations Day** – The national Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning
- **February 15<sup>th</sup> Susan T B. Anthony Day** – Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.
- **February 15<sup>th</sup> Nirvana day (Buddhist)** – Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Par nirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **February 17<sup>th</sup> Presidents' Day** – Washington's Birthday, also known as Presidents' Day, is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of February. The day honors presidents of the United States, including George Washington, the USA's first president.
- **February 26<sup>th</sup> thru March 1<sup>st</sup> AYYAM-I-HA or Intercalary Days (Baha'i)** – The Ayyam-i-ha, or "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating , hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Baha'i year.
- **February 28<sup>th</sup> Maha Shivaratri/Shiva Ratri/Night of Shiva (Hindu)** – Special tribute celebration to Shiva, the lord of destruction.

**Office of Diversity Management Calendar**  
**National Women's History Month**

~ March 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> <i>Taanit Esther/Fast of Esther (Jewish)</i>
<b>2</b> <i>March 2 –March 20<sup>th</sup> Nineteen-Day Fast (Baha'i)</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Clean Monday (Eastern Christian)</i> <i>Hina-matsuri/Festival of Dolls (Shinto)</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Shrove Tuesday (Western Christian)</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>			<b>8</b> <i>International Women's Day</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <i>Magah Puja/Sangha Day (Buddhist)</i> <i>Purim (Jewish)</i>	<b>17</b> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> <i>Hola Mohalla (Lunar calendar, sikh)</i> <i>Holi (Hindu)</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Vernal Equinox (First Day of Spring)</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Nowruz/Naw-Ruz (Iranian New Year)</i> <i>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</i>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Annunciation (Christian)</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>Cesar Chavez Day</i> <i>Ugadi/Yugadi (Hindu)</i>	<b>Notes:</b> <i>Birthstone: Aquamarine, Bloodstone &amp; Jade</i> <i>Flower: Daffodil</i> <i>Astrological Sign: Pisces (till 3/20) &amp; Aries (3/21→ )</i>				

- **Please see next page for March's Holiday information.**
- **Disclaimer:** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## March 2014 Holiday's

- **March (Full Month) National Women's History Month** – Honors women as significant agents to historical change.
- **March 1<sup>st</sup> - Taanit Esther/Fast of Esther (Jewish)** – Commemorates the Fast observed by Mordechai and Esther and all Israel before a historic war.
- **March 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup> Nineteen-Day Fast (Bahà'i)** – Baha'is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation. Period of reflection on spiritual progress and detachment from material desires.
- **March 3<sup>rd</sup> Clean Monday (Eastern Christian)** – The beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha), counting Sundays. Day of fasting, cleansing, and prayer in preparation for the season of Lent
- **March 3<sup>rd</sup> Hina-matsuri/Festival of Dolls (Shinto)** – Day of prayer for young girls.
- **March 4<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday (Western Christian)** – A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras.
- **March 5<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **March 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day** – Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.
- **March 16<sup>th</sup> Magha Puja (Buddhist)** – Commemorates a day when 1,250 monks, all from different places and on their own initiative, spontaneously came to pay homage to the Buddha.
- **March 16<sup>th</sup> Purim (Jewish)** – The “Feast of Lots” marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from Haman's plot to exterminate them, through the intervention of Queen Esther.
- **March 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day (Christian)** – Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland.
- **March 17<sup>th</sup> Hola Mohalla (Lunar calendar, Sikh)** – Festival of processions that originated from historical army demonstrations reminding followers of the importance of courage and preparedness.
- **March 17<sup>th</sup> Holi (Hindu)** – Also called Holaka or Phagwa, this festival celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology. Celebration of spring, colors, and good over evil, among other themes.
- **March 20<sup>th</sup> Vernal Equinox** – The date when night and day are nearly the same length. It marks the first day of the season of spring.
- **March 21<sup>st</sup> International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** – Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.
- **March 21<sup>st</sup> Nowruz (Zoroastrian)** – A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New year. Also celebrated as New Year's Day in Baha'i tradition (Naw-Ruz).
- **March 25<sup>th</sup> Annunciation (Christian)** – Celebrates and angel's appearance to the Virgin Mary, announcing that she was to be the mother of Jesus Christ.
- **March 31<sup>st</sup> Cesar Chavez Day** – Honors Mexican-American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927-1993) who was nationally respected voice for social justice.
- **March 31<sup>st</sup> Ugadi/Yugadi (Hindu)** – Commemorates the day the Lord Brahma started creations; marks the beginning of the Hindu lunar calendar.

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar

~ April 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 <i>Hanamatsuri (Buddhist)</i> <i>Rama Navami, Swaminarayan Jayanti (Hindu)</i>	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Baisakhi/Vaisakhi (Sikh)</i>	14 <i>Birth of Guru Nanak (Sikh)</i> <i>Hola Mohalla</i> <i>Fast of the Firstborn (Jewish)</i>	15 <i>April 15<sup>th</sup>-April 21<sup>st</sup></i> <i>Passover/Pesach</i> <i>Theravada New Year (Buddhist)</i> <i>Lord's Supper (Jehovah's Witnesses)</i>	16	17 <i>Holy Thursday/Great Thursday (Christian)</i>	18 <i>Good Friday</i> <i>Birth of Guru Tegh Bahadur &amp; Guru Angad Dev</i>	19
20 <i>Easter</i>	21 <i>April 21<sup>st</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup></i> <i>Festival of Ridvan</i>	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23 <i>Administrative Professionals</i>	24 <i>Armenian Martyrs' Day</i>	25 <i>Arbor Day</i>	26
27 <i>Yom Hashoah</i>	28	29 <i>Ninth day of Ridvan (Bahà'i)</i>	30	<b>Notes:</b> <i>Birthstone: Diamond &amp; Crystal</i> <i>Flower: Daisy &amp; Sweet Pea</i> <i>Astrological Sign: Aries (till 4/19) &amp; Taurus (4/20→)</i>		

- **Please see next page for April's Holiday information.**
- **Disclaimer:** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## April 2014 Holiday's

- **April 8<sup>th</sup> Rama Navami, Swaminarayan Jayanti (Hindu)** – Anniversary of the birth of Rama, incarnation of Vishnu (the preserver) in Hinduism.
- **April 8<sup>th</sup> Hanamatsuri (Buddhist)** – (Buddha's Birthday) Celebrates the birth of the founder of Buddhism.
- **April 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday** – The Sunday before Easter, observed by Christians in commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, when palm fronds were strewn before him.
- **April 13<sup>th</sup> Baisakhi/Vaisakhi (Sikh)** – Sikh observance of rejection of Indian caste system and formation of Khalsa (Sikh Brotherhood).
- **April 14<sup>th</sup> Birth of Guru Nanak (Sikh)** – Birth of the founder and first Guru, who challenged and questioned the existing religious tenants & laid the foundations of the Sikh tradition.
- **April 14<sup>th</sup> Hola Mohalla** – Festival of processions that originated from historical army demonstrations reminding followers of the importance of courage and preparedness.
- **April 14<sup>th</sup> Fas of the Firstborn (Jewish)** – First-born male of every Jewish household fasts in commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> plague of Passover.
- **April 15<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup> Passover/Pesach** – Celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. During this 8-day Spring festival, matzoh (unleavened bread) is eaten.
- **April 15<sup>th</sup> – Theravada New Year (Buddhist)** – In Theravada countries the new year starts on three days from the first full moon day in April.
- **April 15<sup>th</sup> – Lord's Supper (Jehovah's Witnesses)** – Also called Memorial of Christ's Death, Jehovah's Witnesses commemorate Jesus' last meal with his apostles and his death once a year.
- **April 17<sup>th</sup> Holy Thursday/Great Thursday (Christian)** – Commemorates the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Disciples were together for the last time before the Crucifixion; and the sacrament of the Eucharist was instituted.
- **April 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday** – Before Easter Sunday, on which the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ is commemorated in the Christian Church. It is traditionally a day of fasting and penance.
- **April 18<sup>th</sup> Birth of Guru Tegh Bahadur & Guru Angad Dev (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)** – 9<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> gurus of Sikhism. The Ten gurus of Sikhism are hailed for their devotion to renewing eternal wisdom and emphasizing the simplicity of the religion.
- **April 20<sup>th</sup> Easter** – The most important and oldest festival of Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and held (in the Western Church) between March 21 and April 25, on the first Sunday after the full moon following the northern spring equinox.
- **April 21<sup>st</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup> Festival of Ridván** - Is a 12-day festival in the Bahá'í Faith, commemorating the commencement of Bahá'u'lláh's prophethood. It is the most holy Bahá'í festival, and is also referred to as the "Most Great Festival" and the "King of Festivals."
- **April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day** – Is an annual event, on which events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and is celebrated in more than 192 countries each year.
- **April 23<sup>rd</sup> Administrative Professionals Day** – Also known as Secretaries Day, it is an unofficial secular holiday observed in several countries to recognize the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists, and other administrative support professionals. In North America, it is celebrated on the Wednesday of the last full week of April. In France it is celebrated on the third Thursday in April.
- **April 24<sup>th</sup> Armenian Martyrs' Day** – Is a day of remembrance for the one million Armenians who died in the Turkish massacre of 1915-16.
- **April 25<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day** – (from the Latin arbor, meaning tree) is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plan and care for trees. It originated in Nebraska.
- **April 27<sup>th</sup> Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Remembrance Day (Jewish)** – Memorializes the heroic martyrdom of the six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.
- **April 29<sup>th</sup> Ninth day of Ridvan (Baha'i)** – Major holy day in Baha'i on which work is suspended to commemorate when Baha'u'llahs declared his mission to his companions.

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar

~ May 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Beltane (Pagan)</i>	2 <i>Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)</i>	3 <i>Join Hands Day</i>
4	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	6 <i>National Teachers Day</i>	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 <i>Nurses Day</i>	13	14 <i>Wesak/Buddha Day (Buddhist)</i>	15	16 <i>SPLA Day (Southern Sundanese)</i>	17 <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
18 <i>Lag B'Omer (Jewish)</i>	19 <i>Victoria Day</i>	20	21	22 <i>National Maritime Day</i>	23 <i>Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)</i>	24
25	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28	29 <i>Ascension Day (Christian)</i> <i>Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)</i>	30	31
<b>Notes:</b> Birthstone: Emerald Flower: Lily of the Valley & Hawthron Astrological Sign: Taurus (till 5/20) & Gemini (5/21→ )						

- **Please see next page for May's Holiday information.**
- **Disclaimer:** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## May 2014 Holiday's

- **May 1<sup>st</sup> Beltane (Pagan)** – Fire festival that celebrates the coming of summer and their fertility of the coming year.
- **May 2<sup>nd</sup> Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)** – Major holy day in Baha'i on which work is suspended to commemorate Baha'u'llah's announcement of his claim to prophethood and his departure from the garden of Ridvan.
- **May 2<sup>nd</sup> Birth of Guru Arjan Dev (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)** – Guru Arjan was the fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh martyr.
- **May 3<sup>rd</sup> Join Hands Day** – Is a national volunteer day that brings young people and adults together to begin a year-round process of relationship building and to make great contributions to your community. Youths and adults, work together on an equal basis to plan, organize and implement the day's activities.
- **May 5<sup>th</sup> Cinco De Mayo** – Is observed in Mexico and Mexican-American communities in the United States to commemorate the Mexican victory over the French in Battle of Puebla in 1862.
- **May 6<sup>th</sup> National Teachers Day** – In many countries, Teacher's Day are intended to be special days for the appreciation of teachers, and may include celebrations to honor them for their special contributions in a particular field area, or the community in general. The date on which Teachers' day is celebrate varies from country to country. Teachers' day is distinct from World Teachers' Day, which is officially celebrated across the world on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **May 11<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day** – Is a celebration honoring mothers and motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in March or May.
- **May 12<sup>th</sup> Nurses Day (IND)** – Is celebrated around the world on May 12<sup>th</sup> of each year, to mark the contributions nurses make to society.
- **May 14<sup>th</sup> Wesak/Buddha Day (Buddhist)** – Commemorates the birth of Gautama, the Buddha of Infinite Wisdom and Compassion. Also known as Hanamatsuri.
- **May 16<sup>th</sup> SPLA Day (Southern Sundanese)** – The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is a political party in Southern Sudan which originated as a rebel movement, with a military wing known as the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).
- **May 17<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day** – This is the day on which we have the welcome opportunity to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces.
- **May 18<sup>th</sup> Lag B'Omer (Jewish)** – According to the Talmud, 24,000 disciples of the Jewish scholar, Rabbi Akiva, died of a plague during the period between Pesach and Shavuot because they did not sufficiently honor one another. The plague ceased on Lag B'Omer which, consequently, became a Jewish festival.
- **May 19<sup>th</sup> Victoria Day (in French: Fête de la Reine)** - Is a federal Canadian public holiday celebrated on the last Monday before May 25, in honor of Queen Victoria's birthday.
- **May 22<sup>nd</sup> National Maritime Day** – is a United States holiday created to recognize the maritime industry. It is observed on May 22, the date in 1819 that the American steamship Savannah set sail from Savannah, Georgia on the first ever transoceanic voyage under steam power.
- **May 23<sup>rd</sup> Birth of Guru Amar Das (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)** – Celebration of the birth of third guru, who worked for better conditions for women and pushed for more cohesion among Sikh communities.
- **May 26<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day** – A day which those who died in active military service are remembered. Traditionally observed on May 30, but now officially observed on the last Monday in May.
- **May 29<sup>th</sup> Ascension Day (Christian)** – The 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter Commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
- **May 29<sup>th</sup> Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)** – Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bah'u'llah.

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar

~ June 2014 ~						
◀ May 2014						Jul 2014 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 <i>Shavout (Jewish) June 4-5</i>	5 <i>World Environment Day</i>	6	7
8 <i>Pentecost/Whitsunday (Christian)</i>	9	10	11	12	13 <i>Nisf Shabaan/Night of Salvation (Islamic)</i>	14 <i>Flag Day</i>
15 <i>Father's Day</i> <i>All Saints Day (Christian)</i> <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	16 <i>Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)</i>	17	18	19 <i>Juneteenth</i> <i>Feast of the Body of Christ/Corpus Christi</i>	20	21 <i>First Day of Summer</i>
22	23	24 <i>St. Jean Baptiste Day</i>	25	26	27	28 <i>Ramadan (Islamic) June 28-July 27</i>
29	30 <i>Inqaz Revolution Day (Sudanese)</i>	<b>Notes:</b> Birthstone: Alexandrite, Pearl & Moonstone Flower: Rose Astrological Sign: Gemini (till 6/20) & Cancer (6/21→)				

- **Please see next page for June's Holiday information.**
- **Disclaimer:** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## June 2014 Holiday's

- **June 4-5th Shavuot/Feast of Weeks (Jewish)** – Celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.
- **June 5th World Environment Day** – Is celebrated every year on June 5 to raise global awareness of the need to take positive environmental action.
- **June 8th Pentecost/Whitsunday (Christian)** – Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, 50 days after Easter Sunday. Marks the beginning of the Christian Church.
- **June 13th Nisf Shabaan/Night of Salvation (Islamic)** – Night of seeking pardon and repenting to Allah, remembering past sins and setting intentions to avoid committing the sins in the future.
- **June 14<sup>th</sup> Flag Day** – In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened on that day in 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The United States Army also celebrates the Army Birthday on this date; Congress adopted the “the American continental army” after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775.
- **June 15<sup>th</sup> Father's Day** – Is a celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society.
- **June 15<sup>th</sup> All Saints Day (Christian)** – Feast day to remember all saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history.
- **June 15<sup>th</sup> Trinity Sunday** – Celebrates belief in the Holy Trinity, the most fundamental of Christian beliefs.
- **June 16<sup>th</sup> Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)** – Memorial of the fifth guru and first martyr, one of 10 who taught compassion, love, dedication, hard work, worship of one God, and the commitment to peace and harmony for all the peoples of the world.
- **June 19<sup>th</sup> Juneteenth** – A festival held annually on the nineteenth of June by African Americans (esp. in the southern states), to commemorate emancipation from slavery in Texas on that day in 1865.
- **June 19<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Body of Christ/Corpus Christi (Christian)** – Celebrates the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper.
- **June 21<sup>st</sup> First Day of Summer** – In the United States and the rest of the northern hemisphere, the first day of the summer season is the day of the year when the Sun is farthest north (on June 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>). This day is known as the Summer Solstice.
- **June 24<sup>th</sup> St. Jean Baptiste Day** – Held annually on June 24, is the feast day of St. John the Baptist, a Jewish preacher who baptized Jesus in the River Jordan.
- **June 26<sup>th</sup> Independence Day (Somali)** – Celebrates the Independence from Britain in 1960.
- **June 28<sup>th</sup> Ramadan (Islamic) June 28-July 27** – The ninth month in the Islamic calendar, 30 days of strict fasting from sunrise to sundown in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad.
- **June 30<sup>th</sup> Inqaz Revolution Day (Sudanese)** – Celebrates National Islamic Front's overthrow of the government of the former Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi in 1989.

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar

◀ Jun 2014		~ July 2014 ~						Aug 2014 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
		1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 <i>Birth of Guru Hargobind (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)</i>		
6	7	8	9 <i>At Sunset Ramadan Begins &amp; Ends August 7<sup>th</sup>  Martyrdom of the Bab (Bah'i)</i>	10	11	12 <i>Asala/Dharma Day (Buddhist)</i>		
13	14 <i>Bastille Day  Bon (Buddhist) July 13-15th</i>	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23 <i>Birt of Guru Har Krishen (Nakshahi cal, Sikh)  Birth of Haile Selassie (Rastafarian)</i>	24 <i>Pioneer Day (Mormon)  Khordad Sal (Qadiimi cal, Zoroastrian)  Laila Al-Qadr (Islamic)</i>	25	26		
27 <i>Parents' Day  Eid Al-Fitr (Islamic)</i>	28 <i>Eid al Fitr  Dab Shid (Somali New Year)</i>	29 <i>Islamic Eid ul-Fitr</i>	30	31	<b>Notes:</b> <i>Birthstone: Ruby and Onyx Flower: Larkspur &amp; Water Lily Astrological Sign: Cancer (till 7/22) &amp; Leo (7/23→)</i>			

- ***Please see next page for July's Holiday information.***
- ***Disclaimer: The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).***

## July 2014 Holiday's

- **July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day** – A holiday celebrating the anniversary of a country's independence from another country that ruled it in the past; especially: July 4 celebrated as a legal holiday in the U.S. in honor of the day when the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.
- **July 5<sup>th</sup> Birth of Guru Hargobind (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)** – Sixth of the 10 gurus who was extremely skilled in matters of the state and taught of the unification of temporal and spiritual power.
- **July 9<sup>th</sup> (At sunset) Ramadan begins; ends August 7** – This Muslim holiday marks the Islamic month of fasting. Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, or sexual activity from dawn until sunset, in efforts to teach patience, modesty, and spirituality.
- **July 9<sup>th</sup> Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)** – Observance of the anniversary of the execution of the Bab in 1850.
- **July 12<sup>th</sup> Asala/Dharma Day (Buddhist)** – Festival marking the beginning of Buddha's teachings of peace and enlightenment.
- **July 13-15<sup>th</sup> Bon (Buddhist)** – Occasion for rejoicing the enlightenment offered by the Buddha. Day of remembrance of all those who have passed away.
- **July 14<sup>th</sup> Bastille Day** – Is the name given in English-speaking countries to the French National Day, which is celebrated on July 14 each year. In France, it is formally called La Fête Nationale. Celebrations are held all over France. The oldest and largest regular military parade in Europe is held on the morning of July 14, on the Champs-Élysées avenue in Paris in front of the President of the Republic, French officials and foreign guests.
- **July 23<sup>rd</sup> Birth of Guru Har Krishen (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)** – The eighth of the 10 gurus who healed and comforted many during his lifetime.
- **July 23<sup>rd</sup> Birth of Haile Selassie (Rastafarian)** – Haile Selassie I was Ethiopia's 225<sup>th</sup> and last emperor, whom Rastafarians believe to be divine.
- **July 24<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Day (Mormo)** – Celebration of arrival of the first pioneers at the Great Salt Lake in 1847.
- **July 24<sup>th</sup> Khordad Sal (Qadimi cal, Zoroastrian)** – Marks the birth anniversary of Prophet Zoroaster, founder of Zoroastrianism.
- **July 24<sup>th</sup> Laila Al-Qadr (Islamic)** – Special celebration during Ramadan that commemorates the night when the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to Muhammad.
- **July 27<sup>th</sup> Parents' Day in the United States** – Parents' Day is held on the fourth Sunday of every July. This was established in 1994 when President Bill Clinton signed a Congressional Resolution into law (36 U.S.C. § 135) for "recognizing, uplifting, and supporting the role of parents in the rearing of children."
- **July 28<sup>th</sup> Eid al Fitr** – Muslim celebrating commemorating the end of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to all for enjoying the month of Ramadan. It involves wearing one's finest clothing, saying prayers, and nurturing understanding of all religions.
- **July 28<sup>th</sup> Dab Shid (Somali New Year)** – Celebration of Somali solar New Year.
- **July 29<sup>th</sup> Islamic Eid ul-Fitr** - Non-Christian Religions / Islam) an annual Muslim festival marking the end of Ramadan, involving the exchange of gifts and a festive meal.

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar

~ August 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Lughnasadh/Lammas (Pagan)</i>	2
3 <i>Friendship Day</i>	4 <i>(Sunset) Tisha B'sAv</i>	5 <i>(Nightfall) Tisha B'Av</i>	6 <i>Transfiguration (Christian)</i>	7	8	9 <i>International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples</i>
10 <i>Raksha Banhan/Rakhi (Hindu)</i>  <i>Ulambana/Ghost Festival (Buddhist)</i>	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Assumption Day Bon/Obon (Buddhist) Dormition of Theotokos (Orthodox/Christian)</i>	16
17 <i>Krishna Jayanti (Hindu)</i>	18 <i>Jamshedi Noruz (Shenshai cal, Zoroastrian)</i>	19 <i>National Aviation Day</i>	20	21	22	23 <i>Khordad Sal (Shenshai cal, Zoroastrian)</i>
24	25	26 <i>Women's Equality Day</i>	27	28	29 <i>Ganesh Chaturhi (Hindu)</i>	30
31	<b>Notes:</b> Birthstone: Peridot Flower: Poppy & Gladiolus Astrological Sign: Leo (till 8/22) & Virgo (8/23→)					

- **Please see next page for August's Holiday information.**
- **Disclaimer:** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## August 2014 Holiday's

- **August 1<sup>st</sup> Lughnasadh/Lammas (Pagan)** – Celebration of the beginning of the harvest season; also a celebration of the Celtic go lugh.
- **August 3<sup>rd</sup> International Friendship Day** – Is a day for celebrating friendship. The day has been celebrated in several southern South American countries for many years, particularly in Paraguay, where the first World Friendship Day was proposed in 1958.
- **August 4<sup>th</sup> (Sunset) – August 5<sup>th</sup> (Nightfall) Tisha B'Av (Jewish)** – an annual fasting day, is observed to commemorate the tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people.
- **August 6<sup>th</sup> Transfiguration** – A holiday recognized by orthodox Christians to celebrate when Jesus became radiant, and communed with Moses and Elijah on Mount Tabor. To celebrate, adherents have a feast.
- **August 9<sup>th</sup> Internal Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** – Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges facing them today.
- **August 10<sup>th</sup> Raksha Banhan/Rakhi (Hindu)** – Celebrates the special bond between brother and sister by ritual tying of holy thread around the wrist, signifying love and protection.
- **August 10<sup>th</sup> Ulambana/Ghost Festival (Buddhist)** – The day for helping those beings who are suffering so that they can obtain libration.
- **August 15<sup>th</sup> Bon/Obon (Buddhist)** – Occasion for rejoicing in the enlightenment offered by the Buddha. Day of remembrance of all those who have passed away. Also known as Obon-e.
- **August 15<sup>th</sup> Assumption Day** – The Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven, according to the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodoxy, Oriental Orthodoxy, and parts of Anglicanism, was the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life.
- **August 17<sup>th</sup> Krishna Jayanti (Hindu)** – Festival of celebrations and rituals to mark the birth of Krishna.
- **August 18<sup>th</sup> Jamshedi Noruz (Shenshai cal, Zoroastrian)** – Obligatory feast dedicated to fire; Zoroastrian New Year celebration.
- **August 19<sup>th</sup> National Aviation Day** – honors the birthday of the American inventor and early manufacturer of airplanes, Orville Wright (1871-1948), as well as the progress that has been made in manned flight since the Wright Brothers made their historic 120-foot at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903. President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed August 19 as Aviation Day in 1939, and since that time celebrations have been sponsored in a number of states buy organizations involved in aviation.
- **August 23<sup>rd</sup> Khordad Sal (Shenshai cal, Zoroastrian)** – Marks the birth anniversary of Prophet Zoroaster, founder of Zoroastrianism.
- **August 26<sup>th</sup> Women's Equality Day** – is a day proclaimed each year by the United States President to commemorate the granting of the vote to women throughout the country on an equal basis with men.
- **August 29<sup>th</sup> Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)** – Celebration of the birth of Ganesha, the God of intellect and wisdom.

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar

### NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 15 THRU OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

~ September 2014 ~									
◀ Aug 2014	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Oct 2014 ▶	
		1 <b>Labor Day</b>	2	3	4	5	6		
7	<b>Grandparents Day</b>	8 <b>Nativity of Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)</b>	9	10	11 <b>Patriot Day</b>	12	13		
14	<b>Triumph of the Cross (Christian)</b>	15	16 <b>Step Family Day</b>	17 <b>Constitution Day and Week</b>	18	19	20		
21	<b>International Day of Peace</b>	22	23 <b>First Day of Autumn Mabon/Autumn Equinox (Pagan)</b>	24 <b>Native American Day</b>	25 <b>Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) September 25-26<sup>th</sup>  Navaratri (Hindu) September 25-29<sup>th</sup></b>	26 <b>Native American Day</b>	27 <b>Fast of Gedalliah (Jewish)</b>		
28	<b>Gold Star Mother's Day  Teacher's Day (Confucianism)</b>	29	30	<b>Notes:</b> Birthstone: Sapphire Flower: Aster & Forget-me-not Astrological Sign: Virgo (till 9/22) & Libra (9/23→)					

- **Please see next page for September's Holiday information.**
- **Disclaimer:** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## September 2014 Holiday's

- **September 1<sup>st</sup> Labor Day** – A public holiday or day of festivities held in honor of working people, in the US and Canada on the first Monday in September, in many other countries on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **September 7<sup>th</sup> National Grandparents' Day** – Is a secular holiday celebrated in the United States since 1978 and officially recognized in a number of countries on various days of the year, either as one holiday or sometimes as a separate Grandmothers' Day and Grandfathers' Day.
- **September 8<sup>th</sup> Nativity of Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)** – Commemoration of the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- **September 11<sup>th</sup> Patriot Day** – In the United States, Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance occurs on September 11 of each year, designated in memory of the 2,977 killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.
- **September 16<sup>th</sup> Step Family Day** – Was established to recognize and show appreciation for the importance and value of step-parents and extended families.
- **September 17<sup>th</sup> Constitution Day (or Citizenship Day)** – Is an American federal observance that recognized the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. Citizens. It is observed on September 17, the day the U.S. Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution in 1787 in Philadelphia.
- **September 21<sup>st</sup> The International Day of Peace** – Sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day, is observed annually on September 21. It is dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone for humanitarian aid access. The day was first celebrated in 1982, and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and peoples. In 2013, for the first time, the Day was dedicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to peace education, the key preventive means to reduce war sustainable.
- **September 23<sup>rd</sup> First Day of Autumn** – Often know as fall in the US and Canada, is one of the four temperate seasons. Autumn marks the transition from summer into winter, in September (Northern Hemisphere) or March (Southern Hemisphere) when the arrival of night becomes noticeably earlier.
- **September 26<sup>th</sup> Native American Day** – Is a state holiday in California, established in 1968 to honor Native American cultures and contributions to the state and the United States. Also called American Indian Day, it is observed annually on the fourth Friday in September.
- **September 28<sup>th</sup> Gold Star Mother's Day** – The American Gold Star Mothers Inc. was formed in the United States shortly after World War I to provide support for mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war. The name came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a Service Flag in the window of their homes.
- **September 28<sup>th</sup> Teacher's Day (Confucianism)** – Commemorates the birth of Confucius, and honors the teaching profession.

**Office of Diversity Management Calendar**  
**NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**  
**NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**

~ October 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>Feast of Guardian Angels (Christian)</i>	3	4 <i>Islamic Eid al-Adha  Yom Kippur (Jewish)  Dassera/Durga Puja (Hindu)</i>
5 <i>Eid Al-Adha (Islamic)</i>	6 <i>Child Health Day  German American Day</i>	7	8 <i>National Children's Day</i>	9 <i>Leif Erikson Day  Birth of Guru Ram Das (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)  Sukkot (Jewish) Oct. 9-15th</i>	10	11 <i>National Coming Out Day</i>
12	13 <i>Columbus Day  Thanksgiving (Canada)</i>	14 <i>Native American Day</i>	15 <i>Hoshanah Rabbah (Jewish)  Al-Hijira (Islamic)</i>	16 <i>National Boss Day  Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)</i>	17 <i>Simchat Torah (Jewish)  Kenname Festival (Shinto)</i>	18
19	20 <i>Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)</i>	21	22	23 <i>Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Sikh)</i>	24 <i>United Nations Day</i>	25 <i>Muharram (Islamic)</i>
26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween Reformation Day All Hallow's Eve Samhain/Hallowe'en</i>	<b>Notes:</b> <i>Birthstone: Opal &amp; Tourmaline Flower: Calendula Astrological Sign: Libra (till 10/22) &amp; Scorpio (10/23 → )</i>

- **Please see next page for October's Holiday information.**
- **Disclaimer:** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## October 2014 Holiday's

- **October 2nd Feast of Guardian Angels (Christian)** – Commemoration of the belief in every person having a guardian angel who watches over them and helps them to attain salvation.
- **October 4<sup>th</sup> Islamic Eid al-Adha** - This Muslim holiday, celebrated during the time of the annual hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca, marks the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael, as commanded by God.
- **October 4<sup>th</sup> Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement (Jewish)** – This most holy day in the Jewish year is marked by fasting and prayer.
- **October 4<sup>th</sup> Dassera/Durga Puja (Hindu)** – Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana; also celebrates the Durga.
- **October 5<sup>th</sup> Eid Al-Adha (Islamic)** – Feast of Sacrifice; concludes the Hajj and celebrates Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac in obedience to God.
- **October 6<sup>th</sup> Child Health Day** – Child Health day the president invites "all agencies and organizations interested in child welfare to unit on Child Health Day is observing exercises that will make the people of the United States aware of the fundamental necessity of a year-round program to protect and develop the health of the children of the US.
- **October 6<sup>th</sup> German-American Day** –German-American Day is a holiday in the United States, observed annually on October 6. The holiday, which celebrates German American heritage, commemorates the date in 1683 when 13 German families from Krefeld near the Rhine landed in Philadelphia
- **October 8<sup>th</sup> National Children's Day** – Is recognized on various days in many places around the world, to honor children globally.
- **October 9<sup>th</sup> Leif Erikson Day** - It honors Leif Erikson, the Norse explorer who led the first Europeans known to have set foot in North America.
- **October 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Sukkot/Feast of Booths (Jewish)** – Commemorates the 40-year wandering of Israelites in the desert on way to the Promised Land; expresses thanksgiving for the fall harvest.
- **October 11<sup>th</sup> National Coming Out Day** – For those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, this day celebrates coming out and recognition of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.
- **October 13<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day** – A legal holiday commemorating the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1492.
- **October 13<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Canada** – An annual Canadian holiday which celebrates the harvest and other blessings of the past year.
- **October 14<sup>th</sup> Native American Day** – Celebrates Native American history and culture.
- **October 15<sup>th</sup> Hoshanah Rabbah (Jewish)** – the seventh and last day of Sukkot, a day of final sealing of judgment during the festival.
- **October 15<sup>th</sup> Al-Hijira (Islamic)** – The Islamic New Year, is the first day of the month of Muharram
- **October 16<sup>th</sup> Shemini Atzeret/Eight Day of Soleman Assembly (Jewish)** – A part of the Sukkot festival.
- **October 16<sup>th</sup> National Boss Day** –It has traditionally been a day for employees to thank their bosses for being kind and fair throughout the year.
- **October 17<sup>th</sup> Simchat Torah (Jewish)** – Celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch (Torah) and its beginning anew, thus affirming that the study of God's word is an unending process. Concludes the Sukkot festival.
- **October 17<sup>th</sup> Kenname Festival (Shinto)** – Celebration of the autumn harvest.
- **October 20<sup>th</sup> Birth of the Bab (Bah'i)** – Observance of the anniversary of the birth of Siyyid Ali Muhammad, known as "the Bab".
- **October 23<sup>rd</sup> Deepavali (Diwali) (Hindu, Jain, Sikh)** – Festival of Lights, celebration of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
- **October 24<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day** – A day for celebrating the founding of the United Nations.
- **October 25<sup>th</sup> Muharram (Islamic)** – The first month of the Islamic new year.
- **October 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween** – The eve of All Saints' Day, commonly celebrated by children who dress in costume and solicit candy or other treats door-to-door.
- **October 31<sup>st</sup> Reformation Day (Protestant Christian)** – Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.
- **October 31<sup>st</sup> All Hallow's Eve (Christian)** – Preparations, prayers, and fasting prior to the feast of all saints the following day.
- **October 31<sup>st</sup> Samhain/Hallowe'en (Pagan)** – Feast of the Dead, honoring life, wisdom, and endings that take place throughout the course of life.

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar

### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

~ November 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>All Saints' Day</i>
2 <i>All Souls' Day Daylight Saving Time Ends Coronation of Haile Selassie</i>	3 <i>Ashura (Islamic)</i>	4 <i>Election Day</i>	5	6 <i>Birth of Guru Nanak (Lunar cal, Sikh)</i>	7	8
9 <i>Kristallnacht</i>	10	11 <i>Veterans' Day Remembrance Day</i>	12 <i>Birth of Bah'u'llah (Bah'i)</i>	13	14	15 <i>Shichogsan/Seven-Five-Three Festival (Shinto)</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 <i>Martyrdom of Guru Tegh BVahadur</i>	25 <i>Religious Liberty Day</i>	26 <i>Day of Covenant (Baha'i)</i>	27 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28 <i>Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha</i>	29
30	<b>Notes:</b> Birthstone: Topaz and Citrine Flower: Chrysanthemum Astrological Sign: Scorpio (till 11/21) & Sagittarius (11/22→)					

- **Please see next page for November's Holiday information.**
- **Disclaimer:** The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).

## November 2014 Holiday's

- **November 1<sup>st</sup> All Saints' Day** – Christian festival in honor of all the saints, held (in the Western Church) on November 1.
- **November 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls' Day** – Observed in some Christian churches as a day of prayer for the souls of the faithful departed.
- **November 2<sup>nd</sup> Coronation of Haile Selassie (Rasta)** – Celebration of the coronation of Haile Selassie as King of Ethiopia.
- **November 2<sup>nd</sup> Daylight Saving Time Ends** – Time during which clocks are set one hour more ahead of standard time to provide more daylight at the end of the working day during late spring, summer, and early fall.
- **November 3<sup>rd</sup> Ashura (Islamic)** – Celebrates Moses' exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Kerbala in 680 CE.
- **November 4<sup>th</sup> Election Day (in the U.S.)** - The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November on which national elections are held for electors of the President and vice President in those years evenly divisible by four.
- **November 6<sup>th</sup> Birth of Guru Nanak (Lunar cal, Sikh)** – Birth of the founder and first Guru, who challenged and questioned the existing religious tenants and laid the foundations of the Sikh tradition.
- **November 9<sup>th-10<sup>th</sup></sup>** **Kristallnacht** – Dates of 1938 Nazi riots against Jews in which many people were killed, hundreds of synagogues burned, and thousands of Jewish-owned businesses destroyed.
- **November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans' Day** - A public holiday held on the anniversary of the end of World War I (November 11) to honor US veterans and victims of all wars. It replaced Armistice Day in 1954.
- **November 12<sup>th</sup> Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)** – Commemorates birth of the founder of Baha'i faith in 1817.
- **November 15<sup>th</sup> Shichogosan/Seven-Five-Three Festival (Shinto)** – Means Seven Five Three.” Girls of age three and seven, and boys of age three and five are celebrated on Shichigosan, prayers are offered for their good health and growth.
- **November 24<sup>th</sup> Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Nanakshahi cal, Sikh)** – Mourning the death of the 9<sup>th</sup> guru of Sikhism. The Ten gurus of Sikhism are hailed for their devotion to renewing eternal wisdom and emphasizing the simplicity of the religion.
- **November 26<sup>th</sup> Day of Covenant (Baha'I)** – Commemorates Baha'u'llah's appointment of his eldest son, "Abdu'l-Baha, as the Center of His Covenant.
- **November 27<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving (in North America)** - An annual national holiday marked by religious observances and a traditional meal including turkey. The holiday commemorates a harvest festival celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621, and is held in the US on the fourth Thursday in November. A similar holiday is held in Canada, usually on the second Monday in October.
- **November 28<sup>th</sup> Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (Baha'i)** – Anniversary of the death of 'Abdul'-Baha, son of Baha'u'llah and his appointed successor, on Nov. 28, 1921 in Haifa, in what is now northern Israel.

## Office of Diversity Management Calendar

~ December 2014 ~						
◀ Nov 2014						Jan 2015 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>AIDS Awareness Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i>	8 <i>Bodhi Day (Buddhist)</i> <i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i>	9	10 <i>Human Rights Day</i>	11	12	13
14	15 <i>Bill of Rights Day</i>	16	17 <i>Hanukkah Begins</i> <i>Chanukah (Jewish) 12/17-12/24</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>First Day of Winter</i> <i>Yule/Winter Solstice (Pagan)</i>	22 <i>Forefather's Day</i>	23 <i>Human Light (Atheist/Humanist)</i>	24 <i>Christmas Eve (Christian)</i>	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26 <i>Kwanzaa Begins (Dec. 26 – Jan. 1)</i>	27
28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	<b>Notes:</b> <i>Birthstone: Turquoise &amp; N Blue Topaz</i> <i>Flower: Narcissus &amp; Holly</i> <i>Astrological Sign: Sagittarius (till 12/21) &amp; Capricorn (12/22 →)</i>		

- ***Please see next page for December's Holiday information.***
- ***Disclaimer:*** *The Office of Diversity Management makes every effort to list the accurate dates and information for the celebration of holidays or events on our calendar; we attempt to be as inclusive as possible. However, we realize that no calendar can be 100 percent accurate. If you feel there is something missing, please let us know so we can include it. This diversity calendar is a work-in-progress! To suggest a change/addition for the Diversity Calendar, please contact Brenda Hayden at 518-408-2146 or [Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Brenda.l.hayden@opwdd.ny.gov).*

**[December 2014 Holiday's](#)**

- **December 1<sup>st</sup> AIDS Awareness Day** – Is a day dedicated by the international community to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS, to demonstrate support for those living with HIV or AIDS, and to remember those who have died.
- **December 7<sup>th</sup> National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** – Which is observed annually on December 7, is to remember and honor all those who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.
- **December 8<sup>th</sup> Bodhi Day (Buddhist)** – Celebration of the Enlightenment of founder Shakyamuni Buddha, ca. 96 B.C.E.
- **December 8<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Christian)** – Observance commemorating the doctrine that Mary, from the moment of her conception, was free from the stain of Original Sin.
- **December 10<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Day** – Is celebrated annually across the world on December 10. The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations.
- **December 15<sup>th</sup> Bill of Rights Day** – On December 15, 1791, the 10 original amendments of the United States Constitution became effective.
- **December 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Chanukah/Feast of Dedication (Feast of Lights)** – Eight-day festival celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God (165 B.C.E.). Commemorates the Maccabean victory over Antiochus who sought to suppress freedom of worship.
- **December 17<sup>th</sup> Hanukkah** – Many Jewish communities in the United States observe the first day of Hanukkah, which marks the start of Hanukkah, also known as Chanukah or Festival of Lights. Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish observance that remembers the Jewish people's struggle for religious freedom.
- **December 21<sup>st</sup> First Day of Winter** – In the United States and the rest of the northern hemisphere, the first day of the winter season is the day of the year when the Sun is farthest south (on December 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>). This day is known as the Winter Solstice.
- **December 21<sup>st</sup> Yule/Winter Solstice (Pagan)** – Celebration focusing on rebirth, renewal, and new beginnings as the sun makes way back to the earth.
- **December 22<sup>nd</sup> Forefather's Day** – Is a holiday celebrated in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on December 22. It is a commemoration of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on December 21, 1620. It was introduced in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1769.
- **December 23<sup>rd</sup> Human Light (Atheist/Humanist)** – Celebration of a humanist view of the future in which all people act justly and morally in a peaceful world.
- **December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve (Christian)** – Day of preparation for Christmas day, the day of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.
- **December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day** – Celebrates Jesus' birth.
- **December 26<sup>th</sup> – January 1 Kwanzaa** – An African-American holiday started by Maulana Karenga in 1966 to celebrate universal African-American heritage. It is observed by lighting candles to represent each of the holiday's seven principles; libations, feasting, and gift giving.
- **December 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve** – In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve (also Old Year's Day or Saint Sylvester's Day in many countries), 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, drink alcoholic beverages, and watch or light fireworks to mark the New Year. Some people attend a watch night service. The celebrations generally go on past midnight into January 1 (New Year's Day).