

VACAVILLE MULTICULTURAL EQUITY CALENDAR

2015-2016

National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

JULY

Foreign Language Month

2 Dharma Day	Bu
9 Martyrdom of the B'ab	Ba
13-14 Lailat al-Qadr	I
18-19 Eid al-Fitr (Festival of Fast-Breaking)	I
24 Pioneer Day	Mo
25-26 Tisha B'av	J
26 ADA Day	

AUGUST

Physically Challenged Awareness Month

9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	
15 Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary	RC
23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade & Its Abolition	
26 Women's Equality Day	

SEPTEMBER

Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)

14-15 Rosh Hashanah	J
21 International Day of Peace	
22-23 Yom Kippur	J
23 Autumn Equinox / Mabon	W
23-24 Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice)	I
27-Oct 4 Sukkot	J

*Bullying Prevention Month
Diversity Awareness Month
Italian American Heritage Month
LGBT History Month*

OCTOBER

2 International Day of Nonviolence (Gandhi's B-day)	
4-5 Shemini Atzeret (Last day of Sukkot)	J
5-6 Simchat Torah	J
11 National Coming Out Day	
12 Indigenous People's Day	
13-Nov. 12 Al Hijra/Muharram (New Year)	I
19-20 Birth of the B'ab	Ba
23 Ashura (Day of Atonement)	I
31-Nov. 1 Samhain	W

*American Indian/
Native American Heritage Month*

NOVEMBER

1 All Saints Day	P, RC
2 All Souls Day	RC
1-2 Día de los Muertos	RC
9 Kristallnacht	
11 Diwali	H
12 Birth of Baha'u'llah	Ba
16 International Day of Tolerance	
20 Transgender Day of Remembrance	
26 Day of the Covenant	Ba
26 National Day of Mourning / Un-Thanksgiving	
29-Dec. 24 Advent	P, RC

DECEMBER

Universal Human Rights Month

1 World AIDS Day	
3 International Day of Disabled Persons	
7-13 Hanukkah (8 days)	J
8 Immaculate Conception Day	RC
10 Human Rights Day	
12 Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe	RC
21 Winter Solstice	W
25 Christmas	P, RC
26 Mawlid al Nabi (Muhammad's Day)	I
26-Jan. 1 Kwanzaa (7 days)	
29 Remembrance Day of the Massacre at Wounded Knee	

JANUARY

Poverty Awareness Month

5 Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday	S
6 Día de los Reyes / Epiphany	P, RC
17 World Religion Day	Ba
18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
18-22 No Name Calling Week	
23 Ed Robert's Day	
24-27 Mahayana (Buddhist New Year)	Bu
27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day	

FEBRUARY

Black/African American History Month

1 National Freedom Day	
2 Imbolc / St. Brigid's Day	W
8 Chinese Lunar New Year	Bu
9-15 Random Acts of Kindness Week	
10 Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)	P, RC
10-Mar. 24 Lent	P, RC
15 Susan B. Anthony Day	
15 Nirvana Day	Bu
19 Day of Remembrance (WWI Internment of Japanese-Americans)	
23-24 Purim	J
26-Mar 1 Ayyam-i-Ha	Ba

*Deaf History Month
Ethnic Equality Month
Irish American Heritage Month
Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Month*

MARCH

Women's History Month

2-20 Nineteen Day Fast	Ba
8 International Women's Day	
20 Palm Sunday	P, RC
20 Spring Equinox / Ostara	W
20-21 Naw-Ruz	Ba
23 Lord's Evening Meal	JW
25 Good Friday	P, RC
27 Easter	P, RC
31 Cesar Chavez Day	

*Autism Awareness Month
Child Abuse Prevention Month*

APRIL

22-30 Pesach (Passover)	
20-May 2 Ridván	Ba
30-May 1 Beltane	W

*Jewish American Heritage Month
Older Americans Month
Asian/Pacific Islander Month*

MAY

4-5 Lailat al Miraj	I
4-5 Yom Ha-Sho'ah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	J
5 National Day of Prayer	
5 Ascension Day	P, RC
21 Vesak Day	B
22 Harvey Milk Day	
22-23 Declaration of the B'ab	Ba
22-23 Lailat al Bara-ah	I
24 Pentecost	P
28-29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Ba

JUNE

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month

6-Jul 5 Ramadan	I
19 Juneteenth (Emancipation Day)	
20 Summer Solstice / Litha	W



KEY TO RELIGIOUS GROUPS

• Bahá'í	• Ba
• Buddhist	• Bu
• Hindu	• H
• Jewish	• J
• Jehovah's Witness	• JW
• Mormon	• Mo
• Islam (Muslim)	• I
• Protestant Christian	• P
• Roman Catholic	• RC
• Sikh	• S
• Wiccan/Pagan	• W

Note: This Calendar does not include all major religious/cultural holidays, nor does it include all civic and other well-known holidays. This calendar serves as a resource to encourage public awareness of the diversity of our community. People may find the calendar helpful to identify opportunities for discussion about important dates in various social, ethnic, cultural, religious and faith groups, to promote an atmosphere of inclusion throughout the Vacaville District.

ADA Day Americans with Disabilities Act commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

ADVENT A season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. (Starts four weeks before Christmas for Western Christians and six weeks before Christmas for Eastern Christians.)

AL HIJRA (MUHARRAM) New Year, marking the first day of the first month of the Islamic calendar Muharram. Remembers the migration of Mohammad and followers to Medina.

ALL SAINTS DAY Commemorates the lives of all known saints and those who do not have a special day.

ALL SOULS DAY Day of prayer, remembrance and intercession for faithful Christians who have died.

ASCENSION DAY Celebrates Jesus' ascent into heaven. Also known as the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ or Ascension Thursday.

ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH A commemoration of death of the Bahá'í prophet Baha'u'llah.

ASH WEDNESDAY Begins Christian Lent; name derives from symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.

ASHURA (DAY OF ATONEMENT) The Tenth Day of Muharram – A day of fasting to mark the day Noah left the Ark, the time when the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt, and Shia Muslims commemorate the martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein ibn Ali.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Commemorates the death of Mary and her passing into eternal life; this is the most important of the Marian feasts.

AUTUMN EQUINOX (MABON) The mid-harvest festival, honoring the changing seasons and giving thanks for gifts of the earth. The sun shines directly on the equator and the length of day and night is nearly equal.

AYYAM-I-HA The days of Ha are devoted to spiritual preparation for the 19 day fast, celebrating hospitality, charity and gift-giving. They are celebrated for four days.

BELTANE The Gaelic May Day Festival commonly held on May 1st; marks the first signs of summer.

BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH Commemorates the birth of the prophet-founder Baha'u'llah of the Bahá'í faith in 1817.

BIRTH OF THE B'AB Anniversary of the birth of the B'ab (the "Gate") – one of founders of the Bahá'í faith – in Shiraz.

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY A national U.S. holiday celebrating the birth and enduring legacy of American civil rights and labor movement activist Cesar Chavez on March 31st.

CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR A major holiday celebrated by countries with significant Chinese populations marking the Lunar New Year. It is also known as the Spring Festival.

CHRISTMAS Commemorates the birth of Jesus.

DAY OF THE COVENANT Celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha'u'llah—the prophet-founder of Bahá'í.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (WWII INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS) The Day of Remembrance commemorates Japanese-American internment during WWII. On Feb. 19, 1942, the U.S. government issued Executive Order 9066, requiring internment of all U.S. residents of Japanese ancestry.

DECLARATION OF THE B'AB IN SHIRAZ Marks the beginnings of the Bahá'í faith in Shiraz, Persia. The B'ab, which means the "Gate," declares himself a prophet who heralds an age of peace for all humanity.

DHARMA DAY: Also known as *Asala Puja*, commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening

DIA DE LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism in 1531. Observers attend a pre-dawn Mass.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD) A Mexican holiday observed throughout Mexico and around the world in other cultures that focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died.

DÍA DE LOS REYES / EPIPHANY Celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates epiphany with the journey of the three kings to the baby Jesus; marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas.

DIWALI (DEEPAVALI) The Festival of Lights celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

EASTER Celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, on the 3rd day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans.

ED ROBERT'S DAY Celebrates the birthday of disability rights activist Edward Verne Roberts, who was the first student with severe disabilities to attend the University of California, Berkeley. Encourages schools and other institutions to educate the public about disability rights.

EID AL-ADHA Festival of Sacrifice concludes the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) and is a three day festival recalling Ibrahim or Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Issac in obedience to God.

EID AL-FITR Festival of the breaking of the fast that marks the end of Ramadan.

GOOD FRIDAY The commemoration of Jesus' crucifixion and death, observed on the Friday preceding Easter Sunday.

GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th guru of the Sikhs, who initiated the Sikhs as the Khalsa (the pure ones) and is known as the father of the Khalsa.

HARVEY MILK DAY: California recognizes Harvey Milk Day, celebrated each year on Milk's birthday – May 22, to commemorate the life and legacy of Harvey Milk, a gay rights activist assassinated in 1978.

HANUKKAH Festival of Lights; eight-day commemoration of the rededication of the Second Temple in 165 B.C.E. The eight candle Menorah is lit.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY The U.N. declared Dec. 10th as Human Rights Day to bring to the attention 'of the peoples of the world' the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

IMBOLC / ST. BRIGID'S DAY The Gaelic festival marking the first signs of spring; also known as Candlemass.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all her life.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY Celebrates and honors Native American culture and history. Celebrated in many Spanish speaking countries as Día de la Raza. Coincides with Columbus Day, as a protest against the celebration of a man (Columbus) who led and committed atrocities against indigenous people.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION Memorializes the tragedy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS Raises awareness about disabled persons in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NONVIOLENCE (GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY) Celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's birthday – the leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE The U.N. General Assembly has declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples; a day of non-violence and cease-fire.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TOLERANCE 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.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 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.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY Marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, as designated by the U.N. General Assembly to honor the victims of the Nazi era and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

JUNETEENTH Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, it commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery.

KRISTALLNACHT "The Night of the Broken Glass" commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Austria.

KWANZAA A seven-day spiritual celebration of African-American values and traditions and their continued vitality. "Kwanzaa" is Swahili and it means "first fruits of the harvest."

LAILAT AL MIRAJ Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily.

LAILAT AL BARA'AH Night of Forgiveness. A night of prayer to Allah for forgiveness of the dead. Preparation for Ramadan through intense prayer.

LAILAT AL-QADR Night of Power or Night of Destiny. First revelation of Qur'an to Prophet Mohammed. Observed during the last ten days of Ramadan

LENT Usually a 40-day preparation of believers through prayer, penance, repentance of sins, alms-giving, atonement and self-denial. Marks the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

LORD'S EVENING MEAL Jehovah's Witnesses commemoration of Christ's death and last meal with his disciples.

MAHAYANA The Buddhist New Year starts on the first full moon in January.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY Celebrates the birthday of civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr.

MARTYRDON OF THE B'AB Anniversary of the execution by firing squad in Persia of the B'ab, prophet-herald of the Bahá'í faith, in 1850

MAWLIDD AL-NABI Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, etc. (LGBTQ+) or being an ally. Commemorates Oct. 11, 1987 when 500,000 people marched on Washington D.C. for gay and lesbian equality.

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING / UN-THANKSGIVING

DAY An annual protest that coincides with Thanksgiving to remind people of the genocide and continued suffering of Native American peoples often overlooked in traditional Thanksgiving celebrations and depictions; known on the West Coast as Un-Thanksgiving Day.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER An annual day of observance held in the U.S.A. on the first Thursday of May; people are asked “to turn to God in prayer and mediation.”

NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery in 1865.

NAW-RUZ Bahá’í and Iranian New Year celebrated on the spring equinox; one of the nine Baha’i holy days on which work is suspended.

NINETEEN DAY FAST A fast to be observed by adult Bahá’ís in good health from sunrise to sundown. It is a time of prayer, meditation and spiritual rejuvenation immediately preceding the Baha’i New Year.

NIRVANA DAY Celebrates the day when the Buddha achieved complete nirvana upon the death of his physical body.

NO NAME CALLING WEEK Celebrates kindness while working to create safe schools free of name calling, bullying and bias.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY Celebrates the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem during Passover the week before his death and resurrection. Usually reenacted by the waving of palm branches and the singing of songs. This also commemorates the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday.

PENTECOST Fifty days after Easter, this time celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon early Christians following the ascension of Jesus.

PESACH (PASSOVER) An important Jewish feast marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt; “Seder” ceremonies emphasize the concept of their freedom as a nation under the leadership of Moses.

PIONEER DAY Observance of the arrival of Brigham Young and the early settlers in Salt Lake, Utah.

PURIM Feast of Lots; celebrates deliverance of Jews from the ancient Persians from a plot to destroy them.

RAMADAN The ninth month in the Islamic Calendar; 30 days of strict fasting from sunup to sundown in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Mohammed.

REMEMBRANCE DAY OF THE MASSACRE OF WOUNDED KNEE On Dec. 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee, South Dakota.

RIDVAN The most holy Bahá’í festival. A 12-day festival that commemorates the declaration of Baha’u’llah’s prophethood in 1863. Work and school is suspended for the 1st, 9th and 12th days. Ridván means paradise and is named for the Garden of Ridván outside Baghdad where the Baha’u’llah stayed for 12 days after being exiled by the Ottoman Empire.

ROSH HASHANAH Beginning of the Jewish New Year; 10 days of penitence and spiritual renewal, which concludes with Yom Kippur.

SAMHAIN The ancient Celtic festival celebrating the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the winter. The ancient Gaels believed that the boundary between the living and the deceased dissolved.

SHEMINI ATZERET “The Eighth Day of Assembly” directly follows the last day of Sukkot.

SIMCHAT TORAH “Rejoicing in the Torah” celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew. Symbolized by singing, dancing and marching around the synagogue with Torah scrolls.

SPRING EQUINOX / OSTARA Marks the coming of Spring and the fertility of the land; a time of rebirth and renewal.

SUKKOT This weeklong “Festival of Booths” (or tabernacles) commemorates the 40 year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

SUMMER SOLSTICE / LITHA The longest day of the year; festivals celebrate the power of the sun

SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY Celebrates the birthday of Susan B. Anthony, pioneer in the women’s rights movement.

TISHA B’AV A day of mourning and repentance in remembrance of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem. Regarded as the saddest day in Judaism and a day destined for tragedy.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

VESAK DAY The commemoration of Buddha’s birth, enlightenment and death, celebrated on the day of the full moon of the sixth month in the Theravada or southern tradition. Also known as Buddha Day or Buddha Purnima.

WINTER SOLSTICE DAY Winter solstice marks the shortest day and the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

WORLD AIDS DAY International day of action dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic and mourning those who have died of the disease.

WORLD RELIGION DAY In 1950, this day was founded by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States to address the need for religious unity, based on the belief that the oneness of religion would unify the peoples of Earth.

WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY Commemorates the granting of the vote to women throughout the U.S.A. Women in the United States were granted the right to vote on August 26, 1920, when the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was certified as law.

YOM HA-SHO’AH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY) Memorializes the six million Jews who died in the holocaust. Observance is not limited to Jews.

YOM KIPPUR Day of Atonement: a day devoted to prayer, fasting and repentance; the holiest day of the year in Judaism.