

VACAVILLE MULTICULTURAL EQUITY CALENDAR

2020-2021

JULY	<i>Foreign Language Month</i>		<i>National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month</i>
5 Dharma Day	Bu	JANUARY	<i>Poverty Awareness Month</i>
9-10 Martyrdom of the B'ab	Ba	6 Día de los Reyes / Epiphany	P, RC
24 Pioneer Day	Mo	17 World Religion Day	Ba
26 ADA Day / National Disability Independence Day		18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / Civil Rights Day	
30-31 Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice)	I	20 Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday	S
		20-24 No Name Calling Week	
		23 Ed Robert's Day	
		27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day	
		28 Mahayana (Buddhist New Year)	Bu
AUGUST	<i>Physically Challenged Awareness Month</i>	FEBRUARY	<i>Black/African American History Month</i>
9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples		1 National Freedom Day	
15 Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary	RC	1-2 Imbolc / St. Brigid's Day	W
19-20 Al Hijra/Muharram (New Year)	I	4 Rosa Parks Day	
23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade & Its Abolition		12-26 Chinese Lunar New Year	Bu
26 Women's Equality Day		15 Nirvana or Parinirvana Day	Bu
28-29 Ashura (Day of Atonement)	I	15 Susan B. Anthony Day	
		17 Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)	P, RC
		17-Mar 29 Lent	P, RC
		17-23 Random Acts of Kindness Week (Feb 17 RAK Day)	
SEPTEMBER	<i>Suicide Awareness Month</i>	19 Day of Remembrance (WWII Internment of Japanese-Americans)	
18-20 Rosh Hashanah	J	25-26 Purim	J
21 International Day of Peace		25-28 Ayyam-i-Ha	Ba
22 Autumn Equinox / Mabon	W		
25 Native American Day			
27-28 Yom Kippur	J		
	<i>Bullying Prevention Month</i>		<i>Deaf History Month</i>
	<i>Diversity Awareness Month</i>		<i>Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Month</i>
	<i>Islamic Heritage Month</i>		<i>Ethnic Equality Month</i>
	<i>Italian American Heritage Month</i>		<i>Irish American Heritage Month</i>
	<i>LGBT History Month</i>		<i>Women's History Month</i>
OCTOBER		MARCH	
2 International Day of Nonviolence (Gandhi's B-day)		1-19 Nineteen Day Fast	Ba
3-9 Sukkot	J	8 International Women's Day	
9-11 Shemini Atzeret (Last day of Sukkot)	J	19 Spring Equinox / Ostara	W
10-11 Simchat Torah	J	19-20 Naw-Rúz	Ba
11 National Coming Out Day		21-22 Lailat al Miraj	I
12 Indigenous Peoples' Day		25 International Day of Remembrance for Victims of Slavery & the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade	
17-18 Birth of the Báb	Ba	27 Lord's Evening Meal (Memorial)	JW
18-19 Birth of Baha'u'llah	Ba	27-Apr 4 Pesach (Passover)	J
28-29 Mawlid al-Nabi (Muhammad's Day)	I	28 Palm Sunday	P, RC
31-Nov 1 Samhain	W	28-29 Lailat al Bara'a	I
31-Nov 2 Día de los Muertos	RC	31 Cesar Chavez Day	
		31 International Transgender Day of Visibility	
	<i>American Indian/Alaska Native/ Native American Heritage Month</i>		<i>Autism Awareness Month</i>
NOVEMBER		APRIL	<i>Child Abuse Prevention Month</i>
1 All Saints Day	P, RC	2 Good Friday	P, RC
2 All Souls Day	RC	4 Easter	P, RC
13 World Kindness Day		8 Vesak Day	Bu
9 Kristallnacht		8-9 Yom Ha-Sho'ah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	J
14 Diwali	H	9 Day of Silence	
16 International Day of Tolerance		12-May 1 Ramadan	I
20 Transgender Day of Remembrance		16-May 2 Ridván	Ba
24-25 Day of the Covenant	Ba	24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day	
27 National Day of Mourning/Unthanksgiving/Native American Heritage Day		30-May 1 Beltane	W
29 - Dec 24 Advent	P, RC		
DECEMBER	<i>Universal Human Rights Month</i>		<i>Jewish American Heritage Month</i>
1 World AIDS Day		MAY	<i>Older Americans Month</i>
3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities		6 National Day of Prayer	
8 Immaculate Conception Day	RC	8-9 Lailat al-Qadr	I
10 Human Rights Day		12-13 Eid al-Fitr	I
11-18 Hanukkah (8 days)	J	13 Ascension Day	P, RC
12 Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe	RC	16-18 Shavuot	J
16-24 Las Posadas	RC	22 Harvey Milk Day	
21 Winter Solstice	W	23 Declaration of the Báb	Ba
25 Christmas	P, RC	23 Pentecost	P
26-Jan. 1 Kwanzaa (7 days)		28 Ascension of Baha'u'lla	Ba
29 Remembrance Day of the Massacre at Wounded Knee			
		JUNE	<i>Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month</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 / NATIONAL DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE DAY 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.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY
A national holiday celebrated in Armenia and by the Armenian diaspora held annually on April 24th to commemorate the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

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 BÁB Anniversary of the birth of the Báb (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.

DAY OF SILENCE A student-led national event organized in thousands of schools, bringing awareness to the silencing effects of anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools.

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 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 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 REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF SLAVERY & THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE Honors the lives of those who died as a result of slavery or experienced the horrors of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. It is also an occasion to raise awareness about the dangers of racism & prejudice.

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'A 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. **CIVIL RIGHTS DAY** is celebrated in Arizona and New Hampshire as a day to celebrate the entire civil rights movement and widen the recognition to all those who played a part in the Civil Rights Movement.

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

MAWLID 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.

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY Honors Native American cultures and their contributions to California and the United States.

NAW-RÚZ 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.

LAS POSADAS A nine day celebration in Mexico commemorating the trials Mary and Joseph endured on their journey to Bethlehem.

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.

ROSA PARKS DAY American holiday in honor of civil rights leader Rosa Parks, celebrated in California on her birthday.

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.

SHAVUOT A major Jewish festival that originally celebrated the harvest, but now also commemorates the giving of the law (Torah).

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.

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.

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.

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 KINDNESS DAY Kindness Day was born when a collection of humanitarian groups came together on November 13, 1997 and made a “Declaration of Kindness.” Likewise, on Kindness Day everyone is encouraged to make a similar declaration.

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.

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.