



NATIONAL FEDERATION

FOR JUST COMMUNITIES™

of Western New York, Inc.

The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York Inc. (NFJC) is a human relations organization dedicated to overcoming racism, bias, and discrimination by building understanding, respect and trust through education, advocacy and community involvement.

The NFJC of WNY, Inc. Calendar of Holidays And Festivals 2009 — 2011

NFJC of WNY, Inc.

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A member of the National Federation for Just Communities.



National Federation for Just Communities of WNY, Inc.

2009

JANUARY 2009

- 1 New Year's Day (Federal Holiday)
- 5 Birth Of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
- 6 Epiphany (Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 7 Christmas Day/Feast Of Nativity (Orthodox)
- 13 Maghi (Sikh)
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Federal Holiday)
- 26 Chinese And Vietnamese New Year

FEBRUARY 2009

Black History Month

- 1 Four Chaplains' Sunday (Interfaith)
- 15 Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
- 15-21 Brotherhood Sisterhood Week
- 16 President's Day (Federal Holiday)
- 25 Ash Wednesday/ Lent Begins (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 26-3/1 Ayyam-I-Ha (Baha'i)

MARCH 2009

- 2-20 Nineteen Day Fast (Baha'i)
- 2 Clean Monday/Lent Begins (Orthodox)
- 9 Mawlid Al Nabi (Islam)
- 10 Purim (Jewish)
- 11 Holi (Hindu)
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 21 Naw-Ruz (New Year) (Baha'i)

APRIL 2009

- 9 -16 Pesach (Passover) (Jewish)
- 10 Good Friday (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 12 Easter (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 13 Vaisakhi (Sikh)
- 17 Holy Friday (Orthodox)
- 19 Easter (Orthodox)
- 21 First Day Of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 21 Yom Hashoah (Jewish)

MAY 2009

Asian American Heritage Month

- 5 Cinco De Mayo
- 9 Wesak (Buddhist)
- 9 Buddha Day (Buddhist)
- 21 Ascension Day (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 25 Memorial Day
- 29 Shavuot (Jewish)
- 31 Pentecost (Protestant, Roman Catholic)

JUNE 2009

GLBT Pride Month

- 8 Pentecost (Orthodox)
- 14 Flag Day
- 16 Martyrdom Of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh)
- 19 Juneteenth
- 21 Summer Solstice
- 27 Anniversary Of Stonewall Rebellion

JULY 2009

- 4 Independence Day (Federal Holiday)
- 9 Martyrdom Of Bab (Baha'i)
- 24 Pioneer Day (Mormon)

AUGUST 2009

- 15 Assumption Of The Blessed Virgin Mary (Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 22-9/21 Ramadan (Islam)

SEPTEMBER 2009

Hispanic-American Heritage Month

- 1 Installation Of The Guru Granth Sahib In The Golden Temple (Sikh)
- 7 Labor Day (Federal Holiday)
- 19-20 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
- 19 Navaratri (Hindu)
- 21 'Id Al Fitre (Islam)
- 22 Autumn Equinox
- 28 Yom Kippur (Jewish)
- 28 Dusserah (Hindu)

OCTOBER 2009

Interfaith Month, Diversity Month

- 3 - 9 Sukkot (Jewish)
- 10 Shmini Atzeret (Jewish)
- 11 Simchat Torah (Jewish)
- 11 National Coming Out Day
- 12 Columbus Day (Federal Holiday)
- 17 Diwali (Hindu)
- 20 Birth Of Bab (Baha'i)
- 20 Installation Of The Guru Granth Sahib As Eternal Guru (Sikh)
- 21 Martyrdom Of Guru Har Rai (Sikh)
- 24 United Nations Day
- 31 All Hallows Eve

NOVEMBER 2009

- 1 All Saints Day (Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 11 Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday)
- 12 Baha'u'llah's Birthday (Baha'i)
- 24 Martyrdom Of Guru Teg Bahadur (Sikh)
- 26 Thanksgiving (Federal Holiday)
- 28 'Id al Adha (Islam)
- 29 Advent Begins (Protestant, Roman Catholic)

DECEMBER 2009

- 8 Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
- 12 - 19 Chanukah (Jewish)
- 18 Al Hijra (New Year) (Islam)
- 21 Winter Solstice
- 25 Christmas Day (Mormon, Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 26-1/1 Kwanzaa



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2010

JANUARY 2010

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Black History Month

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- 14 Chinese And Vietnamese New Year
- 14-20 Brotherhood Sisterhood Week
- 15 Clean Monday/Lent Begins (Orthodox)
- 15 Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
- 15 President's Day (Federal Holiday)
- 17 Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 26- 3/1 Ayyam-I-Ha (Baha'i)
- 26 Mawlid al Nabi (Islam)
- 28 Purim (Jewish)

MARCH 2010

Women's History Month

- 1 Holi (Hindu)
- 2 - 20 Nineteen Day Fast (Baha'i)
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 21 Naw-Ruz (New Year) (Baha'i)
- 30- 4/6 Pesach (Passover) (Jewish)

APRIL 2010

- 2 Holy Friday (Orthodox)
- 2 Good Friday (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 4 Easter (Orthodox)
- 4 Easter (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 11 Yom Hashoah (Jewish)
- 13 Vaisakhi (Sikh)
- 21 First Day Of Ridvan (Baha'i)

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OCTOBER 2010

- 1 Simchat Torah (Jewish)
- 8 Navaratri (Hindu)
- 11 National Coming Out Day
- 11 Columbus Day (Federal Holiday)
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Explanatory Notes

(Most Civic Holidays and other obvious festivals are not included.)

All Baha'i, Jewish, and Muslim holidays begin at sunset the previous day

Advent The four weeks preceding Christmas. Advent is used as a time for Christians to reflect and spiritually prepare for Christmas day.

Al-Hijra In the Islamic faith, this day commemorates the migration of the prophet Mohammed and his followers to Medina.

All Saints Day In the Christian faith, All Saints Day is the time for commemorating all the saints, particularly those who do not have a special day.

Ascension Day For Christians, a day to affirm the ascension of Jesus into heaven.

Ash Wednesday For Christians, Ash Wednesday begins Lent. Ashes are a symbolic tradition signifying penitence.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary For Christians, this day celebrates and affirms the assumption of the Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven.

Ayyam-I Ha For the Baha'i faith, Ayyam-I Ha leads into a nineteen day fast. Each day is used to celebrate a different virtue such as charity, hospitality, or gift-giving.

Baha'u'llah's Birthday One of nine holy days in the Baha'i calendar. This day celebrates the birth of the founder of the Baha'i faith b. 1817.

Birth of Bab Celebration of the birth of one of the founders of the Baha'i faith, Mirza 'Ali-Muhammed, b. 1819.

Birth of Guru Gobind Singh This day is a Sikh celebration for the birth of the tenth and last human guru (1666 C.E.).

Bodhi Day For Buddhists, this day celebrates that Buddha (Prince Gautama) sat under a Bodhi tree until he attained supreme enlightenment (596 B.C.E.).

Buddha Day For Buddhists, this day commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha.

Chanukah In the Jewish faith, this eight-day celebration is also known as the Festival of Lights. This celebration recognizes the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the second temple (165 B.C.E.).

Chinese and Vietnamese New Year Each year this two week long holiday is symbolized by a different animal.

Cinco de Mayo This day is celebrated in Mexico and by Mexican Americans to commemorate the battle of Guadalupe (1862).

Diwali One of the four seasonal celebrations in India. This celebration recognizes the human urge to move toward the light. Commonly referred to as the Festival of Lights.

Dusserah This celebrates the victory of Lord Rama (good) over Ravana (evil).

Epiphany For Christians, this holiday ends the 12 days of Christmas. It also celebrates the visit of the Three Kings to the baby Jesus.

Flag Day Celebrates the acceptance of the U.S. flag's stars and stripes (1777).

Four Chaplains Day An interfaith holiday that commemorates the WWII event of four chaplains of the Jewish and Christian faith giving their life jackets to others as a troop ship sank.

Good Friday For Christians, this day marks Jesus' crucifixion.

Holi This spring holiday is in celebration of the god of pleasure.

'Id al-Adha This festival celebrates Abraham and his faith as well as memorializing the dead. 'Id al-Adha is also a festival of animal sacrifice during which meat is given to the poor.

'Id al-Fitre In the Islamic faith, 'Id al-Fitre is a three day fast that marks the end of Ramadan.

Installation of the Guru Granth Sahib This day is a Sikh celebration commemorating the installation of scriptures by Guru Gobind Singh which were installed as the perpetual guru.

Juneteenth This day is the oldest known celebration of ending slavery. Juneteenth commemorates the day African Americans were emancipated.

Kwanzaa This is a seven-day celebration of the continued vitality of African American values and traditions.

Lent For Christians, this time period (usually 40 days) symbolizes the spiritual and physical preparation for Easter.

Maghi This day commemorates the Sikh battle in which 40 Sikhs, known as the Immortal Ones, gave up their lives for Guru Gobind Singh, Jr.

Martyrdom of the Bab In the Baha'i faith, this day is celebrated by abstaining from commerce and work. Ali Mohammed was executed by Persian political and religious powers on this day (1850).

Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev This day celebrates the anniversary of the fifth guru who built the Golden Temple of Amritsar. He was martyred in 1606 C.E.

Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur This day commemorates the martyrdom of the ninth guru. He was martyred in 1675 C.E.

Mawlid al-Nabi Birthday of the Prophet Muhammed (570 C.E.).

National Coming Out Day This day was created in an effort to provide a safe opportunity for GLBT people to come out to others.

Naw Ruz Baha'i and Iranian New Year.

Navaratri The Hindu festival dedicated to honoring the divine mother. The divine mother is manifested as Durga. During this festival, people seek Durga's blessing.

Explanatory Notes (*continued*)

Nirvana Day The anniversary of Buddha's death (Northern tradition). When Buddha died, he achieved complete Nirvana.

Pesach (Passover) This is the eight-day holiday that reflects on the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.

Pentecost For Christians, this day commemorates the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples after the ascension of Jesus. The name indicates 50 days after Easter.

Pioneer Day This day celebrates the arrival of Brigham Young and the first settlers to Great Salt Lake, Utah (July 24, 1847).

Purim The Feast of Lots; in the Jewish faith, this day celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people living in Persia from genocide .

Ramadan In the Islamic faith, Ramadan is thirty days of fasting from sunup to sundown during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It honors the first revelations to the Prophet Mohammed.

Ridvan : In the Baha'i faith, this is a commemoration of the declaration that Baha'u'llah made to his followers. Work is suspended on the 1st, 9th, and 12th days.

Rosh Hashanah In the Jewish faith, this day is celebrated as the New Year. It is the beginning of ten days of penitence that is concluded at Yom Kippur.

Shavout In the Jewish faith, this festival celebrates the harvest of the first fruits as well as Moses' decent from Mt. Sinai with the Torah and the Commandments. Also known as the Festival of Weeks.

Shmini Atzeret In the Jewish tradition, this is a celebration of the eighth and last day of Sukkot.

Simchat Torah This is a Jewish festival that celebrates the completion of the reading cycle of the Torah.

Stonewall Rebellion This day commemorates the 1969 rebellion of gay, lesbian, and transgender patrons of the Stonewall Inn, NY. The patrons rebelled against police harassment. This event became a catalyst for the modern GLBT rights movement.

Sukkot This is the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles (Booths). This day celebrates the fall harvest and the wandering in the desert wilderness with tents.

Vaisakhi Hindu and Sikh solar new year. This day is the most important holy day of the year for Sikhs. It is also the anniversary of the creation of the Khalsa (1699).

Wesak In some Buddhist traditions, Wesak is the celebration of Buddha's birth and enlightenment. In other Buddhist traditions, Wesak is the celebration of Buddha's death.

Yom Hashoah Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Yom Kippur This is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It is also called the Jewish Day of Atonement, observed by strict fasting, prayer, and ceremonial repentance.

- All **Baha'i**, **Jewish**, and **Muslim** holidays begin at sunset the previous day.
- **Buddhist** and **Hindu** holidays may be observed at different times than those indicated in the calendar. The observance date is dependant on both religious group affiliation and region. For example, Buddha's birthday is one of the most widely celebrated Buddhist holidays. However, there is no one date accepted by all Buddhists. Therefore, the observance of Buddha's birthday will vary by both tradition and region, as seen by the inclusion of Wesak, Bodhi Day, and Buddha Day in this calendar. (Please note that for all other Buddhist observances, this calendar provides the dates followed by the Theravada tradition.)
- **Christians** follow a number of different calendars depending on their denomination and /or their region. The NFJC of WNY Inc. calendar includes both the dates of the Western calendar which is followed by the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches and the dates for the Orthodox New Calendar which is the same as the Western calendar for fixed holidays and observances but uses the Julian Calendar for moveable feasts. The Orthodox New Calendar is primarily used by the Greek and Cypriot Orthodox Churches.
- We recognize that, for many **Christians**, an integral part of their faith is the observance of days that commemorate the lives of saints. These days have not been included as part of this calendar because they often differ by region, religious affiliation, and personal belief.
- **Jewish** dates on this calendar are in accordance with the Orthodox tradition. The length of some holidays and the extent to which they are observed may vary according to denominational affiliation.
- **Muslim** holidays are subject to change because observance is dictated by the phases and sightings of the moon.
- The **Sikh** calendar— their own Nanakshahi calendar— was adopted for use on March 14, 1999 and align with the Gregorian calendar.

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