2017-2018

Calendar of Holidays, Festivals and Ethnic Celebrations

Dayton, Ohio
Introduction

Every country has religious festivals, and many also have secular holidays to celebrate famous individuals or historical events.

Holidays have their roots in the concept of some special significance of certain days that necessitate a break in the daily toil of normal life. The very word "holiday" is derived from "holy day." Three of the great world religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—all recognize a holy rest day from the week of toil. The Sabbath of Judaism was moved by most Christians from Saturday to Sunday, and for Muslims the holy day became Friday. Unlike the "Sabbath" in Judaism and Christianity, Friday for Muslims is not a day of rest but a day of congregational Jumah-prayer.

Besides religious holidays, secular holidays generate much excitement. We celebrate the birthdays of family and friends with greetings and gifts. Observing secular holidays unites us with other members of the ethnic, social, or national groups to which we belong.

This publication consists of two main sections: 1. religious holidays and some major festivals from different countries; and 2. events, festivals, and ethnic celebrations in the Dayton and Wright State University communities -- events that are celebrated locally.

This Holiday Calendar is a sampling of the richness and variety of our country's cultural heritage and thus is not meant to be a comprehensive collection of all events. We hope it is helpful to you in your program planning, and that it will serve as a reminder of religious observances. WSU students and employees who wish to observe holidays may choose to celebrate the occasion by requesting personal (students) and vacation (staff) leave from classes and/or work. All leave requests must be approved in advance by supervisors and/or faculty.

Many thanks to Mia Honaker, Administrative Support Coordinator, Asian and Native American Center, and all others who have assisted in our efforts.

This Holiday Calendar is intended to foster the understanding of various ethnic groups and nationalities by describing some of the many ways they celebrate their beliefs, their national pride, and their love of family and friends -- emotions all of us share.

Mai Nguyen
Director, Asian and Native American Center
Wright State University’s Diversity Statement

Wright State University celebrates diversity. Our daily life is made rich by the diversity of individuals, groups, and cultures. The interplay of the diverse stimulates creativity and achievement in all facets of our existence.

Respect, tolerance, and goodwill are the keystones to enjoying the diversity of our world. We are all linked to each other in a world created for all of us to share and enjoy. Each member of humanity has a potential contribution to make to the whole. It is our duty to encourage and promote that contribution.

Wright State University is committed to achieving an intellectual, cultural, and social environment on campus in which all are free to make their contribution. We will achieve an environment in which every student may think, learn, and grow without prejudice, without intimidation, and without discrimination. We will achieve an environment in which personal dignity and respect for the individual are recognized by all.

Wright State University promotes the acceptance and appreciation of every individual regardless of race, gender, age, ethnicity, ability or disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, or national origin. We encourage appropriate activities and events that foster learning about the diversity of our world.

Wright State University will be a model for our geographic region, exemplifying that a human community can exist that celebrates diversity, enjoys the richness that diversity brings to our lives, and grows stronger with every new member.

Adopted by the Wright State University Board of Trustees March 28, 1991
Notes on Religious Observances

Different religious holidays vary in the timing of their observance. Many religious holiday observances begin or end at sunset or sunrise. To calculate the sunrise or sunset times for any geographic location in the country, visit the website http://www.sunrisesunset.com or http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data.

- Jewish holidays are calculated on a lunar calendar. All Jewish holidays begin the evening preceding the dates noted, and end at nightfall of the final date noted. This pattern is based on Genesis, chapter 1, which designates a day as “evening and morning”. For example, Yom Kippur 2017 begins at sundown September 29 and ends at nightfall September 30. The weekly Jewish Sabbath begins at sundown each Friday and ends shortly after nightfall on Saturday.

- The actual dates of Islamic holidays depend upon the official physical sighting of the moon. In the Western Hemisphere, moon sightings may occur a day later, but never earlier. The exact date can be confirmed by calling the Islamic Center. Muslim calendars are composed of seven-day weeks and twenty-four hour days. The names for the days vary from place to place except for the weekly holy day, Al Jumah, "the day of gathering." In terms of the Western civil calendar, Al Jumah falls on Friday and marks the beginning of the Islamic week. Days in the Muslim system run from sunset to sunset to commemorate Muhammad's entrance to Medina which took place at sunset. As Friday is the day of Jumah, it is celebrated by noon-time congregational prayer between 1:15 p.m. - 2:10 p.m. Muslim faculty and students prefer not to attend any classes or special meetings during this time period. Prayers are offered five times a day: 1) Early morning (after dawn and before sunrise), 2) Noon (after the sun begins to decline from its zenith until it is about midway on its course to setting), 3) Mid-afternoon (after the expiration of the noon prayer until sunset), 4) Sunset (immediately after sunset until the red glow in the western horizon disappears), and 5) Evening (after the expiration of the sunset prayer until dawn).

- All Baha’i holidays begin at sunset the previous day.

- Hindu and Jain holidays are calculated on a lunar calendar and are observed at different times in different regions.

- Different Buddhist traditions celebrate holidays on different dates. In Theravada Buddhist countries, the anniversaries of Buddha’s birth, enlightenment, and death or attaining of Nirvana are marked on the full moon of the sixth month. In Japan, and other Mahayana countries, the three anniversaries are usually observed on separate days.

Sources
- American Muslim Council in Washington, D.C.
- Buddhist Churches of America in San Francisco
- Hindu Temple in Dayton
- Jain Center of Cincinnati-Dayton
- Jewish Community Relations Council in Dayton
- National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís in Illinois
- The National Conference for Community and Justice in New York
# 2017-2018 Holiday Calendar

## AUGUST 2017

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<td>11 GermanFest Picnic</td>
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<td>13 Obon Festival -GermanFest Picnic</td>
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<td>15 Obon Festival -Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary</td>
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<td>27 Greater Dayton Lebanese Festival</td>
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<td>30 Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)</td>
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**Note:** Events celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton communities are in italics.

### Aug 9 – International Day of the World’s Indigenous People

The International Day of the World’s Indigenous People is celebrated on August 9th of each year to recognize the first UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations meeting in Geneva in 1982. On December 23, 1994, the UN General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People should be observed on August 9th annually during the International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People. People from different nations are encouraged to participate in observing the day to spread the UN’s message on indigenous people.

### Aug 13-15 – Obon Festival

Obon Festival is an annual Buddhist event for commemorating one’s ancestors. It is believed that each year during Obon, the ancestors’ spirits return to this world in order to visit their relatives. Traditionally lanterns are hung in front of houses to guide the ancestors’ spirits, Obon dances (bon odori) are performed, graves are visited and food offerings are made at house altars and temples. At the end of Obon, floating lanterns are put into rivers, lakes and seas in order to guide the spirits back into their world. The customs followed vary strongly from region to region.

### Aug 15 – Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Catholics commemorate the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ, into heaven.
Aug 30 – Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)
Beginning of the annual pilgrimage to Makkah—the Hajj—is an obligation only for those who are physically and financially able to perform it at least once in their lifetime. The focus of the pilgrimage is the Ka‘ba, a place of worship, which God commanded Abraham and Ishmail to build over four thousand years ago. The pilgrimage requires ritual purification, symbolized by the wearing of white garments, the ihram. These simple garments strip away distinctions of class and culture, so that all stand equal before God. The pilgrimage ends with the Feast of Sacrifice (Eid al-Adha), which is celebrated with prayers and the exchange of gifts in Muslim communities everywhere. This, and the Eid al-Fitr, a feast-day commemorating the end of Ramadan, are the main festivals of the Muslim Calendar.

Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities

Note: This is not a complete listing of events, ethnic celebrations and/or festivals in the Greater Dayton area. The listings in this calendar are provided by Wright State University, the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Greene County Visitors Bureau, and other sponsoring organizations. All information, current at the time of publication, is subject to change at the discretion of the event organizer. Please call the appropriate office or organization ahead of time to obtain the celebration date and/or to verify events before attending. Thank you.

Aug 11-13 – GermanFest Picnic
This event, sponsored by the Dayton Liederkranz-Turner Society, is held annually at the RiverScape Metro Park to highlight German heritage in the Miami Valley with dancing, food, music, cultural booths, fashion shows and children’s activities. For times and more information, call (937) 293-3099.

Aug 19 – Troy Festival of Nations
Celebrating nations and cultures from around the world through interactive booths and displays, food, dancing, music, story-telling, arts and crafts. The Festival of Nations is proud to feature Ukraine for this year’s festival. For more information, visit http://troyfestivalofnations.com.

Aug 25-27 – Greater Dayton Lebanese Festival
The 23rd Greater Dayton Lebanese Festival, sponsored by the St. Ignatius of Antioch Maronite Catholic Church, will be held on the church grounds. The festival will feature Middle Eastern dancing and entertainment, cultural displays, craft booths and amusement rides for all ages. Authentic hand-made Lebanese foods will be available for sale including kibbee, kafta, beef and chicken shawarma (Lebanese “gyro”), tabouli, salata salads (Middle Eastern salads), stuffed grape leaves, hummus dip, homemade Middle Eastern mountain bread with zhatar seasoning and fresh Lebanese pastries (e.g. baklava, ghraybeh, nammuooora). For times and more information, call (937) 428-0372.
**SEPTEMBER 2017**
National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep 15-Oct 15)

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<td>Total U.S. Hispanic Population: 50,477,594</td>
<td>-Eid al-Adha (The Feast of Sacrifice)</td>
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<td>Total Ohio Hispanic Population: 357,674</td>
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<td>-Dayton Greek Festival</td>
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<td>Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau</td>
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<td>-Dayton Greek Festival</td>
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<td>-Dayton Greek Festival</td>
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<td>Dayton Art Institute’s Oktoberfest</td>
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<td>Chinese Confucius</td>
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<td>-Dusserha -Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)</td>
<td>16 Hispanic Heritage Festival</td>
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**NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**
(Sep 15-Oct 15)

Designated by Congress as “National Hispanic Heritage Month” to celebrate the contributions of Hispanic history and culture to the United States. These dates were chosen because the majority of Latin American countries celebrate their day of independence within this time period. This year’s theme is “Shaping the Bright Future of America”.

**Sept 1 – Eid al-Adha (The Feast of Sacrifice)**
This celebration commemoforms Prophet Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his eldest son in obedience to God. Before Abraham completed his sacrifice, God stopped him and provided a ram for sacrifice instead of Ishmail. Worshipers attend a service at the mosque and visit cemeteries to pay tribute to the dead. A festival meal is eaten at home with family and friends and is also shared with the poor.

**Sept 4 – Labor Day**
Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Legal Holiday. **Wright State University is closed.**
Sept 21-22 – Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
Rosh Hashanah signifies the start of Days of Awe, a period of serious reflection about the past year and the year to come. It begins a 10 day period of repentance and prayer which ends on Yom Kippur. It may be observed for 1 or 2 days. Begins at sunset, September 20th. Beginning of Jewish year 5778.

Sept 22 – Muharram (Islamic New Year)
This begins the year of 1436. The Islamic lunar calendar dates from the Hijra, the flight of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 (based on the solar calendar).

Sept 28 – Chinese Confucius (551-479 B.C.E.)
Celebrated as Teacher’s Day in Taiwan, this date is the anniversary of the birth of Confucius, the founder of the main doctrines of Chinese philosophy. “Confucius” is a Latin version of his title K’ung fu-tzu, meaning “Master k’ung.”

Sept 30 – Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
Yom Kippur is a solemn Jewish holiday devoted to prayer, fasting and repentance. The 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are known as the Days of Awe or the Days of Repentance. Begins at sunset, September 29th.

Sept 30 – Dusserha
Hindu festival celebrating Rama’s victory after a 10 day struggle against Ravana, king of the demons. Dusserha is a 10 day celebration during which the Ramalila, based on the epic story of the Ramayana, is staged in most of the cities and towns in northern India with elaborate rituals.

Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities

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Sept 1 – Wright State University’s Fall Fest
Join the Wright State community for food, games and entertainment as we celebrate the new school year. This is a great opportunity to find out more about student organizations, the services campus departments offer and the educational opportunities available at Wright State, as well as information about the Fairborn, Beavercreek, and greater Dayton areas. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. For more information, call (937) 775-5570.

Sept 8-10 – Italian Fall Festa
A weekend of wonderful Italian music, great Italian food, good friends and a fun game of Bocce on the beautiful, spacious, shaded grounds of Bella Villa. For times and more information, call (937) 258-3600.

Sept 8-10 – Dayton Greek Festival
A festival of ethnic food, live music, costumed dancers, cultural displays and handicrafts. This event is celebrated annually at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. For times and more information, call (937) 224-0601.

Sept 12 – Wright State University’s Asian and Native American Center’s Fall Open House
Come meet our staff and learn about the services that the Asian and Native American Center has to offer the Wright State and Dayton community. 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m., 154 Millett. For more information, call (937) 775-2798.

Sept 15-Oct 15 – Wright State University’s Hispanic Heritage Month
Numerous events are scheduled on campus during Hispanic Heritage Month. Contact Wright State University’s Office of Latino Affairs, (937) 775-3806, for more information or visit www.wright.edu/latino-affairs.

Sept 16 – Hispanic Heritage Festival
This is a celebration of Hispanic culture in the Miami Valley. The festival offers food, salsa, meringue, mariachi and much more. For times and more information, call (937) 274-3122.

Sept 23-24 – Dayton Art Institute Oktoberfest
The Institute’s largest event featuring arts, crafts, food, music, dancing and children’s activities. For times and more information, call (937) 223-5277 ext. 550.
**OCTOBER 2017**  
*National Disability Employment Awareness Month*

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<td>Columbus Day (Observed)</td>
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<td>Shmini Atzeret</td>
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*Note: Events celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton communities are in italics.*

**NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**

Observed each October, the National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a diverse workforce inclusive of their skills and talents.

**Oct 3-5 – Korean Harvest Festival (Chuseok)**

This festival is the Korean Thanksgiving and takes place the day of the full moon in late September or early October. People visit family tombs and make offerings of food such as fruit and moon cakes made of rice and chestnuts.

**Oct 4 – Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival (Chung Ch’iu)**

This festival honors the moon goddess and is celebrated throughout the Far East and in Asian communities all over the world. During the full moon of this festival, people gather in parks to gaze at the moon and eat moon cakes. There are many varieties of moon cakes, which in their roundness are symbolic of family unity. The origin of the festival is thought to go back to the ninth century.
One version says that the day marks the overthrow of the Mongol overlords in ancient China; the moon cakes supposedly hid secret messages planning the overthrow. The more accepted version is that the day is a harvest festival at a time when the moon is the brightest and as the weather gets colder, people want a day to rest and enjoy life.

Oct 4 – Vietnamese Mid-Autumn Festival (Tết Trung Thu)
In Vietnam and other areas, it is the biggest holiday of the year for children. The children parade through the streets on the night of the festival with candle lit paper lanterns, some of them white and round like the moon, others like various animals made with colorful paper.

Oct 5-6 – Sukkot-First Days (The Feast of Tabernacles)
Sukkot represents temporary dwellings for huts in which the Jews lived during their journey from Egypt. It also coincides with the fall harvest in which farmers traditionally lived in temporary huts (Sukkot) while harvesting. It is celebrated by eating meals in Sukkot that are decorated with fruits and vegetables, as well as the waving of the Lulav (a palm frond and three other species). Sukkot may be observed for 7 or 8 days, but only the first two and last two days are full holidays. Begins at sunset, October 4th.

Oct 9 – Columbus Day (Observed)
This marks Columbus’ discovery of America. Columbus Day is a national holiday that has come to be especially important to Italian Americans. Legal holiday.

Oct 11 – National Coming Out Day
National Coming Out Day was founded by Rob Eichenberger, and others, in 1988. That day was chosen to commemorate the 1987 March on Washington, one of the greatest successes of the LesBiGay movement.

Oct 12 – Shmini Atzeret
The eighth day of Sukkot. It celebrates the end of the Feast of Tabernacles. Begins at sunset, October 11th.

Oct 13 – Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Law)
Commemorates the reading of the last part of the Torah and the beginning of Genesis to start the cycle of scriptural readings for the New Year. Begins at sunset, October 12th.

Oct 19 – Diwali (Feast of Lights)
This is one of the most important festivals of the year for Hindus, similar to Christmas in the Western world. The word “Diwali” means a row or cluster of lights. Hindus celebrate this day with festivities, worship, gift exchanges, good wishes, fireworks and the decoration of homes with lights. On this day, Hindus believe Shri Ram (God incarnate) returned to his kingdom after years of self-imposed jungle residence and after having defeated the fierce 10-headed demon Ravana. The day signifies victor of light (knowledge) over darkness (ignorance) and truth over falsehood.

Oct 20 – Birthday of the Bab (1819-1850)
The Bab (“The Gate”) is honored by the Baha’is as the one who announced that the messenger of God would soon appear. He was the forerunner of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha’i faith.

Oct 21-22 – Birthday of the Baha’u’llah (1817-1892)
This day commemorates birth of the founder of the Baha’i faith in 1817. Baha’u’llah, a member of one of the great aristocratic families of Persia, renounced his wealth and position to embrace the teachings of the Bab. He preached the coming unification of all humanity and the emergence of world civilization.

Oct 31 – Halloween
Halloween, which takes its name from All Hallows Eve (the eve of the feast of All Saints), originated among the Celts of Britain and Ireland, for whom October 31 was New Year’s Eve. When the Romans conquered the Celtic lands and reigned there from 100-500 A.D., Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as All Saints’ or All Hallows Day in the 8th century. By the middle ages, October 31 was known as All Hallows E’en, the name eventually was shortened to Halloween. Tricks or treating began when a group of peasants went from house to house demanding food and money in honor of Muck Olla (god of the ancient Celtics). Those who gave were assured of prosperity; those who didn’t became victims of practical jokes and mischief.
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Oct 14-15 – Ohio Sauerkraut Festival
One of the region’s largest fall festivals held in Waynesville, Ohio. Enjoy food, arts, crafts and live entertainment. For times and more information, call (513) 897-8855.

Oct 19 – Wright State University’s Multicultural Halloween Celebration
A multicultural autumn celebration showcasing the traditional Halloween of North America and various fall holidays and celebrations around the world. Games, costume contests with prizes, cultural quizzes, ethnic performances, dances, and much more. Organized by Wright State University’s Asian and Native American Center and student organizations. 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Apollo Room, Student Union, Free Admission. For more information, call (937) 775-2798.

Muslim Wright State Graduate Students discussed their experiences with racialization and ethnic identification in a panel discussion hosted by the Asian and Native American Center.

The Asian and Native American Center and Wright State University’s student organizations hosted the annual Multicultural Halloween Celebration, which combined fall holiday customs from America, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Wright State students celebrating Diwali.
### NOVEMBER 2017

#### Native American Heritage Month

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<td>Total U.S. Population: 308,745,538</td>
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<td>Total U.S. Native American Population: 2,932,248</td>
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<td>Total Ohio Native American Population: 76,075</td>
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<td>Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau</td>
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<td>1-All Saint’s Day</td>
<td>2-Mexico’s Day of the Dead Observance (Día de los Muertos)</td>
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<td>4 Guru Nanak’s Birthday</td>
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<td>WSU Closed</td>
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<td>WSU Closed - The Grande Illumination</td>
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<td>National Holiday Gift Show</td>
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Note: Events celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton communities are in italics.

### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Congress has designated November as Native American Heritage Month to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people.

**Nov 1 – All Saint’s Day**

This Christian celebration of all the saints of the church was originally a festival of the dead. It was made into a celebration of all the known and unknown saints and martyrs of the Catholic Church in the 7th century.

**Nov 1-2 – Mexico’s Day of the Dead Observance (Día de los Muertos)**

This holiday commemorates deceased loved ones and welcomes their visiting souls with flowers, foods and favorite possessions.

**Nov 4 – Guru Nanak’s Birthday (1469-1538)**

Nanak, founder of Sikhism, was born in Punjab in 1469. Sikhism, a Hindi word meaning “disciple”. Most Sikhs are concentrated in the state of Punjab in northern India. Sikhism stresses the unity of one god and all peoples.
Nov 7 – Election Day
This date was set by Congress in 1845 to correct abuses caused by having allowed each state to appoint its electors any time before the date in December set for their convening. Americans vote for their president and vice president every 4 years on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November and for their state senators and representatives on the same day every 2 years. United State senators are elected every 6 years, one third of them up for re-election every 2 years, and representatives every 2 years in even numbered years.

Nov 11 – Veterans Day
Originally called Armistice Day, this day of observance was instituted to commemorate the signing of the armistice that ended World War I on November 11, 1918. In the United States the name has been changed to Veterans Day honoring all who have served in all the nation’s wars. Legal holiday. **Wright State University is closed on November 10.**

Nov 23 – Thanksgiving
In the United States, Thanksgiving is a time for giving thanks for the harvest and for the blessings the year has brought. The first nationwide observance occurred in 1863, when Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in November as a day of national thanksgiving. In 1941, the United States Congress made Thanksgiving Day a federal holiday. Legal Holiday. **Wright State is closed November 23 and 24.**

**Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities**

*Note: This is not a complete listing of events, ethnic celebrations and/or festivals in the Greater Dayton area. The listings in this calendar are provided by Wright State University, the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Greene County Visitors Bureau, and other sponsoring organizations. All information, current at the time of publication, is subject to change at the discretion of the event organizer. Please call the appropriate office or organization ahead of time to obtain the celebration date and/or to verify events before attending. Thank you.*

**Nov 1-30 Wright State University’s Native American Heritage Month**
Numerous events are scheduled on campus during Native American Heritage Month. Contact Wright State University’s Asian and Native American Center, (937) 775-2798, for more information or visit [www.wright.edu/ana](http://www.wright.edu/ana).

**Nov 2 – Wright State University’s Annual Ryterband Symposium**
The 39th Annual Ryterband Symposium on Jewish Feminism will feature Prof. Rachel Adler, Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles. The “Public Outcry: Women’s Laments and Social Activism, A Historical Perspective” talk is at 4:00 p.m. and “From Feminism to Gender: The Evolution of a Jewish Feminist” talk is at 7:30 p.m. Both talks will be held at E163, Student Union at Wright State University. For more information, call Dr. Mark Verman, (937) 775-2461.

**Nov 24 – The Grande Illumination**
Kick off the holiday season downtown at the annual tree lighting ceremony at the Courthouse Square. For times and more information, call (937) 224-1518.

**Nov 24-26 – National Holiday Gift Show**
This is a one stop shopping event for unique, handcrafted gifts. For times and more information, call (937) 278-4776 ext. 218.

**Nov 24-Jan 1 – Clifton Mill Legendary Light Display**
See America’s largest water-powered mill decked in 2.5 million lights, a miniature village, Santa in his workshop, an 1802 log cabin and other delights. For times and more information, call (937) 767-5501.

**Nov 30 – Wright State University’s Kwanzaa Celebration**
Featuring drumming, the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa and a special program that will highlight this event honoring the African American holiday originated by Mulenga Ron Karenga. This event is sponsored by Wright State University’s Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center. For times and more information, call (937) 5645.

**Nov TBA – Wright State University’s Annual Kristallnacht Lecture**
For more information about the symposium, call Dr. Mark Verman, (937) 775-2461.
### DECEMBER 2017

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<td><img src="image1" alt="Menorah" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Birthday Cake" /></td>
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<td><img src="image4" alt="Candle" /></td>
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<td><img src="image6" alt="Buddha Statue" /></td>
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<td><strong>3. First Sunday of Advent</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6. St. Nicholas Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>7. WSU’s Annual Chosen Family Feast</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8. Bodhi Day (Buddha’s Enlightenment)</strong>&lt;br&gt;-Feast of the Immaculate Conception</td>
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<td><strong>16. -Las Posadas Begins</strong>&lt;br&gt;-WSU’s Fall Commencement</td>
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<td><strong>31. WSU Closed</strong></td>
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*Note: Events celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton communities are in italics.*

**Dec 1 – World AIDS Day**  
This day was declared by the World Health Organization to increase education and awareness about HIV and AIDS.

**Dec 1 – Mawlid al-Nabi (Prophet Muhammad’s Birthday)**  
The birth in 570 of Prophet Muhammad, the final messenger of Islam, is commemorated. Muslims believe that Islam is not a new religion with new scripture, but a religion that represents the final revelation of the God of Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ and Muhammad.

**Dec 3 – First Sunday of Advent**  
Advent, which means “arrival,” begins the Christmas season and includes the 4 Sundays before Christmas marked by special church services: December 3, 10, 17 and 24.

**Dec 6 – St. Nicholas Day**  
Named for an ancient Christian bishop, this day is associated in many cultures with gift giving.

**Dec 8 – Bodhi Day (Buddha’s Enlightenment)**  
In Japan and other Mahayana Buddhist countries, this day celebrates Buddha’s attaining understanding of the truth of existence, freeing
himself from human suffering and finding true happiness.

**Dec 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary’s conception without sin. This day is a holy day of obligation in which many Christians, particularly of the Catholic faith, attend special church services for this occasion. It is a public holiday in some places, such as Guam and Malta, so many people in these areas have a day off work or school.

**Dec 13-20 – Hanukkah (Rededication)**
The 8 day Jewish holiday commemorates the victory over the Syrian Hellenists in 165 B.C.E. and rededication of the second Temple by the Maccabees. Hanukkah is also called the “Festival of Lights” because, at the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, the sacred lamp burned for 8 days on 1 day’s supply of oil. Each night an additional candle is lit on the Menorah, a sacred candelabrum. Begins at sunset, December 12th.

**Dec 16-24 – Las Posadas**
This holiday is celebrated in Mexico for 9 days beginning December 16. Each night children and their families reenact the story of Mary and Joseph (parents of Jesus Christ) trying to find a place to stay for the night. They travel to each house holding lighted candles and are turned away until they reach the house where the festivities of the night are being held.

**Dec 25 – Christmas**
This is the Christian holy day marking the birth of Jesus Christ. Legal Holiday. Wright State University closed from December 25 to December 29.

**Dec 26-Jan1 – Kwanzaa**
Celebrated from December 26 to January 1, Kwanzaa means “first fruits of the harvest” in Kiswahili. It is an African celebration created by Dr. Maulana Karenga to acknowledge and pay tribute the rich cultural roots of African American ancestry. Kwanzaa is celebrated for 7 consecutive days and is based on 7 principles referred to as the NGUZA SABA: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith).

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**Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities**

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**Dec 7 – Wright State University’s Annual Chosen Family Feast**
The Chosen Family Feast is an event held after Thanksgiving break and before winter break for the LGBTQ+ & Ally community. It is an event for us to gather to celebrate this time of year with chosen family and build community. Also do not forget about the always fun Chosen Family Photo Booth! This event is sponsored by Wright State University’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs. For time and more information, call (937) 775-4611.

**Dec 16 – Wright State University’s Fall Commencement**
Congratulations to Wright State University’s graduates and their families on this joyous event held at the Nutter Center. For time and more information, call (937) 775-5512.

*All photos are from events held at Wright State University*
## JANUARY 2018

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<td>New Year’s Day</td>
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**Note:** Events celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton communities are in italics.

**Jan 1 – New Year’s Day**
This first day of the New Year is a legal holiday. **Wright State University Closed.**

**Jan 1 – Solemnity of Mary**
It is the oldest Marian feast of the Church of Rome. Also known as the Solemnity of the Mother of God, it commemorates Mary’s vocation to be mother of Jesus Christ.

**Jan 2 – Feast of St. Basil**
St. Basil was an early leader in Eastern Christianity and a major saint in Orthodoxy.

**Jan 5 – Guru Gobind Singh’s Birthday**
The Sikhs’ 10th greatest master and teacher sought to do away with the caste system in India by creating one community.

**Jan 6 – Epiphany (Día de los Tres Reyes)**
The last of the 12 days of Christmas, commemorating the arrival of the 3 magi in Bethlehem, is especially important to Eastern Orthodox Christians and in Hispanic cultures. The customary exchange of presents recalls the kings’ presentation of gifts to baby Jesus Christ. Throughout most of Latin American, Epiphany is called el día de los tres reyes (Three Kings Day or Day of the Wise Men). In Mexico, on the night of January 5th, children stuff their shoes with hay and leave them out for Santa Claus to fill on Christmas Eve. Mexican children also write to the Magi (the 3 Wise Men), listing their good behaviors and suggesting what presents they would like to receive.

**Jan 14 – Makara Sankranti/Pongal**
Celebrated primarily in southern India, this Hindu holiday occurs between January 13th and 15th. It is
associated with the goddess Makara. It celebrates harvest and Thanksgiving.

Jan 15 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance
To commemorate the January 15, 1929, birth of the African American civil rights leader and winner of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. The 3rd Monday in January is observed as a legal holiday. Wright State University is closed.

Jan 31 – Tu B’Shevat
The holiday of Tu B’Shevat is celebrated each year as the “New Year for the Trees.” Begins at sunset, January 30th.

### Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities

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**Jan TBD – Wright State University’s Martin Luther King Celebration**
Wright State University will honor Dr. Martin Luther King’s life and legacy with educational, celebratory and commemorative programs and events. Contact Wright State University’s Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center, (937) 775-5645, for more information or visit [www.wright.edu/bolinga](http://www.wright.edu/bolinga).

**Jan TBD – Wright State University’s Quilt Show**
You are invited to share your story. The theme of the annual Quilt Show is “Celebrating Quilt Stories.” Quilts are fabric conversations about individuals, families, communities and/or nations. Quilts, through their fabrics, patterns, colors, purpose, themes and textures are the voice of history or current events and issues. Quilts are stories. The Quilt Show is sponsored by Wright State University’s Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. For times, show entry applications and more information, call (937) 775-4818.

![Martin Luther King Jr. principles of nonviolence were remembered at Wright State as part of the university’s annual unity march to commemorate the achievements of the late civil rights leader. The event also included a showing of the documentary film “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” followed by a panel discussion.](image)

![The Women’s Studies program hosted its second annual quilt show. Tracy Craven (pictured) donated 10 quilts that were auctioned off to benefit the program’s scholarship fund. Those who attended also enjoyed a historical costume display.](image)

All photos are from events held at Wright State University.
## FEBRUARY 2018

Black History Month

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<td>Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday</td>
<td>Black Love Day</td>
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<td>President’s Day</td>
<td>Anniversary of the Assassination of Malcolm X</td>
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### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson instituted a week-long celebration of the contributions of African Americans to history. He chose the week of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. The observance has expanded into an entire month, and February is celebrated as National Black History Month. Each year, the Association for the study of African American Life and History, founded by Dr. Woodson, sets the theme for the month. This year’s theme is **“African Americans in Times of War.”**

#### Feb 12 – Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday

The 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, was born on February 12, 1809. He was also called the Great Emancipator, the Rail Splitter and Honest Abe. President throughout the Civil War, he is known for his struggle to preserve the Union, the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation and his assassination less than 2 weeks after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House in 1865. Lincoln’s birthday is observed on the second Monday in February and is a legal holiday in 14 states.

#### Feb 13 – Black Love Day

Black Lover Day is meant to serve as an alternative to Valentine’s Day. Black Love Day is meant to be a celebration of all Black relationships from self-love first to love for the family, to love for the community and the race, to finally love for the Creator. Instead of the trademark colors of red and pink for Valentine’s Day, people should wear or display the color purple for spirituality or black which is the blend of all colors.

#### Feb 13 – Maha Shivaratri

This Hindu festival honors Lord Shiva and is observed in the spring. It is celebrated with fasting, prayer and meditation.
### Feb 13 – Mardi Gras
Mardi Gras, which is French for “Fat Tuesday,” is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is a celebration that is held just

### Feb 14 – Valentine’s Day
This day is dedicated to lovers who, according to custom, express their affection for each other through messages and gifts. St. Valentine’s Day apparently honors 2 Christian martyrs of the same name who were persecuted for secretly marrying young sweethearts in opposition to the ban on marriage under the Roman Emperor Claudius II (A.D. 214-270), who wanted to prevent young men of military age from forming family ties. Since the Middle Ages, the day has been dedicated to romantic love.

### Feb 14 – Ash Wednesday
The first day of Christian Lent. Its name derives from the symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.

### Feb 14-Mar 31 – Lent
The 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by the Roman Catholic Church and some Protestant churches as a period of penitence and fasting, Lent commemorates Jesus Christ’s 40 days of fasting in the desert.

### Feb 15 – Buddha’s Death (Nirvana)
This day marks the death of Buddha in 483 B.C.E. and commemorates his attainment of final Nirvana.

### Feb 16 – Lunar New Year (Year of the Dog)
This is most important holiday in China, Vietnam and other Asian countries. It is a day when all business accounts are settled and grudges forgotten. Festivities extend over several days, the first day being essentially a family celebration. Homage is paid to the ancestors at household shrines and visits are exchanged among relatives and friends. The date is determined by a lunar calendar and may fall on any date between January 21 and February 19. This year is the beginning of the Chinese year 4716.

### Feb 19 – President’s Day
While the third Monday in February is observed as Washington’s Birthday by the federal government and in most states, some combine it with the February birthday of another famous American President, Abraham Lincoln, and call it Washington-Lincoln Day or President’s Day.

### Feb 21 – Anniversary of the Assassination of Malcolm X
Malcolm X was a black nationalist who advocated self-help, self-defense and education. Years after his death, the powerful influence of Malcolm X is still motivating and influencing individuals for their human rights.

### Feb 22 – George Washington’s Birthday
The first President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution was born on this date in 1732. His name has been given not only to the nation’s capital, but to a state and numerous cities and towns.

## Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities

**Note:** This is not a complete listing of events, ethnic celebrations and/or festivals in the Greater Dayton area. The listings in this calendar are provided by Wright State University, the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Greene County Visitors Bureau, and other sponsoring organizations. All information, current at the time of publication, is subject to change at the discretion of the event organizer. Please call the appropriate office or organization ahead of time to obtain the celebration date and/or to verify events before attending. Thank you.

### Feb 1-28 – Wright State University’s Black History Month
Numerous events are scheduled on campus during Black History Month. Contact Wright State University’s Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center, (937) 775-5645, for more information or visit [www.wright.edu/bolinga](http://www.wright.edu/bolinga).

### Feb 15 – Wright State University’s Lunar New Year Celebration (Year of the Dog)
A special program organized by Wright State University’s Asian and Native American Center will be held to welcome the Chinese and Vietnamese New Year, Year of the Dog. 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Apollo Room, Student Union, Free Admission. For more information, call (937) 775-2798.
MARCH 2018
Women’s History Month

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total U.S. Population: 308,745,538</td>
<td>Total Number of Women in the U.S.: 156,964,212</td>
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<td>Total Number of Women in Ohio: 5,904,348</td>
<td>1 Purim (The Feast of Lots)</td>
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<td>Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau</td>
<td>8 International Women’s Day</td>
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<td>21 Persian New Year (Norooz)</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>20 Baha’I New Year (Naw Ruz)</td>
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<td>25 -Ram Navami (Birthday of Rama) -Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>29 Lent Ends</td>
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<td>29 Lent Ends</td>
<td>30 -Good Friday -Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Church)</td>
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<td>31 Pesach (Passover) Begins</td>
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Note: Events celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton communities are in italics.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
In order to address the lack of curriculum and general public consciousness about the contributions of women in society, “Women’s History Week” was first celebrated in Sonoma County, California in 1978. Efforts were recognized on a national level in 1987, when congress proclaimed March as National Women’s History Month to celebrate the contributions of all women to the nation. This year’s theme is “NEVERTHELESS SHE PERSISTED: Honoring Women Who Fight all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.”

Mar 1 – Purim (The Feast of Lots)
This holiday celebrates the rescue of the Jews in ancient Persia from a plot to destroy them, described in the biblical Book of Esther. The King’s advisor, Haman, cast lots and chose this day for carrying out his plans. Mordecai discovered the plot and appealed to his cousin, Esther, the Jewish Queen, who persuaded her husband to spare the Jews. Begins at sunset, February 28th.

Mar 2 – Holi
This Hindu holiday celebrates the coming of spring in India. Bonfires are lit and coconuts are thrown into the fire. Friends throw colored powder and water on one another. Games and folk dancing are held during the celebration.

Mar 8 – International Women’s Day
This day commemorates the 1857 strike in New York City by women workers of the garment and textile factories against low wages, long working hours and inhumane working conditions. In August 1910, the Women’s Socialist International in Copenhagen decided to commemorate the strike by observing an annual International Women’s Day.

Mar 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
St. Patrick, born near the Severn in Britain, probably in 389 A.D., is the patron saint of Ireland. He is said to have brought Christianity to Ireland and his name is always associated with the shamrock, because he always used its three leaves to explain the Trinity. In Ireland, St. Patrick’s Day is
a religious day accompanied by church ceremonies, much like Christmas and Easter.

**Mar 20 – Baha’i New Year (Naw Ruz)**
This is a religious and pleasant holiday that follows a month of fasting from sunrise to sunset. It celebrates 161 years of the founding of the Baha’i faith in 1844.

**Mar 21 – Persian New Year (Norooz)**
Norooz, an ancient Persian celebration, marks the start of the Zoroastrian year. It has been celebrated for over 2500 years.

**Mar 25 – Ram Navami (Birthday of Rama)**
This Hindu holiday is observed with sanctity and fasting. Rama, one of the incarnations of the god Vishnu, is the subject of one of the great epic poems of Hinduism.

**Mar 25 – Palm Sunday**
Christian Holy Week begins on the Sunday before Easter. Christians remember Jesus Christ’s last entry into Jerusalem, when his way was strewn with palms by those gathered to see him.

**Mar 30 – Good Friday**
Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

**Mar 30 – Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Church)**
Holy day that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

## Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities

*Note: This is not a complete listing of events, ethnic celebrations and/or festivals in the Greater Dayton area. The listings in this calendar are provided by Wright State University, the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Greene County Visitors Bureau, and other sponsoring organizations. All information, current at the time of publication, is subject to change at the discretion of the event organizer. Please call the appropriate office or organization ahead of time to obtain the celebration date and/or to verify events before attending. Thank you.*

**Mar 1-31 – Wright State University’s Women’s History Month**
Numerous events are scheduled on Wright State University’s campus during Women’s History Month. Contact Wright State University’s Women’s Center, (937) 775-4524, for more information or visit [www.wright.edu/womenscenter](http://www.wright.edu/womenscenter).

**Mar TBD – Wright State University’s Honor’s Institute**
The Honor’s Institute integrates classroom learning, the scholarly conference setting and service learning with the aim of producing civic-minded, creatively engaged students who feel invested in the Dayton community. Both days events are free and open to the general public. Contact Wright State University’s Honors Program, (937) 775-2660, for more information or visit [www.wright.edu/honors/honors-institute](http://www.wright.edu/honors/honors-institute).

Biologist and writer Julia Serano, Ph.D., gave the keynote address for the Women’s History Month Scholar-in-Residence. Serano urged her audience to challenge all forms of sexism and marginalization.

The Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center hosted the Ohio Civil Rights Commission for its quarterly public hearings. The commission heard allegations of Ohio civil rights law violations.

All photos are from events held at Wright State University
### APRIL 2018

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<td>-April Fool’s Day&lt;br&gt;-Easter (Eastern Orthodox Church)</td>
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<td>WSU’s Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day</td>
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<td>Pesach (Passover) Ends&lt;br&gt;-WSU’s Asian Culture Night</td>
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<td>Buddha’s Birth</td>
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<td>Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)</td>
<td>-Isra Al Mi’raj&lt;br&gt;-Cambodian, Laotian and Thai New Year</td>
<td>Sikh New Year (Vaisakhi)</td>
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<td>Yom HaAtzma’ut (Israel Independence Day)</td>
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<td>-National Day of Silence&lt;br&gt;-Festival of Ridvan (First Day)</td>
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<td>WSU’s Spring Commencement</td>
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**Note:** Events celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton communities are in italics.

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**Apr 1 – April Fool’s Day**

On this day practical jokes may be played with impunity: sending people on foolish errands, putting salt in the sugar bowl, etc. The origin of the custom is uncertain, but it seems to have come about in France as a result of the change to the Gregorian calendar in 1582 when New Year’s was moved from March 25th to January 1st. Thus, the first April fools may have been people who failed to make the proper adjustment. In France, a fool is sometimes called a “poisson d’Avril.”

**Apr 1 – Easter (Eastern Orthodox Church)**

Easter is observed on this day by Eastern Orthodox Christian denominations.

**Apr 8 – Buddha’s Birth (c.563-486 B.C.E.)**

Buddhists celebrate the birth of the founder of their faith, Siddhartha Gautama, who became known as Buddha, the “enlightened one.” The religion he founded spread throughout Central and Southeast Asia, China, Japan and Korea, and has attracted followers in the West. The Buddhism practiced in Southeast Asia is the oldest form of the religion, known as Theravada Buddhism or “The Way of the Elders.” As Buddhism expanded into Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, China, Korea and then Japan, it took a different form called Mahayana Buddhism or “The Great Vehicle.” In Japan and other Mahayana Buddhist countries, the three anniversaries are

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usually observed on separate days: the birth on April 8th, the enlightenment on December 8th and the death on February 15th. In Theravada Buddhist countries, all 3 are marked on the full moon of the 6th month. Buddha Day may fall on different days in different Buddhist traditions.

**Apr 12 – Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)**
This day honors the memory of the 6 million Jewish martyrs and heroes who perished in the Nazi Holocaust. Begins at sunset, April 11th.

**Apr 13 – Isra Al Mi’raj**
Commemorates the journey of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Jerusalem, his ascension into the Seven Heavens and his return on the same night. Muslims believe that on that night Muhammad prayed together with Abraham, Moses and Jesus Christ in the area of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

**Apr 13 – Cambodian, Laotian and Thai New Year**
This is one of the most important holidays for Cambodian, Laotians and Thai people.

**Apr 14 – Sikh New Year (Vaisakhi)**
The beginning of the New Year for the Sikhs, Vaisakhi marks the birthday of the Sikh nation. It commemorates the founding by Guru Gobind Singh of Khalsa, which calls for purity of thoughts and actions and abolishment of prejudice and injustice.

**Apr 19 – Yom HaAtzma’ut (Israel Independence Day)**
This Jewish holiday marks the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Begins at sunset, April 18th.

**Apr 21 – National Day of Silence**
Founded in 1996, the Day of Silence has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or gender expressions. Students participating will not be speaking for most of the day. Instead, they will hand out “speaking cards” which say: “Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence (DOS), a national youth movement bringing attention to the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by anti-LGBT bullying, name-calling and harassment. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward building awareness and making a commitment to address these injustices.”

**Apr 21 – Festival of Ridvan (First Day)**
This Baha’I festival commemorates the 12 days (April 12 to May 2, 1863) when Bha’u’llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha’I faith, resided in a garden called Ridvan (Paradise) in Baghdad, where he proclaimed his mission as God’s messenger.

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**Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities**

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**Apr 1-30 – Wright State University’s Asian Heritage Month**
Numerous events are scheduled on campus during Asian Heritage Month. Contact Wright State University’s Asian and Native American Center, (937) 775-2798, for more information or visit [www.wright.edu/ana](http://www.wright.edu/ana).

**Apr 5 – Wright State University’s Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day**
An opportunity for daughters and sons of Wright State Employees and community girls and boys ages 8-15 to observe employees in the workplace, attend special sessions, have lunch and listen to speakers. This event is organized by Wright State University’s Women’s Center. For more information, call (937) 775-4524.

**Apr 7 – Wright State University’s Asian Culture Night**
A night of cultural explorASIAN through the performing arts that showcases ethnic dances, plays, songs, musical performances and a traditional fashion show from a variety of Asian countries. This event is organized by Wright State University’s Asian and Native American Center.
7:00 p.m., Apollo Room, Student Union, Free admission. For more information, call (937) 775-2798.

**Apr 28 – Wright State University’s Spring Commencement**
Congratulations to Wright State University’s graduates and their families on this joyous event held at the Nutter Center. For time and more information, call (937) 775-5512.

**Apr TBD – Wright State University’s International Friendship Affair (IFA)**
An annual affair of cultural exchange and celebration of the diversity of cultures of Wright State University’s international students. This event is organized by Wright State University’s Center for International Education. For more information, call (937) 775-5745.

The Asian and Native American Center and hosted the annual Asian Culture Night... A night of cultural explorASIAN through the performing arts! The evening included a beautiful fashion show and performances from all over Asia. This year’s special feature was the Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe showing the magic of this traditional Japanese puppetry.

Chinese lion dance, belly dancing, cloggers, a fashion show and exotic food highlighted the annual International Friendship Affair hosted by the University’s Center for International Education.
## ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

In 1978, Congress designated May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to honor Asian American and Pacific Islander contributions to the United States history and culture. The month was chosen because of its significant to Asian Pacific American history. May marks the anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in America in 1843. It also marks the anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike, highlighting the contributions of Chinese Americans to building this country’s transcontinental railroad in 1869.

### May 1 – May Day

This first day of May is celebrated as a spring festival in many countries, a time to celebrate the rebirth of life after winter. In 1890, May Day took on another meaning when the international Socialist congress designated May 1 as a day to support an 8 hour working day. In many countries, it is now an official holiday honoring working people.

### May 3 – Lag B’Omer

A Jewish festive day celebrated with parades and bonfires. Begins sunset, May 2nd.

### May 5 – Cinco de Mayo

The day is celebrated in Mexico and by Mexican Americans to commemorate the battle of...
May 16-Jun 15 – Ramadan (The Month of Fasting)
Ramadan is the holiest month of the Muslim year, which involves 30 days of fasting from sunrise to sunset. On the first day of the Islamic month, after a short nap in the evening, families rise before sunrise to take the first meal of the day. Observant Muslims pray, read the Qur’an and worship at home or at a mosque and answer the need of the poor and hungry. Muslim students and faculty may break the daily fast by taking water and fruit at sunset.

May 17 – Ascension Day
This Christian holy day celebrates Jesus Christ’s ascent into heaven. Ascension Day is also observed by the Eastern Orthodox Church in this calendar year.

May 20 – Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
Pentecost is also called Whit Sunday from the Greek word for fiftieth, because it comes on the 50th day after Passover. Christians celebrate Pentecost on the 7th Sunday after Easter to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit among the disciples. Pentecost is also observed by the Eastern Orthodox Churches in this calendar year.

May 20-21 – Shavuot (Festival of Weeks)
This Jewish festival commemorates the giving of the Law (Torah) with it 10 commandments on Mount Sinai

May 23 – Declaration of the Bab
This Baha’i holiday commemorates the Bab’s prediction in 1844 of the imminent appearance of the new messenger of God.

May 28 – Memorial Day Observance
This day honors those who died in defense of U.S. in wartime. Legal holiday. Wright State University is closed.

May 29 – Ascension of Baha’u’llah
This Baha’i holiday commemorates the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Baha’i faith in 1892.

Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities

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May 1-31 – Wright Patterson Air Force’s Asian Pacific Heritage Month
An annual month-long celebration of Asian heritage at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. For a full calendar of events, call (937) 320-9253.

May 18-20 – 44th Annual International Festival “A World A’Fair”
Annually organized by the Dayton International Festival, Inc. (DIFI), this event is held at the Dayton Convention Center and is a 3 day cultural festival featuring various cultural exhibits, ethnic foods and dances from different countries. For more information, call (937) 293-5173 or visit www.aworldafair.org.

More than 2,000 graduated during Wright State’s 2017 Spring Commencement. The graduates came from 27 nations, 27 states and 64 Ohio counties. Congratulations to the Class of 2017!
# JUNE 2018

**Gay Pride Month**

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<td>23 “Keeping the Tradition” Pow Wow</td>
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<td>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</td>
<td>“Keeping the Tradition” Pow Wow</td>
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*Note: Events celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton communities are in italics.*

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**GAY PRIDE MONTH**
The confrontations between demonstrators and police at The Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village in New York over the weekend of June 27-29, 1969, are usually cited as the beginning of the modern movement for Lesbian/Gay liberation.

**June 14 – Flag Day**

**June 15 – Eid al-Fitr (The Feast of Breaking the Fast)**
On this Islamic festival, which concludes the fast of Ramadan, Muslims wear new clothes, exchange presents, play games and children are allowed to stay up late at night. Muslims attend the mosque for a special prayer after sunrise and respond to the needs of the poor.

**June 19 – Juneteenth**
This African American celebration commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation. On June 19, 1865, enslaved African Americans in the rebel state of Texas learned that they had been freed 2 years earlier by the Emancipation Proclamation.

**June 24 – Nativity of St. John the Baptist**
The birth of this New Testament figure is observed especially in Latino culture, St. John being the patron saint of Puerto Rico.
Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities

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June 23-24 – “Keeping the Tradition” Pow Wow
The 19th annual “Keeping the Tradition” Pow Wow sponsored by the Miami Valley Council for Native Americans will be held at the SunWatch Indian Village. The traditional PowWow, features Native American dancing, singing, food, arts and crafts, is the largest in Ohio. For times and more information, call (937) 275-8599.

Congrats to Wright State University Office of LGBTQ Affairs Director Petey Peterson for being nominated to the Dayton Pride Court--along with Wright State friend Amelia Robinson!

More than 5,000 guests arrived for the Science Olympiad National Tournament held annually at Wright State.

More than 600 incoming freshmen attended Wright State’s first-ever Signing Day event!

All photos are from events held at Wright State University
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**July 1 – Canada Day**  
This Canadian national holiday marks the anniversary (July 1, 1867) of the unification of Upper and Lower Canada (now Ontario and Quebec), New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as the Dominion of Canada. Formerly known as Dominion Day, the name was changed to Canada Day in 1982 when the constitution was revised. The day is marked throughout Canada by parades, fireworks and the display of flags.

**July 4 – Independence Day**  
In 1776, delegates of the Thirteen Colonies signed the Declaration of Independence announcing their separation from Great Britain and the establishment of the United States of America. Legal holiday.  
**Wright State University will be closed.**

**July 19 – First Special Olympic Games**  
The first Special Olympic Games made its debut at Soldiers Field in Chicago in 1968. Participants came from the United States and Canada. In 1995, the competition included Winter Special Olympics with participants from all 50 states and 143 countries.

All photos are from events held at Wright State University
Events Celebrated by Wright State University and Dayton Communities

Note: This is not a complete listing of events, ethnic celebrations and/or festivals in the Greater Dayton area. The listings in this calendar are provided by Wright State University, the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Greene County Visitors Bureau, and other sponsoring organizations. All information, current at the time of publication, is subject to change at the discretion of the event organizer. Please call the appropriate office or organization ahead of time to obtain the celebration date and/or to verify events before attending. Thank you.

July 4 – Centerville-Washington Township Americana Festival
The festival started in 1972 as a sidewalk sale promoted by the city’s downtown merchants. Today more than 75,000 people attend the festival each year, with over 100 volunteers assisting in the activities. For a schedule of events, visit www.americanafestival.org.

Raider Academy is a new two-week residential summer program designed to introduce incoming freshmen to Wright State academics, campus resources and the university community. Students watch sketches acted out by the theatre students, a training program called ImprovAffect.

All photos are from events held at Wright State University

Sources

For religious holidays and major festivals from different countries:

- American Muslim Council in Washington, D.C.
- Buddhist Churches of America in San Francisco
- Buddhist Temple in Chicago
- Greek Orthodox Church in Dayton
- Hindu Temple in Dayton
- International Sikh Organization, Washington, D.C.
- Jain Center of Cincinnati-Dayton
- Jewish Community Relations Council, Dayton
- National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is in Illinois
- The National Conference for Community and Justice in New York

For events celebrated by WSU & Dayton communities:

- Wright State University
- Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau; Greene County Visitors Bureau
- Sponsoring organization
Some Calendars of Yesterday and Today

A calendar is a system of measuring and recording the passage of time. Early calendars used the lunar month, the interval between successive full moons, as a unit of time. A lunar month lasts about 29.5 days, so twelve such months amount to about 354 days, 11 days shorter than a true solar year, which has 365 days.

Attempts to reconcile lunar months with the solar year occurred in various ways. The most noted ancient effort was that of Egyptian astronomers, working from precise mathematical observations and borrowing from Babylonian astronomy, who drew up the Roman calendar that Julius Caesar introduced.

The Julian calendar. By 46 B.C., the Roman calendar was about 3 months ahead of the seasons, so spring began in June. Julius Caesar ordered the Romans to disregard the moon in calculating their calendars. The resulting new calendar, based on the Egyptian solar calendar, was divided into 12 months of 31 and 30 days, except for February, which had only 29 days. Every fourth year, it would have 30 days. The year 46 B.C. was assigned 445 days; it was called *ultimus annus confusionis*, "the last year of confusion." A Julian year lasted 365.25 days. This Julian calendar was widely used for more than 1,500 years. Still the basis of the Orthodox Christian liturgical calendar, it is used by all Orthodox Christian churches to determine the date of Easter.

The Gregorian calendar. By the late sixteenth century, the difference between the Julian calendar and the seasons had grown to ten days because the Julian year, averaging 365.25 days, was slightly longer than the actual solar year. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ordered ten days dropped from October making the day that would have been October 5, 1582, into October 15. The Gregorian calendar has 12 months, 11 with 30 or 31 days. The other month, February, normally has 28 days. Every fourth year, called a leap year, it has 29 days. To correct the Julian calendar's error regularly, the pope decreed that February would have an extra day in century years that could be divided evenly by 400, such as 1600 and 2000. The Gregorian calendar was based on the current calculation of the year of Jesus Christ's birth. Thus dates before that year are often identified as B.C. (before Christ), those after as A.D. (*anno Domini* “in the year of our Lord”). The Gregorian calendar continues to be the one used by most of the world today.

The Christian church calendar begins with the year of Jesus Christ’s birth, as calculated by the Gregorian calendar. This yearly calendar, observed by the Catholic Church, is regulated by the sun and partly by the moon. Immovable feasts, based on the solar year, include Christmas and such feasts as the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. Such days as Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter are called movable feasts because their dates vary from year to year, according to the phases of the moon. There is no uniform Protestant calendar. Some Protestant denominations, such as the Episcopalians and Lutherans, follow a complex calendar closely resembling the Catholic, while other denominations, such as Baptists, follow a greatly simplified yearly calendar.

The Orthodox Christian church calendar. The Orthodox Churches that have adopted the New Calendar observe Christmas with the other Churches of Christendom on December 25; Orthodox Churches that have not adopted it celebrate Christmas 13 days later, on January 7. The Orthodox Church bases its calculations for the date of Easter on the Julian Calendar, which was in use at the time of the First Ecumenical Synod. According to the ruling of the First Ecumenical Synod in 325, Easter Sunday should fall on the Sunday that follows the first moon after the vernal equinox. If the full moon happens to fall on a Sunday, Easter is observed the following Sunday. March 21 is the day taken to be the invariable date of the vernal equinox.
The **Hebrew calendar** begins at an estimated moment of the world's creation based on the genealogies in the Torah. To find a year in the Hebrew calendar requires adding 3,760 to the date in the Gregorian calendar. For example, the year beginning with a celebration on September 13, 2007, and ending at sundown on September 14, 2008, is year 5768 in the Hebrew calendar. The Hebrew year is based on the moon and normally consists of 12 months: Tishri, Heshvan, Kislev, Tevet, Shevat, Adar, Nisan, Iyar, Sivan, Tammuz, Av, and Elul. Approximately every third year an additional month is added to align the shorter lunar year with the solar year.

The **Islamic calendar** begins with Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina. The migration, called the Hegira, took place in A.D. 622, according to the Gregorian calendar. The new year 1429 occurs on January 10, 2008. The Islamic year is based on the moon, and has 12 months, alternately 30 and 29 days long. These months are Muharram, Safar, Rabi ul-Awwal, Rabi ul-Thani, Jumada-L-Oula, Jumada-L-Thani, Rajab, Shaban, Ramadan, Shawwal, Dhu-L-Qui-Da, and Dhu-L-Hijjah. Because the Islamic year is 354 days shorter than the solar year, the Islamic New Year moves backward through the seasons in a course of 32½ years. The Islamic calendar divides time into cycles 30 years long. During each cycle, 19 years have the regular 354 days, and 11 years have an extra day each. This method of counting time makes the Islamic year nearly as accurate in measuring the lunar year as the Gregorian calendar is in measuring the solar year.

The **Chinese calendar** begins at 2637 B.C., the year in which the legendary Emperor Huangdi is believed to have invented it. This calendar counts years in cycles of 60. The sixty-year cycle consists of a set of year names that are created by pairing a name from a list of ten Celestial Stems named after 10 Chinese constellations and twelve Terrestrial Branches named after twelve animals (These sets of stems are listed on the next page). After six repetitions of the set of stems and five repetitions of the branches (i.e., 60 years), a complete cycle of pairs is completed and a new cycle begins. Since the current sixty-year cycle started on February 2, 1984, the year 2008 in the Gregorian calendar is the 25th year in the 78th cycle. The year 2008 is also the Year of the Rat or the year wu-zi.

The Chinese year is based on the moon and generally consists of 12 months. Each month begins at the new moon and has 29 or 30 days. Since a month is repeated seven times during each 19-year period, the calendar remains in approximate alignment with the seasons. The year starts at the second new moon after the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Thus, the Chinese New Year occurs no earlier than January 21 and no later than February 19.

The **Hindu calendar** is extremely complex. Used only for religious holidays, it varies greatly from region to region. However, most divide an approximate solar year of 360 days into twelve months. Each day is 1/30th of a month, with the adoption of a leap month every sixth months. Time measurements based on observations of the constellations are used along with the calendar.

The **Buddhist calendar**: Theravada Buddhists (living primarily in Sri Lanka, Laos, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia) use a Hindu calendar as the basis for their calendar. They calculate the months by the moon and the new year by the sun's position in relation to the twelve segments of the heavens, each named for a sign of the zodiac. The solar new year begins when the sun enters Aries, usually between April 13th and 18th. The lunar months alternate between twenty-nine and thirty days in length. Mahayana Buddhists (mostly in Tibet, Mongolia, China, Korea, and Japan) base their holidays on Buddhist, Chinese, or Gregorian calendars.

**Sources**

The Chinese Calendar

The Chinese calendar does not count years in an infinite sequence. Instead, within each sixty-year cycle, each year is assigned a name consisting of two components: “Celestial Stem” and “Terrestrial Stem.”

### Celestial Stems (Heavenly stems)

| 2. Yi  | 7. Geng| 2. Chou (Ox)| 8. Wei (Sheep) |

### Terrestrial Stems (Earthly branches)

| 2. Yi-Chou| 17. Geng-Chen| 32. Yi-Wei| 47. Geng-Xu |
| 12. Yi-Hai| 27. Geng-Yin| 42. Yi-Si| 57. Geng-Shen |
| 14. Ding-Chou| 29. Ren-Chen| 44. Ding-Wei| 59. Ren-Xu |

### Sources


A table with the Chinese characters for all the terrestrial branches and celestial stems may be found in *Mathew’s Chinese-English Dictionary* (Harvard University Press, 1972), page 1176.
## Comparison of Calendars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar</th>
<th>Gregorian</th>
<th>Jewish</th>
<th>Islamic</th>
<th>Hindu</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5778</td>
<td>1439</td>
<td>1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Month 1</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Tishri (mid-September to mid-October)</td>
<td>Muharram (the sacred month) late spring</td>
<td>Chaitra (March-April)</td>
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<td>Month 2</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Heshvan (mid-October to mid-November)</td>
<td>Safar</td>
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<td>Month 3</td>
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<td>Rabi ul-Awwal</td>
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<td>Month 4</td>
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<td>Tevet (mid-December to mid-January)</td>
<td>Rabi ul-Thani</td>
<td>Asadha (June-July)</td>
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<td>Month 5</td>
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<td>Shevat (mid-January to mid-February)</td>
<td>Jumada-L-Oula</td>
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<td>Month 6</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Adar (mid-February to mid-March)</td>
<td>Jumada-L-Thani</td>
<td>Bhadra (August-Sept.)</td>
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<td>Month 7</td>
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<td>Nisan (mid-March to mid-April)</td>
<td>Rajab</td>
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<td>Month 8</td>
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<td>Iyar (mid-April to mid-May)</td>
<td>Shaban</td>
<td>Kartika (Oct.-Nov.)</td>
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<td>Month 9</td>
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<td>Sivan (mid-May to mid-June)</td>
<td>Ramadan</td>
<td>Agrahayana (Nov.-Dec.)</td>
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<td>Month 10</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>Tammuz (mid-June to mid-July)</td>
<td>Shawwal</td>
<td>Pausa (Dec.-Jan.)</td>
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<td>Month 11</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>Av (mid-July to mid-August)</td>
<td>Dhu-L-Qua-Da</td>
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<td>Month 12</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Elul (mid-August to mid-September)</td>
<td>Dhu-L-Hijja (the month of pilgrimage)</td>
<td>Phalguna (Feb.-March)</td>
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</table>

**Note:** Tishri, Muharram, and Chaitra do not occur at the same time of the year. The only thing they have in common is that they are the first months of the year for the calendar of which they are a part. January occurs in the winter, Tishri in the fall, Muharram in the late spring, and Chaitra in the early spring. The names of the Islamic months are an ancient reflection of the seasons of the solar year.

**Sources**

Symbols of World Religions

BAHA'I
The Baha’i faith is based on the worship of one god, who is at the root of all religions. The Baha’i symbol is a nine-pointed star that stands for this combination of faiths.

BUDDHISM
The Buddhist faith is based on the teachings of the Buddha. Its symbol is an eight-spoked Wheel of Life which depicts the eightfold path to Nirvana.

CHRISTIANITY
Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Their symbol is a cross, a symbol of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which represents his love for humanity in dying for its sins.

HINDUISM
Hindus believe in many gods, but in one underlying Reality. Their symbol is a sacred sound, OM, and is the seed of all mantras or prayers.

ISLAM
The Islamic faith is based on the belief in one God, Allah. Their symbol is a star and a crescent moon. The origins of the symbol are obscure, but most sources say that these are ancient celestials symbols used in worship.

JAINISM
The Jain religion adopted an open palm as its symbol in 1975, the 2,500th anniversary of the Jain spiritual leader Mahavira’s enlightenment. The palm usually has the word ahimsa (“nonviolence”) written on it.

JUDAISM
The Jewish symbol is the Magen David (Star of David) composed of two equilateral triangles overlaid to form a six-pointed star. Magen David is the Hebrew term for the Shield of David.

SIKHISM
The Sikh symbol is the Khanda, a special type of double-edged sword that represents the Sikhs’ belief in one God. The right edge symbolizes freedom and authority governed by moral and spiritual values. The left edge symbolizes divine justice which chastises and punishes wicked oppressors. On the left side of the sword is spiritual sovereignty, Piri; on the right side is political sovereignty, Miri. The circle, called the Chakra, represents the infiniteness of the timeless absolute.

Sources
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<td>Guru Nanak’s Birthday</td>
<td>Nov. 4, 2017</td>
<td>Holi</td>
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<td>Ramanavami</td>
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<td>Vaisakhi</td>
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Resources on World Religions

Website
http://www.aril.org/World.html

Books


Websites on Ethnic/Holiday Cuisines

http://ethnicrecipes.us
This site has a variety of Asian cuisines from Israel to Vietnam. It lists food traditions, regional food customs, fun facts and the history behind some of the foods from these countries.

http://www.kitchenlink.com
This site lists recipes such as holiday appetizers, soups, breakfast/brunch, salads, main dishes, side dishes, breads, desserts, ethnic desserts, and international holiday recipes.

http://www.indiatastes.com
This site lists Asian Indian vegetarian recipes and gives information on various Indian festivals.