

Multi-Cultural & Diversity Newsletter

April 2023







Mahavira Jayanti (Jain)

April 4- This day celebrates the birthday of Lord Mahavira who was the 24th leader of the Jain religion and born around 599 B.C.



April 5- It is a national holiday when family graves are visited to ask the blessings of the departed spirits.





Pesach/Passover (Jewish)

April 5-13- Begin previous sundown at 6pm, Pesach lasts for eight days. This time commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. It begins with a ritual meal 'Seder' when no leavened bread is consumed with special prayers and symbolic foods.



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Good Friday (Christian)

April 7- This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Italian Catholics have a procession called the Way of the Cross.

Baisakhi (Sikh and Hindu)

April 14- The first day of the solar year, this is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest, especially in North India. Tamils and Sri Lankans celebrate their New Year on this day. In Kerala, South India this day is called Vishu. Especially important to the Sikhs, it marks this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, established the order of 'Khalsa'. The festival is a mixture of feasting, dancing and worship.





Laylat al-Qadr (Islam)

April 18- Night of Power, commemorates the revelation of the **Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad in 610** CE. It begins the previous evening.



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Eid-ul-Fitr (Islam)

April 22- This marks the end of the Ramadan fast and is celebrated for 3 days. Date of observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates, which are a day later.





Gathering of Nations Pow Wow (Indigenous, USA)

April 27-29- Albuquerque, New Mexico is the venue of over 700 tribes and nations participating in a three-day event where over 3,000 participants share, teach and exchange traditions with each other.





Showa no hi (Japan)

April 29- An annual holiday, it honors the birthday of Emperor Showa (Hirohito), the reigning Emperor before, during, and after World War II (from 1926 to 1989). The official purpose of the holiday is "To reflect on Japan's Showa period when recovery was made after turbulent days, and to think of the country's future."

