



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION CALENDAR*

January 2017

- January 1:** **New Year's Day** is the first day in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.
- Temple Day**, on which many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple.
- January 5:** The birthday of **Guru Gobind Singh Ji**, also known as the "Father of the Khalsa," was the Tenth Guru of the Sikhs who initiated them as the Khalsa (the pure ones).
- January 6:** Known as *Theophany* in Eastern Christianity, **Epiphany** celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. The Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church recognizes it as the baptism of Jesus by John.
- Christmas** for Armenian Orthodox Christians who celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany. Armenians living in Israel celebrate Christmas on January 19.
- January 7:** Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate **Christmas** 13 days after other Christian churches, based on their use of the Julian version of the Western calendar.
- Jan. 12-15:** **Mahayana New Year** is celebrated on the day of the first full moon in January by members of the Mahayana Buddhist branch.
- January 14:** **Makar Sankranti**, a major harvest festival celebrated in various parts of India, marks the shift of the sun into ever-lengthening days.
- January 15:** In the Bahá'í faith, **World Religion Day** is observed on the third Sunday in January to promote interfaith harmony and understanding.
- January 16:** The birthday of civil rights leader **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** is observed as a federal holiday in the U.S. on the third Monday in January.
- Jan. 16-20:** **No Name-Calling Week** is marked by educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.
- Jan. 18-25:** During the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, Christians pray for unity between all churches of the Christian faith.
- January 26:** **Republic Day of India** recognizes the date in 1950 when that country's Constitution came into law, replacing the Government of India Act of 1935. This day also coincides with India's 1930 declaration of independence.
- January 27:** **UN Holocaust Memorial Day** marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945 and serves as the Annual International Day of Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust.
- January 28:** **Lunar New Year** is observed on the first day of the first month of the lunisolar Chinese calendar. Traditionally, as part of Chinese New Year, the celebrations honor deities, remember ancestors, and includes family gatherings.
- January 31:** The birthday of **Guru Har Rai**, the seventh of the Sikh gurus.