
The Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding

GROW IN UNDERSTANDING



CCIU Interfaith Calendar, Holy Days and Holidays, April 2025

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Source: <https://dharmaarts.com/products/teaching-garden-buddha-statue>



Source: <https://www.bishopmc.org/holy-week-and-easter/>



Source: <https://www.jcc.org.ay/kimhadapisha2023>



Source: <https://eventlas.com/eid-ul-fitr/>

Jainism: Mahavira Jayanti



Source: <https://www.officeholidays.com/holidays/india/mahavira-jayanti>

Pohela Boishakh (পোহলা বৈশাখ) – Bengali New Year



Source: <https://www.riliviaz.com/16-regional-new-year-festival-in-india/>

Puthandu (पुथंडु) – Tamil New Year



Source: <https://www.rilivaz.com/15-regional-new-year-festival-in-india/>

Bohag Bihu (बोहाग बिहु) – Assamese New Year



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APRIL

Bahá'í Faith

8 - Jalál (Glory). The 2nd Bahá'í month. An appropriate greeting is Allah-u-Abha, which means God is most glorious.

20 Apr – 1st May - The Festival of Riḍván, termed by Bahá'u'lláh, the “Most Great Festival “and the” King of Festivals”, commemorates the 12 days that Bahá'u'lláh spent in the garden of Riḍván outside Baghdad. The festival commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's public declaration of His mission to His family and closest followers. (The first, the 9th and the 12th days of Riḍván are Bahá'í holy days on which work is suspended.) An appropriate greeting is Joyous Riḍván.

27 - Jamal (Beauty) the third Bahá'í month.

28 – The 9th day of Riḍván is when Bahá'u'lláh's family joined him in the garden of Riḍván, in Baghdad (Bahá'ís suspend work on this day).

Buddhism

8- Anniversary of the historical Buddha's birth. (Mahāyāna) (Japan, North America)

13 - New Year festival for Theravāda Buddhists, celebrated for three days from the first full moon day in April.

28 - Anniversary of the foundation of the Nichiren Sect in 1253. (Mahāyāna – Nichiren)

Christianity

1 (W) - Easter Monday, the day after Easter Sunday / Pascha (Orthodox Easter), celebrates Jesus' resurrection.

12 - Lazarus Saturday (E) commemorates the raising of Lazarus from the dead by Jesus (John 11:1-15).

13 - Palm Sunday (W, E) celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

13 Apr-19 April – Holy Week (W) begins in Western churches on Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Friday.

14 Apr-19 April – Holy Week (E) begins in Eastern churches the day after Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Friday.

17 Maudy Thursday (W) Holy Thursday (E) celebrates the institution of the Lord's Supper by Jesus.

18 Good Friday (W)/ Holy Friday (E) commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ, i.e. His submission to the death by crucifixion.

19 Holy Saturday (W, E)

20 Easter (W)/ Pascha (Eastern) celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. It initiates the 50 day period culminating in Pentecost.

21 Easter Monday (W)/ Bright Monday (Eastern) the day after Easter and Pascha commemorates the resurrection.

Hinduism

6-Ramanavami celebrates the birth of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the God Vishnu. During the previous eight days, Hindus read the Ramayana, a Hindu epic which tells the story of Rama.

12 - Hanuman Jayanti celebrates the birth of the god Hanuman, a loyal devotee to Lord Rama. Celebrants mark Hanuman's birth by reciting the sacred text, Hanuman Chalisa, performing special pujas (prayer rituals), processing through the streets and adorning costumes to imitate the deity.

14-Vaishakhi, first day of the solar year. It is especially important in north India. Vaisakhi is a harvest festival which is celebrated in the Punjab region of South Asia on the first day of Vaisakh on the Punjab calendar. Which is around April 13th or 14th on the Gregorian calendar. It not only marks the beginning of the New Year but is also a day that honors the Sikh faith and traditions.

14 – Puthandu. In the State of Tamilnadu, the New Year is also known as Puthuvarusham. The day is spent with family and special prayers or pujas are also conducted. People wear new clothes and youngsters seek the blessings of the older generation. It is celebrated on the first day of the Tamil month Chittirai. Tamil New Year names are based on a 60-year cycle.

14-Bohag Bihu. The most important festival of Assam in the Northeastern region is its New Year that also coincides with its harvesting season. It is celebrated seven days after Vishuva Sankranti in the month of Vaisakh or also called the month of Bohag locally.

14-Pehala Baishakh. The New Year for Bengalis is also called the **Bangla Nabobarsho**. According to the Bengali calendar it is celebrated on the first day of the first month of Baishakh. In fact, it is the same day Baishaki is celebrated in north India, Puthandu in Tamil Nadu and Vishu in Kerala. It is also a declared holiday in Bangladesh.

14-Vishu. Vishu is the first day of the Malayalam calendar and is the call of a New Year in Kerala and the adjoining areas of Southern India. This day is celebrated with much ceremonial splendor among all family members, relatives and friends and is marked by feasting and burning of firecrackers.

Jainism

4 (until April 12) **Aymbil Ori (First Half)** is a nine-day (approximate) festival, occurring twice a year, when devout Jains undertake a special type of fasting. Over the course of this observance, Jains revere the Nav-pads.

10 - Mahavira-Jayanti celebrates the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira (Great Hero), the 24th Tirthankara (and the last of this time cycle).

18 - Shrimad Rajchandra Dehvilay, a prominent Jain philosopher and scholar. This observance marks the day of his emancipation (1901).

30 - Akshaya-Tritiya (Immortal Third) celebrates the day when Lord Rishbha broke his first year-long fast by drinking sugar-cane juice.

Judaism

13-20 - Pesah (Passover) commemorates the departure the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The festival of Passover is celebrated for 8 days; the first two and last two are observed as holy days. The evenings of the first and second days of Pesah begin with Seder meals (festive meals and the telling of the Passover story). The final day of Pesah marks the Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea, as related in the Book of Exodus.

24 Yom HaShoah is held in memory of the six million Jews who died as victims of Nazi atrocities (WWII).

Sikhism

14 - Vaisakhi (anniversary of the birth of the Khalsa) is important for Sikhs because on this day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th Guru, removed the clerical system from Sikhism. Thus, he re-affirmed the connection between Sikhs and the Divine. Guru Gobind Singh Ji also created the Khalsa Panth, the Fellowship of the Pure. Khalsa brothers are given the name Singh (lion), and sisters are named Kaur (princess or lioness).

Love Your Neighbor, Know Your Neighbor Panel Discussions

♥♥ EVERYONE IS WELCOME ♥♥

Join Our Series of Panel Discussions

LOVE
YOUR
NEIGHBOR,
KNOW YOUR
NEIGHBOR



**CONVERSATIONS ON UNDERSTANDING
RELIGIONS BEYOND OUR OWN**

Monday, April 21, 2025 | 6 pm-7:30 pm

Noah Webster Library | 20 South Main Street | West Hartford, CT

TOPICS: Each speaker will share a reflection on how their faith approaches:

**Marriage and family life | Service to humanity
Death and the journey of the soul | Followed by a Q&A**

*Bring questions, thoughts and interest for a lively panel that
will enable us to learn more about our neighbors!*

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



SPONSORED BY THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL FOR
INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING (CCIU)

DATE	HOST	MODERATOR	FAITHS/ PANELISTS
April 21 (6-7:30 pm)	Noah Webster Library (Baha'i hosting)	Rick Hathaway	Baha'i (Menaka Kannan), Islam, Sikhism (Sujit Singh)
May 3 (10 -11:30a m)	St John's Episcopal, Essex	Terry Schmitt	Christianity (Rick Hathaway), Islam (Tamkanat Mohiuddin), Judaism (Lance Goldberg)
May 4 (12-1:3 0pm)	Universalist Church of West Hartford	Terry Schmitt	Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU) is seeking volunteers interested in a dynamic experience furthering the work of inter-faith dialogue, understanding, and community impact. CCIU promotes public awareness, understanding, and respect for religious diversity through an array of programs. CCIU equips individuals and communities for interfaith engagement, builds collaborative relationships, and stands in solidarity with diverse neighbors. Building off our common ground we can harness our gifts and

talents towards greater impact serving the needs of our communities.

For more information contact Rick Hathaway, CCIU Executive Director (richardhathaway32@gmail.com).

· Administrative coordinator: This person is responsible for supporting the key administrative functions of CCIU. Specific tasks can include responding to inquiries, management of the member database, communication with members and partners, managing organizational records, and support for CCIU events. Looking for someone who can provide 6-8 hours per week, working from home or the CCIU office at Hartford International University.

· Communications Coordinator: This person is responsible for supporting key communications functions of the organization. Specific tasks can include – social media, traditional media, updating web site, and developing content for constituent communication. Looking for someone who can provide 6-8 hours per week, working from home or the CCIU office at Hartford International University.

· Program Coordinator – Interfaith Dialogue: This person is responsible for supporting the ‘To Love Your Neighbor, To know Your Neighbor’ dialogue series, Specific tasks can include – coordinating with and supporting host partners, panelists, and moderators and managing the schedule of events. Looking for someone who can provide 6-8 hours per week, working from home or the CCIU office at

Hartford International University.

· Program Coordinator – Youth Program: This person will be responsible for coordinating the youth initiative – next-gen leadership development program of CCIU. Specific tasks can include coordinating with local youth organizations, faith-based youth groups, and local non-profit organizations. Looking for someone who can provide 6-8 hours per week, working from home or the CCIU office at Hartford International University.

· Donor Care Coordinator: This person is responsible for coordinating tasks which support our coordination with our donors. Specific tasks could include preparing donor materials and managing communication and reporting to our supporters. This could also include researching donor opportunities for CCIU. Looking for someone who can provide 6-8 hours per week, working from home or the CCIU office at Hartford International University.

