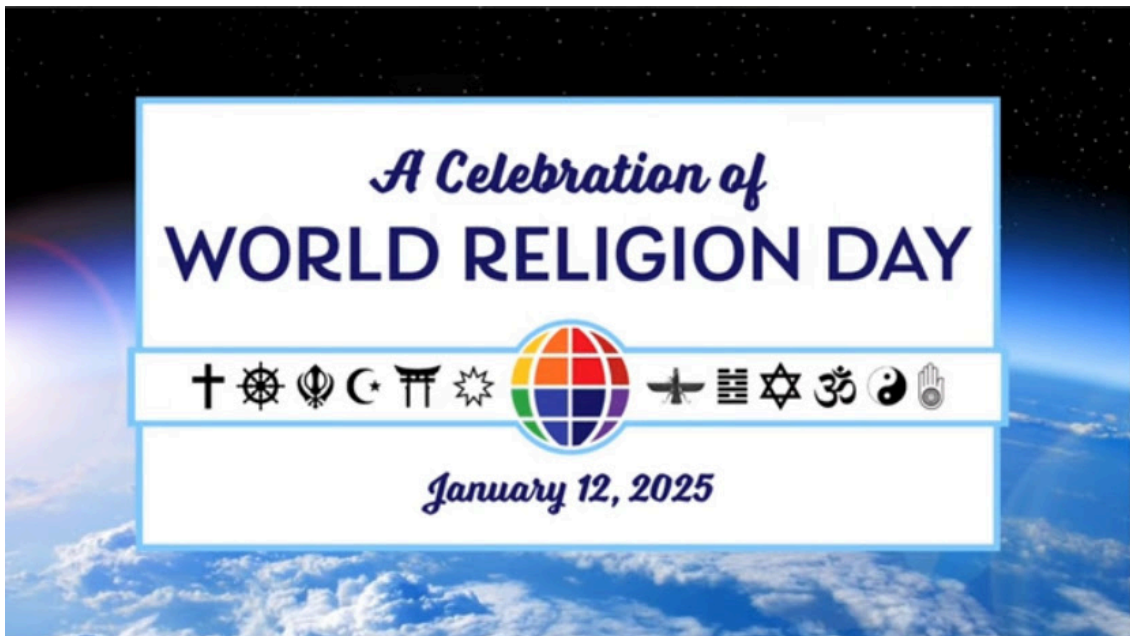


World Religion Day 2025



World Religion Day Celebrates the Unity Through Diversity of our Faith Communities

World Religion Day was celebrated at West Hartford Town Hall on January 12, 2025 and was co-sponsored by CCIU and the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of West Hartford. More than 300 people attended, and many attendees expressed appreciation afterwards. The event was broadcast on the closed-circuit television channel of the Town of West Hartford and has also been posted on [YouTube](#).

An award-winning composer, musician, and cultural activist, Eric Dozier was the keynote speaker and conductor of the Interfaith Choir. He said the

challenges of assembling, training, and directing one-time-only community-based choir are considerable but not insurmountable.

“You never know who is going to show up, and you never know people’s ability,” said Dozier. “But if you make the music accessible and inspiring for the folks you’re working with, I’ve found that music is such a universal experience that it has a way of bringing people together, regardless of their ability or how good they are at singing.”

In addition to the interfaith choir being assembled by Dozier, the event also featured:

- A performance by Rasa Dance Project Group, a Hindu-inspired effort that aims to preserve and promote the 2000-year-old dance forms from India.
- A meditative flute song by Lee Mixashawn Rozie, an indigenous musician in Hartford of Maheekanew/Mohawk descent.
- A performance by the Children’s Choir of the CREC Ana Grace Academy in Hartford.
- A contribution of traditional music from Sikh musicians.
- A recitation of the Muslim Call to Prayer by Mohammed Pasha.

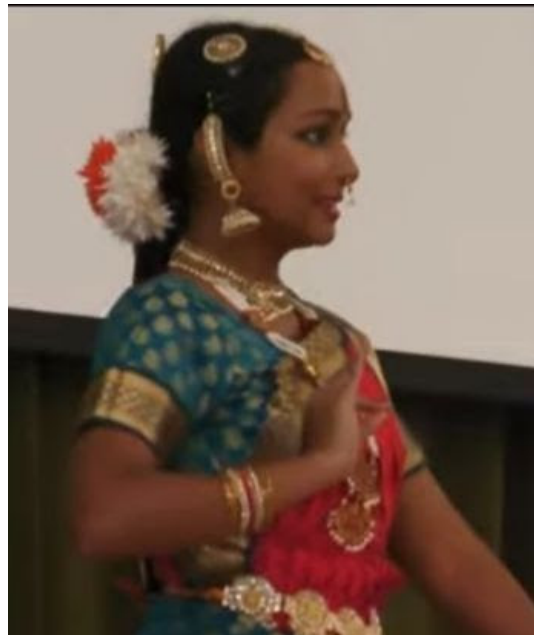
“Every contribution is sacred,” said Karen Anderson, the coordinator of the event, who is both a board member of the CCIU and a member of the West Hartford Baha’i community. “Every contribution is some kind of a prayer or call to worship...”

World Religion Day was founded in 1950 by the Baha’i community of the United States as an effort to affirm the beauty, love, and peace of all the world’s religions. It has since taken on a life of its own and is celebrated in numerous countries.

The Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding is dedicated to leveraging the strengths and common ground of various faith traditions across the state, through mutual understanding, dialogue and effective community impact.

“CCIU celebrates the various faith-traditions using various forums,” said Rick Hathaway, Executive Director of the organization. “World Religion Day is a time where we can emphasize our common ground and demonstrate that when we work together, we can achieve great impact in our communities.”

(See the complete article in the [online West Hartford](#) news.)



Interfaith Holy Days and Holidays for February

Bahá'í Faith

6 Feb- Mulk (Dominion), the 18th month of the Bahá'í year. An appropriate greeting is Allah-u-Abha, which means God is most glorious.

25 Feb – 28 Feb Ayyám-i-Há are the intercalary days inserted between the 18th and 19th months 365- or 366-day solar year. An appropriate greeting is Happy Ayyám-i-Há.

Buddhism

12 Feb- Magha (Sangha Day) commemorates the spontaneous gathering of 1,250 aharants (awakened monks) to whom the Buddha delivered the

exhortation on the basis of the discipline (ovada patimokkha) (Theravāda).

15 Feb - Nehan-e (Nirvana Day) is the memorial of the historical Buddha's passing. (Mahāyāna) (Japan, North America)

28 Feb- Losar (Tibetan New Year 2152) is celebrated for 15 days, with the main celebrations on the first 3 days.

Hinduism

2 Feb - Vasanta Panchami, a north Indian celebration, is associated with Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning and with Lakshmi, Goddess of Wealth. The colour yellow is associated with this festival.

8 Feb- Mahashivaratri is dedicated to Shiva, one of the major deities to whom Hindus direct their devotion. The night before the feast, Hindus recite texts, sing, and tell stories in honour of this god whose dynamic cosmic dance creates, preserves, destroys, and recreates the world.

Islam

13 - Laylat al Bara'at (Niṣf Sha'bān), the 15th day or middle (Niṣf) of the 8th month (Sha'bān), is the Night of Repentance/Forgiveness in preparation for Ramaḍān (special worship, including prayers, fasting and other observances begin at sunset and are generally observed until sunset of the following day, February 14).

Judaism

27 Jan- Holocaust Remembrance Day (UN) The day remembers the killing of six million Jews, two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population, and millions of others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

13 Feb-One of the four New Years days. **Tu B'Shevat** (the 15th day of the month of Shevat) is the New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Nowadays, it is a day for environmental awareness and action such as tree planting. Special meals (Seders) include the seven fruits of the land (wheat and barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and (date) honey), each symbolizing a spiritual reality. Suspension of work is not required.

SAVE THE DATES for the CCIU/Wadsworth Atheneum Interfaith Film Series

The Interfaith Film Series at the Wadsworth Atheneum is returning on **March 16, 2025** with the film "Arranged" and on **March 23, 2025** with the film "Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter and ... Spring". Guest speakers will reflect on each film and the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions, dialogue and discuss the films. Each film begins at 2:00 pm at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford.

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.

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