

Cultural, Heritage, & Religious Observances

APRIL 2026

Thoughtful acknowledgment of cultural, heritage, and religious observances fosters belonging, invites learning, and strengthens connections. Through this effort, the Office of University Engagement and Enrichment (OEE) serves as a connector and amplifier—curating resources, highlighting events, and creating space for awareness in collaboration with campus partners to recognize the richness of traditions represented across our institution.

MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCES

Arab American Heritage Month

Arab Americans have shaped U.S. medicine, science, literature, and civic life for over a century—tracing roots to 22 countries across the Middle East and North Africa.

All: Explore Arab American voices in your field and challenge single-narrative portrayals.

[Learn more → arabamericafoundation.org](https://arabamericafoundation.org)

National Deaf History Month

Marking milestones in Deaf rights and education—from the first Deaf school (1817) to Gallaudet University (1864) to the Deaf President Now movement (1988).

Managers: Ensure live captioning and ASL interpretation are a standard practice.

[Learn more → nad.org](https://nad.org)

Autism Acceptance Month

Reframed from "awareness" to "acceptance" by autistic self-advocates. Centering neurodivergent voices, not deficit-based narratives.

All: Learn how rigid social norms create barriers—and what flexible, inclusive communication looks like.

[Learn more → autisticadvocacy.org](https://autisticadvocacy.org)

DATE-SPECIFIC OBSERVANCES

1st - 9th 



Passover

Eight-day Jewish observance of liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt, marked by the Seder meal and dietary practices.

Be mindful of dietary needs. Accommodate Seder evenings (April 1 & 2).
[Learn more → myjewishlearning.com/article/passover](https://myjewishlearning.com/article/passover)

5th 



Easter

Christianity's most significant holy day, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Good Friday falls on April 3.

When planning spring gatherings, frame them around the season — not around Easter specifically.
[Learn more → britannica.com/topic/Easter-holiday](https://britannica.com/topic/Easter-holiday)

14th 



Vaisakhi

Primarily observed in India and Pakistan and celebrated by Sikhs and Punjabi communities worldwide as the New Year and spring harvest.

Learn about Vaisakhi's connection to Sikh identity and community service.
[Learn more → sikhcoalition.org](https://sikhcoalition.org)

Curated in collaboration with:

Office for Global Engagement
Office for Student Success
Religious & Spiritual Life
University Student Life
URochester Medicine Employee Wellness
The Warner School of Education
The School of Nursing

Stay connected.

Visit the OEE website to explore additional calendar observances, learn more about upcoming events, and share observance-related programming with us.

rochester.edu/oee

[@uofr_oee](https://www.instagram.com/uofr_oee)