

Cultural, Heritage, & Religious Observances

MAY 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



Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPD) Heritage Month

Recognizes the histories, cultures, and contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in the United States—while inviting deeper learning about the many distinct identities, traditions, and stories reflected within AAPI heritage.

All: Learn about the histories, traditions, and contributions of AAPI communities—and explore the many cultures, languages, and stories within them.

[Learn more → asianpacificheritage.gov](https://asianpacificheritage.gov)



Jewish American Heritage Month

Honors the histories, cultures, and contributions of Jewish Americans—from early immigration and community-building to lasting influence in scholarship, the arts, public service, science, and civic life.

All: Take time to learn about the histories, traditions, and contributions of Jewish American communities across many fields and generations.

[Learn more → jewishheritagemonth.gov/](https://jewishheritagemonth.gov/)

DATE-SPECIFIC OBSERVANCES

1st ◀ Vesak/Busah Day

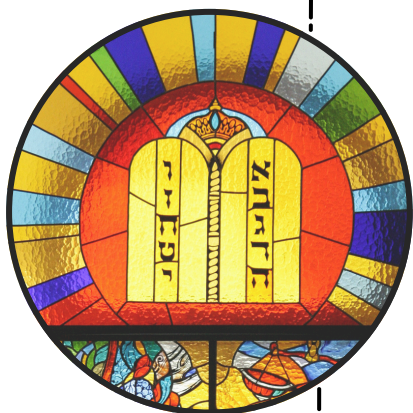


One of the most important Buddhist observances, marking the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death; dates and practices vary across Buddhist traditions and regions.

Use broad terms carefully—Buddhist practice is diverse, and observance is not uniform across all communities.

[Learn more → Britannica: Vesak](#)

21st- 23rd ◀ Shavuot



A Jewish festival marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and rooted in an earlier harvest observance; for many observant Jews, these are days of work restriction.

Be mindful of time-off requests, and avoid assuming Jewish observance centers only on the fall High Holy Days.

[Learn more → myjewishlearning.com/article/shavuot](https://myjewishlearning.com/article/shavuot)

26th- 27th ◀ Eid al-Adha



One of Islam's most important holidays, commemorating Ibrahim's faith and marked by early-morning congregational prayer, sermon, and gatherings with family and community; the exact date may shift slightly with moon sighting.

Expect possible morning absences or time-off requests, and avoid scheduling major presentations, exams, or events on the primary observance day.

[Learn more → ING: Hajj and Eid al-Adha](#)

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

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