

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Thursday, June 9, 2022, 11:00 A.M.



COMMISSION ROOM, FIRST FLOOR  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.  
Santa Ana, California

**JO-ANNE P. MATSUBA**  
Chair

**JENNIFER S. WANG**  
Vice Chair

**ADA BRICEÑO**  
Commissioner

**AMY BUCH**  
Commissioner

**ADELI DURON**  
Commissioner

**M. FAREED FARUKHI**  
Commissioner

**MICHAEL KENT**  
Commissioner

**DOT LEACH**  
Commissioner

**JANY LEE**  
Commissioner

**DOROTHY O'NEILL**  
Commissioner

**RABBI RICK STEINBERG**  
Commissioner

ATTENDANCE: All Members Present

ABSENT: None

PRESENT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

Norma Lopez (participated via Zoom)  
Jamie Ross & Dora Guillen, Deputy Clerks  
(participated via Zoom)

*The Orange County Human Relations Commission is an independent advisory body, and our positions do not necessarily reflect the positions of the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.*

1. Call the Meeting to Order/Roll Call  
**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:07 A.M. BY CHAIR MATSUBA; CLERK CALLED ROLL AND CONFIRMED A QUORUM**
2. Opening quote/reflection  
**COMMISSIONER STEINBERG SHARED A QUOTE FROM ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL "SOME ARE GUILTY, BUT ALL ARE RESPONSIBLE"**

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

3. Monthly Summary of Commission Activities

**PRESENTED; COMMISSIONER LEACH REQUESTED COMMISSION STAFF  
LOOK INTO REPORTS OF HATE TOWARDS UKRAINIANS**

### **OPEN FORUM**

Felicity Figueroa – Oral Re.: “Who We Are” presentation; gun violence events; Juneteenth; OC Pride event on 6/25; County budget; and ability to comment virtually at Board of Supervisors meetings.

Pat Davis – Oral Re.: Real time comments at Board of Supervisor meetings; supports diversity and inclusion calendar; Longest Night on 12/21; 11/19 is World Toilet Day and a reminder of the issue for homeless; County budget.

### **HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION:** (Item 4)

4. “Driving Out Darkness” Presentation

**PRESENTED BY LISA ARMONY**

**COMMISSIONERS REQUESTED FLYER FOR “DRIVING OUT DARKNESS”  
SUMMIT ON 8/30/22, AND TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT SUMMIT**

### **ACTION ITEMS:** (Items 5 - 6)

5. Review and reconsider state of emergency under AB 361 and make findings to continue virtual meetings due to the proclaimed state of emergency arising from COVID-19 as required by Government Code subsection 54959(e)(3)

412356789 10 11 **APPROVED TO CONTINUE TO MEET VIRTUALLY**

x

6. Review, discuss and approve using the Diversity & Inclusion calendar to acknowledge diversity/cultural month celebrations at the top of the Commission meeting

11 612345789 10 **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

x

**COMMISSIONER LEACH REQUESTED EVENTS BE POSTED ON  
COMMISSION WEBSITE**

### **INFORMATION ITEMS:** (Items 7 - 10)

7. Bylaws Ad-Hoc Update

**PRESENTED**

8. Commission Staff Reports

- a. Anti-Hate Expansion Contract Update
- b. Hate Hurts Us All Launch Event
- c. Meet new CBO Liaison

**PRESENTED**

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

9. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff

**PRESENTED**

10. OCSD Interfaith Council Update

**NO REPORT**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner O'Neill – Oral Re.: Was present in England for the Jubilee.

**ADJOURNED:** 12:49 P.M.

\*\*\* KEY \*\*\*

#### *Left Margin Notes*

1 Ada Briceño	A = Abstained
2 Amy Buch	X = Excused
3 Adeli Duron	
4 M. Fareed Farukhi	N = No
5 Michael Kent	C.O. = Commission Order
6 Dot Leach	
7 Jany Lee	Reso = Resolution
8 Jo-Anne P. Matsuba	Ord = Ordinance
9 Dorothy O'Neill	
10 Rabbi Rick Steinberg	
11 Jennifer S. Wang	

*(1st number = Moved by; 2nd number = Seconded by)*

/s/

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JO-ANNE MATSUBA  
*Chair*

/s/

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Jamie Ross, Deputy  
*Clerk of the Commission*



# Orange County Human Relations Commission

MISSION: Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and eliminate those causes

## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: MAY 2022

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### FY JUL 21 - JUN 22 Commission Activities Matrix

CONTRACT ACTIVITY	Goal	To-Date
A. Monthly HRC meetings	12	11
B. HRC Annual Report	1	0
C. Police-Community Reconciliation cases	20	30
D. Community-Police Meetings	4	5
E. Chief's Advisory Boards & Sherriff's Interfaith Council	8	20
F. Community Outreach & Relationship Building meetings	40	125
G. Police/Diverse Community Dialogues	2	6
H. Hate Crime Report & Network Meeting	1	4
I. Support to hate crime victims	8	58
J. Outreach efforts (speeches, presentations, etc.)	10	13
K. Community training on intergroup relations topics	4	2
L. Annual Awards program	1	1
M. Participate in community-based/outreach symposiums	2	0

#### Police-Community Relations

- Commission staff attended 2 Anaheim Police Department Community Advisory Board meetings.

#### Intergroup Relations & Relationship Building

- **Relationship Building, Outreach, & Presentations**
  - Commission staff met with various community-based organizations to support and set up their upcoming events.
  - Commission staff partnered with UCI to host a Who We Are film screening and panel discussion with Jeffery Robinson.
  - On May 12, 2022, OCHR staff had their Annual Awards event as a Luncheon with various guest speakers including, UCI's Vice Chancellor Dr. Haynes and Vans' Vice President, David Tichiaz.



# Orange County Human Relations Commission

MISSION: Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and eliminate those causes

- **Hate-motivated incidents, Community Conflict, & Crisis Response/Meetings**

- Commission staff helped report a hate crime in Gisler Elementary School in Fountain Valley with anti-Black and antisemitic graffiti.
- Commission staff helped report a hate incident of school-related ROTC event at Irvine Park with anti-Black verbal abuse.
- Commission staff helped report a hate incident of PE teacher and students at Parks Junior High School, with students using anti-Black language/hate speech; Superintendent and principal were notified along with other actions.

## Hate-Motivated Incidents in Orange County

May 2022



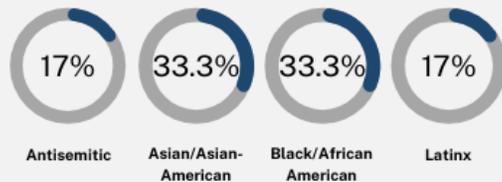
**6 Total Hate-Motivated Events Reported**

### HATE CRIMES VS. HATE INCIDENTS

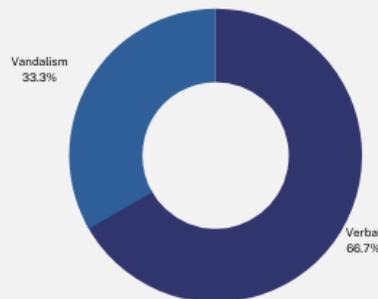


Out of the 1 hate-motivated events, **four hate crimes** and **two hate incident** were reported

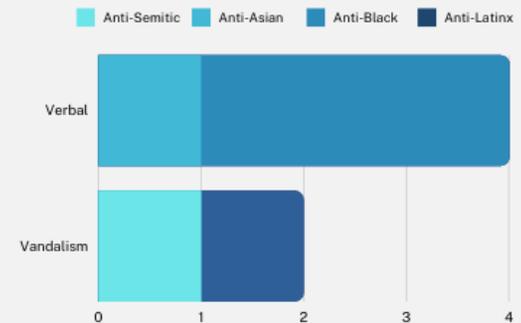
### SENTIMENT



### TYPE OF OFFENSE



### COUNT OF TYPE BY OFFENSE AND MOTIVATION



Source: OC Human Relations Commission

# Diversity and Inclusion Calendar 2022

## January

This diversity calendar starts with month-long celebrations in January:

- **Poverty in America Awareness Month**
- **Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

**January 1:** New Year's Day, the first day of the year as celebrated by many countries.

**January 6:** The Feast of the Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day or Día de los Reyes, a Christian holiday that recognizes the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus after his birth.

**January 7:** Christmas Day, as celebrated by Eastern Orthodox Christians, as they follow the Julian calendar instead of the Gregorian calendar.

**January 10:** Bodhi Day, the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that Siddhartha Gautama experienced enlightenment.

**January 14:** Orthodox New Year, according to the Julian calendar.

**January 16:** World Religion Day, a Bahá'í holiday that celebrates the commonality between different religions and encourages interfaith understanding.

**January 16-17:** Tu B'shevat, or the Jewish New Year for Trees, known as the Jewish Arbor Day, which marks the start of spring in Israel.

**January 17:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a holiday that marks the birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

**January 18:** Mahayana New Year, the day that Mahayana Buddhists celebrate the new year.

## February

February is **Black History Month**, celebrating the history and achievements of Black Americans.

**February 1:** National Freedom Day, honoring the signing by Abraham Lincoln of a resolution that later became the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that abolished slavery.

**February 1:** Lunar New Year, a week-long festival that begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar, celebrated in China as well as in Japan, Vietnam, Korea, and Mongolia.

**February 2:** Candlemas, a Christian holy day that commemorates when Jesus was presented to the temple for the first time.

**February 5:** Vasant Panchami, a Hindu festival celebrating spring and Saraswati Devi, the goddess of art and culture.

**February 11:** Asian-American Women's Equal Pay Day, marking the fact that Asian-American women earn 90 cents for every dollar earned by white men.

**February 14:** Valentine's Day, celebrated by western Christians as a saint's day and as a secular holiday highlighting love.

**February 15:** Nirvana Day, a Buddhist commemoration of Buddha's death.

**February 15:** Presidents' Day, a U.S. holiday celebrating President George Washington's birthday and all the presidents after him.

**February 16:** Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday and the end of the Carnival season, celebrated by Christians as the last day before Lent and often full of feasting and celebration.

**February 16:** Mukha Bucha Day, also known as Māgha Pūjā, a Buddhist holiday celebrating the Buddhist community spent giving alms, visiting the temple, and meditating.

**February 16:** Maghi-Purnima, a Hindu festival celebrated on the last day of Magha, a month focused on charity work, when devotees often take holy baths and do charity.

## March

March is **National Women's History Month**, celebrating the contributions and achievements women have made to American history. It's also:

- **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**
- **Greek-American Heritage Month**
- **Irish-American Heritage Month**

**March 1:** Maha Shivarati, a Hindu festival celebrated to honor Lord Shiva and the arrival of spring.

**March 1:** Lailat al Miraj, a Muslim holiday commemorating Muhammad's journey from Mecca to the Farthest Mosque in Jerusalem and beginning the night before at sundown.

**March 2:** Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent in the Christian calendar.

**March 8:** International Women's Day, celebrating women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements and highlighting women's rights.

**March 9:** Asian American and Pacific Islander Women's Equal Pay

**March 16-17:** Purim, a Jewish holiday marking when the Jewish community in Persia was saved from genocide, celebrated by giving charity and feasting.

**March 17:** St. Patrick's Day, a holiday celebrating the patron saint of Ireland.

**March 18:** Holi, a Hindu and sikh spring festival celebrating spring and new beginnings with bonfires, bright colors, and feasting.

**March 20:** Ostara, a holiday celebrating the spring equinox observed by Pagans and Wiccans.

**March 20:** Norooz, the Persian New Year.

**March 20-21:** Naw-Ruz, the Baha'I New Year.

**March 21:** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, declared by the United Nations in 1966 to honor the killing of 69 people at a demonstration against South African apartheid.

**March 24:** All Women's Equal Pay Day

**March 25:** International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, declared by the United Nation in 2008 to honor and remember slaves who died.

**March 31:** International Transgender Day of Visibility

## April

April is:

- **Arab-American Heritage Month**
- **Autism Awareness Month**
- **Earth Month**
- **Tartan (Scottish-American) Heritage Month**

**April 2:** World Autism Awareness Day, meant to raise awareness of the developmental disorder.

Source: <https://www.diversityemployer.com/diversity-and-inclusion-calendar-2022/>

**April 2-May 2:** Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim year and a holy month celebrating when Mohammad received the revelations of the Quran, spent fasting, reflecting, and praying.

**April 8:** Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Memorial Day, celebrated in Israel and around the world as a day of remembrance for the 6 million Jews that died in the Holocaust.

**April 10:** Ram Navami, a Hindu holiday celebrating the birthday of Lord Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishu.

**April 10:** Palm Sunday, a Christian holiday marking Jesus's entry into Jerusalem and the start of the Holy Week.

**April 14:** Holy Thursday, a Christian holiday commemorating the Last Supper between Jesus and the Apostles before his crucifixion.

**April 14:** Lord's Evening Meal, celebrated by Jehovah's Witnesses in memory the Last Supper celebrated on the first night of Passover in 33 CE.

**April 14:** Vaisakhi, the Sikh New Year and a celebration of the founding of the Sikh community in 1699

**April 13-15:** Songkran Festival, the Thai New Year, also celebrated as the Buddhist New Year.

**April 15:** Good Friday, a Christian holiday marking Jesus's crucifixion.

**April 17:** Easter, celebrated by Christians as the day Jesus rose from the dead after dying on the cross.

**April 13:** Equal Pay Day, at the time of writing; this day marking the pay gap between men and women moves depending on the actual pay gap.

**April 14:** Mahavir Jayanti, an important holiday celebrated by Jains commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavira.

**April 15-April 23:** Passover or Pesach, an eight-day Jewish festival celebrating when Israelites were freed from slavery in ancient Egypt.

**April 21-May 2:** Rivdan, a Baha'i festival celebrating when Baha'u'llah resided in paradise and proclaimed his mission as God's messenger.

**April 22:** Earth Day, promoting sustainability and environmental protection.

**April 23:** National Day of Silence, a protest against bullying and harassment of LGBTQIA+ individuals by students who take a vow of silence.

**April 24:** Armenian Martyrs' Day, honoring the 1.5 million Armenians killed by genocide in Turkey.

**April 24:** Pascha, Orthodox Easter.

**April 29:** Laylat al-Qadr, the holiest night of the year for Muslims, celebrated on the 27th day of Ramadan and commemorating the night that the Quran was revealed to Mohammad.

## May

May has several month-long celebrations, including:

- **Mental Health Month**
- **Haitian Heritage Month**
- **Indian Heritage Month**
- **Jewish-American Heritage Month**
- **National Asian American and South Pacific Islander Heritage Month**
- **Older Americans Month**
- **South Asian American Heritage Month**

**May 1:** Beltane, a Celtic festival celebrating the beginning of summer, also known as May Day.

**May 2-3:** Eid al-Fitr, the celebration of the end of Ramadan and the beginning of the Islamic month of Shawwal.

**May 5:** Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican holiday commemorating Mexico's 1862 victory over France in the Battle of Puebla, celebrated in the Mexican state of Puebla and by Mexican-Americans.

**May 5:** Mother's Equal Pay Day

**May 6:** Vesak Day or Visakha Puja, a Buddhist festival marking Gautama Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death.

**May 9:** Mother's Day.

**May 17:** International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

**May 21:** World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, a day set by the United Nations to celebrate harmony.

**May 24:** Declaration of the Bab, a Baha'i holiday.

**May 25:** Africa Day, commemorating the foundation of the Organization of African Unity in 1963.

**May 26:** The Feast of the Ascension, a Christian holiday celebrating Jesus's ascension into heaven.

**May 29-30:** Ascension of Baha'u'llah, a Baha'i holy day.

**May 30:** Memorial Day, a U.S. holiday honoring military veterans who died in war.

## June

In June, several month-long holidays are celebrated, including **LGBTQIA+ Pride Month**, along with:

- **AIDS Awareness Month**
- **Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month**
- **National Caribbean American Heritage Month**

**June 4-6:** Shavuot, a Jewish holiday that commemorates the spring harvest and the giving of the Torah.

**June 5:** Pentecost, a Christian holiday commemorating when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles.

**June 12:** Loving Day, celebrating the anniversary of the 1967 Supreme Court decision Loving v. Virginia that made interracial marriage legal.

**June 12:** Anne Frank Day, celebrating the birthday of the young Jewish hero.

**June 13:** Race Unity Day, a Baha'i holiday founded in 1957.

**June 15:** Native American Citizenship Day, which commemorates when the U.S. Congress passed legislation recognizing the citizenship of Native Americans in 1924.

**June 19:** Juneteenth, a holiday that originally commemorated when the abolition of slavery was announced in Texas in 1865 and is now a broader celebration of Black freedom and achievement.

**June 19:** All Saints' Day, an Orthodox celebration of all known and unknown Christian saints.

**June 20:** Father's Day.

**June 20:** World Refugee Day, marked by the UN to encourage public awareness and refugee support.

**June 24:** Litha, the summer solstice celebrated by Pagans.

**June 26:** Anniversary of the legalization of same-sex marriage in the U.S., which happened via the Supreme Court case Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015.

## July

The month of July is **French-American Heritage Month**.

**July 4:** Independence Day

**July 4:** Republic Day, also known as Filipino-American Friendship Day, marking the Philippines' independence from the United States.

**July 9:** Martyrdom of the Bab, a Baha'i holiday observing the anniversary of the death of the Bab, the prophet of the Baha'i faith.

**July 9-13:** Eid al-Adha, a Muslim holiday commemorating the prophet Ibrahim's readiness to sacrifice his son, Ismail.

**July 13:** Dharma Day, also known as Asalha Puja, a Buddhist holiday commemorating the Buddha's first discourse after his spiritual awakening.

**July 14:** Bastille Day, also known as French National Day, celebrating the storming of the Bastille in 1789, a turning point in the French Revolution.

**July 18:** International Nelson Mandela Day, marked on Mandela's birthday to honor his legacy.

**July 24:** Pioneer Day, a Mormon holiday recognizing the arrival of Brigham Young and the first group of Mormon pioneers in the Valley of the Great Salt Lake.

**July 26:** ADA Day, celebrating when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law in 1990.

**July 29-30:** Al-Hijra, the first day of the month of Muharram, which marks the beginning of the Islamic year.

**July 30:** International Day of Friendship, a day designated by the UN to promote relationships and friendship across cultures.

## August

**August 9:** International Day of the World's Indigenous People, celebrating the rich heritage of indigenous cultures and recognizing the challenges they face.

**August 3:** Black Women's Equal Pay Day

**August 5-6:** Tisha B'Av, a Jewish date of observance mourning the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem.

**August 8:** Ashura, a day of fasting observed by Muslims to mark Moses' exodus from Egypt.

**August 11:** Raksha Bandhan, also known as Rakhi, an Indian festival celebrating the relationship between brothers and sisters.

**August 19:** World Humanitarian Day, marked by the UN to commemorate humanitarian workers killed or injured through their work.

**August 19:** Krishna Janmashtami, also known as Jayanti, a Hindu holiday celebrating Krishna's birthday.

**August 26:** Women's Equality Day, which celebrates the passing of the 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote.

**August 31:** Ganesh Chaturthi, a Hindu holiday celebrating the birthday of Ganesha.

## September

September 15th to October 15th is **Hispanic Heritage Month**, celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of the U.S. Latinx and Hispanic communities. It begins on September 15th because that day is the independence day of several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

**September 6:** Labor Day, celebrating workers and the labor union movement.

**September 8:** Native American Women's Equal Pay Day

**September 16:** Mexican Independence Day

**September 21:** International Day of Peace, a day of nonviolence started by the United Nations.

**September 23:** Bi Visibility Day, marking the bi+ community.

**September 25-27:** Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year and the beginning of a ten-day period of spiritual renewal.

**September 26:** European Day of Languages, created by the Council of Europe and organized by the CoE and the European Union, which commemorates the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe.

**September 26- October 5:** Navratri, a nine-day festival celebrating good triumphing over evil and ends in Dussehra on the 15th.

## October

October is a packed month for cultural and communal celebrations, including:

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
- **Disability Employment Awareness Month**
- **Down Syndrome Awareness Month**
- **Filipino-American Heritage Month**
- **German-American Heritage Month**
- **Italian-American Heritage Month**
- **LGBTQIA+ History Month**
- **National Work and Family Month**
- **Polish-American Heritage Month**
- **Family History Month**

**October 2:** International Day of Nonviolence, marked on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday to work towards a culture of peace, tolerance, and understanding.

**October 4-5:** Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement that ends the ten days of penance that began with Rosh Hashanah.

**October 9-16:** Sukkot, a Jewish weeklong commemoration of the 40-year wanderings of the Israelites.

**October 10:** World Mental Health Day

**October 11:** National Coming Out Day, which is celebrated on the anniversary of a 500,000-person march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.

**October 11:** Indigenous Peoples' Day, celebrating and honoring Native American history and culture, previously celebrated as Columbus Day and changed by many states and cities to decenter genocide.

**October 15:** White Cane Safety Day, a day for awareness of the blind community.

**October 16-18:** Shemini Atzeret, a Jewish holiday known as the Eighth Day of Assembly and marked by joy and prayers.

**September 17-18:** Simchat Torah, a Jewish holiday that celebrates the Torah and marks a new cycle of reading it.

**October 18-19:** Eid Milad ul-Nabi, a Muslim holiday marking the birthday of the prophet Mohammed, celebrated by by Sunni Muslims on the 18th and Shi'a Muslims on the 23rd.

**October 20:** Sikh Holy Day, celebrating the birth of Guru Granth.

**October 21:** Latina's Equal Pay Day

**October 22:** International Stuttering Awareness Day, which works to raise public awareness of stuttering.

**October 24:** Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

**October 25-26:** Birth of the Bab, a Baha'i holiday marking the birth of the faith's prophet-herald.

**October 27:** Birth of Baha'u'llah, a Baha'i observance of another prophet-herald.

**October 31:** Halloween

**October 31-November 2:** Día de los Muertos, the Mexican celebration marking the Day of the Dead and celebrating those who have passed.

## November

November includes:

- **National Native American, American Indian, and Alaskan Native Heritage Month**
- **Movember, meant to increase awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer**

**November 1:** All Saints' Day, a western Christian holiday commemorating known and unknown Christian saints.

**November 2:** All Souls' Day, a Christian holiday to commemorate the dead (marked as Día de los Muertos in Mexico).

November 8: Guru Nanek Dev Ji's birthday, an important Sikh holiday celebrating the founder of Sikhism.

**November 11:** Veterans Day, honoring military veterans.

**November 20:** Transgender Day of Remembrance, memorializing those killed due to anti-transgender prejudice.

**November 24:** Thanksgiving, commemorating the Pilgrims' harvest feast, and sometimes marked as a day of mourning to recognize the decimation of the Native Americans by the colonists.

**November 25:** Native American Heritage Day, observed on the day after Thanksgiving to honor Native American culture and history.

**November 25-26:** Day of the Covenant, a Baha'i holiday celebrating the appointment of Abdúl-Baha as the faith's successor.

**November 28-29:** Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha, a Baha'i holiday.

## December

December is **Universal Human Rights Month**.

**December 1:** World AIDS Day, encouraging activism and education on HIV and AIDS.

**December 3:** International Day for People with Disabilities, planned to raise awareness of the issues people with disabilities face.

**December 6:** St. Nicholas' Day, the saint's day for the inspiration for modern-day Santa Claus celebrated in western Christian countries.

**December 10:** International Human Rights Day, started by the UN in 1948 upon the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**December 16-24:** Las Posadas, a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and other parts of Latin America that commemorates the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem before Jesus's birth.

**December 18-26:** Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights that celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over King Antiochus.

**December 21:** Yule Winter Solstice, a pagan celebration of the first day of winter.

**December 24:** Christmas Eve, celebrating Mary and Joseph's arrival in Bethlehem for Jesus's birth.

**December 25:** Christmas, a western Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus.

**December 26:** Kwanzaa, a seven-day celebration of African-American culture and life originally founded in 1966.

**December 31:** New Year's Eve, the last day of the year in the Gregorian calendar and celebrated as the passing of one year and the beginning of another.