



**April is Celebrate Diversity Month**, started in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity surrounding us all. By celebrating differences and similarities during this month, organizers hope that people will get a deeper understanding of each other.

**April is Autism Awareness Month**, established to raise awareness about the developmental disorder that affects children's normal development of social and communication skills.

**1 Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday)**, the Christian holiday commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion. It is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter.

**2 Good Friday**, a day celebrated by Christians to commemorate the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. It is recognized on the Friday before Easter.

**World Autism Awareness Day**, created to raise awareness of the developmental disorder around the globe.

**4 Easter**, a holiday celebrated by Christians to recognize Jesus' return from death after the Crucifixion.

**7-8 Yom HaShoah**, Israel's day of remembrance for the approximately 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

**12-May 11 (sundown to sundown) Ramadan**, an Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer and devotion to Islam.

**12 Hindi New Year.**

**13 Equal Pay Day**, an attempt to raise awareness about the raw wage gap, the figure that shows that women, on average, earn about 80 cents for

every dollar men earn. The date moves earlier each year as the wage gap closes. Equal Pay Day began in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity as a public awareness event to illustrate the gender pay gap.

**14 Vaisakhi** (also known as Baisakhi), the celebration of the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated) and the birth of the Khalsa.



RAMADAN

**16-17 (sundown to sundown) Yom Ha'Atzmaut**, national Independence Day in Israel.

**20-May 1 The Festival of Ridvan**, a holiday celebrated by those of the Bahá'í faith, commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder, resided in a garden called Ridvan (paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God's messenger for this age.

**21 Ram Navami**, a Hindu day of worship and celebration of the seventh avatar of Vishnu (Lord Rama). Devotees typically wear red and place extravagant flowers on the shrine of the God.

**22 Earth Day** promotes world peace and sustainability of the planet. Events are held globally to show support of environmental protection of the Earth.

**23 St. George's Day**, the feast day of St. George celebrated by various Christian churches.

**The Day of Silence**, during which students take a daylong vow of silence to protest the



EARTH DAY

actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

**24 Lazarus Saturday**, a day celebrated by the Eastern Orthodox Church and Oriental Orthodoxy to commemorate the raising of Lazarus of Bethany.

**Armenian Martyrs' Day** recognizes the genocide of approximately 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

**25 Mahavir Jayanti**, a holiday celebrated

by the Jains commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavira. It is one of the most important religious festivals for Jains.

**28 Ninth Day of Ridvan**, a festival of joy and unity in the Bahá'í faith to commemorate the reunification of Bahá'u'lláh's family, and by extension the unity of the entire human family the Bahá'í faith calls for. It permeates the symbolic meaning of the Ninth Day of Ridvan.

**29-30 (sundown to sundown) Lag BaOmer**, a Jewish holiday marking the day of hillula of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai.