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Ramadan
Mubarak

Office of E&I April Newsletter



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The Diversity and Equity Center Welcome

The Diversity and Equity Center is a space where everyone is welcome! The goal is to reach the entire campus community – students, faculty, and staff. Please join us in our effort to explore equity and inclusion initiatives and learn from each other. We also invite you to stop in and share your traditions and holidays with us. The more we learn about each other, the more our global community can thrive and we invite you to be a part of this important journey.

Cascadia Scholars Updates

The Cascadia Scholars Program provides mentoring, resources, and support for BIPOC, marginalized and underrepresented students. Scholarships are also available for those who qualify. The Program works with these historically underrepresented groups to help connect educational goals to academic and career journeys.

Our final deadline for Fall admission is on October 15th Students can apply online on our webpage [here](#).



Ramadan

Written in collaboration with Alia Mahdi, Ramadan is a holy time for those who practice Islam .During this month-long celebration those observing Ramadan fast every day from sunrise to sunset. The fasting represents self restraint and is used as a time of self reflection. Each day's fast is broken with a meal called 'iftar'. This special celebration is said to be in honor of the revelation of Quran from God to prophet Muhammed. During Ramadan, Muslims pray a special prayer called "Taraweeh", usually it is prayed in the mosques in groups. Ramadan is celebrated on the 9th month of the Islamic 12 month Lunar Calendar.

Eid

Eid Al-Fitr, also known as the festival o fast breaking is the celebration of the end of Ramadan that lasts for 3 days. It is filled with food, laughter, friends and family and special prayers.



**Resources and information
on Ramadan:**

[Digital Ramadan Resources](#)

[How Teachers Can Support Students
During Ramadan](#)

[Ramadan's history in America](#)

[History of Ramadan from History.com](#)

[Testing and Fasting from Inside
Higher Ed](#)

Yom Hashoa

From Joy Keren and the Jewish Affinity Group: This year Yom Hashoa is observed April 17th, 2023. Yom Hashoa, is the Remembrance Day for the Holocaust. On this day Jews all around the world reflect on the tragedies of the Holocaust. This day was officially recognized in April 12 1951 by the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament), this date was chosen to commemorate the Warsaw ghetto uprising. The Knesset was adamant that the younger generations must understand the genocide their own families endured and teach them more about their surviving relatives.

This day is mainly celebrated within Israel and in smaller Jewish communities in the Diaspora. Schools will be wrapping up their Holocaust units, usually commemorating in ceremonies honoring those lost and taking time to listen to survivors that are still alive. Families will light special candles that last 24 hours and will recite the mourner's Kadish. It is an opportunity for remaining Holocaust survivors to share their stories with the younger people in their family. This day is different from the International Holocaust remembrance day where the international community remembers the 11 million lives that were taken.

If you want to be supportive of your Jewish friends on the day, here are some tips:

- Be understanding that folks might be more emotional or more introspective.
- Learn about the Holocaust, according to NBC news "Sixty-three percent of those surveyed did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, and over half of those thought the death toll was fewer than 2 million". (NBC News, 2020)

Qingming Festival

From Frank Jiang, E&I Intern: Qingming festival is a traditional Chinese Memorial Day. It is also known as tomb-sweeping day. On this day, families visit their ancestors' tomb together to clear the gravesite and make ritual offerings to their loved ones. People will burn joss sticks (incense paper), bow, and speak tell stories about the loved ones that has passed on. They will also burn joss paper as a way to wish that their ancestors can have a good afterlife. People will also eat a green dumpling called Qingtuan. It is made with glutinous rice and barley grass, and sweet red bean or black bean paste inside.

Ridván

Ridván is a twelve-day festival in the Bahá'í culture. It is honoring Bahá'u'lláh's declaration that he is the manifestation of God. Ridván means paradise and in ancient times it was a garden where Bahá'u'lláh spent 12 days during his exile in Baghdad. This is the holiest Bahá'í festival and is also described as the "King of Festivals". On the first day of Ridván, the celebration begins two hours before the sunset, symbolizing the time Bahá'u'lláh entering the garden. People will gathering together in prayer and celebration. (Boston Public Library, 2019)

Earth Day

In 1970, on April 22nd the first Earth Day was declared in the United States. The idea was coined by Gaylord Nelson, a senator from Wisconsin who always had a concern for the environment. His goal along with the committee he formed was for fight against pollution from oil spills and factories, as well as toxic dumps and the deforestation and extinction of local wildlife. Earth Day has slowly expanded across the globe as climate change has begun to impact many societies across the world. Cascadia and UWB is hosting Earth Month and you can learn more and participate by going to their [website](http://earthday.org/history). (earthday.org/history, n.d.)