**HUMBER INTERFAITH CALENDAR**

**MULTIFAITH HOLY DAYS & FESTIVALS**

 **MAY 2017 : CALENDAR/ DESCRIPTIONS [1]**

**In the spirit of diversity and inclusion, we provide the following**

**Multifaith Holy Days & Festivals realizing that it is not exhaustive.**

**Should you wish your faith’s days to be included, please contact the**

**Chaplain at x 4427 or** chaplain@humber.ca **for due consideration.**

**01 Monday**

**May = Waawaaskone Giizis / Yansa’altt *(Aboriginal)***

*Waawaaskone Giizis is also known as the Flower Moon (Ojibwe). Yansa’altt is the season of berries and woods fragrant with blossoms (Other).*

**Beltane (Wicca)**

*Beltane (Beltain or May Eve [April 30] and May Day) denotes the joining of the Earth Goddess and the Celtic God Bel in marriage as the basis of creation. In Celtic paganism, this union was celebrated by a mid-summer fertility festival. Currently, Maypole dances are held.*

**09 Tuesday**

**Akshaya Tritya *(Jainism)***

*Akshaya Tritiya, meaning Immortal Third, is to encourage the beginning of new activity and is based on the day that Lord Rishabha broke his initial year-long fast by drinking sugar-cane juice.*

**10 Wednesday**

**Full Moon** The moon is at its greatest visibility.

**Wesak (Buddhism)**

*Wesak is the most important day of the year for Buddhists, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima or Theravadin New Year. The full moon marks a triple celebration of Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha) in his Birth, Enlightenment and Final Demise. Buddha’s birth is celebrated on different dates in different countries.*

**17 Tuesday**

**Azamat *(Baha'i)***

*Azamat, meaning Grandeur, is the 4th month of the Baha’i year.*

**22 Monday**

**Victoria Day (Canada)**

*Celebrates the birthday of Queen Victoria (declared a Canadian holiday in 1845 prior to confederation).*

**MULTIFAITH HOLY DAYS & FESTIVALS**

 **MAY 2017 : CALENDAR/ DESCRIPTIONS [2]**

**23 Tuesday**

**Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)**

*Commemorates the day in 1844 on which he announced his identity as the Bab, the herald of the new age.*

**Aboriginal Awareness Week (Aboriginal/Canada)**

*Introduced in 1992 to increase awareness about Aboriginal peoples, it includes the 4 days following Victoria Day.*

**24 Wednesday**

**Yom Yerushalayim *(Jewish*)**

*Marks the reunification of Jerusalem.*

**25 Thursday**

**New Moon** The moon is at its least visibility.

**27 Saturday**

**Ramadan to June 24 (Islam)**

*The Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan begins, a month of fasting during which Muslims who are physically able, do not eat or drink from dawn until sunset. Note: Eastern calendars may go from May 26 to June 23*

**29 Monday**

**Ascension of Baha’u’llah (Baha’i)**

*Marks the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Baha’i faith and work is suspended on this day.*

**31 Wednesday**

**Shavuot (Festival/Feast of Weeks) to June 01 *(Judaism)***

*Shavuot, commemorating the giving of the Torah to the Israelites and the completion of God’s purpose to create a special people, is celebrated 2 days in the diaspora and 1 day in Israel and by Reformed Jews and starts at sundown. Weeks is the plural of the Hebrew word for 7 and ends 7 weeks or*

*50 days (hence Pentecost) after Pesah.*