

# If we could end hatred,

## Imagine what more we could do



### Multi-Cultural, National, and Religious Observances in October and November 2012

#### Month of October

##### LGBT HISTORY MONTH

Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the United States.

##### NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.

#### October 1-7

##### SUKKOT \* Jewish

The week-long "Feast of Booths" commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

#### October 8

##### SHEMINI ATZERET \* Jewish

"The Eighth (Day) of Assembly" is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.

## Dear Educator,

ADL is excited to host its 6th Annual Youth Leadership Conference: *Exploring Diversity, Challenging Hate* on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. The conference will bring together 40 high schools from across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Nearly 400 students and teachers will have the opportunity to interact with peers from a wide variety of backgrounds and belief systems. Our keynote speaker, Judy Shepard, will give a moving personal account of the devastating consequences of hate, as she speaks about the tragic murder of her son Matthew due to his sexual orientation. This year's conference promises to inspire and enlighten everyone who attends.

Although we are no longer accepting registration forms to participate in the high school breakout sessions, we would like to invite all No Place for Hate high schools and middle schools to hear Judy Shepard's keynote address. Interested middle school students and parents should be aware that the address may contain graphic descriptions of violence.

**\*\*The speech will take place at the University of Pennsylvania's Irvine Auditorium at 34th and Spruce Streets in Philadelphia promptly at 9:00 AM.\*\***

If you are interested in bringing students to see Judy Shepard, please contact Lisa Friedlander at [lfriedlander@adl.org](mailto:lfriedlander@adl.org), or register online at <http://judyshepardphilly.eventbrite.com>. There is no limit to the number of students you can bring to the speech.

We hope to see you there!

### October 8

#### COLUMBUS DAY

Marks Christopher Columbus's landing at San Salvador on October 12, 1492. Known as Día de la Raza, "Day of the Race", in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.

### October 9

#### SIMCHAT TORAH \* Jewish

"Rejoicing in the Torah" celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.

### October 11

#### COMING OUT DAY

Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, DC, for gay and lesbian equality.

### October 16

#### NAVARATRI \* Hindu

Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.

### October 17

#### INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

### October 20

#### BIRTH OF THE BÁB \* Bahá'í

Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, "the Báb," the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, in Shíráz, Persia.

### October 24

#### DASSERA \* Hindu

Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as Durga Puja, which celebrates the goddess Durga.

### October 24

#### UNITED NATIONS DAY

Commemorates the founding of the world organization in 1945.

### October 26

#### EID AL-ADHA \* Islamic

## Perfect Your Project

### *Multicultural Monsters: Creating a "Terror"-ific Halloween*

If you have felt the chill in the air, or a chill in your bones, you know that Halloween is fast approaching. Many schools celebrate Halloween with costume parades, candy, and other fun activities and lessons for their students to enjoy. However, many administrators and teachers do not realize that their Halloween celebrations may offend some students and families. Educators should understand the diverse views of Halloween so they can ensure that all students will enjoy this festive day.

Halloween may seem like a secular holiday about monsters and candy, but the history of the day is steeped in religion. The origins of the holiday go back to the Celtic pagan celebration, Samhain, during which people would memorialize the spirits of deceased relatives that visited during the end of summer. The holiday was later adopted by the Christian faith as All Hallow's Eve and All Saint's Day, a memorial to all the Christian saints. Traditions developed, such as wearing costumes and eating "soul cakes", as practices to ward off vengeful spirits. Although the holiday has changed, Halloween still holds religious meaning for some. Modern pagans and Wiccans still celebrate Halloween as a holy day for communing with the dead, and some Christians continue to commemorate All Saint's Day. Many students and parents of different faiths feel uncomfortable celebrating a holiday with pagan and Christian religious undertones.

Students and teachers educate themselves about the history of Halloween so they can choose appropriate activities for their celebrations. Schools should do everything necessary to ensure that religion plays no role in any Halloween events. Teachers and administrators should be open to community members expressing concerns over school celebrations, and should modify Halloween celebrations to ensure that no child feels marginalized or uncomfortable.

Costumes create another concern during the holiday. Many schools encourage students to dress up in outfits from literature, film, mythology, or world cultures. However, some students occasionally put on costumes that offend students of other cultural groups. A child who puts on a feathered headdress and ululates down the hallway portrays an extremely stereotypical and derisive image of a Native American. Costumes can also raise tensions around class in your school, as some students can afford elaborate, expensive costumes and others cannot. Educators may consider creating culturally- and financially-sensitive guidelines for school-appropriate costumes in order to promote a respectful celebration of the holiday.

Halloween can be a magical day where students and adults alike unleash their creativity and whimsy. If you keep in mind the various cultural views of the holiday as you plan your Halloween activities, you will ensure a day of celebration that everyone can enjoy.

The "Feast of Sacrifice" concludes the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), and is a three-day festival recalling Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.

**October 31**  
REFORMATION DAY \* Christian Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.

**October 31**  
HALLOWEEN  
The eve of All Saints' Day.

**For more information, visit ADL's [Calendar of Observances](#)**

## Upcoming Events

### **Celebrate No Place for Hate® Week!**

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate will officially designate **October 22-26, 2012 as No Place for Hate Week in Pennsylvania**. The week is a chance for schools to celebrate diversity and work towards building more respectful learning environments by showcasing the work they do to earn the distinction No Place for Hate.

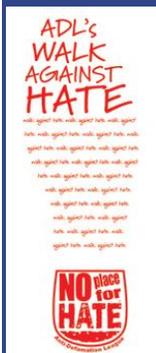
Help your students celebrate No Place for Hate Week in your school! Encourage them to:

- Be an ALLY! Speak out against jokes and slurs that target people or groups. It is not enough to refuse to laugh.
- Say no to name-calling, gossip, bullying, and cyberbullying. Report bullying to a teacher, parent or other adult.
- Create an anti-prejudice slogan for your school that can be printed as a sticker and sold in the wider community to raise funds for diversity efforts within your school.
- Organize a Mix-It-Up at Lunch Day.
- Take a field trip to visit important human and civil rights landmarks such as museums, public libraries and historical sites.
- Participate in a "One School, One Book" Initiative. Have students read books that raise awareness of different cultures and abilities, and books written by authors of diverse backgrounds.

We want to hear about the projects your school is doing to celebrate No Place for HateWeek! Be sure to send in Project Approval forms so we can share them with the media and showcase your work!

### **Save the Date to Walk out the Hate!**

Mark your calendars for one of the best events of the year! ADL's third annual **WALK Against Hate on Sunday, May 19, 2013** promises to be a fun and inspirational day. Mingle with guests at our Diversity Expo next to the the Philadelphia Museum of Art, enjoy fantastic performances, and show your support for ending hate with a 5K walk down Martin Luther King Drive. The WALK is a great way to get students, teachers, and parents to band together in a showing of diversity to make strides against bigotry and bias. Contact us about ways to make attendance at the WALK one of your No Place for Hate projects for the year. We hope to see you there!



Lisa Friedlander | No Place for Hate Project Director  
1500 Market Street | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
| 19102 | 215-568-2223

[Forward email](#)



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