

Summer Semester:

Jewish High Holidays Guide

As we begin the summer semester, the Office of Transformational and Inclusive Excellence (TIE) wanted to highlight a few key religious holidays and observances for our campus community. Below you will find a description of the holiday, best practices, and customary greetings to support our active investment in fostering an inclusive campus community.



Tisha B'Av

August 13*, 2024

(begins at sunset the day before)

About Tisha B'Av:

Tisha B'Av is a day of mourning to commemorate many tragedies that have befallen Jewish people, many occurring on the ninth of Av. Tisha B'Av marks the end of the three weeks between dire straits and is regarded as the saddest day in the Jewish calendar, and it is thus believed to be a day which is destined for tragedy.

Tisha B'Av Themes to be Mindful of:

Tisha B'Av is a solemn holiday, and Tisha B'Av has also become a day for mourning for other Jewish tragedies that occurred throughout history, many of which happened on this date. The observance of the day includes five prohibitions, the most notable of which is a 25-hour fast. The Book of Lamentations, which mourns the destruction of Jerusalem, is read in the synagogue, followed by the recitation of kinnot, liturgical dirges that lament the loss of the Temples and Jerusalem.

Supporting Our Campus Community

During Tisha B'Av:

Tisha B'av is a time of fasting and a time when work is prohibited for observers. Please be mindful of scheduling around Tisha B'Av, as this is an important date for the Jewish community. It is customary to avoid greeting people on Tisha B'av, due to the solemn nature of the day.



To learn more about Religious Observances and Inclusive Scheduling, scan the QR code to the right.



Summer Semester:

Islamic High Holidays Guide

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Eid al-Adha

June 16-17, 2024

About Eid al-Adha:

Eid al-Adha celebrates the Quranic tale of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice Ismail as an act of obedience to Allah. It is also known as the feast of sacrifice. It honors the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son, Ismail, as an act of obedience to Allah's command. However, before Ibrahim could sacrifice his son in the name of Allah, and because of his willingness to do so, Allah provided him with a lamb to sacrifice in his son's place.

Eid al-Adha Themes to be Mindful of:

Eid al-Adha is also known as the feast of sacrifice. Many Muslims will celebrate Eid al-Adha by participating in prayers, mosque services, and exchanging greetings and gifts. The tradition for Eid al-Adha involves slaughtering an animal and sharing the meat in three equal parts. The meat is meant to be a good deed and is meant to be shared with three groups: family, friends and relatives, and the poor.

Supporting Our Campus Community During Eid al-Adha:

When providing food at functions, please consider foods that are Halal. It is also recommended to avoid scheduling deadlines or activities on these days since this is a time of celebration and prayer for the Muslim community. The common way to wish someone well during Eid al-Fitr is to say "Eid Mubarak" (MOO-bah-ROK) or "Happy Eid."



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Summer Semester: Pagan/Wiccan/Druid High Holidays Guide

As we begin the spring semester, the Office of Transformational and Inclusive Excellence (TIE) wanted to highlight a few key religious holidays and observances for our campus community. Below you will find a description of the observance, best practices, and customary greetings to support our active investment in fostering an inclusive campus community.

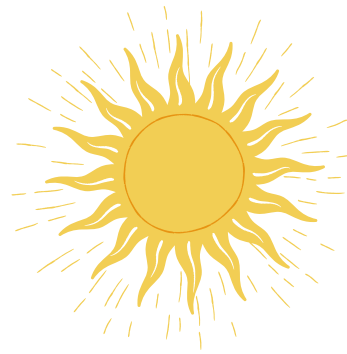


Litha

June 20, 2024

About Litha:

Litha (also known as Midsummer) occurs on the summer solstice, and celebrates the beginning of summer. The Summer Solstice celebrates the return of light, life and fertility as well as the potential for a good harvest. The day of the Summer Solstice is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.



Litha Themes to be Mindful of:

For modern day pagans, Litha is a day of inner power and brightness. Some people find a quiet spot and meditate about the light and dark forces in their world. Litha is also considered a good time to practice love magic or get married. The pagan version of this ceremony is called handfasting, and it includes many of the same practices one might find at a wedding. Practitioners may attend gatherings or celebrate individually.

Supporting Our Campus Community

During Litha:

Please keep in mind that many Pagan, Wiccan, and Druid practices are highly individualistic and vary from one observer to the next. While not all observers will take time off, devout observers may request time off in recognition of their individual practices. The common way to wish someone well during Litha is to say “Litha/Solstice Blessings” or “Happy Litha/Solstice”

Pagan Traditions:

Modern-day pagans celebrate Litha in a variety of ways. One way to celebrate is through meditation and reflection. Other observers, particularly those with children, celebrate this holiday outside. Lastly, some observers choose to observe Litha more traditionally, and they would hold a fire ritual. This might include a large bonfire or a small fire in a fire-safe pot in one’s house.

Wiccan Traditions:

Beltane festivals are celebrated with bonfires, maypoles, dancing, and fertility rituals. It is customary to wear green as it symbolizes the Earth. Many people also walk around bonfires and jump over flames to gain protection, health, and wealth. The rituals are hoped to cast away darkness.

Druid Traditions:

Observers will use this time to celebrate the beginning of summer with bonfires, festivals, and unions. This is a time to celebrate youth, healing, renewal, and rejuvenation, and Beltane serves as a time of ritual celebration of these aspects of life.



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Lughnasadh

June 20, 2024



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About Lughnasadh:

Lughnasadh, also referred to as Lammas, is the holiday that celebrates the grain harvest. It falls about halfway between the summer solstice and the coming fall equinox. The festival, named after the god Lugh, was originally said to have begun as a time to honor the earth goddess and agriculture, and to give offerings for a bountiful harvest throughout the coming autumn season



Lughnasadh Themes to be Mindful of:

For many modern Pagans, Lammas is celebrated typically with feasts and rituals of thanks to the earth and respective deities for the initial harvest and the coming harvests of the autumn season. Since Lughnasadh is the time of the “first fruits” there are often celebrations of and with seasonal fruits to commemorate this time and blessings. Lughnasadh/Lammas is seen as a time to give thanks to spirits and deities for the beginning of the harvest season.

Supporting Our Campus Community

During Lughnasadh:

Please keep in mind that many Pagan, Wiccan, and Druid practices are highly individualistic and vary from one observer to the next. While not all observers will take time off, devout observers may request time off in recognition of their individual practices. The common way to wish someone well during Lughnasadh is to say “Lughnasadh Blessings” or “Happy Lughnasadh!”

Pagan Traditions:

Modern-day pagans celebrate Lughnasadh in a variety of ways. One way to celebrate is to bake breads and cakes to celebrate the historical grain harvest. Some observers may celebrate with a harvest ritual, involving decorating an altar with symbols of the season, such as apples, grain, and other crops. Some of these rituals involve casting a circle, and saying some words that symbolize their thanks to the earth for the harvest. After the ritual, everyone there eats some bread together.

Wiccan Traditions:

Lammas rituals are related to harvest and gratitude, and recognizing the manifestations of our intentions that have unfolded so far during the course of the year. Bread-making is a common way to mark the holiday, as it represents bringing the seeds of intention into full fruition.

Druid Traditions:

Observers will use this time to celebrate the harvest and community. It is traditional to celebrate with a loaf of fresh bread baked with the grain of the first harvest of the season. Altars are often set up along with rituals for thanks and a good harvest taking place.