# **April 2023** Calendar of Observances

# April is National Minority Health Awareness Month

This month observes the importance of improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities and reducing health disparities.

# Palm Sunday

Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

#### Pesach Begins

The eight-day "Feast of the Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel deliverance trom Egyptian bondage.

# Theravada New Year

In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.

# <u>Good Friday</u>

Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.

# <u>Easter</u>

Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

### <u>Baisakhi (Vaisakhi)</u>

Festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated.) Sikhs gather and celebrate at their local Gurdwaras (house of worship).

#### Pesach Ends

# <u>Day of Silence</u>

Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students (LGBT) students and their heterosexual allies due to bias and harassment.

# Yom HaShoah

Also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, this is a memorial day for those who died in the Shoah.

## Lailatul Qadar

Most likely to be on the 27th night of Ramadan. The Holy Quran was first sent down from heaven on this night.

# First Day of Ridvan

Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, resided in a garden called Ridvan (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age.

# Eid al Fitr

The first day of the month of Shawwal (Islamic Calendar) and marks the end of Ramadan and the beginning of a feast that breaks the fast.

# Yom HaAtzmaut

Israeli Independence Day

# Ninth Day of Ridvan

On April 29, 1863, the flooding of Tigris receded enough so that Baha'u'llah's family could cross the river and join him on the island.

# **Maryland University** of Integrative Health