



**INTERFAITH**  
CENTER OF NEW YORK

## *October 2017 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter*

### Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

NYC's immigrant diversity is still under threat by President Trump, and it is heartbreaking to see our neighbors at risk. In response to stepped-up ICE efforts to seize and deport undocumented immigrants in NYC, the Interfaith Center of New York, NYS Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform and the Micah Faith Table have joined with the New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC to intensify efforts by NYC diverse religious leaders to expand protections of ICE-endangered immigrants and their families.

To that end, we invite you to attend a kick-off organizing meeting on **Thursday, October 19th** for clergy and lay leaders with Ravi Ragbir and others from New Sanctuary to discuss next steps for intensifying religious leader involvement in supporting undocumented New Yorkers. Please RSVP to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sanctuary-meeting-for-religious-leaders-tickets-38420685304>

On **Wednesday October 18**, when the latest version of the Muslim Ban goes into effect, please join the Interfaith Center of New York, the New York Immigration Coalition, and hundreds of other faith-based and civil rights groups around the country for the [#NoMuslimBanEver](#) mobilization to Washington DC. To find out how to co-sponsor this national action and/or confirm a bus seat from NYC / White Plains [click here](#). Speakers will include individuals impacted by the Muslim/ Refugee Ban, DACA, and TPS. Please help us send a clear message that immigrants, refugees, and Muslims are welcome here.

Finally, St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Harlem and Circles of Support will be hosting a Fit the Description event on **October 24th at 7pm**. This series includes the perspectives of Black male officers and Black male civilians sharing personal stories about their experiences with and within law enforcement. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fit-the-description-new-york-ny-tickets-36663295905>

Best Wishes,

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer  
Executive Director  
The Interfaith Center of New York

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# ICNY Events

*Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy  
Training for Diverse New York Religious Leaders  
Applications due Monday, October 2nd*



Are you an emerging religious leader or faith-based activist working to empower your community? Is your community impacted by immigration status, affordable housing, hate crimes, discrimination, or other social justice issues? Could you work more effectively with a better understanding of city government, court systems, and civic institutions?

The Interfaith Center of New York is pleased to announce the Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy. Beginning in November, ICNY will sponsor 20 fellows to participate in bi-monthly evening workshops on civic engagement, legal literacy, and community organizing. Workshops will be held at Trinity Church Wall Street, centrally located in lower Manhattan. All fellows will receive \$1,000 personal stipends, and \$500 grants for community projects. Workshops will be led by ICNY staff and our expert training partners, including: the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Center for Faith and Community Partnerships, Center for Court Innovation, Legal Hand, Faith in New York, CUNY-CLEAR, and the New York City Police Department.

**The October 2 application deadline is quickly approaching for *The Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy (ICLA)* : [APPLY TODAY!](#) For questions please e-mail, [iman@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:iman@interfaithcenter.org) or call at 212-870-3515.**

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## ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

***#NoMuslimBanEver Mobilization to Washington D.C.***



**Date:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017

On October 18th, the latest iteration of the *Travel Ban* goes into effect. This is an important moment for us to organize a strong, loud, mass mobilization that sends a clear message that IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, & MUSLIMS ARE WELCOME HERE. We will not be silent while our communities are being targeted, and hope you can mobilize with us! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1142753212491355/>

The New York Immigration Coalition is a National Sponsor; NYIC has directly impacted members of our community speaking on the program, and has committed (10) buses mobilizing from across NYS. Buses are leaving on 10/17 from Buffalo and Syracuse. Buses from NYC / White Plains are leaving at 6:30 am on 10/18. Tickets are \$15 each which include lunch and transportation there / back. The program is inclusive of our entire fight for Immigrant Justice and will include speakers that are impacted by Muslim/ Refugee Ban, DACA, and TPS. For more information please contact: [Cpinto@nyic.org](mailto:Cpinto@nyic.org).

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***We Are One: Micah Faith Table Lunch***

***Guest Speaker: The Rev. Jacqui Lewis***



**Date:** Thursday, October 19, 2017

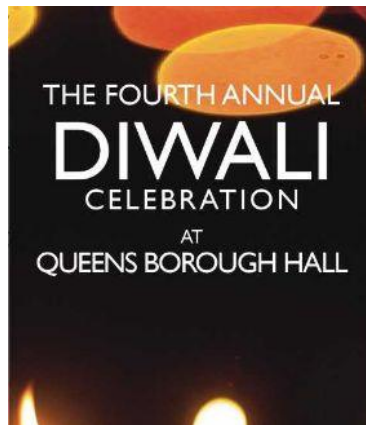
**Time:** 12 noon – 2 pm

**Location:** Riverside Church, [490 Riverside Drive, NYC 10027](#), Room 10T

The Micah Faith Table NYC is a coalition of multi-faith leaders for social justice in NYC. The Rev. Jacqui Lewis will be the principal speaker. She is Senior Minister at Middle Collegiate Church, a 1,000-member multiracial, welcoming, and inclusive congregation in New York City. She is an activist, preacher, and fierce advocate for racial justice, economic equity, and LGBTQ equality. She co-founded a national conference, “Revolutionary Love,” to teach religious leaders and activists how to advocate for racial justice in their communities and build multicultural constituencies. She is an Auburn Senior Fellow, a frequent commentator on MSNBC, and she is writing a spiritual memoir. For more information, please contact [Rev. Joel Gibson](#), 212-870-3518.

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### *Diwali Celebration at Queens Borough Hall*



## DIWALI

(CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2017  
AT 6:00 PM

Program accompanied by  
Cultural performances and refreshments.  
Seating is limited.

PLEASE RSVP:  
718-286-2661 OR  
[www.queensbp.org/rsvp](http://www.queensbp.org/rsvp)

Please bring this invitation  
to enter the parking lot.

**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location:** Helen Marshall Cultural Center here at Queens Borough Hall ([120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens](#)).

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz will host the Fourth Annual Diwali Celebration at Queens Borough Hall marking the observance of Diwali that is celebrated throughout the world by Hindus. The program will include reflections on Diwali, cultural performances, and presentation of Citations of Honor to several outstanding individuals.

Parking may be available in the lot behind our building. For more information, contact Mohamed Hack, at [mhack@queensbp.org](mailto:mhack@queensbp.org) or at 718-286-2625.

Website: [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org)

[RSVP here](#)

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### *Fit The Description*



**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017

**Time:** Doors open at 6:30 pm; 7:00 pm Start

**Location:** St. Philip's Church, [204 West 134th Street](#), (between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. & Frederick Douglass Blvd.)

Please join us for a screening of a pilot video series delving into the perspectives of Black male officers and Black male civilians as they share personal stories of how they define themselves and others through their experiences with, and within, law enforcement.

We believe in the power of conversation, storytelling and the exploration of identity as a pathway to creating change. Fit the Description is a series which aims to explore the nuances and complexity of human identity through a video interview format, as well as live interactive storytelling events and activities. We're inviting you because your voice is important! We seek your passion, expertise, and unique cultural perspective in helping us create a program that will have far reaching practical application to impact our notions of cultural, social, and racial identity.

Reception to follow.

RSVP. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fit-the-description-new-york-ny-tickets-36663295905>

For more information please contact: [knowjusticeharlem@gmail.com](mailto:knowjusticeharlem@gmail.com) or 347-574-9605  
[www.CirclesOfSupport.org](http://www.CirclesOfSupport.org) [www.FitTheDescription.com](http://www.FitTheDescription.com)

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## *Walk to Feed the Hungry 2017*



**Date:** Saturday, October 28, 2017

**Time:** 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

**Location:** [Riverside Park \(79th Street Entrance & Riverside Drive\)](#)

Organized by the Buddhist Global Relief (BGR), *Walk to Feed the Hungry 2017* is a 3-mile charity walk for hunger relief and education to women and children in developing countries, followed by a luncheon.

BGR was founded by Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi in 2008 for hunger relief, as well as education to women and children in the States, India, Haiti, and other countries. He founded BGR because of his personal experience of starvation during his early monastic life in Sri Lanka, and as a remedy to the dearth of Buddhist charitable organizations revealed following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Through BGR, there are tens thousands of women and children freed from child marriage and social injustice.

Please walk with us to reshape the world in a better place!

Each step of you can change the lives of a thousand people!

Register online or at site: <https://buddhistglobalrelief.giv.sh/b209/w>

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## Other Events & Resources

*If you have an upcoming event that you think ICNY's audience might like to know about, please notify us by [filling out this event form](#). We have final discretion about what events*

*are included in the Newsletter. Please note that a listing does not imply ICNY endorsement.*

## **NYC HOWalert**

**HOWalert = NYC House of Worship Alert system**



HOWalert is a free emergency notification system for NYC clergy/religious leaders and communications "decision makers" from NYC congregations, religious bodies/networks and nonprofits. All personal information is kept CONFIDENTIAL. During a future emergency, this free "risk communication" system will send registrants emails, texts, or voice messages with urgent information about threats posed to New York City.

HOWalert is only used during emergencies - and, for two optional annual tests/exercises. It will notify subscribers about life threatening incidents or other hazards that may effect faith sector facilities and programs - or, that should be urgently shared with their congregants, clients or staff. Messages are sent via Text or Email. By sending a live link to a Google Form, the system may also be used to collect damage assessments or to allow religious leaders to request help during an unfolding public health emergency or disaster.

HOWalert is administered by New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) and is coordinated by the NYC Faith Sector Community Preparedness Program Advisory Board, in partnership with the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Office of Emergency Preparedness & Response.

[Click here to subscribe to HOWalerts](#)

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***Women in Faith Fellowship***



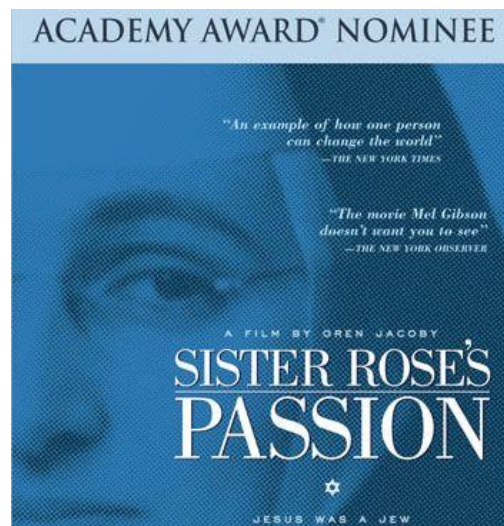
**Date:** Applications are due Tuesday, October 3, 2017, by 4:00 pm

Calling all young professional women of faith in New York City!  
The Women of Faith Fellowship is now recruiting for its 2017-2018 Cohort!  
For more information or to download the application, visit  
<http://www.thecenteratjrcny.org/wif/>

This effort by The Center for Community Leadership, now in its second year, brings together young professional women (ages 20 to 35) of different religions, faiths, and spiritual values. Through this program, participants will come to understand each other and the role of their faiths in their lives and will build relationships around issues of common concern.

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*Imagine a world without religious prejudice...  
Sister Rose Thering did!*



**Date:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017

**Time:** 5:00 - 6:30 pm

**Location:** Seton Hall University, Jubilee Hall Auditorium, [400 South Orange Ave, South Orange, NJ 07079](#) (NJ Transit Trains to South Orange Station, or NJT 107/107X buses from



NYC Port Authority)

This spirited woman was Sister Rose Thering, O.P., Ph.D., founder of Seton Hall's Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies and the subject of the Oscar-nominated documentary *Sister Rose's Passion*. The film, which will be screened on October 3 from 5 to 6:30 pm, in Jubilee Hall Auditorium, chronicles Sister Rose's lifelong dedication to reconciling Jews and Christians through education on the evils of anti-Semitism. Since its release, its poignancy has impacted viewers far and wide and continues to effect positive change in the way the Jewish community is received.

Come find out how her passion changed the world!  
SHU Campus Screening of the Academy Award Nominated Film  
Light refreshments at 4:30 in Jubilee Hall 132

For more information: Clare Giangreco, 973-761-9006, [clare.giangreco@shu.edu](mailto:clare.giangreco@shu.edu)  
<http://www.shu.edu/sister-rose/news/a-communitys-passion-results-in-sister-roses-passion.cfm>

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## REVIVAL



**Date:** Thursday, October 5, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Location:** Studio 145 at Intersections, [145 W. 28th Street, New York, NY 10001](https://www.google.com/maps/place/145+W+28th+Street,+New+York,+NY+10001)

REVIVAL is a spiritual folk-rock performance that speaks to the urgent moral issues of our day. It features original story-driven music by Kristen Plylar-Moore, and is performed by a small ensemble of singers and instrumentalists. Inspired and uplifting, the songs draw largely from Hebrew biblical texts and are rooted in themes of justice, healing, and the celebration of the divine in each person. With minimalist staging, REVIVAL expands to become a large tent for re-imagining human kindness.

**FEATURING:** Lea Kalisch, Julia Ostrov, Sana Nagano, and Ugene Romashov  
**MUSIC and LYRICS** by Kristen Plylar-Moore

Purchase \$10 tickets at [www.RevivalTheShow.com](http://www.RevivalTheShow.com)

<https://www.revivaltheshow.com/in-the-news/>

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## ***Towards a More Perfect Union: Making Your Voice Heard***



**Date(s):** Seven Thursdays, October 5 thru' November 16 (inclusive)

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:30 pm

**Location:** Forest Hills branch library, [108-19 71 Ave, Queens, NY 11375](https://www.queenslibrary.org/sites/default/files/lamps_pdf/002005-07-17_2005.pdf)

Come and Join a free series of 7 workshops where you can learn everything from the basics of the Constitution to how you can make an impact. All sponsoring organizations are non-profit and non-partisan, including IWWA, a grassroots group dedicated to making public education about government more affordable and accessible, and the Taft Institute for Government at Queens College founded in 1961 to expand and improve political participation.

You may take the following subways: E, M, F or R to Forest Hills-Continental Ave. Station. Queens residents can take the following buses: Q23, Q60, Q64

[http://www.queenslibrary.org/sites/default/files/lamps\\_pdf/002005-07-17\\_2005.pdf](http://www.queenslibrary.org/sites/default/files/lamps_pdf/002005-07-17_2005.pdf)

*Attend any or all of seven free classes on how government works!*

For more information call the library reference desk at 718-268-7934.

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## ***An Evening with Hindu Teacher and Pujari Anu Malhotra***



**Date:** Thursday, October 5, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**Location:** Room 261, NYU Global Center for Academic and Spiritual Life, [19 West 4th Street, New York, NY 10012](#)

Anu Malhotra is a Hindu priest, pujari and teacher who has performed many interfaith and inter-racial marriages and will perform same sex marriages. Ms. Malhotra is the daughter of another woman priest, Shashi Tandon, who is also her guru.

Ms. Malhotra will talk about how she and her mother are received as female Hindu priests, and why she feels it is important to reinterpret Hindu shashtras and rituals to be egalitarian with regard to gender, caste and sexual orientation. She will also lead us in some simple yoga and pranayama exercises which will help us in our daily lives.

Hosted by [Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus](#) and [South Asia Society at NYU](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/174025866498738/>

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## ***Justice Film Festival***



The Sheen Center Presents:

# The Justice Film Festival

October 6-8, 2017

The Justice Film Festival provides inspirational film and redemption that are diverse in both issues and feature films, documentaries, and shorts from both shine a light on justice in our changing world.

**Tickets for each day's screening: \$15**

**Weekend Festival Pass: \$40 [Purchase Here](#)**

[Schedule](#)

**Friday, October 6 @ 7PM**

*The Story of Us* (Short)

*Summer in the Forest* (Feature)

**Dates:** October 6 – 8, 2017

Times: various - [see schedule](#)

Location: The Sheen Center, [18 Bleecker Street, New York, NY 10012](#)

The Justice Film Festival presents inspirational films, featuring stories of unexpected courage and redemption that are diverse in both issues and geography.

This year's event will include feature films, documentaries, and shorts from both well-known and emerging filmmakers that shine a light on justice in our changing world. One highlight of the Festival is *Sacred*, a sneak peek of a major primetime PBS special directed by Academy Award-winner Thomas Lennon and shot by more than 40 filmmaking teams around the world. *Sacred* is the closing film of the Festival on Sunday, October 8 at 7:00 pm.

<https://sheencenter.org/shows/justice/>

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### ***Together as One NYC***



**Date:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 pm

**Location:** Sikh Cultural Society, [95-30 118th Street \(between 95th Ave. and 97th Ave.\), South Richmond Hill, Queens, NY 11419](#)

Join police, clergy, community members, youth & business leaders for a special interfaith service at Sikh Cultural Society, 95-30 118th Street (between 95th Ave. and 97th Ave.), Queens, Tuesday, October 10th, 2017, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Reflections, light refreshments & fellowship. Special Invitation from the NYPD and Mayor's Community Affairs Unit; please RSVP by October 5th, 2017, to [Bilal.Ishaq@nypd.org](mailto:Bilal.Ishaq@nypd.org)

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### ***Muslim in New York: A Community Comes Together***



**Date:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 pm

**Location:** BRIC, [647 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217](#)

Within days of taking office, the Trump administration signed an executive order banning travel from 6 countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The ban sent a familiar ripple of fear through Brooklyn's large Muslim community, still reeling from years of post-9/11 scrutiny, hate crimes and religious profiling. As the Supreme Court convenes this fall to deliberate the future of the ban, BRIC TV, CUNY CLEAR and The Intercept will bring together organizers, faith leaders, members of directly affected Muslim communities and elected officials for a multimedia, live-televised public town hall. [Watch past #BHEARD Town Halls](#)

**Moderator:** Brian Vines, (Senior Correspondent, BRIC TV)

**Panelists:**

Mehdi Hasan, Columnist at The Intercept

Dr. Debbie Almontaser, President of Muslim Community Network

Imam Khalid Latif, Chaplain of The Islamic Center at NYU

Naz Ahmad, Attorney, (CLEAR) Project, CUNY Law

Amna Nawaz, ABC News Digital Anchor and Host of *Uncomfortable* Podcast

Moustafa Bayoumi, Author of *This Muslim American Life*

Zaheer Ali, Oral Historian/Director *Muslims in Brooklyn* at Brooklyn Historical Society

[RSVP/Register here](#) for FREE. Please come early to ensure entry and seating.

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***Love Welcome Conference***



**Dates:** Friday, Oct 20, 2017 and Saturday, Oct 21, 2017

**Time:** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm each day

**Location:** The First Presbyterian Church, [12 West 12th Street, NYC 10011](#)

A two-day symposium about the challenges facing LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers and what congregations can do to make a difference.

The *Love Welcome* conference was born out of the call to action by the Presbyterian denomination combined with the deep commitment by First Presbyterian Church to support both refugee and LGBTQ communities. Over the course of the two days, participants will learn about the specific challenges facing LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers and examine a variety of ways in which congregations can provide support. Open to the public.

<http://fpcnyc.org/lovewelcome/>

[View the program agenda](#)

Registration Cost: \$50 [Register here](#)

Refund Policy: Refunds up to 7 days before event

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### ***Introduction to the Global Refugee Crisis Through a Jewish Lens***



**Date:** Thursday, October 26, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

**Location:** [JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave at 76th St](#)

Over the last year, the number of refugees and displaced people across the world has grown to more than 65 million – more than at any other time in history. Because of our own history and values, the Jewish people have a unique connection and obligation to these most vulnerable people, made all the more critical by efforts to bar refugees from the United States. Join Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer, education director for community engagement at HIAS, the world's oldest, and only Jewish, refugee resettlement organization, for an interactive session on this important topic. We'll ground ourselves in a shared understanding of the global refugee crisis and the Jewish values that underpin our imperative to act, and take action in support of refugees worldwide.

[For information & registration, please click here.](#)

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The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2017 is available [here](#).



## OCTOBER 2017

October	Full Month	<b>LGBT HISTORY MONTH</b> Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.
October	Full Month	<b>NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH</b> Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.
October 1		<b>ASHURA • Islamic</b> A day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses' exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which mourns the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Kerbala in 680 CE.
October 5–11		<b>SUKKOT • Jewish</b> 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 9		<b>INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY (Native American Day)</b> Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.  The second Monday of October is also marked as a U.S. federal holiday, Columbus Day. Many people are opposed to the celebration of a man who led and committed atrocities against Indigenous people. Some states and cities in the U.S. have officially changed the day to Indigenous People's Day. Similarly, it is celebrated as <i>Día de la Raza</i> , "Day of the Race", in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.
October 12		<b>SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish</b> "The Eighth (Day) of Assembly" is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.
October 13		<b>SIMCHAT TORAH • Jewish</b> "Rejoicing in the Torah" celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.
October 17		<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY</b> Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.
October 19		<b>DIWALI • Hindu</b> Also called <i>Deepavali</i> , "Festival of Lights", it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
October 19		<b>BANDI-CHHOR DIWAS • Sikh</b> A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.
October 20		<b>BIRTH OF THE BĀB • Bahá'í</b> 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 20		<b>GUR-GADDI GURU GRANTH SAHIB • Sikh</b> Since 1708, Sikhs have accepted Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their eternal Guru that holds the spirit of all Ten Gurus of the Sikhs. They consider Guru Granth Sahib to be a spiritual guide not only for Sikhs but for all mankind; it plays a central role in guiding the Sikhs' way of life.
October 24		<b>UNITED NATIONS DAY</b> Commemorates the founding of the world organization in 1945.