

Cultural and Religious Observances

HCPSS respects the value of all cultural and religious observances for students, staff, and families in Howard County. While the school system is unable to accommodate system-wide closures for every observance, it is important that we remain sensitive to our community members who are observing cultural and religious holidays. Every year, HCPSS publishes a calendar of cultural and religious observances in our community. Keep reading for more detail about some of the upcoming observances.

August

28

date may vary
each year

Raksha Bandhan - Hindu

Raksha Bandhan is a Hindu festival that is dedicated to brothers and sisters or celebrates the bond of love and protection between siblings. On the auspicious day of Raksha Bandhan, sisters tie a sacred thread called a "Rakhi" around the wrist of their brothers and prayers for their brother's well-being. In return, the brother gives gifts to his sister and promises to protect and support her throughout her life.

30

date may vary
each year

Ullambana - Buddhist

The annual honoring of ancestors is celebrated by the various Buddhist ethnic communities at different times of the year, and is known by different names including Ullambana, Yu-lan-p'en, Obon, Vu-lan, the Obon Festival, Vietnamese Mothers' Day and Ancestors' Memorial Day, Hungry Ghost Festival and All Soul's Festival. In each case, the day is spent by monks and laity alike dedicating offerings to the Three Treasures (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha) on behalf of their parents and ancestors.

September

September 15 - October 15
National Hispanic Heritage Month

September

<p>7 date may vary each year</p>	<p>Krishna Janmashtami - Hindu This observance honors the life of Lord Krishna and often falls between August and September. Lord Krishna is one of the most endeared incarnations of Vishnu and has played various roles during his stay in the world, including deliverer of the Bhagavad Gita (a sacred spiritual and philosophical text). Lord Krishna is regarded by many as the embodiment of bhakti or spiritual yoga.</p>
<p>15-17</p>	<p>Rosh Hashanah - Jewish The name "Rosh Hashanah" means, literally, "head of the year" or "first of the year." Rosh Hashanah is commonly known as the Jewish New Year. No work or business is permitted on Rosh Hashanah, and should stop no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 15th. Much of the day is spent in synagogue. Another popular observance during this holiday is listening to the shofar (ram or other wild animal horn) being blown and eating apples dipped in honey, a symbol of a wish for a sweet new year. Another popular practice of the holiday is Tashlikh ("casting off"). Those of the Jewish faith walk to flowing water, such as a creek or river, and empty their pockets into the river, symbolically casting off their sins. Small pieces of bread are commonly put in the pocket to cast off.</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>Ganesh Chaturthi - Hindu The day is observed as the birthday of Lord Ganesha who is the god of wisdom, prosperity, and good fortune. Ganesh Chaturdashi, also called Vinayak Chaturdashi or Ganesh Utsav, is an important Hindu festival. The festival celebrates Ganesha as the God of New Beginnings and the Remover of Obstacles as well as the god of wisdom and intelligence and is observed throughout India, especially in the states such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Goa.</p>
<p>24-25</p>	<p>Yom Kippur - Jewish Yom Kippur is one of the most important holidays of the Jewish year. Many Jews who do not observe any other Jewish custom will refrain from work, fast, and/or attend synagogue services on this day. Yom Kippur occurs on the 10th day of Tishri. The name "Yom Kippur" means "Day of Atonement," and it is a day set aside to "afflict the soul," to atone for the sins of the past year. During the Days of Awe, while there are traditional ideas such as God inscribes all of our names in either the book of life or death and on Yom Kippur, the judgment entered in these books is sealed, but we also learn from the liturgy that what brings us atonement are acts of "teshuvah, tefillah, and tzedakah" -- sincere repentance, prayer and introspection, and charity/doing the right things.</p>

September

27

subject to the
sighting of the
moon

Mawlid-al-Nabi - Muslim

Mawlid-al-Nabi recognizes the birth of Prophet Mohammed (Peace be Upon Him). While some Muslims recognize and celebrate this day, it may not be commonly practiced among all Muslims, because the actual birthday of Prophet Muhammed is unknown. Please note there are different perspectives on celebrating the Prophet's birth.

28-30

Sukkot - Jewish

The Festival of Sukkot begins on the 15th day of Tishri and is the fifth day after Yom Kippur. It is a drastic transition from one of the most solemn holidays in the Jewish calendar to one of the most joyous. Sukkot is a seven day holiday and the two days following the festival - Shemini Atzeret and Simkhat Torah - are commonly thought of as part of Sukkot but are actually separate holidays. Sukkot is sometimes referred to as *Zeman Simkhateinu*, the Season of our Rejoicing. Sukkot has a three part significance: historical (commemorating the forty-year period during which the children of Israel were wandering in the desert, living in temporary shelters or booths which some people symbolically build in their yards during this holiday); agricultural (a harvest festival sometimes referred to as *Chag He-Asif*, the Festival of Ingathering/Harvest); and spiritual (Jews try to get closer to God by dwelling in temporary booths that have to have roofs open to the sky, enough to see stars/heaven, and moving out of our more materialistic homes). This festival continues from Oct. 2 - 6 with "khol hamo'ed" - ordinary days of the festival - when some Jews still dwell in their booths, but normal work and activities are permitted.

29

Mid-Autumn Festival - Chinese

The festival was a time to enjoy the successful reaping of rice and wheat with food offerings made in honor of the moon. Today, it is still an occasion for outdoor reunions among friends and relatives to eat mooncakes and watch the Moon, a symbol of harmony and unity. A notable part of celebrating the holiday is the carrying of brightly lit lanterns, lighting lanterns on towers, or floating sky lanterns. The festival celebrates three fundamental concepts that are closely connected:

- Gathering, such as family and friends coming together, or harvesting crops for the festival. It is said the Moon is the brightest and roundest on this day which means family reunion. Consequently, this is the main reason why the festival is thought to be important.
- Thanksgiving, to give thanks for the harvest, or for harmonious unions.
- Praying (asking for conceptual or material satisfaction), such as for babies, a spouse, beauty, longevity, or for a good future.



Rainbow Vision is a student-led literary publication that gives voice to the experiences of LGBTQIA+ students in HCPSS. It includes poetry, personal narratives, visual art, and music. [Click here](#) to check out Volume 4 from the 2022-2023 school year.



[Click here for more info about HoCo Pride 2023](#)

Robinson Nature Center's Pride Programs



If you love the outdoors and making new friends in the LGBTQ+ community, Robinson's Pride programs are for you!

Robinson's Rainbows Kick Off Night

Join other members of the LGBTQ+ community for outdoor fun and bonding time at the Robinson Nature Center. We'll be kicking off the new school year with our first-ever evening drop-off program.

Embark on a night hike, play nocturnal games, and enjoy s'mores around the campfire.

7-14 yrs Days: 1

RP4893.501 Sep 8 7-8:30pm F Free

Robinson's Rainbows Group

Join other members of the LGBTQ+ community for outdoor fun and bonding time at the Robinson Nature Center. This drop-off program is designed to be a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel comfortable expressing their true selves amongst their peers and our LGBTQ+ staff.

7-14 yrs Days: 2

RP4893.502 Oct 14, Dec 2 10-11:30am Sa Free

Winter Solstice Celebration

Join fellow members of the LGBTQ+ community to learn the lore and science behind the winter solstice. Gather around the fire to burn the yule log and listen to solstice traditions over a cup of hot cider. Use natural materials to create a winter décor piece to welcome the new season.

14 yrs + Days: 1

RP4893.551 Dec 21 6:30-8pm Th \$15

 **Howard County**
Recreation & Parks



 **Robinson**
NATURE CENTER
JAMES G ANNE



Website: www.howardcountymd.gov/rnc

Main Number: 410-313-0400



Scan to register or visit
tinyurl.com/rncpride.

KINDERGARTEN READY AWARENESS MONTH

for
PARENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN
INFANTS - TODDLERS - PRESCHOOLERS
and
COMMUNITY

Link
Below

Film Screening



Sponsored by the Bronze Villagers
SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 9, 2023

11:00 AM - 1:30PM

Location: Harriet Tubman Cultural Center

8045 Harriet Tubman Ln, Columbia, MD 21044

The Bronze Villagers are promoting September as Kindergarten Ready Awareness Month. Our focus is on having parents of young children (birth to 5) think about the educational experience they want for their child. What can they do to prepare their child for school? What can the community do to be sure our schools are ready to give each child the best possible experience.

Our Kick Off Event is Saturday, September 9, 2023 at the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center.

[Register Here](#)

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM
Public Education for All

EVENTS CALENDAR RESERVE A ROOM CONTACT US

Upcoming Events

Filters

Keyword Search
HCLS' Hispanic Heritage Month

Start Time

Age Group

- Ages 0 - 5 (Infant/Toddler/Preschool/Kindergarten)
- Ages 6 - 11 (Grades 1-6)
- Ages 11-13 (Middle School)
- Ages 14 - 18 (High School)
- Ages 19+ (Adults)
- All Ages / Families

Program Type

Library Branch

Registration Type

Apply Print

Reset

Upcoming	Month	Week	Day
SEP 15 FRI	SEP 16 SAT	SEP 16 SAT	SEP 16 SAT
Between the Lines: An Intersectional Book Club 5:00pm - 6:00pm Off Site Open	Hispanic Heritage Activities - Papel Picado & Loteria 10:30am - 12:30pm Miller Branch	Celebración de la Herencia Hispana/Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration (All Ages) TK 2:00pm - 3:00pm Elkridge Branch	
SEP 19 TUE	SEP 26 TUE	SEP 27 WED	SEP 27 WED
Craft Works: Panamanian Mola-Inspired Cards 6:30pm - 8:30pm Central Branch Open	Tuesday Movie Matinee - Bless Me, Ultima 3:00pm - 5:00pm Miller Branch Open	Recipe Exchange: Hispanic Chefs and la Comida Latina 7:00pm - 8:00pm Savage Branch Open	
SEP 28 THU	SEP 28 THU	SEP 29 FRI	SEP 29 FRI
Let's Play La Loteria Mexicana 7:00pm - 8:00pm Glenwood Branch	Reads of Acceptance (Online) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Online Branch Open	2023 Latinx Kidlit Book Festival Watch Party: Frizzy Book Club 10:00am - 11:00am Glenwood Branch	
SEP 29 FRI	SEP 29 FRI	OCT 1 SUN	OCT 1 SUN
2023 Latinx Kidlit Book Festival Watch Party: Craft: Finding Your Character's SuperPowers 11:00am - 12:00pm Glenwood Branch	2023 Latinx Kidlit Book Festival Watch Party: Conversations: Finding Your Voice 3:00pm - 4:00pm Glenwood Branch	Hispanic Heritage Month Film Screening: In the Heights 1:30pm - 4:00pm Central Branch Open	
OCT 2 MON	OCT 2 MON	OCT 10 TUE	OCT 10 TUE
Films That Connect Us (Online) 4:00pm - 5:00pm Online Branch Open	Global Reads 7:00pm - 8:00pm Miller Branch Open	Viva Frida! (ages 7-11) TK 7:00pm - 7:45pm East Columbia Branch	

Check out this amazing calendar of Hispanic Heritage Month events from the Howard County Library System.

[Click here for more information.](#)

The Jewish Federation of Howard County and Howard Community College's
Social Justice and Equity Center proudly present:



AN EVENING WITH MATTHEW BERGER

Senior Advisor for the *Foundation to Combat Antisemitism*



Come hear Mr. Berger speak about the work the foundation is doing nationally and how you can be a defender and upstander for Jews in Howard County.

September 20, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Smith Theater at Howard Community College

Matthew Berger serves as Senior Advisor for the recently created Foundation to Combat Antisemitism. He has been instrumental in the unveiling of the \$25 million omnichannel **#StandUpToJewishHate** Campaign that has launched a movement to use the **Blue Square** as a unifying symbol of support for Jews in America. This campaign was designed to raise awareness about antisemitism and to encourage all people, especially non-Jews, to post and share the Blue Square to stand up against intolerance. Mr. Berger is a veteran non-profit leader who will share his experience in combating antisemitism and advocating for broader DEI issues. It is hard to know what to do as just one person in the fight against antisemitism, and he provides vision to raise awareness about hate and injustice and foster change.



****Registration required for space and security: tinurl.com/MatthewBergerHoCo**

Questions? Contact Shauna Leavey: sleavey@jewishhowardcounty.org



Social Justice
and Equity Center



[Register Here](#)