



## OBSERVANCES AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

# FEBRUARY 2024

### OBSERVANCES

The theme for Black History Month 2024 focuses on “African Americans and the Arts”. This theme is infused with African, Caribbean, and Black American lived experiences.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>01</b> National Freedom Day	<b>02</b> Groundhog Day	<b>03</b>
<b>04</b> Rosa Parks Day	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b> Lunar New Year
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras	<b>14</b> Vasant Panchami Valentine’s Day Ash Wednesday	<b>15</b> Parinirvana	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> President’s Day	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Ayyam-i-Ha	<b>27</b> Ayyam-i-Ha	<b>28</b> Ayyam-i-Ha	<b>29</b> Ayyam-i-Ha		

## OBSERVANCES

**National Freedom Day:** National Freedom Day is observed every year on February 1st in the United States. On this day, Abraham Lincoln signed a joint resolution by the House and Senate that proposed the abolition of slavery. This was later added as the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**Valentine's Day:** A day to remind a loved one you care.

**Groundhog Day:** Centers on the idea of the groundhog coming out of its home to "predict" the weather.

**Ash Wednesday:** Marks the beginning of Lenten discipline for observant Christians. Blessed ashes in the form of the cross are placed on individuals' foreheads to remind them of mortality, sorrow for sins, change and forgiveness.

**Rosa Parks Day:** Rosa Parks Day is an American commemorative day that takes place on February 4, the day of Rosa Parks's birthday. However, the States of Ohio and Oregon celebrate this day on December 1st, the day of her arrest.

**Parinirvana Day:** Parinirvana Day also known as Nirvana Day, is celebrated annually on February 15 to commemorate the death of the Buddha when he attained complete nirvana or parinirvana.

**Lunar New Year:** Year of the Dragon

**President's Day:** President's Day was established as a federal holiday in 1885 to celebrate George Washington's birthday on 22nd February. Although it was originally a day to celebrate George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, many use it now to honor all US Presidents, past and present.

**Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras:** The last day before Lent, a period for fasting. It is also known as Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, and features large festivals and celebrations across the U.S.

**Ayyam-i-Ha:** Ayyam-i-Ha is a Baha'i festival that is joyously celebrated in countries and territories all over the world. It is a time of hospitality, generosity and caring for the needy.

**Vasant Panchami:** Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring.