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# REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM LOOKING FORWARD

## Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Annual Multifaith Walk of Peace

Please join us to walk together through Ilford to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human right and mark International Peace Day. We will be made welcome at the following faith venues and will hear about and discuss ways to promote peace and respect. Please join us for the whole or part of the walk (feel free to join/leave at any point).

**1.00pm**      **Meet at the Holocaust Memorial Garden, Valentines Park, Ilford (Cranbrook Rd entrance) & listen to a talk from a member of the Jewish community**



**1.45pm**      **Arrive at the Buddhist Vihara at 9 Balfour Road IG1 4HP– refreshments available. (Shoes to be removed if entering the prayer room). Talk at 1.30pm**



**2.15 pm**      **Depart Vihara to continue Walk**

**2.30 pm**      **Arrive at the Hindu Temple, 43 Cleveland Road IG1 1EE (Shoes to be removed when entering temple). Talk at 2.35 pm**



**2.45 pm**      **Depart Temple to continue Walk**

**2.50 pm**      **Arrive at Ilford Islamic Community Centre 52 - 56 Albert Road IG1 1HW – Refreshments available. Talk at 2.45 pm (There will be an opportunity to visit the Mosque (where shoes need to be removed & women are required to cover heads.)**



**3.20 pm**      **Depart Community Centre to continue Walk**

**3.30 pm**      **Arrive at Vine Church, Riches Road, IG1 1JH Talk at 3.35pm**



**4.00 pm**      **Depart Church to continue Walk.**

**4.20 pm**      **Arrive at Karamsar Gurdwara, 400 High Road IG1 1TW (Shoes to be removed & men & women will be required to cover heads - head coverings supplied if necessary).**



**Please note that everyone is invited to attend the Langar at the Gurdwara to enjoy a vegetarian meal**

## Tuesday 2nd October 1.15-3.15 pm– Women's Interfaith Workshop

Births:- Ceremony, Custom and Tradition will be the topic of our next workshop to be held in the VHP Hindu Community Hall (entrance albert Road IG1 1HW) – we will be hearing from Hiindu and



Buddhist women about birth customers in their faith communities. In future workshops we will hear from women of other faiths. Workshops are free to attend but we do suggest an optional donation of £3 to cover our costs. All women are very welcome to enjoy this opportunity for discussion, questions and answers in a relaxed friendly atmosphere.

## **Tuesday 30th October – RFF Network Meeting**

Our October meeting will be held in the Gloucester Room, Central Library, Clements Road- 12noon-1.30pm. Topic to be confirmed but likely to be about Ilford Town Centre developments including plans for a new Cultural Hub.

## **REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM LOOKING BACK**

### **RFF Quiz Night**

A fun evening was had by all at the RFF Quiz Night on Wednesday 18th July. It proved to be a great inter-faith event with some guests experiencing their first ever quiz night. Memories were tested especially by the film round when the year of the film was requested as well as the film title but there was something for everyone including a very interesting round with questions about different faith practices and festivals. RFF wishes to thank The Drive Methodist Church for the use of their Church Hall for the evening and our very efficient quizmaster Phil Butcher. This is likely to become an annual event so do look out for it again in the summer of 2019 and get a group of friends together to form a team to join us.



### **RFF Network Meeting 24th July**



Your Health Matters was the topic of our July Network Meeting on 24th July. Dr Arnold Fertig of Redbridge CCG spoke about the ongoing consultation for the public to comment on CCG proposals regarding urgent community medical appointments.

After a short break the audience then heard a most engaging and thought-provoking talk from Dr Pamela Nkyi about the important role of faith groups in improving mental health. We learnt about the determinants of mental health - social, economical, ecological and physical health and the importance of early intervention before mental ill health becomes chronic and more difficult to treat. Dr Nkyi works in public health at the council and explained that good mental health is a priority for Redbridge. Please email the office on [faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk) if you would like a copy of Dr Nkyi's very informative powerpoint presentation. Many people were keen to ask questions of Dr Nkyi and everyone agreed that it had been a very helpful and positive experience to learn more about this vital topic that affects 65% of UK residents at some point in their lives. Free training for faith and community groups about mental health is being offered on Tuesday 18th September 10am-12pm at 10am at Hall 1, The Centre Community Hall, 32 Merchant Street, Bow, E3 4LX.

# REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM

## What is it and what does it do?

RFF hold regular public meetings to discuss social issues affecting faith communities such as education, health, and give people the opportunity to meet and share with other faiths. RFF was set up in 2003 following a faith conference set up by Redbridge Council, which brought faith leaders together to talk about their communities' needs.

- RFF bring together local members of different faith communities.
- RFF promote social harmony.
- RFF foster a community spirit within Redbridge and the local area.
- RFF recognise the important contribution that religion and spirituality makes to the lives of Redbridge residents.
- RFF lobby relevant organisations that affect faith communities.

## Current Trustees

RFF is an independent organisation with a charitable status (1118675). RFF has a board of trustees composed of representatives of different faiths :

### Christian: ✝

- Phil Butcher (Co Chair)
- Rev Bernardino Mandlate

### Hindu: ॐ

- Vinaya Sharma
- Appathurai Ramkumar

### Jewish: ☆

- Rabbi Lawrence Becker
- Angela Banner

### Muslim: ☪

- Imam Rafiq
- Mo Dedat (Co Chair & Treasurer)

### Sikh: ॴ

- Harbans Singh Seehra
- Harmander Singh

### Baha'i: ۞

- Carol Khorsandyon

### Buddhist: ☸

- Rev P Hemaratana
- Dr Suhasini

### Jain: ॐ

- vacancy

### Zoroastrian: 𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀

We hope that you will understand that in order to continue our work to the benefit of all living in Redbridge, the Faith Forum needs to raise funds to cover the various activities we organise. Membership is open to all and there are a range of options available.

**Associate member:** (open to everyone) receives all e-mail updates, a membership certificate, invitations to all events, able to vote at AGM – suggested donation £10 per year.

We are proposing two other membership scales for large groups and businesses as follows:

**Place of Worship:** full membership (open to recognised faith groups and their designated representative) all rights as above; additionally such representative may be nominated for election to the Management Committee and - £30 per year.

**If you would like to become a RFF member please email [faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk)**

## HAVE YOUR SAY

### Making Redbridge Accessible - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 2-4.30 pm

One Place East are hosting a meeting on Wednesday 5th September 2-4.30 pm in the York Room of Ilford Central Library on the topic "Making Redbridge Accessible". This is a chance to make your voice heard on transport issues and the redevelopment of Ilford Town Centre – it is important that as many Deaf, Disabled and older people as possible attend the meeting to show just how much support there is for accessible transport in Redbridge. Register in advance by clicking [here](#). Speakers from Transport for All and LBR.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Redbridge front gardens project

Having a 'looked-after' front garden is known to reduce the risk of burglary and bogus callers. The Redbridge Front Garden Project provides help for eligible elderly or vulnerable residents who have been, or are at risk of becoming victims of burglary or doorstep crime.

The scheme offers an initial visit to assess what work is needed. The types of job offered are:

- Cutting back, pruning, gardening jobs
- Minor external decorating work
- Repairs to front gates and fences
- Fitting basic security measures
- Defensive planting where appropriate

Agreed works are delivered at a later date by a vetted handyperson, with all visits by prior appointment. This is a free service including labour and crime prevention products (up to an agreed limit). As a guide the scheme can deliver a day's worth of concentrated clear up. (It is not a routine gardening service).

The project is aimed at Redbridge residents, whether tenant or homeowner, who meet one or more of the following criteria:

Aged 60+

Have a disability, long-term illness or health problem which makes it difficult for them to carry out the work

Are in hospital or respite care

and are referred by a partner service or organisation.

Referrals can be made by contacting HEET and quoting "Redbridge Front Garden Project":

Tel: 020 8520 4554 Email: [info@theheetproject.org.uk](mailto:info@theheetproject.org.uk)

Please also provide contact details for a trusted intermediary to help arrange visits, if the vulnerable person is not in a position to do this (e.g. a representative from your own service or a carer, family member). The Redbridge Front Garden Project is run by HEET and is funded by Mayor of London Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) through the Safer Neighbourhood Board.

## Free Workshops for Parents, Community Groups and Staff

Redbridge are working with FAST to deliver workshops on how to keep children safe in a changing world

### Spot the Signs

Are you interested in a FREE 2 hour workshop looking at the following;

- Recognising and understanding the signs of radicalisation
- How people are groomed into radicalisation
- Help understand what is real and what is fake news
- Signposting onto support available

The session is delivered in a relaxed environment, using discussion and video clips to engage participants

If interested in booking a workshop for your organisation please contact Shamsun Nessa [shamsun.nessa@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:shamsun.nessa@redbridge.gov.uk)

Please book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited

These sessions can be adapted for staff

## CAN YOU HELP?

### Why not volunteer to become a Co-opted Member of a Scrutiny body?

- Do you live or work in Redbridge?
- Are you able to investigate issues in an unbiased way?
- Can you spare some time to attend a few meetings a year?

If you can answer yes to the above, then volunteering as a Co-opted Member could be for you and the Council is currently looking for interested people to fill the following vacancies

2 Non statutory Voluntary Co-opted Member vacancies on the Health Scrutiny Committee  
2 Non-statutory voluntary Co-opted Member vacancies on the External Scrutiny Panel

If you are interested email the scrutiny team at Redbridge Council on [scrutiny@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@redbridge.gov.uk) or telephone 0208 708 2739 or 0208708 2465 for further information. Closing date is Friday 14 September 2018.

### Volunteers wanted for Dementia Befriending Service.

The role of the volunteer is to offer 1:1 support to reduce the isolation of people with dementia. Experience is not essential as full training will be provided – a minimum of 6 months commitment for approximately 3 hours per week is requested – all out of pocket expenses are reimbursed. For more information or to request an application pack phone 0208 925 2435 or email [info@oneplaceeast.org](mailto:info@oneplaceeast.org). One Place East is a registered charity (number 1065770 – [www.oneplaceeast.org](http://www.oneplaceeast.org)).

## Redbridge CVS are looking to recruit new trustees

Do you have skills which would help our Board of Trustees to achieve our mission to “promote, support and develop a strong, effective and independent voluntary and community sector in Redbridge”?

RedbridgeCVS – the umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector in Redbridge – is looking to recruit new trustees to its Board. Following a review of our work programme and a skills audit of the current trustees, the Board are specifically seeking individuals who have skills and expertise in:

- Facilities and estates - procurement and management
- Legal expertise, particularly relating to commercial leases
- Marketing and social media

In line with our Equality & Diversity policy, we actively seek to recruit individuals from underrepresented groups, and are committed to promoting and valuing equality and diversity in all of our activities. We welcome and celebrate the diversity of the communities in Redbridge and are strongly committed to achieving equal opportunities and access for all people and groups in society. You would need to be able to commit to:

- ✓ attending Board meetings held every 2 months (alternate between morning and evening meetings and normally lasting for two hours);
- ✓ reading papers and preparing any comments on them;
- ✓ responding to requests for comments/approvals to items in between meetings;
- ✓ if asked to become a member of RCVS Board sub-committees this would require, attendance at meetings held every 2 months;
- ✓ attendance at an annual away day.

If you are interested in applying for this role, in the first instance please telephone either Ross Diamond, Chief Executive Officer, on 020 3874 4143 or Liz Pearce, Operations Manager, on 020 3874 4144 for an informal chat and to get an information pack. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 19th September . Interviews will be scheduled in late September.

## EVENTS TO COME IN REDBRIDGE

### Redbridge Music Fest

*Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 11am-3.30pm Walled Garden, Valentines Mansion Gardens Emerson Road, Ilford IG1 4XA*

Redbridge Music Lounge and Redbridge Green Fair Music Club will once again be running their popular live music sessions amid the beautiful Valentines Mansion Gardens, in the welcoming surroundings of the Gardener's Cottage Cafe.

A feast of musical pleasure will be provided by many high quality musicians and singers from in and around Redbridge, mixing folk and jazz, soft rock and classical, pop and country, and everything around and in between!

A limited amount of seating will be available so you may prefer to bring your own chairs or picnic blankets. Free admission.

## **Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Awareness Day \*New\***

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 11.30am-2.30pm Redbridge Central Library IG1 1EA

SkySharma foundation have organised this event which will include information stalls and light snacks. There will be guest speakers from 1pm to 1.45 pm. Skysharma foundation is a registered charity working for mental health and suicide prevention. Website [www.skysharmafoundation.com](http://www.skysharmafoundation.com). There is no charge for attending this event and all are welcome. Further information available from [info@skysharma.com](mailto:info@skysharma.com) or tel 020 8004 8222.

## **Mayor's Charity Concert in the Park\*New\***

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 1-6 pm Christchurch Green, Wanstead E11 2RH

This concert is supporting ELHAP which is the Mayor's chosen charity for her year in office. ELHAP provides inclusive, natural and stimulating adventure play and recreation for those who are disadvantaged through disability, adversity or difficult life experience. There will be food, drink, live music (including Bhangra, Steel Drums & classical), stalls and children's activities available – fun for all the family.

## **Redbridge Music Lounge at The Cranbrook Centre, Valentines Park**

12.30-4.30 pm – Wednesdays 5 & 19 September & Thursdays 13 & 27 September Melbourne Gate, Melbourne Road IG1 4SB (for directions see [www.cranbrookcentre.london](http://www.cranbrookcentre.london))

The venue is for musicians and anyone interested in playing music, who are retired, in part-time work, unemployed or semi-professional, even if committed to bands/group already but have time and expertise to offer and share mainly, for daytime projects, events and local festivals. Feel free to bring along your instruments and perform – rehearsal equipment and performing facilities are also available. For further information contact Chris Wyatt mob 07929 071155 email [criswyatt@aol.com](mailto:criswyatt@aol.com) [www.rmluk.org](http://www.rmluk.org). Registered Charity 1151132

## **Rouge's Afternoon Tea Party**

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 3-5pm Rouge Restaurant, Chadwell Heath Lane, Romford RM6 4XT

The training restaurant at Redbridge College will be reopening in September and bookings will be taken from 10 am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September for afternoon tea – priced at only £5 per head for savoury wraps, speciality teas, cakes and scones. Book by phone 0208 548 7441 or email [rouge@ncc london.ac.uk](mailto:rouge@ncc london.ac.uk).

## **The East London 3 Faiths Forum**

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm at Ilford Islamic Centre, 50 Albert Road, IG1 1HW

The topic will be "Coming to terms with bereavement (Scriptural Reasoning)" with speakers Zahrah Awaleh, Chaplain, University College Hospital; Imam Khurram Rafiq, Ilford Islamic Centre; Revd Ian Tarrant, St Marys Church South Woodford; Michelle Pentelow East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue

## **One Redbridge – United Against Dementia**

Friday, 21st September 2.00-4.00pm at Ilford Islamic Centre, 50 Albert Road, IG1 1HW

The Alzheimers Society have arranged this event to mark World Alzheimer's Day to bring together Redbridge residents, faith communities and businesses along with commissioners and service providers to explore how we can all work together towards making Redbridge a more dementia friendly place. Speakers will give short talks on living with dementia, caring for someone with dementia, focusing on the lived experience of BAME communities. Book your place by contacting Shuhala Abbas on 0208 517 4522 or email [shuhalasyeda,abbas@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:shuhalasyeda,abbas@alzheimers.org.uk)

### **Vintage & Craft Fair**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 10 am – 4.30 pm – Christchurch Hall, Wanstead E11 2RQ

### **Ilford Horticultural Society Autumn Show**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 7.30-10.00 pm Fullwell Cross Library, IG6 2EA

The show will be followed by a talk from Peter Warne on the Wildlife of Copped Hall.

### **Ilford Food Fest**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 12-3 pm – Fold Café, Cranbrook Baptist Church, Wellesley Road IG1 4JT

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Food Fest and celebrates local food knowledge, finding out about growing food in Ilford, sharing recipes and hands on demos, tips for reducing food waste and food for health. Volunteers are sought to run demos and offer tasters – contact Ilford Transition Town: [ilfordtransition@gmail.com](mailto:ilfordtransition@gmail.com) 07957 534908.

## **Advance Notice**

### **Invest in Peace – free Interfaith Event**

Monday 12th November 7pm for 7.30 pm

East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue and St Marys Parish Church Woodford invite you to hear the stories of two peace activists one Israeli and one Palestinian. Jews Christians and people of all faiths and none are invited to this free interfaith event in partnership with Solutions Not Sides.

The venue will be in Woodford and the full address will be sent to registered attendees via Eventbrite. Ticketing website [PeaceWoodford.eventbrite.co.uk](http://PeaceWoodford.eventbrite.co.uk) Enquiries Tel 020 7543 5407.

### **World Congress of Faiths Lecture “People in Pigeonholes”**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30-8.30 pm Montagu Centre, 21 Maple Street London W1T 4BE

Dr Cetna King will explore how identities and belonging can bring people together or keep them apart and will be looking at the impact on faith relations. This is a free event with a retiring collection to support the work of the World Congress of Faiths to book – <http://www.wcf-yhl2018.eventbrite.co.uk>

## EVENTS TO COME ELSEWHERE

### *"How to Start and Run a Memory Café"*

*Tuesday 11th September 2018, 11am-3pm – Queen Victoria Street EC1V 5DE*

This is a free workshop organised by London Churches Social Action being run by Steve Morris author of a Grove booklet on the topic. This is a great model for supporting people in general and a free booklet will be provided for every participant. Please book your place by emailing [londonchurches@btinternet.com](mailto:londonchurches@btinternet.com) or phone 0207329 3632. The venue is St Andrew by the Wardrobe, St Andrews Hill/Queen Victoria Street London EC1V 5DE.

### *"Representing the Sacred – London Inter Faith Centre"*

*Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 2-3.30 pm – 125 Salusbury Road NE6 6RG*

This is the first in a series of presentations looking at Art and Iconography in Religious Traditions by adherents from different religious and spiritual traditions on how the Sacred is represented in Art and Iconography within that tradition. Traditions covered include Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism and Alternative Spirituality. Cost £5 – concessions available. For further information contact [Laurence.hillel@londoninterfaith.org.uk](mailto:Laurence.hillel@londoninterfaith.org.uk) <http://londoninterfaith.org.uk/>

## SOME CELEBRATIONS TO COME

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September Ecclesiastical year begins**

Tradition: **Orthodox Christian** Orthodox New. For more on Year, see <http://www.antiochian.org/ecclesiastical-new-year> and <http://www.goarch.org/ourfaith/ourfaith7070>

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September is Harvest Festival**

Tradition: **Christian** (Western, Anglican and Free Churches)-Dates vary.

Special services are held around this time of year to give thanks for the goodness of God's gifts in providing a harvest of crops along with all the other fruits of society. Displays of produce are often made, usually distributed afterwards to those in need. Increasingly the emphasis is on a wider interpretation than just the harvests of the fields and seas.

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September commemorates the Installation of the Sikh Scripture in the Harmandir Sahib**

Tradition: **Sikh**

In 1604,

in the place of worship where the Golden Temple now stands in Amritsar (Punjab), the Sikhs' fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, installed for the first time the Adi Granth, a volume of scripture for the Sikh community. It consisted of the hymns of the first five Gurus plus those of other 'saint-poets'. Hymns by the ninth Guru, Tegh Bahadur, were later incorporated in the scripture, so forming the present Guru Granth Sahib. For more see <http://sgpc.net/history-of-harmandir-sahib/> and <http://www.goldentempleamritsar.org/>

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September Janmashtami/Krishna Jayanthi - Birthday of Krishna.**

Tradition: **Hindu**.

Krishna is a very popular avatar or incarnation of Vishnu and this festival is celebrated widely. Many Hindus fast till midnight, the time of Krishna's birth. Those unable to fast will take fruit and milk. In the temples Krishna is welcomed with singing, dancing and sweets. In some homes and temples an image of the new-born Krishna is put in a cradle and special sweets (e.g. the powder, panjiri, given traditionally to women after

childbirth) are offered and distributed. Source <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/2016-religious-festivals/august><http://londonmandir.baps.org/forthcoming-events/krishna-janmashtami>

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September is Fravardin Mah Parab (Shenshai calendar)**

Tradition: **Zoroastrian/Parsi**

Fravardin day is a day of the guardian spirits in the Zoroastrian calendars. On the day of Fravardin, the 19th day of the month of Fravardin, the first month of the year, Zoroastrians visit the vicinity of the Towers of Silence in India (or in the UK the Zoroastrian Cemetery in Brookwood, Surrey) to participate in a jashan ceremony in memory of the departed fravashis (guardian spirits and souls of the community). Sacred food is prepared as an offering to the departed during the jashan and is later shared by the participants. For more see <http://delhiparsis.com/2007/08/19/the-parsi-zoroastrian-calendar-days-and-their-meanings/> or <http://www.avesta.org/angels.html> or <http://www3.sympatico.ca/zoroastrian/fravar.htm>

### **6<sup>th</sup> September (Thursday) - 13<sup>th</sup> September (Thursday) PARYUSHAN**

Tradition: **Jain.**

Eight days of purification, devoted to study, prayer, meditation and fasting, and ending with a period of confession and forgiveness. For more information <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/2016-religious-festivals/august>

### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September – 11<sup>th</sup> September Tuesday Rosh Hashannah**

Tradition: **Jewish**

(New Year's Day, 5778 years from the creation of the world). Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of ten days of repentance and self-examination, during which G-d sits in personal judgment on every individual. The blowing of the ram's horn (shofar) in the synagogue is a reminder of Abraham's sacrifice of a ram instead of his son, Isaac. Apples dipped in honey are eaten in the hope of a 'sweet' new year. The greeting is 'Leshanah Tovah Tikatev' (may you be inscribed for a good year).

### **12<sup>th</sup> September Wednesday Islamic New Year 1439 / AL-HIJRA / RA'S UL 'AM (Muharram 1)**

Tradition: **Muslim**

This day commemorates the Hijra or migration of the Prophet Muhammad from Makkah to Medina in 622 CE, which led to the establishment of the Muslim community there. The day is not universally celebrated amongst Sunni Muslims but is notable as Muslim years are dated from this time and are marked AH (After the Hijrah). In 2015 CE the Muslim year 1437 AH begins. For some Muslim communities this is a day of celebration at the mosque, where stories are told of the Prophet and his Companions. For the Shi'a community the more important significance is that this is the first day of the period of fasting, mourning and remembrance leading up to Ashursa. For more information: <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/2016-religious-festivals/october>

### **13<sup>th</sup> September (Thursday) Ganesh Chaturthi (Birthday of Ganesh)**

Tradition: **Hindu**

Ganesh Chaturthi / Vinayaka Chaturthi is a Hindu festival in honour of Ganesh/Ganesha, (also known as Ganapati and Vinayaka), the god of good fortune and new beginnings. A popular story explains why Ganesha, the son of Parvati and Shiva, has the head of an elephant. For more, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythological\\_anecdotes\\_of\\_Ganesha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythological_anecdotes_of_Ganesha). This festival is particularly significant for Hindus from Maharashtra and is celebrated in a major way in Mumbai. "Lord Ganesh is the symbol of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune. Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated on Shukla Chaturthi of the Hindu month of Bhadra (generally falls between August and September). This festival is celebrated by Hindus with a great enthusiasm. People bring idols of Lord Ganesh to their homes and do worship. The duration of this festival varies from 1 day to 11 days, depending on the place and tradition. On the last day of the festival the idols are taken out in a colourful and musical procession and immersed traditionally in water. As per Hindu mythology Lord Ganesh is considered as "Vigana Harta" (one who removes obstacles) and "Buddhi Pradaayaka" (one who grants intelligence). This festival is very

important for students; they worship Lord Ganesh to illumine their minds." Source

<http://www.calendarlabs.com/holidays/india/ganesh-chaturthi.php> For more, see

<http://hinduism.about.com/od/festivals/holidays/a/ganeshchaturthi.htm>

### **13<sup>th</sup> September (Thursday) Samvatsari (International Forgiveness Day)**

Tradition: **Jain**

This is the last day of Paryushana, which many regard as the most important eight or ten day festival of Jainism. It is the holiest day of the Jain calendar and many Jains observe a complete fast. The whole day is spent in prayers and contemplation, asking for forgiveness from others.

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September YOM KIPPUR**

Tradition: **Jewish**. This is the final day of the ten days of repentance, and is the holiest day of the year in the Jewish calendar. The Bible calls it the 'Sabbath of Sabbaths', and it is marked by 'afflicting the soul' – expressed through a total fast lasting 25 hours. Jews spend the eve and most of the day in prayer, asking for forgiveness for past wrongs and resolving to improve in the future. The Book of Jonah is read. A common greeting is 'G'mar Chatimah Tovah' ('May you finally be sealed for good') For more see:

<http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/2016-religious-festivals/october>

### **21<sup>st</sup> September Friday is Ashura (10<sup>th</sup> Muharram)**

Tradition: **Muslim**

For Sunni Muslims this is one of the two days of a minor fast that the Prophet kept in his lifetime. The second day of the fast may be observed either on the day preceding or the day following the 10th of Muharram. For Shi'a Muslims this is a day when they recall a great tragedy that took place on Muharram 10, AH 61 (680 CE). The Imam Husayn (son of Ali and Fatimah and therefore grandson of the Prophet) travelling with his family and many followers was attacked by the troops of the Caliph Yazid. After eight days without water Husayn was killed and his family and followers massacred at Karbala (now in Iraq). Shi'a Muslims remember the events in the days leading up to Ashura when they fast and recall these terrible events. The importance of this holy day can be judged from a popular Shi'a saying which some attribute to a Muslim poet and some to the sixth Imam, Jafar al-Saadiq: "Live as if every day is Ashura, every land Karbala!" For more: <http://www.ashura.com/>

### **24<sup>th</sup> September Monday – 1<sup>st</sup> October Monday SUKKOT**

Tradition: **Jewish**

A seven day harvest festival also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, which commemorates the 40 years that the Jews spent in the wilderness on the way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. A temporary hut or booth – called a sukkah – is used during this time for eating meals and for visits and socialising. In hot countries families may live in their sukkah during the festival. The roof, which has to be open in part to the elements, is covered with branches and decorated with fruit. Four species of plant, the lulav (palm branch), the etrog (a yellow citrus fruit), the hadas (myrtle) and the aravah (willow) are used at the festival. For more see: <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/2016-religious-festivals/october>

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