

ORGANIZERS

Kyle Ogden

President and CEO, The Thanks-Giving Foundation

Almas Muscatwalla

Board of Directors of The Thanks-Giving Foundation & Chair,
Interfaith Council

Rosie Stromberg

Vice Chair, Interfaith Council of Thanks-Giving Square

Mark Romney

Vice Chair, Interfaith Council of Thanks-Giving Square

Noah Jeppson,

Board of Directors of The Thanks-Giving Foundation

Brenda Randall and Stan McMillion

Staff, Thanks-Giving Foundation

SPECIAL THANKS

Harbajan Singh & Paramjit Kaur Cheema

DFW Sikh Community

Gauthami Vemula & Anand Upadhyaya

Hindu Community

Tina Wasserman, Anita Zusman Eddy, Michelle Golan

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish
Federation of Greater Dallas

Father Rudy Garcia, Gina Hahn,

Forrest Boaz, Basil Xeros

Oak Lawn United Methodist

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Sandra Blackbear & Peggy Larney

Dallas Indian Mission United Methodist Church

Greater Dallas

Anahita Sidhwa

Zoroastrian Association of North Texas

Bayan Noori

Baha'i of Dallas

Shair Ahmad Hakemy

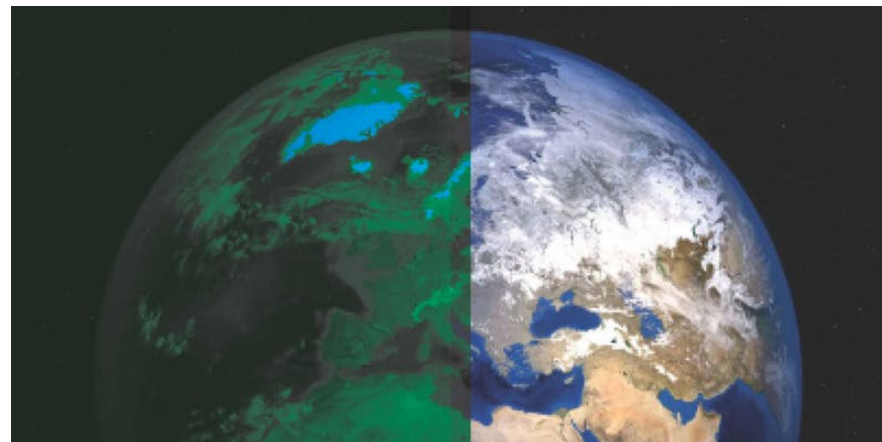
The Ismaili Muslim Community

Huseyin Peker

Dialogue Institute Dallas

Bishop Donald "DD" Hayes, Ph.D.

DFW Airport Interfaith Chaplaincy



Celebrations of Equinox and Earth Day

2019 Spring Festival of Faiths & Cultures:

A Week of Gratitude & Renewal

Monday, March 11th - Saturday, March 16th

11:30 to 1:00 pm

Thanks-Giving Square

Monday, March 11th: **Naw-Rúz**

Tuesday, March 12th: **Jewish Holidays**

Wednesday, March 13th: **Holi and Harvesting**

Thursday, March 14th: **Holy Week: Christian Reflections**

Friday, March 15th: **Celebrating with the Creator**

Saturday, March 16th: **Vaisakhi**

The Interfaith Council of Thanks-Giving Foundation is committed to:

- Educate the Dallas community about the diversity of celebrations of the Spring equinox
- Share and appreciate some of the traditions that are part of cultural heritage.
- Create opportunities to interact with the 'OTHER' in our midst.
- Renew and Imagine new ways to be Grateful

thanks

Thanks-Giving Foundation

Monday, March 11th

Naw-Rúz

Presented by: **Baha'i, Zoroastrian, Ismaili Muslim, Turkish, Iranian & Afghan communities**

The spring equinox is celebrated as "Naw-Ruz" in many countries like Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Pakistan and India. For some communities it is an event of religious significance; for others, it remains a cultural festival to welcome and celebrate Spring. Some groups lay out an elaborate table with special symbolic items. The Spring Festival will showcase how five communities - the Afghans, Bahai's, Ismailis, Turkish and Zoroastrians - celebrate Naw-Rúz, and a member from each tradition will share their perspectives on this ancient event.

Tuesday, March 12th

Jewish Holidays

Presented by: **The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, featuring Tina Wasserman with Ashkenazi & Sephardic foods.**

A presentation by Tina Wasserman – culinary historian, author, and educator – will explore the influences of Jewish religious practice on its foods and world cuisine through traditional holiday recipes. Jewish traditions and holidays to be discussed include Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Purim and Passover. Light refreshments will be provided, including Jewish foods such as Challah bread, Dulce de Manzana, hamantaschen, and matzah crackers.

Wednesday, March 13th

Holi and Harvesting

Presented by: **Hindu Community**

Spring and harvest festivities are celebrated in Hinduism in a variety of ways, representing the diversity and depth of Hindu traditions. Despite this diversity, as with all things Hindu, there is a tremendous sense of unity and oneness. Various members of the Hindu community will offer an overview of Hinduism as well as remarks on the various Spring and harvest festivals. We will honor these traditions through a traditional puja or worship, as well as the singing of bhajans, chants, and hymns. Prasadam or simple foods and fruit that has been offered to God will then be offered to attendees. We will close by participating in universal prayers.

Thursday, March 14th

Holy Week: Christian Reflections

Presented by: **Father Rudy Garcia, Oak Lawn United Methodist Church and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

To introduce and educate on several Christian traditions observed during The Holy Week. This will include from Father Rudy a presentation on how The Holy Week is celebrated leading to Easter Sunday. On Holy Thursday (Maudy Thursday) a Catholic will demonstrate (outside on the plaza) the symbolism of Servanthood and the washing of the feet. The event will continue with the demonstration of Good Friday by the lighting of the Christ Candle and procession into the Hall in silence. Then Gina R. Hahn -2nd yr. SMU M. Divinity student - will present a reflection and spoken word titled: "Story from the Pew: A Resurrected Life of One". The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will discuss Orthodox Pascha and its lunar calendar. Finally, these presentations will conclude with an invitation to the Table of Diversity as we partake in a humble meal with all.

Friday, March 15th

Celebrating with the Creator

Presented by: **Dallas Indian Mission United Methodist Church**

The noun Powwow, from the Narragansett Eastern Algonquian language, is defined as any gathering of Native people. However, as Native Americans, we define it as a cultural event that features group singing and dancing by men, women and children. Through these gatherings, cultural traditions are passed from generation to generation. It is a welcome opportunity to visit with friends and relatives and renew acquaintances. Above all, Powwows are a time to preserve traditions, to sing to the Creator, and to dance to the heartbeat of the drum. Native dances originated from the spirit and soul of our Nations. Native American dance is alive and dynamic, a reflection of tribal heritage and personal style and traditional regalia shares tribal affiliation and ancestry. Each powwow begins with a Grand Entry or procession of dancers serving as the "bringing together of tribes." At most powwows, trading or selling may occur between tribes. Members of the local Dallas Indian Mission UMC and Native American Community are here to share their tradition of celebrating with our creator."

Saturday, March 16th

Vaisakhi

Presented by: **DFW Sikh Community**

Vaisakhi a vibrant harvest festival of Punjab, is also celebrated in the Sikh faith as the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the Founder of the Sikh Religion, and of the Khalsa. It is one of the most important festivals for the Sikhs and is commemorated with religious ceremonies, parades, charitable activities and colorful cultural events.