Nations are composed, sustained, and controlled symbol and myth systems and sub-systems. US National and International Days constitute one of the nation’s many solidarity sub-systems. The peace, justice, and ecology movement promotes most of the Days while it opposes some. Throughout the system certain values are repeated, affirmed, and sanctified—on the one hand, human rights and constitutional government, on the other, glorification of empire and war. Mainly these values deserve the allegiance of the movement. But other values—for example, militarism—do not. For example, in his Farewell Address President Eisenhower warned against the “military-industrial-congressional complex” (the central system, he was persuaded to omit “congressional?” from his speech).

The country’s national and international days are one more conditioning mechanism for national unity. Naturally and properly the peace, justice, and ecology movement endeavors to ensure the presence of its values in these, and all, national structures. This is concrete action to preserve or change national direction and choice.

*Items distinguished by an asterisk are dubiously celebrated days, calling for analysis and perhaps even alternative days. (Items in parenthesis are important days but not national days.)
The list is incomplete and should be considered as a work in progress. Let me know of additional National Days and Months.
RE-ENVISIONED, RENAMED DAYS,

Feb. 14 Standing on the Side of Love Day (formerly Valentine’s Day) (from UUSC, turning VD into a Day for social justice)

May, 2nd Sunday: Julia Ward Howe’s Mother’s Day for Peace (formerly Mother’s Day)

May 21, 2011: Peace Movement Day (Armed Forces Day) (3rd Sat. in May)

May, last Monday: Day of Mourning for Victims of Wars (Memorial Day)

June 14: Liberty and Justice for All Day (Flag Day)

June, 3rd Sunday: Father’s Day for Peace (Father’s Day)

September 11 (9-11): Peaceful Tomorrows Day (Patriot Day)

Oct. 2nd Monday: Indigenous Peoples Day (Columbus Day):

Nov. 11: Unity Day: (Veterans Day)

November: Fourth Thursday: National Day of Gratitude and Atonement (Thanksgiving)

December 7: Pacific Colonial World War II Day (Pearl Harbor Day)

December 25: Love and Peacemaking Day (Christmas)

ALL DAYS CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Aug. 29: International Day Against Nuclear Testing

February: Black History Month

February 2: UN World Wetlands Day

Feb. 4: UN Torture Abolition Day

Feb. 14: Standing on the Side of Love Day (Valentine’s Day)

March: Women’s History Month

March 1: Nuclear Victims Day, Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day, Marshall
Islands Nuclear Victims Day

March 8: UN International Women’s Day (see: Aug. 26)

Mid March; Sunshine Week (coincides with Nat’l Freedom of Information Day on March 16, birthday of James Madison)

3rd Monday in March (in Arkansas): Arbor Day (National Arbor Day last Friday in April)


Mar. 22: UN World Water Day

March 30: Global BDS Day and Palestinian Land Day

April: Asian Awareness Month

April 16-20: National End Racial Profiling Week

April 17: Equal Pay Day (for women; see August 26)

April 17: Political Prisoner Day (Palestinian: Prisoner Day)

April 18: Tax Day protest corporate tax evasion

April 22: Earth Day, Springfest; UN International Mother Earth Day


May 1: May Day, International Workers Day

Law Day

May every first Thursday: National Day of Prayer (see: June 15)

May 3: World Press Freedom Day

May, 2nd Sunday: Julia Ward Howe’s Mother’s Day for Peace (Mother’s Day)

May 3? 5?: National Day of Reason

May 15: International Conscientious Objectors Day
May 21, 2011 (3rd Sat. in May): Peace Movement Day (Armed Forces Day)

May, last Monday: Day of Mourning for All Victims of Wars (Memorial Day)

June: Torture Awareness Month

June 2: Nuclear Abolition Day

June 4: UN International Day for Children Victims of Aggression

June 8: UN World Oceans Day

June 14: Liberty and Justice for All Day (Flag Day)

June 15: International Peace Prayer Day

June, 3rd Sunday: Fathers Day for Peace (Father’s Day)

June 17: UN International Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

June 19th: Juneteenth

June 20: UN World Refugees Day

June 26: UN International Day in Support of Torture Victims

Fourth of July: July 4, Independence Day

July 17: UN International Justice Day (ICC)

July 18: Mandela Day

August: Nuclear Free Future Month (NuclearFreeFuture.org)

August 1: Ramadan Begins

Aug. 6 & 9: Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration Days

August 10: Victims of Agent Orange Commemoration Day
(This is a Vietnam National Day, but the US should mark the Day too, for it reminds us of US chemical war crimes (dioxin) during the Vietnam war forbidden by Geneva Convention.)
August 16: International Homeless Animals Day, Mexican Independence Day

August 26: Women’s Equality Day (women win vote, 19th Amendment Ratified), 19th Amendment Day

August 28: Trail of Tears Day (1838)

August 29: UN International Day Against Nuclear Tests

September: Hunger Action Month

September, 1st Monday: Labor Day

September 5, National Jury Rights Day (FIJA.org)

September 11 (9-11): 9-11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows Day (Patriot Day)

September 12: International Interdependence Day

September 15, 17 (1821): Central America Independence Day

Sept. 17: Constitution Day

Sept. 21: UN International Day of Peace

Sept., Last week: Banned Books Week

October: Domestic Violence Month, Vegetarian Awareness Month

October. First week: Space For Peace Week

Oct. 1: Vegetarian Day

Oct., 4th Saturday: Make a Difference Day

Oct. 2nd Monday: Indigenous Peoples Day (Columbus Day):

Oct. 11: National Coming Out Day

Oct. 12: World Hunger Day

Oct. 16: World Food Day

Oct. 20: International Credit Union Day

Oct. 24: UN Day

Oct. 28: National Immigrant’s Day/Statue of Liberty Birthday (1886)

Oct. 31: UNICEF Day

Nov. 9-16: International Week against the Israeli Wall in the West Bank (see Nov. 29)

Nov. 11: Unity Day (Veterans Day), People’s Charter for Nonviolence

November: Fourth Thursday: Day of Gratitude and Atonement (Thanksgiving)

Nov. 20: UN Universal Children’s Day (Bill of Rights for Children)

November 25, Day after Thanksgiving: Buy Nothing Day

Nov. 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Nov. 29: (UN) International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

December 1: Nobel Peace Prize Awarded

December 1: UN World AIDS Day

December 7: Pacific Colonial WWII (Pearl Harbor Day)

December 10: Human Rights Day

Dec. 15: Bill of Rights Day

Dec. 20, 2011: Hanukkah (changes every year)

Dec. 25: Love and Peacemaking Day (Christmas)

Dec. 26: Kwanzaa

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