CULTURES, COMMUNITIES
& INCLUSION

2021-2022
CULTURAL AWARENESS GUIDE
Building Bridges of Understanding & Respect

Cultures, Communities & Inclusion

Cultures, Communities, and Inclusion celebrates the U in GSU! We are committed to educating, celebrating, and recognizing the history, culture, experience and contributions of diverse cultures, communities, and identities. Georgia State University is a national leader in graduating students from diverse backgrounds. Our Cultures, Communities, and Inclusion team consists of dedicated professionals to assist students on their journey. We provide a variety programs, initiatives, and workshops that educate, fosters community-building, enriches the overall campus experience for the campus community, and prepare students for the world that awaits them post-graduation. Engage with our areas:

Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS), @gsu_odos
ODOS provides services that assist all students in being engaged and successful members of the Georgia State University community. The services include connecting students to campus resources, facilitating students in resolving issues and complaints, highlighting the values of the university community, encouraging student involvement, and addressing emergency concerns.

Multicultural Center, @multiyougsu
The Multicultural Center (MC) is committed to increasing cultural competence and preparing students for global citizenship by cultivating a culture of care through, cultural awareness & community building, advocacy & student success, resources & services, and education & training for social justice initiatives.

Latinx Student Services and Outreach (LASSO), @lasso_gsu
LASSO provides a space for students of all backgrounds to gather throughout the school day and immerse themselves in Latinx culture and a familia in which students support one another through their academic journeys and beyond. In addition, LASSO creates yearlong social, cultural, academic, and professional programming on all campuses to enrich students’ development in all areas.

Black Student Achievement (BSA), @gsublackstudentachievement
BSA provides university-wide services and support programming in many areas, such as cultural enrichment, racial awareness, ethnicity, diversity, leadership training and organizational development. To achieve its goals, Black Student Achievement sponsors a number of academic, cultural, and social events. Special interest programs address African American and other minority concerns.

International Student Associations Council (ISAC), @isac_gsu
The International Student Associations Council (ISAC) is comprised of the presidents and officers of 17 international student associations. The Council meets regularly to discuss issues pertaining to international students on campus and develop international student programs.
Cultural Awareness

CCI recognizes the significance of holding space to affirm the complexities of identities and celebrate the richness of cultural heritages, as well as the importance of examining and naming the ways that underrepresented communities have been marginalized in society, both historically and presently. We do not relegate any cultural heritage to only a single month. Rather, the university acknowledges and appreciates cultural heritages every day with programs and services that support equity and inclusion. This deliberate practice facilitates the university’s intentional commitment to infusing equity-mindedness, cultural responsiveness, and inclusive excellence throughout the campus fabric. Heritage months are essential to Georgia State’s effort to build a community of care where the campus community feels a sense of value, belonging and opportunity to thrive.

Cultural Awareness Guide

This Cultural Awareness Guide has been created to enhance awareness pertaining to diverse cultures and communities. The guide offers essential information about dates and practices that will be helpful to those planning activities, events, meetings, and co-curricular events that impact our university community. While we make every effort to include all major cultural and religious holidays, we realize we may have missed one that is important to you. If we have not included a holiday of significance to you, please notify us at multiculturalcenter@gsu.edu so that it might be included in future editions of this calendar.

Religious Observations

The guide includes significant religious observances of the major faiths represented around the globe.

*Note that Bahá’í, Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at sundown the previous day and end at sundown on the date listed.

Calendar System

The dates of secular holidays are based on the Gregorian calendar, which is commonly used for civil dating purposes. Many religions and cultures follow various traditional calendar systems that are often based on the phases of the moon with occasional adjustments for the solar cycle. Therefore, specific Gregorian calendar dates for these observances will differ from year to year. In addition, calculation of specific dates may vary by geographical location and according to different sects within a religion.
Summary of Religions and Beliefs

Agnosticism
Agnosticism is the view that the truth of metaphysical claims regarding, in particular, the existence of a god or gods, or even ultimate reality, is unknown and may be impossible to know. One can be an agnostic as well as an atheist or religious believer.

Atheism
Atheism describes a state of having no theistic beliefs; that is, no beliefs in gods or supernatural beings.

Baha'i
The Baha'i Faith began in Persia in 1844 with the declaration of a new religion, distinctive from the Shi’a Islam found there. Key beliefs include belief in one God; the unity of mankind; equality of opportunity for men and women; and elimination of prejudice.

Buddhism
A way of living based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama. The Five Precepts are the basic rules of living for lay Buddhists – refrain from harming living beings; taking what is not given; sexual misconduct; harmful speech; and drink or drugs which cloud the mind.

Christianity
Based on the teaching of Jesus Christ. Christian groups differ in their interpretation of his teaching, life, death and resurrection, but these matters are at the heart of the way of life of all of them. A Christian refers to a follower of Jesus Christ who may be a Catholic, Protestant, Gnostic, Mormon, Evangelical, Anglican or Orthodox, or follower of another branch of the religion. What Christians believe...

Humanism
Humanism is the belief that we can live good lives without religious or superstitious beliefs. Humanists make sense of the world using reason, experience and shared human values and aim to make the best of the life we have by creating meaning and purpose for ourselves. Humanists work with others for the common good.

Hinduism
An ancient tradition of related beliefs and practices that developed in the Indian subcontinent. Core ideals and values shared by most Hindus would include respect for elders; reverence for teachers; regard for guests and tolerance of all races and religions. What Hindus believe...

Islam
Revealed in its final form by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The essentials of Muslim practice are summarized in the five pillars of Islam – declaration of faith; ritual prayer; welfare; a month of fasting during Ramadan; and pilgrimage. What Muslims believe...
**Jainism**
An ancient philosophy and ethical teaching that originated in India. The main principle is ahimsa – the avoidance, where possible, of physical or mental harm to any living being. Jainism is a religion without a belief in a creator god.

**Judaism**
Based around the Jewish people's covenant relationship with God. Jews believe they are challenged and blessed by God. Love of one's neighbor is the great principle of social life and the founding inspiration of the Jewish community. [What Jews believe...](#)

**Rastafarianism**
Rastafarianism is a newer religious movement that follows in the Abrahamic tradition of monotheism, referring to the singular deity as Jah. Rastafari hold the Christian Bible as their primary scripture but offer an interpretation highly connected to their own political and geographical realities. Centered around early 20th century Jamaica, Rastafarianism emerged as an ethnocultural reaction to British occupation and oppression. This oppression would play a major role in the Afrocentric interpretation of the Bible favored by Rastafari.

**Shintoism**
The Indigenous religion of Japan that is based around the devotion to spirits called Kami. Its practices include visiting shrines, festivals, and various rituals.

**Sikhism**
The religion founded by Guru Nanak in India in the 15th Century CE. There is one God, people should serve by leading a life of prayer and obedience. Sikhs believe their soul then passes through various existences and will become one with God.

**Zoroastrianism**
Zoroastrianism is a religion founded in ancient times by the prophet Zarathushtra, who taught that Ahura Mazda (Lord of Wisdom), the all-powerful and perfect creator, grants humans Vohu Manah – a clear rational mind with which to dispel ignorance.

**Wicca/Paganism:** Wicca is a Pagan Witchcraft tradition brought to the public by Gerald Gardner and encompasses a diverse set of views and beliefs. Wicca draws from ancient pagan practices and centers around nature and witchcraft.

Reference: [https://thebestschools.org/magazine/world-religions-study-starters/#bahai](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/world-religions-study-starters/#bahai)
What Are Heritage Months?

Heritage Months celebrate the customs, values, and traditions of different cultures, examining the issues and struggles of different communities as well as affirming their contributions to society. Heritage months are important in providing intentional space for teaching, learning and reflection. Each month, we celebrate the identities and histories of members of Georgia State’s global communities through vibrant performances, lectures, and activities that celebrate our rich cultural diversity and help us understand our shared history.

Please take note of the signature heritage months that will be celebrated this coming academic year:

- **Latinx Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15**
  Latinx Heritage Month, also known as National Hispanic Heritage Month, is nationally celebrated each year from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of those whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

- **LGBTQ+ History Month: October 1-31**
  LGBTQ History Month is a month-long celebration that occurs in October to observe the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning communities. LGBTQ History Month was first celebrated in the United States in 1994.

- **Native American/American Indian Heritage Month: November 1-30**
  Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate, recognize, and inform the public about the culture, traditions, histories, art, and contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives. In 1990, President Bush approved the designation of November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration: (Last two weeks in January)**
  Each year Georgia State University honors the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s life and legacy with numerous activities in January. Campus events feature lectures, discussions, celebration, and community service opportunities that reflect his dream and vision for civil rights and social justice.

- **Black Heritage Month: February 1 – 28**
  Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is observed annually in February to celebrate the achievements by Black Americans and recognize the central role of African Americans in U.S. history.

- **Womxn's HERstory Month: March 1 – 31**
  Annually celebrated in March, Women's History Month acknowledges the many contributions women have made in America’s history.

- **Asian-Pacific Islander-Desi/American Heritage Month: April 1 – 30**
  Nationally observed in May, but celebrated in April at Georgia State University, Asian Pacific Islander & Desi American Heritage Month is a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the
United States that encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

How to get involved?

- **ATTEND:** Attend heritage month Kickoff events and programs. Events are listed in [https://pin.gsu.edu](https://pin.gsu.edu).

- **ENGAGE:** Get involved with registered student organizations. RSO’s are listed in [https://pin.gsu.edu](https://pin.gsu.edu).

- **LEARN:** Access resources and recommended readings from the Multicultural Center library and/or DEI Database.

- **HIGHLIGHT:** We are looking to celebrate the rich diversity across Georgia State by acknowledging student leadership, scholarship, and involvement. Nominate (hyperlink to a form) yourself, a peer, or a student organization.

- **FOR THE CULTURE:** What does this heritage month mean to you? Submit your art, affirmations, photos, reflections, and/or tell us about cultural events that are occurring in the community to multiculturalcenter@gsu.edu. Submissions may be selected to be featured in our newsletter and on social media platforms.

- **LEAD:** All students, faculty and staff are invited to volunteer on a heritage month planning committee(s) and participate in monthly activities. Activities range from and include:
  - Art exhibits and literature events
  - Guest speakers and panel discussions
  - Live entertainment and performances
  - Film screenings and workshops
  - Co-curricular Lecture Series events
  - Pop Talk

**Planning Committees**

Each Heritage Month is planned by a different committee, comprised of students, faculty, staff volunteers. Students are an integral part of our heritage month planning committees, which meet to organize events for the equity, education, empowerment, and engagement of the campus community, in an effort to increase cultural humility, community connections, and retention.

Events can be submitted through Panther Involvement Network (PIN) or through a contribution form at dei.gsu.edu.

**Oversight & Support**

The Cultures, Communities, and Inclusion (CCI) team assists with the leadership oversight, coordination, budgeting, marketing and hosting of heritage month celebrations.

Interested in serving on a Heritage Month Committee? Students, organizations, faculty, and staff are welcome to volunteer on any of our upcoming heritage month planning meetings either in person or virtually by emailing multiculturalcenter@gsu.edu.
More Observances

It is important to acknowledge the diverse religious and cultural observances that occur throughout the year. This diversity of religious and cultural beliefs, like other forms of diversity, enriches our university community and the work and learning that occurs here. Our CCI Calendar is here to help you celebrate a wide variety of inclusive events and observances as they occur.

Important Observances and D&I Calendar Dates:

August 2021

- **August 3**: [Black Women’s Equal Pay Day](#) | Womxn
  - Black Women’s Equal Pay Day aims is to raise awareness about the wider-than-average pay gap between Black women and White men. Black women are paid 62 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

- **August 9**: [International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples](#)
  - August 9 is designated International Day of the World’s Indigenous People in the United States and abroad. On International Day of the World’s Indigenous People, campuses raise awareness and advocate for protecting indigenous peoples’ rights worldwide.

- **August 9**: [Hijri New Year](#) | Islamic
  - Hijri is the day that marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year.

- **August 10**: [Muharram (Islamic New Year)](#) | Islamic
  - Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and marks the beginning of the Islamic New Year. Muharram is an Islamic holy month and begins at sundown.

- **August 13-16**: [Bon Festival (Feast of Lanterns)](#) | Buddhist
  - Obon, also known as the Bon Festival, is an annual three-day Buddhist festival and Japanese custom for honoring the spirits of ancestors. The Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the departed spirits of one's ancestors has evolved into a family reunion holiday, during which people return to ancestral family places to visit and clean their ancestors' graves. Celebrated for over 500 years, the event lasts for three days. (In some regions of Japan, the Bon Festival is celebrated in mid-July.)

- **August 15**: [Feast of the Assumption](#) | Catholic
  - This holy day marks the occasion of the Virgin Mary’s bodily ascent to heaven at the end of her life. Assumption celebrations are accompanied by festivals, colorful street processions, fireworks, and pageantry.

- **August 17**: [Marcus Garvey Day](#) | Jamaican
On August 17, Jamaicans celebrate Marcus Garvey Day. It honors a Jamaican-born political activist, orator, publisher, journalist, and entrepreneur who fought for the rights of Afro-Jamaicans. Garvey is credited with starting the Back to Africa movement, which encouraged those of African descent to return to the land of their ancestors during and after slavery in North America.

Marcus Garvey is considered the first national hero of Jamaica. In 2012, the government of Jamaica created Marcus Garvey Day in honor of his 125th birth anniversary. This memorial day is marked with a wreath-laying ceremony in National Heroes Park, patriotic lessons in schools, concerts, and other events and activities.

- **August 19**: World Humanitarian Day | Global
  - Every August 19, the world commemorates humanitarian workers killed or injured while working to provide critical and often life-saving support, relief, and protection to people in need.

- **August 18-19 (sundown to sundown)**: Ashura | Islamic
  - Ashura, also known as Yawm Ashura is the tenth day of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar. For Muslims Ashura marks the day that Moses and the Israelites were saved from Pharaoh by God creating a path in the Sea

- **August 22**: Rakshabandhan | Hindu
  - Rakshabandhan is a Hindu holiday commemorating the loving kinship between a brother and sister. “Rakshá” means “protection” in Hindi and symbolizes the longing a sister has to be protected by her brother. During the celebration, a sister ties a string around her brother’s (or brother-figure’s) wrist and asks him to protect her. The brother usually gives the sister a gift and agrees to protect her for life.

- **August 22**: Hungry Ghost Festival | Chinese
  - Hungry Ghost Festival is a Chinese holiday where street, market, and temple ceremonies take place to honor dead ancestors and appease other spirits.

- **August 23**: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
  - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is an international day celebrated August 23 of each year, the day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.

- **August 24**: Marsha P. Johnson Day | LGBTQ+
  - Marsha “Pay it No Mind” Johnson (1945-1992) was a Black trans woman who was a force behind the Stonewall Riots and surrounding activism that sparked a new phase of the LGBTQ+ movement in 1969.
  - Along with Sylvia Rivera, she established the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) in 1970—a group committed to supporting transgender youth experiencing homelessness in New York City.
Marsha P. Johnson is now one of the most venerated icons in LGBTQ+ history, has been celebrated in a series of books, documentaries, and films. Her actions and words continue to inspire trans activism and resistance and will continue to do so well into the future.

Learn more about Marsha P. Johnson through the work of Tourmaline and Sasha Wortzel here.

- **August 26:** Women’s Equality Day | Womxn
  - Women’s Equality Day commemorates the August 26, 1920, certification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote. Congresswoman Bella Abzug first introduced a proclamation for Women’s Equality Day in 1971. Since that time, every president has published a proclamation recognizing August 26 as Women’s Equality Day.

- **August 29-30:** Krishna Janmashtami | Hindu
  - Krishna Janmashtami is a Hindu celebration of Lord Vishnu’s most powerful human incarnations, Krishna, the god of love and compassion. Celebrations include praying and fasting.

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**September 2021**

- **Latinx Heritage Month** (September 15 – October 15)
  - Latinx Heritage Month, also known as National Hispanic Heritage Month, recognizes the diverse and dynamic culture of a diaspora of people with ancestry from the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, South America and Spain. In the U.S., Hispanic Heritage Month began as a week-long celebration in 1968 that was enacted into law in 1988 as a month-long observance, from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

  - National Hispanic Heritage Month commemorates several historic and significant events including the Independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua (Sept. 15), Mexico (Sept. 16), Chile (Sept. 18), and Belize (Sept. 21). Dia de la Raza is observed during Hispanic Heritage Month (Oct. 12) and celebrated in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Uruguay. Honoring the countries, people, traditions and cultures that were ravaged by European colonization, Dia de la Raza is also recognized as Hispanic Heritage Day in Spain, Respect to Cultural Diversity Day in Argentina, Indigenous Resistance Day in Nicaragua and Indigenous Peoples' Day in many U.S. cities.

  - While the U.S. designated name, National Hispanic Heritage Month, remains legally intact, the heritage month is also known by additional monikers such as Latinx Heritage Month, which intends to recognize intersectionality of multiple social identities and is used as a gender-neutral or non-binary alternative to Latino or Latina. During Latinx Heritage Month, GSU celebrates the rich histories, cultures, contributions and
accomplishments of Hispanic and Latinx people, including students, faculty, staff, alumni and external partners.

- **September 6 – September 8 (sundown to sundown): Rosh Hashanah | Jewish**
  - The Jewish New Year, also known as the Days of Renewed Responsibility, begins at sunset on day one and ends at nightfall the next day. The event is marked by solemn religious observances.

- **September 7: Labor Day | American**
  - Labor Day honors the American worker and acknowledges the value and dignity of work and its role in American life. Labor Day was first celebrated on September 5, 1882, in New York, and continued to be celebrated until June 28, 1894, when Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday. Learn more at Labor Day Resources.

- **September 8: International Literacy Day | Global**
  - Celebrated since 1965, when it was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), this event focuses on reading from a global perspective. Visit UNESCO and International Reading Association for information and activity ideas.

- **September 11: Ethiopian New Year | Ethiopian**
  - Rastafarians celebrate the new year on this date and believe that Ethiopia is their spiritual home.

- **September 11: Patriot Day/ National Day of Service & Remembrance | American**
  - On the anniversary of the September 11th attacks, Americans unite in the same remarkable way that so many came together following the attacks. Service and remembrance activities will take place in all 50 states throughout the month of September, giving us time to reflect on the devastating terrorist attacks that took nearly 3,000 lives. We commemorate those who we lost and give thanks to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line.

- **September 15-16 (sundown to sundown): Yom Kippur | Jewish**
  - Yom Kippur, also known as Day of Atonement, is the most solemn day of the Jewish year, and one of the most important, the Day of Atonement is typically spent at synagogue in fasting, reflection, and prayer.

- **September 16: Mexican Independence Day | Mexican**
  - Independence Day in Mexico and is considered a patriotic holiday. Each year, the president of Mexico rings the bells of the National Palace in Mexico City, celebrating the start in 1810 of Mexico’s struggle for independence from Spain.

- **September 17: Constitution Day and Citizenship Day | American**
Constitution Day commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787 and also honors all who have become U.S. citizens. On this day in 1787, the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention met to sign the Constitution of the United States of America. By presidential proclamation, the entire week is given to observing this important anniversary. Visit the National Constitution Center and the Constitution Day website for more information and teacher resources.

- **September 19, 2021**: Mid-Autumn Festival | Chinese
  - Referred to in China as zhongqiujie (中秋节), the Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the largest festivals in Mainland China and East Asia. This festival began as a celebration of the moon and has a tradition of deity, but it is also a time to reconnect with family members. Many traditions of the Mid-Autumn festival are centered around family reunion and happiness.

- **September 20-27**: Sukkot | Jewish
  - A seven-day Jewish festival giving thanks for the fall harvest. Beginning at sunset on the first day, this seven-day festival celebrates the harvest and commemorates the Jews’ passage through the wilderness.

- **September 21**: International Day of Peace | Global
  - Established by United Nations resolution in 1982, this event is a global holiday when individuals, communities, nations, and governments highlight efforts to end conflict and promote peace. To inaugurate the day, the "Peace Bell" is rung at U.N. headquarters. The bell is cast from coins donated by children from all continents, as a reminder of the human cost of war. For information, visit the International Day of Peace website.

- **September 22, 2021**: Mabon (Autumn Equinox) | Pagan
  - Mabon is the Pagan celebration of the Autumnal Equinox (Fall Equinox). The Fall Equinox is the time when the day and night are of equal length and the autumn is beginning (according to the solar calendar).

- **September 23**: Celebrate Bisexuality Day | LGBTQ+
  - Celebrate Bisexuality Day is observed annually on September 23 to recognize and celebrate bisexual people, the bisexual community, and the history of bisexuality. Bisexual Awareness Week is September 16-23, 2021

- **September 27**: National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day | LGBTQ+
  - In 2008 the National Association of People with AIDS launched this observance day to recognize the disproportionate impact of the epidemic on gay men.

- **September 27-29, 2021 (sundown to sundown)**: Shemini Atzeret | Jewish
  - Shemini Atzeret is the postscript to the seven days of Sukkot. Its role is as an extra day of spiritual celebration of the protective relationship between God and his chosen people, the Jews, which was demonstrated during their 40 years of exile after Moses
received the 10 Commandments on Sinai on their behalf. It combines both thanksgiving for the harvest and prayer for rain to assure next year’s harvest.

- **September 29-29, 2021: Simchat Torah | Jewish**
  - Celebrates and marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle.

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**October 2021**

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**
  - Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM), also referred to in the United States as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM), is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure.

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
  - First observed in October 1981 as a national “Day of Unity,” Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is held each October as a way to unite advocates across the nation in their efforts to end domestic violence. Communities and advocacy organizations across the country connect with the public and one another throughout the month to raise awareness about the signs of abuse and ways to stop it, and to uplift survivor stories and provide additional resources to leaders and policymakers.

- **Global Diversity Awareness Month**
  - October is Global Diversity Awareness Month, a month to celebrate and increase awareness about the diversity of cultures and ethnicities and the positive impact diversity can have on society.

- **Filipino American Heritage Month**

  - October was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Filipinos who landed in what is now Morro Bay, California on October 18, 1587. It is also the birth month of Filipino American labor leader Larry Itliong. While some used the term Filipino American Heritage Month interchangeably with Filipino American History Month, FANHS cites that the month should be properly focused on "history" instead of "heritage." Whereas history includes the events, experiences, and lives of people and their impact on society, "heritage" is solely about cultural traditions handed down from the past.
• **LGBTQ+ History Month (U.S.)**
  - Since 1994, the month of October has been dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and diverse identities/sexualities history as well as the history of LGBTQ+ rights. During this time, revolutionary icons, events and contributions made by the LGBTQ+ community are recognized and celebrated. The month of October includes:
    - **National Coming Out Day** on October 11
    - Anniversary of the first **LGBT March on Washington** on October 14, 1979
    - **Ally Week**, a week in which allies against LGBT bullying are celebrated
    - The **anniversary** of Matthew Shepard’s murder on Oct. 12, 1998, which sparked the **Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act**.
    - **Spirit Day** on October 20, when people wear purple in support of LGBT youth
  - Resource: [https://inclusion.uoregon.edu/lgbtqia-history-month](https://inclusion.uoregon.edu/lgbtqia-history-month)

  **Celebrate National Coming Out Day with HRC!**—visit the Human Rights Campaign site to learn more.

• **German American Heritage Month**
  - October is German American Heritage Month in recognition of the founding of Germantown, Pennsylvania in October 1683. Fifteen percent of Americans are of German descent, which is the largest ancestral group in the United States.

• **Italian American Heritage Month**
  - Every year the U.S. president signs an executive order designating the month of October as National Italian American Heritage Month in recognition of the achievements and contributions made to American culture by persons of Italian heritage. See [Milestones of the Italian American Experience](https://www.nationalitalianamericanheritagemonth.com/milestones).

• **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**
  - From the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy: “Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.”
  - The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the designation, by presidential proclamation, of a full month to increase public awareness of those with disabilities and appreciate the capabilities of the 30 million people in the U.S. of working-age who are disabled. Various programs throughout the month headed by The Office of Disability Employment Policy emphasize specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and eliminated.

• **Polish American Heritage Month**
  - The first Polish American Heritage month event took place in Philadelphia PA in 1981, and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. The idea soon
gained national interest, and in 1984 House Joint Resolution 577 was passed, officially naming the month of August as Polish American Heritage Month. In 1986, the observation was moved to October, in part to honor the arrival of the first Polish settlers in Jamestown, Virginia in 1608, and also to commemorate the deaths of General Kazimierz Pułaski (October 11, 1779) and Tadeusz Kościuszko (October 15, 1817), two renowned military leaders who fought for our independence during the American Revolution.

- **October 2: Gandhi’s Birthday / International Day of Non-Violence | Global**
  - The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.
  - On the International Day of Non-Violence, created by the United Nations in 2007, we look back on the influence of an Indian activist born Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi but known the world over as Mahatma Gandhi. The International Day of Non-Violence honors how Gandhi’s work and legacy has impacted global, non-violent protest.

- **October 10: World Mental Health Day | Global**
  - World Mental Health Day is an international day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma.
  - It was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organization with members and contacts in more than 150 countries

- **October 11: National Coming Out Day (U.S.) | LGBTQ+**
  - National Coming Out Day, October 11, celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people’s coming out experiences and journeys.
  - Started in 1988 by Rob Eichberg and Jean O’Leary in celebration of the second March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on Oct. 11, 1987. In the 1980s, when many people did not know any openly LGBT2Q+ people, ignorance and silence allowed homophobia to persist. Coming out was a form of activism and it was believed that when people realized they knew someone who was LGBT2Q+, they would be far more likely to support equality under the law.
  - Each year on Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day continues to promote a safe world for LGBTQ+ individuals to live openly.

- **October 11: International Day of the Girl | Womxn**
  - International Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations; it is also called the Day of Girls and the International Day of the Girl. **October 11, 2012, was the first Day of the Girl Child.** The observation celebrates the
importance, power, and potential of girls around the world and supports more opportunity for girls and increases awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide based upon their gender.

- This inequality includes areas such as access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, and protection from discrimination, violence against women and forced child marriage.

- The celebration of the day also "reflects the successful emergence of girls and young women as a distinct cohort in development policy, programming, campaigning, and research."

**October 12: Indigenous People’s Day | American & Latinx**

- Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that celebrates and honors Native American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. It is celebrated across the United States on the second Monday in October, and is an official city and state holiday in various localities. It began as a counter-celebration held on the same day as the U.S. federal holiday of Columbus Day, which honors Italian explorer Christopher Columbus. Many reject celebrating him, saying that he represents "the violent history of the colonization in the Western Hemisphere", and that Columbus Day is a sanitization or covering-up of Christopher Columbus' actions such as enslaving Native Americans.

- In most Spanish-speaking countries, it is celebrated as Dia de la Raza (Mexico), Día de las Culturas (Costa Rica), to celebrate the contributions of the country’s indigenous, Spanish, African, and Asian cultures. Latin Americans celebrate October 12 under many different names, including Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity (Argentina), Decolonization Day (Bolivia), Day of Interculturality and Plurinationality (Ecuador), Day of Indigenous Peoples and Intercultural Dialogue (Peru), and Indigenous Resistance Day (Venezuela). October 12th is not recognized as a holiday in Cuba.

**October 15: National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day | LGBTQ+**

- National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) (El Día Nacional de Concientización Latina del SIDA) takes place in the United States of America and its territories on October 15, the last day of National Hispanic Heritage Month, and aims to increase awareness of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in the Hispanic/Latino population living in the United States including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

**October 16: World Food Day | Global**

- World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on October 16 to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945. The day is celebrated widely by many other organizations concerned with hunger and food security. World Food Day has sought to increase
awareness, understanding, and informed year-round action to alleviate hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.

- **October 18: Multicultural Diversity Day | American**
  - Created by Cleorah Scruggs, a fourth-grade teacher in Flint, Michigan, Multicultural Diversity Day is celebrated on the third Monday in October and was adopted as a national event by the 1993 Representative Assembly to “increase awareness of the tremendous need to celebrate our diversity collectively.”

- **October 19: National LGBT Center Awareness Day | LGBTQ+**
  - On October 19 (since 1994), CenterLink holds “LGBT Center Awareness Day”, a national day of action focused on awareness around the work of LGBT community centers everywhere. These organizations also serve as a point of education. From cultural aspects of the LGBT community to providing resources, these centers offer vital services to entire neighborhoods.

- **October 18-19, 2021(sundown to sundown): Eid Milad un-Nabi | Islamic**
  - Eid Milad un-Nabi is an Islamic holiday commemorating the birthday of the prophet Muhammad. During this celebration, homes and mosques are decorated, large parades take place, and those observing the holiday participate in charity events.

- **October 20, 2021: International Pronouns Day | LGBTQ+**
  - International Pronouns Day began in 2018 and seeks to make asking, sharing, and respecting personal pronouns commonplace. It takes place on the 3rd Wednesday of October each year.
  - Referring to people by the pronouns they determine for themselves is basic to human dignity. Being referred to by the wrong pronouns particularly affects transgender and gender nonconforming people. Together, we can transform society to celebrate people’s multiple, intersecting identities.

- **October 21, 2021: Spirit Day | LGBTQ+**
  - Spirit Day was first established in 2010 by Canadian teenager Brittany McMillan. This day encourages everyone to speak out against LGBT2Q bullying and standing with LGBT2Q youth, who disproportionately face bullying and harassment because of their identities. On this day, supporters wear purple to visibly show solidarity with LGBTQ youth and to honor LGBT2Q+ victims of suicide.
  - The name “Spirit Day” comes from the purple stripe of the Rainbow flag which represents ‘spirit’. It takes place on the 3rd Thursday in October.

- **October 26: Intersex Awareness Day | LGBTQ+**
  - Intersex Awareness Day is an internationally observed awareness day each October 26, designed to highlight human rights issues faced by intersex people. The day is
celebrated to commemorate the first public demonstration by intersex people in North America.

- **October 24-30: Asexual Awareness Week | LGBTQ+**
  - Asexual Awareness Week is an international campaign that seeks to educate about asexual, aromantic, demisexual, and grey-asexual experiences and to create materials that are accessible to our community and our allies around the world.

- **October 24: United Nations Day | Global**
  - United Nations Day is recognized to commemorate representatives of fifty nations that gathered in San Francisco to put the final touches to a document of far-reaching consequences - the Charter of the United Nations. The UN Charter went into effect on October 24, 1945. Two years later the UN General Assembly adopted a U.S.-sponsored resolution declaring October 24th United Nations Day

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**November 2021**

- **National American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month**
  - November is Native American Heritage Month, also known as, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of indigenous people. It is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and present day, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

  - U.S., Congress designated a week in October to celebrate Native American Awareness Week in 1976. Yearly legislation was enacted to continue the tradition until August of 1990, when President Bush approved the designation of November as National American Indian Heritage Month. See [https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/](https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/) or [Native American Heritage Month](https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/) to learn more.

- **November 1-November 2: Dia De Los Muertos | Mexican**
  - The Day of the Dead (el Día de los Muertos), is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink and celebration.

  - A blend of Mesoamerican ritual, European religion and Spanish culture, the holiday is celebrated each year from November 1- November 2.

  - While October 31 is Halloween, November 1 is “el Dia de los Inocentes,” or the day of the children, and All Saints Day. November 2 is All Souls Day or the Day of the Dead. According to tradition, the gates of heaven are opened at midnight on October 31 and
the spirits of children can rejoin their families for 24 hours. The spirits of adults can do the same on November 2.

- **November 2: Election Day | American**
  - In the United States, Election Day is the annual day set by law for the general elections of federal public officials. It is statutorily set by the Federal Government as "the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November"

- **November 4: Diwali | Hindu**
  - Diwali is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists, notably Newar Buddhists. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu luni-solar month Kartika.
  - Known as the "Indian Festival of Lights", is a major Hindu holiday that signifies the renewal of life, and the victory of good over evil. To celebrate, people light lamps and candles, set off fireworks, and wear new clothes. For more information, please visit [https://www.diwalifestival.org/](https://www.diwalifestival.org/)

- **November 8: Intersex Solidarity Day | LGBTQ+**
  - Intersex Day of Remembrance, also known as Intersex Solidarity Day, is an internationally observed civil awareness day designed to highlight issues faced by intersex people.
  - The day also marks the birthday of Herculine Barbin, a now-famous French intersex person.

- **November 11: Veteran's Day | American**
  - An annual American holiday honoring military veterans. It is both a federal holiday and a state holiday in all states. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed an Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. In 1938, the United States Congress made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - to be celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Congress amended this act in 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans Day since then. See more at [Military.com](https://www.military.com).

- **November 13: World Kindness Day | Global**
  - World Kindness Day is an international holiday (since 1998) that promotes the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself, and to the world.
  - This day, celebrated on November 13 of each year, has the purpose is to help everyone understand that compassion for others is what binds us all together.

- **November 13-19: Transgender Awareness Week | LGBTQ+**
  - Each year between November 13 – 19, the week before Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, people and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility of trans and gender non-conforming people.
The purpose of this week is to improve the climate of settings such as school, the workplace, and everyday interactions by educating the public and addressing challenges of prejudice, discrimination and violence against the trans & NGC community.

The week culminates with Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20 to pay tribute to trans people who lost their lives as a result of violence and bias.

- **November 16: International Day of Tolerance | Global**
  - The United Nations’ (UN) International Day for Tolerance is annually observed on November 16 to educate people about the need for tolerance in society and to help them understand the negative effects of intolerance. It is a time for people to learn about respecting and recognizing the rights and beliefs of others. It is also a time of reflection and debate on the negative effects of intolerance.
  - Live discussions and debates take place across the world on this day, focusing on how various forms of injustice, oppression, racism and unfair discrimination have a negative impact on society.

- **November 15-19: American Education Week (International Education Week observed at GSU)**
  - American Education Week (AEW) spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college, and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great. [Learn more here](#)

- **November 17: International Students’ Day | Global**
  - The International Students’ Day is celebrated all around the world on November 17th. With a special focus on ensuring education is available for all students.
  - The date of 17th November was chosen to be the International Students’ Day due to the events that unfolded in Prague during World War II. Nine students were executed without trial in concentration camps on the 17th of November 1939. November 17 marks a celebration of multiculturalism of international students.

- **November 19, 2021: Guru Nanak Dev Ji’s Birthday | Sikh**
  - This day is important because Guru Nanak Dev Ji founded Sikhism. Guru Nanak Dev Ji is considered the first Sikh Guru.

- **November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) | LGBTQ+**
  - Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 (since 1998) that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence that year and to raise awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

- **November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women | Womxn**
  - Women's rights activists have observed November 25 (since 1999) as a day against gender-based violence since 1981. This date was selected to honor the Mirabal sisters,
three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country’s ruler, Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961).

- The premise of the day is to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence; furthermore, one of the aims of the day is to highlight that the scale and true nature of the issue is often hidden. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime - with the abuser usually someone known to her. Learn more

- **November 24-25 (sundown to sundown):** [Day of The Covenant](https://www.baha.org) | Bahá’í

  - This is a day to honor unity of their faith and all faiths. This is a day to recognize the broader covenant between God and humanity, which calls on each human being to recognize and accept all of the founders of the world’s greatest faiths as bringing different stages in one continuous spiritual educational system for all humanity.

- **November 25:** [Thanksgiving](https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving) | American

  - Thanksgiving Day in the United States is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November each year as a federal holiday. Traditionally it is a time to give thanks for all the sacrifice and hard work done for the harvest. In modern times people take time off work (4 day weekend starting Thursday) and spend time with family and friends over a large feast held on Thanksgiving Day.

  - Some Native Americans and many others take issue with how the Thanksgiving story is presented to the American public, and especially to schoolchildren. In their view, the traditional narrative paints a deceptively sunny portrait of relations between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people, masking the long and bloody history of conflict between Native Americans and European settlers that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands. Since 1970, protesters have gathered on the day designated as Thanksgiving at the top of Cole’s Hill, which overlooks Plymouth Rock, to commemorate a “National Day of Mourning.” Similar events are held in other parts of the country.

  - [https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving](https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving)
  - [The Redefining Of American Holidays & Traditions — Thanksgiving](https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving)
  - [Decolonizing the History of Thanksgiving](https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving)
  - [Social Programming; The Truth about Thanksgiving and Black Friday](https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving)
  - [Do American Indians celebrate Thanksgiving?](https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving)

  - Thanksgiving is similarly celebrated around the world. In Canada, they celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October. Liberia celebrates the day on the first Thursday of November and Saint Lucia the first Monday in October and finally Grenada celebrates on October 25th each year.

- **November 28-December 6:** Chanukah ([Hanukkah](https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving)) | Jewish
Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, commemorates the Maccabees military victory over the Greek Syrians and the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The festival is observed by the lighting of a special candelabrum, the Menorah, with one additional light lit on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night.

December 2021

- **Universal Human Rights Month**
  - December is Universal Human Rights Month, a time for people in the United States and around the world to join together and stand up for the rights and dignity of all individual.

- **December 1: World AIDS Day | Global**
  - World AIDS Day, December 1, is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988.

- **December 3: International Day of Disabled Persons | Global**
  - International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3) is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. The observance of the day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

- **December 10: Human Rights Day | Global**
  - The anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—a document establishing a common standard for human achievement for all peoples and nations, rooted in the values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect, and shared responsibility. See also the United Nations Human Rights website.

- **December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe | Catholic**
  - A religious holiday in Mexico commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531.

- **December 21: Yule | Wicca**
  - Yule, also known as the Winter Solstice, is the date in which daytime is shortest and nighttime is longest. It is a time to meditate on the cycle of life, death, and rebirth.

- **December 24: Christmas Eve | Christian**
  - The evening or entire day before Christmas Day, the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus.
December 25: **Christmas | Christian**

- Christmas is celebrated on December 25 and is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon.
- People around the observe it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their Christian faith.
- Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive.

December 26– January 1: **Kwanzaa | American**

- Kwanzaa is a week-long holiday honoring African culture and traditions. It falls between December 26 and January 1 each year. Maulana Karenga, an African-American leader, proposed this observance and it was first celebrated between December 1966 and January 1967.
- Kwanzaa is a celebration of community, family and culture, established as a means to help African Americans reconnect with their African roots and heritage.
- Kwanzaa is based on the agricultural celebration of Africa called “the first fruits” celebrations, which celebrate the times of harvest, gathering, reverence, commemoration of the past, recommitment to cultural ideals, and celebration of the good.
- There are 7 Principles and 7 Primary Symbols that emphasize a unique set of values and ideals during the 7 days of Kwanzaa, ending January 1. Learn more about [Kwanzaa](#).

December 31: **New Year’s Eve**

- New Year’s Eve is December 31, the final day of the Gregorian year and the day before New Year’s Day. In modern Western practice, New Year’s Eve is celebrated with parties and social gatherings marking the passing of one year into the next, at midnight.

January 2022

- **National Mentoring Month**
  
  - National Mentoring Month is an annual designation observed in January. This month, focus on how we can all work together to increase the number of mentors to make sure young people in our communities have dependable people to look up to and follow in their footsteps.

- **National Slavery & Human Trafficking Awareness Month**
  
  - January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Every year since 2010, the President has dedicated the month to raising awareness about the different
forms of human trafficking, also known as modern slavery, and educating people about this crime and how to spot it.

- **Poverty in America Awareness Month**
  - January is Poverty Awareness Month, a month-long initiative to raise awareness and call attention to the growth of poverty in America.

- **January 1: New Year’s Day**
  - New Year’s Day has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870. Schools and most businesses are not open.

- **January 4: World Braille Day | Global**
  - We celebrate World Braille Day every year on January 4th because it’s Louis Braille’s birthday. He’s the inventor of braille! Louis was born in 1809 in France and became blind after a childhood accident. But, he quickly mastered his new way of living. When Louis was only 15 years old, he created a reading and writing system based on Charles Barbier’s night writing system. We know Louis’ system today as braille. Adjusted over time, braille is now easier to read and used all over the world!

- **January 6: Three Kings’ Day or Epiphany | Catholic**
  - Epiphany, or the Feast of Epiphany, most commonly known as Three Kings’ Day, happens twelve days after Christmas, on January 6th. It is a Catholic observance and a day for commemorating the visit that the Three Wise Men paid to Baby Jesus. It is not a public holiday in America, and businesses follow normal hours.
  - The day of Epiphany is a Feast Day, and it marks the beginning of the Epiphanytide, a catholic season that lasts from this day until Ash Wednesday. It is also the end of the 12 Days of Christmas, a period that begins on Christmas Day and ends on the Epiphany. The days symbolize Jesus Christ’s birth and the manifestation of his divinity, respectively.

- **January 7: Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian**
  - Orthodox Christians in the United States celebrate Christmas a little bit later than everyone else, on January 7. This date falls on December 25 in the Julian Calendar, which existed before the Gregorian Calendar. Orthodox Christmas also celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God. This holiday differs from Christmas Day because it does not observe Pagan traditions, like waiting for gifts from Santa Claus and decorating a tree, instead it focuses on religious customs.
  - Orthodox Christmas is not a public holiday in the United States, so businesses and schools remain open as usual.

- **January 11: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day | American**
  - January 2021 is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, as decreed by presidential proclamation. January is also known as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is a key time for us all as individuals to educate ourselves about human trafficking and crucially to learn to spot the signs of trafficking. It is also a time for us
take these messages to our workplaces, our churches, our schools, our representatives and everywhere else.

- **January 13:** [Korean American Day](#) | American
  - Korean American Day is a celebration of the first arrival of Korean immigrants to America, and a commemoration of the Korean American community's contributions to culture and society in the United States.
  - There are around 1.8 million people of Korean descent living in the United States, and the Korean Americans make for the fifth largest Asian-American population group.
  - Korean American Day was first proclaimed by President George W. Bush on January 13, 2003, the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Koreans to the United States in 1903. The observance was made official by the U.S. Congress in 2005, and since then Korean American Day has been an annual celebration.

- **January 16, 2022:** [National Religious Freedom Day](#) | American
  - National Religious Freedom Day commemorates the Virginia General Assembly's adoption of Thomas Jefferson’s landmark Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom on January 16, 1786. That statute became the basis for the establishment clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and led to the freedom of religion for all Americans. Religious Freedom Day is officially proclaimed on January 16 each year by an annual statement by the President of the United States.

- **January 16, 2022:** [World Religion Day](#) | Global
  - Every year on the third Sunday in January, people from all cultures and backgrounds come together World Religion Day. The day celebrates the commonality of the major faiths of the world.
  - Even though there are so many, three-quarters of the world’s population practice one of the five major religions. These include:
    - Buddhism
    - Hinduism
    - Judaism
    - Christianity
    - Islam

- **January 17, 2022:** [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) | American
  - Martin Luther King Day, or Martin Luther King Jr. Day, is a federal holiday observed on the third Monday of January. Martin Luther King Day is held in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., the famous civil rights leader.
  - Martin Luther King’s birthday is January 15. However, under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968, certain holidays, such as this one, are celebrated on a Monday to enable more families to spend time together.

- **January 18-20, 2022:** [Mahāyāna New Year](#) | Buddhist
  - The Mahāyāna New Year is different for each country and tradition. Some Mahāyāna Buddhists celebrate it on December 31 or January 1 along with the rest of the world. Others wait for the first full moon which usually falls mid-January. Mahāyāna Buddhists will celebrate by honoring and praying to their gods, particularly Buddha. Buddha's
statues will also be bathed as a show of respect. Religious songs are also offered to the deities. Buddhists are expected to visit a nearby temple on New Year’s Day. Once there, they light candles to bring happiness and good luck for the coming year.

- **January 26, 2022:** Australia Day | Australian
  - Australia Day is on January 26 and commemorates the establishment of the first European settlement at Port Jackson, now part of Sydney, in 1788.

- **January 26, 2022:** India Republic Day | Indian
  - Republic Day is celebrated every year in India on January 26 to commemorate the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect, in the year 1950, and the country became a republic.

- **January 27, 2022:** International Holocaust Remembrance Day | Global
  - International Holocaust Remembrance Day is a United Nations observance that honors and remembers the tragedy of the Holocaust, and the millions of people who lost their lives at the hands of the Nazi government.

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**February 2022**

- **Black History Month | American**
  - Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. In 1926 Dr. Carter G. Woodson instituted the first week-long celebration to raise awareness of African Americans’ contributions to history.
  - The month of February was chosen because it celebrates the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both of whom dramatically affected the lives of African Americans.
  - Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, founded by Dr. Woodson, sets the theme for the month. Traditionally, Black History Month focuses on the experiences of Black people and leaders in the United States. However, it is important that we create space to honor the legacies, histories, and contributions of Black people across the Diaspora.

- **February 1:** National Freedom Day | American
  - National Freedom Day, which celebrates the signing of the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery in 1865.

- **February 1:** World Interfaith Harmony Week | Interfaith
  - The first week of February of each year has been designated World Interfaith Harmony Week by the United Nations. The World Interfaith Harmony Week provides a
one week in a year—when all interfaith groups and other groups of goodwill can show the world what a powerful movement they are. It is hoped that this initiative will provide a focal point from which all people of goodwill can recognize that the common values they hold far outweigh the differences they have, and thus provide a strong dosage of peace and harmony to their communities.

- **February 1, 2022:** Lunar New Year | Chinese/Asian
  - Lunar New Year, also known as the Chinese New Year, is one of the most sacred of all traditional Chinese holidays, a time of family reunion and celebration. The Lunar New Year is also celebrated in China, Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Mongolia to name a few countries.

- **February 1, 2022:** Maghi-Purnima | Hindu
  - Maghi-Purnima is a Hindu festival especially for worshippers of Lord Vishnu. Millions of devotees take a holy bath on this day. Devotees also carry out charity work on this day.

- **February 1, 2022:** World Hijab Day | Islamic
  - February 1st, 2013 marked the first annual World Hijab Day (WHD) in recognition of millions of Muslim women who choose to wear the hijab and live a life of modesty.
  - The brainchild of this movement is a New York resident, Nazma Khan, who came up with the idea as a means to foster religious tolerance and understanding by inviting women (non-Hijabi Muslims/non-Muslims) to experience the hijab for one day.
  - By opening up new pathways to understanding, Nazma hopes to counteract some of the controversies surrounding why Muslim women choose to wear the hijab.

- **February 3, 2022:** Setsubun-Sai (Beginning of Spring) | Japanese
  - Setsubun (literally "seasonal division") is a Japanese beans-throwing festival that is celebrated all across Japan on February 3, before the start of spring according to the Japanese lunar calendar. The tradition is to cast away demons and welcome spring.

- **February 5, 2022:** Vasant Panchami | Hindu
  - Vasant Panchami is the Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring. On this day Hindus worship Saraswati Devi, the goddess of wisdom, knowledge, music, art, and culture.

- **February 6:** International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation | Global
  - a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that marks part of the UN’s efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. About 120 to 140 million women have been subject to FGM and 3 million girls are at risk each year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). FGM relates to all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. This practice is an abuse of human rights and causes serious health complications, including fatal bleeding.

- **February 7:** National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day | American
- National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed to increase HIV education, testing, treatment, and involvement in African-American communities.

- **February 11:** [Asian-American Women’s Equal Pay Day](#) | Womxn
  - The aim is to raise awareness about the pay gap between Asian-American women and White men. Asian-American women are paid 90 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

- **February 14:** [Valentine’s Day](#) | Western
  - Celebrated annually on February 14, Valentine’s Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus. Typically associated with romantic love and celebrated by people expressing their love via gifts.

- **February 15:** [Parinirvana Day](#) | Buddhist
  - Parinirvana Day is the commemoration of Buddha’s death at the age of 80, when he reached the zenith of Nirvana. February 8 is an alternative date of observance.

- **February 15, 2022:** [Lantern Festival](#) | Chinese
  - Falling on the 15th day of the first lunar month, Lantern Festival is the first significant feast after Chinese New Year, so called because the most important activity during the night of the event is watching various wonderful Chinese lanterns. And because every household eats yuanxiao (a rice ball stuffed with different fillings) on that day, it is called Yuan Xiao Festival. For its rich and colorful activities, it is regarded as the most recreational among all the Chinese festivals and a day for appreciating the bright full moon, and family reunion.

- **February 16, 2022:** [Māgha Pūjā (also known as Maka Bucha)](#) | Buddhist
  - Māgha Pūjā is the second most important Buddhist festival, celebrated on the full moon day of the third lunar month in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Sri Lanka and on the full moon day of Tabaung in Myanmar.
  - The holiday marks an event early in the Buddha’s teaching life when a group of 1,250 enlightened saints, ordained by the Buddha, gathered to pay their respect to him. It is celebrated on various dates in different countries.

- **February 17:** [National Random Acts of Kindness Day](#) | American
  - Each year on February 17th, National Random Acts of Kindness Day grows in popularity. It is celebrated by individuals, groups and organizations worldwide to encourage acts of kindness.

- **February 20:** [World Day of Social Justice](#) | Global
  - The 20th of February is observed as World Day of Social Justice since 2009. An underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations is defined as Social Justice according to the official website of the United Nations Organization. This day promotes diversity, equity, inclusion through productive dialogue.
February 21, 2022: President’s Day | American
   - President’s Day is a federally recognized celebration in the United States of George Washington’s birthday, as well as every president proceeding Washington.

February 21-27, 2022: Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week | Global
   - Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week (takes place the week following Valentine’s Day) (ASAW) is an annual, international event meant to spread awareness and acceptance of aromantic spectrum identities and the issues we face, as well as making more people aware of our existence while celebrating it.
   - Aromantics are people who do not experience romantic attraction.

February 25-March 1- Ayyám-i-Há | Baha’i
   - Ayyam-i-Ha is a multiple-day Baha’i festival that is joyously celebrated in countries and territories all over the world. It typically falls around the end of February and beginning of March. Ayyam-i-Ha, or the Intercalary Days, is a period dedicated to socializing, being hospitable, giving generously to the poor and needy, and preparing for the upcoming month of fasting. The 2021 dates for this observance are from sunset on Wednesday, February 24, to sunset on Sunday, February 28.

March 2022

- **Irish American Heritage Month**
  - Irish-American Heritage Month was first celebrated by proclamation of the President in 1991. It seemed natural to choose March (Saint Patrick’s Day falls on March 17) for the month-long recognition of the contributions that Irish immigrants and their descendants have made to U.S. society.

- **National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**
  - Established to increase awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- **National Deaf History Month**
  - National Deaf History Month is celebrated from March 13th through April 15th. Deaf History Month is celebrated at this time of year because of three main events in the history of deaf education. On April 15, 1817, America’s first public school for the deaf was opened. Learn more

- **National Social Work Month**
  - Every March, National Social Work Month recognizes the dedication and empathy social workers across the country deliver while providing services to children and adults in need. Social workers are advocates, advisors, counselors, and facilitators in schools, clinics, businesses, and government offices.

- **Women's History Month** (Womxn’s HERstory Month)
  - March is recognized as Women’s History Month nationally. National Women's History Month was established by presidential proclamation in order to draw attention to and improve the focus on women in historical studies.
o It began in New York City on March 8, 1857, when female textile workers marched in protest of unfair working conditions and unequal rights for women. It was one of the first organized strikes by working women, during which they called for a shorter workday and decent wages. Also on March 8, in 1908, women workers in the needle trades marched through New York City's Lower East Side to protest child labor, sweatshop working conditions, and demand women’s suffrage. Beginning in 1910, March 8 became annually observed as International Women’s Day.

o Women’s History Week was instituted in 1978 in an effort to begin adding women’s history into educational curricula. In 1987, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to include all of March as a celebration of the economic, political and social contributions of women.

o At Georgia State University, we acknowledge Women’s History Month as Womxn’s HERstory Month. Womxn” is an inclusive term and spelling that validate individuals whose experiences exist beyond social norms of "womanhood". With the inclusion of this term, we hope to amplify the identities and experiences of women of color, transgender individuals, and individuals who are non-binary/non-conforming. This month-long educational initiative is a time to celebrate the contributions made by womxn and honor their stories, and combat sexism and transmisogyny.

o See Women’s History Month on The History Channel for more information. Also learn more about Gender Equality.

o March 1, 2022: Maha Shivarati | Hindu
  o Maha Shivarati is a Hindu festival celebrated each year to honor Lord Shiva. It is celebrated just before the arrival of spring. It is also known as the Great Night of Shiva or Shivaratri and is one of the largest and most significant among the sacred festival nights of India.

o March 1, 2022: Leilat al-Meiraj | Islamic
  o Leilat al-Meiraj is a Muslim holiday that commemorates the prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to the “Farthest Mosque” in Jerusalem, where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily. Note that in the Muslim calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.

o March 1, 2022: Shrove (FAT) Tuesday/ Mardi Gras | Christian
  o A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide.
  o The term “Mardi Gras” is particularly associated with the carnival celebrations in New Orleans, Louisiana.
March 2, 2022: Ash Wednesday | Christian
- Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and falls on the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed by Western Christians.

March 2-20, 2022: Nineteen Day Fast | Baha’i
- The Nineteen-Day Fast is a nineteen-day period of the year during which members of the Bahá’í Faith adhere to a sunrise-to-sunset fast. Along with obligatory prayer, it is one of the greatest obligations of a Bahá’í, and its chief purpose is spiritual: to reinvigorate the soul and bring the person closer to God.

March 2, 2022: National Read Across America Day | American
- Originally, Read Across America Day, formally known as “Dr. Seuss Day” was created in honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday on March 2nd. However, it has since been changed due to an article published by The Conscious Kid entitled, “The Cat is Out of the Bag: Orientalism, Anti-Blackness, and White Supremacy in Dr. Seuss’s Children’s Books” that enlightened the education community about the explicit racism that Dr. Seuss engaged in.
- Ever since then, educators and families have put a stop to Dr. Seuss Day and rebranded Read Across America Day as a general celebration of literature on March 2nd or the whole week. Some organizations, such as the National Education Association, have gone further and put the focus for Read Across America Day on diverse books featuring characters of color and characters with different gender identities.

March 8: International Women’s Day | Global
- International Women’s Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the historical, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also observed in support of taking action against gender inequality around the world.

- Since the inception of this day in 2005, National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day’s goal has been to raise awareness about how women can protect themselves and their partners from HIV. This day brings organizations and communities together to help women and girls protect themselves from HIV through prevention, testing and treatment.

March 11, 2022: World Day of Muslim Culture, Peace, Dialogue and Film | Global
- World Day of Muslim Culture, Peace, Dialogue and Film is an annual observance held on March 11 over the world, which has taken place for the past 11 years. This day was created in 2010 by Javed Mohammed, a writer and producer from California. The main aim of the celebration is to share and discuss Muslim culture to create a link and understanding across faiths and to promote a better knowledge of Muslim culture.

World Social Work Day is a celebration that aims to highlight the achievements of social work, raise the visibility of social services for the future of societies, and to defend social justice and human rights.

Every year since 2007, World Social Work Day is celebrated on the third Tuesday of March, it is a celebration that has become a highpoint in the social work calendar with social workers all over the world celebrating and promoting the contributions of the profession to individuals, families, communities and wider society.

March 16-17 (sundown to sundown) Purim | Jewish
- A Jewish holiday which commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, an Achaemenid Persian Empire official who was planning to kill all the Jews, as recounted in the Book of Esther

March 17, 2022: St. Patrick’s Day | Irish
- Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.

March 18, 2022: Holi | Hindu
- A spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colors or the festival of sharing love.
- The Holi festival commemorates the victory of good over evil, particularly the burning and destruction of a demoness named Holika. This was made possible with the help of Hindu god of preservation, Lord Vishnu.
- Holi got its name as the "Festival of Colors" from the childhood antics of Lord Krishna, a reincarnation of Lord Vishnu, who liked to play pranks on the village girls by drenching them in water and colors.
- In parts of India, Holi is also celebrated as a spring festival, to provide thanksgiving for an abundant harvest season.

March 18-19, 2022: Laylat al-Bara'ah | Islamic
- Eve of the 15th day of the Islamic month of Shaban
- This holy day is known as Laylat al-Bara'ah ("Night of Forgiveness") in Arabic and Shab-Barat in Persian. Followers observe the date by holding a vigil throughout the night. They congregate at the local mosque to pray, read the Qur'an, and set off fireworks. Like other Islamic traditions, the festival reflects the common elements as well as the differences between the religion's Shi'ite and Sunni sects.
- Sunnis regard the holiday exclusively as a night in which one’s fate for the upcoming year is determined. According to Sunni lore, every individual's destiny is recorded on a corresponding leaf on the Tree of Life. When Allah shakes this tree on the 15th of Shaban, he fixes the next year's course of events.
- Simultaneous to observing these destiny traditions of Laylat al-Bara'ah, Shi'ites also celebrate the Birthday of the Twelfth Imam, a figure of paramount importance in the Shi'ite faith who is expected to redeem the world upon his second coming.
Where Celebrated: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Muslim countries of the Middle East and North Africa
Symbols and Customs: Charity, Fasting, Fireworks, Prayer Vigils, Qur’an Reading, Sweets, Tree of Life

March 18-20, 2022: Hola Mohalla | Sikh
Hola Mohalla, also called Hola, is a three day long Sikh festival which normally falls in March and takes place on the second day of the lunar month of Chett, a day after the Hindu spring festival Holi but sometimes coincides with Holi. Hola Mohalla is a big festive event for Sikhs around the world.

March 20, 2022: French Language Day | Global
On March 20, French Language Day explores the influences of the language as a culture, how it marks history and celebrates achievements. The event was established by UN's Department of Public Information in 2010 "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization".

March 21, 2022: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | Global
The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws. It is observed as a call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

March 21-22: NOWRÚZ | Zoroastrian
A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New Year. Also celebrated as New Year’s Day in Baha’i tradition (Naw-Ruz). (This date may vary based on region or sect.)

March 25, 2022: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade | Global
The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is on March 25 each year. It honors the lives of those who died as a result of slavery or experienced the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade. It is also an occasion to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice.

March 26, 2022: Earth Hour | Global
Earth Hour is a global grassroots movement uniting people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet.

March 27, 2022: Muslim Women’s Day | Global
On March 27, 2017, MuslimGirl.com created Muslim Women’s Day to increase representation of Muslim Women in media outlets.
March 31, 2022: **César Chávez Day** | American
- Cesar Chavez Day honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927–1993) who was a nationally respected voice for social justice.

March 31, 2022: **International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)** | LGBTQ+
- TDOV is a day to show your support for the trans community. It brings attention to the accomplishments of trans people around the globe while fighting cissexism and transphobia by spreading knowledge of the trans community.

March TBA: **National GLBT Health Awareness Week** | LGBTQ+
- is a nationwide event, sponsored by the National Coalition for LGBT Health, during the last week of March that promotes the health and wellness needs of the LGBTQ community.

April 2022

- **Celebrate Diversity Month**
  - Celebrate Diversity Month started in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity surrounding us all. By celebrating differences and similarities during this month, organizers hope that people will get a deeper understanding of each other.

- **Asian/Pacific Islander & Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month**
  - Nationally observed in May, but celebrated in April at Georgia State University, Asian Pacific Islander & Desi American Heritage Month (APIDA) is a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States that encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.
  - APIDA Heritage Month, also referred to as **Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month**, began as "Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week" after its introduction into Congress in 1977 and eventually passed into legislation by President Jimmy Carter on October 5, 1978. In 1992, Congress officially designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month to honor the community's rich heritage and contributions that have been integral in shaping the United States' history.
  - The month of May was chosen to commemorate two significant events in history: the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 (Golden Spike Day). The diversity and common experiences of the many ethnic groups are celebrated with numerous community festivals as well as government-sponsored activities.
  - We use the term APIDA, which stands for Asian Pacific Islander Desi American, as a pan-ethnic classification that intentionally includes South Asians (Desi) as part of the community. There is a great diversity of identities and ethnicities encompassed under the APIDA umbrella, including East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander.
• **East Asians** refer to people from China (including Macau and Hong Kong), Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan, and Mongolia.

• **South Asians** refer to people from the following countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Ethnic groups include Sindhi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Tamil, and many others.

• **Southeast Asians** refer to people from the following countries and ethnic groups: Burma, Brunei, Cambodia (Khmer, Cham, KhmerLoeu), Indonesia, Laos (Hmong, Lao, Lao Loum, Iu Mien, Khmu, Tai Dam, Tai Leu, and many other ethnic groups), Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Philippines, and Vietnam (Vietnamese, Khmer Kampuchea Krom, Montagnards).

• **Pacific Islanders** refer to those whose origins are the original peoples of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. Polynesia includes Hawaii (Native Hawaiian), Samoa (Samoan), American Samoa (Samoan), Tokelau (Tokelauan), Tahiti (Tahitian), and Tonga (Tongan). Micronesia includes Guam (Guamanian or Chamorro), Mariana Islands (Mariana Islander), Saipan (Saipanese), Palau (Palauan), Yap (Yapinese), Chuuk (Chuukese), Pohnpei (Pohnpeian), Kosrae (Kosraean), Marshall Islands (Marshallese), and Kiribati (I-Kiribati). Melanesia includes Fiji (Fijian), Papau New Guinea (Papua New Guinean), Solomon Islands (Solomon Islander), and Vanuatu (Ni-Vanuatu).

**Learn more about Asian/Pacific Heritage Month »**

• **National Autism Awareness Month**
  o was established to raise awareness about the developmental disorder that affects an individual’s normal development of social and communication skills.

• **Celebrating Arab American Heritage Month**
  o observed in April, marks a time to reflect on the contributions Arab Americans have made to the U.S. and the diverse group of people who make up the nation’s Middle Eastern population.

Here are other April month-long observances:

• **National Alcohol Awareness Month**
• **National Financial Literacy Month**
• **National Internship Awareness Month**
• **National Volunteer Month**
• **Scottish-American Heritage Month**
• **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**
• **Stress Awareness Month**

  o April 1-30, 2022: **Ramadan** | Islamic
    o During Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, Muslims all over the world abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs during the daylight hours. This is a time to purify the soul, refocus attention on God, and practice self-sacrifice.
- **April 1, 2022: RAINN Day | American**
  - RAINN Day is an annual day of awareness and action about sexual violence held on college campuses around the country during Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (#SAAPM).
  - Get ready for RAINN Day this year by downloading the free RAINN Day event planning guide.

- **April 2, 2022: World Autism Awareness Day | Global**
  - World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day on April 2 every year, encouraging Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about people with autistic spectrum disorders including autism and Asperger syndrome throughout the world.

- **April 5, 2022: Qingming Festival (Tomb Sweeping Day) | Chinese**
  - The Qingming Festival, also known as Tomb-sweeping Day, Ancestors' Day, or Chinese Memorial Day, is a traditional Chinese holiday which falls on April 4-6. The event has a close relationship with agriculture as well as with paying respect to dead relatives, keeping their tombstone clean and swept, reuniting with families for the spring outing, etc. This is a unique occasion when family picnic delight is integrated with tears for the dead.

- **April 6, 2022: National Student-Athlete Day | American**
  - National Student-Athlete Day (NSAD), observed annually on April 6th, provides an opportunity to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of student-athletes. In the United States, nearly 8 million student-athletes compete in team and individual sports.

- **April 8, 2022: Day of Silence (day varies from year to year) | American**
  - Day of Silence is a student-led national event that brings attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Students from middle school to college take a vow of silence in an effort to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of ant-LGBTQ behavior by illustrating silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBT students and those perceived to be LGBTQ+

- **April 8, 2022: Hanamatsuri | Buddhist**
  - Traditionally, Hanamatsuri Festival, Buddha’s Birthday is celebrated across East Asia in a variety of different ways. It generally falls in the spring, but depending on where it is celebrated, it can be in April, May or June. It is believed that this particular date coincides with the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, a once Indian prince who would later become the Buddha. In countries like India and Nepal, this festivity takes place in May. Japan celebrates this holiday in April, as the country was switched to a Gregorian calendar in the 19th century, and this is the reason Japan celebrates the holiday much earlier than other East Asian countries.

- **April 10, 2022: Palm Sunday | Christian**
Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1–9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

April 10, 2022: Ram Navami | Hindu
- Ram Navami celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.

April 14, 2022: Vaisakhi (also spelled Baisakhi) | Sikh
- Vaisakhi, also pronounced Baisakhi, marks the first day of the month of Vaisakha and is usually celebrated annually on 13 or 14 April as the solar new year. It is additionally a spring harvest festival in the Punjab.
- The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.

April 14, 2022: Holy/Maundy Thursday | Christian
- Holy/Maundy Thursday is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.

April 15, 2022: Good Friday | Christian
- Also known as Holy Friday is a religious holiday observed primarily by Christians. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.

April 17, 2022: Easter | Christian
- In the Christian faith, Easter Sunday commemorates Jesus’s resurrection. Lent, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week mark a period of spiritual preparation for Easter.

April 15-28, 2022: Passover | Jewish
- Passover or Pesach is an eight-day long celebration during which Jewish families traditionally commemorate the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The dates for 2015 are from sunset on April 3 through nightfall of April 11. The highlight of the Passover celebration is the ceremony of Seder performed on the first two evenings of Passover.

April 20, 2022: Chinese Language Day | Global
- UN Chinese Language Day is observed annually on April 20. The event was established by the UN Department of Public Information in 2010, seeking "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization".

April 21–May 2: Festival Of Ridván | Baha’i
- Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá’u’lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá’í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed his
mission as God’s messenger for this age. The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha’is suspend work.

- **April 22, 2022: Earth Day | Global**
  - Earth Day promotes world peace and sustainability of the planet. Events are held globally to show support of environmental protection of the Earth.

- **April 28-30 – Gathering of Nations | American-Indian**
  - more than 500 Native American tribes meet to celebrate their traditions and cultures

- **April 23, 2022: English Language Day | Global**
  - UN English Day is observed annually on the 23rd April. The event was established by UN’s Department of Public Information in 2010 "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization"

- **April 23, 2022: Spanish Language Day | Global**
  - UN Spanish Language Day is observed annually on 23 April. The event was established by the UN's Department of Public Information in 2010, seeking "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization".

- **April 23, 2022: World Book Day | Global**
  - World Book Day, also known as World Book and Copyright Day, or International Day of the Book, is an annual event organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote reading, publishing, and copyright.

- **April 23, 2022: Lesbian Day of Visibility/ Lesbian Visibility Week | LGBTQ+**
  - Lesbian Visibility Day was created in 2008, this day showcases women-loving-women, providing a platform for lesbian role models to speak out on the issues facing female-identified sexual minorities. This day, alongside other queer celebration days, is still an integral part of moving forwards to create an intersectional society where all are treated equally and fairly.

- **April 27-28 (sundown to sundown): Yom Hashoah | Jewish**
  - Yom Hashoah, also known as “Holocaust Remembrance Day”, memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.

- **April 28, 2022: Laylat al Qadr | Islamic**
  - Laylat al Qadr is also known as the Night of Power or the Night of Destiny. It commemorates when Koran (Qur’an) was revealed to the prophet Muhammad (also known as Mohammad).
  - Muslims in the United States celebrate the event, also spelled as Laylat al-Qadr or Shab-e-Qadr, on one of the last 10 days of the Islamic month of Ramadan.

- **April 28, 2022: Denim Day | Global**
  - an event in which people are encouraged to wear jeans or denim to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault.
May 2022

- **Jewish American Heritage Month**
  - Jewish American Heritage Month recognizes the diverse contributions of the Jewish people to American culture. On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month, recognizing the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. Read more at these sites:
    - Jewish American Heritage Month
    - The Library of Congress
    - Law Library of Congress: Research Guide

- **Haitian Heritage Month**
  - Haitian Heritage Month is a celebration in the United States of Haitian heritage and culture.

- **Mental Health Awareness Month**
  - Aims to raise awareness and educate the public about mental illnesses and reduce the stigma that surrounds mental illnesses.

- **Older American’s Month**
  - Established in 1963 to honor the legacies and contributions of older Americans and to support them as they enter their next stage of life.

- **May 1, 2022: May Day | Global**
  - Also known as International Workers Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a workers’ strike for an eight-hour work day.

- **May 1, 2022: Lei Day | Hawaiian**
  - Lei Day is a statewide celebration in Hawaii. The celebration begins in the morning of May first every year and continues into the next day. Lei day was established as a holiday in 1929. Each Hawaiian island has a different type of lei for its people to wear in the celebration.

- **May 1, 2022: Law Day | American**
  - On May 1 the United States officially recognizes Law Day. It is meant to reflect on the role of law in the foundation of the country and to recognize its importance for society.

- **May 2-3rd (sundown to sundown), 2022: Eid al-Fitr | Islamic**
  - Eid al-Fitr, also called the "Festival of Breaking the Fast", is a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan. This religious Eid is the only day in the month of Shawwal during which Muslims are not permitted to fast.
May 5, 2022: **African World Heritage Day** | Global
- Since the proclamation of African World Heritage Day in 2015 by the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, every 5 May, African cultural and natural, tangible and intangible heritage is celebrated across the globe, raising awareness of the benefits of its promotion and preservation, as well as the related challenges the continent faces.

May 5: **Cinco de Mayo** | Mexican
- The anniversary of the unlikely 1862 Mexican victory over the French army at the Battle of La Puebla is more widely celebrated in the United States than in Mexico, where it is considered a regional holiday.

May 5, 2022: **National Day of Prayer**
- The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.
  [https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/](https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/)

May 5, 2022: **World Portuguese Language Day** | Global
- Every year on May 5th, World Portuguese Language Day highlights the important role this language plays in preserving human civilization and culture.

May 6, 2022: **National Space Day**
- National Space Day dedicates the first Friday in May to the extraordinary achievements, benefits, and opportunities in the exploration and use of space. The goal of the observance is to promote math, science, technology, and engineering education in young people, The hope is to inspire them to pursue a career in science, especially a career in space-related jobs.

May 8, 2022: **Mother's Day**
- Around the world today, the Mother’s Day celebration is held as a mark of respect and honor to the woman. It is also a show of love and respect to our mothers for their contribution to building a better home. While many countries may have different dates for the celebration, the common date is in May.
- Dia de las Madres (Mothers’ Day) is observed on this date in Mexico and other Latin-American countries. The first official Mother’s’ Day celebration in Mexico was held on May 10, 1922.

May 15-16, 2022: **Visakha Puja** | Buddhist
- This holiday is traditionally known as Buddha’s birthday. It is the major Buddhist festival, commemorating the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha.
- Buddhists often decorate their homes and visit their local temples. Observers are encouraged to refrain from slaughtering and to avoid eating meat on this date.
May 17, 2022: **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia** | LGBTQ+
- Represents an annual landmark to draw the attention of decision-makers, the media, the public, opinion leaders, and local authorities to the situation faced by lesbian, gay, bisexuals, and transgender, and intersex people and those who do not conform to sexual and gender norms.

May 18-19, 2022: **Lag Ba’omer** | Jewish
- Lag Ba’omer is a minor holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot. A break from the semi-mourning of the Omer, key aspects of Lag Ba’omer include holding Jewish weddings (it’s the one day during the Omer when Jewish law permits them), lighting bonfires and getting haircuts.

May 19: **Malcolm X Day** | American
- Malcolm X Day is an American holiday in honor of civil rights leader Malcolm X, celebrated either on his birthday (May 19, 1925) or the 3rd Sunday of May. The commemoration was proposed as an official state holiday in the State of Illinois in 2015.

May 21, 2022: **World Day for Cultural Diversity** | Global
- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, a day set aside by the United Nations as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together in harmony.
- The day recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.

May 23, 2022: **Declaration Of The Báb** | Bahá’í
- Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá’í Faith, announced in Shíráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.

May 24, 2022: **Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day** | LGBTQ+
- Is a day to celebrate the pansexual and panromantic community and educate others on the community.

May 25, 2022: **Africa Day** | Global
- Africa Day, also known as African Liberation Day, is the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity on 25 May 1963. It is celebrated in various countries on the African continent, as well as around the world.

May 26, 2022: **Ascension Day** | Christian
- Also known as Holy Thursday, celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
May 28, 2022: **International Day of Action on Women’s Health** | Global
- International Day of Action on Women’s Health has been celebrated on May 28 every year since 1987.
- The day focuses on protecting the sexual and reproductive health of women.

May 28, 2022: **Menstrual Hygiene Day** | American
- To break taboos surrounding menstruation, raise awareness of the importance of good menstrual hygiene management worldwide.

May 29, 2022: **ASCENSION OF BAHÁ’U’LLÁH** | Bahá’í
- The Ascension of Bahá’u’lláh is one of the holiest days of the Bahá’í faith. It celebrates Bahá’u’lláh, the founder of the Bahá’í faith, as well as his teachings. It was on May 29th in 1892 that he passed away. He summoned his followers to his side six days before his death, telling them to stay united and keep worshipping as he had taught them. After he died at The Mansion of Bahji, his followers mourned him for a week afterward.
- In modern times, The Ascension of Bahá’u'lláh is a day of rest, where observers don’t go to school or work. They celebrate Bahá’u’lláh’s life and reflect on his suffering. They observe the holiday starting at 3 am, the exact time that Bahá’u'lláh died. His writings are read to better understand his message, and there is also often chanting and an effort to reach a peaceful state.

May 30, 2022: **Memorial Day** | American
- This holiday commemorates American men and women who have died in military service.

May 31 - June 1, 2022: **Anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre** | American
- The Tulsa race massacre took place on May 31 and June 1, 1921, when mobs of white residents, many of them deputized and given weapons by city officials, attacked Black residents and businesses of the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma

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June 2022

- **African American Music Appreciation Month/ Black Music Month**
  - June is African American Music Appreciation Month. It began in 1979 when Kenny Gamble, Ed Wright, and Dyana Williams developed the idea to set aside a month dedicated to celebrating the impact of Black music.
  - In 2009, President Barack Obama declared the start of summer as a celebration for all the Black “musicians, composers, singers, and songwriters [who] have made enormous contributions to our culture.” On May 31, 2016, President Obama officially declared the month of June as African American Music Appreciation Month.

- **Caribbean American Heritage Month**
National Caribbean-American Heritage Month commemoration was adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005 to recognize the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States.

The resolution passed the Senate in Feb. 2006 and President George H.W. Bush issued the proclamation in June 2006. The commemoration of Caribbean American Heritage Month aims to remind Americans that our greatness lies in our diversity.

Caribbean immigrants from founding father, Alexander Hamilton, to civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois and so many more who have shaped the American dream.

The month is an opportunity to celebrate the heritage, history, and cultural diversity and a time to explore the traditions Caribbean-Americans carry with them.

**LGBTQ+ Pride Month**

Pride month is held in June each year in the United States to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising of June 1969 in New York City—a series of protests, rallies, and other activism in response to repeated police harassment of the city’s gay, lesbian, and transgender population.

On June 28, 1969, LGBTQ+ Pride Month began as an uprising primarily led by Black and Brown transgender and gender-variant champions who acted after law enforcement raided the Stonewall Inn in New York City. A culmination of decades of discrimination and unjust treatment of the LGBTQ+ community, including preceding incidents at Compton’s Cafeteria and Black Cat Tavern in California, the Stonewall Uprising is the moment often cited as the major shift forward for LGBTQ+ rights.

Since Stonewall, there have been significant milestones in the quest for civil rights at large and for LGBTQ+ people specifically, including the U.S. Supreme Court decisions to ratify marriage equality on June 26, 2013, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects LGBTQ+ employees from workplace discrimination on June 15, 2020.

During Pride, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and allied Americans celebrate and bring awareness, empowerment, and visibility to their communities.

**Immigrant Heritage Month**

established in June 2014, gives people across the United States an opportunity to annually explore their own heritage and celebrate the shared diversity that forms the unique story of America. It celebrates immigrants across the United States and their contributions to their local communities and economy.

**June 2:** American Indian Citizenship Day

American Indian Citizenship Day is observed on June 2. It was on this day in 1924 that the Indian Citizenship Act by Congress granted citizenship to all American Indians born in the U.S. The day celebrates the history, heritage, and culture of American Indian tribes across the country. All the tribes have their own traditions and beliefs. American
Indian Citizenship Day celebrates their contribution to the country’s culture and a reminder of their enduring legacy.

- **June 4-6, 2022: Shavuot** (sunset to sunset) | Jewish
  - Jewish festival also known as the “Feast of Weeks” celebrating the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses and the Israelites.

- **June 5, 2022: Pentecost Sunday** | Christian
  - The seventh Sunday after Easter/Pascha commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.

- **June 12, 2022: Pulse Night of Remembrance** | LGBTQ+
  - Pulse Night of Remembrance honors the 49 lives lost in the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016.

- **June 12, 2022: Loving Day**
  - Loving Day observes the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision Loving v. Virginia which struck down the miscegenation laws remaining in 16 states barring interracial marriage.

- **June 12, 2022: Anne Frank Day**
  - Birthday of young Jewish girl whose diary describes her family’s experiences hiding from the Nazis through assistance of Gentile friends.

- **June 13, 2022: Race Unity Day** | Bahá’í
  - Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.

- **June 14, 2022: Flag Day** | American
  - Anniversary of the adoption of the United States flag by Congress in 1777.

- **June 19: Juneteenth** | American
  - Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, commemorates the announcement in Texas in 1865 of the abolition of slavery - two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

- **June 20: Father’s Day**
  - Father’s Day is a holiday of honoring fatherhood and paternal bonds, as well as the influence of fathers in society.

- **June 20: World Refugee Day** | Global
  - World Refugee Day, international observance observed June 20 each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the experiences of refugees throughout the world.
June 24, 2022: **Litha | Wicca**

- Litha is a pagan holiday; one of their eight sabbats during the year. Litha (also known as Midsummer) occurs on the summer solstice, and celebrates the beginning of summer.

June 26, 2022: **Anniversary of Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage in the U.S. | LGBTQ+**

- On June 26, 2015, in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples.

June 27 – **Pride Day | LGBTQ+**


June 28 – **Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots | LGBTQ+**

- The Stonewall riots (also referred to as the Stonewall uprising or the Stonewall rebellion) were a series of spontaneous demonstrations by members of the LGBTQ community in response to a police raid that began in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood in New York City. When police raided the Stonewall Inn, the street erupted into violent protests that lasted for the next six days. The Stonewall riots, as they came to be known, marked a major turning point in the modern gay civil rights movement in the United States and around the world.