



People Inc. DEI Calendar: June 2023

Month-long Observances

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

- Observed in June as an opportunity to spread the word about and discuss Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Throughout the month, the Alzheimer's Association encourages people around the globe to support the movement by wearing purple and training their brains to fight the disease.

Caribbean-American Heritage Month

- Adopted by the U.S House of Representatives in 2005, National Caribbean-American Heritage Month (NCAHM) celebrates the culture, contributions and heritage of Americans of Caribbean descent. The month was declared as a result of the successful campaigning of Dr. Claire Nelson, the President of the Institute of Caribbean Studies at the time. The mission of the NCAHM Program each year is to disseminate resources and knowledge detailing the heritage of Caribbean Americans to the American public and to advocate for the Caribbean-American community today.
- American history and society has undoubtedly been shaped by Caribbean immigrants, with notable figures being US Secretary of State General Colin Powell and Hon. Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to run as candidate for President. In addition to highlighting Caribbean-American culture and history, the NCAHM program features young Caribbean-American leaders and their achievements in the Ignite Caribbean Youth Summit.

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Pride Month (also known as LGBT) is observed every June to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising of June 1969, a monumental event in which patrons of the LGBT bar the Stonewall Inn fought back against a police raid on the space. The Stonewall Uprising is considered the beginning of the modern Gay Liberation Movement in the United States, bringing national visibility to the struggle for LGBT rights and equality. Many Pride month events take place during the last week of June to align with the occurrence of Stonewall.
- LGBT Pride month mostly started as small gatherings among LGBT activists, but over time the observance evolved into large, organized events around the country attracting a diverse array of members of the LGBT community as well as allies. The most notable of these events are the Pride Parades in many major cities throughout the U.S, where local and national LGBT communities proudly share their identities.
- LGBT Pride Month serves as a time to celebrate the diverse culture of the LGBT community and the invaluable contributions its members have made to all facets of society throughout history, including art, music, and science. The observance of Pride Month also provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in the fight for LGBT equality and raise awareness regarding the discrimination and denial of rights LGBT people continue to face due to homophobia and transphobia.

Tourette Awareness Month – May 15 to June 15

- Observed from mid-May to mid-June, Tourette Awareness Month is an international effort to raise awareness and dispel misinformation regarding Tourette's Syndrome (TS), one of the most fundamentally misunderstood

conditions among the population. About 1 in 160 children in the United States are known to have Tourette Syndrome, which is a neurodevelopmental condition that is characterized by the presence of sudden, repetitive, and often involuntary movements or vocal sounds called “tics.” TS often is found with co-occurring conditions such as ADHD and OCD.

- People living with TS are able to lead healthy, fulfilling lives, but the month recognizes the need to reduce common misconceptions about the condition. Tourette’s has too often been portrayed as a punchline by the media, making light of the real struggles those living with TS face in attempting to receive support and accommodations. Unlike how it is acknowledged in the media, the tics experienced by those with TS vary extensively and rarely involve suddenly saying obscenities. Even so, tics often cannot be controlled and attempting to hold them back can cause undue stress.
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Daily Observations

6/2 - Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 (Native American)

- On **June 2**, 1924, Congress enacted the [Indian Citizenship Act](#), which granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S. The right to vote, however, was governed by state law; until 1957, some states barred Native Americans from voting.

6/11 – King Kamehameha I Day

- First established as a holiday in 1871 of the Kingdom of Hawai’i, King Kamehameha I Day honors the legacy of Kamehameha the Great, who was Hawai’i’s first king. The celebration was officiated by Lot Kapuāiwa (Kamehameha) to honor his grandfather. In addition to being known as Hawai’i’s first king, Kamehameha the Great was best known for unifying the Hawaiian Islands in 1810. After being brought into statehood in 1959, Hawai’i adopted Kamehameha Day as one of its first official holidays. Today, the festival continues to be observed to not only honor the king’s legacy but also to celebrate and preserve Hawaiian culture in all its forms.
- Early celebrations of Kamehameha Day during the late 19th century often included fairs and racing, both on horse and on foot. These events attracted thousands of Hawaiian people, including the Hawaiian King at the time. Today, the holiday is observed via a festival presented by Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Māmalahoa, which is Hawai’i’s oldest organization. The festival features all aspects of traditional Hawaiian culture, including dance, music, rituals, and food.

6/11 – Corpus Christi

- Corpus Christi is a moveable feast holiday primarily celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church. The date of this holiday each year depends on the date of Easter, and it is observed on the second Sunday after Pentecost (Whitsun). The holiday name meaning “Body of Christ” in Latin, Corpus Christi is held in honor of the Eucharist that originated in the Last Supper held by Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The celebration originated in 1246 with the nun named Juliana of Liege, who petitioned her local diocese for the feast. The Texan city Corpus Christi is notably named after this day.
- To commemorate the Last Supper, Roman Catholics receive Communion to observe Corpus Christi. For children of the faith, this may be their very first Communion. The receiving of bread and wine in the Communion process represents taking of both the body and blood of Jesus Christ. During the Middle Ages, the observance of Corpus Christi often involved the performance of mystery plays, which were dramatic performances depicting events from the Bible and the Life of Jesus Christ.

6/11 – Odunde Festival

- Developed in 1975 by Ruth Arthur and Lois Fernandez, the Odunde Festival takes place on the second Sunday of June in South Philadelphia every year and is one of the largest African-American street festivals in the United States. The festival was created after they visited several celebrations in West Africa. Celebrating the arrival of a new year, the Odunde Festival draws most upon the traditional celebrations of the Yoruba people of Nigeria, for Odunde is a Yoruba phrase meaning “Happy New Year.” The procession that takes place during Odunde provides an offering of fruit and flowers at the Schuylkill River to Oshun, the river goddess of the Yoruba religion.
- The Odunde festival draws around 500,000 people annually from around the world. The vendors attending the festival have totaled to over 100 in past years and have included vendors from both African and Caribbean countries. These vendors offer a stellar array of African goods and culture, including but not limited to food, performances, crafts, and clothing.

6/11 - Puerto Rican Day Parade

- Parades held around the country on the second Sunday in June, honors the 3.2 million inhabitants of Puerto Rico and all people of Puerto Rican birth or heritage residing on the U.S. mainland. Rochester and Buffalo will celebrate in August this year.

6/12 - Loving Day

- An annual celebration marking the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia* which struck down all anti-miscegenation laws remaining in 16 U.S. states. This historic court decision ruled that interracial marriages could not be infringed upon by the State.

6/12 – Philippines Independence Day

- Known in the Philippines as “Araw ng Kasarinlan,” meaning “Day of Freedom,” Philippines Independence Day is an annual national holiday that commemorates the declaration of the Philippines’ independence from Spanish colonial rule in 1898 by General Emilio Aguinaldo. Although the United States would participate in colonizing the Philippines after the Spanish-American War, the Philippines eventually achieved sovereignty as an independent nation in 1946 through the Treaty of Manila. Philippines Independence Day was officially decreed to be celebrated on June 12 in 1964.
- Festivities in the Philippines for this holiday include participation in parades and festivities nationwide, along with flag-raising ceremonies. Spending the holiday in recreational locations such as parks is also a common pastime for Filipinos. Many Filipino-American communities and other Filipino communities around the world also observe Philippines Independence Day. Last year’s celebration included a virtual flag-raising ceremony and streamed celebration held by the Philippine Consulate General in New York for the Filipino-American communities of the Northeastern United States.

6/13 – International Albinism Awareness Day

- Adopted by the United Nations in 2014, International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) celebrates those with albinism and emphasizes continued advocacy for their human rights. The day was adopted along with a third historic UN resolution that confirmed a focus on advocating for the rights of those with albinism and preventing discrimination and atrocities committed against them worldwide. This resolution was passed in part due to the efforts of the albinism advocacy organization Under the Same Sun, as well as the late Ambassador Yusuf Mohamed Ismail Bari-Bari of Somalia.
- Occurring in approximately 18,000 to 20,000 people in the United States, Albinism is a genetic condition that causes a reduction in melanin in one’s skin, hair or eyes. There are varying types of albinism and it may lead to other conditions, such as impaired vision. Today, stigma surrounding albinism continues to persist around the world, leading to discrimination, attacks and even killings. IAAD aims to help eliminate this

stigma throughout increased international attention to the condition, so those with albinism will be able to live without prejudice.

6/16 or 19 – Corpus Christi

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6/19 – Juneteenth – Federal Holiday

- Also known as Emancipation Day or Jubilee Day, Juneteenth is the most prevalent national celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States. The name “Juneteenth” refers to the nineteenth of June, which marks the anniversary of the day the Union soldiers landed in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, to declare that the Civil War had ended, therefore ending slavery as well. Notably this was two and a half years after slavery was officially ended via the Emancipation Proclamation in January of 1863. Explanations for this delay in the arrival of this news of freedom vary, including deliberate withholding by the government or slave owners.
- Juneteenth is most widely observed in Texas, being the state that received news of emancipation as the Civil War ended. African Americans making pilgrimages to Galveston, Texas was an early tradition of the holiday. Juneteenth served not only as a time for celebration but also a time for prayer, with former slaves hoping to reunite with family members in other now-emancipated states. Many of the traditional activities for celebrating Juneteenth are still commonplace today, including barbecuing, rodeos, prayer services, and educational activities regarding learning of America’s history of slavery.
- Juneteenth remains of special significance as a holiday to continue observing, as the observance of it was limited several times in the past due to racism and other social and economic forces in the early twentieth century. Proper commemoration of Juneteenth and the ideals and harsh history it represents can prove to be a step in bringing the country closer to racial justice.
- Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021.

6/20 – World Refugee Day

- Declared in 2001, World Refugee Day honors the experiences of refugees from countries around the world and raises awareness regarding the lives and challenges they face having fled their homeland due to conflict or persecution. 2001 marked the 50-year anniversary of the United Nations Refugee Convention of 1951, an event that defined refugees and outlined their human rights.

Regional Events in June

- **Ongoing throughout June** – *The Language Within Us* at Burchfield Penney Art Center: <https://burchfieldpenney.org/exhibitions/exhibition:the-language-within-us/>
- **Ongoing throughout June** – “Finding Ourselves” Jump Start Biennial Student Exhibition at Buffalo Arts Studio: <https://www.buffaloartsstudio.org/events/jump-start-students-biennial/>

- **Ongoing throughout June** – *Biological Regionalism: Niagara River, Western NY* by Alberto Rey at Castellani Art Museum: <https://castellaniartmuseum.org/exhibitions/biological-regionalism-niagara-river-western-new-york-by-alberto-rey>
- **Ongoing throughout June** – *Shaping Nature* at Castellani Art Museum: <https://castellaniartmuseum.org/exhibitions/shaping-nature>
- **Ongoing throughout June** – *Resilience: A Buffalo Story* by Mustafa Hussain at CEPA Gallery: <https://www.cepagallery.org/exhibit-event/resilience-a-buffalo-story-by-mustafa-hussain-2023/>
- **Ongoing throughout June** – MAP Mobile Market: <https://www.mass-ave.org/>
- **Until 6/11, \$\$\$** – *Hope is the Thing with Feathers: Contemporary Women Nature Artists* at Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History: <https://rtpi.org/exhibitions/hope-is-the-thing-with-feathers-contemporary-women-nature-artists/>
- **6/2, 5:00 p.m.** – Buffalo Pride Week 2023 First Friday Gallery Walk: <https://buffaloprideweek.com/event/pride-week-first-friday-gallery-walk/>
- **6/2, 7:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.** – Buffalo Pride Weekend Kick-Off Party: <https://buffaloprideweek.com/event/buffalo-pride-weekend-kick-off-party/>
- **6/3, 3:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.** – INTERSECT: A Queer Art Festival + Vogue Event: <https://buffaloprideweek.com/event/intersect-a-queer-art-festival-vogue-event/>
- **6/3, 7:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m., \$\$\$** – Buffalo Stories: The Life of Maryann Saccomando Freedman: <https://www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org/buffalo-stories>
- **6/4, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.** – 2023 Buffalo Pride Parade Justice Bloc: <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/557618/>
- **6/10, 9:00 a.m.** – The Big Run Buffalo 5K: <https://www.fleetfeet.com/s/buffalo/events/the-big-run>
- **6/10, 10:00 a.m.** – Get Outdoors & Get Together Day at Buffalo Harbor State Park/Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/gettogetherday>
- **6/10, 8:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.** – Juneteenth pop up shop: <https://allevents.in/buffalo/juneteenth-pop-up-shop/10000633074431667>
- **6/10, 4:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.** – Official Rochester Pride Pub Crawl: <https://www.visitrochester.com/event/official-rochester-pride-pub-crawl/98794/>
- **6/11, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., \$\$\$** – Laps of Love 2023 5K and One Mile Walk/Run/Roll: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Info/NY/Buffalo/LapsofLoveWalkRunRoll>
- **6/15, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** – ABWA WNY June Celebration: <https://www.abwawny.com/events>
- **6/17, 3:00 p.m – 6/19** – Juneteenth Festival of Buffalo at Martin Luther King Park: <https://www.buffalojuneteenth.com/event-details/juneteenth-festival-of-buffalo>
- **6/17, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.** – Niagara JUNETEENTH Community Fair & Arts Festival: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/niagara-juneteenth-community-fair-arts-festival-tickets-611530262477>
- **6/17, 10:00 a.m.– noon** – Fourth Annual Juneteenth Celebration Bike Brigade by Roc Freedom Riders: <https://www.facebook.com/RocFreedomRiders/>
- **6/19, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.** – Juneteenth at the Rochester Museum and Science Center: <https://rmsc.org/events/juneteenth/>
- **6/23–7/1** – Rochester International Jazz Festival: <https://www.rochesterjazz.com/>
- **6/24** – Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY Inc. Breakfast at Buffalo Niagara Convention Center: <https://buffaloconvention.com/event/hispanic-heritage-council-of-wny-inc-breakfast/>
- **6/24** – Ride for Roswell at University at Buffalo, North Campus: <https://www.rideforroswell.org/>