



DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH,  
EQUITY OUR VIRTUE,  
INCLUSION IS OUR PASSION

## People Inc. DEI Calendar: June 2022

### 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.

#### LGBT Pride Month

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month 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.

#### Migraine and Headache Awareness Month (#MHAM)

The month observes, recognizes, and honors the headache and migraine communities that are continuously working together for headache disorders be recognized as legitimate neurobiological diseases. It also encourages people with

migraines or chronic headaches to consult a medical professional for proper diagnosis and treatment. It aims to enlighten individuals with headache disorders about the various treatments available.

### **PTSD Awareness Month**

Ushers in an array of awareness campaigns run for the benefit of PTSD survivors. PTSD, which stands for post-traumatic stress disorder, occurs in people after they have experienced a particularly traumatic event like war, violent physical/sexual/verbal assault, accidents, and so forth. Symptoms include depression, anxiety, nightmares, paranoia, insomnia, disturbing thoughts, and much more. Many people recover from PTSD after a few days, weeks, or months. Yet, for others, the recovery road might mean one year or more. This mental disorder is highly treatable, but due to the lack of knowledge around it as well as the stigma attached to seeking mental help, many choose to ignore the problem and suffer through it.

### **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.

### **6/4-6 - Shavuot**

- Shavuot marks the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai to Moses. The Ten Commandments are read in synagogues, just as they were in the desert on Mt. Sinai over 3,000 years ago.

### **6/6 – World War II D-Day Invasion**

- On this historic day in 1944, Allied troops invaded the beaches of Normandy, France. It is the largest amphibious assault in world history. This massive, bloody battle was the turning point of the war in the European theater.
- On this day, 156,000 troops from the United States, Great Britain and Canada stormed five beaches. American troops landed on Omaha and Utah beach. At the same time, British troops landed on Gold and Sword beach. And, Canadian forces landed on Juno Beach. 4,000 Allied troops died on these beaches on D-Day, 2,000 of them were American.
- Take a moment of silence today, and thank the many soldiers who fought and died for our country on D-Day.

### **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, Māmalaha, which is Hawai'i's oldest organization. The festival features all aspects of traditional Hawaiian culture, including dance, music, rituals, and food.

#### **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 - 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 – 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 – 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.

#### **6/13 – 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**

- 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.

### **6/19 – 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.
- The UN theme for World Refugee Day 2021 is the right to seek safety. Every person on this planet has a right to seek safety – whoever they are, wherever they come from and whenever they are forced to flee.

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### **Regional Events in June**

- Through 6/5 In These Truths exhibit at Albright-Knox Northland, pay what you wish and reservations are required <https://www.albrightknox.org/art/exhibitions/these-truths>

- 6/1-8/20 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Creative Journeys: Celebrating the Art of Refugee Women in Western New York and Marie Watt exhibit, Buffalo History Museum, pay what you wish with reservations <https://buffalohistory.org/visit-us/>
- 6/3-5 \$\$ Buffalo Greek Fest, Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Annunciation <https://www.buffalogreekfest.org/>
- 6/5 11 a.m. Buffalo Pride Week Parade, participate (registration at 8 a.m.) or watch <https://buffaloprideweek.com/the-parade/>
- 6/5 1-7 p.m. \$\$ Buffalo Pride Week Festival <https://buffaloprideweek.com/>
- 6/10 Free Rochester Contemporary Art Center “International small art phenomenon” <http://www.rochestercontemporary.org/exhibitions/6x6x2022/>
- 6/18-19 Juneteenth Celebration 2022, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Buffalo
- 6/18 Free Admission to The Strong for Juneteenth Celebration <https://www.racf.org/about/events/gifts-for-good/>
- 6/18 \$\$, Honoring Juneteenth at the Genesee Country Village & Museum, <https://www.gcv.org>
- 6/18 noon – 4 p.m., Strawberry Moon Festival, ARTPARK, Lewiston <https://www.artpark.net>
- 6/18 noon – 8:00 p.m. & 6/19 from noon-6 p.m. Dunkirk Juneteenth Celebration [https://www.cityofdunkirk.com/residents/festivals\\_events.php](https://www.cityofdunkirk.com/residents/festivals_events.php)
- 6/19 noon - 4 p.m., Eliminating Racism & Seeking Equity (ERASE) 3rd Annual Juneteenth Event, Irondequoit <https://erasenow.org/>
- 6/19 11:00 a.m. to noon, Pittsford Community Celebrates Juneteenth Walking Tour <https://www.pittsfordjuneteenth.com/event-details/walking-tour>
- 6/25 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Taste of Diversity Festival Grant Street between Lafayette & Auburn Avenues, Buffalo, NY 14213 [https://www.facebook.com/events/319869380209081/?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/319869380209081/?active_tab=about)