

## August 2021 Spokane Diversity/Cultural Events

**"Reimagined: New Mixed Media Works"** In this solo exhibition, local artist Tracy Poindexter-Canton presents an imaginative collection of new works using collage, assemblage and reinterpreted objects. August 6-28, 2021 at the Liberty Gallery in Downtown Spokane. Works will be available for purchase. Located on the Mezzanine Level above Auntie's Bookstore at 402 W. Main Ave. or 203 N. Washington St. Artist Reception will be held on August 6 from 5-9 pm.

**About the Artist:** Through collage, vibrancy and portraiture, Tracy Poindexter-Canton's work examines Black American identity and melding literary imagery with visual art. Poindexter-Canton's 2019 mixed media series, "To Shalimar," (works celebrating the literary greatness of Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison and Morrison's famous novels) has received statewide acclaim and recent permanent public art acquisitions from the Washington Arts Commission and Spokane Public Library. More of Poindexter-Canton's work can be found on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/artbytpc/> and Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/artbytpc>. Visit [www.tracypoindexter-canton.com](http://www.tracypoindexter-canton.com) and [www.society6.com/artbytpc](http://www.society6.com/artbytpc) for more information and to purchase previous works and prints.

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### **Democracy Now**

#### **Day: Monday-Friday**

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am & 5:00 pm-6:00 pm

A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S. Link <https://www.democracynow.org/>. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

### **Democracy Now! Headlines in Spanish**

#### **Date: Saturday**

Time: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

*Democracy Now!* is a national, daily, independent, award winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: [www.kyrs.org](http://www.kyrs.org) or [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org).

### **Dragonflies on Thin Air**

#### **Day: Sunday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

One of the few elementary age children's radio shows produced by kids for kids in the country. The program is fun and educational for children and adults, and includes a mix of jokes, music, guests, stories, poetry, trivia and more. includes Alice, Elenor C., Lily, Rowan, Sicely, Finn, Eleanor M., Sophia, Aleric and Amara. They all go to Spokane Public Montessori elementary school. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

### **Irish Music on Tap**

#### **Day: Wednesday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Music from Ireland, Scotland and England as well as Celtic Brittany and Canada. Hosted by Don and Rick, on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

### **Ke Buena.**

Spanish language station. Oz 95.7.

**Latin Lounge****Day: Monday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

A wide spectrum of Latin music. Hosted by "Corazon" on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website:

<http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Queens of Noise****Day: Wednesday**

Time: 8:00 pm-10:00 pm

You will hear best in female vocalist/musicians. Hosted by Luscious Duchess, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website:

<http://www.kyrs.org>.

**The Persian Hour****Day: Saturday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

The Persian Hour's consists of a variety of Iranian music from hip hop to traditional, Jazz, blues, rock and roll and the usual. Also, they will share stories, recipes, and interviews. Hosted by Shahrokh, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM.

Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**The Science of Poverty****Day: Saturday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Explores the topic of poverty. Hosted by Jesse Quintana, official Facebook site. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM.

Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Sounds of Science****Day: Sunday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Lively discussion of what's happening in the world of science, from how it is affecting our lives to the ways we are shaping it. Hosted by Blake, Amaya and Adam. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>,

**Welcome Home****Day: Thursday**

Time: 10:00 am – noon

A multi-genre roots based folk show. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Women's Media Center Live****Day: Wednesday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

*WMC Live with Robin Morgan* tackles today's hottest topics; whether it be sex, politics, art, humor, religion, culture, or news stories that go unreported, each is engaged regularly, insightfully, and intelligently. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Workin' Woman Blues****Day: Sunday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Tunes to help you shake the blues out of your hair with a mix of Funk, R&B, Soul and Blues. Hosted by Jukebox

Jennie. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

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### **53rd Annual Art on the Green and Festival**

Annual event features vendors, art, food live entertainment and children's activities.

**Dates: Friday-Sunday, July 30, 31 and August 1, 2021**

Time: Friday – 10:30 am-10:00 pm, Saturday – 10: 00 am – 10:00 pm, Sunday – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm for festival,  
Friday – noon-7:30 pm, Saturday – 10: 00 am – 7:30 pm, Sunday – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm for artist booth ours

Location: North Idaho College campus, Coeur d' Alene, ID,

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website at [www.artonthegreen.org](http://www.artonthegreen.org).

### **Tell Your Story: The Power of the Personal Essay**

Our life stories are a means for connection—a tender offering in a troubled era. Part reportage and part reflection, personal essays can reveal hidden truths about ourselves, our families, and our societies.

In this interactive and generative writing workshop, Kristen Millares Young will help participants tell their own stories. Available in English and Spanish, each hourlong session will begin with a one-page reading to inspire group discussion, followed by timed prompts that guide individual writing sessions. With plans for a bilingual statewide anthology focused on marginalized voices, Young invites participants to submit what they've written in response to her teaching. By weaving together community narratives, we can craft a vision for our future that includes hope and the capacity for unexpected change.

Kristen Millares Young (she/her) is a prize-winning journalist, essayist, and teacher. Named a *Paris Review* staff pick, her novel *Subduction* was a finalist for Foreword Indies Book of the Year and two International Latino Book Awards. The editor of *Seismic* and a former Prose Writer-in-Residence at Hugo House, Young was the *New York Times* researcher for "Snow Fall," which won a Pulitzer Prize. Young lives in Seattle.

**Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021**

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, see below

For more information and to register, <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-tell-your-story-the-power-of-the-personal-essay/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Tieton Arts & Humanities.

### **Disability Rights: Equity and Access**

Presenters Jenn Carson and Kimberly Kwon.

**Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2019**

Time: 5:00 pm -6:00 pm

Location: Virtual, see below for address to register

Cost: Free

For more information visit and to register, visit

[https://www.mobilize.us/womensmarchaction/event/390859/?fbclid=IwAR1XVK37B79nDzJXaHU6qh23HOyp0v6GZCUBJOf\\_f6Ad73e56S35uPyNx&link\\_id=2&can\\_id=afc84c35d7c220b5aab1656ff8b828f5&source=email-people-politics-drinks-metoomarilyn&email\\_referrer=email\\_1247330&email\\_subject=people-politics-drinks-disability-rights](https://www.mobilize.us/womensmarchaction/event/390859/?fbclid=IwAR1XVK37B79nDzJXaHU6qh23HOyp0v6GZCUBJOf_f6Ad73e56S35uPyNx&link_id=2&can_id=afc84c35d7c220b5aab1656ff8b828f5&source=email-people-politics-drinks-metoomarilyn&email_referrer=email_1247330&email_subject=people-politics-drinks-disability-rights). People, Politics & Drinks is a connecting point where feminists can meet casually with each other, discuss current events, and build community together. Every conversation is focused on issues at hand and how they affect women.

### **Major General Mari K. Eder, Author**

Discussion with author Major General Mari K. Eder, and her new book, *The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line*.

**Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Auntie's Bookstore – Virtual via Zoom

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website <http://auntiesbooks.com/event/girls-who-stepped-out-line-mari-eder>.

**Lisa Napoli, Author**

Lisa Napoli has worked as both a print and broadcast journalist for many years. Napoli discusses two of her nonfiction titles, her newest, *Susan, Linda, Nina, and Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR*, and her third book *Up All Night: Ted Turner, CNN, and the Birth of the 24-Hour News Cycle*.

*Susan, Linda, Nina, and Cokie* focuses on news media history in the years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Pioneering nonprofit National Public Radio (NPR) came along in the 1970s and four remarkable women changed the news media landscape forever.

**Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021**

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.sclld.org/author-lisa-napoli-event-focuses-on-pivotal-figures-in-news-media-history/>. Sponsored by Spokane County Library District with partner Spokane Public Radio.

**A Night at the MAC with the Inland Northwest Opera**

Inland Northwest Opera (INO) will perform beloved selections from the opera and musical theatre repertoire outdoors. Featuring internationally acclaimed performers, this one-night-only event brings back a treasured annual tradition to the Museum with a twist... Inland Northwest Opera's newly debuted Opera Truck, a mobile music venue that is sure to become a regional icon.

**Date: Friday, August 6, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: MAC Front Lawn | Amphitheater

Cost: Free and open to the public with donations accepted

For more information visit and to register, visit <https://sales.northwestmuseum.org/performance.aspx?pid=35202>.

Bring a face mask, and lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Come early and visit the museum galleries or our store as the MAC will have extended hours this evening until 7 pm. \*Regular museum admission pricing applies to visit the galleries.

**Hillyard Festival – “Hillyard Rocks”**

Parade (at 10:00 am on August 7, 2021) starts at Broad Ave. and ends at Harmon Park. Live entertainment, food, crafts vendors, car show, bingo, beer garden, and fireworks on Saturday after dark (weather permitting).

**Dates: Friday-Sunday, August 6-8, 2021**

Times: Friday– noon-10:00 pm, Saturday - 9:00 am 10:00 pm, Sunday - 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Hillyard, Harmon Park, 6018 N Regal St

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website <http://www.hillyardfestival.com/>.

**A Midsummer Night's Dream Play**

Spokane Shakespeare Society (S3) presents their inaugural season in Riverfront Park. Seating begins 30 minutes prior to curtain.

**Dates: Friday-Sunday, August 6-8, 2021**

Time: 6:30 pm (Friday/Saturday) and 2:00 pm on Sunday

Location: Riverfront Park - Pavilion

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/riverfrontspokane/> for exact location.

**Bazaar Art Market**

Family fun provided by River Park Square and Botanical Alchemists. Beer garden and a full musical line-up.

**Date: Saturday, August 7, 2021**

Time: 11:00 am – 9:00 pm

Location: Downtown Spokane

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit [www.terrainspokane.com](http://www.terrainspokane.com).

### **One Second of Hate: A Story of Forgiveness**

"Where are you from?", his attacker asked before shooting Rais Bhuiyan during a killing spree in Texas shortly after 9/11. The attacker, a white supremacist, had been hunting for "Arabs" and perceived Muslims, though not one of his victims turned out to be from the Middle East. Despite being shot in the face, Bhuiyan survived, but two other victims did not.

Remarkably, not only did Bhuiyan forgive his attacker, but he also spent months trying to save him from death row. In the process, his attacker, a man named Mark Stroman, renounced his white supremacist beliefs and expressed deep regret for his fatal actions. In his final words before his execution in 2011, Stroman said, "One second of hate will cause a lifetime of pain."

Bhuiyan shares his story of resilience and reconciliation. Stories can help us replace ignorance with understanding, fear with acceptance, and hate with empathy—all pathways toward a more equitable, just, and peaceful society. Rais Bhuiyan (he/him) is the founder of World Without Hate, a nonprofit focused on preventing and disrupting hate and violence and restoring peace and understanding through storytelling and empathy. His story is chronicled in *The True American: Murder & Mercy in Texas* by Anand Giridharadas.

**Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, see below

For more information and to register at <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-one-second-of-hate-a-story-of-forgiveness-2/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Asotin County Library.

### **How Audio Technology Changes the World**

Although we live in a visual world, audio still has the power to create intimacy and spark the imagination like no other medium can. Veteran broadcaster Ross Reynolds explores the impact that audio transmission has had on society and storytelling, beginning with the first century of radio up to the modern age of audiobooks, internet streaming, podcasts, and smart speakers. How has audio transmission changed society, and what makes it such a still powerful form of communication?

Attendees will be encouraged to share stories of their formative audio experiences, and local radio broadcasters and podcasters will be invited to share their stories

Ross Reynolds (he/him) is KUOW's executive producer for community engagement, before which he was a program host for 16 years. Reynolds lives in Seattle.

**Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021**

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, see below

For more information and to register, <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-how-audio-technology-changed-the-world-4/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by King County Library System.

### **KYRS Community Radio: Page Turner Show**

Discussion of "Something Smells," with author Blake Hellman and illustrator Steven Henry.

**Date: Friday, August 13, 2021**

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Listen on 88.1, 92.3 or at [kyrs.org](https://kyrs.org)

Cost: Free

For more information visit <https://kyrs.org/>.

### **NAACP Monthly Meeting**

**Date: Monday, August 16, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: On-line via Zoom

Cost: Free, meeting open to everyone.

For more information visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/spokane.naACP/> or visit their website at <http://spokanenaACP.com/>.

### **Girls Rock Lab**

A four-day camp for girls, non-binary and transgender children of any identity or background to learn in workshops and from mentors how to write music and perform in a band.

**Dates: Tuesday-Friday, August 17-20, 2021**

Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Location: Spark Central, 1214 W Summit Parkway

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://spark-central.org/events/girls-rock-lab-2021> or call 509.279.0299.

### **Why Deny Science?**

Have you ever had a conversation with someone who denies a scientific finding? Perhaps that conversation was about something as big as climate change or something as small as the health effects of eating chocolate. But in most cases, there is a pattern to how people argue against scientific findings, no matter the scope of the issue at hand.

In this talk, philosopher Michael Goldsby sorts through the tactics and reasons many people use to argue against scientific claims. Though science is far from perfect, science denialism can have far-reaching impacts, especially in an era of critical issues like global warming and vaccines. Discover how to discuss scientific issues without being dismissive and learn about the richer discussions one can have when science, philosophy, and logic intersect.

Michael Goldsby (he/him) is an associate professor of philosophy in the School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs at Washington State University. Goldsby lives in Pullman.

**Date: Tuesday, August 17 2021**

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free, must register, see below

For more information and to register, <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-why-deny-science/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Asotin County Library.

### **How Audio Technology Changes the World**

Although we live in a visual world, audio still has the power to create intimacy and spark the imagination like no other medium can. Veteran broadcaster Ross Reynolds explores the impact that audio transmission has had on society and storytelling, beginning with the first century of radio up to the modern age of audiobooks, internet streaming, podcasts, and smart speakers. How has audio transmission changed society, and what makes it such a still powerful form of communication?

Attendees will be encouraged to share stories of their formative audio experiences, and local radio broadcasters and podcasters will be invited to share their stories

Ross Reynolds (he/him) is KUOW's executive producer for community engagement, before which he was a program host for 16 years. Reynolds lives in Seattle.

**Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

Time: 11:00 am

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, see below

For more information and to register, <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-how-audio-technology-changed-the-world-5/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Washington Talking Book & Braille Library.

### **Understanding Israel**

How much do Americans really know about the people and culture of Israel? How can we foster a better understanding of this intricate state and its neighbors?

Join Professor Nancy Koppelman as she explores 12 features of Israel's history, diverse ethnic and religious ways of life, governance and justice structures, and educational system. This talk sheds light on the people who reside in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, and aims to provide history and context for this complex nation—the only state in the world with a majority Jewish population.

Nancy Koppelman (she/her) has been a faculty member at Evergreen State College in Olympia for 26 years. She holds a three-year appointment as Visiting Research Scholar with the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University, where she was a faculty fellow in 2019. Koppelman lives in Olympia.

**Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free, must register, see below

For more information and to register, <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-understanding-israel/>.

Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Asotin County Library.

### **Science for Kids in Spanish: Light Workshop (Spokane County Library District)**

Using course materials from the Franklin Institute, learn about light and wind, entirely in Spanish. Participants must have a family member fluent in Spanish present for this Zoom class. Supplies available for pickup. Open to children in kindergarten through grade 3.

**Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: On-line via Zoom

Cost: Free,

For more information and to register, visit

<https://scl.d.evanced.info/signup/list?df=list&nd=150&kw=Science+for+kids>.

### **SCORE Workshop: Create a Brand for your Business (Spokane County Library District)**

Learn how to focus the values, mission and vision of your business, build a brand and establish a business identity.

**Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021**

Time: noon – 1:30 pm

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free,

For more information and to register, visit <https://scl.d.evanced.info/signup/list?df=list&nd=150&kw=SCORE>.

### ***A Midsummer Night's Dream Play***

Spokane Shakespeare Society (S3) presents their inaugural season in Riverfront Park. Seating begins 30 minutes prior to curtain.

**Dates: Friday and Sunday, August 20 and 22, 2021**

Time: 6:30 pm (Friday/Saturday) and 2:00 pm on Sunday

Location: Riverfront Park – Lilac Bowl

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/riverfrontspokane/> for exact location.

### **Unity in the Community – Celebrating 27 Years**

The region's largest multi-cultural event. Family friendly, free school supplies and bike helmets for children in kindergarten through grade 8 (children must be present with parent/guardian; while supplies last). Cultural Village, entertainment, career/education fair, youth area, health fair, senior resources and general vendors.

**Date: Saturday, August 21, 2021**

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Riverfront Park

Cost: Free

For more information visit [www.nwunity.org](http://www.nwunity.org). School supplies for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade are given out on a first-come, first serve basis. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and child must participate in the Culture Villages experience by visiting all of the booths.

### **Washington State Poet Laureate**

Join Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest as she builds awareness and appreciation of poetry, including the state's legacy of poetry, through public readings, workshops, lectures and presentations across the state. Priest is a member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation and the author of Patriarchy Blues.

**Dates: Saturday, August 21, 2021**

**Time: 10:00 am**

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/event-with-the-washington-state-poet-laureate-2021/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Chimacum Center.

### **Umoja (Unity): Sustaining African Cultural Arts**

Explore the depth and significance of African culture, from its communal philosophies to its lively song and dance. In this interactive talk—part presentation and part performance—artist Afua Kouyaté shares pieces of African culture and folkloric traditions like the *Nguzo Saba*, or “seven principles,” of Kwanzaa, which include values like *umoja* (unity), *ujima* (collective responsibility), and *nia* (purpose).

Using the seven principles as a framework, Kouyaté tells the story of her life and of Africa's rich culture to inspire you to root deeper through your own culture. In this talk, infused with cultural artifacts, music, and dance, Kouyaté brings people together through the sharing and celebration of cultural arts and traditions.

Afua Kouyaté (she/her) is a performing and teaching artist who specializes in cultural arts leadership with an emphasis on therapeutic engagement. She is the co-founder of Kouyaté Arts, an organization dedicated to the arts, music, dance, culture, and life of the people of West Africa. As the executive director of Adefua Cultural Education Workshop, she is dedicated to community and viewed as a leader in the cultural arts sector. Kouyaté lives in Seattle.

**Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021**

Time: noon

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free, must register, see below

For more information and to register, <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-umoja-unity-sustaining-african-cultural-arts/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Washington State Department of Enterprise Services.

### **A Midsummer Night's Dream Play**

Spokane Shakespeare Society (S3) presents their inaugural season in Riverfront Park. Seating begins 30 minutes prior to curtain.

**Dates: Thursday, Friday and Sunday, August 26, 27 and 29, 2021**

Time: 6:30 pm (Thursday/Friday) and 2:00 pm on Sunday

Location: Riverfront Park – Pavilion on Thursday, Lilac Bowl on Friday and Sunday

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/riverfrontspokane/> for exact location.



### **Tacos y Tequila Festival**

A celebration of heritage, culture, and of course tacos y tequila! Live music, vendor booths, tacos trucks, beer/tequila garden. Festival will take place on Wall St (in between Spokane Falls Blvd and Main St)

**Dates: Saturday and Sunday, August 29 and 30, 2021**

Time: 1:00 pm-10:00 pm on Saturday and 11:00 am-7:00 pm on Sunday

Location: Downtown Spokane - Wall St (in between Spokane Falls Blvd and Main St)

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit website <https://tacosytequilafest.com/>. Sponsored by Hispanic Business/Professional Association.

### **Save the Date**

#### ***6<sup>th</sup> Gonzaga International Conference on Hate Studies, Justice and Equity: Challenging Hate and Inspiring Hope***

The Conference on Hate Studies is one of the leading interdisciplinary academic forums on hate, related social problems, and ways to create socially just and inclusive communities. Speakers and panelists include: Kathleen Blee, University of Pittsburgh; Thomas Brudholm, University of Copenhagen, Connie Chung Joe, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Robert Sapolsky, Stanford university; and Eric Ward, Wester States Center.

**Dates: Thursday-Saturday, November 4-6, 2021**

Location: Virtually

Cost: Conference attendees/presenters before Sept. 30 \$80.00, after Sept.30 \$120. Conference student/living light attendees before Sept. 30 \$20.00, after Sept. 30 \$30.00

For more information on the conference, visit [www.gonzaga.edu/ICOHS](http://www.gonzaga.edu/ICOHS). For more information about the Gonzaga Institute of Hate Studies (GIHS), visit [www.gonzaga.edu/hatestudies](http://www.gonzaga.edu/hatestudies).

If you know of diversity/cultural event open to the public that you would like added to the monthly calendar, please e-mail Yvonne C. Montoya Zamora at [yvonnecmz04@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnecmz04@gmail.com) with event details.

For general Spokane events visit [www.visitspokane.com](http://www.visitspokane.com) or <http://www.spokane7.com/>.

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### **August 2021 International/National Diversity/Cultural Celebrations**

#### **August 1**

##### **Lughnasadh – Wicca**

Its name is taken from the Celtic God Lugh or Samildanach, which means “he of many gifts.” It celebrates the ancient festival of the first harvesting of grain.

##### **Confederation Day | Swiss National Day– Switzerland**

Founding of the Swiss Confederation in 1291. The date refers to a historic alliance concluded in 1291 by the three cantons of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden. This alliance was to become the focal point around which the Switzerland of today was built over the next 500 years.

#### **August 2**

##### **Ilinden (National Day) – Macedonia**

Commemorates the Macedonians revolt against the Ottoman army in August 2, 1903, on Ilinden, or St. Elijah’s Day.

##### **Summer Bank Holiday – Ireland, Scotland**

- August 2**      **Civic Holiday – Canada**  
Commonly referred to as the August long weekend. It is probably the busiest day on highways as tens of thousands of families go camping, to cottages etc. on this weekend. It is known by many names in different provinces and municipalities. It's called Regatta Day in Newfoundland, Terry Fox Day in MB, Saskatchewan Day in SK, British Columbia Day in BC, Natal Day in Nova Scotia and PEI, Simcoe Day in Toronto, New Brunswick Day in New Brunswick, Colonel By Day in Ottawa Heritage Day in Alberta and Joseph Brant Day in Burlington, ON.
- August 5**      **Emancipation Day – Turks & Caicos Islands**  
Commemorates the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. The law abolishing slavery was passed on August 1, 1834, but Turks and Caicos now celebrates Emancipation Day on the first Monday of August in order to create a long weekend.
- August 6**      **Hiroshima Day – Japan, USA, Canada**  
This solemn day commemorates the day the United States dropped the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. People from different backgrounds unite on the day to declare their commitment to never letting another nuclear bomb be used against humans again.
- Independence Day – Jamaica**  
The Colony of Jamaica gained independence from the United Kingdom on this date.
- Independence Day – Bolivia**  
Bolivia celebrates its independence from Spain on this date. Simon Bolivar led Bolivia to independence in 1825 after more than 15 years of struggle.
- August 8-17**      **Fravardeghan - Zoroastrian**  
Fravardeghan lasts 10 days in preparation for Now Ruz for those who follow the Shenshai calendar. Ancestors are memorized during this time.
- August 9**      **National Day – Singapore**  
Marks the day of independence from Malaysia in 1965.
- International Day of the World's Indigenous People – UN**  
2018 Theme: "Indigenous Peoples' Migration and Movement". The Declaration is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples.
- August 10**      **1<sup>st</sup> Muharram – Islamic New Year, Islam**  
Islamic New Year, 1440AH. The first Muharram marks the first day of the first month (Muharram) of the Islamic year. Muharram lasts for 29-30 days depending on the moon sighting. It begins at sundown the previous day. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.
- Independence Day – Ecuador**  
Gained independence on May 24, 1822 from Spain with the defeat of Spanish at the Battle of Pichincha.
- August 12**      **International Youth Day – UN**  
A day to increase awareness of the World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which calls for action in 10 areas: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and full and effective participation of youths 15-24 years old in society.

- August 14**      **Independence Day – Pakistan**  
On this day in 1947, Pakistan became the world's first Islamic republic when it gained independence from British rule.
- August 15**      **Assumption - Christian**  
This refers to Mary's death and ascent to heaven and is celebrated by Catholic and Orthodox Churches.
- National Liberation Day (Gwangbokjeol) – Korea**  
Commemorates the end of Japanese colonial rule at the end of World War II and the establishment of the Republic of Korea.
- Independence Day – India**  
Commemorates the day in 1947 when India became an independent nation.
- August 17**      **Independence Day – Indonesia**  
Celebrates the foundation of Indonesia as an independent nation. It is also referred to as Hari Merdeka.
- August 18**      **Now-Ruz (Shenshai) – Zoroastrian**  
Now Ruz means "new day" and is celebrated by Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar and by all Ismaili Muslims around the world. The New Year celebrates the creation of fire on this day which Zarathustra received his revelation.
- August 19**      **Ashura – Islam**  
The tenth day of the first Islamic month (Muharram). For Shi'ite Muslims, this day mourns the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain, the grandsons of Prophet Muhammad. Devout Shi'a commemorate this day of sadness with retelling the story of the battle fought in Kerbala.
- Independence Day – Afghanistan**  
Commemorates the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919. The treaty granted a complete neutral relation between Afghanistan and Great Britain.
- World Humanitarian Day – UN**  
An opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe.
- Asma (9<sup>th</sup> month) - Baha'i**  
The first day of the ninth Baha'i month. The English translation of Asma (Arabic) is Names.
- August 21**      **Onam – India**  
Onam is a Hindu festival celebrated by the people of Kerala in India. Lasting for four to ten days, it is a harvest festival commemorating the homecoming of the legendary Emperor Mahabali from Patala (the underworld) who visits every Malayali home during this time.
- August 22**      **Raksha Bandhan – Hindu**  
According to legend, God Indra was warring with demons. His wife tied a silk charm around his wrist to protect him and he was able to defeat his enemies. Hindu girls now tie a threaded amulet or "rakhi" on their brothers for protection against evil.

- August 24      Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai) – Zoroastrian**  
Zarathushtra (Zoroaster in Greek; Zarathosht in India and Persia) is the founder of the Zoroastrian religion, dating back to sometime between 1500 and 1000 BCE. He lived in Persia, modern day Iran. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7<sup>th</sup> Century CE. When Arabs, followers of Islam, invaded Persia in 630 CE. a small number of Zoroastrians fled to India where most are concentrated today.
- Independence Day – Ukraine**  
Independence Day is always celebrated on August 24<sup>th</sup> and marks Ukraine's declaration of independence from the U.S.S.R. in 1991.
- August 25      Independence Day – Uruguay**  
On 25 August 1825, following a short period of rebellion, Uruguay declared its independence from Brazil and joined Argentina. A few years later, on August 27, 1828, Uruguay was recognized as an independent state by both Argentina and Brazil under the Treaty of Montevideo.
- August 27      Independence Day – Moldova**  
Commemorates Moldova's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.
- August 28      Notting Hill Festival – UK, England**  
Held during the last weekend in August, this is a West Indian Street carnival with floats, bands and stalls. It began in 1964 with the focus of deterring racism toward Caribbean and other Black immigrants and bringing together the people of the Notting Hill area.
- August 30      Victory Day – Turkey**  
Honors the warriors who died in the 1992 Battle of Dumlupinar, the world's oldest military band, plays, and celebrations include military parades and fireworks.
- St. Rosa of Lima - Peru**  
Commemorates a Peruvian saint who lived in Lima. Her home is now a pilgrimage site, where every August 30<sup>th</sup>, people come to pray and throw coins, messages and icons into a water well near her home.
- Janmashtami – Hindu**  
Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna and his rescue from potential death by the demon Kasha. Lord Krishna was born in a prison, then carried by his father to another village where he was secretly exchanged with a cow herder's daughter for his safety.
- Summer Bank Holiday – UK**
- August 31      Independence Day – Trinidad and Tobago**  
Commemorates the day in 1962 when Trinidad and Tobago proclaimed independence from Britain.
- Merdeka (Freedom) Day – Malaysia**  
Commemorates the independence of the Federation of Malaya from British colonial rule in 1957.

Source: Multicultural Calendar 2021 published by Creative Cultural Communications:  
<http://usa.multiculturalcalendar.com/v/home.html>.

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**What date or month in 2021 do/did we celebrate the below events - answers follow?**

\_\_\_\_\_ African American History Month (Black History Month)

\_\_\_\_\_ American Indian Heritage Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Armed Forces Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Asian/Pacific Heritage Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Bodhi Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Christmas

\_\_\_\_\_ Cinco de Mayo

\_\_\_\_\_ Deaf History Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

\_\_\_\_\_ Diversity Awareness Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Eid al-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice

\_\_\_\_\_ Emancipation Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Epiphany

\_\_\_\_\_ Gay and Lesbian Pride Month

\_\_\_\_\_ German-American Heritage Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Greek-American Heritage Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Hanukkah

\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic Heritage Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Holocaust Memorial Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Indigenous Day

\_\_\_\_\_ International Women's Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Irish-American Heritage Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Italian American Heritage Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Japanese New Year

\_\_\_\_\_ Jewish American Heritage Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Juneteenth

\_\_\_\_\_ Kwanzaa

\_\_\_\_\_ Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Lunar New Year (China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mardi Gras

\_\_\_\_\_ Martin Luther King Jr, Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Muslim New Year (Al Hijra)

\_\_\_\_\_ National Caribbean American Heritage Month

\_\_\_\_\_ National Disability Employment Awareness Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Native American Heritage Day (State of Washington)

\_\_\_\_\_ Passover

\_\_\_\_\_ Ramadan

\_\_\_\_\_ Stonewall Rebellion

\_\_\_\_\_ Universal Human Rights Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Vesak (Budda's Birth)

\_\_\_\_\_ Veterans Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Women's Equality Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Women's History Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Yom Kippur

## DIVERSITY CALENDAR QUIZ ANSWERS

### **African American History Month**

### **February**

#### Black History Month

Carter G Woodson, Harvard PhD graduate organized the first Negro History Week in order to raise awareness of the important achievements of African Americans. Fifty years later the week was expanded to a month. February was selected because of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both significantly impacted the lives of African Americans/Blacks.

**American Indian Heritage Month****November**Native American Heritage Month

In 1976 Congress authorized a week in October as Native American Awareness Week. Congress continued yearly to enact the designated week until 1990 when President Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage month. The month of November was chosen because American Indians traditionally hold fall harvest and world-renewal ceremonies, pow wows, and various other feasts.

**Armed Forces Day****May 15, 2021 | May 21, 2022**

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The unification of the Armed Forces under one department (Department of Defense) is celebrated as a single day event. The first Armed Forces Day (May 20, 1950) was celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows. In Washington D.C., 10,000 troops of all branches of the military, cadets, and veterans marched past the President Truman and his party. Spokane celebrates this day annually with the Lilac Festival Armed Forces Torchlight Parade, honoring those that serve and have served our county. Spokane's Armed Forces Torchlight Parade is held on the third Saturday in May.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/afd/>

**Asian/Pacific Heritage Month****May**

In 1979 the first Asian Pacific Heritage week was celebrated because their history/stories were excluded from many of the 1976 U.S. bicentennial celebrations. In 1990 the event became a month long and was made official on October 28, 1992 to honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans. May was selected as two significant events in history took place in this month: Japanese immigrants first arrived in the U.S. on May 7, 1843 and the Transcontinental Railroad was completed on May 10, 1869. The transcontinental railroad would have taken many more years to build had it not been for Chinese immigrants who build it. <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>.

**Bodhi Day****December 8, 2021**

This is an important day in the Buddhist religion as it signified when Buddha attained "Enlightenment".

**Christmas****December 25**

Christmas combines the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ with various other traditions and customs, many of which were influenced by ancient winter festivals (winter solstice). Christmas traditions include displaying Nativity scenes, hanging stockings, and Christmas trees. Gifts and cards are exchanged. Santa Claus arrived on Christmas Eve (December 24), an important event for children.

The Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates Christmas on January 6, while some Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate Christmas on January 7, the date on the Julian calendar which corresponds to December 25. The date as a birth date for Jesus is merely traditional and is not widely considered to be his accrual date of birth.

**Cinco de Mayo****May 5**

The 5<sup>th</sup> of May in Spanish. In the Battle of Puebla (town near Mexico City), General Ignacio Zaragoza's Mexican troops of Mesitizo and Zapotec Indians defeated Napoleon's French troops on May 5, 1862 (in four hours). The French attempted to create an empire in Mexico when Mexico decided not to pay its foreign debt payments (debt was due to the U.S. Mexican war in the 1840's). France loaned money to Mexico to fight the U.S. hoping Mexico would win. When the French began a military advance on Mexico, they were stopped in Puebla before reaching Mexico City. However, the French were not effectively defeated until 1867, five years after the Battle of Puebla and three years under the French. Napoleon III sent Archduke Maximilian of Austria to rule Mexico.

**Deaf History Month****March 13 – April 15**

DHM celebrates deaf history, particularly with three specific key events:

April 8, 1864-the signing of the charter by President Lincoln authorizing the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind (now called Gallaudet University after Thomas Gallaudet) to grant undergraduate degrees to deaf students. Gallaudet University celebrates this day as Charter Day.

April 15, 1817-the founding of the Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons (now American School for the Deaf). This was the first public school for deaf students in the United States, in Hartford, Connecticut.

March 13, 1988-the success of the Deaf President Now (DPN) movement (staged a near riot, demanding a deaf president for the university) in paving the way for Dr. I. King Jordan to become the first deaf president of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. <http://www.nad.org>

### **Día de los Muertos**

**November 1/2**

The day of the death in Spanish. Mexican/Latin American holiday. This holiday celebrates and honors the lives of the deceased, and celebrates the continuation of life; the belief is not that death is the end, but rather the beginning of a new stage in life. November 1 is set aside for remembrance of deceased infants and children, often referred to as angelitos (little angels), November 2 is to honor those who have died as adults.

In Mexico, where this is a national holiday, the holiday has ancient Aztec and Mesoamerican roots. The Day of the Dead is also celebrated to a lesser extent in other Latin American countries, Texas and Arizona and various cities in the U.S.

Though this celebration occurs at the same time as Halloween, All Saint's Day, and All Souls Day, this holiday was originally thought to be celebrated in August, however the Catholic Church had problems with it so it was moved to coincide with All Saints/Souls Day church celebrations.

A common symbol of the holiday is the skull, foods such as sugar skulls are inscribed with the name of the recipient on the forehead. Sugar skulls are gifts that can be given to both the living and the dead. Other holiday foods include pan de muerto, a sweet bread made in various shapes, from plain rounds to skulls and rabbits often decorated with white frosting to look like twisted bones. Family members gather at the cemetery for gravesite reunions more festive than somber. Some bring along picnic baskets, bottles of tequila for toasting the departed or even a mariachi band to lead a heartfelt sing-along. Local merchants set up provisional stands outside the cemetery gates to sell food and drinks. Fireworks may be used to announce the commencement of an open-air memorial mass.

### **Diversity Awareness Month**

**April, August, October**

There is no official designated Diversity Awareness Month. However, various organizations celebrate April, August or October as Diversity Awareness Month.

The goal of celebrating Diversity Awareness Month is to acknowledge the contributions of African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, women, gays and lesbians, veterans, and other groups. Diversity Awareness Month is about opening dialogues that foster an appreciation of the differences that separate us as well as the similarities that unite us.

### **Eid al-Adha**

**July 19, 2021 | July 10, 2022**

Also called the Feast of the Sacrifice, the "Major Festival", the "Greater Eid", Baqr'Eid, or Tabaski, is the second of two religious holidays celebrated by Muslims worldwide each year. It honors the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his promised son, Ishmael, as an act of submission to God's command, before God then intervened, through His angel Gabriel and informs him that his sacrifice has already been accepted.

### **Emancipation Day**

**January 1**

Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation to take effect January 1, 1863, freeing the slaves in the Southern states that succeeded (used the term "in rebellion" in the Proclamation) from the U.S. during the Civil War. The interesting note is that the Emancipation Proclamation did not free the slaves in any other states other than other "in rebellion".

Washington DC celebrates April 16 as Emancipation Day. On April 16, 1862, President Lincoln signed the Compensated Emancipation Act, releasing certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia. The Act freed about 3,100 enslaved persons in DC months before President Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in those states "in rebellion" against the U.S. The District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act represents the only example of compensation by the federal government to free enslaved persons.



On January 4, 2005, Mayor Anthony Williams signed legislation making Emancipation Day an official holiday in D.C. Each year, a series of activities are held during this holiday including the traditional Emancipation Day parade celebrating the freedom of enslaved persons in the District of Columbia.

### **Epiphany**

**January 6**

Christian celebration also called the Twelfth Day (remember the song the Twelve Days of Christmas). The 12 days take place between December 26 with the 12<sup>th</sup> day on the Epiphany. This day signifies the arrival of the three "wise" men (Magi) to see the baby Jesus. Called the Three Kings' Day in Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic

### **Gay and Lesbian Pride Month**

**June**

The gay pride campaign of the gay rights movement has three main premises: that people should be proud of their sexual orientation and gender identity, that sexual diversity is a gift, and that sexual orientation and gender identify inherent and cannot be intentionally altered. Symbols of gay pride include the rainbow flag, the Greek lambda symbol, and also the pink and black triangles.

In June 2000, President Bill Clinton officially declared June Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. June was selected due to the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion that took place in New York City June 27-29, 1969. See Stonewall Rebellion.

### **German-American Heritage Month**

**October**

Indiana Senator Richard Lugar and Congressman Lee Hamilton first introduced the designation of October 6, 1987, as "German-American Day". A proclamation was issued by President Reagan October 2, 1987. Proclamations have been issued ever since by the President. The German-American Joint Action Committee (GAJAK) was formed with the main objective of promoting German-American events in Washington, D.C. and nationwide.

In 1995 GAJAK recommended that a German-American Heritage Month be established, based on the model of other ethnic groups, it was resolved "to declare the period from mid-September to about mid-October German-American Heritage Month. This measure never passed Congress.

### **Greek-American Heritage Month**

**March**

This month was selected as Greece gained its independence from the Ottoman Empire on March 25, 1821.

### **Hanukkah**

**Begins at sunset November 28 – December 6, 2021**

Jewish celebration. This holiday celebrates the victory (165 B.C. E.) of the Maccabees over the Syrian Antiochus IV and the following the reclamation of Jerusalem. This holiday begins on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar lasting for 8 days beginning at sunset of the previous day known at the Festival of Lights. According to the Talmud, there was only a one-day supply of oil found in the Temple when the Maccabees prepared it for rededication by removing all of the Syrian idols. Miraculously the oil lasted for 8 days. This miracle is celebrated by the lighting of the Hanukkah candles (placed on a menorah) and exchanging gifts.

### **Hispanic Heritage Month**

**September 15-October 15**

In 1968, Congress first designated the week including September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week to celebrate the cultural, heritage, and contributions of the diverse cultures within the Hispanic community. This week was chosen because of two historical events: independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15, 1821 and Mexico's Independence Day, which was the beginning of the struggle against the Spanish on September 16, 1810. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a full 31-day period from September 15 to October 15.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom HaShoah)**

**Begins at sundown on April 7, 2021 | April 27, 2022**

Yom haShoah Ve'Hagvura or Yom HaShoah is "Remembrance Day for The Holocaust and Heroism", takes place on the 27th day of the month Nisan, in the Hebrew calendar, which falls in the early spring. It is held every year in remembrance of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. It is a national memorial day in Israel established by Israeli Law in 1959. <http://www.ushmm.org/>

**U.N. Indigenous Day****August 9**

The United Nations General Assembly on December 23, 1994 declared August 9<sup>th</sup> of every year as the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. In 2004 the Assembly proclaimed a Second International Decade. The goal of this Decade is to further strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic development.

**International Women's Day****March 8**

This is a global celebration, celebrating the economic, political, and social achievements of women. In some places like China, Russia, Vietnam, this is a national holiday. <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

**Irish-American Heritage Month****March**

Although not an official "federal" holiday in the United States, St. Patrick's Day has a long history of being celebrated with parades and general goodwill for all things Irish. The day commemorates St. Patrick, believed to have died on March 17, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century. Because many Americans celebrate their Irish lineage on St. Patrick's Day, March was picked as Irish-American Heritage Month. The month was first proclaimed in 1995 by Congress. Each year, the U.S. president also issues an Irish-American Heritage Month proclamation.

**Italian American Heritage Month****October**

Recognizes the achievements of Americans of Italian descent as well as Italians in American. This month was chosen to coincide with Columbus Day. <http://www.italianheritagemonth.com/>

**Japanese New Year****January 1**

New Year (shogatsu or oshogatsu) is the most important holiday in Japan. Most businesses shut down from January 1 to January 3, and families typically gather to spend the days together.

Years are traditionally viewed as completely separate, with each new year providing a fresh start. Consequently, all duties are supposed to be completed by the end of the year. January 1 started by viewing the new year's first sunrise (hatsu-hinode), and traditionally believed to be representative for the whole year that has just commenced. Therefore, the day is supposed to be full of joy and free of stress and anger, while everything should be clean and no work should be done.

It is a tradition to visit a shrine/temple during shogatsu (hatsumode). The most popular temples and shrines, such as Tokyo's Meiji Shrine attract several million people during the three days.

**Jewish-American Heritage Month****May**

President Bush has proclaimed May 2006 as Jewish American Heritage Month. The Jewish people represent 2% of the US population with the first Jews arriving in 1654. It is hoped that the creation of Jewish American Heritage Month will serve as a catalyst for educators and others to further the understanding of the role that Jews have played in American history. <http://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/>.

**Juneteenth****June 19**

Juneteenth celebrates the freedom of over 150,000 slaves at the close of the Civil War (June 19, 1865). Federal troops arrived in Galveston, TX to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation, though the Proclamation had taken effect on January 1, 1863. News of war's end did not reach Texas until well after the surrender of the Confederacy at Appomattox. In 2021, this celebration has been declared a national holiday starting in 2022.

**Kwanzaa****December 26-Jan 1**

African-American celebration. This holiday was created by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga in 1966. The name Kwanzaa comes from the Kiswahili word meaning “first fruits”. Dr. Karenga identified seven principles Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). Each day of Kwanzaa, discussions are held on one of the seven principles, gifts are also exchanged during this time.

A Kinara (seven-candle holder) and Mshumaa (seven candles) are placed on the Mkeka (straw mat) along with Muhindi (ears of corn) and the Kikombe Cha Umoja (unity cup). The seven candles, three red ones are placed on the right, three greens ones are placed on the left and a black one is placed in the center. The black candle represents African-Americans, the red candles represent their struggles, and the green candles represent their vision for the future.

A Karamu feast is held on December 31, a ceremony honoring ancestors, music, and dancing with traditional food.

**Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month****October**

This celebration is designed to promote the teaching of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals in schools and the community. October was selected because the first (1979) and second (1987) Marches on Washington for Lesbian and Gay rights were held, in addition, October 11 is National Coming Out Day. The first National Coming Out Day was held October 11, 1988.

**Lunar New Year (China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam)****February 12, 2021 (year of the metal cow/oc)****February 1, 2016 (year of the black water tiger)**

Also known as Chinese New Year. This day takes place during the first three days of the first lunar month (second new moon after the winter solstice) and is known as the Spring Festival, so the day varies every year (late January to February). Each year is symbolized by a different animal: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, pig and sheep/ram. Legend has it that Buddha summoned all the animals to come to him before he departed the earth. Only twelve came to say goodbye, as a reward, he named a year after each animal in the order they arrived.

**Mardi Gras****February 16, 2021 | March 1, 2022**

Christian celebration. Known as Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. This day varies year to year depending on the day Easter is celebrated. Mardi Gras is the culmination of the carnival season which begins on January 6 (the 12<sup>th</sup> night of Christmas/Epiphany). This celebration was brought to the U.S. by the French. Though well known as a New Orleans celebration, Mobile, AL is the oldest city in the U.S. to celebrate Mardi Gras.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day****January 18, 2021 | January 17, 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January)**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday honors his life and contributions of racial justice and equality. King’s “I Have A Dream” speech given on August 28, 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the “March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom” is often considered to be one of the greatest speeches in history. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. King was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, GA, however the holiday is celebrated the third Monday of each January (in most U.S. states). King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN.

**Muslim (Islamic) New Year (Al Hijra)****August 10, 2021**

The Islamic calendar or Muslim calendar (also called the Hijri calendar) is used to date events in many predominantly Muslim countries, and used by Muslims everywhere to determine the proper day on which to celebrate Islamic holy days. It is a lunar calendar having 12 lunar months in a year of about 354 days. Because this lunar year is about 11 days shorter than the solar year, Islamic holy days, although celebrated on fixed dates in their own calendar, usually shift 11 days earlier each successive solar year. The current Islamic Year is 1429 AH.

**National Caribbean American Heritage Month****June**

A celebration of the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the U.S. In June 2005, the House of Representatives unanimously adopted H. Con. Res. 71, sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, recognizing the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States. On February 14, 2006, the resolution similarly passed the Senate, since the declaration, the White House has issued an annual proclamation recognizing June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

<http://www.caribbeanamericanmonth.org/>.

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month****October**

Congress designated the first week in October as National Employee the Physically Handicapped week in 1945 in order to assist disabled veterans. Due to the shift in attitude and the efforts of disability activists (to include the passing of the American with Disabilities Act in 1990) this month was designation in 1988.

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/>

**Native American Heritage Day (State of Washington)****November 26, 2021 (day after Thanksgiving)**

In 2014, the State of Washington designed the fourth Friday in November as Native American Heritage Day, a state and school legal holiday. Under state law, states offices and schools are already closed the day after Thanksgiving (fourth Thursday of the month).

**Passover****Sunset, March 27, 2021 | April 15, 2022**

Jewish celebration. This is an eight-day observance which begins at sunset on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar. This celebration marks the flight of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery in the 1200's B.C. E. The word Passover is derived from the 10<sup>th</sup> plague God placed on Egypt for keeping the Israelites in slavery. According to the Bible, God killed the first-born child in Egyptian homes but "passed over" the Israelites' homes which were marked with lamb's blood.

**Polish American Heritage Month****October**

Celebrates Polish history, culture, and pride of Polish Americans. The first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, VA in 1608. [www.polishamericancenter.com](http://www.polishamericancenter.com) or <http://www.polishamericancenter.org/heritmo.htm>

**Ramadan****April 12, 2021 | April 2, 2022**

Muslim celebration. This celebration is the most sacred day of the Muslim year and required by the Qur'an occurring in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During this time, the Qur'an was revealed to Mohammed. Muslims fast (considered to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar or religious obligation of Islam), worship, read the Qur'an, this is also a time of atonement.

**Stonewall Rebellion****June 28**

The Stonewall riots were a series of violent conflicts between New York City police officers and groups of gay and transgender people that began on June 28, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn. This riot was a turning point for the worldwide gay/lesbian rights movement, as gay and transgender people had never before acted together in such large numbers to forcibly resist police harassment directed towards their community.

Why was Stonewall Inn raided if gay bars were legal and on the rise in New York City? NYC was in the middle of a mayoral campaign and John Lindsay, who had lost his party's primary, had reason to call for a cleanup of the city's bars. In addition, race may have been another factor. The Stonewall bar was heavily frequented by Blacks and Hispanics. The decision by police to raid the bar may have been influenced by the fact that most of the "homosexuals" they would encounter were of color, and therefore even more objectionable. A large percentage of the rioters were also men of color.

**Universal Human Rights Day****December 10**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948 to recognize inherent dignity and the equal inalienable rights of all members of the human family.

**Vesak (Buddha's Birth)****May 26, 2021 | May 16, 2022**

Vesak is the most important holiday in the Theravada Buddhist countries of Southeast Asia, though its observance varies from culture to culture. In the United States, it has become the occasion for a common celebration that unites different Buddhist traditions and schools. Vesak celebrations are a time for the rededication of one's commitment to the Buddha's teachings and to practice. Called Hanamatsuri or "Flower Festival" in Japan, it is celebrated in Japan on April 8, however, Hanamatsuri commemorates only the Buddha's birth.

Vesak, or Visakha (pronounced way-sak), commemorates Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death, and his passing into nirvana. It is named for the month of May and is celebrated on the full moon, when the Buddha's mother is said to have given birth. According to most Buddhist calendars, he would be more than 2,500 years old. Buddha's actual birth date was not recorded; however, Buddhist legend describes how the baby sprang miraculously from his mother's side, in what is today Nepal.

**Veterans Day****November 11**

Honors people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Coincides with other holidays celebrated in other parts of the world as it marks the end of WWI, which formally ended on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11-month in 1918. President Wilson first proclaimed Armistice day for November 11, 1919, for WWI veterans, it became Veterans Day in 1947 to honor all who served in the U.S. Military.

**Women's Equality Day****August 26**

The ratification of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on August 26, 1920, guaranteed Women the right to vote. In 1971, Bella Abzug Congress representative from the state of New York introduced legislation to designate August 26 as Women's Equity Day as a way to remember and honor the anniversary of women winning the right to vote. The movie *Iron Jawed Angels* (2004), a HBO original movie is about the time in American History when women were risking their lives to get the right to vote.

**Women's History Month****March**

National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week during the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the president has issued a proclamation.

**Yom Kippur****Sundown, September 15, 2021**

Jewish celebration. This is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, also known as the Day of Atonement. This celebration focuses on asking and granting forgiveness. Yom Kippur falls at the end of the 10 Days of Penitence which begins with Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Judgment (Jewish New Year). Jewish year 5782 (2021).