

THE MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE CONTAIN SEVERAL NOTABLE, WIDELY OBSERVED CELEBRATIONS OF DIVERSITY IN THE U.S., INCLUDING ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH, JUNETEENTH, AND LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH. LET'S CELEBRATE WITH SOME EDUCATION!

AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

(MAY 1 – 31)

Beginning as a weeklong observance in May in 1978 and expanding to the entire month in 1990, Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month was established to pay tribute to the first group of Japanese immigrants who came to the US in May 1843, and also to the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May 1869, which was built almost entirely by Chinese immigrants.

"IF WE COULD TRANSFORM THE RECOGNITION OF AAPI HERITAGE MONTH INTO A RECOGNITION OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HISTORY, THEN WE COULD MAYBE DO SOME OF THIS IMPORTANT WORK OF RECOGNIZING ASIAN VIOLENCE AND ASIAN IMMIGRANT LABOR AS CONTRIBUTIONS, NOT JUST CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT WE CAN TURN INTO A SPECTACLE TO BE SAFELY CONSUMED OR INTO COMMODITY PRACTICES LIKE YOGA.

IT'S GREAT TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE ... AS LONG AS WE ARE ALSO ADVOCATING FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM ... MONTHS LIKE AAPI HERITAGE MONTH SHOULD ASK MORE OF US THAN THEY OFTEN DO IN TERMS OF ADDRESSING RACISM AND VIOLENCE."

- VANITA REDDY
PROFESSOR, TEXAS A&M

LEARN MORE:
[READ](#) | [LISTEN](#)

JUNETEENTH

(JUNE 19)

Also known as "Emancipation Day" and "Jubilee," Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day slavery ended in Texas. While Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863, it took over two years for all of the slaves in the south to learn of their freedom. In 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday, but in the years since, only 46 states have followed suit. Juneteenth is still not nationally observed, though senators proposed a bill in June 2020 to make it a federal holiday.

"JUNETEENTH IS ABOUT RECLAIMING OUR HISTORY, REJOICING IN THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE, AND RECOMMITTING TO THE WORK YET UNDONE. OUR NATION STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO TO RECKON WITH AND OVERCOME THE DARK LEGACY OF SLAVERY AND THE VIOLENCE AND INJUSTICE THAT HAS PERSISTED AFTER ITS END."

- SEN. COREY BOOKER
JUNETEENTH BILL
CO-SPONSOR

"I CALL IT THE GREAT AMERICAN CONTRADICTION. A NATION CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY WAS BORN IN SHACKLES."

- KENNETH C. DAVIS
HISTORIAN & AUTHOR

LEARN MORE:
[READ](#) | [LISTEN](#)

LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

(JUNE 1-30)

Traditionally, Pride is celebrated with parades, protests, drag performances, and memorials & celebrations of life for members of the community who lost their lives to HIV/AIDS. Pride is part activism, part celebration of all that the LGBTQ+ community has achieved, especially in the past 52 years since the Stonewall Riots—a six-day protest in which members of the queer and trans community took a stand against police raids targeting LGBTQ+ spaces.

"AS LONG AS MY PEOPLE DON'T HAVE THEIR RIGHTS ACROSS AMERICA, THERE'S NO REASON FOR CELEBRATION."

- MARSHA P. JOHNSON
ICONIC BLACK TRANS ACTIVIST,
PRESENT AT STONEWALL 1969

PRIDE IS A CRUCIAL OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT AND LOOK AHEAD TO THE FUTURE ... IT'S IMPORTANT WE TAKE THE TIME TO GIVE THANKS TO THE PEOPLE WHO LED THAT UPRISING AND CREATED THE MODERN LGBT MOVEMENT THAT WE KNOW. MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE WERE PART OF GROUPS WHO CONTINUE TO EXIST AT THE MARGINS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND IN SOCIETY, AND FOR WHOM PRIDE ISN'T YET A CELEBRATION BUT AN ACT OF DEFIANCE."

- LAURA RUSSELL
DIRECTOR OF CAMPAIGNS,
POLICY, AND RESEARCH AT
STONEWALL UK

LEARN MORE:
[READ](#) | [WATCH](#)

WANT TO BE AN ALLY? BECOME AN ACTIVE BYSTANDER!

It's important to acknowledge that these celebrations discussed above are derived from identity-based generational trauma experienced by marginalized groups of people. While strides have been made to reduce violence and discrimination, xenophobic attacks against these groups have not stopped. For example, since the beginning of the pandemic, reports of violence against the AAPI community have dramatically increased nationally.

If you ever witness harassment or violence in public, there are some things you can do to help. Hollaback! offers free active bystander intervention training for many different forms of targeted aggression you might witness, including [gender-based street harassment](#), [workplace harassment](#), [police sponsored violence](#) and [anti-Black racist harassment](#), [anti-LGBTQ+ harassment](#), and [anti-Asian American & xenophobic harassment](#).

FOR SOME TOOLS YOU CAN START USING TODAY, CHECK OUT [THESE ILLUSTRATIONS](#) BY CONNIE HANZHANG JIN!

Content assembled by Savannah Lucas (she/her), on behalf of the diversity council | Questions? Suggestions? → diversity.council@thehivetv.com