



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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## JANUARY



**International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27<sup>th</sup>** The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as an annual, international day of remembrance, by official resolution on November 1, 2005. The resolution urges every member nation to honor the memory of Holocaust victims and encourages the development of educational programs about Holocaust history as part of the resolve to help prevent future acts of genocide. The UN resolution rejects denial of the Holocaust, and condemns discrimination and violence based on religion or ethnicity.



**Martin Luther King Jr. Day** The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. We commemorate as well the timeless values he taught us through his example -- the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit. <http://www.nwhp.org/resourcecenter/blackhistorymonth.php>

## FEBRUARY

National Black Justice Coalition

**Black History Month** <http://www.nbicoalition.org/> Black History Month was implemented in 1976 as a month long celebration for Americans to recognize the diversity and richness of African American history and achievement. It first began in 1926 as Negro History Week and was celebrated to honor Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. Carter G. Woodson, who was upset that schools did not teach Black education, is responsible for the founding of this historical month. <http://www.history.com/minisites/blackhistory/>



### **Black Lesbian History Month**

- [Audre Lorde was a Black Feminist Lesbian Poet.](#)
- [Gladys Bentley was a popular Blues singer during The Harlem Renaissance.](#)
- [Barbara Jordan was a congresswoman from Texas.](#)
- You may have never heard of [Mable Hampton](#), but she was an out proud lesbian from the 1920s on



**Save The Date**

**February 7, 2009**

**NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS**

**AWARENESS DAY 2009**

**Prevention is POWER**

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



**National Freedom to Marry Day Feb 12<sup>th</sup>** America is engaged in a crucial conversation, a conversation about basic values of love, commitment, fairness, and freedom. In every state, in many families, good people are thinking and talking about how excluding same-sex couples from **marriage** harms them, their kids, and our country.

## MARCH



**National Youth Violence Prevention Week** Working together as a community is the best way to address any challenge. Our community wheel identifies various sectors within every community and offers suggestions on how each sector can support this important campaign...

[http://www.nyacvouth.org/nyac/youth\\_connections.html](http://www.nyacvouth.org/nyac/youth_connections.html)



**Women's History Month** began in 1987 when the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to declare a month in which women are remembered and recognized for their accomplishments. This month is a time for schools, workplaces, and communities to obtain more detailed information and offer programs recognizing women's history.

<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>



**A GLOBAL DAY OF CELEBRATION** Celebrated on 8 March, **International Women's Day (IWD)** is the global day connecting all women around the world and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. IWD celebrates the collective power of women past, present and future



**National Native HIV/AIDS AWARENESS** -- HIV is affecting thousands of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). AI/AN have the third highest rate of AIDS diagnosis in the United States, despite having the smallest population. AI/AN people with AIDS are likely to be younger than non-AI/AN people with AIDS. AI/ANs also have the shortest time between AIDS diagnosis and death.

<http://www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/days/native/index.html>

## NATIONAL LGBT HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

### National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Health Awareness Week

National LGBT Health Awareness Week is a project of the National Coalition for LGBT Health and

is dedicated to encouraging members of the LGBT community to be aware of personal healthcare needs and to take action to address those needs. Annually, one week in March is designated to highlight the health care needs of the LGBT community. For more information on the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Health Awareness Week visit

## APRIL



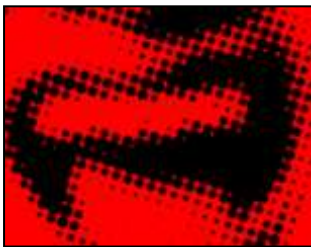
**Holocaust Remembrance Day** The 27th of Nissan was chosen, which falls beyond Passover but within the time span of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Orthodox Jews still did not like this date because it was a day of mourning within the traditionally happy month of Nissan. As a final effort to compromise, it was decided that if the 27th of Nissan would affect Shabbat (fall on Friday or Saturday), then it would be moved to the following Sunday.

<http://www.un.org/holocaustremembrance/emainpage.shtml> <http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/calendar/>

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)** The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline and carries out programs to prevent sexual assault, help victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice. In 2005, NASW partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), Family Violence Prevention Fund,

American Medical Association (AMA), College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and state and federal government offices to promote the prevention of sexual violence. As reported by the CDC, the survivors of sexual violence encounter significant problems that are both long and short term. **It's About Time to Prevent Sexual Violence: Speak Out.** Click here (<http://www.socialworkers.org/governance/cmtes/ncowi.asp>) for more information on our National Committee on Women's Issues. For more information on sexual violence or on CDC's research and program activities, visit [www.cdc.gov/injury](http://www.cdc.gov/injury) or [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org).



**DAY OF SILENCE, April 17, 2009** The Day of Silence is an annual event held to bring attention to anti-LGBT bullying, harassment and discrimination in schools. Students and teachers nationwide will observe the day in silence to echo the silence that LGBT and ally students face everyday. The Day of Silence is one of the largest student-led actions in the country.

## MAY



**First (legally binding) same sex marriages in the US May 17<sup>th</sup>** On 17 May 2004, [Massachusetts](#) became the first state to offer regular marriage licenses for gay couples. Same-sex marriage is allowed only to residents. In 2001, seven same-sex couples denied marriage licenses sued the MA Department of Public Health. In November 2003, the state's Supreme Court ruled their ban of same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. It upheld the decision the following year in February 2004. State legislators proposed a constitutional amendment banning gay marriages and allowing civil unions that may be put to a referendum in late 2006.



ILGA, the International Lesbian and Gay Association and IGLYO, the International Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Youth and Student Organisation are happy that the international LGBT community has managed to set up an **International Day against Homophobia** and would like to reiterate its belief in the importance of keeping this day, our day, in the public sphere so as to ensure that everyone can keep contributing to the success of the day.




**Older Americans Month** Getting older can - and should - be the most rewarding time of our lives. But it takes some work. Almost all seniors have challenges as they age - health issues, loss of friends and family, struggles with retirement income - not to mention our society's tendency to value youth over age and experience. But for the estimated 3 million GLBT seniors in the U.S. today, getting older is more complicated still.



**Asian Pacific American Heritage Month** <http://www.apaha.org> Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month was enacted by Public Law 102-450 on October 28, 1992. The purpose of the law was to honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans and to recognize their contributions to the United States. This recognition was the culmination of Jeanie Jew's efforts in the 1970's to establish Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. Following the United States bicentennial in 1976, Jew realized that Asian Pacific Americans were ". . .were excluded from those stories during celebrations of the country's bicentennial. We were literally ignored even though we were part of building this country." President George Bush declared Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in 1992. <http://www.kqed.org/topics/history/heritage/apa/resources.jsp>



**May 19 is National Asian and Pacific Islander (API) HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.** The [Banyan Tree Project](#) --a national campaign to fight HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination in API communities—is the lead for this day.

<http://www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/days/asian/index.html>

## JUNE

### Gay & Lesbian Pride Month



**Gay and Lesbian Pride Month** <http://usgovinfo.about.com/library/weekly/blgaylesproc.htm> As the movement for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender equal rights has grown over the years, so have Pride Events and InterPride. As the events have become more international in scope, the organization changed its name to the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators. By that time delegates from Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom were attending the conference.



**National HIV Testing Day** <http://www.napwa.org> Nearly one million Americans are living with HIV and more than 40 million people around the world are infected. Scientific and public understanding of the disease has improved significantly. Better treatment and care options exist, and people living with HIV/AIDS are living longer than ever before. And while still inadequate to the huge need, government and community based programs have helped develop and fund systems of care, prevention, research, housing and other essential services.



**JUNETEENTH.com**  
WORLD WIDE CELEBRATION!

**Juneteenth** is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19<sup>th</sup> as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long over due. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society



**Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots June 27<sup>th</sup>** -- On Friday evening, June 27, 1969, the New York City tactical police force raided a popular Greenwich Village gay bar, the Stonewall Inn. Raids were not unusual in 1969; in fact, they were conducted regularly without much resistance. However, that night the street erupted into violent protest as the crowds in the bar fought back. The backlash and several nights of protest that followed have come to be known as the Stonewall Riots.

Prior to that summer there was little public expression of the lives and experiences of gays and lesbians. The Stonewall Riots marked the beginning of the gay liberation movement that has transformed the oppression of gays and lesbians into calls for pride and action. In the past twenty-five years we have all been witness to an astonishing flowering of gay culture that has changed this country and beyond, forever.

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/exhibitions/sw25/case1.html>



**National HIV Testing Day (NHTD)** is an annual campaign produced by the National Association of People with AIDS ([NAPWA-US](http://www.napwa-us.org)) to encourage at-risk individuals to receive voluntary HIV counseling and testing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 180,000 to 280,000 people nationwide are HIV-positive but are unaware of their status. HIV counseling and testing enables people with HIV to take steps to protect their own health and that of their partners, and helps people who test negative get the information they need to stay uninfected.

<http://www.napwa.org/index.html>



**"Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Book Month"** was created to increase the recognition of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender writing. Begun in 1992 by the Publishing Triangle, June was selected in honor of the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riot in New York City. Early on the morning of June 28, 1969, the clientele of a gay bar, the Stonewall Inn, rioted after the club was raided by the police. The riot was followed by several days of demonstrations. It was this brave resistance to police harassment that kick-started the gay pride movement in the United States. President Clinton issued a Presidential Proclamation for June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month in 1999 and 2000, but President Bush declined to declare it in 2001. Libraries, bookstores, publishers and bibliophiles everywhere are invited to form a chorus line and celebrate with the community." ~*Chase's Calendar of Events 2003*.

## SEPTEMBER



**Celebrate Bisexuality Day – September 23<sup>rd</sup>:** This event is observed annually on September 23 by members of the bisexual community and their allies. The goal of Celebrate Bisexuality Day is to raise visibility and awareness about an often overlooked or misunderstood community.

**Celebrate Bisexuality Day September 23<sup>rd</sup>** <http://www.binetusa.org/> Tired of the heterosexual AND the homosexual assumptions, BiNet USA's Wendy Curry of Maine, Michael Page of Florida and

Gigi put their heads together (in cyberspace) and came up with the idea of putting bisexuality on the map. Claim a day for bisexual people! Claim a visibility day for bisexuality! History: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celebrate\\_Bisexuality\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celebrate_Bisexuality_Day)  
Resources: <http://www.biresource.net>



RAD has over twenty chapters in the United States and Canada.

**Deaf Awareness Week** <http://www.rad.org/> <http://www.nad.org>

<http://www.deafqueer.org/> The Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (RAD) is a nonprofit organization established in 1977. The purpose of this Alliance is to establish and maintain a society of Deaf Gays and Lesbians to encourage and promote the educational, economical, and social welfare; to foster fellowship; to defend our rights; and advance our interests as Deaf Gay and Lesbian citizens concerning social justice; to build up an organization in which all worthy members may participate in the discussion of practical problems and solutions related to their social welfare.



**Suicide Prevention Week** The Trevor Project operates the only nationwide, around-the-clock crisis and suicide prevention helpline for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. If you or a friend are feeling lost or alone call The Trevor Helpline. There is hope, there is help.. <http://www.donteraseyourqueerfuture.org/>

<http://www.suicidology.org>

## OCTOBER



**LGBT History Month** originated in the United States and was first celebrated in October, 1994. October was chosen as the month for the celebration because National Coming Out Day already was established as a widely known event on October 11. October commemorated the first march on Washington by LGBT people in 1979. LGBT History Month is intended to encourage honesty & openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

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

History: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT\\_History\\_Month](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_History_Month)

Resources: <http://www.glbthistorymonth.com/>



### **Diversity Awareness Month**

<http://www.hanford.gov/doehrm/ndeam/> October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This annual observance, designed to recognize the contributions of workers with disabilities, began in 1988 with the Presidential Proclamation of Public Law 100-630 (Title III, Sec 301a). This law replaced "National Employ the Handicapped Week," which had been celebrated annually since 1945 during the first week in October.



**Domestic Violence Awareness Month** *Domestic Violence is a pattern of coercive behavior in which one person attempts to control another through threats or actual use of tactics, which may include any or all of the following: physical, sexual, verbal and psychological abuse.* Domestic Violence affects every community across the country, regardless of ethnic group, culture, or background. People of all ages, income levels, faiths, sexual orientation, gender, and education levels experience domestic violence. Domestic violence isolates the person being abused and can rob inner strength, feelings of self-worth

and the ability to make personal choices. Often people experiencing abuse begin to feel responsible for the abuse. Domestic Violence is not a private matter, a family problem, a domestic "squabble" or a "fight." It is not a momentary loss of temper or the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Abusers choose to use tactics of violence repeatedly to gain power and control. Exposure to domestic violence traumatizes children and can destroy their ability to feel safe in the world as well as cause them to feel responsible for the abuse. Physical and sexual violence against a family member or intimate partner is a crime and perpetrators can be arrested and prosecuted. Ending domestic violence requires a social, political, and economic environment to ensure that battered women are supported and batterers are held accountable. Everyone must be part of the solution. \



**Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 to October 15** Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15th through October 15th. It is a national endeavor which celebrates and recognizes the rich cultural influence of Hispanics throughout the United States. This event was initiated by Congress more than twenty years ago as National Hispanic Heritage Week and was expanded to a month in 1989. During this month America celebrates Hispanic cultures, achievements, and heritage by commemorating a number of historical events. <http://www.metroweekly.com/gauge/?ak=2339>



**National Coming Out Day: October 11<sup>th</sup>** <http://www3.kumc.edu/diversity/other/comeout.html>

National Coming Out Day is an international event which gives gay, lesbian and bisexual people the opportunity to "come out" to others about their sexuality. It also provides a means of increasing the visibility of gay people. In the United States, the day is facilitated by the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project (NCOP).

The first National Coming Out Day was held on October 11, 1988. This date was chosen for the annual event in commemoration of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. It also marks the anniversary of the first visit of the [AIDS Memorial Quilt](#) to Washington, D. C.

Many communities and college campuses sponsor activities such as dances, film festivals, workshops, literature booths, and rallies on National Coming Out Day. History: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Coming\\_Out\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Coming_Out_Day)

Resources: [http://www.hrc.org/issues/coming\\_out.asp](http://www.hrc.org/issues/coming_out.asp)



**Ally Week - October 13-17, 2009**

History & Resources: <http://www.dayofsilence.org/ally.html>



**Lesbian & Gay History Month** Several organizations joined together in 1994 and declared October as National Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month (LGBHM). The celebration is modeled after and is similar in purpose to Black History Month and Women's History Month. LGBHM is designed to "promote the teaching of LesBiGay history in secondary and

post-secondary academic setting, as well as within the LesBiGay community and mainstream society" (Lesbian and Gay History Month press release, June 24, 1994). The theme for 1998 is "Find the Facts, Know the Truth". The month of October was chosen to celebrate gay and lesbian history in order to commemorate the anniversaries of the first two gay and lesbian marches on Washington. The first march was in October, 1979, and drew over 200,000, and the second in October 1987, which drew over 500,000 and had the first public viewing of the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Human Rights Campaign, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and other national organizations all endorse this historical month. The Gerber/Hart Library & Archives provides [additional information](#) about LGBHM.



**Disability Awareness Month** Today, about 50 million Americans, or one in five people, are living with at least one disability, and most Americans will experience a disability at some time during the course of their lives.

Some disabilities are easy to see, such as when a person uses a wheelchair or when someone has lost an arm. Other disabilities, like a developmental disability such as autism or a chronic condition like arthritis, may not be as easy to see. Some people may live with a disability all their lives. Others may have a disability when they are young or as an older adult. Different kinds of disabilities affect people in different ways. And the same disability can affect each person differently. *In recognition of Disability Awareness Month, CDC encourages everyone to learn more about what is being done to identify the causes of developmental disabilities and promoting the health and well-being among people of all ages with disabilities within the [National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities](#).*



**National Latino AIDS Awareness Day – October 15<sup>th</sup>** <http://www.nlaad.org/>

October 15th culminates the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and marks the first day of what has become an annual observance in our fight against AIDS: National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.



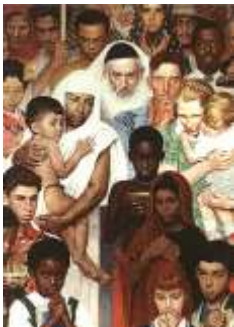
**Intersex Awareness Day October 26<sup>th</sup>** is Intersex Awareness Day. This is an opportunity to raise awareness of the Intersex community. "Intersex" is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male, a person born with genitals

that seem to be in-between the usual male and female types, or a person born with mosaic genetics, so that some of their cells have XX chromosomes and some of them have XY. <http://www.isna.org/>

## NOVEMBER



**Veteran's Day November 11<sup>th</sup>** In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..." <http://www.sldn.org/templates/index.html>



**International Day of Tolerance November 16<sup>th</sup>** In 1996, the General Assembly invited Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November, with activities directed towards both educational establishments and the wider public ([resolution 51/95](#) of 12 December). This action came in the wake of the United Nations Year for Tolerance, 1995, proclaimed by the Assembly in 1993 ([resolution 48/126](#)). The Year had been declared on the initiative of the General Conference of UNESCO. On 16 November 1995, the UNESCO member States had adopted the [Declaration of Principles on Tolerance](#) and [Follow-up Plan of Action](#) for the Year. The 2005 World Summit Outcome document ([A/RES/60/1](#)), outlines the commitment of Heads of State and Government to advance human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples.



**Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20th** The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder in 1998 kicked off the "[Remembering Our Dead](#)" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Since then, the event has grown to encompass memorials in dozens of cities across the world.

History & Resources: <http://www.gender.org/remember/day/>



**International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November)** In December 1999, the 54th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 54/134 declaring November 25th the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The origins of November 25th go back to 1960, when the three Mirabal sisters from the Dominican Republic were violently assassinated for their political activism. The sisters, known as the "Unforgettable Butterflies," became a symbol of the crisis of violence against women in Latin America. November 25th was the date chosen to commemorate their lives and promote global recognition of gender violence, and has been observed in Latin America since the 1980s.

Source: UNIFEM. <http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/>



**American Indian Heritage Month – November** In many American Indian traditions, there were individuals who entered into same-sex relationships, who were considered holy and treated with the highest respect and acceptance. They were the historians, the healers, and people of empowerment. They possessed a delicate balance of male and female "spirits", were often honored for being unique and having a different spiritual calling. One of the important functions they

provided was as mediators between the spirit world and physical world. (from [Northeast Two-Spirit Society web site](http://www.northeasttwospirit.org/))

## DECEMBER



**World AIDS Day – December 1<sup>st</sup> -- About the Day:** World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. AIDS has killed more than 25 million people, with an estimated 38.6 million people living with HIV, making it one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history. The World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988. In 2007, the estimated number of persons living with HIV worldwide was 33.2 million and there were 2.1 million AIDS deaths.

<http://www.worldaidscampaign.org>

<http://www.unaids.org>

<http://www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/days/world/index.html>



<http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/udhr60/>

The theme for 2008, "Dignity and justice for all of us," reinforces the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as a commitment to universal dignity and justice. It is not a luxury or a wish-list. The UDHR and its core values, inherent human dignity, non-discrimination, equality, fairness and universality, apply to everyone, everywhere and always. The Declaration is universal, enduring and vibrant, and it concerns us all.

**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY -- DECEMBER 10 - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 1948-2008**