

Cultural News

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June is Lesbian and Gay Pride Month

Gay pride or LGBT pride refers to a world wide movement and philosophy asserting that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals should be proud of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Gay pride advocates work for equal "rights and benefits" for LGBT people.

The 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 identity are inherent and cannot be intentionally altered.

In June of 2000, Bill Clinton deemed the month of June, "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month." The month was chosen to remember a riot in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan that is thought to be the beginning of the gay liberation movement in the United States.

June is now the month of acceptance and the month to welcome diversity in communities regardless of sexual orientation. Gay and lesbian groups celebrate this special time with pride parades, picnics, parties, memorials for those lost from HIV and AIDS, and other group gathering events that attract thousands upon thousands of individuals. This month is meant to recognize the impact Gay, Lesbian and Transgender individuals have had on the world.

<http://www.nwhp.org/resources/commemorations/gay-lesbian-pride-month/>



Caribbean-American Heritage Month

With a current population of approximately 10 million, hailing from 30 territories including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, Caribbean-Americans have played a role in shaping America since before its founding. From fighting slavery and segregation to serving in the highest levels of government to sports and entertainment, Caribbean-Americans have been active participants in the shaping of this country since the first Caribbean immigrants arrived in Jamestown, VA in 1619.

To help bring attention to this long and diverse history Dr. Claire Nelson founded The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) in 1993 to bring attention to and advocate for the concerns of the Caribbean-American community in both the private and public sector. This effort included national recognition of the Caribbean-American Heritage and in 1999 ICS sent a letter to President Clinton requesting a month dedicated as Caribbean-American History Month.

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JUNE 2017 CALENDAR

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE MONTH
NATIONAL SOUL FOOD MONTH

- 4-10- Pet Appreciation Week (US)
- 5- Baby Boomers Recognition Day (US)
- 6- Atheists Pride Day (International)
- 9- St. Columba of Iona (Celtic Christian)
- 11- Multicultural American Child Day (US)
- 12- World Day Against Child Labor (Int'l)
- 14- Flag Day (US)
- 15- Native American Citizenship Day (US)
- 16- Guru Arjan martyrdom (Sikh)
- 18- Father's Day (US)
- 20- American Eagle Day (US)
- 21- Litha and Yule (Wiccan/Pagan)
- 22- Laylat al Kadr (Islam)
- 23- Sacred Heart of Jesus (Catholic Christian)
- 25- America's Kids Day (US)
- 26-28- Eid al Fitr (Islam)

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It wasn't until 2004 that Congresswoman Barbara Lee introduced legislation for such a proclamation. Reintroduced a year later the House unanimously passed Congresswoman Lee's bill in June 2005 and the Senate passed their own legislation a few months later in February 2006, leading to President George W. Bush issuing the first Presidential proclamation declaring June Caribbean-American Heritage Month on June 5, 2006.

President Obama proclaimed June the eight Caribbean-American Heritage Month. In doing so, he once again reminded America that for "...every chapter of our Nation's history, Caribbean Americans have made our country stronger..." and will continue to do so in the years ahead.



<https://www.nwhm.org/blog/june-is-caribbean-american-heritage-month/>



June is National Soul Food Month

by Glenda

Soul food originated in Africa and came to the United States with African slaves. Foods such as okra and rice, which are common in West Africa, were

introduced to the Americas as a result of the transatlantic slave trade. These foods were dietary staples among the slaves. Foods such as corn from the Americas, turnips from Morocco and cabbage from Portugal would become staples in African-American cuisine. Slaves were fed as cheaply as possible; they were given the scraps: pig ears, pig feet, ox tail, ham hocks, hog jowls, trip and skin of animals. The slaves developed dishes using the scrap parts and these dishes became a part of their daily diet. They used onions and garlic to add flavor and lard for baking and frying. In addition to the scrap animal parts they were given the small intestine of the pig, or chitterlings, which were a poor dish for Europeans during medieval times.

These cooking rituals would be passed on from generation to generation of African-Americans, and these recipes are alive and well even today. Of course these dishes are not prepared in the same manner as during slave times, but they have not changed a whole lot. For instance, chitterlings are prepared in African-American homes during the holidays every year. In my family, my mother, grandmother and aunts prepare chitterlings every Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter. Chitterlings are cooked with onions and garlic the same as the slaves, but are prepared in much nicer cookware and maybe with a little vinegar. Fried corn, a major staple in soul food, was introduced to the slaves by the Native Americans and continues to be a popular dish today. Other products made from corn, such as cornbread, grits, whiskey and moonshine are still a part of the African-American diet.

When I think of soul food, I think of Sunday dinners that include fried chicken, fried corn, macaroni casserole, collard greens, turnip greens, cornbread, fried pork chops smothered in gravy, black eyed peas, potato salad and sweet potato pie. I can smell these wonderful dishes right now. Some people say soul food is not exactly the food a person cooks; it's that the person cooks from the heart. Personally I think the enslaved African women put their heart and soul into the food they were cooking for their families.

<http://dcplive.dekalblibrary.org/2013/06/26/june-is-national-soul-food-month/>

Father's Day

Father's Day is celebrated in honor of Fathers and Father like figures. It is celebrated on the third Sunday of June in the USA and in some other countries.

Mrs. Sonora Dodd is believed to be the first person suggested the idea of celebrating Father's Day in honor of fathers in 1909. The first Father's day was celebrated in USA on 19th June, 1910.

On this day people used to honor their fathers or the father like persons who have a great contribution and a huge impact in their lives. Everyone has their own way to celebrate Father's day. Some people give cards, gifts or flowers to their fathers, some prefer to dine out and some spend the whole day with their fathers. The goal of this day is to honor fathers and make them feel that how special they are.



<https://www.calendarlabs.com/holidays/shared/fathers-day.php>