



## EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION CALENDAR

**JULY – 2022**

### MONTH LONG OBSERVANCES:

➤ **National French-American Heritage Month**

In the United States, the month was established to honor the significant contributions made to the country by people of French descent. Currently, approximately 11.8 million Americans of French or French Canadian descent live and work in the United States, with about 2 million of those speaking French at home. As of the 2011 census, an additional 750,000 French-American citizens were added to those numbers due to the large creole community, whose language is based on French. A significant goal of groups like the Alliance Française, who spearheaded events like French-American Heritage Month, is to dedicate the entire month of July to celebrating and honoring the immense influence that the French have had on the United States in terms of laws, art, culture, language, and social etiquette. There are many ways in which the public can participate in the celebrations that start at the homes of French-American families, the offices of French organizations based in the U.S., and on social media platforms dedicated to French-American culture and communities.

**July 1: Canada Day or Fête du Canada**

A Canadian federal holiday that celebrates the 1867 enactment of the Constitution Act, which established the three former British colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick as a united nation called Canada. On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act created the Canadian federal government. The BNA proclaimed “one Dominion under the name of Canada: hence the original title of the holiday, “Dominion Day”. Dominion Day was officially renamed “Canada Day” by an act of Parliament on October 27, 1982.

**July 1: SAR Establishment Day (Hong Kong)**

Hong Kong was a British colony ruled by a British Governor until it was reunited with China as a Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China on July 1, 1997.

**July 4: Independence Day** (also known as the Fourth of July)

A US federal holiday that celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The original thirteen American colonies declared independence from Britain and established themselves as a new nation known as the United States of America. It is celebrated with picnics, fireworks, parades and outdoor activities.

**July 4: National Injury Prevention Day**

Parachute's National Injury Prevention Day (NIPD) (10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022) is a day to raise awareness around the importance of injury prevention and aid Canadians to live long lives to the fullest through education and advocacy. Health Canada recognizes this date as an official national Health Promotion Day.

**July 4: Philippine Republic Day or Tagalog: Araw ng Republikang Pilipino**

On July 4, 1946, the United States formally recognized the independence of the Republic of the Philippines. This was the culmination of the process that began in 1916, when the Jones Law pledged the eventual recognition of Philippine independence, and the Philippine Independence (or the Tydings-McDuffie) Act of 1934, which provided for a ten-year transitional period to prepare for independence. Manuel Roxas retaking his oath as President of the Philippines marked the independence of the Philippines, eliminating the pledge of allegiance to the United States required prior to independence. Independence thereafter was celebrated on July 4<sup>th</sup> of every year until 1962.

**July 4: NAIDOC** (Australia)

National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. A weeklong celebration around Australia during the first week in July to focus on the history, culture and achievements of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people.

**July 6: 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama** (Tibetan)

Marks the birth of Tibet's leader in exile and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. His Holiness the XIV<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso is the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people. Born to a peasant family in northeastern Tibet, he was recognized as the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama (Mongolian for Ocean of Wisdom).

**July 7: Tanabata** (Japan)

Meaning "Seven Evenings" is a Japanese star festival, derived from Obon traditions and the Chinese star festival, Qi Xi. The festival is usually held on July 7 and celebrates the meeting of Orihime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair).

**July 8: Day of Hajj - Day of Arafat** (Islam)

Muslims perform the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. The pilgrimage is one of the five Pillars of Islam. All Muslims are expected to perform the Hajj at least once in their lifetime if they have the physical and financial capacity. About 6 million Muslims from

over 70 countries journey to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. In one of the rites of the Hajj, pilgrims move in a circular, counterclockwise procession around the Ka'bah.

**July 9: Waqf al Arafa**

The second day of pilgrimage within the Islamic faith.

**July 9: The Martyrdom of the Bab**

A day when Bahá'ís observe the anniversary of the Báb's execution in Tabriz, Iran, by a firing squad in 1850 C.E. The event is observed at noon. Work and commerce are suspended on this day.

**July 9: Nunavut Day**

Every year on July 9, we celebrate Nunavut Day — the day the Parliament of Canada passed the Nunavut Act. Along with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, it officially declared Nunavut as a distinct region that is legally separate from the Northwest Territories.

**July 10: Eid al-Adha (Islam)**

An Islamic festival to commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim (also known as Abraham) to follow Allah's (God's) command to sacrifice his son, Ishmael. Muslims around the world observe this event. It concludes the Hajj and is a three-day festival. Since Eid is determined by the first sighting of the new moon, the date varies by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabian or North American sighting is being observed.

**July 11: Imamat Day**

Celebrated every year by Ismaili's on the day that the Imamat or religious leader transferred from the past Imam to the present Aga Khan.

**July 11: St. Benedict Day**

The feast day of St. Benedict celebrated by some Christian denominations.

**July 11: Nadaam Festival (Mongolia)**

The festival lasts for three days where the men compete in the Three Manly national sports of archery, wrestling and horse riding.

**July 11: World Population Day**

An observance established in 1989 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program. The annual event is designed to raise awareness of global population issues.

**July 13: Wassana/Shamma Day (Buddhist)**

This day marks the beginning of the 3-month "Rains Retreat" for self-examination and peace making for monks and nuns. It also celebrates Buddha's first teaching.

**July 13: Guru Purnima** (Jain, Hindu)

Celebrated by disciples to revere and honour their Gurus – spiritual masters.

**July 14: International Nonbinary People's Day**

Aimed at raising awareness and organizing around the issues faced by nonbinary people around the world while celebrating their contributions.

**July 14: Bastille Day**

A French federal holiday that commemorates the Storming of the Bastille, a fortress-prison in Paris that held political prisoners who had displeased the French nobility. The Storming of the Bastille, which took place on July 14, 1789, was regarded as a turning point of the French Revolution. Celebrations are held throughout France.

**July 15: St. Vladimir of the Great Day**

Feast day for St. Vladimir celebrated by the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches.

**July 17 – 18: Tisha B'Av**

A fast day in commemoration of the destruction of two holy and sacred temples of Judaism destroyed by the Babylonians (in 586 B.C.E.) and Romans (in 70 C.E.). At the Tisha B'Av, after select passages from the Torah are read and understood, netilat yadayim, or the washing of the hands, is performed. The saddest day on the Jewish calendar, on which people fast, deprive themselves and pray. It is the culmination of the Three Weeks, a period of time during which the destruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem is marked.

**July 18: Nelson Mandela International Day**

Launched on July 18, 2009, in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday via unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly. It was inspired by a call Mandela made a year earlier for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices in which he stated, "It is in your hands now." It is more than a celebration of Mandela's life and legacy; it is a global movement to honor his life's work and to change the world for the better.

**July 19: Maafa Commemoration**

This commemoration provides an opportunity for members of the African-Descended community to remember the millions of Africans – men, women and children, who were sold, kidnapped, shipped and who died along the route from Africa to the Americas.

**July 19 – 20: Eid al-Adha, the Islamic Feast of Sacrifice**

The most important feast of Islam. It occurs approximately 70 days after the end of Ramadan. This year in North America, it starts on September 1. The festival recalls

Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah, and concludes the Hajj (the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca).

**July 20: Munoz-Rivera Day** (Puerto Rico)

This day celebrates the anniversary of Luis Munoz-Rivera, a Puerto Rican patriot, poet and journalist.

**July 22: Umi no hi** (Japan)

Japanese honour the importance of the sea and its role in Japanese history on this day.

**July 23: The Birthday of Haile Selassie I**

The former emperor of Ethiopia whom the Rastafarians consider their savior.

**July 24: Asalha Puja or Dharma Day**

A celebration of Buddha's first teachings.

**July 24: Pioneer Day**

Observed by Mormons to commemorate the arrival in 1847 of the first Latter-day Saints pioneer in Salt Lake Valley. This day is celebrated with parades to remember their pioneering ancestors.

**July 24: International Self-Care Day**

Provides a focus and opportunity to raise the profile of healthy lifestyle self-care programs around the world. ISD is a device developed by the International Self-Care Foundation to promote self-care as a vital foundation of health.

**July 24: Simon Bolivar Day** (Venezuela, Ecuador)

Simon Bolivar (1783 – 1830) was one of South American's greatest generals. His victories over the Spaniards won independence for Bolivia, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

**July 25: St. James the Greater Day**

Feast day for St. James the Greater celebrated by some Christian denominations.

**July 26: Disability Independence Day**

Celebrating the anniversary of the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This Act provides protection from employment discrimination as well as better access to goods, services and communications for people with disabilities. Outlawed the discrimination against people with disabilities.

**July 28: World Hepatitis Day**

World Hepatitis Day, observed on July 28 every year, aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis — a group of infectious diseases known as hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E — and

encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The date of 28 July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus.

**July 30: 1st Muharram – Islamic New Year** (Islam)

The first of 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.

**July 30: Oh-Harai-Taisi** (Shinto)

During the Grand Purification Ceremony, Japanese worshippers walk through a large ring of woven grass and reeds that are placed at the entrance of the shrines as an act of inner purification for sins and offenses committed during the first half of the year.

**July 30: International Day of Friendship**

Proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities .

**July 31: Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola** (Spain)

Commemorates the life of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491 - 1556) who founded the Society of Jesus, the Roman Catholic religious order whose members are known as Jesuits.