

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar April - 2023

Month-Long Observances:

Diversity Month:

A celebration that was initiated in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity surrounding us all. By celebrating differences and similarities during this month, organizers hope that people will gain a deeper understanding of each other.

Arab American Heritage Month:

The month is a time to reflect on the history of Arab Americans and to commemorate the numerous contributions this diverse population has made to the United States. Arab Americans have ancestry in one of the 22 Arab nations around the world. From northern Africa through western Asia.

Day-Long Observances:

April 1st: Farvardin (Iran)

It is the 13th day after Nowruz or New Year. The number 13 is considered an unlucky number for the Persians and therefore everyone leaves home for the day to go on picnics or trips.

April 2nd: World Autism Awareness Day (People With Disabilities)

A day that seeks to improve the lives of those who have autism. This day is observed to raise awareness about the people on the Autism spectrum.

April 2nd: Palm Sunday (Christian)

Palm Sunday is a Christian holiday that falls on the Sunday before Easter. It commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, which occurred just days before his crucifixion. According to the Bible, crowds of people gathered to welcome Jesus as he rode into the city on a donkey, waving palm branches and laying them on the ground as a symbol of honor and respect. Today, Palm Sunday is celebrated by Christians around the world with processions and the distribution of blessed palm leaves, which are often woven into crosses or kept as a symbol of faith. It is an important event in the Christian calendar, and marks the beginning of Holy Week, which culminates in Easter Sunday.

April 5th—April 13th: Passover (Jewish)

Passover is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. The holiday typically lasts for seven or eight days and includes the Seder meal, which involves the retelling of the exodus story, and the prohibition of leavened bread. Passover is an important event in the Jewish calendar, marked by prayer, reflection, and remembrance.

April 5th: Tomb Sweeping Day (China)

Tomb Sweeping Day, also known as Qingming Festival, is a traditional Chinese holiday that falls on April 4th or 5th each year. It is a time to remember and honor ancestors, as well as to pay respects to those who have passed away. On this day, people typically visit gravesites to sweep the tombs, offer flowers and incense, and make offerings of food and wine. The holiday has a long history dating back to ancient China, and is seen as a way to maintain a connection with one's family and cultural heritage. In addition to tomb sweeping, activities such as kite flying, picnicking, and flying wishing lanterns are also common during Tomb Sweeping Day.

April 6th: National Tartan Day (Scottish)

This day commemorates the Scottish Declaration of Independence, which was signed in 1320.

April 6th: Chakri Day (Thailand)

A national holiday to honour King Rama I who founded the Chakri Dynasty in 1782 and the founder of Bangkok as the capital of Thailand.

April 7th: Good Friday (Christian)

Good Friday is a Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. It is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum. It is also known as Holy Friday, Great Friday, Great and Holy Friday, and Black Friday.

April 8th: Lazarus Saturday (Christian)

A day celebrated by the Eastern Orthodox Church and Oriental Orthodoxy to commemorate the raising from the dead of Lazarus of Bethany.

April 9th: Valor Day (Philippines)

Valor Day is a holiday observed in the Philippines on April 9th to commemorate the heroism of Filipino soldiers during the Battle of Bataan in World War II. It is a day to honor the bravery and patriotism of those who fought and died for their country,

April 12th: International Day Of Pink

the International Day of Pink is an annual observance that takes place on the second Wednesday of April. It was started in Canada in 2007 as a response to a homophobic incident at a high school where a student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. The day aims to raise awareness about the harm caused by discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, and to promote inclusion, diversity, and acceptance. People are encouraged to wear pink as a symbol of their support for the LGBTQ2+ community and to take part in activities that promote kindness, respect, and equality for all.

April 13th Or 14th: Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi is a significant festival in the Sikh religion, celebrated on April 13 or 14. It marks the founding of the Khalsa and is considered the Sikh New Year. The day is celebrated with processions, prayer meetings, community meals, and other festivities. Vaisakhi also has cultural significance as a secular harvest festival in northern India. The festival is an occasion to renew one's commitment to the Sikh faith and to give thanks for a bountiful harvest.

April 17th: Yom HaShoah Day

Yom Hashoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, is a solemn occasion observed annually in Israel and other countries. It is held on the 27th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which typically falls in April or May. The day is meant to honor and remember the six million Jews who were killed by the Nazi regime during World War II, as well as other victims of the Holocaust. Ceremonies, memorials, and educational programs are held to remember the atrocities of the Holocaust and to promote tolerance and understanding.

April 21st: Feast Of Ridvan (Baha'i)

The Feast of Ridvan is a Bahá'í festival that lasts for twelve days each year. It commemorates the time in 1863 when Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í faith, declared his mission as a prophet of God. The festival is named after the garden of Ridvan in Baghdad, where Bahá'u'lláh made his declaration. During the festival, Bahá'ís reflect on the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh and celebrate their community.

April 21st: Eid Al-Fitr (Islamic)

Eid al-Fitr, also known as the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," is one of the most important religious festivals celebrated by Muslims worldwide. It marks the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting, and is celebrated on the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar. The festival is characterized by prayer, feasting, and gift-giving, as well as the exchange of greetings and well-wishes. It is a time for Muslims to reflect on the spiritual significance of Ramadan, to give thanks to God, and to celebrate with family and friends.



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April 22nd: Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22 to promote environmental protection and raise awareness about environmental issues. The day is marked by various activities, including tree planting, clean-up campaigns, and educational programs on sustainability.

April 27th: Freedom Day (South Africa)

Freedom Day is a national public holiday in South Africa celebrated on April 27th. It marks the end of apartheid and the first democratic election in South Africa held on April 27th, 1994. The day is a celebration of the country's hard-won freedom and democracy and serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who fought against apartheid.

April 28th—30th: Gathering Of Nations Pow Wow (Indigenous USA)

Albuquerque New Mexico is the venue of over 700 tribes and nations participating in a three-day event where over 3000 participants share, teach and exchange traditions.

April 29th: Showa No Hi (Japan)

Showa No Hi, also known as Showa Day, is a national holiday in Japan celebrated on April 29th to honor the birthday of Emperor Hirohito, who ruled Japan during the Showa period from 1926 to 1989. The holiday is an occasion for Japanese people to reflect on the events of the Showa era and to contemplate the nation's past, present, and future.

April 29th—May 5th: Golden Week (Japan)

Golden Week is one of the busiest and most important holiday periods in Japan, lasting from April 29th to May 5th. It's a time when several national holidays, including Showa Day, Constitution Memorial Day, and Children's Day, occur consecutively. This creates a week-long break for many people, making it a popular time for travel, shopping, and leisure activities.

April 30th: Walpurgis Night (Sweden)

Sweden's annual feast of the witches. Huge bonfires are lit all over the country to scare them away as they fly overhead, headed for their annual Sabbath in Brocken in the Harz Mountains in Germany.

The logo for Diversity Thunder Bay features a stylized graphic of three curved lines in black, yellow, and red, resembling a ribbon or a flag, positioned above the text. The word "Diversity" is in a large, bold, dark grey font, and "Thunder Bay" is in a smaller, lighter grey font below it.

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April 30th: El Dia De Los Ninos (Mexico)

Since 1925, Dia de Nino, or the day of the child, has grown as an annual celebration throughout Mexico. This day recognizes children, pays homage to their importance in society, and endorses their well being.

April 30th—May 4th: Gahambar Maidyozarem (Zoroastrian)

Maidyozarem is the fifth of the six Gahambar festivals in the Zoroastrian calendar, which is celebrated around mid-May. The festival is dedicated to the creation of plant life and symbolizes the renewal and growth of nature. During Maidyozarem, Zoroastrians engage in charitable acts, offer prayers and blessings to nature, and come together with family and friends for festive meals and gatherings.