

2023 DIEB Calendar

January

January 1 – Emancipation Proclamation: President Lincoln declared all individuals held in slavery free on this day in 1863

January 4 – Louis Braille’s birthday: he was a French educator who created a reading and writing system known as “braille” for the visually impaired

January 6 – Feast of the Epiphany: this Christian feast day celebrates the star leading the three wise men to baby Jesus closing the Christmas season (Coptic Orthodox Christmas)

January 7- Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)

January 15 – Makar Sankranti: Hindu festival dedicated to the god of the sun, Surya
-World Religion Day

January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day: celebrates one of the best-known civil rights activists, MLK Jr.

January 22 – Lunar New Year: this festival marks the start of the new year in the lunar calendar used in East Asia, Southeast Asia and elsewhere

January 24- International Day of Education

January 27 – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust: a United Nations holiday that remembers the approximately 6 million Jews murdered during World War II

February

Month Long Observances:

Black History Month, American Heart Month

Black History Month: February was chosen to celebrate African American History because it holds the birthdays of two men who helped eliminate slavery: Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln

February 1- National Freedom Day

February 4 – Rosa Parks Day

February 11 – Tammy Baldwin’s Birthday: the birthday of the first openly LGBT woman elected to both houses of Congress & International Day of Women & Girls in Science

February 13- International Epilepsy Day

February 14 – Frederick Douglass’ birthday (observed): this day celebrates the birth of abolitionist and social reformer, Valentines Day

February 15 – Nirvana Day: an annual festival that remembers the death of the Buddha after reaching nirvana; also called Parinirvana

February 15 – Susan B. Anthony’s Birthday: a leader of the women’s suffrage movement, she advocated for abolition, temperance, labor rights, and equal pay for equal work

February 18- Maha Shivarati (Hindu)

February 21- Mardi Gras

February 22 – Ash Wednesday: a day of prayer and fasting that begins the Christian season of Lent

March

Month Long Observances:

Women’s History Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Gender Equality Month, Irish & Greek American Heritage Month

March 3- Employee Appreciation Day

March 6- Purim (Jewish)

March 8 – International Women’s Day: A day highlighting the political, social, cultural, and economic achievements of women

March 8 – Holi: Hindu holiday that celebrates the winter harvest and onset of spring

March 10 – Harriet Tubman’s birthday (observed): American abolitionist who is well-known for her key role in the Underground Railroad

March 15- Equal Pay Day

March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day: feast day of a Catholic saint who inspires cultural and religious celebrations around the world

March 21- Naw-Ruz (Baha’i New Year)

March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21- World Down Syndrome Day

March 22 to April 21 – Ramadan: the start of Islam’s sacred month — during this time Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from dawn until dusk

March 23- International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

March 31- International Transgender Day of Visibility

April

Month Long Observances:

Arab American Heritage Month, Autism Awareness Month, Celebrate Diversity Month, Earth Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Volunteer Month

April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day: raises awareness for those with autism that seeking to improve their lives and the acceptance of them in society

April 2- Palm Sunday (Christian)

April 5 to April 13 – Passover: major Jewish festival that celebrates the freeing of Israeli slaves

April 7- Good Friday (Christian)

April 9 – Easter: the most important Christian holiday, which celebrates Jesus’ resurrection

April 17- Laylat al-Qadar (Muslim)

April 18- Yom Hashoah (Jewish)

April 20- Start of Ridvan (Baha’i)

April 22 – Earth Day: holiday that applauds the planet we live on and all it does for us; Earth Day is observed by more than 192 nations.

May

Month Long Observances:

Mental Health Awareness Month, Asian American & Pacific Island Heritage Month, ALS Awareness Month, Haitian Heritage Month, Jewish-American Heritage Month, Indian Heritage Month, Older American Month, South Asian American Heritage Month

May 5 – Cinco de Mayo: Mexican-American holiday that celebrates Mexico's defeat of the French Army

May 17 – International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia: this event seeks to raise awareness for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals.

May 19 – Malcolm X's Birthday: well-known Muslim minister and civil rights activist, who was assassinated in 1965

May 21- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development

May 23- Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)

May 26 – Buddha's Birthday: celebrates the Buddha, who founded one of the world's most practiced faiths

May 29- Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

May 29- Memorial Day

June

Month Long Observances:

LGBT Pride Month, Caribbean American Heritage Month, Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, Black Music Month

June 2 – Indian Citizenship Act of 1924: This act granted Native Americans born in the U.S. citizenship. However, they were not given the right to vote until 1957

June 5- World Environment Day

June 12 – Loving Day: This day is the anniversary of the court decision that legalizes interracial marriage

June 19 – Juneteenth: This day commemorates when the last African Americans learned of the Emancipation Proclamation (over two years after it was originally issued)

June 20- World Refugee Day

June 21- Litha, Summer Solstice (Pagan)

June 26 to July 1 – The Hajj: This day begins the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims must take once in their lives

June 27 – Helen Keller’s Birthday: This day celebrates the birth of Helen Kellen, an individual who was both blind and deaf. She was a leading humanitarian in the 20th century as well as one of the co-founders of the ACLU

June 28- Eid al-Adha (Muslim)

July

Month Long Observances:

French- American Heritage Month

July 4- Independence Day

July 6 – 14th Dalai Lama’s Birthday: The day that Tibet’s leader in exile and Nobel Peace Prize recipient was born

July 6 – Frida Kahlo’s Birthday: A well-known Mexican painter, Frida Kahlo, in the 20th century was born on this day

July 9- Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha’i)

July 11- World Populace Day

July 18 – Nelson Mandela’s Birthday: Nelson Mandela served as South Africa’s first black president and was a strong civil rights leader

July 19- Muharram Islamic New Year

July 24- Pioneer Day (Mormon)

July 25 – Pioneer Day: This Utah state holiday marks the arrival of LDS church founder Brigham Young to the Salt Lake area

July 26 – Americans with Disabilities Act: This law protects people with disabilities from being discriminated against

July 30 – Al-Hijri: this day marks the start of the Muslim New Year — beginning the prior evening

July 30- International Day of Friendship

August

Month Long Observances:

National Civility Month

August 7- Purple Hearts Day

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous People: This day was created by the UN to celebrate the culture of indigenous people on a global scale

August 15: Feast of the Assumption: This Roman Catholic feast day marks the entry of the mother Mary into Heaven (body and soul)

August 18: Lord Krishna's Birthday: This day is the birthday of one of the most popular deities in the Hindu faith. Lord Krishna is also known as Janmashtami, and his birthday is celebrated with a festival

August 19- World Humanitarian Day

August 21- Senior Citizens Day

August 22- American Business Women's Day

August 24: Marlee Matlin's Birthday: This day celebrates the birth of Marlee Matlin — the sole hearing-impaired actor to win best actor/actress

August 26: Women's Equality Day: This day marks the anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the year 1920

August 31: Ganesh Chaturthi: This Hindu festival celebrates Lord Ganesha's birth

September

Month Long Observances:

Sept 15-Oct 15 Hispanic Heritage Month, National Recovery Month, National Guide Dog Month, Suicide Prevention Month

September 4- Labor Day

September 5- International Day of Charity

September 11- Patriot Day

September 15- International Day of Democracy

September 15 to September 17 – Rosh Hashanah: This holiday is the Jewish New Year when Jews reflect on their faith

September 20 – HeForShe: This movement was started by the UN with the goal of promoting gender equality

September 21- International Day of Peace

September 21- World Gratitude Day

September 22 – Autumnal Equinox: This date marks a variety of religious observances across the globe

September 22- National Native American Day

September 24- Yom Kippur (Jewish)

September 29- Sukkot (Jewish)

October

Month Long Observances:

Global Diversity Awareness Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Polish American Heritage Month, Bullying Prevention Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Filipino American Heritage Month, German American Heritage Month, Italian American Heritage Month, LGBTQ History Month, Family History Month

October 2- International Day of Nonviolence

October 9- National Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 10 – World Mental Health Day: A day that advocates for mental health awareness and education; on this day, you can support the efforts by reflecting on your own biases regarding mental health and advocating against social stigma related to it.

October 10 – Indigenous People's Day: This day honors the indigenous people of North America; the holiday was formerly called Columbus Day

October 11- National Coming Out Day

October 12- World Sight Day

October 15- Navrati beings (Hindu)

October 16- Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)

October 16- Bosses Day

October 19 – Spirit Day: This day is aimed specifically at LGBTQ youth and what their community can do to support them. You can participate in this day by wearing purple and speaking out against bullying

October 20- Sikh Holy Day (birth of Guru Granth)

October 22- International Stuttering Awareness Day

October 25- Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

October 31- Halloween

November

Month Long Observances:

National Native American, American Heritage Month, Movember, Diabetes Awareness Month

*Movember: A month-long fundraiser that seeks to raise awareness for men's issues like suicide as well as prostate and testicular cancer

November 1-2 – All Saints’ Day, All Souls Day, Día de Los Muertos: These days are dedicated to all those who have passed away in the Christian faith as well as the Mexican and Aztec communities

November 1- National Stress Awareness Day

November 9- World Freedom Day

November 9- World Adoption Day

November 11- Remembrance/Veterans Day

November 13- World Kindness Day

November 16 – International Day for Tolerance: The UN holiday was founded to encourage respect among various people regardless of culture, language, religion, or ethnicity

November 12 – Diwali: An important celebration in the Hindu faith in which a variety of deities are praised

November 16 – Dutch American Heritage Day: This day applauds the long friendship between the Netherlands and the United States

November 19- International Men’s Day

November 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance: This day is held as a remembrance for all those murdered because of transphobia

November 23- Thanksgiving

November 25- Day of the Covenant (Baha’i)

November 27- Ascension of Abdu’l-Baha (Baha’i)

December

Month Long Observances:

HIV/AIDS Awareness Month, Universal Human Rights Month

December 1 – World AIDS Day: This day highlights the importance of HIV/AIDS awareness and raises money for its cure.

December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities: This United Nations holiday raises awareness for the rights of individuals with disabilities.

December 5- International Volunteer Day

December 7 to December 15 – Hanukkah: A Jewish holiday celebrating Jew rising up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt.

December 9- International Genocide Prevention Day

December 10 – International Humans Rights Day: A holiday adopted by the UN in 1948 following the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 16 to December 24 – Las Posadas: A religious festival celebrated in Mexico and parts of the U.S. during the Christmas season.

December 21- Yule Winter Solstice (Pagan)

December 22 – Winter Solstice/Yule: A festival celebrated by Pagan and Wiccan faiths.

December 25 – Christmas: A Christian holiday marking the birth of their lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

December 26 – Kwanzaa: An 8-day holiday often celebrated by Black Americans that was inspired by African harvest celebrations.

December 26- Boxing Day

December 31- New Year's Eve