

Highlighting Diversity, Inclusive of all voices

SPARK

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Jewish-American Heritage Month
- Asian-American Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- Pride Month
- Juneteenth
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MAY IS....

JEWISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

JAHM is a national recognition of the contribution that Jewish Americans have made to the United States throughout its history. First proclaimed in 2006 by President George W. Bush, JAHM is celebrated annually during the month of May, marking the anniversary of the arrival of the first Jewish settlers in North America. JAHM is a great opportunity for all Americans to celebrate the rich and historical contributions of Jewish Americans, and to reflect on the values of diversity, tolerance, and respect.



PAULA ABDUL
SINGER, DANCER, ACTOR



DAVID HO,
PIONEER IN HIV/AIDS TREATMENT



JONAS SALK, DEVELOPER OF
POLIO VACCINE



TAMMY DUCKWORTH,
U.S. SENATOR-IL

ASIAN-AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

AAPIMH began as a week long event in 1978 and was expanded to a month-long observation in 1992. AAPIs have made significant contributions in various fields including science, technology, art, music and many more. This month is an opportunity to raise awareness to the ongoing struggles that AAPIs face such as, discrimination, hate crimes and political underrepresentation.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mental Health Awareness Month was first established in the United States in 1949 by the organization Mental Health America, and it has since become a global observance. Throughout the month, mental health organizations, advocates, and communities hold events and activities to promote mental health awareness and provide resources and support to individuals and families affected by mental health conditions. The theme for Mental Health Awareness Month varies each year, and it focuses on different aspects of mental health and well-being. This year's theme, "Look around, look within", aims to specifically address safe and stable housing, healthy home environments, neighborhood and towns, and the outdoors and nature.



MEMORIAL DAY 2023



>>> REMEMBER AND HONOR

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States that is observed on the last Monday in May each year. Its purpose is to honor and remember the men and women who died while serving in the armed forces.

On March 3rd, 1868, General John A. Logan issued General Order No.11, which called for a national day of remembrance for those who died during the Civil War. This order served as the basis for what became the national holiday.



JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH



>>> THE HISTORY

Pride Month has its roots in the Stonewall Riots; a series of demonstrations in response to a police raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City in June 1969. The riots marked a turning point in the LGBTQ+ rights movement, and the first Pride marches were held the following year in several major U.S. cities to commemorate the anniversary of the riots. Today, Pride month is celebrated in June, in countries around the world. It has expanded to include a diverse range of events and activities that celebrates the LGBTQ+ community and promote awareness, education and acceptance.

>>> THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PRIDE

Pride is a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community and its members' identities, experiences, and contributions to society. It is a time to recognize and honor the resilience and strength of LGBTQ+ individuals who have faced discrimination and marginalization throughout history. This can be especially important for individuals who may not have access to supportive LGBTQ+ communities in their everyday lives. Pride is a symbol of progress and a reminder of the ongoing fight for LGBTQ+ rights and equality. It is a time to celebrate the gains that have been made, while also recognizing that there is still much work to be done to create a more just and equitable society for all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

DID YOU KNOW?

The most common version of the Pride flag features six colored stripes. Each color has a specific meaning:

- Red: Life
- Orange: Healing
- Yellow: Sunlight
- Green: Nature
- Blue: Harmony
- Purple: Spirit

JUNETEENTH



➤➤➤ FREEDOM DAY

On "Freedom's Eve", January 1, 1863, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in the Confederate States were declared legally free. But not everyone would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved African Americans in the state were free by executive decree. This day became known as "Juneteenth" by the newly freed people.



FUN FACT:

John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate Independence Day and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

➤➤➤ HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA



On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American Independence and 2023 will be its 247th birthday. The United States was the first independent, foreign-recognized nation in the Americas and the first European colony to break from its mother country.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

LEAH VANHAM - NURSING DIVISION



What is your favorite thing to do in the summer?

Absolutely ANYTHING outdoors. Hiking, swimming, camping, gardening (and eating home grown garden tomatoes!) and bonfires with friends.

What is a good movie or show you have seen in the past year?

The Courier (2020). It was about an ordinary British citizen who worked with British and American intelligence services during the cold war to assist in secreting intelligence reports from a high ranking member of Khrushchev's government to aid in preventing nuclear war. The storyline was captivating, proving that you don't have to be anyone "special" to save the world. Also, it stars Benedict Cumberbatch.....I'm a huge fan!

Cats or dogs and why?

Dogs. Primarily because both my husband and I are allergic to cats, but also because I'm not a big fan of having boxes of poop in my house. There's also this saying that I agree with-- "Dogs have owners, cats have staff". Not entirely true at my house, since our fur babies are in CHARGE and they know it.

If you won the lottery, what would you do?

After giving a lot of it away to family and friends to make sure they never have to worry about retirement, I'd move to Negril, Jamaica to swim/snorkel in the ocean every day.

What is the best gift you've received?

Hmmm....this one's tough! I'm not very materialistic, so "things" aren't that important to me. I have 2 healthy daughters and a healthy granddaughter, I'm grateful for that! I guess I would have to say being born into a family that encouraged a love of learning and reading. I believe that if I learned something today, it was a great day!

International Nurses Day

May 12, 2023

Being a nurse is a profession full of challenges, we owe our nurses here a big **THANK YOU** for all their hard work.

- Jill Biermann, RN, BSN
- Chrissy Dirnbeck, RN
- Sarah Fager, RN
- Jennifer Linson, RN
- Lisa Quillman, RN, BSN
- Theresa Quinn, RN
- Tracey Thomas, LPN
- Leah VanHam, RN, BSN



JCHD EVENTS May

- May 10: Safe Zone Training
- May 18: Blood Drive
- May 29: Memorial Day (Department Closed)

June

- June 19: Juneteenth (Department Closed)
- June 24: Hazardous Waste Collection
- June 10: Picnic in the Park: Pride Edition

July

- July 4: Independence Day (Department Closed)

SUMMER IS COMING

