June 2017 National/International Diversity/Cultural Celebrations

LGBT Pride Month
June was selected as Gay and Lesbian Pride month due to the three-day protest in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City. This event marked the first time that the gay community joined together to fight for its rights, thereby gaining national attention. The anniversary of this event was one of the reasons June was chosen as the national proclaimed month to celebrate GLBT pride.

African-American Music Month
For generations, African-Americans have created music that communicates across racial boundaries, initially through spirituals while under the bondage of slavery and through modern genres of blues, jazz, ragtime, gospel, and hip hop. June honors the pioneers of African-American music and their legacy, and today’s music artists. The website http://blackmusicamerica.com/ is preserving and promoting the legacy and contributions of Black musicians. Originally started as Black Music Month by President Carter, President Obama has announced the observance under its new title.

National Aboriginal History Month (Canada)
Aboriginal History Month is an opportunity not only to recognize the historic contributions of Aboriginal peoples to the development of Canada, but also the strength of present-day Aboriginal communities and their promise for the future.

National Caribbean American Heritage Month
A celebration of the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the U.S. In June 2005, the House of Representatives unanimously adopted H. Con. Res. 71, sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, recognizing the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States. On February 14, 2006, the resolution similarly passed the Senate, since the declaration, the White House has issued an annual proclamation recognizing June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month. For more information, visit their website at http://www.caribbeanamericanmonth.org/.

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June 1  Gawai Dayak – Malaysia
This is a festival marking the gathering of the rice harvest. Rituals performed to express thanks to the spirits of the paddy with requests for better harvest during the next planting season. Celebrations usually last 3 days.

Children’s Day – Laos
Guided by the belief that the children of today are the future of tomorrow, the celebration of Children’s Day is celebrated every first of June every year.

Independence Day – Samoa
On January 1, 1962, Western Samoa became independent of New Zealand. Independence Day, however, is celebrated June 1 of each year and continues to be recognized by the Samoan community in New Zealand.

Global Day of Parents – UN
This day was proclaimed by the UN in 2012 to honor parents throughout the world.
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<tr>
<th>June 2</th>
<th>Republic Day – Italy</th>
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<td>Known as the Festival of The Republic, it is celebrated on the day that Italians voted to abolish the monarch in 1946.</td>
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<tr>
<th>June 4</th>
<th>International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression – UN</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acknowledges the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.</td>
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**Pentecost – Christian – Coptic & Eastern Orthodox**

The Holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12 apostles after Jesus’ death. New members of the church are baptized this day. Called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

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<tr>
<th>June 5</th>
<th>Nur (5th Month) – Baha’i</th>
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<td>The first day of the fifth Baha’i month. The English translation of Nur (Arabic) is Light.</td>
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**Constitution Day - Denmark**

**Labour Day – Bahamas**

**World Environment Day – UN**

**June Bank Holiday - Ireland**

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<tr>
<th>June 6</th>
<th>National Day - Sweden</th>
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<tr>
<th>June 8</th>
<th>World Oceans Day - UN</th>
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<th>June 9</th>
<th>Red Earth Native American Fair – Aboriginal/Native American</th>
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<td>Cultural festival takes place in Oklahoma City for 3 days. Over 150 Native tribes from U.S. and Canada gather to share and participate in their rich and diverse heritage through highest quality original art, drum and dance juried competitions.</td>
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<th>June 10</th>
<th>Portugal Day – Portugal</th>
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<td>Observes the anniversary of the death in 1580 of national poet, Luiz Vaz de Camões, with parades, writing contests and dances.</td>
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<th>June 12</th>
<th>Independence Day – Russia</th>
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<td>Russian parliament formally declared Russian sovereignty from the USSR which declared complete state independence.</td>
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**Independence Day – Philippines**

The Philippine Declaration of Independence was proclaimed this date in present day Kawit, Cavite.

**World Day Against Child Labour - UN**

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<th>June 14</th>
<th>Flag Day – USA</th>
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<td>A day chosen by the Continental Congress in 1777 to honor the flag as a symbol of patriotism. Its 13 red and white stripes represent the original colonies, while the 50 stars stand for the separate but United States of the Union. Flags are flown over all schools, statehouses, courtrooms and churches.</td>
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</table>
June 16  Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev – Sikh
Commemorates the death of the fifth guru of the Sikhs and the first Sikh martyr executed by the Mughal emperor Jehangir. He built the Golden Temple in Amritsar with doors facing all four directions to emphasize the Sikh way was open to all, regardless of caste.

Matariki – Aboriginal/Maori, New Zealand
When the star cluster Matariki (Pleiades) appears in the dawn sky, Maori New Year starts.

June 17  Independence Day – Iceland
Icelandic National Day celebrating Iceland’s independence from Denmark on June 17, 1944.

Trooping the Colour – UK
The official birthday of the Queen is marked each year by a colourful and historic military parade and march-past, known as Trooping the Colour.

June 18  Father’s Day – USA, Canada, UK
This day we honor all fathers in the world. Louise Dodd of Spokane, WA, began the tradition in 1910. Her own father was a veteran who raised his six children alone after his wife died in childbirth. Interest in the day grew, and in 1966 a presidential proclamation established Father’s Day as the 3rd Sunday in June.

June 19  Juneteenth – African-American
June 19, 1865, also known as National Freedom Day, is considered the official end of slavery in the United States. Slaves in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas were not told about their freedom until this day, even though the Emancipation Proclamation took place in April of 1863.

Labour Day – Trinidad & Tobago

June 20  World Refugee Day- UN

June 21  Summer Solstice

Litha – Wicca
Litha falls on the summer solstice. The Latin word solstice means “the sun stood still.” Wiccans celebrate the power of the sun to provide good harvests.

National Aboriginal Day – Aboriginal/Native Canadian
In 1996, a former Governor General of Canada proclaimed June 21 to be known as National Aboriginal Day. This is an event growing in importance in Canada when the outstanding contributions of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, collectively known as Aboriginal peoples, are being recognized.

National Day – Greenland
Celebrations consist of speeches, hoisting of the flag, church services and local entertainment.

International Day of Yoga - UN

June 22  Laylat al-Qadr – Islam
Night of Power commemorates the revelation of the Qur’an to Prophet Muhammad in 610 CE. It begins previous evening.
June 23  **Public Service Day – UN**  
On December 20, 2002, the UN designated this date to celebrate the value and virtue of public service, and the contribution of public service in the development process.

**National Day – Luxembourg**

June 24  **Rahmat (6th Month) – Baha’i**  
The first day of the sixth Baha’i month. The English translation of Rahmat (Arabic) is Mercy.

**St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec) - Canada**  
The patron saint of French Canadians in Quebec. It is a national holiday with parades, bonfires and fireworks to celebrate his birthday.

**Dia de San Juan – Puerto Rico**  
This day commemorates the island’s patron saint, St. John the Baptist. People gather at beaches in the afternoon. Then at midnight they jump into the ocean backwards three times to symbolize baptism, immersion and new life. Feasts follow.

**Inti Raymi - Peru**  
Celebrated in Cusco, the second biggest festival in Latin America celebrates the winter solstice Incan Festival where the God of the Sun, Wiracocha, is honored.

June 26  **Eid-ul-Fitr – Islam**  
The end of the Ramadan fast is celebrated for 3 days. Observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or North America calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North America date.

**International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – UN**  
In 1997, the UN General Assembly proclaimed June 26th the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture to remind people that human torture is unacceptable and a crime.

**Independence Day – Madagascar, Somalia**

June 27  **Multiculturalism Day – Canada**  
This day acknowledges the contributions various communities make to Canadian society and celebrates the country’s richness and diversity.

**Stonewall Rebellion Day - LGBT**  
This day commemorates the U.S. anniversary of the protest against police harassment in New York City’s Greenwich Village in 1969. Events and Pride Parades are held in many cities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

**Gahambar Maidyoshem- Zoroastrian**  
This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.

**St. Peter and Paul Day – Chile**  
Liturgical feast in honor of Saints Peter and Paul.

June 30  **Independence Day - Congo**

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Source: Multicultural Calendar 2017 published by Creative Cultural Communications:  
[http://usa.multiculturalcalendar.com/v/home.html](http://usa.multiculturalcalendar.com/v/home.html)