

CLS DEI COMMITTEE

MONTHLY EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

| 2023 | MARCH



March has been recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month since 1987 when President Ronald Reagan issued a public proclamation urging Americans to provide individuals with developmental disabilities “the encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.”

While there has been significant and positive change in the decades since, many challenges remain for this vulnerable population. About 15% of the world’s population live with a disability. More and more people are living with disabilities due to demographic change including population aging and the global increase in chronic health conditions. Half of the people with disability cannot afford healthcare, compared to a third of people without disabilities. Some of the ways to observe this are to share facts on social media, wear orange, and love and support those that you know with developmental disabilities.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

2023



Women’s History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women’s history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States.

The actual celebration of Women’s History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women’s contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978. Presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundreds of students participated in a “Real Woman” essay contest and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa.

A few years later, the idea caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women’s History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women’s History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.



HAPPY PURIM

Purim begins at Sunset on March 6 and ends . Purim (Hebrew: פּוּרִים, Pûrîm "lots", from the word פּוּר pur, also called the Festival of Lots) is a Jewish holiday which commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman in the ancient Persian Empire, a story recorded in the Biblical Book of Esther (Megillat Esther). It tells of the near-destruction of the Jewish people as decreed by Haman, an adviser to the Persian King Ahasuerus. However, Ahasuerus' newly crowned queen, Esther – who replaced Vashti when she was thrown out of the kingdom – is secretly a Jew. Due to her courage and her eventual role in saving the Jews, the story of Purim is known as "Megillat Esther," or the Scroll of Esther.

Purim is celebrated in many ways including giving gifts to poor people, reading the megillah, the Purim story, eating a festive meal, giving gifts of food, called mishloah manot, to friends, and eating hamantaschen, triangle-shaped cookies named for the villainous Haman. You can learn how to make these yummy foods here: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher/how-to-make-the-perfect-hamantaschen-with-videos/>



Holi is one of the grandest events in the Hindu calendar. Also known as the 'Festival of Colours', the celebrations transcend geographical boundaries as Indians all over the globe celebrate it with joy. Celebrations for Holi begin on the evening of Purnima, or full moon day, in the month of Phalgun according to the Hindu calendar; this translates to the middle of March. This year, Holi will be celebrated on March 8. According to the Hindu mythology, Holi is a celebration of the divine love between Lord Krishna and Radha. This is the reason why this festival is celebrated in a grand fashion in Mathura and Vrindavan, the places where Lord Krishna spent most of his life.

Holi is also a harvest festival, as it marks the arrival of spring and the end of winter.

Holi is celebrated by friends and family coming together, reveling in the playful spirit of the festival and celebrating the occasion with colours, sweets and sumptuous food.

What a fun party! Check out Colorado celebrations and learn more here: <https://hindutempleofcolorado.org/>





International Women's Day is observed on March 8th. It was started in 1911, and remains an important moment for working to advance women's equality. Groups can choose to mark IWD in whatever manner they deem most relevant, engaging, and impactful for their specific context, objectives, and audiences. The day is about women's equality in all its forms. All choices of activity can contribute to, and form part of, the thriving global movement focused on women's advancement. This day is a truly inclusive, diverse and eclectic moment of impact worldwide.

The United Nations Observance of IWD recognizes and celebrates the women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education. IWD 2023 will explore the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities. Their lack of inclusion, by contrast, comes with massive costs: as per UN Women's Gender Snapshot 2022 report, women's exclusion from the digital world has shaved \$1 trillion from the gross domestic product of low- and middle-income countries in the last decade—a loss that will grow to \$1.5 trillion by 2025 without action. Reversing this trend will require tackling the problem of online violence, which a study of 51 countries revealed 38 per cent of women had personally experienced. (<https://www.unwomen.org/>)

International Women's Day is an official holiday in many countries including: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China (for women only), Cuba, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar (for women only), Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal (for women only), Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Zambia. In Germany, Berlin's parliament approved a bill in 2019 to make International Women's Day a public holiday. Many folks believe IWD should not be a global holiday, but a day of activism.

**Colorado Springs Event:
International Women's Day 2023
Celebration at the Pinery on
March 4, 2023 9AM–12:30 PM**

World Denver hosts an annual event for International Women's Day, but it's sold out! To keep an eye out for next year, and learn more, go to:
www.worlddenver.org

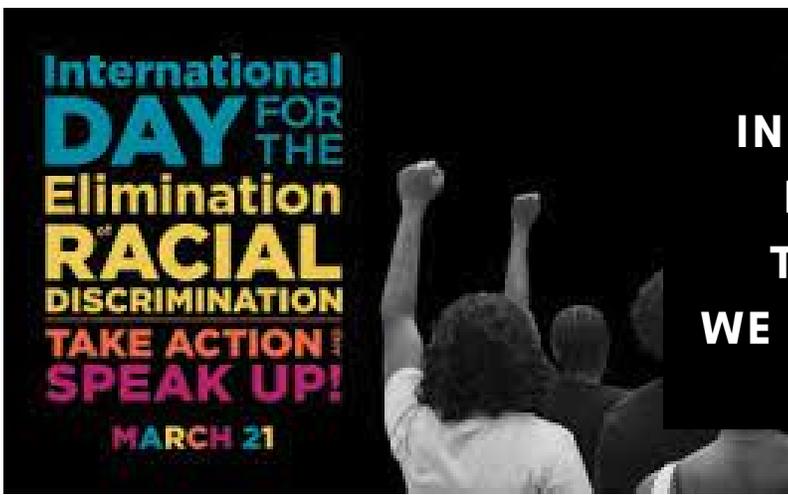


March 10 is Harriet Tubman Day, which celebrates the life of the abolitionist and humanitarian. In 1822, Tubman was born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland, as Araminta Ross, the same county where the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center now sits. Last year would have been her 200th birthday! She escaped to Philadelphia in 1849, later returning to her home state to rescue her family. Tubman guided dozens of slaves to freedom. Her heroic acts earned her the nickname “Moses.”

After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was passed, she helped newly-freed slaves find jobs. Tubman worked for the Union Army as a nurse, cook and armed spy during the Civil War. She was the first woman to lead an armed expedition in 1863, freeing more than 700 slaves at Combahee Ferry. When the war ended, she became active in the women’s suffrage movement. She died in 1913, an icon of American bravery and freedom. **Harriet Tubman Day was approved by Congress on March 13, 1990.**



St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated annually on March 17! Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, St. Patrick was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but later returned to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew from his story—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts. The United States led the movement to transformed St. Patrick’s Day into a largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish. Large cities of Irish immigrants staged extensive celebrations including elaborate parades. Boston held its first St. Patrick’s Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762. Since 1962, Chicago has colored its river green to mark the holiday! (Although blue was the color traditionally associated with St. Patrick, green is now commonly connected with the day.)



**IN A RACIST SOCIETY,
IT IS NOT ENOUGH
TO BE NON-RACIST,
WE MUST BE ANTIRACIST.**

- ANGELA DAVIS

Created by the United Nations, **The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws; 69 people were killed, and 180 were injured. Proclaiming the day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to drastically improve its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

In the present day, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is an opportunity to empower people of all different races. It is a chance to learn from the mistakes of the past and work towards a future of harmony and equality.

For business owners who hold hiring and other power over their company's racial diversity, it must also inspire inclusion efforts to eradicate discrimination in the workplace.

Standing up against racism can be done every day by denouncing intolerance attitudes and injustices! This is a day to reflect on what you are doing, can do, and should do to help eliminate racism.



Check out this list of anti-racist resources compiled by Colorado State University to learn more!

<https://lib.colostate.edu/educate-yourself-anti-racist-readings/>



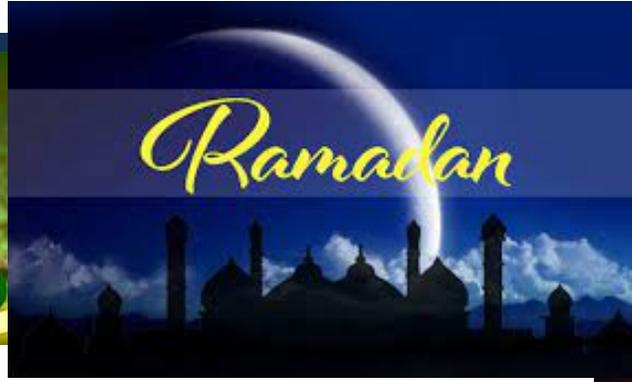
With Us Not For Us

World Down Syndrome Day, 21 March 2023

What is World Down Syndrome Day? World Down Syndrome Day (WSD) is observed on 21 March. This day is a global awareness day that has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

The date for WSD being the 21st day of the 3rd month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

For more information, events, and ways to get involved, look for #WorldDownSyndromeDay on social media.



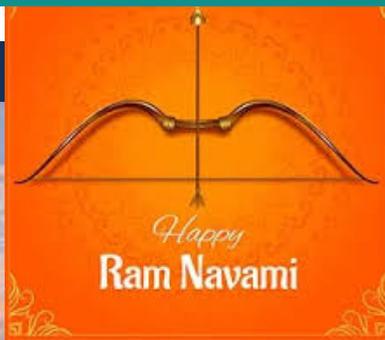
This year, **Ramadan** will be observed beginning **the evening of Wed, Mar 22, 2023 and lasting through the evening of Fri, Apr 21, 2023**. Ramadan commemorates the month during which Muslims believe the prophet Muhammed was given the first revelations of the Quran, the holy book of Islam, from the angel Gabriel. It's an extremely important month in the Muslim year. During this time, Muslims fast during daylight hours (no food or drink—even water—permitted from dawn to sunset) and strive to avoid any impure thoughts or immoral behavior. Participating in this observance is one of the five pillars of Islam, meaning that it is required for all healthy adult Muslims. Ramadan ends in a festival called **Eid-al-Fitr**, or the Festival of Breaking the Fast. Muslims celebrate and give thanks for the strength Allah imparted in them during fasting. Children receive presents and new clothes, and young girls may decorate their hands with henna.

Wish your Muslim neighbors "Ramadan Mubarak" (Happy Ramadan) or "Ramadan Kareem" (may Ramadan be generous to you). You can also simply say "Happy Ramadan" in English. This holy month is a time for introspection. Muslims are encouraged to be thankful for what they have and to remind themselves of others who are less fortunate. Ramadan is also intended to bring Muslims closer to their faith and to Allah ("God").

Discrimination often increases during Ramadan, so be sure to educate yourself and others about Islam and Islamophobia as much as you can. Teach children how to recognize and counteract related bullying at school. Set a good example by speaking up when you encounter anti-Muslim jokes or remarks yourself. You could also volunteer with or donate to nonprofit organizations dedicated to ending Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims.

To learn more about Jewish culture, events, and celebrations, check out this site

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/>



Ram Navami is a Hindu festival that celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh avatar of the deity Vishnu. It is observed as the birth anniversary of Lord Rama. In addition, it marks the end of Vasanta Navaratri or Chaitra Navratri, which began on Ugadi. This day celebrates the conclusion of the nine-day Chaitra Navratri festival, which is also known as Rama Navratri or Ram Navami.

The significance of the festival is that it indicates the victory of good over evil and establishment of dharma to beat adharma. The Rama Navami festival celebration starts with jalam (water) offering in the early morning to Surya (the sun god). To celebrate, there are festivals, readings, gatherings, and other events.



In Boulder, Trans Awareness Week will be the last week in March 2023. For questions, please contact Charlie (they/them) at cprohaska@outboulder.org.

In Denver:



Hit the slopes in Telluride to celebrate at :

**Telluride Gay Ski Week
February 25th – March 4th, 2023.
Telluride, CO / 844-479-8355
www.telluridegayski.com**

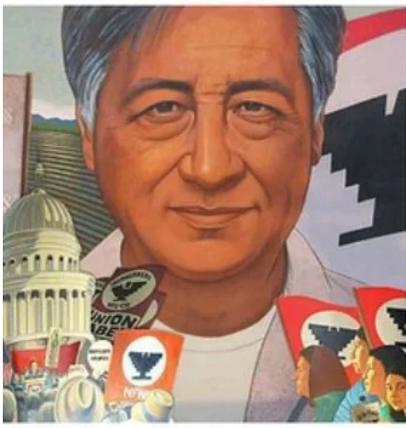
A week-long ski celebration of equality, inclusivity and awareness showcasing the beauty of our LGBTQ+ community.



This became an official event in the United States on March 31, 2021. However, it had been observed by activists across the world, including in Ireland and in Scotland, since 2014. On March 31, 2021, the current President Joe Biden proclaimed:

"Today, we honor and celebrate the achievements and resiliency of transgender individuals and communities. Transgender Day of Visibility recognizes the generations of struggle, activism, and courage that have brought our country closer to full equality for transgender and gender non-binary people in the United States and around the world. Their trailblazing work has given countless transgender individuals the bravery to live openly and authentically. This hard-fought progress is also shaping an increasingly accepting world in which peers at school, teammates and coaches on the playing field, colleagues at work, and allies in every corner of society are standing in support and solidarity with the transgender community.

In spite of our progress in advancing civil rights for LGBTQ+ Americans, too many transgender people – adults and youth alike – still face systemic barriers to freedom and equality. Transgender Americans of all ages face high rates of violence, harassment, and discrimination. Nearly one in three transgender Americans have experienced homelessness at some point in life. Transgender Americans continue to face discrimination in employment, housing, health care, and public accommodations. The crisis of violence against transgender women, especially transgender women of color, is a stain on our Nation's conscience...."



**CESAR CHAVEZ
DAY
MARCH 31ST**

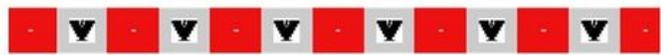


Cesar Chavez Day is a U.S. federal commemorative holiday, proclaimed by President Barack Obama in 2014. The holiday celebrates the birth and legacy of the civil rights and labor movement activist Cesar Chavez on March 31 every year.

Cesar Chavez (born Cesar Estrada Chavez); March 31, 1927 – April 23, 1993) was an American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist, who, with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (later the United Farm Workers union, UFW). It is commemorated to promote service to the community in honor of Cesar Chavez's life and work.

Some state government offices, community colleges, libraries, and public schools are closed. Many offices in Denver are closed in observance. When proclaimed by Barack Obama in 2014, he urged Americans to "observe this day with appropriate service, community, and educational programs to honor Cesar Chavez's enduring legacy." What can you, along with your friends, family, or colleagues, do to honor Cesar Chavez on March 31?

For more information, go to <http://www.cesarchavezholiday.org>
This year, there is an annual event in Denver on April 1 (Flyer below).



César E. Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver

22nd Annual Marcha & Celebration

**Reclaiming Male Responsibility
through Nonviolence**

Saturday, April 1, 2023

8:30 AM Catholic Mass:

Regis University, Saint John Francis Chapel - 3333 Regis Boulevard, Denver, CO

10:00 AM Marcha Step Off:

Regis University to César E. Chávez Park - 4121 Tennyson Street, Denver, CO
(46th at Lowell water station)

11:15 AM Park Opening Ceremony:

Program & Awards at César E. Chávez Park

For more event information:

[Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver](#) | Facebook