

## Human Relations Commission

### Monthly Dates of Commemoration

**February** is Black History Month in the United States and Canada. Since 1976, the month has been designated to remember the contributions of people of the African Diaspora. Historian Carter G. Woodson launched the holiday because contributions that African Americans have made to U.S. culture and society are largely omitted from and overlooked in history books.

**March 21** is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This annual day commemorates the lives that have been lost to fight for democracy and equal human rights in South Africa during the Apartheid regime.

**April** is Celebrate Diversity Month. It was started in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity surrounding us all. By celebrating differences and similarities during this month, organizers hope that people will get a deeper understanding of each other.

**May** is AAPI History Month. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a period for the duration of the month of May for recognizing the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

**May 21** is World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, a day set aside by the United Nations in 2001 as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.

The first full week of **October** marks National Diversity Week, founded in 1998 to raise awareness about the diversity which has shaped, and continues to shape, the United States. It's celebrated on a city- or company-wide scale across the U.S., though some organizations observe it at other times of the year.

**June** is Pride Month. Every year, during the month of June, the LGBT community celebrates in several different ways. Across the globe, various events are held during this special month as a way of recognizing the influence LGBT people have had around the world. Why was June chosen? Because it is when the Stonewall Riots took place, way back in 1969.

**July 17-22** is Hajj in the Islamic faith. An annual pilgrimage made by Muslims to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, in the Middle East. It takes place during Dhu al-Hijjah, which is the final month of the Islamic calendar. Every year, millions

of Muslims from across the world make the journey to Mecca from wherever they live.

**October 21** (Every third Monday in October) is Multicultural Diversity Day, a national day created by Cleora Scruggs, a fourth-grade teacher in Flint, Michigan, the day was adopted as a national event by the NEA's 1993 Representative Assembly to "increase awareness of the tremendous need to celebrate our diversity collectively."

**December 1** is Rosa Parks Day, is an American holiday in honor of the civil rights leader. In Ohio and Oregon, Rosa Parks Day is celebrated on the day she was arrested, December 1. In California and Missouri, it is celebrated on her birthday, February 4.

**December 2** is the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, marking the date the General Assembly adopted the "United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others" (resolution 317(IV) of December 2, 1949). The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labor, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

**December 14**, Day of Inclusion, is a day set aside for all of us to remember, learn and celebrate our diverse cultural heritage, and embrace our shared differences and common goals.

Sponsored by the Multicultural Council of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Associates and the City of Riverside Human Relations Commission, the program is part of the California's recognition of the Day of Inclusion.