2023 List of Holidays

CORE Members – Please start from April and select one holiday between April and December, specifically one that is not well known, or one that you personally don’t know a lot about. We will use the criteria that we approved in Feb to develop a 1-2 page document on a particular holiday. Thank you!

January

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| 1 New Year’s Day Emancipation Proclamation: President Lincoln declared all individuals held in slavery free on this day in 1863 | 4 Louis Braille’s birthday: he was a French educator who created a reading and writing system known as “braille” for the visually impaired | 6Feast of the Epiphany: this Christian feast day celebrates the star leading the three wise men to baby Jesus closing the Christmas season | 7Orthodox Christmas | 14OrthodoxNew Year |
| 15 Makar Sankranti: Hindu festival dedicated to the god of the sun, Surya | 16Martin Luther King Jr. Day:  celebrates one of the best-known civil rights activists, MLK Jr.Civil Rights Day16-20 Unity Week | 17National Day of Racial Healing | 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 | 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: Black History Month

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| 1National Freedom Day | 4Rosa Parks Day | 5Tu Bishvat/Tu B’shevat (Jewish)(2/5-6) | 11 Tammy Baldwin’s Birthday: the birthday of the first openly LGBT woman elected to both houses of Congress | 12Lincoln’s birthday | 14Statehood DayValentine’s DayFrederick Douglass’ birthday (observed):  |
| 15 Nirvana Day: Buddha’s death after reaching nirvana Susan B. Anthony’s Birthday | 18Maha Shivarati (Muslim)Isra and Mi’raj (Muslim) | 20President’s Day | 22 Ash Wednesday (Christian) | 25African and American Scientist and Inventor Day |  |

March: Women’s History Month

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| 2National Read Across America Day | 6-7Purim celebrates the saving of Jewish people from Haman (Jewish) | 8International Women’s Day: Highlighting the political, social, cultural, and economic achievements of womenHoli is the festival of sharing and love, or festival of colors (Hindu), winter harvest and onset of spring | 10 Harriet Tubman’s birthday (observed): American abolitionist who is well-known for her key role in the Underground Railroad | 17 St. Patrick’s Day: feast day of a Catholic saint who inspires cultural and [religious celebrations](https://www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2023/) around the world |
| 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | 22Ramadan - start of Islam’s sacred month, during this time Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from dawn until dusk(3/22-4/21) | 29National Vietnam War Veterans Day |  |  |

April

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| 2 Palm SundayWorld Autism Awareness Day JILLIANRamadan(3/22-4/21) | 5Passover: Jewish festival that celebrates the freeing of Israeli slaves (4/5-13) | 7Good Friday (Christian) | 9Easter, the most important Christian holiday, which celebrates Jesus’ resurrection | 15 Orthodox Good Friday |
| 16Orthodox Easter | 17Patriots Day (NE holiday)Laylat al-Qadr“Night of power” in the Islamic faith, the holiest night of Ramandan.Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) (4/17-18) | 22 Earth Day: applauds the planet we live on and all it does for us; is observed by more than 192 nations. | 25Yom HaAtzmaut(Day of independence)(4/25-16) | 28Arbor Day is marked by planting trees, caring for them to sustain & protect natural resources |

May: Mental Health Awareness Month / Older Americans Month/ Jewish American Heritage Month/ Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month/ Military Appreciation Month

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| 1Loyalty Day, celebrate our shared American spirit and the sacrifices fellow citizens have made, the congress  | 2National Teacher Day | 4National Day of Prayer | 5Cinco de Mayo | 6National Nurses Day |
| 14Mother’s Day | 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia: this event seeks to raise awareness for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. | 20Armed Forces Day | 28Pentecost (Christian)Colchester Memorial Day Parade | 29Memorial Day |

June: LGBT Pride Month / Caribbean American Heritage Month

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| 2Indian 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 | 12 Loving Day: This day is the anniversary of the court decision that legalizes interracial marriage | 14Flag Day | 18Father’s Day | 19Juneteenth |
| 26 The Hajj: This day begins the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims must take once in their lives(6/26-7/1) | 27Helen Keller’s Birthday: 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 |  |  |  |

July

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| 1National Postal Worker DayBattle of Gettysburg | 2Civil Rights ActThurgood Marshall’s birthday  | 4Independence Day | 6Dalai Lama’s birthday | 16National Ice cream day |
| 18Nelson Mandela’s birthday | 26Americans with Disabilities Act: This law protects people with disabilities from being discriminated against | 30Al-Hijri: the start of the Muslim New Year — beginning the prior evening |  |  |

August

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| 4Barack Obama’s birthday, the first black President of the US | 9International 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 | 15Feast of the Assumption: This Roman Catholic feast day marks the entry of the mother Mary into Heaven (body and soul)JEFF | 18Lord 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 | 26Women’s Equality Day: This day marks the anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the US.SHAWN |

September: National Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15) / National Recovery Month

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| 4Labor Day | 6Arbaeen Islam Holiday is the largest Muslim pilgrimageNANCY | 10Grandparents Day | 11Patriot’s Day | 13National Celiac Disease Awareness Day |
| 15World Lymphoma Awareness DayHispanic Heritage Month starts (9/15-10/15)International Day of DemocracyRosh Hashana Begins(9/15-17)National POW / MIA Recognition Day | 17Constitution Day | 20HeForShe: This movement was started by the UN with the goal of promoting gender equality | 21 International Day of Peace | 22National Good Neighbor Day |
| 25Eid-e-ZahraYom Kippur (holiest day in Judaism and Samaritanism) | 26National Voter Register Day |  |  |  |

October: Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15) / Global Diversity Awareness Month / National Disability Employment Awareness Month / LGBT History Month / Breast Cancer Awareness Month / National Polish American Heritage Month

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| 1Hispanic Heritage Month starts (9/15-10/15)International Day of Older Persons | 2Gandhi Jayanti (Hindu) | 6World Cerebral Palsy Day | 10 World Mental Health DayIndigenous People’s Day | 11National Coming Out Day |
| 13Colchester’s 325th birthday | 17Spirit Day: This day is for the [LGBTQ](https://www.diversityresources.com/2019-diversity-calendar-archived/) youth and what their community can do to support them. International Pronoun Day | 24United Nations Day | 25International Dwarfism Awareness Day | 31Halloween |

November: National American Heritage Month / Movember

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| 1All Saints’ Day | 2All Souls Day | 7Election Day | 11Veterans Day | 12Diwali |
| 13World Kindness Day | 16International Day of ToleranceDutch American Heritage  | 20Transgender Day of Remembrance | 23Thanksgiving | 24American Indian Heritage Day |
| 28Giving Tuesday |  |  |  |  |

December

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| 1 World AIDS Day | 2International Day for the Abolition of SlaveryNational Mutt Day | 3International Day of Persons with Disabilities: This United Nations holiday raises awareness for the rights of individuals with disabilities. | 5 International Volunteer Day | 7Pearl Harbor DayHanukkah(12/7/15) |
| 10International Human Rights Day International Animal Rights Day | 15Bill of Rights Day | 16Las Posadas: A religious festival celebrated in Mexico and parts of the U.S. during the Christmas season (12/16-24) | 17National Wreath Across America Day | 20 International Human Solidarity Day |
| 25 Christmas | 26Kwanzaa(12/26-1/1/24) | 31 New Year’s Eve |  |  |