

## Cultural Calendar

### January

#### - Emancipation Proclamation (1st)

- The Emancipation Proclamation was an edict issued by U.S. President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, that freed the slaves of the Confederate states during the American Civil War. The Emancipation Proclamation redefined the Civil War, turning it from a struggle to preserve the Union to one focused on ending slavery

#### - World Braille Day (4th)

- Celebrates the importance of braille as a means of communication for blind and visually impaired people.

#### - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (16th)

- Commemorates the life and work of Dr. King, who was a Baptist minister and prominent leader in the American civil rights movement. The day is a tribute to King for advancing civil rights and social justice through non-violent protest
  - MLK march across St. Johns bridge
    - [2023 MLK Day Events in Portland - Portland Living on the Cheap](#)

#### - Lunar New Year (Jan/Feb) (Jan 22nd in 2023)

- The Lunar New Year is a holiday that marks the first new moon of the lunisolar calendar, which is traditionally used in many East Asian countries. It is one of the most important holidays of the year in these and other Asian countries, and is celebrated by more than 1.5 billion people.
  - Cultural fair at Oregon Convention Center
  - Dragon dance parade and celebration
  - Lunar New Year celebration at Washington Square Mall
    - [Lunar New Year Celebrations in Portland | The Official Guide to Portland \(travelportland.com\)](#)

### February

#### - Black History Month

- Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history.
  - Black History Festival NW
  - Black Lives Matter Artist Grant Exhibition
    - [Black History Month in Portland | The Official Guide to Portland \(travelportland.com\)](#)

## **March**

### **- Ramadan Begins**

- Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, when Muslims fast during daylight hours. It is considered important because it is the month in which the Quran was first revealed, and because it is a time to practice self-discipline, self-control, compassion, charity, and service.
  - Many different events at any different mosques across Oregon

### **- Women's History Month (8th)**

- Acknowledges and honors the contributions women have made to the United States<sup>12</sup>. The month is intended to empower young girls and inspire current and future generations to emulate the women who laid the framework for us to succeed, be treated equitably and be recognized in society.
  - Visit the Oregon Historical Society(OHS) which commemorates the complicated history and the brave activists who fought for woman suffrage
    - [Celebrate Women's History Month at the Oregon Historical Society | Portland Monthly \(pdxmonthly.com\)](https://www.pdxmonthly.com/celebrate-womens-history-month-at-the-oregon-historical-society)

### **- Holi (8th)**

- It marks the beginning of spring after a long winter, symbolic of the triumph of good over evil.
  - Join many others in Downtown Portland for a fun day of dancing and throwing colors
    - [Holi Celebration: Join Portland's Festival of Colors - Portland Living on the Cheap](#)

### **- Nowruz - (Iranian New Year/ Persian New Year (21-22))**

- Nowruz is a traditional festival of spring; it starts on the day of the vernal equinox, and marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. The name 'Nowruz' comes from the ancient Avestan language meaning 'new day' and the festival symbolizes the rebirth of nature, new life and new beginnings.

### **- Cesar Chavez Day (31st)**

- Commemorates César Chávez's dedication to social justice. Chávez made a long lasting impact on America through numerous hunger strikes and boycotts

### **- International transgender day of visibility (31st)**

- Celebrates the accomplishments and victories of transgender and gender-expansive people, while simultaneously raising awareness of the work that is still needed to combat discrimination and violence.

## **April**

### **- Deaf Heritage Month**

- Recognizes contributions of deaf and hard of hearing (HoH) people, as well as highlighting the various forms of communication chosen by deaf and HoH individuals – including American Sign Language (ASL).

#### **- Arab American Heritage Month**

- Celebrates the culture, history, and contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans

#### **- Passover**

- Passover is a Jewish festival that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.
  - Many in person events at synagogues throughout Oregon.

#### **- Ramadan ends Eid-al-Fitr**

- Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, and is celebrated during the first three days of Shawwāl, the 10th month of the Islamic calendar. Eid al-Fitr is a time of official receptions and private visits, when friends greet one another, presents are given, new clothes are worn, and the graves of relatives are visited.

### **May**

#### **- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

- Recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.
  - Attend the Oregon AAPI Food & Wine Fest (21+)
    - [Oregon AAPI Food & Wine \(oregonaapifoodandwine.com\)](http://oregonaapifoodandwine.com)

#### **- Jewish American Heritage Month**

- The holiday is all about acknowledging and celebrating the contributions Jewish Americans have made to this country.

### **June**

#### **- Pride Month**

- Pride Month exists to honor the Stonewall Uprising, a key event in LGBTQ history that sparked the movement for LGBTQ rights. It is also a time to celebrate LGBTQ culture, voice, and identity, and to show solidarity and visibility for the LGBTQ community.
  - Celebrate the vibrant, beautiful diversity within the LGBTQIA+ community in OUR community!
    - [Oregon & SW Washington Pride Events | PRIDE NORTHWEST, INC. \(pridenw.org\)](http://pridenw.org)

### **- Immigrant Heritage Month**

- Celebrates our shared heritage as an immigrant nation and the important contributions to our economy, culture, and common identity by immigrants from all around the world.

### **- Juneteenth (19th)**

- Juneteenth marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. Honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday.
  - Come join us for our very own Juneteenth celebration hosted by the DEI committee with food, drinks, giveaways, activities, and a speaker

## **July**

### **- Disability Pride Month**

- Disability Pride Month is a time to celebrate, embrace, and honor the uniqueness and diversity of people with disabilities.

### **- Americans with Disability Act (26th)**

- Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities. The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability just as other civil rights laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion.

## **August**

### **- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (UN) (9th)**

- Raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.

### **- National Senior Citizens Day (21st)**

- The day is observed with the intent to highlight the contributions of elderly people in human society and honor them. The day is also celebrated to bring attention to various issues that affect the elderly, such as health issues and abuse by younger people, whether family or outsiders.

### **- Raksha Bandhan (30th) Adopted by Wilsonville City Council on January 5, 2023.**

- On this day, sisters of all ages tie a talisman or amulet called the rakhi around the wrists of their brothers. They symbolically protect them, receive a gift in return, and traditionally invest the brothers with a share of the responsibility of their potential care.

## **September**

### **- Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15 – 10/15)**

- Recognizes the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements for the United States.

### **- Rosh Hashanah (15 – 17 in 2023)**

- Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is one of Judaism's holiest days. Rosh Hashanah commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday.

### **- Yom Kippur (24-25 in 2023)**

- Yom Kippur—the Day of Atonement—is considered the most important holiday in the Jewish faith. It marks the culmination of the 10 Days of Awe, a period of introspection and repentance that follows Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

## **October**

### **- Disability Heritage Month**

- Increases public awareness of those with disabilities and appreciate the capabilities of the 30 million people in the U.S. of working-age who are disabled. Various programs throughout the month headed by The Office of Disability Employment Policy emphasize specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and eliminated.

### **- Indigenous Peoples Day (10th)**

- Established as a counter celebration to Columbus Day as many aspects of how the Indigenous or Native peoples were treated in relation to Christopher Columbus' exploration of the Americas has been left out or misrepresented.

### **- World Mental Health Day (10th)**

- International day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma. Also brings attention to mental illness and its major effects on people's lives worldwide

### **- National Coming Out Day (11th)**

- Annual LGBT awareness day observed on October 11, to support anyone "coming out of the closet."

## **November**

### **- Native American Heritage Month**

- Recognizes the significant contributions of Indigenous people in the U.S. and provides a platform to share their culture, traditions, music, crafts, dance, ways and concepts of life.

### **- Dia de Los Muertos (1st)**

- The Day of the Dead (el Día de los Muertos), is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink and celebration.
  - Head to Portland's Mercado for multiple days of festivities. Add pictures of your loved ones or unique items on the public ofrenda, enjoy some latin food and drinks, and watch a special screening of coco.
  - Head over to Wilsonville High School for a fun night of food, dancing, and face painting.

### **- Transgender Day of Remembrance (20th)**

- Day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. The day was founded to draw attention to the continued violence directed towards transgender people.

### **- Diwali (between Oct/November based on Hindu lunar calendar) November 12 in 2023 (October 24, 2022)**

- Hindu festival of lights with its variations also celebrated in other Indian religions. It symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance".
  - Head over to Our Table Farm for a home cooked dinner from their founder (\$125)
    - [Diwali Dinner: Saturday, November 11, 2023 5:30pm \(ourtable.us\)](https://ourtable.us)

## **December**

### **- Rosa Parks Day (1st)**

- Rosa Parks is one of the most important figures in African-American history. She symbolized how a single woman's courage and struggle could change a civilization's course. And today, December 1, we celebrate Rosa Parks Day in the United States to commemorate the bravery and struggle of the civil right activist.

### **- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3rd)**

- The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

### **- Hanukkah (18th ~26th – changes)**

- Hanukkah is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE.
  - Menorah lighting at Pioneer Courthouse Square
  - Enjoy a unique menorah lighting at the Fire and Ice Hanukkah celebration in Lake Oswego

- Build your own menorah at the Tigard Home Depot
  - [12 Chanukah Events in Portland - PDX Parent](#)

- Kwanzaa (26th – Jan 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African-American culture from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the sixth day.