

DIVEIN NEWS

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee Quarterly Newsletter



Committee Update

By Sabrina Combs, Chair of DiveIn

The last year has been amazing. The Committee Leadership appreciates the participation of our committee members and their work to create a mission and vision. DiveIn sent out our first newsletter about how to talk about politics at work, and all of us continue to identify ways to make Bothell more inclusive. Sabrina and Deb even gave a presentation to the Arts Commission to discuss ways the Committee can help bring diversity to the art displayed in City Hall.

We look forward to new opportunities, training, and an employee survey in 2019 to learn more about how you feel about working here. Feel free to ask a committee member about the committee anytime or you can email us at DiversityCommittee@bothellwa.gov

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World Braille Day - Jan 4

By Jesse Luhrs

Do you ever see the dots on some public signs in City Buildings and wonder what they are for or where they came from? These dots are known as Braille. Braille provides people who are blind, a way to manage many daily tasks independently.

In 1824, a young blind man named Louis Braille developed this tool, which is still in use today. The Braille alphabet is a system based on the French “night writing” table. It has enabled individuals who are blind or have visual impairments to read and write. Consisting of six dot cells, Braille allows a reader’s fingertips to quickly interpret one cell to another.

Braille not only gives blind people a way to obtain literacy but provides a way to understand mathematics, music, and computer programming. It gives people the ability to learn and manage environments and to create their own independence. It also provides hope for those who may be losing their sight.

Check out samples of Braille on all the room signs at City Hall.



Overtime, Braille has been transcribed and adopted in many different languages from all around the world and helps those who face blindness or visual impairments in many countries. Jan. 4 is a day to raise awareness and encourage opportunities for these individuals.

The Braille Alphabet

⠁	⠃	⠉	⠇	⠑	⠋	⠒	⠓	⠗	⠊
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
⠅	⠎	⠍	⠏	⠥	⠖	⠙	⠕	⠘	⠚
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
⠩	⠪	⠬	⠭	⠮	⠯				
u	v	w	x	y	z				



Black History Month

By Laural Cyrus

Each year beginning on Feb. 1, a month of events are planned nationwide honoring the history and contributions of African Americans. The roots of Black History Month go back to 1915, when writer and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The name was later changed in 1972 to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

In 1926, Dr. Woodson initiated the national campaign to celebrate black history by launching annual Negro History Week observances. Dr. Woodson purposely chose the second week of February between the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

In 1976, the ASALH announced that Negro History Week activities were to be expanded into a month-long celebration. Since then, every American President has proclaimed February as Black History Month.

After establishing Negro History Week in 1926, Dr. Woodson realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public. Every year since 1928 the ASALH chooses a theme. The theme for 2019 is "Black Migration."

Black History Month provides an opportunity to celebrate black history through a tradition of acknowledgment, inclusion, and community engagement. How will you celebrate Black History Month?



Women's History Month

By Laural Cyrus

Women's History Month is an annual declaration highlighting the contributions and achievements of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated in March, corresponding with International Women's Day on Mar. 8.

The beginning of Women's History Month traces back to the early 1900's with the first observances of International Women's Day. However, it wasn't until the late 1970's and early 1980's that strong support of an effort to secure a National Women's History Week in the United States began to gain traction. In 1980, President Carter issued the first Proclamation declaring the week of March 8 1980 as National Women's History Week.

Word spread rapidly about the success of Women's History Week celebrations within organizations, communities and school districts, and soon there was wide-ranging public and political support for recognizing and celebrating the achievements of American women.

By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year.

The National Women's History Alliance selects a theme for Women's History Month each year. This year's theme is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence." Who is a visionary woman in your life?

Mark your calendars for events to know about between January and March**January**

- January 4 - World Braille Day - Birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille system
- January 5 - Guru Gobind Singh Ki's Birthday (Sikh) – 10th Sikh of Nanak and founder of the Khalsa
- January 15 - Makar Sankranti (Hindu) – Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun toward the North
- January 20 - World Religion Day (Baha`i) – Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the Earth
- January 21-23 - Mahayana New Year (Buddhist) – In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January
- January 21 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- January 21 - Tu B'shvat (Jewish) – Known as the New Year for trees, and traditionally used for calculating the age of fruit trees for tithing
- January 27 - UN Holocaust Memorial Day – Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945

February

- February 1 - National Freedom Day – Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865
- February 5 - Lunar New Year –(Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist) - An important festival celebrating the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar
- February 15 - Susan B. Anthony Day – A commemorative holiday to celebrate the birth of Susan B. Anthony and woman's suffrage in the United States
- February 15 - Nirvana Day (Buddhist) – Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body
- February 26 - Intercalary Days (Baha`i) – “Days of Ha” are devoted to spiritual preparation for fasting, celebrating, hospitality, charity, and gift giving

March

- March 4 - Maha Shivaratri (Hindu) – The Great Night of Shiva is a festival in reverence of the god Shiva
- March 6 - Ash Wednesday (Western Christian) – The first day of Lent, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter
- March 21 - Nowru`z (Zoroastrian) – A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of spring and the Iranian New Year
- March 21 - Holi (Hindu) – A spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colors or the festival of sharing love
- March 31 - Cesar Chavez Day – Honors the birthday of Mexican-American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez who was a nationally respected voice for social justice

More Dates of Diversity Celebration Events available at
<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/calendar-of-observances>