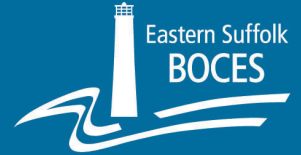


# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity

Advancing Equitable Opportunities



Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity | 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, NY 11772 | 631-687-3028 | [esbocesdei@esboces.org](mailto:esbocesdei@esboces.org)

## January Cultural Heritage Highlights



### January is Poverty Awareness Month

Poverty Awareness Month is a month-long initiative to raise awareness and call attention to the growth of poverty in America. Did you know that the U.S. ranks second highest in poverty rates among its peer countries? The official criterion for assessing poverty in the U. S. was established in the 1960s and has stayed largely unchanged since then.

[Find out more about Poverty Awareness Month from the Heartland Alliance](#)



### New Year's Day - January 1

In some countries, January 1 starts the New Year according to the Gregorian calendar, which is the calendar in use today. In 45 B.C., New Year's Day was celebrated on January 1 for the first time in history when the Julian calendar took effect (thanks to Julius Caesar's reforms). Today's Gregorian calendar was introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII to correct some slight inaccuracies, but continues to start the year in January.

[Learn about 13 New Year's Traditions from Cultures Around the World](#)

Watch a Video: [New Year's Day - All About the Holidays \(PBS Kids\)](#)



### Global Family Day – January 1

Observed every year on 1 January, Global Family Day is celebrated to start the new year with a message of peace and unity among people. As people around the world have welcomed the year 2024 with great fervor, it also comes with the hope that Global Family Day will establish the idea of global unity and harmony.

[Find out more about Global Family Day from National Today](#)





## World Braille Day - January 4

We celebrate World Braille Day every year on January 4th because it's Louis Braille's birthday. He's the inventor of braille! Louis was born in 1809 in France and became blind after a childhood accident. But he quickly mastered his new way of living. When Louis was only 15 years old, he created a reading and writing system based on Charles Barbier's night writing system. We know Louis' system today as braille. Braille is essential in the context of education, freedom of expression and opinion, as well as social inclusion.

[Learn about the Braille Message Wall with the National Federation of the Blind](#)

[Learn about the Argentina Digital Library for All on YouTube](#)

[Watch A Day in the Life of a Braille Transcriber on PBS](#)



## Three Kings Day – January 6

In Mexico and many other Latin American countries, Santa Claus isn't as popular as he is in the United States. Rather, it is the Three Wise Men who are the bearers of gifts and they leave presents in or near the shoes of small children. The holiday is also known by the name Epiphany and dates back to the 4th century. A grand feast would be held on this day to honor the occasion of Jesus' baptism and to pay homage to the Three Wise Men.

[Lin-Manuel Miranda explains the magic of Three Kings Day](#)

[Three Kings Day: Holiday History on YouTube](#)



## Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service – January 15th

Martin Luther King Day is observed on the third Monday of January. The Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service is an opportunity for each of us to reflect on the principles of equality and selflessness that Dr. King embodied. Dr. King believed in celebrating and promoting the worth of every person, great and small. He championed for diverse cultures to live and thrive together in a spirit of love, understanding, and service to one another. The [King Center's](#) theme for 2024 is: 'Shifting the Cultural Climate through the Study and Practice of Kingian Nonviolence'.

[Learn about Martin Luther King Day of Service](#)

[The King Center presents Shifting The Climate through a Love-Centered Strategy](#)



## International Holocaust Remembrance Day – January 27

Fragility of Freedom is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2024.

Elie Wiesel, author of "Night" and human rights advocate said, "What is abnormal is that I am normal. That I survived the Holocaust and went on. That is what is abnormal." The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27—the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau—as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

[What is Holocaust Memorial Day?](#)

[Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 Theme vision](#)

