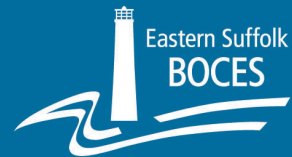


# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity

Advancing Equitable Opportunities



Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity | 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, NY 11772 | 631-687-3028 | esbocesdei@esboces.org

## April Cultural Heritage Highlights



### Arab American Heritage Month

During this time, we celebrate Arab Americans throughout the past and present, and recognize their invaluable contributions to our country. It also serves as a time to work against Anti-Arab bigotry and to challenge stereotypes and prejudices.

**Find out more:**

[Learn more about the Arab American community](#)

[National Arab American Heritage Month resources](#)

[PBS documentaries and programs that celebrate the diversity and history of Arab American communities](#)



### Autism Acceptance Month

Autism Acceptance Month is an event that promotes the inclusion and acceptance of people diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Every year, this month-long celebration aims to break the stigma of people living with autism. During this month, workshops and events educate professionals on how best to support people on the autistic spectrum, from school support to health care and housing. Sponsored by the Autism Society of America, Autism Acceptance Month seeks to shift the narrative from "awareness to acceptance," to help autistic people feel supported throughout their lives.

**Find out more:**

[World Autism Acceptance Week](#)

[World Autism Awareness Day](#)

[Autism Speaks Long Island Walk](#)



### Month of the Military Child

The theme for this year's military child month is "Military Children: Brave, Fearless, Resilient!" Although it is celebrated throughout the month of April, Wednesday, April 17, 2024 is allocated as "Purple Up!" day. Please note that states, districts and schools may select a different date(s).

**Find out more:**

[The Month of the Military Child](#): video from the NYS Education Department

[Memo from Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner April-Month of the Military Child](#)

[Month of the Military Child programs](#) sponsored by NYSED



## National Poetry Month

National Poetry Month has been around since 1996, when it was initiated by the Academy of American Poets to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in our culture.

**Find out more:**

April 18 is [Poem in Your Pocket Day](#)

Learn more about [National Poetry Month](#) from poets.org

Listen: [Dear Poet 2024: Nikky Finney reads "Heirloom"](#)



## National Library Week – April 7-13

The theme for National Library Week 2024 is "Ready, Set, Library!" This promotes the idea that in our always-online world, libraries give us a green light to something truly special: a place to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. No matter where you find yourself on the roadmap through life's journey—preparing for a new career, launching a business, or raising a family—your library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs.

**Find out more:**

[Bridging the Long Island library community](#)

YouTube video: [Why Libraries Matter](#)

[American Library Association resources](#)



## Eid – Evening of Apr 9-Apr 10

These dates may differ depending on where you live. Eid al Fitr is a holiday that ends the Islamic month of Ramadan. Known as the "Festival of breaking fast," Muslims will celebrate with family, food, and presents, joining with one another for prayer and other traditions.

**Find out more:**

[Eid al Fitr | All About the Holidays](#) on PBS

[Eid al Fitr teaching resources](#)



## Earth Day – April 22

[EARTHDAY.ORG's](#) founders created and organized the very first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Since then, [EARTHDAY.ORG](#) has been mobilizing over 1 billion people annually on Earth Day, and every other day, to protect the planet.

**Find out more:**

YouTube video: [Earth Day 2024 & Beyond | 8 Ways to Celebrate](#)

[Learn about the origins of Earth Day](#)

Earth Day 2024: [Planet vs. Plastics](#)



## Passover begins at sundown on April 22 and ends the evening of April 30

Passover is a festival of freedom. It commemorates the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt. The main ritual of Passover is the Seder, which occurs on the first of two nights (in Israel just the first night) of the holiday — a festive meal that involves the re-telling of the Exodus through stories and song and the consumption of ritual foods, including matzah and maror (bitter herbs).

**Find out more:**

[Passover | All About the Holidays](#) on PBS

YouTube video: [How to Set a Seder Plate for Passover](#)

