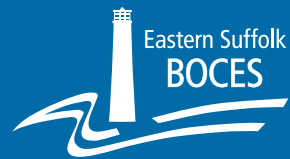


Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Advancing Equitable Opportunities



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

April 2025 Cultural Heritage Highlights



Arab – American Heritage Month

Arab-Americans are a diverse community of immigrants and the descendants of immigrants 3.7 million strong, who come from the 22 countries that make-up the Arab world. Our ethnic community is diverse in faith, race, and ability.

Learn more:

[What is National Arab American Heritage Month?](#)

PBS videos: [Documentaries of 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, month-long workshops and events educate professionals on how best to support people on the autistic spectrum, from school support to health care and housing.

Learn more:

[Autism Information and Support](#)



DEAF HISTORY MONTH

Deaf History Month takes place in April every year. Although National Deaf History Month is not a federally recognized holiday, it's a time to raise awareness about the deaf community and their struggles in our society. The month also focuses on honoring the immense contributions of deaf individuals and the deaf community to our country. During this month, we also get to learn more about the ongoing advocacy work many organizations undertake to make life easier and more inclusive for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

Learn more:

[History of Deaf History Month](#)

[How to Celebrate Deaf History Month](#)



Month of the Military Child

April is designated as Month of the Military Child – a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas. Month of the Military Child is sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy and supported by many other organizations such as the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). The April 2025 Month of the Military Child theme is “Celebrating Military Children and Youth: Building Stronger Character and Relationships.” Military children show bravery, fearlessness, and resiliency by adapting and meeting adversity head on in an ever-changing environment.

Learn more:

[Ways to Celebrate!](#)



National Poetry Month

Launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month is a special occasion that celebrates poets’ integral role in our culture and shows that poetry matters. Over the years, it has become the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K–12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, families, and of course poets, marking poetry’s important place in our lives.

Learn more:

[National Poetry Month, April 2025](#)



PARKINSON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

April is Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month, chosen because it is the birth month of James Parkinson, who first identified the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease more than 200 years ago. Since then, considerable progress has been made towards understanding what causes the motor symptoms most associated with [Parkinson’s disease \(PD\)](#), and along the way, an appreciation of a broad spectrum of non-motor symptoms that were not initially recognized as part of the disease. Parkinson’s disease (PD) is a neurodegenerative disorder of the nervous system.

Learn more:

[Parkinson’s Foundation: Featured Resources & Support](#)



April 2 – WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Ever since the United Nations General Assembly designated April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) in 2007, the United Nations has observed the day as a means to affirm and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for autistic people on an equal basis with others. Progress has been made, thanks to the many amazing autistic advocates who have worked tirelessly to bring the lived experience of autistic people to the wider world.

Learn more:

[What is World Autism Awareness Day?](#)



April 6 to April 12 – National Library Week

National Library Week is a celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities. The theme for 2025 is “Drawn to the Library,” celebrating that we utilize the library in different ways and for different purposes: research, study, exploration, entertainment, connection, and growth.

Learn more:

[Support America's Libraries](#)

[National Library Week 2025: Drawn to the Library!](#)



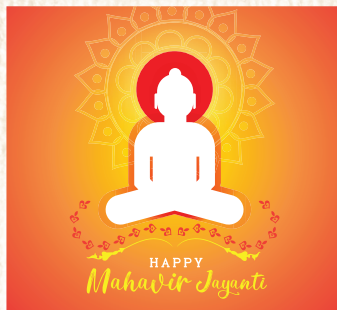
April 9 – International Day of Pink

This day stands against bullying, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of discrimination, with communities worldwide encouraged to wear pink in solidarity. It's a call for inclusivity and respect, fostering awareness and support for a safer, more accepting world.

Learn more:

[How to Celebrate International Day of Pink](#)

[Create Safer Spaces](#)

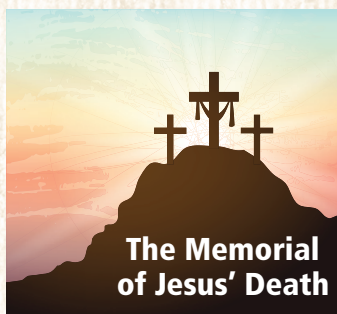


April 10 – Mahavir Jayanti

Mahavir Jayanti is the birth anniversary of philosopher Mahavir, who was the 24th and final Jain pandit. Born a prince named Vardhamana, he renounced everything for the path of enlightenment, earning the name Mahavir, meaning great hero. Mahavir believed in and preached ahimsa (non-violence), satya (truth), asteya (non-stealing), brahmacharya (chastity) and aparigraha (non-attachment). Many will visit his temples, read scriptures, and ask for his blessings during this holiday.

Learn more:

[Why Celebrate Mahavira Jayanti & Divali?](#)



April 12– The Memorial of Jesus' Death

Jehovah's Witnesses around the world will observe the annual Memorial of Jesus Christ's death. The Memorial is our most important holiday of the year, as Jesus told Christians to commemorate his death. We do this in a memorial celebration called “the Lord's Supper” or “the Lord's Evening Meal.” Jesus Christ instituted this observance on the night of the Jewish Passover in 33 CE. The Passover was a celebration held just once a year, on the fourteenth day of the Jewish month of Nisan.

Learn more:

[All About The Memorial of Jesus' Death](#)



PASSOVER begins at sundown on April 12 and ends the evening of April 20

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).

Learn more:

[History of Passover & Its Traditions](#)

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



April 13 – Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi is a day celebrated around the world by both Hindus and Sikhs. Vaisakhi is a Sikh holy day as well as a celebration of the New Year in the Nanakshahi calendar. Many people in India celebrate Vaisakhi by dancing, singing, dressing in holiday finery, observing wrestling bouts and enjoying the many parades that take place at this time. Throughout the Indian subcontinent different regions celebrate in different ways.

Learn more:

[The History of Vaisakhi](#)



April 20 – Coptic Orthodox Easter

Coptic Orthodox Easter celebrations are characterized by unique traditions and practices that distinguish them from other Christian celebrations. The extended period of fasting preceding Easter, known as Great Lent, is a time of intense spiritual preparation. The celebration itself is marked by vibrant liturgical services, communal feasts, and the exchange of traditional greetings. These celebrations reflect the deep-rooted faith and cultural heritage of the Coptic Orthodox community, creating a rich and meaningful experience for believers.

Learn more:

[What is Coptic Orthodox Easter?](#)



April 20 – Easter Sunday

Easter is the oldest and most important festival of the Western Christian year, celebrating Jesus Christ's resurrection (rising from the grave) following his crucifixion. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the completion of Holy Week which includes the observance of [Good Friday](#).

Learn more:

[Why is Easter Called Easter?](#)



APRIL 22 – Earth Day

April 22, 2025 marks the 55th anniversary of Earth Day. To celebrate this milestone, everyone is encouraged to support Earth Day's 2025 theme: OUR POWER, OUR PLANET™. Let's unite in our collective global commitment to renewable energy, whether it's solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal or tidal – to generate clean electricity for everyone.

Learn more:

[Help Save the Planet!](#)



April 24 – Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day

This day commemorates the lives lost during the Armenian Genocide, honoring the heritage and resilience of Armenian communities worldwide. It serves as a call for reflection, understanding, and recognition of historical injustices to prevent future atrocities.

Learn more:

[Statement from Executive Director on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day](#)



April 24 – Yom Hashoah

The internationally recognized date for Holocaust Remembrance (Memorial) Day. In Israel the day is marked across the country as a national holiday and day of remembrance. The observance of Yom Hashoah in Israel runs from sundown one day to sundown the next, according to the Jewish calendar. In 2025, Yom HaShoah in Israel will fall from sundown on April 23rd to sundown on April 24th.

Learn more:

[Yom HaShoah in Israel: April 23-24, 2025](#)
[Remembrance Day Calendar](#)



April 25 – Arbor Day

Arbor Day is a holiday that celebrates nature in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant trees. Today, many countries observe such a holiday. Though usually observed in the spring, the date varies, depending on climate and suitable planting seasons.

Learn more:

PBS video: [What is Arbor Day?](#)
[Why Do We Celebrate Arbor Day?](#)



April 28 – World Day for Safety and Health at Work

In 2003, the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#), began to observe World Day in order to stress the prevention of accidents and diseases at work, capitalizing on the ILO's traditional strengths of tripartism and social dialogue. This celebration is an integral part of the [Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health](#) of the ILO, as documented in the Conclusions of the International Labour Conference in June 2003. One of the main pillars of the Global Strategy is advocacy, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work is a significant tool to raise awareness of how to make work safe and healthy and of the need to raise the political profile of occupational safety and health. The 2025 World Day for Safety and Health at Work will focus on the impacts of digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI) on workers' safety and health.

Learn more:

[2025 World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#)

