



THE OFFICE OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2023

VOL. 5



Important Dates
Feb. 5: Lantern Festival

Feb. 18: Miraaaj Nabi



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Center Updates
- Important Holidays
- Honoring Black History Month



WHAT CAN WE DO TO HONOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT CASCADIA?

Read the February Newsletter and visit the Diversity and Equity Center to learn about historical figures

Attend the Wakanda Forever movie showing and lecture on Representation of Black Female Leads in the Diversity and Equity Center

Read *Octavia's Brood*
(free copies can be found in the library)

Support local Black Owned Businesses using [Intentionalist](#) to find them

Visit a [Wa Na Wari](#) Art Exhibit in Seattle



THE DIVERSITY AND EQUITY CENTER UPDATES

The Diversity and Equity Center is a space where everyone is welcome! The goal is to reach the entire campus community – students, faculty, and staff. Please join us in our effort to explore equity and inclusion initiatives and learn from each other. We also invite you to stop in and share your traditions and holidays with us. The more we learn about each other the more our global community can thrive and we invite you to be a part of this important journey.

The Diversity and Equity Center had a great Lunar New Year event with International Programs on January 25th. Visitors learned about three different cultures and how each celebrate the Lunar New Year. Also a big thank you to the faculty, staff, and students who came to the Hip Hop to Kpop talk on appropriation/appreciation. Later this month, there will be a lecture on Black female representation in media to accompany the movie Wakanda Forever. The film will be shown in the Diversity and Equity Center. Keep an eye out on our social media for updates.

To learn more about Black History Month, please visit the Diversity and Equity Center and check out our book selections.

LANTERN FESTIVAL - FEBRUARY 5

From the E&I Intern, Frank Jiang: The Lantern Festival is a traditional Chinese celebration that occurs after Lunar New Year. It is called “Yuan Xiao Jie” or “Shang Yuan Jie” in Chinese. It is celebrated on the Fifteenth day of the first month in the lunar calendar. This year the Lantern Festival is February 5th. It is also the last day of the Chinese New Year celebration. Historical evidence shows that the Lantern Festival was first celebrated in the West Han dynasty. The Lantern Festival is famous because of how people display the lanterns. Some people have huge lantern displays that the community can admire. Families and commercial establishments will display different beautiful lanterns and people will walk around and enjoy the light from different lanterns. Some people will also put riddles in lanterns for children to solve and get gifts. Overall, it is a fun holiday that many people look forward to every year. (Lantern Festival, 2008)





VALENTINE'S DAY = SOCIAL JUSTICE?

Social justice has always been a part of this day. Valentine's Day is named after St. Valentine, a priest from the late 3rd century who became known for his marriage services that helped men during a time when Rome was at war. The current emperor at the time, Claudius (known as Claudius the Cruel) had banned marriage because many men did not want to sign up to become soldiers due to having families to take care of. Valentine would marry them in secret in order to help them avoid military service and be with the ones they loved. After Claudius found out, he sentenced Valentine to death on February 14th.

Valentine's Day was founded on the idea of love and doing what you can to help your community. Connecting it to now, the Diversity and Equity Center will be hosting a program with the Health and Wellness Resource Center (HaWRC) that will teach students, faculty, and staff about advocacy in domestic violence, advocacy in relationships and sexual health. Join us on February 14th from 1pm-3pm (St. Valentine Beheaded, 2022)



MIRAAJ NABI - FEBRUARY 18

Isra and Mi'raj is a Muslim holiday that celebrates the Prophet Muhammad's fantastical night-time journey from Mecca to Jerusalem as well as his ascension into heaven. Those who observe it celebrate in different ways such as gathering at mosques to pray or by retelling the story to their children. Festive foods are also often served and some Muslim countries mark the occasion with lights and candles. It is a wonderful time to reflect on miracles and what it means to overcome obstacles against all odds. (Faruqui, 2019)





WORKS CITED

- Faruqi, S. (2019, April 1). Al-Isra' wal-mi'raj: The story of the miraculous night journey. Muslim Hands UK. muslimhands.org.uk/latest/2019/04/al-isra-wal-mi-raj-the-story-of-the-miraculous-night-journey
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