



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

IN THIS ISSUE: IMPORTANT DATES:

- THE DIVERSITY & EQUITY CENTER UPDATES
- CASCADIA SCHOLARS UPDATES
- MARCH 8TH - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- MARCH 8TH - HOLI
- MARCH 20TH-21ST - NOWRUZ
- MARCH 21ST - UAE MOTHERS DAY

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

By Presidential proclamation, March is Women's History Month (WHM). It's a wonderful time of year to reflect on the many amazing contributions women have made to society. Every year, WHM has a different theme, and 2023's theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." Ask yourself, "What can I do this month to honor the legacies of women, past and present, who have contributed to media and storytelling?" To get the ball rolling, here's a quote from Maya Angelou: "We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color." (womenshistorymonth.gov, n.d.)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Wednesday, March 8, is International Women's Day (IWD). The theme of 2023's IWD is #EmbraceEquity. This worldwide campaign seeks to raise awareness about the difference between equality and equity. It comes with a call to action for collective activism toward gender parity by asking people to stand up to gender discrimination, challenge stereotypes, and call out bias whenever we see it. This is not a fight for women alone. Forging an equal world requires allies to step up and call out these injustices too. When we all embrace equity, we embrace belonging, inclusion, and success for everyone. (International Womens Day, 2023)



THE DIVERSITY & EQUITY CENTER

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 Valentine's Day event with the Health and Wellness Resource Center on February 14th. Visitors learned about how they can be advocates for themselves in relationships, and also received resources on domestic violence and sexual health. On the 22nd, the Diversity & Equity Center (DEC) cohosted the movie *Wakanda Forever*. A big thank you to the staff who came to the discussion on Black female representation in media that accompanied the movie. Later this month, The DEC will be showing the film *Hidden Figures* in honor of Women's History Month with a companion discussion to follow. 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 Women's History Month, please visit the Diversity and Equity Center and check out the timeline that will be on display.



CASCADIA SCHOLARS

The Cascadia Scholars Program provides mentoring, resources, and support for BIPOC, marginalized and underrepresented students. Scholarships are also available for those who qualify. The Program works with these historically underrepresented groups to help connect educational goals to academic and career journeys.

Our final deadline for Fall admission is on March 15th. Students can apply online on our webpage [here](#).



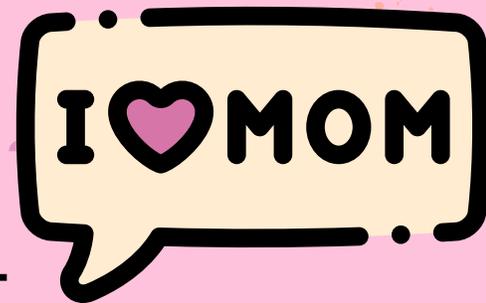
HOLI

Holi, which is known as the Festival of Color is a traditional Hindu holiday that celebrates the coming of Spring. It is also known as the Festival of Love with one of its main themes always being unity. Holi is known for its colors and celebrated on the last full moon of the lunar month. While there are many stories associated with Holi, the origin of love comes from the story of how Krishna (who loved playing pranks) fell in love with Radha, a milkmaid. Krishna was afraid that Radha would not like him because his skin was unintentionally turned blue as a child from an assassination attempt! During a game, he playfully painted her face with different colors, creating the origin of the colored powder and water that is tossed around during the Holi celebration. While Holi is celebrated throughout the world, it is the most popular in India and Nepal.

(Gonzalez, 2017)



Holi



MOTHERS DAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Unlike the U.S. when Mother's Day is celebrated in May, in the Middle East it is celebrated in March. Originally the special day was introduced in Egypt in 1956 by journalist Mustafa Amin who campaigned for the celebration of mothers for over a year. The first day of Spring was chosen because of its representation of new life. Teachers and elders at work are also celebrated this day to show appreciation for their hard work and contributions to raising the next generation. Show love to the "mothers" in your life on this day! (JOI, 2019)





NOWRUZ

From Dr. Kimia Ghanbeigi, Physics Professor: Nowruz, also known as the Persian New Year, is a joyous and vibrant celebration that marks the beginning of the spring season and the first day of the Iranian calendar. The word "Nowruz" means "new day" in Persian. It is celebrated by millions of people around the world, particularly in Iran, and many other countries across Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Middle East. Persian New Year celebration, which is based on solar calendar, starts at the exact moment of the vernal equinox on March 20th or 21st, this creating a sense of unity for people no matter where they live since it is celebrated to the same second in time around the globe. During Nowruz, families and friends come together to celebrate with traditional foods, music, and customs such as setting up a display of flowers, spring plants, wearing new cloths, painting eggs, and setting up a haft-seen table with seven symbolic items starting with the letter "S." Nowruz is a time of renewal, hope, and joy, symbolizing the arrival of spring and the rejuvenation of nature. It is a time for people to come together, celebrate their culture and heritage, and look forward to the year ahead.

Wishing you all a beautiful Spring coming in : Day:19, hour: 03 , Min,47, sec 39 , which means in pacific time the moment Persian New Year is celebrated is in March/20/23 -14:24:28.





The writings are wishing happy new year, the first on the right says : "Good Thoughts, Good Words ,Good Deeds" which is a well-known Persian motto coming from a Persian faith .



WORKS CITED

- Gonzalez, N. (2017, October 18). Holi: Festival of colors. Encyclopædia Britannica.
- International Women's day 2023 campaign theme: Embrace equity. International Women's Day.
- joi. (2019, September 22). The history of mother's day in Middle East: Joi gifts. Joi Blog | Happy Thoughts, Gift Ideas, News and More.
- Congress, T. L. of, Administration, N. A. and R., Humanities, N. E. for the, Art, N. G. of, Service, N. P., Institution, U. S. S., & Museum, U. S. H. M. (n.d.)