

JUNE NEWSLETTER

This Month's Celebrations

LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Month; Caribbean-American
Heritage Month

9th: Race Unity Day (Baha'i)

11th: Shavuot/Pentecost (Jewish) (June 11 -
June 13)

12th: Philippine Independence Day

14th: The Hajj (June 14 - June 19)

16th: Eid al-Adha (Islamic) (June 16 - June 19)

19th: Juneteenth

20th: World Refugee Day

20th: Summer Solstice

26th: Anniversary of Legalization of Same-Sex
Marriage in the U.S.

28th: National Pride Day

"...O it will be beautiful.

Every girl will ask you to dance and
the boys
won't kill you for it. Shake your head.

Dance until your bones clatter. What a
prize
you are. What a lucky sack of stars."
~ At Last the New Arriving Gabrielle
Calvocoressi

Happy June, everyone! With graduation and summer, joy is in the air...just last month, at the Lake Washington Student of Color Conference, we heard of joy and hope as acts of resistance. As we reflect on the celebrations throughout the year, we see the "insistence" on thriving and celebrating in every community. At the beginning of the school year, Warren KingGeorge (the keynote speaker for Indigenous Peoples' Day) invited us to pay attention to the trees around us, noticing how their diversity is a source of strength. We end the year with the joy of graduating students who persist on their journeys supported by the community around them. This year has not gotten easier (to say the least...), but, heeding KingGeorge's invitation, we might realize we are stronger together and always have something to celebrate. Congratulations to all!

Spotlight on: Pride Month

By Nina Jouval



Pride Month honors the Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan of 1969 which marked an important time for the Gay Liberation Movement in the US. Today, Pride Month has expanded to include all sexual orientations outside of the historically “dominant” heteronormativity. As a reminder, LGBTQIA+ is an inclusive term to represent Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual (Ace). It’s important to also recognize the + because sexual orientations go beyond just these letters.

I’d like to take a moment to spotlight a lesser-known and often misunderstood sexuality: the asexual spectrum. I will also use the term “ace” interchangeably. The ace spectrum is an umbrella term which includes aromantic, demisexual, gray-ace, queerplatonic, etc. Overall, this orientation can broadly be described as experiencing little to no sexual attraction and/or romantic attraction. It’s important to recognize the distinction between sexual and romantic attraction.

The experiences of ace people can differ greatly, but we often deal with feelings of being alone, feeling like there’s something wrong with us, or experiencing a great deal of societal pressure. Some people also believe that asexuality does not exist or is not valid, which is extremely harmful to the community. This can be due to lack of representation and awareness. Yasmin Benoit, British model and asexual activist says, “asexuality has been described as the ‘invisible orientation’ for years; partially due to its lack of representation but also due to it being easier to hide than some of the others.” It’s difficult to feel accepted in a society that isn’t even fully aware of our existence.

I encourage you to take some time to look into some of the resources below to learn more about LGBTQIA+ Pride and the ace community. And please remember to support queer identifying people, not just in the month of June, but all the time.

If you’re interested in joining our LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group, please email me at njouval@cascadia.edu.

Resources

About Asexuality:
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/understanding-asexuality/>

About Pride Month:
<https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/>

Asexual Discrimination:
<https://www.stylist.co.uk/opinion/asexuality-asexual-discrimination-acephobia-yasmin-benoit-stonewall-research/855236>

Being an LGBTQ+ Ally:
<https://www.hrc.org/resources/being-an-lgbtq-ally>

LGBTQ+ Rights:
<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/lgbtq-rights>

Monroe Pride Month Event, June 9:
<https://monroewa.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=2859>

Loveless by Alice Oseman (book):
<https://aliceoseman.com/ya-fiction-book/loveless/>

Yasmin Benoit, British model and award-winning asexual activist:
<https://www.instagram.com/theyasminbenoit/?hl=en>

Spotlight on: Juneteenth



“The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times.”*


This year, the City of Bothell is honoring Juneteenth with a proclamation and celebrations during the week of Juneteenth. Cascadia’s Vice-President of Equity & Inclusion, Chari Davenport, will accept the proclamation on behalf of Cascadia College at a celebration on June 11, 6pm. Join us to celebrate the day! In Chari’s words:

“Juneteenth is a day that marks the recognition of the freedom of all African slaves. Slaves were originally freed in September 1862. However, in Texas, slave owners ignored this proclamation and did not tell the slaves they had been freed. The slaves continued to live in bondage, were sold, and tortured for another two and a half years until the word of freedom finally reached them on June 19, 1865.

Juneteenth became a day of celebration and a time to gather with descendants. For years, many former slaves returned to Texas each year to honor and remember those who did not live long enough to see the day. Prayer services were a big part of the celebrations and continue to be. To this day, Juneteenth continues to be a celebrated day of remembrance.”

*<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>

Spotlight on: World Refugee Day



“Hope Away from Home – a world where refugees are always included.”* World Refugee Day celebrates the courage and strength of those forced to flee their homes displaced by, among other reasons, violence, political persecution, and increasingly, at alarming rates, environmental and climate change disasters. The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), the UN refugee agency, estimates that, at the end of 2023, over 114 million people were refugees.*

World Refugee Day centers the voices of the millions displaced, inviting us to learn about and offer solidarity to the refugees in our midst:

"World Refugee Day is an expression of solidarity with people who have been uprooted from their homes by war or persecution . . . This not about sharing a burden. It is about sharing a global responsibility, based not only the broad idea of our common humanity but also on the very specific obligations of international law." Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General*

We can hear about refugees' stories at [World Refugee Day | USA for UNHCR \(unrefugees.org\)](#). Through storytelling, Abdallah, for example, tells us how his family fled Jordan, living 8 years without citizenship. Abdallah found refuge in music. Eventually the family settled in the United States where Abdallah became an EMT and is embarking on a medical career.

*[World Refugee Day | USA for UNHCR \(unrefugees.org\)](#)

(Free) Community connections



Cascadia and UWB Library: LGBTQ+ Community Resources: [Local Resources & Organizations](#) [Local Resources & Organizations - LGBTQ+ Community Resources - Library Guides at University of Washington Libraries \(uw.edu\)](#)

Cascadia and UWB mental health resources: [Counseling Center | Cascadia College](#); [Health and Wellness Resource Center | Cascadia College](#)

·Seattle Government LGBTQ+ resources: [LGBTQ Youth Resource List.xls \(seattle.gov\)](#)

·Kenmore Pride Flag Raising - 06/01, 9am [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility | City of Kenmore Washington](#)

·Monroe Pride - 06/09, 12-4pm [Calendar](#) · [Monroe Pride \(monroewa.gov\)](#)

·[Seattle Pride 6/30: 50 years of Pride!](#)
<https://seattlepride.org/events/seattle-pride-parade-2024>

·The Pride in Seattle: 50th Anniversary Art Exhibit, 6/6, 5-10pm [Seattle Pride @ Pioneer Square Art Walk | Events | Seattle Pride](#)

·Pride in the Park: Volunteer Park 06/01, 12pm - 7pm

·Seattle Pridefest - 06/29-30 [Seattle PrideFest](#)

·Woodinville Pride, 06/08, 12-5pm <https://woodinvillepride.org/>

·[Resources for Immigrants and Refugees - King County, Washington](#)

·[Resources for Serving and Protecting Immigrants and Refugees - King County, Washington](#)

·[King County - World Relief](#)

·[Home - Refugee Women's Alliance \(rewa.org\)](#)

·[Home | Northwest Immigrant Rights Project \(nwirp.org\)](#)

·[HOME | Refugee & Immigrant Services Northwest | RISNW](#)

·Refugee Resettlement Services: [DSHS FAct Sheet template Rev. 9-19 \(wa.gov\)](#)

·[Juneteenth 2024 - City of Lynnwood \(lynnwoodwa.gov\)](#)