



San Luis Obispo
Chamber of Commerce
Diversity Committee

Building Stronger Business Communities Through Inclusion and Access

DIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

October ~ November ~ December ~ 2009

4th Quarter - Volume 4

Join us commemorating some of the 2009 diversity celebrations proclaimed by the President of the United States and other "unofficial" entities. Enjoy this newsletter as well as take the time to inform others about the great history involved! Diversity celebrations included in this Newsletter are:*

Diversity Awareness Month
German-American Heritage Month
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month
National Disability Employment Awareness Month
National Mental Illness Awareness Month
American Diabetes Month
National AIDS Awareness Month
National American Indian Heritage Month
All Souls Day
Thanksgiving
1st World AIDS Day
Universal Human Rights Month
Virgin of Guadalupe

October

October Is

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual

History Month &

October 11

National

Coming Out

Day.



Several organizations joined together in 1994 and declared October as National Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month (LGBHM). The celebration is modeled after and is similar in purpose to Black History Month and Women's History Month. LGBHM is designed to "promote the teaching of LesBiGay history in secondary and post-secondary academic setting, as well as within the LesBiGay community and mainstream society" (Lesbian and Gay History Month press release, June 24, 1994). The theme for 1998 is "Find the Facts, Know the Truth".

October was selected because the first and second Marches on Washington for lesbian and gay rights were held in this month in 1979 and 1987. National Coming Out Day (October 11) provided an additional reason for choosing this month. Finally, since October also falls during the academic calendar year, educational institutions are able to participate in LGBHM related activities

Info from: <http://www3.kumc.edu/diversity/other/lgbhist.html>, photo from: <http://www.diversitystore.com>



October Is

German-American

Heritage Month

In the month of October Americans (and some Canadians) commemorate the Germanic heritage element of American (and Canadian) society. About one in four Americans claims to have German ancestors. German-Americans from Adolph Coors to Albert Einstein have made important contributions to both American and world culture. The legendary Brooklyn Bridge was designed by a German-born engineer. The American rockets to the moon were designed and supervised by another German-American. There were Germans among the Jamestown settlers in 1607 and Germans (Prussians, Austrians, etc.) have continued to migrate to the New World until the present day--most notably during the two migratory waves of the late 1840s and from 1880 to 1889.

Info From: <http://german.about.com/od/teaching/a/geramday.htm>. Photo from: <http://german.about.com/od/teaching/a/geramday.htm>



October Is

National Disability

Employment

Awareness Month

This effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment actually began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

Info From: <http://www.dol.gov/odep/faqs/ndeam.htm>

Did you Know?

German-Americans in the American Civil War were the largest ethnic contingent to fight for the Union. More than 200,000 native Germans served in the Union Army, with New York and Ohio each providing ten divisions dominated by German-born men.

Info From: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Americans_in_the_Civil_War



November

November Is

American Diabetes Month

This November, join the American Diabetes Association in a national movement to Stop DiabetesSM.

November is American Diabetes Month®—a time to shine a spotlight on a serious disease that leads to potentially life-threatening complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and amputation.

This year, we need to take a bolder, more audacious approach to American Diabetes Month. Consider that:

24 million children and adults in the United States live with diabetes

57 million Americans are at risk for type 2 diabetes

1 out of every 3 children born today will face a future with diabetes if current trends continue

Info & Photo From: <http://www.diabetes.org/communityprograms-and-localevents/american diabetes month.jsp>

Did you Know?

The glycemic index, or GI, measures how a carbohydrate-containing food raises blood glucose. Foods are ranked based on how they compare to a reference food— either glucose or white bread

Info From: <http://www.diabetes.org/food-nutrition-lifestyle/nutrition/meal-planning/glycemic-index-and-diabetes.jsp>



November Is National AIDS Awareness Month

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the nation's largest non-profit HIV/AIDS healthcare provider which now provides treatment and services for more than 100,000 individuals in 21 countries worldwide in the US, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean and Asia, today mourned the passing of Senator Ted Kennedy (D, MA) who died late Tuesday at his home in Hyannis Port, MA. Kennedy was the second-longest serving member of the Senate in its history (behind Democratic colleague Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia). In his decades-long service in the Senate, Kennedy was an unwavering leader on health care issues, including HIV/AIDS, particularly for poor and marginalized Americans.

Info & Photo From: <http://www.aidshealth.org/?gclid=CPfV4O2U1pwCFShRagod9CbgJg>

Cal Poly's Got It!

Check out the Cal Poly Cultural Connections website

<http://studentaffairs.calpoly.edu/culturalconnections/index.html>



November Is National American Indian Heritage Month

What began at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the First Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States has resulted in the month of November being designated for that purpose...

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state, seeking approval for a day to honor American Indians. On December 14, 1915, Red Fox James presented the endorsements of 24 state governments to the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

Info & Photos from: <http://diversitystore.com> and http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/Heritage/Heritage_History.cfm

December

December is Universal Human Rights Month



A girl performs domestic labour in a rural Mauritanian encampment. The International Labour Organization estimates there are at least 10 million working children in Africa alone.

Info & Photo from: <http://www.un.org/en/rights/>

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (10 December 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris). The Guinness Book of Records describes the UDHR as the "Most Translated Document"[1] in the world. The Declaration arose directly from the experience of the Second World War and represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are respectfully entitled to. It consists of 30 articles which have been elaborated in subsequent international treaties, regional human rights instruments, national constitutions and laws.

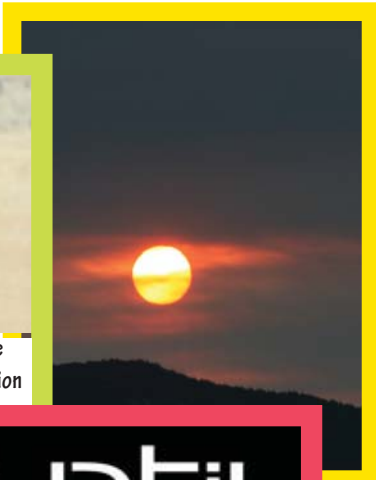
Info From: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Declaration_of_Human_Rights

December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th. In 1999, Pope John Paul II, in his homily from the Solemn Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, during his third visit to

the sanctuary, declared the date of December the 12th as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent.

Info From: <http://www.sancta.org/intro.html>



December is

1st World AIDs Day

In the United States:

An estimated one million people are currently living with HIV in the United States, with approximately 40,000 new infections occurring each year.

70 percent of these new infections occur in men and 30 percent occur in women. By race, 54 percent of the new infections in the United States occur among African Americans, and 64 percent of the new infections in women occur in African American women.

75 percent of the new infections in women are heterosexually transmitted. Half of all new infections in the United States occur in people 25 years of age or younger.

Info & photo from: <http://www.until.org/statistics.shtml?gclid=CM-U5M6h1pwCFSWIagod1EKfGg>

December 22 Winter Solstice

As the Earth travels around the Sun in its orbit, the north-south position of the Sun changes over the course of the year due to the changing orientation of the Earth's tilted rotation axes with respect to the Sun.

The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year, respectively, in the sense that the length of time elapsed between sunrise and sunset on this day is a minimum for the year. Of course, daylight saving time means that the first Sunday in April has 23 hours and the last Sunday in October has 25 hours, but these human meddlings with the calendar and do not correspond to the actual number of daylight hours. In Chicago, there are 9:20 hours of daylight on the winter solstice of December 22, 1999.

Info From: <http://http://scienceworld.wolfram.com/astrometry/WinterSolstice.html>. Photo from Unversity Housing Image Library.

Did you Know?



Altogether 25 popes have officially honored Our Lady of Guadalupe. His Holiness John Paul II visited her Sanctuary four times: on his first apostolic trip outside Rome as Pope in 1979, and again in 1990, 1999 and 2002.

Info From: <http://www.sancta.org/intro.html>

