It’s May! This month's diversity holidays and awareness days include:

**May Day—a.k.a. International Labor/Workers’ Day:** Thursday, 1

Originally in the United States, May 1st was known only as “May Day,” a day to celebrate the end of cold weather and the coming of warm weather. One May Day tradition is for people to dance around a maypole. In some parts of the United States, May baskets are made and filled with treats or flowers to be left at someone’s doorstep. The giver would alert the receiver by either knocking on the door or ringing the doorbell and then running away. If the receiver was quick enough to catch the giver, a kiss would be exchanged.

May 1st is also known as International Labor/Workers’ Day, which celebrates the international labor movement. Throughout the world, it is recognized by organized street demonstrations and marches by workers and labor union members. It is recognized as a national holiday by 80 countries and unofficially celebrated in many others. International Workers’ Day commemorates the 1886 Chicago Haymarket Massacre. While police were dispersing a workers’ strike petitioning for an eight-hour work day, someone threw a dynamite bomb at the police. Chicago police fired into the crowd, killing several demonstrators and police officers. Because President Grover Cleveland feared that celebrating May 1st as Labor Day in this country could be an opportunity to commemorate the 1886 riots, he began supporting the day that the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor promoted during the first parade in New York City, the first Monday in September. Thus, the United States does not officially recognize May 1st as Labor Day, and efforts to switch from September to the international day in May have failed.

For more information, please visit:

- International Labor/Workers’ Day
- Labor Origins of May Day
- May Day
- May Day-A History
- Maypoles and greeneries

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**Cinco de Mayo**: Monday, 5

Cinco de Mayo is Spanish for “fifth of May.” The United States celebrates Cinco de Mayo nationally; Mexico celebrates it regionally. In the United States, it is a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.

For more information, please visit:

- Cinco de May Facts
- Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
- Cinco de Mayo History

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**Armed Forces Week**: Saturday, 11- Monday, 19

**Armed Forces Day**: Saturday, 17

In 1949, after the Department of Defense consolidated the military services and in an attempt to replace separate celebrations, Armed Forces Day was established to honor Americans serving in the five U.S. military branches—the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy. President John F. Kennedy declared Armed Forces Day as an official holiday in 1962. Despite doing so, each branch continues to observe their separate days, especially within the group.

For more information, please visit:

- Armed Forces Day History

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**Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month:** Thursday, May 15- Sunday, June 15

Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome (TS) is a neurological disorder that presents itself early in life as involuntary movements (or tics) of the face, arms, limbs or trunk. Tics can be frequent, repetitive and rapid. Vocal tics may also occur with the involuntary movement and may include throat clearing, shouting, barking or grunting. Each person presents different symptoms and can range from very mild to severe.

For more information, please visit:

- [The National Tourette Syndrome Association](#)

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**Mother’s Day:** Sunday, 11

Anna Marie Jarvis is credited with establishing Mother’s Day. In 1907, two years after her mother’s death, Anna paid tribute to her by giving a white carnation to each member, 500 in all, of her mother’s church, St. Andrews Church in Grafton, W.Va. Anna held a memorial for her mother the following year and then began her mission to have Mother’s Day recognized as a national holiday. In 1914, her quest was achieved when President Woodrow Wilson declared May 9th as the first national Mother’s Day. Not only did the holiday flourish, but so did the sale of flowers, especially carnations. In her attempt to keep Mother’s Day pure, she passionately opposed the commercialization of Mother’s Day and was arrested for disturbing the peace. She protested the sale of flowers and even petitioned against a postage stamp that featured her mother, a vase of white carnations, and the words “Mother’s Day.” Her petition was only slightly successful as only the words were removed from the stamp. Despite her efforts to thwart commercialization, flower and card sales continued to grow. In 1948, Anna died blind, poor, and childless. The greatest irony in her plight, which she never knew, was that her care was anonymously paid for by The Florist’s Exchange.
For those lucky enough to still have your mother, please honor her and Anna Marie Jarvis by taking time to show your appreciation and thank her with a handwritten note.

For more information, please visit:

- Ann Jarvis
- Anna Marie Jarvis
- Mother’s Day
- Mother’s Day Central
- National Women’s History Project

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**Brown vs. Board of Education Anniversary**: Saturday, May 17

This year will mark the 60th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s landmark decision declaring racially segregated schools unconstitutional.

For more information, please visit:

- Supreme Court Opinion
- National Historic Site

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**International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia:** Saturday, May 17

The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) is celebrated every year on May 17th. This day was chosen to honor the World Health Organization’s (WHO) choice to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases in 1990.

For more information, please visit:

- [Day Against Homophobia](#)
- [Homophobia Day](#)
- [National LGBTI Health Alliance](#)

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**Memorial Day:** Monday, May 26

Observed on the last Monday in May, Memorial Day honors all Americans who have died. Originally, it started as Decoration Day, which commemorated fallen Union soldiers of the American Civil War by decorating the soldiers’ grave sites. By the 20th century, Decoration Day was known as Memorial Day and had been extended not only to honor Americans who had served in the U.S. Armed Forces, but to remember all loved ones who have passed.

For more information, please visit:

- [Memorial Day History](#)
- [U.S. Memorial Day](#)

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Asian-American /Pacific Islander Month:

For more information, please visit:

- “8ight degrees/portraits of exceptional people with impact/inductive radiating out”
- Asian Nation
- Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month
- Asian Pacific American History Collective
- Origins of APA Heritage Month
- Pacific Islander’s Cultural Association

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Haitian-American Heritage

For more information about Haitian-Americans, please visit:

- Haitian American Community Association
- Haitian-American Historical Society
- Haitian American Leadership Organization
- Haitian Treasures

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Jewish-American Heritage:

For more information, please visit:

- American Jewish Committee
- Jewish American Heritage Month

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Flags of Asia

Flags of the Pacific Islands
Older Americans Month:

“Unleash the Power of Age” is this year’s theme.

For more information please visit:

- Administration on Aging
- Older Americans Month
- Older Americans Month: Facts and History

For more information on diversity and inclusion or to submit diversity and inclusion ideas, articles, and events, please visit Extension’s Social Justice website or contact me at Tonya.Michael@mail.wvu.edu / 304-293-8948 / 406 Knapp Hall, Morgantown WV 26506.