

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Corner

This Month's Happenings: January 2023

World Braille Day 1/4

[World Braille Day](#), created in 2019 by the United Nations General Assembly, is celebrated in recognition of the birth of Louis Braille, the inventor of braille born in 1809. This day serves as the commencement event for Braille Literacy Month, celebrated throughout the month of January to raise awareness about the importance of braille and braille literacy. Braille is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books/media as those printed in a visual font. In fact, braille is used in nearly every country of the world and there is a braille code for almost every language!



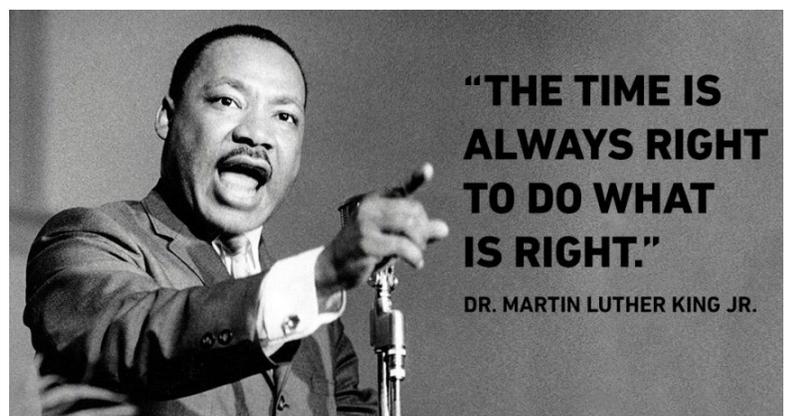
Three Kings Day 1/6

Celebrated in Europe, Spain, and Latin America, '[El Dia de los Reyes](#)' commemorates the glorification of baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men (or Three Kings), twelve days after Christmas. The holiday is celebrated with a feast, gift-giving, and symbolic holiday dessert, Rosca de Reyes (King's Cake). Shaped in a circle and studded with candied fruit and nuts to resemble a king's crown, this sweet bread holds a surprise: a tiny hidden baby Jesus doll. Whoever receives the piece of cake with the baby Jesus is obligated to host an upcoming party for Dia de la Condalaria (Candlemas Day), which occurs on February 2.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1/16

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#), celebrated since 1986 on the third Monday of January, honors the achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist minister who advocated for the use of nonviolent means to end racial segregation. As the most influential civil rights leader of the 1960s, King led the 1963 [March on Washington](#), was instrumental in the passage of the [Civil Rights Act](#), and was awarded the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) in 1964. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968. To meaningfully celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, consider dedicating time to do something, such as giving back to



your community or supporting organizations that fight for racial justice, that honors King's values and his revolutionary place in American history.

Lunar New Year 1/22

The Lunar New Year is a multi-day celebration beginning on the first new moon of the Chinese lunisolar calendar lasting the 15 days following. The celebration is known by many different names in East Asia, a few examples being the Spring Festival, Chinese New Year, and Tibetan Losar. The earliest recorded observance of the Lunar New Year being celebrated was in the 14th Century B.C. under the Chinese Shang Dynasty. It originated as a day to ask the gods for a good harvest in the coming year. The holiday has since evolved into being a time for families to come together to celebrate life, abundance, gods, ancestors, and the welcoming of a new year.



There are many [Lunar New Year traditions](#) practiced by different cultures, like exchanging envelopes, giving offerings to relatives who have passed, and decorating homes with a red theme. Based on an ancient [Chinese legend](#), each Lunar Year bears the name of one of the twelve zodiac animals and is associated with one of five Chinese elements: earth, water, fire, wood, and metal. 2023 is the year of the Rabbit and the element is wood. As togetherness is emphasized during this celebration, Lunar New Year marks the largest annual migration of people, with 3 billion trips expected to happen throughout the 2023 celebration.

Holocaust Remembrance Day 1/27

In 2005, the United Nations passed a resolution to mark January 27th as [International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#) to urge every member nation to honor the many lives lost in the Holocaust. That day was chosen to commemorate the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp on January 27th, 1945. 2023 will be the 78th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust and the liberation of concentration camps. The day serves to promote education about the Holocaust to prevent further genocide, and as such, each year has a theme. The 2023 theme will be "Home and Belonging", aiming to reflect what those concepts meant to persecuted individuals during the Holocaust and its aftermath.

