



THE BRIEN CENTER

Diversity • Equity • Inclusion • Belonging

Your courage, our care.

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

National Arab American Heritage Month takes place in April. It celebrates the Arab American heritage and culture and pays tribute to the contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans. Beginning in the 1990s, Arab American heritage was celebrated sporadically in various states at different times of the year, primarily in school districts. It wasn't until 2017 when Arab America began a national initiative to coordinate all states under National Arab American Heritage Month. On April 30, 2019, Arab American organizations asked Congresswoman Debbie Dingell to issue a congressional resolution proclaiming National Arab American Heritage Month. It was then introduced to the house on April 30, 2019, and then referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. The largest and most promising achievement towards federal recognition of the month of April as the National Arab American Heritage Month was the proclamation published by the U.S. Department of State, which was accomplished on April 1, 2021.



INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

When you're making friends, don't be afraid to ask questions. As a best practice for inclusive language, you should only ask someone about their ethnicity when it is relevant to the conversation or if you are developing a friendship and genuinely want to learn more about this person. Never ask "What are you?," which is offensive and belittling. Instead, you might try "Which country is your family from?"; "Do you speak multiple languages?"; or "Would you feel comfortable telling me a little bit about the history of your country? I'd like to learn more." By asking respectful questions like these, you are expressing to that individual that you are genuinely interested and their lived experience is valued.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

This month starts with World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd, and is dedicated to promoting understanding, acceptance, and support for autistic people. Autism Awareness Month was first observed in April 1970. It was established by the Autism Society of America to raise awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and advocate for individuals with autism. This year's theme is "Celebrate Differences," encouraging understanding and inclusivity for autistic individuals. The 2025 theme highlights the unique strengths and perspectives of autistic individuals, encouraging a shift from viewing autism as a condition to be "fixed" to celebrating the diversity it brings.



DEIB BOOK CLUB

The next book club selection starting on April 14th is "Little Peach" by Peggy Kern. We have the distinct fortune of having the author join us for the three meeting sessions. Sign up by completing the registration link no later than 4/11/25 to participate. This book is a heartbreaking and brutally honest look at child trafficking in New York City.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BookClubApr25>

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?
Contact Us: DEI@briencenter.org