



June 2024

A newsletter from the City of Dubuque's Office of Equity & Human Rights

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Holidays & Celebrations

June 14-19 – Hajj

Each year more than 2 million people make their way to Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, to perform [Hajj](#) (pronounced *Hahj*). All Muslims are required to take this annual sacred pilgrimage at least once in their life if they are physically and financially able. Hajj takes place over six days and includes prayer and reflection while performing rituals such as walking around the Kaaba seven times (see photo at left), drinking from a sacred well, and spending a day of prayer and fasting at Mount Mercy which is revered for being the location of the last sermon given by the Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon him).

June 16-17 – Eid al-Adha

[Eid al-Adha](#), known as the Feast of Sacrifice, is a major holiday for Muslims. The day commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's (Abraham) devotion to God to the point where he was willing to sacrifice his son Ismail (Isaac). The day is celebrated by Muslims with prayer, new clothes, exchanging gifts, and gathering with friends and family.

June 19 – Juneteenth

The Emancipation Proclamation ended slavery in 1863. However, the message wasn't received by all (and not heeded by all) until 2,000 Union troops marched into Galveston Bay, Texas on June 19, 1865. The army was there to make known the executive decree and to enforce the emancipation of the more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in Texas. We celebrate [Juneteenth](#) as the day when the last enslaved African Americans were finally free. See page 4 for some events to join in the celebration of this important day.

June 20 – Summer Solstice or Midsummer

The [summer solstice](#) takes place on the day that the sun is at the furthest point from the equator making it the longest day of the year. It has been a day of celebration throughout ancient history for many cultures. It is still celebrated around the world with outdoor events and gatherings, feasts, and bonfires.

(top): Omer F. Arslan/Unsplash, (bottom): Anthony Crider/Flickr

LGBTQ+ Pride Month



LGBTQ+ Pride Month, celebrated annually in June, is a vibrant and vital observance dedicated to honoring the experiences, struggles, and achievements of the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) community. It commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York City, a pivotal moment in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights and equality.

The Stonewall Uprising began in the early hours of June 28, 1969, when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in Greenwich Village. Such raids were common, as they reflected the widespread discrimination and criminalization of LGBTQ+ individuals. However, on this night, the patrons of the Stonewall Inn fought back, sparking days of protests and clashes with law enforcement. This defiance marked a significant turning point, galvanizing the LGBTQ+ community and giving rise to the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement.

Pride Month is not just a commemoration of Stonewall but also a celebration of the progress made since then. Over the decades, the LGBTQ+ community has made significant strides in achieving legal recognition and protection. Landmark victories include the decriminalization of same-sex relationships, the legalization of same-sex marriage, and the implementation of anti-discrimination laws. These achievements are the result of relentless activism, advocacy, and resilience.

Pride Month is characterized by a myriad of events, including parades, marches, festivals, and educational activities. The colorful and joyous nature of Pride events embodies the spirit of acceptance and love, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

However, Pride Month also serves as a reminder of the ongoing challenges faced by

LGBTQ+ individuals. Despite significant progress, LGBTQ+ people continue to encounter discrimination, violence, and marginalization. Transgender individuals, in particular, face high rates of violence and limited access to healthcare and legal protections. Additionally, in many parts of the world, LGBTQ+ individuals still lack basic rights and face severe persecution. Thus, Pride Month is also a call to action, urging continued advocacy and support for LGBTQ+ rights globally.

The significance of Pride Month extends beyond the LGBTQ+ community. It serves as an opportunity for allies to express their support and commitment to equality and justice. Allies play a crucial role in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, helping to amplify voices, challenge prejudice, and drive legislative and social change.

Educational initiatives during Pride Month are crucial in fostering understanding and acceptance. Schools, workplaces, and community organizations often host events and programs to educate people about LGBTQ+ history, issues, and contributions. These efforts help to dispel myths and stereotypes, promoting a more inclusive and respectful society.

LGBTQ+ Pride Month is a powerful and multifaceted celebration. It honors the legacy of the Stonewall Uprising and the progress made since, while recognizing the ongoing struggles faced by the LGBTQ+ community. It is a time for celebration, reflection, and advocacy, bringing together LGBTQ+ individuals and allies in a unified stand for equality, acceptance, and love. As society continues to evolve, the spirit of Pride serves as a beacon of hope and a reminder that the fight for true equality is far from over.



Photo Credits (top to bottom): Adien Craver/Unsplash; In Lieu In View Photography/Unsplash; Ana Enriquez/Unsplash

Confirmation Bias

Confirmation bias is the human tendency to seek out information that confirms what we already believe. We quickly accept and seek out information that we already believe, and we are skeptical of information that contradicts our beliefs. We all like to be right, and we seek out information that helps us confirm that belief.

Why does Confirmation Bias occur?

Confirming Evidence

We search for evidence in a one-sided way to support our hypotheses or theories.

Biased News & Social Media

We tend to read news that aligns with our perspectives. Also, social media sites use algorithms to show us information similar to what we are already viewing.

Interpretation

We interpret and evaluate evidence in a way that supports our beliefs, and we tend to not change our beliefs even after research disproves them.

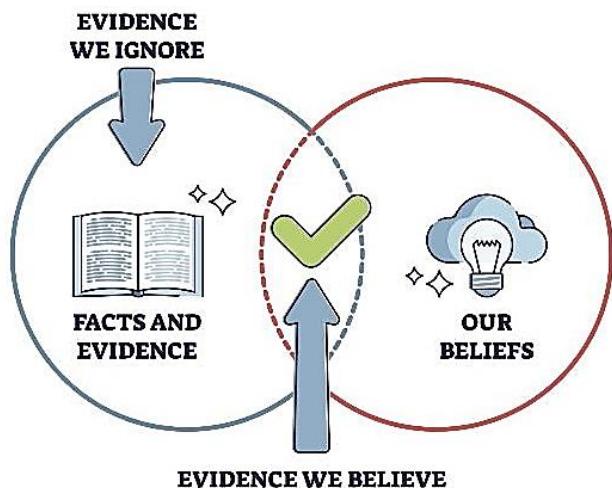
Memory

We tend to remember things selectively, which is especially true for our stereotypes.

Protection

Confirming our beliefs protects our self-esteem. Also, if we identify as being a member of a certain group, we want to protect our place there by following the beliefs of the group.

CONFIRMATION BIAS



How do we stop Confirmation Bias?

- Look at multiple sources for news and information.
- Use logic, analysis, and critical thinking to understand if something is trustworthy.
- Check the source! Who paid for the study? Was the source unbiased or did they have something to gain by the outcome?
- Constantly reassess and reevaluate your beliefs as new information comes out.
- Look at your beliefs and search for ways you might be wrong, rather than ways you're right.
- Look at things from all sides and alternative perspectives.

News & Updates

LGBTQ+ Pride Events



[DBQ Pride Festival](#)

June 1 @ 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
11th St. between Central Ave. and Iowa St., Dubuque

The DBQ Pride Festival is an annual event that features kids' activities, music, drag performers, resource and vendor booths, and food trucks. Let your rainbow colors

shine and come and have some fun while supporting the Dubuque LGBTQ+ community. This event is free, and a free lunch is served while supplies last.

[The Art of Pride: Midwest Queer Perspectives](#)

June 7 @ 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Smokestack

This inaugural exhibition invites LGBTQ+ artists and allies from the area to share their unique creative perspectives on the queer experience in the Midwest. The art embodies the queer experience, challenges traditional boundaries that have oppressed queer individuals, and simply serves as expressions of creativity by LGBTQ+ artists.

[Galena Pride Picnic](#)

June 8 @ Noon – 5:00 p.m.
Grant Park (Galena, IL)

[4th Annual Pride in the Park](#)

June 15 @ Noon – 7:00 p.m.
Platteville, WI City Park

These family-friendly events include live music, food vendors, local artists, all-age appropriate drag shows, and other kids' activities.



[The Hidden Gifts of Visual Thinkers with Dr. Temple Grandin](#)

June 4 @ 7:00 p.m.
Galena Public Library

Dr. Temple Grandin is one of the world's most accomplished and well-known adults with autism. She has been at the forefront of research and activism for autism and neurodiversity for decades. This event features a book reading, signing, and discussion.

Juneteenth Celebration

[Dubuque:](#)

June 14 @ 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Multicultural Family Center

The MFC is kicking off the Juneteenth celebration with an art exhibit featuring African American artists, a spoken word reading, poetry, and music.



June 15 @ Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Jackson Park

This fun filled, don't-miss event will feature music, a raffle, door prizes, and a talent show with cash prizes. Activities include a bounce house, games, and other kids' activities. There will also be resource booths, vendors, food trucks, and black-owned businesses. Free food (while supplies last).

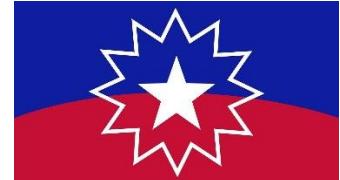
June 16 @ 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Jackson Park

Community prayer and praise to commemorate Juneteenth. Food trucks will also be available.

[Iowa City:](#)

Johnson County Iowa Juneteenth Commemoration
June 14th – 16th (times vary)
Multiple locations throughout Iowa City



This event takes place over three days. The celebration includes a resource fair, food, praise dance, spoken word performance, music, and a fashion show. This family-friendly event is free and open to all.

[Make Music Platteville](#)

June 21 @ Noon – 8:00 p.m.
Platteville, WI – various locations



Join the International Summer Solstice Music Celebration. Virtual stages will appear in backyards, front porches, museums, and parks with a full spectrum of performers.

[Reading Challenge & Book Discussion: White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo](#)

June 30 @ 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Dubuque Carnegie Stout Public Library

