SPREAD AWARENESS

HAPPY PRIDE MONTH

CELEBRATION
In 1969, the Stonewall Inn was one of the most popular gay bars in New York City. Throughout the state it was illegal to serve alcohol to a gay person until 1966, and in 1969, homosexuality was still considered a criminal offense. This led many gay establishments to operate sans liquor license, providing an open door for raids and police brutality. The Stonewall Inn was owned by the mafia, and as long as they continued to make a profit, they cared very little about what happened to their clientele. The police raids on gay bars and spaces were not isolated to the East and West coasts, but were a phenomenon happening across the U.S. during this time.

June 28, 1969: The Full Moon Rises Over Stonewall
During the early morning hours (around 1:15-1:20 a.m.) on June 28, 1969, plainclothes officers from the New York Police Department arrived at the Stonewall Inn. The police justified the raid with a search warrant, authorizing them to investigate the illegal sale of alcohol at Stonewall. Led by Deputy Inspector Seymour Pine, the police entered the establishment and began to interrogate the patrons. The raid was routine for a bar like Stonewall, but this time, events did not unfold according to the inspector’s plans.

While locked inside, the interrogation of patrons and employees continued. Those who had identification were slowly released into the gathering crowd outside, while others were kept inside the bar in preparation for their arrest. The employees and those that were “cross-dressing” were the most visible law-breakers, and therefore the most vulnerable to arrest. Inspector Pine ordered all “cross-dressers” detained, and while a few were able to escape in the commotion, several were arrested. The resistance raged on through the night, with most of the crowds dispersing by 4:00 a.m. on June 28th.

But the uprising was far from over. Word of the Stonewall raid spread quickly throughout the city. By that evening (Saturday, June 28), thousands of protesters had gathered at the Stonewall and in the surrounding area. The protests continued into the next week, with another outbreak of intense fighting occurring on that following Wednesday.

The first Pride march was held on June 28, 1970, the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. Primary sources provide detailed information about how this first Pride march was planned, and the reasons why activists felt so strongly that it should exist. To get planning underway, activists formed the Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee. From the outset, the committee defined its aim of holding a massive march at the culmination of Gay Pride Week (June 22-28). This, the very first U.S. Gay Pride Week and March, was meant to give the community a chance to gather together. Since then, LGBTQ+ people have continued to gather together in June to march with Pride.

SOURCE: HTTPS://WWW.LOC.GOV/ITEM/TODAY-IN-HISTORY/JUNE-28/
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The mission of Pride Center of New Jersey is to provide a safe and welcoming space for all individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ to find support, educational tools, health and education resources, and social opportunities within a community of acceptance. Comprehensive programming in support of this mission includes lesbian, gay, trans and family resources, social groups and free HIV testing.
SINCE 1865

JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY

JUNE 19 / 22

JUNETEENTH IS MY INDEPENDENCE DAY
Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Emancipation Day,” “Jubilee Day,” or “Freedom Day,” is an annual holiday to mark the end of slavery. The holiday’s name is a blending of the words “June” and "nineteenth." Juneteenth commemorates the day in history that Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and informed the enslaved Black people there and others in the state that they were free and that the Civil War was finally won. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was issued almost two years earlier by President Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863, Granger’s arrival and announcement on June 19, 1865, put the Emancipation Proclamation into widespread effect. As a result, over 250,000 enslaved people living in Texas learned that they were finally free.

In 1866, through grassroots efforts Black people in Texas reclaimed June 19 as “Juneteenth” and it continues today as a celebration of Black liberation across the country. Juneteenth has been celebrated by African American people since the late 1800s. Texas was the first state to officially recognize Juneteenth as a holiday in 1980.

In June 2021, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act was signed into law by President Joe Biden, officially making June 19 a federal holiday and giving national recognition to a day commemorating emancipation.

SOURCE:
HTTPS://WWW.ADL.ORG/RESOURCES/TOOLS-AND-STRATEGIES/HONORING-JUNETEENTH?GCLID=CJWKCAJWV8QKBHANEIWAKY-AHOUIMIUKLY3VCURTDPDBZJNMYRIVN_S3JSPZ2KVSMSXITKF7JEJOBOC6PEQAVD_BWE
Digital access to the original Emancipation Proclamation in the National Archives.

A Congressional Research Service report on the history of Juneteenth; federal legislation, presidential statements and other government documents; and additional resources.

A video walk-through of the National Museum of African American History & Culture’s exhibit on Juneteenth, with links to additional objects in NMAAHC’s collection and other visual resources.

Anna Pearl Barrett’s father founded the black community of Barrett Station in southeastern Texas after emancipation. This book tells how the author and her family celebrated the 80th Juneteenth in 1945. Juneteenth by Anna Pearl Barrett

A blog entry by the Library of Congress’s Folklife Today project, including access to audio recordings and photographs from the American Folklife Center’s interviews of former slaves.

An interview with historian Karlos Hill on Juneteenth and the collective memory of slavery.