

# DIVERSITY HOLIDAYS

## October 2023

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month.** This observance was launched in 1945 when Congress declared the first week in October as “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1998, the week was extended to a month and renamed. The annual event draws attention to employment barriers that still need to be addressed.

**LGBTQ+ History Month,** a US observance started in 1994 to recognize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer history and the history of the gay rights movement.

**Global Diversity Awareness Month,** a month to celebrate and increase awareness about the diversity of cultures and ethnicities and the positive impact diversity can have on society.

**Black History Month** in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and The Netherlands.

**Polish American Heritage Month,** celebrated to commemorate the first Polish settlers, and celebrate the history and culture of the Polish community in America.

### SERAMOUNT EVENTS:

**5** CDOC Convening Roundtable (NY) ◆

**18** Work Beyond Summit/ Best Companies Award Gala (NY)

**26** National Disability Employment Awareness Month DBP Member Webinar ●

◆ = For CDOC Members

● = For DBP Members

To learn more, contact [hello@seramount.com](mailto:hello@seramount.com)

**4 St. Francis Day,** feast day for St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, celebrated by many Catholic denominations.

**4 Blessing of the Animals, in congruence with St. Francis Day.** Many Unitarian Universalists have picked up on the Catholic tradition of blessing animals, particularly pets, as St. Francis was known for his special connection to animals.

**6-7 (sundown to sundown) Shemini Atzeret,** a Jewish holiday also known as The Eighth (Day) of Assembly, takes place the day after the Sukkot festival, where gratitude for the fall harvest is deeply internalized.

**7-8 (sundown to sundown) Simchat Torah,** a Jewish holiday, marks the end of the weekly readings of the Torah. The Torah is read from chapter one of Genesis to Deuteronomy 34 and then back to chapter one again, in acknowledgement of the words of the Torah being a never-ending cycle.

**9 National Indigenous Peoples Day,** an alternative celebration to Columbus Day, gives recognition to the indigenous populations affected by colonization.

**9 Canadian Thanksgiving,** a chance for people to give thanks for a good harvest and other fortunes in the past year.

**10 World Mental Health Day.** First celebrated in 1993, this day is meant to increase public awareness about the importance of mental health, mental health services, and mental health workers worldwide.

**11 National Coming Out Day (United States).** For those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer, this day celebrates coming out and the recognition of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.

**15-24 Navratri,** the nine-day Hindu festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. Festival participants worship God in the form of the universal mother, commonly referred to as Durga, Devi, or Shakti, and the event marks the start of fall.

**15-16 (sundown to sundown) Birth of Báb,** a Bahá'í holiday celebrating the birth of the prophet Báb.

**16-17 (sundown to sundown) The birth of Bahá'u'lláh,** the founder of the Bahá'í religion.

**18 International Pronouns Day** seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace. Each year it is held on the third Wednesday of October.

**20 Sikh Holy Day,** the day Sikhs celebrate Sri Guru Granth Sahib, their spiritual guide.

**24 Dasara, Dussehra, or Vijayadashami,** in the eastern and northeastern states of India, marks the end of Durga Puja, remembering goddess Durga's victory over the buffalo demon Mahishasura to help restore dharma.

**24-25 (sundown to sundown) Yom Kippur,** the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, a day of atonement marked by fasting and ceremonial repentance.

**31 All Hallows' Eve (Halloween),** a celebration observed in several countries on the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the three-day observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed.

**31 Reformation Day,** a Protestant Christian religious holiday celebrated alongside All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) during the triduum of Allhallowtide in remembrance of the onset of the Reformation.

**31–November 1 (sundown to sundown) Samhain,** a Gaelic, Pagan, and Wiccan festival marking the end of the harvest season and a celebration of the dead and ancestors.

