

LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

The Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is excited to share the heritage month newsletter to highlight diverse communities. We hope to increase our shared understanding and appreciation of the rich histories, cultures, and people from different heritages. For more information on diverse holidays and celebrations, please visit the [NIH Diversity Calendar](#).

History and Significance

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Pride Month, commemorating the LGBTQIA+ community's identities, experiences, and activism. June was chosen in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, a pivotal moment in the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement. The first Pride marches were held in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in 1970. Despite these critical efforts, the recognition of Pride Month nationally came at a much later time in 1999 when President Bill Clinton declared June "Gay & Lesbian Pride Month." In 2009, President Barack Obama declared June "LGBT Pride Month." Later under President Joe Biden, the month expanded to "LGBTQI+ Pride Month" to be more inclusive of identities.

NYC Pride's theme for this year is "Reflect. Empower. Unite." It highlights the legacy of activists who ignited the LGBTQIA+ rights movement. It provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the progress yet continued challenges faced by the community. The theme also empowers individuals and leaders to advocate for a safer and more just society for LGBTQIA+ community. Today, Pride serves as a celebration and a public act of resistance against hate, affirming LGBTQIA+ identity and community.

Ways to Celebrate in NYC

Here are a few ways to celebrate locally:

- [NYC Pride Events 2024 in New York: Here's How to Celebrate](#)
- [NYC Pride 2024: Guide, Themes and Dates](#)
- [The Best Pride Month Events Happening In NYC This June](#)
- [NYC Pride Events](#)

The Stonewall Uprising

The Stonewall Uprising, also known as the Stonewall Riots or simply Stonewall, started on June 28, 1969, when New York police officers raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar located in Greenwich Village that was a safe haven for many. While the officers were trying to arrest people who they suspected of being gay or dressing in a way that didn't conform to society's gender norms, the employees and patrons resisted arrests and stood up against the officers.

Although the exact moment when the riots started is debatable, people who were there that night agree that transgender women of color (Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera) and a queer woman of color (Stormé DeLarvarie) inspired the other guests to rise up against the police brutality. For the next six days, LGBTQIA+ community, angered by police harassment and social discrimination, fought for their rights and liberation. The Stonewall catalyzed establishment of LGBTQIA+ organizations and newspapers, and inspired future pride marches.

Since the Stonewall, LGBTQIA+ community and allies reflect on the accomplishments and progress made so far in our country and other parts of the world. However, we also recognize that we must continue to advocate to ensure full equal rights and non-discrimination for LGBTQIA+ community, especially now with increasing anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation.

Community Spotlight



Growing up in the Bay Area, Tom Wiley always appreciated science for cultivating his curiosity and as a channel to explain how the world works around him. He briefly debated pursuing his career in the music event production industry. Despite his struggles with his college experience, Tom ultimately decided to get a BS in Biology before moving to NYC.

In 2016, he joined the Smogorzewska lab as a technician, where he was exposed to scientific research firsthand while developing his keen interest in how to best support animals used in research. This passion led him to join the CBC to advocate for the welfare of animals.

After years of contemplating, Tom made a life-changing decision to transition in 2017. This critical step in embracing his identity made him feel happier than was ever possible before. At the time, Tom did not know any other trans folks at Rockefeller. Despite the many challenges of trail-blazing, Tom was convicted to plant possibilities for others to live a life that's truer to themselves.

With renewed self-assurance, Tom decided to pursue his Master's degree. While getting his Master's in the field of Biotechnology from Harvard Extension School, he realized that the inability to be out was the main reason his undergrad experience was so difficult. After his transition, he was able to enjoy his Master's program, where he learned the data science and engineering skills necessary to lead the finance department in the CBC.

Recently, Tom has been noticing cultural shifts toward the trans community at Rockefeller. He appreciates RockOUT and others who try to create a safer and more comfortable campus for trans and other LGBTQIA+ community members. He is looking forward to more opportunities for learning and dialogues. Tom loves the freedom to be himself and be creative with his gender identity and expression—and encourages others to do the same (if safe to do so). He also emphasizes the importance of self-care and doing things you love outside work, which for him are spending time with his cute dogs, Indy and Hilo, and working on carpentry and woodworking projects with his partner Jazz.