



Pride Month occurs in the United States to commemorate the Stonewall riots, which occurred at the end of June 1969. As a result, many pride events are held during this month to recognize the impact LGBTQIAAP people have had in the world.

Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, TX in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops' arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end of slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.

PRIDE MONTH



Zanele Muholi is a South African visual activist and photographer. For over a decade they have documented black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people's lives in various townships in South Africa. Responding to the continuing discrimination and violence faced by the LGBTBI community, in 2006 Muholi embarked on an ongoing project, *Faces and Phases*, in which they depict black lesbian and transgender individuals. Muholi's self-proclaimed mission is "to rewrite a black queer and trans visual history of South Africa for the world to

know our resistance and existence at the height of hate crimes in SA and beyond." These arresting portraits are part of Muholi's contribution towards a more democratic and representative South African homosexual history. Through this positive imagery, Muholi hopes to offset the stigma and negativity attached to queer identity in African society. To learn more visit <https://www.yanceyrichardson.com/artists/zanele-muholi>

"If I wait for someone else to validate my existence, it will mean that i'm shortchanging myself."

~Zanele Muholi

LGBTQ+ Acronym

The "T" in LGBTQ+ acronym represents Transgender individuals. Awareness and recognition around this gender identity has increased rapidly in society in the last decade, however, many folks may not be sure what the term means so PEERS has put together the following information to help spread awareness and increase knowledge across the HYFS family. This is only a small portion of the available information. PEERS welcomes you to continue to learn and grow in your DEI knowledge around gender this PRIDE month.

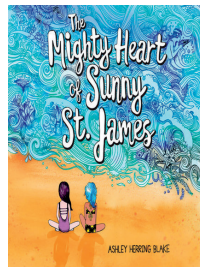
Transgender refers to an individual whose gender identity does not exclusively align with the one they were assigned at birth and includes non binary and genderfluid folks.

- Transition refers to the process where a trans individual takes steps to socially and/or physically feel more aligned with their gender including changing pronouns, clothing, their name, in some cases gender affirming medications and/or surgery. NOT everyone takes all these steps.
- Estimates show that 2 million people in the U.S. identify as trans, genderfluid, or nonbinary according to the Human Rights Campaign. Very likely someone you know self-identifies as trans.
- Normalize pronouns in introductions/greetings as a way to help transgender folks feel more at ease and included in daily life i.e. My name is _____ and I use she/her, he/him, they them.

BOOKS WORTH SHARING



- **The Best At It**
 - From award winning actor Maulik Pancholy comes a hilarious and heartfelt middle grade debut about a gay Indian American boy coming into his own. One of Time Out's "LGBTQ+ books for kids to read during PRIDE month", this is perfect for fans of Tim Federle's Nate series. A Stonewall Honor Book! Rahul Kapoor is heading into seventh grade in a small town in Indiana. The start of middle school is making him feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it. Those four little words sear themselves into Rahul's brain. While he's not quite sure what that special thing is, he is convinced that once he finds it, bullies like Brent Mason will stop torturing him at school. But what is he discovering he isn't the best at anything? Funny, charming, and incredibly touching, this a story about friendship, family, and the courage it takes to live your truth.



- **The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James**
 - Twelve-year-old Sunny St. James navigates heart surgery, reconnecting with her lost mother, first kisses, and emerging feelings for another girl in this stunning, heartfelt novel--perfect for fans of Ali Benjamin and Erin Entrada Kelly. When Sunny St. James receives a new heart, she decides to set off on a "New Life Plan": 1) do awesome amazing things she could never do before; 2) find a new best friend; 3) kiss a boy for the first time. Her "New Life Plan" seems to be racing forward but when she meets her new best friend Quinn, Sunny questions whether she really wants to kiss a boy at all. With the reemergence of her mother, Sunny begins a journey to becoming the new Sunny St. James. This sweet, tender novel dares readers to find the might in their own hearts.

WAYS TO CELEBRATE

- **STL PrideFEST | June 24-25, 2023**
 - <https://www.pridestl.org>
- **Missouri Botanical Garden | June 19**
 - The Missouri Botanical Garden is offering free admission for all in honor of Juneteenth. An interpretive guide will also walk visitors through African Americans' significant contributions to botanical science. Visitors to the Children's Garden will receive an okra plant starter
- **Free Dome | June 19**
 - The St. Louis African American Artifacts Festival and Bazaar (Saint LAA FaB) hosts its inaugural Juneteenth celebration, known as "Free-Dome." Enjoy fare from food trucks and a selective sampling of vendors, as well as live art, dance and more. Check social media for updates on the musical lineup. Fairground Park. 1-7PM
- **Until all of Us are Free | June 6 Busch Stadium Conference Center | 9:00AM - 11:00AM**
 - Diversity Awareness Partnership invites our community to join us for a presentation and discussion about the profound ways in which Juneteenth sheds light on present-day injustices and resistance efforts as well. We hope you will join us to learn more about the history of Juneteenth, examples of direct action and opposition to slavery, and the myriad lessons that we can draw from the past to help us continue working in solidarity with all marginalized communities in 2023 and beyond