

# JUNE

## *Gay and Lesbian Pride Month*

Cities all over the world hold Gay Pride festivities on different dates in the month of June. Many cities choose the weekend closest to June 27-29 so that the celebration will coincide with the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. The Stonewall Rebellion of June 28, 1969 in New York City is widely recognized as the birthplace of the gay rights movement and is commemorated annually in gay communities around the world with pride parades and festivals.

## *June 5: World Environment Day*

By resolution 2994 (XXVII) of December 15, 1972, the General Assembly designated June 5 as World Environment Day, to deepen public awareness of the need to preserve and enhance the environment. That date was chosen because it was the opening day of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm 1972), which led to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Twenty years later, the Assembly convened UNCED in Rio de Janeiro, where nations came together to take the decisions needed to rekindle the hopes of the 1972 Conference and to take up the challenges of a viable and equitable balance between environment and development and a sustainable future for the earth and its people.

## *June 19, 1865: Juneteenth*

In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom for all slaves, but the end of slavery was a slow and localized process because communications weren't what they are today, and in many areas, there weren't enough Union troops present to enforce it. Such was the case in Galveston, Texas. Not until June 19, 1865, did Union soldiers land with news that the war had ended and that all slaves were now free. This news was met with both shock and jubilation, and June 19, or Juneteenth, became the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery.

The remembrance of those festivities became particularly precious to former slaves and their descendants, and has grown today to a worldwide celebration.

## *June 21: National Day of Solidarity for Indian People (First Nations Canada)*