

EOA is thrilled to share our JEDI newsletter! June's JEDI Ambassador is Keith Bush.

JEDI AMBASSADOR

Hello! The months of June and July are packed with events that deserve recognition, celebration, praise, and reflectance. EOA recognized last year's Juneteenth as a holiday following the federal recognition on June 19th 2021. June is also Pride month. The first Nashville pride parade took place in 1988.

- Keith Bush



Juneteenth

Juneteenth is an American holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans and celebrates African-American culture. Originating in Galveston, Texas, Juneteenth has been celebrated annually on June 19th in various parts of the United States since 1865. This was when the announcement of General Order No.3, by Union Army general Gordon Granger, proclaimed freedom for enslaved people in Texas, which was the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery. Juneteenth became recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when president Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. **Click the pictures above and below to learn more**



about how Nashville is celebrating Juneteenth.



Nashville Pride

With the help of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 250 people marched from Fannie Mae Dees Park to Centennial Park for Nashville's first Pride Parade in 1988. Every year the Nashville Pride Festival

features top-rated entertainment on multiple stages, a Kids and Family Zone, a Youth Area, community art, and over 225 vendors featuring local non-profits, artists, and businesses. The festival gained national attention in 2010 when headlining entertainer, Vanessa Carlton, came out to the attendees; she began her set by saying "I've never said this before, but I am a proud bisexual woman". The 2015 festival drew an estimated 15,000-20,000 people, making it the largest gathering since the event began. Then the 2018 Nashville Pride festival boasted 35,000 attendees over a two-day period, with nearly 8,000 marching in the Equality Walk. Records continued to be shattered in subsequent years, with the 2019 festival drawing a record crowd of over 75,000 people for two days of planned events. This year's parade will kick off on Broadway and 8th Avenue at 10am Saturday June 25th. The 2022 Nashville Pride Festival will take place on June 25th from 11am-9pm, and June 26th from 11am-7pm at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in downtown Nashville. **Click the picture above for full festival events and details.**



White Hot: The Rise & Fall of Abercrombie & Fitch

I admit that I do like a good documentary. A recent discovery was "White Hot: The Rise & Fall of Abercrombie & Fitch". It will give you an insight to the unethical and questionable practices in this once mall retail giant Abercrombie and Fitch conquered malls in the late '90s and early 00's with gorgeous models, pulsing dance beats and a fierce scent. But their "all-American" image shattered as exclusionary marketing and hiring practices came to light. **Click the picture to learn more about the White Hot documentary.**

*** If you would like to be a JEDI Ambassador in the future, please email Tracey to reserve a month ***

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