9-20-2021

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion_Sukkot, Bisexual Visibility Day, and more! Email

University of Maine Office for Diversity and Inclusion

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Friends, it's starting to really feel like fall outside, and our student organizations have been hard at work creating opportunities for the campus community to celebrate, learn, and connect with them. You’ll find flyers from many of them below, and I urge you to read them and make an effort to attend some of the exciting events these groups have put so much work into organizing. We are also excited to welcome our work-study staff to the team this week! Staff orientation will be this Friday, and starting next week, you can expect to see folks staffing all three of our centers throughout the business day. Make sure to stop by the centers and meet the new friendly faces working with us!

I’d like to take a moment to highlight an event of interest that builds on something I wrote about a couple weeks ago here. On August 30th, I posted a letter to our Facebook page regarding a reported homophobic assault that took place several days before. In response, a group of students, including Wilde Stein, have organized a rally this Thursday at noon on the campus mall near the library. The purpose is to come together in a show of solidarity and to create a visible reminder that LGBTQ+ folks have been and always will be a vital and treasured part of the University of Maine community, and that hatred, harassment, and violence are not welcome here. Aspiring allies: You are encouraged to join us and add your support to this event, but we ask that you attend simply to listen to the student leaders who are organizing the rally and take your lead from them. As always, this is an opportunity to center the feelings and experiences of LGBTQ+ folks and we should treat it as such. We need solidarity and support now, and I hope we can count on you.

As a somewhat-related side note, Thursday is also Bisexual Visibility Day. Bi+ friends, you are so very valid, whether you are out in all the ways you'd like to be or not. Bisexuality is an enormous and beautiful umbrella encompassing an incalculable number of people and kinds of attraction. As we celebrate our bi+ friends and neighbors, the rest of us must remember that we are not entitled to policing the identities of others or telling them how they should or should not use labels to describe themselves. The most profound act of love one can show another human is to accept them completely, and that means believing them when they tell us who they are.

This week, many of our Jewish friends will be celebrating Sukkot, a harvest festival sometimes known as the Feast of the Tabernacles or the Feast of Booths. As with any other significant religious or cultural holiday, we ask that you be mindful of scheduling important academic or work deadlines, events, or activities during the 5-day celebration. The first two days are particularly relevant, as they are generally considered non-working days, depending on the branch of Judaism one adheres to and the extent to which they choose or are able to observe the occasion.
Lastly, I'd like to share a more administrative update. We frequently share and spotlight events, programs, and information from other campus and community partners in our newsletter, and I'd like to share the new process we're asking folks to follow if they have something they would like to add. A new form has been added to our website at https://umaine.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/newsletter/ which allows folks to upload flyers and share all relevant information with us, including alt text for any images used. For more information on alt text and how to write it, please take a look at the video included in this newsletter. Alt text is an important tool for accessibility, and one many of us fail to utilize. Please also be thoughtful of using tools like QR codes or excessive text on your graphics, as that might not be accessible to all. We are happy to include both your flyer and a block of text with descriptions and links included, so please feel free to make use of both. Please try to submit your events more than a week before they occur to allow for any requests we may have for more information or edits to make your submission more accessible and align with the guidelines put forth by the university. Generally speaking, our newsletter goes out every Monday, so please plan your submission accordingly.

Moving forward, we ask that all that student, campus, and community groups use this link to submit their events to us. This will allow for a more streamlined process and ensure that we have all of the information we need in order to include your program in our publication. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at robert.jackson@maine.edu.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy week to come!

All the best,
Rob Jackson
Staff Associate for Diversity and Inclusion

Understanding Alternative Text, via the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University
LUNCH & LEARN!
LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

Featuring Dr. Stefano Tijerina, Sandra Cáceres Tijerina, M.S., M.Ed., and Academic Advisor and Success Instructor, Silvestre Guzman, M.Ed.

September 30th, 12pm-1pm
Memorial Union 314, Multicultural Student Center

Free Event
All are Welcome

Join the Office for Diversity and Inclusion for a free lunch as we kick off our informal seminar series

"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution."

Contact:
katherine.mccarthy@maine.edu
We're super excited to see you!

SAAM WELCOME BBQ FEST

September 26, 2021
3:00 PM
STEAM Plant lot,
Orono Maine

"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution."
CARIBBEAN AND LATINX STUDENT ALLIANCE PRESENTS

LA FIESTA! PARA HISPANIC / LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

Come celebrate with CALSA while enjoying some delicious free food, amazing music, and even learn a bit about Hispanic and Latinx vibrant culture

September 24, 2021
11:30AM to 1:30PM
on the MLK plaza
B BOLD
Black Bear Outdoor Leadership Diversified
October 23 - October 24

Maine Bound Adventure Center and the Office for Diversity and Inclusion invite you to participate in the Black Bear Outdoor Leadership Diversified (B BOLD) program, a weekend (overnight) full scholarship retreat for Students of Color. We hope to create a comfortable space where students can explore and grow in their leadership skills developed in the outdoor activities.

Scan here for the application!

Contact: beth.jackson@maine.edu or anila.karunakar@maine.edu

*This program is made possible with generous support from the Alton '38 and Adelaide Hamm Campus Activity Fund.
“WHAT is Sukkot? Sukkot (or Succos) is Jewish holiday described in the Torah. In Exodus (34:22) it is called the “festival of ingathering” (a harvest festival), and in Leviticus (23:42-43) we are commanded to dwell in sukkot (booths, temporary shelter) for the duration of that festival, to remind us of our journey from redemption in Egypt to the Promised Land.” via Rabbi John Carrier on YouTube
Wilson Center Wednesdays
FREE vegetarian dinner & dialog | 6-8pm weekly
67 college ave | outside under the big tent

**September 1 | What is Community?**
A conversation with Wilson Center Staff

**September 8 | Tai Chi**
With guest Shiwa Noh | no experience required

**September 15 | The Cosmic Walk**
A walking meditation with Sister Miriam Devlin

**September 22 | Sukkot Celebration**
Learn about this Jewish festival | facilitator TBA

**September 29 | Art by Committee**
A collaborative art project with guest Fred Irons

wilsoncenterorono@gmail.com | https://umaine.edu/wilsoncenter/
THE WILSON CENTER
INVITES YOU TO OUR WEEKLY

MEDITATION GROUP

Thursdays 6-7PM at The Wilson Center
67 College Ave. in Orono

please bring a mask
all are welcome, beginner and expert

RSVPS APPRECIATED - ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE BY REQUEST
WILSONCENTERORONO@GMAIL.COM
SOLIDARITY MEETING

A SAFE PLACE TO FIND SOLIDARITY! A PLACE TO SHARE AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS STUDENTS OF COLOR AT UMAINE

MEETING WILL BE HELD BI-WEEKLY STARTING 9/15/21 AT 2PM SIGN UP VIA ATTACHED LINK

This meeting is offered online for the time being. Students must be physically in Maine to attend.
Fernanda provides a first person account of identity—addressing stereotypes and assumptions, and inviting the audience to dig deeper into the Latinx experience in the United States. Fernanda addresses the role of Latinx people in shaping the culture, politics, and economy of the USA.

Fernanda was born and raised in Chicago, IL by Mexican immigrant parents, and grew up constantly surrounded by the large and diverse Hispanic and Latino community. Fernanda proudly identifies as a part of this community as a Latina, Hispanic, and Mexican American.

This talk was given at a TEDx event using the TED conference format but independently organized by a local community. Learn more at http://ted.com/tedx
Weekly Meetings

Wednesday @ 5pm at the
Multicultural Student Center
3rd Floor, Memorial Union

- Holiday Events and Services
- Jewish Cooking
- Resources and Support
- Shabbat Dinners
- Fun and Games
- Volunteer Opportunities

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To learn more
contact our president at
sarah.meyerwaldo@maine.edu
or message us on facebook
or on Instagram @umainehillel
"What makes me proud to be Hispanic is the sound of my accent, the way my skin changes color in the sun, the history in my blood, the stories of my ancestors that can be seen through their palms and the lines on their foreheads. I am proud to be Hispanic because it is who I am.” — @fashionamused

This Week With Hillel

Sukkot
no experience necessary!

Monday Sept. 20th @ 6pm
Sukkah Build at the Wilson Center

Tuesday Sept. 21st @ 5pm
Harvest Time at the Terrell House

Wednesday Sept. 22nd at the Wilson Center
4pm - Israeli Supper Cooking
6pm - community Sukkot Dinner and Dialogue
8pm - Dinner Clean up

Thursday Sept. 23rd @ 12 noon
Lunch with the Sukkah Mobile on campus
RSVP for bagels!

"UMaine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution."
Asian Student Association
6 - 7 PM every other Friday at Room 312, Memorial Union

WHO WE ARE
We are a student organization who welcomes everyone from different backgrounds to join us for our events.

WHAT WE DO
Join our general meetings for fun games, movie nights, cooking and study sessions. Have fun and make friends along the way!

CONTACT
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abigail.novak@maine.edu

FOLLOW US
Facebook: University of Maine Asian Student Association
Instagram: @asa_umoaine
This email was sent to matthew.revitt@maine.edu

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