



# THE BRIEN CENTER

**Diversity • Equity • Inclusion**

*Your courage, our care.*

## NEWSLETTER

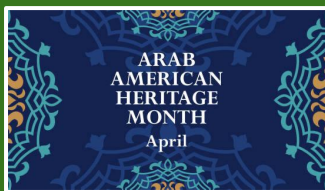
APRIL 2023

### ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

In April we celebrate the rich cultural contributions of Arab Americans. Arab American Heritage Month has been observed during the month of April since 2017. An estimated 3.7 million Americans have Arab roots, according to the Arab American Institute, with ancestries traced to 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and others.

In 2019, U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) and Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan), introduced a resolution to Congress to proclaim April as National Arab American Heritage Month. "It is my hope as a strong and proud Arab American in Congress that our nation can uplift our contributions in the United States by supporting Arab American Heritage Month," Tlaib, a first-generation American, said about the resolution. The bill remains pending.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQdTsPy6KbYdlo6eLnNeunEy-s\\_OFelHA](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQdTsPy6KbYdlo6eLnNeunEy-s_OFelHA)



### INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

"Peanut gallery" is a term used for heckling or unwanted disturbance. It originates from the 1920's when the peanut gallery referred to the back section of theaters, which were the only places that people of color were allowed to sit in at the time. The phrase was meant to poke fun at the idea of people of color engaging in intellectualism.

### NATIONAL REBUILDING DAY

In 1973, a small group of people in Midland, Texas, realized a growing need in their community. Homes in their community had fallen into disrepair and their neighbors could not afford to fix them on their own. The group volunteered their time and skills to rehabilitate the homes of their neighbors. Realizing the potential impact of this work, the group formed with the intent of performing repair and rehabilitation work in their community every April.

News of the group's good work spread slowly, but eventually achieved national recognition. The mission spread beyond the idea of providing service once a year in April to bringing together partners from all walks of life to help our neighbors year-round. They opened a national office in 1988 and became Rebuilding Together.

Today, Rebuilding Together has grown into a premier nonprofit community revitalization organization guided by the following five core values: Community, Teamwork, Diversity, Innovation and Mission.



### HUMAN RIGHTS

The rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled. In response to widespread, horrific violations of human rights in the first half of the 20th century, the international community established The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and international human rights laws that lay down the obligations of governments to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. Human rights are defined by the United Nations as "universal legal rights that protect individuals and groups from those behaviors that interfere with freedom and human dignity."

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?

Contact Us: [DEI@briencenter.org](mailto:DEI@briencenter.org)