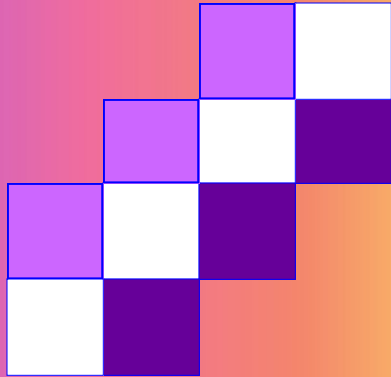


October 2009

University of New Haven  Office of Intercultural Relations



# Cultural Voices

Monthly  
Observances:  
October 2009

**Breast  
Cancer  
Awareness  
Month**

**LGBT History  
Month**

**Domestic  
Violence  
Awareness  
Month**

**National Coming  
Out Day**  
October 11th

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month** is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention and cure. The campaign also offers information and support to those affected by breast cancer.

The first National Breast Cancer Awareness Month program took place in October 1985 as a week-long event to fill the information void in public communication about breast cancer. The founding members—including national healthcare organizations and pharmaceutical companies—distributed brochures, spoke to news reports, and testified before a U.S. Congressional committee about the crucial need for widespread access to mammography.

Today the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month organization is comprised of several national public service organizations, professional medical associations, and government agencies working in partnership to build breast cancer awareness, share information and provide access to screening devices.

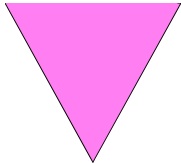
[http://nbcam.org/newsroom\\_nbcam\\_facts.cfm](http://nbcam.org/newsroom_nbcam_facts.cfm)

See page 4 for a list of upcoming Breast Cancer Awareness Month events!

## LGBT History Month

**LGBT History Month** is a month-long annual observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It is observed during October in the United States, to include National Coming Out Day on October 11. In the United Kingdom, it is observed during February, to coincide with a major celebration of the 2005 abolition of Section 28, which had the effect of prohibiting schools from discussing LGBT issues or counseling LGBT or questioning youth.

school history teacher Rodney Wilson. October was chosen by Wilson as the month for the celebration because National Coming Out Day already was established as a widely known event, on October 11, and October commemorated the first march on Washington by LGBT people in 1979. LGBT History Month is intended to encourage honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT\\_History\\_Month](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_History_Month)

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LGBT History Month originated in the United States and was first celebrated in 1994. It was founded by Missouri high

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**I am only one, but still I am  
one. I cannot do everything,  
but still I can do something;  
and because I cannot do  
everything, I will not refuse  
to do something I can do.**

*Edward Everett Hale*

## The Story of Juliette Hampton Morgan

Juliette Morgan was the only child of Frank and Lila Morgan of Montgomery, Alabama. She was a seventh-generation Southerner and a third-generation Alabamian born into a white family with high status in the community. Juliette's parents counted among their friends Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald and Tallulah Bankhead. The Morgans were welcomed into the finest shops, restaurants, galleries and concert halls. Morgan attended the best schools in Montgomery and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1934 with a degree in English literature and political science from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. She went on to get her master's degree there in 1935. Academically, she was in the top five percent of her graduating class. She was a public school teacher, a librarian in Montgomery's Carnegie Library and later served as the director of research at the Montgomery Public Library.

Juliette Morgan was a woman of wealth, status, education and connections. She was an aristocrat of Montgomery society. On the surface, she appeared to be the definitive Southern belle.

One seemingly insignificant thing about Morgan's life separated her from her privileged friends. She had severe anxiety attacks. These attacks prevented her from driving her own car so, to get to work, she rode the city buses in Montgomery. On those buses, she saw white bus drivers "use the tone and manners of mule drivers in their treatment of Negro passengers." She watched them threaten and humiliate black men and women who paid the same 10-cent fare she paid. In 1939, 16 years before the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott, Morgan began writing letters to the *Montgomery Advertiser*, the city's local newspaper, denouncing the horrible injustices she witnessed on the city buses. In these letters, she said segregation was un-Christian and wrong, and the citizens of Montgomery should do something about it. The response was immediate: Morgan lost her job at a local bookstore.

One morning as she rode the bus, Morgan watched a black woman pay her fare and then

*(Cont'd on page 3)*

# Domestic Violence Awareness Month

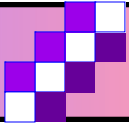
Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the "Day of Unity" in October 1981 conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national levels.

The activities conducted were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.



In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989 the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Such legislation has passed every year since with NCAADV providing key leadership in this effort. Each year, the Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

<http://dvam.vawnet.org/about/index.php>



## Morgan (cont'd.)

leave the front door of the bus to re-enter through the back door, as was the custom. As soon as the black woman stepped off, the white bus driver pulled away, leaving the woman behind even though she'd already paid her fare. Incensed, Morgan jumped up and pulled the emergency cord. She demanded the bus driver open the door and let the black woman come on board. No one on the bus, black or white, could believe what they were seeing. In the days that followed, Morgan pulled the emergency cord every time she witnessed such injustices.

News spread quickly, and bus drivers began to bait Morgan, angering her so she would get off the bus and walk the rest of the way to her destination, sometimes a mile or more. White passengers would mock her as she got off the bus. Her own mother told her she was making a fool of herself and tarnishing the family's good name. Later, Morgan was hired at the Carnegie Library and her life remained uneventful for a time. She was involved in several local activist organizations. In 1946, she joined a controversial interracial women's prayer group where she met black female professionals who shared her passion for literature, music and politics.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery city bus. On December 12, 1955, Morgan wrote the following letter to the editor published in the *Montgomery Advertiser*: "The Negroes of Montgomery seem to have taken a lesson from Gandhi... Their own task is greater than Gandhi's however, for they have greater prejudice to overcome. One feels that history is being made in Montgomery these days... It is hard to imagine a soul so dead, a heart so hard, a vision so blinded and provincial as not to be moved with admiration at the quiet dignity, discipline and dedication with which the Negroes have conducted their boycott."

As she continued writing to the *Montgomery Advertiser*, Morgan began to receive threatening letters and telephone calls, and the mayor demanded the library fire her. While library officials did not fire Morgan, they did tell her she couldn't write any more letters. She promised to comply. She was silent for more than a year. Even though whites opposed to integration were bombing black homes and churches, Morgan restrained from writing letters to the *Montgomery Advertiser*.

On January 5, 1957, Buford Boone, editor of *The Tuscaloosa News*, addressed the White Citizens' Council, a group of local whites adamantly opposed to integration and supportive of segregation as a way of life in the South. Boone said the Council was to blame for the continuing violence. His address thrilled Morgan because, until that moment, she was the only local white person to publicly oppose the White Citizens' Council. She wrote to tell Boone how pleased she was:

*There are so many Southerners from various walks of life that know you are right. ... They know what they call 'our Southern way of life' must inevitably change. Many of them even are eager for change, but are afraid to express themselves – so afraid to stand alone, to walk out naked as it were. Everyone who speaks as you do, who has the faith to do what he believes right in scorn of the consequences, does great good in preparing the way for a happier and more equitable future for all Americans. You help redeem Alabama's very bad behavior in the eyes of the nation and the world. I had begun to wonder if there were any men in the state – any white men – with any sane evaluation of our situation here in the middle of the Twentieth Century, with any good will, and most especially with any moral courage to express it.*

Boone asked Morgan's permission to print the letter in *The Tuscaloosa News*. She was reluctant, of course, because she had promised her employers at the library she would not write any more letters. But she felt a personal responsibility to encourage like-minded whites to confront racism and hoped publishing her letter would cause other whites to take a stand as well. Morgan's letter was published in *The Tuscaloosa News* on January 14, 1957.

Morgan was bombarded by obscene phone calls and hate mail. White people boycotted the library where she worked. They called her an extremist. Teenage boys taunted and humiliated her in public and in front of her staff at the library. A cross was burned in her front yard. Some of Morgan's friends said she was mentally ill and demanded she be fired. Morgan's personal campaign against racism and injustice eventually caused her to become estranged from friends, former students, colleagues, neighbors and even her own mother. Because the library superintendent and trustees still refused to fire her from her job, the mayor withheld municipal funding to the library so her job would be cut. Anxiety and depression overwhelmed her until, on July 15, 1957, she resigned her position at the library.

The next morning, Morgan's mother found her dead in her bed with an empty bottle of sleeping pills by her side. Morgan had left a note that simply said, "I am not going to cause any more trouble to anybody." The toll of feeling alone in her work against

r a c i s m h a d b e e n t o o m u c h f o r h e r .

**Morgan (cont'd.)**

Morgan's many friends, both white and black, arrived at her funeral. Her black friends left, though, when they discovered segregated seating would relegate them to the old slave balcony.

Two months after Morgan's suicide, editor Buford Boone won the Pulitzer Prize for his editorials denouncing the White Citizens' Council.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. recalled Juliette Morgan's influence on him and the Civil Rights Movement in his book, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*. Morgan was the first to draw an analogy between the boycott and Gandhi's practice of non-violent civil disobedience.

Juliette Hampton Morgan was inducted into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame on March 3, 2005, nearly 50 years after her death. On November 1, 2005, the Montgomery City Council voted to rename the main public library after Morgan. Her deeds continue to inspire people across different societal boundaries to work toward equity and justice for all.

Juliette Hampton Morgan was an ally with Alabama's African-American community. Think about how YOU can be an ally for others.

**I Can Be An Ally**

You can be **white** and be an ally with **blacks** to end racism.

You can be **black** and be an ally with **Arabs/Arab Americans** to end racism.

You can be a **man** and be an ally with **women** to end sexism.

You can be **heterosexual** and be an ally with the **gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community** to end homophobia.

You can be **Christian** and be an ally with people who are **Jewish** to end anti-Semitism.

**Make a Personal Choice and Commitment**

I, as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_,  
 want to be an ally with \_\_\_\_\_  
 to end \_\_\_\_\_.

Taken from: <http://www.tolerance.org/activity/juliette-hampton-morgan-white-woman-who->

**A Sample of Upcoming Campus Events**

**Coming Out Day**  
 Sponsored by PRIDE  
 Friday, October 9  
 9 AM to 2 PM  
 Bartels Lobby



**Hip Hop Week: Open Mic Night**  
 Sponsored by NAACP &  
 Wednesday, October 14  
 8 PM  
 Meeting Room A & B

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**  
**Info Table**  
 Tuesday, October 20 and  
 Wednesday, October 21  
 Bartels Lobby



**Rocky Horror Picture Show**  
 Sponsored by PRIDE  
 Friday, October 9  
 6:30 PM  
 Moulton Lounge

**Diversity Thursdays:  
 Cell Phone Charms**  
 Sponsored by Office of Intercultural Relations &  
 NAACP  
 Thursday, October 15  
 4–5 PM  
 Bartels Lobby

**4K for Kay: Breast Cancer Run/Walk**  
 Sponsored by the UNH Women's Basketball Team  
 Saturday, October 24  
 Charger Gym

**"Good Hair" Movie Night**  
 Sponsored by Black Student Union  
 Friday, October 9  
 TBD  
 Connecticut Post Mall, Milford

**Midnight Madness: Breast Cancer  
 Awareness Month Info Table**  
 Thursday, October 15  
 9:30 PM  
 North Campus



**LASA Fiesta:  
 Dominican Republic**  
 Sponsored by LASA  
 Saturday, October 24  
 Time & Location TBD

