



# LGBTQ History

## Moments and Figures



Initially created as a wall for a temporary celebration for Pride, this has evolved into a history document tributing our LGBTQ history and how we contribute to it.



# The Stonewall Rebellion

## Greenwich Village, New York, June 27 1969

Enough was enough. After years of being harassed and denigrated by the police, the LGBTQ people being harassed and arrested in one of the NYPD's raids on gay bars rose up and rioted in protest. Thousands took to the streets in the days and weeks that followed, leading community organizations to form globally, and the first Gay Pride march to mark the uprising one year later. It was the start of the modern LGBT rights movement.

In June 2016, The Stonewall Inn and the Christopher Street Park became the nation's first National Monument dedicated for an LGBTQ historic site, and was the site of WorldPride 2019, marking the 50th anniversary of the event.



# Marsha P. Johnson (1945-1992)

Drag Queen, Activist, Co-Founder of S.T.A.R.

*"If a transvestite doesn't say I'm gay and I'm proud and I'm a transvestite, then nobody else is going to hop up there and say I'm gay and I'm proud and I'm a transvestite for them." Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation, 1972*

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Marsha P. Johnson - the P, she said, stood for "Pay It No Mind" - was credited as the queen who threw a shot glass and exclaimed "I got my civil rights!" during the Stonewall Uprising. Johnson - along with her friend Sylvia Rivera - created the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) House, serving as "drag mother" to provide food, clothing, and a family for the young drag queens, trans women, and queer youth.

Among the many posthumous accolades she received, Johnson will be among the first transgender people in the world to receive a statue in their honor. In August 2020, New York State renamed East River State Park in her name, the first transgender person to receive such an honor in the nation.



# Barbara Gittings (1932-2007)

## Activist, Daughters of Bilitis Organizer, Library Advocate

*"As a teenager, I had to struggle alone to learn about myself and what it meant to be gay. Now for [48] years I've had the satisfaction of working with other gay people all across the country to get the bigots off our backs, to oil the closet door hinges, to change prejudiced hearts and minds, and to show that gay love is good for us and for the rest of the world too. It's hard work--but it's vital, and it's gratifying, and it's often fun!"*

American Libraries Interview, 1999

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Known as the mother of the LGBTQ civil rights movement, Gittings was a leader in the nation's earliest gay and lesbian protests, picketing outside of the White House and Justice Departments in 1965. Her lifetime was devoted to advancing queer literature in the nation's libraries and normalizing the LGBTQ community to a skeptical public. After meeting with Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, she started a chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis in New York. In 1970, she was among the first out lesbians on television when she appeared on The Phil Donahue Show.

In 1972, she paneled a discussion with the American Psychiatric Association on homosexuality. The meeting led the APA to remove homosexuality as a mental disorder in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual a year later.



# Pedro Zamora (1972-1994)

Television Personality, AIDS Educator, Advocate

*"If you want to reach me as a young man – especially a young gay man of color - then you need to give me information in a language and vocabulary I can understand and relate to."*  
*Statement to Congress, 1993*

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After being diagnosed with HIV after turning 17 years old, Zamora dedicated his life to AIDS education. At the time, education about the epidemic was still clouded in misunderstanding and judgement. Zamora went on to join the cast of MTV's "The Real World" in 1994, becoming one of the first openly gay and HIV+ people on TV, using the opportunity to continue his amazing work to demystify LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS issues. His commitment ceremony to Sean Sasser was also the first same-sex marriage on television, a landmark in the medium.

Zamora was posthumously recognized by President Bill Clinton and is the namesake of various HIV/AIDS organizations and scholarships nationally.



# The Great March

## National Mall, Washington DC, October 11 1987

In 1986, Steve Ault & Joyce Hunter wanted to hold an event after the moderate success of their National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in DC on October 14th, 1979. But with the multiple crisis of AIDS, Reagan's apathy, and a SCOTUS decision against consensual same sex couples, Ault and Hunter felt that a new march could nationalize the LGBTQ movement, rather than keeping them isolated in many cities across the nation. On October 11th, 1987, the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was held with acts of civil disobedience, mass weddings, and the reveal of the AIDS Quilt. In addition to its incredible size and scope, it also propelled the Bisexual Movement, as the march drew great attention to that community.

Activists Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary commemorated the event by establishing October 11th, 1988 as the first National Coming Out Day. October soon after became LGBT History Month. On April 25th, 1993, the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation became one of the largest protests in US history, with 1 million in attendance.



# Harvey Milk (1930-1978)

## San Francisco Board of Supervisors, 5th District

*"The only thing [young gay people] have to look forward to is hope. And you have to give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow, hope for a better place to come to if the pressures at home are too great. Hope that all will be alright." The Hope Speech, 1977*

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When he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in December 1977, Milk - known locally as "The Mayor of Castro Street" - gained national attention as the first non-incumbent openly LGBTQ politician elected to office in the nation. In his brief 11 months as Supervisor, Milk helped to defeat California Proposition 6 - a proposal to purge all LGBTQ educators from the state's school systems - and helped to ban discrimination on the basis of sexuality.

In addition to being the first LGBTQ politician honored on a US Postal Stamp, and having a terminal named in his honor at San Francisco International Airport, Milk was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2009.



# Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002)

Drag Queen, Activist, Co-Founder of S.T.A.R.

*“I’m glad I was in the Stonewall riot. I remember when someone threw a Molotov cocktail, I thought: ‘My god, the revolution is here. The revolution is finally here!’ I always believed that we would have a fight back. I just knew that we would fight back. I just didn’t know it would be that night.” Workers World essay, 1998*

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Rivera - with her best friend Marsha P. Johnson - started the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), offering services for the homeless queer youth of Christopher Street. A controversial figure in life, Rivera - called “The Mother of the Gays” - was a fearless activist for gay and later more trans-specific legislation, fighting for the “Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act”, “New York City Transgender Rights Bill” and for a trans-inclusive “New York State Sexual Orientation Non Discrimination Act”.

Rivera was also vocal about organizations that did not speak out for transgender people, people of color, or drag queens, who she felt were often overlooked in the fight for equality.



# Willem Arondeus (1894-1943)

## Artist, Author, Dutch Resistance Fighter

*"Tell the people that homosexuals are not by definition weak." Final words, 1943*

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Arondeus was an openly gay Dutch artist and author who joined the Dutch movement against the Nazi occupation in Amsterdam. In addition to publishing underground periodicals for rebels and forging identities for Jewish civilians, Arondeus collaborated with other openly gay resistance fighters on nighttime attack on a registration office that kept tabs on the occupied Dutch people.

After being arrested, he took full responsibility and was proud of his defiance against evil. In addition to being honored by the Dutch government, he was declared Righteous Among the Nations, an honor used to describe people who put themselves at risk to defend the Jews during the Holocaust. To this day, the attack is seen as a powerful act of Dutch resistance to fascism.



# Glenn Burke (1952-1995)

## MLB Outfielder, Los Angeles Dodgers and Oakland Athletics

*"They can't ever say now that a gay man can't play in the majors, because I'm a gay man and I made it." Philadelphia Inquirer interview, 1995*

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The outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Oakland Athletics from 1976 to 1979, Burke was the first Major League Baseball player to disclose his homosexuality to his teammates. His fellow teammates accepted him warmly as the heart of the team, despite rampant homophobia from the general managers and leadership who wanted him to marry a woman so they could market him as "the next Willie Mays". Frustrated, he retired from the MLB at 27 years old, though, he continued playing baseball and participated in the Gay Olympics.

During the October 2nd, 1977 MLB game, he ran over to Dusty Baker - who had scored a home run - with an upright hand. Unsure of what to do, Baker slapped it, effectively inventing the "High Five". Burke would later use the High Five in the Castro, which became a symbol of gay pride and identification.



# Jack Baker (b. 1942) and Michael McConnell (b. 1942)

## Marriage Equality Activists, Attorneys

*"Our marriage is all about the power of love. Sometimes it takes a while, but in the end, love always wins." LGBTQ Nation interview, 2019*

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In 1967, when homosexuality was still considered a mental illness and sodomy laws kept the LGBTQ community on the fringes of society, Baker (r) proposed to his fellow law school boyfriend McConnell. In 1970, they went to a courthouse in Minneapolis to apply for a marriage license, where they were denied. While they took their case to the Supreme Court, they were featured as "The Homosexual Couple" in Look Magazine's profile on "The American Family".

In February 2019, their marriage - made through legal loopholes - was retroactively legalized, making their 48 year union the longest running same-sex marriage in the modern world, and the first official same-sex marriage in America. Their marriage is also the earliest same-gender marriage ever to be recorded in the public files of any civil government.



# Robert Duncan (1919-1988)

Poet, Professor, Bohemian

*"...[T]he starting point is clear, that they must recognize homosexuals as equals, and, as equals, allow them neither more nor less than can be allowed any human being. There are no special rights." The Homosexual in Society, From the journal Politics, 1944*

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A bohemian and San Francisco-based poet, Duncan notably wrote *The Homosexual in Society* in 1944. Although he has made his sexuality public in order to avoid being drafted into World War II, the essay was a historic first, a treatise on the plight of homosexuals in America a full decade before the first civil rights organizations for LGBTQ people formed.

The controversy behind the essay also made Duncan the first prominent American to come out as gay. Duncan later went on to become a professor, the writer of *The Opening of the Field* (1960), *Roots and Branches* (1969), and *Bending the Bow* (1968); and a key figure in San Francisco's art and poetry renaissance.

Today, he is considered one of the most influential poets of postwar America.



# Matthew Shepard's Legacy

Laramie, Wyoming, October 12 1998

The brutal circumstances around the death of 21 year old University of Wyoming student Matthew Wayne Shepard was a watershed moment in the LGBTQ rights movement, shining a light on much-needed anti-hate legislation. His parents, Judy and Dennis Shepard became prominent LGBTQ advocates, starting a foundation in their son's name devoted to outreach, education, and advocacy.

In the years that followed; books, movies, plays, and shows including "The Laramie Project" have examined this tragedy and its impact on society. Shepard is the namesake of a 2009 anti-hate crime act signed by President Obama, and his ashes were interred at Washington National Cathedral in 2018, the first national figure since Helen Keller fifty years prior to receive this honor.



# Mark Bingham (1970-2001)

Public Relations Executive, 9/11 Hero

*"Gay men weren't always wallflowers waiting on the sideline. We have the opportunity to let these other athletes know that gay men were around all along - on their little league teams, in their classes, being their friends. This is a great opportunity to change a lot of people's minds." Email to teammates, Summer 2001*

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Bingham, a public relations executive and gay rugby league player, was on his way to his fraternity brother's wedding when four hijacker stormed the cockpit of United 93 on September 11th, 2001. Aware that two other hijacked planes had deliberately crashed into the World Trade Center, Bingham and the other passengers were captured on audio planning to retake the plane by force. During the battle, the panicked terrorists intentionally crashed the plane into a field outside Shanksville, PA., and the sacrifice of the passengers likely saved thousands more in Washington, DC.

Among the many posthumous honors Bingham received is the biennial Bingham Cup, an international tournament for gay rugby players. He also won the Arthur Ashe Courage Award.



# RuPaul (b. 1960)

## Drag Queen, Television Personality, Singer

*“The matrix says, ‘Pick an identity and stick with it. Because I want to sell you some beer and shampoo and I need you to stick with what you are so I’ll know how to market it to you.’ Drag is the opposite. Drag says, ‘Identity is a joke.’ ABC News, 2016*

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With a career spanning four decades, RuPaul Andre Charles is the most commercially successful and most recognizable drag queen in the world. Starting out in New York’s underground scene, RuPaul became a hit singer with “Supermodel (You Better Work)”, the first drag queen to headline a cosmetics line, a talk and morning radio host, and actor. In 2009, RuPaul found renewed success as the host and judge of the award-winning “RuPaul’s Drag Race”, which has pushed drag culture to the mainstream of pop culture, revolutionized depictions of LGBTQ people in media, and has inspired conventions for people of all ages to play with gender and express themselves however they wish.

In 2021, RuPaul became the most decorated person of color after winning his eleventh Emmy Award for Best Host, a record in that category as well.



# Ellen DeGeneres (b. 1958)

## Comedian, Talk Show Host

*"So you should be proud of being different, proud of who you are... The most important thing I wanna say is just really embrace who you are because being unique is very, very important and fitting in is not all that matters. It's being unique and being who you are."*  
*Teen Choice Awards Speech, 2015*

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DeGeneres was already an accomplished stand-up comedian and TV star when she made the decision to come out on The Oprah Winfrey Show in 1997. At the same time, 42 million Americans tuned in to watch her character also come out on her eponymous sitcom, making the groundbreaking episode one of the most watched events of the decade. Unfortunately, the backlash that followed derailed DeGeneres' career.

In 2003, she started a massively successful daytime talk show empire, winning countless awards for her illustrious career and activism. She received the Mark Twain Prize for comedy in 2012, and Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016.



## Mychal F. Judge, O.F.M. (1933-2001)

Franciscan friar, FDNY Chaplain, 9/11 hero

*"Is there so much love in the world that we can afford to discriminate against any kind of love?" Judge on the church stance against LGBTQ people, unknown.*

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An openly gay friar, Father Mychal Judge was well-known in the community for his compassion for humanity. Whether it was his work finding homes for the homeless and immigrants, working to change religious doctrine on the LGBTQ community, being open about previous battles with alcoholism, or praying with AIDS patients at the height of the epidemic, Judge was selfless, good-humored, and already beloved by New Yorkers who knew of him.

On September 11th, 2001, Judge - who was serving as FDNY Chaplain - died while praying with and caring for victims in the lobby of One World Trade Center. When he was recovered, he was listed as the first confirmed casualty of 9/11.

In additions to international honors and memorials, Judge has been universally praised as the "Saint of 9/11".

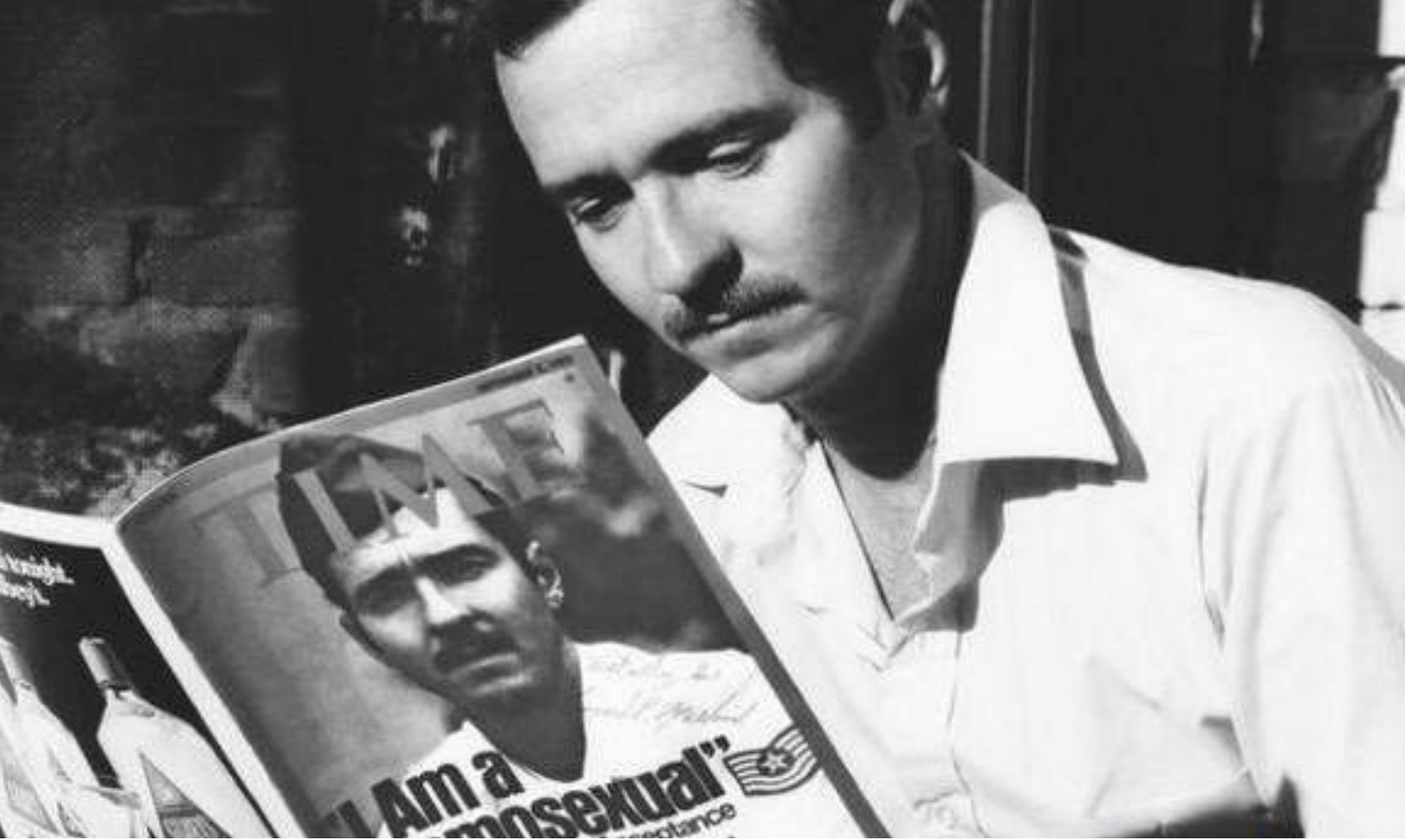


# Paris Is Burning

New York City Premiere, March 13 1991

In the summer of 1985, NYU film student Jennie Livingston was intrigued by the moves and slang of two young men in Washington Square Park, Manhattan. They said it was called “voguing”. From there, Livingston spent seven years documenting the ball culture, from interviews with Venus and Danni Xtravaganza, Dorian Corey, Pepper and Junior LaBeija, Octavia St. Laurent and Willi Ninja; to the filming of the 1986 Paris Is Burning Ball. Upon its release from September 1990 to March 1991, the film became a cultural touchstone. Viewers were introduced to African-American and Latinx queer and transgender culture, drag, dance, and the challenges faced.

Today, it is still referenced in LGBTQ culture, was added to the National Film Registry, has received numerous awards, and remains an important work of queer art.



# Leonard Matlovich (1943-1988)

## USAF Technical Sergeant, Activist

*"When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one." - A Gay Vietnam Veteran, Leonard Matlovich's epitaph in Washington DC, 1988.*

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A Vietnam War veteran and race relations instructor, Technical Sergeant Matlovich became the first serviceman in the US military to out himself as gay. In a 1975 Time Magazine piece - the first time an LGBT person was featured on the cover of a national magazine - he challenged the military ban on gay soldiers.

Forced to resign, he was honorably discharged for his stellar record and went on to become a prominent LGBT and HIV/AIDS activist. Before his death, he commissioned "A Gay Vietnam Veteran" his gravestone that would also serve as a permanent monument to all LGBTQ service members in the Congressional Cemetery.



# James Baldwin (1924-1987)

Essayist, Novelist, Activist

*"Best advice I ever got was an old friend mine, a black friend, who said you have to go the way your blood beats. If you don't live the only life you have, you won't live some other life, you won't live any life at all. That's the only advice you can give anybody. And it's not advice, it's an observation. - Village Voice Interview, 1984*

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Baldwin remains one of the preeminent writers and activists of the 20th Century, with works that focused on social and psychological pressures affecting African American and gay men.

He wrote works deemed controversial on gay acceptance as early as 1956. Baldwin - who also wrote "Go Tell It On The Mountain", "If Beale Street Could Talk", and "Notes On A Native Son" - was an inspirational figure to his literary peers as well as actors, activists, singers, and artists of the time and now. He was posthumously honored with a US Postage Stamp in 2005.



# Pauli Murray (1910-1985)

Activist, Lawyer, Episcopal Priest

*"Don't get mad, get smart," Song in a Weary Throat: Memoir of an American Pilgrimage, 1987*

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Motivated by years of facing prejudice - including coining the term "Jane Crow" when they were denied acceptance to Harvard, President John F. Kennedy appointed Murray - the first Black person to receive an SJD from Yale Law School - to the Committee on Civil and Political Rights as a part of his Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. In the early 1960s, Murray worked closely with A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, and Martin Luther King but was critical of the way that men dominated the leadership of these civil rights organizations.

Murray joined Betty Friedan and others to found the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966, but later moved away from a leading role because they did not believe that NOW appropriately addressed the issues of Black and working-class women. Throughout her life, they struggled with their gender and sexual identity, with many retroactively listing them as transgender.

In addition to their home being listed as a National Historic Landmark, and a documentary on their life premiered at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival.



# José Julio Sarria (1922-2013)

Drag Empress, San Francisco Board of Supervisors Candidate,  
Founder of Imperial Court System

*"God save us queens - and lesbians too! From every mountainside, long may we live or fly.  
God save us nelly queens, God save us queens!" Song performed by Sarria*

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After a successful military career and seeing his dreams of being a teacher dashed by a homophobic arrest, Sarria began performing opera in drag at the legendary Black Cat Bar, as the beloved "Nightingale of Montgomery Street".

An unapologetic activist, Sarria became the first openly gay American to run for public office when he ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1961. Though he did not win, it signaled to the city that the gay community was a real and powerful voting bloc in the city. He soon established the Imperial Court, a foundation for various causes across North America. Claiming to already be "a queen", he established himself as the Absolute Empress of San Francisco (a tribute to local legend Joshua Norton, the Emperor of the United States).

Upon his passing, Sarria was honored with an imperial drag themed funeral, complete with local dignitaries and a full military honor.



# Audre Lorde (1934-1992)

Writer, Feminist, Activist

*"I have a duty to speak the truth as I see it and share not just my triumphs, not just the things that felt good, but the pain, the intense, often unmitigated pain. It is important to share how I know survival is survival and not just a walk through the rain." The Transformation of Silence into Language & Action, 1980*

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The self-described "black lesbian mother warrior poet", Lorde started out as a librarian before becoming an outspoken poet, who was candid about everything from sexuality and gender to her personal battle with breast cancer. In addition to serving as New York State Poet Laureate, she called her friend Barbara Smith and encouraged her to found "Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press", the first U.S. publisher by, for, and about women of color.

Lorde is the namesake of two major New York LGBTQ organizations: the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, and the Audre Lorde Project in Brooklyn.



# Lana (b. 1965) and Lilly (b. 1967) Wachowski

Visionary Film/Television Directors, Writers, Producers

*"There's a critical eye being cast back on Lana and I's work through the lens of our transness. This is a cool thing because it's an excellent reminder that art is never static. And while the ideas of identity and transformation are critical components in our work, the bedrock that all ideas rest upon is love." Lilly Wachowski (l.), GLAAD Media Awards, 2016*

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The Wachowskis are pioneering screenwriters and filmmakers who explore LGBTQ themes and inclusivity in their projects. Their best known work, 1999's Oscar-winning cyberpunk thriller "The Matrix", is often cited as one of the greatest films ever made and was selected for preservation by the Library of Congress.

After they both came out, their film is now considered to be the most influential work of art created by transgender people. In 2015, they gathered an international and highly diverse cast for their acclaimed Netflix series, "Sense8" that featured various groundbreaking LGBTQ characters and storylines.



# The Orange Juice Boycott

Des Moines, Iowa, October 14 1977

In early 1977, Miami-Dade County joined 40 other cities in passing LGBT non-discrimination ordinances in a growing movement for civil rights. But for Anita Bryant - a singer and spokeswoman for the Florida Citrus Commission - it was the start of a culture war. Starting in Miami-Dade, where her former friend sponsored the bill, Bryant and her conservative supporters crossed the country in efforts to pass anti-gay legislation. Angered, the LGBT community organized a boycott of Florida orange juice in all LGBT establishments nationally.

By that October, she was infamously pied in the face by gay nurse and protestor Thom L. Higgins in Des Moines, IA. The boycott - which drew mockery from celebrities - a divorce that caused a rift with her supporters, and financial troubles led to her being dropped as spokeswoman in 1980. Despite her career decline, she is still a symbol of intolerance in the LGBTQ community.



# Christine Jorgensen (1926-1989)

## Pioneer, Tabloid Star, Nightclub Singer

*"I am very proud now, looking back, that I was on that street corner 36 years ago when a movement started. It was the sexual revolution that was going to start with or without me. We may not have started it, but we gave it a good swift kick in the pants!" Denmark speech, 1989*

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A World War II veteran, Christine Jorgensen was a pioneering transgender woman who became an instant celebrity following a New York Daily News front page piece in 1952. Nationally known for her wit and directness, she became a TV, radio, and personality, a writer, and an activist; often using her public appearances to shift the narrative on gender and sexuality.

Jorgensen's contributions also helped shape what it means to be openly transgender and non-binary by urging others to change their names and sex on their identification.



## Billie Jean King (b. 1943)

Tennis Legend, Feminist, Activist

*"You are going to make it, but the most important thing is, I think, is first you gotta feel safe, and you need to have allies with you, [those who] look at the person, look at their heart, look at their inner success and really go from there, no matter what their sexual orientation is." - Message for LGBTQ youth, NBC News, 2017*

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At the age of 29, Billie Jean King, a feminist and high-ranking tennis player, saw an opportunity: a nationally televised publicity stunt match against the chauvinistic 55 year old tennis superstar, Bobby Riggs. The match - known as the "Battle of the Sexes" - ended with King beating Riggs and cementing women as serious contenders in sports.

Outed in 1981, it took her over a decade to feel comfortable with her identity and become an LGBTQ activist. In addition to being the inspiration for Elton John's "Philadelphia Freedom", King has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Time's Woman of the Year, and has the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows named in her honor as one of the greatest tennis players ever.



# Moms Mabley (1894-1975)

Comedian, Actress, Singer

*"Black women, white women - all of them. I'm colorblind. I don't know the difference. I only know you're a human being and you're my children." During the filming of Amazing Grace, 1975*

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Born as Loretta Aiken, Jackie "Moms" Mabley was a groundbreaking stand-up who started out on the "Chitlin' Circuit", which provided talent opportunities for African Americans across the racially segregated nation. At 27 years old, Moms became one of the first openly gay comedians, unapologetically talking about her romantic life and dressing androgynously in the 1930s and 40s. By the 1960's, she was billed as the "Funniest Comic in the World", appearing on mainstream TV shows with an acerbic take on edgy topics, including race and sexuality in the persona of a wise-cracking grandma.

At 75 years old, Mabley became the oldest living person ever to have a US Top 40 hit. Mabley has been cited as an inspiration and trailblazer for many top comedians today.



## Laverne Cox (b. 1972)

Actress, Advocate, Trailblazer

*“[T]here is a preoccupation with [...] transition and surgery [that] objectifies trans people. And then we don’t get to really deal with the real lived experiences. The reality of trans people’s lives is that so often we are targets of violence. We experience discrimination disproportionately to the rest of the community. Our unemployment rate is twice the national average; if you are a trans person of color, that rate is four times the national average. The homicide rate is highest among trans women. If we focus on transition, we don’t actually get to talk about those things.” Interview with Katie Couric, 2014*

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After rising to prominence in a breakout role on Netflix’s “Orange is the New Black”, Cox broke ground in various ways: she was the first openly transgender person to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy for acting, She is the first openly transgender person to be on the cover of Time and Cosmopolitan magazine, be nominated for a Primetime Emmy, and have a wax figure in Madame Tussauds, as well as the first openly transgender woman to win a Daytime Emmy as an Executive Producer.

As an advocate, she has worked with various LGBTQ organizations and has been a leader in advancing the national conversations around transgender issues.



# Dr. Tom Waddell (1937-1987)

Physician, Sportsman, Gay Games Founder

*"I believed that I wasn't sick, that my feelings were quite normal if not accepted by most of society. I decided that was their hang-up and not mine." Tom Waddell coming out as gay in 1976 People magazine story.*

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At the age of 15, Tom Waddell was encouraged by his guardians - former vaudeville acrobats - to become a gymnast. But in college, he switched to pre med after the sudden death of his best friend. He became a doctor while also fighting for civil rights, even going to protest in Selma, AL. When drafted, he was sent to prepare for the decathlon to represent the US in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. He placed 6th and broke several of his own records before being discharged from the military, moving to San Francisco to open a medical clinic.

In 1982, Dr. Waddell was inspired by a gay bowling league to found the first Gay Olympic Games, a now-major global sports event. The Gay Games are held every four years and - in an effort to destigmatize AIDS - he won the gold in Javelin during Gay Games II in 1986, a year after his diagnosis. The games' highest honor is named after him.



## Pete Buttigieg (b. 1982)

US Secretary of Transportation, Former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Military Officer

*"[...] But the true compass that will have guided us there will be the basic regard and concern that we have for one another as fellow human beings – based not on categories of politics, orientation, background, status or creed, but on our shared knowledge that the greatest thing any of us has to offer is love." Essay, 2015*

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By the age of 29, Pete Buttigieg had graduated top of his class from Harvard, was a Rhodes Scholar, and had joined the US Navy when he was elected mayor of the small town of South Bend, IN. After his reelection and inspired by the pending decision of the legality of same-sex marriage in the United States, Buttigieg publicly came out in an essay in his local paper.

With his school teacher husband Chasten in tow, "Mayor Pete" launched a grassroots campaign to become the first openly gay US President. In February 2020, he became the first openly LGBTQ person to win a US Presidential primary or caucus. A year later, he was sworn in as the first openly gay cabinet member confirmed by Congress as Transportation Secretary.



# The Briggs Initiative

Briggs/Milk Debate, Walnut Creek, California, September 15 1978

The successful repeal of Miami-Dade County's pro-gay legislation by Anita Bryant and her followers inspired a conservative with aspirations for the California Governor's mansion. State Sen. John Briggs used the Miami-Dade case to write California Proposition 6, the first attempt to restrict gay rights through a statewide ballot measure. The Briggs Initiative, as it was called, would have barred any openly LGBTQ teachers and their supporters from holding teaching roles in California.

The bill and its initial support from residents led to a massive "No On 6" movement. Led in part by Supervisor Harvey Milk, gays and lesbians came out of the closet en masse in an effort to show the people that their loved ones would be affected. Harvey Milk would go on to debate John Briggs at Northgate High School (above).

It even led to the formation of the Log Cabin Republicans - a group of openly gay conservatives in opposition to the bill. It also had bipartisan opposition, including from President Jimmy Carter and former CA Gov. Ronald Reagan, who penned an op-ed in the San Francisco Chronicle in September 1978. The bill was defeated in a landslide at the polls, including in Briggs' own district.



## Jeanne Manford (1920-2013)

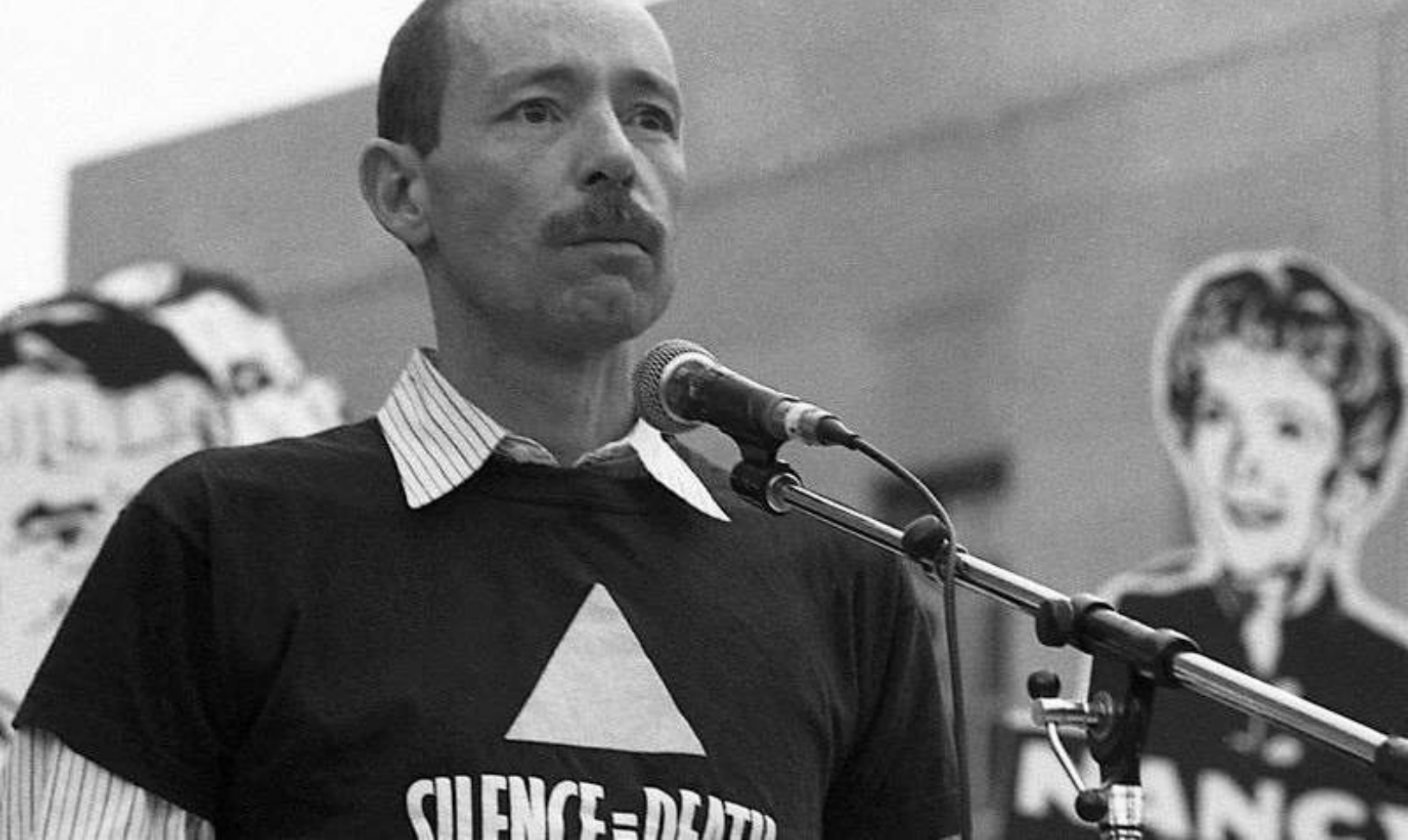
Schoolteacher, Activist, Founder of PFLAG

*"I mentioned in my letter that my son was gay and that the police stood by and watched these young gays being beaten up and did nothing about it, and it was printed. Then Morty called me up and said, 'You can't believe how everybody's talking about your letter!' I didn't think anything of it, but I guess it was the first time a mother ever sat down and very publicly said, 'Yes, I have a homosexual son.' Making Gay History, 2002*

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On April 29th, 1972, Queens school teacher Jeanne Manford's broke ground when her letter to the editor of the New York Post was published. In her piece, she wrote "I have a homosexual son and I love him," out of frustration the police did not take the attack on her openly gay activist son seriously. Weeks later, Manford marched in NYC Pride with a sign reading "Parents of Gays Unite in Support for Our Children".

Manford and her husband began operating support groups for parents, leading to her co-founding PFLAG. A champion of the LGBTQ movement, she was posthumously awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Barack Obama.



## Vito Russo (1946-1990)

Film Historian, Author, Founder of GLAAD

*"No one ever asks what causes heterosexuality because no one is interested in stopping it." The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies, 1981*

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As a youth, Vito Russo was deeply disturbed by the negative media portrayal of LGBT people. By Stonewall, he became an outspoken figure in the Gay Activists Alliance, using his masters in film to screen campy films for fundraisers. From 1972 to 1982, he took his lecture series on homosexuality in the film industry across the United States and in Europe, called "The Celluloid Closet", which became the name of his influential 1981 book on the same subject.

In addition to his work with ACT UP, co-founded GLAAD in 1985, a media watchdog group to destigmatize LGBT folks in media. His impact was groundbreaking: The Celluloid Closet finally came to television in 1996, he is the namesake of several awards, and UC Santa Cruz - where he taught in his final year - created an LGBTQ youth house in his honor.



# Monica Helms (b. 1951)

US Navy Veteran, Activist, Designer of the Transgender Flag

*"This was for me and if nobody had embraced it, it still would have been OK for me, It would have been my flag. But then people started seeing it and they thought the pattern was great and they liked the reason for the colors and it just took off." Daily Beast Interview, 2017.*

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One morning in 1999, Helms was still groggy when she was waking up when she was sparked by inspiration. A former Navy Veteran on the USS Francis Scott Key - named for the attorney who penned "The Star-Spangled Banner" - Helms designed her own flag. It played on gendered colors, plus a strip for people who identify outside of the boundary.

First displayed at the 2000 Phoenix Pride march, her flag design became the international symbol for transgender pride, even being flown in Antarctica. The original flag that she designed and wore was donated to the Smithsonian in 2014, and displayed in the White House two years later. Today, Helms is still thrilled that her creation has become part of a global movement.



# Bayard Rustin (1912-1987)

## Civil Rights and Social Movement Organizer

*"The barometer for judging the character of people in regards to human rights is now those who consider themselves gay, homosexual, lesbian. The judgment as to whether you can trust the future, the social advancement, depending on people, will be judged on where they come out on that question." Profile on Rustin, 2013*

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Rustin was an already well known social movement organizer who organized the first Freedom Rides and went to India to learn of nonviolent protest from Mahatma Gandhi when he became Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s key strategist on his protests like Montgomery Bus Boycott and being chief architect of the 1963 March on Washington.

Opponents attempted to use Rustin's open homosexuality to derail the civil rights movement to no avail. It wasn't until later in life that Rustin began focusing his work on gay rights as another barrier to break down.



## Edith “Edie” Windsor (1929-2017)

IBM Technology Manager, Lead Plaintiff in *United States v Windsor*, Trevor Icon 2017

*“But there is no same-sex marriage in this country. There is no gay marriage in this country. There is only marriage. So if they want to get rid of same-sex marriage, they have to go to a different country that has it. I repeat it and ask you all to follow suit - there is only marriage in this country.” Trevor Project Icon Award, 2017*

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In 1963, Windsor met Thea Spyer and within five years, they engaged to be married - even though no US state had legalized same-sex marriage. In 2007, the two LGBTQ activists went to Toronto to finally wed. After Spyer's passing, the US government refused to recognize their marriage during her inheritance hearing, and Windsor sued, taking the case up to the Supreme Court.

In 2013, the Court ruled 5-4 in favor of Windsor and deemed the Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional. Two years later, bans on same-sex marriage were ruled to be unconstitutional as well. Windsor has been celebrated and recognized for her work, including The Trevor Project Icon Award just months before her passing.



# Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Signed July 19 1993, Repealed September 20 2010

Although homosexual acts were grounds for discharge from the US military since the start of the Revolutionary War, the place of LGBT servicemembers became a controversial topic in the late 20th century as the gay rights movement took off. In 1993, President Bill Clinton enacted "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", a misguided compromise plan based on bias and faulty stereotypes that required LGBTQ members of the military to serve in secret, or face expulsion. The Pentagon trained soldiers, even providing comic books (seen above) on the Homosexual Conduct Policy.

DADT was controversial and challenged in the court on both sides of the debate, especially since it also limited the possible benefits one could use, and soldiers would be punished for being themselves. Citing that key personnel were being removed, including infantry, translators, and intelligence officers; President Obama signed the repeal of DADT into law in December 2010, effective the following September 20th. It allowed a million veterans and active members of the military to serve openly.

DADT led to the removal of over 13,000 Americans from the US military from 1993 - 2010.



# Lady Gaga (b. 1986)

## Singer/Songwriter, Actress, Trevor Hero 2011

*I'm beautiful in my way / 'Cause God makes no mistakes*  
*I'm on the right track, baby / I was born this way" - Born This Way, 2009*

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Inspired by the works of queer artists including David Bowie, Elton John, and Freddie Mercury, Lady Gaga (born Stefani Germanotta) - who is openly bisexual - has become one of the most well-known artists of our time. She used her controversial and often outrageous fashion to drive attention to causes near and dear to her.

Gaga has been a vocal supporter for mental health advocacy, youth, and the LGBTQ community. Today, as one of the world's best selling record artists, Gaga has been credited with reinventing the pop music genre and is often cited as an inspiration from fellow artists.

On December 4th, Lady Gaga was presented the Trevor Hero Award 2011 for founding the Born This Way Foundation. She was presented the award by the family of Jamey Rodemeyer, the New York teenager and Gaga fan who advocated for LGBTQ youth before passing away in September after being bullied and taunted endlessly for being gay.



# Keith Haring (1958-1990)

## Street Artist, Pop Artist

*"If I was going to draw, there had to be a reason. That reason, I decided, was for people. The only way art lives is through the experience of the observer. The reality of art begins in the eyes of the beholder and gains power through imagination, invention, and confrontation." -Art in Transit, 1984*

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Using the New York City subway as his first canvas, Keith Haring soon became a renowned artist, traveling all over the world and influencing popular culture across the 1980s. By the late 1980's - especially after he opened his first Pop Shop - Haring focused on the sociopolitics of Reagan-era America, with artwork commenting on apartheid, the crack cocaine crisis, and the AIDS epidemic within the gay communities.

Despite his untimely death from AIDS at the age of 31, Haring's social advocacy and radicalism has become a familiar pop culture language. Among his famous works are "Silence = Death" for ACT UP, "Crack is Wack" in East Harlem, "Barking Dog", the "Out of the Closet" logo, and pieces for Live Aid. In addition to a foundation made in his honor, his work still draws crowds globally.



## Larry Kramer (1935-2020)

Playwright, Activist, Co-Founder of Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP

*"Being gay is a natural normal beautiful variation on being human. Period. End of subject. Therefore, any argument which says differently is an immoral supremacist one. Call it out as such...Be outraged, offended, angry and intolerant of any discussion or any one who describes you as unequal, undeserving, or unnatural for being just as you are." Unknown*

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Kramer was a subversive LGBTQ activist and playwright who co-founded the Gay Men's Health Crisis in 1982. He wrote about his fury over the handling of the AIDS crisis in the epicenter of the pandemic in New York City in "The Normal Heart", which has gone to become one of the highest regarded plays of the 20th Century. He later co-founded ACT Up in 1987 as a direct action protest organization. In 2001, he became one of the first HIV+ Americans to receive an organ transplant, signaling the changes that he helped to create.

Even until his passing at the age of 84, Kramer was a polarizing figure for his firebrand style of activism, which was intended to shock a nation into action.



# Oliver “Billy” Sipple (1941-1989)

USMC PFC, National Hero

*“My sexual orientation has nothing at all to do with saving the President’s life, just as the color of my eyes or my race has nothing to do with what happened in front of the St. Francis Hotel.” Philadelphia Inquirer interview, 1995*

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Sipple (l.) was a decorated Vietnam War veteran, former Marine, and prominent figure in the Castro who was very close to Harvey Milk. On September 22nd, 1975, he stopped his stroll to watch President Gerald Ford leave the St. Francis Hotel. Sara Jane Moore fired a shot, and Sipple tackled her before she could fire again. Initially hailed as a national hero, Sipple was outed to the media - despite repeatedly asking for his privacy and causing irreparable damage to his life.

It sparked a debate about the ethics of outing that gained renewed interest following a 2017 Radiolab episode. San Francisco still marks Oliver Sipple Day on the anniversary of his heroic act.



# September's Youth

First *It Gets Better* Video, September 21 2010

In September 2010, the suicides of several LGBTQ youth made national headlines. Asher Brown, Seth Walsh, Justin Aaberg, Billy Lucas, Raymond Chase, and Cody Barker were all bullied for being gay or being perceived to be gay. Specifically, the circumstances around the death of Rutgers student Tyler Clementi revealed the toxic culture of cyberbullying to the nation, when his dorm mate secretly recorded him for others on campus to view.

Their legacies have gone far and wide - Clementi's parents started an anti-bullying foundation in his name, Canadian teenager Brittany McMillan's Facebook posting for a Spirit Day to honor LGBTQ youth victims of bullying went viral; while gay activist Dan Savage (r.) started the "It Gets Better" project to show successful LGBTQ adults as role models for struggling youth. It also prompted several closeted actors to come out of the closet in support of LGBTQ youth.



## Cleve Jones (b. 1954)

Activist, Artist

*"If we're up to working together—to putting in the work—the movement that saved my life can save America's too." When We Rise: My Life In The Movement, 2016*

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A student intern of Supervisor Harvey Milk, Jones delivered the news to the Castro that the assassin of Milk and Mayor George Moscone had received a lenient sentence. With the chants, "Out of the bars and into the streets", the LGBTQ community marched, leading to the White Night Riots, national outrage, and a reshaping of gay politics.

At the 1985 candlelight vigil for Milk and Moscone, the SF AIDS Foundation founder conceived the idea of a living memorial to the then-1,000 victims of AIDS. First displayed on the National Mall in 1987, the AIDS Memorial Quilt has become the world's largest piece of community folk art, weighing in at 54 tons and recognizing the lives of over 100,000 victims and counting. It will be permanently displayed at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.



## Frank Kameny (1925-2011)

Astronomer, DC Congressional Candidate, Co-Founder of the Mattachine Society

*"About 10 per cent of the pubert and post-pubert population are gay; this means there are 15 million of us in this country. This means there are above a quarter of a million gays in this state. That means one in 10 of you is one of us." Quote from article "One out of 10 a homosexual, gay tells crowd", March 1974*

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Frank Kameny's journey began in 1957, when he was fired by the US Army for being gay. Though he lost his lawsuit complaining against the firing, he devoted the rest of his life to activism. First, he co-founded the DC branch of the Mattachine Society and led pickets at the White House in the 1960s.

Then, in 1971, he became the first openly LGBTQ candidate for US Congress, he petitioned the APA to remove homosexuality from the DSM, and worked to end the military ban on gays with Leonard Matlovich. In 2009, the US Government formally apologized to Kameny for his firing, and Kameny was awarded dozens of honors for his trailblazing work as the "father of Gay Rights".



## Leroy “Roy” F. Aarons (1933-2004)

Washington Post Journalist, Author, Activist

*“Nothing is more exciting than seeing the new generation of leaders stepping up and making the organization what they want it to be, what they believe the times require of it. I did my part, we made a difference. The fact that it will continue long after me is the greatest achievement I could have asked for.” NLGJA Hall of Fame, 2005*

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Roy Aarons was a journalist with firsthand experience to major news events like Watergate and the Pentagon Papers. Throughout his career Aarons was committed to establishing opportunities for all minorities in journalism. Following a survey he conducted on the treatment of queer journalists, he came out in a speech in 1990 and founded the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association in his living room.

Aarons, who retired from journalism in 1991, wrote his first book, *Prayers for Bobby*, in 1995. It followed the true story of Mary Griffith, a prominent PFLAG supporter whose former “pray the gay away” attitude led to her son, Bobby’s, death. Aarons is the namesake of LGBTQ journalism awards and had the film based on his book dedicated in his honor. The NLGJA now has 1,500 members, and peers acknowledge his work changed the media’s reporting on the LGBTQ community.



# Sally Ride (1951-2012)

## Astronaut, Professor, Physicist

*"All adventures, especially into new territory, are scary." - To Space & Back, 1986*

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Born in Encino, Los Angeles,, Ride was always very interested in science. So it was no surprise for many that she would become one of the first women selected to join NASA in 1978. Despite facing sexism from the media about a female in NASA, she became the nation's first - and to date, youngest - woman in space, marking two flights on the Challenger. After leaving NASA to become a professor, she was the only person to serve on both panels investigating the Challenger and Columbia disasters for her expertise. She also became the president and CEO of Sally Ride Science, a company she co-founded in 2001 that creates entertaining science programs and publications for upper elementary and middle school students, with a particular focus on girls.

Upon her death, it was revealed that she was in a nearly thirty year relationship with her partner, Tam O'Shaughnessy, citing that she didn't feel it was important to come out. In the years since, she's been celebrated as the first LGBT astronaut. She has received various honors including induction into the California Hall of Fame and the LGBT Walk of Fame. In 2022 will become the first American to be featured on US currency for the American Women quarters series.



## Brenda Howard (1946-2005)

Activist, Feminist, Organizer

*"The next time someone asks you why LGBT Pride marches exist or why Gay Pride Month is June tell them "A bisexual woman named Brenda Howard thought it should be." Unknown*

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Known as the "Mother of Pride", Howard - an openly bisexual activist - coordinated the first LGBTQ pride march in 1970. She also created a week-long set of events leading to the march that are now standard celebrations worldwide during the month of June. She - along with bisexual activist Robert A. Martin and gay activist L. Craig Schoonmaker - even coined the term "Pride" for these marches for LGBTQ rights.

Howard continued her work with local LGBTQ activist groups and helped to push New York City Council's gay rights laws in 1986, and the LGBT Marches on Washington in 1987 and 1993.



# Frida Kahlo (1907-1954)

## Painter, Activist, Feminist

*"They thought I was a Surrealist, but I wasn't. I never painted dreams. I painted my own reality."* - Time Magazine, "Mexican Autobiography" (April 27, 1953)

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After a traumatic bus accident at the age of eighteen ended her dreams of becoming a doctor and suffered from pain for the rest of her life, Frida Kahlo began to paint vibrant and colorful self-portraits. Soon, she became a global icon, as her art - which celebrated her Mexican heritage and her political views - reached the United States and overseas.

She was also openly bisexual, having close relationships with Soviet leader Leon Trotsky, artist Georgia O'Keeffe, and singer Josephine Baker, while maintaining a longterm open marriage with fellow artist Diego Rivera. They lived in San Francisco and New York as well, where she painted a stunning fresco inside Rockefeller Center. In the 1970's feminist movement, Kahlo's work exploded in renewed appreciation and is now herald as one of the most important and influential artists of the 20th Century.



## Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir (b. 1942)

24th Prime Minister of Iceland, Feminist, Social Activist

*"It is absolutely imperative that every human being's freedom and human rights are respected, all over the world. Freedom and human rights – that is what the world needs most, that is what everyone longs for, and should be entitled to, in order to be able to live with dignity." Toronto WorldPride 2014*

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On February 1st, 2009, Jóhanna made history as the modern world's first openly LGBTQ head of state when she became the 24th Prime Minister of Iceland. During her four-year tenure, she was wildly popular for her LGBT and women's rights and fiscal recovery.

In 2010, the nation became the ninth nation in the world to legalize same-sex marriage, and Jóhanna was among the nation's first to convert her civil union into a marriage. Jóhanna's leadership went on to inspire other nations to elect their first openly LGBT heads of state in Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland, and Serbia. She retired from politics in 2012 as Iceland's longest serving member of Parliament, and has often been voted as the best Prime Minister in the nation's history.



# Alan Turing, OBE FRS (1912-1954)

## Mathematician, Computer Scientist, Cryptanalyst

*"We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done." Computing Machinery and Intelligence, 1950*

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Known as the founder of computer science, Turing became a brilliant theorist on technology and a pioneering codebreaker for the British. His work is credited with ending World War II two years earlier and saving the lives of 14 million people. Despite his heroism and contributions to humanity, he was ruined by the British government for his sexuality, punished, and later took his life.

In 2009, British PM Gordon Brown offered a public apology on behalf of the UK government. In addition to being granted a royal pardon in 2013, he will become the first LGBT person featured on British currency when he will be depicted on the £50 note in 2021. Today, the ACM A.M. Turing Award is broadly considered to be the highest distinction in the field of computer science.



# Gene Compton's Cafeteria Riot

San Francisco, California, August 1966

In San Francisco, police used an anti-cross dressing ordinance to harass LGBTQ people, especially transgender people and drag queens. Tired of being harassed, a woman being arrested threw a hot cup of coffee in a cop's face in Compton's Cafeteria. After the 24-hour cafeteria barred LGBTQ people, a riot broke out. The event was one of the first LGBTQ riots in US history and the beginning of transgender activism in San Francisco.

In 2017, San Francisco designated the neighborhood around the site of the Cafeteria as "The Transgender District", the world's first legally recognized district of its kind.



# Gilbert Baker (1951-2017)

## Artist, Activist, Designer of the Rainbow Flag

*"A true flag is not something you can really design. A true flag is torn from the soul of the people. A flag is something that everyone owns, and that's why they work. The Rainbow Flag is like other flags in that sense: it belongs to the people." Chicago Radio Interview, 2012*

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Baker was a former medic in the United States Army when he learned how to sew gay rights and anti-war banners. By 1978, he created the first rainbow pride flag. A year later, he dropped two colors and created the current rainbow flag flown today. Each stripe has a meaning: Red for Life, Orange for Healing, Yellow for Sunlight, Green for Nature, Blue for Serenity, and Purple for Spirit.

Baker continued working on the rainbow flag for the rest of his life, including a mile long rainbow flag, and a flag that spread from sea to sea in Florida. In 2015, it was recognized as internationally important as the recycling symbol, and NYC Pride honored him with a new rainbow font called "Gilbert".



# Miss Major Griffin-Gracy (b. 1940)

## Activist, Community Leader

*"One of the things that my grandmother told me is: "Hate is like quicksand." It's all-consuming. Once you get involved with that, it's going to suck you in and envelop you. We have to give people the room to be who they are, the courage to change and alter and grow." Vice/Brooklyn Museum Oral History of Trans Legends, 2018*

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After being kicked out by her family and fired from multiple jobs for being transgender, Miss Major moved to New York and was a leader in the Stonewall Riots. Uncertain about the next steps, she was arrested for burglary and sent to prison for five years. While there, she was educated by a fellow inmate, Frank "Big Black" Smith on how to fix the problems in the community, rather than mask it.

With a renewed sense of hope and unity for the LGBTQ community, Miss Major became a community and grassroots organizer specializing in support for trans women of color, HIV/AIDS victims, and trans women who were low-income, incarcerated, homeless, or addicted to drugs. Though she suffered a stroke, she remains a fervent feminist who continues to fight and advocate for human rights. In 2021, at the age of 79, Griffin-Gracy and her partner, Beck Witt, welcomed their first child into the world.



# Magnus Hirschfeld (1868-1935)

## Physician, Reformer, Advocate

*"Soon the day will come when science will win victory over error, justice a victory over injustice, and human love a victory over human hatred and ignorance." Different from The Others, 1919*

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Starting with the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, physician Magnus Hirschfeld (r.) traveled the world studying gay subcultures. Moved by the stories of gay patients who survived or completed suicide, he founded the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, the first advocacy for homosexual and transgender rights, in 1897. He believed that a better understanding of sexuality would eliminate homophobia. He also determined 64 sexual and gender identities, broke the stigma on discussing homophobia's impact on suicide, and spoke globally as the "Einstein of Sex". His push to repeal Paragraph 175 - the statute making homosexuality illegal in Germany - was set back by the rise of Nazis. The law was not repealed until 1994.

American Henry Gerber was inspired by Hirschfeld to form the Society for Human Rights in 1924, the first known gay rights organization in the nation. In turn, a partner of one of the former members of the Society told this to Harry Hay in 1929, who would go on to help establish the Mattachine Society in 1950, the first national homosexual rights organization to operate for many years in the United States.



# Del Martin (1921-2008) and Phyllis Lyon (1924-2020)

## Marriage Equality Activists, Founders of the Daughters of Bilitis

*"You know, we were trying to help lesbians find themselves, you know. I mean, you can't have a movement if you don't have people that see that they're worthwhile." Making Gay History, July 1989*

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Five years after meeting and falling in love in 1950, Del Martin (l.) and Phyllis Lyon (r.) formed the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian social and political organization in the United States. They were also the first lesbian couple to join the National Organization for Women and were honored with an LGBTQ medical center named for them in 1979.

Disturbed by President Bush's call for a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom ordered same-sex marriage licenses to be issued. Martin and Lyons were the first couple married in San Francisco in February 2004. Though voided by August, legal battles stemming from the event led to "In re Marriage", legalizing same-sex marriage in California. They were the first couple to marry once again, in June 2008, by Mayor Newsom himself.



# Walter Mercado (1932-2019)

Astrologer, Actor, Dancer

*“Con mucho, mucho amor. (With much, much love.)” Sign off from his programs, 1970-2020.*

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A prolific dancer and actor, Walter Mercado became an overnight sensation when he was asked to fill a vacancy on a Puerto Rican television network. From 1970 to 2006, Mercado became a beloved household name to millions across Latin America, Europe, and the United States; with his astrological forecasts becoming a positive force in TV and radio programming for Spanish-speaking audiences. In a hypermasculine and overtly religious culture, Mercado broke barriers by openly embracing his queerness and gender nonconformity while encouraging others to do so as well.

Just before his passing in 2019, he learned that he had inspired a young generation of queer Latinx people who had watched him with their families on TV in their youth. He was honored with an exhibit on his 50 year career and an acclaimed posthumous documentary about his life.



# The Male Scream Queen

**A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge released Nov 1 1985**

Though out to his friends and family, Mark Patton was a rising star when he was cast in "A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge", the highly anticipated sequel to the horror hit film. Upon its release in 1985, Patton - as the high school student Jesse Walsh - was credited as the first-ever male "scream queen", the horror movie trope of a final girl who defeats the villain. The film, critically panned at the time, was also noted for its gay subtext, which the writer of the film initially blamed was due to Patton's flamboyant performance. The fallout from the film, as well as the gay panic in Hollywood during the AIDS Crisis led Patton to abandon his career.

An HIV and LGBT activist now residing in Mexico, Patton discovered that his film has become a cult classic within the gay community and that he influenced many young LGBTQ youth to be themselves while also embracing their love of the horror genre and a gay hero.

Now regularly touring at horror film conventions and starring in "Scream, Queen!"; a documentary about his experience, Patton uses the opportunities to discuss sexuality in Hollywood and regularly donates his earnings to HIV awareness and LGBT organizations, including The Trevor Project.



# Karl Heinrich Ulrichs (1825-1895)

## Lawyer, Journalist, Trailblazer

*"Until my dying day I will look back with pride that I found the courage to come face to face in battle against the spectre which for time immemorial has been injecting poison into me and into men of my nature. Many have been driven to suicide because all their happiness in life was tainted. Indeed, I am proud that I found the courage to deal the initial blow to the hydra of public contempt."*  
*Personal Essay, 1880s*

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Ulrichs was a German journalist, writer, and lawyer who is considered to be a pioneer of gay rights. When he was 37 years old, he first wrote under a pseudonym about sexual orientations, even coining early terminology for LGBT people - in 1862. He also wrote about granting global equality to all people of all sexual orientations.

By 1869, Ulrichs dropped his pseudonym and became the first person in modern world history to publicly "come out". In the 1870's, sexual orientation as we know it today was defined and widely discussed, and Ulrichs continued to fight for legal equality for all sexual orientations globally.



## Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben (1730-1794)

Major General, Writer, Chief of Staff to President Washington

*"To appreciate the contributions von Steuben made to the American Revolution, consider this: Before his arrival in Valley Forge in 1778, the colonies were on the path to defeat. Without his leadership, our modern America might still be the British Colonies." Mark Segal, Windy City Times, 2013*

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Baron von Steuben is credited as the father of the US military, offering his expertise as a former Prussian captain to the struggling revolutionary soldiers. Benjamin Franklin - who had vouched for Baron - and George Washington felt that Baron von Steuben's private life as a gay man - which ended his career in Prussia - was irrelevant to his military qualifications.

With his guidance and leadership, the struggling United States defeated the British. Baron von Steuben later served as President Washington's Chief of Staff, while also adopting two fellow officers he loved - a common workaround for marriage in the colonial era.



# Stormé DeLarverie (1920-2014)

## Drag King, Entertainer, Activist

*"It was a rebellion, it was an uprising, it was a civil rights disobedience – it wasn't no damn riot." AfterEllen profile, 2010*

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DeLarverie was already an LGBTQ pioneer, working as a Drag King and emcee of North America's first racially-integrated drag revue when she was in the Stonewall Inn on June 28th, 1969. Though accounts vary, it is generally believed that DeLarverie was the "Stonewall Lesbian" whose arrest - calling out "Why don't you guys do something?" - led to the unrest at the Stonewall Inn in 1969.

In the years that passed, DeLarverie became known as the "Rosa Parks of the gay community" and the "guardian of the lesbians in the Village", serving as a bouncer and protector of her LGBTQ "children" until she was 85 years old.



# One, Inc. v. Olesen

US Supreme Court Decision, January 13 1958

ONE, Inc - a spinoff of the Mattachine Society - decided to begin publishing the nation's first pro-gay magazine in January 1953. It sold for a quarter on the streets of Los Angeles. However, the US Post Office Department and the FBI did everything they could to stop distribution of the magazine, leading to the Postmaster General, Otto Olesen, cited Comstock obscenity laws to say they would no longer mail copies of the October 1954 issue and further because pro-gay literature was considered lewd.. ONE, Inc. sued and the courts ruled in favor of the Post Office.

Attorney Eric Julber took the case all the way up to the US Supreme Court on June 13 1957. On January 13, 1958, the Supreme Court overruled previous court decisions and ruled in favor of ONE, Inc. It is the first Supreme Court regarding homosexuality and upheld that pro-homosexual literature and beliefs are protected under free speech.



## Chaz Bono (b. 1969)

Actor, Musician, Activist

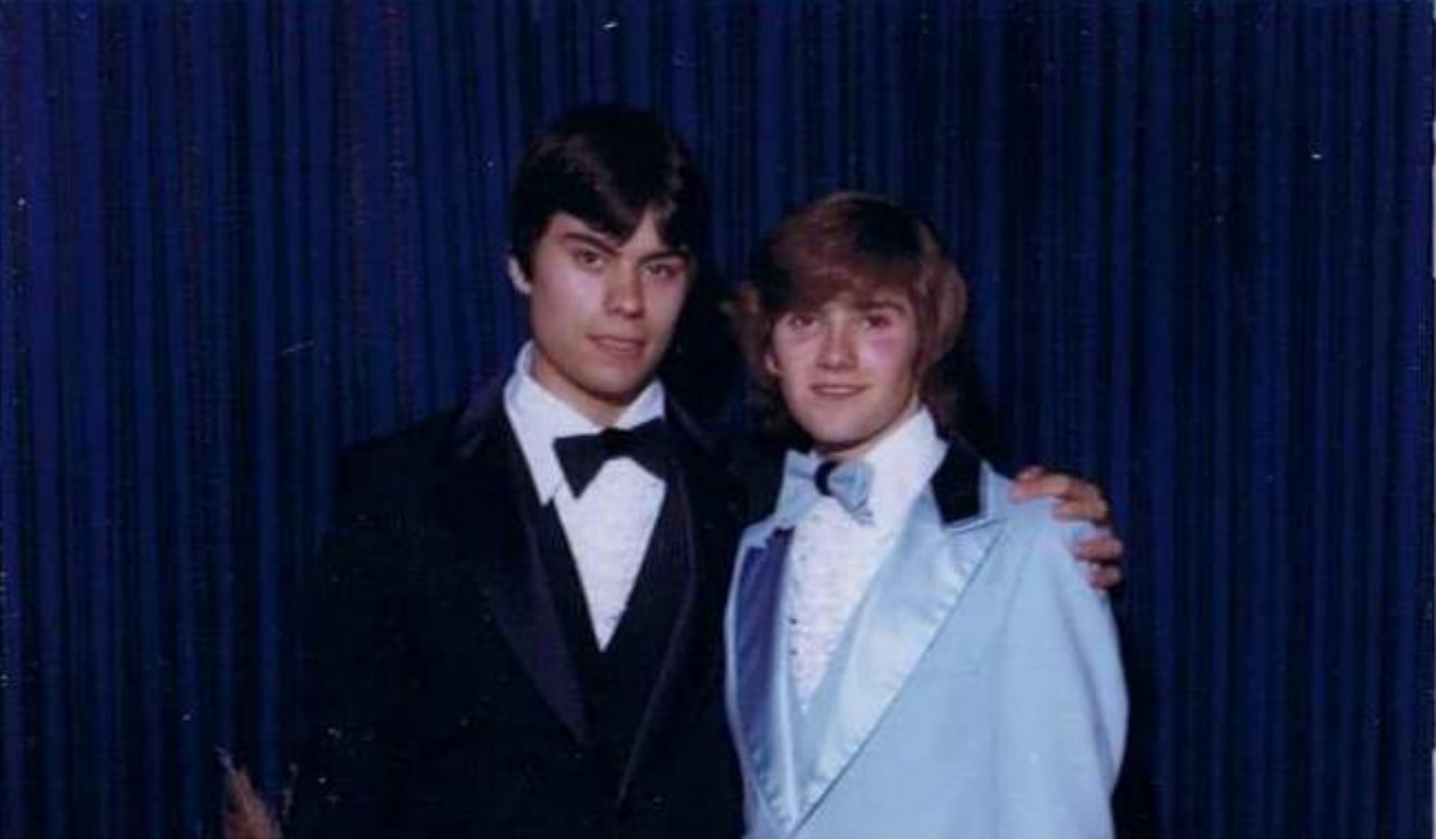
*"I want to create a place where trans people and our allies could come together to share experiences, information and ideas. Being transgender or loving someone who is transgender can be challenging in our society and I hope that members of this site will also use this space as a place to support and encourage each other. Together, we can strengthen our community and open the hearts and minds of others." Unknown*

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Grandson of actress/singer Georgia Holt, and son of queer music icon Cher and the late entertainer-turned-politician Sonny Bono, Chaz was born into fame. He soon grew up in front of TV audiences on Sonny and Cher's variety show.

Later in life, after being outed by media outlets as gay, Chaz came out to The Advocate in April 1995 and became an outspoken LGBTQ activist and writer. He worked for several LGBTQ organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign and GLAAD.

In 2008, Bono publicly came out as transgender and documented his transition in a renowned documentary. Since then, he has starred in a number of television projects, including Dancing With The Stars, where being trans was not the highlight of his appearance. .



## Aaron Fricke (b. 1962)

Author, Activist, Plaintiff in *Fricke v. Lynch*

*"A large crowd of students had formed a ring around us. Probably most of them had never seen two happy men embracing in a slow dance...One of my favorite songs was coming up: "Rock Lobster." Paul and I began dancing free-style. Everyone else was still staring at us, but by the end of the first stanza, several couples had also begun dancing...For six minutes and forty-nine seconds, the students on the dance floor had forgotten about their defenses, forgotten about their shells. We just had fun." Reflections of a Rock Lobster, 1983*

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In the spring of 1980, Fricke (r.) - who had recently come out as gay - did what any other student would do: he asked his date, Paul Guilbert (l.) to the prom. Fricke knew that a year prior, Guilbert had tried to do the same thing and was rejected by the principal of Cumberland High School, staying home. So when he was rejected, he took the case to court. The presiding judge ruled that Fricke could take his date to the prom and the school must provide security.

On May 31st, 1980 - in front of news cameras - Fricke danced with his companion, setting a precedent for LGBT youth to take their partners to their prom. Fricke went on to write a renowned memoir that was adapted into a play.

At this site on June 24, 1973 in the Upstairs Lounge, these thirty-two people lost their lives in the worst fire in New Orleans. The impact went far beyond the loss of individual lives, giving birth to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender rights movement in New Orleans.



# The Upstairs Lounge Arsoning

## New Orleans, Louisiana, June 24 1973

The Upstairs Lounge was a gay bar on the second floor of a building in Downtown New Orleans. On this Sunday, many congregants from the nation's first national gay Christian fellowship, the Metropolitan Community Church, attended the bar after services and mingled with the other blue-collar patrons. At 7:56 pm, an attendee opened the stairway door leading to the exit and discovered it was on fire, doused in lighter fluid.

Though many had escaped, 32 died from fire or smoke inhalation, while another 15 were injured. Tragically, the event - which took place the same weekend some other major US cities held a Christopher Street Pride march - was not taken seriously. No government officials acknowledged the event, local talk radio hosts made light of the tragedy, local churches turned away funerals, families refused to claim the lost, and the event was almost lost to history, all due to homophobia. Worse, police never questioned or sought out the culprit of the worst arsoning in the city's history and the worst attack on LGBTQ people until 2016, who is commonly believed to be a disturbed patron who was kicked out of the lounge an hour before for fighting.

Since then, many modern leaders have apologized on behalf of their predecessors and sought to do better for the LGBTQ community.



## Chelsea Manning (b. 1987)

Former US Army Intelligence Officer, Activist, Whistle-blower

*"Owning my identity ... ties into my value of dignity. I think that every person has, you know, whether trans, you know, gay, straight, black, white, Asian, Hispanic, you know, we all have the right to define ourselves and to define who we are ... without any judgment or expectations placed on us." ABC News Interview, June 14 2017*

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A US Army intelligence analyst, Chelsea Manning is one of the nation's most controversial figures. In 2009, Manning was arrested and sentenced to 35 years for espionage - the longest ever for this crime - after working with hackers to leak classified military information regarding the Iraq War to the public via WikiLeaks. On the day of her sentencing, Manning came out as a transgender woman. After seven years in federal prison, President Barack Obama commuted her sentence, allowing her to leave prison in 2016.

In the years since, Manning has continued to work as an activist for transgender rights, as well as health care and prisoners rights. She also ran in Maryland for US Senate in 2018 and has gone on numerous speaking engagements about government accountability as well as LGBTQ issues within the military.



# Sir Elton John, CH CBE (b. 1947)

Singer, Songwriter, Pianist, Composer

*"I'm going to fight for human rights, whether I do it silently behind the scenes or vocally so that I get locked up. I can't just sit back; it's not in my nature. I can't sit back and blindly ignore it, and I won't." Interview with Jake Shears, 2006*

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Sir Elton Hercules John (born Reginald Dwight) went from child prodigy to glam rock icon, often listed as one of the preeminent musicians of the 20th Century. Much like his queer contemporaries Freddie Mercury and David Bowie, John combined his elaborate flamboyant style with his gifted voice, becoming an influential figure to generations of LGBTQ artists to be their authentic selves.

John is also an outspoken LGBTQ activist who founded the Elton John AIDS Foundation in 1992 in honor of his friends Mercury and Ryan White. Since then, he has raised over \$400 million globally, funding preventative and direct services.



# Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

Author, Poet, Playwright

*"It is in this century misunderstood, so much misunderstood that it may be described as "the love that dare not speak its name", and on that account of it I am placed where I am now. It is beautiful, it is fine, it is the noblest form of affection. There is nothing unnatural about it. It is intellectual, and it repeatedly exists between an older and a younger man, when the older man has intellect, and the younger man has all the joy, hope and glamour of life before him. That it should be so, the world does not understand. The world mocks at it, and sometimes puts one in the pillory for it." - Response to Prosecutor during trial*

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The flamboyant poet and author of "The Picture of Dorian Grey", Oscar Wilde was outed by the father of his lover at the time. The outing - which happened as his play, The Importance of Being Earnest" became a major hit - It began a cascading series of events that led to a scandalous trial - considered the first celebrity trial - and Wilde's imprisonment for sodomy and gross indecency. Wilde stood up for himself and was sentenced to two years of hard labor before going into a self-imposed exile for the rest of his life.

He continues to be cited as an inspiration for modern writers and was posthumously pardoned under the Alan Turing Law in 2017.

# RARE CANCER SEEN IN 41 HOMOSEXUALS

Outbreak Occurs Among Men  
in New York and California  
— 8 Died Inside 2 Years

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

Doctors in New York and California have diagnosed among homosexual men 41 cases of a rare and often rapidly fatal form of cancer. Eight of the victims died less than 24 months after the diagnosis was made.

The cause of the outbreak is unknown, and there is as yet no evidence of contagion. But the doctors who have made the diagnoses, mostly in New York City and the San Francisco Bay area, are alert-

detected because of the rarity of the condition and the difficulty even dermatologists may have in diagnosing it.

In a letter alerting other physicians to the problem, Dr. Alvin E. Friedman-Kien of New York University Medical Center, one of the investigators, described the appearance of the outbreak as "rather devastating."

Dr. Friedman-Kien said in an interview yesterday that he knew of 41 cases collated in the last five weeks, with the cases themselves dating to the past 30 months. The Federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta is expected to publish the first description of the outbreak in its weekly report today, according to a spokesman, Dr. James Curran. The report notes 26 of the cases — 20 in New York and six in California.

There is no national registry of cancer victims, but the nationwide incidence of Kaposi's Sarcoma in the past had been estimated by the Centers for Disease Control to be less than six-one-hundredths of a case per 100,000 people an-

## Viral Infections Indicated

No one medical investigator interviewed all the victims, Dr. Friedman said. According to Dr. Friedman, the reporting doctors said the cases had involved homosexuals who have had multiple and frequent sexual encounters with different partners as many as 10 sexual encounters a night up to four times a week.

Many of the patients have also been treated for viral infections such as herpes, cytomegalovirus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) as well as parasitic infections such as amebiasis and giardiasis. Many patients also reported that they had used drugs such as amyl nitrite and cocaine to heighten sexual pleasure.

Cancer is not believed to be contagious, but conditions that might facilitate it, such as particular viruses or environmental factors, might account for an outbreak among a single group.

The medical investigators saw indirect evidence actually pointing from contagion as a cause. None of the patients knew each other, although the theoretical possibility that some

## The AIDS Pandemic

First media coverage, New York Times, July 3 1981

On June 5th, 1981, the CDC first reported on a mysterious illness affecting gay communities in Los Angeles and New York City. The virus - HIV - caused a disease soon named AIDS in 1982. But the US government was slow in responding to the virus in part because it only seemed to affect a community they morally disagreed with. In one 1983 press briefing, President Reagan's press secretary mocked a journalist who had asked if there would be a response from the White House, when 1,000 had died.

Reagan finally mentioned AIDS on September 17th, 1985, just several months after his close friend, film star Rock Hudson disclosed his illness. Hudson's death that October finally put a face on the disease to the general public, with sympathies and donations to HIV/AIDS organizations overnight. Unfortunately, lack of education caused a national panic to form, which was not addressed until government awareness campaigns started in late 1987.

Because of government inaction, activists formed major groups like GMHC and ACT Up that still fight to this day for HIV/AIDS research, helping to discover PrEP treatments that turned the once-deadly virus into a manageable condition. It currently remains a global pandemic, with 38 million people living with HIV/AIDS globally in 2019.

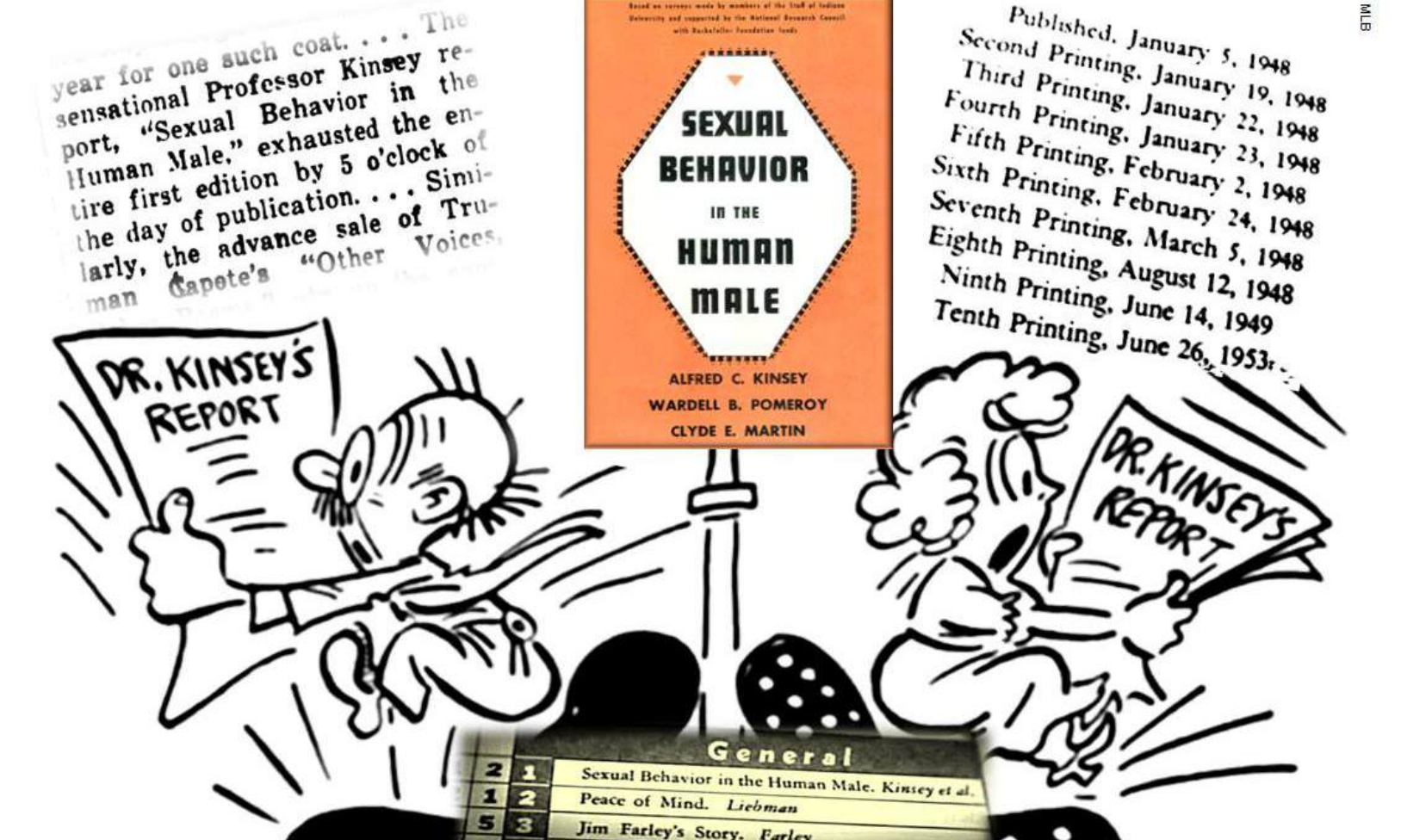


# The Human Rights Party

## Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 1973

Both 22 year old graduate students at the University of Michigan, Jerry DeGriek and Nancy Wechsler surprised local political leaders by winning seats on the Ann Arbor City Council as third party candidates in 1972. A year later, a homophobic incident at a local restaurant prompted them to both coming out as gay in a joint press conference, making them the first openly gay and openly lesbian political officials in US history.

After their terms ended in 1974, they moved on - Wechsler became a writer for the Gay Community News and DeGriek is currently a Regional Health Administrator in Seattle. But they inspired many, including Kathy Kozachenko who became the first openly gay person to run for office and win in the US. She filled the seat vacated by Wechsler on April 2nd, 1974.



# The Kinsey Reports

**Sexual Behavior in the Human Male published 1948; Sexual Behavior in the Human Female 1953**

In the span of five years after World War II, biologist Alfred Kinsey released two controversial and major scholarly journals that reshaped sexology in the United States. In the first journal, he boldly claims that 40% of men have had a least one sexual encounter with another man during their lifetime — though only one-tenth of those surveyed reported being exclusively homosexual. He also revealed a seven point scale from zero (exclusively heterosexual) to six (exclusively homosexual), plus X for asexual identity. In his scale, 11.6% of white males aged 20–35 were given a rating of 3 for this period of their lives, while 7% of single females aged 20–35 and 4% of previously married females aged 20–35 were given a rating of 3 for this period of their lives.

Though criticism on how Kinsey got his data has remained a point of contention, it remains one of the most consequential works written, kicking off a sexual revolution and empowered a global queer community to demand equal rights.



# Pulse Nightclub

Orlando, Florida, June 12 2016

During the early morning of June 12 2016, a terrorist entered the Pulse Nightclub on Latin Night and took 49 lives - mostly of gay and Latinx experience. 53 others were injured when the siege ended three hours later. It was the worst attack on LGBTQ people in US history, and the worst terrorist attack since September 11, 2001.

The Trevor Project paid tribute to the tragedy the following day during [TrevorLive NY 2016](#).

- Stanley Almodovar III, 23
- Amanda Alvear, 25
- Oscar A. Aracena-Montero, 26
- Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33
- Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21
- Martin Benitez Torres, 33
- Antonio D. Brown, 30
- Darryl R. Burt II, 29
- Jonathan A. Camuy Vega, 24
- Angel L. Candelario-Padro, 28
- Simon A. Carrillo Fernandez, 31
- Juan Chevez-Martinez, 25
- Luis D. Conde, 39
- Cory J. Connell, 21
- Tevin E. Crosby, 25
- Franky J. Dejesus Velazquez, 50
- Deonka D. Drayton, 32
- Mercedes M. Flores, 26
- Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz, 22
- Juan R. Guerrero, 22
- Paul T. Henry, 41
- Frank Hernandez, 27
- Miguel A. Honorato, 30
- Javier Jorge-Reyes, 40
- Jason B. Josaphat, 19
- Eddie J. Justice, 30
- Anthony L. Laureano Disla, 25
- Christopher A. Leinonen, 32
- Brenda L. Marquez McCool, 49
- Jean C. Mendez Perez, 35
- Akyra Monet Murray, 18
- Kimberly Morris, 37
- Jean C. Nieves Rodriguez, 27
- Luis O. Ocasio-Capo, 20
- Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez, 25
- Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36
- Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32
- Enrique L. Rios Jr., 25
- Juan P. Rivera Velazquez, 37
- Ylmary Rodriguez Solivan, 24
- Christopher J. Sanfeliz, 24
- Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35
- Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25
- Edward Sotomayor Jr., 34
- Shane E. Tomlinson, 33
- Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25
- Luis S. Vielma, 22
- Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37
- Jerald A. Wright, 31

- Cooper Do-Nuts
- Sen Tammy Baldwin
- Sir Ian McKellen
- Kristen Beck
- Craig Rodwell
- CA Prop 8
- DOMA/Oberfell v Hodges
- Lil nas x
- Oscar Wilde, International Transgender Day of Visibility
- Society for Human Rights, Lavender Marriages
- Brandon Teena
- Sip-In
- Leela Alcorn
- Harlem Renaissance
- Lavender Scare, Eisenhower, Employment of Homosexuals and Other Sex Perverts in Government, and Executive Order 10450
- Black Cat Tavern
- Tammy Faye
- Princes Diana
- Elizabeth Taylor
- Bea Arthur



The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide prevention And crvisis intervention organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning young people.



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