

◆◆◆ A Living Memory LGBT History Timeline ◆◆◆

Adapted from a document compiled by Loree Cook-Daniels
of FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression) and TAN (The Transgender Aging Network).
See notes on page 8.

◆1920s

- 1920 ◆ “Gay” first used to refer to homosexuals in the publication *Underground*
- 1921 ◆ U.S. Naval report on entrapment of “perverts” within its ranks
- 1924 ◆ First commercially produced play with a lesbian theme, “God of Vengeance,” opens on Broadway; theatre owner and 12 cast members found guilty of obscenity (later overturned)
 - ◆ Illinois charts the Society for Human Rights
- 1925 ◆ After a year of police raids, New York City’s roster of 20 gay and lesbian restaurants and “personality clubs” is reduced to 3
- 1926 ◆ The Hamilton Lodge Ball of Harlem attracts thousands of crossdressing men and women
- 1927 ◆ New York state legislature tries to ban gay-themed plays
 - ◆ *Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall published, all British copies destroyed as “obscene”

◆1930s

- 1930 ◆ *Encyclopedia of Sexual Knowledge* illustrates first “sex-change” procedures
- 1932 ◆ *Man Into Woman, the Story of Lili Elbe’s Life*, published
- 1933 ◆ Hitler bans gay and lesbian groups, burns the Institute of Sexual Science library
- 1934 ◆ Lillian Hellman’s “The Children’s Hour” opens on Broadway to rave reviews
- 1935 ◆ “Successful” electric shock therapy treatment of homosexuality reported at American Psychological Association meeting
- 1937 ◆ Morris Kight organizes the Oscar Wilde Study Circle at Texas Christian University
- 1939 ◆ New York City “cleans up” in preparation for the World’s Fair, closing most of the city’s best-known gay bars

◆1940s

- 1940s ◆ Revealed that Holocaust victims include LGTs
- 1940 ◆ Courts rule New York State Liquor Authority can legally close down bars that serve “sex variants”
- 1941 ◆ “Transsexuality” first used in reference to homosexuality and bisexuality
- 1942 ◆ Switzerland decriminalizes adult homosexuality (men only; lesbianism wasn’t outlawed to begin with)
- 1943 ◆ U.S. military bars gays and lesbians from serving in the Armed Forces
- 1945 ◆ The Quaker Emergency Committee of New York City opens the first social welfare agency for gay people, serving young people arrested on same-sex charges

◆ 1940s (continued)

- 1945 ◆ First known female-to-male sex change surgery, on Michael Dillon in Britain
- 1947 ◆ “Lisa Ben” publishes the first “Vice Versa”
- 1948 ◆ “New York Times” refuses advertisements for Gore Vidal’s *The City and the Pillar*
 - ◆ *The Kinsey Report* says homosexual behavior among men is widespread
 - ◆ Hollywood Ten and the Blacklist

◆ 1950s

- 1950 ◆ A Senate hearing reveals the majority of State Department dismissals are based on accusations of homosexuality; Senate approves wide-ranging investigation of homosexuals “and other moral perverts” in national government
- 1951 ◆ The Mattachine Society founded
 - ◆ Donald Webster Cory (pseudonym for Edward Sagarin) publishes *The Homosexual in America*
- 1952 ◆ Christine Jorgensen comes to public attention
 - ◆ British mathematician and computer pioneer Alan Turing sentenced to a year of hormonal treatments causing impotence and breast development for “gross indecency with males.” He commits suicide in 1954.
 - ◆ American Psychiatric Association includes homosexuality under “sociopathic personality disturbance” in its first official list of mental disorders
 - ◆ Immigrants banned from U.S. if they have “psychopathic personality,” including homosexuality
- 1953 ◆ Twenty-nine out of 30 men arrested during an 8 day period, charged with engaging in homosexual acts in the Atlanta public library restroom, lost their jobs after newspapers printed their names and addresses at least 6 times
 - ◆ President Dwight D. Eisenhower orders dismissal of all federal employees guilty of “sexual perversion”
 - ◆ Kinsey report on women’s sexuality, including lesbian behavior, released
- 1954 ◆ Dr. Evelyn Hooker presents a study showing gay men are as well adjusted as straight men, at an American Psychological Association meeting
- 1955 ◆ *Howl!* published; Allen Ginsberg unsuccessfully prosecuted for obscenity
 - ◆ Daughters of Bilitis formed; publication “The Ladder” launched the next year
 - ◆ In the wake of the murder of a boy, 29 Sioux City, Iowa men suspected of homosexuality are committed to mental asylums as a preventive measure
- 1956 ◆ James Baldwin publishes *Giovanni’s Room*
- 1957 ◆ “Transsexual” coined by Harry Benjamin
 - ◆ Ann Bannon publishes *Odd Girls Out*
 - ◆ American Civil Liberties Union approves a policy statement saying laws against sodomy and federal restrictions on employment of lesbians and gay men are constitutional

◆ 1950s (continued)

- 1958 ◆ U.S. Supreme Court rules ONE magazine is not obscene and can be sent through the postal system

◆ 1960s

- 1960 ◆ First U.S. public gathering of lesbians, at San Francisco's Daughters of Bilitis national convention
- 1961 ◆ First openly gay person runs for U.S. public office (drag queen Jose Sarria, running for San Francisco city supervisor)
- ◆ First use of the term "homosexual" in a feature film shown in the US (British movie "Victim"); motion picture code seal of approval is denied
- 1962 ◆ Illinois becomes first state to make consensual same-sex acts legal
- ◆ First known positive radio program about homosexuality (Randy Wicker and 7 gay people, on WBAI in New York City)
- 1963 ◆ American Civil Liberties Union opposes government interference in the private sex lives of consenting adults
- 1964 ◆ "Life" magazine runs positive cover story on "Homosexuality in America"
- ◆ The first openly gay person appears on national television (Randy Wicker, on "The Les Crane Show")
 - ◆ Series of public demonstrations held in Washington, D.C. by the East Coast Homophile Organizations to protest U.S. government discrimination against lesbians and gay men
- 1966 ◆ "Lesbian" heard for the first time in a Hollywood movie ("The Group")
- ◆ First U.S. gay community center opens, in San Francisco, led by The Society for Individual Rights
 - ◆ Harry Benjamin publishes *The Transsexual Phenomenon*
 - ◆ First transgender public uprising at San Francisco's Compton's Cafeteria
- 1967 ◆ England and Wales legalize male homosexuality
- ◆ Bisexual rap group held in San Francisco
 - ◆ New York and New Jersey decide that state liquor commissions can no longer forbid bars from serving gay men and lesbians
 - ◆ First gay bookstore in the U.S. opens: Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop
 - ◆ "John" turned into "Joan" at John Hopkins Hospital after a circumcision accident; published case widely impacts gender theory
- 1968 ◆ Metropolitan Community Church formed
- ◆ The American Psychiatric Association moves homosexuality from "sociopathic" category to "sexual deviation"
 - ◆ Bi Alliance begins at the University of Minnesota
- 1969 ◆ Betty Friedan warns feminist movement of the "lavender menace" within its ranks
- ◆ Stonewall Riots
 - ◆ National Institute of Mental Health study chaired by Dr. Evelyn Hooker urges decriminalization of private sex acts between consenting adults

◆ 1970s

- 1970** ◆ “Boys in the Band,” first major Hollywood movie on gay life, premieres
- ◆ Gay “zaps” begin; first against New York City Mayor John Lindsay
 - ◆ Unitarian Universalist Association becomes first U.S. mainstream religious group to recognize LGB clergy and laity within its ranks and to demand an end to anti-gay discrimination
 - ◆ The Vatican issues a statement reiterating that homosexuality is a moral aberration
- 1972** ◆ “Ithaca Statement on Bisexuality,” by the Quaker Committee of Friends on Bisexuality, is published in “The Advocate”; National Bisexual Liberation Group forms in New York
- ◆ East Lansing, Michigan, becomes first city to ban anti-gay bias in city hiring
 - ◆ First openly gay man ordained, by the United Church of Christ (William Johnson)
 - ◆ First time a U.S. national political convention (the Democrats) addressed by gay leaders
- 1973** ◆ American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses
- ◆ U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear case on the firing of an Oregon teacher for lesbianism
 - ◆ Lesbian Herstory Archives founded
- 1974** ◆ First state-level openly gay person elected: Elaine Noble of Massachusetts
- ◆ Ohio Supreme Court rules that even though homosexuality is legal, the state can refuse to incorporate a gay organization because “the promotion of homosexuality as a valid life style is contrary to the public policy of the state.”
 - ◆ AT&T becomes first major American corporation to agree to an equal opportunity policy for lesbians
 - ◆ “Time” and “Newsweek” run “bisexual chic” articles
- 1975** ◆ U.S. Civil Service Commission stops banning gay men and lesbians from federal jobs
- ◆ Footballer David Kopay is first major sports star to come out (voluntarily) publicly
- 1976** ◆ First openly gay police officer hired (by San Francisco)
- ◆ *Tales of the City* published by the “San Francisco Chronicle,” includes LGB and T characters
 - ◆ “Doonesbury” is the first mainstream comic strip to feature a gay male character
 - ◆ Lynn Ransom of California is one of the first openly lesbian mothers to win custody of her children in court
 - ◆ Renee Richards outed as MTF and barred from a women’s tennis tournament
 - ◆ San Francisco Bisexual Center opens
- 1977** ◆ Anita Bryant and Save Our Children succeed in repealing Miami law against discrimination based on sexual orientation
- ◆ 80% of surveyed Oregon doctors say they would refuse to treat a known homosexual
 - ◆ Arkansas recriminalizes gay sex after two years without such a law
 - ◆ Florida forbids adoption by gays and lesbians
- 1979** ◆ First openly gay judge appointed (Los Angeles, CA)

◆ 1980s

- 1980 ◆ First Harry Benjamin Standards produced for therapists working with transgender persons
 - ◆ BBC broadcasts “A Change of Sex” about an MTF
 - ◆ Aaron Fricke takes Paul Guilbert to his high school prom after winning a lawsuit against the school
 - ◆ Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence debuts
- 1981 ◆ First reported cases of what came to be called AIDS
 - ◆ *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies* published
- 1982 ◆ Wisconsin enacts first statewide gay civil rights legislation
 - ◆ Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) founded
 - ◆ Gay Men’s Health Crisis formed
- 1983 ◆ Congressman Gerry Studds comes out; first federal official to come out as gay while in office
- 1984 ◆ FBI releases 7,500 pages of information gathered over 30 years of watching gay groups
 - ◆ Martina Navratilova’s female lover publicly sits in her “box” at Wimbledon and the French Open
 - ◆ Berkeley (CA) becomes first U.S. city to extend domestic partnership benefits to lesbian and gay employees
 - ◆ San Francisco Department of Public Health closes the city’s bathhouses
- 1985 ◆ NAMES Project memorial quilt for AIDS victims launched
- 1985 ◆ First school for openly lesbian and gay teenagers opens in New York City (Harvey Milk School)
 - ◆ Rock Hudson comes out, admits he has AIDS
- 1986 ◆ U.S. Supreme Court rejects challenge to state sodomy laws
- 1987 ◆ Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights; Names Project AIDS Memorial
 - ◆ What becomes BiNet USA formed
 - ◆ ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) formed
- 1988 ◆ National Coming Out Day launched
- 1989 ◆ Jazz musician Billy Tipton dies and is revealed to be FTM
 - ◆ BiPAC New York successfully challenges Hetrick-Martin Gay and Lesbian Health Clinic to remove a
 - ◆ First Lambda Literary Awards given

◆ 1990s

- 1990 ◆ First National Bisexual Conference held in San Francisco
 - ◆ Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act passed; first law extending federal recognition of gay men and lesbians
 - ◆ U.S. restrictions against gay immigrants lifted

◆ 1990s (continued)

- 1991** ◆ First Black Lesbian and Gay Pride celebration held in Washington, D.C.
- ◆ Amnesty International decides to work on behalf of those imprisoned for consensual same-sex acts
- ◆ Karen Thompson named Sharon Kowalski's legal guardian after an eight-year fight
- 1992** ◆ World Health Organization removes homosexuality from its classification of illnesses
- ◆ Press for Change founded in Britain to work for trans people's equal rights
- ◆ Colorado voters ban state and municipal rights laws for lesbians and gay men
- 1993** ◆ Intersex Society of North America founded
- ◆ "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" U.S. military policy adopted
- ◆ Brandon Teena and two SOFFAs murdered in Nebraska
- ◆ March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation held
- 1994** ◆ Olympic gold winner swimmer Greg Louganis comes out
- ◆ At U.S. insistence, United Nations suspends observer status of the International Lesbian and Gay Association
- 1995** ◆ First U.S. conference for FTMs
- ◆ President Clinton names the first-ever White House liaison to the gay and lesbian communities
- ◆ Million Man March has no openly gay speakers
- 1996** ◆ Congress passes Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), forbidding federal recognition of (and benefits for) married same-sex couples
- 1997** ◆ South Africa becomes the first country to enact a constitutional ban outlawing sexual orientation discrimination
- ◆ "Rolling Stones" article details failure of John Money's John/Joan case from the 1960s
- 1998** ◆ Matthew Shepard murdered in Wyoming
- ◆ First open lesbian elected to federal legislative office (Tammy Baldwin)
- 1999** ◆ Britain bans discrimination against trans people
- ◆ Texas post-op MTF Christine Littleton ruled legally male and not the legal widow of her husband

◆ Notes:

◆ 2000s

- 2000 ◆ British ban against lesbians and gay men serving in the military is lifted
 - ◆ Britain outlaws discrimination against lesbians and gay men
 - ◆ Vermont offers civil unions to same-sex couples
- 2002 ◆ MTF teenager Gwen Araujo murdered by sex partners, in California
- 2003 ◆ Massachusetts Supreme Court rules it is unconstitutional to deny marriage to gay and lesbian
 - ◆ U.S. Supreme Court strikes down remaining state sodomy laws
- 2004 ◆ United Kingdom: trans people allowed to change the gender on their birth certificates
- 2005 ◆ New Zealand first country to outlaw employment discrimination and hate crimes on the basis of gender identity
- 2006 ◆ South Africa begins recognizing gay marriages

◆ Notes:

See page 8 for Sources and credits.

◆ Sources

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◆ Credits

A Living Memory LGBT History Timeline was adapted by the Safe Schools Coalition from a document by Loree Cook-Daniels of **FORGE** (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression) <http://www.forge-forward.org/> and **TAN** (The Transgender Aging Network) <http://www.forge-forward.org/tan/>

Her original document is **Living Memory LGBT Timeline: Current Elders Would Have Been This Old When These Events Happened...**

It is posted online at http://www.forge-forward.org/handouts/LGBT_elder_timeline.pdf

Loree wrote:

“LGBT people who are now aged 50 - 100 (i.e., elders) have lived through a lot of changes in how the wider society views LGBT issues. Even those who know LGBT history well may forget just how much of it elders have personally lived through. Those who are younger and/or see how much progress the LGBT movement has made may not fully recognize how often advances have been accompanied by setbacks, and may therefore find it harder to understand the level of fear and uncertainty that may be felt by LGBT people who are old enough to remember losing rights that had previously been won.”