



May 8, 1996 - **South Africa** becomes the first country in the world to **adopt language in its constitution protecting the civil rights of lesbians and gay men** (Section 2 of the State Duty to Protect Human Rights) and, that same day, anti-apartheid campaigner Edwin **Cameron** becomes the world's first openly gay Supreme Court judge.

May 11, 2003 - African-American New Jersey high school sophomore **Sakia Gunn** is murdered after simply trying to get a guy to leave her and her friends alone by explaining that they were lesbian.

May 11, 1933 - Birth of **Father Mychal Judge**. Judge would grow up to become a self-identified gay man, though celibate due to Catholic restrictions for priests. A long term supporter of Dignity (a Catholic LGBT activist organization advocating for change in the Catholic Church's policies/teachings on homosexuality), he was a well known and loved Catholic priest. He ministered to all people no matter their identity. He considered himself an "agent of change in both church and society". And he was. His love and ministry touched everyone he encountered. He died while administering last rites to a fallen firefighter at the World Trade Center.

May 12, 1820 - **Florence Nightingale** is born. She will become the founder of modern nursing and will one day write about having romantic/erotic relationships with women.

May 13, 1944 - Openly gay novelist **Armistead Maupin** is born.

May 15, 356 BC - "**Alexander the Great** is born in Macedonia. One of the greatest generals of all time, Alexander's love of Hephaestion is the stuff of legend." *

May 16, 1919 - Liberace is born "Walter Valentino Liberace". For decades, he was known for his flamboyant, gender bending style, his music, candelabra, charisma, rhinestones and dazzle.
More: http://www.liberace.org/liberace_biography/

May 17, 2004 - the **first state-recognized, legal marriages** for same-sex couples anywhere in the U.S. are performed in Massachusetts.

May 17 - **International Day Against Homophobia** ("IDAHO") "On 17 May 1990, the General Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) removed homosexuality from their list of mental disorders. This action served to end more than a century of medical homophobia. The decision of the WHO constitutes a historic date and powerful symbol for members of the LGBT community and we feel that it is only normal that IDAHO be recognised and observed as every other International Day (i.e. International Women's Day, International Human Rights Day etc)." More at: www.homophobiaday.org. **The 2008 Campaign theme is "Homosexuality is not a sickness!"**

May 19, 1930 - Writer, activist and playwright **Lorraine Hansberry** is born. "Her first play, *A Raisin In the Sun*, is based on her childhood experiences of desegregating a white neighborhood. It won the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award as Best Play of the Year. She was the youngest American, the fifth woman and the first black to win the award."* Proudly Black and female, she was quietly lesbian (not surprising for era when she lived - she died in 1965). More at <http://www.keithboykin.com/author/blksgm.html> and http://www.gllhalloffame.org/index.pl?item=127&todo=view_item and http://www.glbtc.com/literature/hansberry_1.html

May 19, 2006 -- U.S. District Judge **Robin J. Cauthron** rules that the state of Oklahoma must, under the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution, recognize the validity of adoptions approved by courts in other states, regardless of whether the adoptive parents are same-sex couples.



Vegavahini "Vega" Subramaniam and **Vaijayanthimala "Mala" Nagarajan**, both lesbians of **South Asian** descent, are one of the plaintiff couples who sued King County and the state of Washington for legal recognition of their marriage. In 2002, they were united in a Hindu wedding ceremony officiated by Hindu priest. Vega's father and Mala's mother attended the celebration, along with 150 friends and family members. Both families support their relationship. The lawsuit of which Vega and Mala were a part was brought by 8 couples with the help of the Northwest Women's Law Center and Lambda Legal. That suit, and one brought on behalf of 11 other couples by the ACLU, were decided on July 26, 2006 by the Washington State Supreme Court ... Vega and Mala and the other couples lost the suit. More on Vega and Mala: http://www.imdiversity.com/villages/asian/family_lifestyle_traditions/paccit_lgbt_families_1004.asp and http://news.ncmonline.com/news/view_article.html?article_id=01e729a2b1835e69c1db13b4822eab54 and <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/msid-550958.curpg-1.cms>.

Anne Xuân Clark, the co-founder of Seattle's Asian Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance, has worked on many queer Asian visibility campaigns and has always been delighted by the support of the mainstream Asian American community. For over ten years, Anne worked in Seattle's International District raising millions for Asian community development projects, like the International District Village Square. Anne has also worked in a variety of creative mediums including videos, video installations, 'zines and creative writing. Her work has been screened, exhibited and published throughout the United States. She currently works at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Emi Koyama is an activist/author/academic working on intersex, sex workers' rights, (queer) domestic violence, genderqueer, anti-racism, and other issues. She describes herself as "a multi-issue social justice slut synthesizing feminist, Asian, survivor, dyke, queer, sex worker, intersex, genderqueer, and crip politics." Emi is the director of Intersex Initiative <<http://www.ipdx.org/>>, headquartered in Portland, Oregon.

Tony-winning, openly gay actor **B.D. Wong** (*X-Files*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Father of the Bride*, *Jurassic Park*). B.D. -- Bradley Darryl -- Wong currently resides in New York City with his son, Jackson Foo (the surviving twin was born May 28, 2000) and his partner, Richie ... see <http://www.afterelton.com/archive/elton/people/2005/11/bdwong.html>

Esera Tuaolo is **Samoan American** from Hawaii and one of only three National Football League players ever to come out as gay. After nine years in the NFL, he retired to focus on acting and singing and being with his husband of seven years, Mitchell, and their two children. He said in October 2002, "*Now, after a life of living a lie, I am here to tell the truth. My truth. I am Esera Tuaolo, and for nine years I made my living as a gladiator in the NFL. I was a 280-pound nose tackle who could run a 40 in 4.8. I was voted the best defensive lineman in the Pac-10 in 1989 at Oregon State, and I made the NFL all-rookie team two years later with Green Bay. I played in the Super Bowl, played for five different teams, sang the national anthem at the Pro Bowl and earned the respect of players like Brett Favre and John Randle and Jack Del Rio. I was all that. And I am a gay man.*" See more at <http://www.outsports.com/nfl/20021027eseramain.htm> and <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5190140>

Urvashi Vaid is an **Indian American**, a lawyer, a social activist and an out lesbian. She's also the author of *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation* (1996) and co-editor of *Creating Change: Public Policy, Sexuality and Civil Rights* (2000) and was for three years the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF, now known as "The Task Force"). Vaid now serves on the Board of the Gill Foundation, whose mission is to secure equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression. More: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urvashi_Vaid



Chinese/Korean American poet, educator and longtime lesbian activist, **Merle Woo** currently teaches in the women's studies department at San Jose State University. She is a socialist-feminist educator and writer who, for twenty years has been a leader in Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party. During the 1980s, she won an unfair labor practice, a civil suit, and a union arbitration against the University of California for violation of her free-speech rights and multi-discrimination based on race, sex, sexuality, and political ideology. At San Francisco State University during the 1990s, Woo fought alongside other progressive faculty and students to maintain a lesbian, women of color, and community focus in women's studies. More: <http://andrejkoymasky.com/liv/fam/biow3/woo01.html>

Frieda Takamura is **Japanese-American** and an openly heterosexual co-chair of the Safe Schools Coalition. She is also currently serving on the Human Rights Campaign's Welcoming Schools National Advisory Board and is a former board member of GLSEN, the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network, as well as retired Human Relations Field Representative for the Washington Education Association. Frieda is a nationally acclaimed speaker on bullying and human and civil rights in schools. She is a fierce ally to her LGBT brothers and sisters, speaking up in education circles where her LGBT colleagues are too often silenced.



(3) Quotes to inspire students' journaling ...

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."
-- Mahatma Mohandas **Gandhi**

"Never be afraid to sit awhile and think."
-- Lorraine **Hansberry**, writer, playwright and lesbian African-American woman

"Stop! THIS is why we need a GSA!"
-- sign taped underneath flyers for Sennett Middle School's Gay Straight Alliance meetings ... so that when people vandalize the flyer by tearing it down, the message will shout from beneath it

"The gay rights movement is not a party. It is not lifestyle. It is not a hair style. It is not a fad or a fringe or a sickness. It is not about sin or salvation. The gay rights movement is an integral part of the American promise of freedom."
-- Urvashi **Vaid**, openly lesbian author/activist

"As an Asian American whose ancestors were denied equal rights and protections under California law, I recognize the profound harm caused by denying lesbian and gay people the ability to protect their families through marriage."
-- Victor **Hwang**, an attorney with Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach

"I think there's a myth that gay people have lousy relationships with their parents ... But there are gay people who have great relationships with their parents, and (Richie and I) just happen to be two of them."
-- openly gay actor, B.D. **Wong**

"We convince by our presence."
-- poet Walt **Whitman**, who wrote of his love relationships with men

"I make the films I do because I can't let the bad guys get away with it ... There are forces in this world and they have their agenda to take over, to dictate how everybody should live, and dictate what the rules are going to be ... That is why I did [The Public Families Project] - fighting society."
-- Chinese-American out gay filmmaker, Arthur **Dong** (*Stories from the War on Homosexuality, Family Fundamentals, Licensed to Kill*)



Honor Thy Children. This book "is the inspirational account of a Japanese-American family's triumph in the face of the deaths of their three sons, two to AIDS and one to a random act of violence. Here is the wisdom born of suffering, courageously revealed to the author that the rest of us may learn to honor and love our own children." By Molly Fumia, published 1997. ISBN:1573241989 <http://www.powells.com/cgi-bin/biblio?isbn=1573241989>

In God's House: Asian American Lesbian and Gay Families in the Church: film released October 2006: <http://www.ingodshouse.com/>

King County folks, take note ... There are several API-specific referral ideas on Safe Schools Coalition's page of LGBTIQ-youth-friendly community resources in King County (WA): <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-LocalCommunityResources-Region11.html> (see **Asian Counseling & Referral Service, Long Yang Club, POCAAN, QPOC Liberation Project** and **Trikone Northwest**)

Network on Religion and Justice for Asian American and Pacific Islander Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people (NRJ-API LGBT), "A coalition of organizations and individuals affirming the dignity and spiritual wholeness of API LGBT people of faith; ... to create visibility and connection, to educate and advocate, and to transform both our faith communities and our larger world." <http://www.nrj-api-lgbt.org/>

Queer Asian & Pacific Islander Pride Scholarship Fund:
<http://www.apiwellness.org/scholarship.html>

Youth Resource's GLBTQ API youth community page:
<http://www.youthresource.com/living/yoc/asian.htm>