

## Timeline of LGBT History in Virginia and the United States

This timeline is a part of DHR's Virginia LGBTQ Heritage project, a companion to our New Dominion Virginia Initiative (<http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/NewDominion/index.htm>). It begins with the earliest recorded event associated with LGBTQ heritage in colonial Virginia and continues through the early twenty-first century. This timeline includes events that were national in scope that affected Virginia's LGBTQ history as well as events, places, and people specific to the Commonwealth. This document is a work in progress and will be periodically updated as additional information becomes available. Please report broken links to [lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov).

1566: First known execution in North America of a person for same-sex sexual activities (by the Spanish in Florida.)

1607: First permanent English colony established at *Jamestown, Virginia*.

1610: *Virginia* adopts "sodomy laws" of England, making sex between two men a "capital crime" punishable by death. Sodomy laws eventually are passed throughout the United States. Decriminalization of homosexual relationships does not begin until the late twentieth century.

1642: Elizabeth Johnson becomes first woman to be punished for violating sodomy laws (Essex County of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.)

1744: French missionary Father Charlevoix describes the transgender and homosexual behavior of the Iroquois *berdache*: "There are men unashamed to wear women's clothing and to practice all the occupations of women, from which follows corruption that I cannot express. They pretend that this usage comes from their religion." In fact, the Iroquois are among 133 North American tribes that honor their "two-spirit" men and women with a sacred ceremonial role.

1776: Thirteen colonies declare independence from Britain, thus beginning the American Revolutionary War.

1777: In a move seen as "liberal" at the time, Thomas Jefferson proposes a revision of *Virginia* law to reduce the penalty for sodomy from death to castration. This is never enacted.

1778: Gotthold Enslin becomes the first American discharged from the Army for sodomy.

1787: The Constitution is approved at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. The United States government begins to take its current form, although the Constitution first must be ratified by at least 9 colonies to take effect.

1789: The Bill of Rights, which today constitutes the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, is sent to the states for ratification. Freedom of assembly, speech, religion, and the press, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, the right to an impartial jury and to face one's accuser, and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment are among the basic human rights provided by the Bill of Rights, but these rights are not made equally available to all American citizens until

passage of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1868. Lawsuits through the late 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries continually refine and expand the applicability of the Bill of Rights and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to American citizens.

1790: The “Industrial Revolution” that is well under way in Europe begins affecting American life, with rapidly-growing cities gradually replacing farms as the living and working environment of many Americans. The trend is most pronounced in the Northeast, while the South trails behind due largely to that region’s dependence on a slavery-based agricultural economy.

1800: Gabriel’s Rebellion is an insurrection by enslaved African Americans to end slavery in ***Richmond, Virginia***. Today, it is counted among the most significant insurrection plots in the history of North American slavery. Among its results was further codification of slavery in Virginia law.

1831: Nat Turner’s Rebellion, another insurrection by enslaved African Americans, takes place in ***Southampton County, Virginia***. Pro-slavery groups use the event as a reason to reject calls by Northeastern abolitionists to end slavery throughout the United States.

1859: John Brown’s Raid on the federal arsenal at Harper’s Ferry, ***Virginia*** (now West Virginia), becomes a flashpoint in divisions between Northern and Southern states on the issue of slavery. The Civil War begins the following spring.

1860: Walt Whitman publishes his first “Calamus” poems in *Leaves of Grass*, celebrating his “love of comrades,” a veiled reference to his homosexuality. Whitman is typical of the new gay subculture emerging in American cities. Away from the prying eyes of family and small town neighbors, gay people in cities were freer to act on their sexual orientations than before and found it easier to meet others like themselves. Noted psychiatrist Havlock Ellis was to comment, after a 1915 visit to the United States that, “The world of sexual inverts, indeed, is a large one in any American city.”

1865-1870: The Civil War ends in April 1865 and slavery is abolished in the United States. The Thirteenth (ratified in 1865), Fourteenth (1868), and Fifteenth (1870) amendments grant voting and citizenship rights to African Americans and also enshrine in the Constitution rights applicable to all American citizens. Of particular note, the right to equal protection under the law is a factor in numerous legal decisions regarding civil rights.

1867: “Father of the LGBT Movement” Karl-Heinrich Ulrichs is the first person to speak out for gay rights.

1869: Hungarian writer Karl-Maria Kertbeny (nee Benkert) invents the word “homosexual” to describe people attracted to the same sex and is responsible for the term’s first known use in print in his pamphlet, *Paragraph 143 of the Prussian Penal Code of 14 April 1851 and Its Reaffirmation as Paragraph 152 in the Proposed Penal Code for the North German Confederation*, in which Kertbeny argued that the state should not involve itself in the private sexual affairs of its citizens. Kertbeny also created the term “heterosexual” and other terms meant to sort human sexual activity according to different types of sexual preference. Kertbeny

was known to correspond with German jurist Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, another forerunner in the gay rights movement. Kertbeny's emphasis on the right to privacy was overshadowed by the psychiatric and medical professions' adoption of his terminology to describe "mental conditions." Although classification of homosexuality as a mental condition represented a change from earlier assumptions that homosexuality derived from deliberate sinfulness and wickedness, it perpetuated beliefs that homosexuality represented mentally and socially aberrant behavior in need of correction. <http://www.policy.hu/takacs/pdf-lib/TheDoubleLifeOfKertbeny.pdf>

1889: Jane Addams founds Hull House in Chicago, America's first "settlement house" offering services for the poor. Addams, herself a lesbian, is vital in founding the new profession of "social work." Closely identified with the contemporary notion of extending women's natural domestic sphere (which focused on childcare and family well-being), social work is a female-dominated profession from its inception. Using an experimental model of reform — trying solutions to see what would work — and committed to full- and part-time residents to keep in touch with the neighborhood's real needs, Addams built Hull House into an institution known worldwide. A pacifist and women's rights activist, she also became involved in wider efforts for social reform, including housing and sanitation issues, factory inspection, rights of immigrants, women and children, pacifism and the 8-hour work day. She also served as a Vice President of the National Woman Suffrage Association from 1911-1914. Books by Jane Addams include "Twenty Years at Hull House" and "Democracy and Social Ethics."

1890s: As educational and economic opportunities begin to expand for middle- and upper-class women in the late nineteenth century, more women enter emerging professions in social work, teaching, and nursing. These fields allow women to earn their own incomes and live independently, without husbands. The term "Boston marriage" comes to refer to two women who live together for a long period of time. The geographic specificity of the term is believed to be related to the concentration of women's colleges (Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley) in New England. This independence was the prerequisite for the emergence of lesbian communities. ([http://www.glbtq.com/social-sciences/boston\\_marriages.html](http://www.glbtq.com/social-sciences/boston_marriages.html))

1903: The first known recorded raid on a gay bathhouse takes place in New York City; 12 men are charged with sodomy

1913: Alfred Redl, head of Austrian Intelligence, commits suicide after being identified as a Russian double agent and a homosexual. His widely-published arrest gives birth to the notion that homosexuals are security risks.

1910: A German physician, Magnus Hirschfeld, coins the term "transvestite," and later, "transsexual."

1914: In Oregon, a dictionary of criminal slang is published, and contains the first known printed use of the derogatory word "faggot" to refer to male homosexuals.

1919: Magnus Hirschfeld founds the Institute for Sexology in Berlin, which becomes the first clinic to serve transgender people on a regular basis. Born in Kolberg, Germany (which is now

Kolbrzeg, Poland) in 1868, he began his career in medicine and was soon drawn to the study of human sexuality. Hirschfeld's interests were personal as well as political. He was a transvestite, having coined the term, and was also homosexual. Hirschfeld believed that sexual orientation was a naturally occurring trait worthy of scientific inquiry and political emancipation rather than social hostility.

1920: American women win the right to vote with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

1920: The first known use of the term "gay" to refer to homosexuals occurs in the publication *Underground*.

1921: The U.S. Navy prepares a report on entrapment of "perverts" within its ranks.

1924 (Dec. 10): The Society for Human Rights (SHR) is founded by Henry Gerber in Chicago during the "Roaring Twenties," which sees a new openness toward homosexuality with gay artists such as Langston Hughes and Bessie Smith achieving prominence through the "Harlem Renaissance." The new "nightlife" of the era includes many "bohemian" clubs where gay people are welcomed. Gerber is inspired by the work of Germany's Magnus Hirschfeld and his Scientific-Humanitarian Committee. The SHR is the first gay rights organization as well as the oldest documented in America. After receiving a charter from the state of Illinois, the society publishes the first known American publication for homosexuals, *Friendship and Freedom*. The SHR is short-lived, however, as police arrest several of its members shortly after it incorporates. Due to police and media harassment, the SHR disbands in less than a year. Although embittered by his experiences, Gerber maintains contacts within the fledgling homophile movement of the 1950s and continues to agitate for the rights of homosexuals.

1924: The first commercially produced play with a lesbian theme, *God of Vengeance*, opens on Broadway. The theatre owner and 12 cast members are charged and found guilty of obscenity but their convictions are later overturned.

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 cross-dressing men and women.

1927: The New York state legislature attempts to ban gay-themed plays.

1927: *Well of Loneliness*, by British writer Radclyffe Hall, is published in Great Britain and the United States. The novel features a lesbian relationship, leading all British copies to be destroyed as "obscene." Homosexuality becomes a topic of public conversation.

1929: Black Tuesday, the stock market crash of 1929, brings on the Great Depression, a worldwide economic disaster. Restricted economic opportunities mean a loss of individual freedom for many, including women who had enjoyed greater sexual freedom during the 1920s (the Flapper phenomenon) and gays.

1930: The *Encyclopedia of Sexual Knowledge* illustrates the first “sex-change” procedures.

1931: Jane Addams becomes the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

1932: A narrative of Danish painter Einar Wegener’s sex reassignment surgery, *Man Into Woman: The First Sex Change, a Portrait of Lili Elbe*, is published in Europe.

1932; 1936: Polish-American Olympian runner Stella Walsh wins gold and silver medals at the 1932 and 1936 Olympic Games. She participates on the Polish national team due to a late-occurring delay in her application for American citizenship. In 1936, United States runner Helen Stephens wins an Olympic gold medal for the 100-meter sprint, beating Walsh. Stephens’s sex is challenged because of her appearance and athletic performance but sex tests reveal that she is a female. Walsh, who is not tested, is revealed to be intersex upon her death in 1980. Intersex (also known as ambiguous genitalia) occurs in 1-2% of the human population.

1933: On January 30, Adolf Hitler bans the gay press in Germany. Later that same year, Magnus Hirschfeld’s Institute for Sexology is raided and over 12,000 books, periodicals, works of art, and other materials are burned. Many of these items were irreplaceable.

1934: Gay people are among the groups targeted by Nazis to be rounded up from German-occupied countries and sent to concentration camps. Just as Jews were made to wear the Star of David on their prison uniforms, gay people are required to wear a pink triangle.

1934: Lillian Hellman’s *The Children’s Hour* opens on Broadway to rave reviews. The drama is set in an all-girls boarding school and concerns the destruction of the two headmistresses after a student falsely accuses them of having a lesbian relationship. The play twice is adapted to a movie, *These Three* in 1936 and *The Children’s Hour* in 1961.

1935: “Successful” electric shock therapy treatment of homosexuality is reported at N American Psychological Association meeting

1938: German high jumper Dora Ratjen, who had competed in the Berlin Olympics, is barred from further competition when she is examined and discovered to have ambiguous genitalia (intersex). After World War II, Ratjen, by then living as Hermann, acknowledges that the Nazi Youth Movement had forced him to compete as a woman.

1937: Morris Kight organizes the Oscar Wilde Study Circle at Texas Christian University to examine the life and works of notable gay author Oscar Wilde. Although little information exists about the study circle itself, Kight goes on to be a leader in the gay rights movement.

1939: In preparation for the World’s Fair, New York City “cleans up,” an effort that includes closing most of the city’s best-known gay bars.

1940: Courts rule that the New York State Liquor Authority can legally close down bars that serve “sex variants.”

1941: The term “transsexuality” is coined but at first is used to mean homosexuality and bisexuality.

1941: In December, the United States enters World War II.

1942: The U.S. military, under the influence of the psychiatric establishment, revises codes on homosexual behavior as part of a general revision of regulations brought on by World War II. Previously, soldiers could only be expelled if they were witnessed committing “sodomy;” henceforth, “homosexual” is sufficient cause for dismissal. The Army begins asking entering soldiers about their sexual orientations and expel any recruits or active-duty soldiers who “admit” to their homosexuality, whether or not they have ever acted on these desires. These expulsions are known as “blue discharges” because of the color of the paper on which they are printed. Approximately 100,000 Americans are discharged on this basis over the next 50 years. This policy is replaced in 1993 with “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” Gays and lesbians are finally permitted to serve openly in the U. S. military in 2010.

1942: Switzerland decriminalizes adult homosexuality (men only; lesbianism wasn’t outlawed to begin with).

1945: World War II ends. The Veterans Benevolent Association is founded in New York by gay service members to fight the “blue discharge: system.” It is the first documented LGBT veterans group.

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

1945: In Great Britain, Michael Dillon becomes the first person known to undergo female-to-male gender reassignment surgery

1947: The first documented U.S. lesbian magazine, *Visa-Versa*, is published by “Lisa Ben.”

1947: In the aftermath of World War II and the perceived rising threat of the communist Soviet Union, the Red Scare becomes a pervasive phenomenon in American culture. The Red Scare leads to a range of actions that have a profound and enduring effect on American government and society, including directly undermining first amendment rights to freedom of speech, assembly, and the press through the pervasion of “guilt by association.” Federal employees are analyzed to determine whether they are sufficiently loyal to the government and whether they are vulnerable to blackmail. Perceived or actual homosexuality is considered to be a security threat, leading to the firing of many federal employees. The House Un-American Activities (HUAC) and U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy take the lead on anti-communist investigations in the government and the Hollywood film industry, considered to be a hotbed of leftist activity. McCarthy’s actions are so influential that the Red Scare also is known as the McCarthy Era. The Red Scare continues unabated until 1954, when McCarthy’s tactics of using hearsay and intimidation finally are denounced by fellow members of the U.S. Senate, although by this time McCarthy had used charges of disloyalty at celebrities, intellectuals, and anyone who disagreed

with his political views to cost many of his victims their reputations and jobs. J. Edgar Hoover, longtime director of the F.B.I., aids many legislative investigations. Hoover's agency compiles extensive files on suspected subversives through the use of wiretaps, surveillance and the infiltration of leftist groups. The F.B.I.'s investigations continue into the 1960s, at which time its targets included the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders and activist groups associated with the Civil Rights Movement.

1947: President Harry Truman issues Executive Order 9835, also known as the Loyalty Order, which mandates that all federal employees be analyzed to determine whether they are sufficiently loyal to the government. Actual or perceived homosexuality is considered to be an indication of disloyalty due to vulnerability to blackmail, to mental instability, and/or to leftist sympathies.

1947: In October, 10 members of the Hollywood film industry publicly denounce the tactics employed by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) during its probe of alleged communist influence in the American motion picture business. Formed in 1938, HUAC is an investigative committee of the U.S. House of Representatives charged with investigating any alleged anti-American threats. Comprised of prominent screenwriters and directors, the Hollywood Ten receive jail sentences and are banned from working for the major Hollywood studios. Their defiant stands also place them at center stage in a national debate over the controversial anti-communist crackdown that swept through the United States in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Besides the Hollywood Ten, other members of the film industry with alleged communist ties are later banned from working for the big movie studios. The Hollywood blacklist finally comes to an end in the 1960s.

1948: In *Perez v. Sharp*, the California Supreme Court becomes the first state high court to declare a ban on interracial marriage to be unconstitutional. In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, overturns all state bans on interracial marriage, declaring that the "freedom to marry" belongs to all Americans.

1948: Biologist and sex researcher Alfred Kinsey publishes *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*. From his research Kinsey concludes that 4 percent of men identify themselves as exclusively homosexual, that homosexual behavior is not restricted to people who identify themselves as homosexual, and that 37 percent men have sexual relationships at least once with other men in their adult lives. Based on his research, Kinsey proposes that sexual orientation lies on a continuum from exclusively homosexual to exclusively heterosexual. While psychologists and psychiatrists in the 1940s consider homosexuality a form of illness, the findings surprise many conservative notions about sexuality.

1948: The *New York Times* refuses advertisements for Gore Vidal's third novel, *The City and the Pillar*, which tells the story of a young man coming to terms with his homosexuality. Today the novel is considered to be a landmark novel in American literature about the gay experience.

1949: Dr. Harry Benjamin begins to treat transgender people in San Francisco and New York with hormone therapy.

1949: The Red Scare reaches a fever pitch when the Soviet Union successfully tests an atomic bomb. Mao Tse-Tung's Communist revolt takes over China. Charging that subversives "have undermined our government," Senator Joseph McCarthy begins "witch hunts" to identify anyone suspected of any communist sympathies, whether past or present.

1950: Under Secretary of State John Puerifoy speaks of a "pervert peril" in testimony before Congress. A Senate hearing reveals the majority of State Department dismissals are based on accusations of homosexuality. A Senate report titled "Employment of Homosexuals and Other Sex Perverts in Government" is distributed to members of Congress after the federal government had covertly investigated employees' sexual orientation at the beginning of the Cold War. The report states since homosexuality is a mental illness, homosexuals "constitute security risks" to the nation because "those who engage in overt acts of perversion lack the emotional stability of normal persons." Over the previous few years, more than 4,380 gay men and women had been discharged from the military and around 500 fired from their jobs with the government. The Senate approves further wide-ranging investigation of homosexuals "and other moral perverts" in national government. The purging will become known as the "lavender scare."

1950: In November in Los Angeles, gay rights activists Harry Hay and Church Rowland found the Mattachine Society, one of the earliest homophile/homosexual organizations in the U.S. "Mattachine" took its name from a group of medieval dancers who appeared publicly only in mask, a device well understood by homosexuals of the 1950s. In an attempt to change public perception of homosexuality, the Mattachine Society aims to "eliminate discrimination, derision, prejudice and bigotry," to assimilate homosexuals into mainstream society, to cultivate the notion of an "ethical homosexual culture," and to help homosexuals realize their collective histories and experiences. Their goal is to organize and advocate for homosexual rights and to reduce the feelings of isolation that many gays and lesbians of the time are experiencing. Unlike the 1920s Society for Human Rights, the Mattachine Society is not a public organization. Hay devised its secret cell structure (based on the Masonic order) to protect individual gays and the nascent gay network. Officially co-gender, the group was largely male – the Daughters of Bilitis, the pioneering lesbian organization, formed independently in San Francisco in 1956. The Mattachine Society is often considered the beginning of the contemporary organized gay rights movement in the U.S., and Hay is regarded by many as the movement's founder. He also pioneered the first American gay periodical, *One*, and is a co-founder, in 1979, of the Radical Faeries, a movement affirming gayness as a form of spiritual calling.

1951 – Edward Sagarin, writing under the pseudonym Donald Webster Cory, publishes *The Homosexual in America: A Subjective Approach*. The book is the first widely read non-fiction work in the United States to present knowledgeably and sympathetically the plight of the homosexual as told from the inside rather than the outside. Sagarin argues for the rights of homosexuals as a group, declaring, "We are a minority, not only numerically, but also as a result of a caste-like system in society . . . our minority status is similar, in a variety of respects, to that of national, religious, and other ethnic groups; in the denial of civil liberties; in the legal, extra-legal and quasi-legal discrimination; in the assignment of an inferior social position; in the exclusion from the mainstreams of life and culture. . . . On the other hand, one great gap separates the homosexual minority from all others, and that is its lack of recognition, its lack of respectability in the eyes of the public, and even in the most advanced circles." Importantly,



however, Sagarin does not dispute the then-prevailing theory of homosexuality as a sickness or mental disorder.

1952: The American Psychiatric Association lists homosexuality as a “sociopathic personality disturbance” in its first publication of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Immediately following the manual’s release, many professionals in medicine, mental health and social sciences criticize the categorization due to lack of empirical and scientific data.

1952: Christine Jorgensen comes to public attention as the first American to have gender-reassignment surgery.

1952: British mathematician and computer pioneer Alan Turing is arrested for homosexuality. Turing is in fact a national hero for his top-secret work during World War II to break German secret codes using a captured Enigma machine, but his contributions are still classified by the British government. Upon conviction, Turing is sentenced to a year of hormonal treatments causing impotence and breast development for committing “gross indecency with males.” Emotionally broken by the ordeal, he is believed to have committed suicide in 1954, although some circumstances of his death are disputed. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown issues a formal apology for Turing’s arrest in 2009. Turing’s fundamental work on code-breaking is released publicly in 2012. The next year, Turing is granted a posthumous royal pardon.

1952: Immigrants are banned from the U.S. if they are found to have a “psychopathic personality,” including homosexuality.

1953: The Kinsey report on women’s sexuality is released, and includes a discussion of lesbian behavior among women.

1953: U.S. physician Harry Benjamin repurposes the term “transsexual” to apply to individuals who express an intense desire to change their sex.

1953: In April, newly-inaugurated President Dwight Eisenhower issues Executive Order 10450, ordering the dismissal of government workers who engage in “sexual perversion” and other immoral acts. Henceforth, homosexuals are banned from working for the federal government or any of its private contractors. Homosexuals are listed in the executive order as security risks, along with alcoholics and neurotics. Employees of federal, state and local governments also must take “loyalty oaths” to gain employment, swearing (among other things) that they are not homosexual. These regulations are not repealed until 1975.

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, lose their jobs after newspapers printed their names and home addresses at least 6 times

1954: Senator Joseph McCarthy is finally denounced by his colleagues in the U.S. Senate for his use of threats, intimidation, and hearsay to persecute those who disagreed with his political views. By this time McCarthy had used charges of disloyalty at celebrities, intellectuals, and anyone who disagreed with his political views to cost many of his victims their reputations and

jobs. After his political humiliation, the Red Scare begins to ease, although its lingering effects, such as the Hollywood Blacklist, do not end until the 1960s.

1955: Gay African-American activist Bayard Rustin visits Montgomery, Alabama, during the midst of the bus boycott sparked by civil rights activist Rosa Parks' refusal to surrender her seat to a white man. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has emerged as a leader in the protest, and Rustin instructs King and other activists in the techniques of civil disobedience, which becomes a chief tactic of the Civil Rights Movement. Rustin later organizes the 1963 March on Washington where King delivers the famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

1955: Allen Ginsberg, a leading figure in the Beat Generation, performs the literary landmark *Howl* at the Six Gallery in San Francisco. Ginsberg's work breaks with long-established literary tradition in both form and subject matter, prominently featuring run-on sentences discussing drug use, homosexuality and a generation alienated by the period's relentless emphasis on conformity. The following year, Ginsberg work is published as *Howl and Other Poems*, which leads to obscenity charges against his publisher, Lawrence Ferlinghetti. In 1957, the case results in a landmark ruling, *People v. Ferlinghetti*, in which San Francisco Municipal Court Judge Clayton W. Horn finds that, rather than being obscene, Ginsberg work has "redeeming social importance," and therefore is protected by the First Amendment. This ruling is in keeping with a previous U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Roth v. United States*, which found that the First Amendment protects literature, but not obscenity.

1955 – In Sioux City, Iowa, in the wake of the murder of a boy, 29 men suspected of homosexuality are committed to mental asylums as a "preventive measure."

1956: Dr. Evelyn Hooker presents her research findings in her paper, "The Adjustment of the Male Overt Homosexual," at the American Psychological Association Convention in Chicago. She administered projective tests to matched pairs of homosexual and heterosexual men (none of them psychiatric patients) and asked internationally recognized testing experts to rate each man's adjustment without knowing his sexual orientation. The experts judged most of the men in both groups to be functioning well — a finding incompatible with the classification of homosexuality as a mental illness. Moreover, using the men's Rorschach responses — which were then believed to permit "diagnosis" of homosexuality — the judges couldn't distinguish between heterosexual and homosexual men at levels better than chance. Her results show that even skilled research experts find no differences in the mental health of these two groups. Hooker's research was subsequently replicated by other scientists, creating an empirical foundation for the removal of homosexuality as a mental illness from the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual* in 1973.

1955: On September 21 in San Francisco, the Daughters of Bilitis is founded by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon and is the first lesbian rights organization in the United States. Promoting a sense of community and belonging, the organization hosts social functions providing alternatives to lesbian bars and clubs, which are frequently raided by police. The name Daughters of Bilitis was taken from the poem, "Songs of Bilitis," by Pierre Louys. In 1956, the group starts publishing a magazine, *The Ladder*, which is the first known lesbian publication of any kind.

1956: James Baldwin, a celebrated author and activist for African American and gay rights, publishes *Giovanni's Room* (1956). *Another Country* follows in 1962. Both create controversy because they featured normalized depictions of gay relationships as well as characters who struggle with their sexual identities.

1957: The *Kinsey Report* reveals that 10 percent of the male population is predominantly homosexual.

1957: Ann Bannon publishes *Odd Girls Out*, a lesbian pulp fiction novel that becomes the first in a series eventually known as the Beebo Brinker Chronicles.

1957: American Civil Liberties Union approves a policy statement saying laws against sodomy and federal restrictions on employment of lesbians and gay men are constitutional.

1958: In the landmark case *One, Inc. v. Olesen*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of the First Amendment rights of the magazine *One: The Homosexual Magazine*, which is affiliated with the Mattachine Society. The U.S. Postal Service had banned distribution of publications on homosexuality through the mail as "obscenity," and both it and the FBI declared *One* to be obscene material. This decision marks the first time the U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of homosexuals.

1960: In San Francisco, a national convention of the Daughters of Bilitis is the first U.S. public gathering of lesbians.

1961: In San Francisco, by running for a seat on the Board of Supervisors, drag entertainer Joe Sarria becomes the country's first openly gay candidate for U.S. public office. He is endorsed by the League for Civil Education, and although he did not win he received 5,600 votes.

1961: Screening of the British movie *Victim* marks the first use of the term "homosexual" in a feature film shown in the U.S. The Motion Picture Association of America denies the movie its seal of approval.

1961: Illinois completes a comprehensive criminal code revision that makes it the first state in the U.S. to repeal its law against sodomy. Homosexual acts between two consenting adults in private are no longer illegal. However the revised code made it a crime to commit a "lewd fondling or caress of the body of another person of the same sex" in a public place.

1962: The first known positive radio program about homosexuality is broadcast on WBAI in New York City. Gay rights activist Randy Wicker and several other gay men participated in a 90-minute program to talk about their lives. The program received positive coverage from mainstream publications such as *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Variety*.

1963: Bayard Rustin, African American and gay rights activist, is the key organizer of the National March on Washington, during which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

1963: The American Civil Liberties Union announces its opposition to government interference in the private sex lives of consenting adults

1964: The U.S. Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, preventing states from infringing on the rights granted to African Americans by amendments to the U.S. constitution after the Civil War. Passage is considered the result of massive civil disobedience and protest campaigns led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and organized by Bayard Rustin.

1964: *Life* magazine runs a positive cover story on “Homosexuality in America” and focuses on San Francisco, where prosecutions of gay individuals had begun to wane.

1964: Gay rights activist Randy Wicker becomes the first openly gay person to appear on East Coast television with an appearance on *The Les Crane Show*.

1965: A series of public demonstrations is held in Washington, D.C. by the East Coast Homophile Organizations to protest U.S. government discrimination against lesbians and gay men. Gay and lesbian people picket outside federal offices in what is believed to be the first public protests by gay people in the nation’s capital.

1965: On July 4 at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, picketers begin staging the first Reminder Day to call public attention to the lack of civil rights for LGBT people. The gatherings will continue annually for five years.

1965: In San Francisco, Jose Sarria founds the Imperial Court System in the United States. The ICA is a network of charitable organizations that use drag events to raise funds for gay, lesbian, and other groups.

1966: Huey Newton, founder of the Black Panther Party, welcomes the gay liberation movement as part of the struggle for human emancipation.

1966: On April 21, members of the Mattachine Society stage a “sip-in” at the Julius Bar in Greenwich Village, where the New York Liquor Authority prohibits serving gay patrons in bars on the basis that homosexuals are “disorderly.” Society president Dick Leitsch and other members announce their homosexuality and are immediately refused service. Following the sip-in, the Mattachine Society sues the New York Liquor Authority. Although no laws are overturned, the New York City Commission on Human Rights declares that homosexuals have the right to be served.

1966: In August, after transgender customers become raucous about discriminatory treatment in San Francisco’s 24-hour Compton’s Cafeteria, management calls police. When a police officer manhandles one of the patrons, she throws coffee in his face and a riot ensues, eventually spilling onto the street, destroying police and public property. This is the first known public transgender uprising. Following the riot, activists establish the National Transsexual Counseling Unit, the first peer-run support and advocacy organization in the world.

1966: “Lesbian” is heard for the first time in a Hollywood movie, *The Group*.

1966: The Society for Individual Rights opens the first public U.S. gay community center in San Francisco.

1966: Physician Harry Benjamin publishes *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, the first large work describing and explaining the affirmative medical treatment path he pioneered.

1966: The oldest collegiate student organization for gays, the Student Homophile League, is founded at Columbia University.

1966 The National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations is formed.

1967: In March, the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Committee on Goals publishes the results of its survey on beliefs and attitudes within the denomination: 7.7% of UUs believe that homosexuality should be discouraged by law; 80.2% that it should be discouraged by education, not law; 12% that it should not be discouraged by law or education; 1% that it should be encouraged.

1967 – England and Wales legalize male homosexuality.

1967: A bisexual rap (discussion) group is held in San Francisco.

1967: New York and New Jersey decide that state liquor commissions can no longer forbid bars from serving gay men and lesbians.

1967: The Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop is the first gay bookstore to open in the U.S.

1967: Publication of a medical case involving a male child, “John,” who was turned into “Joan” at John Hopkins Hospital after a circumcision accident, widely impacts gender theory.

1968: Civil rights and lesbian activist Audre Lorde begins teaching at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi, where violent backlash to the Civil Rights Movement remains a serious threat. Tougaloo College also is known as the alma mater of Anne Moody, whose 1968 memoir, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, is an unflinching narrative about growing up in the Jim Crow South and the grim realities of civil rights activism in rural Mississippi.

1968: The International Olympic Committee begins chromosome testing of female athletes, effectively banning transgender and some intersexed people from competition. Two Russian women athletes, sisters Tamara and Irina Press, whose “masculine” appearance and gold medal performances in track and field prompt concern about male athletes “masquerading” as women competitors, never compete again after the sex tests are instituted.

1968: Metropolitan Community Church is formed as the world’s first known church group with a primary, positive ministry to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons.

1968: The American Psychiatric Association moves homosexuality from the “sociopathic” category to the “sexual deviation” category in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual.

1968: The Bi Alliance begins at the University of Minnesota.

1969: On June 27-29, patrons of the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village riot when police officers attempt to raid the popular gay bar around 1 a.m. Many of the patrons are transgender. Since its establishment in 1967, the bar has been frequently and unjustly raided by police officers trying to clean up the neighborhood of “sexual deviants.” Raids on such bars are common occurrences. Stonewall had already been raided once that week, but on this particular night, police officers are met with unexpected hostility. Caught off guard by the amount of resistance levied by patrons, the police barricade themselves inside the Stonewall Inn to protect themselves from the patrons, who are throwing bricks and bottles and chanting “Gay Power!” For several nights (5-7 depending on the account), crowds grow outside the Stonewall Inn. Angry gay youth clash with aggressive police officers in the streets. Although there are thousands of protestors, the riots receive only minimal local news coverage. The event, now known as the Stonewall Rebellion or the Stonewall Riots, is the first substantial resistance to harassment that gay men and lesbians put forward in the U.S. A pivotal, defining moment in the movement for LGBT rights, Stonewall marks the beginning of major resistance by gay men and lesbians to discrimination. Borrowing from other social justice movements of the time, gay leaders adopt a new militant attitude, use such slogans as “Gay is Good,” and found a “Gay Liberation Front.”

1969: Women’s rights icon Betty Friedan, author of *The Feminine Mystique* and president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), warns the feminist movement of the “lavender menace” within its ranks. Friedan, and some other straight feminists, worry that association with the gay rights movement would hamstring feminists’ ability to achieve serious political change, and that stereotypes of “mannish” and “man-hating” lesbians would provide an easy way to dismiss the movement.

1969: In LaForet, Colorado, Unitarian Universalist the Reverend James L. Stoll publicly declares himself to be homosexual at the Student Religious Liberals (SRL) Conference.

1969: In the spring, several **Richmond, Virginia**, bars whose clientele are mostly gay and lesbian are closed because they violate **Virginia’s** ABC laws prohibiting sales of alcohol to known homosexuals. Several letters are written to the editors of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* protesting these laws.

1969: A National Institute of Mental Health study, chaired by pioneering research scientist Dr. Evelyn Hooker, urges decriminalization of private sex acts between consenting Adults

1969: The Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ adopts a resolution on homosexuals and the law, which declare opposition to all laws that make private homosexual relations between consenting adults a crime and thus urges their repeal. The resolution also encourages the UCC Conferences, Associations, and local churches to hold seminars, consultations, conferences, and other gatherings for honest and open discussion of the nature of homosexuality in society.

1970: Silvia Rivera, of Puerto Rican and Venezuelan descent, co-founds Street Transvestites for Gay Power (later Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries [STAR] with Marsha Johnson, an African American activist.

1970: In July, the Unitarian Universalist Church's General Assembly passes a General Resolution to end discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals, and calls on congregations to develop sex education programs that promote healthy attitudes toward all forms of sexuality. The UUA also becomes the first U.S. mainstream religious group to recognize LGB clergy and laity within its ranks.

1970: In **Richmond, Virginia**, the Fan Free Clinic (FFC) opens. It is initially focused primarily on women's health and the prevention of transmissible diseases. In the late 1980s, FFC becomes a primary clinic for HIV/AIDS care and by the twenty-first century is a primary care facility in regards to transgender health care.

1970: *Boys in the Band* premieres as the first major Hollywood movie on gay life.

1970: Gay "zaps" begin, with the first one against New York City Mayor John Lindsay. Zaps are demonstrations of direct civil disobedience designed to embarrass a public figure or celebrity while calling the attention of both gays and straights to issues of LGBT rights.

1970: On May 1, at the Second Congress to Unite Women, lesbian radical feminists perform a "zap" to protest straight feminists' use of the term "lavender menace." The event is widely regarded as a founding moment of lesbian feminism. At the next national conference of the National Organization for Women in September 1971, delegates adopt a resolution recognizing lesbianism and lesbian rights as "a legitimate concern for feminism."

1970 – The Vatican issues a statement reiterating that homosexuality is a moral aberration.

1970: On June 28, the first gay pride marches are held in multiple cities in the United States on the first anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. In New York City, the Christopher Street Liberation Day commemorates Stonewall. Following the event, thousands of members of the LGBT community march through Manhattan into Central Park, in what will be considered America's first gay pride parade. Similar events are held in Los Angeles and San Francisco. About 200 Chicagoans take to the streets of their city with signs carrying simple messages such as "I am Gay," "Gay is as Good as Straight," and "I Exist!" In the coming decades, the annual gay pride parade will spread to dozens of countries around the world.

1971: In **Richmond, Virginia**, the Gay Liberation Front coalesces as an informal group with no structure or bylaws, and dissolves in the fall of that year.

1971: The Reverend Richard Nash and Elgin Blair co-found the Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus (which later becomes Interweave Continental) to lobby for the creation of an Office of Gay Affairs within the church.

1971: The Unitarian Universalist Church publishes the *About Your Sexuality* (AYS) curriculum, which attempts to teach a more positive attitude towards homosexuality and bisexuality.

**1971:** “All In the Family” becomes the first television sitcom to tackle homosexuality.

1972: *Comite Homosexual Latinoamericano* (COHLA) is founded in New York.

1972: The “Ithaca Statement on Bisexuality,” by the Quaker Committee of Friends on Bisexuality, is published in *The Advocate*. The same year, the National Bisexual Liberation Group forms in New York.

**1972:** East Lansing, Michigan, institutes the first city policy in the U.S. that prevents discrimination against LGBT people in job hiring.

1972: The Reverend William R. Johnson becomes the first openly gay man to be ordained by the United Church of Christ.

1972: Federal Title IX is passed and stipulates that “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” This legislation leads to unprecedented opportunities for girls to participate in sports from elementary school through colleges and universities.

1972: The Democratic Party’s convention marks the first time a U.S. national political convention is addressed by gay leaders.

1973: The first chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PLFAG) is formed by Jeanne Manford as a support group for parents, friends, and allies of lesbian and gay persons. The group’s first formal meeting takes place at the Metropolitan Duane Methodist Church in Greenwich Village. Other chapters soon spring up across the country.

1973: The Unitarian Universalist Church’s General Assembly passes a General Resolution to create an Office of Gay Affairs that will be staffed by gay people and be a resource to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

1973: The U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear a case on the firing of an Oregon teacher for lesbianism, effectively permitting the continuation of firing an employee solely on the basis of sexual orientation.

1973: The Lesbian Herstory Archives is founded and remains a research repository today.

1973: The Executive Council of the UCC adopts “Human Sexuality and Ordination,” which recommends that congregations, Associations and Conferences initiate programs of study and dialogue with regard to the implications (meanings) of human sexuality, and the relationship between ordination and human sexuality.



1973: In December, the American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders II*, concluding that it is not a mental illness. This decision ends a century of efforts by therapists to “cure” gays. Evelyn Hooker’s pioneering research on homosexuality plays a crucial role in this decision.

1974: In January, Kathy Kozachenko becomes the first openly gay American elected to public office when she wins a seat on the Ann Arbor, Michigan, City Council.

1974: Elaine Noble becomes the first openly gay or lesbian person to be elected as a state legislator; she serves in the Massachusetts State House of Representatives for two terms.

1974: The Gay Alliance of Students group forms at **Virginia** Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond. It asks for space and support from the school and is denied, then files suit against the school in *Gay Alliance of Students v. Matthews, et al* (the board of directors of VCU). The initial ruling favors the school and the decision is appealed.

1974: Gay Awareness in Perspectives (GAP), a gay and lesbian group, forms in **Richmond, Virginia**. The organization publishes GAP RAP from 1974 to 1978. GAP members attend New York City’s PRIDE parade, with a GAP banner listing Richmond, VA. Attendees from other parts of the state also join with GAP in the PRIDE parade.

1974: Patricia Nell Warren’s book, *The Front Runner*, about a gay love story between a gay coach and a runner on his team, is published.

1974: The 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.”

1974: AT&T becomes the first major American corporation to agree to an equal opportunity policy for lesbians and gay men.

1974: *Time* and *Newsweek* run “bisexual chic” articles.

1975: Gay and lesbian Chicanos and Latinos found the Gay Latino Alliance (GALA) in the San Francisco Bay Area and San Jose regions. GALA combines political activism and socializing as it attempts to challenge the assumptions of gay and lesbian whites about Latinos and of Latina/o heterosexuals about lesbians and gay men in the city.

1975: February 22 marks the first meeting of the Richmond Lesbian Feminist (RLF) organization. RLF is still active and today is the oldest LGBT organization continually meeting in **Richmond, Virginia**.

1975: Members of **Richmond, Virginia’s** Gay Awareness in Perspective (GAP) again attend New York City’s PRIDE, wearing GAP T-shirts. The same year, the Dignity/Integrity group forms in **Richmond, Virginia**.

1975: In **Richmond, Virginia**, a lawsuit, *Doe v. Commonwealth's Attorney of the City of Richmond*, unsuccessfully challenges sodomy laws in the state of **Virginia**. These laws are still on the books, although have not been enforced since 1993 when the US Supreme Court deemed such laws unconstitutional.

1975: The Bisexual Forum is founded in New York City and the Gay American Indians Organization is founded in San Francisco.

1975: Dave Kopay, a retired NFL player, comes out and in 1977 writes *The Dave Kopay Story* about his experience in the NFL. He is the first major sports star to come out voluntarily.

1975: Horse racing's John Damien sues after being fired for being gay.

1975: The *Washington Post* publishes a four-part series on "homosexual" men and women athletes.

1975: The U.S. Civil Service Commission stops banning gay men and lesbians from federal jobs

1975: Minneapolis becomes the first city to pass a municipal law protecting transgender people from discrimination

1975: The 10th General Synod of the UCC passes a resolution on human sexuality and the needs of gay and bisexual persons, as well as a pronouncement on civil liberties without regard for sexual orientation.

1976: San Francisco hires the country's first openly gay law enforcement officer.

1976: At the Winter Olympics, English figure skater John Curry comes out and is the first openly gay athlete to win Olympic gold.

1976: In **Richmond, Virginia**, on appeal, in the case of *Gay Alliance of Students v. Matthews, et al.*, the Sixth Federal Circuit Court rules that gay student groups must be allowed the same access to space and funding as other campus groups.

1976: In June, *Our Own*, an LGBT publication, begins in **Norfolk, Virginia**, and soon extends coverage and availability to Richmond. It was started by the Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus.

1976: The serialized "Tales of the City" is published by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender characters.

1976: *Doonesbury* is the first mainstream comic strip to feature a gay male character.

1976: Lynn Ransom of California is one of the first openly lesbian mothers to win custody of her children in court.

1976: In 1976, at age 52, Renée Richards (born Richard Raskin) enters a women's tennis tournament where she is recognized by people who had known her as Raskin. A battle ensues between Richards and the tournament authorities, and she goes to court to defend her right to be recognized as female. The court rules that once the full transition and sex-reassignment surgery are completed, transsexuals should legally be recognized according to their new gender. This ruling establishes an important legal precedent regarding the civil and private lives of transsexual people. After the controversy abates, Richards plays competitive tennis as a woman. Later, she serves as Martina Navratilova's first coach and introduces Navratilova when she is inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Richards also continues to practice medicine in New York and serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus*.

1976: The San Francisco Bisexual Center opens.

1977: Singer and conservative Southern Baptist Anita Bryant leads a successful campaign to repeal a gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Florida. The gay rights ordinance will not be reinstated in Dade County until December 1, 1998, more than 20 years later. Inspired by her victory, Bryant founds the first national anti-gay group, Save Our Children, but in the process draws unprecedented attention to gay issues and motivates gay groups to organize in response. Bryant's campaign is protested by gay rights supporters across the U.S., including in *Norfolk, Virginia*, where activists protest an appearance by Bryant.

1977: James Dobson, author of the 1969 pro-spanking book *Dare To Discipline*, founds Focus on the Family in Arcadia, Calif. The organization will move to Colorado Springs in 1991, become America's wealthiest fundamentalist ministry, and spearhead the campaign against gay marriage.

1977: On November 8, Harvey Milk wins a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and is responsible for introducing a gay rights ordinance protecting gays and lesbians from being fired from their jobs. Milk also leads a successful campaign against Proposition 6, an initiative forbidding homosexual teachers. He is the third "out" elected public official in the United States.

1977: Quebec, Canada passes laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in both the private and public sectors.

1977: Renee Richards, a transsexual woman tennis player, wins a lawsuit against the United States Tennis Association because she is barred from competing as a woman in the 1976 US Open.

1977: In *Richmond, Virginia*, on June 15, a shooting at the Male Box, a bar with a primarily gay male clientele, leaves one person dead and several injured, and sends shock waves throughout the community. Speculation is that this was an attempt by Leo Koury to monopolize control of the gay bars in town.

1977: 80 percent of surveyed Oregon doctors say they would refuse to treat a known homosexual.

1977: On October 7 in *Virginia*, Richmond Citizens for Gay and Lesbian Rights hold the first organized Gay Rights Rally in Richmond's Monroe Park to protest Anita Bryant's performance at the University of Richmond. Local activists Bruce Garnett and Neal Parsons confront Bryant at the University of Richmond.

1977: On October 27 in *Virginia*, Neal Parsons, Bruce Garnett, and Tony Segura form the *Richmond* Gay Rights Association.

1977: In *Virginia*, the Sexual Minorities Commission of the Richmond Catholic Diocese is formed to advise Bishop Walter Sullivan.

1977: In June, the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly approves a business resolution to urge UUs to fight negative propaganda against gays.

1977: Arkansas recriminalizes gay sex after two years without such a law.

1977: Florida forbids adoption by gays and lesbians.

1977: President Jimmy Carter's administration sponsors the first-ever meeting with gay activists at the White House.

1977: The Reverend Anne Holmes becomes the first openly lesbian minister to be ordained in the United Church of Christ.

1977: The 11th General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes resolutions calling attention to human sexuality studies and to violations of the civil rights of gay and bisexual persons.

1978: On November 27, San Francisco's Harvey Milk, an openly gay city council member, and Mayor George Moscone are assassinated by former city supervisor Dan White, who had resigned in protest after the board passed a gay-rights ordinance. White later claims his actions were motivated by jealousy and depression rather than homophobia.

1978: John Birch Society trainer and "family activist" Tim LaHaye publishes *The Unhappy Gays* (later retitled *What Everyone Should Know About Homosexuality*). Calling gay people "militant, organized, and vile," LaHaye anticipates anti-gay arguments to come.

1978: California State Senator John Briggs floats a ballot initiative allowing local school boards to ban gay teachers. "One third of San Francisco teachers are homosexual," Briggs says. "I assume most of them are seducing young boys in toilets." The initiative is defeated, but the campaign inspires anti-gay crusaders like the Rev. Lou Sheldon, who will found the Traditional Values Coalition in 1981.

1978: On February 25, the *Virginia* Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Rights forms. Labrys Books, which offers LGBT works, opens in *Richmond* on April 9.

1978: *Richmond, Virginia's* Human Rights Commission approves a proposal for nondiscrimination including sexual orientation to be added to the Richmond City Code.

1978: In San Francisco, the rainbow flag is designed by San Francisco artists Gilbert Baker, who created the flag in response to a local activist's call for a community pride symbol (this was before the pink triangle was popularly used as a symbol of pride). Using the five-striped "Flag of the Race" as his inspiration, Baker designed a flag with eight stripes: pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. The rainbow of colors also symbolizes the diversity of the LGBT community. According to Baker, those colors represented sexuality, life, healing, sun, nature, art, harmony, and spirit. Baker dyes and sews the material for the first flag himself.– in the true spirit of Betsy Ross.

1978: The National Coalition of Black Gays is formed in New York City; the group later is known as the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays.

1979: The *Comite Homosexual Latinoamericano* (COHLA) attempts to march in New York City's annual Puerto Rican Day Parade. Although denied participation, they succeed in bringing attention to gay lives and politics in the Puerto Rican and broader Latino community. A 63-page pamphlet in Spanish, AFUERA, is published highlighting the political dimension of coming out, Third World liberation, Marxist thought, and patriarchy.

1979: On May 21, Dan White is convicted of voluntary manslaughter for the assassinations of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, and is sentenced to seven years in prison. Outraged by what they believed to be a lenient sentence, more than 5,000 protesters ransack San Francisco's City Hall, doing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property damage in the surrounding area. Additional protests occur nationwide. The following night, approximately 10,000 people gather on San Francisco's Castro and Market streets for a peaceful demonstration to commemorate what would have been Milk's 49th birthday.

1979: On May 31, the California Supreme Court makes a landmark decision that public utility companies may not arbitrarily refuse to hire homosexuals, nor can they interfere with employee involvement in gay organizations.

1979: On October 14, the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights takes place, with an estimated 100,000 participating. LGBT people and straight allies demand equal civil rights and call for the passage of protective civil rights legislation. Among the participants are members of the *Virginia* Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Rights, *Richmond* Lesbian Feminists, and other organizations and individuals.

1979: Following the National March for Gay and Lesbian Rights, representatives from individual chapters of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays convene for the first time in Washington, DC.

1979: Gay and lesbian Latinos announce their presence nationally at the historic 1979 March on Washington. Coalitions from Texas, California, and the east coast, together with representatives

from Latin America, convene days before the March at Howard University to participate in the Third World Gay Conference.

1979: The City Council in **Richmond, Virginia**, considers the Richmond Human Rights Commission's proposal to add nondiscrimination to the City code, but deletes sexual orientation from the list of protected classes; as of 2015, sexual orientation is still not included as a protected class.

1979: On June 23, in **Richmond, Virginia**, the city's first PRIDE festival commemorates the 10th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, includes a car parade down a main street from Azalea Gardens to Byrd Park, and ends with a picnic at Byrd Park. The Richmond Lesbian Feminists (RLF) sponsors a dance following the PRIDE event.

1979: Betty Hicks, a founder of and player on the LPGA, writes a positive article, a first, about lesbians in golf in *Christopher Street*, a monthly literary magazine for the gay community featuring fiction, nonfiction, poetry, news, book reviews and photography.

1979: The Reverend Douglas Morgan Strong is called to serve All Souls Church in Augusta, Maine, becoming the first out gay man in the Unitarian Universalist ministry to be called to serve a congregation.

1979: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Gay and Lesbian Affirmed (GALA) is founded by the Reverend Robert Wheatley and cosponsored by the Office of Gay Concerns and Ferry Beach Park Association. The group's success prompts founding of the Gay Men's Spirituality Weekend and Sappho's Sisters conferences.

1979: In a national effort to stimulate the fundamentalist vote and elect Christian Right candidates, the Moral Majority organization is founded by televangelist Jerry Falwell. Early fundraising appeals include a "Declaration of War" on homosexuality. The group enjoys political successes during the presidency of Ronald Reagan but dissolves in the late 1980s due to financial difficulties.

1979: The first openly gay judge is appointed to a position in Los Angeles, California.

1980: In Richmond, Beth Marschak is hired by the **Virginia** Coalition on Lesbian and Gay Rights as the first lobbyist at the General Assembly on behalf of LGBT rights.

1980: In April, in **Richmond, Virginia**, the General Assembly considers a bill that would decriminalize heterosexual sodomy and make homosexual sodomy a Class 1 Misdemeanor. The bill fails and sodomy remains a Class 6 felony.

1980: In May, after winning a suit against Cumberland High School in Rhode Island, Aaron Fricke takes Paul Guilbert to his senior prom.

1980: In June, the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly approves a Business Resolution urging UUs, the UUA, and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) to assist in the settlement of openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual ministers.

1980: In July, the Democratic Party's Rules Committee states that it will not discriminate against homosexuals. At their National Convention on August 11-14, the Democrats become the first political party to endorse a homosexual rights platform.

1980: David McReynolds appears on the Socialist Party USA ballot, becoming the first openly gay individual to run for President of the United States.

1980: Embracing support from the "Moral Majority," Republican Ronald Reagan wins the American presidency, having pledged to "resist the efforts to obtain government endorsement of homosexuality."

1980: Johanna Clark organizes the Transsexual Rights Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union.

1980: The first Harry Benjamin Standards are produced for therapists working with transgender persons. The standards are named in honor of groundbreaking physician Harry Benjamin, who pioneered affirmative care for transgendered individuals during the mid-twentieth century..

1980: Paul Cameron, a former psychology instructor at the University of Nebraska, begins publishing pseudo-scientific pamphlets "proving" that gay people commit more serial murders, molest more children, and intentionally spread diseases compared to heterosexuals. Expelled from the American Psychological Association in 1983 for ethics violations, Cameron will continue to produce bogus "studies" widely cited by anti-gay groups.

1980: The Executive Council of the UCC adopts an "Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and Revision," in which it affirms moral and legal commitment to support and implement a program of Equal Employment Opportunity.

1980: Various chapters of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, then known as Parents FLAG, begin to distribute information to educational institutions and communities of faith nationwide, establishing itself as a source of information for the general public. When "Dear Abby" mentions PFLAG in one of her advice columns, the organizations are inundated with more than 7,000 letters requesting information.

1981: In *Richmond, Virginia*, sponsored by the Richmond Gay Rights Association, Bruce Garnett becomes the first openly gay man to lobby the General Assembly for LGBT rights.

1981: On July 3, *The New York Times* prints the first story of a rare pneumonia and skin cancer found in 41 gay men in New York and California, and for a time it is known as "gay cancer." The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) initially refers to the disease as GRID, Gay Related Immune Deficiency Disorder. When the symptoms are found outside the gay community, Bruce Voeller, biologist and founder of the National Gay Task Force, successfully lobbies to change

the name of the disease to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). AIDS sweeps through the gay community and other marginalized groups in American society. Over 100,000 gay men die of AIDS-related complications in the next decade. The “Moral Majority” decrees that the disease is “God’s punishment for homosexuality” and the Reagan Administration is extremely slow in its response to the health crisis. President Reagan does not even mention the word “AIDS” in public until well into his second term in office, several years into the epidemic. Public health officials cite the Administration’s slow rate of response as the central reason for AIDS becoming an epidemic in America.

1981: *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies*, by Vito Russo, is published. The book details the changing portrayals of love, sexuality, and homosexuals in movies. In 1995, the book serves as the basis for a documentary film of the same name.

1981: In *Richmond, Virginia*, after Labrys Books closes, WomensBooks, a book cooperative, offers books and music by and for women that are not readily available elsewhere.

1981: Billie Jean King is outed by her ex-lover Marilyn Barnett’s “galimony” suit. King loses most of her endorsements despite denying she is a lesbian.

1981: The Gay Chicano Caucus is founded in Houston; and the Gay Latinos Unidos (later renamed Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos) is founded in Los Angeles

1981: Moral Majority allies in Congress propose the Family Protection Act, which would bar giving federal funds to “any organization that suggests that homosexuality can be an acceptable alternative lifestyle.” Despite President Reagan’s endorsement, the bill is defeated.

1981: The Council for National Policy, a highly secretive club of America’s most powerful far-right religious activists, begins meeting quarterly at undisclosed locations. Among the members will be R.J. Rushdoony, who calls for the death penalty for homosexuals, and anti-gay crusaders James Dobson, Beverly and Tim LaHaye, Jerry Falwell, Tony Perkins and Phyllis Schlafly. George W. Bush will meet with the Council during his first campaign for president.

1981: Martina Navratilova comes out in an article in the *New York Daily News*. Despite being a top women’s player through the 1980s, she is unable to win endorsements on a par with her heterosexual peers.

1982: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) becomes a national organization. The first office for the national group is established in Los Angeles under founding president Adele Starr.

1982: In March, Wisconsin becomes the first U.S. state to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations. This is the first statewide gay civil rights legislation in America. As of April 2015, just 17 states have passed legislation protecting LGBT individuals from discrimination in housing and employment.



1982: After the New Agenda for Women in Sport Conference, leaders decline to use the word “lesbian” in action proposals emerging from the conference

1982: The Gay Men’s Health Crisis forms in the face of the emerging AIDS epidemic.

1982: The U.S. Department of Defense issues a policy stating that homosexuality is “incompatible” with military service. Almost 17,000 gay soldiers are discharged during the 1980s, although a 1989 Defense Department study finds that gay recruits are “just as good or better” than heterosexuals.

1982: Tom Waddell, a 6<sup>th</sup> place finisher in the 1968 Olympic decathlon, founds the first Gay Games in San Francisco. Over 1,300 gay men and lesbian athletes from 28 states and 10 nations participate. Almost 50,000 people attend the games. The U.S. Olympics Committee (USOC) sues Waddell over the name “Gay Olympics” even though they have allowed both commercial and non-profit groups to use the word Olympics in the past. The USOC wins its lawsuit in 1987.

1982: Women’s basketball coach Pam Parsons is involved in a scandal at the University of South Carolina while having a relationship with a player. The story is featured in *Sports Illustrated’s* annual swimsuit issue, and Parsons sues the magazine, claiming it is untrue. Both she and her partner lie about their relationship under oath, and both are sentenced to jail time for perjury.

1982: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force initiates a project aimed to counter the rise in violence related to homophobia in the United States.

1983: In *Richmond, Virginia*, the second PRIDE event takes place and the Richmond AIDS Information Network is formed.

1983: Pat Buchanan, communications director for President Ronald Reagan, calls AIDS “nature’s revenge on gay men.”

1983: The first National Lesbians of Color Conference is organized in Los Angeles.

1983: While still in office, Representative Gerry Studds of Massachusetts comes out, America’s first openly gay member of Congress.

1983: The 14th General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes a series of resolutions urging that attention and support be given to the development of proposals and programs to end sexual violence against men, women and children, regardless of their sexual orientation; recommending inclusiveness in church and ministry committees; and acknowledging institutionalized homophobia within the UCC.

1983: Lesbianas Unidas forms as a subcommittee of Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos (GLU) in Los Angeles.

1984: In June, the Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly approves a Business Resolution affirming the practice of UUA clergy performing same-sex marriage ceremonies and

requests that the Department of Ministerial and Congregational Services develop and distribute supporting materials.

1984: The *Wall Street Journal* changes its editorial policy and now permits the use of the word gay as an alternative to the term homosexual in the news. Previously the newspaper only used gay in quotes. *The New York Times* and Associated Press still banned the word gay except when meaning happy or when in quotes.

1984: The Coalition on Revival is founded to promote “Christian government” in the U.S. and to agree on theological tenets — including anti-gay principles — that fundamentalists can rally around. Board members include Tim LaHaye, D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries, and Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association. Founder Jay Grimstead later tells *The Advocate* that “Homosexuality makes God vomit.”

1984: On July 7, Charles Howard, a 23-year-old gay man, is walking home from church when he is attacked by three teenagers. They kick and beat him then throw him in a stream where he drowns. After bragging to their friends, the boys are arrested and convicted on the charge of manslaughter, a crime that legally implies that they did not act in malice.

1984: Transsexual tennis player Renee Richards’ memoir, *Second Serve*, is published.

1984: After an eight-year legal battle, Duncan Donovan, a Los Angeles gay activist, wins the right to receive the death benefits of his life partner.

1984: The FBI releases 7,500 pages of information gathered over 30 years of watching gay groups. This is only a fraction of the total amount of documentation on file about LGBT activists and organizations.

1984: Martina Navratilova’s female lover publicly sits in her “box” at Wimbledon and the French Open.

1984: Berkeley, California, becomes the first U.S. city to extend domestic partnership benefits to lesbian and gay employees.

1984: The San Francisco Department of Public Health closes the city’s bathhouses in response to the growing AIDS epidemic.

1985: On April 1 in New York City, the Hetrick-Martin Institute opens the Harvey Milk School for 20 openly gay and lesbian teens in the basement of a Greenwich Village church. The city-founded high school provides a refuge place for LGBT students, many of whom have dropped out of their schools to escape abuse and harassment.

1985: Former University of Pittsburgh football player Ed Gallagher survives a suicide attempt, and dedicates his life to battling homophobia.

1985: Addressing the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, Paul Cameron uses the AIDS crisis to suggest that “the extermination of homosexuals” might become necessary. The following year, Colorado’s Summit Ministries will publish *Special Report: AIDS*. Co-authored by Cameron, the popular pamphlet blames gay men for the epidemic and calls for a national crackdown on homosexuals.

1985: In a *Chicago Sun Times* article about lesbians in sport, Penn State Women’s basketball coach Rene Portland is quoted, “I will not have it (lesbianism) on my teams.” Portland’s hostility toward actual and perceived lesbians becomes notorious in women’s college basketball, and is discussed in a 1991 profile in the *Philadelphia Enquirer*.

1985: The Richmond *Virginia* Gay and Lesbian Alliance is led by Guy Kinman and sponsors a billboard project, with several billboards around town that say, “Someone you know is gay, maybe someone you love...”

1985: The NAMES Project memorial quilt for AIDS victims is launched.

1985: Longtime movie and television star Rock Hudson comes out and admits he has AIDS. He is among the first high-profile individuals to acknowledge AIDS-related illness.

1985: The 15th General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes a resolution a policy on nondiscrimination in employment, volunteer service and membership policies with regard to sexual orientation, and encourages the congregations of the UCC to adopt a nondiscrimination policy and a Covenant of Openness and Affirmation of persons of lesbian, gay and bisexual orientation within the community of faith.

1985: The Austin Latino/Latina Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual & Transgender Organization (ALLGO) is founded to work toward social change through progressive community organizing, promoting queer Latina and Latino culture, and encouraging artistic expression. Today it is the longest running queer Latino organization in the U.S.

1985: In response to the *New York Post*’s defamatory and sensationalized HIV/AIDS coverage, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (now known as GLAAD) is formed to pressure media organizations to end homophobic reporting.

1986: The Reagan Administration’s Budget Director James Miller states that the treatment and care of persons with AIDS is a state and local concern – not a federal one.

1986: In June, the Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly calls UUs to work to end AIDS discrimination through education and advocacy.

1986: The Unitarian Universalist Association adds to its personnel manual a non-discrimination clause for employees who are HIV-positive.

1986: *The Richmond Pride* is first published by the *Richmond Virginia* Gay Alliance to distribute news and information to Richmond’s gay community.

1986: The Second Gay Games are held in San Francisco.

1986: In a 5-4 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick* upholds the sodomy laws of the state of Georgia and thus, the right of each state to criminalize private same-sex acts, which means that government continues to have the right to arrest consenting adults having sex in the privacy of their own homes in the 24 states with sodomy laws still on the books. Anti-gay groups cheer the decision. Four years later, Justice Lewis Powell, the swing vote, tells New York University law students, "I probably made a mistake in that one."

1986: In Fremont, California, Becky Smith and Annie Afleck become the first openly lesbian couple in the United States to be granted legal, joint adoption of a child.

1986: Las Buenas Amigas is founded in New York City and, at the International Lesbian and Gay People of Color Conference in Los Angeles, the Latina/o caucus discusses the need to network on a national level in order to better address the needs of local organizing efforts throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

1986: At the first Congressional hearings on anti-gay violence, Kathleen Sarris of Indianapolis tells of being stalked and assaulted by a "Christian soldier" who held her at gunpoint, beat and raped her for three hours, explaining that "he was acting for God"; that what he was doing was God's revenge because she was a "queer" and getting rid of her would save children.

1987: On March 10, the AIDS advocacy group ACT UP (The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) is formed in response to the devastating effects the disease has had on the gay and lesbian community in New York and inaction in response to the epidemic in the U.S. Using direct action civil disobedience techniques, the group holds demonstrations against pharmaceutical companies profiteering from AIDS-related drugs as well as the lack of AIDS policies protecting patients from outrageous prescription prices. The group's activism forces the federal government to take substantial action to fight AIDS for the first time.

1987: The Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) is founded with the goal of fighting against ageism and for lesbian rights.

1987: Boston's *Gay Community News* publishes a satire of anti-gay propaganda, beginning "Tremble, Hetero Swine! We shall sodomize your sons, emblems of your feeble masculinity, of your shallow dreams and vulgar lives. We will raise vast private armies ... to defeat ... the family unit." Anti-gay groups seize on the article as proof of a "secret homosexual agenda."

1987: In June, the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly calls for UUs to support legal equality for gays and lesbians by working to overturn legislation restricting rights of gays and lesbians, including boycotting products and services of organizations that have a policy of discrimination.

1987: On October 11, over 500,000 people take part in the second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, making it one of the largest civil rights demonstrations

in U.S. history. The march is organized to demand that President Ronald Reagan address the AIDS crisis. Although AIDS had been reported first in 1981, it is not until the end of his presidency that Reagan speaks publicly about the epidemic. The event, the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed for the first time. At that time, the quilt covers the area of two football fields. It is stretched over 2 city blocks and integrates 1,920 panels, commemorating more than 200 persons who have died of AIDS. October 11 later becomes National Coming Out Day as an annual celebration of the march.

1987: Over 70 lesbian and gay Latina/o activists representing 13 states and 33 cities participate in the second national March on Washington. They meet and decide to create a national network. National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Activists (NLLGA).

1987: Mexican, Latin American, and Caribbean lesbian feminists come together for their “*Encuentros de Lesbianas Feministas de Latinoamerica y el Caribe.*” These *encuentros* facilitate transnational dialogue and organizing to address the needs and challenges of lesbians throughout Latin American and the Caribbean.

1987: What becomes BiNet USA is formed as an umbrella advocacy organization for bisexual persons.

1987 The 16th General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes the “Resolution on the Right to Privacy. This resolution urges individuals, congregations, Associations and Conferences to work for repeal of current laws which make private consensual sexual behavior a crime.

1987: The *National Enquirer* prints a sensationalized cover story about “predatory lesbians” on the women’s professional tennis tour.

1988: Members of the recently formed NLLGA meet in Los Angeles and change its name to LLEGO, the National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization, to be based in Washington DC. LLEGO later modifies its name to National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Organization. It holds regular international *encuentros* from the 1990s through 2004, during which time LLEGO was largely funded by multi-year grants for HIV/AIDS prevention from the federal Centers for Disease Control.

1988: Dave Pallone, a gay National League baseball umpire, is fired because of false charges that he is involved in a gay teenaged sex ring. According to Pallone, the baseball team owners want him fired because he is gay.

1988: Justin Fasteau, a top British football (soccer) player reveals he is gay, becoming the first team sport athlete to come out while still an active player. He commits suicide later that year.

1988: The National Education Association adopts a resolution calling for every school district to provide counseling for students struggling with their sexual orientation.

1988: In *Richmond, Virginia*, the statewide organization Virginians for Justice is formed, as well as the direct action organization OUT! Richmond. The same year, at the Artists for Life event, major artists in Richmond raise about \$30,000 for AIDS service organizations.

1988: In May and June, the Centers for Disease Control mails a brochure, *Understanding AIDS*, to every household in the U.S. Approximately 107 million brochures are mailed.

1988: The 10th Annual National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays conference takes place.

1988: The Episcopal Diocese of Newark, New Jersey, becomes the first Episcopal church in the country to support ministers and congregations who condone and bless relationships between gay and lesbian couples.

1988: On October 11, the anniversary of the second national March on Washington is celebrated as the first annual National Coming Out Day.

1988: On December 1, the World Health Organization organizes the first World AIDS Day to raise awareness of the spreading pandemic.

1988: After a ferocious campaign by the fundamentalist Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), Oregon voters overturn their governor's executive order banning anti-gay discrimination in state hiring. Led by anti-gay crusader Lon Mabon, OCA claims "promiscuous sodomite activists" have called for "the closing of all churches that oppose them and the total destruction of the family."

1989: Renowned Jazz musician Billy Tipton dies and is revealed to be transgendered.

1989: In *Richmond, Virginia*, the Richmond AIDS Ministry holds its first training and opens guest houses for persons with AIDS.

1989: Bodybuilder Bob Paris, who won the Mr. America and Mr. Universe titles in 1983, reveals himself as a gay man.

1989: Denmark becomes the first nation to legalize gay marriage.

1989: In June, the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly adopts the *Welcoming Congregation* program to combat homophobia in UU congregations and to educate individual UUs. The General Assembly also adopts a resolution opposing discrimination toward people with AIDS/HIV and urges fuller effort towards education and treatment, including institution of clean needle programs for intravenous drug users. The General Assembly approves a Resolution of Immediate Witness condemning the Helms Amendment to restrict the travel rights of HIV-infected people into the U.S.

1989: California's state legislature passes a hate crimes law that includes sexual orientation.

1989: BiPAC New York successfully challenges the Hetrick-Martin Gay and Lesbian Health Clinic to remove a “Bisexual Men: Fact or Fiction?” workshop from its curriculum.

1989: The first Lambda Literary Awards are given to recognize the best gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender books of the year and affirm that LGBTQ stories are part of the literary world.

1989 The 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes a resolution deploring violence against lesbian and gay people.

1989: U.S. Representative William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) publishes a landmark anti-gay tome, *Shadow in the Land: Homosexuality in America*. Calling lesbians and gay men “the ultimate enemy,” Dannemeyer accuses straight people of “surrendering to this growing army without a shot,” and predicts gay rights will “plunge our people, and indeed the entire West, into a dark night of the soul that could last hundreds of years.”

1990: “Common Threads,” a film about 5 people with AIDS, wins an Academy Award.

1990: The Third Gay Games take place in Vancouver, BC, and is the largest sporting event in the world that year.

1990: On August 18, President George H. W. Bush signs the Ryan White Care Act, a federally funded program for people living with AIDS. Ryan White, an Indiana teenager, contracted AIDS in 1984 through a tainted hemophilia treatment. After being barred from attending school because of his HIV-positive status, Ryan White becomes a well-known activist for AIDS research and anti-discrimination.

1990: The First National Bisexual Conference is held in San Francisco

1990: The Hate Crime Statistics Bill passes through Congress in February and is signed by President George H. W. Bush. Previous legislation required the collection of data on crimes motivated by racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice. This new law also requires that data be collected on crimes motivated by prejudice against people of differing sexual orientations. It is the first federal law to include the term “sexual orientation” and the first to extend federal recognition of gay men and lesbians.

1990: At the 101st Annual Conference of American Rabbis, it is decided that gay men and lesbians will be accepted as rabbis. The resolution states that “...All Rabbis, regardless of their sexual orientation, be accorded the opportunity to fulfill the sacred vocation which they have chosen.”

1990: Queer Nation is formed in New York, and bases its rhetoric, militancy, media savvy and membership from ACT UP.

1990-1991: In Cincinnati, Ohio, the “culture war” against art with gay or lesbian content results in the prosecution of a museum displaying a Robert Mapplethorpe exhibit and the rescinding of National Endowment of the Arts grants to three openly lesbian or gay artists.

1990: U.S. restrictions against gay immigrants are lifted.

1990: University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney founds Promise Keepers, which holds all-male stadium revivals promoting “traditional masculinity” throughout the 1990s. McCartney calls homosexuals “a group of people who don't reproduce, yet want to be compared with people who do reproduce,” and says, “Homosexuality is an abomination of Almighty God.”

1991: In *Richmond, Virginia*, LGBT activists engage in a variety of advocacy efforts. The Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth (ROSMY) is formed. Virginians for Justice underwrites a lawsuit challenging the *Virginia* ABC's anti-gay regulations. In October, the ABC regulations are declared unconstitutional and unenforceable. OUT! Richmond stages sit-ins at Cracker Barrel restaurants to protest anti-gay employment policies.

1991: Created by the New York-based Visual AIDS organization, the red ribbon is adopted as a symbol of awareness and compassion for those living with HIV/AIDS.

1991: *Entre Hermanos* is established in Seattle to address the need for social, educational, and health support services in the Latino/a community.

1991: A *Philadelphia Enquirer* article about Penn State coach Rene Portland's anti-lesbian policy marks a shift in media coverage of equality issues by finding that homophobia is the problem and Portland's policy is wrong.

1991: NBA player “Magic” Johnson publicly announces he has HIV and retires from professional basketball.

1991: Television's first kiss between a same-gender couple, two women, is shown on *L.A. Law*

1991: The first Black Lesbian and Gay Pride celebration is held in Washington, D.C.

1991: Amnesty International decides to work on behalf of those imprisoned for consensual same-sex acts.

1991: Karen Thompson is named Sharon Kowalski's legal guardian after an eight-year fight. The legal battle began after Kowalski was incapacitated in a car accident and her family prevented Thompson from visiting her despite their long-term relationship.

1991: Televangelist Pat Robertson founds the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), run by Christian Right attorney Jay Sekulow. The ACLJ will be instrumental in fighting gay marriage, calling it a cancerous “perversion” that “directly attacks the family, which is the most vital cell in society.”

1991 The 18th General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes the Resolution on *Virginia* Privacy Laws, which urges the decriminalization of private and non-commercial sexual activity



between consenting adults. The UCC also affirmed its support for gay, lesbian, and bisexual person serving as ministers.

1992: Jean Burholter is ejected from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival by transphobic organizers. "Camp Trans" is pitched outside of the entrance gate to the Festival to protest the Festival's newly publicized "Womyn-Born-Womyn Only" anti-trans policy. "Camp Trans" continues to date.

1992: Roy Simmons, NFL player from 1979 to 1983, reveals he is gay.

1992: On October 11, the AIDS Memorial Quilt is unfolded in its entirety, representing 22,000 people, on the Capitol Mall. Today, it is too large to be displayed in its entirety in any one place.

1992: The University of Iowa extends its health benefits to the domestic partners of lesbian and gay employees. The University of Chicago soon follows suit.

1992: Canada joins the vast majority of other NATO countries (but not the U.S.) in permitting military service by lesbians and gay men.

1992: The Lesbian Avengers is founded in New York.

1992: Homosexuality is removed from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases by the World Health Organization.

1992: U.S. Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) introduces a bill to end the ban on homosexuals serving in the military. The same day, *Virginia* naval aviator Tracy Thorne comes out on *Nightline*.

1992: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Board of Trustees passes a resolution expressing disapproval of the Boy Scouts of America's policy of discrimination against gay and atheist scouts and leaders. In response to hate campaigns in Oregon and Colorado, the denomination's General Assembly passes a Resolution of Immediate Witness in opposition to legalized discrimination against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

1992: Colorado passes Amendment 2, prohibiting state and municipal civil rights protection for lesbians and gays in the future. One of the organizers, Tony Marco, hones a "special rights" argument, claiming that gay people are inordinately wealthy and politically powerful, and neither need nor deserve the rights they "demand." One year later, a state district court overturns the measure. In 1996, the Supreme Court upholds the district court's decision in *Romer v Evans*, declaring that "A State cannot so deem a class of persons a stranger to its laws."

1992: "The Gay Agenda," a 20-minute video featuring racy scenes filmed at gay-pride marches, is released by Ty and Jeannette Beeson of the Antelope Valley Springs of Life Church in Lancaster, California. Aired on television by Pat Robertson's "The 700 Club," it will become one of the most widely viewed pieces of anti-gay propaganda.

1992: At the Republican National Convention in Houston, Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson are granted a platform for their virulently homophobic and avowedly theocratic views. Pat Buchanan famously declares in a prime time speech, “There is a culture war going on in our country for the soul of America.” Cheering audience members wave signs reading “Family Rights Forever, ‘Gay’ Rights Never.”

1992: Allen R. Schindler Jr., 22, of Chicago Heights, Illinois, is serving as a radioman on the amphibious assault ship “U.S.S. Belleau Wood,” in the Navy in Okinawa, Japan, when he is brutally murdered on October 27 by two shipmates in a toilet in a park in Sasebo. Airman Apprentice Terry M. Helvey, 21, beats and stomps Schindler to death because Schindler was gay. Helvey’s attack is so vicious that he destroys every organ in Schindler’s body and Schindler is so badly beaten that he can barely be identified afterward. Helvey is now serving a life sentence in the military prison at Fort Leavenworth’s Disciplinary Barracks, Kansas, although by statute, he is granted a clemency hearing every year. Helvey’s accomplice, Charles Vins, is allowed to plea bargain and serves only a 78-day sentence before receiving a general discharge from the Navy. Schindler dies shortly after newly-elected President Clinton breaks his promise to the gay community to sign an executive order allowing gays to serve openly in the U.S. military.

1992: In November, Bill Clinton is elected the 41<sup>st</sup> President of the United States and is the first President to recognize gay and lesbian civil rights as a serious and important national issue. His views on employment discrimination and gays in the military, while not demonstrably more progressive than other Democratic contenders, place him in stark contrast with former President George H. W. Bush and the Republican Party. Analysis will show that a decided gender gap in favor of Clinton and a first-ever tangible gay voting bloc are decisive in his winning the presidency. Clinton goes on to appoint open gays and lesbians to government positions.

1993: Latinas and Latinos de Ambiente (LLANY) is founded in New York City, focuses on the social and cultural needs of GLBTQ Latina/o Americans in the city and the tri-state area.

1993: The movie “Philadelphia” opens in theaters to great acclaim. Tom Hanks wins an Academy Award for Best Actor for playing a gay man who is HIV-positive and eventually succumbs to AIDS.

1993: The Intersex Society of North America is founded.

1993: The battle over same-gender marriage is ignited when the Hawaii Supreme Court rules that denying same-sex couples marriage licenses violates “basic human rights” guaranteed in the state constitution — unless the state legislature can show a “compelling reason” to prevent same-gender marriage. Anti-gay groups begin a campaign to “defend marriage,” with legal challenges led by the American Center for Law & Justice’s Jay Sekulow.

1993: The Cobb County (Georgia) Commission passes a resolution calling homosexuality “incompatible with the standards to which this community subscribes.” Organizer Gordon Wysong declares, “We should blame them for every social problem in America.” Cobb County will be dropped as a host for 1996 Atlanta Olympic events because of its anti-gay stance.

1993: Savoy Howe becomes the first out lesbian in women's boxing.

1993: Glenn Burke, a former outfielder with the LA Dodgers and Oakland A's, who ended his baseball career in 1979, comes out publicly. He dies of AIDS complications in 1995.

1993: Massachusetts becomes the first state to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation against public school students, heralding the emergence of widespread gay youth activism.

1993: Minnesota passes the first state-wide law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people.

1993 Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Roberta Achtenberg becomes the first openly LGBT official to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate

1993: In April, the third March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation is held. The event draws one million people to Washington and is the first time the official title is bi-inclusive. (In 1979, it was the March on Washington for Gay Rights. In 1987, it was the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.) The Lesbian Avengers stages an International Dyke March the night before.

1993: The first large study of female sexual orientation found that there was a strong genetic component to homosexuality and heterosexuality, as reported by researchers at Boston University and Northwestern University.

1993: The 19<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes the "Resolution Calling on the Church of Greater Leadership to End Discrimination against Gays and Lesbians" and "A Call to End the Ban against Gays and Lesbians in the Military."

1993: The Unitarian Universalist Association endorses the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Equal Rights and Liberation. The UUA Board of Trustees adjourns its quarterly Boston meeting to reconvene in Washington, D.C., and attend the March. An opening service is held at All Souls Unitarian Church and closing worship at Sojourner Truth Congregation. Thousands of UUs attended.

1993: The Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly passes a Resolution of Immediate Witness supporting the acceptance of openly lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons in the U.S. military.

1993: The Grammy Awards feature several openly gay and lesbian musicians, including k.d. lang, Elton John, the B-52's, Fred Schneider, Keith Strickland, and the late lyricist Howard Ashman ("Beauty and the Beast").

1993: In *Richmond, Virginia*, Sharon Bottoms loses custody of her son, Tyler, due to her sexual orientation.

1993: By a narrow margin, voters in San Francisco reject a city-wide partnership ordinance that would grant legal recognition to the relationships of gay men and lesbians.

1993: President Bill Clinton attempts to follow through on a campaign promise to allow all citizens, regardless of sexual orientation, to serve openly in the military. The proposal to lift the ban on openly gay military personnel sends anti-gay activists into action, shutting down phone lines to Congress with hundreds of thousands of calls in protest. “Honestly,” asks D. James Kennedy in a fundraising letter for Coral Ridge Ministries, “would you want your son, daughter, or grandchild sharing a shower, foxhole, or *blood* with a *homosexual*?”

1993: President Bill Clinton’s promised lifting of the ban of gays in the military meets with such Congressional and military establishment opposition that he signs the so-called “don’t ask, don’t tell, don’t pursue” compromise, later shortened to “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” Gay-rights activists object that the compromise leaves virtually all of the discriminatory practices intact and leads to a greater number of gay and lesbian-related discharges. In December, the Department of Defense institutes the policy, which prohibits the U.S. military from barring applicants from service based on their sexual orientation. The policy states that “Applicants... shall not be asked or required to reveal whether they are homosexual,” but still forbids applicants from engaging in homosexual acts or making a statement that he or she is homosexual. Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell prohibits anyone who is not heterosexual from disclosing their sexual orientation or speaking about any homosexual activity in which they participate, which means that it intrudes into service members’ private lives by forbidding them from having the kinds of intimate and family relationships that heterosexuals service members can enjoy openly. Thus, the policy creates an environment in which LGB people are not only second-class citizens, but also targets of harassment, violence, and even murder, such as the case of Barry Winchell who is murdered by fellow soldiers in 1999 for his perceived sexual identity. The failed Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy is finally repealed in 2010.

1993: In late December in Falls City, Nebraska, Brandon Teena, a transgender man, is beaten and raped by two men, John Lotter and Tom Nissen, who were outraged to discover he had been born biologically female. Brandon reported the crime to local police, who did nothing to investigate the crime. On New Year’s Day, Brandon was murdered along with Lisa Lambert, who had provided him a place to stay, and Philip Divine, a friend visiting from Iowa. Lambert’s 8-month-old baby was not attacked. Lotter and Nissen are convicted of the murders in 1995.

1994: The first-ever school district-sanctioned gay youth prom is held in Los Angeles.

1994: The American Medical Association announces its opposition to pseudo-medical treatments to “cure” homosexuals.

1994: More than 40 fundamentalist groups, led by Focus on the Family, hold a summit in Colorado to coordinate a “special rights” argument to oppose gay rights. This strategy is also promoted by the Traditional Values Coalition’s “Gay Rights, Special Rights,” a 40-minute video claiming gay rights will erode the civil rights of African Americans.

1994: June 24-28 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City. The uprising is commemorated with a march on the United Nations in New York City and coincides with Gay Games IV. The Games are the largest athletic competition in history with 11,000 participants. Greg Louganis, U.S. Olympic gold medal diving champion, comes out at the Games. LLEGO organizes a LGBT Latino/a contingent. The anniversary program lists 60 Latina/o LGBT organizations in the U.S. and Puerto Rico in existence at that time.

1994: Missy Giove, an openly lesbian mountain biker, wins her first world championship.

1994: The Unitarian Universalist Association's stages a public protest against North Carolina's "crime against nature" laws.

1994: The Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly adopts a resolution urging that sexuality education in public schools be comprehensive, unbiased, up-to-date, and inclusive of all sexual orientations.

1994: At U.S. insistence, the United Nations suspends the observer status of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

1994: Deborah Batts becomes the first openly LGBT federal judge.

1995: Coors Brewing Company and Walt Disney Company announce they will offer health benefits to domestic partners of their gay employees. Allstate Insurance changes its policies to offer joint coverage to same-gender homeowner couples.

1995: *The Pink Swastika: Homosexuality in the Nazi Party*, by fundamentalist activists Scott Lively and Kevin Abrams, claims gays weren't victimized in the Holocaust, but instead helped mastermind the extermination of Jews. Repudiated by credible historians, the book is nevertheless praised by the Family Research Council and sold by several anti-gay organizations.

1995: CBS golf commentator Ben Wright is fired for making on-air negative comments about lesbian golfers and the physiological limitations women golfers have because of their breasts.

1995: President Bill Clinton finally ends the ban on security clearances for gay people, the last vestige of McCarthy-era restrictions imposed in the 1950s when gays were deemed an automatic threat to national security because of their sexuality.

1995: The first U.S. conference for transgendered persons who are FTM takes place.

1995: President Bill Clinton names the first-ever White House liaison to the gay and lesbian communities

1995: In Chicago, 10 Latinas form a support group, Amigas Latinas, for lesbian, bisexual, and questioning women that still exists today. Also in Chicago, for over a decade the Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) provides educational support and social services to queer Latinos.

1996: The Directorate of the Office of Church in Society of the United Church of Christ and the Board of Directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the UCC both express support for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

1996: The Southern Baptist Convention announces a boycott of Disney parks and products because the company gives insurance benefits to partners of gay workers and allows “Gay Days” at its theme parks. “Beware of the Magic Kingdom,” Focus on the Family advises parents. Gay Day protests become a staple of the anti-gay movement.

1996: In May, the U. S. Supreme Court rules 6-3 in the case of *Romer v. Evans* that Colorado’s 2nd amendment, which denies gays and lesbians protections against discrimination, is unconstitutional. The ruling puts an end to 20 years of state and local ballot initiatives aimed at stripping gays of anti-discrimination protections, leaving same-sex marriage as the main issue for anti-gay organizers.

1996: The National Pro-Family Forum, dedicated to “one man-one woman” marriage, holds its first secret meeting in a Memphis church cellar with representatives from more than 20 major anti-gay groups. Before the end of the year, forum members successfully push the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) through Congress.

1996: The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is passed with bipartisan support by both houses of Congress. In September, President Bill Clinton signs into law, denying same-sex couples the right to have their unions/partnerships recognized by the federal government and to receive federal marriage benefits. The law also defines marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman and asserts that no state is required to recognize same-sex marriages, even when performed legally in other states.

1996: The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would prohibit discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation, narrowly fails in the U.S. Senate in a vote of 50-49. It is the first time a vote on lesbian and gay civil rights has ever been before the full Senate. In the event of a tie, Vice President Al Gore had been prepared to vote in favor, and President Bill Clinton had pledged to sign the bill into law. As of 2015, ENDA still has not been passed.

1996: The Unitarian Universalist Association’s Board of Trustees and General Assembly pass resolutions in support of same-sex marriage.

1996: Muffin Spencer Devlin, an 18-year veteran on the LPGA tour, comes out as a lesbian in *Sports Illustrated* and *The Advocate*.

1996: U.S. national figure skating champion Rudy Galindo reveals that he is gay.

1996: David Pichler and Patrick Jeffrey, two openly gay divers, compete in the Atlanta Olympics.

1997: Dan Woog publishes the book, *Jocks*, chronicling dozens of out athlete’s stories.

1997: A *Rolling Stones* article details the failure of John Money's case from the 1960s; Money was accidentally castrated during a circumcision then raised as a girl.

1997 : In her U.S. television comedy show, *Ellen DeGeneres*, and her television character Ellen Morgan, comes out, making "Ellen" the first prime time television show to feature an openly gay or lesbian lead character. Right-wing groups led by Donald Wildmon and televangelist Jerry Falwell call for a boycott of ABC and its "anti-family" parent company, Disney; Falwell calls the actor "Ellen Degenerate." The boycott fails.

1997: In June, the Unitarian Universalist Association stages a Sodomy Law Protest in the form of an educational panel in Phoenix, Arizona.

1998: Coretta Scott King, widow of slain civil rights lead Martin Luther King Jr., calls on the civil rights community to join the struggle against homophobia. She receives criticism from some members of the black civil rights movement for comparing civil rights to gay rights.

1998: Mike Muska, a gay man and former collegiate track and field coach, is named the athletic director at Oberlin College, becoming the first openly gay male ever in that position.

1998: A coalition of fundamentalist groups led by Coral Ridge Ministries sponsors "Truth in Love," a \$1-million advertising campaign promoting "ex-gay ministries," which use discredited psychological methods to "cure" gay people. One day before a second round of "Truth in Love" ads is released, gay college student Matthew Shepard is murdered, spurring a national debate about the connection between anti-gay rhetoric and hate crimes.

1998: Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old openly gay student at the University of Wyoming, is robbed and attacked by two men near Laramie on the night of October 7 because of his homosexuality. After being beaten and tortured, he is tied to a fence and left to die. Shepard dies from his wounds several days later. His murder brings hate crimes against gays to the forefront of U.S. news and debate about hate crime legislation. In 2000, his killers are tried, convicted, and sentenced to life-sentences in prison.

1998: In a TV interview, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) compares gay people to alcoholics and "kleptomaniacs," earning praise from anti-gay activists. "Leaders willing to be set apart and stand solidly in the truth are rare in today's permissive culture," says James Dobson.

1998: ESPN airs the "World of the Gay Athlete" special.

1998: Brian Orser, former world champion figure skater and Olympic silver medalist, comes out as a gay man in a palimony suit filed by an ex-lover.

1998: The Executive Council of the United Church of Christ calls for the passage of the Federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1998 and urges all United Church of Christ members to communicate support for this legislation to their congressional representatives.

1998: Gay Games V takes place in Amsterdam amid controversy as transgender activists protest trans-exclusion from the games. The Gay Games reinstates rules that require “documented completion of sex change or two years hormones” before allowing transgender individuals to compete. Loren Cameron, FTM trans man, who had been expected to compete, drops out of competition in protest.

1998: Former Canadian Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury comes out.

1998: “Will and Grace,” the first successful American sitcom featuring gay main characters, debuts on television and remains on the air for 8 seasons.

1998: Pat Griffin’s *Strong Women, Deep Closets: Lesbians and Homophobia in Sport* is the first book to explore homophobia in women’s sports.

1998: LPGA Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan comes out as a lesbian in *Golf World* magazine.

1998: Former Major League baseball player (1987-1995) Billy Bean reveals he is gay

1998: Tammy Baldwin becomes the first open lesbian elected to federal legislative office when she is elected to the U. S. Congress.

1999: In *Richmond, Virginia*, The Richmond Gay Community Foundation, Inc. (RGCF) is formed and granted 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

1999: Bills are introduced in the state assemblies of Rhode Island for the first time and in Maryland for the second time to legalize same-sex marriage, but both fail.

1999: PFC Barry Winchell is brutally murdered by fellow soldiers who perceive him to be gay because of his relationship with Calpernia Addams, a transgender woman he met while serving in the Army. Just weeks after Winchell’s murder, a drill sergeant leads Winchell’s platoon in a chilling chant: “Faggot, faggot, down the street. Shoot him, shoot him, ‘til he retreats,” according to former soldier and platoon member Javier Torres.

1999: The California State Legislature passes AB 537, which is then signed by Governor Gray Davis to protect gay and lesbian students from harassment.

1999: California adopts a domestic partner law, allowing same-sex couples equal rights, responsibilities, benefits, and protections as married couples, making it the first state to legalize domestic partnerships for same-gender couples

1999: In February, Billy Jack Gaither is brutally beaten to death and his body set on fire by two men because of his sexuality, igniting more controversy about hate crimes against gays.

1999: Actress Hillary Swank wins the Academy Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of transsexual Brandon Teena in “Boys Don't Cry,” a biopic about Teena, who was brutally raped and murdered in 1993 because of his identity.



1999: Amelie Mauresmo, a top ranked French tennis player, comes out as a lesbian and says being out about her female partner improves her game. Mauresmo is the first professional athlete to come out at the beginning of her career rather than at the end or after retirement. Top rival Martina Hingis calls her “half a man.”

1999: The 22<sup>nd</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes the resolutions “Prevention of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth Suicide,” and “Affirming and Strengthening Marriage.” The latter affirms that the standard for sexual and relational behavior for members of the United Church of Christ is fidelity and integrity in marriage and other covenanted relationships, in singleness and in all relationships of life.

1999: In Texas, Christine Littleton, who has completed gender-reassignment surgery, is ruled to be legally male and not the legal widow of her husband

1999: Founded by Cyd Zeigler and Jim Buzinski, Outsports.com publishes the first webpage devoted to sports news and information for gay sports fans and athletes.

1999: The International Olympic Committee ends mandatory gender testing for women athletes but institutes a “case-by-case” process for when an individual athlete’s sex is questioned.

1999: Baseball player John Rocker is suspended by Major League Baseball after spewing homophobia to *Sports Illustrated*.

2000: In Vermont, Governor Howard Dean signs a law sanctioning same-sex civil unions, entitling gay couples to marital rights and benefits. Vermont is the first state in the U.S. to legalize civil unions and registered partnerships between same-sex couples. Anti-gay leader Gary Bauer calls it “an unmitigated disaster” that is “worse than terrorism.”

2000: President Bill Clinton declares June Gay and Lesbian Pride Month

2000: Suspects in the Billy Jack Gaither and Matthew Shepard cases are found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

2000: Fifteen-year-old Anthony Colin wins a court battle in California after his application to form a Gay Student Alliance group in his high school was denied.

2000: For the first time, the U.S. census attempts to estimate the number of same-sex (“unmarried partners”) households.

2000: “Teletubbies” cartoon character Tinky Winky is “outed” as gay in a “Parents’ Alert” in televangelist Jerry Falwell’s *Liberty Journal*, which asserts, “He is purple — the gay-pride color; and his antenna is shaped like a triangle — the gay-pride symbol.”

2000: The U.S. Supreme Court rules 5-4 that the Boy Scouts of America can continue to ban gay scoutmasters. Anti-gay activists like Robert Knight of the Family Research Council use the

scouting controversy to revive anti-gay “child molester” propaganda. After CBS morning-show host Bryant Gumbel interviews Knight, he is heard on air commenting, “What a fucking idiot.” Anti-gay groups label CBS the “Christian Bashing System” and lobby unsuccessfully for Gumbel’s firing.

2000: Jose Gutierrez founds the Latino GLBT History Project in Washington DC

2000: In *Richmond, Virginia*, the Richmond Gay Community Foundation opens Diversity Thrift to raise money to support LGBTQ organizations in Richmond.

2000: Openly gay Robert Dover is elected captain of the U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team (re-elected 5 times).

2000: Openly gay high school football captain Corey Johnson gets national attention from ABC News and the *New York Times*.

2000: A lesbian couple is ejected from Dodgers Stadium for kissing during a game.

2000: The Women’s Sports Foundation initiates The Project to Eliminate Homophobia in Sport. In 2005, it is renamed It Takes A Team! Education Campaign for LGBT Issues in Sport, with fundraising support from Martina Navratilova. It Takes A Team! creates and disseminates education resources for addressing LGBT issues in sport

2000: With 25 percent of all congregations having become *welcoming congregations*, the Unitarian Universalist Association publishes *Challenging the Religious “Right,”* and the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) becomes the first *welcoming organization*.

2001: In *Richmond, Virginia*, GayRichmond.com debuts as a website for LGBT news, culture and business.

2001: A federal judge upholds Florida’s ban on adoptions by gays and lesbians.

2001: In San Francisco, Diane Whipple dies after being mauled by two dogs outside the apartment she shared with her partner, Sharon Smith. The dogs belonged to Whipple’s next door neighbors, who did not try to prevent or stop the attack. Smith filed a wrongful-death suit against the neighbors, in part to hold them accountable for their actions but also to challenge California law, which said same-sex partners have no legal standing to file such suits. Both neighbors were convicted for murder.

2001: On “The 700 Club” two days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, televangelist Jerry Falwell blames the tragedy on “the Pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists and the gays and lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle.” Host Pat Robertson responds: “Well, I totally concur.”

2001: The Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly supports a call to end taxpayer support of faith-based initiatives, including those that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

2002: Virginians for Justice becomes Equality *Virginia*.

2002: Transgender California teen Gwen Araujo is fatally attacked by four men who discover Gwen is transgender.

2002: David Cicilline is elected the first openly gay mayor of Providence, Rhode Island.

2002: A Philadelphia court strikes down a 1998 city ordinance that recognized city employees' "life partnerships," claiming the ordinance "usurped" the power of the state to regulate marriage.

2002: The Ohio Supreme Court rules a same-sex couple can adopt a last name they created for themselves, reversing a lower court's decision.

2002: The National Center for Lesbian Rights initiates the Homophobia in Sports Project to provide legal and advocacy support for athletes and coaches discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

2002: Gay Games VI takes place in Sydney, Australia.

2002: After meeting with the Gay & Lesbian Alliance against Defamation (GLAAD), *The New York Times* opens its Weddings & Celebrations page to same-sex couples. After GLAAD's "Announcing Equality" campaign begins, there is a 584-percent increase in the number of newspapers willing to print announcements for gay and lesbian couples by 2008.

2002: New York Giant Jeremy Shockey tells Howard Stern he does not want a gay teammate, and New York Mets pitcher Mike Piazza holds a press conference to announce he is straight.

2002: University of Florida starting catcher Andrea Zimbardi settles a suit against the school charging that she was dismissed from the team because she is a lesbian. The suit restores one year of eligibility and requires university coaches to undergo training on LGB issues in sport.

2002: The Rev. Michael Bray, a convicted abortion clinic bomber and leading advocate of murdering abortion doctors, praises Saudi Arabia for beheading three gay men on New Year's Day. "Let us give thanks," Bray proclaims. "Let us welcome these tools of purification. Open the borders! Bring in some agents of cleansing."

2002: Esera Tuaolo, ex-NFL player from 1991-1999, comes out on the television show *HBO Real Sports*.

2002: In May, the Reverend Laurie J. Auffant is called to serve Follen Church Society of Lexington, Massachusetts, thus becoming the first out transgender person in the Unitarian Universalist ministry to be called to serve a congregation as a minister of religious education.

The Reverend Sean Parker Dennison is called to serve the South Valley UU congregation of Salt Lake City, UT, thus becoming the first out transgender person in the Unitarian Universalist ministry to be called to serve a congregation as a parish minister.

2003: In June, striking down a Texas law banning private, consensual sex between same-sex adults, the U. S. Supreme Court rules in *Lawrence et al. v. Texas* that sodomy laws in the U.S. are unconstitutional based on infringement of citizens' right to privacy in their home. Sodomy laws historically have been one of the many laws that criminalize non-reproductive, non-commercial, consensual sex between adults in private. The ruling overturns the 1986 case *Bowers v. Hardwick*, in which the Court upheld a similar law. The Court states that gay people are entitled to "an autonomy of self that includes freedom of thought, belief, expression, and certain intimate conduct." Dissenting Justice Antonin Scalia complains that "the court has largely signed onto the so-called homosexual agenda." Senator Rick Santorum (R-Penn) compares same-sex marriage to polygamy, incest, and adultery when commenting on the sodomy case being heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

2003: Texas Governor Rick Perry signs the state's version of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), denying same-sex couples the right to marry or receive any benefits of marriage.

2003: "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" debuts on television and is the first makeover show with gay hosts.

2003: CNBC host Michael Savage is fired after making homophobic remarks to a man who called into his television show.

2003: The Reverend Gene Robinson becomes the first openly gay man to be confirmed a bishop in the Episcopal Church USA.

2003: The University of Pennsylvania founds the first student-athlete group focused on eliminating homophobia in athletics, Penn Athletes Against Homophobia (PATH).

2003: The Gay and Lesbian Athletic Foundation holds the first national conference on lesbian and gay issues in sport in Boston, Massachusetts.

2003: The NCAA initiates "sexual orientation issues in sports" training available to member schools at no cost.

2003 In *Richmond, Virginia*, the PRIDE festival is nearly canceled after Hurricane Isabel, but goes on amid the fallen trees.

2003: Alan Sears, head of the Alliance Defense Fund, co-authors *The Homosexual Agenda*, a book that asserts gay activists' ultimate goal is "silencing" conservative Christians. Sears also accuses cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants of being gay.

2003: In November, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court rules 4-3 in *Goodridge v. Massachusetts Department of Public Health* that there is no rational basis under the law to deny a marriage license to same-sex couples and that it denies dignity and equality of all individuals.

2004: On May 17, Massachusetts marriage licenses begin to be issued to same-sex couples, making Massachusetts the first state to legalize gay marriage. Unitarian Universalist Association President the Reverend William G. Sinkford legally marries Hillary and Julie Goodridge, lead plaintiffs in *Goodridge v. Massachusetts Department of Public Health* in Eliot Hall at the Unitarian Universalist Association.

2004: James Dobson's Focus on the Family Action organizes “Mayday for Marriage” rallies in six major cities to promote anti-gay marriage ballot initiatives in 11 states. In October, an estimated 150,000 people turn out for a protest in Washington, D.C., where Dobson declares, “[E]verything we care about is on the line. It’s now or never.”

2004: State constitutional amendments prohibiting same-sex marriage pass by wide margins in 11 states. Anti-gay groups meet in Washington, D.C., to plan for 10 more state initiatives in 2005. Same-sex marriage is also banned in Australia, although the neighboring nation of New Zealand passes legislation recognizing gay civil unions.

2004: The 24<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes the following resolutions, “Affirming the Participation and Ministry of Transgender People with the United Church of Christ and Supporting Their Civil and Human Rights”; “Reaffirming the United Church of Christ’s Denouncement of Violence Against Lesbian and Gay People and Calling for the Inclusion of Transgender People within that Anti-violence Statement”; and “The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America,” a resolution encouraging the Collegium and other settings of the church to urge the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America to adopt a membership policy that does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, and that allows for the reactivation of membership of persons who were previously excluded solely on that basis. The Executive Council of the UCC releases “A Call to Action and Invitation to Dialogue on Marriage” during their April meeting.

2004: “The L Word” – the first lesbian television series—debuts.

2004: The first all trans\* performance of the *Vagina Monologues* was held at The Maryland Institute College of Arts.

2004: The International Olympic Committee announces the Stockholm Consensus, a policy that establishes criteria under which transsexual athletes can compete in the Olympic Games in their identified gender.

2004: The Australian, British and European women’s golf associations rule that Mianne Bagger, a woman who transitioned genders, can compete in their events, making her the first transsexual to play women’s golf. The Ladies European Golf Tour (LET) changed its rules to allow persons who changed sex from male to female to become members. However, the Women’s Professional Golf Association (WPGA) has yet to allow transgender people become members.

2004: LPGA Hall of Famer Rosie Jones comes out as a lesbian in a letter to the *New York Times* and receives an endorsement from Olivia, a lesbian vacation and travel company.

2004: ESPN hires openly gay reporter LZ Granderson.

2004: San Francisco officials begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in February, with a handful of other U.S. municipalities following suit. Later that month, President George W. Bush announces his support for a Federal Marriage Amendment to the Constitution.

2004: President George W. Bush endorses an amendment to the U. S. Constitution that would restrict marriage to two people of the opposite sex. “The union of a man and a woman is the most enduring human institution, honored and encouraged in all cultures by every religious faith, marriage cannot be severed from its cultural, religious and natural roots without weakening the good influence of society.”

2004: The *Virginia* General Assembly passes the Affirmation of Marriage Act - HB 751, which defines marriage as between one woman and one man. The law further states, “A civil union, partnership contract or other arrangement between persons of the same sex purporting to bestow the privileges or obligations of marriage is prohibited. Any such civil union, partnership contract or other arrangement entered into by persons of the same sex in another state or jurisdiction shall be void in all respects in Virginia and any contractual rights created thereby shall be void and unenforceable.” The LGBT community statewide is outraged and rallies on June 30 to protest the law’s effective date.

2005: Statewide anti-discrimination legislation that includes sexual orientation is passed in Maine and Illinois.

2005: *The Simpsons* became the first cartoon program to devote an entire episode to the topic of same-sex marriage.

2005: Puerto Rico’s legislature repeals its anti-sodomy laws

2005L USA Track & Field and the United States Golf Association adopts the International Olympic Committee’s policy governing the participation of transsexual athletes in their events.

2005: Sheryl Swoopes, Olympic Champion and Women’s National Basketball Association three-time MVP and WNBA Champion, comes out as a lesbian in *ESPN The Magazine*.

2005: A former Penn State women’s basketball player, Jennifer Harris, files a lawsuit against Penn State University and coach Rene Portland, charging that she was dismissed from the team for her perceived sexual orientation. Harris is represented by the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR).

2005: The 25<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ passes a resolution for “Equal Marriage Rights for All.”

2006: In *Richmond, Virginia*, the Richmond Gay Community Foundation (RGCF) moves into its own building, a 47,000 square foot facility.

2006: *Virginia* voters pass one of the most restrictive state constitutional amendments against same-sex marriage.

2006: New Jersey, Washington D.C., and Washington State all pass anti-discrimination laws that include sexual orientation.

2006: Discrimination based on sexual orientation is banned in Illinois and Washington State adds sexual orientation to its existing anti-discrimination laws.

2006: Gay Games VII is held in Chicago while the first World Outgames takes place in Montreal alongside the International Conference on LGBT Human Rights.

2006: Keelin Godsey comes out as transgender, becoming the first openly transgender student athlete to compete in NCAA sports.

2006: Bishop Ronald Warren of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) files formal charges against ELCA pastor Rev. Bradley Schmeling because of his committed relationship with Rev. Darin Easler.

2007: By a vote of 151-45, the Massachusetts legislature defeats a proposed amendment to the state constitution to outlaw same-gender marriage.

2007: The Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly announces its support for repealing the U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

2007: The first Gay Pride event to be held in a predominantly Islamic country takes place in Turkey.

2007: Joy Ladin becomes the first openly trans\* professor to teach at an Orthodox institution.

2007: Candis Cayne plays Carmelita Rainer on the television show *Dirty, Sexy, Money* and became the first trans\* actress to play a recurring trans\* character.

2007: Anti-discrimination legislation that includes sexual orientation is passed in Ohio, Oregon, Colorado, Michigan, Iowa, Vermont, and Kansas.

2007: The Soulforce Equality Ride visits 32 schools in the United States that ban enrollment of openly-gay students.

2007: John Amaechi, an ex-NBA player, comes out and promotes his book, *Man in the Middle*. He is the first ex-NBA player to come out.

2007: DiversityInc requires companies to offer domestic-partner benefits as a prerequisite to making its DiversityInc Top 50 list

2007: Former professional basketball player Tim Hardaway tells a Miami radio station, “I hate gay people.” He is dismissed from all NBA duties and released as a coach in the CBA.

2007: Penn State agrees to a confidential settlement of a lawsuit with ex-basketball player Jennifer Harris. A month later, longtime women’s basketball coach Rene Portland resigns.

2007: NCAA Executive Director Myles Brand publicly states that discrimination based on sexual orientation in collegiate sport must be addressed.

2007: GLAAD initiates a Sports Media Project and hires the first director, Ted Rybka, to monitor media coverage of LGBT issues in sport.

2007: The NCAA and the National Center for Lesbian Rights co-sponsor the first national think tank on Negative Recruiting Based on Perceived Sexual Orientation.

2007: Sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, the Logo cable channel hosts the first American presidential forum focusing specifically on LGBT issues, inviting each presidential candidate. Six Democrats participate in the forum, including Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, while all Republican candidates decline.

2008: 15-year-old Lawrence King is shot and killed a day after a verbal exchange with 14-year-old Brandon McInerney and his friends. King, an eighth-grader who identified as gay and occasionally wore makeup, high heels, and other feminine attire to E. O. Green Junior High School, is shot in the head while in class at school.

2008: In *Richmond, Virginia*, the Richmond Gay Community Foundation (RGCF) opens the Gay Community Center of Richmond, featuring meeting space available for community events and the GCCR Art Gallery. A vigil for Lawrence King is held, bringing together more than a dozen LGBT community groups in opposition to anti-LGBT violence.

2008: The first-ever LGBT forum for *Richmond, Virginia*, mayoral candidates is held.

2008: The Central *Virginia* Rainbow Partnership is formed as the first formal ongoing collaborative effort among Virginia LGBT and allied groups.

2008: In July, the Massachusetts legislature, passed, and Governor Deval Patrick signs a law that upholds the freedom of same-sex couples from outside Massachusetts to get married in the state. This legislation repeals a discriminatory law from 1913 that had blocked such marriages. In a statement, Patrick said: “The 1913 law is outdated and discriminatory; repealing is the right thing to do.”



2008: The first ever U.S. Congressional hearing on discrimination against transgender people in the workplace is held, by the House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

2008: Diego Sanchez is hired as senior policy adviser by openly gay U.S. Representative Barney Frank (Mass.), making him the first transgender staffer on Capitol Hill

2008: Kate Brown becomes the first openly bisexual officeholder as the Oregon Secretary of State. In 2015, she becomes the first openly bisexual governor of Oregon after the sitting governor resigns.

2008: Rachel Maddow becomes the first open lesbian to host a prime-time network news program.

2008: In May, the California Supreme Court rules that existing state laws prohibiting same-sex marriage are invalid. The following November, California voters approve Proposition 8, which amends the state constitution to outlaw same-sex marriage. The passing of the ballot garners national attention from gay-rights supporters across the U.S. Lawsuits seeking to overturn Proposition 8 proceed through the courts over the next 5 years, finally reaching the Supreme Court in 2013.

2008: Connecticut's state Supreme Court rules that same-sex marriage be allowed to proceed, making Connecticut the second state, after Massachusetts, to legalize same-sex marriage.

2008: The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association enacts the first statewide policy enabling the participation of transgender athletes in high school sports according to their identified gender.

2008: Eleven openly gay, lesbian and bisexual Olympians win a total of seven medals at the Beijing Games, including a gold medal in diving won by Australian Matthew Mitcham, the only openly gay man competing in the games.

2008: Our Group, a national organization for LGBT student athletes, is formed.

2009: President Obama declares June Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

2009: The General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins an *Amicus Curiae* (friend of the court) brief with the California-Nevada Conferences, the California Council of Churches, and others in support of the petitioners claiming that California's Proposition 8 should be ruled invalid.

2009: The Respect for Marriage Act is introduced in Congress for the first time. It would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and provide all married same-sex couples the full range of federal benefits and responsibilities already associated with long-term, committed relationships. As of early 2015, the law has yet to be passed.

2009: In June, President Barack Obama signs a Presidential Memorandum allowing same-sex partners of federal employees to receive certain benefits. The memorandum does not include full health insurance coverage.

2009: In October, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (formerly the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009) is passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama. The measure expands the 1969 U.S. Federal Hate Crime Law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. It also is the first US federal law to extend legal protections to transgender persons. The law is named for two hate crime victims. On October 7, 1998, Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay college student, was tortured, tied to a fence, and left to die near Laramie, Wyoming, because of his sexual orientation. In Jasper, Texas, on June 8, 1998, James Byrd, Jr., was abducted and beaten by three white men who then tortured him to death by dragging him behind a pickup truck for more than three miles.

2009: In Iowa, the Iowa Supreme Court rules that same-sex couples should be permitted to marry in the state, making Iowa the third state to take this action. In Vermont, the state legislature overrides Governor Jim Douglas's veto of legislation that legalizes same-sex marriage, with the first such marriages taking place in September.

2009: Barbara Siperstein becomes the first openly trans\* member of the Democratic National Committee.

2009: The United Church of Christ's 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod passes the "Affirming Diversity/Multi-Cultural Education in the Public Schools" resolution. This resolution urges churches to assist public school efforts to protect children and help them understand people of other races and sexual orientations.

2009: Limited domestic partnership laws covering same-sex couples are passed in Colorado and Washington State.

2009: *Training Rules*, a documentary is released about long-time women's basketball coach Rene Portland's "no drugs, no alcohol, no lesbians" policy at Penn State.

2009: Former college football captain Brian Sims tells his story to *Outsports*, launching his advocacy work and political career.

2009: The National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Women's Sports Foundation initiative, It Takes A Team! co-sponsor the first United States National Think Tank, Equal Opportunity for Transgender Student-Athletes.

2009: Women's basketball coach Lori Sulpizio, who is lesbian, wins a lawsuit against Mesa Community College for being fired without just cause.

2009: Sherri Murrell, women's basketball coach at Portland State University becomes the first publicly out lesbian coach in NCAA Division 1 basketball.

2010: In Washington, D.C., Mayor Adrian Fenty signs into law the Religious Freedom & Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009. Same-sex marriage in the city begins on March 3.

2010: Maryland's Attorney General declares that although Maryland does not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the state is able to provide marriage rights and benefits to same-sex couples married outside of Maryland.

2010: The United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns expands its criteria for new Open and Affirming (ONA) Statements to include gender identity and gender expression.

2010: In August, a federal judge in San Francisco rules that gays and lesbians have the constitutional right to marry and that California's voter-approved Proposition 8 is unconstitutional. The case is appealed all the way to the Supreme Court, which issues a ruling in mid-2013.

2010: New Hampshire begins allowing members of same-sex couples to adopt each other's children. Washington D.C. legalizes adoption by same-sex couples.

2010: The Women's Sports Foundation eliminates funding for the It Takes A Team! program due to budgetary constraints. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) eliminates the Sports Media project due to financial constraints.

2010: At the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, the first Pride House is provided to offer hospitality for LGBT athletes, friends, and family.

2010: The National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Women's Sports Foundation release *On the Team: Equal Opportunities for Transgender Student-Athletes*, a report that includes policy recommendations for high school and college athletics.

2010: Kye Allums is the first openly transgender man to play for a Division I college women's basketball team. George Washington University, his coach, and teammates all embrace Kye's public announcement. The NCAA rules that Kye is allowed to play on the women's team as long as he is not taking hormones.

2010: Lana Lawson, a transgender woman golfer, sues the LPGA for the right to compete in the World Long Drive Championship play. In response to the lawsuit, the LPGA amends its by-laws to eliminate the "female at birth" requirement for membership.

2010: In **Richmond, Virginia**, the Richmond community protests appearances by members of the anti-gay rights Westboro Baptist Church at the city's Holocaust Museum and other local venues.

2010: In **Richmond, Virginia**, VCU and community organizations protest Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's request to state schools to eliminate nondiscrimination clauses, as well as Governor McDonnell's omission of sexual orientation from an Executive Order banning employment discrimination.

2010: In June, President Barack Obama issues a memorandum ordering federal departments and agencies to extend spousal benefits to same-sex couples to the extent permitted by the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

2010: The U. S. Supreme Court rules in *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez* that public universities may refuse to recognize student organizations with discriminatory membership policies.

2010: District Court Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker rules in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* that California's Proposition 8, which outlaws same-gender marriage, violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of equal protection and due process.

2010: In November, openly gay U. S. House of Representatives members Tammy Baldwin, Jared Polis, and Barney Frank all win re-election. David Cicilline of Rhode Island wins election to become the nation's fourth openly gay Representative.

2010: In December, President Barack Obama signs the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 following its passage by the U. S. Congress. Henceforth, gays and lesbians can serve openly in the U.S. Armed Forces. The military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, in use between 1993 and 2010 is abandoned, as is the prohibition against gays and lesbians in the military in force since 1943.

2010: The U. S. Supreme Court agrees to hear *Windsor v. United States*, a lawsuit filed by Edith Windsor that challenges the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

2011: In February, President Barack Obama states his administration will no longer defend the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which bans the recognition of same-sex marriage in the U.S. He later announces that his administration will actively combat anti-LGBT efforts by other countries.

2011: In June, the New York state legislature passes the Marriage Equity Act, becoming the largest state (in population) thus far to legalize gay marriage.

2011: The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network launches "Changing the Game: The GLSEN Sports Project," focused on making K-12 athletics and physical education safe, respectful, and accessible for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities/expressions.

2011: Campus Pride launches the "Out to Play" project designed to address anti-LGBT slurs, bias, and conduct in college sports and create a safer, more LGBT-friendly athletic community at colleges and universities across the country.

2011: The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network teams with the NBA to create a Think B4 You Speak PSA video featuring NBA players Grant Hill and Jared Dudley on anti-gay name-

calling in sports. Professional athletes Sean Avery (ice hockey), Steve Nash (basketball), and Charles Barkley (basketball) also speak out for LGBT rights.

2011: The NCAA adopts a transgender athlete inclusion policy and distributes to all member institutions.

2011: The four professional sports organizations in the U.S. (NBA, MLB, NHL, and NFL) adopt non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation.

2011: In February, social networking site Facebook adds “in a civil union” and “in a domestic partnership” to its choices for relationship status in the United States, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and Australia.

2011: In June, the U.S. Department of Education holds its first-ever Federal LGBT Youth Summit in Washington, D.C. At the summit, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announces a “Dear Colleague Letter” that is sent to education administrators across America reminding them of students’ federal right to form a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA).

2012: Patrick Burke of the NHL, Brian Kitts, and Glenn Witman co-found the You Can Play Project, dedicated to ensuring respect and safety for all athletes regardless of sexual orientation.

2012: Campus Pride releases the first-ever LGBT-Friendly “Top 10” List for college athletics in partnership with *Compete* magazine.

2012: The first LGBT Sports Summit is hosted by Nike working to form a coalition of LGBT Sports leaders and organizations.

2012: Majorities of voters in Maine, Washington, and Maryland all vote in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage.

2012: The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upholds Judge Vaughn Walker’s previous ruling regarding *Perry v. Brown* (formerly *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*), which found that California’s Proposition 8 was unconstitutional. Proponents of Proposition 8 appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

2012: President Barack Obama becomes the first sitting U.S. president to state his support for gay marriage.

2012: U.S. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin becomes the first openly gay or lesbian person to be elected a U.S. Senator.

2012: San Francisco becomes the first city in the U.S. to cover the costs of gender reassignment surgery for trans\* people.

2012: Krysten Sinema becomes the first openly bisexual person to be elected to the U.S. Congress

2012: Seven LGBT candidates win election into U.S. House and Senate

2012: Orlando Cruz became the world's first boxer to come out as gay

2013: In June, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Windsor v. United States* strikes down the section of the Defense of Marriage Act that denies federal benefits to legally married same-gender couples, and rules that gay couples are entitled to federal benefits such as Social Security survivor benefits and family leave. Also in June, the Court dismisses *Hollingsworth v. Perry* (previously *Perry v. Brown*) declaring that the proponents of Proposition 8 lack legal standing to appeal the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals 2012 ruling that California's Proposition 8 (a voter-approved referendum that outlawed same-sex marriage) is unconstitutional. Subsequently, between mid-2013 and early 2015, 65 state and federal court rulings uphold the right of same-gender couples to marry.

2013: The U.S. Department of the Treasury announces that legal same-gender marriages will be recognized for federal tax purposes.

2013: Almost a decade after it was first introduced in Congress, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is passed by the full Senate with a vote of 64-32. The legislation has not yet passed in the House of Representatives.

2013: On January 24, over 100 LGBTQ Latinas/os meet in Atlanta, Georgia, for *Union=Fuerza Instituto Latino's* first ever day-long Latino/a Institute at Task Force Creating Change Conference. Latino Institutes have taken place annually since then.

2013: In *Virginia*, Timothy Bostic and Tony London, and Carol Schall and Mary Townley, with the American Foundation for Equal Rights, file a lawsuit against Virginia for violating the Fourteenth amendment by not permitting same-gender marriage; this case becomes known as *Bostic v. Schaefer*. A class-action suit follows in August, representing 14,000 same-gender couples in the Commonwealth, but the case is stayed pending the ruling in the *Bostic* case.

2014: In January, *Virginia* Attorney General Mark Herring announces that he will not defend the Commonwealth's marriage laws that prohibit same-gender marriage, and that he believes the laws to be unconstitutional. In February, in the case *Bostic v. Schaefer*, U.S. District Court Judge Arenda L. Wright Allen rules that Virginia's ban on same-gender marriage is unconstitutional. In July, on appeal, the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals upholds Allen's decision. In August, Attorney General Mark Herring requests that the U.S. Supreme Court review the ruling, while the Prince William County Clerk files a motion seeking to stay the Court of Appeals ruling. On October 6, the U.S. Supreme Court denies review of *Bostic v. Schaefer*. The decision to deny review means that same-gender couples in Virginia can get married effective immediately, and Virginia begins issuing marriage licenses that day.

2014: National Basketball Association player Jason Collins becomes the first openly gay athlete to play in one of the U.S.'s four major sports leagues (NBA, MLB, NHL, and NFL).

2014: The U. S. Department of Justice announces that legally married same-gender couples will receive equal protection in every program it administers.

2015: In June with the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision, the U. S. Supreme Court recognizes a Constitutional right to gay marriage, making such unions legal nationwide.

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