



Jane Addams

Jane Addams was a Nobel Prize winning pioneer social worker and a feminist. Addams was European-American, born into a wealthy family in 1860, long before anyone defined themselves as "lesbian," but she "shared her life for 40 years" with Mary Rozet Smith.

Alexander the Great

September 20, 365 BC - Birthday of **Alexander the Great**, King of Macedonia, who conquered part of Asia. Historians believe he was gay. He is included, for instance on the American Library Association's list of GLBT historical figures.

Dr. Paula Gunn Allen

Dr. Paula Gunn Allen is an award-winning Laguna Pueblo/Sioux/Lebanese/Scottish poet and novelist and professor and an out lesbian.

Cal Anderson

May 2, 1948 -- **Cal Anderson** is born. Cal would grow up in Tukwila, graduate from Foster High School, serve in Vietnam and eventually become the first openly gay member of the Washington State legislature. There, Anderson worked for civil rights for gay, lesbian and bisexual people as well as such issues as campaign finance reform and easier voter registration. He died of complications from AIDS on August 4, 1995.

Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was an abolitionist, a teacher and education reformer, a labor activist, a temperance worker, a feminist and, of course a suffragist. She never married and she is believed by reputable historians to have had three intimate relationships with women in her life.

Gloria Anzaldua

Gloria Anzaldua - This co-editor of *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, describes herself as "a chicana dyke-feminist, tejana patlache poet, writer, and cultural theorist."

St. Augustine

November 12, 354 - **St. Augustine** is born in Tagaste, North Africa. In his writing, he discusses his love for his closest friend saying he contemplated joining him in death. "I felt that his soul and mine were one soul in two bodies." * (Same-sex romantic relationships and transgender individuals have been reported throughout history and all over the world. See <http://www.gallimauphry.com/glbtl/list.html> & <http://www.sexuality.org/lesbigay/gayceleb.html> and <http://www.lambda.org/famous.htm>.)

Joan Baez

January 9, 1941 -- **Joan Baez** is born. Baez, who is Mexican-American and describes herself as bisexual, is one of the most famous folk singers of all time. She's also known for standing up for social justice. She sang at Martin Luther King's 1963 March on Washington and stood with Cesar Chavez in the struggle for the rights of migrant farm workers. She protested the Viet Nam war and capitol punishment and helped establish a west coast branch of Amnesty International. And she's been a vocal advocate of gay and lesbian civil rights.



Josephine Baker

June 6, 1906 - **Josephine Baker** is born. A civil rights activist as well as a singer and dancer, Baker refused to perform for segregated audiences; she's credited by some as having integrated the Las Vegas nightclubs. Eventually, Baker fled U.S. bigotry and moved to France, where audiences didn't care about her color or her bisexuality. She did undercover work for the French Resistance during World War II and was decorated with her adopted homeland's most distinguished award, the 'Legion of Honor.' She adopted twelve children from around the world, two of whom have written about her relationships with people of different genders.

James Baldwin

August 2, 2004 - 80th birthday of author James Baldwin. Baldwin was African-American and gay. If you ever wonder whether patriots can find fault with their homelands, remember that Baldwin once said, "*I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.*" **On his birthday in 2004, the U.S. Postal Service will issue its "Literary Arts: James Baldwin" stamp.** View the stamp at http://shop.usps.com/cgi-bin/vsbn/postal_store_non_ssl/browse_content/stampReleaseDisplay.jsp?OID=8517

Ellen Marie Barrett

January 10, 1977 - **Ellen Marie Barrett** is ordained by the Episcopal Church, becoming **the first openly lesbian clergyperson** in any major religious institution in the U.S.

Katharine Lee Bates

July 4, 1895 -- "America the Beautiful" is published. Its author, **Katharine Lee Bates**, was a professor at Wellesley College "who lived for 25 years as 'one soul together' with another woman" according to David Bianco of PlanetOut. See also *Adamless Eden: The Community of Women Faculty at Wellesley*, Patricia Ann Palmieri (Yale University Press, 1995) and "Yellow Clover: Katharine Lee Bates and Katharine Coman," Judith Schwartz. *Frontiers*, Vol. IV, No. 1 (Spring, 1979).

Deborah Batts

June, 1994 - **Deborah Batts** is sworn in as a Federal District Judge for Manhattan, becoming the nation's first openly lesbian African-American federal judge.

Gladys Bentley

August 2, 1907 - Gladys Bentley is born to a Trinidadian mom and an African-American dad. She would grow up to become a respected blues singer. Bentley was openly gay (a "bulldagger" in the parlance of the day) and even once told a gossip columnist she had married a woman. More at: www.queerculturalcenter.org/Pages/Bentley/BentleyBio.html

Leonard Bernstein

August 25, 1918 – World-renowned, Jewish American composer, pianist, conductor **Leonard Bernstein** is born. Among his most famous compositions, he collaborated on the musical *Westside Story*. Bernstein was bisexual and the father of three children -- Jamie, Alexander, and Nina -- and the grandfather of two: Francisca and Evan.



Mark Bingham

September 11, 2001 - **Bingham** was the openly gay, 220-lb. rugby player who was among those believed to have fought the terrorists hijacking of United Flight 93 and brought it down in a field in Pennsylvania, potentially saving hundreds or thousands of lives in its apparent target, Washington, D.C.

Chaz Bono

March 4, 1969 - **Chaz Bono** is born to singers Sonny and Cher. He would grow up to become an openly transgender (female-to-male) human rights activist, musician and author.

Rita Mae Brown

Rita Mae Brown is openly lesbian, a novelist and playwright and an activist for African-American and GLBT civil rights. When reporter Liz Smith asked her, "Why do you have to tell people you're gay? What purpose does it serve?" she answered that it was wrong to lie. Smith replied, "Keeping quiet isn't lying." Rita Mae: "It's lying by omission."

Ron Buckmire

May 21, 1968 -- **Ron Buckmire** is born. Buckmire is a mathematician, a professor and a queer activist. He is the founder of the Queer Resources Directory, the largest and oldest website on gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/AIDS issues on the Internet. He was born on the Caribbean island nation of Grenada.

Grethe Cammermeyer

Dr. Grethe Cammermeyer was the highest-ranking U.S. military officer ever discharged for being honest about being lesbian. The book *Serving in Silence* and the movie by the same name starring Glenn close tell her story. Cammermeyer was born in Norway, immigrated to the U.S. at age 9, and became a U.S. citizen when she turned 18.

Mandy Carter

November 2, 1948 -- Mandy Carter is born. Femmenoir.net says that Carter was raised in orphanages and foster care and describes her as "one of the nation's leading African American lesbian activists." In 2008, Carter served on the LGBT Leadership Team that advised the Obama campaign.

George Washington Carver

January 5, 1943 -- African-American inventor, educator, scientist **George Washington Carver** dies at about age 78. As a former slave, his exact birth date was never recorded. Carver was on the faculty of Tuskegee Institute. He is best known for his work in agriculture, and is credited with inventing peanut butter. Letters have been preserved documenting his same-sex relationships, although of course, given the era in which he lived, he was not particularly open about his sexual orientation.

Wilson Cruz

December 27, 1973 – Singer/actor **Wilson Cruz** is born. Cruz grew up in a Puerto Rican family in New York and now lives out west with his boyfriend. Speak-truth.com reports, "Cruz says his portrayal of Rickie [his character on the TV drama *My So-Called Life*], who was frequently conflicted and in trouble, grew out of his relationship with his father and his adolescent anger with the treatment of gay people in society. His fervor has remained but his anger has cooled. He is still unhappy with everything from the Catholic Church (his attitude being 'if they don't want me, why should I want them?') to what he sees as the current 'being gay is a party' trend (he thinks frequently of those still dying of AIDS) but he is using his feelings in a constructive way to be a voice in Hollywood for the gay and Latino/a communities."



Leonardo da Vinci

April 16, 1453 - Leonardo da Vinci is born. He will grow up to be a prolific painter (his most famous works are the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*), scientist, mathematician, philosopher, architect and inventor. Teachers, **you'll find lesson plans about him at**

<http://www.mos.org/sln/Leonardo/LeoHomePage.html> Da Vinci may or may not have been homosexual (by today's standards) - he was accused once and acquitted. But he had no relationships with women and never married and he did have male protégés and is believed by some historians to have had a twenty-year relationship with one of them.

Ellen Degeneres

January 26, 1958 - Comedian **Ellen Degeneres** is born. Degeneres, who is European-American, would be the first star of a television sitcom ever to come out -- in 1997 -- to the public, an act many see as having dramatically improved the climate for LGBT actors ... at great personal cost to Degeneres and her career.

Beauford Delaney

December 31, 1901 - African-American, gay artist **Beauford Delaney** is born. Read about him at:

<http://www.africanpubs.com/Apps/bios/0056DelaneyBeauford.asp?pic=none> and <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TRAVEL/DESTINATIONS/03/15/delaney.yellow.ap/>

Ani Difranco

September 23, 1970 - **Ani Difranco is born.** She'll grow into an articulate, intelligent, out bisexual punk folksinger with her own record label, *Righteous Babe Records*, in an industry dominated by multinational corporations. She's proud that she not only writes and publishes her own songs, but also produces her own recordings, creates the artwork, and releases them.

Mary Dispenza

One of the highest ranking Roman Catholics ever to lose her job with the Church over her sexual orientation. Mary grew up in East Los Angeles and became a sister/nun, a teacher and principal. After fifteen years, she left the convent but continued in Catholic education as an elementary school principal. In 1988 Mary was named **National Distinguished Principal** and **National Distinguished Principal of Catholic Schools**. She then was appointed Director of the Pastoral Life Services Department for the Archdiocese of Seattle. In 1992, Mary came out as proudly Lesbian and her career in education and leadership in the Catholic Church came to a screeching halt. *After 35 award-winning years working for the Church, Mary lost her job and was told she was not even welcome any longer as a guest speaker at teacher or principal in-service training. She was denied a retirement pension or any compensation whatsoever for her life's work.* Mary has since done more volunteer work in the GLBT community than any other five people combined.

Melissa Etheridge

May 29, 1961 -- **Melissa Etheridge** is born. She will grow up to become a celebrated singer/songwriter. Publicly out as lesbian since 1993, she's been a vocal activist for LGBT civil rights, but her music is universal in its appeal.

Bella Evangelista

Bella Evangelista was a transgender woman. Born Elvys Augusto Perez, Evangelista, a well-known 25-year old drag artist originally from Guatemala, was shot multiple times at close range and killed on August 16, 2003 in Washington, D.C. in an apparent hate crime. Read more at http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/GoodMorningAmerica/shepard_anniversary_sidebar031010.html; <http://www.washblade.com/2003/9-19/news/localnews/transvic.cfm>.



Leslie Feinberg

Leslie Feinberg is a butch lesbian, a transgender activist, a powerful speaker and the author of *Stone Butch Blues*, *Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to RuPaul*, and *Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue*. Feinberg is also a trade unionist, an anti-racist, and a socialist. Ze (hir pronoun of choice) is biologically female and lives in a state of gender fluidity. *"... When someone says, 'Are you a man or a woman,' it can't just be answered, and that's the end of the question. If the question has to be asked in the first place, you've already been marked as a gender outlaw, and with that comes hostility, humiliation, discrimination and violence."*

-- Leslie **Feinberg**

Steen Keith Fenrich

March 21, 2000 - The remains of **Steen Keith Fenrich** are discovered. It turns out that the gay, African-American teen was tortured and murdered by his white, homophobic, racist stepfather. Read more at: <http://www.stophate.us/steen.html>

Barney Frank

March 31, 1940 - **Barney Frank** is born. A United States Congressman since 1980, Frank was one of the first openly gay elected officials in the world. Read more at: <http://www.house.gov/frank/> and <http://www.planetout.com/pno/news/feature.html?sernum=9>

"Defense of Marriage? It's like the old V-8 commercial. As though if this act didn't pass, heterosexual men all over the country would say, [smacking head] 'I could have married a guy!'" -- **Barney Frank**, U.S. Representative

Rudy Galindo

Rudy Galindo - Mexican-American figure skater Rudy Galindo won the U.S. National Figure Skating Championship in 1996 and came out as gay that same year, the first skater of his prominence ever to do so while still skating. He's also been out, since he was diagnosed in 2000, about being HIV-positive.

Jewell Gomez

Jewell Gomez is an out, proud lesbian novelist and essayist and the Program Director at the San Francisco Arts Commission. She's African American and Native American (Wampanoag/loway) and was raised poor and Catholic. She and her partner of 11 years, Diane Sabin, are among the couples suing the state of California for the right to marry.

Marga Gomez

Marga Gomez is an openly lesbian, Latina comedian whose live performances have been featured on HBO, VH1, Comedy, Central, A&E, and public television.

Sakia Gunn

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

Murray Hall

January 16, 1901 - New York City politician **Murray Hall** dies of cancer. A poker-playing, whiskey-drinking man-about-town, after his death, the fact that **he was biologically female** is revealed by the coroner, astonishing and confounding his daughter and his associates.

Dag Hammarskjöld

July 29, 1905 -- Dag Hammarskjöld is born. A Swedish diplomat, he would become the second Secretary General (leader) of the United Nations. After his death, he would be awarded a Nobel Prize. Hammarskjöld was not out about his sexual orientation during his lifetime; that would have been unheard of at that time in history. According to OutSmart magazine, "[Hammarskjöld's] diary, *Markings*, published posthumously in 1966, alluded to homosexual longings, perhaps never fulfilled.



Lorraine Hansberry

May 19, 1930 – Award-winning playwright **Lorraine Hansberry** is born. “Her first play, *A Raisin In the Sun*, is based on her childhood experiences of desegregating a white neighborhood. It won the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award as Best Play of the Year. She was the youngest American, the fifth woman and the first black to win the award.”* Proudly Black and female, she was quietly lesbian (not surprising for era when she lived – she died in 1965). More at <http://www.planetout.com/pno/news/history/archive/08161999.html> and * <http://www.ku.edu/~phbw/HANSBERRYlorraine.htm>

Keith Haring

May 4th, 1958 -- **Keith Haring** is born. Haring was an internationally respected graffiti/pop artist and a gay man. He died of complications from AIDS at age 31. See Haring's paintings and sculpture at <http://www.haring.com/> and <http://www.haringkids.com/> (The latter offers, among other things, online lesson plans.)

Dr. Alan Hart

July 1, 1962 -- Dr. Alan Hart dies. Historian Jonathan Ned Katz explains that Stanford University graduate Lucille Hart changed names and lived as a man in order to practice medicine and marry the woman he loved (first, Inez Stark in 1918 and then, after their 1925 divorce, Edna Ruddick, to whom he stayed married until his death 37 years later).

Ryosuke Hashiguchi

Ryosuke Hashiguchi is an openly gay Japanese director and screenwriter whose films about gay life were described by one reviewer as "penetrating" and "honest."

Derek Henkle

August 28, 2002 - Nevada teen Derek Henkle settles a lawsuit against the Washoe County School District for \$451,000. The settlement is believed to be the largest pre-trial award ever in this kind of case. Derek's suit alleged that administrators in three separate schools failed to protect him from years of being beaten, spat upon, called names and threatened with a lasso because he is gay.

Magdalen Hsu-Li

January 1, 1970 - Chinese-American bisexual singer, songwriter, painter, educator, inventor and poet **Magdalen Hsu-Li** is born. She would found Chickpop Records.

Langston Hughes

February 1, 1902 - Langston Hughes is born. Here's what Blackstripe, "the Internet's leading resource for news, information and culture affecting LGBT people of African descent," said about him: "*James Mercer Langston Hughes [was the] writer most identified with the Harlem Renaissance. A prolific writer, he used almost every conceivable form to arrange his thoughts on paper: poems, songs, novels, plays, biographies, histories and essays.*" Believed by many scholars to have been gay, Hughes' sexuality was actually ambiguous, not surprising given the times in which he lived. See these web sites: <http://www.planetout.com/pno/news/history/archive/splash.html>; <http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~wyatt/celebs-list.html>; http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/famous_names.html; http://www.glbtc.com/literature/hughes_l.html; <http://myweb.lsbu.ac.uk/~stafflag/langstonhughes.html>



Tyra Hunter

August 7, 1995 - Transgender hairstylist Tyra Hunter is left by paramedics to die because she was born male-bodied ... or more accurately, because of their transphobia. Read Tyra's story at <http://songweaver.com/gender/hunter.html> and <http://www.gendernet.org/quill/pr000004.htm> and <http://www.blackstripe.com/archives/news/hunter.html>.

Joan of Arc

January 6, 1412 - **Joan of Arc** is born in Domremy, France. There's no evidence of St. Joan's sexual orientation, but she was transgender in terms of gender expression, living as a soldier and leader of men in a time when women didn't serve in the military no less dress in men's clothes.

Elton John

March 25, 1947 – Openly gay singer/songwriter and AIDS activist **Sir Elton John** is born (and named Reginald Kenneth Dwight). He'll grow up to win tons of Grammys and be inducted into the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame. He's written lots of songs you know, including his mega-hit *Can You Feel the Love Tonight?* from the Lion King and his beloved tribute to Marilyn Monroe (and later to Princess Di) *Candle in the Wind*.

Corey Johnson

High school football player and co-captain of his team who came out and his team was way cool about it. Read about Corey in Sports Illustrated: http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/inside_game/magazine/life_of_reilly/news/2000/05/02/life_of_reilly/

Barbara Jordan

February 21, 1936 - Barbara Jordan is born. In 1972, she would become the first Black person ever from Texas elected to the United States House of Representatives. In 1994, President Clinton would award her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award to a civilian in the country. She's been described as "one of the most revered leaders and orators of her time." She wasn't out during her life, but lived for 25 years with companion Nancy Earl and was outed in the press after her death from leukemia and multiple sclerosis in 1996. Read more at: <http://content.gay.com/channels/home/women/jordan.html> & <http://www.austinchronicle.com/issues/vol18/issue24/books.VSBR.html> and <http://www.planetout.com/pno/news/history/archive/11081999.html> & <http://www.lambda.net/~maximum/jordan.html> "*What the people want is very simple. They want an America as good as its promise.*" -- Barbara Jordan

Christine Jorgensen

May. 30, 1926 -- **Christine Jorgensen's** birthday. Born George William Jorgensen, Jr., she will become the first American to undergo sexual reassignment surgery in 1952 and go on to champion the rights and the dignity of transsexual people. Read more about her life at http://www.transhistory.org/history/TH_Christine_Jorgensen.html and in her own story, *Christine Jorgensen: A Personal Autobiography*.

Father Mychal Judge

Fr. Judge was an openly gay, beloved Franciscan friar who served as chaplain to the New York City Fire Department. He died while administering last rites to a fallen firefighter at the World Trade Center. There is a growing movement to see Mychal canonized (made a saint).



Frida Kahlo

July 6, 1907 -- Mexican painter **Frida Kahlo** is born. Kahlo was bisexual and a polio survivor. More at: www.stamponhistory.com/2003/09/08/0001

Moisés Kaufman

Moisés Kaufman - Venezuelan-born Latino-American writer, playwright and producer, Kaufman is the founder and artistic director of the Tectonic Theater Project, the amazing team with whom he researched and wrote and first performed the Laramie Project, the story of the town where Matthew Shepard was murdered.

Sharon Kowalski

November 1983 - **Sharon Kowalski** is paralyzed in a car accident. It will be 9 years of legal battles before her partner, Karen Thompson, will be allowed by a judge to bring her home ... In 1983, Sharon was hit and paralyzed by a drunk driver. Karen, her partner of four years, with whom she had exchanged rings and owned a home, wasn't allowed to see her that night in the hospital or even to know her condition. She wasn't considered "family." A judge agreed with the hospital, awarding custody of Sharon to her parents, who for 4 years prevented the couple from even seeing one another. But Karen was in court that whole time, fighting for Sharon's right to come home. Finally, after a total of nine years of lawyers and courtrooms, the couple was reunited in February 1992. Read their story in the remarkable book "*Why Can't Sharon Come Home?*"

Tony Kushner

July 16, 1956 - **Tony Kushner** is born. Kushner would grow up to be openly gay and to write the two Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning plays (now an HBO movie) *Angels in America*, about AIDS, religion/spirituality, family, sexuality, and politics in our culture.

k.d. lang

November 2, 1961 - **k.d. lang** is born Kathryn Dawn in Consort, Alberta, Canada. She'll grow up to become a multiple Grammy-winning singer/songwriter and an androgynous, unapologetic gay woman (her choice of words), one of the first performers of her caliber ever to come out.

Bo Laurent

"Under the pen-name **Cheryl Chase**, Bo founded the Intersex Society of North America in 1993. One of two adults with Disorders of Sex Development (DSD) who participated in creating the 2006 Consensus Statement on Intersex Disorders, her long campaign to reform medical care for DSD was profiled in the New York Times Sunday Magazine.

Intersex Society of North America brought together many people who together made significant strides toward ending secrecy and isolation; participated in developing the Consensus Statement on Management of Intersex Disorders; drove the adoption of new nomenclature to eliminate the term "hermaphroditism" from medical usage; and published the Clinical Guidelines on Management of Disorders of Sex Development and companion Handbook for Parents. These accomplishments set the stage for the emergence of Accord Alliance [on whose advisory board Bo now serves]." – Accord Alliance web site

Kellie Little

March 12, 1969 - **Kellie Little** is born "Richard." She is one of the women now missing and feared dead in connection with the **serial murders** under investigation in Vancouver, BC, Canada.



Audre Lorde

February 18, 1934 - Audre Lorde is born. Lorde described herself as "a black feminist lesbian mother poet" and sometimes "warrior." Her first poem was published while she was still in high school. Besides poetry, she wrote essays and novels. Eventually she became a professor and was given the great honor of being named Poet Laureate of New York State.

"Your silence will not protect you."

- Audre **Lorde**

Fred Martinez

June 16, 2001 - Sixteen year old **Fred Martinez, Jr.** is murdered because he's gay and two-spirited. Martinez was proud to be Navajo and was openly transgender and described by friends and family as sweet, gentle, outgoing and funny. A target of bullying at school, he was eventually beaten to death, his body left in a ravine near his Colorado home. Read his story at <http://www.temenos.net/remember/martinez/> and <http://andrejkoymasky.com/mem/fre/fre1.html> and http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/safeschools/bvssc_fred_martinez_jr.html

Greg Louganis

January 29, 1960 – U.S. Olympic diver **Greg Louganis** is born. Louganis' ancestry is Samoan and Swedish. He overcame a stutter as a child and struggled with dyslexia, asthma and depression. But at age 16 he won a silver medal and has since won four gold medals and come out as gay and HIV-positive. Louganis is also an outspoken survivor of domestic violence in his long-term relationship with his ex-partner.

Johnny Mathis

September 30, 1935 -- **Johnny Mathis is born.** A beloved velvet-voiced jazz and pop singer, Johnny would come out to his public in an interview for Us magazine in June 1982. Hear some of his music at <http://www.johnnymathis.com>

Evelyn Mantilla

Born in Caguas, Puerto Rico and possibly the only openly bisexual American politician, **Evelyn Mantilla** is a Connecticut State Representative and a leader for An End Child Poverty Social Investment Fund. She has been arrested for non-violently protesting the US Navy's bombing tests and military practice on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. When she was part of the first delegation of "gay and lesbian" legislators to meet with President Clinton, she was the one who brought up transgender issues. Representative Mantilla fights for civil rights and social justice for all.

Leonard Matlovich

July 6, 1943 – Leonard Matlovich is born. During three tours of duty in Viet Nam, he would earn, among other honors, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and an Air Force Commendation Medal. Sgt. Matlovich was discharged when he came out as gay. He died of AIDS in June, 1988 at the age of 45. His tombstone quotes him, *"When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge for loving one."*

Yoshiko Matsui

Nobody is more of a role model for youth activism than **Yoshiko Matsui**. Yoshiko identifies as Japanese American. She began volunteering in her teens at Lambert House (a drop-in center for Seattle LGBTQ youth), American Friends Service Committee's queer youth program, and Hands Off Washington (a political campaign to preserve queer civil rights). An activist ever since, she now directs the Student Diversity Center at the University of Puget Sound.



Margaret Mead

November 15, 1978 - Margaret Mead dies at age 76. Mead, who was bisexual, was perhaps the most famous anthropologist in the world at the time of her death. She helped the world to understand that gender roles differed from culture to culture. She once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Michelangelo

March 6, 1475 - **Michelangelo** is born. He will one day paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and sculpt the David. Michelangelo is widely believed by historians to have been homosexual.

Mona Mendoza

An openly lesbian, Chicana middle school teacher, **Ms. Mendoza** respects young people as few other adults do. She isn't afraid of students, even "tough-acting" kids whose life-experience or family background may differ from hers, as many teachers are. And she's known by her students as someone who will listen to both sides of an argument rather than blindly applying rules, but also as an adult with really high expectations of them as students and as human beings. When she hears slurs in the halls, whether they are racial, sexual, anti-Muslim -- no matter who's targeted, she speaks up. She can be counted on not to tolerate meanness or bigotry..

Mark Morris

August 29, 1956 - European-American dancer and choreographer Mark Morris is born in Seattle, Washington. He would grow up to found his own award-winning dance troupe. The Washington Post once called him "*our Mozart of modern dance*." At first, the critics didn't like him because there was a kind of femininity in his choreography, but he became very famous anyway and is proud to be gay. More at <http://www.mmdg.org/home.cfm>

Jamie Nabozny

July 31, 1996 -- Jamie Nabozny wins nearly a million dollars in the first ever case of a gay teen suing school officials for failing to protect him from years of horrendous abuse. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit rules that a public school, and individual school employees (!!), may be held liable under federal equal protection law for failing to respond to the anti-gay abuse of a student by other students.

Martina Navratilova

October 18, 1956 - **Martina Navratilova** is born in Czechoslovakia. She will grow up to win 18 major singles tennis titles, including nine at Wimbledon. Martina emigrated to the U.S. in 1975, came out as bisexual in 1980, and became a U.S. citizen in 1981.

"If I feel strongly, I say it. I know I can do more good by being vocal than by staying quiet. I'd have a whole lot more money if I lied, but I wouldn't enjoy spending it."

-- Martina **Navratilova** on losing lucrative endorsement contracts because of her openness about being a lesbian

Me'Shell NdegéOcello

August 29, 1969 - Me'Shell NdegéOcello is born Michelle Johnson. She will grow up to be a widely respected, openly bisexual singer, songwriter, and bassist and the first female artist to be signed by Madonna's Maverick label.

Elaine Noble

November 5, 1974 - Elaine Noble is elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, making her the first openly lesbian or gay person to be elected to public office. * (You thought that honor was held by Harvey Milk? Close, but no. Milk, who ran and lost in 1973 and 1975, would be elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977 ... three years after Noble's election. Milk was the first openly gay elected official of a large U.S. city.



Rudolph Nureyev

March 17, 1938 - **Rudolph Nureyev** is born to Muslim peasant parents in Siberia. Nureyev has been called "perhaps the greatest dancer who ever lived" and is known to have had intense affairs with men. Nureyev defected from the Soviet Union and lived in France and the U.S. on and off. He died in Paris of AIDS-related complications on January 6, 1993. Read about him at: http://www.tutorgig.com/encyclopedia/getdefn.jsp?keywords=Rudolf_Nureyev

Rosie O'Donnell

March 21, 1962 - **Rosie O'Donnell** is born. Rosie's heritage is Irish-American. She will grow up to be an actress, comedienne, talk show host, children's advocate and mom ... and an openly lesbian partner and defender of gay/lesbian adoption.

Georgia O'Keefe

November 15, 1887 - American painter Georgia O'Keefe is born. A bisexual woman, O'Keefe is best known for her amazing oil paintings of flowers: <http://www.artchive.com/artchive/O/okeefe.html#images>

RuPaul

November 17, 1960 - RuPaul is born RuPaul Andre Charles. He'll grow up to be an entertainer of diva stature, perhaps the most famous drag queen in the world. Wikipedia says, "Unlike most drag queens, who have a male name and a female name, and thus expect to have the appropriate gender-specific pronoun used for each, RuPaul seems to be comfortable with either 'he' or 'she'." And LGBTQ.com describes him a proud Black gay man.

Phranc

August 28, Phranc is born Susan Gottlieb. She will grow up to become a funny, gender-bending openly-lesbian, proudly Jewish folk singer. More at <http://www.pholksinger.com/>

Nell Pickerell

June 8, 1912, the *Portland News* [Portland, Oregon] reports the case of **Nell Pickerell**, a woman arrested for wearing men's clothing. Was she a cross dresser? Lesbian? A practical heterosexual woman who didn't want to be bothered by men? Nobody really talked about those things in 1912, so we will never know.

Lynn Ransom

November 10, 1976 -- **Lynn Ransom** of Oakland, California, is one of the first openly lesbian mothers to win custody of her children in court.

Amy Ray

April 12, 1964 -- Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls is born. Also now a solo artist and owner of her own socially and politically conscious record label. About her song "*Laramie*" she said in an interview, "*What I was trying to go for was a song about hate in general, not just about homophobia, but about classism too, about who's to blame in society and who's complicit ... You've got to speak out, you've got to work and vote and really try to make a difference for people ... that song was supposed to deal with a lot more than (Matthew Shepard), that's why I say, 'This town ain't nothing different.' It could happen anywhere.*"

Donna Red Wing

Donna Red Wing is Swedish and Native American. She's openly lesbian, a dynamite community organizer and a fierce GLBT civil rights activist. She used to be the National Field Director for the Human Rights Campaign. Before that, Red Wing helped lead the fight against Measure 9, an anti-gay ballot measure that would have amended Oregon's constitution to declare homosexuality "abnormal and perverse" behavior.



Little Richard

December 5, 1935 - African American rock artist **Little Richard** is born, named Richard Penniman. The Rockabilly Hall of Fame Web site says that when Little Richard was 13, his parents kicked him out of their house because he was gay. He grew up never trying to hide his flaming femininity and still rocketed to the top of his profession. In fact he's been called the "true architect of rock and roll."

Anthony Romero

Born in New York City to Puerto Rican parents, **Anthony Romero** is an attorney and executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (**ACLU**), the first Latino and first openly gay man ever to serve in that position.

Eleanor Roosevelt

October 11, 1884 - Eleanor Roosevelt is born. Famed for her work as a human rights activist and for her outspokenness as first lady, Roosevelt was also bisexual. She had long-term relationships with her husband, Franklin, and her dear friend, Lorena Hickock. Roosevelt cared deeply about humanity. She once wrote, of the need to save the Jewish people of Europe, "*We will be the sufferers if we let great wrongs occur without exerting ourselves to correct them.*" She worked to pass anti-lynching legislation and on behalf of American Indian rights. She resigned from the DAR when they refused to let opera star Marian Anderson sing in their hall (because Anderson was African-American) and she arranged instead for her to sing at the Lincoln Memorial. She publicly opposed Apartheid long before world sentiment was united about it. She served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

Bayard Rustin

March 17, 1912 - **Bayard Rustin** is born. Rustin was a Quaker and an African-American. He was a Gay man and a pacifist; a scholar and a human rights activist at home (working to protect the property of interned Japanese-American families during WWII, to abolish chain gangs, to desegregate busses) and all over the world. He was also the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, where King made his famous "I have a dream..." speech. Read more at: <http://www.lambda.net/~maximum/rustin.html>

Sappho

October 29, 7 B.C. - **Sappho** is born. The poet wrote beautiful poetry to the women she loved. It is because Sappho and her followers lived on the Isle of Lesbos that women who love women call themselves "lesbian" to this day.

Matthew Shepard

October 12, 1998 – College student Matthew Shepard dies of injuries sustained when he was beaten and tortured, tied to a fence in the freezing middle of the night near Laramie, Wyoming and left to die. Matthew was the victim of anti-gay hatred.

Hong Sok-Chon

October, 2000 - South Korean actor/comedian **Hong Sok-Chon** comes out on national television and immediately loses his jobs on network TV and radio. More at <http://www.qrd.org/qrd/media/radio/thiswayout/summary/newswrap/2000/N655-10.16.00>



Martin Sorronddeguy

Martin Sorronddeguy is a photographer, documentary filmmaker and lead singer of the punk band *Limp Wrist*. Limp Wrist is "an all queer, all straight edge band, meaning that none of them smoke, drink or do drugs," according to *Xtra!* A native of Uruguay, Sorronddeguy was raised in Chicago and as of 2002, was living in Santa Ana, California with his partner Rigo.

Sheryl Swoopes

WNBA MVP and three-time Olympian **Sheryl Swoopes** announced in an October 2005 interview that she's gay. It's rare for a still-employed professional athlete to come out. Swoopes said, *"I'm just at a point in my life where I'm tired of having to pretend to be somebody I'm not. I'm tired of having to hide my feelings about the person I care about. About the person I love ... Male athletes of my caliber probably feel like they have a lot more to lose than gain [by coming out]. I don't agree with that. To me, the most important thing is happiness."* She added, *"Sexuality and gender don't change anyone's performance on the [basketball] court."*

Brandon Teena

December 31, 1993 - Transgender youth **Brandon Teena**, age 21, is murdered by the same young men who raped him a week earlier after discovering he'd been born female-bodied. Hilary Swank won a 1999 Academy Award for her role as Brandon in *Boys Don't Cry*.

Billy Tipton

January 21, 1989 -- Jazz artist **Billy Tipton** dies at age 74 of an ulcer. Tipton was born biologically female but lived as a man from age 19 on. He married 5 times and adopted and fathered 3 sons. Read more about his life at <http://www.transhistory.org/history/> and http://www-music.duke.edu/jazz_archive/artists/tipton.billy/01/ and <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/news/stanfordtoday/ed/9705/9705fea601.shtml>

Lily Tomlin

September 1, 1937 – Brilliant actress, writer, comedian **Lily Tomlin is born**. She will grow up to be a feminist and quietly open about her identity as lesbian, but very out front about her relationship with long-time life partner, writer Jane Wagner, whom she has publicly called "my beloved." Tomlin was the 2003 recipient of the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain prize for humorists.

Esera Tuaolo

Esera Tuaolo is Samoan American and one of only three National Football League players ever to come out as gay. After nine years in the NFL, he retired to focus on acting and singing and being with his husband of seven years, Mitchell, and their two children. *"No more lies, no more pain, no more acting, just living in our truth. We want our children to know that their fathers are proud and comfortable with whom they are. Also as they grow older, we hope society will be a more tolerant place, accepting all differences in people."*
-- retired NFL player Esera **Tuaolo**

Urvashi Vaid

Urvashi Vaid is an Indian American, a lawyer, a social activist and an out lesbian. She's also the author of *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation* (1996) and was for three years the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Janice Van Cleve

Janice Van Cleve is a writer, political activist, and adventurer. She has served in many GLBT organizations including Pride Foundation, Seattle Commission for Lesbians and Gays, Seattle Metropolitan Elections Committee, Queer Nation, Mapping Our Journey, Target98, and the Legal Marriage Alliance of Washington.



Linda Villarosa

Linda Villarosa is an African-American woman, an out lesbian, a journalist and author and a mom. She made big news when she came out in an autobiographical essay in *Essence* magazine at age 28 in 1991.

Rufus Wainwright

Rufus Wainwright is an openly gay, highly acclaimed European-American singer/songwriter.

Alice Walker

February 9, 1944 - Alice Walker is born. A renowned author (of many novels including *The Color Purple*) and an African-American woman, Walker dislikes labels, but acknowledges having been in love with both men and women.

Arthur "JR" Warren

July 8, 2000 -- Arthur "JR" Warren, Jr. is murdered. Warren, who was black and gay, was beaten and then run over by a car. One of the two teens that killed him had been sexually involved with him and claimed he felt humiliated when rumors of their relationship began to spread.

José Zuniga

José Zuniga - In March of 1993, the Army named Gulf War veteran Sgt. Jose Zuniga the 1992 Soldier of the Year. When he came out six weeks later, his military career came to an abrupt end. Read his story in the book *Soldier of the Year: The Story of a Gay American Patriot*.