



LGBTQ-Inclusive Lesson Planning Guide - April, 2012

Teachers, as you plan your lessons for April, please don't restrict your teaching about GLBT people to June (GLBT Pride month) and October (GLBT History Month). Students need to see this history and culture infused naturally into the curriculum wherever it makes most sense, rather than isolated and tokenized. The idea is to integrate some of the following, to infuse LGBTIQ/2-spirit cultural awareness into the every day life of your classroom. Especially if you're teaching **history, civics, social studies, family and consumer science, or language arts**. Items #6 and 7 will be useful in teaching **writing skills**.*

- (1) General dates of note (historical and otherwise)
- (2) National School Library Media Month ... April 2012
- (3) National Sexual Assault Awareness Month ... April 2012
- (4) Day of Pink ... April 12, 2012
- (5) National Day of Silence ... April 20, 2012
- (6) Quotes from LGBTI folks to inspire your students' journaling
- (7) Quotes from some folks whose sexual orientation we don't know, but who had interesting things to say (including some powerful ones on SILENCE)

LGBTIQ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Questioning and Queer. **“Queer,”** historically a slur, has been reclaimed by so many people as an inclusive, flexible, respectful self-identity that some schools no longer prohibit it when it is used, like the word “gay,” respectfully. **“Two-spirit”** is a term of honor to describe a Native American or other Indigenous LGBTIQ person, implying their special role as a spiritual bridge among genders. Usually the term is not chosen by an individual to describe him or herself (which would seem self-aggrandizing to many in Indian Country). More often it is a designation of respect conferred upon an individual by an elder. Some of those identified on this page as LGBTIQ lived at a time before those terms were used ... in some cases even before those concepts were understood. They are called LGBTIQ here as shorthand for people who, if they were alive today, might use those terms to describe themselves. There's historical evidence that they either had romantic relationships with someone(s) of their own gender and/or that they transgressed the gender expectations of their culture and generation. For more definitions, go to: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/ElevenAspectsofSexuality.pdf>



(1) General dates of note (historical and otherwise)

April, 2012 -- School Library Media Month. See item 2, below.

April, 2012 -- Sexual Assault Awareness Month. See item 3, below.

April, 1730 - Some men are arrested in Utrecht, the Netherlands. They implicate others and **at least 60 end up being executed for being gay** ... some of these strangled, some burned alive, some drowned, some hanged. The events have been described as **"a pogrom or a reign of terror."** See more at: <http://rictornorton.co.uk/reviews/crew.htm>

April, 2003 -- Kamikawa Aya (上川あや) is elected ... a Tokyo municipal official, she is the first transsexual person to seek elected office in Japan: http://www.japan-101.com/government/kamikawa_aya.htm

April 1, 1950 -- "Bowling to McCarthy Era pressure from anti-Communist conservatives, the Civil Service Commission intensifies its efforts to locate and dismiss lesbians and gay men

working in government. Over the next six months, 382 are fired, compared with 192 for the preceding two and a half years." <http://www.aaronsgayinfo.com/timeline/Ftime50.html>

April 1, 1985 - The first classes are held at the Harvey Milk School, the first school anywhere in the world for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth. The school is a program of the Hetrick-Martin Institute in historic collaboration with the New York City Department of Education. More info: <http://www.hmi.org/>

April 1, 2001 - The Netherlands becomes the first nation to legalize marriages for same-sex couples. (Denmark was already recognizing civil unions, but no country had extended to gay and lesbian couples *all* the protections, rights and responsibilities of marriage until this.) For more on this historic event, go to <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2001/04/01/world/main283071.shtml> For a map of current relationship recognition laws in the U.S. go to http://thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/issue_maps/rel_recog_3_10_color.pdf For updates on international marriage recognition go to: http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/international_law/2010/03/same-sex-marriages-in-latin-america.html and <http://www.amnestyusa.org/lgbt-human-rights/marriage-equality/page.do?id=1551077>

April 6, 2009, 11-year old Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover hangs himself, after daily harassment for being perceived as gay: <http://www.in.com/videos/watchvideo-anderson-cooper-360-bullying-suicide-carl-joseph-walker-hoover-jaheem-herrera-5524031.html>



April 7, 1912 - Harry Hay is born. He would grow up to found the first gay organization in the United States, the [Mattachine Society](#) in 1950. Hay passed away in 2002, survived by his partner of 40 years, John Burnside. More about Hay here: <http://www.harryhay.com/about/harry.html>

April 8, 1974 - The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. See <http://www.apahelpcenter.org/articles/article.php?id=31>

April 11, 2009 - Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). Read about the 15,000 gay men put to death by the Nazis here: <http://www.channel4.com/history/microsites/H/history/n-s/pink.html> See also the excellent young adult novel, based on a true story, ***Damned Strong Love*** by Lutz Van Dijk

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 a 2001 gay.com 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. It's*



also these people in the higher echelons of the financial bracket who think they are so damned progressive, but they never do anything to really help anybody out. They sort of think they are tolerant of gay people, because they have a gay person in their yoga class or something. (Laughs) It takes a lot more than that. You've got to speak out, you've got to work and vote and really try to make a difference for people. A lot of times there's these hidden attitudes that no one ever expresses that nurture an environment of hate. **And then some kid goes off and murders somebody else and they all act so surprised about it, but we all contributed to it because we didn't do anything to change our attitude in general.** ... I think it's something we all need to think about and work on. So 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." [my emphasis - BR]

April 15, 1894 - "Singer Bessie Smith is born in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In 'Foolish Man Blues' Smith sang, 'There's two things got me puzzled, there's two things I don't understand; That's a mannish-actin' woman, and a skippin, twistin' woman-actin' man.' Strange words for a woman whose best friend was male impersonator Gladys Fergusson and who had been introduced to the world of 'women-lovin' women' by blues singer Ma Rainey." <http://www.365gay.com> [no longer on the site] See also www.nndb.com/people/217/000022151/ and www.paulsgaystamps.com/The%20Victorian%20Age/The_Victorian_Age_Bessie_Smith.htm

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. He did have male protégés and is believed by some historians to have had a twenty-year relationship with one of them.

April 17, 1897 - Thornton Wilder is born. He would grow up to become a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright and a gay man (closeted - which is perhaps understandable given the time in which he lived - he died in 1975 just 6 years after Stonewall). He's probably best known for the play "Our Town". More at: <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/gaybears/wilder/> and <http://www.nndb.com/people/257/000032161/>

April 18, 1865 - The Civil War ends with the surrender of the Confederate army. Did you know there are reports of women cross-dressing at the time so they could fight? For example, there were two cross-dressing women of the 15th Missouri Regiment. Union General Philip H. Sheridan wrote about them. He said how they'd passed as men and fought alongside their comrades. They hadn't enlisted together but had apparently met in the army. When they nearly drowned and their biological sex was discovered, they were discharged, given clothes 'proper for their sex' and sent home. (*Out In All Directions*, Warner Books 1995, p. 59)

April 20, 2012 -- Day of Silence. See item 5, separate email.

April 20, 1937 -- George Takei is born. The actor, of Star Trek fame, will grow up to be openly gay. See: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9845944/>

April 16, 2009 – Jaheem Herrera, age 11, takes his own life after unrelenting anti-gay bullying at school.

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/04/23/bullying.suicide/>



April 21, 1963 -- Jorge Valencia is born. He will grow up to become Executive Director of the [Trevor Project](#) and, in 2007, of the [Point Foundation](#) where he is continuing his life's work in support of LGBTQ youth. More: <http://gaylife.about.com/od/index/a/gayscholarships.htm>

April 23, 1791 - James Buchanan is born. He would grow up to be 15th President of the United States. Of course, the term "homosexuality" hadn't even been coined at the time but it is pretty clear from the historical record that, by today's standards, we would consider him gay. See: <http://www.tompaine.com/Archive/scontent/2458.html>

April 23, 1990 - "The Hate Crimes Statistic Act is signed into law by President George H. Bush [the father of President George W. Bush]. It is the first U.S. bill to use the phrase 'sexual orientation.'" <http://www.365gay.com> [no longer on the site]. See also: <http://www.pridesource.com/article.shtml?article=10468>

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(2) National School Library Media Month ... April 2012

Here's an appropriate quote in honor of the month:

*"The development of social and sexual identity is taken for granted to be a crucial part of the pre-teen and teen years, and a large portion of children's and [Young Adult] literature is devoted to this broad topic **with the complacent assumption of a heterosexual orientation for everyone.** This is, first of all, an unrealistic picture for the non-gay kids who will meet gay people in their homes, neighborhoods, and schools. It is also tremendously unfair to gay adolescents who are equally entitled to decent role models."* [my emphasis - BR]
-- Frances Hanckel

Find LGBT Library resources on our web site:

http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-library_media.html and also

<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/blackboard-type.html>

And info about the month: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/aaslissues/slm/schoollibrary>

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(3) National Sexual Assault Awareness Month ... April 2012

About the month: <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam>



The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. The 2012 SAAM campaign provides tools and resources that focus on promoting positive expressions of sexuality and healthy behaviors. Promoting healthy behaviors encourages sexual interactions and relationships that are consensual, respectful and informed. By starting the conversation, this dialogue can build safe, healthy relationships and communities. Check out their resources here:

www.nsvrc.org/saam/resources . Visit the SAAM in Spanish website, where you will find information and resources. Mes de la Conciencia sobre el Asalto Sexual: Visita nuestra página en español de SAAM, donde puedes acceder a recursos e información. In honor of SAAM, the Media Education Foundation is offering a 25% discount on all their sexual assault themed documentaries: www.mediaed.org/saam2012.

Make sure your students know that guys get assaulted too. For a 3-page student handout from the Safe Schools Coalition called **"A Student's Guide to Surviving Anti-Gay Harassment and Physical or Sexual Assault"** and other resources on bullying and harassment go to: http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-bullying_harassment_schoolbasedviolence.html

Also, check out:

- Advocates for Youth, http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=114 (scroll down)
- RAINN hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (24 hours a day) or search for your local rape crisis center at <http://www.rainn.org/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 from a TTY for local resources and confidential counseling.
- National Anti-Violence Prevention Hotline: 1-800-616-HATE
- Crisis Intervention Center Hotline: 1-800-999-9999
- Childhelp National Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4435
- Trevor Talkline: 1-800-850-8078 (Developed in 1998, a suicide talk-line for GLBTQ youth); <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>
- Male Survivor: www.malesurvivor.org/
- Gay Domestic Violence Agencies
 - Boston:** 617-497-7317
 - New York:** 212-714-1184
 - San Francisco:** 415-333-HELP
 - Seattle:** Phone: 206-568-7777; TTY message: 206-517-9670; <mailto:info@nwnetwork.org>; web: <http://www.nwnetwork.org/>



(4) Day of Pink ... April 12, 2012

Day of Pink web site says, "We invite everyone to celebrate diversity by wearing a pink shirt and by organizing activities in their workplaces, organizations, communities and schools."

The first Day of Pink (aka International Day against Bullying, Discrimination and Homophobia) was 'born' in 2007 when a gay youth in Nova Scotia was bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. Hundreds of his classmates stood up to the discrimination by wearing pink shirts to school.

Working with millions of youth across the world, Day of Pink (www.DayOfPink.org) promotes this international day of action, and includes FREE RESOURCES (posters, guidebooks, stickers...) and support for students, teachers, and administrators to get involved and make a difference.



All you need to do is this:

- * Wear pink on **April 12, 2012**; and get others to do the same
- * Go to www.DayOfPink.org to download or order free posters, stickers & buttons to advertise the event.
- * Register your school at DayOfPink.org to enter to win cool prizes (trips, cameras).
- * Find out how you can organize other diversity activities to make your Day of Pink POP.
- * Donate to Day of Pink to support this international day of action



National Day of Silence ... April 20, 2012

Student activists all over North America will honor the fact that so many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are silenced -- prevented from coming out and living honestly -- every single day by the fear of losing others' regard, encountering harassment or discrimination, or becoming the target of physical or sexual violence. In recognition of that enforced silence, students and some allied educators will voluntarily remain silent throughout the school day.

What is the text of the "speaking cards" (the ones that participants hand out)?

The front side of the card should read: *"Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence, a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What are you going to do to end the silence?"*

On the reverse side of the "speaking card" you might want to ask people to take action towards creating safer schools, sign a postcard or include information about your school's group and the Day of Silence's website, <http://www.dayofsilence.org/>. You may also wish to use any of the prepared speaking cards available under on this website.

One challenge faced sometimes by Day of Silence supporters is the, sometimes angry, sometimes confused question, **"Why do homosexuals have to come out? Heterosexuals don't talk about their sexual orientations!"** Day of Silence participants may need help articulating answers to this common question. One activity idea, as a discussion starter for GSA's preparing to participate in a Day of Silence, is to:

- copy the first set of bulleted items from http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-coming_out.html
- put each item on a separate, numbered slip of paper, and
- then have people draw one from a hat and do a read-around, where volunteers read the slips aloud.
- Follow with discussion and
- provide this handout: http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/Coming_Out.pdf

Another common challenge to participants in the Day of Silence is **the mistaken assertion/accusation that you are promoting homosexuality**. For the simplest most straight-forward explanation of the distinction between promoting and affirming, go to this handout written by Dr. Evonne Hedgepeth of SSC member organization, Lifespan Education:

<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/affirmation-vs-promotion.pdf>



(5) Quotes from LGBTI folks to inspire your students' journaling

"Silence kills the soul, it diminishes its possibility to rise and fly and explore. Silence withers what makes you human. The soul shrinks, until it's nothing."



-- Marlon **Riggs**

"Always admit when you're wrong. You'll save thousands in therapy later -- and a few friendships too."

-- Harvey **Fierstein**

"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life."

-- Jane **Addams**

"I decided that if I could paint that flower in a huge scale, you could not ignore its beauty."

-- Georgia **O'Keefe**

"As long as men are free to ask what they must, free to say what they think, free to think what they will, freedom can never be lost and science can never regress."

-- Marcel **Proust**

"Change your mind as often as possible. Just because you thought something yesterday doesn't mean you have to think it today. Don't ever become a prisoner of your own opinion."

-- Harvey **Fierstein**

"If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive."

-- Audre **Lorde**

"A child cannot be taught by anyone who despises him, and a child cannot afford to be fooled."

-- James **Baldwin**

"Equality is more than tolerance, compassion, understanding, acceptance, benevolence, for these still come from a place of implied superiority: favors granted to those less fortunate. These attitudes suggest that there is still something wrong, something not quite right that must be overlooked or seen beyond."

-- Suzanne **Pharr**

"The trouble is that not enough people have come together with the firm determination to live the things which they say they believe."

-- Eleanor **Roosevelt**

"To me an unnecessary action, or shot, or casualty, was not only waste but sin."

-- Thomas Edward **Lawrence** ("Lawrence of Arabia")

"A man paints with his brains and not with his hands."

-- **Michelangelo** Buonarroti

"They have to convert our agenda into something aggressive. Two guys wanting to be happy together are invading their marriages. Helping a kid who's getting beaten up at school is promoting homosexuality. If you gave me a million dollars, I wouldn't know how to promote homosexuality. Do I hire Don King?"

-- Barney **Frank** U.S. Representative

"...Our work for peace must begin within the private world of each one of us. To build for man a world without fear, we must be without fear. To build a world of justice, we must be just. And how can we fight for liberty if we are not free in our own minds? How can we ask others to sacrifice if we are not ready to do so?"

-- United Nations Secretary-General, Dag **Hammar-skjöld**



(6) Quotes from some folks whose sexual orientation we don't know, but who had interesting things to say (including some powerful ones on SILENCE)

By the way, any students or teachers of history with information about these folks' sexual orientations or gender identities/expressions, please let us know, especially if you are the person yourself or you have a reliable source to cite. <mailto:beth@safeschoolscoalition.org>

"Well, you know, I hate gay people. I let it be known I don't like gay people. I don't like to be around gay people. I'm homophobic. It shouldn't be in the world, in the United States, I don't like it."

-- former professional basketball Miami Heat superstar, Tim **Hardaway**

"To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best night and day to make you everyone else, means to fight the hardest battle that any human being can fight, and to never stop fighting."

-- e.e. **cummings**

"Prejudgments become prejudices only if they are not reversible when exposed to new knowledge."

-- Gordon W. **Allport**

"I am the inferior of any man whose rights I trample underfoot."

-- Horace **Greeley**

"There's only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self."

-- Aldous **Huxley**

"The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well."

-- Joe **Ancis**

"Pick battles big enough to matter, small enough to win."

-- Jonathan **Kozol**

"Wanting to be someone you're not is a waste of the person you are."

-- Kurt **Cobain**

"In the attitude of silence the soul finds the path in a clearer light, and what is elusive and deceptive resolves itself into crystal clearness. Our life is a long and arduous quest after Truth."

-- Mahatma **Gandhi**

"Well-timed silence hath more eloquence than speech."

-- Martin **Fraquhar Tupper**

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

-- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther **King Jr.**

"It is a great thing to know the season for speech and the season for silence."

-- **Seneca**

"Silence remains, inescapably, a form of speech."

-- Susan **Sontag**



Safe Schools Coalition

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.

---Winston **Churchill**

"Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer."

-- the **Dalai Lama**