



Highlights of GLBT History for August and Quotes to inspire Journaling

SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHERS As you are planning your lessons for **August**, you may find it helpful to integrate some of the following, to infuse LGBTIQ/2-spirit* cultural awareness into the every day life of your classroom. Especially those teaching **history, civics, social studies, family & consumer sciences, or language arts**. The quotes will be useful in teaching **writing skills**.

NOTE: You will find recent past email messages **archived** at <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/lists/serve/index.html> and all of these monthly history messages are **archived** at <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/blackboard-history.html>

***LGBTIQ** = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Questioning and Queer.

***Two-spirit** = a term of honor to describe a Native American or other Indigenous LGBTIQ person, implying their special role as a spiritual bridge among genders.

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 lesbian (a "bulldagger" in the parlance of the day) and even once told a gossip columnist she had married a woman. More at: <http://www.queerculturalcenter.org/Pages/Bentley/BentleyBio.html>

August 2, 1924 - James Baldwin is born in Harlem. He would grow up to become a best-selling author and a respected voice in both the Civil Rights movement and, as an openly gay man, the movement for gay rights, as well. More at <http://www.nathanielturner.com/jamesbaldwin.htm> and <http://www.365gay.com/lifestylechannel/intime/months/08-august/Baldwin.htm>

August 4, 1875 - Danish singer, actor, storyteller and playwright Hans Christian Andersen dies at age 70. A gay man, Andersen authored, among many other works, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Emperor's New Clothes* and, *The Princess on the Pea*.

August 4, 1995 - U.S. President Bill Clinton signs Executive Order 12968
<<http://www.fas.org/sqp/clinton/eo12968.html>> [see section 3.1(c)] which forbids discrimination by the federal government on the basis of sexual orientation in granting access to classified information.

August 7, 1995 - Transgender hairstylist Tyra Hunter is left by paramedics to die, following a car accident, because she was born male ... 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.transhistory.org/history/> (scroll down on the left and click on her name)

August 16, 1988 - "The General Council of the United Church of Canada ... becomes 'the first mainstream church in the world to accept gay ordination without imposing celibacy.'" according to 365.com

August 21, 1983 - "The musical *La Cage Aux Folles* debuts on Broadway. Stop whatever you are doing right now and go buy the CD, which includes, *I Am What I Am*." according to 365.com

August 21, 1970 - "Huey Newton, leader of the Black Panthers, publicly states his 'solidarity' with the 'Gay Power' movement" according to the All Things Queer web site:
<http://www.rslevinson.com/gaylesissues/>



August 25, 1918 - Leonard Bernstein is born. An American and a bisexual man, Bernstein would grow up to become a composer, pianist and beloved conductor. His most famous work is probably the music for the musical (and later, the movie) *West Side Story*.

August 28, 1957 - Phranc is born Susan Gottlieb. She will grow up to become a funny, gender-bending openly-lesbian, proudly Jewish folk/punk singer/songwriter. More at <http://www.pholksinger.com/>

August 28, 1981 - The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) first announces a sudden, unusual increase in cases of Kaposi's sarcoma, the first sign of the worldwide epidemic of what would eventually be called HIV/AIDS.

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.

August 29, 1956 - European-American dancer and choreographer Mark Morris is born in Seattle, Washington. He will grow up to found his own award-winning dance troupe. The Washington Post will describe him as "*our Mozart of modern dance*." More at <http://www.mmdg.org/home.cfm>

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.

* **Transphobia** is fear of or prejudice against people who don't fit society's rigid gender expectations. It is bigotry against gender variant little kids and transgender youth and adults. It leads to some of the most blatant discrimination and virulent hate crimes in the world today.

***** Quotes to inspire journaling *****

"Most times, the only gay or lesbian face people know of is who they see in the pride parade. To judge us on that would be like judging heterosexuals after watching Mardi Gras."

- Lesbian Civil Rights Activist, Candace **Gingrich** (who is European-American)

"...without equality there can be no democracy."

- Human rights activist and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (and first lady and lifelong romantic partner of Associated Press reporter Lorena Hickok) Eleanor **Roosevelt**

"I was writing and keeping a big log of daily harassment reports. Every day, I was going into the principal's office and writing down what happened--this person spit food on me, this person pushed a lunch cart into my side, this person pushed me into a locker, these people drew pictures of stick figures bending over and engaging in anal sex with each other. At least once a day, I was in the principal's office, writing a harassment report. And they did nothing about any of them. It gave the students permission to openly harass me, knowing that there wasn't going to be consequences for it. And each time, it got worse and worse and more intense."

- **Derek Henkle**, who won nearly half a million dollars from his school district for failing to protect him from anti-gay abuse



"During that punk period, around 1979, wearing swastikas was very popular with punks. Because I was Jewish, it really disturbed me so I wrote this song 'Take Off Your Swastika,' and I performed it on acoustic guitar so the audience could hear the words. When I got heckled at some of the harder core shows, I would just throw it back at them. I've always really respected the audience. That young slam dancing crowd might be a wild crowd but it was very intelligent. So it was exciting. It was always thrilling for me to go out there alone."

- Punk and folk artist, **Phranc** (who is Jewish, a lesbian, and a gender outlaw)

"The American ideal of sexuality appears to be rooted in the American ideal of masculinity. This idea has created cowboys and Indians, good guys and bad guys, punks and studs, tough guys and softies, butch and faggot, black and white. It is an ideal so paralytically infantile that it is virtually forbidden -- as an unpatriotic act -- that the American boy evolve into the complexity of manhood."

-- James **Baldwin**

"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."

- James **Baldwin**

"Every child's sense of himself is terrifyingly fragile. He is at the mercy of his elders, and when he finds himself totally at the mercy of his peers, who know as little about themselves as he, it is because his elders have abandoned him. I am talking, then, about morale, that sense of self with which the child must be invested. No child can do it alone. Children, I submit, cannot be fooled. They can only be betrayed by adults."

- James **Baldwin**, *Dark Days*

"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."

-- author, actor Harvey **Fierstein** (who is Jewish, a gay man, and a gender outlaw)

"To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan, and not quite enough time."

- Leonard **Bernstein**

"Cultivate the positive and beautiful thing within yourself. It's individuality that's going to keep the world interesting,"

- Me'Shell **NdegéOcello**