



## LGBTIQ history and Lesson Planning for July

SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHERS ... In case you don't think we should isolate our acknowledgments of the contributions of LGBTQ\* people to our world and the struggles of LGBTQ people for equal rights to Pride Month (June) or LGBT History Month (October) ... here are a few items to weave into your July lesson plans!

- (1) highlights of LGBTQ history for July
- (2) Black Gay Pride events in 2008
- (3) free lesson plans about LGBTQ issues
- (4) quotations from LGBTQ -- or possibly LGBTQ -- folks, to inspire students' journaling

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

\*LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender. When Q is added it may mean Questioning or Queer. For definitions, see <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-glb-t-defined.html>

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### (1) highlights of LGBTQ history for July

July, 1750 -- "Two workers named Bruno Lenoir and Jean Diot are burned at the stake after being caught having sex on a Paris street. They are the last ... to be executed [in] France solely for the crime of sodomy."  
<http://www.aaronsgayinfo.com/timeline/Time1700.html>

July, 1975 -- A group called **Gay American Indians** is launched in San Francisco.

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 women 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).

July 1, 2000 -- Vermont begins performing civil unions for same-sex couples. Still not equivalent to marriages (not recognized by the federal government or by other states or in other countries), these are nonetheless the first relationships in the U.S. to receive this level of legal recognition.

July 4, 1826 -- Composer Stephen Foster is born in Pittsburgh. He would write classics such as "Oh, Susanna" and "Camptown Races" and eventually leave his wife for George Cooper. 365gay.com says of the two renowned composers, "The couple enjoyed years of writing and marital bliss together."

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).

July 4, 1965 -- First annual Lesbian and Gay march in Philadelphia, four years before the Stonewall rebellion. "These peaceful, respectful and quick marches were some of the early roots for the first national march on Washington. It was at these marches where people risked arrest, incarceration and hospitalization for their courage: not to mention jobs, homes and family. July 4th of 2005 will mark the 40th anniversary of these early first marches." -- <http://gaylinkcontent.com/>

July 6, 1907 -- Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is born. Kahlo was bisexual and a polio survivor. More at: <http://www.pbs.org/now/arts/frida.html>

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.

July 8, 2000 -- Arthur "JR" Warren, Jr. is murdered. Warren, who was African American 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. More at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur\\_Warren](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Warren) and [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1589/is\\_2000\\_Sept\\_12/ai\\_64975345/pg\\_1](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1589/is_2000_Sept_12/ai_64975345/pg_1)



July 9, 1965 -- Courtney Love is born. She will grow up to be an openly bisexual rock musician and actress.

July 10, 1972 -- "Ann Arbor, Michigan becomes the first U.S. city to pass a broad gay civil rights law. The city council passes the city's human right code making discrimination against gays in housing, public accommodation, and employment illegal throughout the city." -- 365gay.com

July 11, 1987 -- Tom Waddell, founder of the Gay Games, dies of AIDS. Waddell was a father, a versatile athlete and physician.

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.

July 21, 1998 -- Waheed Alli takes his place in the House of Lords as the youngest and the first openly gay life peer to be appointed in Britain. [What's a "life peer"? See <http://www.answers.com/topic/life-peer-2>]

July 22, 1973 -- Rufus Wainwright is born. This openly gay European-American singer/songwriter would release his first album in 1998 to great critical acclaim.

July 22, 1997 -- Three same-sex couples sue the state of Vermont, on the grounds that banning same-sex unions is a violation of their state constitution.

July 24, 1897 -- Aviator Amelia Earhart is born. It "was rumored" that she was lesbian (<http://www.gay.com/health/fitness/article.html?sernum=2018>) and we will never know if, by today's standards, she was. But she certainly outrageously transgressed the gender expression boundaries of her time, when women were not only *not* pilots, they *certainly* weren't explorers, except, like the Shoshone heroine Sacajewea, in the service of - or in partnership with - men who got the credit.

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."

July 29, 1998 -- World renowned -- arguably the best ever American choreographer -- Jerome Robbins dies. Robbins was bisexual, though, according to biographers, he was always ashamed of it.

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 United States 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. More at: <http://www.nasponline.org/advocacy/sexharass.aspx> and <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9C01EFDA1539F93AA15750COA960958260&sec=&spon=&pagewanted=all> and <http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/in-court/cases/nabozny-v-podlesny.html> and <http://www.wisbar.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=52033&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>

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## (2) Black Gay Pride events in July 2008

Detroit, July 19-27: <http://www.hotterthanjuly.com/>

Chicago, July 6-8, 2008: <http://www.windycityblackpride.org/>

Little Rock, July 18-21: <http://www.littlerockblackpride.com/>

OTHER CITIES ... The International Federation of Black Prides: [http://www.ifbprides.org/ifbp\\_prides.php](http://www.ifbprides.org/ifbp_prides.php)



(3) free lesson plans about LGBTQ issues

Go to the Safe Schools Coalition's **teachers' page** (by age and discipline): <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/blackboard-teachers.html>

Or to our **lesson plans page**: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-lessonplans.html>

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(4) quotations from LGBTQ -- or possibly LGBTQ -- folks, to inspire students' journaling

**Possibly LGBTQ?** The term "homosexual" was coined in 1869; the term "transgender," in 1949. Before that, the concepts didn't exist ... although some people have loved people of their own biological sex and some people have transgressed gender expectations throughout recorded history. However, until recently in parts of the world, and still today in other places, it has been (or still is) dangerous to love someone of your own gender openly or to behave in ways that aren't typical of people of your biological sex. So for folks who are now deceased and who were not vocal/out about being sexual minorities, we can only piece together evidence that suggests who they may have been romantically involved with or how they might identify if they lived today.

*"Life only demands from you the strength you possess. Only one feat is possible - not to have run away."*

~ Dag Hammarskjöld, Swedish diplomat, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Nobel Peace Prize winner (According to OutSmart magazine, "[Hammarskjöld's]

diary, *Markings*, published posthumously in 1966, alluded to homosexual longings, perhaps never fulfilled.)

*"The most effective way to do it, is to do it."*

~ Amelia Earhart, aviation pioneer (365gay.com says, "American Flygirl Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas. A tomboy, preferring riding pants to dresses, and having a marriage that allowed for infidelity, we will never know if she was bisexual.)

*"When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge for loving one."*

~ openly gay U.S. Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, whose service earned him a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and an Air Force Commendation Medal. Sgt. Matlovich was discharged when he came out as gay.

*"I don't mean to be a diva, but some days you wake up and you're Barbara Streisand."*

~ singer Courtney Love

*"I got tired of this happening, and people always saying 'Why don't you just tell them you're not gay? Why don't you just tell them you're not gay? They'll leave you alone. But at that point, it wasn't about that. I was gay and it didn't matter. This shouldn't have been happening to me."*

~ Jamie Nabozny, who in 1996 won the 1st lawsuit of its kind against the principals of several middle and high schools where he was not protected from brutal anti-gay assaults

*"The more faithfully you listen to the voice within you, the better you will hear what is sounding outside."*

~ U.N. Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjöld

*"The fundamental question is: Are we made by history or do we make history--and the answer is yes."*

~ playwright Tony Kushner

*"Maybe [being openly gay] hurt my career but really helped my life, which is much better than if it was the reverse."*

~ singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright