



LGBTQ-Inclusive Lesson Planning Guide - May 2012

TEACHERS The Safe Schools Coalition believes that we shouldn't isolate our recognition of LGBTIQ/2-spirit* people in the curriculum to Gay Pride Month (June) or GLBT History Month (October). **We believe all children, regardless of their own or their families' sexual orientations or gender identities, need to know about the sexual diversity in their school community and the wider world ... just as they all need to know about racial and religious diversity.** As you are planning your lessons for May, 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.** Item #3 will be useful in teaching **writing skills.**

- (1) First, a few general dates worth note, including **International Day Against Homophobia** (May 17)
- (2) Then, a few GLBT and allied Asian/Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans to honor because it is **National Asian-Pacific American Month**
- (3) Quotes to inspire students' journaling
- (4) Web sites & Resources for/about sexually diverse Asian/Pacific Islander youth

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>

***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.

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- (1) First, a few general dates worth note, including **International Day Against Homophobia** (May 17)

May 1, 1986 - "Lesbian **Ann Bancroft** becomes the first woman to reach the North Pole by dogsled. The trip ... took her two months." *

May 2, 1948 - **Cal Anderson** is born. Cal would grow up in Tukwila, Washington, 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.

May 4th, 1958 - **Keith Haring** is born. Haring was an internationally respected 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!**)

May 6th, 2012 - **International Family Equality Day**. This year, Family Equality Council will host its first International Family Equality Day on May 6, 2012. Events will be held across North America and Europe. U.S. events will be held in NYC, L.A., Minneapolis, New Hampshire. Celebrations include a Family Photo-shoot in Times Square, LGBT Family Press Conference, picnic in Hollywood Park, Family Dance, and more. Click [here](#) for details. All events are free, but space is limited so make sure to **[RSVP](#)** today!



May 7, 1840 - "**Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky** [also spelled Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky] is born in Votinsk, Russia. Assailed by many modern critics as better suited to writing for film than creating serious music, Tchaikovsky still remains popular. A popular conspiracy theory has it that he was forced to commit suicide by authorities because he was gay. Hardly likely, under Tsarist Russia, homosexuality was tolerated, though hardly condoned." *

May 8, 1996 - **South Africa** becomes the first country in the world to **adopt language in its constitution protecting the civil rights of lesbians and gay men** (Section 2 of the State Duty to Protect Human Rights) and, that same day, anti-apartheid campaigner Edwin **Cameron** becomes the world's first openly gay Supreme Court judge.

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.

May 11, 1933 - Birth of **Father Mychal Judge**. Judge would grow up to become a self-identified gay man, though celibate due to Catholic restrictions for priests. A long term supporter of Dignity (a Catholic LGBT activist organization advocating for change in the Catholic Church's policies/teachings on homosexuality), he was a well known and loved Catholic priest. He ministered to all people no matter their identity. He considered himself an "agent of change in both church and society". And he was. His love and ministry touched everyone he encountered. He died while administering last rites to a fallen firefighter at the World Trade Center.

May 12, 1820 - **Florence Nightingale** is born. She will become the founder of modern nursing and will one day write about having romantic/erotic relationships with women.

May 13, 1944 - Openly gay novelist **Armistead Maupin** is born.

May 15, 356 BC - "**Alexander the Great** is born in Macedonia. One of the greatest generals of all time, Alexander's love of Hephaestion is the stuff of legend." *

May 16, 1919 - Liberace is born "Walter Valentino Liberace". For decades, he was known for his flamboyant, gender bending style, his music, candelabra, charisma, rhinestones and dazzle. More: http://www.liberace.org/liberace_biography/

May 17, 2004 - the **first state-recognized, legal marriages** for same-sex couples anywhere in the U.S. are performed in Massachusetts.

May 17 - **International Day Against Homophobia** ("IDAHO") "On 17 May 1990, the General Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) removed homosexuality from their list of mental disorders. This action served to end more than a century of medical homophobia. The decision of the WHO constitutes a historic date and powerful symbol for members of the LGBT community and we feel that it is only normal that IDAHO be recognised and observed as every other International Day (i.e. International Women's Day, International Human Rights Day etc)." More at: www.homophobiaday.org. **The 2008 Campaign theme is "Homosexuality is not a sickness!"**

May 19, 1930 - Writer, activist and 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.keithboykin.com/author/blksgrm.html> and http://www.gllhalloffame.org/index.pl?item=127&todo=view_item and http://www.glbtc.com/literature/hansberry_l.html

May 19, 2006 -- U.S. District Judge **Robin J. Cauthron** rules that the state of Oklahoma must, under the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution, recognize the validity of adoptions approved by courts in other states, regardless of whether the adoptive parents are same-sex couples.

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.

May 22, 1940 - **Mary Dispenza** is born in Chicago, Illinois. Sister (nun), teacher, principal and archdiocesan administrator, Mary will grow up to become one of the highest ranking Roman Catholics ever to lose her job with the Church over her sexual orientation. Mary volunteers at Lambert House and for countless other Washington State LGBT community organizations.

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.

May 29, 1987 - "[United States] Congressman **Barney Frank** (Democrat, Massachusetts), comes out." *

May 30, 1431 - "**Joan of Arc** burned at the stake for heresy. Her 'crimes' included cross-dressing and inappropriate relationships with women." * Note that May 30 is, for Christians, feast day for St. Joan of Arc, patron saint of soldiers.

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.transgenderzone.com/features/ChristineJorgensen.htm> and in her own story, *Christine Jorgensen: A Personal Autobiography*.

May 30, 1980 - It may seem almost commonplace today, but it was unheard of in the day, when Rhode Island high school student **Aaron Ficke** takes Paul Guibert to his high school prom after winning a landmark lawsuit. Read his book *Reflections of a Rock Lobster: A Story About Growing Up Gay*.

May 31, 1819 - European-American poet, **Walt Whitman**, author of, among other works, *Leaves of Grass*, is born. Gay.com says, "In Whitman's time, although people acted on a wide variety of romantic and sexual feelings, there wasn't really such a thing as homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual identity. The word 'homosexual' wasn't around until the 1870s--about 20 years after the first edition of *Leaves of Grass* was published ... [but he wrote] of the beauty of the body--men's and women's--of passion--for one's self, one's lover, one's country--and, nearly 20 years before the word 'homosexuality' had even been invented, of love between men."

* from 365gay.com





(2) Then, a few GLBT and allied Asian/Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans to honor because it is National Asian-Pacific American Month

George Takei, an actor well-known to Star Trek fans as the character Mr. Sulu, came out as gay in October 2005. In an interview in *Frontiers* magazine, Takei discussed his long-term relationship with his partner, Brad, his internment during WWII for being of **Japanese** descent, and his current political views. See <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9845944/> and also *To Boldly Go with George Takei: Talking About It* podcast:

http://preview.hrc.org/issues/youth_and_campus_activism/4905.htm

Vegavahini "Vega" Subramaniam and **Vaijayanthimala "Mala" Nagarajan**, both lesbians of **South Asian** descent, are one of the plaintiff couples who sued King County and the state of Washington for legal recognition of their marriage. In 2002, they were united in a Hindu wedding ceremony officiated by Hindu priest. Vega's father and Mala's mother attended the celebration, along with 150 friends and family members. Both families support their relationship. The lawsuit of which Vega and Mala were a part was brought by 8 couples with the help of the Northwest Women's Law Center and Lambda Legal. That suit, and one brought on behalf of 11 other couples by the ACLU, were decided on July 26, 2006 by the Washington State Supreme Court ... Vega and Mala and the other couples lost the suit. More on Vega and Mala:

http://www.imdiversity.com/villages/asian/family_lifestyle_traditions/paccit_lgbt_families_1004.asp and <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/msid-550958.curpg-1.cms>.

Anne Xuân Clark, the co-founder of Seattle's Asian Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance, has worked on many queer Asian visibility campaigns and has always been delighted by the support of the mainstream Asian American community. For over ten years, Anne worked in Seattle's International District raising millions for Asian community development projects, like the International District Village Square. Anne has also worked in a variety of creative mediums including videos, video installations, 'zines and creative writing. Her work has been screened, exhibited and published throughout the United States. She currently works at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Emi Koyama is an activist/author/academic working on intersex, sex workers' rights, (queer) domestic violence, genderqueer, anti-racism, and other issues. She describes herself as "a multi-issue social justice slut synthesizing feminist, Asian, survivor, dyke, queer, sex worker, intersex, genderqueer, and crip politics." Emi is the director of Intersex Initiative <<http://www.ipdx.org/>>, headquartered in Portland, Oregon.

Tony-winning, openly gay actor **B.D. Wong** (*X-Files*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Father of the Bride*, *Jurassic Park*). B.D. -- Bradley Darryl -- Wong currently resides in New York City with his son, Jackson Foo (the surviving twin was born May 28, 2000) and his partner, Richie ... see <http://www.afterelton.com/archive/elton/people/2005/11/bdwong.html>

Esera Tuaolo is **Samoan American** from Hawaii 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. He said in October 2002, "*Now, after a life of living a lie, I am here to tell the truth. My truth. I am Esera Tuaolo, and for nine years I made my living as a gladiator in the NFL. I was a 280-pound nose tackle who could run a 40 in 4.8. I was voted the best defensive lineman in the Pac-10 in 1989 at Oregon State, and I made the NFL all-rookie team two years later with Green Bay. I played in the Super Bowl, played for five different teams, sang the national anthem at the Pro Bowl and earned the respect of players like Brett Favre and John Randle and Jack Del Rio. I was all that. And I am a gay man.*" See more at <http://www.outsports.com/nfl/20021027eseramain.htm> and <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5190140>



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 co-editor of *Creating Change: Public Policy, Sexuality and Civil Rights* (2000) and was for three years the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF, now known as "The Task Force"). Vaid now serves on the Board of the Gill Foundation, whose mission is to secure equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression. More: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urvashi_Vaid

Chinese/Korean American poet, educator and longtime lesbian activist, **Merle Woo** currently teaches in the women's studies department at San Jose State University. She is a socialist-feminist educator and writer who, for twenty years has been a leader in Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party. During the 1980s, she won an unfair labor practice, a civil suit, and a union arbitration against the University of California for violation of her free-speech rights and multi-discrimination based on race, sex, sexuality, and political ideology. At San Francisco State University during the 1990s, Woo fought alongside other progressive faculty and students to maintain a lesbian, women of color, and community focus in women's studies. More: <http://andrejkoymasky.com/liv/fam/biow3/woo01.html>

Frieda Takamura is **Japanese-American** and an openly heterosexual former co-chair of the Safe Schools Coalition. She is also served on the Human Rights Campaign's Welcoming Schools National Advisory Board and is a former board member of GLSEN, the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network, as well as retired Human Relations Field Representative for the Washington Education Association. Frieda is a nationally acclaimed speaker on bullying and human and civil rights in schools. She is a fierce ally to her LGBT brothers and sisters, speaking up in education circles where her LGBT colleagues are too often silenced.



(3) Quotes to inspire students' journaling ...

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."
-- Mahatma Mohandas **Gandhi**

"Never be afraid to sit awhile and think."
-- Lorraine **Hansberry**, writer, playwright and lesbian African-American woman

"Stop! THIS is why we need a GSA!"
-- sign taped underneath flyers for Sennett Middle School's Gay Straight Alliance meetings ... so that when people vandalize the flyer by tearing it down, the message will shout from beneath it

"The gay rights movement is not a party. It is not lifestyle. It is not a hair style. It is not a fad or a fringe or a sickness. It is not about sin or salvation. The gay rights movement is an integral part of the American promise of freedom."
-- Urvashi **Vaid**, openly lesbian author/activist

"As an Asian American whose ancestors were denied equal rights and protections under California law, I recognize the profound harm caused by denying lesbian and gay people the ability to protect their families through marriage."
-- Victor **Hwang**, an attorney with Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach



"I think there's a myth that gay people have lousy relationships with their parents ... But there are gay people who have great relationships with their parents, and (Richie and I) just happen to be two of them."

-- openly gay actor, B.D. **Wong**

"We convince by our presence."

-- poet Walt **Whitman**, who wrote of his love relationships with men

"I make the films I do because I can't let the bad guys get away with it ... There are forces in this world and they have their agenda to take over, to dictate how everybody should live, and dictate what the rules are going to be ... That is why I did [The Public Families Project] - fighting society."

-- Chinese-American out gay filmmaker, Arthur **Dong** (*Stories from the War on Homosexuality, Family Fundamentals, Licensed to Kill*)

"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 and openly gay dad, Esera **Tuaolo**

"Being nurturing is not a biological trait assigned to only [one] gender."

-- Lance **Chen-Hayes** who is gay and Chinese-American and who, with his partner, Stuart Chen-Hayes, is raising their son

"Times can blind us to certain truths and later generations can see that laws once thought necessary and proper in fact serve only to oppress. As the Constitution endures, persons in every generation can invoke its principles in their own search for greater freedom."

-- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony **Kennedy**

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color."

-- Maya **Angelou**

"Nobody will believe in you unless you believe in yourself."

-- **Liberace**



(4) Web sites & Resources for/about sexually diverse Asian/Pacific Islander youth

"As A Gay Asian Youth..." 1 min - Aug 25, 2008 – YouTube video created by APICHA (The Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS). www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xRvixf47OM

2004 American Journal of Public Health article, "**Asian/Pacific Islander Adolescent Sexual Orientation and Suicide Risk in Guam**" by Thomas K. Pinhey, PhD, and Sara R. Millman, PhD www.ajph.org/cgi/reprint/94/7/1204.pdf

Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS: <http://www.apicha.org/>

Asian & Pacific Islander Family Pride (motto: "In API Homes, All Children Are Welcome"): <http://www.apifamilypride.org/>. Helpline: 510-818-0887

Asian Pacific PFLAG: <http://community.pflag.org/page.aspx?pid=465>



Beloved Daughter: a 40-page booklet of letters from Chinese mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters to their lesbian/bisexual daughter/sister. "Beloved Daughter," printed in Chinese and English and illustrated with family photographs, reveals a range of feelings, from fear and shame to understanding and love, as families share their own "coming-out" stories. To order copies (\$4.50, including domestic mailing), Email: maplbn@labrys.org or use snail mail: MAPLBN, c/o Hanna Lu, 3103 Shelter Creek Lane, San Bruno, CA 94066 or their web site: <http://www.labrys.org/family>

Family and Coming Out Issues for Asian Pacific Americans from Human Rights Campaign: <http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/family-and-coming-out-issues-for-asian-pacific-americans>

Gay Asian Pacific Support Network: <http://www.gapsn.org/>

Honor Thy Children. This book "is the inspirational account of a Japanese-American family's triumph in the face of the deaths of their three sons, two to AIDS and one to a random act of violence. Here is the wisdom born of suffering, courageously revealed to the author that the rest of us may learn to honor and love our own children." By Molly Fumia, published 1997. ISBN:1573241989 <http://www.powells.com/cgi-bin/biblio?isbn=1573241989>

In God's House: Asian American Lesbian and Gay Families in the Church: film released October 2006: <http://www.ingodshouse.com/>

King County folks, take note ... There are several API-specific referral ideas on Safe Schools Coalition's page of LGBTIQ-youth-friendly community resources in King County (WA): <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-LocalCommunityResources-Region11.html> (see **Asian Counseling & Referral Service, Long Yang Club, POCAAN, QPOC Liberation Project** and **Trikone Northwest**)

Network on Religion and Justice for Asian American and Pacific Islander Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people (NRJ-API LGBT), "A coalition of organizations and individuals affirming the dignity and spiritual wholeness of API LGBT people of faith; ... to create visibility and connection, to educate and advocate, and to transform both our faith communities and our larger world." <http://www.nrj-api-lgbt.org/>

Queer Asian & Pacific Islander Pride Scholarship Fund: <http://www.apiwellness.org/scholarship.html>