

GLBTIQ history - September

National Hispanic Heritage Month -- & Banned Books Week & Suicide Prevention Week
Being Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender Today in Latin America and Latina/o U.S.A.

Welcome back to school! A few of years ago, we began offering teachers historical events of note month-by-month along with hero and role model suggestions to enrich your curriculum. The objective is to help you include a little **GLBTIQ2** * studies in your work EVERY month rather than isolating it in Gay Pride Month (June) or GLBT History Month (October). Here are some ideas for September, as you begin planning this month's lessons:

- (1) A few general dates worth noting for September (including *Banned Books Week* & *Suicide Prevention Week*)
- (2) Recognize the victims of Sept 11 in an inclusive way.
- (3) YouTube videos to show your class (on bullying, having gay or lesbian parents, homophobia, and more)
- (4) People of specific note, since this is National Hispanic Heritage Month
- (5) Being Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender Today in Latin America and Latino/a USA
- (6) Books about LGBT Latino/as
- (7) Quotes from a few GLBTIQ2 and allied Latino/a hermanas/os to inspire your students' journaling
- (8) Other quotes to inspire 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>

* **GLBTI** = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex. When a "Q" is added it sometimes means "questioning" (unsure or preferring no label) and it sometimes means "queer" (increasingly the identity of choice among young, coastal, white young LGBTI people for its inclusivity and flexibility). When a "2" is added it means "two-spirit" (the identity of choice among many Indigenous LGBTQ folks, reflecting alternative gender and sexuality in the context of many Native American nations' spirituality).

(1) A few general dates worth noting for September (including *Banned Books Week* & *Suicide Prevention Week*)

September 1, 1937 - Brilliant actress, writer, comedian **Lily Tomlin** is born. She will grow up to be an openly lesbian feminist. Tomlin was the 2003 recipient of the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain prize for humorists. Read more here: http://www.glbtc.com/arts/tomlin_1.html and here: <http://www.afterellen.com/People/2005/3/lilytomlin.html>

September 2, 1907 - **Evelyn Hooker** is born. She would grow up to publish the first ever scientific findings that homosexual men are no less well-adjusted mentally than heterosexual men. Here's what the American Psychological Association said about her in honoring her with a 1991 award: *"When homosexuals were considered to be mentally ill, were forced out of government jobs, and were arrested in police raids, Evelyn Hooker courageously sought and obtained research support from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to compare a matched sample of homosexual and heterosexual men. Her pioneering study, published in 1957, challenged the widespread belief that homosexuality is a pathology by demonstrating that experienced clinicians using psychological tests ... could not identify the nonclinical homosexual group. This revolutionary study provided empirical evidence that normal homosexuals existed, and supported the radical idea then emerging that homosexuality is within the normal range of human behavior ... Her research, leadership, mentorship, and tireless advocacy for an accurate scientific view of homosexuality ... has been an outstanding contribution to psychology in the public interest."*

Sept 5, 2007 - Principal **Genna Suraci** starts the school year at the Port Ewen, NY Career & Technical Center uneventfully, like any other school year. Over the summer, she'd officially transitioned from Gary to Genna. The school apparently took in stride their transsexual leader's transition. Student Kaitlyn Walker, 17, was quoted in the New York Times saying, "It doesn't matter what happened, it's the person inside. It's the same person. It doesn't really matter if you change the outside."

September 6, 1860 - Birthday of **Jane Addams**, founder of Hull House in Chicago, the first major settlement house, and first American woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize (1931). Addams was co-founder American Civil Liberties Union. She



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 beloved companion Mary Rozet Smith.

September 6, 1935 - "New York University professor Dr. Louis W Max tells a meeting of the American Psychological Association that he has successfully treated a 'partially fetishistic' homosexual neurosis with electric shock therapy delivered at 'intensities considerably higher than those usually employed on human subjects.' Max's presentation is **the first documented instance of aversion therapy used to 'cure' homosexuality.**"

<http://www.aaronsgayinfo.com/timeline/Ftime30.html>

Sept 7, 1969 - Openly gay and HIV-positive Olympic champion ice-skater **Rudy Galindo** is born. Read more here: <http://www.rudy-galindo.com/rudy6.htm>

Sept 7-13, 2008 - **Suicide Prevention Week**. Read about the week here:

<http://www.suicidology.org/associations/1045/files/Kit2008.pdf> and here:

<http://www.yspp.org/getInvolved/suicidePreventionWeek.htm> ... And see also the **Safe Schools Coalition's** suicide pages for **adults**: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-suicide.html> and **youth**:

<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/youth/suicideprevention-harmreduction.html> and the Trevor Project's "**T'm Glad I Failed**" campaign: <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/ImGladIFailed/TrevorProjectImGladIFailedCampaign.pdf> (free print ads for your school paper, banner ads for your GSA's web site)

September 10, 1997 - The US Senate thrashes GLBT civil rights twice in one day, passing the so-called "**Defense of Marriage Act**" (denying to LGB and many T Americans the right to federally recognized marriages to those they love and relieving states of the obligation to recognized marriages of same-sex couples performed in other states) and defeating the "**Employment Non-Discrimination Act**" (which would have barred job discrimination based on sexual orientation).

September 15, 1996 - **The European Parliament** issues a report calling for its member states to end 'all discrimination against homosexuals.' "

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

September 21, 1955 - "San Francisco: Four lesbian couples, including **Phyllis Lyon** and **Del Martin**, found the **Daughters of Bilitis**, the first homophile organization exclusively for women." <http://www.aaronsgayinfo.com/timeline/Ftime50.html> [Forty-nine years later, Lyon and Martin would become the first same-sex couple ever to marry legally in the United States when San Francisco begins issuing licenses -- <http://www.now.org/issues/lgbi/021304lyon-martin.html> -- and their marriage would be subsequently annulled by the California Supreme Court, along with more than 4,000 other couples' marriages, in its ruling that Mayor Gavin Newsom was exceeding his authority by determining that it was unconstitutional to deny these couples marriage licenses. Then, on June 16, 2008, after 55 years in love, Lyon and Martin married again, legally: http://www.ncrights.org/site/PageServer?pagename=press_phyllisanddel061308]

September 23, 1965 - Indian prince **Manavendra Singh Gohil**, believed to be the only openly gay royal in the world, was born. His family disowned him, when he first came out in the media in 2006; he has since been welcomed back. The Prince is the founder of an HIV/AIDS prevention charity. More about him here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manavendra_Singh_Gohil

September 23, 1970 - **Ani Difranto** 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.

September 26, 1957 - **Leonard Bernstein's** ground-breaking musical *West Side Story* (later made into the film by the same name) opens on Broadway. The musical is a modern remake of the classic *Romeo and Juliet* by playwright **William Shakespeare**. Historians describe Bernstein as bisexual and some conjecture that Shakespeare was gay. Read more about Bernstein here: <http://andrejkoymasky.com/liv/fam/biob3/bern09.html> and http://www.glbtc.com/arts/bernstein_1.html.



Read more about Shakespeare here: <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/faq/lifefaq.html#gay> and http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/component/option,com_simplefaq/task,answer/Itemid,421/catid,13/aid,19/

September 27-October 4, 2008 - **Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read.** Many GLBT-themed books have been among those banned over the years. According to the American Library Association, "For a second consecutive year, Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell's award-winning '**And Tango Makes Three**,' a children's book about two male penguins caring for an orphaned egg, tops the list of American Library Association's (ALA) 10 Most Challenged Books of 2007." The 9th most challenged book in the U.S. last year was "*It's Perfectly Normal*" by Robie Harris. It was challenged because it is about sex education and is sexually explicit. You may want to read them with your class in celebration of the right to read. More here: <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.cfm>, and <http://www.amnestyusa.org/bannedbooks> (includes a downloadable poster), and <http://www.abffe.com/bbw-handbook2007.htm> (includes a long list of books challenged recently and the stories of the challenges).

September 28, 1573 - Birthday of **Michelangelo**, the artist who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and who sculpted the famous statue of David ... perhaps the greatest artist of western civilization. Michelangelo is widely believed by historians to have been homosexual.

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> and http://www.glbtc.com/arts/mathis_j.html

(2) Recognize the victims of Sept 11 in an inclusive way.

On September 11, 2001, acts of terrorism in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania cost thousands of lives ... including not only the heroes and martyrs everyone knows about but also some who were Middle Eastern or Muslim, some who were gay, lesbian, bi or trans, and others who were rendered more or less invisible in the media coverage that followed. Some, in fact, acted that day as heroes.

Muslim and Middle Eastern heroes and martyrs include:

- **Salman Hamdani**, a 23-year-old New York City police cadet, a part-time ambulance driver, and a devout Muslim, who died that day trying to save lives: <http://islam.about.com/blvictims.htm> and <http://www.islamicvoice.com/june.2002/features.htm>
- Some of the survivors interviewed in this amazing oral history project who lived through 9/11 only to experience hateful bigotry due to their religions or countries of origin or the color of their skin: http://www.indiana.edu/~jah/issues/articles/892_clark.pdf

LGBTQ heroes and martyrs include:

- **Father Mychal Judge Fr. Judge** was a self identified gay man (though celibate due to Catholic restrictions for priests) and a long term supporter of Dignity (a Catholic LGBT activist organization advocating for change in the Catholic Church's policies/teachings on homosexuality), 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. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mychal_Judge . See also <http://nymag.com/nymetro/news/sept11/features/5372/> and <http://saintmychaljudge.blogspot.com/search/label/Gay%20Saint>
- **Mark 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. Mark's story is explained in this essay, along with an analysis of the coverage that too often omitted his sexual orientation: "*United 93, Mark Bingham, and Why It Matters That He Was Gay*": <http://www.afterelton.com/archive/elton/people/2006/5/ingham.html>. See also <http://www.markbingham.org>

- **Ronald Gamboa**, 33, his partner of 13 years, **Dan Brandhorst**, 42, and their 3-year-old son, David, died when their flight was hijacked and crashed into the World Trade Center: <http://www.angelfire.com/fl3/uraniamanuscripts/sept11.html> -- That site lists many other LGBT victims of Sept 11, as well.

(3) YouTube videos to show your class (on racism, homophobia, misogyny, and more)

"Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes" speaks to masculinity, violence, misogyny, homophobia, racism in American culture in general and hip-hop ... would be a powerful discussion-starter in a **high school** class: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjxjZe3RhIo>

"Movie I made for School" opposes all forms of bigotry with a focus on homophobia. YouTube requires that only **adults** watch it, which is unfortunate because it is totally appropriate for **high school** students. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWB7LXUnIp8>

"Wrestling With Manhood: Boys, Bullying & Battering" looks at graphic, exaggerated, ugly depictions of masculinity in professional wrestling ... recommended as a discussion-starter for **college** classes (much too graphic overlay of sex and violence for most high school audiences even though they see this stuff on TV at home): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikDXcfzA848>

"Preacher's Sons" tell the story of 2 dads (European American) and their 5 adopted sons (of color) and their experience of homophobia and racism ... can generate conversation in **high schools** and **alternative settings** about foster care, gay parenting, and multiracial families: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kp16BVptyvk>

(4) People of specific note, since this is National Hispanic Heritage Month

Marta Alvarado - Alvarado, a Salvadoran Latina lesbian, is the Community Mobilization Manager for the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization (**LLEGÓ**).

Gloria Anzaldua - This co-editor of *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* and *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, who passed away from complications of diabetes on May 15, 2004, once described herself as "a chicana dyke-feminist, tejana patlache poet, writer, and cultural theorist."

Ron Saul Brenesky - Brenesky, a gay man of Cuban descent, became one of the most notable faces on Miami TV after Miami Acción Positiva and other grassroots organizations formed Unity Coalition, an effort to defeat Miami-Dade's discriminatory ordinance against LGBT people. Unity Coalition won the battle and put the organization in the forefront of LGBT issues in that area.

Marta Donayre - Donayre, a Brazilian lesbian, works at the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), overseeing immigration programs and focusing on people of color. This past year, she and her partner, Leslie Bulbuk, formed "Love Sees No Borders" a Website to disseminate information about the injustices suffered by gay Americans and their foreign born partners.



Andrés Duque - Duque is the Director of Mano a Mano, a coalition of several LGBT organizations in New York. Mano a Mano's list has been called "the most powerful and concise source of information for LGBT Latina/os in the U.S. and Latin America." Duque, a Colombian gay man, was also profiled as one of OUT Magazine's "OUT 100" most successful stories of 2002.

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 2000 about being HIV-positive. A kid who grew up poor, Galindo has made it in a rich kids' sport, without hiding and without squelching his femininity! Read more here: <http://www.plover.com/rainbowice/rgr.html>

Daisy Hernández is Colombian, Cuban and lesbian and ... the co-editor of *Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism*. Her essays have appeared in the *Crab Orchard Review* and *Ms.* magazine, as well as various anthologies. She is a Senior Editing and Writing Fellow for *ColorLines* magazine.

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

Jacque Larrainzar - Mexican-born Basque-Lebanese lesbian and bilingual Intervention Specialist for the Safe Schools Coalition. Jacque works for SSC member organization the Seattle Office for Civil Rights as a Policy and Outreach Manager. She has worked at many community based organizations, including Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Washington Lesbian Organizing Project of the Pride Foundation, People of Color Against AIDS Network, Entre Hermanos, Safe School Coalition and the Northwest Women's Law Center.

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

Emma Moreno - Moreno is the Executive Director of **Entre Hermanos**, the most visible LGBT Latina/o organization in the Pacific Northwest. Her leadership and energy helped the organization create the first LGBT Latina/o Cultural Week in that region. The week consisted of workshops and events specifically designed to satisfy the needs of the LGBT Latina/o community. Moreno was also recently recognized by the City of Seattle as a Human Rights Distinguished Citizen. Her work and dedication to her community has absolutely made her a model. Moreno is also the founder of "Las Sinverguezas" (The Shamelesswomen) a Latina lesbian group.

Carmen Murguía - When Chicana lesbian Juana Vega was murdered in 2001, Milwaukee, WI, her friend Carmen along with many other LGBT Latina/o activists in the area, mobilized the community to ask for justice. In 2002, Murguía was the leader behind the creation of the Juana Vega Resources Center, which provides scholarships to Latina lesbian and bisexual women.

Oscar De La O - De La O, Executive Director of Bienestar Human Services, the largest LGBT center of resources for Latinos in Southern California. The Latin Pride Foundation has also awarded De La O as one of the most influential people of the LGBT Latino community.

Odalys Nanín - Nanín, of Cuban descent, is a playwright, producer, director and the co-founder of Macha Theatre Co. Mujeres (Women) Advancing, Culture, History & Art is a non-profit organization that was formed in 2000 to promote Latina, women of color and lesbian art and culture through the dramatic arts.

Monica Palacios - Palacios is one of the leading Latina lesbian performers. Palacios, of Mexican descent, was also named one of OUT Magazine's "OUT 100" as one of the greatest LGBT success stories in 2002. The Latin Pride Foundation and many other institutions have also honored Palacios.



Roland Palencia - Palencia was honored by the Latin Pride Foundation in 2002 as one of the most distinguished leaders in the LGBT Latina/o community. The same week, he also received an award by the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization (LLEGÓ). He was also chosen KCET*s most influential Latinos along with other activists.

Sylvia Rivera - Rivera, born on July 2, 1951, was a prostitute at 11 years old. In her late teens, by then a drag queen, she was one of the rioters on June 28, 1969 at the **Stonewall Inn**, helping launch the modern gay civil rights movement in righteous anger over police abuse. With African American drag queen Marsha P. Johnson, Ms. Rivera co-founded STAR: Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries in New York City in 1970. In the 1990's she found life partner Julia Murray, also transgender. Ms. Rivera died of liver cancer at age 50 on February 19, 2002. More at <http://srlp.org/about/who-was-sylvia-rivera/> and <http://www.ifge.org/news/2002/feb/SylviaRivera.html> and <http://gaytoday.com/garchive/events/022002ev.htm>

María Román - Román is one of the most visible transgender activists in the LGBT Latina community. She is the Puerto Rican activist who led the community in Los Angeles in a press conference and vigil after Gwen Araujo's murder. Román has also been a voice for raising HIV and AIDS awareness and is the manager of Trangéneros Unidas, at Bienestar Human Services.

Anthony Romero - Born in New York City to Puerto Rican parents, 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.

Luisa Rondón - Rondón, a Dominican Republican lesbian, has been one of the pillars in the formation of Unity Coalition. This was the only LGBT Latina/o organization that helped educate the Latino community about Miami-Dade*s discriminatory initiative. Rondón is also the Co-Chair of Miami Acción Positiva and she served in El Encuentro*s host committee.

Martin Sorrondeguy

- 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, Sorrondeguy was raised in Chicago and as of 2002, was living in Santa Ana, California with his partner Rigo.

José Zuniga - In March of 1993, the Army named Gulf War veteran Sgt. José 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*.

(5) Being Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender Today in Latin America and Latina/o U.S.A.

GENERAL:

Recursos en Español (Resources in Spanish for LGBTQ youth and families, from the **Safe Schools Coalition**):

<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-Recursos-en-Espanol.html>

Ambiente Joven (a project of **Advocates for Youth**): <http://www.ambientejoven.org>

Servicios para la comunidad GLBT (directory of services for GLBT persons in North, Central and South America):

<http://www.ambientejoven.org/> - click on "centros"

Bibliography of Gay and Lesbian materials for Latin America in the University of Chicago Library:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/latam/Latam.html>

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission: <http://www.iglhrc.org>

IN THE U.S.:

Aguilas: <http://www.sfaguilas.org/> -- San Francisco

Unid@s: <http://www.unidoslgbt.org>, includes links to other Latino LGBT organizations around the country.



Entre Hermanos - Organización GLBT Latina: <http://www.entrehermanos.org/> -- Seattle
Jovenes in Action (No Web Site): An organization that provides various services for young gay Latinos. 5255 E. Pomona Blvd., Suite 11B, Los Angeles, CA 90022; 323-890-8767 -- Los Angeles
Puerto Rico, USA: <http://www.thegully.com/essays/puertorico/000609queervq.html>

IN LATIN AMERICA:

Bolivia: <http://www.boliviagay.com>

Brazil: http://www.comuniles.org.br/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=27

Costa Rica: <http://www.dreamwater.com/women/theresles/politics.html>

Cuba: <http://www.pinktriangle.org.uk/gh/213/cuba.html> and <http://www.aegis.com/news/ips/2003/IP030813.html>

Mexico: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6134730.stm> and

http://www.mediarights.org/film/they_shine_on_being_gay_in_morelos_mexico.php and

http://www.thegully.com/essays/mex/030218_dyke_march_mexico.html

Nicaragua: <http://www.aegis.com/news/sc/1991/SC911109.html> and http://www.glbtq.com/subject/social-sciences_a-e.html and <http://www.dreamwater.com/women/theresles/politics.html>

Paraguay: <http://www.iglhc.org/site/iglhc/section.php?id=5&detail=472> and <http://www.convencion.org.uy/>

Peru: <http://www.geocities.com/cargalperu/2001/resultados> and <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/3833>

Uruguay: <http://www.indiana.edu/~arenal/Repur.html>

IN SPAIN & PORTUGAL:

Asociación de Jóvenes Gais y Lesbianas "Grupo Joven" (Association of Gay and Lesbian Youth):

<http://www.cogales.org/grupjove/jovec.htm> -- Barcelona

Bibliography of Queer History: Spain and Portugal: rictornorton.co.uk

(6) Books about LGBT Latino/as

- ***Beyond Paradise: The Life of Ramon Novarro*** (Hardcover) by Andre Soares. Novarro was among the first Latino Hollywood actors.
- ***NOVA: Wings of Madness*** (2007) or ***My Airships: The Story of My Life*** by Alberto Santos-Dumont by Alberto Santos-Dumont. Alberto Dumont is from Brazil and was an aviation pioneer; he is also gay.
- ***Before Night Falls: A Memoir*** by Reinaldo Arenas, a Cuban poet.
- ***Icebreaker the Autobiography of Rudy Galindo*** (Hardcover) by Rudy Galindo, Olympic Figure Skater and openly gay man.

Anthologies and other books: <http://www.indiana.edu/~arenal/lesbo.html>

(7) Quotes from a few LGBTIQ2 and allied Latino/a hermanas/os to inspire your students' journaling

"Action is the antidote to despair."

-- Joan **Baez**

"I am visible--see this Indian face--yet I am invisible. I both blind them with my beak nose and am their blind spot. But I exist, we exist. They'd like to think I have melted in the pot. But I haven't. We haven't."

-- Gloria **Anzaldúa**

"When you are not physically starving, you have the luxury to realize psychic and emotional starvation."

-- Cherrie **Moraga**



"It always makes me so angry when people assume that anyone who calls himself or herself a Chicano or a Chicana is automatically someone who doesn't like to read. . . . I knew how to read before I went to the first grade because of my grandmother. All of my cousins were under her tutelage. She taught us to read and to respect learning."

-- Arturo **Islas**

"This is an abuse of the legislative process ... If the law does not protect you it will not protect me."

-- U.S. Representative Charles A. **Gonzales** of Texas, regarding the proposed **Federal Marriage Amendment** that would have permanently restricted marriage rights to heterosexuals in the United States

"We were not taking any more of this [expletive deleted]. We had done so much for other movements. It was time."

-- Sylvia **Rivera**, on her participation in the Stonewall Riots, fighting back against police brutality that targeted gay, lesbian, bi, and trans people and inspiring the generations of civil rights activism that followed

(8) Other quotes to inspire journaling

"Done time for violent assault? You're all right with us. Can hardly read? No worries. Out of shape? Heck, as long as your trigger finger works. ... Gay? Whoa, now. Not so fast."

-- Seattle Post-Intelligencer columnist D. **Parvaz**, explaining that waivers to military rules are now being granted to felons, the physically unfit and those who haven't even completed a high school education, but not to openly gay servicepeople, some of whom have vital linguistic skills or exemplary records. See http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/parvaz/373251_parvaz02.html

"Principal Davis responded to Jane Doe's complaints of harassment by other students, not by consoling her, but by shaming her."

-- US District Judge Richard **Smoak** of Panama City, Florida, who ruled on July 24, 2008 in favor of Heather Gillman, a student who sued her school board. When Heather tried to report being harassed for being lesbian, she got a lecture and was outed to her parents (who threatened to throw her out) ... and she isn't even lesbian! See http://www.gaycitynews.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19881400&BRD=2729&PAG=461&dept_id=568860&rfti=6

"I don't think there's going to be enough jumpsuits for everyone in the school."

-- Gonzales (TX) High School senior class president Jordan **Meredith**, explaining that when a new dress code goes into effect this fall and students who violate it are forced to wear prison-made jump suits (unless their parents bring other close to school or they prefer in-school suspension), it may start to be the cool, rebellious style statement of the season. See http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texasouthwest/stories/DN-jumpsuits_02tex.ART.State.Edition1.4da21e0.html

"I can't tell you how happy I am that the judge agreed we have a right to create a safe space for gay students at my school."

-- Brittany **Martin**, a 17-year-old upcoming senior at Okeechobee High School who is the GSA's president, commenting on a July 2008 ruling in a case brought by the ACLU. The judge found that the Gay-Straight Alliance doesn't interfere with abstinence-only education and, in a legal first, declared that schools must provide for the well-being of gay students. See http://www.aclu.org/lgbt/youth/36199prs20080730.html?s_src=RSS