



Henry Gerber

Henry Gerber founded the Chicago Society for Human Rights in 1924. This organization was the first known US organization to advocate for the rights of “homosexuals.”

The police raided Gerber’s home, confiscated the group’s materials, and arrested Gerber. He was prosecuted for “deviancy,” and lost his job for “conduct unbecoming a postal worker.”

Gerber’s legacy as an early voice for the rights of LGBTQ people is continued in the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives of Midwest LGBTQ History and Culture. It located in Rogers Park.



Pearl Hart



LGBTQ History Month

Pearl Hart was a civil rights attorney. Born in 1890 in Michigan, admitted to the Illinois bar in 1914 after attending John Marshall Law School, Hart worked to defend the rights of immigrants, LGBT people, and those targeted by the House Un-American Activities Committee during the “Red Scare.” Chicago writer Valerie Taylor called Hart “the love of her life,” and the two were partnered at the time of Hart’s death in 1975.

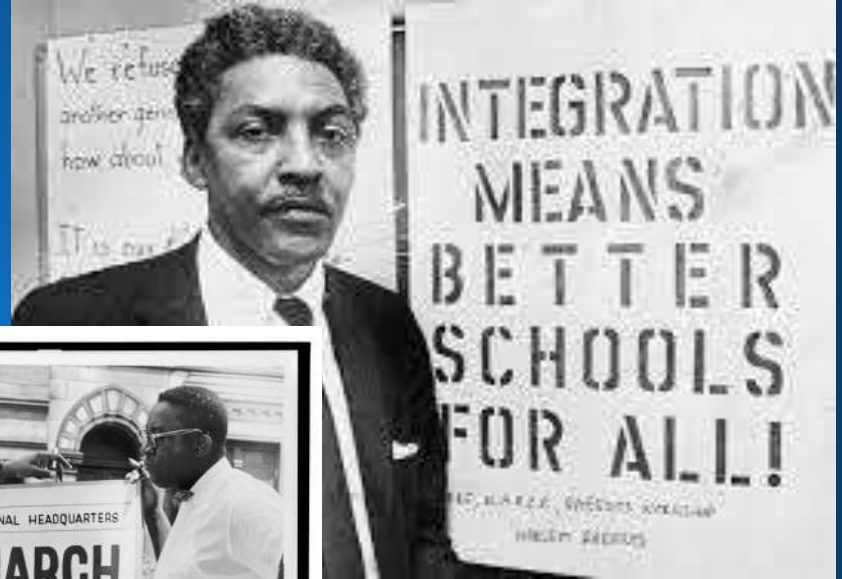


Bayard Rustin

For most of his life, Rustin was the person behind-the-scenes, dreaming up transformative moments like the March On Washington. He wanted others, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to be the face of that dream.

Just a few weeks before the march, Rustin had come under attack. He was an easy target: a socialist, a pacifist who'd refused to fight in WWII and went to prison for it, and a gay Black man at a time of intense homophobia. He'd been attacked before for being gay, each time forcing him to retreat out of the spotlight.

Adapted from npr.org



LGBTQ History Month

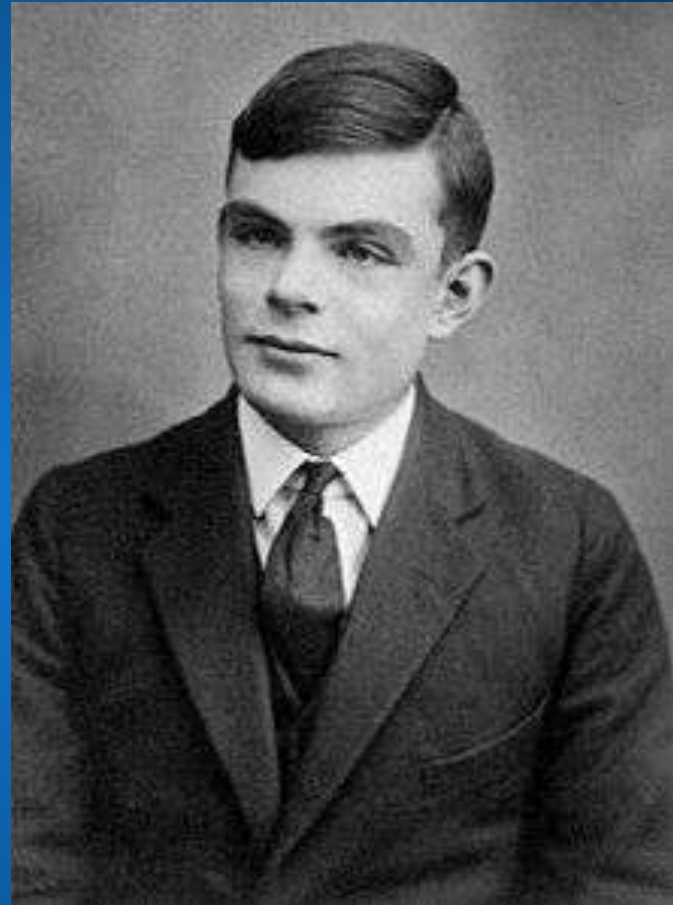
Alan Turing

“His genius embraced the first visions of modern computing and produced seminal insights into what became known as “artificial intelligence.” As one of the most influential code breakers of World War II, his cryptology yielded intelligence believed to have hastened the Allied victory.

But, at his death several years later, much of his secretive wartime accomplishments remained classified, far from public view in a nation seized by the security concerns of the Cold War....

On June 7, 1954, Alan Turing, a British mathematician who has since been acknowledged as one the most innovative and powerful thinkers of the 20th century — sometimes called the progenitor of modern computing — died as a criminal, having been convicted under Victorian laws as a homosexual and forced to endure chemical castration. Britain didn't take its first steps toward decriminalizing homosexuality until 1967.”

Cowell, Alan. “Overlooked No More: Alan Turing, Condemned Code Breaker and Computer Visionary.” *New York Times*. 5 June 2019.



LGBTQ History Month

Frank Kameny

During the “Red Scare” of the 1950s, Frank Kameny was fired from his job as an astronomer in the US Army’s Map Service for being gay. He became a gay rights activist, joining the Mattachine Society, and joined with the Daughters of Bilitis in an effort to overturn laws criminalizing homosexuality.



LGBTQ History Month

Marsha P Johnson

"How many years has it taken people to realize that we are all brothers and sisters and human beings in the human race?"



Sylvia Rivera

“Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002) was a Puerto Rican American transgender activist. Most commonly known as one of the inciters of the monumental Stonewall Riots in New York City, she was also a founding member of both the Gay Liberation Front and later the Gay Activists Alliance also in New York City. Along with her friend, Marsha Johnson, an African American trans woman activist, she also helped found STAR, a group dedicated to helping homeless trans youth. In addition to being one of the first trans youth shelters STAR was also one of the first political organizations for transgender rights in the world. Today the Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) is named in her honor. SRLP is a non-profit organization that engages in policy work and provides trainings and free legal services for transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming low-income people of color.”

<https://www.glsen.org/blog/womens-history-month-heroes-sylvia-rivera>



Urvashi Vaid

“Urvashi Vaid is an attorney and strategist who works in social justice movements.

Vaid is President of The Vaid Group LLC, a social innovation firm that works with global and domestic organizations to advance equity, justice and inclusion. Vaid is co-founder of the Donors of Color Network, the first cross-racial network connecting individuals of color to leverage their giving for racial equity; co-founder of the National LGBTQ Anti-Poverty Action Network, the National LGBT/HIV Criminal Justice Working Group, LPAC, the Equality Federation, the National Religious Leadership Roundtable, and the Creating Change Conference of the National LGBTQ Task Force, among other networks and projects.”

(https://urvashivaid.net/wp/?page_id=2)



“We call for the end of bigotry as we know it. The end of racism as we know it. The end of child abuse in the family as we know it. The end of sexism as we know it. The end of homophobia as we know it. We stand for freedom as we have yet to know it. And we will not be denied.”

Urvashi Vaid

Jamie Nabozny

As a gay high school student in Wisconsin in the early 1990s, Jamie was subjected to continual verbal and physical harassment, at one point being hospitalized and requiring surgery. When a school official told him he should expect that treatment if he was going to be openly gay, Jamie reached out to Lambda Legal and sued the district. In *Nabozny v Podlesny*, the federal appellate court stated that public schools have a Constitutional obligation to protect gay students from anti-gay abuse.

As an adult, Nabozny works on anti-bullying initiatives, and has spoken at both New Trier campuses in the past.



Edie Windsor

“Edith “Edie” Windsor was the lead plaintiff in the Supreme Court case *United States v. Windsor*, a landmark legal victory for marriage equality.

When Spyer was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, Windsor became her caregiver, eventually entering a domestic partnership with her in New York in 1993. Because the state did not yet offer same-sex marriage rights, the couple wed in Canada in 2007, two years before Spyer’s death.

The couple’s inability to legally marry prompted Windsor to publicly advocate for marriage equality and to take her case to court...

Although she and her partner were legally wed in Canada, the US Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) limited the federal definition of “spouse” to heterosexual unions only. In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled in Windsor’s favor, overturning Section 3 of DOMA and setting a precedent that laid the groundwork for national marriage equality.”

(LGBTHistoryMonth.com)



LGBTQ History Month

James Baldwin

James Baldwin was an essayist, playwright, novelist and voice of the American civil rights movement known for works including 'Notes of a Native Son,' 'The Fire Next Time' and 'Go Tell It on the Mountain.'

In 1954, Baldwin received a Guggenheim Fellowship. He published his next novel, *Giovanni's Room*, the following year. The work told the story of an American living in Paris and broke new ground for its complex depiction of homosexuality, a then-taboo subject.

From [biography.com](https://www.biography.com)



LGBTQ History Month

"Love takes off the masks we
fear we cannot live without
and know we cannot live
within."

- - James Baldwin_a

Harvey Milk

“Harvey Milk, was a visionary civil and human rights leader who became one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. Milk’s unprecedented loud and unapologetic proclamation of his authenticity as an openly gay candidate for public office, and his subsequent election gave never before experienced hope to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people everywhere at a time when the community was encountering widespread hostility and discrimination. His remarkable career was tragically cut short when he was assassinated nearly a year after taking office.”



**“We will not win our rights by
staying quietly in our
closets”**

- - *Harvey Milk*_{Ha}

Gavin Grimm

“In November 2014, Gavin Grimm, then a high school sophomore, approached the lectern at a meeting of the school board in Gloucester County, Virginia. Standing with his hands in his pockets, he explained that as a transgender teen, being forced to use bathrooms at school besides the one that matched his gender was “alienating” and “humiliating.”

“All I want to do is be a normal child and use the restroom in peace,” he said, noting that no students had given him trouble about this, only adults. “I’m just a human. I am just a boy.”

Seven years later, Grimm won. The US Supreme Court released an order on Monday rejecting a petition from the school board to hear the case after Grimm prevailed in the lower courts; the order leaves in place a federal appeals court decision last summer finding the school board violated his constitutional rights.”



LGBTQ History Month

Ifti Nasim

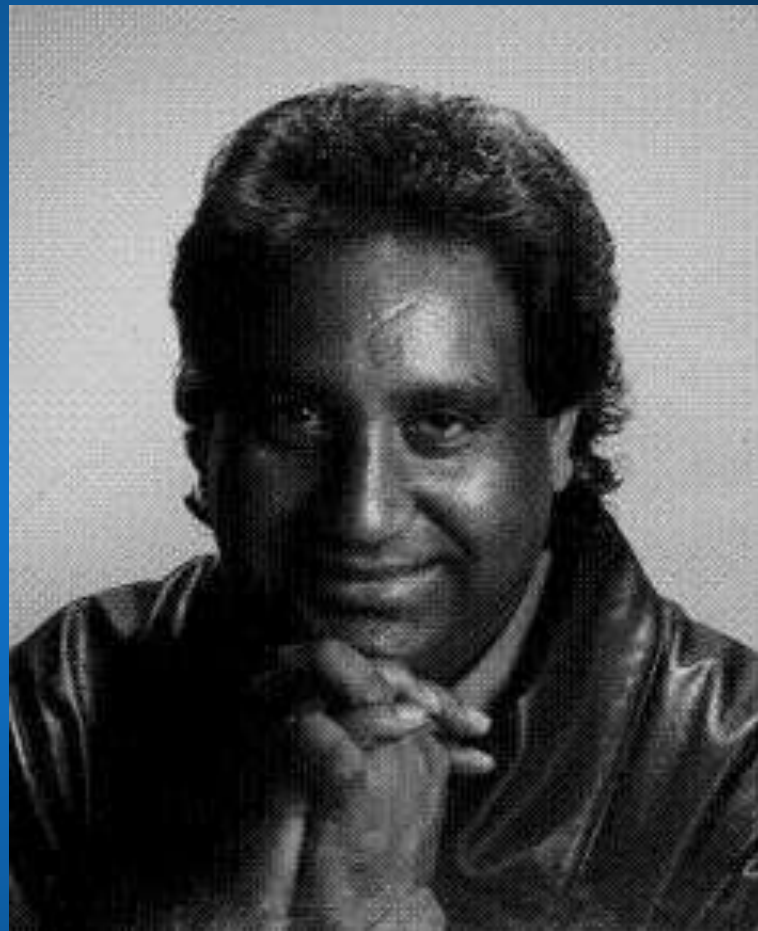
“Ifti Nasim was a gay Pakistani-American poet whose unique LGBT-themed collections, written in Urdu, were published internationally. He helped establish Sangat Chicago, an organization supporting South-Asian LGBT youth.

Nasim was born in Faisalabad, Pakistan. He was the middle child in a large, traditional Islamic family. Throughout his teens, Nasim experienced bullying, ostracization and loneliness as a gay youth. A passionate poet and an activist who opposed Pakistan’s martial law, Nasim was once shot in the leg during a protest.

...He spent most of his life in Chicago, Illinois, and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. Some of his siblings joined him in America.

In 1986, at the age of 40, Nasim helped found Sangat Chicago, an advocacy organization and support group for young people of South Asian origin. Sangat’s participants found solace connecting with one another and sharing experiences, particularly of being LGBT Muslims. Nasim also regularly hosted a weekly radio show and contributed to an American Pakistani newspaper.”

(LGBTHistoryMonth.com)



LGBTQ History Month

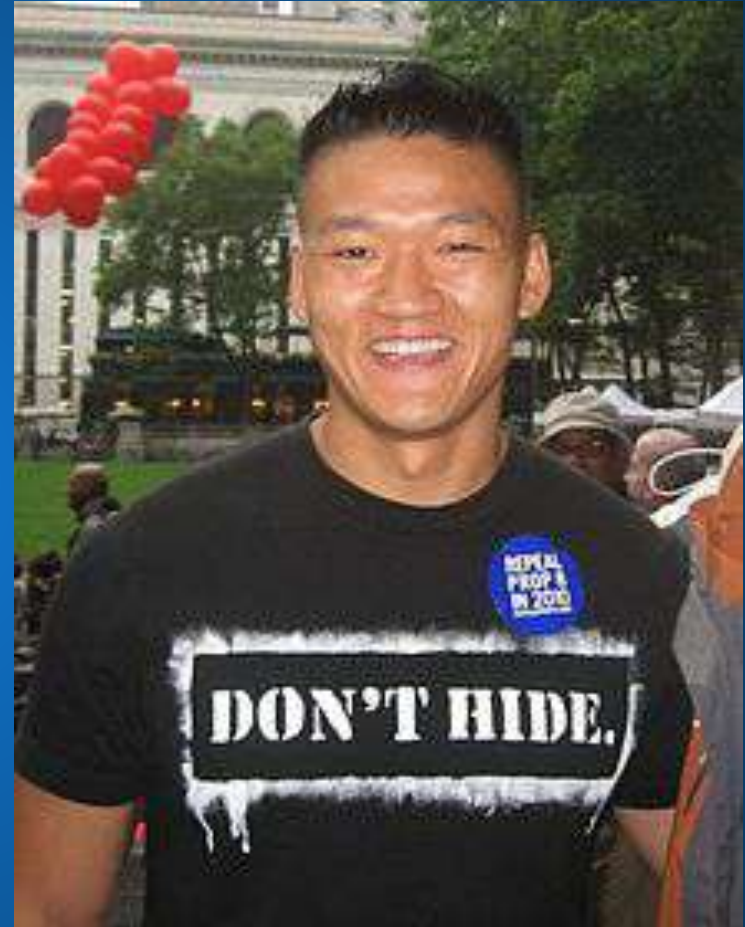
Dan Choi

"Lt. Dan Choi is a West Point graduate, Iraq War veteran and Arabic linguist. He was the nation's leading activist for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT)..."

After graduating from West Point with degrees in Arabic linguistics and environmental engineering, Choi served as an Army infantry officer in Iraq. In 2008 he transferred from active duty to the Army National Guard. That same year, Choi and a group of West Point alumni founded Knights Out, an organization supporting the rights of LGBT soldiers.

In 2009 Choi appeared on the "The Rachel Maddow Show" and said something that would change his life forever: "I am gay." Within a month, the U.S. Army notified him that he was being discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." When he received his discharge papers, Choi knew he had to fight back. He wrote an open letter asking President Obama to repeal the policy and reinstate him, calling his discharge "a slap in the face."

...{l}n 2010 Choi was invited to the White House to witness President Obama signing the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."...Choi resides in New York City and continues to advocate for LGBT civil rights and veterans' health benefits. He is a recipient of Equality Forum's 2011 International Role Model Award."



Stacyanne Chin



LGBTQ History Month

“Staceyann Chin is a spoken-word poet and performance artist dedicated to LGBT rights. She has been out since 1998, soon after co-writing and performing in the Tony-nominated Russell Simmons “Def Poetry Jam” on Broadway. She has also appeared in one-woman Off-Broadway shows and at the famed Nuyorican Poets Café. Her work has been featured in more than 21 publications, including *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Born in Jamaica, Chin is of Chinese- and African-Jamaican descent, a subject she has written about often. She appeared on the “Oprah Winfrey Show” to discuss what it was like growing up gay in Jamaica.”

(LGTBHistoryMonth.com)



***“I want to erase the lines so
I can be me.”***

- Stacyanne Chin

X González

A survivor of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School in Parkland, Florida, in 2018, X immediately became an activist for gun control, helping to lead the March for Our Lives. X identifies as bisexual and uses they/them pronouns.



LGBTQ History Month

RuPaul

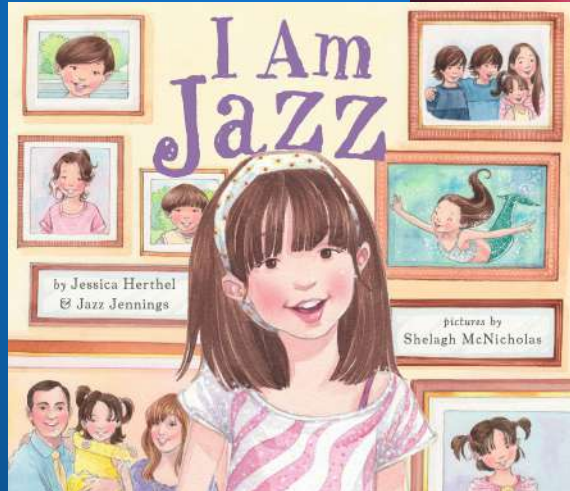
RuPaul Andre Charles, known as RuPaul, is an American drag queen, actor, model, singer, television personality, and author. Since 2009, he has produced and hosted the reality competition series *RuPaul's Drag Race*, for which he has received eleven Primetime Emmy Awards, *the most-awarded person of color in Emmy's history*.



Jazz Jennings

Jazz Jennings is an American YouTube personality, spokesmodel, television personality, author, and LGBT rights activist.

In 2013, Jazz co-authored the book “I Am Jazz” detailing her life as a transgender child.

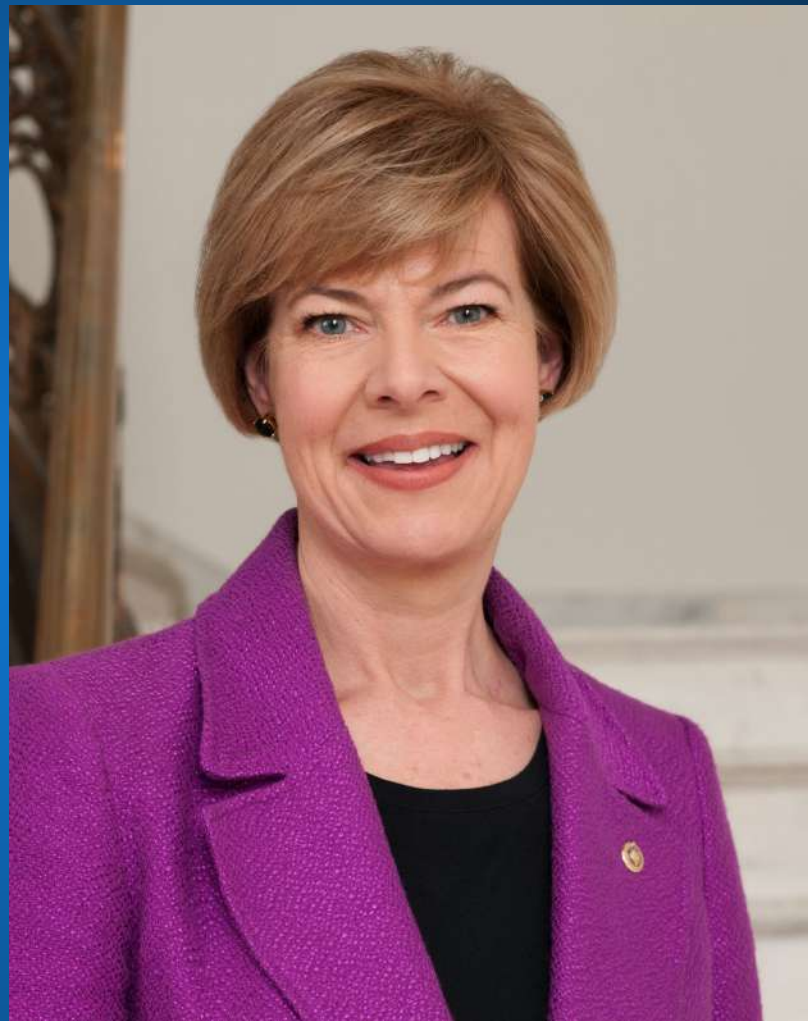


LGBTQ History Month

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin, US Senator from the State of Wisconsin, became the first openly LGTB woman elected to the US House of Representatives in 1999, and the first openly LGBT woman elected to the US Senate in 2013.

“There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it’s now okay to express ourselves publicly. We make that day by doing things publicly until it’s simply the way things are.”



Larry Kramer

In the early 1980s, Larry was among the first people to foresee what would develop into the AIDS crisis. He was a founding member of the Gay Men's Health Crisis and Act Up (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), an organization whose street actions demanded a speedup in AIDS drugs research and brought awareness to the discrimination faced by gay and lesbian community.

An author, essayist and playwright, Larry Kramer was hailed for his autobiographical 1985 play "The Normal Heart".



He was once described as: ***“One of America’s most valuable troublemakers”***

(<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/27/us/larry-kramer-dead.html>)



LGBTQ History Month