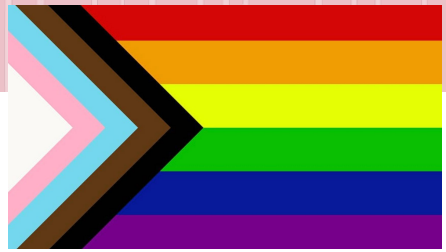


History of the LGBT Community

Juniper Washington

She/Her/Hers

The extent of our history

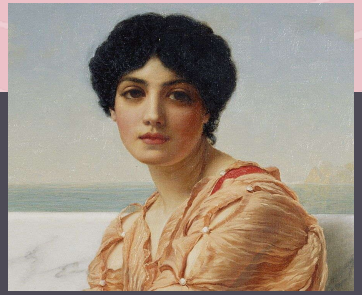
LGBTQ HISTORY IS ANCIENT

From ancient Sumer, to Rome, China, and the medieval ages, evidence of queer identities have always been around in spite of opposition and hardship

SO TOO ARE THE VIEWS TOWARDS IT

State-sanctioned illegality of queer identities have also been prevalent in some cultures

Being gay or trans is normal or valued in some other places



Sappho and the Difference Between Then and Now

Queer History from Straight Historians

- Assuming the identity of ancient persons is presumptuous at best
- Until recently there was no “gay”
- Denial of a clear conclusion is just as offensive, however

Reading in between the lines is a vital tool in identifying long-lost LGBT influence

“Sweet mother, I can’t do my weaving; Aphrodite has overcome me with desire for a tender youth.”

Sappho

The Rainbow Spotlight of the 20th Century

Conflict Set the Stage for a Queer Show

Identity Politics

The conflicts of the 19th and 20th centuries were all about people; the American Civil War, the World Wars, the Vietnam War

Liberty for All

Minorities and oppressed groups saw the way wars were fought over ideology and people-groups and jumped at the opportunity to pursue their own rights

In two or three columns

Post-WWII

Alongside the communists came the gays and the lesbians as well as every other non-straight, white, cis male group of America. And just with the communists, in a time of fear, LGBTQ+ people were rooted out of their occupations and homes.

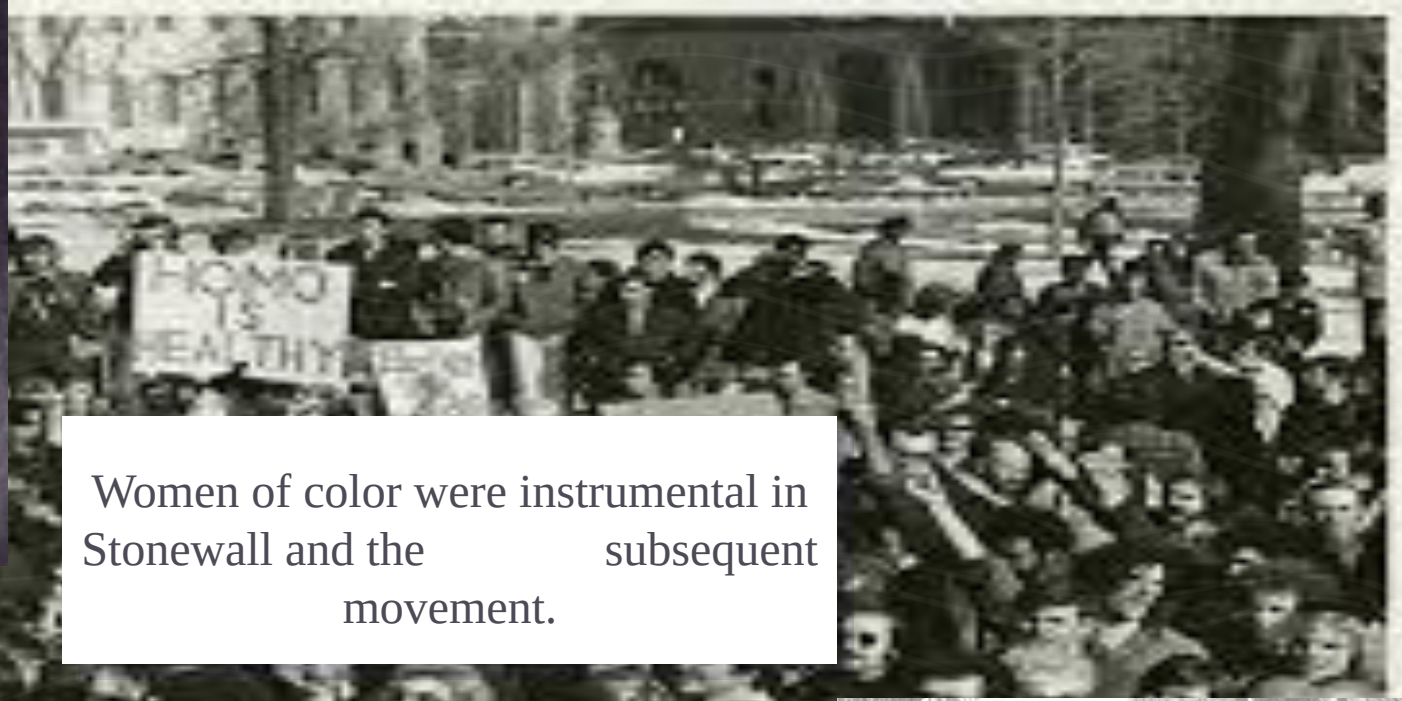
The 60s

The tumultuous 60s saw the rise of many black and LGBTQ+ organizations and protests; the two issues were and are inseparable.

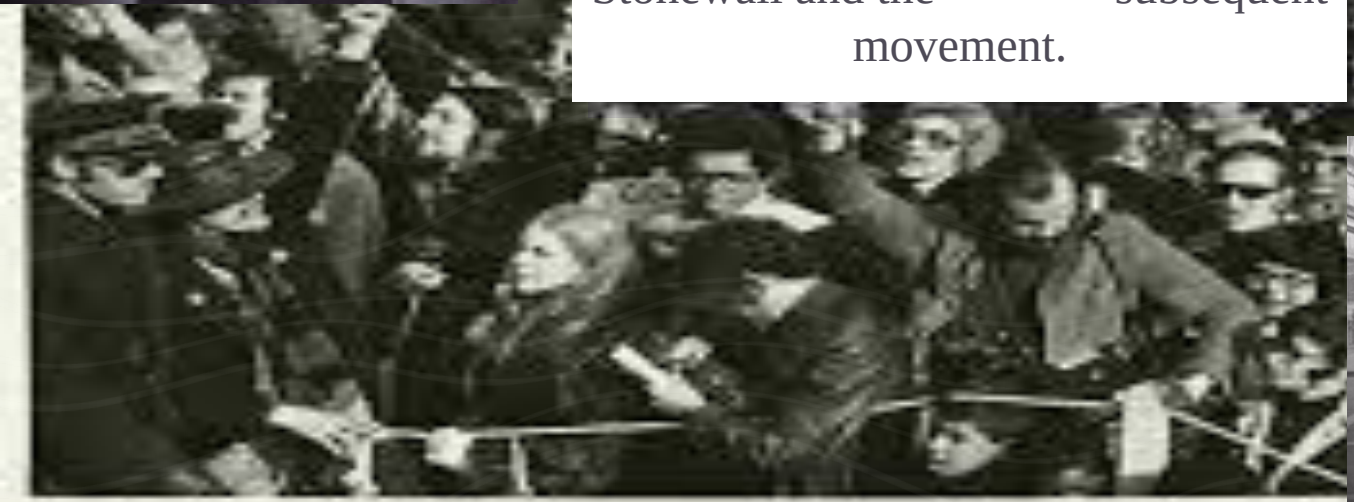
The Stonewall Uprising

Hundreds of regular people rioted after Stonewall's police raid

Not only was it not just gay white men, but people of every race and identity, a fact that can't be rightfully overlooked.



Women of color were instrumental in Stonewall and the subsequent movement.



"History isn't something ... inevitable, it happens because people make decisions that are sometimes very impulsive and of the moment, but those moments are cumulative realities."

Marsha P. Johnson

Another Millennium, Same Struggles, New Triumphs

Accomplishments and Further Challenges

2003

Being gay is no longer illegal across the country.

2009

It becomes illegal to assault someone based on sexual or gender identity.

2015

Same-sex marriage is legal across the entire country.

2017

Trans people are banned from enlisting in the military.

2019

Dozens of queer people are threatened, attacked, and murdered.

2020

Bills are proposed during the pandemic attacking trans and intersex athletes.

The Increasingly Positive Side of Things

- Unprecedented *legal* victories for the community
- Queer people of multiple ethnicities are gaining traction in politics
- Pride parades and public support show just how many allies and LGBTQ people there really are

14,850,100

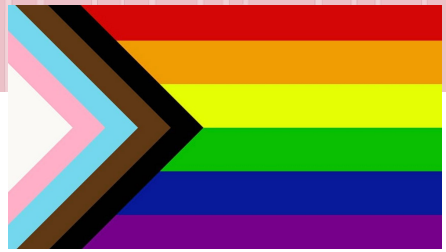
Queer adult Americans (4.5% of the population)

2 NYCs

OR

20 Seattles

Just in the U.S. alone!



I'm proud of such diverse history, and even prouder to contribute to it.

Thank you!