

## 1920's

*Richard and Jordan are born*

\*U.S. Navy uses sailors to identify and, at times, seduce gay men in order to report their names to authorities. The scandal is the first time gay rights and governmental persecution of LGBT people becomes a public issue.

\*The African-American organized Hamilton Lodge Ball of Harlem attracts thousands of cross-dressing men and women and spectators from all over the nation, marking the emergence of the social category, "homosexual."

\*Police raid the many gay bars and restaurants in New York and other large cities. This marks the beginning of decades of police violence and harassment against LGBT people.

\* "Gay" starts being used for homosexuals.

## LGBT Historical Timeline 3 pages

Adapted from work by Cook-Daniels, FORGE Transgender Aging Network, Milwaukee, WI.  
[www.forge-forward.org/Tan](http://www.forge-forward.org/Tan)

## 1930's

*Saul is born.*

\*Hitler bans gay and lesbian groups from forming in Germany, beginning years of persecution of LGBT people under his rule.

\*LGBT people become targets of violence and fear after new U.S. sex crime laws include homosexuality among a list of broader violent crimes, such as rape and child molestation.

\*Electric shock therapy is reported as a treatment for homosexuality at an American Psychological Association meeting.

\*Gay men are forced to wear a pink triangle in Nazi concentration camps. This is the first use of the pink triangle as a symbol for LGBT.

## 1940's

*Marge and Adela are born.*

\*It is revealed that 10,000-15,000 LGBT people were killed in Nazi concentration camps.

\*First use of "Transsexuality" to reference homosexuality and bisexuality.

\*U.S. military bars gays and lesbians from serving. LGBT people currently serving are committed to military hospitals, examined by psychiatrists, and discharged.

\*First known female-to-male sex change surgery is performed in Britain

\*The *Kinsey Report* describes sexuality as existing on a scale and reports that homosexuality is more widespread than previously assumed.

## 1950's

*Paula is born.*  
*Luis is born.*

\* President Eisenhower calls for the dismissal of homosexuals from government service.

\*American Psychiatric Association includes homosexuality in its first official list of mental disorders.

\*Christine Jorgensen becomes the first widely-publicized person to undergo sex reassignment surgery, in this case, male to female. She creates a world-wide sensation.

\*Immigrants are banned from U.S. if they have "psychopathic personality," including homosexuality.

## 1960's

- \*First openly gay person, José Sarria, runs for U.S. public office.
- \*Transgender public uprising at Compton's Cafeteria in San Francisco results in first network of support services for transgender people.
- \*Three days of rioting between patrons and police at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, NYC marks the unofficial beginning of the gay civil rights movement.
- \*National Organization for Women's president refers to the growing lesbian visibility within the organization as a "lavender menace" and seeks to exclude lesbians.
- \*Castro, Cuba's new leader, starts a campaign to rid Cuba of LGBT people. They are frequently imprisoned without charge or trial, and confined in forced labor camps.

## 1970's

- \*The first Gay Pride marches take place in honor of Stonewall.
- \*U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear the case of a teacher fired for lesbianism, making it legal to fire teachers for being LGBT.
- \*The American Psychiatric Association declares that homosexuality is not a psychiatric disorder, ending years of medically-sanctioned institutionalization of LGB people.
- \*80% of surveyed Oregon doctors say they would refuse to treat a known homosexual.
- \*Barbara Jordan becomes the South's first black congresswoman. A lesbian, she is closeted and refuses to support gay legislation.
- \*Lesbian and Gay Asian Alliance founded.

## 1980's

- \*The first reported cases of the disease now known as AIDS are announced.
- \*Rock Hudson, Hollywood actor, admits he is dying of AIDS, bringing widespread public attention to the epidemic.
- \*The National Latino/a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization (LLEGÓ) is founded.
- \*Tennis pro Martina Navratilova's female lover publicly sits in her "box" at Wimbledon and the French Open.
- \*Berkeley (CA) becomes first U.S. city to extend domestic partnership benefits to lesbian and gay employees.
- \*Supreme Court rules that the Constitution allows states to pass and enforce sodomy laws targeting homosexuals.

## 1990's

- \*Drug therapies shown to be effective in treating HIV.
- \*Policies restricting immigration of lesbians and gays into the U.S. end. Immigration restrictions on people with HIV and AIDS remain in place.
- \*First black Lesbian and Gay Pride celebration is held in Washington, D.C.
- \*Congress passes Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), forbidding federal recognition of state-approved same-sex marriages and access to the 1,138 benefits, rights and privileges recognized for opposite-sex marriages.
- \*U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy becomes law. It states that intent to engage in homosexual acts is an unacceptable risk and grounds for discharge.
- \*Ellen DeGeneres comes out on TV.
- \*Matthew Shepard, a gay student, is tortured, beaten severely, tied to a fence, and abandoned. He later dies.
- \*Brandon Teena, a transgender man, is raped and killed when his birth gender was revealed by police to male friends. The events are depicted in the movie *Boys Don't Cry*.

## 2000's

\*U.S. House of Representatives votes to extend federal laws to include attacks based on a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity as "hate crimes."

\*The National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), a civil rights organization dedicated to empowering Black (LGBT) people, is formed.

\*Vermont is first state to offer civil unions to same-sex couples, granting them the same state rights as heterosexual couples.

\*Massachusetts Supreme Court rules it is unconstitutional to deny marriage to gay and lesbian couples and becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> state to allow same-sex marriages.

\*United Kingdom allows transgender people to change their gender on their birth certificates.

\*Gene Robinson becomes the first openly gay Bishop in the Episcopal Church.

\*Two gay male teenagers are executed by the government in Iran.

## 2010's

\*National Resource Center on LGBT Aging launched.

\*The Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" allows LGB members to serve in the U.S. military while being open about their sexual orientation. Transgender people are still barred from serving.

\**It Gets Better* campaign starts in response to the suicide of Billy Lucas and a number of other teenagers who were bullied because they were gay or because their peers suspected that they were gay. Its goal is to prevent suicide among LGBT youth by having adults convey the message that the teens' lives will improve.

\*??? – The future is up to you!

**Based on when your person was born, explore how old they were when events happened over the decades of the LGBT Timeline.**

1. How do you see the historical events possibly impacting them and shaping who they are?
2. What challenges might they experience if they wanted to use or are currently using services at your organization?
3. If you were in their shoes, what would you need to feel supported, safe, and accepted in your organization?

