

Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Re-Learning Consent from Our ForeQueers Timeline

1917: Individuals considered to be “psychopathically inferior,” including LGBT people, are banned from entering the US.

1921: US Naval report on entrapment of “perverts” within its ranks. In 1943, the US military officially bans gays and lesbians from serving in the Armed Forces.

1924: The Society for Human Rights, an American homosexual rights organization founded by Henry Gerber, is established in Chicago. It is the first recognized gay rights organization in the US. A few months after being chartered, the group ceased to exist in the wake of the arrest of several of the Society's members.

1935: “Successful” electric shock therapy treatment of homosexuality is reported at American Psychological Association meeting.

1950: The Mattachine Society, founded by Harry Hay and a group of Los Angeles male friends, is formed to protect and improve the rights of homosexuals.

1955: The Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the first lesbian rights organization in the US, forms in San Francisco. It is conceived as a social alternative to lesbian bars, which were considered illegal and thus subject to raids and police harassment. It lasted for fourteen years and became a tool of education for lesbians, gay men, researchers, and mental health professionals. As the DOB gained members, their focus shifted to providing support to women who were afraid to come out, by educating them about their rights and gay history.

1963: Gay man, African-American civil rights and nonviolent movement leader Bayard Rustin is the chief organizer of the March on Washington. Rustin is required to play a behind the scenes role because he was gay and was eventually pushed out of visible leadership in the Civil Rights Movement.

1965: Dewey's Lunch Counter was a popular downtown hangout spot for African-American LGBT people in Philadelphia. Citing the claim that gay customers were driving away other business, Dewey's began refusing to serve young patrons dressed in “non-conformist clothing.” On April 25,

more than 150 youth dressed in "non-conformist clothing" protest at Dewey's and are turned away by personnel. During the next week, members of the Philadelphia African-American LGBT community and Dewey's patrons set up an informational picket line outside the establishment, decrying the treatment of the transgender youth. On May 2, another sit-in is staged. Dewey's management backed down and promised "an immediate cessation of all indiscriminate denials of service."

1969: The Stonewall Riots occur in New York City. Sparked by Sylvia Rivera, a Puerto Rican drag queen and transgender activist, queer and transgender people fought against the police during a raid on the Stonewall bar. This marked a new phase in the LGBT liberation movement.

1969: The Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) is founded in New York City on December 21, 1969, after the Stonewall riots, by dissident members of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF). Some early members include Jim Owles, Marty Robinson, Kay Lahusen, Arthur Bell, Arthur Evans, Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Johnson, Jim Coles and Brenda Howard. The group wanted to form a "single-issue," politically neutral group with the goal to "secure basic human rights, dignity and freedom for all gay people."

1970: Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson, found Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) in New York City. The group was formed as a result of gay activist groups' failure to include transgender rights in their actions. The members of STAR fought for the civil rights of transgendered people, as well as provided them with social services support. Rivera and Johnson also created S.T.A.R. House in the East Village, which provided housing and services for homeless trans youth.

Between 1970 and 1989: More than twenty states repeal their anti-sodomy laws.

1973: The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. The same year, "ego-dystonic homosexuality" which many considered to be simply a new name to house the same prejudice, is added to the list. Finally in 1986, the diagnosis was removed entirely.

1974: Elaine Noble becomes the first openly gay person elected to state office in the United States, when she wins a seat in the Massachusetts state legislature.

1974: Reverend Delores Jackson co-founds Salsa Soul Sisters in New York

City. It is the first organization for out women of color in New York City. Salsa Soul Sisters is later renamed African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change.

1975: Society of Janus, a mixed gender SM support and social group, is founded by Cynthia Slater. This group still exists.

1976: Cardea was formed as part of an outreach effort by Janus to attract more women. The original intention was for Cardea to be a women's "rap group" and an entry way to Janus. After the group disbands a core group of members form Samois.

1978-1979: The beginning of the "Lesbian Sex Wars," the feminist anti-porn movement vs. SM women. Many feminists of the anti-porn movement worked to keep SM Lesbians out of feminist bookstores, conferences and meeting places, including the Women's Building in San Francisco. Some lesbian feminists viewed BDSM as violence and battery against women, the result of unresolved sexual abuse issues, a disease, and even rape.

1978: Gay activist Harvey Milk is elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Milk was the lead sponsor of a successful ordinance that outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation, one of the first and most encompassing in the nation. Ten months after taking office, he and Mayor George Mascone are murdered in City Hall.

1978: Samois is founded by members of Cardea and defines itself as "a lesbian feminist s/m organization."

1979: The Spiritual Conference for Radical Faeries is organized by Harry Hay and his lover John Burnside, along with Los Angeles activist Don Kilhefner and Jungian therapist Mitch Walker. After the conference, Radical Faeries continues as a movement, a loosely affiliated worldwide network of people seeking to reject "hetero-imitation" and redefine queer identity through spirituality. The movement has expanded in tandem with the larger gay rights movement, challenging commercialization and patriarchal aspects of modern LGBT life while celebrating pagan constructs and rituals. Faeries tend to be fiercely independent, anti-establishment, and community-focused.

1979: The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a small group of gay men in San Francisco begin wearing the attire of nuns in visible situations using high camp to draw attention to social conflicts and problems in the Castro District. Since then, the Sisters have grown throughout the US and are

currently organized as an international network of orders, which are mostly non-profit charity organizations that raise money for AIDS, LGBT-related causes, and mainstream community service organizations, while promoting safer sex and educating others about the harmful effects of drug use and other risky behaviors.

1979: The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was a large political rally that took place in Washington D.C. on October 14, 1979. The first such march on Washington, it drew 100,000 gay men and lesbians to demand equal civil rights.

1979: Lesbian and Gay Asian Alliance is founded in part to address the impact of racism on gay and lesbian Asian Pacific American communities.

1980: "Gender Identity Disorder" is added to the list of mental illnesses.

1980: The National Organization of Women passed a resolution condemning S/M.

1982: "Gay cancer" rumors create fear and prejudice. Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Registered Nurses, Sister Florence Nightmare and Sister Roz Ereption, join with a team of Sisters and medical professionals to create *Play Fair!*, the first safer sex pamphlet to use plain sex-positive language, practical advice, and humor.

1983: Researchers discover the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

1983: David Stein of Gay Male S/M Activists (GMSMA) first uses the phrase "Safe, Sane and Consensual" as a part of the organization's statement of identity and purpose in the Annual Report of the GMSMA.

1984: The Outcasts are founded in San Francisco. The group calls for all the "faggot-identified dykes, bisexuals, transsexuals and other weirdos and perverts who wanted a more inclusively defined organization to gather together." In 1985, they began promoting safer sex.

1987: National Latino(a) Lesbian and Gay Activists is created, later renamed Latino(a) Lesbian and Gay Organization (LLEGO).

1988: The Minneapolis Native American community hosts the first Two Spirit Gathering. Since then, over 300 people have attended the gathering in locales including Montreal, Quebec; Vancouver, British Columbia; Kansas

City, Kansas; Eugene, Oregon; Tucson, Arizona; San Jose, California; and Butte, Montana.

1990: Policies restricting immigration of lesbian and gay individuals to the US are rescinded.

1990: The Americans with Disabilities Act passes banning discrimination based on dis/ability. After a long history of discrimination and exclusion under broader immigration policies, this established equal opportunity for employment, transportation, telecommunications, public accommodations and the state and federal government's services. As part of the ADA exclusion clause, transgender individuals are not included in the non-discrimination policy.

1991: Sister of Perpetual Indulgence, Sister Roma!, introduces her STOP the Violence Campaign in reaction to the rise of violence in the streets, especially hate crimes. A window placard system is devised to mark safe homes to run to in the instance of an attack or the threat of an attack. The Order distributed window signs and whistles in the various neighborhoods and districts of San Francisco as well as on college campuses.

1997: The Exiles began taking applications for membership. The club defines itself as a social and educational group open to "all women who are over 18 years of age, and who have a personal and positive interest in S/M play or fantasy with other women. The Exiles currently have about 200 members. Their history is archived at the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago.

1999: The Sisters hostess several benefits at the Power Exchange sex club and Castlebar S&M space raising sex positive spirits and lots of needed money for local charities.

1998: Matthew Shepard is brutally murdered—beaten and left tied to a fence for 18 hours—outside of Laramie, Wyoming. Nationwide vigils and demonstrations ensue.

2002: The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP), a legal aid organization based in New York City that serves transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming people, is formed by attorney and transgender civil rights activist, Dean Spade. SRLP works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence.

2003: Lawrence v. Texas: Tyron Garner and John Geddes Lawrence were having consensual sex in Lawrence's apartment in Houston, TX, when the police raided their home based on a false report and arrested them for violating anti-sodomy laws. The US Supreme Court strikes down the Texas anti-sodomy law, invalidating sodomy laws in the remaining thirteen states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

2004: Conservatives use same-sex marriage ballot measures to galvanize their conservative base and get them to the polls for the November 2004 election. Same-sex marriage bans pass in all eleven states that voted on the measure: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah. Louisiana and Missouri pass similar amendments earlier in the year.

2005: A Florida custody battle between Linda Kantaras and her transgender husband, Michael, results in a decision granting Michael custody. The case is likely to set a precedent for future cases that deal with defining marriages and the parental rights for transgender individuals.

2007: Denise Simmons becomes the nation's first openly lesbian African-American mayor when she is elected in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Simmons was elected to the Cambridge City Council in 2002.

2008: Angie Zapata, a transwoman, is beaten to death in Greeley, Colorado. Allen Andrade was convicted of first-degree murder and committing a bias-motivated crime, because he killed her after he learned that she was transgender. The case was the first in the nation to get a conviction for a hate crime involving a transgender victim.

2009: President Obama signs into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crime Prevention Act, which strengthens existing US laws by extending federal hate crime protection to cases where the victim was targeted because of their sexual orientation, gender, disability or gender identity. Federal hate crimes legislation initially passed in 1994 and increased sentencing penalties for crimes committed on the basis of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity or sex of any person.

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