

AUDRE LORDE

b. February 18, 1934 – d. November 17, 1992

*“When I dare to be powerful, to use
my strength in the service of my
vision, then it becomes less and less
important whether I am afraid.”*

A self-proclaimed “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet,” Audre Lorde dedicated her life to combating social injustice. She helped found Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, the world’s first publishing company run by women of color.

Lorde was the third daughter of immigrant parents from Grenada. She began writing poetry at age 12 and published her first poem in Seventeen magazine at age 15. Lorde was strongly influenced by her West Indian heritage, which she explored in her autobiography, “Zami: A New Spelling of My Name.”

In 1954, Lorde attended the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), where she solidified her identity as both a poet and a lesbian. She entered the Greenwich Village gay scene after her return to New York in 1955. She continued her studies, receiving a bachelor’s degree from Hunter College in 1959 and a master’s degree in Library Science from Columbia University in 1961.

Lorde worked as a librarian while continuing to write and publish poetry. In 1962, she married Edwin Rollins. The couple had two children before their marriage dissolved. Much of Lorde’s poetry written during these years explores themes of motherhood and love’s impermanence.

In 1968, Lorde received a National Endowment for the Arts grant and published her first volume of poetry, “The First Cities,” as a poet-in-residence at Tougaloo College in Mississippi. That same year, she began a romantic relationship with Frances Clayton that lasted until Lorde’s death in 1992.

Rich with introspection, Lorde’s work contains extensive sociopolitical commentary. As a lesbian woman of color, Lorde asserts, “I have a duty to speak the truth as I see it and to share not just my triumphs, not just the things that felt good, but the pain, the intense, often unmitigating pain.”

Lorde explored her long battle with cancer in her last work, “The Cancer Journals” (1980). In an African naming ceremony shortly before her death, Lorde took the name Gamba Adisa (Warrior: She Who Makes Her Meaning Known).

**Audre Lorde confronted racism, sexism
and homophobia with a direct and
unrestricted literary voice.**

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ALEXANDER THE GREAT

b. July 20, 356 B.C.E – d. June 10, 323 B.C.E

“There is nothing impossible to him who will try.”

At age 16, Alexander became a regent when his father, Philip the King of Macedon, was commanding his army in war. Alexander inherited the throne of Macedon and Greece at age 20. Beginning with no money and a small army, he conquered much of the known world and accumulated one of the world's largest treasuries. He captured the Persian Empire, which stretched across Asia Minor, the Middle East, Mesopotamia, Egypt and modern-day Iran. After pushing all the way to India, he finally turned back, his men tired and his empire starting to weaken.

From an early age, Alexander showed great potential. He learned politics and warfare from his father, philosophy, ethics, politics and healing from Aristotle; and the importance of an ascetic lifestyle from Leonidis. Alexander became a brilliant ruler and a formidable military leader beloved by his soldiers.

Alexander and Aristotle experienced a falling out over the issue of foreigners. Like many other people at the time, Aristotle considered most foreigners barbarians. Alexander hoped to incorporate outsiders into his empire. His progressive method of appointing foreigners to army posts and encouraging native troops to marry foreigners helped create stability in his kingdom. Citizens welcomed Alexander as a liberator when he conquered Egypt in 332 B.C.E.

Although Alexander married women and conceived children with them, he also had male sex partners, including a eunuch named Bagoas. Alexander and his closest friend, Hephaestion, spent considerable time together. Scholars assume that their love was sexual. Although homosexuality was common in Greece,

same-sex relationships occurred mostly between men and slaves or men and younger boys who were not yet citizens. Love between two males of similar age and social class was stigmatized and may have jeopardized Alexander and Hephaestion's status had its true nature been public.

After halting his conquests and returning from the Punjab to Babylon, Alexander died at age 32. He never lost a battle. He created a colossal empire; he was revered by his army; and he controlled one of the world's largest treasuries.

Alexander the Great was among the world's preeminent military leaders. Before his death at age 32, he built an empire that spanned three continents.

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ANNIE LEIBOVITZ

b. October 2, 1949

“A thing that you see in my pictures is that I was not afraid to fall in love with these people.”

A master chronicler of popular culture for over 25 years, Annie Leibovitz earned international acclaim as the chief photographer for Rolling Stone magazine and quickly became a highly sought-after portrait photographer.

Born Anna-Lou Leibovitz in Westbury, Connecticut, she moved frequently as the child of an Air Force Lieutenant. Leibovitz's early interests included music and painting. She did not discover her lifelong passion for photography until college.

Leibovitz began her first assignment with Rolling Stone in 1970, shortly before graduating from college. In addition to Rolling Stone, Leibovitz's work has been featured in The New York Times Magazine, Life, Time, Esquire, Vogue and Vanity Fair. In 1991, she became the first woman to exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Breaking all rules of traditional portrait photography, Leibovitz moves beyond the face to capture the subject's whole character. Her provocative poses reveal a level of intimacy unseen in conventional portraits. Leibovitz's most notable photograph of John Lennon lying naked with Yoko Ono demonstrates this unique style. During her career, Leibovitz has photographed more celebrities than any other photographer.

In a 2004 interview with Newsweek, Leibovitz first disclosed her 15-year romantic relationship with writer and critic Susan Sontag. Though the couple never lived together, their apartments were in view of each other. Intimate photos of Sontag, including those taken during her losing battle with cancer, are revealed in Leibovitz's book "A Photographer's Life: 1990–2005."

In 2001, at the age of 52, Leibovitz gave birth to her first child, Sarah Leibovitz. Her twins, Susan (named after Sontag) and Samuel, were born to a surrogate mother in 2005. She continues to capture the human spirit through her intimate and poignant portraits.

A preeminent photographer, Annie Leibovitz's unique and unconventional celebrity photos are featured in major publications around the world.

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BESSIE SMITH

b. unknown – d. September 26, 1937

*“It’s a long old road, but I know
I’m gonna find the end.”*

Details of Bessie Smith’s childhood, including the year of her birth, vary. Both of Smith’s parents died before her 9th birthday. As a child, she and her brother performed as a musical duo on the streets of Chattanooga, Tennessee, to support themselves.

In 1912, Smith joined a traveling troupe. While with the troupe, she met Blues singer Ma Rainey, who became Smith’s friend and mentor. Smith’s extraordinary talent as a blues singer, coupled with her vivacious personality, quickly landed her a solo act in Atlanta, Georgia. She entered the Eastern Seaboard vaudeville circuit and over the next 10 years her popularity soared.

Columbia Records signed her in 1923, and she quickly became the highest paid African-American entertainer of her time. She earned up to \$2,000 per week during the height of her career. Her successful first recording, “Down-Hearted Blues,” catapulted her to national success.

Smith toured the country and recorded over 160 songs accompanied by some of the greatest jazz instrumentalists of her time, including Louis Armstrong. From slow blues to jazz standards, Bessie Smith consistently produced original work with her broad range and versatility. Columbia Records upgraded her unrivaled status as “Queen of the Blues” to “Empress of the Blues.”

Five years after signing with Columbia Records, Smith’s career began to decline during the Great Depression. She made her last recording, featuring Benny Goodman, in 1933. Although she never received the same level of acclaim bestowed on her during her early career, Bessie Smith continued to perform in clubs until her death. She died shortly after a car accident in 1937.

**Known as the “Empress of the Blues,”
Bessie Smith adorned the Harlem
Renaissance with her penetrating,
soulful voice.**



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ANGELA DAVIS

b. January 26, 1944

“Revolution is a serious thing, the most serious thing about a revolutionary’s life. When one commits oneself to the struggle, it must be for a lifetime.”

A revolutionary of unequivocal prowess, Angela Davis has devoted her life to combating racism and sexism. Despite acrimonious attempts by the U.S. government to suppress her political influence, Davis has never wavered in her commitment to global social justice.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1944, Davis grew up under the oppression of Jim Crow laws. Her family lived in an integrated neighborhood plagued by racial conflict. Bombings by the Ku Klux Klan were so common that the neighborhood was called “Dynamite Hill.” From an early age, Davis encountered political activism. Her mother was a civil rights campaigner and a member of the NAACP.

Davis was a precocious child who possessed an acute awareness of her social status as an African-American female. By the age of 14, she had aligned herself with socialist and communist politics, joining the communist youth organization, Advance.

In 1962, Davis landed a full scholarship to Brandeis University, where she studied French and philosophy. In 1969, after receiving her master’s degree from the University of California, San Diego, and Ph.D. in Philosophy from Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany, Davis began teaching at the University of California, Los Angeles. UCLA terminated her based on her involvement in the Communist Party USA. The university eventually reinstated her professorship following enormous pressure from national and international supporters.

In 1970, Davis was charged with conspiracy, kidnapping and homicide after a shotgun registered in her name was used in a courthouse hostage shooting linked to the Black Panther Party. Fearing for her life, Davis went underground, becoming the third woman on the FBI’s Most Wanted List. The Bureau eventually captured her. She was brought to trial in one of the most publicized criminal hearings of the century. In 1972, an all-white jury found Davis not guilty on all charges.

Davis writes and lectures on gender and racial issues and remains on the faculty at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is a cofounder of Critical Resistance, a national grassroots organization addressing reform of the “prison-industrial complex.”

Former member of the Black Panther Party and The Communist Party USA, Angela Davis is a bold and fearless crusader of racial and gender equality.



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BILLIE JEAN KING

b. November 22, 1943

"I think self-awareness is probably the most important thing towards being a champion."

For her contributions to the advancement of women's sports, Life magazine named Billie Jean King one of the "100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century." A tennis champion and advocate for gender equality in sports, King has become an icon and a legend.

Despite her mother's attempts to steer her toward more feminine pursuits, King demonstrated exceptional aptitude in sports at a young age. She purchased her first tennis racket at the age of 12. Of her first tennis lesson she recalls, "I knew I'd found what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

In 1961, at age 17, King won her first grand slam title at Wimbledon in the women's doubles tournament. She became known for her aggressive style and personality. In 1966, she won her first of 12 Grand Slam singles titles.

An outspoken advocate against sexism in sports, King hoped to use sports for social change. She campaigned for equal prize awards for male and female tennis players after receiving \$15,000 less in prize money than her male counterpart in the 1972 U.S. Open. King threatened to boycott the 1973 tournament. The following year, the U.S. Open became the first major tournament to award equal prize money to male and female champions.

In 1973, King became the first woman to defeat a former male Wimbledon champion in "The Battle of the Sexes." The Women's Tennis Association named King its first president that same year. In 1974, King cofounded WomenSports Magazine and began the Women's Sports Foundation.

King struggled to come to terms with her sexuality. During her 22-year marriage, she had an intimate affair with her assistant, Marilyn Barnett. Pressured by the threat of losing her career, King remained in the closet until 1981 when Barnett sued her for palimony. Though King won the lawsuit, the court battle left her financially and emotionally drained. Despite calling the affair a "mistake," King lost almost all of her commercial sponsors.

King publicly came out in 1988. Since then, she has helped further the visibility and inclusion of the GLBT community. She currently serves on the board of the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the National AIDS Fund.



Considered one of the greatest female athletes, Billie Jean King has won 12 Grand Slam singles titles.

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CARY GRANT

b. January 18, 1904 – d. November 29, 1986

“I pretended to be somebody I wanted to be until finally I became that person. Or he became me.”

One of Hollywood’s most distinguished actors, Cary Grant finished behind only Humphrey Bogart as the American Film Institute’s Second Greatest Male Movie Star of All Time. Grant starred in over 70 films and earned two Academy Award nominations for Best Actor. In 1970, Grant won the Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Originally Archibald Alexander Leach, Grant was born in Bristol, England, as the only child in an impoverished family. When Grant was 9 years old, his mother was institutionalized.

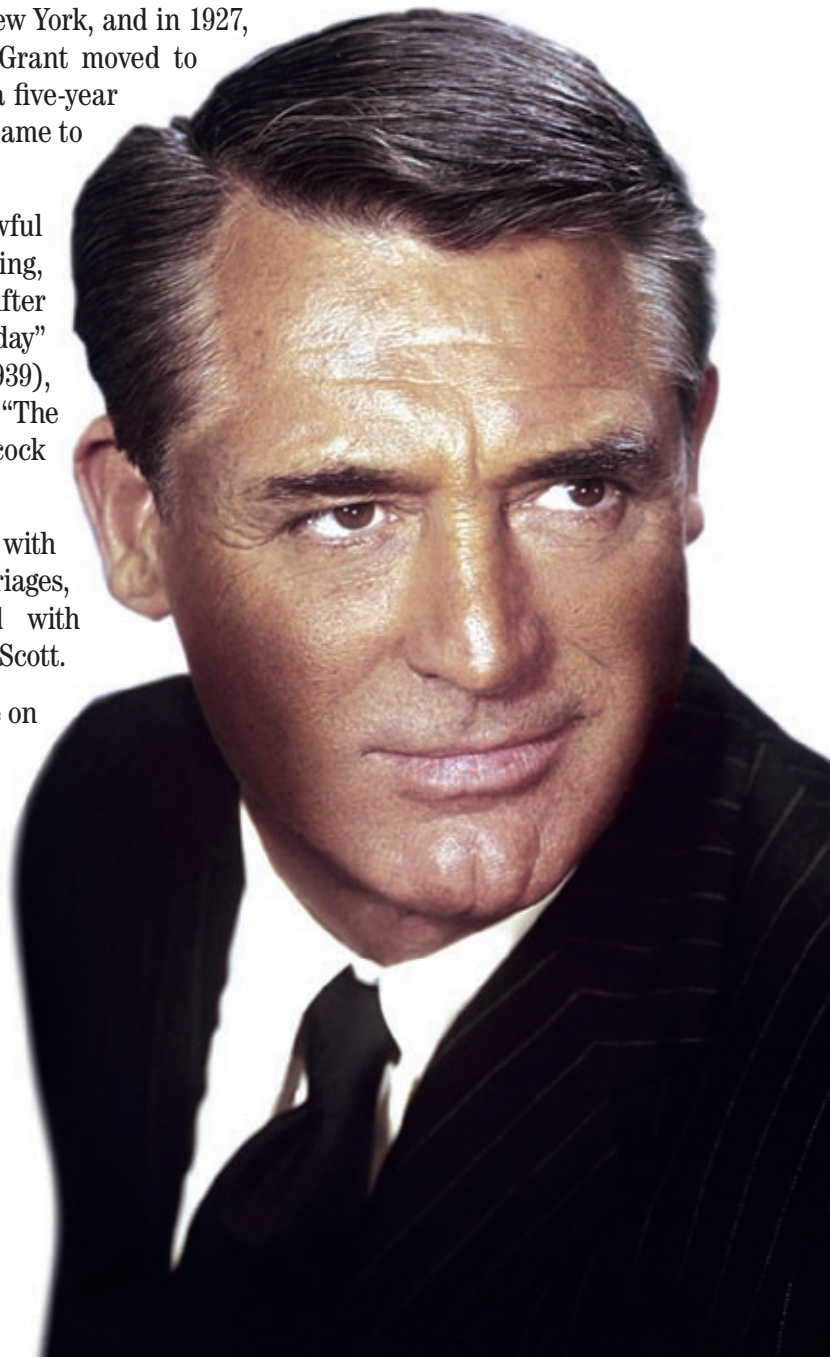
Grant left school at age 14 and joined the Bob Pender comedy troupe, which helped develop his dancing and acrobatic skills. In 1920, the troupe stopped performing in small English towns and took a two-year tour of the United States. Grant decided to stay in New York, and in 1927, he performed in the musical “Golden Dawn.” In 1931, Grant moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in film. When he signed a five-year contract with Paramount, the studio had him change his name to Cary Grant.

Grant debuted in “This is the Night” (1932), but “The Awful Truth” (1937) made him a star. Handsome, witty and charming, Grant succeeded in creating a unique onscreen character. After starring in hits such as “Bringing up Baby” (1938), “Holiday” (1938), “Gunga Din” (1939), “Only Angels Have Wings” (1939), “His Girl Friday” (1940), “My Favorite Wife” (1940) and “The Philadelphia Story” (1940), as well as three Alfred Hitchcock films, Grant retired in 1966 as a megastar.

Even though Grant married five women and fathered a child with his fourth wife, he was sexually active with men. Between marriages, Grant often resided with fellow actor Randolph Scott.

Grant died of a stroke on November 29, 1986.

One of the most popular actors of his era, Cary Grant starred in over 70 films and won an Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement.



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DAVID HOCKNEY

b. July 9, 1937

“It is very good advice to believe only what an artist does, rather than what he says about his work.”

Initially famous for popularizing British pop art in the 1960s, David Hockney grew more influential as he evidenced his exceptional artistic flexibility. From oil paintings to lithography, photomontage to computer sketch, Hockney demonstrated an uncanny ability to adapt his creative talents to various media. The Hockney exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery in London from October 2006 to January 2007 was one of the Gallery’s most successful exhibitions.

Hockney began to display his work while at the Royal College of Arts in London in 1949. At a featured exhibition, he presented paintings that became forerunners of British pop art. Hockney won a gold medal for outstanding distinction at the College’s convocation ceremony.

Hockney’s early work often explored homosexual themes. “We Two Boys Together Clinging” (1961), titled after a Walt Whitman poem of the same name, became one of his more famous works. Lithography enticed Hockney in the early 1960s when he began to make prints of paintings. “Mr. and Mrs. Clark and Percy” (1971) is one of the most popular paintings in London’s Tate Gallery.

California’s promise of young athletic men lured Hockney to Los Angeles. Filmmaker Jack Hazan titled his 1974 movie about Hockney, “A Bigger Splash,” after Hockney’s famous work of the same name (1967). In “California Suite” (1978), Neil Simon used about a dozen of Hockney’s California-themed paintings in the film’s opening credits.

In 1985, Hockney was commissioned to draw with the Quantel Paintbox, a computer program in which the artist sketches directly onto the computer monitor. BBC captured Hockney’s mastery of the Paintbox in a movie produced while he was working with the program. Also in 1985, Hockney designed the cover of the French edition of Vogue.

On June 21, 2006, “The Splash” (1966) sold at Sotheby’s for £2.6 million (\$5.3 million), the record for a Hockney painting.

Celebrated abstract artist David Hockney’s original design and signature style helped define 1960s British pop culture. Prestigious international museums and galleries display his work.



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ZHOU DAN

b. January 19, 1974

*“Law and policy always involve compromise
and sometimes being a progressive means
taking things one step at a time.”*

One generation removed from the persecution of gays under the People's Republic of China, today's gay Chinese encounter different obstacles than their American counterparts. Many Chinese believe that homosexuality exists only in the Western world. The absence of legal protection and the threat of social isolation keep most Chinese GLBT individuals in the closet.

GLBT activist and attorney Zhou Dan came out to his friends in 1998 and the media in 2003. A champion of GLBT rights in China, Zhou writes articles on Chinese gay and lesbian Web sites. Although many GLBT Chinese use pseudonyms, Zhou uses his real name. After revealing his sexuality to a Shanghai newspaper in 2003, Zhou appeared across China in newspapers and magazines and on television. Earlier that year, he established the Shanghai Hotline for Sexual Minorities.

In 2004, Zhou attended Yale Law School's China Law Center as a visiting scholar. In 2006, he taught China's first graduate class on homosexuality at Fudan University in Shanghai.

As a lawyer, Zhou fights for the GLBT community and people living with HIV/AIDS. He successfully lobbied the Ministry of Health not to bar HIV-positive people from government jobs. Zhou founded and serves as Executive Director of Yu Dan, the first Chinese organization promoting the recognition and acceptance of gay rights throughout mainland China.

In 2005, Zhou was featured in Tetu, a French gay and lesbian magazine. He also was profiled in Time magazine as China's gay pioneer. In 2006, Equality Forum named Zhou the recipient of the 11th Annual International Role Model Award.



Zhou Dan is China's Gay Pioneer. A Shanghai attorney, he is the founder and Executive Director of the first national Chinese GLBT organization.

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COLE PORTER

b. June 9, 1891 – d. October 15, 1964

*“In olden days a glimpse of stocking
was looked on as something shocking
but now, God knows, anything goes.”*

Cole Porter grew up wealthy; his grandfather James Omar Cole was a prosperous coal and timber speculator. Porter began musical training during his early childhood. Despite his musical talents, however, Porter's grandfather envisioned an attorney's career for him and sent him to Yale University.

At Yale, Porter expanded his musical repertoire and composed 300 songs, including two football fight songs, “Yale Bulldog” and “Bingo Eli Yale,” which are still played today. After one year at Harvard Law School, Porter chose to follow his true passion and transferred to Harvard's School of Music.

Porter enjoyed brief success in 1915 with his first song in a Broadway musical. A year later, his first full production, “See America First,” closed after only two weeks. After several other failures, Porter moved to Paris. The songs he wrote there, including “You Don't Know Paree” and “I Love Paris,” reflected his affection for the city. In 1928, his first big hit, “Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love,” appeared in the musical “Paris.”

Porter lived in an era of strict homosexuality taboos. Public knowledge of his sexuality, Porter feared, could compromise his success. Like many gay public figures, Porter married a woman for convenience. His wife, Linda Lee Thomas, may have been bisexual. The arrangement helped both Thomas and Porter. Thomas remained a socialite with a high-profile husband, while Porter hid his sexuality under the guise of marriage.

Porter had relationships with talented men, including Boston socialite Howard Sturgess, architect Ed Tauch, and choreographer Nelson Barclift, who inspired Porter's “You'd Be So Nice to Come Home to.”

A horse riding accident in 1937 badly crippled Porter's legs. His condition left him in constant pain and required more than 30 surgeries. He continued to write songs, though his prominence waned until 1948, when he wrote “Kiss Me, Kate,” one of his most famous works. The production earned the Tony Award for Best Musical, and Porter won the Tony for Best Composer and Lyricist.

His physical and emotional condition quickly deteriorated with the loss of his mother in 1952, his wife in 1954, and the amputation of his right leg in 1958. Porter never wrote again and remained in relative seclusion until his own death in 1964 at age 73.

Cole Porter was one of the greatest composers and songwriters of the 20th century. His hits include “Night and Day,” “I Get a Kick Out of You” and “I've Got You Under My Skin.”

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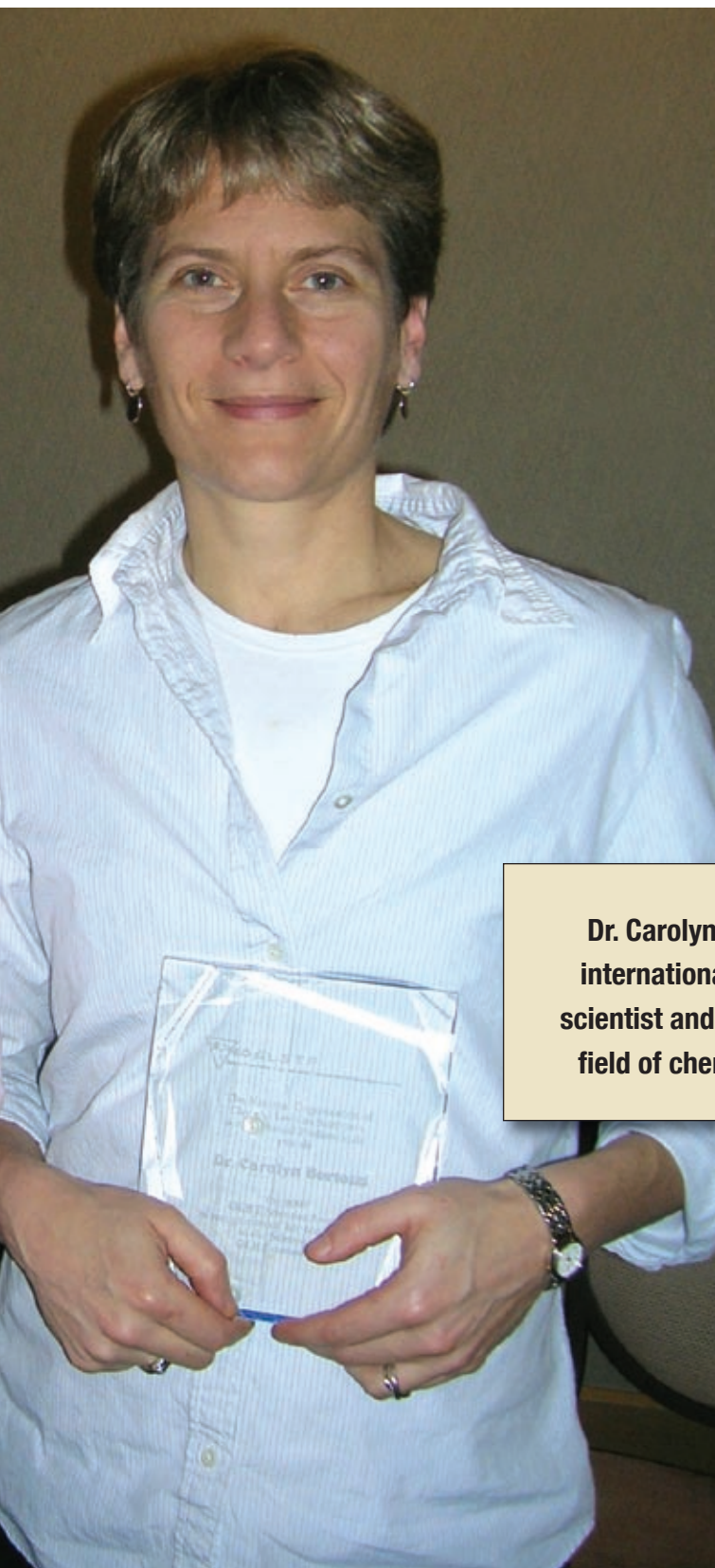
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CAROLYN BERTOZZI

b. 1966

“Hopefully people can look at me and realize that it’s okay to be open in their lives and be themselves and do great work and make contributions to the world as a scientist.”



Carolyn Bertozzi is the youngest scientist to receive the McArthur Fellowship or “genius grant.” A Professor of Chemistry and Molecular Biology at Berkeley, she oversees a cutting-edge research lab. She has a reputation as an outstanding professor and mentor.

The daughter of a physics professor, Bertozzi worked summer jobs at MIT. Her early interests included sports and music.

Bertozzi found her niche in organic chemistry during her sophomore year at Harvard University. She graduated summa cum laude and received an award for best senior thesis. She completed her graduate studies at University of California, Berkeley, receiving her Ph.D. in 1993.

In 1996, Bertozzi joined the UC Berkeley faculty. Her research focuses on the glycobiology underlying diseases such as cancer and inflammatory disorders. Believing she could link the structures of sugar molecules with the presence or absence of disease, Bertozzi developed a unique system to track cell development. Her research team has published over 98 articles. The journal *Nature* and *Angewandte Chemie*, another influential chemistry journal, have praised Bertozzi’s work.

Bertozzi is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and co-editor of “Glycochemistry: Principles, Synthesis, and Applications.” In 2001, UC Berkeley honored her with its prestigious Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi is an internationally recognized scientist and academic in the field of chemical biology.



OLIVER “BILLY” SIPPLE

b. November 20, 1941 – d. February 2, 1989

“My sexual orientation has nothing at all to do with saving the President’s life, just as the color of my eyes or my race has nothing to do with what happened in front of the St. Francis Hotel.”

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Oliver “Billy” Sipple served in the United States Marines in Vietnam. A piece of shrapnel left him disabled. While living in San Francisco on disability pay, he became active in local causes, including the campaign of Harvey Milk, an openly gay candidate for San Francisco city supervisor.

On September 22, 1975, Sipple was standing among a group of people waiting to see President Gerald Ford as he exited the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. As President Ford emerged, Sipple noticed the woman standing next to him raise a .38-caliber pistol at the President. Instinctively, Sipple lunged at the woman, deflecting her aim as she fired the pistol. The bullet missed the President by five feet. Police arrested the woman, Sara Jane Moore, who received a life sentence for the assassination attempt.

Following the incident, Sipple shied away from media attention. However, gay activists in San Francisco cited Sipple’s actions as a positive example for the movement. Harvey Milk said of Sipple, “For once we can show that gays do heroic things.”

Legendary San Francisco Chronicle columnist Herb Caen wrote about Sipple, including his sexual orientation. Several newspapers across the country picked up the story, and the news reached his Michigan-based family, who were unaware of Sipple’s orientation.

The family became estranged for a period of time. Feeling wronged by the media, Sipple filed suit against the newspapers that outed him. The case was ultimately dismissed. Sipple’s experience remains an ethical debate in law and journalism schools.

Sipple became reclusive and his health worsened. He died from pneumonia in 1989. Among the personal items collected from his apartment was a framed letter hanging on the wall that read: “I want you to know how much I appreciated your selfless actions last Monday.” It was signed “Jerry Ford.”

Billy Sipple, a decorated Marine and Vietnam veteran, became an instant hero when he thwarted an assassination attempt on President Gerald Ford in 1975.



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FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

b. May 12, 1820 – d. August 13, 1910

“I think one’s feelings waste themselves in words; they ought all to be distilled into actions which bring results.”

Florence Nightingale burst into the public consciousness during the Crimean War (1853-1856). Serving as the superintendent at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen in London from 1853-1854, she learned of the horrible conditions soldiers faced during Britain’s Crimean War with Russia. Using her friendship with politician Sidney Herbert to gain official approval, Nightingale trained 38 nurses and traveled to Turkey, arriving at a hospital in Scutari (modern-day Istanbul) in November 1854.

The Scutari hospitals had the highest mortality rates in the region. Overcrowding, defective sewage systems and poor ventilation contributed to soldiers’ illnesses and death. Yet, while a sanitary commission sent by the British government took over six months to arrive, Nightingale and her nursing crew cleaned up the hospital and delivered an unprecedented level of nursing care. By the time she left, Nightingale had earned the military’s admiration. She returned to Britain as a hero in 1857.

Confined to bed by fever upon her return, Nightingale refused to let illness diminish her work. She helped establish the Royal Commission on the Health of the Army and wrote its first report, a document that facilitated an overhaul of army medical care and record keeping. “Notes on Nursing,” her instructional guide published in 1860, continues to influence nursing schools across the globe. Nightingale founded The Nightingale Fund and the Nightingale Training School. Nurses she mentored and trained spread throughout England and Australia and conducted pioneering work in America and Japan.

A brilliant mathematician and writer, Nightingale used her unique ability to simplify complex statistics to communicate her findings to government officials. Historians consider her book “Cassandra” (1928) a major feminist work.

Queen Victoria awarded Nightingale the Royal Red Cross in 1883. In 1907, Nightingale became the first woman to receive the Order of Merit.

Hospitals, foundations and other organizations in her name continue to advocate for improved health care. The Florence Nightingale Museum in London commemorates the life of the modern world’s first great health-care provider.

Florence Nightingale founded the modern nursing profession. Her work in hospital sanitation during the 19th century revolutionized medical care and saved countless lives.



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FRANK KAMENY

b. May 21, 1925

“The momentum is there, and that’s not going to be stopped. It’s moved from hopes of a grassroots movement, to the actuality of a grassroots movement. And it’s taken 40 years to do it.”

In 1957, the Army Map Service in Washington, D.C., dismissed astronomer Frank Kameny. A WWII veteran with an M.A. and a Ph.D. in astronomy from Harvard University, Kameny was discharged because he was gay. Rather than accept a common practice of the day, Kameny fought for his rights. He successfully challenged anti-gay policies of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

Kameny sued the Army Map Service and lost his case. On appeal, he lost again, and after the Supreme Court denied his petition to direct the case to be reconsidered, Kameny realized his objectives would require a broader movement. In 1961, Kameny cofounded the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C., with Gay Pioneer Jack Nichols.

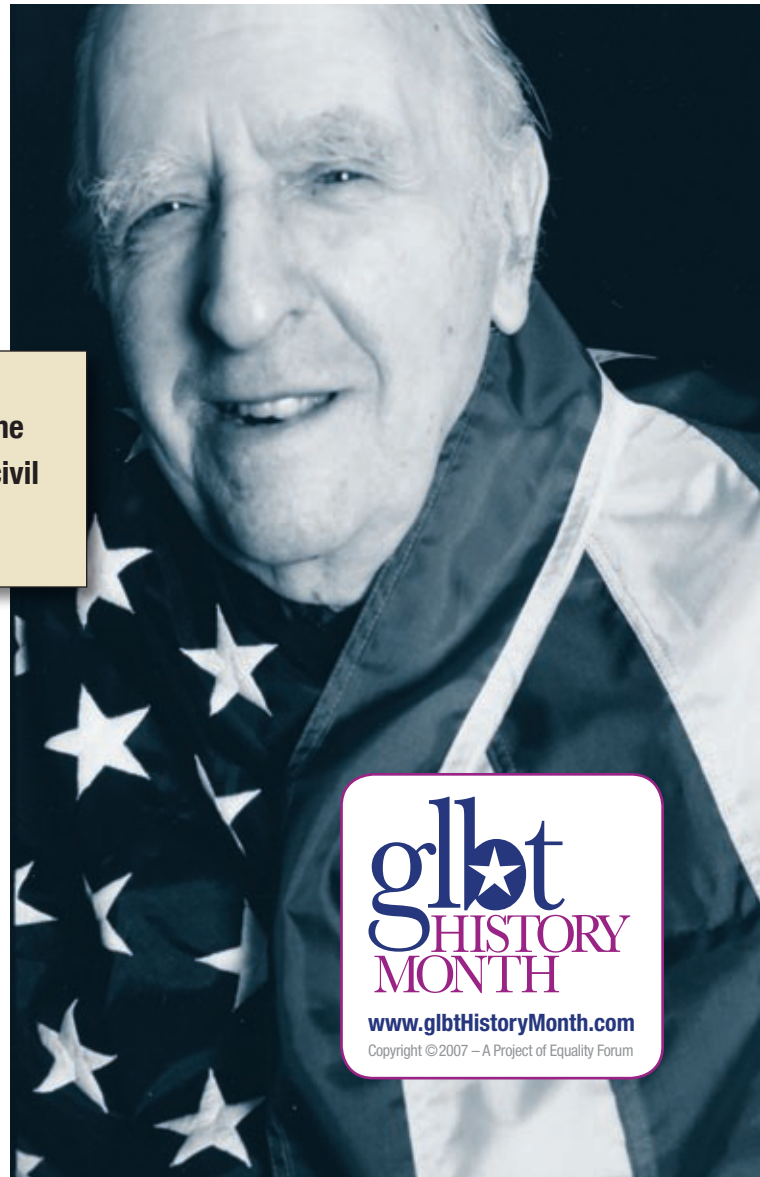
Kameny was the first to bring open activism to the gay rights movement. The D.C. Mattachine Society contacted public officials to attempt to change policy. They published a newsletter, “The Gazette,” and campaigned to overturn security clearance denials, employment restrictions and dismissals of gay men from the Federal workforce. In 1963, Kameny began a movement to repeal sodomy laws and challenge the APA’s classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder.

On April 17, 1965, Kameny led the first public picket for gay rights at the White House. With support from the Daughters of Bilitis, the Mattachine Society extended its protest to the Pentagon and the Civil Service Commission, thus launching the first organized gay and lesbian demonstrations for equality. Known as annual reminders, these seminal demonstrations by activists from New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., were held each Fourth of July at Independence Hall from 1965 to 1969. They paved the way for the Stonewall Riots in 1969.

Inspired by Stokely Carmichael’s “Black is Beautiful,” Kameny dubbed the phrase “Gay is Good” as a slogan for the movement. He led the fight for gay rights into the 1970s and ran for Congress in 1971 on an equal rights platform. The APA removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in 1973, and the Civil Service Commission lifted its ban on homosexuality in 1975, an action President Clinton formalized many years later.

In 2000, Equality Forum with WHYY/PBS produced the documentary film “Gay Pioneers” about Frank Kameny and other early activists. In 2006, the Library of Congress incorporated over 70,000 letters, documents and bits of memorabilia from Frank Kameny into its permanent collection. The Washington, D.C., City Council honored Frank Kameny in 2007, hailing him as a “true freedom fighter.”

Frank Kameny is the father of the GLBT civil rights movement.



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FREDERICK THE GREAT

b. January 24, 1712 – d. August 17, 1786

“The greatest and noblest pleasure which men can have in this world is to discover new truths; and the next is to shake off old prejudices.”

Frederick II, also known as Frederick the Great, ruled as King of Prussia from 1740-1786. Through innovative military tactics and tolerant domestic policies, King Frederick united previously disconnected territories on opposite ends of the Holy Roman Empire into a cohesive kingdom with Prussia.

Frederick's predecessor, his father, presided over both his kingdom and his family without compassion. In 1730, when Frederick was 18 years old, he planned a getaway to England with Lieutenant Katte. Before the two men could depart, they were arrested and condemned to death for desertion. Frederick I had Katte executed in his son's presence. Frederick II escaped death and was sentenced to prison.

Frederick II received a royal pardon six months into his sentence. He ascended to the throne in 1739. He immediately began expanding Prussia's territory during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748). During the first stage of this war, the First Silesian War (1740-1742), Frederick II captured the rich Austrian city of Silesia.

Regarded as one of the greatest tactical geniuses of all time, Frederick II used advanced techniques, such as the oblique order, to overwhelm foes that outnumbered Prussian forces. During his reign, Austria, France, Russia, Saxony and Sweden were allied as part of the Diplomatic Revolution. Frederick the Great's invasion of Saxony in 1756 initiated the Seven Years' War. Though allied with only Great Britain and Hanover, Prussia prevailed when the anti-Prussian coalition collapsed in 1763. Frederick II's ability to retain Silesia during this battle solidified Prussia's status as a power.

In addition to his military successes, which included the annexation of part of Poland in 1772, Frederick II modernized much of Prussia and fostered economic and artistic growth in his kingdom. State revenues doubled as he simultaneously promoted philosophy and the arts. A musician, Frederick the Great played the transverse flute and composed 122 sonatas and four symphonies.

Disagreeing with Machiavelli's ruthless “ends justify the means” philosophy of rule, Frederick the Great ran his kingdom according to the more modern ethical code he laid out in the “Anti-Machiavel” (1739). Under his reign, Frederick II abolished torture and corporeal punishment and provided religious freedom.

As King of Prussia in the 18th century, Frederick the Great transformed Germany into a European power. An enlightened monarch, he became a champion of the arts and philosophy. He was one of the greatest military leaders.



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GERTRUDE STEIN

b. February 3, 1874 – d. July 27, 1946

*“A writer should write with his eyes
and a painter paint with his ears.”*

Known as an influential American writer who focused on character depth, Gertrude Stein spent most of her life in Paris. While in France, she met her life partner, befriended famous artists, and developed into an influential literary figure and feminist.

Born into a wealthy family in Pennsylvania, Gertrude Stein grew up in Oakland, California. As an undergraduate she attended Radcliffe College, now incorporated into Harvard University, and studied under psychologist William James. She spent much of 1899-1901 at Johns Hopkins University Medical School, but did not earn her degree.

Stein moved to Paris in 1902 and became an avid art collector. She turned her house into an informal salon. It soon became a hotspot for famous artists and writers, including Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, Ezra Pound, Henri Matisse and Thornton Wilder. Hemingway viewed Stein as his mentor and Picasso became her close friend. Stein later called Paris a city of “The Lost Generation.”

In 1907, Stein met her life partner, Alice B. Toklas. Together during WWI, Toklas and Stein drove supplies to French hospitals. After the war, Stein received a medal for her contributions.

Stein wrote her first book, “Q.E.D.,” in 1903, but did not publish a novel until “Three Lives” (1909), a work heavily influenced by her former professor James and writer William Henry. Unique because of its similarity to Cubism, Stein’s writing delved into a literary area previously unexplored. “Tender Buttons,” a short collection of feminist poems published in 1914, resembled Pablo Picasso’s artwork, albeit in a different form. In 1926, Stein explained the connection during lectures at the University of Oxford and Cambridge University. She published her lectures as a book, “Composition and Explanation” (1926).

In 1932, “The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas,” a book that told Stein’s life story, excited the American public. It was her first best seller. Several of her works were adapted by composers, including Virgil Thomson, who based his operas “Four Saints in Three Acts” and “The Mother of Us All” on Stein’s texts.

Complex and progressive, Stein’s writing transformed American literature and contributed to the feminist movement. A monument on the upper terrace of Bryant Park in New York City honors her memory.

**One of the few openly
gay feminists of the
early 20th century,
Gertrude Stein was a
highly respected critic
and avant-garde writer
who revolutionized
modern art and literary
movements.**

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GORE VIDAL

b. October 3, 1925

"We must ... allow the world to discover this subterranean life of ours which connects kings and farm boys, artists and clerks. Let them see that the important thing is not the object of love, but the emotion itself."

Eugene Luther Gore Vidal's career as a novelist, essayist, screenwriter, critic and political activist spans six decades. Boldly challenging the status quo, he has weathered censorship and criticism for his writing and politics.

Vidal's childhood was marked by access and privilege. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy, one of the country's most prestigious preparatory high schools. His family's political connections played a major role in shaping his life work. Vidal's maternal grandfather served as a Democratic senator from Oklahoma, while his father worked in the FDR administration as the Director of the Bureau of Air Commerce. Vidal has familial ties to the Kennedys and is a distant cousin of Jimmy Carter and Al Gore.

After graduating from Phillips Exeter, Vidal joined the U.S. Army Reserve. He served in the Army Transportation Corps in Alaska, where he wrote much of his first novel, "Williwaw" (1946).

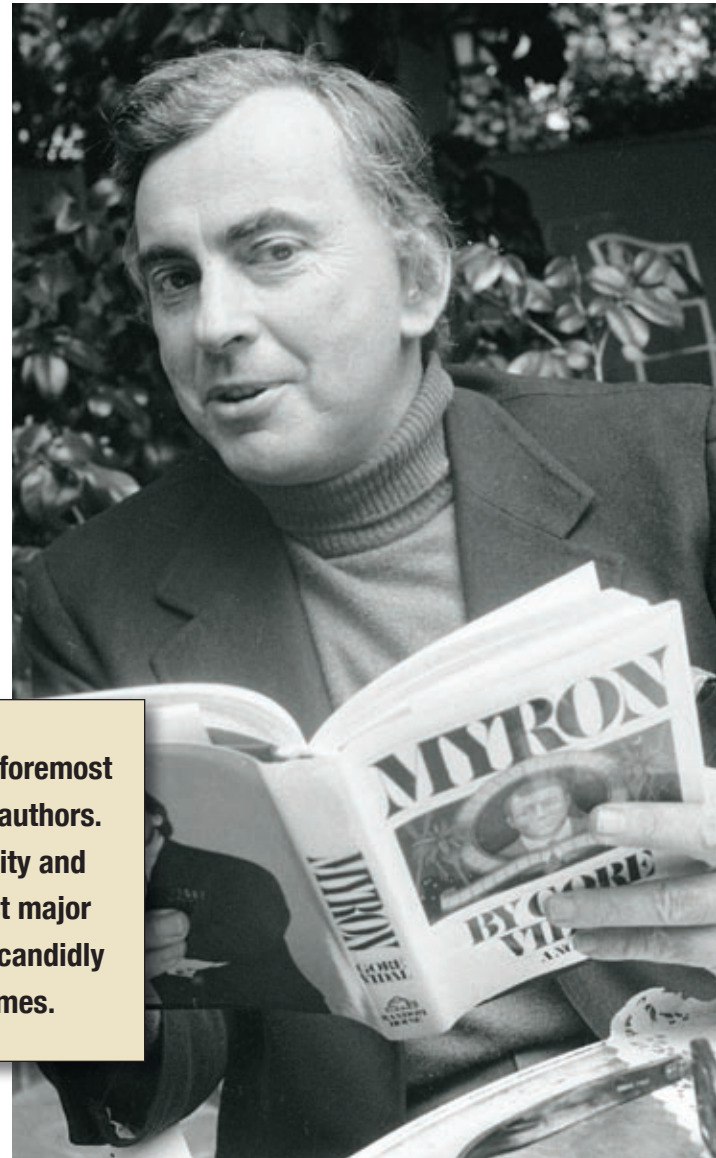
The release of Vidal's third novel, "The City and the Pillar," met scathing criticism for its homosexual themes. Major media publications, including The New York Times, refused to review his subsequent books. His sales declined.

Financially strained, Vidal began to dabble in alternate mediums that proved more lucrative. These pursuits culminated in his success as a distinguished playwright and screenwriter.

In 1957, Vidal's first political play, "Visit to a Small Planet," premiered in New York. A satire on post-World War II fear of communism, the play received Broadway acclaim and became a film in 1960.

Vidal also excelled as an essayist and historian who often stirred controversy with his political views. His commentary spans four decades and includes over 20 pieces. In 1993, Vidal received the National Book Award for his collection of essays, "United States" (1952-1992).

Since his writing career began, Vidal has published over 30 novels of various genres. His successful series of historical novels includes "Washington D.C." (1967), "Lincoln" (1984), and "The Golden Age" (2000). Vidal explores feminism and transsexuality in his satirical novel "Myra Breckinridge" (1968).



Gore Vidal is among the foremost 20th century American authors. His 1948 novel, "The City and the Pillar," was the first major American novel to deal candidly with homosexual themes.

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LEONARDO DA VINCI

b. April 15, 1452 – d. May 2, 1519

*“Nothing strengthens authority
so much as silence.”*

Leonardo Da Vinci was the archetypal Renaissance man. His curiosity and genius led him to make observations, experiments and breakthroughs in a variety of fields, including engineering, architecture, math, anatomy, optics, astronomy, geology, biology and philosophy. His artwork and inventions, many of them advanced far beyond the innovations of the time, continue to earn him wide acclaim.

Artist Andrea del Verrocchio hired 15-year-old Da Vinci as his apprentice. While working with Verrocchio in Florence, Da Vinci learned a broad range of skills including painting, sculpting and drafting. In 1472, he was accepted into the painters' guild in Florence. Da Vinci lived mostly in Florence and Milan for the rest of his career while working

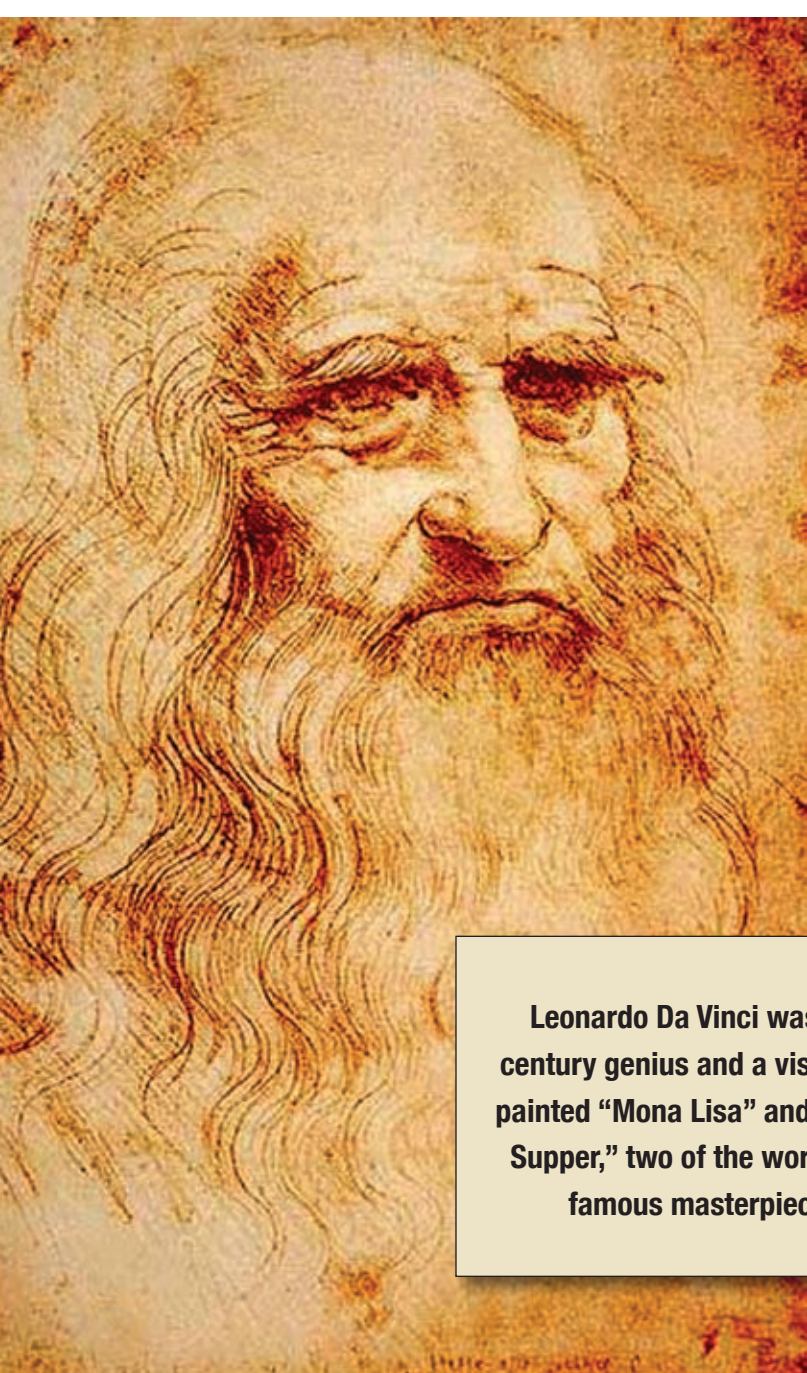
on commissioned art. “Mona Lisa,” “The Last Supper” and “Madonna of the Rocks” are a few of his most famous paintings.

Da Vinci left behind a collection of 40 notebooks, 31 of which still remain. He filled them with diagrams and records of his observations and research in the fields of painting, architecture, mechanics, human anatomy, geophysics, botany, hydrology and aerology.

Da Vinci conceptualized helicopters, tanks and calculators long before construction of these machines became feasible. He also envisioned solar power and developed a rudimentary theory of plate tectonics.

Da Vinci's professions included civil engineer, musician, military planner and weapons designer. He worked as the court artist for the Duke of Milan. From 1513 to 1516 he lived in Rome. He developed a close relationship with Niccolò Machiavelli and mathematician Luca Pacioli, with whom he helped write “Divina Proportione” (1509), “Divine Proportion.”

No evidence suggests that Da Vinci had relationships with women. His closest relationships were with two of his male pupils, Melzi and Salai.



Leonardo Da Vinci was a 16th century genius and a visionary. He painted “Mona Lisa” and “The Last Supper,” two of the world’s most famous masterpieces.

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JOHN MCNEILL

b. September 2, 1925

“Jesus ... opens the possibility of bringing gay relationships within the compass of healthy and holy human love.”

One year after John McNeill published “The Church and the Homosexual” (1976), a book offering a new theological look at homosexuality, he received a letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the Vatican. Religious authorities ordered McNeill, an ordained Jesuit priest, to halt public discussion on the topic.

McNeill’s book reveals original text from the New Testament detailing Jesus’ ministry to homosexuals. McNeill argues that the original Greek text of Matthew 8: 5-13 describes Jesus healing a man’s sick gay lover. The Latin translation of this passage describes it as the healing of a master’s servant.

In compliance with the order from the Vatican, McNeill kept silent publicly while he ministered privately to gays and lesbians. In 1998, the Catholic Church submitted a further order to McNeill to relinquish his ministry to homosexuals. When McNeill refused, the Church expelled him from the Jesuit order.

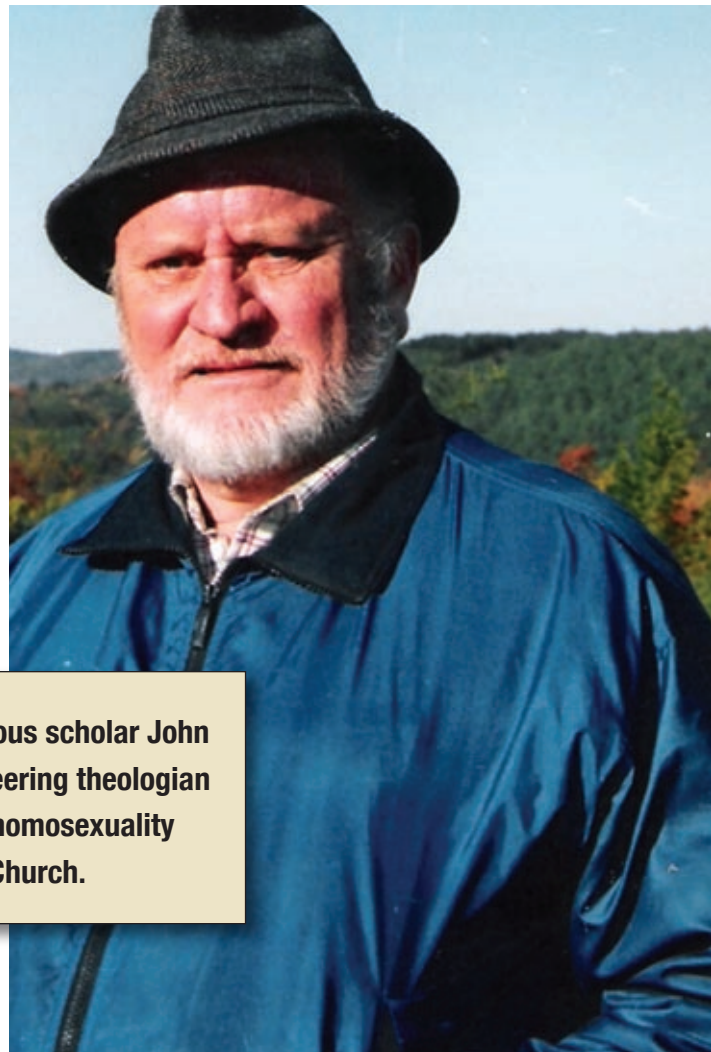
McNeill enlisted in WWII at age 17. German forces captured him while he was serving under General Patton in 1944. He spent six months as a POW before the war ended.

After graduating from Canisius College in 1948, McNeill entered the Society of Jesus. In 1959, he was ordained a Jesuit priest. Five years later, he earned a Ph.D. in philosophy with honors and distinction from Louvain University in Belgium.

McNeill began teaching in the combined Woodstock Jesuit Seminary and Union Theological Seminary in 1972. He cofounded the New York City chapter of Dignity, an organization of Catholic gays and lesbians. In addition to his teaching duties, he served as Director of the Pastoral Studies program for inner-city clergy at the Institutes of Religion and Health.

An accomplished author, McNeill’s works include “Taking a Chance on God: Liberating Theology for Gays and Lesbians, Their Lovers, Friends and Families” (1988) and “Freedom, Glorious Freedom: The Spiritual Journey to the Fullness of Life for Gays, Lesbians and Everybody Else” (1995). He has also published influential articles in The New Dictionary of Spirituality and The Journal of Pastoral Care.

McNeill led the New York City Gay Rights Parade as Grand Marshall in 1987. He has received numerous awards, including the National Human Rights Award in 1984, the Dignity/USA Prophetic Service Award in 1997, and the People of Soulforce Award in 2000.



Author and religious scholar John McNeill is a pioneering theologian in the field of homosexuality and the Church.

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JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

b. June 5, 1883 – d. April 21, 1946

*“A study of the history of opinion
is a necessary preliminary to the
emancipation of the mind.”*

John Maynard Keynes founded an entire school of modern thought known as Keynesian Economics. He helped establish the Bretton Woods system of international monetary management in 1944. Keynes's ideas form a large and important part of modern macroeconomics.

Keynes attended King's College in Cambridge, England, where he studied mathematics and philosophy, and later pursued economics. After receiving his degree in 1906, Keynes moved to London and worked for the government treasury. After WWI, he attended the Paris Peace Conference. In response to the Treaty of Versailles, Keynes published “The Economic Consequences of Peace” to highlight Germany's heavy burden and the probable consequences the terms would have on Germany and the rest of the world. The book provided a brilliant analysis, and Keynes subsequently influenced the Marshall Plan, instituted by the U.S. to rebuild Europe following WWII.

Keynes is best known for two publications, “The Treatise on Probability” (1921) and “The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money” (1936), which he published in response to the Depression. Ideas in the latter publication form the foundation of the economies of modern nations.

**John Maynard
Keynes is one of
the most influential
economic theorists
of the 20th century.**

In 1908, Keynes fell in love with Scottish painter Duncan Grant. Their relationship lasted only a few years, but they remained close friends for the rest of their lives. Previous to Keynes's marriage to Lydia Lopokova in 1921, his relationships and sexual encounters were exclusively with men. After his marriage, Keynes remained friends with many of his previous homosexual friends and partners.

The stress Keynes experienced during WWII caused his health to decline considerably. On April 21, 1946, Keynes died of a heart attack.



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KLAUS WOWEREIT

b. October 1, 1953

“I want to live in a country that is open to the world, where gays and lesbians live lives free from discrimination.”

Berlin has played a unique role in gay history. Prior to the rise of Fascism in Germany, Berlin was home to the world's first gay rights organization, Magnus Hirschfeld's Scientific-Humanitarian Committee. In 1933, over 100 gay and lesbian bars functioned as social centers in Berlin. The Nazi regime destroyed German gay culture and imprisoned an estimated 15,000 gays in concentration camps.

Berlin is once again a thriving sanctuary for gays and lesbians. In 2002, the city elected Klaus Wowereit as its first openly gay Lord Mayor. Before the mayoral election, Klaus Wowereit declared, “Ich bin schwul, und das ist auch gut so” (“I’m gay, and that’s okay”), paving the way for other gay politicians.

Wowereit grew up in Berlin without a father. The youngest of three siblings, he was the first to attend grammar school. Wowereit praises Willy Brandt, the chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1969 to 1974, for social policies that enabled poor children like him to attend school. He describes Brandt as his inspiration and role model.

Wowereit studied law at the Free University of Berlin and joined the Social Democrats. In 1984, he became Berlin's youngest city councilor. As a councilor of education and culture, Wowereit learned the nuances of Berlin's political atmosphere. In 1995, he joined the Berlin House of Representatives. After four years, the parliamentary group of the Social Democrats elected him their chairman.

Loved by Berlin's citizens, Wowereit handily won reelection as Lord Mayor in 2006 and has maintained high approval ratings.

Klaus Wowereit became the first openly gay Lord Mayor of Berlin.

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LEONARD BERNSTEIN

b. August 25, 1918 – d. October 14, 1990

“This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.”

Leonard Bernstein fell in love with music as a young boy. After receiving his undergraduate education at Harvard University, he attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Studying under famous international conductor Fritz Reiner, Bernstein received the only “A” Reiner ever awarded.

After Bernstein distinguished himself at Tanglewood, the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Summer Venue, the New York Philharmonic named him assistant conductor. He was thrust into the limelight when he substituted for the lead conductor. The nationally broadcast show earned him instant recognition and helped launch his career.

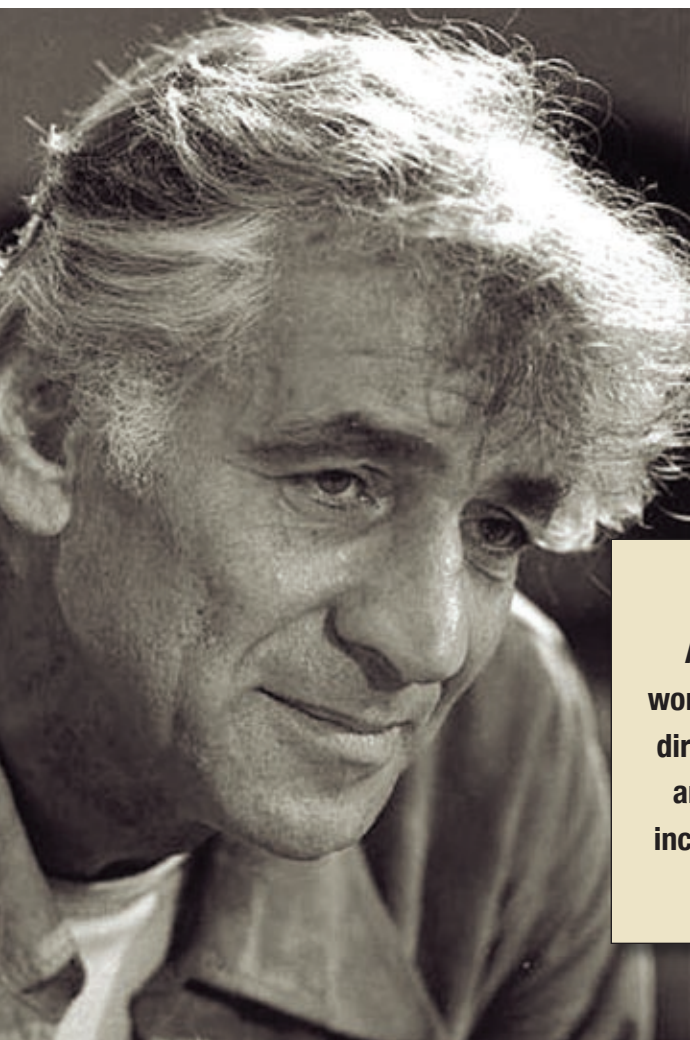
Bernstein’s first major work, Symphony No. 1 “Jeremiah” (1943), received New York Music Critics’ Circle acclaim as the best new American orchestral work of 1943-1944. In 1956 and 1957, Bernstein composed “Candide” and “West Side Story,” respectively.

Named Music Director in 1957, Bernstein led the New York Philharmonic from 1958-1969. While with the Philharmonic, he worked on the “Young People’s Concert Series” for CBS. CBS ran 53 segments of this series from 1958 to 1972. It remains the longest running set of classical music programs on commercial television.

An avid proponent of world peace, Bernstein toured Athens and Hiroshima during a 1985 “Journey for Peace” tour commemorating the victims of World War II. Celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Bernstein conducted a performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 in East Berlin on Christmas Day. He reworded the “Ode to Joy” as “Ode to Freedom.”

In addition to performing his own works, Bernstein masterfully conducted works of Beethoven, Brahms, Shostakovich, Mahler, Aaron Copland and George Gershwin. In addition to musicals and compositions, he also wrote two operas, “Trouble in Tahiti” and “A Quiet Place,” and the score for the Academy Award winning film “On the Waterfront” (1954).

Numerous European cities, including Oslo and Vienna, have honored Bernstein with keys to the city. The London Symphony Orchestra named him Honorary President in 1987. Named Laureate Conductor of the Israel Philharmonic in 1988, Bernstein was Laureate Conductor of the New York Philharmonic until his death.



Leonard Bernstein was the first American-born conductor to earn worldwide recognition. He was musical director of the New York Philharmonic and composed Broadway musicals, including “West Side Story.” Bernstein won nine Grammy Awards.



LILY TOMLIN

b. September 1, 1939

*“Don’t be afraid of missing opportunities.
Behind every failure is an opportunity
somebody wishes they had missed”*

Lily Tomlin is an accomplished actress, comedian, writer and producer who has won numerous awards including six Emmys, two Tonys and a Grammy. She has been involved in many performing arts genres including film, stand-up comedy, sketch comedy, Broadway and television. She performed in feature roles in the TV series “The West Wing” and “Murphy Brown” and also appeared in the “X-Files” and “Will and Grace.”

Tomlin attended Wayne State University as a premed student until her elective classes in theater arts inspired her to pursue a career as a performer. She started as a stand-up comedian in New York City.

In 1966, Tomlin made her television debut on “The Garry Moore Show.” After a few appearances on “The Merv Griffin Show,” she joined the comedy series “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In” in 1969. Her “Laugh-In” character Ernestine captivated audiences and earned her a Golden Globe Award in 1972. Tomlin worked on comedy television specials with her partner, Jane Wagner. The duo’s six specials, produced over the next nine years, earned them three Emmy Awards—the first one for “Lily” in 1974.

Robert Altman’s “Nashville” marked Tomlin’s break into film in 1975. Two years later, she starred on Broadway in “Appearing Nitely,” a show written and directed by Wagner. Another Wagner creation, Tomlin’s one-woman show “The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe,” became a major Broadway hit in 1985 and earned Tomlin a Tony Award in 1986.

Winner of six Emmy Awards, two Tony Awards and a Grammy Award, Lily Tomlin is a renowned actress, comedian, writer and producer.

Returning to television in 1993, Tomlin starred in “And the Band Played On,” an HBO film special about AIDS. From 1994 to 1998, she entertained children with her role as Mrs. Valerie Frizzle on “The Magic School Bus.” In addition to her roles on “The West Wing” and “Murphy Brown,” Tomlin continued to appear in hit movies such as “The Kid” (2000) and “I Heart Huckabees” (2004).

Tomlin officially came out to Gay TV in 2000. Her relationship with Wagner had been openly acknowledged for the majority of its existence.

Tomlin and Wagner started the Lily Tomlin Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center, which provides art exhibits, theater and other programs. The Center donates to services for people with HIV/AIDS and funds programs at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.



NANCY MAHON

b. July 25, 1964

“In public health, sometimes the farthest distance is the one that is most important to travel.”

After graduating magna cum laude from Yale University in 1986, Nancy Mahon attended New York University School of Law, where she served as editor of the Law Review. She developed an interest in criminal law and became a leading criminal justice expert.

After clerking for two federal judges, Mahon worked as the Director of Research, Policy & Planning for the Osbourne Association, an organization that provides services to prisoners and their families. Philanthropist George Soros named her founding director of the Open Society Institute's Center on Crime, Communities & Culture.

Mahon later became Executive Director of God's Love We Deliver (GLWD), a New York City-based organization that provides nutrition to individuals living with HIV and other illnesses. Under Mahon's direction, GLWD grew rapidly in both its functions and clientele.

Throughout her post-graduate career, Mahon has influenced policy through research and writing. In 1996, the American Journal of Public Health published her groundbreaking article, “New York Inmates' HIV Risk Behaviors: The Implications for Prevention Policy and Programs.” Numerous academic conferences, including the International Conference on AIDS,

have invited her to present research papers. Mahon has been published in The New York Times, and has appeared on media outlets such as National Public Radio, CBS News, ABC's “World News Tonight” and “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.”

Mahon left GLWD in 2006 to join M•A•C Cosmetics as Vice President and Executive Director of the M•A•C AIDS Fund. The Fund has donated over \$80 million to AIDS-related causes. At the M•A•C AIDS Fund, Mahon initiated a grant for research into preventing AIDS among sex workers in Asia.

Nancy Mahon is Executive Director of the M•A•C AIDS Fund and former director of God's Love We Deliver.



MARY EDWARDS WALKER

b. November 26, 1832 – d. February 21, 1919

*“You men are not our protectors
... If you were, who would there
be to protect us from?”*



A steadfast feminist, Mary Edwards Walker defied 19th century patriarchal society by refusing to live within the confines of gender-based roles. As a student, physician and activist, Walker defined her place in society while paving the way for future generations of women.

Diverging from the norm, Walker's liberal parents encouraged her and her five sisters to attend college and pursue careers. Her father, a self-taught doctor and advocate of women's dress reform, largely influenced Walker.

In 1855, Walker graduated from Syracuse Medical College, becoming one of only a few female physicians in the country. She married fellow student and physician Albert Miller in an unconventional ceremony. Walker wore trousers and a man's coat and chose to keep her last name. The marriage ended four years later.

At the onset of the Civil War, having been denied the position of Army medical officer, Walker volunteered as a nurse for the Union Army. During the next few years she served in several battles, including the First Battle of Bull Run and the Battle of Fredericksburg. Despite her service, Walker often found herself at the scrutiny of male superiors who questioned her credentials.

The Confederate Army captured Walker in 1864 and held her captive for four months. The imprisonment proved to be a turning point in her career, winning her both respect and credibility. Later that year, she became the first woman commissioned as an Army surgeon, earning a monthly salary of \$100.

The following year, Walker became the only woman in history to receive a Medal of Honor, the highest military honor in the United States. The bill, signed by President Andrew Johnson, reads:

Whereas it appears from official reports that Dr. Mary E. Walker, a graduate of medicine, has rendered valuable service to the Government, and ... has devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers ... to the detriment of her own health, and has also endured hardships as a prisoner of war four months in Southern prison while acting as contract surgeon ... It is ordered, that a testimonial thereof shall be hereby made and given to the said Dr. Mary E. Walker, and that the actual medal of honor for meritorious services be given her.

For her service during the Civil War, Mary Edwards Walker became the only woman in history to receive a Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration awarded in the United States.

After the war, Walker remained a strong advocate of dress reform. She wore men's clothing exclusively and was arrested on several occasions for impersonating a man. In 1917, Congress revoked her Medal of Honor after revising the criteria for receiving it. Walker refused to return the medal, wearing it until her death.

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PEDRO ALMODÓVAR

b. September 24, 1951

“I don’t make judgments about what’s good or bad or what’s real and isn’t in culture.”

Pedro Almodóvar has written and directed 16 movies, including “Mala Educación” and “Volver.” His movies are known for their progressive themes—including transgenderism, homosexuality and feminism—and their racy sexuality, irony and wit.

Born into a poor family in Cazada de Calatrava, Spain, Almodóvar attended the convent school of the Salesian Fathers and the Franciscan Friars. While attending the school, he lost faith and turned to avid movie watching. His educational experience affected the themes of his movies, including “Mala Educación,” about a transgender male who was molested by a priest.

At age 17, Almodóvar moved to Madrid without money or contacts. After working low-paying jobs, he eventually secured a good position with Telefónica, the national Spanish phone company. His new job enabled him to buy a Super 8 camera and shoot his first short film, “Dos Putas, o Historia de Amor que Termina en Boda” (1974).

In 1980, Almodóvar’s first commercial film “Pepi, Luci, Bom y Otras Chicas del Montón,” premiered during the birth of the Spanish democracy. The publicly acclaimed film challenged conventional moral values and breached sexual boundaries. Since then, Almodóvar has directed 15 other films.

Almodóvar discovered actors Antonio Banderas and Penelope Cruz. Cruz won an Oscar nomination for her performance in “Volver.” Almodóvar and his films have won over 30 awards, including The Best European Director of the Year (1999) and The Best European Film of the Year (1999) from the European Film Awards. Almodóvar continues to direct and write innovative, popular and influential films.

Cinematic genius Pedro Almodóvar has written and directed 16 films and won two Academy Awards.



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THE REVEREND PETER J. GOMES

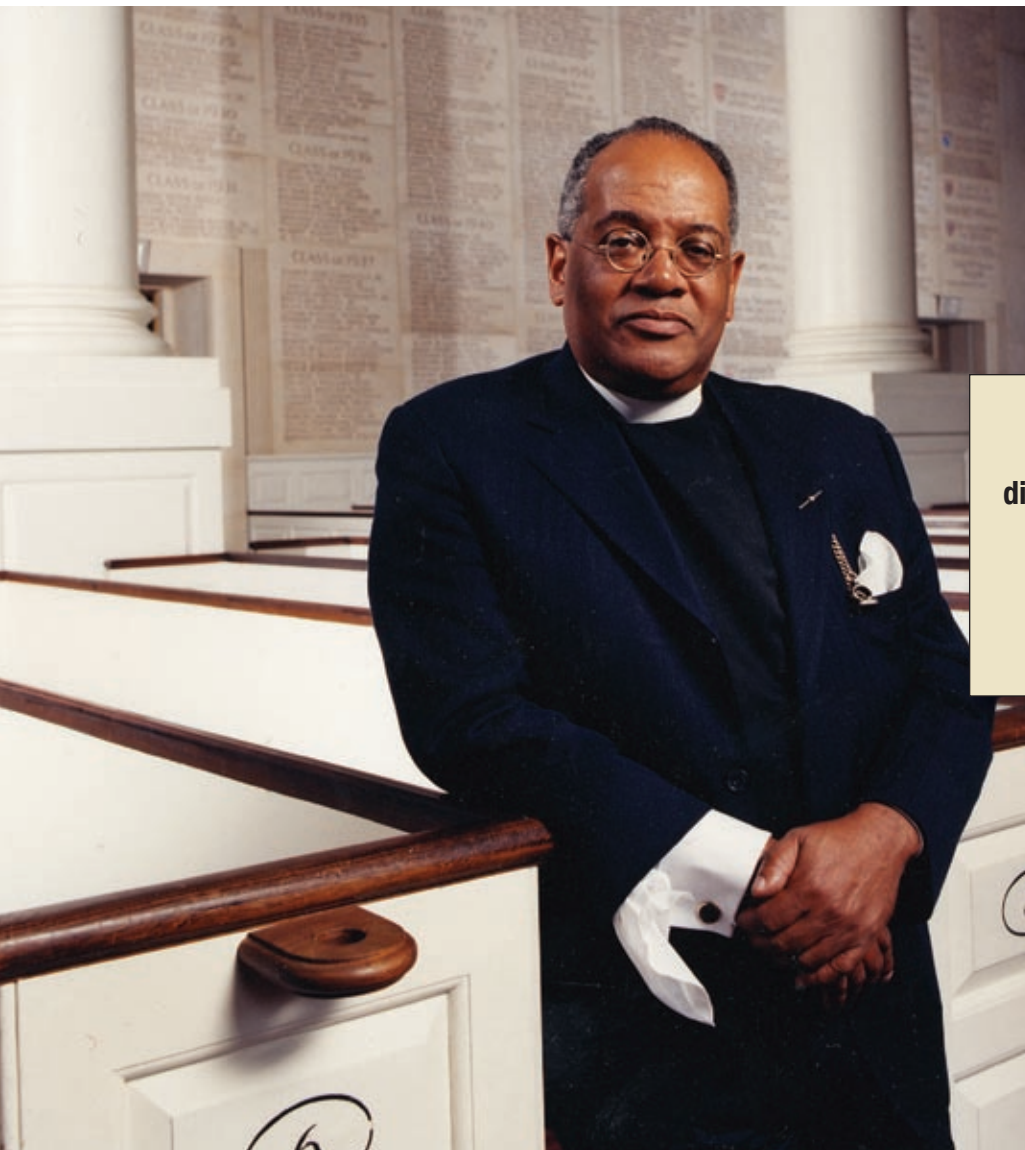
b. May 22, 1942

“There can be no light without the darkness out of which it shines.”

The Rev. Peter J. Gomes offers a look at religion from a distinctive perspective. A Baptist minister and professor at Harvard University, Mr. Gomes argues that the Bible is neither anti-Semitic, anti-feminist nor anti-gay.

In 1991, *Peninsula*, a conservative Harvard magazine, published a 56-page issue largely critical of homosexuality. Mr. Gomes denounced the magazine and came out publicly at Harvard’s Memorial Church. A small group called Concerned Christians at Harvard immediately called for his resignation, but Mr. Gomes received support from the Harvard administration.

Renowned for both his teaching and his preaching, Mr. Gomes is the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard and the Pusey Minister at Harvard’s Memorial Church. A graduate of Bates College in 1965 and Harvard Divinity School in 1968, he also studied at the University of Cambridge, where he is an Honorary Fellow and where the Gomes Lectureship was established in his honor. Mr. Gomes holds 33 honorary degrees. *Religion and American Life* named him Clergy of the Year in 1998, and he won the Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Award from Harvard in 2001. Mr. Gomes offered prayers at the inaugurations of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.



The Rev. Peter J. Gomes is a widely published author. Of the 10 volumes of sermons and numerous articles and papers he has written, two of his works—“The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart” (1996) and “Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living” (1998)—were New York Times and national best sellers.

Considered one of America’s most distinguished preachers, The Rev. Peter J. Gomes is the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and the Pusey Minister at Harvard University.



VIRGINIA URIBE

b. December 20, 1933

“As long as I have a breath in me, I will continue to fight for the rights of gay and lesbian students.”

As a counselor and science teacher at Fairfax High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Virginia Uribe witnessed the troubles of gay students. The plight of one student, who had been kicked out of his house and had dropped out of four different high schools because of sexual harassment, convinced Uribe to take action. In 1984, she founded Project 10, a dropout prevention program for GLBT youth.

The program met resistance. Conservative groups, led by the Traditional Values Coalition, attacked Project 10 and used their influence to threaten to cut funding for the LAUSD. Uribe prevailed at the court hearing and Project 10 continued to provide assistance to GLBT teenagers.

Project 10 focuses on building school-based support for teens by training school personnel in conflict resolution and suicide prevention, helping students participate in the development of school protection policies, and providing access to information about human sexuality. In 1998, when she retired from teaching, Uribe became the executive director of Friends of Project 10, Inc., the nonprofit arm of Project 10. The nonprofit organization funds programs not covered by the district, including a gay and lesbian prom and a lobbying day for educational issues in Sacramento.

Uribe's program has spread to dozens of schools in the LAUSD, but her vision has extended to many other parts of the country as well. High schools throughout the nation incorporate aspects of Project 10. Uribe, a Ph.D. in counseling psychology, influences policy through her writing. Her articles have appeared in Education Digest, High School Journal, Theory Into Practice, and a special issue of the Harvard Education Review. Her writing has appeared in USA Today and the LA Times, and she has spoken on public radio and television.

In 1992, Virginia Uribe received the National Education Association's Annual Human and Civil Rights Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights, now renamed the Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights. She has been honored by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, the California State Senate and Assembly, the Los Angeles City Council, and the American Civil Liberties Union.



A scientist, educator and activist, Virginia Uribe founded Project 10, a support system for GLBT students in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

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SUSAN SONTAG

b. January 16, 1933 – d. December 28, 2004

“To me, literature is a calling, even a kind of salvation. It connects me with an enterprise that is over 2,000 years old.”

Susan Sontag spent her childhood in Tucson, Arizona, and Los Angeles, California. A precocious child who excelled in academics, Sontag graduated from high school at age 15. She earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago. Sontag pursued graduate work in literature, philosophy and theology at Harvard University and at Saint Anne's College, Oxford.

In 1950, at age 17, Sontag married Philip Rieff, a professor of sociology theory. Two years later, Sontag gave birth to her only child, David Rieff. After her divorce nine years later, Sontag never remarried.

Sontag began her writing career at age 30 with “The Benefactor” (1963). Literary critics consider her critically acclaimed short story “The Way We Live Now” (1986) a monumental work of literature on the subject of AIDS. It was selected for inclusion in John Updike's “The Best American Short Stories of the Century.”

In addition to writing six works of fiction, including her best-selling novel, “The Volcano Lover” (1992), Sontag produced her most celebrated work as an essayist. The New Yorker, The New York Review of Books, the Times Literary Supplement, The Nation and the London Review of Books have published her provocative essays.

Sontag kept her sexuality mostly private. In an interview with Out Magazine, she discussed her reluctance to live an openly gay life: “Maybe I could have given comfort to some people if I had dealt with the subject of my private sexuality more, but it's never been my prime mission to give comfort, unless somebody's in drastic need. I'd rather give pleasure, or shake things up.” Sontag had several committed relationships with women, including her decade-long relationship with photographer Annie Leibovitz.

On December 28, 2004, Sontag lost her battle with cancer. Her Village Voice obituary read: “She was the indispensable voice of moral responsibility, perceptual clarity, passionate (and passionately reasonable) advocacy: for aesthetic pleasure, for social justice, for unembarrassed hedonism, for life against death.”



The “Dark Lady” of American intellectualism, Susan Sontag was an internationally acclaimed writer, director and human rights activist who added an unparalleled female voice to the American cultural fabric.

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RENÉE RICHARDS

b. August 19, 1934

“I made the fateful decision to go and fight the legal battle to be able to play as a woman and stay in the public eye and become this symbol.”

Dr. Renée Richards became a transgender icon in 1977 when she won a lawsuit against the United States Tennis Association. Richards sued the USTA for its refusal to let her compete in the U.S. Open women's division following male-to-female gender reassignment surgery. In a landmark decision, the New York Supreme Court ruled in Richards's favor.

Richards started playing tennis at an early age. Ranked among the top-10 Eastern national juniors, she won the Eastern Private Schools' Interscholastic singles title at age 15. She captained her high school tennis team at the Horace Mann School in New York City and Yale University's men's tennis team in 1954.

In 1959, Richards graduated from University of Rochester Medical School. After serving in the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander, she pursued a career in ophthalmology and eye surgery while continuing to compete in tennis tournaments.

At the height of her tennis career, Richards ranked 20th in the nation. In her first tennis tournament as a female, she reached the semifinals in the U.S. Open women's doubles competition. Following retirement, Richards coached tennis star Martina Navratilova. In 2000, the USTA inducted Richards into its Hall of Fame.

Richards has published two autobiographies: “Second Serve Renée” (1986), which was made into a TV movie, and “No Way Renée: The Second Half of My Notorious Life” (2007). She is a renowned eye surgeon and professor of ophthalmology at New York University School of Medicine.

Renée Richards is a transgender pioneer who, in 1977, successfully sued the United States Tennis Association for denying her participation in the U.S. Open.



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SHERRY HARRIS

b. February 27, 1965

“All real and lasting change starts first on the inside and works its way through to the outside.”

Believing it impossible to win an election as an out lesbian, many people warned Sherry Harris against running for Seattle City Council. In 1991, Harris proved her skeptics wrong. She defeated a 24-year-incumbent councilman to become the nation's first openly lesbian African-American city councilwoman.

Prior to politics, Harris pursued a professional career in engineering. In 1980, she received a B.S. in Human Factors Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. She worked as a project engineer for PNW Bell Telephone Company.

As Seattle city councilwoman (1992-1995), Harris championed downtown interests. She promoted the expansion of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center and supported a downtown symphony hall. A native of Newark, New Jersey, Harris said, “I was raised in a city where the downtown died, and so did the rest of the city.”

Harris works with Humanity's Team, an organization that emphasizes interpersonal connections. One volunteer who worked closely with Harris said, “She is truly a fine leader demonstrating great passion for humanity's well-being [who] displays uncompromising strength of character.”

**SHERRY
HARRIS**
FOR CITY COUNCIL

**Sherry Harris is the
first openly lesbian
African-American city
councilwoman in the U.S.**



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