



# NEWSLETTER



## Love is Love is Love

June is International Pride Month. This month, the LGBTQ+ community and its allies come together to celebrate history, amplify voices and honor the contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals to the community and society as a whole.



Since 1970



Pride Month is a jubilant celebration full of parades, workshops, concerts, dances, parties and festivals. It is celebrated in countless cities all over the world, including countries where being LGBTQ+ is against the law. It is a time where the community stands together to be seen and heard where historically they had been pushed to the margins of society. Hence, the loud, colorful and sometimes outlandish crowds in attendance.



The Pride Parade began on June 28th, 1970, on the 1 year anniversary of a riot at the Stonewall Inn in New York City where a crowd of people in the LGBTQ+ community decided they had been pushed around too much by the NYC police and came together to fight back. The police barricaded themselves in the inn while hundreds of people threw things and heckled them until reinforcements arrived. This was not the first act of protest for the community, but it was the first time the community realized the power they had when they stood together to stand up to the oppression and became the galvanizing event that sparked a new age in LGBTQ+ rights. The parade quickly spread across the country and into countries all over the world.

The Pride flag that we see today has a significant history as well. The design was originally commissioned by Harvey Milk, one of the first openly-gay elected officials in the US. In the original design, there were 8 colors, but two of them were difficult to manufacture, which led to the 6 color-striped flag where each color represents its own unique symbolism. Red: life, Orange: healing, Yellow: Sunlight, Green: nature, Indigo: serenity, and Violet: spirit. Over the years, other colors have been added to celebrate the many different races and gender-identities of the LGBTQ+ community.



# PRIDE MONTH

## Celebrated Figures



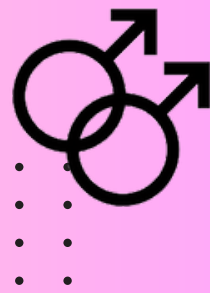
Harvey Milk - One of the first openly gay elected government officials in the US. Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. He introduced, and successfully passed legislation that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodation. Less than a year into his term, he was shot and killed by the conservative former City Supervisor, Dan White, who was also the only dissenting vote in the landmark legislation.

Barbara Gittings - Sometimes referred to as the "mother of the LGBT rights movement", Gittings was one of the founders of the first lesbian civil rights organization, Daughters of Bilitis, in 1958. Much of her focus was protesting the belief that homosexuality was something to be cured and played a pivotal role in convincing the American Psychiatric Association to remove homosexuality as a mental disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual.



Storme DeLarverie - One of the protesters during the Stonewall Inn riots, she often insisted that the term "riot" was incorrect and insisted it was instead "an uprising, it was a civil rights disobedience - it wasn't no <expletive> riot". She performed as a "drag king" and inspired a movement that pushed for the acceptance of women to wear men's clothing as regular everyday wear. She also volunteered to patrol downtown Manhattan looking out for bullying, intolerance and discrimination.

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Why is using the correct pronouns important? Using a person's correct pronouns affirms that person's identity, helps them to feel comfortable in their own body, and shows that you respect who they are.

Gilbert Baker - The "creator" of the traditional Gay Pride flag. He was a renowned political activist and designer who grew up experiencing alienation and homophobia all his life. The Gilbert Baker Foundation's mission is "to educate future generations about the Rainbow Flag and to record and promote its impact on the world.

Freddie Mercury - The famous lead singer for the rock band Queen. Freddie's flamboyant and electric persona helped propel him and his band into legendary status. Regardless of his sexual orientation, Freddie was and is beloved universally by people of all beliefs, backgrounds and cultures.

Ifti Nasim - A gay poet from Pakistan who fled his country to America in order to escape persecution for being gay. His Urdu book of poetry titles "Narman" is considered to be the first in the language to express gay desire. He was inducted into the Chicago Hall of Fame in 1996.

# PRIDE MONTH



## Being an Ally



Being an ally to the LGBTQ+ community is one of the best ways to support the community if you are not a part of it:

- Talk openly and honestly with your LGBTQ+ loved ones about their lives
- Create social settings that bring straight, cisgender and LGBTQ+ friends and family together
- Speak up if you hear anti-LGBTQ+ comments or jokes and be prepared to explain why they are harmful or offensive
- Add your pronouns to your email signature
- Read LGBTQ+ literature
- Get involved with pro-LGBTQ+ groups and campaigns and contact elected officials about LGBTQ+ rights
- Stand up for LGBTQ+ issues in every aspect of your life - even if there are no LGBTQ+ people there to watch



Why do we often see flamingos as a kind of mascot at Gay Pride events?

Fun Fact: A flock of flamingos is called a "Flamboyance"

Definition of flamboyance: The tendency to attract attention because of one's exuberance, confidence and stylishness. The quality of being bright, colorful and very noticeable.

Sound familiar?



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Some videos and links with more information:

- <https://www.hrc.org/campaigns/national-state-of-emergency-for-lgbtq-americans>
- <https://sacramentopride.org/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pu7ASPWe1SA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1D65SxzojI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3Fh60GEB5E>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xkhl\\_U7K4HA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xkhl_U7K4HA)

The struggle today is very real for the LGBTQ+ community as they, once again, have become a target. Terms like "pedophile", "groomer" and "Dont Say Gay" are being used to attack members of the community by anti-LGBTQ+ activists, politicians and other public figures. The Human Rights Campaign has, for the first time, declared a State of Emergency for the LGBTQ+ community as they are living with increased risk of violent homophobia and transphobia. Get involved and support our LGBTQ+ family and friends during this difficult time.