



Don't Know Much About History: The LGBT History & Culture Extravaganza

Background:

Thank you for participating in this PFLAG National/Straight for Equality learning session! In this document you'll find a few questions to continue the discussion started during the class. You'll also find several recommended resources that will help you continue to learn more about LGBT history and culture. As with any effort focused on history, there are many ways to understand the past, and the approach used in this session is just one of those ways, so please remember that this is not an exhaustive list of all resources, but a few that influenced this session.

Want to learn more about PFLAG and Straight for Equality? Visit www.straightforequality.org to get started.

Discussion Questions:

- Did anything that you learned in the session surprise you? Why?
- Were there any parts of the class that challenged or reframed what you thought you knew about LGBT history?
- How do you think understanding more about the stories of people who are LGBT from the past might help you better understand the LGBT community and its challenges today?
- Some people argue that as LGBT culture becomes more visible (and "out"), the idea of an LGBT culture – meaning something distinct from other groups – is starting to erode. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
- If there was one thing from the class that you'd like to learn more about now, what is it? Why?

(Continued)

Selected Resources:

Please remember that this is not the only list of resources to use to learn more, but a selection of a few of the items that were mentioned in the session.

Books and Essays:

- *A Queer History of the United States* by Michael Bronski
- *Alfred C. Kinsey: A Life* by Jason H. Jones
- *Eminent Outlaws: Gay Writers Who Changed America* by Christopher Bram
- *Images in the Dark: An Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Film and Video* by Raymond Murray
- *Long Road to Freedom: The Advocate History of the Gay and Lesbian Movement* (Stonewall Inn Editions) by Mark Thompson and Randy Shilts
- *Making Gay History: The Half Century Fight for Lesbian and Gay Equal Rights* by Eric Marcus
- *Masters of Sex: The Life and Times of William Masters and Virginia Johnson, the Couple Who Taught America How to Love* by Thomas Maier
- *Notes on "Camp"* by Susan Sontag. Available at <http://faculty.georgetown.edu/irvinem/theory/Sontag-NotesOnCamp-1964.html>
- *Out in All Directions: A Treasury of Gay and Lesbian America* by Eric Marcus
- *Sister Outsider* by Audre Lorde
- *Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution* by David Carter
- *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies* by Vito Russo
- *The End of Gay Culture*. Published in *The New Republic*, Oct. 24, 2005. Available at <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/politics/the-end-gay-culture>
- *The Gay Almanac* by National Museum & Archive of Lesbian and Gay History
- *The Gentrification of the Mind: Witness to a Lost Imagination* by Sarah Schulman
- *The Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin* by John D'Emilio
- *The Modernization of Sex: Havelock Ellis, Alfred Kinsey, William Masters and Virginia Johnson* by Paul A. Robinson
- *Transgender History* by Susan Stryker
- *Transgender Warriors : Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman* by Leslie Feinberg

Films:

- *Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community*
- *After Stonewall*
- *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria*
- *Vito*
- *The Celluloid Closet*
- *Milk*
- *How to Survive a Plague*

Websites:

- **LGBT History:** <http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com/>
- **GLBT History Museum:** <http://www.glbthistory.org/museum/>
- **ONE Archives:** <http://www.onearchives.org/>