

## Introduction

LGBTQ+ History Month is a very important time to recognize and bring awareness to people of all genders and orientations. There are many events this month dedicated to the history of the LGBTQ+ community and its awareness. These events include: National Coming Out Day, Ally Week, Spirit Day, the first "March on Washington," and the celebration of the life of Matthew Shepard, who was killed in a hate crime in 1998. The very first LGBTQ+ History Month was celebrated in 1994, and recognized as an official commemorative national month in 1995. As a sociology class, we want each person to feel represented and acknowledged at MSA. No gender, orientation, ethnicity, or race should go unrecognized. The intent of this project is to celebrate everyone, and bring about awareness that represents the LGBTQ+ community and their allies.

Anna Fleanor Roosevelt was born on October 11, 1884 in New York City, New York. She grew up in quite a wealthy family but also they were greatly invested in helping the community out. Sadly both her parents died before she turned 10 and it tore her apart. When she turned 15, she started attending a boarding school strictly for girls called Allenswood. She was influenced by a woman named Marie Souvestre by the way she expresses her taste for travel and excellence and Eleanor was amazed by this. After boarding school she returned to New York where she married her cousin Franklin Roosevelt.In April 1917, World War 1 has just begun which meant that Eleanor had more time to continue her volunteer work since Franklin would be busy. She made lots of friends who were lesbian and there is evidence that Eleanor was lesbian with a letter written to her correspondent Lorena Hickok giving vivid evidence.

### **Eleanor Roosevelt**



Franklin was struck with polio in 1921 and as a result Eleanor decided to help his political career. She became very active in the Democratic Party and started to learn patterns of debates and voting records. He became governor in 1929 which made her the First Lady of the State. Later while FDR was president, she became the First Lady of the US. During her first 12 years she made major reforms in child welfare, women's' rights and rights for African Americans. In 1945, after her husband died, Eleanor was appointed as a delegate to the United Nations. She was one of many who helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since then she has been everywhere and wrote books and articles influencing the future of generation of women in politics.

### Sources

Betty Boyd Caroli. Oct.7, 2020. "Eleanor Roosevelt"

Retrieved Oct.20, 2020: <a href="https://www.britannica.com/biography/Eleanor-Roosevelt">https://www.britannica.com/biography/Eleanor-Roosevelt</a>

Marc Peyser. Jun.20, 2016. "Eleanor Roosevelt, The First Lady of Gay Rights"

Retrieved Oct.20, 2020: <a href="https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-first-lady-of-gay-rights">https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-first-lady-of-gay-rights</a> b 7608122

History.com Editors. Nov.9, 2009. "Eleanor Roosevelt"

Retrieved Oct.20, 2020: https://www.history.com/topics/first-ladies/eleanor-roosevelt

## Henry Gerber

Henry Gerber was a courageous man. In a time when no one risked even admit to homosexuality, Gerber acknowledged his and advocated for the right of each and all human beings to follow their preference openly and without fear.

Henry Joseph Dittmar was born on June 29, 1892, in a small town located in Bavaria. At the age of 21, he and his family immigrated to Chicago in 1913 to join the sizeable German immigration population. From there on, in the United States, he went by Henry Gerber. Gerber was gay and was briefly committed to a mental institution due to discrimination during the time period. During World War I, Gerber worked as a printer and proofreader. He was inspired by both his experiences in Germany and the emerging gay subculture in Chicago.

Expanding his inspirations, Gerber, and a few friends founded the Society for Human Rights in 1924. Considering it was in the 20th century, this organization was incredibly risky; it was the first of its kind in the United States. The organization's purpose was to protect and promote the interests and rights of gay and lesbian individuals. People soon understood that homosexuality was not an illness or psychiatrist condition; neither was it unnatural. In 1925, he and other group members were arrested, and the organization was discontinued. Gerbers enthusiasm decreased following the arrest, and he returned to living a low profile life. However, he continued building communities with gay allies. Henry Gerber was a fearless man who spread awareness of the discrimination against gay people. He changed the attitudes of gay people towards themselves and abolished the laws that persecuted them. Geber passed away on December 31, 1972. In 2015, he became the nation's second National Historic Landmark designated for its association with LGBTQ history.



## Sources (Mia Tonnu)

National Park Service. Feb. 26, 2015. "LGBTQ History on Govners Island." Retrieved Oct. 21, 2020 (<a href="https://www.nps.gov/gois/learn/historyculture/henry-gerber.htm">https://www.nps.gov/gois/learn/historyculture/henry-gerber.htm</a>).

National Park Service. Feb. 20, 2018. "LGBTQ Activism: The Henry Gerber House, Chicago, IL." Retrieved Oct. 21, 2020

(<a href="https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#:~:text=I">https://www.nps.gov/articles/lgbtq-activism-henry-gerber-house-chicago-il.htm#

Blue Jay Blog. June 29, 2013. "Henry Gerber." Retrieved Oct. 21, 2020 (<a href="https://bluejayblog.wordpress.com/2013/06/29/henry-gerber/">https://bluejayblog.wordpress.com/2013/06/29/henry-gerber/</a>).

# Billie Holiday

Adam Acs

Eleanora Fagan, most commonly known as Billie Holiday, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 7, 1915. She was an African American women who became one of the most well regarded jazz singers. As a child she and her mother were always struggling to make ends meet, especially with her father being an infrequent part of her life. She also skipped school alot and struggled in it. All of these struggles in her life helped her find solace in music. So she started singing in clubs and extending her musical talents to others. This is what helped her become one of the most famous jazz singers of all time.



Billie Holiday's major accomplishments are of those relating to her music and singing. She sang many different songs with many different people, such as "Your Mother's Son-In-Law" and "Riffin" The Scotch." Her most famous and well. known song is "Strange Fruit" due to its message about racism and lynching of African Americans in the south. The controversy caused by this song was one of the reasons why the song became so popular. Thanks to this song people became much more aware about the fight against racism and the problems it caused for the African American community. Overall Billie Holiday's music helped inspire people, provoke emotion, and shed light on social issues. Thanks to her the social climate we have today is much better than how it was 100 years ago.

## Sources

Aida Amoaka. Apr. 17, 2019. "Strange Fruit: The most shocking song of all time?"

Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20190415-strange-fruit-the-most-shocking-song

-of-all-time).

Biography.com Editors. Apr. 2, 2014. "Billie Holiday Biography." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020 (<a href="https://www.biography.com/musician/billie-holiday">https://www.biography.com/musician/billie-holiday</a>).

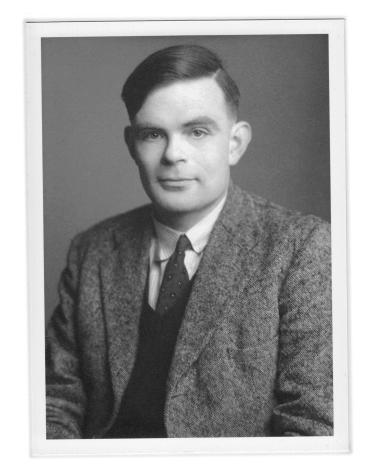
Malak Monir, and Jessica Durando. Apr. 7, 2015. "100 facts about Billie Holiday's life and legacy." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(<u>https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2015/04/07/billie-holiday-birth-anniversary-100/25357845/</u>).

# Alan Turing (1912-1954) (By Anirudh Chari)

Alan Turing was born on June 23rd, 1912, in London, England, to upper-middle class parents. He attended a traditional English school, still regulated by the British Imperial system. He was fascinated with scientific principles at an early age, and chafed under the authority of his school and government, who seemed to limit his quests for knowledge. His status as a gay male also provded some distance between himself and the government, and he was always sceptical of the motivations the government had in making certain decisions.

At the start of his career, Alan Turing published the paper 'On Computable Numbers..', which outlined the founding work of modern computer science. In World War 2, Turing was totally engaged in deciphering the German Enigma code, which he did, and gained some exposure to the top electronics of the time period. After the war, after chafing under the British war guidelines that did not publicly recognize his part in the war, Turing started to compare the brain to a machine. His observations on how machines could emulate the brain helped to found the Artificial Intelligence program in Britain. Overall, Turing discovered and created some of the most advanced principles in modern computer science, and paved the way for the birth of the internet as well.



Sources:

British Library. "Alan Turing". Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020(<a href="https://www.bl.uk/people/alan-turing">https://www.bl.uk/people/alan-turing</a>)

Cowell, Alan. June 5th, 2019. "Overlooked No More: Alan Turing, Condemned Code Breaker and Computer Visionary". Retrieved Oct. 19,

2020(https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/05/obituaries/alan-turing-overlooked.html)

Hodges, Andrew. June 3, 2002. "Alan Turing". Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020(<a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/turing/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/turing/</a>)

### Leonard Bernstein



Leonard Bernstein was born on August 25, 1918 in Lawrence, MA. As a child, Bernstein discovered the piano and when he began playing, he realized that he had a passion for music. Not only that though, he had a rare, innate musical talent. This put him in direct conflict with his father. His father believed that classical music was no profession to rely upon. Eventually, his father allowed him to continue with his passion and this was his beginning to becoming a famous musician.

After graduating from Harvard in 1939, Bernstein enrolled at the Curtis Music Institute for further study. Bernstein was awarded the position of assistant conductor with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. His rise to fame skyrocketed on November 14, 1943, substituting for the orchestra's guest conductor, who fell ill, requiring Bernstein to substitute. Ultimately, at only 25 years old, with no rehearsals and practice, the concert was successful. Throughout his personal life though, he was trying to discover himself and who he was. Although he had married and had children, in 1976 he decided that he would no longer repress his homosexuality; he left his wife to live with Tom Cothran, his male lover at the time. Bernstein made an impact by showing that he still followed his passions no matter what obstacles and challenges he faced, especially in the music world.

## References (Julia Bizon)

dailyolivian.com. February 9, 2019. "Leonard Bernstein: A Life." Retrieved October 19, 2020 (<a href="https://dailyolivian.com/2019/02/09/leonard-bernstein-a-life/">https://dailyolivian.com/2019/02/09/leonard-bernstein-a-life/</a>).

Fherehab.com. August 20, 2020. "Sex, Drugs ... and Conducting - Remembering Leonard Bernstein." Retrieved October 19, 2020 (<a href="https://fherehab.com/learning/leonard-bernstein">https://fherehab.com/learning/leonard-bernstein</a>).

gayinfluence.blogspot.com. July 12, 2011. "Gay and Bisexual Men of Importance." Retrieved October 19, 2020 (<a href="https://gayinfluence.blogspot.com/2011/07/leonard-bernstein.html">https://gayinfluence.blogspot.com/2011/07/leonard-bernstein.html</a>).

nypost.com. October 18, 2014. "Leonard Bernstein's New York." Retrieved October 18, 2014 (<a href="https://nypost.com/2014/10/18/leonard-bernsteins-new-york/">https://nypost.com/2014/10/18/leonard-bernsteins-new-york/</a>).

Sally Ride (1951-2012)



Sally ride was an astronaut for the NASA Space Agency. She became the first woman to travel to space. She was born in May 26, 1951 in Los Angeles, California. She studied in Stanford University and was a double major in English and physics. She earned her Bachelor's degree in both of the subjects, her Masters degree in 1975. In 1978, she received her Ph.D in physics while studying in the University.

In the same year, she got selected to join the NASA space program, beating 1,000 other applicants. Some of her accomplishments were that she became the first out of six women to board the Challenger, a space shuttle. Thus, being the first woman to travel to space. As a mission specialist, she ran science experiments and deployed satellites. In 2001 she started her own company to create educational programs and products known as Sally Ride Science to help inspire girls and young women to pursue their interests in math and science. Ride received many honors, including the NASA Space Flight Medal and the NCAA's Theodore Roosevelt Award. In July 23, 2012, she died of pancreatic cancer.

## References (Murtaza Wani)

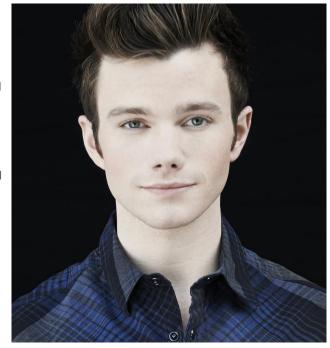
Biography.com Editors, Apr. 2, 2014. "Sally Ride Biography." Retrieved Oct. 20, 2020(<a href="https://www.biography.com/astronaut/sally-ride">https://www.biography.com/astronaut/sally-ride</a>).

Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Jul. 19, 2020. "Sally Ride." Retrieved Oct. 20, 2020(<a href="https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sally-Ride">https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sally-Ride</a>).

Wild, Flint, Jun. 18, 2014. "Who was Sally Ride." Retrieved Oct. 20, 2020,( <a href="https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/nasa-knows/who-was-sally-ride-k4.html">https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/nasa-knows/who-was-sally-ride-k4.html</a>).

Chris Colfer was born on May 27, 1990, in the United States, but is of Irish heritage. He grew up in the city of Clovis, California. He faced a lot of bullying when he was younger, much like his character Kurt Hummel on the successful T.V. show, *Glee*. He was bullied because he hadn't undergone puberty yet, the bullies alluding to his less masculine personality; they would vandalize his lockers and ruin his gym clothes. Due to this, Colfer started homeschooling and later transferred to a conservative high school, which had a strong performing arts program. When he sang a gender-bending song he altered, the school and district did not receive it well. Because he was often neglected by his peers, Colfer found his voice through words, and a lot of his work is based off of his own life.

Colfer is a multi-talented person, becoming both a successful actor and author. He is perhaps most well-known for portraying the role of Kurt Hummel in Glee, a gay high school student. This role of his opened Hollywood to LGBTQ+ characters, because there wasn't much representation before Glee; in current T.V. shows, after Glee aired, there are more forms of LGBTQ+ representation, including many teen shows. He has inspired many to come out as well as inspired many to become allies of the LGBTQ+ community. He himself is "a vocal member of the LGBTQ+ community" (USA Today). By defying gender stereotypes in the T.V. show, such as singing the song "Defying Gravity" confidently (it was Colfer's all-time favorite number to perform in the show), and playing an LGBTQ+ character at a time when it wasn't received well, he has helped shape society's views on the LGBTQ+ community and has also related to many teenagers in high school who want to have a life just like Kurt Hummel or Colfer himself. Besides Glee, Colfer has become a highly successful writer. He is the author of the widely-known series The Land of Stories, and, in his most recent novel, A Tale of Witchcraft, he advocates for mental health and depression awareness. His fairy tale novels were based off of his "unbalanced family dynamic" (New York Times), which he viewed as an evil curse. He will soon write a script and direct a film for The Land of Stories. Additionally, he wrote and starred in the movie Struck by Lightning, in which he plays a high school outcast who attempts to find redemption. Regardless of his projects, Colfer is an inspiration for many, and brightens hope for the future, especially for the future of the LGBTQ+ community.



Chris Colfer (1990-Present)

### References (Catherine L.)

Brodeur, Nicole. "How Chris Colfer Went From 'Glee' to Author of Books for Middle-Schoolers." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/glees-chris-colfer-enjoving-new-creative-outlet-as-childrens-book-author/).

Coops, Lorna. Aug. 19, 2011. "Glee Cast Open Up As Glee: The 3D Concert Movie Hits Cinemas." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://web.archive.org/web/20120529234159/http://tv.uk.msn.com/blog/editor-blogpost.aspx?post=34985fb8-f3e1-4105-a10d-78b7160d0b2b).

Crist, Allison. Sep. 30, 2020. "Glee's Chris Colfer Dishes on His 16th (!) Book, A Tale of Witchcraft." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://www.eonline.com/news/1193513/glees-chris-colfer-remembers-naya-rivera-reveals-her-incredible-hidden-talent).

Hernandez, Greg. May 27, 2020. "Happy 30th Birthday to Chris Colferl." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020 (http://greginhollywood.com/happy-30th-birthday-to-chris-colfer-188935).

Schulman, Michael. Dec. 21, 2012. "The Many Hats of Chris Colfer." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020 (https://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/23/fashion/the-many-hats-of-chris-colfer.html).

Slater, Georgia. Jul. 25, 2019. "Chris Colfer's New Fantasy Book 'A Tale of Magic' Aims to Inspire Those Fighting Injustice." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/books/2019/07/25/glee-chris-colfer-new-book-a-tale-of-magic-tour/1825737001/).

Stack, Tim. Mar. 19, 2015. "Chris Colfer Reflects on 'Glee' and Cory Monteith: 'He Really Was the Big Brother I Never Had." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://ew.com/article/2015/03/19/chris-colfer-reflects-glee-and-cory-monteith-he-really-was-big-brother-i-never/).

Taylor, Ella. Jan. 10, 2013. "Literary-Minded Teen Comedy More Stuck Than 'Struck." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020. (https://www.npr.org/2013/01/10/169033650/literary-minded-teen-comedy-more-stuck-than-struck).

Michael Sam's story is absolutely inspirational. He was an amazing college football player and the first openly gay player to be drafted into the NFL.

Michael Sam was born on January 7, 1990, and grew up in Hitchcox, Texas, where he played high school football. He played well enough to earn a scholarship to the University of Missouri. While he played great on the football field, his dad left when he was five.

At Mizzou, Michael Sam was pretty mediocre as a redshirt freshman, sophomore, and junior, getting only 8 sacks within those years. As a senior, he had a breakout year with 10 sacks and 18 tackles for loss. Recognizing his efforts, he was awarded with Southeastern Conference (SEC) co-defensive player of the year. Before the 2014 NFL Draft, Sam was seen as undersized, slow, and weak for his position, but the biggest news was that in an interview with the New York Times, Michael Sam announced that he was gay. Sadly, after this announcement, many NFL teams labeled Sam as a distraction, which caused his draft stock to fall lower. After being projected as a mid-round pick (there are seven rounds in the NFL Draft), he was drafted in the seventh round by the Rams. He is the lowest draft pick of any SEC Defensive Player of the Year ever. He played in four preseason games for the rams, earning three sacks. Still, he got cut before the season in order for the Rams to meet the 53-man roster limit. He was later picked up by the Cowboys practice squad, then also got cut. In 2015, he joined the Montreal Alouettes, a team in the Canadian Football League. He retired later that year, citing mental health issues. He now tries to help others in the LGBTQ+ community and holds speeches discussing his career and who he is. He overcame his father's absence, bigotry, and homophobia to become a great man. Even though his NFL career didn't pan out as well as he'd probably like, why can't any other LGBTQ+ person become a NFL star?

# Michael Sam



Picture of Michael Sam while he was on the Rams

## References

#### Jourdon Moua

Boyd, Flinder. 2019. "Michael Sam's pursuit of happiness." Retrieved Oct. 19,

2020

(https://sports.yahoo.com/michael-sams-pursuit-of-happiness-045127853.html?guccounter=1&guce\_referrer=aHR\_0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce\_referrer\_sig=AQAAAAnj4VkIGT\_mv86YrtFtO-EVsuKyV6GdTHSwuCp\_5kT1I54vh5nJWX2zdoVbEydgFscm2cpFIMkFPgS2q-Jm8LMIXqB\_DBDVhJQ1HjtPyQfyZF2bWAqewyCGp9MxlvbA\_0gi1W0qlOfwgXHWmU96xvXrfwAFjDEQVyma7SbXPAqRXH).

Conway, Tyler. 2014. "Michael Sam: Combine Results and Instant Reaction." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://bleacherreport.com/articles/1971528-michael-sam-combine-results-and-instant-reaction)

Wysong, David. 2020. "Michael Sam Seems to Be Completely Done With Football in 2020." Retrieved Oct.

19, 2020 (https://www.sportscasting.com/michael-sam-seems-to-be-completely-done-with-football-in-2020/).

## Virginia Woolf

Virginia Woolf was born in London, England on January 25, 1882. She was born into a privileged English family, where her broad-minded parents allowed her to write freely. She was educated at home by her father, in her large family's lush Victorian library. Both of her parents had been married and widowed before marrying each other, so Virginia had three full siblings and four half-siblings. Her parents were extremely connected both artistically and socially, so she had many opportunities open to her from their relations with many significant people. Her works are a representation of many aspects of her childhood, such as her summers at their summer home in the beach town of St. Ives, to her family's amusing tales. They also illustrate the darker sides, such as her trials with depression, and the death of her mother from rheumatic fever. While dealing with the loss of both her parents, she found ways to overcome her hardships through literary expression.



Woolf's first novel was released in 1915 as *The Voyage Out*, originally titled *Melymbrosia*. It was an extremely unique book at the time, documenting a woman in South America who is introduced to freedom of self and self expression. Woolf used the book to experiment with a variety of literary tools, and this book opened doors for other authors to travel beyond the limitations of realism. She married essayist Leonard Woolf in 1912 (she was originally Virginia Stephen), and in 1917 they bought a printing press and founded the Hogarth Press, where they began hand-printing books. Virginia had kept a diary on and off throughout her life, and it was later studied, forming critical distinctions between the feminine and the masculine. with the feminine being an all-experiencing view of the world, and the masculine being a linear way of experiencing the world. Her next novels surrounding two love triangles gave realistic illustrations of the early 20th-century settings, and descriptions of issues such as class, politics, and suffrage. Her experimentations in her many novels verify that "we are not single." The perception of the world in her novels is fluid rather than separating one character's internal monologue from another's, where her narratives move in between characters without distinction. The depiction of political/feminist/artistic issues and the far-reaching experiments within her work formed a new path for other writers to venture into, fueled a new form of feminism, and revolutionized the Modernist movement by depicting the inner lives of characters.

## References (Helena Yiangou)

Heitman, Danny. 2015. "Virginia Woolf Was More Than Just A Women's Writer." Retrieved Oct. 19,

2020 (https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/mayjune/feature/virginia-woolf-was-more-just-womens-writer)

Lombardi, Esther. Feb. 1, 2020. "Virginia Woolf Biography." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://www.thoughtco.com/virginia-woolf-biography-735844)

Reid, Panthea. March 24, 2020. "Virginia Woolf." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://www.britannica.com/biography/Virginia-Woolf)

## Barbara Gittings

Born on July 31, 1932, in Vienna, Austria, Barbara Gittings first experienced discrimination based on sexual orientation. when one of her high school teachers informed her that the reason she was not admitted to the National Honor Society was likely that she was percieved to have "homosexual inclinations." This, coupled with being viewed as "sick" for her orientation, led Gittings to join the Daughters of Bilitis, a group dedicated to improving the lives of lesbians. She also hunted for reinforcement in the libraries of Chicago while she was at Northwestern University studying drama. Gittings left Northwestern after her freshman year, and supported herself with clerical work to support her work as an activist for equal rights.



In 1963, Gittings began editing The Letter, the magazine of the Daughters of Bilitis. Soon after, she marched in the first picket lines for gay and lesbian equality outside of the White House for equal opportunites in the government for LGBT workers. Government jobs did not accept LGBT people as employees, and Gittings knew this was wrong. Some of Gitting's most lasting work was fighting to declassify homosexuality as a mental illness. In 1972, she organized a panel at the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) annual meeting on sexual orientation. With the help of John E. Fryer, M.D., Gittings was able to convince the APA to remove its discriminatory classification of homosexuality as a mental illness by 1973. Gitting's achievements towards raising awareness for LGBT issues and creating real and lasting change have bettered the United States as a whole, and she is known as mother of the LGBT civil rights movement.

### References

Salvo, Victor. 2020. "Barbara Gittings - Inductee." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://legacyprojectchicago.org/person/barbara-gittings).

National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration. 2015. "Barbara Gittings." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://lgbt50.org/barbara-gittings).

Fox, Margalit. 2007. "Barbara Gittings, 74, Prominent Gay Rights Activist Since '50s, Dies." Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/15/obituaries/15gittings.html).

### Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci, or Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci, was born on April 15, 1452. He was born in Vinci. Italy. He was not offered an education above any basic level, he learned to read, write, and do basic mathematics. At such a young age. However, his artistic ability was more prominent than anyone had seen.



The major impacts of Leonardo da Vinci include, creating some of the most important pieces of art that we know of. These paintings were the Mona Lisa and the last supper. He was also important for setting a standard for realism with pastel art tools. He is also credited with the invention of the anemometer, a tool which is use to measure wind speeds. He also invented the diving suit. The plan with this diving suit however was to ward off invading ships by having someone in the suit go into the water and puncture the invadings ships hull.

## References (Alexander Williams)

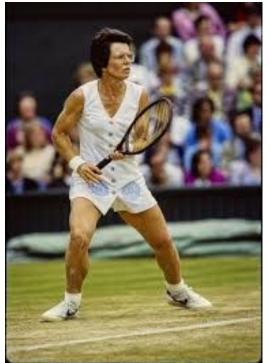
All That's Interesting. 2013. "Ingenious Leonardo Da Vinci Inventions That Forever changed History." Retrieved Oct. 20, 2020 (https://allthatsinteresting.com/leonardo-da-vinci-inventions)

Biography.com Editors. 2014. "Leonardo da Vinci Biography." Retrieved Oct. 20, 2020 (https://www.biography.com/artist/leonardo-da-vinci)

Encyclopædia Britannica. 2020 "Leonardo da Vinci." Retrieved Oct. 20, 2020 (https://www.britannica.com/biography/Leonardo-da-Vinci)

## Billie Jean King

Billie Jean Moffitt was born on November 22, 1943 in Long Beach, California. She was born into a highly-athletic family: her father Bill, who was a firefighter, earned the opportunity to tryout for one of the NBA teams, and her mother Betty, who was a homemaker, was an accomplished swimmer. Billie Jean virtually followed in their footsteps when she played her first sport which was basketball. After that, she then went on to play softball at 10 years old; the position she played was shortstop on an under league team. When she got to fifth grade, she consulted her father on what sport she would be best at, all he did was mention the sport and shortly after, she was introduced to it by her friend Susan Williams. She took Billie Jean to a country club, where she played for the very first time. The moment she hit her first ball, she was already dead-set on what she wanted to do in life. When she started getting into tennis more and more, she already set the bar very high, but soon discovered that the standards of tennis were different for men who played the game than for women. She faced injustice for the first time in 1955 when she was withheld from being in a picture for junior tennis players. simply because she wasn't wearing a traditional tennis skirt made for female athletes, and instead, wore one made for her by her mother. This ultimately fueled her to be at the top of her game, and power her social advocacy.



In 1958, Billie Jean won the Southern California Championship in her age group, and the next year turned pro. At the beginning of her professional career in the sport, former women's tennis champion, Alice Marble, became her coach. When she was a little girl, she set a goal for herself that she would be ranked the #1 women's tennis player in the world; In 1966, she finally achieved this goal. She campaigned to make the salary for women's tennis players egual to men's. In 1973, her campaign gained millions of audiences worldwide when she played against male tennis player Bobby Riggs. He claimed that the women's division of tennis was inferior to that of men. She proved him wrong by beating him in a tennis match. The following year, she co-founded the inclusive World TeamTennis co-ed circuit and started the Women's Sports Foundation which was dedicated to creating leaders in women through all types of sport. In the early 1970s, Billie Jean came to realize that she was interested in being in a relationship with other women, and secretly began one with a woman. This decision came back to bite her a decade later in 1981, when she was publicly labeled as a lesbian, and lost all of her approval deals. Despite all her public shame, her crusade against inequality remained intact. Her accomplishments are important because she consolidated her influence that women can achieve just as much as men can in any sport or career, and she paved the road for women athletes to have endless opportunities in the world of sports when she stated the Women's Sports foundation.

### References

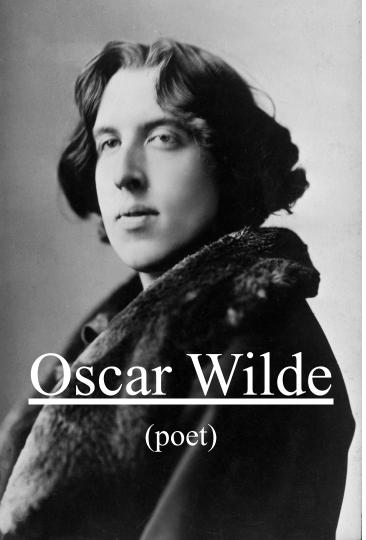
- Billie Jean King Enterprises. 2014. "Billie Jean King: Biography". Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020 (<a href="https://www.billiejeanking.com/biography/">https://www.billiejeanking.com/biography/</a>)
- Biography. Feb 28, 2018. "Billie Jean King Biography". Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020
- The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. 1999. "Billie Jean King, American tennis player." Retrieved Oct 20, 2020

## Michelangelo

Michelangelo (Born March 6, 1475, Caprese, Republic of Florence [Italy], died February 1564.) was an Italian Renaissance artist, sculptor, poet, painter, and architect who majorly influenced western art. He was born into an Italian family that used to have minor nobility, but as he was born the family lost their hold on the nobility they once had. Michelangelo's father held only temporary government jobs; over time, the family was summoned back to Florence where Michelangelo began his schooling. However, he showed no interest in school, he rather watched the painters at churches and drew what they painted. At 13, he went to become an apprentice to the best artist in the city, at the time, against his father's wishes. Even though he was apprenticed to the city's most prominent painter (Domenico Ghirlandaio), he left after one year, saying he the human body. The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel took 4 years had no more to learn from him. Later, Lorenzo the Magnificent, of the Medici family, took a strong liking to Michelangelo and invited him to live in his palace, in which he was surrounded by scholars, artists, and intellectuals alike. Along with them, in the palace, resided Michelangelo. There, he was exposed to many great artists of the past living artists and intellectuals including: Poliziano, Marsilio Ficino, and Pico della Mirandola, as well as various ancient greek and roman works of art. This influenced and made his creative mind and allowed him to become an expert in the human body.



Michelangelo's most prominent works include: The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, The Medici Chapel, and The Laurentian Library. Not to mention his skillful craftsmanship in sculpting for Michelangelo to complete, and he was asked to do it to add something to the incomplete ceiling. The immediate call for the Medici Chapel was the death of two family heirs. Michelangelo designed their tombstones with four statues. Two on one that symbolized day and night, and two on the other grave that symbolized dawn and dusk. These were made to show how time never stops, and how there is an end to everyone's life. These Gravestones were his most famous piece. Michelangelo has always been praised as one of the worlds most exalted artists, who has expressed the ups and downs of humanities accomplishments, and have shown the depth of this with such a deep scope. His works visual influence has not been very powerful, however, specific parts of his work have been taken and made into new pieces of work, or have influenced parts of philosophy and art.



Oscar Wilde was born on October 16, 1854, in Dublin, Ireland. Wilde's parents were William Wilde, an accomplished doctor and author, and Jane Francesca Elgee, a poet under the pseudonym "Speranza" and an Irish nationalist. Her writing, and English translation of Sidonia the Sorceress by Wilhelm Meinhold, greatly influenced Oscar

Although Wilde was an accomplished scholar in his own right, his writing is what he is most renowned for his literary works. These include a collection of children's stories called The Happy Prince and Other Tales, an essay collection called Intentions, and his only novel, The Picture of Dorian Gray. He also produced many plays, his most famous being The Importance of Being Earnest. Unfortunatly, after starting an affair with the young Lord Alfred Douglas, Wilde ended up being trialed for his homosexual behaviors and imprisioned for 2 years, writing about the experience in his poem "The Ballad of Reading Gaol." Wilde's impact of the world comes from how we still remember his personality, intelligence, infamous homosexuality imprionement, and his literary works. His words, such as the ones in The Picture of Dorain Gray and The Importance of Being Earnest highlight his wondrous mind and are condired some of the great literary masterpieces of the Victorian period

## References (Ella Walters)

Amanda Prahl. May 28, 2019. "Biography of Oscar Wilde, Irish Poet and Playwright." Retrieved Oct.

21, 2020 (https://www.thoughtco.com/oscar-wilde-2713617).

Karl Beckson. May 4, 1999. "Oscar Wilde." Retrieved Oct. 21, 2020

(<a href="https://www.britannica.com/biography/Oscar-Wilde">https://www.britannica.com/biography/Oscar-Wilde</a>).

Owen Dudley Edwards. October 4, 2012. "Wilde, Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills." Retrieved Oct. 21,

2020

(https://www.oxforddnb.com/view/10.1093/ref:odnb/9780198614128.001.0001/odnb-97801986

<u>14128-e-29400</u>).

### Marsha P. Johnson

Marsha P. Johnson was born in Elizabeth. New Jersey on August 24, 1945. She is a transgender woman. Some of her influences were when she was five she first started to wear dresses, but since she was born as a boy she was peer pressured to stop by other children. She attended Mount Teman Africa Methodist Episcopal Church and was a Christan but later was drawn more to Catholicism. She would visit many different religion's houses of worship. Once she graduated highschool she moved to New York. While there she was arrested many times, some for cross dressing.



Johnson was an important figure of the Stonewall uprising that was in response to police brutality against LGBTQ people, that had been going on for many years. This happened on the early morning of June 28, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar. This would set into motion the start of the push for equality for LGBTQ people and the first Gay Pride Parade in 1970. In 1972 with Sylvia Rivera, a friend of Johnson, they started STAR, Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries, that would help young transgender people. In New York's 1980 Pride Parade Johnson was invited to ride in the lead car. She was also an AIDS activist and often attended protests.

### References

#### Sydney Weschcke

Chan, Sewell. 2018. "Marsha P. Johnson a transgender pioneer and activist who was a fixture of Greenwich Village street life."

Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020 (https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/obituaries/overlooked-marsha-p-johnson.html)

Nowakowski, Audrey. 2020. "The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson' Shows Fight For Social Justice Isn't Finished."

Retrieved Oct. 19, 2020

(https://www.wuwm.com/post/death-and-life-marsha-p-johnson-shows-fight-social-justice-isnt-finished#stream/0)

White, Edmund. 2019. The Stonewall Reader. Penguin Books

## James Baldwin

James Arthur Baldwin was an American novelist, playwright, essayist, poet, and activist. His essays, as collected in Notes of a Native Son, explore intricacies of racial, sexual, and class distinctions in Western society, most notably in regard to the mid-twentieth-century United States. Some of Baldwin's essays are book-length, including The Fire Next Time, No Name in the Street, and The Devil Finds Work . An unfinished manuscript, Remember This House, was expanded and adapted for cinema as the Academy Award-nominated documentary film I Am Not Your Negro . One of his novels, If Beale Street Could Talk, was adapted into an Academy-Award-winning dramatic film of the same name in 2018, directed and produced by Barry Jenkins.

Baldwin's novels, short stories, and plays fictionalize fundamental personal questions and dilemmas amid complex social and psychological pressures. Themes of masculinity, sexuality, race, and class intertwine to create intricate narratives that run parallel with some of the major political movements toward social change in mid-twentieth-century America, such as the civil rights movement and the gay liberation movement. Baldwin's protagonists are often, but not exclusively, African American, while gay and bisexual men also frequently feature as protagonists in his literature.

## References

Yahya Ali

Biography.com.2020 "James Baldwin" biography Retrieved Oct. 19 (<a href="https://www.biography.com/writer/james-baldwin">https://www.biography.com/writer/james-baldwin</a>)

New yorker 1998 "James Baldwin" The making and the unmaking of James Baldwin Retrieved Oct. 19

(https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1998/02/16/the-enemy-within-hilton-als)

Britannica 2020 "James Baldwin" Life Retrieved Oct. 19 (https://www.britannica.com/biography/James-Baldwin)

## Alexander the great

Alexander the great was born in pella macedonia of the year 356 BCE during a period of greek decentralization. His early childhood was impacted by the disunified and broken greek region compared to the highly organized and centralized persion empire allowing him to see the benefits and detriments of both system for his eventual reign as emperor of the classical world. For his education he was personally taught by Aristotle one of the greatest minds of the classical era diparing great amounts of knowledge and patterns of thinking that greatly benefited his life. For his personal life he was the son of a king leading him to live a life of comparit luxury allowing him to focus on the less survival applicable knowledge and more philosophical and rulership detailed knowledge.

Alexander the great's achievements are hard to overstate as by the age of twenty he ascended the throne of macedonia after his father was assassinated. The first accomplishment of alexander was subjugating all of greece like it was nothing a feat that the persian empire before had failed to do under the pretext of an invasion of persia. Under his agreement to invade persia he gather men from all over greece and over the course of only around 10 years he conquered from modern day turkey to egypt to india defeating the successful persians at every turn spreading greek ideas and founding new cities of greek influence all over his new lands the majority of which were named Alexandria after himself. He sadly died at the young age of 32 from sickness although his influence was not limited to his life as at his death he had no heir apparent leading to his empire becoming fractured between warlords of greek descent further spreading geek ideas across the east and just as importantly put the ptolemies on the throne of egypt who were the descendants of the cleopatra who influenced the roman empire centuries later into becoming an empire with caesar and the proliferation of greco-roman styles throughout europe as well.



#### References

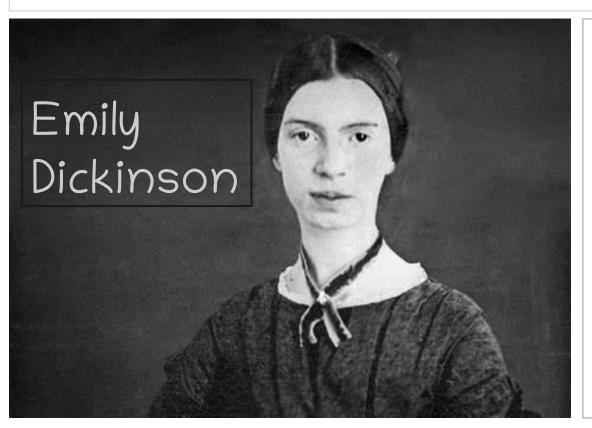
Biography.com. 2020. "Alexander The Great Biography." Retrieved Oct. 21, 2020 https://www.biography.com/political-figure/alexander-the-great

Britannica.com. 2020. "Alexander The Great." Retrieved Oct. 21, 2020 https://www.britannica.com/biography/Alexander-the-Great

Nationalgeographic.org. 2020. "Alexander The Great." Retrieved Oct. 21, 2020 https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/alexander-great/

Patrick Seeberger

Born on December 10th, 1830, in Amherst, Massachusetts, was Emily Dickinson. Independent & daring, she was not afraid to be different. She would often write letters to friends & family, later adding poems to her letters. Inspired by Metaphysical poets of seventeenth century England, she became very interested in poetry & enjoyed writing it. Raised as a Christian, a touch of her religious views were applied to some of her poems.



Her great interest in poetry began in her late teen years, with that interest growing over time. Rather than write simple poetry, she brushed aside the rules & even grammar, instead freely writing her poems however she wanted. With offrhymes & loose writing, her unique style began drawing attention, but it wasn't until after her death that her writing became widely popular. After Emily had passed in 1886, her family found that she had written almost 1,800 poems in booklets. They were unpublished at the time & no one knew what she was planning on doing with them. Her poems were collected, edited, & finally published as books. She is now recognized as one of the greatest & most original poets in American history.

# Sources

Poetry Foundation. "Emily Dickinson"

Retrieved October 21st, 2020. <a href="https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/emily-dickinson">https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/emily-dickinson</a>

Poets.org. "Emily Dickinson"

Retrieved October 21st, 2020. <a href="https://www.poets.org/poet/emily-dickinson">https://www.poets.org/poet/emily-dickinson</a>

Alfred Habegger. "Emily Dickinson"

Retrieved October 21st, 2020. <a href="https://www.britannica.com/biography/Emily-Dickinson">https://www.britannica.com/biography/Emily-Dickinson</a>

Averi Allen