

Selected Dates of Queerness

1950

Harry Hay forms the Mattachine Society, “to protect and improve the rights of homosexuals,” according to Princeton University.

1955

Del Martin and **Phyllis Lion** form Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), focusing on lesbian rights.

1956

James Baldwin publishes *Giovanni’s Room*, a novel with strong homoerotic content.

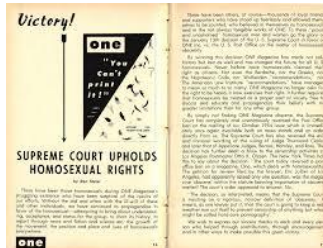
1958

Barbara Gittings forms the NY chapter of DOB and edits their magazine, *The Ladder*, a first of its kind.

-----COURT CASE-----

1958: One, Inc. v. Olesen

One, a queer-positive magazine, was deemed obscene by the US Postal Service and the FBI, but the US Supreme Court, affirmed its first amendment rights.



-----COURT CASE-----

1963

Bayard Rustin. Martin Luther King Jr's right-hand man and the key person responsible for making the March on Washington happen. This accomplished person of color fought for queer rights as well as African-American ones, seeing them both, like King did, as part of the overarching civil rights struggle.

1967

National Transsexual Counseling Unit formed, focusing on issues of persons undergoing gender reassignment.

1969

Stonewall Riots. Societal homophobia forced homosexual meeting places underground and their bars were subsequently frequently under mafia control. Police used this to their advantage, regularly harassing the patrons under the guise of fighting organized crime. Some brave queers had enough and fought back.

1973

American Psychiatric Association: homosexuality no longer in their list of mental disorders.

1977

Anita Bryant. Under the misnamed and virally homophobic Save Our Children campaign, queer rights has several setbacks.

Harvey Milk. Openly queer and champion of queer rights is elected to public office. One year later, he will be assassinated.

1981. Reflections of a Rock Lobster. Book by Aaron Fricke about his suing to take his boyfriend to the prom. Think about the time. What a pioneer!

-----*COURT CASE*-----

1986: Bowers v Hardwick

A man was arrested in his bedroom for committing sodomy, which violated Georgia Law. In this flawed ruling, the U.S. Supreme court said the law was fine, that the man had no recourse. Arresting consenting adults in the privacy of their bedroom. Wow. Kind of scary, eh?



-----*COURT CASE*-----

1986

Vermont Cares formed. Although not queer specific, this AIDS Service Organization is dedicated to helping persons with HIV connect with community resources and is queer friendly. Check out their booth at this year's pride.

1989?

Vermont People with Aids Coalition (VTPWAC) formed. Although not queer specific, this AIDS Service Organization is queer friendly, fighting the same disease as Vermont Cares, but with a focus on social support

1989

Outright Vermont formed, serving the needs of queer youth, ages 13-22. Check out their booth at this year's Pride.

1993

Don't Ask Don't Tell. Translation: Stay in the Closet and don't live your life fully as a human being.

1995

GenderPac formed. Dedicated to the concerns of the transgender community, this first of its kind national organization sought to create safe environments in all aspects of transgender lives in whatever way, whatever identity those lives were expressed.

1996

DOMA. Translation: It's a-okay to treat queers as second class citizens. Like DADT, this was a cowardly and hypocritical law signed by President Bill Clinton, who incidentally was not doing that good of a job with his own marriage.

-----*COURT CASE*-----

1996: Romer v. Evans

Colorado had added Amendment 2 denying any recourse for queers facing discrimination. In this queer-favorable ruling, the U.S. Supreme court struck it down.



-----*COURT CASE*-----

1999

RU12? (now PRIDE CENTER of Vermont (PCVT)) formed, serving the needs of LGBTQ Vermonters.

2000

Civil Unions. Set in motion by the 1999 ruling in Baker v. Vermont (which you can read about at the Queer Archives exhibit). Not able to offer full marriage because of DOMA, this became the next best thing, and Vermont was the first to have this, after a very public and heated debate about it.

-----COURT CASE-----

2003: Lawrence v. Texas

A homophobic neighbor called the police and said a burglary was occurring next door. The police entered the home and found no burglary, just two queers making love in the privacy of their home. The couple was arrested for sodomy. This favorable court ruling struck down state sodomy laws as unconstitutional. This overturned Bowers v Hardwick. Yay!!



-----COURT CASE-----

2007

JK Rowling reveals that the great wizard Albus Dumbledore in her Harry Potter novels is gay.

2009

Wesley Eure comes out. Who is Wesley Eure? Well, if you're between forty and fifty years old, you may very well have had a crush on him as Will in Land of the Lost, with his perpetually unbuttoned shirt



-----COURT CASE-----

2013: United States v Windsor

A lesbian couple was together for 40 years. Think about that time frame for a moment. Four decades. They got married in Canada in 2007. One of the partners died. The survivor requested the same inheritance tax break that is given to married couples. She was denied this because of DOMA, specifically section three, which says Federal law doesn't recognize Same-Sex marriages. In this favorable ruling, the U.S. Supreme court ruled that section three of DOMA was unconstitutional. Although the court didn't strike down DOMA wholesale, it wounded it enough that it is hopefully dying.



-----COURT CASE-----

2013

Vermont to insurance companies: End transgender exclusions

2014



2014 Theme: Generations of Pride

2015

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