



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

KEEPING LOS ANGELES' LGBTQ+ HISTORY VISIBLE

Pride Month 2023 | ONE Archives Foundation x LACHS



About ONE Archives Foundation

Founded in 1952 as ONE Inc., the publisher of *ONE Magazine*, ONE Archives Foundation is the **oldest active LGBTQ organization in the United States**. In 2010, ONE Archives Foundation deposited its vast collection of LGBTQ historical materials with the USC Libraries. Today, the organization is dedicated to promoting this important resource through diverse activities including **educational initiatives, fundraising, and range of public programs**.



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION



Tony Valenzuela (he/him)

Executive Director

tvalenzuela@onearchives.org



Trevor Ladner (he/him)

Education Manager

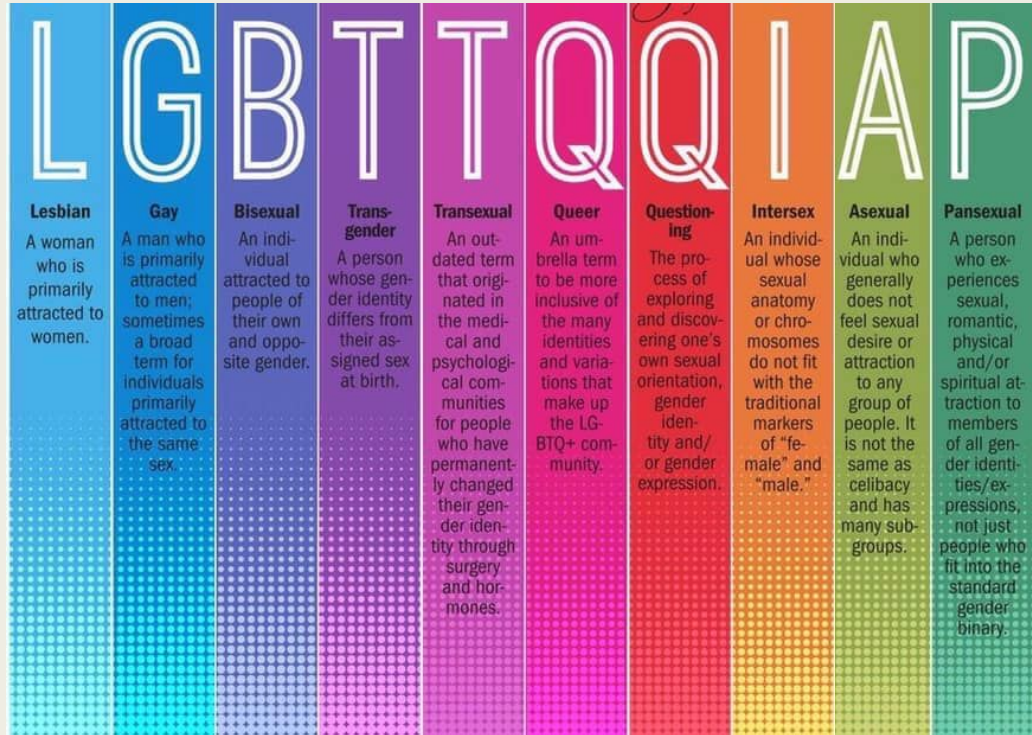
tladner@onearchives.org

Notes on Language



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

- Hetero/Homo/Bisexual (c. 1860s)
- Lesbian (c. 1890s)
- Queer (c. 1890s)
- Asexual (c. 1890s)
- Gay (c. 1920s)
- Transsexual & Transvestite (c. 1920s)
- Intersex (c. 1940s)
- Transgender (c. 1960s)
- Pansexual (c. 1970s)
- Two-Spirit (c. 1990s)
- Nonbinary (c. 2000s)



Honoring Tongva Land & Two-Spirit Natives

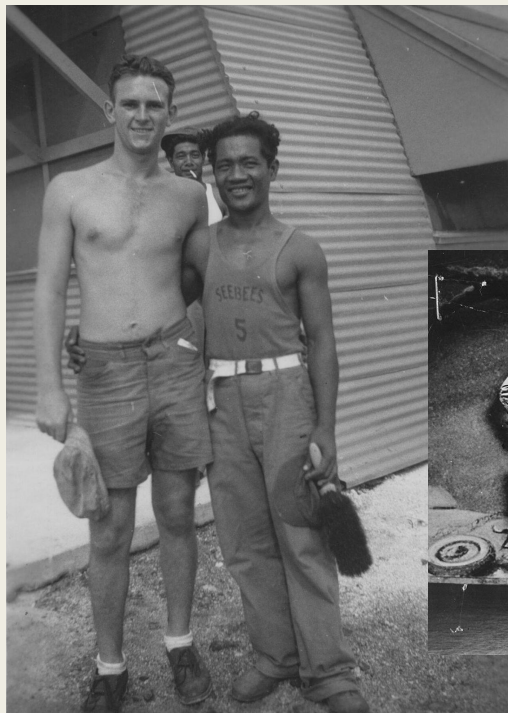
1
7
6
0
S
-
1
8
3
0
S



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

WW2 & Growth of Queer Communities in Los Angeles

1
9
4
0
S
-
1
9
5
0
S



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

GINGER ROGERS BEACH

This section of Will Rogers State Beach has been a notable site of LGBTQ+ expression and organizing as early as the 1940s. During and after World War II, LGBTQ+ people migrated to Los Angeles to take advantage of new social opportunities and created a community in Santa Monica Canyon (see sign #1). As the LGBTQ+ community became more politically conscious in the later twentieth century, Ginger Rogers Beach became an important site for organizing around social issues, such as youth support, police discrimination, racism, and AIDS. In recent years, this area demarcated by lifeguard towers 17 and 18 has been known as "Ginger Rogers Beach"—a campy reference to the glamorous gay icon of Hollywood's Golden Age.

Safe Space for LGBTQ+ Expression



The beach was especially attractive to gay people. It represented the very edge of the continent, far away from 'back home'... During and after the war, veritable oases of gay life could be found in the open at many Los Angeles beaches, where the atmosphere was celebratory, carnival-like, even lawless.

As a teen in the 1950s, Faderman—the “mother of lesbian history”—observed gay people at the beach freely express their flamboyance and explore romance. In 1957, she watched San Francisco drag queen José Sarria give an impromptu performance to a queer crowd on the sands. Sarria enlisted in the U.S. Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor, becoming infatuated with queer nightlife while stationed in Berlin, and returned to San Francisco in 1947. In 1961, Sarria would become the first openly-gay person to run for political office in the United States.

In 1950, Harry Hay and Rudi Geinrich—co-founders of the Mattachine Society, one of the nation's first gay rights organizations—gathered 500 signatures at for an anti-war petition. At this time, gay beachgoers were not yet willing to join an organization to discuss homosexual rights. The community became more politically unified through the next few decades as gay publications—such as ONE Magazine—and acts of civil disobedience—such as the Stonewall Uprising—strengthened the case for a common identity and a civil rights movement (see sign #2).

Writer Christopher Isherwood and painter Don Bachardy met on the beach in 1952, launching a life-long partnership. Isherwood's 1964 novel *A Single Man* memorialized the beach and Santa Monica Canyon's gay culture in modern literature.

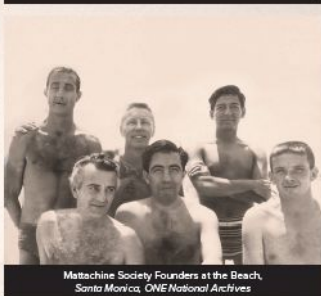
For Pride Month 2023, LA County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath and the ONE Archives Foundation formally commemorated the vibrant LGBTQ+ history of this beach.

During World War II, widespread social changes gave way to a rise of LGBTQ+ communities in urban centers, especially in port cities like Los Angeles. Young people embraced newfound economic opportunity and personal freedoms away from their traditional lives back at home, even as medical institutions and government policies targeted homosexuals as psychological and moral deviants.

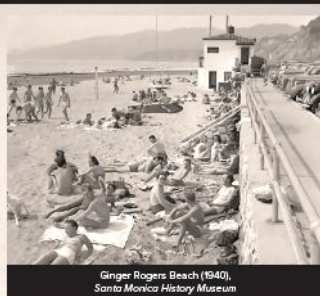
More military personnel moved to Los Angeles than to any other U.S. city throughout the 1940s, and beaches served as a critical safe space for LGBTQ+ people. In *Gay L.A.* — a seminal text on Los Angeles' LGBTQ+ history — historians Lillian Faderman and Stuart Timmons write:



"Pat Rocco at beach with a friend," Santa Monica, ONE National Archives



Mattachine Society Founders at the Beach, Santa Monica, ONE National Archives



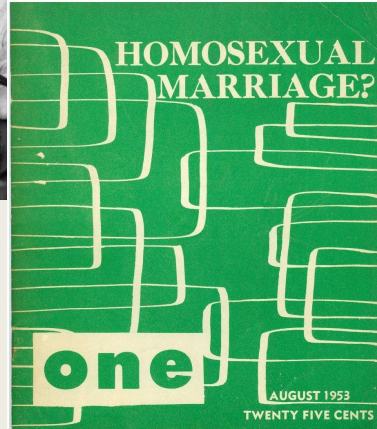
Ginger Rogers Beach (1940), Santa Monica History Museum



Sources: Michael Bronski, *A Queer History of the United States* (2016); Lillian Faderman and Stuart Timmons, *Gay L.A.* (2006); Trevor Lohar, "Interview with Lillian Faderman," ONE Archives Foundation (2023); Mason Fink, "Interview with Don Bachardy," *The OUTWORDS Archive* (2017); "Where Dots Meet Dotted," *The Advocate* (2003); Harry Hay, "Birth of a Consciousness," *Notions: Gay & Lesbian Review* (1959); Randy Dotting, "The 'Mother of Lesbian History' Looks Back—and Forward," *Voice of San Diego* (2023); "Jose Sarria," *National Park Service* (Accessed May 2023).

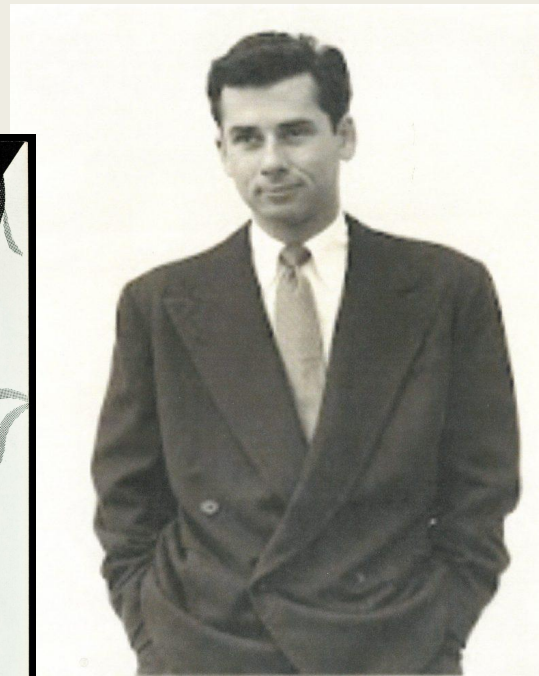
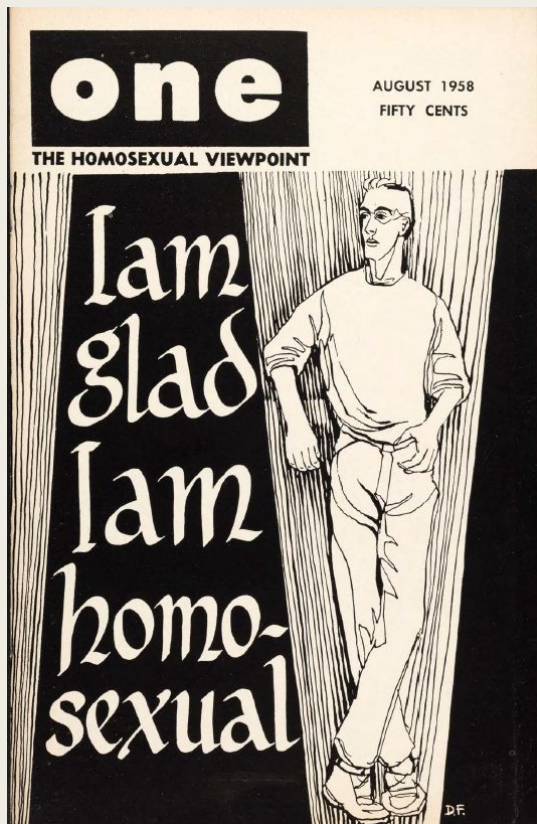
Mattachine Society, Daughters of Bilitis, & ONE Inc.

Ernestine Eckstein



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

ONE Inc. v. Olesen (1958)



Eric Julber



ONE Institute for Homophile Studies



Dr. Evelyn Hooker



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

Bayard Rustin

1
9
5
0
S
-
1
9
6
0
S



**SUPREME COURT
OPENS ON OCT. 6**

COME TO A CANDLELIGHT DEMO
ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE REHNQUIST COURT

**A VIGIL FOR
JUSTICE**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
5:30 PM, FOLEY SQUARE
CITY HALL STOP, 4, 5 & 6 TRAINS
CHAMBERS ST STOP, 2 & 3 TRAINS

GUEST SPEAKERS
LIZ HOLTZMAN,
BROOKLYN D.A.
MICHAEL HARDWICK
LT. ELLEN NESBITT
BAYARD RUSTIN

GLAAD

GAY and LESBIAN
ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

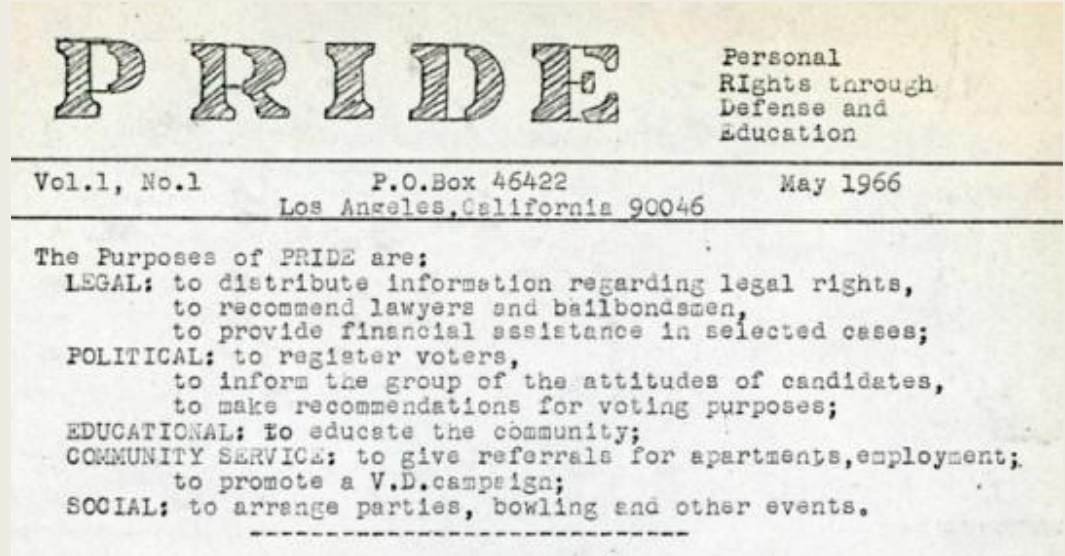
Queer Uprisings in the 1950s & 1960s

1
9
5
0
s
-
1
9
6
0
s



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

Personal Rights in Defense & Education



Sir Lady Java & Rule No. 9



That's Life: After the Los Angeles Police Dept. closed down shapely dancer Sir Lady Java during an appearance at comic Redd Foxx's club, the female impersonator pickets the place despite Foxx's pleadings. It appears there's a law against female impersonators in Hollywood.

37

Municipal codes around cross-dressing in the 1800s United States

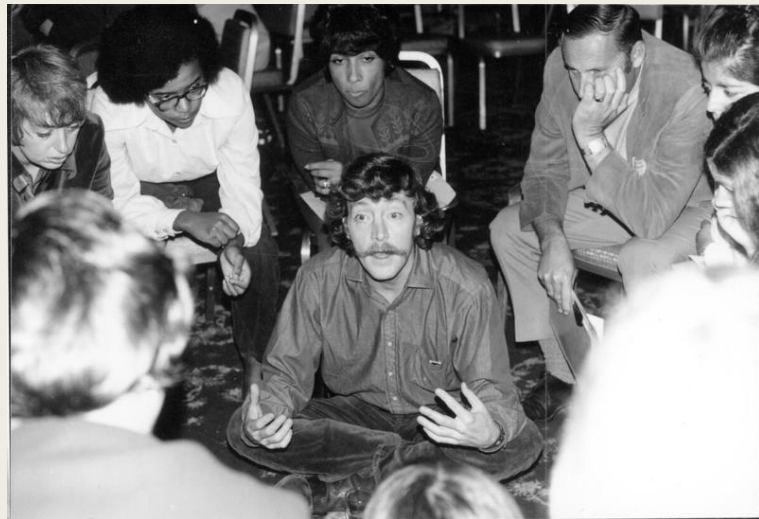
Although gender conventions have been challenged for many centuries, it wasn't until the middle of the nineteenth century when gender expression was scrutinized through legislation. Municipal laws against cross-dressing and presenting as the opposite sex started to emerge across many U.S. cities: Columbus Ohio (1848), Chicago, Illinois (1851), Wilmington, Delaware (1856) Charleston, South Carolina (1858), and San Francisco, California (1863).



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

1
9
6
0
S
-
1
9
7
0
S

Biltmore Invasion



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

1
9
7
0
S

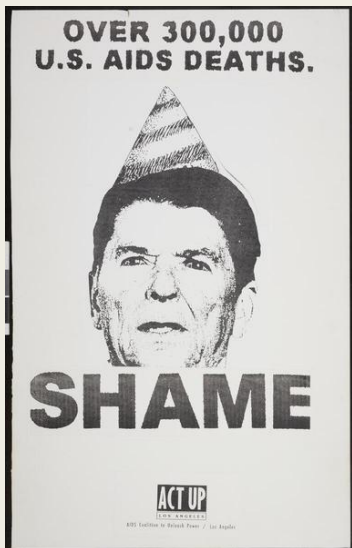
Pride is Born



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

The Community Acts Up

1
9
8
0
S
-
1
9
9
0
S



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

The Freedom to Marry

Edie Windsor

1
9
9
0
S
-
2
0
2
0
S



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

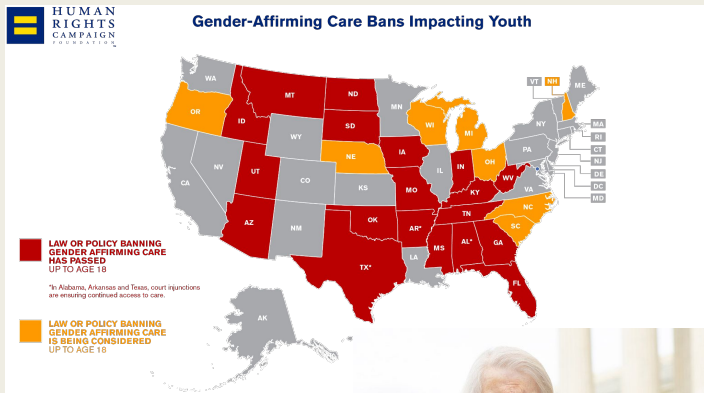
1
9
9
0
S
-
2
0
2
0
S

Pride Today



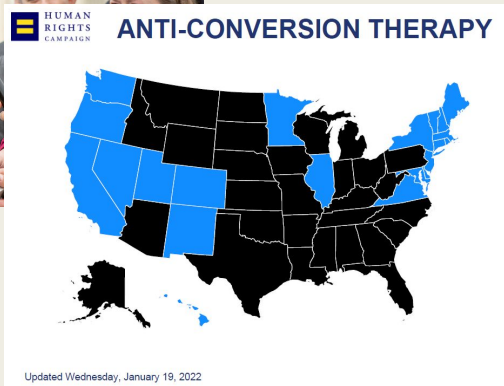
ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

The Road to Equality



The ACLU is tracking **491** anti-LGBTQ bills in the U.S.

Florida students say they're walking out and teaching themselves banned history lessons to protest censorship and anti-LGBTQ laws in education



DRAG MARCH
DRAG MARCH
DRAG MARCH
DRAG MARCH
DRAG MARCH
DRAG MARCH
DRAG MARCH

RISE UP!

A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ANTI-LGBTQ+ LEGISLATION
 SUN. APRIL 9 • WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK • 18+
 RSVP: LALGBTCENTER.ORG/DRAGMARCH

1175 Total number of LGBTQ elected officials nationwide

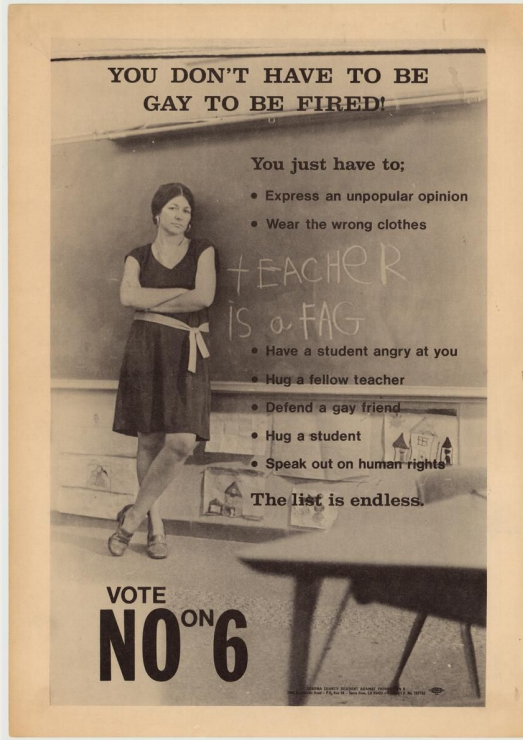
one
 ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

From Collector to Connector



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

History Has Work to Do



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

Time for Questions!

Tony Valenzuela (he/him)

Executive Director

tvalenzuela@onearchives.org

Trevor Ladner (he/him)

Education Manager

tladner@onearchives.org



Support our work: onearchives.org/donate