

# RECENT AMERICAN QUEER HISTORY

*(1930 - present)*

*with a focus on Lesbian*

*Game* **CHANGERS**

# LET'S SET SOME GROUND RULES

*Broaching topics about LGBTQ people may lead to discomfort and disagreement. Here are some best practices for students:*

**RESPECT** another person's right to have opinions and thoughts that are different from yours.

**BE OPEN** to considering alternative thoughts, ideas, opinions and behaviors. Be willing to "try on" new ideas, or ways of doing things that might not be what you prefer or are familiar with.

**SAY OOPS** and, or acknowledge when you may unintentionally say something and wish you had not.

**HAVE A HIGH SENSITIVITY** level to the feelings of others.

**USE "I" STATEMENTS** Each person's learning is enhanced when we share our own experiences and speak from a personal perspective.

**NO REPRESENTATIVES** Don't expect a person to represent all persons in their group. Do not speak for a whole group or express assumptions about the experience of others.

**UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INTENT & IMPACT** Try to understand and acknowledge impact. Denying the impact of something said by focusing on intent is often more destructive than the initial interaction. (Example: *He didn't mean anything bad by saying "that's so Gay"*)

# WHAT IS 'QUEER'?

**QUEER is an umbrella term for people who don't conform to cultural norms around gender and/or sexuality. It's also a term used to express that sexuality and gender can be complicated and change over time.**

*Originally meaning 'strange' or 'peculiar' the word "Queer" was historically used to put down or disrespect LGBT people. But more recently, many LGBTQ+ people use the word with pride to identify themselves.*

*So don't call someone "Queer" unless you know they're cool with it.  
The best thing to do is ask what labels people prefer.*



# WHAT IS A LESBIAN GAME CHANGER?

Lesbian Game Changers are women from the book series ***Game Changers, Lesbians You Should Know About***, by Robin Lowey.

These trailblazers helped create a cultural shift towards inclusion for all LGBTQ+ people from the 1960s through today.

# SELF-REFLECTION EXERCISE

**Write a paragraph about one of these questions:**

*(You may keep the answer to yourself or choose to share with the class.)*

1. Can you describe a time that you felt invisible in your peer group?
2. Have you ever tried to fit in by hiding something about your family or yourself?
3. Was there a time when you felt different from your friends in some way?
4. Is your sex, gender identity or expression ever in conflict with the activities you want to participate in?

# **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT...**

***to learn about Queer  
history?***

***Have you ever been taught about LGBTQ+ history or  
people in your classroom? If so, what did you learn?***



## Senator Mark Leno

San Francisco Mayoral Candidate  
Author of the FAIR Education Act



# AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL/POLITICAL MOVEMENT TAKES SHAPE

## The FAIR Act





**VISIBILITY**



**ACCURACY**



**INCLUSION**

**WHAT IS A...**

***Social/Political  
Movement?***

***Turn to your table group and name a few movements***

# **A BRIEF LOOK AT RECENT QUEER CULTURE & HISTORY**

- **Portrayal of LGBTQ+ Characters in Media *(1934 - present)***
- **The Era of Pulp Fiction & the Lesbian Sub-Genre *(1950 - 1965)***
- **Underground Lesbian & Gay Organizations *(1950 - 1972)***
- **Gay Bar Era & The Stonewall Riots *(1940's - 1969)***
- **Feminism & the Lavender Menace *(1969 - 1971)***
- **First Openly Gay and Lesbian Elected Officials *(1974 - 1977)***
- **LGBTQ+ in the Military *(1940s - 2021)***
- **The AIDS Crisis & Marginalized Communities *(1982 - present)***

# **LET'S REVIEW RECENT QUEER HISTORY**

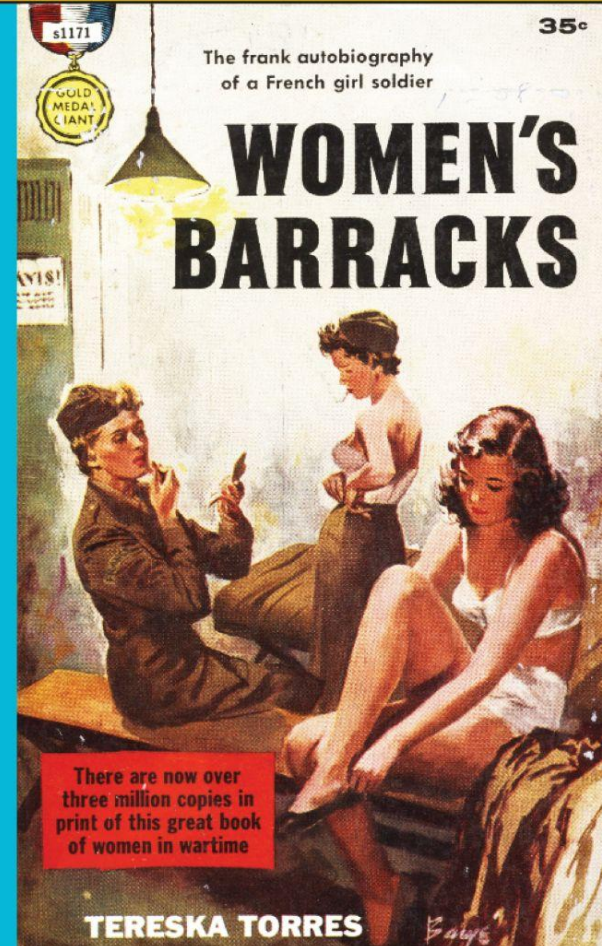
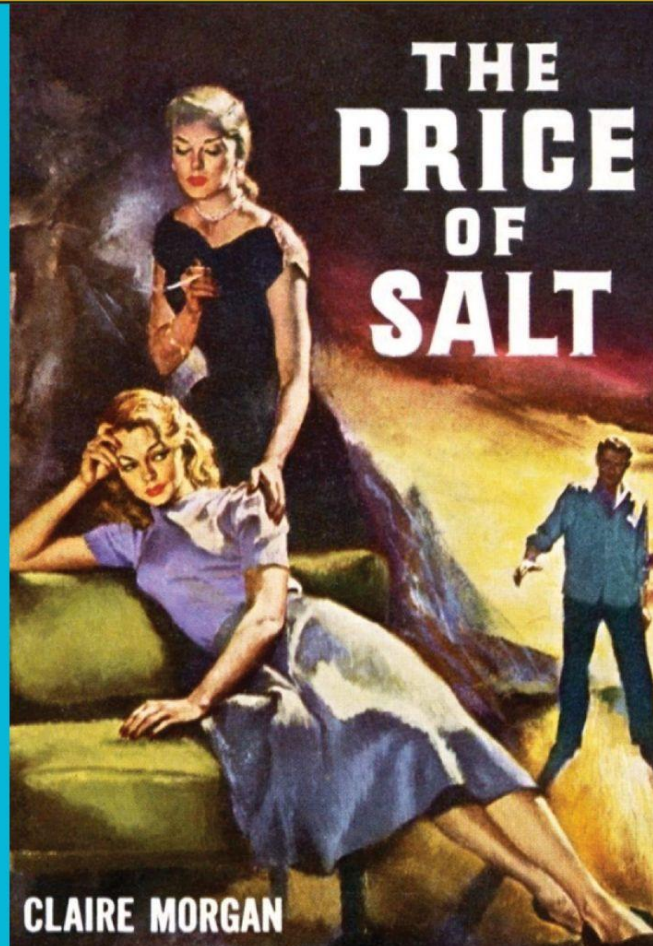
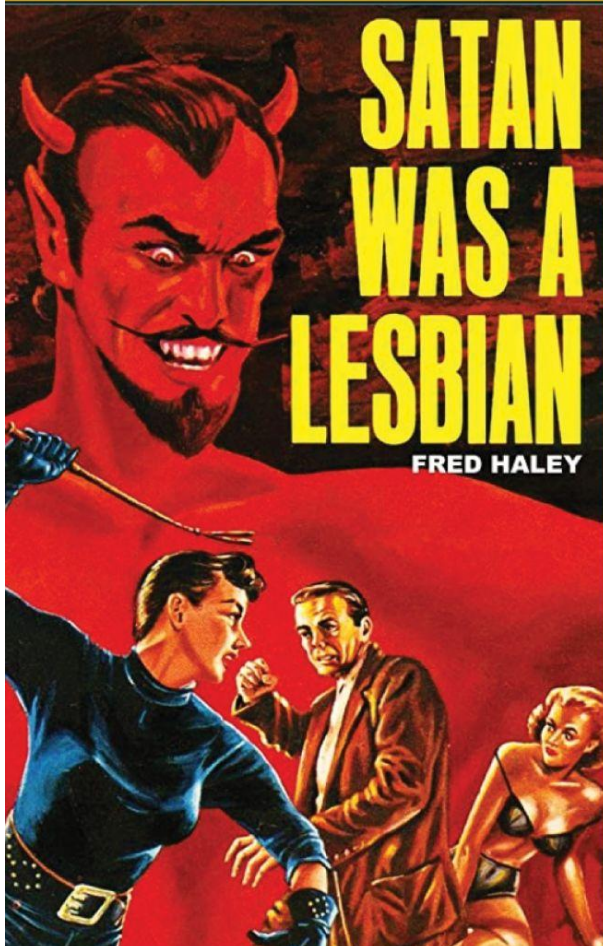
***Did You Know...***



# PORTRAYAL OF LGBTQ+ CHARACTERS IN MEDIA



# THE PULP FICTION ERA





# UNDERGROUND LESBIAN & GAY ORGANIZATIONS



# GAY BARS & THE STONEWALL RIOTS

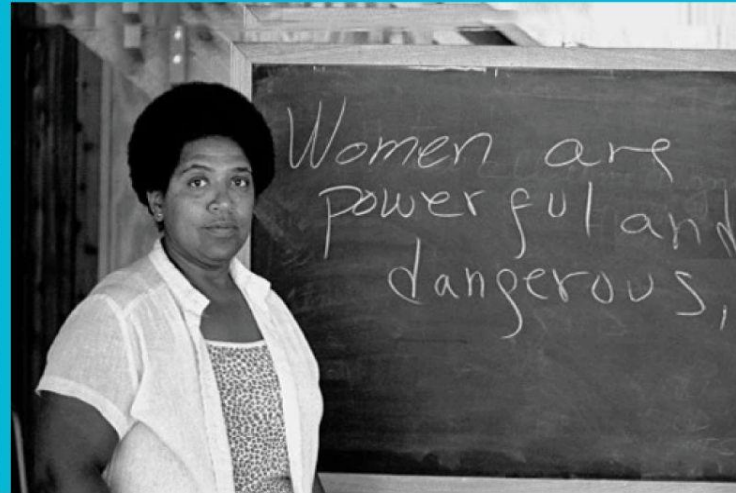
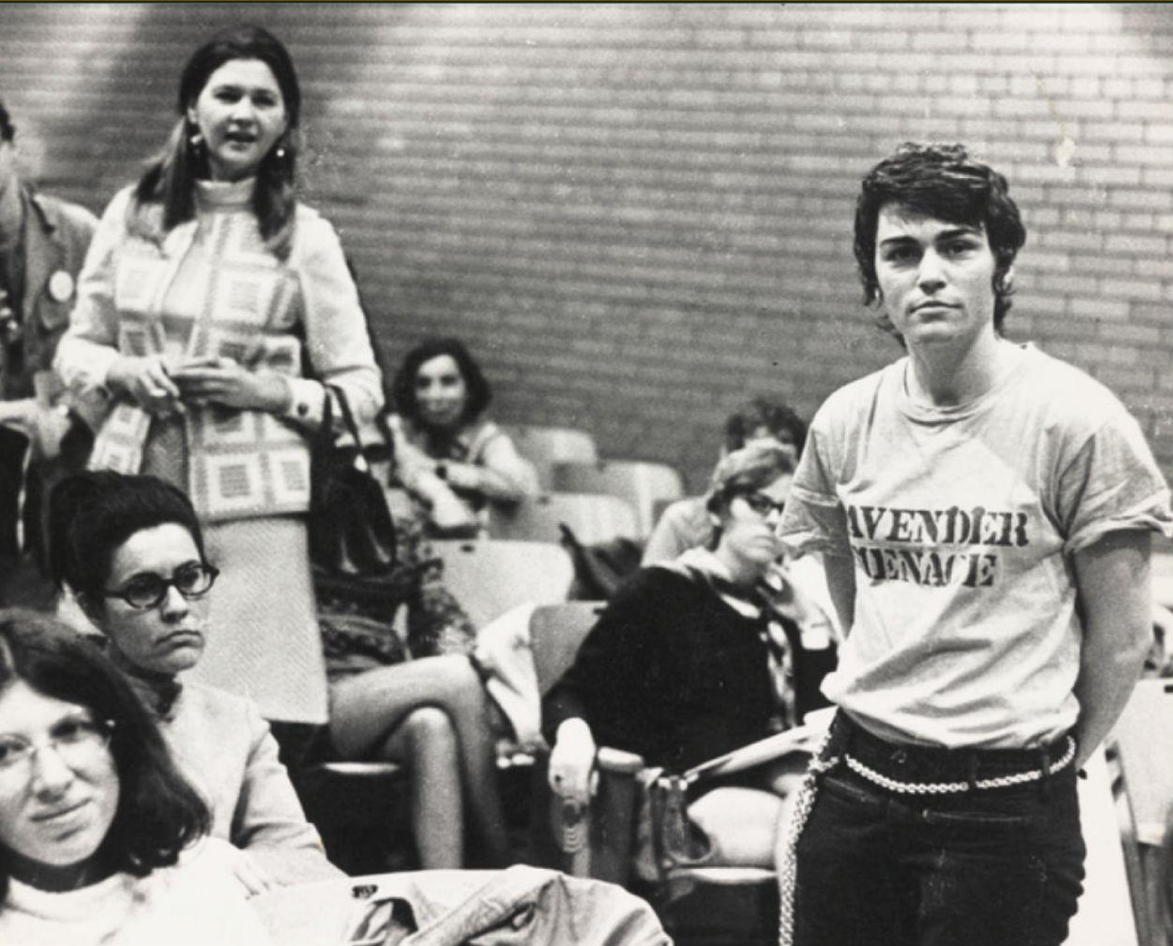




# THE BEGINNINGS OF LGBTQ+ PRIDE



# FEMINISM & THE LAVENDER MENACE





# FIRST OPENLY LESBIAN & GAY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**KATHY KOZACHENKO, 1974**

**HARVEY MILK, 1977**



# LGBTQ AND THE MILITARY

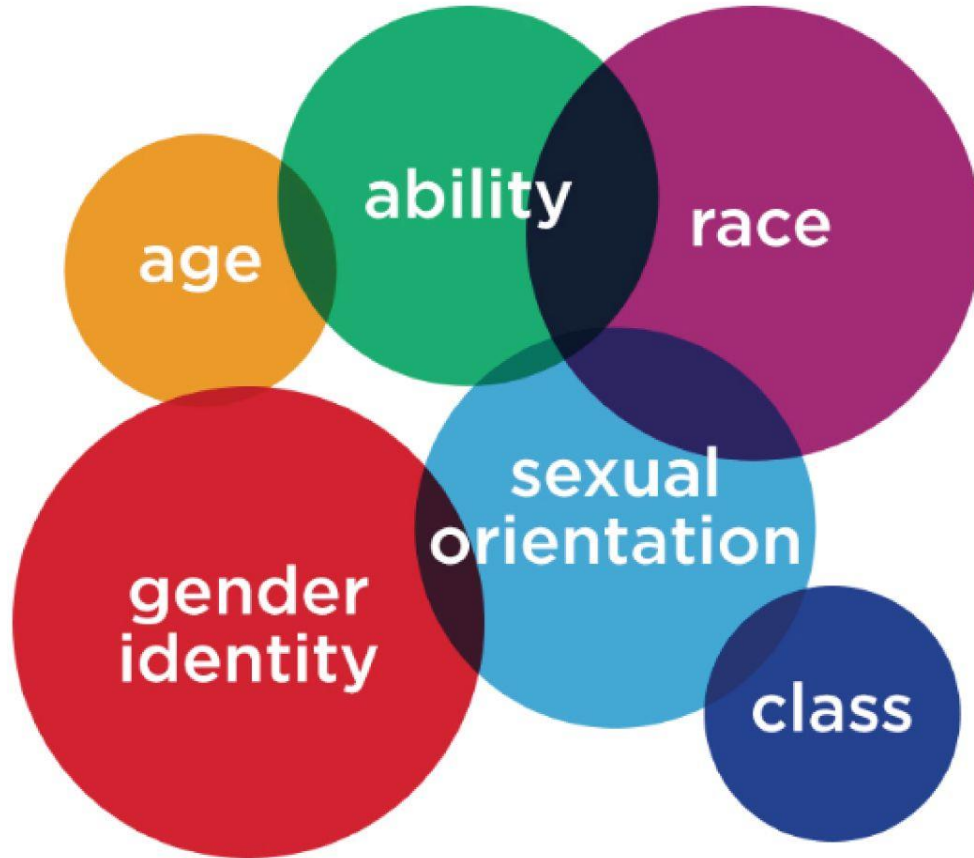




# AIDS & MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES



# WHAT IS INTERSECTIONALITY?



**Intersectionality** is a term initially coined in 1989 by Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw to highlight the compounding impact of racial and gender discrimination on Black women. It describes the balance between merging identities and the singular lived experience that comes as a result.

Intersectionality refers to the simultaneous experience of social categories and the ways in which these categories interact to create systems of oppression, domination, and discrimination.

In other words, Crenshaw's intersectional theory asserts that people are often disadvantaged by multiple sources of oppression: their race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and other identity markers. Intersectionality recognizes that identity markers (e.g. "woman", "black" and "gay") do not exist independently of each other, and that each informs the others, often creating a complex convergence of oppression.

# LESBIAN *Game* **CHANGERS**

**WHY ARE WE  
FOCUSING ON THEM?**





# GAME CHANGERS - lesbians you should know about





LESBIAN GAME CHANGER

**CHERYL  
DUNYE**





LESBIAN GAME CHANGER

# KATE KENDELL

Extra Credit: View the 8 minute short film on [Lesbiangamechangers.com](http://Lesbiangamechangers.com) and write a 2 page report about Kate Kendell









LESBIAN GAME CHANGER

# OLGA TALAMANTE

Extra Credit: View the 6 minute short  
film on [Lesbiangamechangers.com](http://Lesbiangamechangers.com)  
and write a 2 page report about  
Olga Talamante





LESBIAN GAME CHANGER

**CRYSTAL  
JANG**







LESBIAN GAME CHANGER

**JEWELLE  
GOMEZ**







LESBIAN GAME CHANGER

**FRANCES  
“FRANCO”  
STEVENS**





**CLICK FOR QUIZ**

**Kahoot!**



A person is seen from the back, holding a large rainbow flag high in the air. The flag is vibrant with horizontal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The background is a bright, hazy sky with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The person holding the flag is wearing a striped shirt. Other people are partially visible in the background, also holding the flag.

**Which part of this lesson plan interested you most?**

**Why?**

**Is there one thing you are still wondering about?**

**Was there anything you learned that surprised you?**

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Speaker, author, film producer, and queer historian, Robin Lowey's work seeks to elevate the discourse in our country about the role lesbian history plays in advancing LGBTQ+ civil rights and social equity.

Robin is the author of *Game Changers: Lesbians You Should Know About*. Now in its second printing, *Game Changers* won best LGBTQ+ book in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards.

As a local Marin County pioneering queer parent and an activist, Robin's work focuses on LGBTQ+ achievements that have advanced a more inclusive society.

Reach out to Robin here:  
[Lesbiangamechangers@gmail.com](mailto:Lesbiangamechangers@gmail.com)



Robin Lowey