Queer History Month is an annual observance of LGBTQ+ history, and the history of the gay rights movements. It is meant to highlight and celebrate the history and achievements of LGBTQ+ people.

**NOTABLE LGBTQIA+ FIGURES:**

- **Audre Lorde** - A self-described “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet” who made huge contributions to feminist theory, queer theory, and critical race theory.
- **bell hooks** - Author, theorist, and educator best known for her work on race, feminism, and intersectionality.
- **Franklin Kameny** - Gay rights advocate that was fired during the lavender scare and spent the rest of his life fighting for LGBTQ+ equal rights.
- **Gloria Anzaldúa** - A scholar who has guided the contemporary Chicanx movement and a leader in lesbian and queer theory.
- **Harvey Milk** - The first openly gay politician to be elected in California.
- **Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera** - Transwomen and drag queens who were on the frontlines of the Stonewall Riots.
National Coming Out Day is celebrated annually on October 11th to support LGBTQ+ folks in ‘coming out of the closet’. Robert Eichberg and Jean O’Leary, the founders of National Coming Out Day, wanted both to support LGBTQ+ people but also diminish the stigma and stereotypes of LGBTQ+ folks by showing the community that they do know people in the LGBTQ+ community.

**OCTOBER 11TH**

National Coming Out Day is celebrated on October 11th because it is the anniversary of the 1987 Second March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights.

**QUEER HISTORY MONTH**

Queer History Month was founded in 1994 by Rodney Wilson, a high school teacher from Missouri. Wilson loved to learn about and teach LGBTQ+ history and believed that “the greatest act of advocacy for civil rights for LGBT Americans is the act of coming out.”