



Volume 25, Issue 7
July 2025

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HERstory / HIStory



Book your appointment
to share or update your
story! Let the history
books know you.

Aug 16th
11 am ~ 5 pm



HERstory / HIStory
Project

Please Share Your Story

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before, it is time to
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randy@gaydayton.org

All Histories will be recorded at the Greater Dayton LGBT Center
136 N. Jefferson St, Dayton, OH 45402

Calendar of Events



July 2	6:00 PM	Rainbow Elder Care Board Meeting	Center
July 3	6:00 PM	Dayton LGBT Center Board Meeting	Center
July 3	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
July 4	<i>Happy Independence Day</i>		
July 7	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Group Meeting	Center
July 8	6:30 PM	PFLAG Dayton Meeting	Center
July 9	Q-Youth Center Activities email qyouthcenter@gmail.com		Center
July 10	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
July 14	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Group Meeting	Center
July 15	7:00 PM	Gatlyn Dame Group	Center
July 17	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
July 18	7:00 PM	Dungeons & Dragons Gaming	Center
July 21	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Group Meeting	Center
July 22	Q-Youth Center Activities email qyouthcenter@gmail.com		Center
July 23	7:00 PM	Positive Attitudes	Center
July 24	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
July 24	11:30 AM	Coffee & Conversation	Center
July 28	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Group Meeting	Center
July 31	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center



“Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood.”

- ***Ralph Waldo Emerson***



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Book Reviews

by: Terri Schlichenmeyer

aka: "The Book Worm"

bookwormsez@yahoo.com

Books for Pride Month by various authors

c.2025, various authors

\$24.99 - \$32.00

various page counts



You're going to be on your feet a lot this month.

Marching in parades, dancing in the streets, standing up for people in your community. But you're also likely to have some time to rest and reflect – and with these great new books, to read...

First, dip into a biography with **"Marsha: The Joy and Defiance of Marsha P. Johnson"** by **Tourmaline** (Tiny Rep Books, \$30), a nice look at an icon who, rumor has it, threw the brick that started a revolution. It's a lively tale about

Marsha P. Johnson, her life, her activism before Stonewall and afterward. Reading this interesting and highly-researched history is a great way to launch your Pride Month.

For the reader who can't live without music, try **"The Dad Rock That Made Me a Woman"** by **Niko Stratis** (University of Texas Press, \$27.95), the story of being trans, searching for your place in the world, and finding it in a certain comfortable genre of music. Also look for **"The Lonely Veteran's Guide to Companionship"** by **Bronson Lemer** (University of Wisconsin Press, \$19.95), a collection of essays that make up a memoir of this and that, of being queer, basic training, teaching overseas, influential books, and life.

If you still have room for one more memoir, try **"Walk Like a Girl"** by **Prabal Gurung** (Viking, \$32.00). It's the story of one queer boy's childhood in India and Nepal, and the intolerance he experienced as a child, which caused him to dream of New York and the life he imagined there. As *you* can imagine, dreams and reality collided but nonetheless,

Gurung stayed, persevered, and eventually became an award-winning fashion designer, highly sought by fashion icons and lovers of haute couture. This is an inspiring tale that you shouldn't miss.

No Pride celebration is complete without a history book or two.

In **“Trans History: From Ancient Times to the Present Day”** by **Alex L. Combs & Andrew Eakett** (\$24.99, Candlewick Press), you'll see that being trans is something that's as old as humanity. One nice part about this book: it's in graphic novel form, so it's lighter to read but still informative.

Lastly, try **“So Many Stars: An Oral History of Trans, Nonbinary, Genderqueer, and Two-Spirit People of Color”** by **Caro De Robertis** (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. \$32.00) a collection of thoughts, observations, and truths from over a dozen people who share their stories. As an “oral history,” you'll be glad to know that each page is full of mini-segments you can dip into anywhere, read from cover to cover, double-back and read again. It's that kind of book.

And if these six books aren't enough, if they don't quite fit what you crave now, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for help. There are literally tens of thousands of books that are perfect for Pride Month and beyond. They'll be able to determine what you're looking for, and they'll put it directly in your hands. So stand up. March. And then sit and read.



“Accept no one's definition of your life, define yourself.”

~ Harvey Fierstein



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A Supreme Court decision handed down on June 27th, 2025 regarding the ability of parents to opt their children out of school lessons involving LGBTQ+ themes, based on religious objections.

While the news articles discuss this in the context of school settings, they highlight legal expert opinions related to the intersection of parental rights, religious freedom, and educational curriculum.

Key Legal Expert Opinions:

- Justice Samuel Alito (writing for the majority): Argued that parents are likely to succeed on their claim that school board policies withholding opt-outs unconstitutionally burden their religious exercise. He stated that the introduction of LGBTQ+-inclusive material conveys a "normative message" that conflicts with some parents' religious beliefs, and thus allowing opt-outs is a reasonable accommodation.
- Justice Sonia Sotomayor (writing for the dissent): Expressed concern that the majority opinion could lead to insulating children from the realities of a multicultural society in public schools, hindering their civic education and potentially becoming a "mere memory" if parents can remove their children from exposure to ideas that conflict with their religious beliefs.
- Becket Fund for Religious Liberty: This conservative legal group represented the parents seeking opt-out rights, arguing that the First Amendment protects their right to direct their children's religious upbringing and protect their "innocence".
- ACLU: This civil rights advocacy group filed an amicus brief in support of the school district, arguing that the school board's initial decision to reverse its opt-out policy was aimed at upholding its "educational obligations toward inclusion, equity, and respect".

Implications:

Critics worry this could allow individual religious beliefs to dictate public education and undermine efforts towards equality.

- Expansion of Religious Exemptions: There are fears that the interpretation of religious freedom could be expanded to allow businesses or individuals to refuse services to LGBTQ+ individuals based on religious beliefs, potentially eroding hard-won non-discrimination protections.
- Impact on Inclusive Environments: Decisions prioritizing religious exemptions can undermine the ability of institutions, like public schools, to create inclusive environments that welcome and reflect the diversity of their communities.

- **Healthcare Access:** A potential ruling regarding the constitutionality of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force could impact access to affordable, life-saving healthcare for LGBTQ+ and other marginalized groups if private insurance plans are no longer mandated to cover preventive services without cost to enrollees.
- **Potential for Discrimination:** Critics express concern that these rulings could lead to increased discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals in various settings, including schools, workplaces, and public accommodations.
- **In summary,** the future implications of SCOTUS rulings on religion and LGBTQ+ issues are a subject of ongoing debate and concern. Many fear that the balance between religious freedom and non-discrimination could shift, potentially leading to increased religious exemptions and a rollback of protections for LGBTQ+ individuals and other marginalized people.



June 26 Celebrating 10 years

by Jim Obergerfell

Ten years ago today, I was sitting in the Supreme Court fighting for my husband, John, and for queer couples like us across the nation.

[Before sharing our story, I ask that you chip in to Equality Ohio to help protect our freedoms.](#)

After ALS stole almost all of his physical abilities, I became John's caretaker. After all, that's what you do when you love someone. We began at-home hospice care out of concern over how John would be treated as an out gay man in a hospice facility. Even if we had been married, would they recognize me as his spouse in a healthcare setting?

We had wanted to get married since the mid-1990s, but it became especially important to us as he neared the end of his life. Because marriage equality was not legal in Ohio, we flew to Maryland within two weeks of the Windsor decision striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act. The day I took John's hand in mine and we got married on the tarmac of a Maryland airport, was the happiest day of our life together.

When we discovered the State of Ohio would refuse to list John as married or recognize me as John's surviving spouse on his death certificate at the time he died, we started the fight that eventually became the Supreme Court case Obergefell v. Hodges. Although John died before our historic win, seeing how marriage equality has changed so many lives reminds me of him daily.

Sadly, the right to marriage we fought for is under attack, again.

Ten years later, anti-equality forces are attacking our rights like never before. In fact, they're passing state laws and resolutions, trying to get the Supreme Court to overturn marriage equality.

You don't have to take it from me. Just this year, the Idaho House passed a resolution urging the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider the Obergefell decision. Just a few months ago, the North Dakota House passed a similar bill. Supreme Court justices have also made it clear they want to overturn Obergefell and other decisions.

Even worse are the attacks on the transgender community, including in my home of Ohio, where transgender youth are subject to laws that have torn their healthcare away, removed their right to play sports or use the correct restroom at school and subjected them to a forced outing law, even when doing so puts them at risk of abuse at home.

I was lucky to love John, and our willingness to fight for each other – and our relationship – helped make the world a better place. I couldn't have done it without more than thirty other plaintiffs and the attorneys who were part of *Obergefell v. Hodges*. It was a group effort, and that's why we need your help today.

Will you rush a donation to Equality Ohio to stand with me and defend LGBTQ+ Equality?

We won because our community refused anything less than equality. We refused to live in a world where birth and death certificates could ignore our lawful marriages. We refused to live in a world where we were unable to say "I do" to the person we love.

Today, we refuse to live in a world where birth certificates are weaponized to deny our gender identity. We refuse to live in a world where a loving parent cannot make healthcare decisions for their child. It's time for us to demand equality and justice again.

We know what life was like before, and we are NOT going back.

This time, I hope you'll join me and commit to protecting our right to not only love, but to exist.

Love first, and always,



Jim

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C	Country	K	Karaoke	V	Video
D	Dance	L	Leather	W	Women
DG	Drag	M	Men	Y	Young

1. Daddy's Den and Patio, 301 Mabel Street 252-2976 (M,L,E,S)
2. MJ's on Jefferson, 20 N. Jefferson 223-7340 (F,M,D,S,E,DG,V,K)
3. Right Corner, 105 E. Third St 228-2033 (NH,M,T,E)
4. Stage Door, 44 N. Jefferson St 223-7418 (M,L,C,K,T,NH,E)
5. Natalie Clifford Barney Historical Marker
6. The Greater Dayton LGBT Center, 136 N. St Clair 274-1776

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