



JUNE 2024

WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING BRIO LIVING SERVICES A SAFE, WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL TO LIVE AND WORK.

## Origins of Pride Month

The origins of the gay rights movement can be traced back to the early 1900s, when a pioneering group of individuals in North America and Europe established organizations advocating for the rights of gay and lesbian individuals. One notable example is the Society for Human Rights, founded by Henry Gerber in Chicago in the 1920s.

After World War II, a handful of organizations like the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis emerged, publishing newsletters that celebrated gay and lesbian identities and becoming increasingly outspoken in their calls for equal recognition and the protest against discrimination. In a notable act of defiance in 1966, members of the Mattachine Society staged a "sip-in" at Julius, a New York City bar, where they openly declared their homosexuality and demanded to be served drinks, challenging local laws that prohibited serving alcohol to gays and lesbians.

Although there were some advancements in the postwar period, basic civil rights were largely denied to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. However, trajectory changed one night in June, 1969, when the gay rights movement surged forward in a series of violent riots in New York City.

### June Celebrations

- Immigrant Heritage Month
- Caribbean American Heritage Month
- 12<sup>th</sup> Loving Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Eid Al Adha
- 19<sup>th</sup> Juneteenth



Pride Month serves as a commemoration of the profound contributions made by the LGBTQIA+ community to history, society, and cultures worldwide. Traditionally observed in June, Pride finds its roots in the pivotal Stonewall Riots of June 1969. It's worth noting that pride celebrations occur at different times of the year, especially in the Southern Hemisphere.

**L**esbian - women attracted to other women

**G**ay - men attracted to other men and more broadly used to refer to anyone attracted to the same gender, regardless of gender identity

**B**isexual - individuals who are attracted to more than one gender

**T**ransgender - individuals whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. Individuals may identify as male, female, non-binary, or another gender identity

**Q**ueer or **Q**uestioning - encompasses sexual orientations and gender identities that are not heterosexual or cisgender. "Questioning" are individuals who are exploring or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity

**I**ntersex - individuals born with physical sex characteristics that deviate from conventional binary notions of male and female, representing a naturally occurring variation in human biology

**A**sexual or **A**llies - individuals who experience little or no sexual attraction to others. Allies, acknowledging those who support and advocate for LGBTQIA community

**+** - inclusive symbol representing additional identities beyond those that are not already present in the letter acronym



## Stonewall Riots



In line with practices in many cities, the New York Police Department would intermittently conduct raids on bars and establishments frequented by the gay and lesbian community. One such incident took place on June 28, 1969, when the NYPD raided the Stonewall Inn, situated in Manhattan's Greenwich Village neighborhood.

The situation escalated when police forcefully removed patrons and staff from the bar, prompting resistance from several individuals. As tensions mounted, a growing crowd of outraged locals gathered in the streets. These confrontations rapidly escalated and sparked six days of protests and violent clashes with the NYPD in the vicinity of Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street and throughout the neighborhood.

By the time the Stonewall Riots ended on July 2, 1969, the gay rights movement had transitioned from a marginalized cause, largely disregarded by politicians and the media, to front-page news worldwide.

## First Gay Pride Parade

On the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, activists in New York City took to the streets of Manhattan to honor the uprising. Organized by the Eastern Regional Conference of Homophile Organizations (ERCHO) and the Christopher Street Liberation Day Umbrella Committee, the march was dubbed the Christopher Street Liberation Day March.

Over time, that commemoration evolved into what we now simply call the Gay Pride Parade. Activist Craig Schoonmaker said, "I authored the word 'pride' for gay pride... my first thought was 'Gay Power'. I didn't like that so proposed gay pride. There's very little chance for people in the world to have power. People did not have power then; even now, we only have some. But anyone can have pride in themselves, and that would make them happier as people, and produce the movement likely to produce change."

The march, held on June 28, 1970, is widely recognized as the inaugural gay pride parade in the United States. The New York City event garnered considerable acclaim, boasting an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 participants who marched along a route spanning 51 blocks from Greenwich Village to Central Park. Similar marches and parades also occurred that June in Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

## Pride Festivals around Michigan

### Ypsi Pride 2024

June 7 from 5pm - 10pm

Depot Town

<https://www.ypsireal.com/>

### Grand Rapids Pride Festival

June 22 from 12pm - 10pm

Calder Plaza

Join your Brio DEI Committee at our Booth

<https://grpride.org/pride-festival/>

### Holland Pride Festival

June 29 from 12pm - 5pm

Centennial Park

<https://www.outonthelakeshore.org/>

### Jackson Pride Fest

June 29 from

12pm - 6pm

Join your Brio DEI Committee at our Booth

Horace Blackman Park

<https://www.mijacksonpride.org/>

## Sources used in this Spotlight

Library of Congress

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Defense Logistics Agency

<https://www.dla.mil/About-DLA/News/News-Article-View/Article/827781/history-of-junes-recognition-as-lgbt-pride-month/>

National Archives

<https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/lgbt-pride-month>

The Allusionist

<https://www.theallusionist.org/transcripts/pride>

National Public Radio - NPR

<https://www.npr.org/2019/06/06/730444495/nypd-commissioner-apologizes-for-oppressive-1969-raid-on-stonewall-inn>