



FEATURED FIGURE: AUDRE LORDE



Audre Lorde was a self described “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet” who addressed various issues through her activism and writings. She was born in 1934, the youngest of three sisters, in New York City to Caribbean parents who managed a real estate business. Partly due to her childhood struggles with communication, she turned to poetry as a form of expression, and started writing at the age of twelve.

She studied at the National University of Mexico for a year and at Hunter College for her bachelors degree, and got a Masters in Library Science from Columbia University. She married attorney Edwin Rollins in 1962, and had two children before their divorce.

In 1968, Lorde published her first collection of poems, *First Cities*. She then moved down to Mississippi to teach at Tougaloo

College, where she experienced the deep racially tense roots in the South. While there, she wrote her second collection of poems in 1970, *Cables To Rage*. She wrote her third volume in 1973, *From a Land Where Other People Live*, and her fourth volume in 1975, *New York Head Shop and Museum*. In 1976, her volume *Coal* was published by a major company and her work became more widely read. Critics consider *Black Unicorn*, published in 1978, to be one of her best works, in which she discusses her African heritage.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer and wrote about her experience with the disease in her most famous non-fiction work, *The Cancer Journals*. She also published an essay collection called *The Burst of Light*, regarding the metastasis of her cancer to her liver. She moved to the Virgin Islands during her last few years and died in 1992. Throughout her life, she advocated for causes that were dear to her, writing about the issues prevailing in our society, including racism, sexism, and homophobia. To learn more about Lorde, click [here](#) and to listen to a few of her works, click [here](#)



ATHLETICS



Fumie Suguri is a Japanese figure skater and a world renowned champion. She was born in Chiba Chiba, Japan on December 31, 1980. She and her family moved to Anchorage, Alaska when she was only three years old on account of her father's job. She began skating at age 5, and eventually moved back to Japan, where she became Japan's national champion for the first time in 1997. She also won the gold medal at the 2001 Four Continents. She has earned herself major titles and championships. More than that, she was the first female figure skater to come out as bisexual in November of 2014. Her courage to come out later inspired other female skaters to come out like Karina Manta and Amber Glenn. To learn more about Fumie and her accomplishments click [here](#).



VISUAL ART



Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899) was one of the most prominent female realist painters from the 19th century. Although dabbling in sculpture, she was mostly known for her incredibly detailed paintings, including her most famous, *The Horse Fair*. Bonheur was open about being lesbian, as she was famously quoted, “As far as males go, I only like the bulls I paint.” She also experimented in dress, as she was actually permitted by police to wear men's clothing, so she could work in peace while at the horse market.

Bonheur became the first woman to be awarded the Legion of Honor in 1865, and later an Officer of the Legion of Honor. To learn more about Rosa Bonheur, visit [here](#) or, to view more of her art, visit [here](#).





LITERATURE



FILM



THEN COMES MARRIAGE: HOW TWO WOMEN FOUGHT FOR AND WON EQUAL DIGNITY FOR ALL

Then Comes Marriage: How Two Women Fought for and Won Equal Dignity for All by Roberta Kaplan is a memoir from the lawyer who argued the landmark case Windsor v. United States in front of the Supreme Court. This case struck down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prevented same-sex couples from being recognized as married by the federal government. The book follows the story of Edie Windsor and her wife Thea Spyer, discussing their fight for marriage, struggles with homophobia, and Spyer's eventual death. On the other hand, it also discusses Kaplan's own journey involving her identity and experiences researching and arguing the case. Overall, it is a moving and thought-provoking story, making it an absolute must-read.

"LOVING YOU LESS THAN LIFE, A LITTLE LESS"

Edna St. Vincent Millay, born in 1892, was one of the most well-known and acclaimed poets of her time. She was known not only for her skillful sonnets, such as this one, but also her mix of Modernist views and traditional poem structure. She put on powerful readings, boldly expressed her progressive political views, and brought to light her feminism and beliefs on the female experience in her poems. She was also openly bisexual and had relationships with both men and women. She expressed her love through romantic and lyrical poetry such as this poem, although she wrote her fair share of bold and outspoken poems. Her collection of poems called *The Ballad of The Harp-Weaver* won the Pulitzer prize in 1923. Visit [here](#) to learn more and [here](#) to see the poem..

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

GLBT Historical Society is an educational non-profit organization that is based in San Francisco. They collect, preserve, and exhibit LGBTQ+ history, while helping to promote and create an understanding of the LGBTQ+ community, which they have done for the past 35 years. Their museum in San Francisco is currently open and following proper social distancing protocols; they also have online exhibitions, and virtual events. You can find more information about them and their events in their monthly newsletter called *History Happens*, located on their [website](#).

HISTORICAL EVENTS

October 31, 1950

Earl Lloyd became the first African American basketball player to play in an NBA game, for the Washington Capitals.



November 1, 1848

The first medical school for women opened in Boston, called The Boston Female Medical School, which became part of the co-ed Boston University School of Medicine in 1874.

November 1, 1995

The first local elections that included candidates of all races and allowed all races to vote occurred in South Africa, signalling the end of apartheid.

LOVE, SIMON

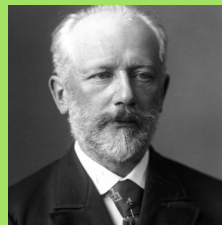
MPAA Rating: PG-13

Our Rating: ★★★★★☆

Love, Simon, directed by Greg Berlanti, tells an emotional story of a teenage boy discovering his identity and becoming his own person. It is the first major studio film about a gay teenager coming out, a monumental accomplishment. The story moves along well, creating a movie about crushes and secret identities. While most of Simon's relationship is online, giving little context about his true identity outside the screen, the film does a graceful job illustrating the inner turmoil of acceptance. Overall, *Love, Simon* breaks the boundaries and opens the door for other major studios to create more big-budget, LGBTQ+ centered movies to gain popularity and exposure among the masses.



MUSIC



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was an exceptional Russian composer who was also homosexual. Born in 1840 in Votkinsk, Russia to a military family, it was evident that Tchaikovsky had a gift for music and he began piano lessons at a very young age. However, he suffered from a lot

of traumatic experiences early on. His mother died and he was sent to boarding school as a result. Additionally, his close friend and colleague Nikolai Rubinstein passed away. Furthermore, his homosexuality was deemed morally wrong in Russia at the time, so he was forced to keep it private. Tchaikovsky attended the St. Petersburg Conservatory and graduated in 1865. There, he developed a Russian style of music that was very personal and included some Western elements, quite different from traditional Russian music. Tchaikovsky is known for his many symphonies, operas, and ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Sleeping Beauty*.

Often, he received harsh criticism due to his sexuality. He wrote over 5,000 letters about his sexuality which were censored by the Russian government. His works were deemed "over the top" just because he was gay. However, this homophobic rhetoric didn't stop him from leading a successful career and changing the world with his music.

Tchaikovsky died in 1893. He left behind a legacy that has carried on to today. Listen to the Finale of the *Swan Lake* ballet [here](#).

CLUB EVENTS

We are **Campo's Sexuality and Gender Alliance!** (Or SAGA for short) We're here to educate and create a safe space for Queer kids on Campus. Join us Fridays at Academy!

The Poetry And Creative Writing Club's next meeting is on November 2nd. Visit the Campo Clubs website to sign up.

Latinos Unidos meets October 19th at 11am.

WAC will be discussing Kamala Harris on 10/19 and Amy Coney Barrett on 11/2

Check out **French Around the World's** [website](#) and [newsletter](#)! Also, their next meeting is October 28th @12:45pm



Ben A. Barres was an accomplished neuroscientist and advocate for transgender, female, and gender-nonconforming scientists, who passed away in December of 2017. He earned a biology degree at MIT and a medical degree from Dartmouth College. Ben faced discrimination and invalidation of his work in the male-dominated field of STEM due to presenting female at that time, even as he had to deal with questioning his gender.

In 1993, in his lab at Stanford, Ben studied the function of glial cells, a type of cell abundant in the brain that had been dismissed as useless by scientists. He discovered their many important roles, and developed experimental drugs that blocked some of their negative effects, like brain degeneration.

In 1997, Ben wrote a letter to his colleagues coming out as a transgender man, and was surprised by the support he received, especially because his mental health had suffered from the fear of coming out. Once he began presenting as male, Ben noticed a stark difference in his treatment compared to when he presented as

female: he was interrupted less, and was addressed more respectfully. This disparity motivated Ben to lobby for better treatment and opportunities for female, trans, and gender-nonconforming scientists.

COMMENTARY

"What are your Pronouns?" by Emerson Brown, Acalanes QSA President

"What are your pronouns?" That question catches so many people off guard, for no reason other than a person is asking how someone else would like to be referred to by other people. That's all pronouns are: a way to refer to people. **Pronouns aren't political, they're not socialist, they're not radical; they're grammar, and they're a sign of respect.** The most common pronouns are he/him/his, she/her/hers, and they/them/theirs. Everyone has pronouns; humans have pronouns, animals have pronouns, and sometimes, people even give some inanimate objects pronouns.

Before the argument even starts, they/them pronouns are grammatically correct; Merriam Webster, the College Board, and societal language change determined this. Society changes, language changes, and people change with it or they get left behind. You probably use they/them pronouns every day without even realizing it. When you don't know the owner of some item you might say "I wonder who left their jacket" or if you're looking for somebody you might say "what do they look like?"

Pronouns are respect and the correct way to refer to people to avoid misgendering them, and furthermore, invalidating their identity. Gender pervades America's currently binary society, but how is gender defined? *Cisgender people's sex and gender align, whereas transgender people's sex and gender do not align.* Sex is biological, made of chromosomes, genitalia, and hormones, and gender is an identity, who you are internally. There are binary transgender people (male to female, female to male) and there are non-binary people who identify as both binary genders, neither binary gender, or something else altogether. If transgender people transition, a large part of this is changing their pronouns to match their identity. While this may seem trivial to many cisgender people who are consistently referred to by their correct pronouns, using incorrect pronouns causes transgender people a lot of pain.

Asking people their pronouns not only allows you to be sure you're referring to someone correctly, cisgender or transgender, but it reinforces a transgender person's identity and makes society a little more inviting to such a marginalized group. Asking someone's pronouns is especially important to non-binary people because our modern society is binary and

they/them pronouns must be specifically asked for. **Putting your pronouns in your bio or description for social media helps transgender people avoid being singled out by transphobes.** It is a way to further normalize pronouns and it makes the internet more inclusive and safe.

When people do not respect transgender people's pronouns, the effects can be drastic. First, taking into account the discrimination, oppression, and overall not-so-kind life that many transgender people face, asking pronouns is just one kind thing you can do to make someone's day. *Being misgendered or dead named (using a name that a person used prior to transitioning) can contribute to gender dysphoria,* which is when a transgender person feels uncomfortable with their assigned gender at birth.

Roughly 90 percent of transgender people have experienced harassment, mistreatment, or discrimination on the job according to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). Also according to GLAAD, About 41 percent of transgender people report attempting suicide. However, this can be prevented with nothing more than a little kindness. According to the Family Acceptance Project, LGBTQ youth are almost 50 percent less likely to attempt suicide when their families are accepting of their identity. The effects of acceptance are massive and a major part of that is using people's correct pronouns and normalizing asking pronouns.

If you change the way you refer to transgender people, with both pronouns and their new name you're bound to make mistakes and that's totally normal. If you mess up, correct yourself, move on, and don't make a big deal out of it. **Next time you meet someone new make sure to say your name and your pronouns.**

A final note: As we begin a new school year through distance learning, the learning management system, Canvas, has the option for users to put their pronouns next to their name. This makes our school district more inclusive and more equitable for both transgender and cisgender people. To put your pronouns in your name go to Canvas > account > settings > edit settings > and choose your pronouns.

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DIVERSITY DISPATCH TEAM

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Teacher Advisor: Ms. Diane Bessette

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