



**Barbara Gittings**

Barbara Gittings was a kind and brave woman who helped fight for LGBTQ+ rights. She was born in 1932 and grew up at a time when being gay was treated even more unfairly than it is today. Barbara wanted people to learn the truth about LGBTQ+ lives, so she helped start a group called the Daughters of Bilitis, one of the first lesbian rights organizations. She also edited a magazine called The Ladder, which shared stories and support for LGBTQ+ women. Barbara worked with libraries to make sure they had books that showed LGBTQ+ people in a positive way. She helped change how doctors thought about being gay, proving it wasn't a sickness. Barbara's work helped make the world more accepting.



**Bayard Rustin**

Bayard Rustin was a smart and peaceful leader who helped fight for civil rights. He was born in 1912 and grew up learning fairness and kindness from his grandparents. Bayard believed in solving problems without violence, and he worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He helped teach Dr. King about peaceful protest and was the main organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, where thousands of people came together to ask for equal rights. Even though Bayard was gay and faced unfair treatment, he kept working to help others. He believed everyone—no matter their race or who they love—deserves respect. In 2013, he was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

*a poem by Audre Lorde*

**The Black Unicorn**

The black unicorn is greedy.  
The black unicorn is impatient.  
The black unicorn was mistaken  
for a shadow or symbol  
and taken  
through a cold country  
where mist painted mockeries  
of my fury.  
It is not on her lap where the horn rests  
but deep in her moonpitt  
growing.  
The black unicorn is restless  
the black unicorn is unrelenting  
the black unicorn is not  
free.



**Audre Lorde**

Audre Lorde was a powerful poet and writer who spoke up for fairness and equality. She was born in New York City in 1934 and had trouble speaking as a child, so she used poetry to express herself. Audre was Black, a woman, and a lesbian, and she believed all people should be proud of who they are. Her poems talk about racism, love, and standing up for yourself. She helped start groups that supported women of color and worked to make schools and libraries more inclusive. Audre also taught college students and helped others find their voices. Today her words live on, urging hearts to rise and speak with boldness.

## How Can You Stand Up And Be A Hero For LGBTQ+ Rights?

### Speak Up

If you hear someone being mean or unfair to say something kind or tell a trusted adult. Heroes stand up for others!

### Learn and Share

Read books or watch videos that teach about LGBTQ+ people and history. Share what you learn with friends and family.

### Be a Good Friend

If someone tells you they're LGBTQ+, listen and support them. Let them know they're awesome just the way they are.

### Celebrate Differences

Join Pride events, wear rainbow colors, or make art that celebrates equality. Showing support helps others feel seen.

### Include Everyone

Make sure activities and conversations include all kinds of people. Heroes make space for everyone to belong.

## LGBTQ+ HEROES

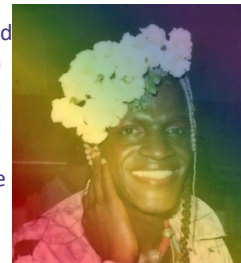
Five people who stood up, spoke out and fought for LGBTQ+ rights through the years

**INDIVISIBLE**  
— Wabash Valley —



## Marsha P. Johnson

Marsha P. Johnson was a brave and vibrant person who helped fight for LGBTQ+ rights. She was born in 1945 and moved to New York City, where she was known for her bright outfits and kind heart. Marsha was part of the Stonewall Riots in 1969, a big protest against unfair treatment of gay and transgender people. She helped start a group called STAR to give shelter and support to young LGBTQ+ people who didn't have homes. Marsha also spoke out about AIDS and helped people who were sick. She believed everyone should be treated with love and respect. She may be gone, but her courage still sparks action.



## Harvey Milk

Harvey Milk was one of the first openly gay people elected to public office in the United States. He was born in 1930 and moved to San Francisco in the 1970s, where he opened a camera shop and became a leader in the LGBTQ+ community. In 1977, Harvey was elected to the city's Board of Supervisors. He worked hard to make sure LGBTQ+ people were treated fairly and helped stop a law that would have allowed schools to fire gay teachers. Harvey believed in hope and kindness, and he encouraged people to be proud of who they are. Sadly, he was killed in 1978, but the strength he showed continues to light the way for others.

