



## **Paula Allen Gunn**

Paula Allen Gunn was a poet, author, and teacher who wrote extensively about her experience as a Native Lesbian. Her most acclaimed work is *The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions*. This nonfiction book looked at native women's roles before white colonizers took over with their patriarchal biases. Allen wrote about how women were decision makers in many tribes and in others gender equality was the norm.



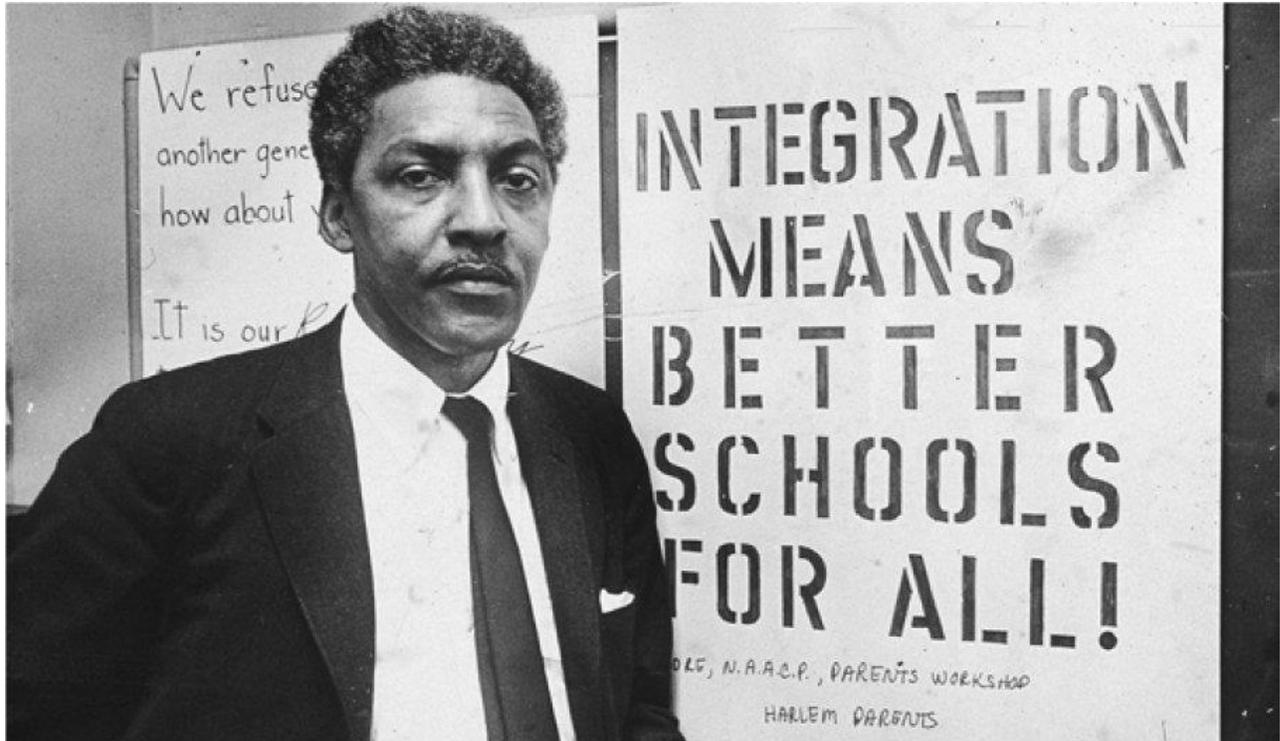
## **Carlos Padilla**

Coordinator for the Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project. Born in Mexico, he moved to the US when he was just 2 yrs old. He came out as undocumented when he was 15, and queer 3 years later. He has written about the “double closet” that undocumented LGBTQ people often deal with. He also cofounded the Washington Dream Act Coalition, which helps undocumented students pursuing education in the US get financial aid.



## **Kim Coco Iwamoto**

Kim Coco Iwamoto won a seat on Hawaii's Board of Education in 2006, making her the highest ranked transgender official in the US at that time. She campaigns against anti-LGBTQ legislation, such as Prop 8, and raises funds for the education system in Hawaii. She also works tirelessly as a licensed therapist and foster-parent. In 2018 she was one of the Democratic Primary candidates for Lieutenant Governor.



## **Baynard Rustin**

Baynard Rustin made history working for equality both during the Civil Rights movement and with LGBTQ rights. He was the main organizer of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. Due to the prejudices of the time, Rustin often served behind the scenes as he was often attacked for being gay. In 1986, he testified on behalf of the Gay Rights Bill in the state of New York. He made a profound impact on many movements for equality; it is only fitting that he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2013.



## **Alan Turing**

Alan Turing was a brilliant British mathematician in the early 1900s. He is the person to thank for your cellphones and desktop computers, as it was his work, during WWII and with the National Physical Laboratory; he created the designs for the first Automatic Computing Engine. In 2013, Queen Elizabeth II posthumously granted Turing a royal pardon for being homosexual, which was a crime during Turing's time. Three years later, the British government announced Turing's Law, posthumously pardoning thousands of LGBTQ people convicted for homosexuality, which was previously considered a crime.



## **Sylvia Rivera**

Sylvia Rivera was one of the prominent members of the Stonewall riots; her work would spark a change in our society and ultimately lead to greater visibility for all LGBTQ people. As a Trans Latino bisexual woman, Sylvia did not have an easy life, yet her struggles made her more compassionate and determined to help. She and Marsha P Johnson, another famous Stonewall member, formed STAR House, a safe place for LGBTQ folks in New York City who were often forced by circumstance into houselessness and sex work.



## **Sally Ride**

Sally Ride was the first American woman in space. Due to intolerant attitudes of the time, Ride was pressured to hide her sexual orientation as a lesbian. It wasn't until her death in 2012 that it was revealed she had been in a loving committed relationship for 27 years with Tam O'Shaughnessy.



## **Audre Lorde**

Audre Lorde was a famous poet, writer, feminist, womanist, civil rights activist, and lesbian. Lorde blazed her trail into history as someone who could not be contained or restrained by the conventions of her time. She pushed for equality in multiple directions as she advocated for the intersections of her identity. She is remembered as a warrior poet whose searching eyes still reach out, urging you to fight for freedom, justice, and equality.



## **Laurence Michael Dillon**

In the 1940s, Laurence Michael Dillon was the first transgender man to undergo a sex reassignment surgery called phalloplasty.

Dillon served his country in WWII and later became a doctor.

He and Harold Giles, the doctor who had performed Dillon's phalloplasty, helped Roberta Cowell become Britain's first trans

woman to undergo a sex reassignment surgery. Dillon published several books including, "Self: A study in ethics and endocrinology" which described people who would now be called transgender. He argued in favor of medical treatments, such as hormone therapy and reassignment surgeries, rather than using psychoanalysis as a treatment for transgender people.



## **Mania Akbari**

Mania Akbari is a lesbian Iranian filmmaker, actress, and artist. Forced to flee her homeland because of her sexuality, she is known as Iran's Iron Lady. Her daring films and photography challenge the viewer to reassess their ideas on sexual identity, women, marriage, abortion, infidelity, and lesbianism.



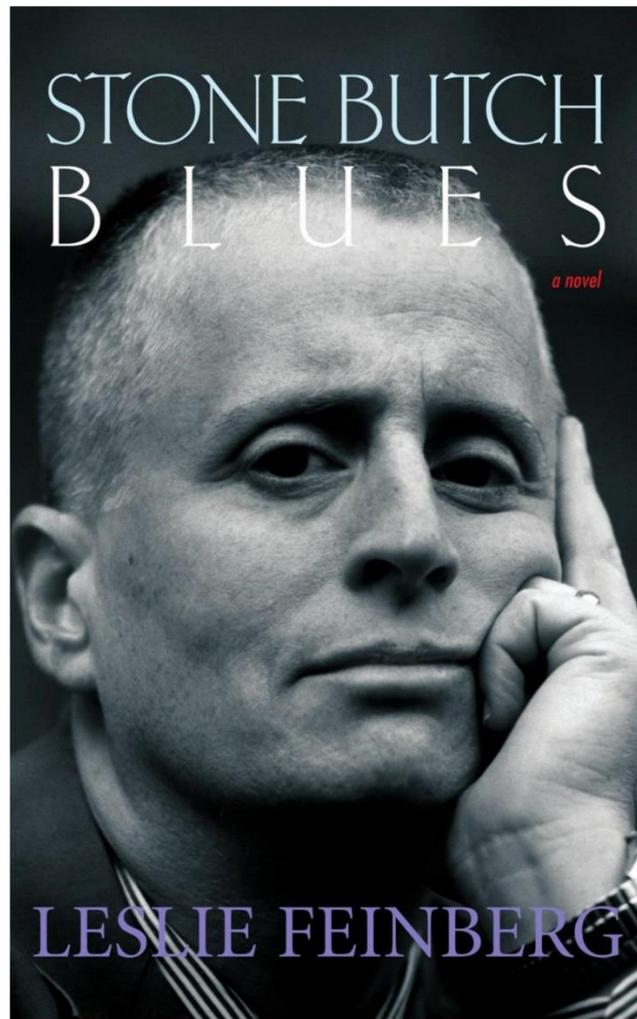
## **Frida Kahlo**

Kahlo is a role model for artists, people with disabilities and bisexual women. Throughout her life, she came face-to-face with her disabilities and turned them into art. She has many paintings depicting her disabilities and never let her disability prevent her from pursuing her passion. In Kahlo's own words, "I never paint dreams or nightmares. I paint my own reality." Many leaders are using their voices to share their stories, educating people about both visible and invisible disabilities. They are defying the statistics and have remained highly successful with their disabilities. People like Kahlo have made a difference – for people with disabilities, Latinos, women and those who identify as LGBTQ+.



## **Justin Chappell**

Advocate for LGBTQ+ and Disability Rights Sees Politics as Avenue for Change. Justin Chappell identifies as “a gay man with a disability from a multi-racial family.” He was born with spina bifida and is a wheelchair user. The LGBTQ+ community and the disability community intersect in many ways. Among LGBTQ+ adults, 30% of men and 36% of women have a disability. The two communities also share some of the same challenges. LGBTQ+ people and people with invisible disabilities have to decide whether or not to come out. Both LGBTQ children and children with disabilities face bullying and stigma, for which the consequences can literally be life and death. “I want young people in the LGBTQ+ and disability community to know they are loved and appreciated for their unique dreams, talents, and skills. Young people with disabilities need to engage in the political process because, as disability rights leader Justin Dart said, ‘get into politics as if your life depends on it...because it does.’”



## **Leslie Feinberg**

Author of *Stone Butch Blues*, which redefined the conversation on gender and LGBTQ+ stories. Leslie rejected gendered terms and fluidly used all pronouns, including ze and hir. They also rallied to support AIDS patients and increasing the visibility of the disease. Leslie advocated for women's reproductive rights and marched against white supremacists. Leslie changed history by being beautifully and brutally real to theirself.

Thanks to L&I for providing most of the biographies



## **Marsha P Johnson**

Marsha P Johnson was probably the most famous member of the Stonewall riots. She threw the first bottle that cracked the glass ceiling on the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement. As a black trans woman, she faced many obstacles in life, but through it all, she was a compassionate soul. She worked with Sylvia Rivera to create STAR, a group that housed trans people in New York who were more at risk of homelessness. She worked with ACT UP, an AIDS activist group. She often worked as a sex worker as this was one of the few avenues of income available for trans women at the time.



## Margaret Cho

Margaret Cho is a Korean-American comedian, actress, fashion designer, author, and bisexual. She is a vibrant and visible icon for LGBTQ folks today. She has won many awards for her advocacy for women and LGBTQ people. Her frank, brash, and hilarious comedy continues to shine a light on how our society fails marginalized groups. She is quoted as saying, “I never allow any doubt to seep in. Don’t worry about the consequences.” This fearlessness and complete abandonment of restraints have made her such an influential figure in many social movements.



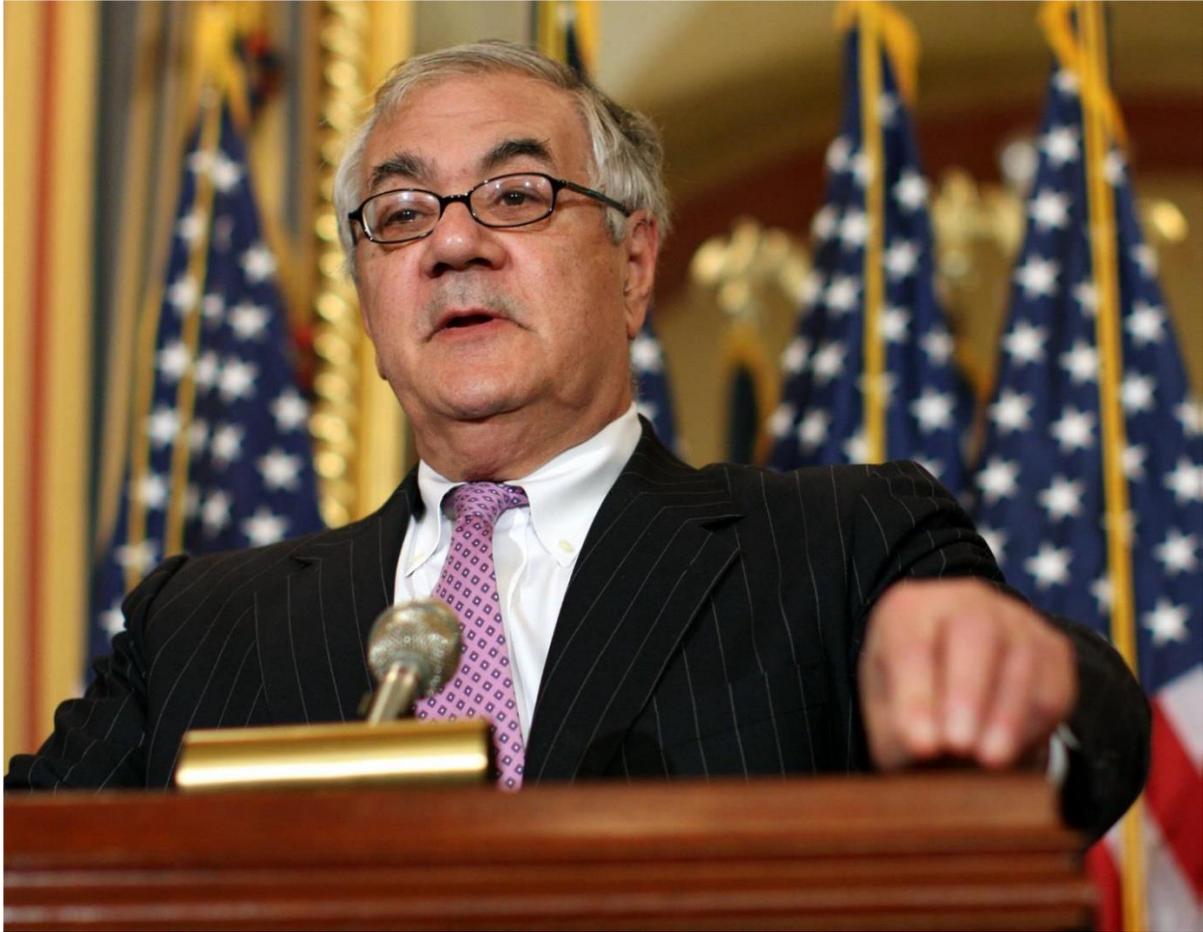
## **Susan Allen**

In 2018, Susan Allen became the first Native American woman elected to the Minnesota legislature. She is an accomplished tribal attorney and an active member of the Rosebud Tribe in South Dakota. She is quoted as saying, “As a Native woman and lesbian, I know what it’s like to be left out, to not have a voice”. She is a strong, passionate advocate for her community and all her constituents.



## **Eliel Cruz**

Eliel Cruz is the director of communications of the Anti-Violence Project, an organization that fights to end all forms of violence against LGBTQ+ people. He also is the Executive director of Faith in America, an organization dedicated to ending religious based bigotry against LGBTQ+ people. He participates in many other organizations that work hard to end prejudice towards LGBTQ folks.



## **Barney Frank**

Barney Frank was one of the first openly gay congressmen. He came out during the height of the AIDS crisis; he fought for LGBTQ people by being visible. He had a long track record of being pro-choice, and fighting to advance the civil rights movement. In 2012, he became the first person to marry someone of the same sex while serving in Congress.



## Harvey Milk

Harvey Milk was a visionary civil and human rights leader. He became one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. Milk's unprecedented loud and unapologetic proclamation of his authenticity as an openly gay candidate for public office, and his subsequent election gave never before experienced hope to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) people everywhere at a time when the community was encountering widespread hostility and discrimination. His remarkable career was tragically cut short when he was assassinated nearly a year after taking office.