A Queer Timeline

This digital exhibit was created as a companion piece to a physical exhibit on the same topic. The goal of both the physical and digital exhibit is the same: to raise awareness of the history of GLBTQ people and events in Michigan, Ann Arbor, and at the University of Michigan.

The digital exhibit is broken down by decade, chronicling events related to AIDS, firsts, and the Spectrum Center.

Events noted with an * were found on A Living Memory LGBT History Timeline

This subject guide was created by Graduate student JJ Pionke MSI ’13.
1890s - 1950s

- 1846 - Sodomy is formally outlawed in Michigan.
- 1899 - Ruth Ellis is born.
- 1903 - Michigan outlaws gross indecency between males.
- 1939 - Michigan enacts criminal sexual psychopath law.
- 1939 - Michigan outlaws gross indecency between females.

1940s - Albert Einstein has picture taken holding a puppet made by Forman Brown, an University of Michigan alum. From Dan Bessie papers.

- 1943 - U.S. military bars gays and lesbians from serving in the Armed Forces. *
- 1950 - Priscilla Dean headlines at Uncle Tom's Plantation in Detroit during the height of the city's black drag craze.

1950 - Mattachine Society forms. Article from the papers of John Kavanaugh.

- 1952 - American Psychiatric Association includes homosexuality under sociopathic personality disturbance in its first official list of mental disorders.
1952-Men in a chorus line from the University of Michigan Opera. From the records of the Michigan Union.

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1960s

- 1962 - Michigan State University remodels Union restroom to deter homosexuals.
- 1962 - Illinois becomes first state to make consensual same-sex acts legal. *
- 1966 - First U.S. gay community center opens, in San Francisco, led by The Society for Individual Rights. *
- 1967 - Officials are charged with concealing movie cameras to view homosexual activity in Wayne State University restrooms.
- 1967 - Wayne State University administration agrees to destroy files on suspected homosexuals.
- 1967 - First gay bookstore in the U.S. opens: Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop (in New York City). *
- 1968 - The American Psychiatric Association moves homosexuality from sociopathic category to sexual deviation. *
- 1969 - Stonewall riots. *

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1970s

- 1970-Gay Liberation Movement registers as a student group at Michigan State University.

- 1970-Letter from Professor F.N. Menefee urging President Fleming to not support the Gay Liberation Movement. Office of the President, box.

- 1970-University of Michigan President Robben Fleming denies Gay Liberation Front use of campus facilities for gay conference. Letter from President Fleming in the Office of the President Collection.

- 1970-Long letter of protest, including cartoons, one of which is pictured here, that admonish the Board of Regents for allowing homosexuals onto campus. From the Office of the President Collection.
1970-The Office of Student Affairs compiles a table of information pertaining to homosexual groups at other Big Ten schools. From the Office of the President Collection.


1970-Poster encouraging lesbians to contact the Lesbian Advocate's Office. From the Jim Toy Collection.

- 1971-Gay Liberation Front organizes at Wayne State University.
- 1971-Gayle Rubin calls a meeting of Ann Arbor lesbians, resulting in formation of the Radicalesbians at the University of Michigan.
- 1971-University of Michigan hires Jim Toy and Cyndi Gair as first human sexuality advocates.
- 1972-Ann Arbor celebrates first officially designated Gay Pride Week in the US.
- 1972-Ann Arbor Council adopts ordinance protecting individuals from discrimination based on sexual preference.
- 1972-Detroit's first gay community center opens during Christopher Street celebrations.
- 1972-First statewide gay pride march held in Detroit.
- 1972-East Lansing becomes first city to ban anti-gay bias in city hiring. *
- 1973-American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. *
- 1973-Ann Arbor City Council members Nancy Wechsler and Jerry DeGrieck come out at a meeting.

- 1974-Kathy Kozachenko is elected as an open lesbian to the Ann Arbor City Council.
- 1975-Collective organizes A Woman's Bookstore, later Womanspace, in Ann Arbor.
- 1975-Graduate employees at the University of Michigan secure protections for gays in union contract.
After 1975-Poster soliciting people to be on the U of M Gay Task Force. From the Daniel Tsang Collection.

1976-Graduate employees and the University of Michigan have a misunderstanding about the non-discrimination clause of the new contract. GEO, U Argue Sex Clause and Fire-Breathing Stud In Dress? swell as the Letter of Understanding that was added to the contract from Daniel Tsang Collection.

- 1976-First Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is held on original site in Hesperia.
- 1976-Gay Community Center opens on S. Forest in Ann Arbor.
1977-President Carter changes Billie Edwards' dishonorable discharge from the Marines in 1967 due to sexual orientation to an honorable discharge, backdated. Discharge paper from the Billie Edwards Collection.

- 1977-Michigan State University includes sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy.
- 1977-Michigan's first transgender organization Crossroads is founded for Flint and Detroit area crossdressers.


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1980s
- 1981-First reported cases of what came to be called AIDS. *
- 1981-Michigan Department of Health reports states first two deaths from AIDS.
- 1984-President Harold Shapiro issues non-discrimination statement at the University of Michigan.
- 1984-State non-discrimination bill, H.B. 5000, fails to pass legislature.
- 1985-NAMES Project memorial quilt for AIDS victims launched. *
- 1985-University of Michigan law professor James Martin becomes Washtenaw County’s first AIDS death.

1985-Informational poster from the Community Health Education Council on how to stop the spread of AIDS. Jim Toy, Box 9.

1985-Memo stating that Aids victims will not be discriminated against in housing policies at the University of Michigan. Jim Toy, Box 9.

- 1985-Wayne State University amends non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation.


1986-Undated poster that demands more money for AIDS research. Jim Toy, Box 9.
1986-President Fleming of the University of Michigan creates a UM AIDS Task Force of which there is a great deal of support. Jim Toy, Box 9.


1986-The Department of Public Health enacts an Emergency Rule so that funeral directors will know what kind of precautions to take with bodies. Jim Toy, Box 9.

1986-The University of Michigan accepts guidelines that allow AIDS victims to attend classes. Jim Toy, Box 9.

- 1988-New state AIDS disclosure law makes it a felony to conceal HIV infection from sex partners.
- 1988-National Coming Out Day launched. *

1989-Poster celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Jim Toy, Box 1.

- 1989-Debate rages at Michigan Womyn's Music Festival over
whether to allow male children of attendees to come to the festival.

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1990s

- 1990-Michigan State University trustees revise non-discrimination bylaw to expressly protect sexual orientation.
- 1990-Twenty-six Michigan athletes take part in Gay Games III in Vancouver, Canada.
- 1990-Wayne County judge strikes down Michigan sodomy and gross indecency statutes.


1992-The flu shot causes people to have false positive HIV tests. Jim Toy, Box 9.
1993-AIDS Anthology of Writings, a student publication, contains various creative writings about AIDS, including I'm Sick of AIDS by Nick Pawlowski. Jim Toy, Box 9.

- 1993-Don't Ask, Don't Tell, U.S. military policy adopted. *
- 1993-University of Michigan regents pass by-law barring discrimination based on sexual orientation.

1993-Billie Edwards resigns as the last Lesbian Advocate at the University of Michigan. Billie Edwards, Box 1.

- 1995-Keith Orr and Martin Contreras open Aut Bar on Braun Court in Ann Arbor.
- 1996-Congress passes Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), forbidding federal recognition of (and benefits for) married same-sex couples. *
- 1996-Eastern Michigan University’s trustees amend non-discrimination policies to include sexual orientation.
- 1996-Governor John Engler signs bill into law banning same-sex marriage in Michigan.
- 1997-Michigan State University trustees approve domestic partnership benefits for LGB faculty and staff.
- 1997-Ypsilanti City Council enacts non-discrimination ordinance.
- 1998-Matthew Shepard murdered in Wyoming. *

Billie Louise Edwards 1947 - 1995

Billie was an activist, writer, innocent, and more. She graduated from the University of Michigan, 1968. Her novel, 'The Yankee Dancer: What is the women's experience of being different?'

* What I do want is to be treated as a human being and in the same as a person... - p. 52

http://bentley.umich.edu/exhibits/queer/1990s.php
1998-Candlelight vigil held at the University of Michigan for Matthew Shepard. Office of LGBT Affairs, Box 3.

- 1998-Detroit City Council extends domestic partnership benefits to LGB city employees.
- 1998-Eastern Michigan University extends domestic partnership benefits to LGB faculty.
- 1998-State Representative Lynne Martinez of Lansing introduces bill to add lesbians and gays to Michigan's hate crimes law.
- 1999-Ann Arbor amends non-discrimination ordinance to protect gender identity.

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2000 - 2012

- 2000-Ruth Ellis dies.
- 2000-Vermont becomes the first state to allow Civil Unions.

2000-Ruth Ellis and Jim Toy. Ruth Ellis, Box 2.
- 2003-U.S. Supreme Court strikes down remaining state sodomy laws.

2000-Ruth Ellis, 100. Article from MS. Magazine. Ruth Ellis, Box 2.

2004-National Transgender Library and Archives finds a home at the University of Michigan. LILA, Box 1.
Massachusetts becomes the first state to legalize same-sex marriage.

2005-LILA (The Lavender Information and Library Association) celebrates 15 years at the University of Michigan. LILA, Box 1.

- 2008-California courts allow same sex couples to marry which is then overturned by voters in Proposition 8.
- 2010-“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” military policy is repealed.
- 2012-Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) ruled unconstitutional by United States District Judge Jeffrey White.
- 2012-President Obama becomes the first President, while in office, to endorse same-sex marriage.

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A wide variety of sources were used to create this timeline. From the Bentley Historical Library the following collections were used:

- Dan Bessie
- Sandra S. Cole
- Billie Louise Edwards
- Ruth Ellis
- Growing Up Gay publication
- Douglas M. Haller
- John L. Kavanaugh
- Lavendar Information and Library Association
- Office of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Affairs
- President (University of Michigan)
- Jim Toy
- Daniel Tsang

From the internet, these sources were used:

- [A Living Memory LGBT History Timeline](http://bentley.umich.edu/exhibits/queer/sources.php) Found only on The Wayback Machine

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