

June 2018 Spokane Diversity/Cultural Events

LGBT Pride Month

June was selected as Gay and Lesbian Pride month due to the three-day protest in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City. This event marked the first time that the gay community joined together to fight for their rights, thereby gaining national attention. The anniversary of this event was one of the reasons June was chosen as the national proclaimed month to celebrate GLBT pride.

African-American Music Month

For generations, African-Americans have created music that communicates across racial boundaries, initially through spirituals while under the bondage of slavery and through modern genres of blues, jazz, ragtime, gospel, and hip hop. June honors the pioneers of African-American music and their legacy, and today's music artists. The website <http://blackmusicamerica.com/> is preserving and promoting the legacy and contributions of Black musicians. Originally started as Black Music Month by President Carter, President Obama has announced the observance under its new title.

National Aboriginal History Month (Canada)

Aboriginal History Month is an opportunity not only to recognize the historic contributions of Aboriginal peoples to the development of Canada, but also the strength of present-day Aboriginal communities and their promise for the future.

National Caribbean American Heritage Month

A celebration of the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the U.S. In June 2005, the House of Representatives unanimously adopted H. Con. Res. 71, sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, recognizing the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States. On February 14, 2006, the resolution similarly passed the Senate, since the declaration, the White House has issued an annual proclamation recognizing June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.caribbeanamericanmonth.org/>.

Outstanding women of our community are recognized at the luncheon with the prestigious **Women of Achievement Awards**. For over 35 years, the YWCA has honored women who, through their accomplishments and leadership, have demonstrated the mission of the YWCA, and have made Spokane a better place for all of us to live. This year's categories are Arts and Culture; Business & Industry; Carl Maxey Racial & Social Justice Award; Community Enhancement; Education; Science, Technology & Environment and Young Woman. To download the nomination form due June 22, 2018, visit the YWCA website at <https://ywcaspokane.org/woa-2018-call-for-nominations/> Women of Achievement will be held on October 4, 2018.

Edward S. Curtis: The Grand Idea

On the 150th anniversary of his birth, we explore the life's work of one of America's most important and controversial photographers, chronicler of the West and the North American Indian people.

Dates: June 16, 2018 through September 23, 2018.

Time: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Location: [Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture](http://www.northwestmuseum.org/exhibits/current-exhibits/titanic.cfm), 2316 W. First Ave

Cost: \$10.00 adult, \$8.00 seniors, \$5.00 children ages 6-17, \$8.00 college students with ID.

For more information visit their website at <https://www.northwestmuseum.org/exhibits/current-exhibits/titanic.cfm> or call 509.456.3931.

“Sacred Encounters: Father De Smet and the Indians of the Rocky Mountain West” Exhibit

The exhibit tells the story of how Jesuit missionaries (Father De Smet) came to the interior Northwest at the invitation of the Coeur d' Alene and Salish tribes and the profound effects this sacred encounter had on both cultures.

Date: Open, no end date at this time

Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily April through October, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm November through March, (closed holidays)

Location: Old Mission State Park, Cataldo, ID (exit 39)

Cost: \$5.00 park entrance fee, exhibit \$5.00 per person/\$10.00 per family.

For more information visit their website at <http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/parks/coeur-d-alenes-old-mission>.

Spokane Women Together Exhibit

Photographic portraits and stories of diverse women of Spokane; included are portraits of high school students, university professors, Holocaust survivors, Bosnian refugees, doctors, janitors and musicians, by Rick Singer and Hilary Hart. Hours are, Mondays-Saturdays, and,

Date: April 26, 2018 – Jun 30, 2018

Time: Mondays-Saturdays, 10:00 am-6:00 pm, open until 8:00 pm on Wednesdays

Location: Spokane Public Library, 906 W Main Ave, 3rd floor

Cost: Free

For more information visit <http://www.spokanelibrary.org> or visit rick@ricksingerphotography.com.

Can You Queer Me Now?

Day: Tuesday

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Hear voices directly from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Questioning community right here in the Inland Northwest. You will hear more about current events, local groups, and perspectives directly from the queer youth community. Hosted by Ian Sullivan on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Democracy Now

Day: Monday-Friday

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am & 5:00 pm-5:00 pm

A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S. Link <https://www.democracynow.org/>.

KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Democracy Now! Headlines in Spanish

Date: Saturday

Time: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

Democracy Now! is a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM.

Website: www.kyrs.org or www.democracynow.org.

Detention

Day: Monday

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Variety music/talk show for teens by teens. This show is produced by the students of West Valley City School. Hosted by Kade, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Dragonflies on Thin Air**Day: Sunday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

One of the few elementary age children's radio shows produced by kids for kids in the country. The program is fun and educational for children and adults, and includes a mix of jokes, music, guests, stories, poetry, trivia and more. Hosted by [Trevor, Zoe, Eva and Selena](#), KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Irish Music on Tap**Day: Wednesday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Music from Ireland, Scotland and England. Hosted by Don and Rick, on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Latin Lounge**Day: Monday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

A wide spectrum of Latin music. Hosted by "Corazon" on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Layali Arabia**Day: Saturday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Arabic songs from a multitude of different genres including but not limited to: hip hop, reggae, indie, metal, folk, pop, electronic, oriental jazz and some of the greatest classics to come out of the Arab World. Hosted by Rahmi on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Queens of Noise**Day: Wednesday**

Time: 8:00 pm-10:00 pm

You will hear best in female vocalist/musicians. Hosted by "Queen of Mean" and "Luscious Duchess", KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

QueerSounds**Day: Thursday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

QueerSounds is radio show dedicated to playing music by and for LGBTQ people. Music, interviews, community events and forums. Hosted by bob, KYRS FM 92.3 or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>

Join the hosts on Facebook at www.facebook.com/qsounds, or email them at queersounds@kyrs.org.

The Persian Hour**Day: Saturday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

The Persian Hour's consists of a variety of Iranian music from hip hop to traditional, Jazz, blues, rock and roll and the usual. Also, they will share stories, recipes, and interviews. Hosted by Shahrokh, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

33rd Annual ArtFest

Three-day art festival in Coeur d'Alene Park in historic Browne's Addition. Over 150 artisans, food booths, live music, wine and beer garden, art-making tent for kids of all ages.

Dates: Friday, June 1– Sunday, June 3 2018

Location: Coeur d'Alene Park in Brown's Addition, between Chestnut & Spruce (2nd & 4th)

Cost: Free

For more information, contact MAC at 509.456.3931 or visit their website at www.northwestmuseum.org or email artfest@northwestmuseum.org.

M.E.Ch.A. de Rogers High School – “Our Community”

Together, share our culture with each other, and build cohesion!

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: John R. Rogers High School, 1622 E Wellesley Ave

Cost: 4-tickets for \$1.00

For more information visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ewu.mecha/>. Hosted by MEChA de EWU.

Women's Health and Beauty Expo

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2018

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center, 1100 N Sullivan Rd

Cost: Free

For more information call 602.625.3000.

22nd Annual Pride Cruise

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2018

Location: Lake Coeur d' Alene

Time: 2:00 pm

For more information visit <https://outspokane.org/>.

Silver Spurs Youth Folk Dancers

Presenting dances from Romania, Scotland and New Zealand as well as swing, the Charleston and Bollywood dances.

Date: Sunday, June 3, 2018

Time: 2:00 pm, tickets available at the door T 1:30 PM

Location: Spokane Community College, 1810 N Greene St

Cost: \$5.00 per person or \$12.00/family up to five members

For more information visit their website at <http://www.silverspursyouthfolkdancers.org/>.

Spokane Buddhist Temple Bon Odori Dancers

A performance of the fun and easy-to-learn dances of the annual Obon Festival accompanied by Japanese folk songs. The final program for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Date: Sunday, June 3, 2018

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: Shadle Library, 2111 W Wellesley Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.444.5390 or visit their website at www.spokanelibrary.org.

Inland Northwest Business Alliance (INBA) Pride Breakfast

Keynote Speaker: Helen Bonser

Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Time: 7:00 am – 8:30 am

Location: Spokane Valley Event Center, 10514 E Sprague Ave, Spokane Valley

Cost: Admission is free with a donation to the scholarship fund at the breakfast

For more information, email info@inbasspokane.org or call 509.747.4930 ext. 2001.

Spokane police Department - Community Appreciation Day

K-9, Motor Unit, and Explosives Robot Demonstrations and Hiring Workshop.

Date: Saturday, June 9, 2018

Location: Spokane Community College Soccer field, 1810 N Greene Street

Time: noon – 4:00 pm

Cost: Free and open to the public

Food available for purchase from Kona Ice and Red Lion Barbecue. For more information contact Kathy at karmstrong@spokanepolice.org.

27th Annual Pride Parade - Theme: *Pride, Now More Than Ever*

Date: Saturday, June 9, 2018

Location: Downtown Spokane

Time: noon

Cost: Free

For more information visit <https://outspokane.org/>.

Rainbow Festival – “*Pride, Now More Than Ever* and Rainbow Festival”

Sponsored by OutSpokane.

Date: Saturday, June 9, 2018

Time: 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm for festival booths. 12:00 pm – 10:00 pm other activities.

Location: Riverfront Park

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information check the website <http://www.outspokane.com/>.

Unity in the Community Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S Richard Allen Ct

Cost: Free and open to all who have an interest in making this event happen on August 18, 2018

For more information visit their website at www.nwunity.org.

Sergio Mendes

The concert will feature hits with Brasil '66 as well as classics from his 50 years as a recording artist.

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Martin Woldson Theatre at The Fox

Cost: \$42.00-\$75.00

For more information and/or purchase tickets call 509.624.1200 or www.foxtheatrespokane.com.

“Pictures of Nursing: The Zwerdling Postcard Collection”

“Pictures of Nursing: The Zwerdling Postcard Collection,” a trove of postcards featuring images of nurses and the nursing profession produced from 1893 to 2011. This is a traveling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine and a selection of the nearly 2,600 postcards collected by former registered nurse Michael Zwerdling,

Dates: June 13, 2018 through July 13, 2018

Time: Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: WSU School of Nursing, 103 E Spokane Falls Blvd

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call, 509.324.7340 or email addy.hatch@wsu.edu.

Hispanic Business Professional Association Monthly Meeting

Sabes Qué? Gloria Ochoa-Bruck, Director of Multicultural Affairs, City of Spokane

Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Time: 11:30 am – networking & lunch, noon – 1:00 pm meeting & speaker presentation

Location: Perkins Restaurant, Division/Olive Streets

Cost: Optional lunch about \$10.00-\$15.00

For more information email hbpaspokane@gmail.com or visit their website at www.hbpaspokane.net.

Project Joy, Senior Entertainers of Spokane

Toe, tap, and clap with the Senior Serenades mixed voice chorus, an ensemble of approximately 50 members whose wonderful programs include old-time favorites and show music.

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2018

Time: 1:00 pm -2:00 pm

Location: Hennessey Valley Funeral Home, 1315 N Pines Rd.

Cost: Free and open to the public

Refreshments provided.

World Refugee Day – Celebrating the Refugee Child

A celebration of those who have come to Spokane as refugees. Live performances, cultural marketplace, international food tasting, and Naturalization Ceremony.

Date: Saturday, June 16, 2017

Time: 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Location: Nevada Park, 800 E Joseph Ave

Cost: Free

For more information, visit their website at <http://worldreliefspokane.org/>.

NAACP General Membership Meeting

Date: Monday, June 18, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Community Building, 35 W Main Ave or community venue, check their Facebook page

Cost: Free, meeting open to everyone

For more information contact spokanenaacp@gmail.com or visit their Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/spokane.naACP/>.

4th Annual SEA-TRI-KAN - Ride with Refugees

Route starts at the World Relief;s office in Kent, WA, passes through Tri-Cities and finishes with a celebration dinner in Spokane.

Dates: Wednesday-Sunday, June 20-24, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Cost: \$360.00, must register. Registration is closed! For more information, contact Sarah Smith at

smsmith@wr.org or visit their website at <https://worldreliefseattle.org/stk>. Fundraiser for World Relief.

Baha'i Fireside Discussions

Discussions about topics of interest and the Baha'i faith will take place.

Date: Thursday, June 21, 2018 (3rd Thursday of each month)

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Spokane Valley Library, Small conference room, 12004 E Main Street

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit <http://www.scld.org/locations/spokane-valley/>

Spokane Tribal Series

Learn about Spokane Tribal History and Science with guests from the Spokane Tribe.

Date: Saturday, June 23, 2018 (every 4th Saturday through July)

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Mobius Science Center, 332 N Post Street

Cost: \$8.00 adult/child, \$7.00 senior

For more information visit <http://mobiuspokane.org> or call 509.321.7123.

Hooffest 2018

Largest 3-on-3 basketball tournament on the streets of downtown Spokane

Dates: Saturday & Sunday, June 30-July 1, 2018

Location: Downtown Spokane streets

Cost: Free to observe, registration closed.

For more information visit their website at <http://www.spokanehooffest.net/>.

Save the Date

An Evening in Tuscany - Italian Dinner and Silent Auction

Fundraiser benefit for the YWCA's Alternatives to Domestic Violence Safe Shelters. Enjoy an Italian dinner, in addition to a night of wine, art, entertainment, desserts, live music, and dancing that will make you feel like you were in Tuscany!

Date: Friday, July 13, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Barrister Winery, 1213 Union Pacific Railroad

Cost: \$85.00 per person, seating is limited, reservations are required, must be 21+ to attend

For more information call Katie Sowers at 509.789.9312,. To order/purchase tickets visit the Eventbrite website at:

<http://ywcas.convio.net/site/Calendar?id=100181&view=Detail>.

Unity in the Community – Celebrating 22 Years

Date: Saturday, August 18, 2018

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Riverfront Park

Cost: Free

For more information visit www.nwunity.org. School supplies for K-8th grade are given out on a first-come, first serve basis. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and child must participate in the Culture Villages experience by visiting all of the booths.

2018 Copacabana - A Havana Night

Dinner, dance and entertainment. Presented by Club de Latinas de Spokane.

Date: Saturday, September 15, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm, doors open at 6:00 pm

Location: Shriners Event Center

Cost: \$45.00 per person.

To purchase tickets, contact spokanelatins@gmail.com. Proceeds after expenses are donated to a local non-profit organization working to empower immigrant women.

If you know of diversity/cultural event open to the public that you would like added to the monthly calendar, please e-mail Yvonne C. Montoya Zamora at yvonnecmz04@gmail.com with event details.

For general Spokane events visit www.visitspokane.com or <http://www.spokane7.com/>.

June 2018 National/International Diversity/Cultural Celebrations

June 1

Gawai Dayak – Malaysia

This is a festival marking the gathering of the rice harvest. Rituals performed to express thanks to the spirits of the paddy with requests for better harvest during the next planting season. Celebrations usually last 3 days.

Children's Day – Laos

Guided by the belief that the children of today are the future of tomorrow, the celebration of Children's Day is celebrated every first of June every year.

Global Day of Parents – UN

This day was proclaimed by the UN in 2012 to honor parents throughout the world.

June 2

Republic Day – Italy

Known as the Festival of The Republic, it is celebrated on the day that Italians voted to abolish the monarch in 1946.

June 4

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression – UN

Acknowledges the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.

June Bank Holiday – Ireland

June 5

Nur (5th Month) – Baha'i

The first day of the fifth Baha'i month. The English translation of Nur (Arabic) is Light.

Constitution Day- Denmark

Honors as both the first constitution of 1849 which established Denmark as a constitutional monarchy" and the current constitution of 1953, which were signed on this date of their respective years.

Labour Day – Bahamas

World Environment Day – UN

Message to reject single-use plastic, Refuse what you can't re-use.

June 6	National Day - Sweden
June 8	World Oceans Day - UN Reminds every one of the major role the oceans have in everyday life.
	Red Earth Native American Fair – Aboriginal/Native American Cultural festival takes place in Oklahoma City for 3 days. Over 150 Native tribes from U.S. and Canada gather to share and participate in their rich and diverse heritage through highest quality original art, drum and dance juried competitions.
June 9	Trooping the Colour – UK The official birthday of the Queen is marked each year by a colourful and historic military parade and march-past, known as Trooping the Colour.
June 10	Portugal Day – Portugal Observes the anniversary of the death in 1580 of national poet, Luiz Vaz de Camões, with parades, writing contests and dances.
June 12	Independence Day – Russia Russian parliament formally declared Russian sovereignty from the USSR which declared complete state independence.
	Independence Day – Philippines The Philippine Declaration of Independence was proclaimed this date in present day Kawit, Cavite.
	World Day Against Child Labour - UN
June 14	Flag Day – USA A day chosen by the Continental Congress in 1777 to honour the flag as a symbol of patriotism. Its 13 red and white stripes represent the original colonies, while the 50 stars stand for the separate but united states of the Union. Flags are flown over all schools, statehouses, courtrooms and churches.
June 15	Matariki – Aboriginal/Maori , New Zealand When the star cluster Matariki (Pleiades) appears in the dawn sky, Maori New Year starts.
	Eid-ul-Fitr – Islam The end of the Ramadan fast is celebrated for 3 days. Observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or North America calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North America date.
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev – Sikh Commemorates the death of the fifth guru of the Sikhs and the first Sikh martyr executed by the Mughal emperor Jehangir. He built the Golden Temple in Amritsar with doors facing all four directions to emphasize the Sikh way was open to all, regardless of caste.
June 17	Independence Day – Iceland Icelandic National Day celebrating Iceland's independence from Denmark on June 17, 1944.

June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought – UN
	To promote public awareness of land degradation and to draw attention to the implementation of the UNCCD in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.
	Father's Day – USA, Canada, UK
	This day we honor all fathers in the world. Louise Dodd of Spokane, WA, began the tradition in 1910. Her own father was a veteran who raised his six children alone after his wife died in childbirth. Interest in the day grew, and in 1966 a presidential proclamation established Father's Day as the 3 rd Sunday in June.
June 19	Juneteenth – African-American
	June 19, 1865, also known as National Freedom Day, is considered the official end of slavery in the United States. Slaves in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas were not told about their freedom until this day, even though the Emancipation Proclamation took place in April of 1863.
	Labour Day – Trinidad & Tobago
June 20	World Refugee Day- UN
June 21	Summer Solstice
	In the Northern Hemisphere, where it is the longest day of the year in terms of daylight, the June solstice is also called the summer solstice.
	National Aboriginal Day – Aboriginal/Native Canadian
	In 1996, a former Governor General of Canada proclaimed June 21 to be known as National Aboriginal Day. This is an event growing in importance in Canada when the outstanding contributions of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, collectively known as Aboriginal peoples, are being recognized.
	National Day – Greenland
	Celebrations consist of speeches, hoisting of the flag, church services and local entertainment.
	International Day of Yoga - UN
June 23	Public Service Day – UN
	On December 20, 2002, the UN designated this date to celebrate the value and virtue of public service, and the contribution of public service in the development process.
	National Day – Luxembourg
June 24	Rahmat (6th Month) – Baha'i
	The first day of the sixth Baha'i month. The English translation of Rahmat (Arabic) is Mercy. Starts at sunset on the 23rd.
	St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec) - Canada
	The patron saint of French Canadians in Quebec. It is a national holiday with parades, bonfires and fireworks to celebrate his birthday.

June 24	Dia de San Juan – Puerto Rico This day commemorates the island's patron saint, St. John the Baptist. People gather at beaches in the afternoon. Then at midnight they jump into the ocean backwards three times to symbolize baptism, immersion and new life. Feasts follow.
	Inti Raymi - Peru Celebrated in Cusco, the second biggest festival in Latin America celebrates the winter solstice Incan Festival where the God of the Sun, Wiracocha, is honored.
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – UN In 1997, the UN General Assembly proclaimed June 26 th the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture to remind people that human torture is unacceptable and a crime.
	Independence Day – Madagascar, Somalia
June 27	Multiculturalism Day – Canada This day acknowledges the contributions various communities make to Canadian society and celebrates the country's richness and diversity.
June 28	Stonewall Rebellion Day - LGBT This day commemorates the U.S. anniversary of the protest against police harassment in New York City's Greenwich Village in 1969. Events and Pride Parades are held in many cities throughout the U.S. and Canada.
June 29	Gahambar Maidyoshem- Zoroastrian This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.
	St. Peter and Paul Day – Chile Liturgical feast in honor of Saints Peter and Paul.
June 30	Independence Day - Congo

Source: Multicultural Calendar 2018 published by Creative Cultural Communications:
<http://usa.multiculturalcalendar.com/v/home.html>.

In celebration of Pride Month, the books below feature positive portrayals of LGBTQ characters and families for children and teens. They show that sexual identity and orientation are only a part of the whole of any person.

Mommy, Mama, and Me

Written by: Leslea Newman, Illustrated by: Carol Thompson

Recommended Age: 1 -3

This book reminds the reader that a day with a toddler and caring parents is much the same for every family. Whether at play with hide-and-seek and dress-up, splashing in the bath, or getting a kiss at bedtime, these books show the deep, loving bond between a lesbian couple and their treasured child.

Heather Has Two Mommies

Written by: Leslea Newman, Illustrated by: Laura Cornell

Recommended Age: 4 - 8

First published in 1989, this was first picture book to depict a lesbian family in a positive light. Now, the groundbreaking title has been revised, re-illustrated, and reissued for a new generation of readers! Heather is dismayed when her classmates don't understand why she has two mommies and no daddy — at first. But when the whole class draws their families, Heather quickly realizes that no two are the same and, as her teacher points out, "the most important thing about a family is that all the people in it love one another."

A Tale of Two Daddies

Written by: Vanita Oelschlager, Illustrated by: Kristin Blackwood

Recommended Age: 4 - 8

The confident little girl in this family knows exactly how to respond to a curious friend who doesn't quite get how having two daddies works: with the simple truth. In playful verse, she answers her friend's questions: Poppa builds her tree house, Daddy kisses an injured knee. And when she's sad and needs a hug? Either — or both — can do that! Children will relate to being curious about how a family that's different from theirs works, and the reassuring answer that every family can provide what a child needs will stick with them.

Stella Brings The Family

Written by: Miriam B. Schiffer, Illustrated by: Holly Clifton-Brown

Recommended Age: 4 - 8

Everyone in class is excited about the big Mother's Day party... except Stella. She has two daddies, who help her with homework, tuck her in at night, and make her feel more loved than anyone else could. She also has lots of other people who love her: a large extended family who support her and encourage her in everything she does. But she doesn't have a mom to bring to the party. In the end, though, thanks to that same supportive crowd — and a little inspiration from a classmate — Stella finds the perfect solution to celebrate her very special family.

I Am Jazz

Written by: Jessica Herthel, Jazz Jennings, Illustrated by: Shelagh McNicholas

Recommended Age: 4 - 8

From the age of two, Jazz knows something is wrong. In her mind, she's a girl, but her body is a boy's. Her parents don't understand, until they take her to a doctor who explains what it means to be transgender. While not everyone understands how Jazz feels — and many think that she's confused, and that she really is a boy in both brain and body — Jazz knows that when she finally gets to live as a girl, for the first time everything feels right. Written by teen transgender activist Jazz Jennings, this story of her childhood experience is an excellent way to introduce younger children to what it means to be transgender.

When You Look Out The Window: How Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin Built a Community

Written by: Gayle E. Pitman PhD, Illustrated by: Christopher Lyles

Recommended Age: 5 - 8

In 1950s San Francisco, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin met and fell in love. But outside their windows, there were many things they saw that they wanted to change. For decades, these two activists would fight for women's rights, LGBTQ rights, and more, so their community could be everything they dreamed. The main narrative of this book is a look through San Francisco windows, highlighting landmarks that mattered to Lyon and Martin and the changes they saw — and fought for — over time, while back matter provides historical details about these two inspiring activists.

In Our Mothers' House

Written by: Patricia Polacco, Illustrated by: Patricia Polacco

Recommended Age: 6 - 9

Marmee and Meema and their three children love each other, and they act just like any other family. So why do some of the other families where they live not want to speak to them? What's so strange about a family that has two moms and no dad? Patricia Polacco tackles the difficult topic of discrimination against same-sex families with understanding and confidence, showing that different doesn't mean wrong — and that love is what makes a family strong. This story is also a good choice for discussing adoption and multi-racial families with children.

George

Written by: Alex Gino

Recommended Age: 9 - 12

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy; she knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. When her teacher announces that their class play is going to be *Charlotte's Web*, George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte, but the teacher says she can't even try out for the part because she's a boy. So, with the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan — not just so she can be Charlotte, but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all. Alex Gino's all too rare middle-grade story of a transgirl's struggle is enhanced by the use of gender pronouns: while other characters consistently refer to George as "he", the narrator only uses female pronouns, providing further validation of George's identity as a girl.

Forward: My Story (Young Readers Edition)

Written by: Abby Wambach, Karen Abbott

Recommended Age: 10 - 14

Abby Wambach has always pushed the boundaries, achieving great feats — like the record for the most international goals scored in the history of soccer by either a man or a woman — and capturing the heart of a country as she helped lead the 2015 Women's National Team to victory in the FIFA Women's World Cup. But behind the professional successes were many struggles that fans didn't see, including a fight against addiction and fear about coming out as a lesbian. These struggles, though, have driven her to achieve as a professional athlete and as an advocate for equality and women's rights. This young readers edition of Wambach's book [Forward: A Memoir](#) is sure to delight young soccer fans.

Drama

Written by: Raina Telgemeier

Recommended Age: 10 and up

Callie is dealing with all the usual challenges of a middle school girl: a first relationship that breaks her heart, figuring out how she belongs when she's not one of the cool kids, and learning who she really is. But around her, friends are tackling their own dramas too, including Justin and Jesse, two brothers dealing with their emerging understanding of their sexuality. The two brothers provide interesting contrast — Justin is comfortable with declaring himself gay, and is accepted by those around him, while Jesse is still questioning what his sexual identity actually is — and Callie's support of both brothers is a powerful message for allies of the LGBTQ community.

Lily and Dunkin

Written by: Donna Gephart

Recommended Age: 10 and up

One good friend can sometimes give you the courage to be yourself. Timothy McGrother is actually Lily, and she feels trapped in a body that looks like a boy; Norbert Dorfman is new in town, struggling to maintain a normal life even though he's gone off his medication for bipolar disorder in order to play on the middle school basketball team. When the two of them meet, for the first time, each has someone who is ready to take them just as they are. Alternating first-person chapters tell the story of how Norbert becomes Dunkin and Timothy becomes Lily, thanks to the support of a new friend.

Princess Princess Ever After

Written by: Katie O'Neill, Illustrated by: Katie O'Neill

Recommended Age: 10 and up

Princess Amira and Princess Sadie couldn't be more different: Amira is heroic, with her dark hair in a mohawk and her sword in her hand, while Sadie is blonde-haired and kind-hearted, everything a "traditional" princess should be. But when Amira rescues Sadie from a tower, they become fast friends, and they soon decide to cooperate on a big problem: a jealous sorceress who wants to get rid of Sadie for good. On their adventures, though, they realize that they are actually far more than friends. It's time for these princesses to figure out what "happily ever after" means — and if, in their case, it means falling for one another. Entertaining and full of adventure, this graphic novel's emphasis on the power of true love will delight young readers.

The House You Pass On The Way

Written by: Jacqueline Woodson

Recommended Age: 12 and up

Staggerlee is already wrestling with racial identity — as the daughter of an interracial couple in an all-black town, it's been hard for her to make friends. But her confusion is made deeper by a secret she's kept for years: in sixth grade, she'd kissed another girl. Without language to talk about her feelings, however, Staggerlee just feels isolated and lost. When her cousin Trout comes to visit the summer they're both fourteen, however, Staggerlee is astonished to realize that other girls might feel the way that she does. As the two girls struggle together to decipher their feelings, Staggerlee begins to appreciate the truth about her identity: "I'm me. That's all." A complex and emotionally nuanced look at an adolescent's search for self, this book address sexuality, but also places it in a larger context, both within a single person and in broader communities.

Silhouette of a Sparrow

Written by: Molly Beth Griffin

Recommended Age: 13 and up

It's 1926, and Garnet has been sent away from the city to escape the polio epidemic raging there. She expects a quiet summer, indulging her love for ornithology, before she returns to finish high school, marry, and settle in to a life as wife and homemaker. But when she meets Isabella, a daring flapper, Garnet is shocked to find herself drawn to the unconventional young dancer. Can Garnet give up the dream of a university degree — and a life with someone like Isabella — to fulfill her mother's expectations? Set against an elegantly realized historical backdrop, the relationship between Garnet and Isabella is beautiful and tender, but bittersweet, as the reader rapidly realizes the obstacles Garnet faces to living and loving authentically.

Princeless: Raven the Pirate Princess - Captain Raven and the All-Girl Crew

Written by: Jeremy Whitley, Illustrated by: Rosy Higgins; Ted Brandt

Recommended Age: 13 and up

Raven the pirate from Princeless Book 3: Pirate Princess gets her own series! Her brothers have taken the pirate legacy to which she should be the rightful heir, so now Raven is determined to win it back... but to do so, she's going to need the toughest crew around. Her all-girl sailors may not be a typical pirate crew, but you don't want to mess with them! And when her crew ends up including Sunshine, a half-elf thief with whom Raven has an electric connection, and Ximena, a former more-than-a-friend, a little romance may start to come into play, too. With plenty of action and adventure and a daring LGBTQ character as its lead, this graphic novel series gets off to a thrilling start.

Annie On My Mind

Written by: Nancy Garden

Recommended Age: 13 and up

Nancy Garden's groundbreaking 1982 book tells the story of two girls whose friendship develops into love — love they have to conceal. When Liza is asked to house sit for two teachers from her school, it seems like the perfect opportunity to spend time alone with Annie — until a school administrator discovers them. Suddenly, Liza is threatened with expulsion, the two teachers — revealed to be a lesbian couple — are fired, and Liza, confused and guilty over all the turmoil, ends her relationship with Annie and leaves for college on the opposite coast. But being without Annie makes Liza realize just how important it is to be true to herself, and the book ends with the two of them agreeing to meet again. One of the first lesbian love stories with a happy ending, this book is all the more remarkable for its age.

Lies We Tell Ourselves

Written by: Robin Talley

Recommended Age: 13 and up

It's 1959, and two girls are coming face first up against deeply held prejudices of their age. Sarah Dunbar is one of the first black students at Jefferson High School; despite being an honor student at her last school, she's put in remedial classes and harassed daily. Linda Hairston is the daughter of one of the main opponents to the idea of integrating the school. But when they're forced to work on a project together, they not only have to come to terms with the dynamics of race, prejudice, and power... but also with their growing romantic feelings for one another. But if it would shake the school to think of them as friends, how can they possibly consider being more? This compelling novel tackles what happens when two deep prejudices must be faced at the same time.

Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen

Written by: Jazz Jennings

Recommended Age: 13 and up

Unlike many transgender kids, Jazz Jennings transitioned to female at the age of five — and even more unusually, she and her parents started sharing her story with the world. At a time when the public was almost always ignorant — and rarely accepting — of the transgender community, Jazz became a critical voice and a role model to kids everywhere. But today, she's facing a whole new challenge: her teen years. In this fascinating memoir, Jazz reflects on her very visible life as an advocate for transgender kids and teens, the support she's received from her family, and the additional challenges that come with navigating the physical, emotional, and social upheavals of adolescence when you were born in the wrong body. Intriguing, honest, and inspiring, both cis- and transgender teens will find this book illuminating.

Summer of Salt

Written by: Katrina Leno

Recommended Age: 14 and up

Georgina's family has a history of magic, but even though she's almost 18, she doesn't show any sign of developing a gift. She has no time to think about that, now, though: the tourists have arrived on her island of By-the-Sea to view a 300-year-old bird, Annabella's Woodpecker... a bird that's just been found dead. Georgina swears she'll find the killer, and soon gets help from a visitor named Prue — and their relationship blossoms into love. Georgina and Prue's romance is just a love story, not a problem in the novel, which is all too rare in young adult books with LGBTQ characters; the story also represents an asexual/aromantic character in an accepting way. Full of wonder and magical realism, this book is sure to draw teen readers into Georgina's beautiful world.

The Miseducation of Cameron Post

Written by: emily m. danforth

Recommended Age: 14 and up

Cameron Post is both guilty and relieved when her parents die in a car accident: she's relieved she doesn't have to reveal her dawning awareness of her homosexuality to them but can't help but feel that her forbidden desires might have caused the accident. Now living with her highly conservative aunt, Cameron conceals her true feelings — until she and another girl from the same fundamentalist church fall in love. When their relationship is discovered, Cameron's aunt sends her to a religious camp that claims to "cure" gay people...but Cameron discovers that, although her aunt is acting on a genuine desire to do what she thinks is right, love can't be "cured". In this heartfelt story, Emily M. Danforth avoids demonizing religious belief, instead showing how notions of "curing" or "correcting" sexual orientation are flawed and, ultimately, futile.

Being Emily

Written by: Rachel Gold

Recommended Age: 14 and up

Emily knows that she is not okay, and that she needs help to feel like herself. The problem is that Emily lives inside Christopher and was born a boy. And while Emily has kept herself hidden until now, she knows she can't deny who she is any longer. This year in the life of a transgender male-to-female (MTF) transition tackles the difficult reactions that this misunderstood experience generates: a therapist who insists that Christopher is real and Emily is sick, a religious friend who can't believe that God could make that kind of mistake. But when Emily meets others who do understand her — including a fellow MTF girl named Natalie — she realizes that being Emily is exactly who she is meant to be.

I'll Give You The Sun

Written by: Jandy Nelson

Recommended Age: 14 and up

At thirteen, Jude and her twin brother Noah are as close as can be; at sixteen, they're barely speaking. Something happened in those years — something that broke each of them as individuals and shattered the relationship between the two of them. In this story, which is told in alternating perspectives, Noah's discovery of his sexuality and tentative search for a person who loves him is a beautiful gay love story — and also becomes part of the framework that will bring him and Jude back together. This award-winning story captures the challenges and triumphs of a sibling finding their confidence in their sexual identity.

Empress of the World

Written by: Sara Ryan

Recommended Age: 14 and up

Anthropology student Nicola has been accepted into a summer program for gifted teens, so she knows she'll meet interesting people — like Battle, a blonde dancer who, unexpectedly, becomes a more than just a friend. But Nic has never thought of herself as a lesbian; she's always thought she was attracted to boys. As Nic deals with typical teenage relationship drama, she also has to wrestle with her own identity: is she lesbian? Bisexual? And in the end, does what she labels herself have anything to do with what she feels? Told in the format of a series of "field notes" by Nic, this novel captures the wide variety of needs behind relationships — desire, emotional closeness, and even some that can't be unraveled. Sometimes, it seems to Nic, relationships are just as much about what you discover about yourself.

None Of The Above

Written by: I. W. Gregorio

Recommended Age: 14 and up

Discovering your sexuality or gender identity is already a challenge — but what if you realize you are neither male nor female? Kristin Lattimer is a track and field champion with a full scholarship to university and a boyfriend she adores. But when they decide to have sex for the first time, it's obvious something is wrong, and a doctor's appointment results in shocking news: Kristin is intersex. She looks like a girl, but has male chromosomes — and even partial male genitalia. The news is bad enough, but when Kristin's diagnosis is leaked to the whole school, can she come to terms with her new identity? A rare young adult novel about the experiences of an intersex teen, this novel also includes resources about what it means to be intersex.

Scars

Written by: Cheryl Rainfield

Recommended Age: 14 and up

Kendra is a survivor of traumatic sexual abuse — experiences that have left her unable even to remember the identity of her abuser. She is struggling to find her identity while also dealing with the aftermath of the abuse, and she cuts to deal with the pain. Then she meets Meghan, and not only finds a friend, but, to her delight, love. And when her rapist threatens her again, that love might be what she needs to seek the truth — and set herself free. Rainfield also includes a carefully considered list of resources for LGBTQ teens, self-harming teens, and abuse survivors.

Symptoms of Being Human

Written by: Jeff Garvin

Recommended Age: 14 and up

A new school and an ultra-conservative congressman father running for re-election are stressful enough, but Riley has a secret: Riley is genderfluid, identifying as a boy some days and a girl others. The strain of playing a role for the community and media is building, so on a therapist's recommendation, Riley starts an anonymous blog about what it's like to be a genderfluid teen. But just as Riley gets settled at school, the blog goes viral — and an unnamed commenter discovers Riley's identity and threatens to expose it to the world. Riley faces a choice: walk away from support, understanding, and a newfound cause, or come out — and risk everything. Jeff Garvin shines in his debut novel, has created an uplifting story with a fascinating protagonist, one who faces prejudice, keeps a sense of humor, and gets the girl. This unique novel will provide teens on the gender binary with a thoughtful look at genderfluidity, and genderfluid teens with an all-too-rare role model in fiction.

Luna

Written by: Julie Anne Peters

Recommended Age: 14 and up

Regan and Liam are a sister and brother who love one another fiercely — all the more so because at night, Liam becomes Luna, thanks to Regan's help. She is fiercely protective of this brother/sister of hers: she can't help but worry about what her parents will say if they find out, or what Luna might do if concealing herself as Liam all day becomes too painful to tolerate. But Regan is so busy worrying about Luna that she's not allowing herself to live her own life, which becomes obvious to Luna when Regan becomes interested in a new boy in her chemistry class. Despite both their fears, Luna realizes that it's time to become the woman she is, both for herself, and for Regan. A terrific depiction of both a loving and protective transgender ally, and a confident transgender woman's entrance into the world.

Ash

Written by: Malinda Lo

Recommended Age: 14 and up

This reworking of the Cinderella fairy tale tells the story of Ash, grieving for her dead father and cruelly treated by her stepmother. She escapes by reading the book of fairy tales her mother used to tell her, dreaming of being taken away by the fairies; when she meets Sidhean, a particularly dark Fae, she believes her wish will be granted and she will finally be at peace. But when Ash meets Kaisa, the royal Huntress, everything changes: as her relationship with her newfound companion begins to deepen, she begins to see how she could be happy again — only now Sidhean wants to claim her, and she has to decide between her mother's stories and an unexpected true love.

Ask The Passengers

Written by: A.S. King

Recommended Age: 14 and up

Astrid has no one in her life to confide in, so she settles for the only thing she has: imaginary passengers in the planes that fly above her backyard. As she pictures the people traveling within them, she asks them all the difficult questions she can't voice out loud — including why she is falling in love with a girl. As the relationship grows stronger and friends and neighbors start asking their own questions about Astrid, she spends more and more time sending her love to the passengers on the planes, "Because if I give it all away, no one can control it." But maybe the passengers, who don't even know their lives were touched by Astrid, can also send their love back. This touching story of a girl wrestling with understanding herself, even as others in her life push her to define herself before she's ready, is a thoughtful and touching exploration of the boxes people place themselves — and one another — in.

Everything Leads To You

Written by: Nina LaCour

Recommended Age: 14 and up

Just out of high school, Emi Price is a talented young set designer already beginning to thrive in the L.A. film scene. When she finds a mysterious letter at an estate sale, it sends her chasing down the loose ends of a movie icon's hidden life — and along the way, she meets Ava, a homeless teen and the long-lost granddaughter of a movie cowboy. As the pair hunt for clues together and draw closer and closer, Emi learns more about Hollywood history, her own privilege, and the truth of her feelings for Ava. This story of summer love not only captures universal themes of love and loss, but also addresses the difference between movie romance and what happens in real life: while "perfect" pretend relationships may always work out, reality is simultaneously messier and more satisfying.

Honor Girl

Written by: Maggie Thrash, Illustrated by: Maggie Thrash

Recommended Age: 15 and up

Maggie Thrash has always loved her summers at the one-hundred-year-old Camp Bellflower for Girls, and she's secretly always hoped she'd be named Honor Girl, the girl who most exemplifies the camp's spirit. But the summer she is fifteen, things are different. A chance contact between Maggie and Erin, one of the counselors, sets off unexpected feelings for Maggie — and Camp Bellflower is *not* the place for a girl to fall in love with another girl. On top of that, her proficiency at the rifle range is setting her at odds with one of the other campers. Maggie will learn a lot about herself at camp this summer... including the power of creating your own identity. This graphic memoir is both funny and powerful, beautifully depicting the author's experiences.

Of Fire and Stars

Written by: Audrey Coulthurst, Illustrated by: Jordan Saia

Recommended Age: 15 and up

Princess Dennaleia has always known her future: she will marry the prince of Mynaria and seal the alliance between two kingdoms. Now, she must hide her Affinity for fire — a dangerous gift at the best of times, but especially when Mynaria forbids magic — while also learning the ways of her new kingdom...including how to ride Mynaria's intimidating warhorse from the even more intimidating Princess Amaranthine, her betrothed's sister. But as political plots swirl around them, Denna and Mare discover more than just the culprit behind the conflict: they also discover intense feelings for one another. Will they have to choose between their duty to their kingdoms and their love? As a fantasy love story that happens to be about a same-sex couple, this book normalizes Denna and Mare's love rather than focusing specifically on LGBTQ issues, reminding readers that love between two people of the same sex is just love.

Dress Codes for Small Towns

Written by: Courtney Stevens

Recommended Age: 15 and up

Billie, the daughter of a preacher and an artist, has always enjoyed bucking convention and refusing to be trapped in a box of who she "should" be. She and five friends — four boys and one girl — are nicknamed The Hexagon, and they're as close as they could be. But then Janie Lee admits to Billie that she's falling in love with Woods, and Billie has to admit that she feels the same...about both Woods and Janie Lee. If any of the Hexagon give up being "just friends," everything will change, but Billie isn't sure she can keep these conflicting feelings a secret — or that she wants to. This spirited and fun exploration of teens discovering themselves celebrates the power of breaking social molds to be true to yourself.

If I Was Your Girl

Written by: Meredith Russo

Recommended Age: 15 and up

Amanda is the new girl in school, and she just wants to blend in — make a few friends, go to class, and most importantly, keep her biggest secret close by keeping people at a distance. But when she meets Grant, she can't resist letting him get closer, and as she lets him in, she starts to realize what she stands to lose if she holds herself apart. But her big secret is that, at her old school, she was Andrew, not Amanda. If she lets Grant know, can he look past it — or will the prejudice and hatred she encountered before rear its head in her new home and school, too? Written by Meredith Russo, a transwoman, this novel addresses both general teen issues and issues specific to trans teens with a deft and honest touch. An author's note at the end to both cis- and transgender readers reminds them that this is just one story of life as a transgender teen and provides resources for trans teens in crisis.

Girl Mans Up

Written by: M-E Girard

Recommended Age: 15 and up

16-year-old Pen is struggling with the expectations that seem to be heaped on her at every turn. Everyone seems to think the way she dresses and acts means she wants to be a boy, while her parents say that she should dress "like a girl" to show them respect. But "manning up" is difficult when Pen isn't ready to define her gender identity, especially since defining herself somewhere in the LGBTQ community seems to come with its own set of rules. At the same time, she's dealing with a best friend who's behavior is more bullying than friendly and a crush who might actually reciprocate her feelings. Maybe "manning up" for Pen will mean finding the courage to be herself. This gritty and emotionally powerful story will speak to many teens who find that their lives are complicated by the weight of others' expectations of them.

For additional books on guidance if your Mighty Girl is lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning — or she knows someone who is or if you are a Parenting an LGBTQ child, additional books can be found at

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