

# LGBTQ+ People Who Changed History



## Alan Turing

Father of Modern Computer Science

Alan Turing was not a well-known figure during his lifetime, but today he is famous and celebrated for the crucial part he played in the victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. Turing was a mathematician who cracked something called the Enigma

Code, which is thought to have shortened the war by several years. He was also a victim of mid-20th Century attitudes to homosexuality and in 1952 was arrested because being homosexual was illegal in Britain at the time.

In 2013, he was pardoned for this “crime,” and in 2017 the government agreed to officially pardon men accused of “crimes” like this - meaning they will no longer have a criminal record. This pardoning has come to be known as the Alan Turing Law. In 2019, Turing was named the most “iconic” figure of the 20th Century, and his face now appears on the £50 note.



## Sally Ride

American Astronaut and Physicist

If you were a kid in the 1980s, you knew the name Sally Ride. A Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree, Ride was America’s first female astronaut and a space shuttle robotic arm operator. In 1983, she flew with fellow crew members aboard the shuttle

Challenger, the same orbiter that tragically exploded after lift-off during a mission in 1986 that Ride was not a part of.

Although she was married to a man until the mid-1980s, by the time of her death in 2012, Ride had been in a 27-year relationship with a female partner, Tam O’Shaughnessy. Ride posthumously came out as a lesbian.



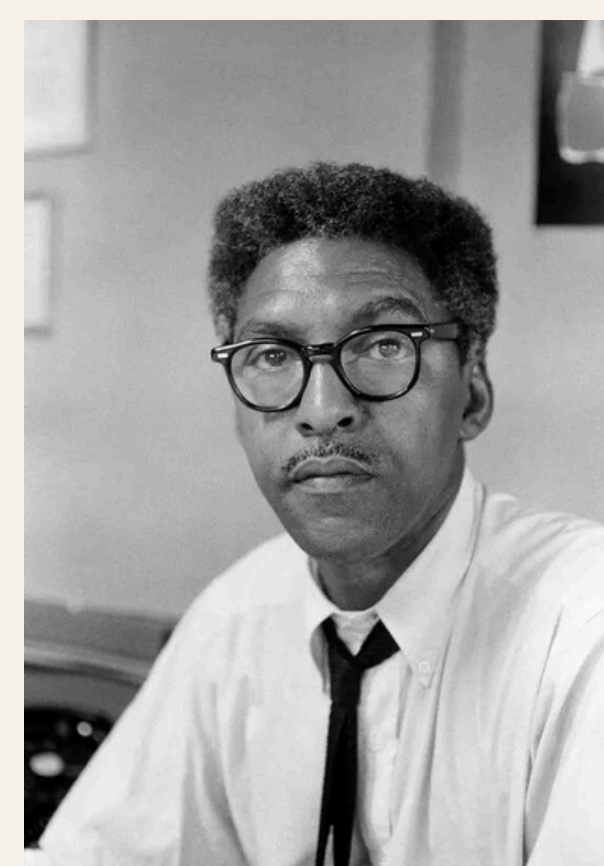
## Barbara Gittings

Mother of the LGBT Civil Rights Movement

At least a decade before Stonewall, out lesbian Barbara Gittings was fighting public battles aimed at securing rights for queer people. In 1958, Gittings founded the New York Chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis, the parent organization

of which was founded three years earlier in San Francisco.

Gittings is credited with leading the successful movement to change the psychiatric and psychological professions’ view of homosexuality as a mental pathology. In 1973 the American Psychiatric Association revoked its designation of homosexuality a disorder.



## Bayard Rustin

Human Rights Activist

Despite efforts even within the civil rights movement itself to overshadow him because he refused to be closeted even in the LGBT-oppressive 1940s and ’50s, history was never able to blot out the fact that Bayard Rustin was the chief organizer of the 1963 March on

Washington, at which Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his groundbreaking “I Have a Dream” speech.

In 2013, President Obama posthumously awarded Rustin the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Rustin’s longtime partner, Walter Naegle, accepted the medal on his behalf. In 2023, the Pasadena City Council adopted a resolution introduced by Councilmember Jason Lyon declaring that the “City of Pasadena celebrates and concurs in the Governor’s 2020 pardon of Bayard Rustin” and supporting the issuance of a commemorative United States postage stamp honoring Rustin for his work and his achievements.