



STONEWALL *OutLoud* TOOLKIT

FOR INDIVIDUALS



WITH SUPPORT FROM



STONEWALL Out Loud

REMEMBERING THE **STONEWALL INN**, 1969

In the early hours of June 28, 1969, eight officers from New York City's public morals squad loaded into four unmarked police cars and headed to the Stonewall Inn at 7th Avenue and Christopher Street. The local precinct had just received a new commanding officer, who kicked off his tenure by initiating a series of raids on gay bars. The Stonewall Inn was an inviting target — operated by the Gambino crime family without a liquor license, the dance bar drew a crowd of drag queens, hustlers, and minors. It was almost precisely at midnight that the morals squad pulled up to the Stonewall Inn, led by Deputy Inspector Seymour Pine.

At the time, the vice squad routinely raided gay bars. Patrons always complied with the police, frightened by the prospect of being identified in the newspaper. But this particular Friday night was different. This time, tired of being harassed by law enforcement, patrons resisted arrest. The subsequent rioting sparked a revolution, and a hidden subculture was transformed into a vibrant political movement. What began with a drag queen clobbering her arresting officer soon escalated into a full-fledged riot, and modern gay activism was born.



Michael Levine recalls his experience at the Stonewall on June 28, 1969, in a StoryCorps story, [“The lights went up, the music went off, and you could hear a pin drop.”](#)

The police started to say, “OK everyone, leave,” and the drag queens, they’re the ones who said to the police, “We’re not leaving.” And they formed a chorus line outside of the bar. And they stood there dancing in the street. They were all Puerto Rican drag queens and Irish cops. It was a funny, funny confrontation. The police would disperse the group and then they would reform half a block away and dance back toward the Stonewall.¹

This night sparked the modern movement for LGBTQ rights that has led to 50 years of activism, visibility, and increased civil rights for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

EXPLORE THE STORYCORPS COLLECTION



Watch

The following examples from the StoryCorps library are a good place to start exploring, learning, and connecting with the experiences, celebrations, and struggles of the LGBTQ movement from Stonewall until today.

- ▶ [Alexis Martinez and Lesley Martinez Etherly](#)
- ▶ [A Certain Kind of Love](#)
- ▶ [The Saint of Dry Creek](#)
- ▶ [A Good Man](#)
- ▶ [A Life, Complete](#)
- ▶ [Chris and Gabe López](#)
- ▶ [Me & You](#)
- ▶ [Everyone around you has a story the world needs to hear](#)

Watch additional animations on the [StoryCorps YouTube channel](#).



Listen

Listen to audio stories from the [StoryCorps OutLoud](#) collection.

[Subscribe to the StoryCorps podcast](#) to listen to our 2019 spring/summer season, with 12 brand-new episodes featuring conversations between loved ones, friends, and family members in the LGBTQ community.



Search

Search the Archive at [Archive.StoryCorps.org](#) for additional stories. Try keywords like “Stonewall OutLoud,” “LGBTQ,” “Pride,” “Activism,” and others.



Share

Share the OutLoud stories with your social networks and friends. This toolkit has a printable postcard and social media graphics that can be used to share information about a listening and recording event, to indicate a safe space, or to simply share the StoryCorps stories.



STONEWALL OutLoud

RECORD YOUR STORY

[The StoryCorps App](#) provides start-to-finish tools to help anyone listen to, record, and share StoryCorps stories. StoryCorps cares about your privacy. Click here to see the [privacy policy](#), and know that you have complete control over how and whether to share your story, and whom to share it with.



Ready to Record?

Here are some steps to follow:

1 IDENTIFY AN INTERVIEW PARTNER.

The idea for Stonewall OutLoud is to celebrate LGBTQ elders by listening to their story. Consider whether you know someone to interview, perhaps an older friend or family member. An invitation to share a story is an honor, as is the act of receiving the story itself.

2 FIND THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE.

Find a time where neither of you will be rushed, and a quiet place where you'll be comfortable, left alone, and able to hear and record with ease.

3 DOWNLOAD THE STORYCORPS APP.

Using your smartphone, explore and play with the app before your interview so you can focus on the conversation and storytelling with your partner. [Visit the website](#) for more tips on how to get started, perfect your interview, and have amazing sound quality for your interview.

4 PREPARE YOUR QUESTIONS.

Start with some warm-ups to get you and your partner comfortable and at ease. Ask open-ended questions — the kind that can't be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." Follow up with probing questions about details that interest you. If you are interviewing someone you know well, share a specific memory or story you want to hear more about. Use this opportunity to ask the questions you've always wanted to ask, think of it as a great conversation, and be yourself. To get you started, here is a list of 10 of StoryCorps founder Dave Isay's favorite interview questions for Stonewall OutLoud:

TELL ME...

a little bit about yourself—
when and where were you
born?

HOW DID YOU...

first begin to realize your
sexual or gender identity?

TELL ME...

about the first time you
came out. Whom did you tell
and why?

DO YOU HAVE...

memories from your youth
when you were treated kindly
due to your sexual or gender
identity? Cruelly?

HOW...

has your life been different
than you imagined?

WHO...

was your first love? Your first
relationship?

HAVE...

things changed for the
LGBTQ community over the
past 50 years? How do you
hope life will be different
for the LGBTQ community
50 years from now?

WHAT ADVICE...

would you give your
teenage self?

WHAT...

are you most proud of?

HOW...

do you want to be
remembered?

5 CONDUCT YOUR INTERVIEW.

Enjoy the time together, and the honor you do to one another to share these stories. Offer your gratitude and appreciation at the end.

6 ARCHIVE YOUR STORY.

At the end of the interview, the StoryCorps App will ask whether you would like to have your story archived for future generations. The StoryCorps App gives you three options for sharing after you record your interview: “Everyone,” “Archive Users,” and “Only You.” **Be sure to check with your partner about privacy and with whom they’d like to share the story.** You can always change your privacy settings at any time. Once your level of sharing has been chosen, your story will be archived with over hundreds of thousands of other stories at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

7 ADD KEYWORDS TO YOUR STORY SO OTHERS CAN FIND IT.

The stories in the App are organized by keywords, which refer to the main themes or topics of a story, and are what others will use to look for your story. Please tag your story “Stonewall OutLoud” in addition to other relevant tags, such as “LGBTQ,” “Pride,” “Coming Out,” “Activism,” or others.

8 STORYCORPS CARES ABOUT YOUR PRIVACY.

Click here to see the [privacy policy](#), and know that you have complete control over how and whether to share your story, and whom to share it with.



RESOURCES

Partner Resources

- SAGE's [National Resource Center on LGBT Aging](#) offers hundreds of tools, fact sheets and other resources related to LGBT aging
- [SAGECare](#) offers training and consulting services for aging services providers
- [Facts on LGBT Aging](#)
- Griot Circle's Fact Sheet on [LGBTQ Elders of Color](#)
- Reports and Studies from the [National LGBTQ Task Force](#) on special considerations with regard to the needs and challenges of transgender, Native American, homeless, and other populations of LGBTQ people
- GLSEN has [toolkits and resources](#) about creating LGBTQ-inclusive spaces for educators and students

Resources for Further Learning

[Remembering Stonewall](#) StoryCorps founder Dave Isay's 1989 documentary

Atlantic Magazine, "[An Amazing 1969 Account of the Stonewall Uprising](#)"

New York Public Library Exhibition: [Love & Resistance: Stonewall 50](#)

[Stonewall National Monument](#): National Park Service website

[The Stonewall 50 Consortium](#): An organization bringing nonprofit institutions and organizations committed to producing programming, exhibitions, and educational materials related to the Stonewall uprising and/or the history of the LGBTQ civil rights movement in the context of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

[Stonewall Uprising](#): PBS American Experience

National Partners

