



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Giving Back. Giving Forward.

JACKSONVILLE'S LGBT HISTORY THROUGH 2011

A Long Time Ago

- 1528 – Alvar Nunez Cabeza De Vaca reports Native Americans cross dressing in Florida.
- 1566 – Gonzalo Solis De Maras is executed in St. Augustine for being a homosexual, French and Lutheran. This is the first record of an individual being put to death in North America for being homosexual
- 1595 – Francisco De Paeja writes about witnessing homosexuality among the Timucuanos who lived in Northeast Florida
- 1868 – Florida passes original sodomy law, phrased in terms of "crimes against nature"

1950s

- 1956 – Johns Committee (The Florida Legislative Investigation Committee) begins its hearings on communism and other subversive activities in Florida

1960s

- 1961 – The Johns Committee officially expands its investigations into rooting out homosexuality in public education with a focus on UF, FSU, and USF
- 1964 -- Roverta (Bo) Boen opens Bo's Reef bar, one of the earliest and longest standing gay bars in Jacksonville
- 1969 (June) -- Stonewall Riots in New York

1970s

- 1973 (Easter Sunday) – St. Luke's holds its first study group
- 1973 – The American Psychiatric Association declassifies homosexuality as a mental disorder
- 1975 – St. Luke's opens its first church
- 1977 – Anita Bryant begins her *Save Our Children* campaign
- 1977 -- Dade County, Florida voters pass a local ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Anita Bryant protests and in June 1977, 69% of Florida voters vote to repeal the ordinance
- 1977 -- Florida Legislature passes a law prohibiting gay adoption
- 1979 -- The Gay Committee of the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission (JHRC) makes a recommendation to study the feasibility of amending the city ordinance to include "sexual preference"

1980s

- 1980 -- The JHRC determines that amending the ordinance to include "sexual preference" is not feasible at the time.
- 1983 -- The first AIDS case is reported in Jacksonville
- 1984 -- The first gay pride celebration is held in Jacksonville

(more)

1990s

- 1990 – LGCA (Lesbian and Gay Community Association) is formed
- 1990 – First edition of Out and About in Jacksonville published
- 1991 – Disney Gay Days begin
- 1992 – Jacksonville’s PFLAG chapter opens
- 1992 - AIDS Memorial Quilt visits Jacksonville, more than 10,000 attend
- 1993-1995 -- Diagnoses and deaths from HIV/AIDS among MSM in Duval County hit their peak
- 1993 -- St. John's Horizon House opens, housing for people with AIDS; a collaborative effort of St. John's Cathedral and Memorial Hospital
- 1993 -- BRAIDS Committee forms to raise money for grants to LGBT & AIDS organizations
- 1994 -- JASMYN formally established
- 1994 – Jacksonville Gay Chorus formed
- 1995 -- JASMYN awarded first grant from Florida Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services for HIV prevention work with youth
- 1996 -- JASMYN's first support groups are hosted in the Murray Hill Public Library
- 1996 – PFLAG awards its first college scholarships
- 1997 -- Jacksonville Gay Chorus is invited to participate in opening of the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
- 1999 – Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation becomes the only NFL team to support LGBT youth with its grant to JASMYN
- 1999 – JASMYN House opens
- 1999 -- Equality Florida holds its first event in Northeast Florida

2000s

- 2000 -- JASMYN hosts city's first gay and lesbian film festival
- 2000 -- First openly transgendered person on Duval County Democratic Executive Committee
- 2001 – Northeast Florida Safe Schools Coalition founded to promote safe schools for all in Northeast Florida
- 2001 – JASMYN hosted the first annual Alternative Gay Youth Prom
- 2001 -- Transgendered activist and JASMYN volunteer, is shot to death December 13 outside of her home in Jacksonville. She had led protests against Winn-Dixie after the company fired a truck driver who admitted he cross-dressed.
- 2002 -- Sexual orientation is included in Duval County Public Schools' hate crimes policy
- 2002 -- Janet Reno, candidate for governor, meets with LGBT community at Fuel Coffee House in 5 Points; considered a first to have a candidate in Northeast Florida reach out to LGBT community
- 2003 -- LGBT residents held meetings to discuss an amendment to the Jacksonville Human Rights ordinance to include “sexual orientation and gender identity.” The committee meets with the JHRC executive director. Nothing further happens.
- 2003 – The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down laws prohibiting sex between same gender couples (Texas v Lawrence).
- 2003 – JASMYN launches the LGBT Youth In Foster Care Task Force with support from Department of Children and Families, Family Support Services, and Jewish Family and Community Services
- 2005 – UNF adds sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy

(more)

JACKSONVILLE'S LGBT HISTORY THROUGH 2011 – continued

- 2006 -- Cindy Watson appointed to the JHRC as an open lesbian
- 2006 – JASMYN launches the LGBT Youth In Foster Care Task Force with support from Department of Children and Families, Family Support Services, and Jewish Family and Community Services
- 2006 – UNF begins offering soft domestic partner benefits
- 2006 -- UNF establishes LGBT Resource Center on campus
- 2006 -- Christ Church of Peace launches "Know They Neighbor" campaign, identifying supporters of a proposed state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. Web-based campaign publishes names and addresses of 400,000 Florida residents in 60 counties.
- 2007 -- JCCI Forward sponsors a six- week study, "Out in Jacksonville: The status and impact of the GLBT Community."
- 2007 – JASMYN launches on-site health clinic for youth, in partnership with UF Shands, Department of Pediatrics, and Duval County Health Department
- 2007 -- JASMYN first Coming Out Day breakfast, celebrating LGBT in the workplace
- 2007 -- JASMYN & the UNF LGBT Resource Center launch "Teaching Respect for All" day-long training for teachers.
- 2008 -- Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act passes Florida Legislature, anti-bullying and harrassment act
- 2008 -- Duval County School Board adds sexual orientation as a protected category in its non-discrimination policy; also develops anti-bullying policy
- 2009 -- River City Pride cancelled after 25 years
- 2009 -- Northeast Florida LGBT Corporate Roundtable forms

2010-2011

- 2010 -- First Coast Diversity Council adopts Northeast Florida LGBT Corporate Roundtable as its first affinity group
- 2010 – UNF adds health care to its domestic partner benefits
- 2010 – Florida's ban on gay adoption overturned.
- 2010 – *Queer Questions Clear Answers: The Contemporary Debates on Sexual Orientation*, by Jacksonville author Thomas Serwatka, is published
- 2011 – Rainbow House and OASIS open their doors as two different GLBT community centers in Jacksonville
- 2011 – The Community Foundation in Jacksonville launches the GLBT Exploration Committee to examine whether and how philanthropy can support the area's GLBT community.
- 2011 -- Florida Department of Elder Affairs amends client assessment to include LGBT
- 2011 -- ElderSource targets LGBT elders issues in needs assessment