
"Your silence will not protect you." - Audre Lorde

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

About James Baldwin

James Baldwin was born in Harlem in 1924. The grandson of a slave, he grew up in poverty and had a difficult relationship with his stepfather, who was a strict preacher. He briefly followed in his stepfather's footsteps and became a preacher. When he was eighteen years old, Baldwin left home, as well as the pulpit, and took a job working for the New Jersey railroad. After working briefly with the railroad, Baldwin moved to Greenwich Village where he worked as a freelance writer, primarily writing book reviews. Baldwin caught the attention of novelist Richard Wright, who helped him secure a grant so he could support himself as a writer. Baldwin moved to Paris in 1948 where he hoped to put some distance away from America in order to write about it.

After writing for various magazines, Baldwin went to Switzerland to finish his first novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, published in 1953, was an autobiographical work about growing up in Harlem. Over the next decade, Baldwin moved around between Paris, New York, and Istanbul, writing two books of essays, *Notes of a Native Son* (1955) and *Nobody Knows My Name* (1961), as well as *Giovanni's Room* (1956). *Giovanni's Room* is noteworthy for presenting multifaceted representations of homosexuality with real empathy.

In the early 1960s, Baldwin returned to the United States to take part in the civil rights movement. Traveling throughout the South, he began work on a book that explored black identity and the state of racial struggle titled, *The Fire Next Time* (1963).

By 1987, when he died of stomach cancer at the age of 63, James Baldwin had become one of the most important advocates for equality in American society.



QUOTING BALDWIN

Compiled by Edwin Roman, Rainbow Alliance Advisor

"Everybody's journey is individual. If you fall in love with a boy, you fall in love with a boy. The fact that many Americans consider it a disease says more about them than it does about homosexuality."

"The place in which I'll fit will not exist until I make it."

"It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have."

"Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go."

"I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hates so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with pain."

"Whoever debases others is debasing himself."

"Hatred is always self-hatred, and there is something suicidal about it."

"Please try to remember that what they believe, as well as what they do and cause you to endure, does not testify to your inferiority but to their inhumanity and fear."

"Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor."

"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read."

"Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it."

"The impossible is the least that one can demand."

"Allegiance, after all, has to work two ways; and one can grow weary of an allegiance which is not reciprocal."

"I love America more than any other country in the world and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually."

"You don't know what's happening on the other side of the wall, because you don't want to know."

In the News...

On January 26, NPR featured a story on LGBT Navajos: It's not unusual that Navajo grandparents are accepting of LGBT grandchildren while parents are not. Historians say federally run boarding schools and other assimilation tactics taught a generation of Navajos that same-sex relationships are wrong.

"When I came out to my family, my mother of course took it the hardest. But my grandparents didn't," says Alray Nelson, a Navajo LGBT rights activist.

"We are seeing clearly the aftereffects of what colonialism can look like and how it really shifted our values as Navajo people," Nelson says. "Whereas at the time, if you were LGBTQ and growing up in Navajo traditional families, families celebrated that fact. They said that we were sacred. They said that we had sacred roles."

Read more at: <https://goo.gl/QKWfgC>

On January 22, The New York Times reported that The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted the Trump administration's request to allow it to bar most transgender people from serving in the military while cases challenging the policy make their way to the court. The Administration's policy reversed a 2016 decision by the Obama administration to open the military to transgender service members.

Read more at: <https://goo.gl/4pGxPd>

On January 9, TEDx Talks posted a video featuring Susan Cottrell, founder of FreedHearts, a ministry for families of LGBTQ individuals. Cottrell discusses when her daughter came out and the choice she had to face: her LGBTQ child or her non-affirming church. In this heartwarming talk, Susan explains why she chose her LGBTQ child and how she fights for progress inside the Christian Church.

See the video at: <https://goo.gl/Hvii4Y>

THE OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT
RUBEN DIAZ JR.

&
THE BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LGBTQ+ RESOURCE ROOM

Present



LGBTQ COLLEGE FAIR

Saturday, April 6, 2019

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2155 University Avenue | Bronx, New York 10453

Call 718.289.5300 For More Information

Meet representatives from CUNY, SUNY, and many other colleges and universities. They will share information about academic programs, admissions requirements, financial aid, scholarships and campus LGBTQ resources.



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ROSCOE BROWN STUDENT CENTER ROOM 301

Room News...

RAINBOW ALLIANCE



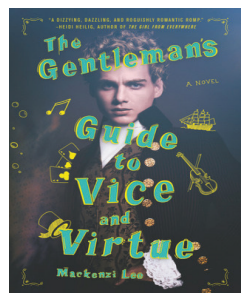
SIXTH ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE

The Rainbow Alliance held their 6th Annual Holiday Sock Drive. The sock drive benefits the homeless LGBTQ youth that utilize the services of Sylvia's Place. 248 socks were collected. Over the last six years, the Rainbow Alliance has collected and donated over 1300 pairs of socks. **The Rainbow Alliance meets every Friday, 1-3pm, in RBSC 301.**

BCC QUEERLIT BOOK CLUB

The BCC QueerLit Club, which formed in the Fall 2018 semester, got started with *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue* by Mackenzi Lee. The book tells the story of a young bisexual British lord embarking on an unforgettable Grand Tour of Europe with his secret crush.

The book is an 18th-century romantic adventure for the modern age. For the Spring 2019 semester, the club will be reading *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin. **The BCC QueerLit Club meets every Thursday, from 12-2pm, in RBSC 301.**



SPRING 2019



NOH8 @ BCC

The NOH8 Campaign started as a charitable organization to promote LGBTQ marriage, gender and human equality through education, advocacy, social media, and visual protest. Many well-known athletes, musicians and other celebrities have posed for NOH8 pictures. The Rainbow Alliance brought this concept of promoting gender and human equality through education, advocacy and social media to BCC. Here are some of the pictures.





LGBTQI+ RESOURCE ROOM

2155 University Avenue
Roscoe Brown Student Center [BC] 301

718.289.5300

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MISSION

The LGBTQI + Resource Room at Bronx Community College works to foster an inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment for students, faculty, and staff of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. The LGBTQI + Resource Room aims to sustain visibility and a sense of community by providing education, programming, and support services on campus.

Campus Events !

SPRING 2019 SAFE SPACE TRAINING

Come to a day of training to become an ally to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual or Questioning Students.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019 | 12-2PM
ROSCOE BROWN STUDENT CENTER 211

PLEASE SIGN UP ON LINE AT: <https://goo.gl/dshcXd>

Weekly Events !

- MONDAYS

Pride Slice

A weekly discussion series focusing on different LGBTQI+ topics and concerns. Pizza is provided to all who attend, and students are invited to offer topic suggestions for ongoing programming. 12-2 p.m. in RBSC 301.

Beyond the Binary

BCC's first and only TGNC support group for transgender women and men, gender queer, gender fluid, gender nonconforming, non binary and questioning students. We are experts, allies, and advocates ready to give support-oriented speech and offer student to student lead feedback (and pizza).

3-4 p.m. RBSC 301

- TUESDAYS

LGBTQI+ Support Group

Share. Express. Support. Let's come together to express thoughts, hopes, and feelings with other like minded people. 1-2 p.m. If you are interested please visit RBSC 301 15 minutes prior (12:45 p.m.) to Pre-Register.

- THURSDAYS

BCC QueerLit Book Club

Provides an opportunity for students to read and discuss queer literature of various genres, inspiring their own creative works. 12-2 p.m. in RBSC 301.

- FRIDAYS

Rainbow Alliance Club

The Rainbow Alliance provides resources and extracurricular activities that address the needs of LGBTQI+ students as well as the greater campus community. 1-3 p.m. in RBSC 301.