

Side 1

Origins of Indiana Pride

Until the 1980s, most LGBTQ Hoosiers socialized privately due to safety concerns.¹ In 1984, police harassment and surveillance of gay men in Indianapolis spurred hundreds to gather at Monument Circle in a show of solidarity against discrimination.² While the gatherings helped ignite the local liberation movement, Hoosiers celebrated Pride Week quietly until 1990.³

Side 2

Indiana LGBTQ Pride

On June 30, 1990, Indiana held its first large outdoor Pride event, “Celebration on the Circle.” The event provided a public space for attendees to socialize, learn about their rights, and hear from AIDS activists.

Despite the presence of protestors, the event empowered attendees, challenged social stigmas, and welcomed a range of sexual and gender expressions.⁴

* Visit the [Indiana History Blog](#) to learn more about the origins of Indiana Pride and the 1990 “Celebration on the Circle.”

* Learn about the following LGBTQ+ Indiana history topics with our Indiana History Blog:

[“Actually, Genuinely Welcomed:’ How North Meadow Circle of Friends Embraced and Wed LGBTQ Individuals”](#)

[“Gloria Frankel & The Seahorse: The South Bend LGBT Club’s Fight for Gay Rights”](#)

[“How Indy’s Queer Community Challenged Police Harassment in the 1980s”](#)

[“The Debate over ‘Decency:’ How Hoosiers Challenged Anita Bryant’s Anti-Gay Rights Crusade”](#)

[“Walk a Mile in Their Pumps:’ Combating Discrimination within Indy’s Queer Community”](#)

[“We Had Sung Them Off the Monument Steps:’ Pride, Protest, and Patriotism in Indianapolis”](#)

Issues of *The Works* and *New Works News* are available via the [Chris Gonzalez GLBT Archives](#).

¹ “Gay Pride Week’ Set,” *Indianapolis News*, June 17, 1976, 24, accessed Newspapers.com.; “Hoosier Gays Celebrate—Quietly,” *Indianapolis Star*, June 28, 1982, 22, accessed Newspapers.com.; Bill Lewis, “From Christopher Street to Main Street: 15 Years of ‘Gay Pride,’” *The Works* (June 1984): 22, submitted by applicant.; Bill Lewis, “Our History: An Update Now, Full Report at Eleven,” *The Works* (June 1985): 31.

² “Gay Knights on the Circle,” *The Works* 3, no. 11 (September 1984): 6, accessed [Chris Gonzalez GLBT Archives](#).; “Pellets Hurt 2 at Rally,” *Indianapolis News*, September 1, 1984, 1, accessed Newspapers.com.; “500 Gays Attend Gay/Lesbian Night on the Circle,” *The Works* 4, no. 1 (October 1984): 9-11, accessed [Chris Gonzalez GLBT Archives](#).;

Bill Lewis, "OUR HISTORY: An Update Now, Full Report at Eleven," *The Works* (June 1985): 31.; E. Rumbarger, "What do Hoosiers Have to be Proud Of?," *The New Works* (June 1989): 4.

³ "Hoosier Gays Celebrate—Quietly," *Indianapolis Star*, June 28, 1982, 22, accessed Newspapers.com.; David Mannweiler, "Gays Plan Gala," *Indianapolis News*, June 15, 1983, 2, accessed Newspapers.com.; Tom Green, Jr., "Profile: Kathy Sarris," *The Works* 8 (1983): 22?, submitted by applicant.; Bill Lewis, "From Christopher Street to Main Street: 15 Years of 'Gay Pride,'" *The Works* (June 1984): 22, submitted by applicant.; Program, *4th Annual Gay Pride Week Brunch, June 24, 1984*, Jeffrey L. Huntington Collection, L198, accessed [Indiana State Library Digital Collections](#).; "Alive with Pride in '85," *The Works* (May 1985): 8, submitted by applicant.; Pamphlet, *5th Annual Gay Pride Week Brunch, June 30, Atkinson Hotel* (1985), Jeffrey L. Huntington Collection, L198, accessed [Indiana State Library Digital Collections](#).; Flyer, *Justice for All* (Justice, Inc., 1986): 1, Jeffrey L. Huntington Collection, L198, accessed [Indiana State Library Digital Collections](#).; Pamphlet, *6th Annual Brunch, Gay/Lesbian Pride Week* (1986), Jeffrey L. Huntington Collection, L198, accessed [Indiana State Library Digital Collections](#).; Flyer, *Gay/Lesbian Pride Week, June 26, 1988*, Jeffrey L. Huntington Collection, L198, accessed [Indiana State Library Digital Collections](#).

⁴ "1990 Pride Week Festival to Be on Monument Circle," *New Works News* (January 1990): cover, submitted by applicant.; Letter to the Editor, Drew Carey, "Nothing is so Vitally Important," *Dignity Central Indiana Newsletter*, reprinted in *The New Works* (June 1990): 3, accessed [Chris Gonzalez GLBT Archives](#).; Ruth Peters, "Gay Pride Goes Public: 'Celebration on the Circle,'" *New Works News* (June 1990): 7.; "Gay Rights to be Focus of Event," *Indianapolis News*, June 29, 1990, 37, accessed Newspapers.com.; "And Here We are on the Circle," "Featured Speakers at 'Circle Celebration,'" "Take it to the Circle," *New Works News* (July 1990): 1, 5, 7, 12, accessed [Chris Gonzalez GLBT Archives](#).; Kevin Morgan, "Pride and Protest at Gay Gathering," *Indianapolis Star*, July 1, 1990, 18, submitted by applicant.; Editorial, Carmen Kruer, Indianapolis, "Proud to be Part of 'Celebration,'" "3000 Attend 'Circle Celebration,'" "The Proclamation that Almost Wasn't," *New Works News* (August 1990): 1, 4, 9, 14-15, accessed [Chris Gonzalez GLBT Archives](#).; Donation form, Justice, Inc., *New Works News* (September 1990): 6.