

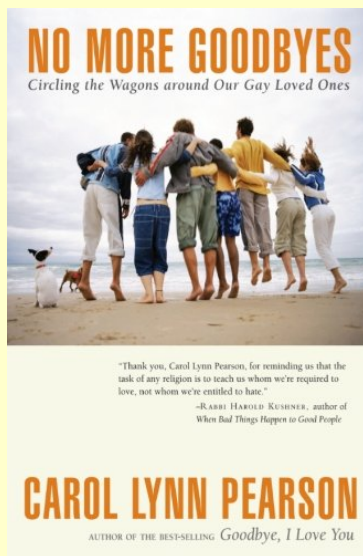
Equity & Social Justice **Weekly**

Prosecuting Attorney's Office

**June is LGBTQ Pride
& Heritage Month**



Book of the Month



**No More Goodbyes (2016), by
Carol Lynn Pearson**

NOTE: The Office has purchased five copies of the book for staff to check out and read. If you are interested in checking out one of those books, please contact Stephanie Sato or Kerri Bradford.

Landmark LGBTQ U.S. Supreme Court Cases

Romer v. Evans (1996)

The Supreme Court struck down Amendment 2, a provision of the Colorado Constitution that would prevent homosexuals from being placed in a protected class. Groups in a protected class are guarded from discrimination under the law based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity or religion. Amendment 2 was originally approved by Colorado voters in 1992.

Lawrence v. Texas (2003)

John Lawrence was arrested on Sept. 17, 1998 by the Houston police for engaging in a consensual sex act with another man, Tyron Garner. In reviewing Mr. Lawrence's case, the Supreme Court overturned its 1986 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, ruling that state laws banning homosexual sodomy were unconstitutional because they denied people of their right to privacy.

United States v. Windsor (2013)

In a major victory for the gay rights movement, the Supreme Court ruled that married gay and lesbian couples are entitled to federal benefits. The Court held that restricting U.S. federal interpretation of "marriage" and "spouse" to apply only to opposite-sex unions is unconstitutional under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

Obergefell v. Hodges (2015)

The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage. At the center of the case was the love story of Jim Obergefell and John Arthur, who married in 2013. When Mr. Arthur died, Ohio refused to list Mr. Obergefell as his spouse on the death certificate. In the ruling, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote: "It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves."

More information can be found here: [NY TIMES](http://www.nytimes.com)



Loving v. Virginia

June 12, 1967 – Mildred Jeter, an African-American woman, and Richard Loving, a white man, were indicted in 1958 for violating Virginia's ban on interracial marriages after they married in the District of Columbia and then returned to Virginia. 50 years ago, this month, they brought their case before the Supreme Court, which decided that Virginia's anti-miscegenation laws could not stand consistently with the Fourteenth Amendment.

This week, King County Executive Dow Constantine announced that June 12th will be known as **Loving Day** to recognize Richard and Mildred's role in promoting social justice.

ESJ in the News

[The Sound of Social Justice: PRIZM Chamber Orchestra Presents Juneteenth concert, by Makayla Boswell](#)

The call for social justice takes many forms, including rallies and protest. But the PRIZM Chamber Orchestra fights for equality through classical music. With an ensemble as diverse as the city itself, the orchestra will perform a socially-charged piece at historic Clayborn Temple, a key site in the civil right movement in Memphis, on Monday – Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration marking slavery's end.

[Tobacco is a Social Justice Issue: Why the LGBT Community is Among the Hardest Hit by Smoking, by Truth Initiative](#)

It is not an accident that smoking rates among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth are twice the rate for the general population. For decades, African Americans, low-income neighborhoods, LGBTQ communities and those with mental illness have been disproportionately profiled by the tobacco industry with aggressive advertising and promotional efforts.

Local Events & Activities

[Pride Film Festival / June 17-18](#)

The third annual Pride Film Festival will begin soon. Check out the following links for more information and scheduling!
<http://seattlepride.org/event/pride-film-festival/>

[Seattle Pride March / June 25 @ 11AM \(4th & Union\)](#)

The theme for this year's Pride will be "indivisible" – a single word that conveys the core principle of our country. We are stronger together.
<http://seattlepride.org/events/parade/>

Resources

ESJ Classes

King County offers equity and social justice related classes that are open to all King County employees. Upcoming classes on the schedule are:

Class Title	Date	Time
Basic ESJ	July 21, 2017	1:00 - 4:30 pm
Basic ESJ	August 10, 2017	8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Employees can search for these, or any other County classes, by going to the [Employee Learning and Development](#) website, looking for the class you are interested in, and then registering for the class on Eventbrite.

NOTE: All members of the PAO Equity and Social Justice Team self-selected to join this team because of a personal and professional commitment to address equity issues in our world. We encourage others who have a passion for equity around race, LGBTQ, gender, immigration/limited English proficiency, poverty or other social issues to join us – as members of our Team and/or to support the activities, events and training opportunities to come. Please feel free to contact the ESJ team via email at: PAOESJ@kingcounty.gov



King County

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1958, Richard Loving and Mildred Jeter, a white man and an African-American woman who lived in Virginia, were married in the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, at the time, interracial marriage was prohibited by law in Virginia, and, after returning to their home, the Lovings were arrested; and

WHEREAS, given the choice between spending a year in prison or leaving the state, the Lovings moved to the District of Columbia and later filed a federal lawsuit so they could return home without fear of arrest because of who they loved; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark ruling in *Loving v. Virginia*, legalizing interracial marriage across the nation and emphasizing that marriage is a fundamental freedom and one of our most basic civil rights; and

WHEREAS, shortly before her passing in 2008, Mildred Loving stated: "I am proud that Richard's and my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness, and the family that so many people, black or white, young or old, gay or straight seek in life."

WHEREAS, during these trying times in America, when our population seems divided in many ways, we need to strengthen connections across cultures and races and to work for greater understanding, acceptance, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Loving Day is celebrated each June 12 to honor this monumental court decision, Mildred and Richard Lovings' love and commitment to one another, and the progress made toward equity and freedom for all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dow Constantine, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim June 12, 2017 to be

Loving Day

in King County. I urge all County residents to join me in this special observance.



Dow Constantine
King County Executive