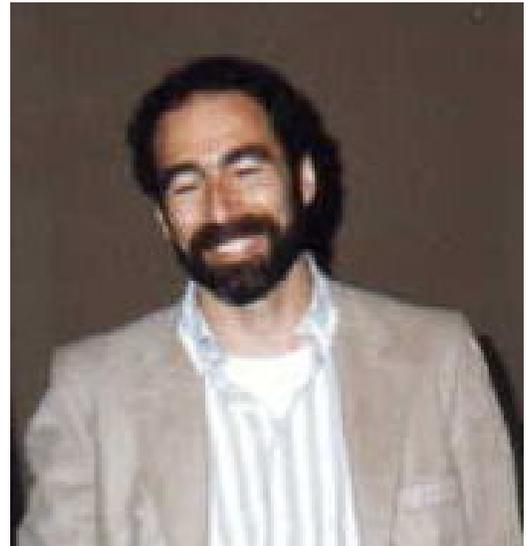


JUNE is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Observance Month

On June 2, 2000, President Bill Clinton declared June "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month." The month was chosen to remember the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan, NY. Patrons of a gay bar, Stonewall Inn, fought back against a police raid, sparking three days of riots. It is considered to be the start of the gay liberation movement in the U.S. On June 2013, President Barack Obama declared June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month.

PROFILE: Walt Westman

Walt Westman is considered to be the founder of the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (NOGLSTP), in its original incarnation as NOGLS. Although he was an "out and proud" gay man, the occasion of his organizing a special session at the 1980 American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) annual meeting to discuss problems arising from homophobia in the scientific workplace was his professional coming out. He was an early activist, speaking out against homophobia in the scientific workplace and in research funding, and set the stage for NOGLSTP's ongoing relationship with AAAS.



In the late 70s and early 80s, a number of support groups for gay and lesbian scientists were forming throughout the country. Westman envisioned a national umbrella organization which would represent individual gay and lesbian scientists and regional groups in educational and political matters concerning science and society. He coordinated early communications among those regional groups, participated on national-level projects, and represented NOGLS at national AAAS meetings. He was one of the organizers of the first-ever AAAS symposium in 1985, *Homophobia and Social Attitudes - Their Impact on AIDS Research*. He was the main author of the original 1986 biographical pamphlet, *Who Are the Gay and Lesbian Scientists?* Walt Westman served on the NOGLSTP Board of Directors until 1988, when he resigned to follow his passion with AIDS activism.

A research ecologist by profession, Westman was an alumnus of Swarthmore College Class of 1966. After Swarthmore, he studied for a masters in Australia before completing his PhD in two years at Cornell in 1971. He then spent a year working for Senator Edmund Muskie in Washington, D.C. and helped write the 1972 Water Pollution Control Act. He died in 1991.

You can read more about Westman and the NOGLSTP organization at www.noglstp.org.

