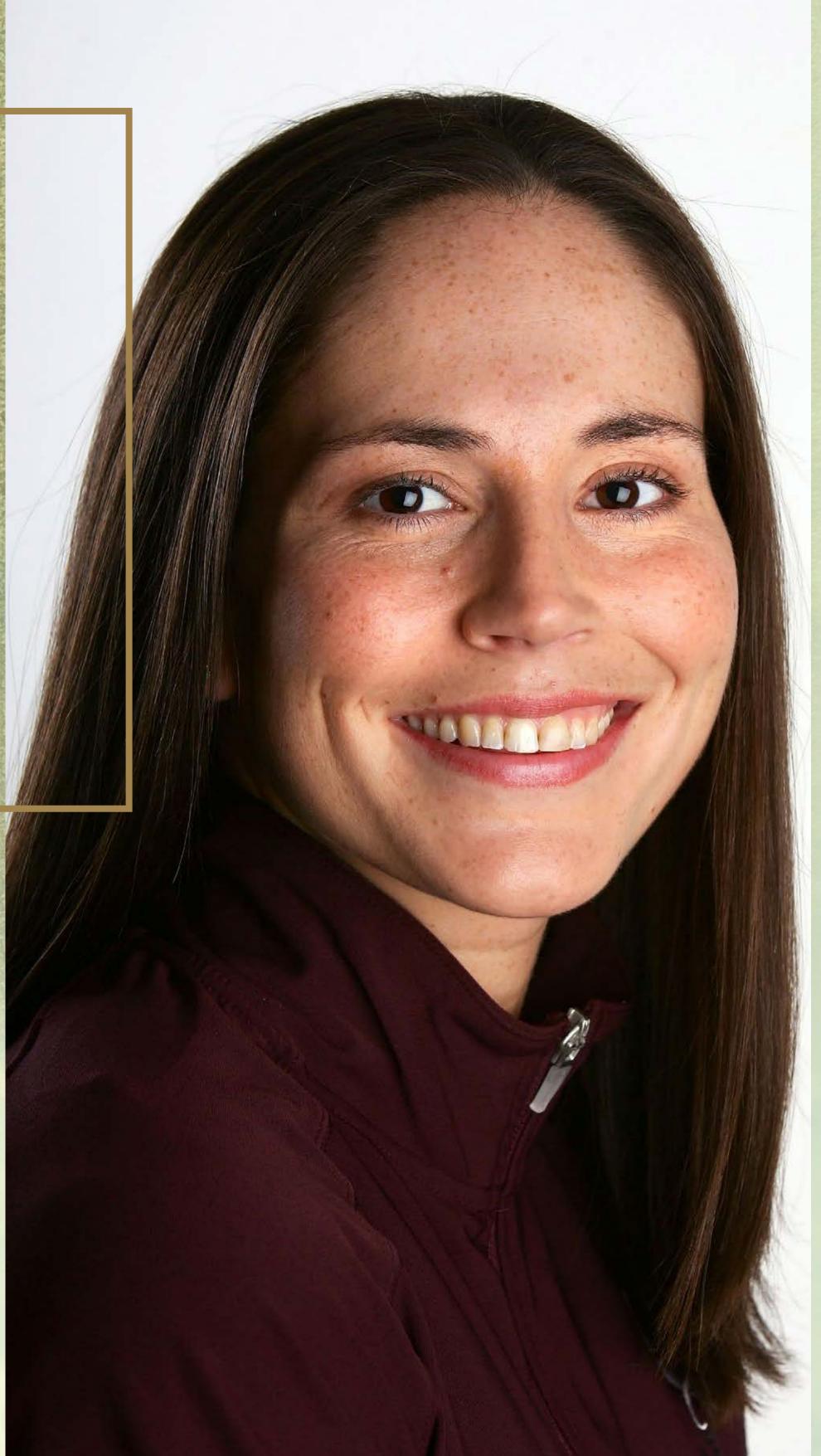
Agents of Change

Baller Suce Baller Birch

Point Guard, Seattle Storm and Team USA

"In my mind, there was no need to come out. Everyone who knows me knows, so what's the difference? But Megan showed me the other side of that: because it's not the norm, you do have to say it, to be a role model for younger generations. So I definitely hope that my coming out has helped give other people the confidence to be who they are."



ne of the greatest basketball players of all time, Sue Bird has won two NCAA championships at the University of Connecticut; four Olympic Gold Medals with Team USA; and three WNBA titles with the Seattle Storm. At age 37, she's still at it: the oldest player in the WNBA and the league's all-time assists leader, she led the Storm to victory in the 2018 WNBA Finals despite breaking her nose for the fifth time earlier in the playoffs. Born in Syosset, New York, Sue actually has dual American and Israeli citizenship, thanks to her father, Herschel, an Italian-born Russian Jew. Sue was a dynamic athlete from an early age, and after leading UConn to a 39–0 record her senior season, winning both the Wade Trophy and the Naismith Award as the College Player of the Year, she was chosen as the first overall pick in the 2002 WNBA draft by the Storm. The rest has been history, including her decision in 2017 to come out as gay, and her joint appearance with her girlfriend, soccer star Megan Rapinoe, on the cover of ESPN Magazine's 2018 Body Issue.







Sue playing for the Storm; getting a taste of one of her gold medals; with girlfriend Megan Rapinoe of the Seattle Reign.

JEWISH
HISTORICAL
SECIETY

1968 × 2018
Washington State

JEWISH
HISTORICAL
SECIETY