



# GLBTRT Newsletter

A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered  
Round Table of the American Library Association  
<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>

Vol. 19, No. 3    ♦    Fall 2007

## From Your Co-Chairs

Hello, everyone! It's a new year, and there is a new Co-Chair. I am greatly looking forward to working with all of you. I don't know if I can live up to **Norman Eriksen's** co-chair abilities (for one thing, I am not a particularly snappy dresser), but I'm certainly willing to try. If nothing else, I am open to fashion tips.

The Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. went very well. The Round Table presented two programs: Aging Issues for GLBT Patrons and Addressing the Information Needs of Female-to-Male Transsexuals. Additionally, the Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecture was a tribute to **Barbara Gittings**. Also, the Leather Archives & Museum was a big hit at the Diversity & Outreach Fair.

[See page 5 for more information on the Diversity & Outreach Fair.] Many thanks to **John Bradford**, **Anne Moore**, **John Otto**, **Stephen Stratton**, and **Gary Wasdin**, along with everyone on the Program Planning Committee, for all of their hard work. The Social at Remington's, organized by the always capable **Paul Higdon** and other Membership Committee members, was very enjoyable, with many GLBTRT members and friends filling up the bar. The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Stonewall Book Awards was a rousing success, featuring speeches by **Alison Bechdel** (winner of this year's Israel Fishman Award for Nonfiction), **Jim Carmichael**, and **C. Dixon Osborn**. [See page 2 for an enthusiastic member review of the Brunch.]

We would also like to extend our deepest thanks to all of the committee chairs and committee members whose service to the Round Table is invaluable. If you are new to the GLBTRT and wish to get involved, please join the email list and consider filling out a mentee form [on page 8]. Please encourage your colleagues to join the GLBTRT.

**K.R. Roberto**  
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### Book Reviews (Pages 9-11):

- **Comfort Food for Breakups**
- **The Heart Has Its Reasons**
- **The View from Here**
- **Men of Mystery**
- **Transition and Beyond**
- **Call Me by Your Name**
- **Vintage**
- **A Map of the Harbor Islands**
- **A Matter of Degrees**

### DVD Review (Page 11)

- **Mom's Apple Pie**

## All the Myriad Ways: GLBTRT 2.0

Never let it be said we're not an experimental bunch. Where once there was just a Website (<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>) and a few electronic discussion groups (GLBTRT-L, plus some listservs used by committees), the GLBTRT has been bursting out lately in Library 2.0 style.

Now, you also can join our virtual book club on the official ALA GLBTRT blog (<http://blogs.ala.org/glbtrt.php>). Look for GLBTRT on MySpace, on LiveJournal, and in FaceBook. We have a flickr pool and a del.icio.us account. We even have an RSS feed, to find GLBT library news: [http://www.libworm.com/rss/search.php?qu=%2Blibrar\\*+%2B%2B%2Bgay+lesbian\\*+homosexual\\*+bisexual\\*+transsexual\\*+transgender\\*+GLBT\\*+LGBT\\*+queer%29+-&s=Search&r=Any](http://www.libworm.com/rss/search.php?qu=%2Blibrar*+%2B%2B%2Bgay+lesbian*+homosexual*+bisexual*+transsexual*+transgender*+GLBT*+LGBT*+queer%29+-&s=Search&r=Any)

**Louis Lang**  
Technical Consultant,  
Leather Archives & Museum



Deadlines for the GLBTRT newsletter for the next year will be:

Winter 2007	November 9, 2007
Spring 2008	March 10, 2008
Summer 2008	May 10, 2008
Fall 2008	August 10, 2007

Please try to get your reports, articles, book reviews, etc. in by these dates or let us know if there will be a short delay so room can be saved for them in the newsletter.

## ALA Council Passes Gittings Memorial Resolution



**Whereas**, Barbara Gittings, gay rights pioneer and an Honorary Life Member of the American Library Association, died on February 18, 2007 at age 74; and

**Whereas**, she founded the New York chapter of the first lesbian organization, Daughters of Bilitis, in 1958 and edited the organiza-

tion's national magazine *The Ladder* from 1963 to 1966; and

**Whereas**, she marched in the first gay picket lines at the White House and other federal sites in Washington, DC in 1965 to protest discrimination by the federal government; and

**Whereas**, she joined other activists in the pioneering annual demonstrations for gay and lesbian civil rights from 1965 to 1969 at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, thereby

laying the groundwork for the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969; and

**Whereas**, she successfully campaigned to remove homosexuality from the American Psychiatric Association's list of mental disorders in the 1970s; and

**Whereas**, she served on the boards of the National Gay Task Force and the Gay Rights National Lobby in the 1970s; and

**Whereas**, she became involved with, in 1970, the first gay professional organization in the world: ALA's Task Force on Gay Liberation (now known as the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Roundtable of the American Library Association), serving as its second Coordinator from 1971 to 1986; and

**Whereas**, her influence on and contributions to the above-mentioned organization led to the naming of one of the Stonewall Book Awards as the "Barbara Gittings Book Award for Literature"; and

**Whereas**, she maintained a lifelong crusade to "combat the lies in libraries," as articulated in her article in the 1978 an-

thology *The Gay Academic*; and

**Whereas**, she appeared in interviews and archival footage in the seminal gay documentary films *Before Stonewall* and *After Stonewall*; and

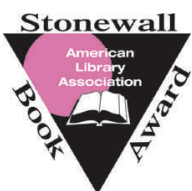
**Whereas**, she was selected as one of 31 leaders for GLBT History Month in October 2006; now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the membership of the American Library Association express its gratitude for her lasting contributions as an activist, organizer and advocate for the availability of LGBT materials and the elimination of discrimination in libraries; and be it further

**Resolved**, that this Association express its sincere sympathy to her life partner of 46 years, Kay Tobin Lahusen, and that copies of this resolution be sent to Kay and to the Co-Chairs of the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table.

*Moved by John DeSantis, Councilor-at-Large  
Seconded by K.R. Roberto and Michael J. Miller, Councilors-at-Large*

## Stonewall Awards Brunch: Fabu! Says It All



Reason 1,375 I am a bad lesbian is that I love to say "fabu," which is exactly what I thought of the awards brunch.

1. Great time. I could attend a point-less 8 a.m. meeting (*sans* agenda, no less!) and still make the brunch.
2. Great food. Usually I'm hungry anyway, but I actually *liked* the food. Soft-scrambled eggs topped with my own choice of little sprinkles? Blintzes? Chewy bagels? Sausage? Yummo!
3. Buffet: brilliant. Fast, and it gave me choices (which as you can tell, did not

translate to "a little yogurt and some fresh fruit"...but that's the price of free will and low self-control...).

4. Speakers: delightful. OK, the SLDN guy got off-track, but **Alison Bechdel** and **Jim Carmichael** were numinous. I doubt there is a slyer wit in the land of BiblioGLBT than Carmichael. Bechdel's scholarly twist on "I found myself in the card catalog" was charming and unexpected.
5. The overall appearance that everything was in control. OK, having honchoed events elsewhere, I am sure behind the scenes there was the usual hand-wringing, tsuris, and last-minute wurra-wurra, but as an attendee, it *felt* seamless.
6. An absolutely outstanding job by the

Stonewall Awards Committee itself, which always busts its buns, but I mean, did we (as a group) pick *Fun Home* or did we pick *Fun Home*?

7. Wonderful buttons!
8. A chance to be among a sufficiently large concentration of my own kind, the only venue I experience this beyond church.

I'm sure there is more to observe (though now I can't stop thinking of Carmichael's anecdote about everyone getting thanked...). Thanks all... in many ways, though I'm not directly active, GLBTRT is my most useful, least dysfunctional ALA organization.

**K.G. Schneider**  
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## Message from Your Editor

Over the past two years, the GLBTRT has had a great supporter in Haworth Press and its editor, Bill Cohen. Since Fall 2005, the *GLBTRT Newsletter* has been one of a dozen GLBT newsletters published and mailed by Haworth Press.

Haworth Press has been acquired by another academic press, Taylor & Daniel. All the newsletter contracts were cancelled, as a result, and Haworth was unable to give us any warning.

The cost of printing and mailing the newsletter is prohibitive. So, on to the brave new world of electronic press! The GLBTRT Newsletter will now be an e-journal; every

quarter it will be mounted on our Website at: <http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/glbtrt/oldnewsletters.htm>. I will also email a copy to our discussion list, *GLBTRT-L*. Libraries and archives will continue to receive print copies and print copies will also be available at our mailbox, booth or kiosk at ALA Annual and Midwinter.

Thanks for your patience as we work this out.

**John Bradford**, Editor  
Head, Automation & Technical Services  
Villa Park Public Library  
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## Round Table Experiences: K.R. Roberto

I first joined the Round Table in 1997 as a library school student, back when it was still a SRRT task force. At that time, I had only been out for a little over a year, and I was delighted to discover an LGBT organization in libraryland. My first interaction with the task force was at ALA Annual in 1998. I went to a SRRT Action Council meeting, and it was announced that GLBTRT was created. Even though I only had a vague idea what that meant (ALA jargon cryptic as it is), it sounded pretty exciting.

I wasn't very involved with the RT while in library school, though I really wanted to be on the book award committee (me and everyone else). In 2001, I started a tenure-track librarian job that strongly emphasized ALA involvement. I figured this could serve as impetus to get more involved with the Round Table. I started by serving as a liai-

son to the ASCLA ADA Assembly, and then was on a subcommittee charged with creating a bibliography of YA materials. Somehow, this opened a door, and I got appointed to the Stonewall Book Awards Committee in 2003, only four years after filling out the volunteer form! Over the years, I discovered that the RT was considerably less dysfunctional than other areas in ALA, and that made me want to do more work with the group. The Round Table still has far to go in various areas, but I have found that many members are willing to make efforts towards improvement, which is pretty great.

One of the best things about my involvement in the Round Table is that it has given me innumerable opportunities to network with other GLBT (and GLBT-friendly) library

workers. I've worked at several libraries where I was one of the few employees who was out as queer, and it was very lonely. I've always enjoyed going to ALA conferences and interacting with other queer folks. When I started to transition to male, I came out to RT members before any of my actual coworkers. (I have since started a new job, and my new coworkers know I'm male, for what it's worth.) I have met many wonderful members, made some friends, and found a good amount of support. My Round Table involvement has mostly been a positive experience so far, and I hope it stays that way.

**K.R. Roberto**, GLBTRT Co-Chair  
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## Member Profile: K.R. Roberto

### What was your first library (or library-related) job?

I didn't actually work in a library until I had already started library school. My first job was an hourly circulation/reserves job at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's City Planning and Landscape Architecture Library. It was a small departmental library, and it wasn't terribly busy. I mostly remember working evenings with an undergraduate student worker who always hogged the one computer at the circ desk to look at [bored.com](http://bored.com). (This was in 1997, but I think [bored.com](http://bored.com) was tired even then.) I only worked there for a few months before quitting to start a graduate assistantship where I taught basic computer skills to low-income teenagers. That lasted for a school year, and then I went back to City Planning for another assistantship. The second time around, I didn't work in circulation, so I don't know how popular [bored.com](http://bored.com) was that time.

### Tell us about your current job.

I recently started a job as serials/electronic resources librarian at the University of Denver. My job title is a little misleading, because I don't do collection development or licensing in these areas. I do a fair amount of cataloging and some of the behind-the-scenes electronic resources management work. I've found people to be accepting of GLBT issues here, which is a rather new work experience for me (especially with regards to the T part). I'm totally out at work, and everyone seems to be fine with it. I dig it so far.

### Did/do you have a mentor?

In librarianship in general? When I first started library school, I became acquainted with **Chris Dodge**, who soon introduced me to all of the progressive librarian types who were around at the time (including his then-boss **Sandy Berman**). That was a very positive experience for me. As far as the Round Table goes, it took me a few years to really get involved in it; I first started doing things when **Steve Stratton** and **Anne Moore** were the co-chairs, and it was great to get to know them. These days, I don't

know if I really have a mentor, but I learn interesting things from other people all the time, if that counts.

### What are you reading right now? Would you recommend it?

Right now, I'm reading *How Sassy Changed My Life: A Love Letter to the Greatest Teen Magazine of All Time* by **Kara Jesella** and **Marisa Meltzer**. It's a big nostalgia trip for me, because I read *Sassy* while I was in high school and I remember a lot of the articles they discuss in the book. It does make me remember my hideous adolescence, though, which is decidedly less fun. I think it's an enjoyable read if you ever read the magazine. In general, I mostly read trash, queer studies, and comic books.

Next in my pile are *Chicken With Plums* by **Marjane Satrapi** and *How to Rent a Negro* by **Damali Ayo**. I also have some roman à clef about a fashion magazine, but I don't remember the title. (It isn't *The Devil Wears Prada*, I know that much.)

### What is your favorite movie? Song? TV show?

I have a lot of favorite movies. I am very fond of **John Waters' Female Trouble**; I don't know why they remade *Hairspray* as a musical when *Female Trouble* would obviously be even more entertaining with show tunes. I also really like **Douglas Sirk**, and am on a quest to see all of his films. Additionally, I often enjoy watching old movies and being on the lookout for homoerotic subtext.

It would be hard for me to pick just one favorite song. My musical tastes are kind of eclectic, I guess; I spent my late teens and early twenties listening to a lot of hardcore punk bands, but now I listen to a wider variety of stuff, such as old funk/R&B bands, older country music (like all good people, I adore **Dolly Parton**), some weird freak-folk bands, and 1970s Afrobeat.

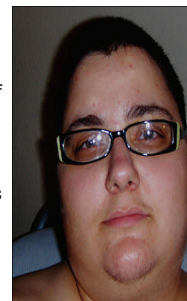
As far as TV shows go, I have been watching silly reality shows that air on VH1 lately, and I am trying to feel no shame about it. I

don't watch a lot of new TV, though *The Golden Girls* is probably my favorite show of all time. Either that, or *The Match Game* or *Pee-wee's Playhouse*.

### Social networks—yes or no? (LJ, Blogger, Second Life, WoW, MySpace, etc.)

I have had a LiveJournal for about 6 years, heaven help me. I have a MySpace account too, but it's under a fake name.

**K.R. Roberto**, ALA GLBTRT member since 1999, GLBTRT positions: Co-chair, 2007–present; Member, Stonewall Book Awards Committee, 2003–2005; Member, YA Bibliography Subcommittee, 2002; ASCLA ADA Assembly liaison, 2001. ALA positions: Councilor-at-Large, 2004–2007; Member, Committee on Diversity, 2005–2007; Coordinator, SRRT Alternatives in Publication Task Force, 2003–2004; Member, ACRL/WSS Research Committee, 2002–2003; Co-chair, ALCTS Creative Ideas in Technical Services Discussion Group, 2002–2003; Member, ALA 2003 Election Nominating Committee, 2001–2003, serials/electronic resources librarian  
[kr.roberto@du.edu](mailto:kr.roberto@du.edu)



### What Do You Want?

What do you think should be on the GLBTRT blog (<http://blogs.ala.org/glbtrt.php>)? We have a lot of options but this is your blog. Tell the Membership Committee what you want to see!

Suggestions so far have included: GLBTRT news, stories in GLBT librarianship, online book clubs, and job postings.

Send your feedback to Paul Higdon, Membership Chair, [phigdonj@yahoo.com](mailto:phigdonj@yahoo.com).

## ManLoveRomance Flap Frets *Romantic Times*, Houston Hyatt



This poster and similar publicity for ManLoveRomance, an advertising cooperative of authors and artists of male/male romances, were removed from display at the *Romantic Times* Booklovers Convention in at the Downtown Hyatt in Houston on April 26.

Hyatt Customer Service Manager **Lance Barnes** ordered his staff to remove the ManLoveRomance publicity and told **Laura Baumbach** that businessmen sharing the hotel with the convention had complained. Baumbach and her assistants pointed out several more provocative heterosexual publicity items but Barnes told them that if the ManLoveRomance publicity was put back out, it would be confiscated.

When Barnes later objected to the steamy heterosexual publicity, *Romantic Times* Publisher **Carol Stacy** refused to allow their removal, establishing a double standard.

This incident has attracted considerable attention on author and publisher blogs but Stacy stands behind her actions. She commended Hyatt staff and apologized that Baumbach had displayed the publicity.

Other *Romantic Times* staff and convention attendees saw homophobia in Barnes' initial complaint and in Stacy's response. Personal animus was also suggested, as Stacy and Baumbach have locked horns before, also on grounds of *Romantic Times*' perceived homophobia.

For example, when a 2006 online survey by *Romantic Times* of its print subscribers found that 56% of the respondents "Love Them" while only 16% "Would Never Read One", Stacy disputed the results.

The longest running controversy is the adamant refusal by Stacy to review small press male/male romances that purchase

advertising in *Romantic Times*, which is automatic for all other small press romance and erotica which buys ads. Stacy says, "My decision to not review these books has nothing to do with being homophobic. Some of my best friends are gay and in fact several attend our convention and have been friends for years and I love them dearly. My decision is based on my 'print' readership and the fact that the majority of my 'print readers' are not interested in m/m books at this time.

"This is a space consideration and a business decision. If you will forgive the analogy: one does not cover yoga in a NASCAR magazine if you get my drift."

For more information, including the *Romantic Times*' responses, go to Baumbach's blog, *Sensually Wicked Man Love*: <http://sensualwriter.blogspot.com/>

**John Bradford**, Editor Head, Automation & Technical Services Villa Park Public Library Librarian, Leather Archives & Museum [jbmls@yahoo.com](mailto:jbmls@yahoo.com)

## Palm Beach County School Board Resists Censorship Call

"I'm not sending my kids to be abortion doctors. I'm not sending them to be homosexual. I think these books should be removed and not in the hands of kids," said **Laura Lopez**, who has children in Palm Beach County public schools.

The Palm Beach County School Board rejected Lopez's challenge to books on abortion, homosexuality, and atheism. They voted unanimously to keep the books in school libraries.

The debate sparked after Lopez searched the libraries at A.W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts and Royal Palm Beach High School to find out what books they offer. She said she found over 80 books filled with "inappropriate content" such as "boys having sex with boys, girls having sex with girls, graphic photos of abortion, suicide, STDs, and corrupt cops." She believes this

problem is not isolated to these two schools but at all county schools and schools across the nation.

Lopez appealed to the School Board after earlier rejections of her challenges by Superintendent **Art Johnson** and committees at Royal Palm Beach High School and Alexander W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts in West Palm Beach. "This stuff is inappropriate to be in the schools," Lopez told the board. "It's a sin; it's wrong." Unconvinced, the School Board concurred with the committees and superintendent that school libraries should hold titles that cover "all points of view on current and historical issues."

A member of Christ Fellowship Church for seven years, Lopez listed the church on her requests to remove the books. However, church spokesman **Mike Anthony** told the

School Board's lawyer that it did not support Lopez: "It's an individual on a crusade. She does not represent Christ Fellowship."

Lopez was disappointed with the vote to keep these books in school libraries and says her fight is not over. She will circulate a petition in the community and plans to appeal the decision in court.

Only one of Lopez's two teenaged sons, **Jesse Lopez**, a sophomore at Royal Palm Beach, came to the hearing to support his mother. Her oldest son, **Joel Lopez**, a junior at Royal Palm Beach, disagrees with his mother's objections to the library books.

From articles in the *Palm Beach Post* and the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, July 12, 2007, and the *Boca Raton News*, July 13, 2007.

## Yolanda Varga Retter Passes: Activist, Librarian, Historian

Saturday August 18, 2007, the Los Angeles lesbian community lost a longtime über-activist, intellectual, and gadfly extraordinaire: Yolanda Vargas Retter, a pre-eminent Latina lesbian-feminist, community scholar and librarian who died in her Van Nuys home of cancer. She is survived by her partner of 13 years, Leslie Stamper.

Most recently, Yolanda worked as archivist for the UCLA Chicano Studies Resource Center. She also volunteered as the chief coordinator of the Lesbian Legacy Collection at ONE Gay and Lesbian Archives at

the University of Southern California where she built an extensive collection of Los Angeles lesbian history. She also devoted time, energy and vision to the West Hollywood-based June Mazer Lesbian Archives. In the 1990s Yolanda was the librarian overseeing the Chicano Resources Center at the Los Angeles County Public Library community library in East Los Angeles. Yolanda also ran Lesbian Central in the late 80s at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center

A passionate advocate for lesbians and the need to expand community history to in-

clude and celebrate women of color, she worked her whole life to ensure that less-empowered communities did not themselves exclude as they fought oppression. She also published a dozen articles and contributed to several books on GLBT issues.

The memorial will be September 29, 1 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church, 8714 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles.

From [is-announce@lists.qseis.ucla.edu](mailto:is-announce@lists.qseis.ucla.edu) postings, August 20 & 27, 2007



## Fort Lauderdale's Stonewall Library & Archives Convinces Commissions, Gets Approval to Relocate

At its June 12 meeting, the Broward County Commission approved allocation of space in the ArtServe/County Library building as the new home of Stonewall Library & Archives. At its July 10 meeting, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission also approved the move over strong opposition by Mayor **Jim Naugle**, who insisted the collection contained "hard-core pornography."

The week before, Naugle had urged the city to purchase high-tech, electronic toilets to discourage users from engaging in "homosexual activity." Naugle said he used the term "homosexual" because gay people are unhappy. "It's a shame [this

library issue] had to come out during this whole toilet controversy," he elaborated. "They'll think it's some anti-gay thing—um, anti-homosexual."

On July 24, Naugle said he was sorry—for underestimating the frequency public restrooms were used for sex, to the bafflement of police, who deny that this is frequent in Fort Lauderdale. At a 1000-person strong rally that evening, a parade of community leaders called for Naugle's resignation.

Stonewall Library & Archives is one of the largest and most respected GLBT research facilities in the world. Its books, manu-

scripts, films, and artifacts document over a century of GLBT history.

For more information on Stonewall Library & Archives, go to its Web site: <http://www.stonewall-library.org/>

or email [info@stonewall-library.org](mailto:info@stonewall-library.org)

From Stonewall Library & Archives press releases and articles in the *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, July 11, 24, & 25, 2007



## Dallas Public Makes GLBT Program Plans, Fall Film Festival

In late 2004, I joined a handful of librarians, administrators and other interested Dallas Public Library staff to form a system-wide ad hoc committee to create special programming for the city's GLBT community. DPL regularly offers events for the varied groups it serves, but never before had this population been a specific focus in program planning.

In our first "season," fall 2005, the GLBT Adult Programming Committee presented an author series featuring Julie Anne Peters, Alison Bechdel, and Mark Doty at the DPL Oak Lawn Branch. The Library allocated some funds and the shortfall was covered through fundraising and donations. Small but appreciative audiences provided us inspiration for 2006.

In 2006, we offered two informational workshops on media relations and immigration issues, featuring speakers from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Poet/physician Dr. Rafael Campo also presented a reading/lecture. Again, our crowds were not huge but the audience response was very positive.

In early 2007 we were also delighted to host the traveling GLBT historical exhibit "Out at the Library," spotlighting material from the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center of the San Francisco Public Library.

Dallas was one of only six cities nationwide chosen to receive the display, housed in the Oak Lawn Branch. The exhibit received good coverage in our local GLBT newspaper, and positive reaction from many patrons.

This Fall, the committee will offer a GLBT film series, held at the Central Library on selected Saturday afternoons from September through November. For this project, we are partnering with "Out Takes Dallas," organizers of the city's largest annual GLBT film festival. Such a series will be a new undertaking for DPL, but we hope for yet another positive reaction from the community, as we look forward to a successful 2008 and beyond.

For more information on our committee's activities, please contact me.

**Cathy Ritchie**  
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## LA&M Road Show Takes Second Place at 2007 Diversity Fair

A display on the Leather Archives & Museum's Teri Rose Memorial Library and the LA&M Road Show won second place at the American Library Association's 2007 Diversity & Outreach Fair. This prize came with a \$200 gift certificate from sponsor DEMCO, a library and archival supplies company.

The Diversity & Outreach Fair each year highlights outreach to traditionally underserved communities. The LA&M's 2007 National Library Week survey of its members had shown that most were unable to find kinky materials at their local libraries. One way the LA&M helps to bridge this gap in service is the LA&M's traveling exhibit, the Road Show, which brings locally significant erotic artifacts and books, allowing participants to touch and feel their history.

The exhibit was anchored by a selection of pins, photos, and papers from clubs, bars, and people from Washington, DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Books from the Teri Rose Memorial Library, photos of the Library, and information on the LA&M were combined by **Matt Johnson** with handkerchiefs, clothespins, READ posters, and a

club vest for a truly arresting display.

Teri Rose Memorial Librarian **John Bradford**, joined by volunteers **Matt Johnson** and **Louis Lang** and LA&M Board Member **Rob Ridinger**, talked up the LA&M, the Teri Rose Memorial Library, and the Road Show with a constant stream of fascinated visitors for the two-hour event. By the end of the Diversity & Outreach Fair, they had run through their supply of LA&M membership forms, archivist's guides, keychains, and newsletters.

The LA&M stores, preserves, restores, and exhibits the artifacts and evidence of Leather/SM/Fetish lives and organizations, including but not limited to GLBT lifestyles, without regard to sexuality, race, gender, orientation or age-group representation.

For additional information on the LA&M and the Teri Rose Memorial Library, go to:

<http://www.leatherarchives.org>

or email [archives@leatherarchives.org](mailto:archives@leatherarchives.org)

For more information on the LA&M Road

Show, including its projected tour schedule, visit its blog:

<http://leatherarchivesroadshow.blogspot.com/>

or email [roadshow@leatherarchives.org](mailto:roadshow@leatherarchives.org)

**Louis Lang**  
Technical Consultant  
Leather Archives & Museum



**Matt Johnson** tells a Diversity Fair attendee about the Leather Archives & Museum. Photograph by **Louis Lang**.

## Librarians in Spandex: A Conversation with Roger Klorese



GLBTRT members at this year's Stonewall Book Awards breakfast in Washington may have taken home a volume entitled *Prism Comics: Your LGBT Guide to Comics*. The guides were generously donated to the Round Table by Prism Comics on the occasion of **Alison Bechdel's** acceptance of the Israel Fishman Award for Non-Fiction for her memoir *Fun Home*.

The unprecedented and richly deserved acclaim for Bechdel's book has seemingly accorded LGBT-themed comics and graphic novels a permanent place on the literary landscape and hence also on library shelves. **Roger Klorese**, president of Prism Comics, recently took some time to answer a few of my questions about queer comics and libraries.

### **Matt Johnson: What is Prism Comics, and what do you do?**

**Roger Klorese:** Prism Comics is a non-profit supporting LGBT comics, creators, and readers. We provide social events and programming at some of the major comics conventions; we offer an annual grant for new LGBT creators; we work on sensitivity and advocacy projects with some of the publishers; we host a website that offers hundreds of creators a chance to network and to show their work to a broad LGBT audience.

Our biggest annual activity, and the one that really got the ball rolling, is *Prism Comics: Your LGBT Guide to Comics*. It's published annually, and delivers everything from a timeline of LGBT milestones in comics during the previous year to reviews to interviews to humor pieces to original comics work. It also includes the profiles of hundreds of creators and information about their projects.

Going forward, we're working on materials for retailers that will make it easier for them to navigate the issues of maximum promotion and minimum controversy. We've done a project in conjunction with Lambda Legal to line up comics to support their Courting Justice campaign. And we have some longer-term projects starting up.

One of the ways we support ourselves, as well as promote LGBT works, is by selling donated materials at our online store. Some of the most popular LGBT-related works, from **Tim Fish's** *Cavalcade of Boys* to **Tommy Roddy's** terrific superhero gay-straight-alliance book *Pride High* to Megan Rose Gedris' *Yu+Me*—our 2006 grant-winner—can be found there, and all or part of the sale price keeps us running.

**MJ: We usually think of comics' primary readership as being children and teenagers, though as time goes on that's less and less true. As a gay man who**

**grew up with comics, can you speculate as to how they contribute to the development of queer identity, both in youth and in adulthood?**

**RK:** It's more the case today, alas, that comics' primary readership is people who used to be children and teenagers.

I've probably heard as many gay men talk about being closeted as comics readers as about being closeted about their sexuality. But in talking to them about their experiences growing up queer with comics, I've heard a few things consistently.

One of them, at least in the superhero comics tradition, is the idea of the secret identity. It's not difficult to figure out that parallel—especially when you consider the idea that superheroes often hide who they are to protect the people around them. The notion that "someday the world will be different, and I'll be able to tell them who I really am" is one that I hope draws less power every day, but it's certainly still there. That's the classic "different" metaphor that we see in the X-Men comics and especially in the second film [*X2: X-Men United*]—[writer/director] **Bryan Singer's** having Bobby (Iceman) Drake's parents ask him why he doesn't just stop being a mutant.

Another that's closely related is the fantasy element—comics can be the least expensive visual special effects experience there is, and the freedom to dream is something many of us took refuge in, and grew through.

While they're all too often written by men for men, there are some great examples of strong, interesting women in comics—not only in superhero comics, but in the *Love and Rockets* work of **Los Bros Hernandez**, and, of course, the work of women artists from **Lee Marrs** to **Trina Robbins** to **Alison Bechdel** to **Jennifer Camper**—and that list goes on. And we see in strong women both the identification angle both for young women and for young (and other) gay men, of course.

(It doesn't hurt that, unlike real life, most of the people you see in comics in brightly colored spandex *ought* to be wearing it.)

**MJ: Comics and graphic novels are genres traditionally overlooked by library collections, yet recently we've seen some graphic novels receive awards from various ALA divisions, including Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese* and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*. Why now? Do you think it's creators, publishers, or librarians who have fomented this change?**

**RK:** Librarians, of course. (Hey, I know how to work a room.)

This is really an "all of the above" answer. Creators have learned that while the most avid comics readers buy everything they read, acquire it in serial form, and seal it in Mylar, the wider audience takes the same approach they do for non-comics books: they buy them in collected or larger for-

mats, they borrow them from friends, and, when they can, they borrow them from libraries. Publishers have figured out that having a large open backstock helps them manage their revenues and retain a broader range of readers. And librarians have both discovered or rediscovered comics, as well as finding themselves at the nexus of the creator and publisher trends.

**MJ: Materials about LGBT people are among those most commonly challenged in American libraries, and comics and graphic novels have notably been among them. What other obstacles confront creators of queer-themed comic art in their efforts to reach an audience?**

**RK:** A significant one, of course, is the traditional assumption that there's gay literature and there's just plain literature—by which, of course, they mean straight literature—the idea that gay works are not about human reality, not accessible, not capable of serving the big issues and mainstream audiences. When you combine that with the fact that the mainstream of the comics industry—not the medium, of course, but the industry—is overwhelmingly male, overwhelmingly straight, overwhelmingly nerdy, it can be difficult for creators to get through the editorial process and on to audiences, and to get those audiences to find their work. (There have been some breakout exceptions even in the most mainstream spandex-and-capes superhero books—**Allan Heinberg's** wonderful teen gay-boys in *Young Avengers*, for instance—but it certainly helped that he was a name writer on popular TV series at the time he wrote the series.)

**MJ: What resources can you recommend to librarians who would like to start building comics and graphic novels, especially LGBT-related works, into their collections?**

**RK:** Starting from specific works and going outward:

It doesn't take much genius on my part to applaud the ALA recognition of *Fun Home*—it is a great example of the medium and of a creator at her best and writing in her most personal voice, and no thinking person should be denied the chance to experience it. A work of similar achievement is **Howard Cruse's** *Stuck Rubber Baby*, which brings his experience of being queer, Southern, and riding the movements of the Sixties to vivid life. These are among the highest of the high points of the medium.

Taking a step back, there are publishers who have had better track records than most in regard to LGBT-related and generally mature (rather than gratuitously sexual) works. The catalogs of DC's Vertigo imprint (as well as its new Minx line, which while not queer-related in its content yet, is putting out YA-directed material that is neither as specifically tween-girl-directed nor as facile as their marketing suggests), Fantagraphics, Drawn and Quarterly, and Top Shelf yield some excellent LGBT-friendly reading.

## Prism Comics (Continued)

Of course, as a resource to follow the medium and track the past, present and future of LGBT comics and creators, I'd be amiss in my presidential responsibilities not to suggest that people check out our website, [www.prismcomics.org](http://www.prismcomics.org). We carry news and features about projects ranging from the most frivolous to the serious and exemplary works noted earlier, and while we haven't specifically targeted libraries as an audience—yet!—our ongoing initiative to

provide educational and promotional material to arm comics retailers with the tools to support queer projects and audiences will also apply to libraries, I think.

*Interviewed by Matt Johnson,  
Taxonomy Analyst  
Exchange Place*



**Roger Klorese** has been involved in the comics industry on and off since the mid-1970s and has been president of Prism Comics since 2005. In his day job, he's held a number of marketing and technical positions in the computer systems and software industry. He lives with his partner **David Haney**, two cats (one elegant, one klutzy), and two dogs (one moody, one cheerful) in Seattle.

## SAA's Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable Meets in Chicago

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists will be held August 28-September 1 in Chicago. The 2007 Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable meeting and reception will be scheduled at the Gerber/Hart Library on Wednesday August 29 from 6-8 pm. The business meeting will be preceded by a reception and followed by a program with representatives from Chicago's foremost LGBT archives: **Mark Bowman** of the LGBT Religious Archives Network, **Chuck Renslow** of the Leather Archives & Museum, and **Karen Sendziak** of the Gerber/Hart Library. All GLBT archivists and those interested in GLBT archives are welcome.

Other programs with GLBT content during the SAA Annual Meeting are:

Thursday, August 30, 2:45-4:15 pm  
*Outreach to Those Less Served*

Includes presentation "Archival Outreach to the Gay and Lesbian Community in the Old Dominion" by Alex Lorch of Virginia Commonwealth University

Friday, August 31, 2:30-4:00 pm  
*Difficult Women: Successful Public Outreach for "Problematic" Women's Collections*  
Including presentation "Private Lives and Public History: A Case Study of Writing Leather Dyke History" by **Alex Warner** of Rutgers University

In addition, both the Leather Archives & Museum and the Gerber/Hart Library will host open houses on Wednesday, August

29, from 1-3 pm.

The LGBT Religious Archives Network is a unique resource working to ensure the preservation and accessibility of the voices and experiences of a great diversity of GLBT religious leaders and groups. It has no physical presence, is rather a virtual archive and electronic clearinghouse of records held by other institutions. For more information on LGBT-RAN, consult their Web site: <http://www.lgbtran.org/>

or email [info@lgbtran.org](mailto:info@lgbtran.org)

The Leather Archives & Museum was established in 1991 and houses a unique sexuality collection about the history and culture of fetishism, sadomasochism, and leather.

The LA&M is open to individuals 18 and over and houses sexually explicit exhibitions. For more information on the LA&M, go to their Web site: <http://www.leatherarchives.org>

or email [archives@leatherarchives.org](mailto:archives@leatherarchives.org)

Founded in 1981, the Gerber/Hart Library is now the Midwest's largest circulating GLBT library. It also serves as a repository for the records of GLBT persons, predominately from Chicago and the Midwest. For more information on Gerber/Hart, look at their Web site: <http://www.gerberhart.org/>

or email [info@gerberhart.org](mailto:info@gerberhart.org)

*From Society of American Archivists Archives Chicago 2007 Annual Meeting: Preliminary Program*

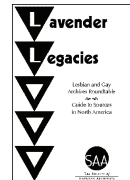
## Online Tools for Finding GLBT Archives

Among the projects of the Lesbian and Gay Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists is the *Lavender Legacies*, an annotated directory of significant GLBT archival collections in the United States and Canada, online at: <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/lagar/guide/>

Released in 1998, this first formal and comprehensive guide to primary source materials on GLBT archives was most recently updated in 2007.

The Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives includes European collections on a similar (but unannotated) list of GLBT archives, online at: <http://www.clga.ca/Material/Links/linkint.htm>

*From the Websites of the Society of American Archivists and the Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives*



## GLBT ALMS Conference Seeks Presenters for 2008

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) at the City University of New York Graduate Center announces the GLBT ALMS Conference 2008, an international conference about GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections (ALMS). Following the successful GLBT ALMS conference May 2006 at the University of Minnesota, GLBT ALMS 2008 is scheduled to take place in New York City May 8-10, 2008. CLAGS is proud to be the event's primary sponsor.

GLBT ALMS 2008 will explore a range of topics related to the organization, description, access, use, publicity, support, suppression, and preservation of GLBT archival

collections, institutions, and material.

Archivists, librarians, curators, independent scholars, academics, activists, artists, researchers, and all affiliated with community-based queer archives are invited to submit ideas for individual and collaborative papers, panels, workshops, discussions, performances, and multimedia presentations on any aspect of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer identity, culture, and community in relation to GLBT archives, libraries, collections, or research methods.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to legal issues, public access, research methods, international connections, digitiza-

tion, institutional partnerships, preparing collections, private collecting, and archive building.

Send resumes/CVs/brief biographies along with proposals of no more than 500 words to: [ALMS2008@gmail.com](mailto:ALMS2008@gmail.com) no later than October 15, 2007. Include "ALMS Conference Proposal" in the email subject line. Prospective participants will be notified by December 1, 2007.

For further information, go to: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/clags/albtalms/>

*From CLAGS press release on GLBT ALMS 2008*

### GLBT RT Mentee Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Focus or Special Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your preferred mode of communication (i.e. email, telephone, face to face, etc.)?

2. Do you want to live geographically close to your mentor?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

No Unnecessary Indifferent Great Essential!

3. What do you want to learn from your mentor?

4. What qualities are you seeking from your mentor?

5. How do you prefer to communicate new ideas (i.e. brainstorm, wait until the idea is fully fleshed out, etc.)?

6. How do you prefer to hear new ideas/feedback (i.e. brainstorm, wait until the idea is fully fleshed out, etc.)?

7. How do you set goals for yourself?

8. Any other information you would like to share that you think would help us better match you with a mentee?

### GLBTRT Mentor Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Focus or Special Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your preferred mode of communication (i.e. email, telephone, face to face, etc.)?

2. Do you want to live geographically close to your mentee?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

No Unnecessary Indifferent Great Essential!

3. What do you want to teach your mentee?

4. What qualities do you possess that would make you a good mentor?

5. How do you prefer to communicate new ideas (i.e. brainstorm, wait until the idea is fully fleshed out, etc.)?

6. How do you prefer to hear new ideas/feedback?

7. Any other information you would like to share that you think would help us better match you with a mentee?



## Book Reviews: Non-Fiction

### Bociurkiw, Marusya. *Comfort Food for Breakups: The Memoir of a Hungry Girl.*

Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp, 2007. 171 p. paperback. ISBN: 978-1-55152-21-5. \$16.95

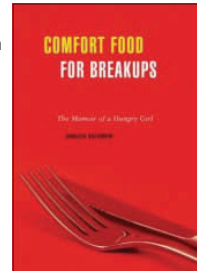
In *Comfort Food for Breakups*, **Marusya Bociurkiw**, a Canadian filmmaker and academic, explores her life through her relationship to food. In particular, she delves into her relationship with her family – her academic father, distant mother and creative but troubled younger brother. She describes pivotal moments in her life and the meals that accompanied them from breakfasts with her father to the last meal she shares with her brother. As the title promises, Bociurkiw also ruminates on her ex-girlfriends and the food eaten in joy when falling in love and in mourning when falling out. In many, she provides recipes for comfort. As with all good foodie writing, this book will awaken your stomach.

Those expecting a polished food memoir, such as those penned by **MFK Fisher** or **Ruth Reichl**, will find instead find one with less editorial restraint and more narrative hiccups. Their works celebrate the beauty, magic, and lushness of eating good food. Bociurkiw's book shares the spirit of those published recently by **Julia Powell** and **Amanda Hesser** where the culinary content is absolutely integral, but the personality of the author commands the center.

Bociurkiw also makes an important contribution to the hot and trendy gourmet dialogue of late. She adds a lovely, queer voice to the bounty of food memoirs being published.

Recommended for any library concentrating on building their LGBT or food literature collection. Visit her blog, *Recipes for Trouble*, at <http://recipesfortrouble.com>, to glimpse Bociurkiw's perspective.

Reviewed by **Analisa Ornelas**  
MLS, San Jose State University



### Cart, Michael and Christine A. Jenkins. *The Heart Has Its Reasons: Young Adult Literature with Gay/Lesbian/Queer Content, 1969-2004.*

Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2006. ISBN: 978-8108-5107-2. \$42.00

**Michael Cart** and **Christine Jenkins** have written a valuable resource for young adult librarians and the entire GLBT community. Decade by decade from 1970 to 2004, they examine the content and development of GLBT literature for teens.

The beauty of this arrangement is that it allows them to trace the evolution of a genre from a time when gay characters always died to some current novels in which there is often total acceptance of

GLBT people.

If this survey was not enough to make this one of the most important books of the year in GLBT studies, they have followed it up with a series of even more valuable appendices. These include: "A Model for GLBTQ Portrayals/Inclusion in YA Fiction", "Young Adult Fiction with GLBTQ Content 1969-2004: Author/Title", "Bibliography with GLBTQ Portrayal, Inclusion, and Narrative Role", as well as the equally useful "Young

Adult Fiction with GLBTQ Content, 1969-2004: A Chronological Bibliography."

Recommended for public and academic libraries.

Ray Barber  
Coordinator, School-Libraries.net



### Hays, Matthew. *The View From Here.*

Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2007. 384p. paperback ISBN: 978-1-55152-220-3. \$22.95

Drawing on his work as a journalist and film critic, **Matthew Hays** presents 32 interviews with queer directors and screenwriters in "The View From Here." While most are Canadian or US filmmakers, a few, including **Pedro Almodovar** and **Monika Treut**, live and work in Europe.

Hays demonstrates a deep appreciation for all types of gay and lesbian films, from the profound to the campy, from documentaries to porn. His interview subjects work from deep in the Hollywood mainstream to the most remote outposts of independent film. Filmmakers profiled include: **John**

**Cameron Mitchell, Arthur Dong, Rose Troche, John Waters, Lynne Fernie, Aerlyn Weissman, Kenneth Anger, Robert Epstein, Patricia Rozema, Gus Van Sant and Léa Pool.**

Each interview is preceded by a short bio on the filmmaker. The interviews vary, depending up whether Hays was able to schedule a long discussion, or had to catch his subject on the run. This collection of histories, opinions and stories presents a fascinating view of queer film from the viewpoint of the filmmakers.

"The View From Here," although not an

historical overview like **Vito Russo's** groundbreaking, but dated, *The Celluloid Closet*, is none the less a welcome addition and belongs in LGBT and Media Studies collections.

**Morgan Gwenwald**  
Library Outreach Coordinator  
SUNY New Paltz



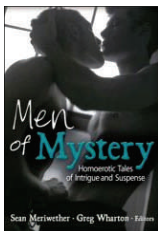
### *Men of Mystery: Homoerotic Tales of Intrigue and Suspense.* Edited by Sean Meriwether and Greg Wharton.

Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2007. 384p. paperback ISBN: 978-1-55152-220-3. \$22.95

Anthologies have long served as an effective vehicle for introducing GLBT authors, many of whose works initially appear in niche periodicals or on personal websites, to a broader audience. The genre enjoyed

great popularity for over thirty years before focusing in the 1990s on collections that took same-sex attraction as a given and began to explore specific populations and their images, ranging from leather men and

bears to black and Hispanic men and women. The attraction of men with a darkly desirable nature also examined, in the 2000 collection by Simon Sheppard and M Christian, *Rough Stuff: Tales of Gay Men, Sex,*

*Men of Mystery, continued...*

*and Power.*

Almost half the sixteen stories in *Men of Mystery* have been anthologized before and were selected in keeping with the collection's theme of exploring the dangerous attraction exerted by figures whose

lives are tough, gritty and outside the common limits of the world. The contemporary British, Canadian and American authors represent a wide range of styles and backgrounds from theater to novels and erotica and carry the reader from the woods of Maine to New Orleans to four hundred year old missions in New Mexico, with characters and plots surprisingly complex for the genre.

Useful for public libraries wishing to build both their mystery and GLBT collections.

Reviewed by  
**Robert Ridinger**  
Professor and Electronic Information  
Resources Manager,  
Northern Illinois University Libraries

*Vanderburgh, Reid. Transition and Beyond: Observations on Gender Identity.*

Q Press, 2007. 294p. ISBN: 1-893075-38-9 \$29.95



This work contains research, professional insight and personal experience regarding the standards of care for treating gender dysphoria in the United States. As a therapist, who transitioned from female to male, and dedicates his professional life to counseling others in transition, Vanderburgh has penned one of only two books published this decade to address the counseling needs of the transgendered.

It is a well-organized, comprehensive resource presented in three sections. The first provides a rationale for selecting and evaluating a therapist, the second, practical exercises and reflective discussion points for the client, and lastly, a section for the partners, friends and family of the client, providing assistance in navigating the transition.

The chief value of the work lies in Vanderburgh's holistic therapy model toward gender dysphoria that deviates from the current medical model in two fundamental ways. The current standards of care concerning gender dysphoria "only address the psychosocial pressures a pre-transition person faces, and do not address the fact that the

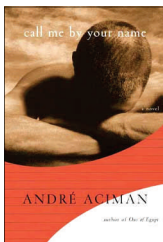
post-transition pressures are at least as great." Secondly, Vanderburgh's model provides a paradigmatic shift in the focus of the therapy and therapist: "a client's gender identity is what it is and [t]he issues are; How well does the client cope living with a mid-spectrum identity in a culture that believes the binary gender model is reality and not a model at all?"

*Transition and Beyond* is an essential title for all libraries.

Reviewed by  
**Rose M. Jackson**  
Reference Librarian  
Branford P. Millar Library

**Book Reviews: Fiction***Aciman, André. Call Me by Your Name.*

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. . 248 p. hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-374-29921-7. \$23.00



Seventeen-year-old Elio, a rich, handsome, intellectual prodigy, lives with his parents in pampered splendor on the Italian Riviera. He spends his time enjoying his family, his studies, and the beauty of Italy (including its women). His life would be perfect, if not for his occasional desires for men. For six weeks each summer, Elio's parents host a graduate student from America, and when Elio sets his eyes on this year's academic, 24-

year-old Oliver, he is captivated.

Aciman tells his moving love story at a sweetly excruciating pace. It isn't until a quarter into the book that Elio tells Oliver of his feelings, then time passes before they finally act on their attraction.

The result of this languorous storytelling is that readers will find themselves longing for culmination. They'll yearn for a hint from Oliver that Elio's feelings are reciprocated. By the time the two men acknowledge their love and call each other by their own names (Elio is an abbreviated anagram of Oliver), readers will feel as exhausted as Elio.

In poetic, elevated prose, André Aciman has written a powerful psychological drama of two bisexual men who share their most intimate selves, intellectually, spiritually, and physically. Elio's thoughts and emotions are depicted in vivid detail that unashamedly highlights the infatuation, lust, love, and obsession that sometimes results from a first love.

This novel is appropriate (and highly recommended) for 18+.

**Tracy Marie Nectoux**  
Monographic Cataloging and Metadata  
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

*Berman, Steve. Vintage: A Ghost Story.*

New York: Haworth Positronic Press, 2007. 149 p. paperback. ISBN:978-1-56023-631-3. \$12.95



In this first-person gothic novel, a teen, tossed out of his home when his parents learn he is gay, finds a home with an aunt in a small New Jersey town. He only has one friend, Trace, a young goth like him who is into the occult.

He wonders if he will ever fall in love. Then,

one dark night he meets Josh on a deserted road--and meets the man of his dreams.

He is haunted by the memory of this brief encounter with Josh. He is haunted, in more ways than one, since Josh is a ghost, a malevolent one at that. In order to free himself, he must lead Josh to rest. Should he fail they will both be doomed to walk the back roads of New Jersey forever.

Berman deftly uses all the conventions of gothic horror to examine the search for acceptance and love and the pain, delight,

and surprise it brings. The well drawn characters make one care about who they are and what is happening to them. They mark this an exceptional genre novel.

Sex is minimal and deftly handled but the sexuality at the core of this adult novel will find a waiting teen audience.

**Ray Barber**  
Coordinator,  
School-Libraries.net

## Book Reviews: Fiction

### Hayes, J.G. *A Map of the Harbor Islands.*

New York: Southern Tier Editions, Harrington Park Press, 2006. 389 p. ISBN: 1560235969 \$19.95.

Words gush passionately from Danny O'Connor, the narrator of this first novel (Hayes has published two story collections), as he tells the story of his intense friendship with Petey Harding. Growing up in working-class, Irish-Catholic South Boston, they first meet in kindergarten, where Petey is sitting as if waiting for Danny. They become best friends. After he suffers a head injury, Petey mysteriously becomes obsessed with words, names, and stories. He wants to be a seanchai ("shan-a-kee"), an Irish storyteller.

When Petey reveals that he is gay, Danny worries how

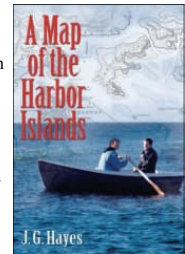
he may be thought of, since he is Petey's best friend. Then, suffering deep loneliness for Petey, Danny wonders, "Can you be gay with just one person?"

As he continues his story through marriage, the birth of a son, divorce, Danny realizes that words are Petey's wonderful gift to him: "the almost heartbreaking wistfulness that hits me when I hear beautiful words strung together." In the penultimate chapter, Petey's mother tells Danny a story that changes his life forever.

Hayes eloquently shows the power of words and sto-

ries. His prose screams to be read aloud. Recommended for libraries that collect gay fiction or fiction on the Irish-American experience.

**W. Stephen Breedlove**  
Reference Librarian/  
Interlibrary Loan Coordinator  
La Salle University



### Alex Marcoux. *A Matter of Degrees*

Haworth Press. 2006. 299 p. ISBN 1560236116 \$19.95

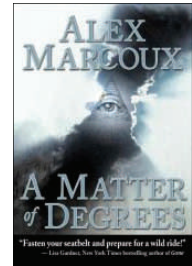
Start with a mix of ancient Egyptian secrets of the pharaohs, Sumerian deities, Freemasonry, the Catholic Church, the Knights Templar, the Council on Foreign Relations, and every other secret society you can think of. Now add a dash or two of *The Da Vinci Code* and the New World Order. Stir well.

Jessie Mercer, the lesbian precognitive heroine of Marcoux's *Back to Salem*, returns in *A Matter of Degrees*. Jesse Mercer was shocked to hear of her reporter brother's

death, and is completely unwilling to accept that it was suicide. So begins her whirlwind effort to follow up on his story and infiltrate the dreaded secret society of the Freemasons. Add in the occasional past-life trip to ancient Egypt, king cobras popping up in Greenwich Village, a secret tenth planet in the solar system, and you get a book that should appeal to conspiracy theorists and anyone who thinks that "less is more" is a plot to take the fun out of life. Recommended for public libraries with large mys-

tery collections.

Reviewed by **Nicholas Rosselli**,  
Reference/Systems Librarian  
Indiana University Northwest.



## DVD Reviews: Non-Fiction

### *Mom's Apple Pie: The Heart of the Lesbian Mother's Movement.* Produced and directed by: Jody Laine, Shan Ottey, Shad Reinstein; narrated by Kate Clinton

Running time: 60 minutes. In English. DVD, Frameline, 2006. \$250.00.

DVD public library/K-12 purchase price: \$100; DVD university purchase price: \$250. Public performance rights are included in the purchase price, provided no admission is charged.

"In the 1970's, many married women were coming out as lesbians and leaving their marriages. Many of them were forced to battle their ex-husbands to maintain custody or even visitation with their children" (opening captions).

This documentary focuses on women who left their husbands for other women and fought custody cases at a time when, as interviewee Ernestine Blue puts it, "being a lesbian [was considered] worse than being around drugs." The lesbian mother's movement is given detailed focus through the personal stories of children (now adults), mothers and mothers' partners who suffered such battles. Additional interviews with founding members of the Lesbian

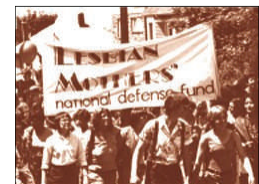
Mothers' National Defense Fund, from whose newsletter, *Mom's Apple Pie*, the film takes its name, and the Lesbian Rights Project, now the National Center for Lesbian Rights, give the lesbian mothers' movement a historical grounding within the civil and women's rights movements. Further historical relevance is given the LMNDF and LRP as interviewees comment on these groups' efforts and their effects on the struggles of non-traditional families, such as single women and gay and lesbian couples to be legally recognized as parents.

Recommended for high schools with history curriculum that focuses on US History after WWII, public libraries, especially those in

urban areas or areas with a large GLBT or single-parent population, and academic libraries at campuses with strong US History, GLBT or Women's Studies programs.

Further reviews and product information are available at: <http://cart.frameline.org/productdetails.asp?productcode=t655>

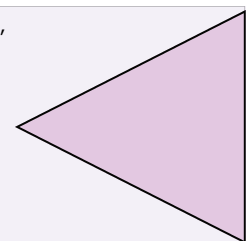
**Xima Avalos**  
Media and Digital Assets Librarian  
California College of the Arts



If you've read the Stonewall Award winners for this year (Andrew Holleran's *Grief* and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*), come contribute to our online book discussion!

If you go to our blog: <http://blogs.ala.org/glbtrt.php>, you'll see the posts regarding the two books. Click on the "feedback" link to read what others have said—and be sure to leave your own comments!

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## Selected Resources for GLBT School Librarians

### Homophobia and Its Impact on Students

Adelman, Madelaine, and Kathryn Woods. "Identification Without Intervention: Transforming the Anti-LGBTQ School Climate." *Journal of Poverty* 10, no. 2 (2006): 5-26.

Blackburn, Mollie V. "Combating Heterosexism and Homophobia." *Language Arts* 84, no. 2 (2006): 172-173.

Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network. "[2005 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools](#)." (2006). (PDF)

Goodenow, Carol, Szalacha, Laura, and Kim Westheimer. "School support groups, other school factors, and the safety of sexual minority adolescents." *Psychology in the Schools* 43, no. 5 (2006): 573-589.

Herbeck, Joyce. "Creating a Safe Learning Environment." *Book Links* 14, no. 3 (2005): 30-30.

"Homophobia 'as unacceptable as racism' in schools." *Education* (14637073) (2006): 5-5.

Mayberry, Maralee. "School Reform Efforts for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Students." *Clearing House* 79, no. 6 (2006): 262-264.

Samuels, Christina A. "Gay and Lesbian Students." *Education Week* 25, no. 34 (2006): 18-18.

### GLBT Literature in Schools

Meixner, Emily. "Teacher Agency and Access to LGBTQ Young Adult Literature." *Radical Teacher* (2006): 13-19.

Swartz, Patti Capel. "It's Elementary in Appalachia: Helping Prospective Teachers and Their Students Understand Sexuality and Gender." *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Issues in Education* 1, no. 1 (2003): 51.

Taylor, Jami. "The library collection and transgender individuals." *Versed: Bulletin of the Office for Diversity*, American Library Association, January (2006).

Taylor, Jami. "Information seeking and information use in the transgender community." *Current Studies in Librarianship* 26, no. 1&2 (2002): 85-109.

Whelan, Debra Lau. "OUT and Ignored." *School Library Journal* 52, no. 1 (2006): 46-50.

*These bibliographies are part of a larger collection of resources, the Office of Intellectual Freedom's GLBT Toolkit: "Out in the Library: Materials, Displays and Services for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community," online at:*

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/ifttoolkits/glbtoolkit/glbtoolkit.htm>

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