



# GLBTRT Newsletter

A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender  
Round Table of the American Library Association

<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>

Vol. 23, No. 4

Winter 2011

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## Vote!

Deadline: April 27, 2012

## *From the Chair:*



The midwinter ALA was very successful for the GLBT Round Table. Thanks to Dale McNeill and Sandy Swan, from the Philip Johnson Resource Center Library; for organizing a great social, we had a great crowd, good food and a lot of fun with the icebreaker.

For the second year the Stonewall Book Award Committee participated in the ALA Youth Media Awards as the Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's and Young Adult Literature Award was announced as part of the Monday morning event. It still sends shivers of excitement through me to see our award as part of this event and in the AP release mentioning our award with the Newbery and Caldecott winners and the rest of the Youth Media Awards.

Several members of the round table attended a session with Alexander Street Press to discuss their new Gay and Lesbian Thought and Culture database. The database will be launched in the summer of 2012. More to follow as details are available.

As I write this update, I have already done the scheduling for the round table meetings, programs, and events for the annual conference in Anaheim. There are great programs scheduled, along with the brunch and social. Hope to see many of you in Anaheim!

## *From the Round Table Councilor:*



ALA Midwinter is invariably easier to negotiate than Annual. At Annual, things are a whirlwind of events, and to be back in the comfort of a very air-conditioned hotel room with the roomies, debriefing on the day's events, is welcome indeed. No, Midwinter is not so hectic. Still, I had a busy handful of days in Dallas.

There were no resolutions arising from the round table at Annual, nor were there any arising elsewhere that had specific implications for the round table. In fact, Council was remarkably quiet this time round. There was one resolution, called Resolution on Publishers and Practices Which Discriminate Against Library Users, that – after some 40 minutes of lively debate on its tone, passed handily. The “Which: in the title still grates on me, though.

The most notable resolution arising from committees was one from the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) condemning the restriction of access to materials in Arizona schools following legislation that cut Mexican American studies from the curriculum. Though IFC sought support from many parts of ALA, the committee did not think to come to the RT as potential allies. I'll remind them of this in the future—this wasn't a GLBT resolution, but our own communities are certainly sympathetic to the plight of other minorities, I believe. [Council actions will soon be posted online here.](#) [Check to see my voting record here.](#)

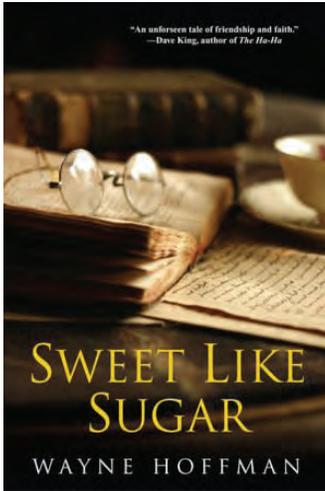
A fine RT social and the delight of the newly named Stonewall Book Awards-Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children's & Young Adult Literature Award as part of Monday morning's Youth Media Awards were other high points from Dallas. Now to look ahead to Anaheim!

I invite you to contact me directly with questions or conversation about them. I am available at [phepburn@uic.edu](mailto:phepburn@uic.edu) or 312.996.6633. You can also follow me on Twitter (@phepbu); during conference I can get pretty active with commentary on what's going on with Council.

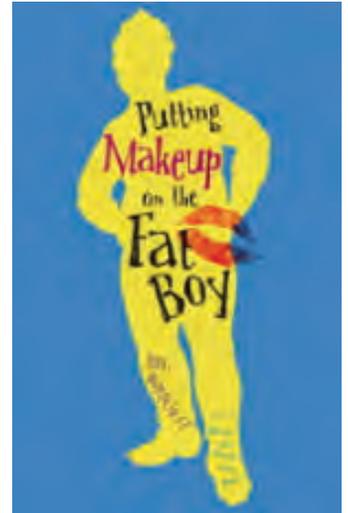
# Stonewall Awards

Given annually to English-language titles of exceptional merit relating to the LGBT experience, the GLBTRT Stonewall Book Awards currently include the following: the Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's and Young Adult Literature Award, the Barbara Gittings Literature Award, and the Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award. For more information about the Stonewall Book Awards, please visit [www.ala.org/stonewall](http://www.ala.org/stonewall).

## The Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's and Young Adult Literature Award:



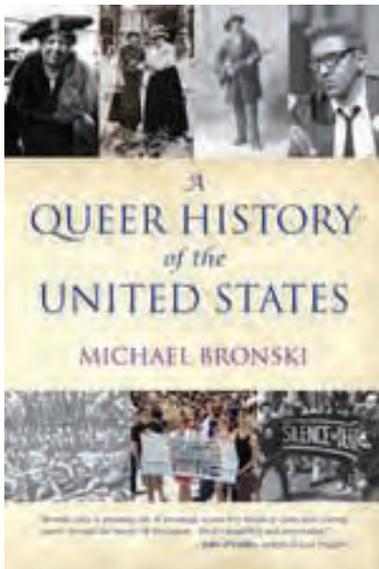
**Putting Makeup on the Fat Boy** by **Bil Wright** (Simon & Schuster BFYR): Carlos Duarte wants nothing more than to be successful as a makeup artist and nothing—neither his sister's threatening boyfriend nor the boss who is threatened by Carlos' talent—will stand in his way. The dream never wavers as Carlos beautifies the world—one face at a time—in this refreshing, funny, poignant novel.



## The Barbara Gittings Literature Award:

**Sweet like Sugar** by **Wayne Hoffman** (Kensington): When Benji Steiner, a 27-year-old Jewish gay man, forms an unlikely friendship with elderly Orthodox Rabbi Jacob Zuckerman, the connection results in surprising new revelations and explorations of faith for both.

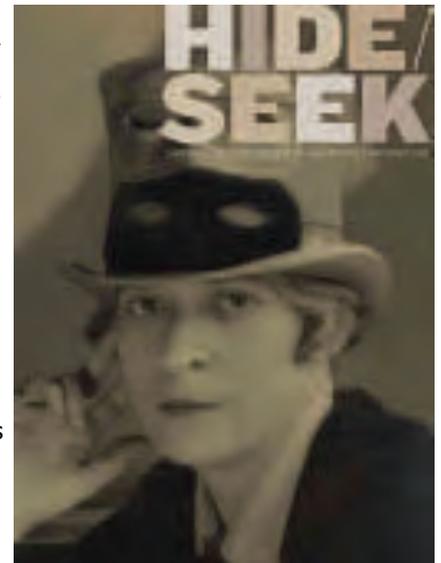
## The Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award (the first tie in this category since 1995):



**Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture** by **Jonathan D. Katz and David C. Ward** (Smithsonian Books):

This companion volume to an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, follows the impact of gay and lesbian artists on American art through more than 140 full-color illustrations, drawings, and portraits during the last century.

**A Queer History of the United States (Revisioning American History)** by **Michael Bronski** (Beacon Press): To "[examine] history through the lens of those groups whose stories have been excluded from the canon" this first book in a series uses primary documents, literature, and culture histories to cover the dynamics of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history from pre-1492 to the present.



**GLBTRT Newsletter** (ISSN 1533-7219) is an official publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association. It appears quarterly in March, June, September, and January.

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### Newsletter Deadlines for Submissions:

Spring 2012	3/15/12
Summer 2012	5/31/12
Fall 2012	8/31/12
Winter 2013	11/31/12

# Stonewall Honor Books

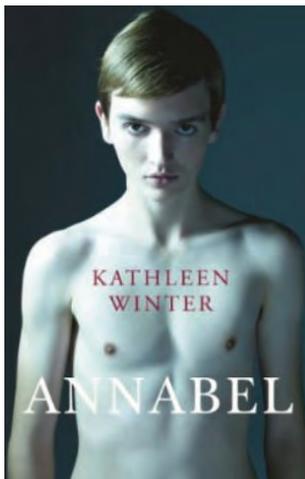
## The Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's and Young Adult Literature Honor Books:

***a + e 4ever* by Ilike Merey** (Lethe Press): Asher and Eulalie are thrown together in that ambiguous crossroads where gay and straight, love and friendship, boy and girl meet in this exciting new graphic novel.

***Money Boy* by Paul Yee** (Groundwood Books): Ray Liu finds it hard to fit in. He's a young gay man in a new country, and now finds himself living on the streets of Toronto. He finds the reality of his new life is nothing like the future he'd dreamed of in this compelling novel.

***Pink* by Lili Wilkinson** (HarperTeen): Ava is smart, talented and has the world's most tolerant parents. What she really wants though, is to trade her old life for a new one in this novel of youthful choice, revelation and discovery. When she gets what she asked for, Ava learns choices have consequences and love can be found in the most unexpected places.

***With or without You* by Brian Farrey** (Simon Pulse): Evan lives a life of secrets—from his parents, his friends and from his boyfriend. When his world is turned upside-down, Evan must make choices which will affect his life and those he loves.



## The Barbara Gittings Literature Award Honor Books:

***Annabel: A Novel* by Kathleen Winter** (Black Cat/Grove Press): When a baby both male and female is born in 1968 remote Labrador (Canada), the father raises the baby as a boy, Wayne, keeping the child's dual gender secret even from Wayne, while two women nurture the child's female side. As an adolescent, Wayne confronts Annabel, the chosen identity.

***Remembrance of Things I Forgot: A Novel* by Bob Smith** (University of Wisconsin Press): Ready to break up with his physicist boyfriend, comic book dealer John Sherston unexpectedly travels back 20 years to the 1980s in a time machine to his youth where he tries to change his life. Smith's satiric tale of family dysfunction, suicide, and politics covers both personal and national blunders.

***The Temperamentals: A New Play* by Jon Marans** (Chelsea Station Editions): The communist Harry Hay and Viennese refugee and designer Rudi Gernreich fall in love while putting together the Mattachine Society in pre-Stonewall times. "Temperamental" was code for "homosexual" in the early 1950s.

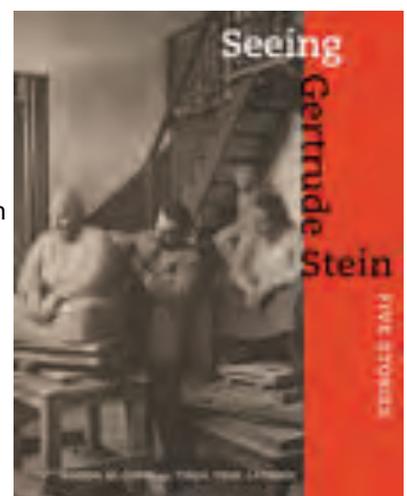
## The Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award Honor Books:

***Nina Here Nor There: My Journey Beyond Gender* by Nick Krieger** (Beacon Press): A San Francisco queer describes his journey from his femme lesbian friends to the trans-male community of the Castro in an exploration of gender-variance.

***Persistence: All Ways Butch and Femme* edited by Ivan E. Coyote and Zena Sharman** (Arsenal Pulp Press): Twenty years after the publication of Joan Nestle's *The Persistent Desire: A Femme-Butch Reader*, Coyote and Sharman continue the conversation of lesbian butches and femmes through fiction, non-fiction, and poetry from their favorite lesbian/transwomen authors.

***Seeing Gertrude Stein: Five Stories* by Wanda M. Corn and Tirza True Latimer** (University of California Press): In this companion book to an exhibition and using a variety of media from press clippings to furniture, the authors discuss the portraits for which Stein and partner Alice B. Toklas posed, their domestic settings, and style of dress as well as Stein's connections with other artists.

To recognize the title's place as a unique text bridging the Literature and Non-Fiction categories, the Stonewall committee named a special Barbara Gittings Literature and Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award Honor Book: ***The Picture of Dorian Gray: An Annotated, Uncensored Edition* by Oscar Wilde and edited by Nicholas Frankel** (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press).



## 2012 Rainbow Book List Top Ten

Recommended GLBTQ books for young readers from birth through age 18. This year's list includes 32 titles published between July 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2011. The complete list is at <http://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/>



**Beam, Cris. *I Am J*.** Little Brown, 2011. 352p. \$16.99. ISBN: 9780316053617: Though born Jennifer, he knows in his being that he is male completely, just born into the wrong body. Can he make his family and friends understand what he knows, that he is J?

**Bray, Libba. *Beauty Queens*.** Scholastic, 2011. 400p. \$18.99 ISBN: 9780439895972: In this wildly hilarious novel by Libba Bray, contestants from the Miss Teen Dream Beauty Pageant crash on a remote tropical island where everything is not as it seems. Danger and wild adventures lurk around every corner for these unforgettable beauty queens!

**Brezenoff, Steve. *Brooklyn Burning*.** Carolrhoda Lab, 2011. 202p. \$17.95. ISBN: 9780761375265: Running away from home to lose the pain through music, 16-year old Kid finds acceptance and more in Scout, another soul lost in the music during the Brooklyn summer.



**Goode, Laura. *Sister Mischief*.** Candlewick, 2011. 367p. \$16.99. ISBN: 978-0763646400: Sixteen-year-old Esme is a witty, wisecracking out lesbian with a tight circle of accepting friends. Together they form a hip-hop crew called "Sister Mischief" in a refreshingly positive take on both homosexuality and hip hop music and culture.



**Lo, Malinda. *Huntress*.** Little Brown, and Young, 2011. 384p. \$17.99. ISBN: 978-0316040075: Kaede and Taisin journey to the Fairy Queen in order to save not only their kingdom but also the entire world. Will their mission bring them together forever, or tear them apart?

**Miracle, Lauren. *Shine*.** Abrams, 2011. 376p. \$16.95. ISBN: 978-0810984172: After her once-best friend, Patrick, falls victim to a vicious hate crime and neither the local nor federal law enforcement seems interested finding the culprits, Cat sets out to discover who in her town could have hated Patrick enough to have almost taken his life because of his sexuality.

**Newman, Leslea. *Donovan's Big Day*.** Illustrated by Mike Dutton. Tricycle Press, 2011. 32p. \$15.99. ISBN: 978-1582463322: It's a very BIG day for young Donovan--get ready, get dressed in his best with a bow tie, and be the ring bearer when Mommy and Mama get married!

**Peters, Julie Ann. *She Loves You, She Loves You Not*.** Little Brown, 2011. 278p. \$17.99. ISBN: 978-0316078740: After her father disowns her for being gay, can Alyssa pick up the pieces of her life and believe in herself again in a new town, living with a mother she never knew?



**Ryan, Patrick. *Gemini Bites*.** Scholastic, 2011. 240p. \$17.99. ISBN: 978-0545221283: When Garrett, a boy of ambiguous sexuality, moves in with twins Kyle and Judy, both siblings find themselves drawn to their new roomie's Goth sensibility. But the question is, "How does he feel about them?"

**Wright, Bil. *Putting Makeup on the Fat Boy*.** Simon & Schuster, 2011. 240p. \$16.99. ISBN: 978-1416939962: Most teenage boys dream of being makeout artists. Carlos Duarte, on the other hand, dreams about being a makeup artist! When he gets a part-time job at Macy's cosmetics department, he figures fame and fortune are just around the corner.

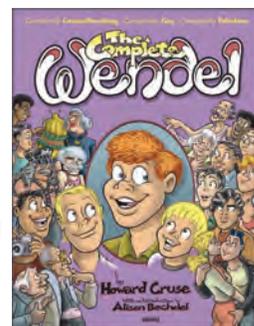
## 2012 Over the Rainbow Book List Top Ten

Recommended GLBTQ books for adults: This year's list includes 74 titles published between July 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2011. The complete list is at <http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/overtherainbow/>

**Alenyikow, Michael.** *Ivan and Misha: Stories*. 2010. 212 p. Triquarterly/Northwestern University Press. \$18.95. 978-0810127180. Each story in this collection of short stories revolving around two brothers and their Russian father living in New York City is told from a different character's point of view as Alenyikow poignantly explores the brothers' attitudes toward their father, each other, and being gay in America.

**Bronski, Michael.** *A Queer History of the United States (Revisioning American History)*. Beacon. 2011. 312p. \$27.95. ISBN: 978-0807044391: To "[examine] history through the lens of those groups whose stories have been excluded from the canon" this first book in a series uses primary documents, literature, and culture histories to cover the dynamics of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history from pre-1492 to the present.

**Cruse, Howard.** *The Complete Wendel*. Universe Publishing, 2011. 288p. \$24.95. ISBN: 978-0789322166: Including every episode of this groundbreaking comic strip and its recurring cast of gay characters that ran in *The Advocate* during the 1980s, this first-time collection has introductions by Cruse and Alison Bechdel and a new "Where Are They Now?" section.



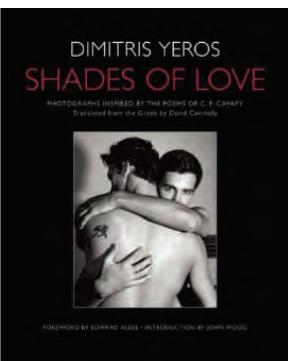
**Festing, Issy.** *The Bird Keeper*. Book Guild Limited, 2010. 264p. \$21.00. ISBN: 978-1846244940: When Satchin Rai refuses to take over his father's successful tea business and becomes an ornithologist at a bird sanctuary in northwest India, a mysterious British visitor to the sanctuary upsets Satchin's world by being so free (and Western) about his life responsibilities and sexuality.

**Hollinghurst, Alan.** *The Stranger's Child*. Knopf, 2011. 448p. \$27.95. ISBN: 978-0307272768: When George Sawle brings his schoolmate and secret lover, the poet Cecil Valence, home in 1913 to meet his family, the poem Cecil writes in George's sister Daphne's autograph book as a result of that visit will have an impact on the family that lasts several generations.

**Mehta, Rahul.** *Quarantine: Stories*. Harper Perennial, 2011. 224p. \$14.99. ISBN: 978-006202045: In these short stories nine second- and third-generation South Asian-American gay men at odds with their family's culture and expectations describe their lives filled with humor, disappointment and frustration.

**Merey, Ilike.** *a + e 4ever*. Lethe Press, 2011. 214p. \$18.00. ISBN: 978-1590213902): Asher is the beautifully androgynous new boy in school; Eu is the lonely dyke girl who befriends, and soon finds herself falling for, Ash. This graphic novel explores the complexities of love, friendship, sex, gender, and sexual identity.

**Persistence: All Ways Butch and Femme.** Edited by Ivan E. Coyote and Zena Sharman. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2011. 256p. \$19.95. ISBN: 978-1551523972: Twenty years after the publication of Joan Nestle's *The Persistent Desire: A Femme-Butch Reader*, Coyote and Sharman continue the conversation of lesbian butches and femmes through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from their favorite lesbian/transwomen authors.



**Puenzo, Lucia.** *The Fish Child (The Americas)*. Translated by David William Foster. Texas Tech Press, 2010. \$26.95. ISBN: 978-0896727144: Told from the point of view of the family dog, this novella about the romance between Argentinian Lala and her maid Guayi takes a strange turn when Guayi disappears without a trace. Lala tries to trace her to her native Paraguay, where she learns some shocking secrets about Guayi's past and the legend of the fish child that lives in the lake.

**Yeros, Dimitris.** *Shades of Love: Photographs Inspired by the Poems of C.P. Cavafy*. Poetry by C.P. Cavafy; translated by David Conolly. Insight Editions, 2011. 168p. \$75.00. ISBN: 978-1608870134: A new English translation of early twentieth-century poetry from the man called the greatest modern Mediterranean poet is enriched by stunning, erotic photography.

## Candidates: Director-at-Large



### Frank Cervone

Current Position: Vice Chancellor for Information Services and CIO (2009), Purdue University Calumet, Hammond (IN)

ALA Activities: ACRL Standards and Accreditation Committee Vice-chair (2011-2012); LITA Technology and Access Committee (2011-2013), Representative to IFLA (2011-2015), International Relations Committee, Chair (2009-2011), Assessment and Research Committee (2007-2011)

Major Accomplishments: I have been fortunate to work with great people who have provided me with the opportunity to serve the profession in many ways. Perhaps my most influential accomplishments on behalf of the profession have been the numerous workshops and sessions I have led for CARLI, ILCSO, and INCOLSA and at LITA National Forum, Computers in Libraries, and Educause on various topics such as project management, social networks, and assessment and evaluation. Personally, my greatest accomplishment was the completion of my Ph.D. and subsequent publication of my dissertation as a book chapter.

Statement of Professional Concerns: At this point, it is almost trite to say that librarianship is undergoing a significant change. What has not changed, however, is the need for effective and visible leadership in the profession from the GLBT community. While GLBT acceptance in librarianship is probably greater than in other professions, it is too easy to assume that this is true for all people in all circumstances and we cannot become complacent. The work the GLBTRT has done in the last decade to increase services to and awareness of the information needs of GLBT people as library patrons has moved the community forward greatly. However, we also must continue to maintain our role as advocates and spokespeople for GLBT librarians, especially those working in areas that are still ridden with homophobia and transphobia and who cannot safely speak for themselves.



### David Bruce Combe

Current Position: Librarian Specialist (1999), Ventura County Library, Ventura (CA)

ALA Activities: GLBTRT Stonewall Award Committee 2011 and 2012 awards; Book Reviewer, GLBTRT Newsletter

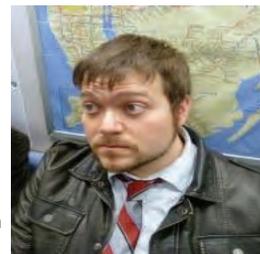
Major Accomplishments: Helped to manage the merger of two library collections following the closure of a library branch, complete with dealing with angry clients, negative press coverage, and oversight by both the city, county, and an outside consultant. Developed a program to support work-related research needed by employees from all county departments, including creating a library collection, coordinating with non-library department managers and county administration, and creating promotional materials. Co-created a collection to support a locally taught Masters in Social Work degree program, in cooperation with the staff of the University of Southern California Social Work Library in Los Angeles, with document delivery from campus, and access to Social Work online services, delivered locally at the Ventura County Government Center, and providing specialized library reference services.

Statement of Professional Concerns: The round table's vital missions to support both the GLBT professional community and the information and reading needs of the GLBT community are still urgent. Over the past several years I have volunteered in the Roundtable in two areas: reviewing books and films for the newsletter and as a member of the Stonewall Awards Committee. As a round table director, I want to help GLBTRT to continue its outreach to the library and public community, to expand ways to help libraries of all kinds to better their collections to support GLBT community, and to promote and honor excellence in writing and publishing. Everyone, no matter where they live, should be able to find themselves and their lives in library collections.

### Joel Nichols

Current Position: Techmobile Manager (2011), Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia (PA)

Major Accomplishments: Encouraging interdepartmental and interdivisional staff cooperation through initiating brown bag lunches for Children's librarians, creating and managing a wiki for staff collaboration, coordinating the e-voting process for our internal Mock Caldecott, generating internal documents for other staff (how to set up a branch Facebook page, how to write a book review for our website), etc. Pioneering the Techmobile Program, including developing the curriculum, managing an outreach plan, conducting on board trainings and supervising other trainers. Promoting and delivering bilingual library services at the Free Library, including children's programming and outreach to parents and other adults. Integrating virtual and digital library services with analogue ones, such as using multimedia tools in hands-on after school science programs and using author websites to enrich a book club discussion. Creating (with colleagues) an "It Gets Better" Video that stressed library services and resources.



Statement of Professional Concerns: Digital inclusion and increasing digital literacy skills and access in vulnerable populations. Early literacy and the importance of teaching and modeling family literacy that prepares children to succeed in school and strengthens family connections and parents' literacy skills. Professional ethics and continued professional development in order to deliver superior information services that are user-centered, available to all communities, relevant, and innovative. Teen and youth services that value the unique needs of young people, offer opportunities for empowerment and participation, and foster their development into literate, analytical, compassionate and respectful adults.



### Shawn Vaillancourt

Current Position: Education Librarian (2009), University of Houston, Houston (TX)

ALA Activities: ACRL EBSS, Instruction for Educators Committee (2011-); GLBTRT Program Planning Committee Chair (2011-), Program Planning Committee (2009-2011)

Major Accomplishments: Assisted with organization of GLBTRT programs in 2010 and 2011, including, notably, "The Rainbow Hollinger Box" and "Vampirism Just Got a Little More Colorful: Queer Vampires." Currently assisting the Instruction for Educators Committee with developing a rubric for IL assessment in Teacher Education.

Statement of Professional Concerns: I believe the key to successful librarianship is in understanding user needs, whether in work with the user populations I serve, promoting that understanding with other librarians, or in working to provide services and access that address these needs. It is to this end that I have pursued equity in access and developing a deeper understanding in users through instructional efforts as major focus areas in my career.

## Candidates: Director-at-Large



### Larry Romans

Current Position: Head of Government Information and Media Services, Political Science, Communications Studies, and Leisure Reading Bibliographer (1983-present), Central Library, Vanderbilt University, Nashville (TN)

ALA Activities: ALA Councilor (1992-), Executive Board (2007-2010), Executive Board Liaison to GLBTRT (2007-2010); GLBTRT Membership Committee Chair (2010-); GODORT Chair (1999-2000); many others

Major Accomplishments: Initiated resolutions that led to GLBTRT having a seat on ALA Council; crafted successful resolutions to expand ALA bylaws and policies to include lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders; worked to get ALA Conference Services to require sensitivity training among convention-site employees as a first step to avoid discrimination against transgenders; sponsored resolution passed by ALA Council that opposed civil marriage inequality; promoted GLBT issues while on ALA Council and Executive Board; made substantial contribution to the Stonewall Book Awards.

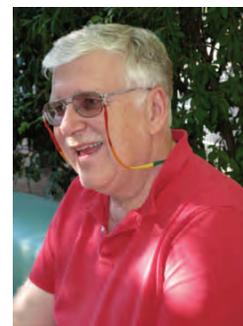
Statement of Professional Concerns: My professional concerns are to make GLBTRT more useful to our members, to promote cooperation among its leaders, and to publicize GLBT issues to the rest of the Association and to readers and librarians everywhere. Specifically, I want GLBTRT leaders to publicize the round table and its activities; lead in promoting and publicizing gay issues to all ALA members; expand a successful mentoring ("buddy") program; support the proposal for a new-member online discussion group; connect new members to the committees; increase leader contact with individual members; increase the sense of community among members; promote compromise to decrease conflict; increase the growing cooperation among leaders; raise funds for the Stonewall Book Awards; raise awareness of the Rainbow Book List and Over the Rainbow Book List and of other GLBTRT finding aids such as bibliographies.

### Stephen J Stillwell, jr

Current Position: Coordinator of Recruiting & Alumni/ae Affairs (2011), School of Information Resources & Library Science, University of Arizona, Tucson (AZ)

ALA Activities: Literacy Assembly (1998-2001); OLOS Search Committee (1996-7); Advisory Committee OLOS (1995-7); Ad Hoc Committee on External Relations (1995-7); ACRL Law & Political Science Section, Chair & other offices (1989-2000), Western European Specialist Section, liaison & committee assignments (1987-94), Mentor Program (2000); SRRT Action Council (1987-2001) Task Force chair, at-large, several liaison positions - Coordinator (1992-96); NMRT Mentor (1991)

Major Accomplishments: I have been torn between two professions--librarianship and history. I have managed to hold important offices in professional associations in both and contribute to the literature of both. My life has taken a turn where librarianship has again come to the fore and I want to do something positive for this profession again.



Statement of Professional Concerns: As the coordinator of recruiting and alumni/ae affairs for an LIS programme, diversity is obviously one of my big concerns. As someone in the profession for nearly 30 years, I have been aware of the issues for a long time. My now husband and I co-authored a piece back in 1994 for Library Personnel News on "Benefits for Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Library Staff." The issues raised in that article are still in all too many ways relevant today. Domestic partnership, civil union, and marriage rights are not universal and in some areas are retreating. These issues need to be addressed along with the censorship ones that continue to arise. I would like to work with and through the GLBTRT on all of these issues as the impact librarians, library staff, and our patrons.



### Lewis Brian Day

Current Position: Technical Services Librarian, (2006) Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge (MA)

ALA Activities: LRTS Editorial Board, ALCTS (2008-2012); GLBTRT Stonewall Book Awards Chair (2011-2012) and Member (2008-2012); Secretary (2006-2008); Membership Committee Chair (2004-2005) and Member (2003-2004); Freedom to Read Foundation Liaison (2004-2008)

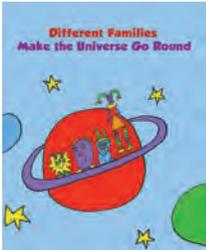
Major Accomplishments: I produced the 2011 Stonewall Book Awards Brunch in New Orleans with the logistical assistant of OLOS staff and the support of SBAC Chair, Lisa Johnston, and feel it was the best event of this type we've had. We had great food, great authors, a terrific location, and an amazing collection of free books at our author signing. I have worked with OLOS staff on the creation of commemorative lapel pins and bookmarks, both firsts for us, honor book stickers, and acceptance of two large endowment gifts. For the 2012 cycle, I led the Stonewall Awards Committee in our yearlong process of selecting four wonderful prize-winners and eleven worthy honor books.

Statement of Professional Concerns: My chief concern as a librarian is the continuing marginalization of the profession in this age when professional librarians are essential to unfettered information access. As a GLBTRT Director I'll work collegially with the officers and the rest of the board to continue the growth and evolution of the round table. I hope to see us continue to reach out to GLBT librarians, users, friends and allies with important resources, events and programs, including our book lists and reviews, web resources, bibliographical data, and our Stonewall Book Awards.

## Book Reviews: Children/YA Nonfiction

### Berna, Casey. *Different Families Make the Universe Go Round*.

Casey Berna and Matthew McNamara, Illus. [S.I.]: Kids Like Ike, LLC, 2011. e-book (pdf). [18pp.].



Casey Berna's *Different Families Make the Universe Go Round* is a picture book geared towards preschoolers that combines

color and number concept awareness with the underlying message that families (or aliens as they are depicted) are different, loving, and necessary.

Though the book is

unfocused and would have benefitted from one strong theme (instead of three) in order to prevent the main message from being lost, Berna and Matthew McNamara's illustrations -- depicting alien families in outer space -- are colorful and engaging.

If one is seeking a picture book that depicts family diversity or GLBT families, *Different Families* may not be the best option. The main descriptors include family size, height, and

color with mention of "two mommies" in the counting section.

The book is available electronically on the [Kids Like Ike website](#), which is geared towards providing parents and children in preschool with resources, books, and videos aimed towards creating a more peaceful world.

Reviewer: **Jennifer Troy**  
MLIS Student  
Drexel University (CA)

### Fakhriddin, Tina (with COLAGE). *Let's Get This Straight: The Ultimate Handbook for Youth with LGBTQ Parents*.

Berkeley: Seal Press, 2010. Paperback. 203p. \$15.95. ISBN: 978-1-58005-333-4.



"Statistics tell us there are about ten to fourteen million children living with LGBTQ parents in America alone." So starts the Tina Fakhriddin-Deen's thoughtful

handbook designed for youth with LGBTQ parents. The book delivers expectations for the intended audience by providing a timely survey of various people with LGBTQ parents who share their stories and feelings on the subject.

The book is balanced between educational narratives and journal space/questions for the reader to fill out as he/she works through the book. The chapters also include a quotes section that responds to questions, such as when the youth first realized his/her parent was not strictly heterosexual, and some poetry

pieces from the interviewees.

The book successfully encourages reflection and interaction, while also providing a further reading/viewing section and different resources the reader can contact for support.

Another positive about *Let's Get This Straight* is that it does not avoid controversial topics or issues that youth with LGBTQ parents may have questions or concerns about. The experiences mentioned include youth who struggled to define their own sexual identities in the face of bullying, abuse in LGBTQ families, and dealing with resentment of parents who come out later in life. As the author mentions in these sections, these may be topics that are typically avoided in order to try and help LGBTQ families look perfect in the face of intense scrutiny, but they are important issues to discuss.

Some of my issues with the book are relatively minor. The formatting is a little awkward and could stand more white space,

particularly for a book intended for ages ten and up. Additionally, sometimes the quizzes on how much the reader takes a stance for LGBTQ rights are a little too black and white in saying he/she is excellent or does not try hard enough, which is a surprising contrast to the bulk of the text, which seems to allow the youth interviewed to really voice authentic and sometimes controversial feelings and thoughts on different subjects.

These issues with the book aside, this volume is a strong entry for a subject that is going to become more and more prevalent as LGBTQ families start to expand and gain legal recognition.

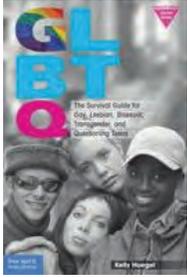
I recommend *Let's Get This Straight* for large public libraries and school libraries, particularly those with larger populations of LGBTQ families.

Reviewer: **Tracy Gossage**  
MLIS Student  
Dominican University

## Book Reviews: YA Nonfiction

### Huegel, Kelly. *GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens*.

Minneapolis : Free Spirit Publishing, 2011. Paperback. 240p. \$15.99. ISBN: 978-1575423630 .



Before "it gets better" was a campaign, Kelly Huegel was living proof that it does get better, and she wrote this book to help

teens make it better right now. Her 2003 book has been one of the best factual books to give a teen who needs reassurance and practical advice. Huegel confronts myths, explains slang, provides checklists, and includes comments by real teens.

The pages are laid out like a magazine with sidebars and text boxes, making the book look inviting to almost any

reader. If you want ideas on what to do when someone makes a homophobic joke, when you've been outed without your consent, when you're trying to figure out the dating rules for gay couples or want to say "no," or when you need to be reminded that you have the right to be who you are, this is the book.

Huegel deals with drugs, depression, religion, and safe sex, and, unlike some books with GLBTQ in their titles, this one really does address transgender, bisexual, and questioning teens' concerns. Links to more resources are given throughout and at the end.

A revised and updated edition published in 2011 covers many positive developments and new resources since 2003. For example, there is now an online high school for teens who cannot

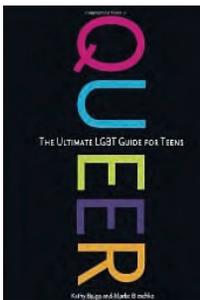
find a queer-friendly school where they live. And, naturally, already there are changes since publication; for example WPATH's Standards of Care for people who are transgender was revised in September, 2011. An odd omission is information on hormone blockers, a subject of intense interest to trans teens. And, while the dangers of street drugs, including hormones, are covered, there is no specific warning about silicone pumping.

Nevertheless *GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens* remains the best single book for teens who are either wondering about their sexual orientation or gender identity, or wondering how it will affect their life.

Reviewer: **Carolyn Caywood**  
Ret., Virginia Beach Public Library

### Belge, Kathy, and Marke Bieschke. *Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens*.

San Francisco: Zest Books, 2011. Paperback. 208p. \$14.99. ISBN: 978-9819733-4-0.



Until society treats people with traits such as brunette hair, tall stature, and queerness with the same nonchalance, LGBT books like this one are needed to help teens navigate their journey through their adolescent

years, or as the authors state, "Being different, of course, is something to celebrate. But it also means that sometimes you feel like you are from another planet. If so, think of us as your tour guides to Planet Queer!"

Included in this chatty conversation about living the gay life are topics such as coming out (to yourself and others), finding your people, homophobia, dating and relationships, and a frank discussion of queer sex in all of its varieties. While

much of the information offered is just good life advice (the section on first date pointers includes tips such as: keep it short, don't advertise, take it slow, don't play games), *Queer* also shares suggestions more specific to LGBT teens (such as the beauty of not having preconceived gender roles and having the opportunity to make your own dating rules). Transgender issues (such as making sure that your date knows that your biology doesn't match your psychology) are also covered.

Insert boxes offer additional information, such as gay history (along with dates at the top that address that tricky issue of timeliness), and life stories from the gay and lesbian authors that tie into the current topic. Christian Robinson's cartoon illustrations enhance the text and often add

levity. Finally, a resource section contains web links and books that offer additional information for teens.

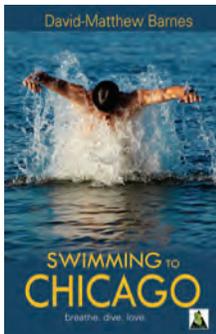
As a school librarian and GSA advisor, I deal with a number of LGBT students on a daily basis and am privy to their triumphs, disappointments, challenges, and successes. As I read this book, I found the answers to each of the questions and concerns that I often hear voiced. This title contains similar content to *GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens*, by Kelly Huegel; however *Queer* has a more informal, conversational tone. Strongly recommended for high school and YA collections.

Reviewer: **Sharon Flesher-Duffy**  
Library Media Specialist  
Nashua High South (NH)

## Book Reviews: YA Fiction

### Barnes, David-Matthew. *Swimming to Chicago*.

Advance Reader Copy. Valley Falls, NY: Bold Strokes Books, 2011. Paperback. 234p. \$13.95. ISBN: 978-1-60282-572-7.



Both a coming of age and a coming out story, *Swimming to Chicago* follows a year in the adolescent lives of two friends, Alex and Jillian. In the aftermath of his mother's

suicide, Alex's anger is uncontrollable, with his father a particular target.

When his father starts dating the new neighbor, a woman with a cruel if largely absent husband, matters deteriorate yet further. Alex is, however, drawn immediately to the woman's teenage son Robbie who, like Alex, happens to be gay. Alex has recently come to terms with his sexuality and the two quickly become a couple. Although he has found new happiness, Alex continues to hold a grudge against his father for doing the same.

In the meantime, Jillian has

developed a crush on her new English teacher, who is, by coincidence, Robbie's stepfather. Although he is middle-aged and she barely eighteen, they act on their attraction and have a tryst outside of the classroom, resulting in her pregnancy. When she tells his wife of her plight, it is revealed that this has happened before, and that it is one of the reasons they moved in the first place.

Over the course of the year, Alex and Jillian realize that they had been growing apart and, reunited, hatch a plan to get out of their small town and head to Chicago, the big city, to start a new life—just Alex, Robbie, Jillian, and the new baby. Things are not meant to be, however, and the book takes a shocking twist.

*Swimming to Chicago* reads less like a completed narrative than an early draft. A good editor could probably help this book become more rounded, smooth out some of the choppy language, and mitigate the unbelievable plot

points—chiefly that Alex's father begins dating his new love exactly one week after his wife's unanticipated death at her own hand, and that Robbie and Alex become fathers at the ripe old age of 18 and set about raising the baby with no assistance from their families.

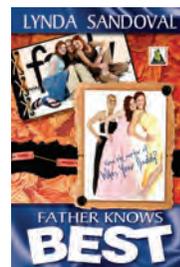
There are also unrealized elements, such as Alex's Armenian heritage, which is never developed even though it is mentioned frequently enough that one expects it to become a major aspect of his personality. These issues make it a relatively unpleasant read—the only characters with any appeal are Robbie and his mother—and Alex's anger and cruelty towards his father are deeply disconcerting.

Although I feel that the book has potential, I would not recommend it to libraries in its current form.

Reviewer: **Emily Faulkner**  
Librarian, Chicago Public Library

### Sandoval, Lynda. *Father Knows Best*.

Valley Falls, NY: Bold Strokes Books, 2011. Paperback. 270p. \$16.95. ISBN: 978-1-60282-226-9.



In this sequel to *Who's Your Daddy?*, the Three Amigas have separate goals for the summer before their senior year but stay in touch through texting rather than

"traveling pants."

All three narrate parts of the story, but the main focus is on Lila who is totally grossed out that her father is dating her boyfriend Dylan's mother Chloe. Meanwhile, Dylan's ex-girlfriend, Jennifer "Hellspawn" Hamilton, is pregnant and abandoned by her former friends who used to make life harsh for the Amigas. Meryl, the

saintly Amiga, befriends Jennifer and introduces her to the lesbian couple in whose shop Meryl works.

Gradually, Lila grows up enough to become friends with Jennifer, and with Chloe and to build a more honest relationship with Dylan. During all this, the third Amiga, Caressa is in New York working backstage on a Broadway show and falling in love with a hottie dancer.

Readers who follow the saga of Ann Brasheres' *Sisterhood* or who enjoy the texted adventures of Lauren Myracle's *TTYL* will find this a familiar story set in a small town in Colorado. They will also get the lesson of Jennifer, the former homophobe, who learns acceptance from the Amigas and decides to

give her baby to the lesbian couple.

What they will not encounter directly are any gay characters except for one three-page conversation between Meryl and one of the shop owners. They may also be puzzled by the abjectly apologetic Jennifer if they pick up this book without having read the first one. Jennifer's reformation gives the story a preachy tone, which is relieved by Lila's snarkiness and humor.

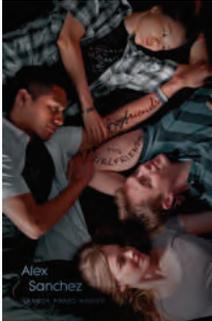
Where teen girlfriend stories are in high demand, this novel may offer a broader perspective to straight readers.

Reviewer: **Carolyn Caywood**  
Ret., Virginia Beach Public Library

## Book Reviews: YA Fiction

### Sanchez, Alex. *Boyfriends with Girlfriends*.

New York: Simon & Schuster, 2011. Hardcover. 224p. \$16.99. ISBN: 978-1416937739.



When Lance and Sergio decide to meet each other offline for the first time, each brings his best friend along. Allie and Kimiko find they like each

other almost as much as the two boys do. But naturally, both relationships encounter obstacles.

Lance has always known he is gay, but his only previous boyfriend was in the closet and they broke up over the stresses that created. Sergio was dumped by his girlfriend and is wary of it happening again. Lance is convinced there are only two kinds of people—gay and

straight—so he thinks that Sergio's claim of being bi is a cop-out.

Allie thought she was straight and is unsure what to make of her attraction to Kimiko. Plus, she's lost interest in her boyfriend, but he still loves her so she feels guilty about breaking up.

Meanwhile, Kimiko thinks Allie is way out of her league and is probably just curious anyway. But can she stand to just be friends with a shared interest in Japanese culture?

And then there are parents and the perils of coming out. Sergio's are mostly resigned, though his mother keeps praying that he will change. Kimiko's mother is determined to make her butch daughter more feminine. Lance has an accepting family, while Allie's doesn't really come into the story. One priceless

moment in the book is Lance's memory of announcing as a young child that when he grows up he is going to marry a man.

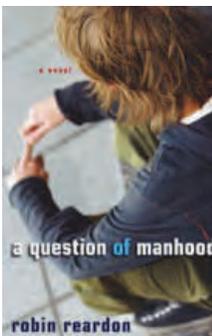
As he has in other novels, Sanchez creates characters that are real individuals who illustrate a range of possible responses to experiencing same sex attraction. And he writes about that attraction with passion and enough detail for readers to understand what's happening, without becoming so explicit that readers cry TMI.

In many ways, this is a very sweet and ordinary story of teen romance, but it becomes important as it addresses the experience of bisexuality and how that affects relationships with both gay and straight partners.

Reviewer: **Carolyn Caywood**  
Ret., Virginia Beach Public Library

### Reardon, Robin. *A Question of Manhood*.

New York, Kensington Publishing, 2010. 314p. \$15.00. ISBN: 978-0-7582-4679-0.



The Vietnam War seems to be ending at last and Paul, 16, can't wait to see his older brother who is in the Army. When Chris comes home on leave though, he shares a dangerous secret

with Paul: he's gay. And when Chris returns to battle, he is killed. Paul is left alone with his grief and the secret, which he cannot share with his family or friends.

Forced that summer by his disapproving father to work in the family pet store, Paul has to train J.J., a new employee who also happens to be gay. Paul resents J.J.'s positive attitude, talent, and intelligence but grudgingly realizes that he can learn

a lot from him. Paul's friendship with J.J. helps him process his grief and his anxiety regarding Chris' sexual orientation. It also helps him to stand up to his overly critical father.

This character-driven, coming-of-age story is told from an unusual point of view. Readers get to experience the homophobic society of America in the 1970s through eyes of someone with a gay sibling. The resentment that Paul feels towards Chris for being the favored son is juxtaposed with the grief Paul feels at his death. In addition, Paul has to bear the weight of Chris' secret, as well as his own confusion about it.

These combustible emotions comprise the internal action of the story and are authentically depicted. The atmosphere of the United States in the 1970s provides the cultural setting, but it isn't con-

veyed as masterfully by the author as the protagonist's emotions. It is doubtful that younger readers will be able to grasp from this novel alone how homophobia was such a cultural norm for the vast number of people in the U.S. so soon after Stonewall.

The absence of convincing 1970s-level homophobia and pop culture details are the only things that makes this novel lack verisimilitude. Readers who long for a heartfelt story of loss and redemption told from the point of view of homophobia's other casualties—the parents, friends, and families of gays—will be gratified by this author's accurate portrayal of Paul's emotional journey.

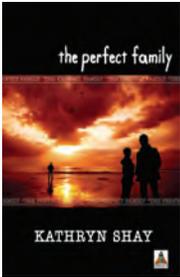
It is recommended for young adult collections in most libraries.

Reviewer: **S. Annelise Adams**  
Chicago Public Library

## Book Reviews: YA Fiction

### Shay, Kathryn. *The Perfect Family*.

Valley Falls, NY: Bold Strokes Books, 2010. Paperback. 313p. \$16.95. ISBN: 978-1-60282-181-1.



Kathryn Shay's *The Perfect Family* is the story of a Midwestern family coping with the coming out of their youngest son, Jamie. The story alternates between the points of views of all members of

the family, from Jamie's liberal mother, to his conservative father and stereotypical jock brother.

Jamie's struggle to be accepted as a gay teen is interspersed with the resulting marital troubles of his parents, as well as the spiritual conflicts of his Catholic father.

Although this novel covers many elements of coming out that GLBT readers might relate to, especially those with conservative backgrounds, it also struggles with stylistic issues that may hinder the enjoyment of YA and adult audiences alike.

Throughout the novel, it is unclear whether the reader is meant to identify with Jamie, the teen protagonist, or his parents. This, in combination with the awkward inclusion of romance novel tropes, ultimately feels uncomfortable. One example of this

is the open discussion of passion between Jamie's parents, while also delving into the sexual tension between Jamie and his love interest. The final product is a book that is highly reminiscent of mass-produced Silhouette and Harlequin romance novels, while also bringing to mind some of the sexuality of Alex Sanchez's *Rainbow Boys* trilogy.

YA readers may also feel put off by the datedness of much of the language used in this novel. Shay's use of slang demonstrates unfamiliarity with modern-day teen culture, and at times almost gives the impression that the story is occurring in a 1990's-inspired vacuum. For example: "He noticed right away that Luke hadn't showered. Jamie knew about the problems in the shower when the guys found out Luke was gay. *And it bummed him out totally.*" (Emphasis mine.)

In addition to its stylistic issues, this book also fails to produce a sense of authenticity by completely ignoring the impact of modern day GLBT culture on gay teens. For a book that supposedly takes place in 2010, there is a surprising lack of references to any of the icons of today's GLBT world—characters in *Glee*, Neil Patrick Harris's Twitter,

Dan Savage's *It Gets Better* project, even Lady Gaga goes totally unmentioned. Whatever one's opinion may be on those icons, it's almost inconceivable to me that a gay teenager in suburban Middle America could go through the entire coming out process without once referencing today's gay culture.

Although *The Perfect Family* is listed as YA, I would not recommend it for that demographic. Adult readers may be able to overcome occasional references to teenagers in the midst of sexual awakenings, but YA readers will be uncomfortable with the discussion of parental figures reigniting their passion for each other.

I would recommend this title to adult readers who enjoy the writing and style of mass-produced romance novels. This book could be a way for such an audience to gain insight into the experiences of GLBT youth through a comfortable, familiar medium. Mid-sized libraries with high circulation of romance and GLBT novels might consider purchasing this book.

Reviewer: **Emily Grantz**  
Learning Resources Technician  
Ohlone College, Fremont, CA

### Rice, M.L. *Who I Am*.

Valley Falls, NY: Bold Strokes Books, 2011. A Soliloquy YA novel. Paperback. 189p. \$13.95. ISBN: 978-1-60282-231-3.



Devin Kelly narrates a very personal, deeply emotional account of her senior year in high school. An Air Force brat, she is used to being uprooted and takes refuge in such geeky pursuits as reading and playing trumpet in the school band.

She is not close with her father who, she feels, "treats her more like an enlisted subordinate than a cherished daughter," but that doesn't prepare her for the changes that follow his sudden death. Devin

and her mother move to Los Angeles to be near family, and Devin begins to attend a regular public school. There she meets twins Jason and Melanie Parker.

When Jason starts bullying Devin on the first day of school, Melanie comes to her rescue. The girls quickly become close friends, and gradually Devin realizes that Mel means even more to her than that. Meanwhile, Jason has picked up on Devin's feelings, and responds with increasing viciousness.

Despite his cruelty, Melanie comes to terms with her feelings and becomes a stronger person and a better student.

In the course of the year, Devin

describes several coming out episodes that range from the best possible outcome to the worst nightmare. She shares love scenes that glow with authentic passion tempered with respect for the privacy of intimacy.

The narrative bears an implicit message that it does get better, in contrast to the cover which depicts a sobbing student huddled by the lockers.

This readable first novel should be popular with teenage girls who are exploring who they are.

Reviewer: **Carolyn Caywood**  
Ret., Virginia Beach Public Library

## Film Reviews

### *Riot Acts: Flaunting Gender Deviance in Music Performance.*

DVD. Dir. Madsen Minax. Actor Slash Model, 2009. Distributed by Outcast Films, 2010. 72 min.



How about a film that examines the creative work and challenges of a bunch of trans and queer musicians, a slice of queer American pie, served up hot with a generous portion

of performance footage. That is *Riot Acts*, which opens with the statement: "As a transperson, we have stories that we're not seeing and we need to see those. As a human, we have stories and we need to share them."

The stories touch a wide range of issues, including body image, songwriting, audiences, the effects

of transitioning on voice, "drag," and ultimately how gender performance blends into stage performance.

The producers of *Riot Acts* are Madsen Minax and Simon Strikeback of Actor Slash Model, a Chicago bluegrass duo. Minax also directs the documentary. As insiders in the transgender and gender variant music world in the U.S. and Canada, they were uniquely positioned to create this film, which is not so much an educational piece on transgender folk, but a presentation of the musical and personal journeys of the many featured musicians.

There is a rich selection of performances by The Degenerettes, Lipstick Conspiracy, Systyr Act, The Shondes, The Kliks, Trannysaurus

Sex, and Novice Theory, among others.

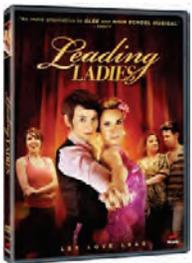
The many talking heads include Ryka Aoki de la Cruz (LA), Venus DeMars (Minneapolis), Geo Wyeth (NYC), Anderson Toone (SF) and Katastrophe (SF).

*Riot Acts* provides a candid, authentic look into the challenges and delights of performing gender variant music, and in the end, it is ALL ABOUT THE MUSIC in this "Transfabulous Rockumentary," which should find a home in all libraries.

Reviewer: **Morgan Gwenwald**  
Sojourner Truth Library  
SUNY New Paltz

### *Leading Ladies.*

DVD. Screener. Dirs. Daniel Beahm, Erika Randall Beahm. With Laurel Vail, Melanie LaPatin, Shannon Lea Smith, Benji Schwimmer, Nicole Dionne. Wolfe Video, 2011. 102 min. \$24.95.



*Leading Ladies* is an infectious combination of a dance movie marrying an LGBT coming-out and love story. The movie places you right in the midst of the all-female

Campari family as the comically obsessive mother pushes her two daughters to compete in the Midwest Regional Ballroom Competition.

Along the way both daughters end up discovering things about themselves which finally may cause them to seek independence from their well-meaning but suffocating mother.

The cinematography and choreography are excellent and convey the rhythm and dance of everyday life. The movie is visually stimulating and engaging at every turn, showing the sisters in a dance-like routine even as they simultaneously get ready for bed. Dance is incorporated into every part of their lives and that feeling is wordlessly con-

veyed on screen.

Unlike other comedies that attempt (and fail) to keep a lighthearted tone while incorporating drama, *Leading Ladies* nails the steps of an effective drama-comedy with ease, leaving the viewer to enjoy a rare glimpse into the more positive aspects of the coming out process. The romance between Toni and Mona feels authentic in the context of the story and is a surprisingly lighthearted affair for Toni's first relationship and realization she is a lesbian.

Realism is not the main goal as much a sense of cute amusement, so the lack of believability can be forgiven in the context of the film.

There cannot be enough good reviews of Laurel Vail as the main character Toni. Toni's ability to find joy even in the mundane such as her pizza place job radiates from the screen. She is a rare lesbian character who waltzes between incredibly realistic and impossibly adorable and charming. She is a character young lesbians will crush on and emulate at the same time. Toni's deadpan sarcasm makes a strong contrast to the high-drama of the other characters

that function as dramatic caricatures of the theater scene. Dramatic caricatures for the sake of comedy are not every viewer's cup of tea but they work in this film.

*Leading Ladies* is not without imperfections, notably a musical number towards the end which finally breaks the fourth wall along with the flow of the film. It would be nice to see more gay male best friends who are not flamboyantly effeminate, but with most of the characters functioning as walking stereotypes this fits the tone of the film. The movie loses steam tying up all its subplots without providing a satisfying resolution, which will leave some viewers wanting a much stronger ending.

Despite these grievances, *Leading Ladies* fills an empty niche in LGBT films by combining a lighthearted dance movie with a family comedy. *Leading Ladies* is recommended for larger public libraries, especially those housing larger LGBT collections and/or with demands for movies incorporating dance.

Reviewer: **Tracy Gossage**  
MLIS student, Dominican University

## Film Reviews

### *Bloomington.*

DVD. Screening copy. Dir. Fernanda Cardoso. With Allison McAtee, Katherine McGregor, and Sarah



Jackie, a former child star who romped about the universe in the television show *Neptune*, has moved from Hollywood to Bloomington, Indiana, to leave her life in and with the stars behind. She brings with her a troubled relationship with her Mom, an ambiguous future, and a liminal self. Enter Catherine, a college professor sprung from fantasy—tailored suits, pinned-up hair, intellect, a Porsche, and an adorable dog.

Suffice it to say, *Bloomington* does not tread new ground. We've been here before—*Desert Hearts*, *Liana*, and, of course, *Mädchen in Uniform* and *Loving Annabelle*. Despite that, the filmmaker spells out for us that Jackie is of age—the actress looks much younger than

the 20-plus years she is supposed to be. These efforts do nothing to make this relationship between a student and professor feel less uncomfortable. This includes a scene of Catherine bathing Jackie that feels more motherly than provocative.

The movie's uneven pacing begins with an unbelievable seduction scene at a department mixer where Catherine, without finesse but with success, seduces the young Jackie in a matter of moments. As one might guess, this love affair does not last. The director's flat handling of the end betrays her past experience editing television reality shows such as *The Real L Word* and *America's Next Top Model*.

There are moments of true charm and amusement in the *Bloomington*. That being said, more often than not the scenes of the actresses alone are more emotionally authentic than the

scenes they share. In particular, Allison McAtee (Catherine) communicates more emotional depth than one might expect with such a wanting script.

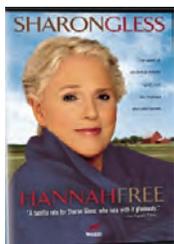
It should be mentioned that other viewers of this film have taken issue with both lead characters sleeping with men at the demise of their relationship.

Any library with a healthy budget devoted to purchasing films and a mission to provide equal access to LGBT materials should consider purchasing this film. Although it is not a great movie (it cannot be compared to the artfulness of *Mädchen in Uniform*), it is no worse than *The Switch*, another 2010 release that has doubtless been added to library collections in multiple copies.

Reviewer: **Analisa Ornelas**  
Training and Documentation  
Coordinator,  
Innovative Interfaces, Inc.

### *Hannah Free.*

DVD. Screening copy. Dir. Wendy Jo Carlton. With Sharon Gless. Wolfe Video, 2010. 87 min. \$24.95.



I really wanted to like *Hannah Free*. The DVD case has positive quotes from the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Huffington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *The San Francisco Examiner*.

The film won awards at the Philadelphia Q-Fest, the Austin LGBT Film Festival, and the Montreal International LGBT Film Festival. Sharon Gless, certainly a gay icon after her roles in *Cagney and Lacey* and in the U.S. version of *Queer As Folk*, is good, indeed the best thing about the film.

But she is better than the material, and her co-stars are not her equals in talent.

*Hannah Free* tells the story of a lesbian couple, Hannah and Rachel, over many years. In the present, they are in a nursing home, but kept apart because they are not viewed as being related by the staff or by other family members.

Different actresses play the couple at different ages in flashbacks (which are not in chronological order) that provide events from their childhood through to their present situation.

Hannah and Rachel are very different, which provides the story's conflict, and there are occasional separations: one due to Rachel's marriage to a man and another due to Hannah's wanderlust.

Hoping to understand this film differently, I spent some time

thinking about the women's biblical names and reviewing their stories in the Old Testament. But, regretfully, I ended up in the same place: Despite the review quotes, despite the awards, there is a point where the story's plot is obvious, and while I don't want to include a spoiler here, we've seen the ending before in a much better Oscar winner, *Million Dollar Baby*.

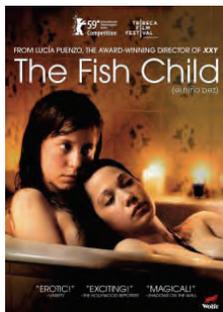
*Hannah Free* was originally produced on the stage, and perhaps something happened in the transition to film. It simply does not quite work and only libraries collecting LGBT films extensively will want to purchase.

Reviewer: **Dave Combe**  
Ventura County Library  
Ventura, CA

## Film Reviews

### *The Fish Child (El Niño Pez).*

DVD. Dir. Lucía Puenzo. With Carlos Bardem, Ines Efron, Mariela Vitale. Wolfe Video, 2011. In Spanish with English subtitles. 96 min. \$19.95.



Part crime drama, part love story, *The Fish Child* is a film that twists and turns with a narrative that jumps back and forth.

Adapted from the book of the same name, this film by Lucía Puenzo focuses on the love of two Latina girls.

Lala, the daughter of an Argentinian judge has fallen in love with one of the housekeepers, Ailin, who is from Paraguay. Though Ailin is below Lala in caste, she's more worldly, with plenty of facets to her past. They plan to run away

together, back to Ailin's hometown, with the money they have made from stealing.

Lala's father is murdered, however, and the film becomes fractured as Lala runs away to Paraguay to Lake Ypoa and waits for Ailin, who never arrives. By the film's end, the plot has become muddled and dark.

When it's over, even the average viewer will feel drained from all of the emotional wringing.

Though *The Fish Child* is a bittersweet love story that may leave some viewers with a feeling of hopelessness, it is an intriguing film, masterfully directed by the director of *XXY*. Additionally, Ines Efron's (Lala) acting is brilliant; her pain and emotional vulnerability really

jump out of the movie and are remembered long after the disc is ejected. And though the words gay and lesbian are never used in the film, the content solely focuses on the two young adults' affection for one another.

This film would make a great addition to an academic or public library that desires more foreign GLBT films that don't revolve around sex, but rather love.

One quibble: The film is grainy at times, especially when the narrative jumps back and forth from past to present in a somewhat hard to follow pace.

Reviewer: **Johnnie Gray**  
Interlibrary Loan Librarian  
Christopher Newport University

### *Mädchen in Uniform (Girls in Uniform).*

DVD. Screening copy. Dir. Géza von Radványi. With Romy Schneider, Lilli Palmer. Central Cinema Company Film, 1958. Redistributed by Wolfe Video, 2010. In German with English subtitles. 95 min. \$14.95.



Many of the queer women I know have a story about watching the original 1931 version of *Mädchen in Uniform*. The stories generally involve a

bootlegged VHS tape with poor tracking procured from an independent video store, or being passed around amongst a group of friends.

While this 1958 remake is not as seminal a work as the 1931 classic, it is a treasure in its own right, and Wolfe has done a great service by providing the film on video for the first time ever.

The story follows Manuela von Meinhardis, a recently orphaned

teenager, as she is sent to a strict convent for girls. The faculty of the school believes in stern discipline: a dictum on the girls' bedroom wall reads, "We're not put on this earth to be happy, but to do our duty." The exception is Fräulein von Bernburg, whose loving treatment of the girls leaves many of them feeling smitten.

Manuela begins to fall for Fr. von Bernburg, and the two share an innocent kiss as they practice a scene from *Romeo and Juliet*. But, things take a turn when Manuela reveals her feelings to the head of the convent, and their love is not meant to be (it is a lesbian movie, after all).

The film itself is beautiful to watch, as the Eastman Color lends a lovely hue. Though not quite as groundbreaking as the original,

this version of *Mädchen in Uniform* notably includes a few celebrated German actresses, who were likely risking their careers by appearing in the film.

Wolfe Video is marketing *Mädchen in Uniform* as a companion piece to their 2006 release *Loving Annabelle*, which also featured a student/teacher love affair. However, *Mädchen* should perhaps be recognized less for the plot element of forbidden love than the emotionally honest portrayal of lesbian love in an intolerant era.

Highly recommended.

Reviewer: **Caitlin Shanley**  
Instructional Design and  
Technology Librarian  
University of Tennessee at  
Chattanooga



## Candidate: Chair-Elect

### Roland C. Hansen

Current position: Head of Access Services and Planning, Columbia College Chicago Library

ALA Activities: GLBTRT Secretary, Chair, Treasurer, Clearinghouse Coordinator, Stonewall Book Awards Committee, Anniversary Gala Chair, Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee Chair; SRRT Action Council, Treasurer; ACRL Arts Chair, Arts Program Planning Chair, Arts 50th Anniversary Planning Chair

Major Accomplishments: I have been active in the GLBTRT for many years and was there when we became a round table, held many offices within the RT, witnessed our book awards become ALA awards, revised the bylaws twice, and organized all of the RT Gala celebrations marking our anniversaries from the 20th to the 35th. In 1980 I was secretary and was involved in the reorganization of the then GLBT Task Force. I was interim treasurer when we went from GLBT Task Force to GLBTRT.

Statement of Professional Concerns: I'm very excited about the new reorganization of the round table, something which I proposed several years ago. I will be glad to be part of the transition team. I'm also concerned about member participation and attendance since it becomes more difficult for members to get funds to attend conference and midwinter. There need to be alternative ways of meeting, and I hope we can explore some more ways to get members involved, whether in person or virtually. I know this is something many groups within ALA are grappling with. I'm also interested in the fund raising for the Stonewall Book Award Endowment and hope we can reach our next goal to possibly fund a fourth award.

## Candidate: Secretary

### Andrew F. Johnson

Current Position: OCLC Questionpoint Backup Librarian (2006–date), Dublin (OH); Reference Librarian (2008–date), College of the Desert, Palm Desert (CA)

ALA Activities: ALA Membership Committee (2001 -2004), Committee on Organization (2000-2006 and 2007-2009), Chapter Relations Committee (1999-2001); GLBTRT Secretary (2002-2005)

Major Accomplishments: Oversaw the successful resolution of a major fiscal crisis for the Pacific Northwest Library Association; served as a member for several years on the COO Committee on Electronic Meetings, ending with the successful submission of the report and recommendations to Council.

Statement of Professional Concerns: My major concern at this time is the provision in a timely manner of information on the activities of GLBTRT. At a time when we are beginning to operate under a new plan of governance, it is going to be critical that the membership at large be kept informed of the workings of the round table. As secretary it would be my duty to insure that all members know about the activities of the new board. In addition, it would be the secretary's responsibility to see that information is disseminated in all electronic formats to insure the receipt of information by the members.



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