



GLBTRT Newsletter

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

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

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Fall 2012

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From the Chair...

In September our staff liaison, Elliot Mandel left ALA's Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) of ALA and accepted a position as the Communications and Development Manager at Rush Hour Concerts, a small performing arts organization in Chicago. Over the years, Elliot has juggled many responsibilities with grace. He was a tremendous help to us and he will be missed.

Elliot has left us in the very capable hands of OLOS Communications Specialist [John Amundsen](#). John has already been a tremendous help to the GLBTRT, going above and beyond the call of duty a number of times already in the last few months. He is already on the board roster as our staff liaison, and I will add him to all committee rosters as a contact. Since August I've been busy planning our Midwinter Meeting schedule.

Our tentative schedule is posted on [our site](#). All the times are the same as last year's meetings. We hope to keep this level of consistency for our committee and board members.

In the spirit of supporting ALA's new [initiative](#) to reduce the size of conferences, the board [decided](#) to discontinue our second meeting at Annual Conferences and Midwinter Meetings. Board members noted the meeting was often cancelled over the years and always conflicted with Council meetings. This also seems like a good time to reduce face to face meetings at conferences because the board is embracing monthly meetings.

In September and October the board had two online meetings using Adobe Connect. They've been learning experiences for us. As we become skilled with using the tool, we will open these meetings up for membership to attend. There are also recording features we can explore.

To help keep track of progress, I've set up calendar items for each of our meetings in the board calendar. These calendar items will hold our meeting agendas and our meeting notes. All meetings have been scheduled for 2:00-3:00 PM (Central Standard Time).

*GLBTRT Board Meeting [12 November 2012](#)

*GLBTRT Board Meeting [17 December 2012](#)

*GLBTRT Board Meeting [14 January 2013](#)

Past Meetings (notes will be posted soon):

*GLBTRT Board Meeting [24 September 2012](#)

*GLBTRT Board Meeting [22 October 2012](#)

At the end of October I'll begin working with committees on planning meetings and programs for 2013 Annual.

The 2013 ALA Election will soon be upon us. We have five important board seats opening. Please share this information far and wide. Encourage people to get involved. Our organization needs people we can depend on to keep it moving forward. Visit our [Elections Page](#) to learn more about it.

During the coming months, I'll be appointing representatives and liaisons for the round table. Please contact me if you're interesting serving in one of these roles. Watch the Representatives & Liaisons [page](#) and membership email list for updates.

I'd like to introduce you to [Kristen Hylton](#), our liaison to the New Members Round Table (NMRT) until the close of 2013 Annual. She will monitor the GLBTRT communication channels for events, announcements, and program dates to share with the NMRT email list and also share NMRT events and announcements with the GLBTRT members.

[Michael Miller](#) is our liaison to the [Legislation Assembly](#) (a sub group of the [ALA Committee on Legislation](#)). He will be sharing a draft legislation agenda and priorities list with membership in mid-November. Membership will have about a month to comment on it. Michael will then absorb recommendations and share them with the board for the 14 January online meeting.

Please let [me](#) know if you can volunteer or if you know someone else who can volunteer for one of the following:

1. Alternate Legislation Assembly Representative. (Check the Representatives and Liaison [page](#).)
2. Volunteers in the Chicago area to plan our Social for 2013 Annual. The volunteers would be working directly with our Treasurer, Dale McNeil.

David

Barbara Gittings Way Dedicated in Philadelphia



Most appropriately, on October 1, the first day of LGBT History Month, Barbara Gittings, the mother of the gay civil rights movement, was honored in Philadelphia. In accordance with a measure that was unanimously approved by Philadelphia City Council, the block of Locust St. between 12th and 13th Streets was dedicated as Barbara Gittings Way. I took the day off to attend the 30-minute ceremony held in the heart of Philly's gayborhood. The Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus provided music, and speakers described Gittings' invaluable contributions to the GLBT community and recited inspiring quotations from her.

One speaker talked about gays suffering lobotomies in California, shock treatments in New York, and incarceration in mental institutions in Pennsylvania. Barbara Gittings was instrumental in stopping all that by persuading the American Psychiatric Association to eliminate homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. The turnout for the dedication was very good for the middle of the week.

Before the ceremony began, a young straight couple crossed the street near me. The woman yelled, "One man, one woman!" My eyes

teared up as I listened to stories of Barbara Gittings' life, but I frequently had to step out of the way to keep from getting run over by double-wide baby carriages pushed through the crowd by mothers and nannies on their way to an indoor children's playground at the intersection where the dedication was held. For decades, a seedy go-go club had been on that site. You can't stop gentrification!

In 1970 Gittings founded the ALA's Task Force on Gay Liberation, which became the SRRT GLBT Task Force before it evolved into the GLBT Round Table. One of the three Stonewall Book Awards is the Barbara Gittings Literature Award. We owe so much to this fantastic woman.

I'll always remember hearing Barbara Gittings speak at the GLBT Round Table's social during ALA Mid-Winter 2003 at the Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, which houses the Barbara Gittings Collection of GLBT books and other materials. Where are her equals today?—W. Stephen Breedlove, Reference and Interlibrary Loan Librarian, La Salle University Library



[Bruce Yelk](#) of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corp. wrote:

"Known as the Mother of the LGBT Civil Rights Movement, Gittings (July 31, 1932 – February 18, 2007) resided in Philadelphia. She was the editor of the first lesbian publication. With Frank Kameny, she organized the Annual Reminders at Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, which launched the LGBT civil rights movement. Gittings spearheaded the successful initiative to have the American Library Association include gay and lesbian books in the nation's card catalogues and libraries. Kameny and Gittings challenged the American Psychiatric Association, resulting in homosexuality being removed from the list of mental illnesses."

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American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.,
Chicago, IL 60611

Please send correspondence to

Nel Ward, Editor
nelcward@charter.net

Newsletter Deadlines

Winter 2013	12/15/12
Winter Supplement	2/15/13
Spring 2013	4/1/13
Summer 2013	5/15/13

Youth News



GLBTRT Newsletter *is fortunate to have Jenna Goodman as a new columnist! In her words, "Jenna is a SLIS student with an emphasis in youth services at Indiana University. She hails from Wisconsin but she does not like cheese curds nor does she watch Packer games. She does, however, have a thick Wisconsin ac-*

cent. She likes to say she enjoys running, but in reality she has only run one 5K, and what she liked best about it was getting a cool t-shirt. What she really enjoys is watching crime shows on TV and crocheting blankets. Her goals in life are to become a cat owner and to visit all 50 states before she is 30 (37 down, 13 to go)."

We still hear stories of GLBT youth being bullied. We still hear stories of books being banned for GLBT content. Yet, recently there have been a lot more stories of success and hope. For example, the story of student Jordan Addison: over the course of three months, his car was damaged and vandalized with homophobic slurs four times. The manager at a near-by auto shop heard about this, and decided to help out. He pulled in support from other local auto businesses and fixed Jordan's car adding some [major upgrades](#). [Ellen DeGeneres](#) discovered this story and featured Jordan and the auto-shop manager, Richard, on her show.

Then, there's the story about the transgender third grader in New Hampshire who found a school that will treat her the same as any other girl, including being able to use the girls' restrooms. Her transgender status is being labeled confidential, which means the girl and her family can decide when and if they want to let others know that she is [transgender](#).

The trend of success and hope continues not only through individual stories, but also through national statistics. GLSEN reported in their 2011 National School Climate Survey that "the 2011 survey found for the first time both decreased levels of biased language and victimization and increased levels of student access to LGBT-related school resources and [support](#)." The statistics of bullying are still alarmingly high, but hopefully this marks the turning point and those numbers will continue to decline.

Along with growing acceptance and support for the GLBT community came more visibility. We are seeing more fictional GLBT characters in movies, TV

shows, and books. These characters and the stories they are in are constantly gathering more recognition. *Modern Family*, a show focusing on a large family that includes a gay couple, has won the Emmy award for best comedy series three years in a row!

Based on the predictions of *School Library Journal's* [blog](#) "Someday My Printz Will Come," it looks like this could be a year for books with GLBT content to win major awards. The contributors to the blog came up with a list of possible contenders for the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature. They provided two lists: books with three or more starred reviews from major review journals and the buzz-list of books that have received a lot of attention. There are a handful of books on these lists that feature a GLBT character. Here are a few examples:

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz: Aristotle and Dante are 15-year-old boys who meet in the summer of 1987 by the pool. These two loners develop a strong friendship and set out to discover the secrets of the universe together. However, they realize that they must discover the secrets within them first.

Every Day by David Levithan: A wakes up in the body of a different person every day. The body might be male or female, fat or skinny, healthy or sick. The only consistency is age; it is always a body the same age as A. A can access the body's memories to find out information about the life of this person. A's rule is not to interfere, but instead simply try to live the day as this body normally would. All rules change when A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets his girlfriend, Rhiannon. Rhiannon is someone that A wants to be with every day, in any body, and A will stop at nothing to find her and try to find a way to make it work.

The Miseducation of Cameron Post by Emily Danforth: When Cameron's parents die in a car crash, her initial feeling is relief. Now they will never have to know that she was kissing a girl a few hours earlier. Conservative, Christian, Aunt Ruth, moves in to become Cameron's guardian in rural Miles City, Montana. Cameron is expected to blend in and behave, but when she becomes friends with beautiful Coley Taylor, everything changes. Coley has a boyfriend, but the two girls start to form an intense relationship. Cameron thinks it is just about to develop into something more when Ruth finds out and sends Cameron away to the Christian school, God's Promise, to learn "appropriate gender roles."

Could one of these or another GLBT-themed book win the Printz this year? We'll find out in January! I, for one, hope these stories with positive portrayals of GLBT characters continue to get critically recognized. With more stories of hope for GLBT youth in the news, I would like to continue seeing these stories represented in the fictional world as well.

What I Did on My Summer Vacation'

A Summer Internship in Florida, by Jarred Wilson

I spent my summer interning at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Library in Sarasota, Florida. With over 90,000 volumes, the library is one of the largest art museum libraries in the southeastern United States. Its professional staff of four librarians provided me with a wealth of experiences that will help me as an information professional. In addition to library-related experience, I also gained exposure to other areas of museum operations.

Most people would assume that the art museum world is rife with homosexuals, whose attraction to the finer things in life bring them together in a profession where that interest can be expressed. I found out that this summer that that assumption is both correct and incorrect. I encountered quite a few gay and lesbian people in my time at the Ringling. They had professional backgrounds in fields that you might expect or assume, including fine arts, dance, and theater. However, there were gay and lesbian people working in many other areas of the museum that were not directly related to art. I think that they would consider the museum world a place where a gay or lesbian person would feel safe and accepted, even if they did not fit into the gay-and-artistic cliché.

One thing I quickly learned, however, was not to immediately assume that a person (especially a male) was gay just because they were artistic. Going into the internship, I had the idea that the museum would be a welcoming and diverse place where I would encounter scores of smart and interesting human beings. And in

my mind this, of course, meant they were all fabulous and gay. But I had to stop myself from assuming that every well-dressed and articulate man I met was a homosexual. I quickly learned to check myself and realize that the museum world, with its liberal and artistic people, were open-minded and accepting, and that's why the men were nice. They weren't gay, but they were all right with me being so.

I would like to say that I felt more safe and accepted in this environment because it was gay-friendly. I certainly never felt ashamed to talk about who I was, and in the library and around the museum people got to know me and knew about my partner. They knew that I was involved in GLBT causes. But because my internship was just for one summer, I was not dealing with seeking promotions ("did I not get that promotion because that administrator is homophobic?") or any of those long-term establish-yourself-in-a-workplace kinds of issues.

However, I was constantly aware that the museum is part of a Florida state agency, and my colleagues were working in a state that afforded no protections to them as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender persons. No level of acceptance among their colleagues could stop a homophobic administrator from coming in and firing people he or she did not like simply because they were gay. I suppose that the message I took away from this was that a safe and accepting workplace is a wonderful thing to have, but it is wise to be aware of the realities. **Fighting for the right to legal protections, which don't exist in a majority of jurisdictions, is still necessary.**

Sign up for Discussions and Get Involved!

A continuing thread on the GLBTRT Email List, the round table's forum for communication, began earlier this year with Carolyn Caywood's question about whether "GLBTRT could exercise some influence on library architecture, building policies, and signage, etc., so as to make life a little bit easier for persons who are transitioning." She wrote that her involvement in planning a branch library led to an ungendered "family restroom."

Jane Sandberg offered a solution with "<http://safe2pee.org/>, a directory of about 4,000 gender-free bathrooms, mainly in the U.S. She wrote that "libraries that currently offer such bathrooms should make sure they're listed, while libraries currently unable to offer non-gendered bathrooms can let patrons know about the resource, and add any nearby non-gendered bathrooms they might know about."

Grafton Kale Kevan agreed that the site was a "good idea" but wrote that "few bathrooms are listed." Asking his campus GLBT group for a list of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus caused better signage on these, including signs on places in office clusters previously considered "faculty" bathrooms. Kevan also brought up the problem that gender-neutral bathrooms use "Family Bathroom" for signage, a misnomer sometimes giving a sense of entitlements to parents with small children.

According to Gary Klein, Western Oregon University has provided [resources](#), both on and off campus, for "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Allies" under the banner of "safe zone" that includes all gender-neutral bathrooms on campus.

Some GLBTRT members brought up the potential cost of single-stalled bathrooms. One suggestion was creating stalls with "proper down-to-the-floor doors and walls," leaving the sinks out in the hall. Using his history of planning library buildings, Dale McNeill reported that gender-neutral toilets in large buildings would not add significantly to the cost if the buildings are new and not being remodeled. Carolyn Caywood also responded, "I remember when money was the reason for not having ramps or stalls for persons with disabilities. I even remember when sending all children to integrated public schools was supposed to be too costly. When the conscience catches up, the money is found."

Help Wanted

The [Lesbian Herstory Archives](#) (Brooklyn, NY) is looking for **library and/or archive interns** to work in a casual, friendly, dedicated environment where they are supervised by professional librarians and other archives staff. Interested parties should [email](#) for more information.

In 2011, the [Campaign for Southern Equality \(CSE\)](#) launched its WE DO campaign of public actions across North Carolina and parts of the South to increase public support for LGBT rights. These included same-sex couples requesting marriage licenses and then remaining in the Register of Deeds Office after being denied. The actions were documented with photos, videos, web pages, etc. **The campaign is searching** for long term documentation, storage, preservation and accessibility of these materials and needs help from librarians to consult concerning the ideal location(s) of these materials, the need regarding copyright and formats, and discussion of any other issues arising in this project. People interested in more information or helping with this project should contact [Jill Ellern](#). The [Facebook](#) page and YouTube [video pages](#) are also available.

Rachel Wexelbaum, Collection Management Librarian at Saint Cloud State University, is **looking for ideas about how classic LGBT literature could be digitized for a global audience**. Part of this project might be identifying quality literature from other countries, much in the same way that GLBTRT and Lambda Literary do in the United States, and determining ways that these materials can be translated to an electronic format. People interested in such a project may contact [Wexelbaum](#) by email or at (320)308-4756

The [Transgender Archives](#) at the University of Victoria holds the world's largest collection of archival material related to modern transgender activism and research. The Archives is interested in **building this collection and making it more accessible**. Anyone with material suitable for the transgender archives or who wishes to support the Archives through a [financial donation](#)

may contact Academic Director Dr. [Aaron Devor](#) or University Archivist [Lara Wilson](#).

Sian Brannon, a doctoral student in the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Woman's University, is looking for **participation in dissertation research study** entitled "Examining the Fieldwork Experience from the Site Supervisor Perspective: A mixed-methods study using Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development theory." The purpose of this research is to determine the current practices of public library fieldwork supervisors. **Participants must hold a Master's degree** from an ALA-accredited library school and have supervised at least one fieldwork student in a public library within the past five years. Participants will be asked to complete an online survey requiring 15 to 30 minutes. More information about the study and the survey is available at the website. can be found at this [website](#). The survey closes 11/16/12; questions can be sent to [Brannon](#) or Dr. [Lynn Akin](#).

The ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section is accepting **nominations for two annual awards** to honor distinguished academic librarians who have made outstanding contributions to women and gender studies through accomplishments and service to the profession. The awards recognize those who have made long-standing contributions during a [career](#) (the Career Achievement Award) and those who have made significant [one-time contributions](#) (the Significant Achievement Award.) Deadline is 12/7/12.

The ALA Public Programs Office is now accepting [nominations](#) for the **ALA Excellence in Library Programming Award**, sponsored by the ALA Cultural Communities Fund. The award will recognize a library that demonstrates excellence in library programming by developing and presenting a cultural or thematic program or program series during the previous year (September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012). The Award consists of \$5,000 and a citation of achievement, to be presented during the ALA Award Presentation at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference. Deadline is 12/1/12.

News Bits

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) is a US-based international non-governmental organization that addresses human rights violations against lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, intersexuals, transgender people and people with HIV/AIDS. It is accredited by the United Nations and holds consultative status with that organization. Their newsletter is called [Outspoken](#).

Family Research Council's Tony Perkins is criticizing the American Library Association for a curriculum that educates students about their library privacy rights. "Stopping them just got a whole lot harder," Perkins said in his radio address. "The Left wing's favorite billionaire, George Soros, is giving the ALA a half-million dollars a year to develop a 'privacy curriculum' that teaches kids how to 'bust through censor walls,' 'encrypt their communication,' and 'override filters.' Even worse, librarians are told 'to inform students that their book circulation data will never be shared with anyone, including their parents.'" Thank you, ALA and George Soros.

Those Who Led the Way

[Bill Brent](#), a prolific author of sex-positive literature and a member of San Francisco's alternative sexuality communities, died during the weekend of August 18-19. He ended his life by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge after a long struggle with depression and chronic pain. During the 1990s, Mr. Brent was involved in the Bay Area bisexual, BDSM, Black Leather Wings radical faerie, and pro-sex literary communities. He also published *The Black Book* – one of the first queer and alternative sexuality directories – and edited or contributed to more than 30 erotic anthologies. Mr. Brent was 52.

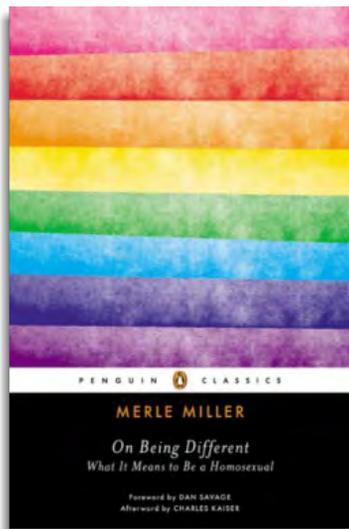
Shulamith Firestone, author of the highly influential *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case of Feminist Revolution* and a major supporter of cyberfeminism, died on August 28, 2012. She was a central figure in early radical feminism and a founding member of the New York Radical Women, Redstockings, and New York Radical Feminists. Ms. Firestone was 67.

Roxanne Jones, creator and CEO of L-Books, died suddenly on September 26, 2012, from severe lung congestion. Born on December 6, 1949 in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Ms. Jones formed the company that publishes lesbian books, eBooks, and audio after her retirement in Palm Springs (CA). Donations in her name can be made to the [Desert Cancer Foundation](#), 74091 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

[Tereska Torrès](#), a convent-educated French writer credited with writing America's first lesbian pulp novel, died on September 20, 2012, at her home in Paris. Published in 1950 and reprinted in 2005, *Women's Barracks* was a fictional version of her wartime experiences in London with the women's division of the Free French Forces. Ms. Torrès was 92.

Miller, Merle. *On Being Different: What It Means To Be a Homosexual.*

Penguin Classics, 2012, c1971. Paperback. 74p. \$13.00. 978-0-14-31-696-8.



The year was 1971; the date was January 17th. Stonewall was a memory not yet two years old, activism had taken the form of local gay liberation front actions against practices such as police harassment and discrimination in employment and housing, the idea of "LGBT" had yet to be thought of, and the slogan "out of the closets and into the streets" was popular. Not the best climate in which to pen an essay for the Sunday section of the *New York Times* on the

dimensions of being homosexual—and yet journalist and editor Merle Miller did it.

Frankly subtitled his piece "What It Means to Be A Homosexual," he laid out for his own and later generations the obstacles of taught prejudice associated with what we now term a gay identity in a stinging and wide-ranging rebuttal of a deeply homophobic piece by Joseph Epstein that had appeared shortly before in *Harper's Weekly*. The courage that it took to spell out the details of a subject that was not considered fit for print also created a mirror of the social landscape whose limitations gay people were beginning to successfully challenge, a process that continues in our own day.

The essay was republished in book form later in

1971 under the title *On Being Different* and reviewed in the November 24, 1971 issue of *The Advocate*. The review looked at two other works, Arthur Bell's *Dancing The Gay Lib Blues* and John Murphy's *Homosexual Liberation*, and noted that much of the criticism of the original *Times* piece came from homosexuals who were more worried about projecting an image straight people could live with than seeing a man come to terms with his sexual orientation without accepting the stereotypes of the day.

Despite the contemporary impact of Miller's essay on both gay and straight America, his book has not been reprinted until this year. The 2012 reissue by Penguin Classics provides the original 20-page text, augmented by a thoughtful foreword written by Dan Savage and a challenging afterword by journalist Charles Kaiser, author of *The Gay Metropolis* (1997).

Appendixes help place Miller in context with the texts of a letter Miller wrote to his wife a few weeks before the essay appeared, an obituary composed by an old friend, and notes on Miller's essay by Dr. Frank Kameny. When I was looking for books on what I was in the course of my path to coming out in the 1970s, *On Being Different* was the only book our local library in western Pennsylvania had under "homosexuality," and I devoured it.

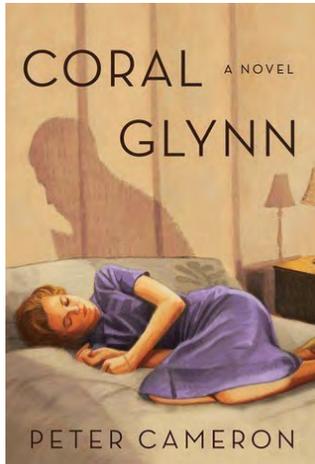
Forty years later, the thoughts and philosophies it promotes make it a vital piece of LGBT history that has been restored to the attention of a new generation.

**Reviewer: Robert Ridinger
Northern Illinois University**

Book Reviews: Fiction

Cameron, Peter. *Coral Glynn*.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2012. Hardcover. 210p. \$24. 978-0-374-29001-9.



When Coral Glynn arrives to work as a nurse to the elderly Mrs. Hart in her secluded English country home, she finds mysterious behavior from the other characters: Mrs. Hart's son, Clement, badly scarred during World War II; Robin, Clement's boyhood lover; and Dolly, Robin's wife.

In a leisurely manner, similar to the peeling of an onion, the subtext of Clement's and Robin's homosexuality through the early 1950s invades

everyone's lives and keeps the plot twisting as the troubled Coral Glynn seeks opportunity for peace, if not happiness, before her world falls apart.

While character studies permeate the novel, the plotting, which includes a chance glimpse of a child's game that leads to murder, thrusts Coral into greater misery and isolation until she finds her solutions in an

unexpected way.

The darkness in this slim volume highlights arcane and clandestine desires, which might resolve in the most surprising ways and at other times leave loose ends, but always unfold at a graceful pace while characters sort out their personal lives.

The beauty of the book lies in the elegant writing, reminiscent of twentieth-century British fiction in which the reader perceives motives "through a glass darkly" in an oblique fashion rather than directly. Revelations come through the characters' experiences instead of the author's explanations in this novel that appears to be more a part of the post-World War I time period than 30 years later.

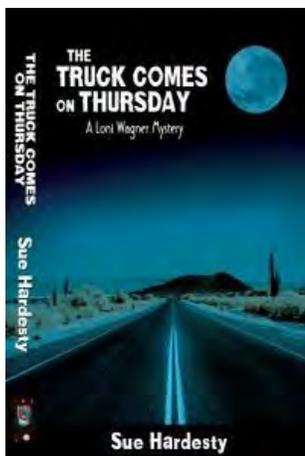
This quiet period piece is far different from Cameron's earlier YA novel, *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*, but it is equally satisfying, providing a sense of hope for those who struggle through their lives.

Coral Glynn is highly recommended for readers and libraries of all kinds.

Reviewer: Nel Ward
Retired Librarian, Oregon

Hardesty, Sue. *The Truck Comes on Thursday: A Loni Wagner Mystery*.

L-Book ePublisher, 2011. 368p. 9781934889824 \$17.95 pbk; 9781934889817 \$10.95 ebook; 9781934889831 \$13.95 audiobook



Drawing on her experiences and knowledge of Arizona's deserts and landscapes, Hardesty combines police work, mystery, and romance with Native American culture, family, and loss into this entertaining and attention-grabbing debut novel.

The protagonist, Loni Wagner, has returned home to her maternal grandparents, Native Americans who raised her on a ranch at the request of her German father. Suffering from the loss of Maria, her partner in love and work, Loni is re-

minded why she left, the hatred towards half-breeds and the chauvinistic attitudes towards females in gen-

eral.

As she readjusts to small-town life after her city life in Los Angeles, Loni finds herself forced to tone down her lesbian, two-spirit self while investigating a major drug and human trafficking ring. Loni is the outsider who sees everything with a fresh eye.

Little does anyone know that the Chief of Police is the ringleader, and his attempts to thwart and stomp down Loni come not from prejudice but instead from his desire to save himself. Plot twists, romance, hope, and despair all come together in this gut-wrenching, tear-jerking, hope raising tale of romance and mystery.

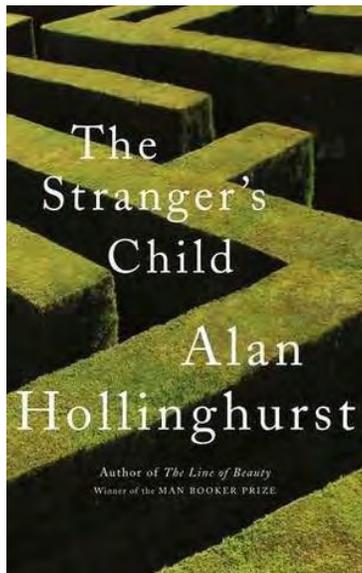
This book is a wonderful addition to any romance or mystery collection as well as for those interested in reading about police work, Native American culture, and a touch of Arizona history.

Reviewer: s.n.

Book News: Timothy Kurek learned homophobia from his Nashville Christian church. Yet discovering that a lesbian friend's parents had disowned her made him start to reconsider. He decided to live like a gay man for a year and wrote a book about the experience, *The Cross in the Closet*.

Alan Hollinghurst. *The Stranger's Child*.

Knopf, 2011. Hardback. 435p. \$27.95. 978-0-307-27276-8.



Alan Hollinghurst is one of Britain's most prominent writers and the most famous gay writer, like Edmund White and Felice Picano rolled into one. He burst upon the scene with his *Swimming Pool Library*, which won the Somerset Maugham Award in 1988 and the E. M. Forster Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1989. Next came *The Folding Star*, *The Spell*, and *The Line of Beauty*, which won the prestigious Man Booker Prize and was made into a BBC mini-series.

Now we have another magnificent, complex, multi-layered novel, *The Stranger's Child*. The title comes from a line in a Tennyson poem, "Unwatch'd, the garden bough shall sway," read aloud by the young poet Cecil Valance during his first visit to the middle-class home, Two Acres, of his boyfriend George Sawle. The key line is "And year by year the landscape grow [sic] Familiar to the stranger's child." The reader assumes the stranger to be Cecil, and the child refers to

one of the novel's enduring mysteries.

This is a historical mystery novel in reverse, designed for readers who like to sneak to the end of a novel to see how it ends. Most of the facts are in the opening section, just before World War I, when George invites Cecil, a member of the landed gentry and heir to an enormous estate complete with an ugly Victorian manor house, for a weekend at his much more modest home. These two young men, both undergraduates at Cambridge University, are engaged in a passionate love, or perhaps more accurate, sex affair.

Daphne, George's younger sister, falls madly in love with Cecil, who flirts with both her and the young male servant who cares for him. On his departure Cecil writes what will become one of his most famous poems, "Two Acres," in her autograph book. After he goes off to war, he stays in touch with George and Daphne, and Daphne visits him, on leave in London, just before he is killed.

Did Daphne get pregnant with her first Child, Corinna? That's the mystery that pervades the novel. Hollinghurst's narrative follows Daphne's marriage to Cecil's younger brother Dudley and their divorce when Daphne runs off with the gay artist Revel Ralph before her third and final marriage.

Each of the novel's five parts, set a generation apart, introduces a new character, requiring the reader to learn the character's relationship with previous characters, and each generation focuses on sorting out the true story of Cecil and his affairs. In the third section, gay Paul Bryant has just begun working in a bank managed by Leslie Keeping, Corinna's husband. Keeping suffers agoraphobia from the war and can't bear to be alone; Paul meets others in the family, including Daphne, when he walks Keeping home. In the fourth section, Paul has left the bank and becomes a biographer, determined to uncover the Cecil's mysteries of Cecil. In the last section, set in 2008, Paul reveals the family's secrets, including Corinna's paternity.

I found the novel to be engrossing. Although much is revealed in the early pages, there are gaps, and the story becomes the efforts of succeeding generations to find the truth.

Any fan of LGBT historical mystery fiction will want to read it, and any library collecting serious British fiction must have this book. It's a masterpiece.

**Reviewer: James Doig Anderson, Professor Emeritus
Library and Information Science
Rutgers University**

The GLBTRT Review Committee is grateful to publishers for providing books and films for our volunteer reviewers. We regret that we are unable to review all the materials that are submitted but wish to acknowledge these titles so that our readers will have information about books and films submitted to the GLBTRT Newsletter.

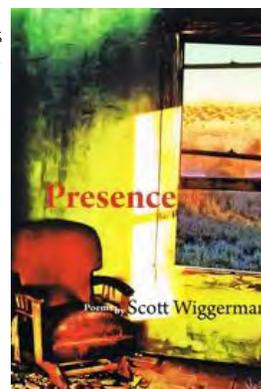
Martha Miller. *Retirement Plan: A Crime Novel*. Victory/Bold Strokes, 2011. Paperback. 312p. \$16.95. \$16.95. 978-1-60282-224-5.

After Lois and Sophie lose all their retirement savings, they find a new career—that of contract killers. Their foil is Homicide Detective Morgan Holiday who has yet to accept her own lesbianism.



Scott Wiggerman. *Presence: Poems*. Pecan Grove Press, 2011. Paperback. 86p. \$15. 978-1-931247-95-5.

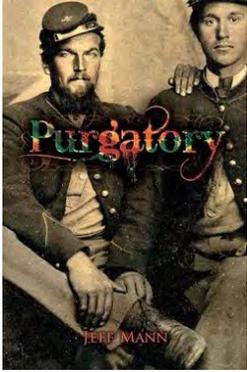
In this follow-up to *Vegetables and Other Relationships*, Wiggerman divides his poems into five sections—Water, Air, Earth, Fire, and Spirit—to represent the forces of nature. According to a review by Larry Thomas, "there are four major thematic threads which run throughout and seamlessly unify the tapestry of the collection: 1) the gay male's courageous triumph against the evils of bigotry and discrimination; 2) the inadequacies and shortsightedness of religious orthodoxy; 3) the power and transcendent capabilities of love, both sensual and spiritual; and 4) the indefatigability of a fierce human spirit which celebrates the now and embraces the beautiful mystery at the core of ephemeral human existence."



Book Reviews: Fiction

Mann, Jeff. *Purgatory: A Novel of the Civil War.*

Bear Bones Books/Lethe Press, 2012. Paperback. 273p. \$18. 978-1-59021-375-9.



Toward the end of the Civil War, a small ragtag band of Confederate troops are retreating from an overwhelming number of Yankee soldiers. Ian Campbell, a small bookish soldier, is assigned by his brutish uncle "Sarge," the troop's leader, to guard "Herculean" Drew Conrad, a lone Yankee soldier whom Sarge captures. Sarge has a history of capturing handsome young Yankees, torturing and eventually killing them, and that's what Sarge plans to do with Drew.

For the next 225 pages, Ian recounts Drew's torture at the hands of Sarge and some of his men, who focus their rage on a helpless foe. Drew is a Christ figure who is viciously whipped, kicked, punched, spit on, peed on, almost starved, bound, left in the elements, and "bucked"--tied naked in the rain around a wheel. Drew's torture is certainly not ritual bondage with role playing and safe words.

Drawn to Drew, Ian helps him by treating his wounds and providing shelter and food, despite Drew's impending

death. Sarge wants to make a man out of Ian and forces him to participate in the mistreatment. Once before when Ian had been interested in a Yankee prisoner, Sarge strangled that prisoner with his bare hands. At the same time that Ian wants to comfort Drew, Ian realizes that he is sexually aroused by Drew's being bound and tortured.

The reader has to suspend disbelief that Drew could take so much abuse and yet have enough strength to keep up with the daily marches. Moreover, Ian talks daily about trying to escape, but he keeps postponing any action even as Drew declines in strength.

This is a difficult book to review. Some readers will see the book as an excuse for relating gratuitous violence and sex; others will find the violence too disturbing. I don't know if a BDSM reader would find the book erotic.

Yet *Purgatory* is well-written and well-researched. It's a romance like no other, and in the end the strange but believable romance is what *Purgatory* is about. Each reader must decide for himself whether he likes the book, but I recommend it to gay males who can accept the sadism that permeates the book.

**Reviewer: Larry Romans
Vanderbilt University Library**

Allen, Gregory G. *Well with My Soul.*

ASD Publishing, 2011. Paperback. 327p. \$14.95. 978-0-9836049-0-7.

Two voices tell this touching, almost scary, tale of brothers set primarily in New York City from the 1970s through the 1990s.

Living "the life" filled with drugs, sex, and stars, Jacob is adrift, never finding his true self and searching for structure and meaning in his life. When he serendipitously encounters religion outside Radio City Music Hall, Jacob gives up his life of sin to lead his own church in his newfound religion.

In his new strict religion, Jacob goes to the opposite extreme, giving up and denouncing his homosexuality and other vices. Instead he becomes a preacher and uses his own interpretations to embrace the religion's doctrines. Happily living the traditional American dream in his new life, he marries a woman in his new life and has two children. Estranged from his past lover and partner, Jacob takes such a fanatic approach to his religion that he alienates members of his church, the people who love him, support him, and wish his guidance.

Noah, the forgotten brother, has always been steadfast and reliable, yet jealous of the attention and love showered upon his lazy, mooching, unfocused brother. Putting aside his dream of being a writer, he stays with their mother and brings in money for the household while Jacob follows his dreams in the big city.

Resentment and tensions abound between the two

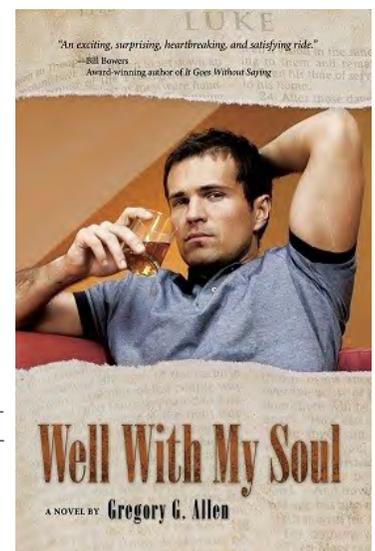
brothers, yet family that causes them to unconditionally support each other in the resolution to this novel.

Allen deals with many sensitive issues in this heart wrenching tale of love, lust, gender identity, religion, and acceptance, all issues instigated by the single meeting between a street preacher and the book's protagonist, Jacob.

This is no feel-good, fairy-tale ending story; this novel takes a realistic look at the dark side of religion, AIDS, finding oneself, and the ways that one's personal changes influence others' lives.

This book may be viewed as homophobic and anti-religion, yet it can also be seen as heartfelt and true to those who have been in similar situations with religion and finding themselves. It provides a necessary voice and should be included in collections.

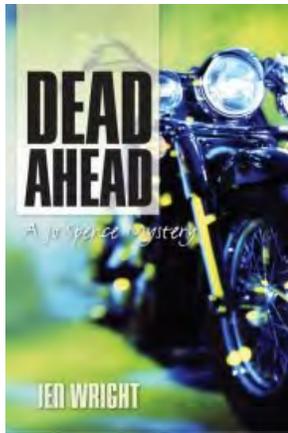
Reviewer: s.n.



Book Reviews: Fiction

Wright, Jen. *Dead Ahead : a Jo Spence Mystery.*

Clover Valley Press, 2011. Paperback. 182p. 978-0-9846570-0-1.



The third mystery in the Jo Spence series begins with parole supervisor Spence dreaming about riding her beloved motorcycle along the shore of Lake Superior. The dream turns into a nightmare, foreshadowing events in her real life. A case involving a boy with good instincts but a messed up home life, a stalker who becomes bolder and more aggressive by the week, and mounting pressure from the people in her life to give up her dangerous career combine to keep Jo on edge and on the run.

When the people she loves are threatened, Spence **takes matters into her own hands. It's a rough ride for Spence with trouble on every side, forcing her to stand her ground with those she cares about and against those who would rather see her dead.**

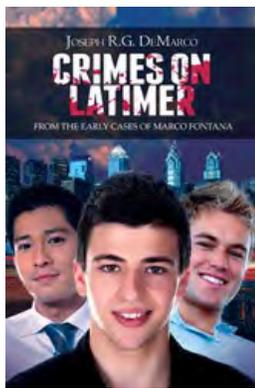
This is an action-oriented mystery with strong, well-drawn characters, both gay and straight, male as well as female. It stands on its own as a novel, with no need for the reader to read the previous books in the series. The action escalates a bit beyond the limits of credibility, but overall a good light beach read.

Dead Ahead is recommended for mystery collections.

**Reviewer: Sarah Corvene
Taxonomy/Metadata Specialist
Baker Library, Harvard Business School**

DeMarco, Joseph R.G. *Crimes on Latimer: From the Early Cases of Marco Fontana.*

Lethe Press, 2012. Paperback. 334 p. \$18. 978-1-49021-374-2.



This collection of six mystery novellas follows a chronological approach from Marco's first foray into investigation in high school when he defends his favored teacher from false accusations of murdering the school disciplinarian. The next stories depict his first office on Latimer and Twelfth, again in Philadelphia, and his work with a stripper club while he works as a private investigator. By presenting characters from prior events, DeMarco shows more and more about Marco throughout the book.

The author treats such sensitive subjects as coming out, being a scholarship student at a ritzy school, working

in a strip club, and remaining in the closet. He also uses the subjects of transgender, drag, and Pride. The stories raise issues also common in the heterosexual community indicating that they are not unique to being LGBTQ.

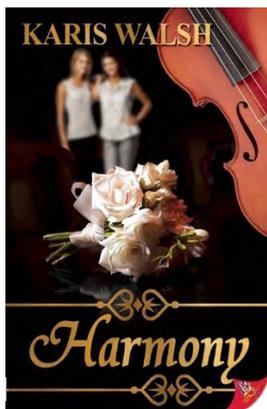
The mysteries are well laid out with suspense and motivation for the perpetrators' actions, showing what makes them tick. Engaging characters also cause readers to feel empathy for those who are hurt and falsely accused. Well-researched and accurate details of Philadelphia and New York clearly portray the cities' geography and culture, and the events that occur. All these qualities make this book more than a simple mystery collection.

This book is welcome to any mystery collection for adults or mature young adults.

Reviewer: s.n.

Walsh, Karis. *Harmony.*

Bold Strokes, 2011. Paperback. 215p. \$16.95. 978-1-60282-237-5.



Happily coasting along in her well-ordered life, Andy Taylor, leader of a Seattle string quartet that plays at weddings, is between girlfriends. She has no time for love until she meets society girl Brooke Stanton, a bride, at the rehearsal on the night before her high-class wedding.

Meeting Andy, Brooke's deeply hidden feelings rise to the surface, leading to self-doubt and an awakening of long-denied desires. In this meeting of a lesbian

"odd couple," Walsh takes the reader on a trip of hope, self-discovery, despair, compromise, and sacrifice. The details add a poignancy to the narrative while the burning desires from budding and fading romances create an emotional rollercoaster ride.

For those unsure of their decisions, those seeking a new life, and those who are stuck in a rut, this book will hit home. It is highly recommended for any romance or self-searching reader who enjoys lesbian sex scenes.

Reviewer: s.n.

Book Reviews: Fiction

Cohen, Jonathan. *Bear Like Me.*

Lethe Press, 2011. Paperback. Harrington Park Press, 2003. 247p. \$15. 978-1-59021-349-0.



When self-described “metrogay” Peter Mallory is fired from his job at *Phag Magazine*, he is faced with the daunting task of trying to find a way to survive and to continue supporting his partner. Then he decides to follow his friend’s advice: to go undercover and write about the bear community.

He changes his appearance and becomes “Dan,” creating a new persona to fit in. As his investigation unfolds,

Peter comes to realize that he is also, in fact, a bear, but only after the community discovers that “Dan” is actually an undercover writer. Peter’s journey leads to self-love and acceptance, a realization that success can be anywhere and for anyone who wishes for it, and the understanding that friends come in all shapes and sizes.

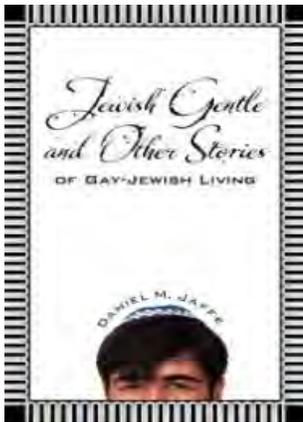
Jonathan Cohen’s first novel is a window into the bear community and a tale of self-awakening and acceptance of personal transformation.

This book offers exposure and a voice to an underrepresented group in LGBT literature, and would fit in well in any fiction collection for mature readers.

Reviewer: s.n.

Jaffe, Daniel M. *Jewish Gentle: And Other Stories of Gay-Jewish Living.*

Lethe Press, 2011. Paperback. 247p. \$15. 978-1-59021-187-8.



This collection of 24 short stories, 18 of them previously published, explore aspects of both gay-Jewish life and gay life in general.

Addressing issues such as coming out to one’s self and family, tradition and faith, child abuse, teenage sexual identity angst, dating and relationships, HIV/AIDS, parenting, and old age, the tales of love, yearning, desire, confusion, loss, and finding oneself are heartwarm-

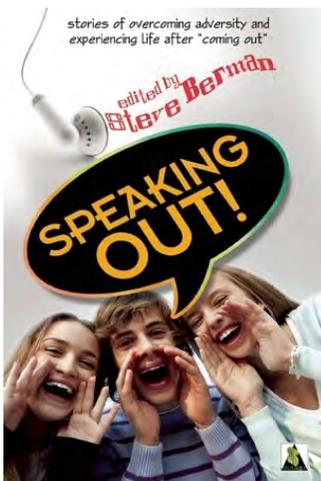
ing and heartbreaking. They all draw readers into situations anyone might encounter. In one story, a respected spiritual leader takes advantage of a young boy, and community ostracizes the boy’s family rather than supporting them. In another, one of a newly-wed couple explains he identifies as trans. Jaffe’s intimate stories show his sensitivity.

Erotic stories may call for the book’s placement in the adult section while a savvy librarian might recommend the collection to some teenagers.

Reviewer: s.n.

Speaking out: LGBTQ Youth Stand Up.

Ed. by Steve Berman. Bold Strokes Books, 2011. Paperback. 277p. \$13.95. 978-1-60282-566-6.



These thirteen stories for and about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer young adults offer inspiration and support to LGBTQ teens. Their goal is to show that, despite tough times, LGBTQ youth can find others facing similar situations.

Using issues of transgender, bisexuality, class difference, prejudice, bigotry, coming out, family, and religious differences, authors, both well-known

and new, depict high school situations from a LGBTQ perspective. The stories may help young adults striving to overcome adversity from intolerance and homophobia as they yearn to be true to themselves.

Each chapter begins with a brief biography of the author and a short statement of the story’s factual basis. Although these stories don’t always have happy endings, they are thirteen glimpses into the reality faced by LGBTQ teens today. Motivational and inspirational, the stories don’t preach as they inform and entertain, realistic fiction at its best.

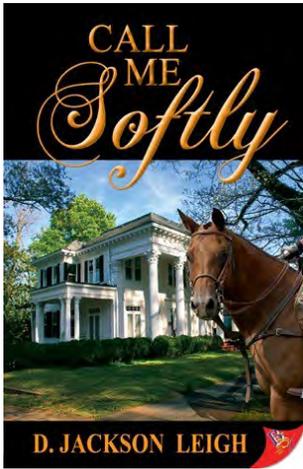
This collection will fit with any young adult angst or realistic fiction collection as well as help adults to better understand what teenagers today are facing.

Reviewer: s.n.

Book Reviews: Fiction

Leigh, D. Jackson. *Call Me Softly*.

Bold Strokes Press, 2011. Paperback. 261 p. \$16.95. 978-1-60282-215-3.



Well-known for breeding horses, Swain Butler is the farm manager of Wetherington. Adopted by the Wetheringtons and heir to the polo estate after her grandmother's death, Lillie returns from England to correct the family's earlier sins. Little does Swain know that the young woman has been directed to return the estate to the true Wetherington bloodline.

Swain and her twin brother grew up as paupers in an orphanage, never knowing of their Wetherington bloodline,

while Lillian grew up being treated as a princess. Life for all of them changes after Abigail Wetherington's will is read, revealing Swain as the true heir.

The budding romance between the two of them, complete with a few arousingly accurate sexual scenes, is disturbed by Lillian's fear, not knowing that her threat comes from the revenge that Swain's twin brother seeks.

The untying of hidden lives and inheritances, ties and bonds, and the links between Swain and Lillian learning the history of both Swain and Lillian and how they came to be linked lead the reader through a fast-paced, enticing read. Leigh also adds information about life and culture of the Deep South.

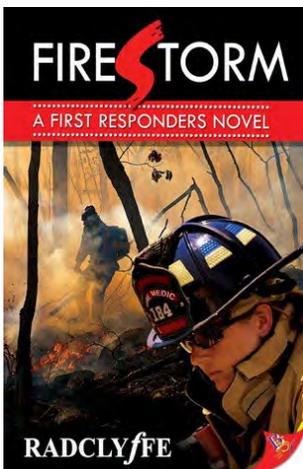
This tale of family, belonging, abandonment, finding oneself, intrigue, adoption, abandonment, inheritance, mystery, and romance will appeal to lovers of romance.

It can be included in any general reading collection although the few sexual scenes will lead to caution in placing this in younger readers' hands.

Reviewer: s.n.

Radclyffe. *Firestorm: A First Responders Novel*.

Bold Strokes, 2011. Paperback. 273p. \$16.95. 978-1-60282-232-0.



Eight-time Lambda Literary Award finalist and president of Bold Strokes Books has re-leased the second book in the *First Responders* series that introduced Mallory "Ice"

James, a year-round forest ranger, wildland firefighter, and smokejumper. Mallory is also a trained paramedic and search and rescue member, who serves as a training manager for the U.S. Forest Service.

Surviving and succeeding in a traditionally male environment, Mallory faces demons at

the start of a new training season as she lives openly a small town near the base and her work. Comfortable in her skin, Mallory has managed to get herself under control after losing two members the previous year.

Control, that is, until a new recruit is added through

nontraditional channels. Jac Russo is the lesbian and embarrassing daughter of political bigwig Franklin Russo, a rightwing senator from Idaho. An Iraq veteran and trained S&R member, Jac throws off Mallory's sense of order and rules, bringing romance to her life.

Mallory eventually thaws to Jac's romantic overtures, falling in love just as Jac draws away into her own protective shell at the provocation of Jac's father and his political entourage. Characters in the book are not always who they seem to be in this page-turner.

Filled with politics, romance, and detailed realistic experiences of training and working as a fire jumper and S&R member, this novel will appeal to the adventurous and romantic, those who enjoy the steamy sex scenes characteristic in Radclyffe's novels.

With today's rising interest in the lives for "first responders," *Firestorm* is highly recommended for any adult collection. The novel also raises awareness of the implications of family, politics and love on those who do not fit into the traditional mold.

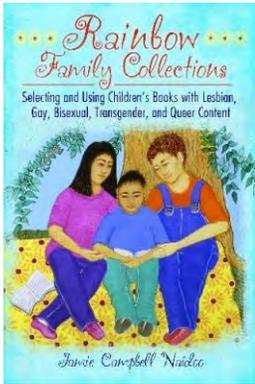
Reviewer: s.n.

Chicago's Legacy Project Introduces Project Honoring LGBT People

On October 11, The Legacy Project (TLP) in Chicago dedicated its one-half-mile long [Legacy Walk](#), a public display of plaques on Rainbow Pylons along North Halsted Street. These honor a diverse array of national and international LGBT people, some out in life and others were only known as LGBT posthumously. In this first step, 18 plaques were unveiled. This project, the first of its kind, was the 25-year-old dream of gay activist Victor Salvo who announced the project four years ago.

Book Reviews: Fiction

Naidoo, Jamie Campbell. *Rainbow Family Collections: Selecting and Using Children's Books with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Content.* Libraries Unlimited, 2012. Hardcover. 260p. \$48.00. 978-1-59884-960-8.



No excuses. With Naidoo's book in hand, any librarian can provide excellent service to all children and families under the LGBTQ rainbow umbrella.

Naidoo observes, "Librarians and teachers are concerned about purchasing titles written about a culture they do not understand for fear of acquiring books that are stereotypical or derogatory toward that particular culture." An exhaustive, annotated, and critical bibliography covers picture books, chapter books,

nonfiction, media, awards and adult resources. Naidoo is sparing with "HIGHLY RECOMMENDED" and willing to critique groundbreaking stories that have not passed the test of time. "Many LGBTQ children's books suffer from an agenda that tries to normalize the experience of rainbow families to such an extent that storylines are didactic and characters are not multidimensional." His comparison of titles to others on the same topic makes it relatively simple to build a collection to fit any budget. I found myself agreeing with the critical assessments for every title I recognized.

An overview of the history of publishing LGBTQ chil-

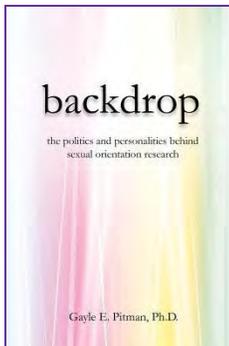
children's materials is followed by standards for evaluation. Materials in other languages and from other cultures are incorporated. And recognition of how the current economy has hurt small publishers is balanced with resources in new formats. One result is that the gaps in topic coverage become apparent, "such as bisexual parents, elderly LGBTQ characters, and mainstream transgender characters."

But selection is only part of this excellent resource. There is also information on programming, on how to work with children and adults, and on how to make the library welcoming and inclusive. Naidoo explains terminology and highlights model libraries. In addition, he addresses the fraught question of how to shelve and display materials by reminding us that the librarian's goal is always findability combined with privacy. According to Naidoo, programming about rainbow families is no more about sexuality than programming about straight families.

Four indexes provide effective access to all the contents. Sidebars and tools break up the highly readable text, and reference citations accompany each chapter. Every library that serves children and their families needs this book.

**Reviewer: Carolyn Caywood, Retired
Virginia Beach Public Library**

Pittman, Gayle E. *Backdrop: The Politics and Personalities behind Sexual Orientation Research.* Active Voice Press, 2011. Paperback. 298p. \$16.95. 978-0-6155-1812-1.



In this self-published book, the author explains that the writing of the book grew, in part, out of her desire to make sexual orientation studies and research more interesting to her students.

Her goal is to do this by encasing such studies (largely psychological and biological) and controversies within narratives about the personal lives of the researchers (e.g., the researchers' sexual orientation, when they came out, personal motivations for research)

and within narratives about the social factors and issues surrounding such research (e.g., the oft-told story of removal of homosexuality from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* by the American Psychiatric Association in 1973 or the objections by both right and left for much biologically based sexual orientation research).

Among researchers discussed in the book are Simon LeVay, Dean Hamer, Michael Bailey, and Evelyn Hooker. Pittman provides separate treatments of the possible biological origins or influences on sexual orientation, sexual identity and bisexuality, transgender issues, intersexuality, homophobia, and the marriage equality debate. Most of

the summaries of findings for biologically based sexual orientation research can be found in *Gay, Straight, and the Reason Why* (2011) by Simon LeVay and published by Oxford University Press.

The treatments of bisexuality, transgender issues, intersexuality, homophobia, and the controversies around gay marriage are not in LeVay but, for the most part, the information in those sections can be found elsewhere as well.

The book reads in many ways like well fleshed-out lectures on the set of topics treated. If someone were teaching a course on the psychology of sexual orientation or an introduction to GLBT research to undergraduate students and wanted a good summary of findings and controversies surrounding them, this would be useful in developing a syllabus.

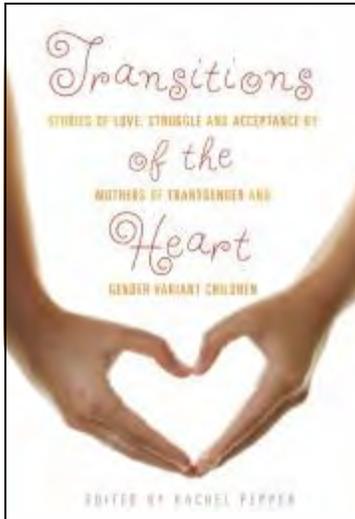
Alternatively, it would be useful in a public library for general readers who preferred it to LeVay's more academic treatment and did not choose to search other sources for the full account of other topics in sexual orientation research.

**Reviewer: David Woolwine
Associate Professor of Library Services
Hofstra University, Hempstead (NY)**

Book Reviews: Memoir/Biography

Transitions of the Heart: Stories of Love, Struggle and Acceptance by Mothers of Transgender and Gender Variant Children.

Ed. by Rachel Pepper. Cleis Press, 2012. Paperback. 204p. \$16.95. 978-1-57344-788-1.



Rachel Pepper is well-known as the co-author of *The Transgender Child*. Pepper says she got the idea for this short book from *Different Daughters: a Book by Mothers of Lesbians*. *Transitions of the Heart* presents 32 mothers who have experienced learning that their child is transgender.

In their own words in three to ten pages the mothers tell what they did and how they felt.

There is great diversity in their stories, but

always an insistence that loving one's child comes first. The mothers include traditional and free spirited, straight and gay, young and old. Some learned from their toddler that the child's identity did not match the

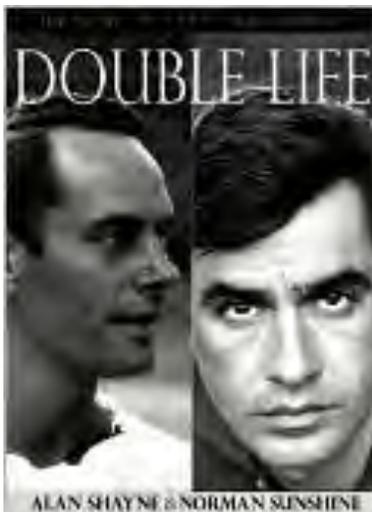
body and some learned from adult children that the pressure of conforming to gender expectations had become intolerable. Not all of these children expect to transition and some, indeed, are still pre-adolescent. There is a balance between children assigned to the male gender and those assigned female. And there are twins and other siblings in the families.

The range in ages of both mother and child provides an overview of how our culture has changed in its awareness of transgender people and how professional treatment has changed as well. As a result, the audience for this book is potentially broader than just mothers. Anyone who wants to know more about what transgender is all about could use this book as a starting place. I think that people who are transgender will particularly find it helpful in coming out to parents and family.

Any library that serves families should find it helpful.

Reviewer: Carolyn Caywood, Retired Virginia Beach Public Library

Shayne, Alan and Norman Sunshine. *Double Life: A Love Story from Broadway to Hollywood.* Magnus Books, 2011. Hardcover. 348p. \$24.95. 978-1-936833-02-3.



This co-authored memoir of two men in the artistic world tells not only their stories over a half century but also the stories of others who fought for equality, recognition, and places in communities where LGBT acceptance was almost nonexistent.

Shayne tells of his on both the East and West Coasts, casting and producing plays, television, and film; Sunshine relates his life as an artist.

In alternating chapters, seamlessly woven together, the two men describe their experiences from their separate points of view as they grow in their relationships, their careers, their friendships, and personal life. Following a chance meeting backstage at a play, the two become monoga-

mous lifelong partners, at a time when there were few role models, and then legally marrying after the laws permitted this.

Behind-the-scenes views of famous actors and artists, big-name corporations, and one-person galleries draw the reader into the despair, happiness, yearning, loss, and successes of these two men.

More than a history of a successful romance and **partnership, Shayne's and Sunshine's narratives will motivate struggling artists and other people attempting to find their place in a tough market, showing that hard work, networking, and support can result in success.** The book is a testimony to the contributions of these two men.

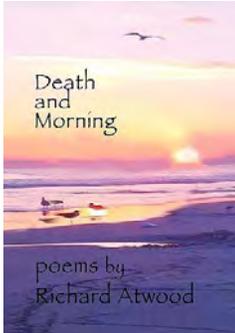
This heart-warming story of a relationship that survived distance, time, and temptation belongs in any collection of memoirs for those who enjoy seeing behind the scenes of lives of the famous and lives of those who are striving to survive in today's world.

Reviewer: s.n.

Book Reviews: Poetry

Atwood, Richard. *Death and Morning.*

iUniverse Press, 2011. Paperback. 134p. \$12.95. 978-1-4502-7134-9.



I feel like every review of poetry should be prefaced with Philip Larkin's quote: "Poetry is nobody's business except the poet's." Such is the case with Richard Atwood's 2011 award-winning collection *Death and Morning*.

Readers looking for a tell-all confession about the poet's life will be disappointed. This collection, split into ten roughly equal-sized

portions, explores the poet's relationship with finding and losing love in a cycle that seems, by the end of the collection, to be nearly unbreakable. Yet, despite the impetus to turn to despair, the poet returns each morning to hope instead of defeat.

This collection of poetry was the winner of the Poetry Book Award at the 2011-2012 Los Angeles Book Festival. It's thematically related to the author's two other books of poetry: *You, My Love...a diary in verse* and *How Deep the Pain Goes Quiet, After*.

This collection has some beautiful poems and breathtaking lines. For a reader who likes conversational poems, these lines hit with a harsh truth: "Sometimes/it is/harder to reach/the people/

you love most/than it is/some total stranger (Contrary to the way it should be)." These poems, however, are the minority. This collection primarily contains poems that take the form of confessional secrets that don't quite reveal all the nitty-gritty details; instead, the focus is on the emotional fallout of the hazards of love.

Maybe it's this reviewer's young age (23) or my preference for conversational, realistic language in poetry, but this collection seemed intentionally obtuse and at times repetitive. Readers may become frustrated with what seems like the revolving door of the speaker's love life. However, the last poem, "A Year and Seven Months Later," redeems this cyclical behavior and shows the speaker taking a new path that seems more solid and grounded.

The primary audience for this collection will be adults with an emotional understanding of the yo-yo that love can sometimes be. Younger audiences may have a hard time connecting with the overarching theme of repeated gain and loss. Atwood makes the reader work for the meaning, but the realization of love's promise at the dawn of each new day is the reward for the effort.

Reviewer: John Mack Freeman

Video Review

The Sons of Tennessee Williams.

Dir. Tim Wolff. First Run Features. 2010. 81 min.



In his introduction to the 1997 compilation of LGBT community histories entitled *Creating a Place for Ourselves: Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community Histories*, Brett Beemyn reminds us that "gay history in the United States is not limited to New York and San Francisco."

This documentary directed by Tim Wolff is yet another testament to that reality: it shares the story of gay men celebrating Mardi Gras together in New Orleans at a time when gay

people were not legally allowed to gather together, some ten years prior to the legendary Stonewall riots.

The film centers around the preparations for the Krewe of Armeinius 40th Anniversary Ball in 2008, but vignettes are tied together from the previous fifty years since the first group of gay men celebrated Mardi Gras

together in 1958. Through these vignettes, the documentary tells the history of the gay male community in New Orleans. Members of the various "krewes" tell of the many balls they attended at which were crowned a king and queen, both of whom were in drag. They talk about family, a gay bashing, lovers lost to AIDS, and other notable moments in the community. Some images and video footage that survive from these earlier balls create a vivid image of this history, a history not taught in modern American history classes.

Laced with humorous moments to balance out the sad ones, this documentary is a necessary and important contribution to the continuing work of LGBTQ histories.

Libraries with collections focusing on the histories of LGBTQ communities or focusing more generally on the history of New Orleans should definitely acquire this film.

**Reviewer: Dusty Roether, MLIS Student
University of South Carolina**

Calendar:

October: [LGBT History Month!](#)

October 26: Intersex Awareness Day

November 2-4: YALSA's 2012 Young Adult Literature Symposium

November 16: [International Day for Tolerance](#)

November 20: [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#)

November 25: [International Women's Day](#) for the Elimination of Violence against Women beginning The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

December 1: [World AIDS Day](#)

December 10: [Human Rights Day](#)

January 25-29, Seattle: American Library Association Midwinter Meeting

Letter to the Editor:

Thanks for a great newsletter and for posting the Pride parade photo and article. I'm holding up the right side of the banner (left viewing it from the front) and I think I still have the blue shirt and tan shorts I'm wearing in the photo! :-)

My boss, at the time, alerted me to the photo in American Libraries when she shouted "nice photo" when I walked by her office door. I've always been fortunate to have had supportive superiors ever since starting my career in 1980.

Chet Mulawka

What acronym can be used to describe the diversity of people under the Rainbow Flag? We started out with gay and lesbian, advanced to LGBT (and sometimes Q), and have sometimes thought about moving on. This idea was sent to the GLBTRT discussion list.

"For what it's worth, QUILTBAG is coming to be accepted/used in the science fiction/fantasy community. It's even appeared in at least one panel title at a convention. Some of the letters cover multiple things. Q - Queer/Questioning; U - Unidentified/Undecided/Unisex; I - Intersex; L - Lesbian; T - Trans, Two-spirit; B - Bisexual; A - Asexual, Agender; G - Gay, Genderqueer"

More ideas?

GLBTRT Executive Board Roster

David Vess, 2012–2013
Chair
david.vess@gmail.com

Dale McNeill, 2011–2013
Treasurer
dale.mcneill.ala@gmail.com

Larry Romans, 2012–2014
Director-at-Large
larry.romans@vanderbilt.edu

Roland Hansen, 2012-2013
Chair-Elect, 2012-2013
rchansen@colum.edu

Peter Hepburn, 2010–2013
GLBTRT Councilor
hepburn@uic.edu

Joel Nichols, 2012-2013
Director-at-Large
nicholsj@freelibrary.org

Anne Moore, 2012–2013
Past Chair
amoore@library.umass.edu

H. Frank Cervone, 2012-2014
Director-at-Large
fcervone@purduecal.edu

Shawn Vaillancourt, 2012-13
Director-at-Large
svaillancourt@uh.edu

Andrew Johnson, 2012–2014
Secretary
afj@nwlink.com

Lewis Day, 2012-2014
Director -at-Large
lewis_day@harvard.edu

J. Linda Williams, 2010-2013
ALA Executive Board Liaison
jwilliams@aacps.org