



GLBT RT Newsletter

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

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

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2008 GLBT ALMS Conference Planned for May

May 8-10, 2008, the second international conference on GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections (GLBT ALMS) will be held in New York City. Hosted by CUNY's Center for Lesbian & Gay Studies (CLAGS), this successor to the 2006 GLBT ALMS conference in Minneapolis will explore the construction, use, organization, preservation, and reflection of queer collections.

Featured presentations include:

Archival Knowledges: Practical, Political, and Theoretical Observations on Making Queer History
Susan Stryker, Former Executive Director GLBT Historical Society, filmmaker, writer, and transgender activist
Ruth Wynn Woodward
Endowed Professor, Women's Studies, Simon Fraser University, San Francisco

Keeping Current: China's LGBT Information Networks
Jiang Hui "Bing Lan",
Founder, LGBT Archive, Aibai Culture & Education Center, Beijing, China
Damien Lu, President, Information Clearinghouse for Chinese Gays & Lesbians (ICGGL), Aibai Culture & Education Center, Beijing, China

Memory in Action: Documenting Same-Sex Experience in an African Context
Busi Kheswa & Anthony Manion, Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (GALA),

Johannesburg, South Africa

Drag Show Video Vérité & The 82 Club: A Multi-Media Talk
Joe Jeffries, Theater historian, archivist of drag performance, New York

Tributes to Yolanda Retter, Barbara Gittings, and Allan Bérubé

Opening Reception: Lesbian Herstory Archives, Brooklyn

Mid-Conference Reception: National Archive of Lesbian, Gay Bisexual & Transgender

History, The LGBT Community Center, Manhattan

Closing Reception: Black Gay and Lesbian Archive, Schomburg Center, New York Public Library, Harlem

A limited number of discounted rate hotel rooms are available through the conference site, along with complete lists of sponsors, organizers, and presenters.

From CLAGS Web site, <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/clags/glbталms>, accessed 2/22/08

GLBTRT Officer Elections

The terms of GLBTRT Co-Chair Mary Callahan "Cal" Zunt and GLBTRT Secretary Lewis Day end at the close of ALA Annual on July 2, 2008. Neither officer is running for re-election.

The two candidates for GLBTRT Co-Chair are:

Jennifer Meister, Technology & Reference Librarian, Free Public Library of Williamsport

Nancy Silverrod, Librarian, San Francisco Public Library

There is one candidate for GLBTRT Secretary:

Tracy Nectoux, Cataloger, Illinois Newspaper Project, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In addition, three GLBTRT members would welcome your support in the ALA Council elections: Peter Hepburn, Dale McNeill, and Michael Miller.

Thanks to all who offered to serve!

Book Reviews (Pages 5-9):

- Freak Show
- My Tiki Girl
- Parrotfish
- First Person Queer
- Challenging Silence, Challenging Censorship
- The Statue of Pan
- The Carnivorous Lamb
- Hotel Theory
- Goldsands
- Lois Lenz, Lesbian Secretary
- Shakespeare's Sonnets
- The Mandrake Broom

DVD Reviews (Pages 9-10):

- Come Out Come Out
- The Fall of '55
- The Year of Paper

Deadlines for the newsletter for the next year will be:

Summer 2008	May 16, 2008
Fall 2008	August 15, 2008
Winter 2008	November 14, 2008
Spring 2008	March 13, 2009

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

2008 Stonewall Award, Honor Books Named



The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association is pleased to announce the winners of the

2008 Stonewall Book Awards. Ellis Avery's *The Teahouse Fire*, published by Riverhead Books, is the winner of the Barbara Gittings Book Award in Literature, and Mark Doty's *Dog Years: A Memoir*, published by HarperCollins Publishers, is the winner of the Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction. This year marks the 37th anniversary of the Stonewall Book Awards. The awards will be presented to the winners at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA on June

30, 2008.

Set against the background of the opening of Japan to the West, *The Teahouse Fire* draws the reader into the world of Aurelia Bernard, an American orphan who finds refuge in the household of a Japanese tea master. Avery's complex historical novel weaves the transformation of Japanese culture and tradition with Aurelia's coming of age and emerging sexuality.

Dog Years: A Memoir is, on its surface, the story of the day-to-day life of Doty, his partner and their two dogs. In spare and unsentimental prose, Doty reflects on love and loss and takes the reader through his process of grieving for his human and canine companions.

The 2008 Stonewall honor books in literature are Ivan E. Coyote's *Bow Grip*, Samuel R. Delany's *Dark Reflections*, Ali Leibgott's *The IHOP Papers*, and David Leavitt's *The Indian Clerk: A Novel*. The 2008 Stonewall honor books in non-fiction are *The Grand Surprise: The Journals of Leo Lerman* (edited by Stephen Pascal), Kevin Sessums' *Mississippi Sissy*, Cris Beam's *Transparent: Love, Family, and Living the T with Transgender Teenagers*, and Janet Malcolm's *Two Lives: Gertrude and Alice*.

Rich Di Russo, Chair,
2008 Stonewall Book Award Committee
Richard.Dirusso@tusconaz.gov

Straight Talking: More than GLBT in the GLBTRT

While compiling the results of his membership survey, GLBTRT Membership Chair Paul Higdon noted that several respondents had indicated they were straight. This piqued his curiosity: certainly he'd known there were straight members—but he wondered what had motivated them to join and support our organization. So he asked, and here are three of the answers he got back:

I have chosen to be a straight member of this round table because I believe public libraries should strive to serve their entire community. As a Juvenile Collection Development Librarian I feel it is vitally important for our collection to reflect our service area. I want children of gay and lesbian couples to be able to check out books which mirror their families. I also want teens who are struggling with their sexual identity to find materials which answer their questions in a place that accepts them for who they are. Being a member of the GLBTRT gives me opportunities to learn about the best materials available to the GLBT community and find the items I feel would be of most use to my community. The GLBT community has been an underserved segment of public library service areas for many years and hopefully the work done by the GLBTRT can begin to change that.

-Amy Miller

Juvenile Collection Development Librarian
Central Arkansas Library System

Why, as a straight person, am I involved with GLBTRT? I think a better question would be why are not more straight people involved? I am not a librarian or a library

educator; matter of fact, I am pretty low down on the professional totem pole since I am administrative support for a department of library science. However, I strongly believe the written word, especially when well-written, is a powerful tool to disseminate knowledge and to break down miscommunication and fear. I do not need to be a library professional, straight, gay, or anything else in order to work toward this end. I have a family member and several close friends in the gay and lesbian community so I am aware of some of the issues faced.

By advocating and promoting quality fiction and non-fiction literature in the area of gay, lesbian, bi- and trans-sexual themes, maybe there will be more dialogue and less miscommunication. And if more of us "straights" would join our voices to those in the GLBT community, maybe the barriers would come down even faster.

-Karen Mathis

When I chose a career in public libraries I made the exciting decision to dedicate myself to intellectual freedom, privacy rights, and freedom of information for all people. Early in my career I recognized the LGBTQ population, and in particular the population of LGBTQ youth (I am a youth services librarian), as a population that is often underserved. As a proud ally, and in keeping with my own ideals as well as with the Library Bill of Rights, I knew that I needed to work towards changing that. My own personal identity was never a factor in my desire to bring quality literature and programming to this diverse population and

their friends and families.

I recently made the decision to join the GLBTRT and have since had the great opportunity to meet and work with many other amazing librarians around the country who have similar goals and a vast array of wonderful experiences to add to my own. I couldn't be more proud to be a part of this round table and I'm excited to contribute in new ways throughout the course of my career.

-Sharon Senser McKellar
ALSC, YALSA, GLBTRT, SRRT member
Current chair of the ALSC Intellectual Freedom Committee and member of the Rainbow Project.

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Tango Trouble in Loudon County

The Loudoun County (VA) Public Schools system received national attention in the wake of a decision by Superintendent Edgar Hatrick to remove a book from general circulation in elementary school libraries.

And Tango Makes Three, written by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, is a 32-page book published in 2005. It is based on the true story of two male penguins at New York's Central Park Zoo who built a nest together and eventually hatched an egg given to them by a zookeeper. (See reviews in the Winter 2005 and Winter 2006 issues of the GLBTRT Newsletter.)

After a parent raised concerns that the book depicted a homosexual family, an advisory committee reviewed the book and agreed to keep it on the shelves. After an appeal by the resident, a second review committee, including administrators, also found the book should remain available to students. Hatrick overruled that decision and ordered the book moved to the collection available only to teachers and staff at Loudon County's 14 public elementary schools. That action, revealed on February 15, 2008, garnered national attention, including Whoopi Goldberg taking Hatrick to task on the morning talk show The View.

School Board Vice Chairman John Stevens, chairman of the board's Legislative Policy Committee, said the review of the book and the superintendent's action high-

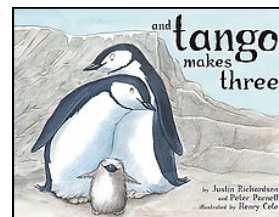
lighted flaws in the school board's policies. "After spending a week investigating the decision, I believe that the superintendent and every LCPS staff member involved faithfully followed the policies provided by the school board," Stevens said. "I also believe that the policies, last revised in 1993, are deeply flawed and led to a bad decision. I will work to overhaul these policies."

Superintendent Hatrick quickly began to backpedal. At the February 26 Loudon County Public Schools Board meeting, he admitted he had overstepped his bounds in ordering the mass removal of And Tango Makes Three to the restricted shelves. Hatrick said he ought only to have removed the book at the Sugarland Elementary School, where the protest had originated, so he was restoring the book to the general circulation shelves at the other schools.

Then, on March 3, Hatrick again had to eat his words. Hatrick declared the challenge void after learning that the person raising concerns about whether the content of the book was age-appropriate for students at Sugarland Elementary School was not a parent of a student at Sugarland. (The school system's policy permits only parents with students at a school to file a challenge against library material.)

"I can assure you that I have put administrative measures in place to be sure that in the future any such requests will be man-

aged carefully to be sure that policy procedures are followed carefully and fully," Hatrick wrote in a memo. "Since this policy is rarely implemented, staff is not as familiar with it as we are other routines and therefore we must follow the steps of the policy as they are written. At every point in carrying out this policy at least two administrators will be double checking the process."



In 2005, And Tango Makes Three received a Henry Bergh Children's Book Award from the ASPCA. This honor was followed in 2006 by a Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award and inclusion on the Association for Library Service to Children's 2006 Notable Children's Books list. However, the book also was one of the most challenged books in 2006. School systems in Illinois, Missouri and North Carolina had public debates over whether the book should be provided in school libraries. (See articles in Winter 2006 and Summer 2007 issues of the GLBTRT Newsletter.)

From news stories on Leesburg Today, <http://www.leesburg2day.com>, published 2/20/2008, 2/27/2008, and 3/3/2008; all accessed 3/5/2008

Families All Matter in Anti-bias Book Project, Curriculum

I want to share a resource with the GLBTRT: the Families All Matter Book Project, created by aMaze. (Perhaps you'll have ideas about how to share it more broadly within the ALA.) FAM is a great tool to promote valuing all people and families and would be a great resource for school and community libraries. Here is our website: <http://www.amazeworks.org/programs/fam/fam.html>

FAM is a GLBT- inclusive anti-bias project which explores diversity issues with elementary students using children's literature about family. Its purpose is to build knowledge, values and skills for living in our diverse communities. FAM has gained much attention for its inclusion of many issues not often pro-actively discussed with young children; FAM covers: race, socio-economics, LGBT family members, divorce, adoption, aging, disability, immigration, and

religious differences.

Because it aligns with educational standards, uses books, and supports anti-bullying goals, FAM has been embraced by many. (And because it is LGBT-inclusive, we've had our share of "heat", too...which has aMaze work hard to empower FAM users to defend this work's bottom-line: respectful and welcoming environments for children and families.)

The FAM Curriculum Guide provides everything a librarian (or other educator) needs to conduct the project: book lists for each of our 10 diversity themes, discussion questions & activities for each title, goals/objectives for the themes, and tons of practical tips for successful use of the program. See the aMaze website for samples: <http://www.amazeworks.org/GeneratedItems/downloads/cgimmigration.pdf>

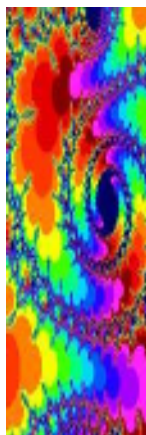
This project began in 1996 when a second grader received a note from a classmate, "I hate you girl lover." Since that time, Families All Matter Book Project has gone to hundreds of schools, congregations, community orgs, teachers colleges, etc. aMaze, the creators of FAM, is a Minnesota-based non-profit that develops anti-bias tools, training, etc with a mission of safety and belonging for all children and families.

aMaze is happy to exhibit or present workshops at regional or national meetings, etc.

Lyn Mitchell, Program and Outreach
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First Rainbow Project Bibliography Released



Co-sponsored by the American Library Association's Social Responsibility Round Table and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table, the Rainbow Project proudly announces its first annual bibliography for young readers from birth through age 18. These 45 fictional and informational books, which promote an acceptance of non-traditional gender and sexual identities, were chosen for their high appeal to

readers, quality writing and illustrations, and realistic portrayals of issues.

The titles in this inaugural list were originally copyrighted in the United States from 2005 through 2007. Four titles, all published in 2007, were starred for excellence: Peter Cameron's *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You* (FSG); Julie Anne Peters' *grl2grl* (Little/Megan Tingley); James St. James' *Freak Show* (Dutton); and Lu Vickers' *Breathing Underwater* (Alyson).

An examination of over 200 books reveals that glbtq books are heavily weighted toward upper grade levels and that many glbtq characters in fiction take a peripheral position. Other concerns are public censorship and the lack of ready accessibility to these books.

The members of the Rainbow Project encourage the publication of more books with characters who validate nontraditional gender and sexual identities, as well as the use of subject headings that describe these glbtq characters in children's and young adult fiction.

The Rainbow Project wishes to thank the authors, illustrators, editors, and publishers who are willing to confront the challenges of censorship and looks forward to their providing more quality books that prominently and realistically portray glbtq characters.

Future bibliographies will cover 18 months of publication, from July of the previous year through December of the current review year. Selection will be done at the ALA Midwinter Conference. Additional information is available at www.myspace.com/rainbow_list.

Project members were Jane Cothron, Lincoln County Library District/Coastal Resources Sharing Network (OR); Helma

Hawkins, Kansas City Public Library (MO); Arla Jones, Lawrence High School (KS); Natalie Kendall, Greeley Elementary School (IL); Sharon Senser McKellar, Oakland Public Library (CA); Victor Schill, Harris County Public Library (TX); Nel Ward (OR); and Christie Gibrich, Grand Prairie Public Library (TX).

An annotated copy of this inaugural list is posted on the GLBTRT blog at: http://blogs.ala.org/glbtrt.php?title=rainbow_list_2009&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1

Fiction

2007

Berman, Steve. *Vintage: A Ghost Story*. Haworth, 2007
 *Cameron, Peter. *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*. Farrar/Frances Foster, 2007
 Davis, Will. *My Side of the Story*. Bloomsbury, 2007
 Garden, Nancy. *Hear Us Out!: Lesbian and Gay Stories of Struggle, Progress, and Hope, 1950 to the Present*. Farrar, 2007
 Lindenbaum, Pija. *Mini Mia and Her Darling Uncle*. Trans. Elisabeth Kallick Dyssegaard. R&S Books, 2007.
 Moore, Perry. *Hero: A Novel*. Hyperion, 2007
 *Peters, Julie Anne. *grl2grl*. Little, Brown/Megan Tingley, 2007
 *St. James, James. *Freak Show*. Dutton, 2007
 *Vickers, Lu. *Breathing Underwater*. Alyson, 2007
 Wittlinger, Ellen. *Parrotfish*. Simon & Schuster, 2007

2006

Alvarado, T. I. *Wanted*. Alyson, 2006
 Burch, Christian. *The Manny Files*. Atheneum, 2006
 Goobie, Ellen. *Hello, Groin*. Orca, 2006
 Hyde, Catherine Ryde. *Becoming Chloe*. Knopf, 2006
 Jopling, Heather. *Ryan's Mom Is Tall*. II. Allyson Demoe. Nickname Press, 2006
 Jopling, Heather. *Monicka's Papa Is Tall*. II. Allyson Demoe. Nickname Press, 2006
 Levithan, David. *Wide Awake*. Knopf, 2006
 Peters, Julie Anne. *Between Mom and Jo*. Little, Brown/Megan Tingley, 2006
 Sanchez, Alex. *Getting It*. Simon & Schuster, 2006

2005

Considine, Kaitlyn. *Emma and Meesha My*

Boy: A Two Mom Story. II. Binny Hobbs. Two Moms Books, 2005
 Gonzalez, Rigoberto. *Antonio's Card/La Tarjeta de Antonio*. II. Cecilia Concepcion Alvarez. Children's Book Press, 2005
 Hartinger, Brent. *The Order of the Poison Oak*. HarperTeen, 2005
 Howe, James. *Totally Joe*. Atheneum/Ginee Seo, 2005
 Humphreys, Helen. *Wild Dogs*. Norton, 2005
 Larochele, David. *Absolutely, Positively Not*. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2005
 Limb, Sue. *Girl Nearly 16, Absolute Torture*. Delacorte, 2005
 Noyes, Katia. *Crashing America*. Alyson Books, 2005
 Peters, Julie Anne. *Far from Xanadu*. Little, Brown, 2005
 Rucka, Greg. *Gotham Central: Half a Life*. II. Michael Lark et al. DC Comics, 2005
 Selvadurai, Shyam. *Swimming in the Monsoon Sea*. Tundra, 2005
 Steinhofel, Andreas. *The Center of the World*. Trans. Alisa Jaffa. Delacorte, 2005

Nonfiction

2007

Baez, John and others. *The Gay and Lesbian Guide to College Life*. Random/Princeton Review, 2007
 Beam, Chris. *Transparent: Love, Family, and Living the T with Transgender Teenagers*. Harcourt, 2007
 Keen, Lisa. *Out Law: What LGBT Youth Should Know about Their Legal Rights*. [Queer Action/Queer Ideas Series] Beacon, 2007
 Marcus, Eric. *What If Someone I know Is Gay: Answers to Questions about What It Means To Be Gay and Lesbian*. Simon Pulse, 2007

2006

Bechdel, Alison. *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*. Houghton Mifflin, 2006
 Carlip, Hillary. *Queen of the Oddballs and Other True Stories from a Life Unaccording to Plan*. Harper, 2006
 Cart, Michael and Christine A. Jenkins. *The Heart Has Its Reasons: Young Adult Literature with Gay/Lesbian/Queer Content, 1969-2004*. Scarecrow Press, 2006
 The Full Spectrum: *A New Generation of Writing*. Ed. David Levithan and Billy Merrill. Knopf, 2006
 Rouse, Wade. *America's Boy: A Memoir*. Dutton, 2006

Continued on page 5

Rainbow List, continued...

2005

Hear Me Out: True Stories of Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia. Planned Parenthood of Toronto. Second Story Press, 2005
Miller, Calvin Craig. No Easy Answers: Bayard Rustin and the Civil Rights Move-

ment. Morgan Reynolds, 2005
Richardson Justin and Peter Parnell. And Tango Makes Three. II. Henry Cole. Simon & Schuster, 2005
Patterson, Romaine with Patrick Hinds. The Whole World Was Watching: Living in the Light of Matthew Shepard. Advocate, 2005

When I Knew. Ed. Robert Trachtenberg. II. Tom Bachtell. Regan Books, 2005

From postings on the Rainbow Project's MySpace page, http://www.myspace.com/rainbow_list, accessed 1/30/2008

Celeste West Leaves Legacy of Work for Peace, Justice

Celeste West's spirit released her body to go exuberantly adventure in other realms, on January 3rd. She was 65. Celeste is survived by her partner and co-vivante of six years, Tina Perricone, and their orange tabby cat, Sienna Pumphrey Gabor; sisters Sue Ann Johnson and Katherine Karr of Portland, OR; many loving nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and many, many friends across the country.

Celeste earned her BA in journalism from Portland State University and her MLS from Rutgers University in 1968. She headed to San Francisco in 1968 and worked in San Francisco's Bay Area Reference Center (BARC) 1968-1973, where she helped publish Synergy, an award-winning library periodical. With Elizabeth Katz, Celeste edited the book Revolting Librarians, which they then published in 1972 with Sue Critchfield as Booklegger Press. In 1973 the final issue of Synergy was published

and Celeste initiated Booklegger Magazine, "built to begin where Synergy leaves off," which was published until 1976. Celeste also wrote or edited and published through Booklegger Press the following books: Women's Films in Print (1975); Positive Images, Non-Sexist Films for Young People (1976); Booklegger's Guide to the Passionate Perils of Publishing (1978); Words in Our Pockets: The Feminist Writers Guild Handbook on How to Gain Power, Get Published and Get Paid (1985); Elsa: I Come With My Songs (a biography of Else Gidlow, 1986), Lesbian Love Advisor (her bestseller, 1989) and her "most controversial book, the one which every feminist publisher and even a printer rejected," Lesbian Polyfidelity: How to Keep Nonmonogamy Safe, Sane, Honest, and Laughing, You Rogue! (1996). On April Fool's Day 1989, Celeste began work as the library director at the San Francisco Zen Center until her retirement in Autumn 2006.

Celeste was a devout anarchist, feminist, and Buddeo-Pagan. She is most often compared to a shooting star. Donations in Celeste's memory can be made to: KPFA radio



(the nation's first listener-supported public radio station), Recovery Inc., the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, or plant a tree in her memory at Arbor Day Foundation. If you cannot donate, no worries, you can creatively agitate for peace and justice, and follow your bliss. As Celeste would say, "Oh yez, oh yes, oh yez."

Photo and obituary adapted from the paid death notice in the San Francisco Chronicle, published and posted online on <http://>

Build Your Vita! Write Reviews!

To become a part of the team of reviewers that publish in the GLBTRT Newsletter, or to receive a copy of our guidelines for book reviews, email Book Review Editor Lisa Johnston at: lnjohnston@sbc.edu

Book Reviews: Young Adult

St. James, James. Freak Show.

NY: Dutton, 2007. 298 p. ISBN-13: 978-0-525-47799-0. Hardcover. \$18.99.

Billy Bloom, glamorous free spirit and self-proclaimed Gender Obscurist, knew life would not be easy at Ft. Lauderdale's preppy Eisenhower Academy, and he was right. But Billy's never been one to let small minds (or big fists) stop him from being himself. Despite torment and ridicule, Billy sets out to change some minds. With the help of an unlikely ally, handsome football star Flip Kelly, and his own, unshakable sense of self, Billy holds a mirror up to the "Perfect People" and shows them the beauty of truth and the

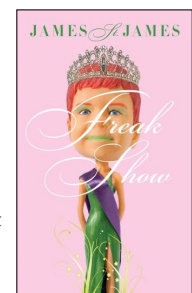
truth about beauty.

In this debut novel, James St. James presents a fresh, timely tale in a hilarious yet unflinching style. There is both pleasure and pain in being oneself, and both sides of this concept are clearly depicted here. Every humiliation is detailed, each triumph celebrated, but the book never strays into preaching or self-pity.

High school and public libraries will want to include this title in their YA fiction section. Queer teens of either gender will find Billy's

battles realistic, sympathetic and empowering; readers of any persuasion will simply enjoy a satisfying, laugh-out-loud tale. In short, there's only one word for Freak Show and that word is FABULOUS!

Reviewed by
Amanda Clay
Lakeview Elementary School Librarian



Jennifer McMahon. *My Tiki Girl*

New York: Dutton, May 2008. ISBN 9780525479437. Hardcover. \$16.99.



Traditional YA lesbian problem novels tell the stories of teen girls who fall madly in love with their female friends, only to face serious consequences when parents and classmates find out. In recent years, however, the trend is toward books featuring protagonists whose sexuality is only one aspect of their complicated lives.

Despite its 2008 copyright, *My Tiki Girl* is a reversion to the problem novel. Its heroine, Maggie, was pretty and popular until the car accident that killed her mother. Now she

wears a leg brace and feels like an outcast until new girl Dahlia asks her to join her rock band. Maggie develops a crush; Dahlia reciprocates; and the two have a secret and joyous relationship until Dahlia's mother walks in on them half-dressed.

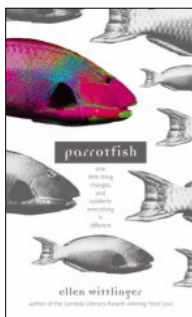
Until this point, *My Tiki Girl*, while formulaic, is charming and different. It features appealing secondary characters like Dahlia's younger brother Jonah, who believes he is a wizard, and funny portrayals of teens smoking clove cigarettes and obsessing about Sylvia Plath. But when the girls' secret is discovered by Leah, Dahlia's mother, the plot takes some bizarre turns. Leah has been portrayed throughout the book as a

cool hippie mom who shoplifts with the girls and creates doll alter-egos for them. Her reaction to the girls' love affair ("Abomination! Pervert!") is, then, wildly out of character. It doesn't get better from there: the last chapters of the book involve a car accident that too obviously parallels the one in which Maggie's mother was killed as well as a makeout session between Maggie and Joey, a brain-damaged boy who lives in a cave. Recommended only for libraries where authors like Nancy Garden and Julie Anne Peters are popular.

Reviewed by Daisy Porter
Senior Librarian
San José Public Library

Wittlinger, Ellen. *Parrotfish*

New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007. 294 p. ISBN: 9781416916222. Hardcover. \$16.99



Angela works with her father to put up the Christmas decorations not cringing at the work involved but the embarrassment of it all. Each year her father creates this Christmas extravaganza that draws the neighbors and creates a picture of the holiday

that is only surface deep. As Angela puts up the lights with her father, she begins to

share her internal dialog with the reader and her discomfort in living in her female body. Shortly Angela begins transitioning into Grady so that his appearance will match how he feels inside. As the transition begins he feels friendless, but soon realizes that there are people around him who will support him - both in his family and within his school and community.

While many young adult fiction books, especially those dealing with LGBT issues, are dark and riddled with teen angst, this is not one of those books. While some of Grady's

fears are realized, he finds support in places where he doesn't expect it. Grady learns that it is easier to be true to one's self than to struggle each day trying to be someone he is not, someone who is only surface deep. Wittlinger offers an upbeat book for teens about transgender issues.

Recommended for libraries with YA and/or GLBTQ collections.

Reviewed by Sharon Flesher
Library Media Specialist
Nashua South High School

Book Reviews: Non-Fiction

First Person Queer: Who We Are (So Far), A Collection of Personal Essays.

Edited by Richard Labonté and Lawrence Schimel. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2007. 223 p. ISBN-13: 9781551522272. Softcover. \$17.95.



"Sometimes it is nice to be recognized and included upfront, rather than having to elbow out room for oneself yet again." (from *Genderquerulous*, by Nalo Hopkinson, p.21).

I am usually wary of books that have labels in their titles, worried that it will be boxed in, narrowly described and understood.

I needn't have worried. In their new book Richard Labonté and Lawrence Schimel have gathered a remarkable number of personal narratives that document the incredible diversity of experiences, backgrounds, personal histories and yes, sexual orientations and gender identities, that all resonate with the word queer.

The stories create a strong and vibrant community where multiple experiences can cohabit and flourish. Much to the delight of this reviewer, several transgender narratives were included as full fledged, equal,

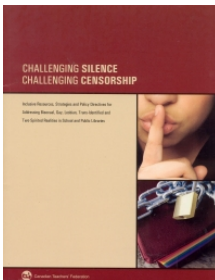
inhabitants of the queer world. Included are narratives from well-known authors, such as Kate Bornstein, Katherine V. Forrest, Ivan E. Coyote among others and from less well-known ones; Canadian voices and voices from the United States; female identified, male identified, lesbian, gay, bi and straight voices.

Recommended for both public and academic libraries.

Reviewed by Michael Waldman
Head, Collection Management
Baruch College, CUNY

Schrader, Alvin M. and Kristopher Wells. *Challenging Silence, Challenging Censorship: Inclusive Resources, Strategies and Policy Directives for Addressing Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Trans-Identified and Two-Spirited Realities in School and Public Libraries.*

Ottawa, Canada: Canadian Teachers' Federation, 2007. 86 p. ISBN: 0889893608. Paper. \$15 [Canadian].



This volume is an essential resource for public and school library professional collections, GSA faculty advisors, and those working with youth groups at LGBT

community centers in both the USA and Canada. Designed to help librarians and teachers "educate themselves and support the lived realities" of LGBT youth, material is included that can be used for staff development, provides sample policies, aids in collection development and in defending challenges to collections and programming.

Bibliographies include both Canadian and

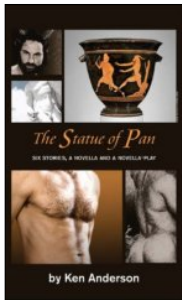
US materials, and useful websites detail sources for policy statements and curriculum development. Updated bibliographies and lists will be available on the CTF website, www.ctf-fce.ca. Highly recommended.

Reviewed by Dave Combe
Ventura County Library

Book Reviews: Fiction

Anderson, Ken. *The Statue of Pan: Six Stories, a Novella and a Novella-Play.*

1st ed. Herndon, VA: STARbooks Press, 2007. 343p. ISBN: 9781934187142. Softcover. \$18.95.



The best thing about this anthology of stories and novellas is the cover, with photos of a humpy god Pan, an erotic Greek vase, plus a handsome statue and drawing. The first three stories are charming, about coming out to oneself

and discovering a potential partner. The third one is longer, so perhaps that's the novella, although it is not so labeled. The long middle of the volume is called a "novella-play," but why is it called a play I have no idea. It not formatted as a drama. This book was nominated for the Lambda Literary Award for erotica, but although there is lots of sex, it's more prosaic than erotic. After the first three stories, the volume becomes tedious. I couldn't wait for the long novella-play, also about coming

out and transgender issues, to come to an end.

The author won some literary prizes as a student. He is now described as a professor emeritus of English, but his bios don't say where. I could not recommend this story collection to friends, so I can't recommend it for libraries either.

Reviewed by James D. Anderson
Professor Emeritus,
Rutgers University.

Gómez-Arcos, Agustín. *The Carnivorous Lamb.*

Trans. William Rodarmor. Little Sister's Classics Ser. #9. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2007. 288 pages. ISBN: 9781551522302. Softcover \$16.95.

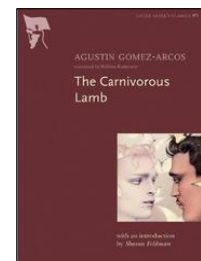
"[T]hat particular body, my brother's body, is my temple. I've worshipped there since I was ten" ~ Antonio, *The Carnivorous Lamb*

There are two "carnivorous lambs" in this tale: Ignacio, our narrator and Antonio, his brother. Agustín Gómez-Arcos' *The Carnivorous Lamb* is a story of Republican outcasts in Franco's Spain, as well as a repellent, intensely disturbing account of two boys' survival within a loveless household, where the only affection expressed is in the bed they share. Their father—a defeated political opponent of Franco—ignores them. Their mother Matilde toler-

ates Antonio, but neglects Ignacio, and resents his very existence. Consequently, the boys turn to each other and fall deeply in love. By three, Ignacio is nightly (and willingly) seduced by Antonio. Matilde condones their relationship, using it to feed her hatred of Franco. Thus, the inhibited, patriotic, devout nation that Franco has molded contains a household that has, in turn, molded its mirror opposite.

This novel is not a romance between two gay men, but rather a story of incestuous love between two children. Ignacio's only happiness is Antonio, which only highlights

the tragic fact that their incestuous relationship wasn't his choice. Reading of Ignacio's first penetration is difficult not only because he's making love with his brother, but also because he's only twelve. Both boys—victims of an emotionless, dysfunctional household—desperately need each other, and readers may feel gratitude that they have each other, no matter the situation. Despite its disturbing, twisted representation of love, *The Car-*



The Carnivorous Lamb, continued...

nivorous Lamb is a work of art, rich with descriptions of nationalistic fervor, religious fanaticism, and both the wretchedness and

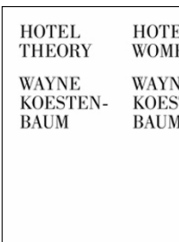
glory of the human condition.

Recommended for academic and public libraries.

Reviewed by Tracy Marie Nectoux
Cataloger, Illinois Newspaper Project
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Kostenbaum, Wayne. *Hotel Theory*.

New York, NY: Soft Skull Press, 2007. 192p. ISBN: 1933368691. Softcover. \$16.00.



Hotel Theory is the twelfth book by Wayne Kostenbaum, whose previous work includes volumes of poetry, non-fiction (including the well-received *The Queen's Throat*) and one novel. *Hotel The-*

ory consists of a novel entitled *Hotel Women* and a non-fiction work on the meaning of hotels entitled *Hotel Theory*. *Hotel Theory* is also the name of a hotel located across the street from the *Hotel Women* in the novel. This book has an unusual structure, as both texts run concurrently on facing columns, just as the

two hotels face each other.

Kostenbaum's theory of hotels describes a place of abstraction which lends itself to fugue states; it is a blank space which can never belong to its occupant; where there are few, if any, human ties. Meanwhile, across the page, Lana Turner and Liberace encounter each other in the fictional *Hotel Women*. In a state of limbo, Turner's fugue state is a hiatus in the filming of *Betrayed*, while Liberace seeks an undefined "rehabilitation." The fictional characters talk, lounge by the pool, walk the beach, remove their clothes and touch each other, but little happens. But this is "hotel prose," a "plotless, unargumentative language" (p.

146).

Kostenbaum's hotel theory is built from music, film, art and literature; its rooms are filled with Chopin's small forms, Joseph Cornell's shadow boxes, Wharton's wandering Lily Bart, the solitude-seeking Garbo of *Grand Hotel*, along with other examples from Colette, Heidegger and Charles Simic to the Marx Brothers. Intriguing and perplexing, this book appears to achieve its stated goal of "a diverted text, occupied for purposes other than its original intention" (p. 13).

Reviewed by Michael Colby
Librarian
University of California, Davis

Maltese, William. *Goldsands*.

Albion, NY: MLR Press, 2007. 298p. ISBN: 1934531049. Softcover. \$16.99.



This book tells the tale of recently buffed-up archaeologist Gil Goldsands. Gil, it turns out, is on the trip of a lifetime. He quickly meets two intriguing men during his adventures in exotic Egypt, one an Arab sheikh and the other an English colleague. Both pursue and are pursued by Gil. The three protagonists are

nothing if not lusty. One character even finds the time to notice another's beautiful body in the middle of a shootout!

I must confess to unfamiliarity with the genre of male romance/erotica. *Goldsands* is actually my first such read. Perhaps it is unfair, then, to harshly review what in reality amounts to a lighthearted and fairly pleasant work. And yet, at least for me, the author's occasional interjection of painfully incongruous graphic prose served to significantly distract from what otherwise could have

been a fun if yeoman-like effort. As titillating escapist fantasy this book barely succeeds. Which man will Gil choose? You'll have to read the book to find out.

Goldsands is marginally recommended for large, urban public libraries or smaller public libraries serving a young adult, gay male clientele. Not recommended for academic libraries.

Reviewed by David C. Murray
Reference Librarian,
Temple University Libraries

Nolan, Monica. *Lois Lenz, Lesbian Secretary*.

New York: Kensington Books, 2007. 250 pages. ISBN 9780758214225. Softcover. \$14.00.



Lois Lenz is your average high school senior in 1959 Middle America looking forward to her future--would it be wedded bliss with her high school sweet heart living next door to her best friend or would it be as a career girl working as a typist in Bay City?

Lois takes the typist job in Bay City and moves into the Magdalena Arms Residence

for Women. She is caught up in a scandal at work, lusts after her boss, gets involved in four cases of blackmail, learns the secret of the girls on the fifth floor, comes to terms with her "secret desires," solves the mystery of the filing system and meets the girl of her dreams.

Nancy Drew meets Anne Bannon is the best way to describe this novel. It has all the elements of the Nancy Drew mystery stories but written as a classic pulp fiction novel including the suggestive cover art with appropriate tag line. The book is a quick

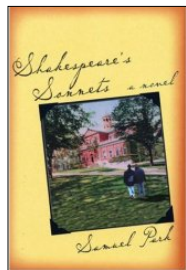
enjoyable read and I often found myself laughing at the situations and the solution to the filing system problem alone is worth reading the book.

I would recommend the book for public libraries and university libraries with GLBT and pulp fiction collections.

Reviewed by Norman Eriksen
Assistant Division Manager: Languages,
Literature, and Fiction
Brooklyn Public Library

Park, Samuel. *Shakespeare's Sonnets: A Novel.*

New York: Alyson Books, 2006. 238 p. ISBN: 9781555839550. Hardcover \$24.95.



In 1948, Adam Stan-
dridge and Jean Hay-
man meet at Harvard in
a Renaissance drama
class. Although they are
polar opposites (Jean is
"obvious," Adam has a
fiancée), their intellects
immediately connect.

Adam's theory that the
Dark Lady of Shakespeare's sonnets was an
African woman intrigues Jean, who discov-
ers Oscar Wilde's story "The Portrait of Mr.
W.H.," which suggests that Shakespeare
wrote his sonnets for a young actor named
Willie Hughes. After Adam unexpectedly
asks Jean if he can help him prove the exis-

tence of Willie Hughes, they begin an unfor-
gettable journey into uncharted territory.

The two young men are assisted in their
quest by Sara Townsend, a wealthy art
collector, who Jean suspects owns a portrait
of Mr. W.H. Their friendship is seriously
threatened by Professor Mullins, Adam's
eager mentor and Jean's bitter antagonist.
Their lives become increasingly influenced
by the language and mystery of The Son-
nets. When Jean, recklessly confused, goes
to the Silver Dollar, a bar, and meets Fred,
a man dressed as a sailor for "pansybait,"
he realizes that he only wants Adam. Adam
is his Willie Hughes!

In the homophobic post-World War II pe-
riod, Adam and Jean have to read between
the lines to find themselves. They discover
that not only does art come out of life but
that life can come out of art. This gor-
geously written novel with its echoes of
E.M. Forster's *Maurice* moves swiftly and
suspensefully towards an unexpected cli-
max. Highly recommended for libraries that
collect gay fiction or fiction with literary
themes.

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

Wells, Jess. *The Mandrake Broom.*

Ann Arbor, MI: Firebrand, 2007. 243 p. ISBN: 9781563411526. Softcover \$14.95.



In the fifteenth and
sixteenth centuries,
ignorance, superstition
and fire rode the winds
across Europe, fed by
the expanding power
of the Church and its
definitions of right and
wrong. Anyone who
stood outside in any
fashion--whether by

sexual preference, knowledge of natural
healing and cures discovered over centuries
by the ancient Celtic civilizations, social

status, or religion--was targeted for elimi-
nation.

In *The Mandrake Broom*, Jess Wells tells a
tale of these harsh realities, using as a
frame the beautifully detailed life of Luccia
Alimenti. The daughter of a woman profes-
sor of medicine at the University of Salerno,
one of the few places which welcomed
women students, her involvement with
traditional healing and its preservation
leads her across eight decades, through
violent witch hunts and battlefields, the
gates of the University of Paris, and into the
arms of the women (and men) she loves

and sees destroyed.

In welcome contrast to most other historical
novels, Wells provides a solid list of sources
for readers who want to learn more of the
age feminists refer to as the "Burning
Time." A useful and consciousness-raising
addition to fiction and women's studies
collections of high school, public, college
and university libraries.

Reviewed by Robert Ridinger
Professor & Electronic Information Re-
sources Manager
Northern Illinois University Libraries

DVD Reviews: Nonfiction

Come Out Come Out.

Various Directors. Running time: 67 minutes In English and Norwegian with subtitles. DVD, Frameline, 2006. \$45.00.

Come Out Come Out is a collection of five
short films, linked by the title's theme.
Made by young filmmakers from three dif-
ferent countries, each film achieves its aim
with varying degrees of success.

The two strongest films are from Norway.
In "A Kiss in the Snow", a handsome new
boy awakens feelings within Peder, even as
he causes a rift between him and his best
friend Cecilia, prompting all three to re-
evaluate themselves and their relationships.
"Home For Christmas", the only girlcentric
film of the collection, is a very short and
very funny 'public service announcement'
about the joys of coming out.

"Southern Family" purports to explore the
reactions of a conservative American family
to their grandson's coming out, but in real-
ity yields an amateurish home-video mon-
tage of context-free people exclaiming
about how much they enjoy Christmas at
Grandma's.

Two more titles, "Surfacing" and "Coming
To Terms", provide a look at some of the
more negative aspects of the coming out
process. The former title is a poetic, almost
abstract layering of voice and image as
three young men tell their coming out sto-
ries, with sometimes painful consequences.
The latter follows a young man's post-
coming-out dialogue with his parents, as

both sides
struggle to
understand
what the
other side
needs and
feels.



A strong
collection, *Come Out Come Out* makes a
good choice for public libraries, as an excel-
lent youth group conversation starter, as
well as a useful resource for individuals
ready for the next step in their journey.

Reviewed by Amanda Clay
Lakeview Elementary School Librarian

The Fall of '55.

Produced, directed, and written by Seth Randal. Running time: 82 minutes. In English. DVD, Entendre Pictures production in association with CTP Films, 2006. \$250.00 includes Public Performance Rights.

After watching this documentary, you might find yourself asking the question: What about Idaho inures it to gay scandals? The events depicted in *The Fall of '55*, when considered alongside the more recent Idaho Falls and Larry Craig controversies, demonstrate once again that we—Idahoans and by extension all Americans—have yet to adequately confront, let alone resolve, our longstanding prejudice against homosexuality.

The scandal broke on November 1, 1955, when the Boise Idaho Evening Statesman published an article claiming that several adult men had become sexually involved with up to 100 local boys. By the time the witch hunt ended sixteen individuals had been arrested, hundreds more harassed and

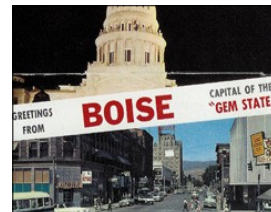
forced to leave town.

Randal's telling of this story is both straightforward and well researched. Players in the historical drama are portrayed sensitively and without bias. Emery Bess, the late Boise probation officer without whom the idea of a "homosexual sex ring" would never have gained traction, is not vilified. Bess's motives are relayed through the words of his son, Ron, who remains convinced that his father was also a victim, though of whom exactly is not clear. Randal assiduously avoids consideration of the influence of the Mormon Church and other organized religious groups in the scandal, a mistake given the probability that the prosecutorial fervor of Bess, Dice (a private investigator), and others was at least partly

religiously motivated.

The Fall of '55 could elicit emotions ranging from sadness to indignation, but it is certainly suitable for those of high-school age and older. Recommended especially for urban public libraries and academic libraries supporting LGBT and Film Studies programs.

Reviewed by David C. Murray
Reference Librarian
Temple University Libraries



The Year of Paper.

Produced and directed by Kelly Rouse and Nikki Parker Narrated by Peri Gilpin Running time: 91 minutes. In English. DVD, Frameline, 2007. \$250.00 includes Public Performance Rights.

This film explores the first year of marriage for three couples all married in 2004, the title aptly named for the traditional first year's anniversary gift. Each couple's story and history is shared with their own images of family, love and joy. After each ceremony the proverbial issues rise to the surface such as managing conflict, finances and children. Two of the three couples must also decide how to proceed once their marriage has been ruled invalid.

The history of marriage in the United States is discussed, including the related issues of biracial marriage, which was allowed only after the Supreme Court decision of *Loving vs. Virginia* 1967. Historians, activists, poli-

ticians, sociologists and clergy provide their perspective on marriage between two people. Legal marriage provides over one thousand federal and over one hundred state benefits, rights and responsibilities. This film asks the question "how different is a "gay marriage" from a heterosexual one?"

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, after the film's release, one of the couples has split and is currently dealing with divorce and custody issues. The other two couples remain together, despite the fact their marriages are not considered legally binding.

Further reviews and product information are

available at:

<http://cart.frameline.org/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=T736>.



Recommended for any library that maintains media on current issues especially recommended for urban high schools and academic libraries of any size.

Reviewed by Lisa Forslund
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