



# GLBTRT Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 22, No. 1     ♦     Spring 2010

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## GLBT Social Held at PLA Conference

An impromptu get together at the Public Library Association conference offered GLBTRT members and friends a chance to hang out after busy days of workshops and exhibitions. With just a few email announcements, and a Facebook event page, about twenty people came out to North Portland to mingle and relax. A great mix showed up, with people from coast to coast, representing everything from a small-town Appalachian library to Queens. Everyone enjoyed swapping stories, about funding (or the lack thereof), about growing up queer in rural communities and big cities, and about the ins and outs of mingling between library staff.

Local librarian Ismoon Maria Hunter-Morton gave an introduction to the Q Center Libraries, which moved to their current location in April 2009. The library includes extensive, circulating queer fiction, non-fiction, videos, and even children's materials. Q Center is also housing the extensive trans reference collection of Portland's Outside In.



The catalogs for both collections can be viewed at <http://www.pdxqcenter.org/our-libraries/>. Thanks to Portland library people for being such great hosts!

Ismoon Maria Hunter-Morton and Kelly McElroy

## Stonewall Book Award Winners Announced

The Stonewall Book Awards are given annually to English-language books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experience.

### Stonewall Book Award-Barbara Gittings Literature Award

*Stray Dog Winter* by David Francis, (MacAdam/Cage)

### Stonewall Book Award-Children's and Young Adult Literature Award

*The Vast Fields of Ordinary* by Nick Burd, (Penguin Group)

### Stonewall Book Award-Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award

*Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America* by Nathaniel Frank, (St. Martin's Press)

See the [Stonewall Book Awards](http://www.stonewallbookawards.org) web pages for complete information about the Awards.



Deadlines for the newsletter for the next year will be:

Summer 2010	June 1, 2010
Fall 2010	August 31, 2010
Winter 2010	December 31, 2010
Spring 2011	March 15, 2010

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.

## The Information Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning Individuals: *How well are Public Libraries Meeting the Information Needs of the LGBTQ Community?*

In the spring of 2010, I conducted a research project about how well public libraries are meeting the information needs of same gender loving (SGL) individuals<sup>1</sup>. Dubbed the "invisible minority" by Loverich and Degnan<sup>2</sup>, this population often goes underrepresented or totally unnoticed by librarians in public libraries. However, as a public institution, it makes sense to expect their collection to represent all members of their community.

Recent literature indicates a lack of information materials on people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ) and the unique lives they lead. Gleaned from the various studies discussed in my literature review, a running theme of seven (7) pervasive issues were uncovered. These issues present a unprecedented opportunity for libraries and librarians to step into uncharted territory and become proactive abettors on behalf of people in LGBTQ communities.

**Insufficient and/or outdated collections**  
Time after time, researchers pointed out the chronic problem of library collections being filled with old, useless information that does nothing to properly inform and uplift LGBTQ individuals. Instead, these books tend to attack, condemn or even demonize people for simply loving someone of the same gender. A sincere and conscious effort should be made by library staff in the selection process to ensure the most appropriate kinds of materials are purchased for this population.

### **Homophobic library staff**

Libraries are deemed as a place people from all walks of life go to for knowledge and understanding. The studies show that the library is often the first place SGL people turn to when seeking information. Therefore, it is the innate responsibility of libraries and library staff to make their environment welcoming to individuals who identify as LGBTQ. In fostering camaraderie, librarians

must check their moral compass at the door, step out of their comfort zone and genuinely reach out to this community.

### **Poor visibility of LGBTQ materials**

Some libraries purposely bury materials that deal with sexual orientation, same sex love, and other gay and lesbian topics. This action is not only despicable, but, more importantly, it impedes access to materials directly related to an essential part of their lives.

### **Heterosexism**

The presumption of heterosexuality being the norm and therefore superior to same sex relationships is absurd. Library workers have the charge of providing services to the people in their communities with no regard to their sexual orientation, gender, sexual identity, ethnicity or any other expression has no bearing on their right to information.

### **Genderism**

The pervasiveness of genderism in library tenets has a very negative effect on those who are in search of self-discovery, self-identity and/or affirmation of who they are or wish to become in their life journey.

### **Censorship**

The use of self-censorship has long been well documented among some librarians. However, libraries are not venues for casting out the moral compass during the selection process. In fact, the selection process can be utilized as a way to curtail misconceptions, half-truths and myths surrounding LGBTQ patrons and their unique information needs.

### **Embarrassment and/or Harassment**

Oftentimes, LGBTQ library users are too afraid or too embarrassed to request assistance from library staff for real or conceived fear of being harassed, ridiculed or shamed. This should never be the case; the primary reason libraries exists is to provide materials and services for all people residing in their communities. Moreover, libraries are often the only place LGBTQ individuals have to turn to because they either don't have or trust anyone else.

In her study, Whitt<sup>3</sup> stressed the importance of further research needing to be conducted on the topic of the SGL community and their information needs. Additionally, she gave voice to the dire need of broadening the scope of such future studies that go beyond the conventional needs of one population (the lesbian community), but should expand to include the lives of gay men and their specific information needs. Additionally, in respect to

inclusiveness, people from ethnic groups (e.g. African Americans, Latinos, Asians, etc.) should also be surveyed. Indeed, because of their unparalleled existence in a Anglo-Saxon world, they already have to contend with double or triple jeopardies:

1. Being born a person of color (male or female)
2. Born female
3. A member of the LGBTQ community

Change is difficult for so many of us as human beings. But, change is also a part of life; it is how we grow, enhance our understanding of the world around us and other people. It often is the bridge we need to bring about camaraderie in our communities, no matter their skin color, sexual orientation or identity. Therefore, by stepping out of their comfort zones and laying down their moral compass, librarians will then be in a place mentally to address the incomparable needs and concerns of this distinct subset of our communities and take advantage of the many available resources for LGBTQ library users and librarians.

In fostering a positive relationship with people in the gay and lesbian community, librarians can collaborate with their local LGBT community center, connect with PFLAG and other organizations that cater to SGL people. Additionally, librarians can create gay and lesbian-focused pathfinders, set up a display during Gay Pride month, ensure that their collection includes materials representative of LGBTQ people and be a supporter of this population by challenging the stifling myths and misconceptions that exists around SGL individuals, their information needs and so-called 'lifestyle'.

### Notes:

1. A description for homosexuals, particularly in the African American community.
2. Loverich, Patricia and Degnan, Darrah. 1999. Out on the shelves?: not really. *Library Journal*. 124, no. 11 (June): 55.
3. Whitt, Alisa J. 1993. The information needs of lesbians. *Library & Information Science Research*. 15. (Summer 1993): 275-88.

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### **Sarah E. Wright**

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## Out of the Silence: An Interview with Dean Hamer

Recently, Dean Hamer visited Champaign-Urbana, IL to host a free screening of *Out in the Silence*, a film he co-produced with his husband, Joe Wilson. He agreed to meet with me to talk about *Out in the Silence* for our newsletter.

**Q:** Can you give a brief history of the film, and what you hope to do with it?

**Hamer:** The way the film started was that my partner, Joe, and I got married. And afterwards, since we hadn't had any ceremony or a party in Canada, I put the announcement in the *New York Times*, which is my hometown newspaper, and we got some very nice responses to it. And Joe decided to put the announcement in *his* hometown newspaper, which is the *Oil City Derrick*. Oil City is a very small, very conservative, very religious town in Western Pennsylvania—the sort of town that Obama talked about when he said that people in Pennsylvania are bitter and angry and cling to their guns and religion. He was talking about Oil City.

So you can imagine it caused quite a commotion in the town. There was a lot of condemnation. People wrote into the paper saying they shouldn't have published the announcement. But what fascinated us was that over time, a lot of supporters showed up and said, "We should be more tolerant." A fascinating democratic debate was taking place in the local newspaper.

But what really got our attention was when the wedding announcement was seen by the mom of a gay teen. Her name was Kathy Springer; her son was C.J.; and her son had been tormented in school because he was a gay, and she didn't know where to turn. She didn't know any gay people in the town; she didn't know any resources. She'd seen our wedding announcement and asked



if we could do something to help. And that's when we decided to go back to Oil City and see if we could do anything. We gave C.J. a camera to help him document what was going on, and then we stayed there for the next three years, following what was going on.

So the film turns out to be a story—not about our wedding and marriage at all—but really an account about how rural America deals with LGBT people, and how LGBT people are trying to deal with rural America.

**Q:** And why they stay there.

**Hamer:** Often people think, "Well, you're gay, and if you're born in a small town, you should leave and move to a city."

**Q:** Right. In the film you mention the "brain drain" in Oil City.

**Hamer:** Which happens with a lot of people, but they shouldn't have to leave their home in order to be able to live a full and productive life. And the people in our film—[two women](#) who are trying to renovate a theatre—C.J., they all want to stay in Oil City. It's their home; it's where they're from. They're striving to make it a place where they can live their lives.

**Q:** And not be bullied.

**Hamer:** And not be bullied; not be harassed; have their business shut down. So our hope for the film is to use it as a tool for educating people about all of these issues. It's for gay folks in rural communities, and more to be used to bring together people in those communities. And the film is a great tool for that because it's not a political meeting or simply a list of information, but it's actually entertaining. We hope that it can be used by church groups, by school groups, by a variety of different groups.

One of the things we're excited about is the [Going Public Campaign](#), which involves taking the film to public libraries. Our idea behind that is that, in a lot of small towns, there aren't a lot of organized gay groups; there certainly aren't any gay centers.

**Q:** That's why the focus of this publicity is rural only?

**Hamer:** It's for everybody, but the focus is on rural areas and small towns, which are the places that don't get this type of attention normally, and which may not have the resources to bring things together themselves. In most rural areas everybody feels like they have to be quiet, because if you stand out everyone's going to know about it. And it's often, therefore, very difficult for people to connect. But they have neighbors; they may have progressive neighbors; they may have people that feel the same way, that are supportive—a

member of the ACLU or planned parenthood—but it's hard to find each other.

**Q:** Have you had a positive reactions from libraries? And if not, what can we do to help?

**Hamer:** We've had a very mixed reaction from public libraries. Roughly half of them are absolutely delighted to have an opportunity to have some new programs. The fact that we can bring a screening to any public library in Pennsylvania for free—including the filmmakers showing up, including a discussion guide—is a benefit to them. A lot of librarians have said, "We've been looking for something like this," and when we've gone to public libraries, there's been a tremendous amount of community and positive reaction. This is a topic that fascinates people. They want to talk about it, and there are very few opportunities to do that. So that's been true for about half the libraries.

I would say another—roughly—half, have been very nervous about having anything to do with LGBT people anywhere near their library. They're afraid that their Board and their conservative members are going to be upset by it. They're afraid of challenges. One librarian said, "We couldn't show that film because there's a Catholic church across the street." Another one hung up repeatedly; just didn't even want to talk about the issue at all. I think one of the most upsetting things that happened is that we talked to a librarian who said, "I know how important this is. My son is gay and he was tormented in school, but I'm just afraid to do this." So there are librarians who are self-censoring for fear of being controversial.

**Q:** OK, then. Tell us how we can help with the Going Public Campaign.

**Hamer:** We're trying to do screenings in every county in Pennsylvania. We have a really terrific [discussion guide](#). We have an Event Planning Tool Kit, which describes different types of events that people can have, and how to do publicity as a model press release, model poster, etc. So now any group, including public libraries, can get those materials for free and do a screening, essentially for no cost.

We've also taken a note from other major filmmakers and are making kits available so that groups can buy [DVDs](#) at a stiff discount to raffle or sell them off to their members.

(continued on page 5)

## Member Profile: Sarah Wright



### When or how did you know you wanted to work in the library field?

When most kids were playing house or school, I let my friends borrow my books, but they had to apply for a library card and I wrote due dates in the back. I knew then I wanted to be a librarian when I grew up, but I first knew I could work in the library field when I worked as a graduate assistant in the main branch of the University of Iowa libraries while working on a PhD in Philosophy. As I began to figure academic philosophy was not my bag, I decided I already had the skills required to help others in their research needs.

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

My first library job was in Arlington, Virginia at the Mills Corporation headquarters. My sister was their librarian and she hired me to work as a filing clerk. I did a lot of loose leaf filing and processed employee information requests. The library was very small and I remember being afraid of getting crushed in the electronic compact shelving.

### Tell us about your current job.

I am currently a Youth Services Librarian in Prince William County, Virginia at Potomac Community Library. My duties include collection maintenance, reference services to adults and children, community outreach and programming. I visit local elementary schools for career day, bug acquisitions personnel to buy more titles from the Rainbow List, book performers, train and manage teenage volunteers, while creating useful bibliographies for parents, updating reader's advisory information for staff who are less versed in young adult fiction and making cotton candy for Children's Book Week. My job is enjoyable because childhood literacy should be fun.

### Did/do you have a mentor?

I think I might be looking for a mentor in ALA! I do have mentors in other areas of my life. Anne Pomeroy and Rodger Jackson at Richard Stockton College are strong influences in my life. Janette Muir is a dear friend and mentor spiritually and has helped me so much as I work on my second master's degree.

### Do you have any heroes in library land?

Carrie Gardner was a professor at Catholic University when I was in library school, and I hold her in high regards because she instilled the values of intellectual freedom in all of her students. She has served as chair of the AASL Intellectual Freedom Committee and is currently teaching at San Jose State. I am also a big fan of Judith Krug. It is my job as a librarian to fight against censorship and help put books into the hands of those who need them. Freedom to read is an important facet of Youth services and I agree with the ALA Freedom to Read Statement that "It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and

expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority."

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

I am reading so many things right now! I am sifting through *Full Frontal Feminism* by Jessica Valenti. I would recommend it to anyone who needs a reminder of why feminism is still important. It is somewhat basic, however. I am also reading *My Most Excellent Year: a novel of love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park* by Steve Kluger. I am not a big baseball fan, but this book has heart. I also recently finished *Going Bovine* by Libba Bray and I cannot stop recommending it.

### What's the best part about being a member of the GLBTRT?

I really enjoy being a member of ALA, but finding your entry point can be difficult. GLBTRT always has a project needing some work. I also like that I can be myself as I mix with librarians from all kinds of different environments and we can share our perspectives on issues important to those of us somewhere in that GLBT spectrum.

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

I used to write on LJ every day but I switched to facebook, where you can find me using the handle Ms.FizzleLibrarian. I haven't made it over to twitter yet.

### Anything else you'd like to add?

I am super excited to see everyone for annual in DC! I don't have to fly this time! E-mail me if you'd like to be featured for a future member profile  
Swright@pwcgov.org

## Build Your Vita! Write Reviews or Articles for the GLBTRT Newsletter!

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 **Tracy Nectoux** at: [tnectoux@illinois.edu](mailto:tnectoux@illinois.edu). Or, if journalism is more your style, send in articles about GLBT library services and collections in and around your community.

## Out of the Silence: An Interview with Dean Hamer (continued)

**Q:** Are you taking advantage of activist or educational groups that are devoted to LGBT civil rights?

**Hamer:** We are working with a number of national partners. PFLAG is really our closest partner. They're so fantastic. They've been really terrific in supporting us. And they have quite a few rural chapters, and they're always looking for more.

The ACLU has also been an extremely important partner, both for the help they gave CJ and for the work they are doing with us on outreach.

We're also working with GLSEN, and April 16th is the Day of Silence, so we're trying to do a big campaign to use Out in the Silence to End the Silence after the Day of Silence, and we're going to make the film and the discussion kit available for free to any high school that wants to use it in their program.

The film is also going to be coming out on [PBS](#).

It won't have a coordinated national broadcast; it'll be up to each individual station to pick it up, so we're encouraging stations to do this.

**Q:** Any final thoughts? Especially with how libraries can help LGBT kids in rural areas?

**Hamer:** Whatever can be done to allow LGBT people in more isolated areas to connect with one another is terrific. That's really what's lacking: being able to connect with one another.

One of the things we did right from the beginning is to see what's available in public libraries for gay kids. This is important because universal web access isn't available in these areas. C.J. and his family only have dial-up, so he couldn't even look at sophisticated web stuff at all. So libraries are actually the best source of information. C.J. told us that at his school library, there was not a single item about gay stuff of any sort whatsoever, and that if there were, and he'd tried to check it out, he'd be immediately suspect.

**Q:** That's appalling because one of the most important tenants of librarianship is privacy.

**Hamer:** Yeah, but he was worried about it. We started going to public libraries in the area, and there's a remarkable paucity of LGBT material. If you look in the card catalog under "gay," in several of the area libraries, the only thing that comes up are novels on "gay twenties" or books from the 1980s about AIDS. Sometimes we'll find a library that has a *lot*, and then it's usually because there's a librarian who's interested in the topic. So we feel that there's a tremendous need for more gay-friendly materials in libraries in these areas, and promoting them or making them known is incredibly important.

For more information on *Out in the Silence* and the Going Public Campaign, check out the [Facebook](#) page, or contact the filmmakers [here](#).

Interview Conducted by **Tracy Nectoux**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## GLBTRT Meetings & Events Schedule, 2010 Annual Conference

All GLBTRT meetings and programs are open to ALA membership except where noted as a closed meeting. Closed committee meetings are limited to committee membership. Admission to ticketed events can be purchased during online conference registration and though on-site ALA conference services pending space and schedule requirements.

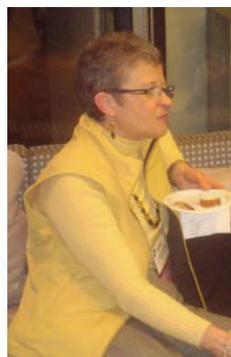
Date	Meeting/Event Name	Time	Location
Saturday June 26, 2010	Steering Committee I (Agenda will be linked from here soon.)	8 – 10 am	<a href="#">Beacon Hotel &amp; Corporate Quarters</a> - Embassy 108/110
	All Committees Meeting Time	10:30 – Noon	<a href="#">Beacon Hotel &amp; Corporate Quarters</a> - Cabinet Room
	Stonewall Book Awards Committee I (Closed Meeting)	1:30 – 3:30 pm	<a href="#">Beacon Hotel &amp; Corporate Quarters</a> - Presidential Library
Sunday June 27, 2010	Rainbow Project Breakfast (Ticketed Event)	8 – 10 am	<a href="#">Washington Convention Center</a> - Room 201
	GLBTRT Membership Meeting	10:30 – Noon	<a href="#">Renaissance Washington</a> - Meeting Room 04
	Rainbow Hollinger Box Program: LGBTQ Archives	1:30 – 3:30 pm	<a href="#">Washington Convention Center</a> - Room 152A
	Stonewall Book Awards Committee II (Closed Meeting)	1:30 – 3:30 pm	<a href="#">Beacon Hotel &amp; Corporate Quarters</a> - State Room
	Membership Pavilion Celebration	4 – 5 pm	TBA
	40th Anniversary Social	5:00 – 8 pm	<a href="#">Hotel Monaco</a>
Monday June 28th, 2010	Stonewall Book Awards Brunch (Ticketed Event)	10:30 – 1pm	<a href="#">Washington Convention Center</a> - Room 207A
	Queer Teens: LGBTQ Young Adult Novels	4:00 – 5:30 pm	<a href="#">Washington Convention Center</a> - Room 152A
Tuesday June 29th, 2010	Steering Committee II (Agenda will be linked from here soon.)	10:30 – 1 pm	<a href="#">Washington Convention Center</a> - Room 154B

## GLBTRT Congratulates ALA Election Winners

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### Anne L. Moore—GLBTRT Co-Chair

Anne has been a member of the GLB Task Force / GLBT Round Table since 1998. She has served as both a committee member and Steering Committee member in a variety of positions including representative, OLOS Advisory Committee, 2008-10, External Affairs Committee, 2008-10 and representative, Diversity Council, 2006-10.



### Jason D. Phillips—GLBTRT Secretary

Jason has worked with both the Stonewall Book Awards Committee and External Relations Committee and brings with him the sense of humor required to communicate with and between both the Steering Committee and the general membership.



### Peter Hepburn - GLBTRT Councilor

Participation in GLBTRT activities like the Bylaws Committee has prepared Peter to represent the GLBTRT to Council. His experiences have given him insight to issues facing ALA and the mechanisms for working within the Association.



### Larry Romans—ALA Councilor at Large

Larry is a member of GODORT and ACRL in addition to SRRT and GLBTRT. He is in support of reinventing our services to meet user needs during continuous technological changes and adding electronic members and meetings to promote member participation.



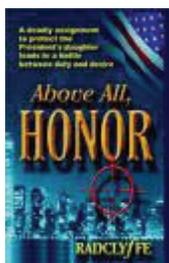
### Tom Wilding— ALA Councilor at Large

Tom (not pictured) has served ALA Council previously as an at large member. He has served in administrative capacities at large academic libraries as well as instructed library science courses.

## Audiobook Reviews

### Radclyffe. *Above All, Honor.* Narr. Karen Anton.

Unabridged. Dog Ear Audio, 2009. Approx. 6 hours. Audiobook. \$24.95. ISBN: 9781935061038.



Blair Powell is the daughter of the President and an accomplished artist. When straitlaced Secret Service Agent Cameron Roberts is assigned to protect Blair, she discovers that Blair is also rebellious, stubborn, and a lesbian. The more Cameron tries to protect her, the more Blair resists, and the more attracted they become to one another.

Originally published in 2003, *Above All, Honor* is the first in a series featuring Cameron and Blair. Romance fans will find more of what they like from

Radclyffe (steamy sex scenes and lots of butch-femme tension), but shouldn't expect much from the Secret Service premise. This recently recorded audio version is hampered in additional ways. Karen Anton's delivery is often stiff and halting, and her characters' voices, especially Blair's higher pitch, veer toward the cartoonish. Her annunciation isn't always clear, and she makes some simple mispronunciations ("magnet" for "business magnate," etc.) that are distracting and should have been caught by an editor.

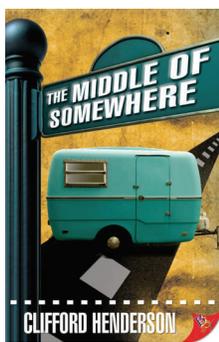
On the production side, there's another jarring oversight. Frequently, Radclyffe (like many authors) changes scenes in the middle of a chapter. However, there's no pause in the narration to signal

that a new section is beginning, which leaves the listener scrambling to catch up. It's a small, simple touch that would have enhanced the listening experience. Fans of Radclyffe's romances might enjoy the audio version of this book, but the reader and the production may turn off even her most steadfast devotees.

*Reviewed by: Nicole Pasini  
San Mateo County Library*

### Henderson, Clifford. *The Middle of Somewhere.*

Guffery, CO: Dog Ear Audio, 2006. audiobook, unabridged. 8 discs. \$36.95. ISBN: 978-1-935061-04-5.



Have you ever felt a little lost in your life after a break up? Did you ever want to simply escape for awhile? Eadie Pratt takes off running from the pain of a failed relationship, to go on a pilgrimage to the venerated shrine of the Womyn's Michigan Music Festival, but she never quite makes it. Her beloved '66 T-bird, pulling her teardrop camper, breaks down in Rauston, Texas, where she meets Pigin and Heifer. These two "simple" middle-aged small-town sisters (at first impression) clad in coordinated muumuus are folks with which the

eyebrow-pierced Eadie doesn't want to associate. But through their generosity and kindness, she is swept deeper into their lives, or at least until her car and hitch are repaired.

Piggin, Heifer, and really, the whole town of Rauston help Eadie learn a little more about herself and the meaning and complexity of being human. This reader hasn't decided who got the better end of the deal, Eadie or the folks from Rauston.

This unabridged audiobook on CD, as read by the author, would be a great addition to any library that has audiobooks in its collection. While you can't miss that Eadie is a lesbian, the story will resonate with anyone who is trying to find his or her way in the world. Libraries that use an audiobook service, such as NetLibrary or OverDrive can

inadvertently miss some of these smaller independent press gems. Audiobooks are a favorite of those who are taking their own road trip, or who have a long commute. Dog Ear Audio has a lesbian focus and is run on solar energy.

*Reviewed by: Lisa Forslund  
North Hennepin Community College.*

## Film Reviews

### *Mr. Right.*

Dirs: David Morris and Jacqui Morris. Wolfe Video, 2009. DVD. \$19.95. 95min.



*Mr. Right* has a very attractive cast and great title credits, but nothing else in this film is worth mentioning. After the first 10 minutes, I began to lose hope of enjoying this film; I was right.

The plot of *Mr. Right* revolves around a group of gay men and their straight female friend who are trying to find love in London. Unfortunately, the characters are largely made up of stereotypes: gay men = vain, bitchy, jealous, and unfaithful.

The storyline jumps from one couple to another so quickly that I had a hard time keeping track of who is whom, which prevented me from caring about any of the characters at all.

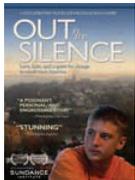
In addition, the soundtrack is very distracting, probably due to the plot not being substantial enough to maintain my attention.

There are many other gay British films that I would recommend over *Mr. Right*. It reminded me of many of the films of the early 80s, whose only redeeming factor was that they contained gay characters. With the wealth of better gay themed films presently available, along with tightening budgets, I do not recommend that librarians spend their money on this film.

Reviewed by: **Scott Clonan**  
Adult Services Librarian  
Rainbow Public Library

### *Out in the Silence: Love, hate, and a quest for change in small town America.*

Dirs. Joe Wilson & Dean Hamer. Qwaves Documentary Films, Inc., 2009. DVD. \$155.00. 56 min.



When Joe Wilson decided to place an announcement of his wedding to his partner, Dean Hamer, in the newspaper of the small town in which he grew up (Oil City, Pennsylvania), he inadvertently set off a storm of angry letters to the editor. He also got a very different letter from Kathy Springer, the mother of an out gay teen. In response, Wilson decided to return to Oil City and make the documentary *Out in the Silence*, which, like *Small Town Gay Bar*, highlights a poignant picture of gay life in small town America.

*Out in the Silence* focuses on the struggles of a gay high school student who is living with homophobia and daily harassment, and a lesbian couple who are working to open a theater in Oil City, and facing resistance because of their relationship. However, what makes *Out in the Silence* most moving are the stories of heterosexuals who transform because of their relationships with GLBT people. Wilson chronicles the development of his friendship with Reverend Mark Miklos, who was one of the people who wrote a letter to the editor decrying gay marriage, and who eventually accepts and embraces Wilson.

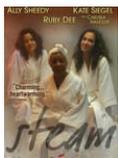
Kathy Springer's story is also powerful, as she is politicized by the treatment of her son and the lack of support from school administrators, and decides to take the issue to the school district and then to state representatives.

*Out in the Silence* is recommended for all viewers and deserves a place in all library collections, particularly those libraries serving small and rural communities.

Reviewed by: **Nicole Pasini**  
San Mateo County Library

### *Steam.*

Dir. Kyle Schickner. New Almaden, CA: Wolfe Video, 2009. DVD. 118 min. \$19.95.



The lesbian content in this film is neatly cut into the story of one of three women who share a sauna steam room. The three main characters, played by Ruby Dee, Alley Sheedy, and Kate Siegel, are a widowed senior citizen, divorced 40-something mom, and an on-the-verge-of-coming-out-coed, respectively. Their stories follow a multi-character narrative arch, that plays out across their ages, sexualities, and racial differences.

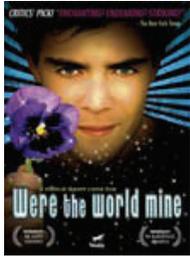
*Steam's* major story-line is how romance comes into these three very different lives, and the lessons learned. The lesbian story is perhaps the most simplistic within a very simple film. This film will secure a solid place on the Queer Hallmark Network (when we get it). However, I can't recommend it for any but the most inclusive, vast DVD collection. There are many more important, and deeper, fictional works that explore the complexity of queer lives. *Steam* could be a

good Netflix rental, though, requiring only minor sofa-slug attention to achieve a feel-good buzz... and we deserve those kinds of films, too.

Reviewed by: **Morgan Gwenwald**  
SUNY New Paltz

## Were the World Mine.

Dir. Tom Gustafson. San Jose, CA: Wolfe Video, 2008. DVD. 95 min. \$24.95.



Taking its title from a line in the original play, *Were the World Mine* is a creative re-imagining of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that asks, "If you could make someone love you, would you?"

The film presents a few complicated love affairs, from the main character, Timothy's, crush on a seemingly straight rugby player at his all-boys prep school, to his mother's longing for a husband who is out of the picture. The film also tells the all too familiar story of homophobic bullying in

school. But things take a turn when Timothy, while preparing to play Puck in the school production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, creates an elixir that causes people to fall in love with the first person they see. After instigating gay love affairs throughout town, Timothy, along with the help of a kooky drama teacher, resolves everything and performs in a stunning production of the play.

*Were the World Mine* features several fanciful musical numbers, with lyrics adapted from Shakespeare's words. Comparisons to *High School Musical* are hard to avoid, particularly after a dodge ball dance number, but the outcome distinguishes this film from a run-of-the-

mill teen flick. A few plot points are left unresolved (we never learn why Timothy's father left, for instance), but the whimsy of the film distracts the viewer from them.

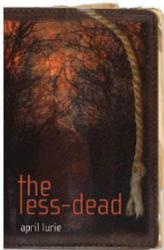
This film, though unrated, is an innocent love story appropriate for teen viewers. Winner of a number of honors, including a Critics' Pick from the *New York Times*, this film is recommended.

Reviewed by: **Caitlin Shanley**  
Instructional Design and Technology Librarian  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga,  
Lupton Library

## Book Reviews: Young Adult

### Lurie, April. *The Less-Dead*.

New York, NY: Delacorte Press, 2010. hardcover. 304p. \$16.99. ISBN: 978-0-3857-3675-6.



Covering foster care, murder, anti-gay feelings, religion, acting out at school, mystery, unrequited love—both gay and straight—

undercover cops, rebelling against parents, homelessness, and more, this novel follows Noah Nordstrom, a high school junior and son of the Bible Answer Guy, through his self-realization.

While *The Less-Dead* does not focus specifically on a gay character, it is the

death of a gay, homeless foster child, Will Reed, who brings about self-realization for both Noah and his best friend Carson, son of an atheist. Noah investigates Will's death, the third in a series of gay killings, while Carson turns religious and becomes baptized for a girl. Noah and his father overcome their adversity, and the killer is caught. The book ends with much happiness, although there are plot twists and eccentric characters sufficient to keep the reader interested and unaware of the killer's true identity.

This book will appeal to LGBT teens, as it shows how, sometimes, those who are against gays can be changed, with time and care, but also how some others will never change. An interesting and useful inclusion at the end of the work is an author's note about her experiences growing up in a strict evangelical home, and the future for the

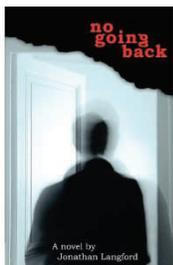
LGBT community. Lurie also includes "The six 'clobber' passages that so many evangelical teachers quote to support their hard stance against homosexuality," and her interpretations of these to show what is truly being said in the Bible. Lurie also includes a bibliography for further readings on the Web and in print.

*The Less-Dead* is a valuable book for young adults who are around gay teens, and those who are gay, as well as for parents of gay adolescents, or whose children's friends might be gay.

Reviewed by: **Sara Rofofsky Marcus**  
Assistant Professor  
Electronic Resource / Web Librarian  
Queensborough Community College

### Langford, Jonathan. *No Going Back*.

Provo, Utah: Zarahemla Books, 2009, 304 pages. \$16.95. ISBN: 9780978797195



Mormon YA literature has come a long way with the publication of *No Going Back*. Many novels written for the Mormon audience are designed to be, first, faith-promoting. In

*No Going Back*, we have a more realistic novel.

Paul, 15, comes out to his best friend, his bishop, and finally his mother. His life is complicated by the members of the Gay Straight Alliance at his school (who expect him to be true to himself as a gay teen), navigating the expectations of his church that he remain celibate, and dealing with a political campaign to limit gay rights, in which members of his congregation are actively participating.

There is much to admire in *No Going Back*, given its intended audience. There is frank discussion of teen sexual issues, a great portrayal of friendship when Paul's friend Chad sticks by him after he comes out (despite pressure from some church members and peer pressure at school), and an honest examination of the pressures on family life that church members often go through. These types of issues are rarely seen in what is intended as popular fiction for

(continued on page 9)

## Langford, Jonathan. *No Going Back*. (Continued)

a church audience. While they are common in mainstream YA literature, they are new in this market.

Some readers will be disappointed in Paul's decision to put the church first. But it is an appropriate ending for the market for which *No Going Back* is intended. As a matter of full disclosure, I am a former Mormon who chose the same path as Paul for many years. So, while reading, I understood what is happening here, and why. But a huge issue for non-Mormon readers will be the total lack of explanation

of the Mormon world. Church jargon, organization, and theology are presented in a way that will be clear to the intended reader, but will not be clear to others, since the author assumes reader familiarity. If not for the unexplained Mormon terminology, this book might have had a broader market for other conservative faiths.

So, what should librarians do with *No Going Back*? Just as we fight for LGBT YA books to be in our libraries, so that LGBT youth can find themselves and their lives on the shelves, we should consider material that

suggests to youth another choice, so that those who decide to choose faith will also find themselves there. Libraries located in communities or states where there is a sizable Mormon population should consider this book.

Reviewed by: **Dave Combe**  
EP Foster Library  
Ventura, CA

## Peters, Julie Anne. *Rage: A Love Story*.

New York: Knopf, 2009. hardcover. 304p. \$16.99. ISBN: 978037585209.



Johanna has been nursing a wild crush on Reeve, whom she scarcely knows. She grasps at the opportunity to make a place in Reeve's life for herself, even as Reeve pushes her away, and as both Johanna's friends and ex-lovers of Reeve's warn her that she's getting into trouble.

Reeve lives in a home permeated with violence and substance abuse. She struggles to survive and protect her brother Robbie, who is perhaps autistic. She can't risk letting anyone get too close, and violence is the only way she knows to push people away. Johanna, however, keeps coming back for more, and a pattern forms that becomes almost impossible to break.

Teens will find themselves deeply engaged in this very well-written book, which deals realistically with the difficult issues raised; however, it is disappointing to read yet another LGBT novel that is replete with pain, violence, and hopeless relationships.

Reviewed by: **Nancy Silverrod**  
San Francisco Public Library

## Peck, Dale. *Sprout*.

New York: Bloomsbury, 2009. hardcover. 277pp. \$16.99. ISBN: 978-1599901602.

**DALE PECK**

*sprout*



Sprout Bradford is a gay teenager with green hair, an alcoholic dad, and a trailer for a home, smack in the middle of Kansas. He's fairly well accepted at school, maybe because he owns all his oddities rather than trying to hide any of them. Or maybe it's because—next to his best friend Ruthie, whose scrawniness, wedge-cut hair, and eighties obsession are just a few of her defining quirks—he really is pretty normal.

For the first half of the novel, Sprout and Ruthie are inseparable, except on Saturdays when Sprout goes to visit his writing coach,

who's prepping him for a statewide essay contest. This involves a lot of practice writing, excerpts from which provide much of the info about both Ruthie's and Sprout's backgrounds. But by the novel's second half, Ruthie has been summarily replaced by Ty. Ty is a legitimately weird new kid with family problems of his own, and soon he and Sprout are, if not boyfriends, at least sharing secrets and hooking up regularly.

And then there's Ian Abernathy. That's the name of the now-stock outwardly-homophobic-but-secretly-gay jock character (see: *A Really Nice Prom Mess*, *David Inside Out*, *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*). Ian taunts Sprout early on with the usual slurs, but ends up making out with him, literally in a closet, repeatedly throughout their shared adolescence. Only Ty puts an end to this—

well, and Ruthie, who ends up with Ian.

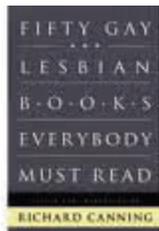
The main characters of *Sprout* are complex and appealing (except for Ian), and the supporting cast has depth. The plot is coming-of-age, but who doesn't like a good bildungsroman? Highly recommended.

Reviewed by: **Daisy Porter**  
Manager of Innovation  
San José Public Library

## Book Reviews: Non-fiction

### Canning, Richard, ed. *Fifty Gay and Lesbian Books Everybody Must Read*.

New York: Alyson Books, 2009. paperback. 342 p. \$16.95. ISBN: 9781593501198.



Richard Canning gathered a diverse group of 50 writers and turned them loose to choose works of literature that have "GLBTQ resonance," and then write about them. The result

is this rich, provocative collection of essays on a wonderfully varied selection of well-known, not so well-known, and downright obscure gay and lesbian literature.

Aaron Hamburger contributes a witty, yet bittersweet essay on the story of David and Jonathan, told in 1 and 2 Samuel. Lisa

Cohen's case for Ivy Compton-Burnett's novel *More Women than Men* could create renewed interest in this most delightfully queer of writers. Mark Merlis ingeniously connects A. E. Housman's *A Shropshire Lad* with the Columbine shootings, and sheds new light on these poems that were mostly read in adolescence. There are 47 more essays, just as intriguing.

Almost every writer tosses out a highly quotable observation that leaps off the page. Christopher Bram writes of Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice*: "Chickenhawks can get awfully longwinded describing their beloveds." Regina Marley describes Olive Chancellor in Henry James's *The Bostonians* as "demonstrating that the U-Haul joke has a

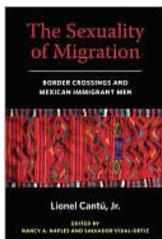
long provenance."

In his essay on Gore Vidal's *Palimpsest*, Paul Reidinger says, "Literature is a layered confection, after all; a tiramisu of words." Our GLBTQ literature has many layers, as these essays indelibly show. This book is a splendid source for book group selections, not only from the works discussed, but also from the contributors' books listed after their essays. *Fifty Gay and Lesbian Books Everybody Must Read* is essential for libraries with collections of gay and lesbian literature.

Reviewed by: **W. Stephen Breedlove**  
Reference and Interlibrary Loan Librarian  
La Salle University Library

### Contú, Lionel, Jr. *The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossings and Mexican Immigrant Men*.

New York: New York University Press, 2009. hardcover. 245 p. \$65.00. ISBN: 978-0-8147-5848-9.



Due to Contú's untimely death, *The Sexuality of Migration* is edited by Nancy A. Naples and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, to which they've added both an introduction and a conclusion. The purpose of the latter is to tie the book to other, more recent treatments of queer migration and

queer Hispanic issues.

The ethnographic data, the presentation of which constitute the core of the analysis, are drawn from late 1990s interviews carried out

in Mexico and California. Contú locates his work in Queer Theory and uses a "queer materialist approach." He explores the ways in which gay male Mexican immigration to the United States is influenced by sexuality, and also explores modes of incorporation, resistance to marginalization, shaping of sexual identity by social and migratory factors, and questions of gender identity and notions of masculinity.

Contú argues that sexuality is a major factor in the migratory decisions and in the ultimate manner of incorporation of gay male Mexican immigrants. He furthermore argues for a nuanced and social-historically determined understanding of identity and masculinity in

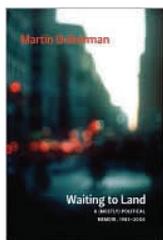
Mexican culture.

*The Sexuality of Migration* is excellent, despite the decade-old data, and should be a key part of the curricula in any sociology course on Mexican immigration. It is also an important text for queer studies courses, where sociological issues are raised. It is essential for academic libraries.

Reviewed by: **David Woolwine, Ph.D., M.L.S.**  
Hofstra University  
Hempstead, New York

### Duberman, Martin. *Waiting to Land: A (Mostly) Political Memoir (1985-2008)*.

New York, NY: The New Press, 2009. hardcover. 334p. \$26.95. ISBN: 9781595584403.



*Waiting to Land* is Duberman's latest installment in his memoirs as a queer activist and academic in New York City for the past 25 years. It follows his earlier memoirs, *Cures* and *Midlife Queer*, and joins more than 15 other books that he has authored.

This is chronological diary, built around a wide variety of activities and issues, including the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall riots, ACT-UP (and other queer activist groups), his work on a biography about Paul Robeson, and the NYC publishing world. One of Duberman's greatest contributions in this era, and a project that takes up a lot of space in this volume, is his work founding and nurturing the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) housed at the CUNY Graduate Center. The book is jam-packed with short descriptions of historical events in

the LGBT community, notes on meetings, and commentary on the huge cast of people with which he has worked with.

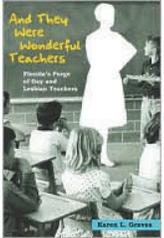
In *Waiting to Land*, Duberman has kept a diary for the LGBT community of NYC, and it is a fascinating read for anyone who is touched by that time and those people.

Reviewed by: **Morgan Gwenwald**

SUNY New Paltz

## Graves, Karen L. *And They Were Wonderful Teachers: Florida's Purge of Gay and Lesbian Teachers.*

Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2009. Cloth: 978-0-252-03438-1; \$65.00. Paper: 978-0-252-07639-8; \$20.00. 186p.



Karen Graves' study of the Florida persecution of gay and lesbian schoolteachers illuminates a civil rights crisis for GLBT educators in late 20th-century American education. The work examines an investigative committee created by the Florida legislature in 1956 by representatives from northern, rural, and conservative communities with a desire to slow school integration. In a fever of Cold

War paranoia, the committee also attempted to link the NAACP with the Communist Party, to identify "homosexual influence" and Communist activities in the newly-established University of South Florida (USF), and most of all, to purge Florida schools of gay and lesbian teachers. Gay and lesbian teachers had no organizational support, such as the NAACP and the university faculty. The Florida Education Association and the state board of education shared the Investigation Committee's agenda against homosexual teachers, and made only token efforts to uphold due process. And though the NAACP and USF were able to force the Investigation

Committee to make hearings public, thus curbing some civil injustices, schoolteachers were coerced into private interviews without legal counsel—after which they lost their jobs and teaching certificates. This is a compelling analysis of a pivotal moment in American history, reminding us that education is central to the evolution of society, and the acceptance (or at least civil rights) of gay and lesbian teachers is a critical aspect of GLBT liberation.

*Reviewed by: Ruth Ann Jones  
Special Collections Cataloger  
Michigan State University Libraries*

## Book Reviews: Fiction

### Plakcy, Neil. *GayLife.com.*

Albion, N.Y.: MLR Press, 2009. paperback. 248p. \$14.99. ISBN: 978-1608200368.

Brian Cohen wants a new challenge in his life. Unemployed and recently single, he's



looking for love and a new job in South Beach during the "dot com" boom of the early 2000s. Through the connections of his best friend Stella, he lands a job running the office at GayLife.com, a new Internet start-up offering a taste of the good life online to its

GLBT clientele. Brian holds out little hope in finding love or contentment at GayLife.com, until he meets his new boss, the handsome and affable Nick Petrangelis.

Brian falls head over heels for Nick, but Nick is happily partnered with a supermodel and the two of them are the "gay supercouple" at the center of GayLife.com. Nick is everything Brian has ever looked for in a man, and he senses that there is real chemistry between them, but does not want to jeopardize everything by pursuing it further. The novel takes a few twists and turns, and it looks like Brian may never find true love, but the reader is given a happy ending that is both sweet and steamy.

*GayLife.com* is Neil Plakcy's first venture into male-male romantic fiction, and the story has the right blend of traditional romantic themes and sultry sexuality, with a good

dose of humor thrown in for good measure. His previous works have been gay-themed mysteries, and Plakcy brings some elements of surprise and suspense into the novel as well. The characters are well-developed and I found myself wanting the story to continue on after its end. It's a good first attempt at writing in a genre that has started to really come into its own in the last few years.

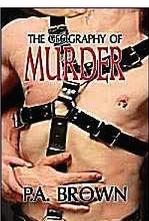
Recommended for all libraries, especially those with GLBT collections or romance collections.

*Reviewed by: Matthew P. Ciszek  
Lartz Memorial Library*

### Brown, P. A. *The Geography of Murder.*

Albion, NY: MLR Press, 2009. Softcover. 258 p. \$14.99. ISBN: 978-1-6082-0054-2.

In this mystery *cum* erotica novel, Pat Brown brings the reader into the minds of sub Jason, the suspect in a murder, and master Alex Spider, a detective. It is when Jason is arrested



for the murder of a well-known pedophile that Spider becomes aware of, and then falls in love with, Jason. Detailed scenes of sex and bondage fill the volume, as do police procedures, mental anguish at new relationship roles, drug

abuse and attempts to stop, and prejudice on the job at the police department. Several grammar errors and missing words in sentences can be found, but in general, the writing is done well, and the author successfully evokes emotions in the reader.

Detailed scenic descriptions place one in the setting, although the alternating viewpoints between Jason and Spider can be confusing at times; however this technique does show both sides of the budding and strained relationship well.

This book, because of its graphic language and depictions of sexual acts and bondage is not appropriate for most collections, although adult-only collections would benefit from this police-crime book that's filled with romance and the issues facing many gays today.

*Reviewed by: Sara Rofofsky Marcus  
Electronic Resources/ Web Librarian  
Queensborough Community College.*

## Buchanan, James. *Inland Empire*.

Taking the Odds Series [#2]. Albion, NY: MLR Press, 2009. 280 p. ISBN: 978-1-60820-016-0

*Inland Empire* is the second book in MLR Press's Taking the Odds series. Nevada Gaming Control Agent Nick O'Malley and Riverside, California, Police Detective Brandon Carr are back, this time on Carr's home turf. Carr is closeted; only his straight partner Jeff Weaver knows he is gay, but his boyfriend Nick makes the secret impossible to keep.

Buchanan is a talented crime writer and creative at writing sex scenes, so readers

who like a rich crime novel and lots of sex will like this book. But the crime and the sex are only backdrops for a much more serious story: the rocky relationship between an uptight, macho, tattooed, hunky cop and his slightly swishy, very cute boyfriend. Buchanan deals with these trials and tribulations very well, in a realistic fashion as Nick, a computer geek, becomes involved in a Riverside crime bust. By the end of the novel, these two lovers' relationship is much improved. They may even make it.

One of the most interesting aspects of this novel is that the author is a woman. Buchanan likes to write gay male erotic romance novels and has made quite a

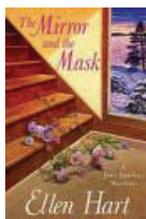
career out of it, completely separate from her legal practice in Pasadena, California and her life with her "SexyGuy," kids, lots of animals, and her Harley-Davidson. For this part of her life she adopted the name of our 15th possibly gay president. For more, go to [www.James-Buchanan.com](http://www.James-Buchanan.com)

Libraries who cater to novel-reading gay men and their friends will want to consider this author and her 10 books, including this one.

Reviewed by: **James D. Anderson**  
Professor Emeritus  
Rutgers University

## Hart, Ellen. *The Mirror and the Mask*. A Jane Lawless Mystery.

NY: Minotaur Books, 2009. hardcover. 305p. \$25.99. ISBN: 9780312375270.



Minneapolis restaurateur and amateur sleuth Jane Lawless finds herself drawn into her 23rd mystery in *The Mirror and the Mask*. Jane feels like she's hit a rough patch: her two successful restaurants don't inspire the passion that they used to; plans for a third restaurant have been put on hold because of the tough

economy; her ex-lover Kenzie is unwilling to reconcile and is out of touch; and Jane can't seem to come to terms with her own accountability in the breakup. When beautiful loner Annie Archer appears, looking for work and for help tracking down her father, Jane

feels that helping her with this simple investigation might be a way out of her slump. But as Jane probes further into the case, she finds that Annie isn't who she says she is, and that getting emotionally involved on the job is not just complicated, but dangerous. Meanwhile, Jane's best friend Cordelia has an unexpected visit from her estranged sister Octavia, and Cordelia's hopes to gain back custody of her niece are all but destroyed.

Hart's consistent writing holds true in *The Mirror and the Mask*, and though it's another page-turning novel, she has written more compelling plots in past Jane Lawless mysteries. Fans will notice that Hart has left

some subplots wide open from her previous book *Sweet Poison*, which will leave them hungering for the series' next episode. New Hart followers might prefer to start earlier in the series. Recommended for adult mystery buffs, and public libraries with mystery sections.

Reviewed by: **Jesse Nachem**  
Records Specialist  
University of California

## Stone, Dan. *The Rest of Our Lives: A Novel*.

Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2009. trade paperback. 227p. \$15.00. ISBN: 9781590211472.



Dan Stone's debut novel, *The Rest of Our Lives*, combines the genres of romance and fantasy. Colm McKenna, a bookstore employee and photographer, has the power to freeze time and summon cold weather. He was raised by a Baptist aunt in North Carolina, and does not understand his powers until he meets Aidan Gallagher, a writer

who also has unusual powers with regards to temperature. As they fall in love, Aidan introduces Colm to the world of witchcraft. Colm's realization that he and Aidan had been together in previous

lives complicates their relationship.

Colm's discovery of the hidden world of witchcraft has a slightly Harry Potter-ish feel to it, but it is well done. The contrast between Aidan's flirty, happy-go-lucky personality and Colm's shy, awkward, and guarded personality is charming. The elements of magic and reincarnation are important to the novel, but they do not overpower the main theme of love. Stone's humorous style of writing adds to the strength of the novel.

*The Rest of Our Lives* is a delightful, light read, perfect for a rainy day or a day at the beach. It is

recommended for public libraries serving a GLBT population or those libraries with a good fantasy collection.

Reviewed by: **Paul Hubbard**  
Retired Public Reference Librarian

## Bowie, J. P. *Warrior Prince*.

Albion, NY: MLRPress, 2009. paperback. 200p. \$14.99. ISBN: 978-1-9345-3188-4.



*Warrior Prince* is a tale of war, star-crossed romance, and friendship, set in the early Roman Empire. This work appeals to the history lover, the guts and glory lover, the romance lover, and the erotica lover. Written through the eyes of three men: Lucius, a Roman tutor; Callistus, a runaway gladiator slave; and Flavius, a Roman commander who unknowingly aids Lucius in reuniting with Callistus, despite the differing allegiances.

Well-researched to include actual events, and set in a realistic stage for its tales of courage, political intrigue, and betrayal, Bowie reports of the effects of war and conflict on innocent lovers seeking only to fill their hearts' desires.

While there are erotic scenes depicted throughout *Warrior Prince*, the tale itself stands alone and entertains on an intellectual level, while the erotica demonstrates the love and lust felt by anyone in such a situation, whether heterosexual or homosexual, whether the one left behind or the one leaving behind. The graphic language necessitates a need to

place the work in an adult collection, with care taken for the patrons that might happen upon the book.

This is a work that could be included in an historical fiction and war / political espionage section, as well as in the romance/erotica collection if one exists.

*Reviewed by: Sara Rofofsky Marcus*  
Electronic Resources Librarian  
Queensborough Community College.

## *Wilde Stories 2009: The Best of the Year's Gay Speculative Fiction.*

Edited by Steve Berman. Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2009. hardcover. 237p. ISBN: 1-59021-079-4 (library binding) -- 1-59021-080-0 (paperback)



*Wilde Stories 2009* is the second in an annual anthology series reprinting gay-themed fantasy and horror stories published during the previous year. While the debut collection was uneven, it contained much that was touching and delightful, and left me looking forward to a long and successful run.

violence are made to substitute for genuine storytelling and there is a surfeit of writing that calls attention to itself—sometimes to the point of incoherence. It also suffers from a great many distracting—and occasionally, confusing—typos.

The collection is not without its bright spots, however, including "Firooz and His Brother," Alex Jeffers' fable of love among the caravan masters of long-ago Samarkand, and Jameson Currier's sad and spooky "The Bloomsbury Nudes."

Bowie revisits the Greenwich Village of the 1960s and the lost young people who lived there.

Recommended only for collections that aim to be comprehensive.

*Reviewed by Joyce Meggett*  
Division Chief for Humanities  
Chicago Public Library

This year's collection is, overall, disappointing. Too often, darkness and

Best of all is "AKA St. Mark's Place," a shadowy tale in which the magisterial Richard

## GLBTRT Officers / Committee Chairs

**Nancy Silverrod, 2008–2010**  
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**Vacant**  
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[Link to Volunteer Form](#)

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