



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. 2 ♦ Summer 2010

Reviews

(Pages 9 -14):

Audiobooks

- *Cooper's Deale*

Films

- *Asian Queer Shorts*
- *The Baby Formula*
- *In Sickness and in Health*

Young Adult Films

- *In the Family: Marriage Equality and LGBT Families.*

Non-fiction

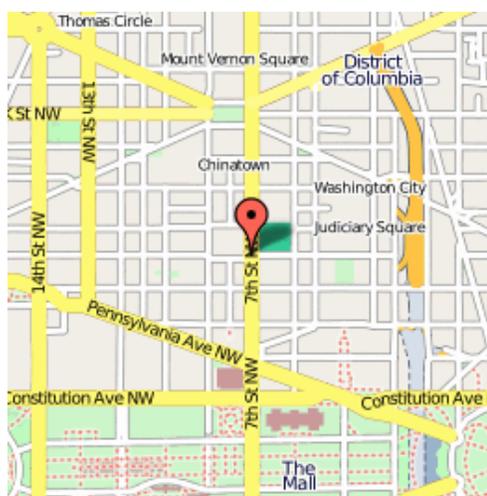
- *Encyclopedia of Contemporary LGBTQ Literature of the United States.*
- *Erotic City: Sexual Revolutions and the Making of Modern San Francisco.*
- *Transgender Explained for Those Who Are Not.*
- *The Haunted Heart and Other Tales.*
- *Moonlit Earth*
- *Shaming the Devil: Collected Short Stories.*
- *Time Well Bent: Queer Alternative Histories.*
- *Wilde Stories 2010*

Round Table 40th Anniversary

GLBTRT Begins its 40th year this Summer at the ALA Conference in Washington DC. The kick-off celebration is the Annual Social which will be held Sunday June 27, 2010, from 5pm to 8pm at the Hotel Monaco, 700 F Street NW. There will be light appetizers, a Champagne toast, and anniversary cakes. A cash bar will also be available. The 40th Anniversary celebration will culminate with the 40th Book Awards Event in 2011 in New Orleans.

Congratulate the 2010 Stonewall Book Award winning authors who will be attending the Social.

40th Anniversary commemorative t-shirts will be available for purchase.



Deadlines for the newsletter for the next year will be:

<i>Fall 2010</i>	August 31, 2010
Winter 2010	December 31, 2010
Spring 2011	March 15, 2011
Summer 2011	May 20, 2011

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.

GLBTRT Announces New Over the Rainbow Ad Hoc Committee

How do you identify good books about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) issues, once you've outgrown the young adult genre? How can you find a good LGBTQ book when many books are not labeled as such by the publisher, or when librarians don't ask (or don't tell) when LGBTQ characters are major actors in a book?

These are some of the questions that the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association hopes to answer with its new list of current books.

The new GLBTRT Over the Rainbow Project is charged with creating an annual annotated bibliography of titles of interest for adult readers that reflect LGBTQ experiences. The first ALA Over the Rainbow (OTR) list will be announced in January of 2011.

The idea for publishing an annual list of books for adults came from several members of the highly successful GLBTRT Rainbow Project, in its fourth year of publishing an annual bibliography of titles for children and young adults, recognized the need for a similar list for adult readers.

Members of this ad hoc committee come from across the U.S. and work in a variety of libraries--school, public, and academic. A couple of them have retired but still feel the need to avidly read. Thus far 44 titles have been nominated: these can be found at <http://alaovertherainbow.wordpress.com>.

Some jurors have suggested their favorite titles thus far--

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Jane Cothron (Lincoln County Library System, Newport, Oregon) has been so diligently scouring OCLC, and any other literary outlets that might help OTR find titles with lgbtq content, that she's not yet had much time to read. Stay tuned for Jane's favorites!

Cecil Hixon (retired, New York, NY) loved *The Talented Miss Highsmith : The Secret Life and Serious Art of Patricia Highsmith* by Joan Schenkar because her life story is similar to the intriguing and questionable characters in her many works. Secretive, manipulative, but an otherwise engaging character study of a flawed writer.

Brent Husher (University of Missouri--Kansas City, MO) decided that his favorite title so far is *My Queer War* by James Lord. Brent enjoys memoirs anyway, and this one is both historic and timely; at a time when Congress is poised to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell, it is fascinating to read about queer service members living their lives and doing their work more than 60 years ago.

Arla Jones (chair, Lawrence, Kansas) loved reading Sarah Schulman's *Ties That Bind: Familial Homophobia and Its Consequences* because Sarah succinctly explores a number of contemporary lgbt issues, including the continued limited number of lesbian protagonists in literature, film and the theater.

Jesse NACHEM (University of California, Oakland, CA) says that she especially likes *The Nearest Exit May Be Behind You*. S. Bear Bergman's second book of essays, autobiographical and commentary, discussing gender in American culture, being transgender or genderqueer or just not fitting into a box. It strikes a balance between being somewhat emotional and observant, but doesn't come off as heavy handed at all. It's funny, written with an honest tone, and educational too.

Danielle Pollock (Albuquerque, NM) believes that, so far her very favorite has been *Bobby Blanchard, Lesbian Gym Teacher* by Monica Nolan, a satire on the popular lesbian pulp fiction of the 1950s.

Larry Romans (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN) liked *Silver Lake* by Peter Gadol--an odd young man comes into the lives of two men who have been partners for twenty years and turns their world upside down. This novel looks at how strong and how fragile a relationship - even a long-term one - can be and at how lies and lack of communication can

sabotage it.

Nel Ward (Retired, Newport, OR) says her current top two titles describe love and romance between same-sex couples, both grieving partners who died of cancer. Page Hodel's *Monday Hearts for Madalene* is elegantly visual, displaying 100 of the hearts that the author weekly prepared from a myriad of objects for her beloved.

Nel also wants to mention *The Pure Lover* by David Plante, an insightful memoir of Nikos Stangos' 68 years from his childhood in a war-torn Greece to his commitment to Plante in their quiet, cultivated life among the London literati. This title is simple, yet passionate, the poetic fragments of the narrative pay tribute to the closeness their relationship and the force of grief.

You can read more about this year's Project librarians on the **OTR website**. <http://alaovertherainbow.wordpress.com/jurors/>

The OTR Project wants recommendations from GLBTRT members for the 2011 list. Fiction and non-fiction, must be published between 7/09 and 12/10 and have significant LGBTQ content, although this doesn't need to be the primary focus of the book. Lighter reading is fine, but the books need to be sufficiently commendable quality that OTR members can endorse them. **If you've read one that you think belongs on this bibliography, please send the information to Arla Jones at arlahjones@gmail.com.**

The ALA Over the Rainbow lists will provide communities with guidance in selecting commendable books that reflect LGBTQ experiences. Many LGBTQ titles remain hidden from readers because they are not identified by subject headings and/or the LGBTQ content is excluded from the promotional information provided by the publisher. This annual annotated bibliography of commendable books developed by library professionals will help librarians, bookstore managers, and readers to identify LGBTQ books worthy of a wide audience.

The Over the Rainbow project hopes to continue on an annual basis, with each list compiling books published during that calendar year and the last six months of the previous year.

Arla Jones
Chair, Over the Rainbow Committee
ArlaJones@gmail.com

Our History: The First Bibliography Produced by the Task Force

Brief List of Materials on Homosexuality

*Original offset-printed
on buff paper*

Prepared by:

Task Force on Gay Liberation
Social Responsibilities Round Table
American Library Association

This list is intended to draw attention to some worthwhile materials on homosexuality that have received little publicity, as well as to emphasize items that tend to move away from standard negative views about homosexuality.

Books

- Atkinson, Ronald. SEXUAL MORALITY. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1966.
- Bailey, Derrick Sherwin. HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WESTERN CHRISTIAN TRADITION. London and New York: Longmans Green, 1955.
- Becker, Howard S. OUTSIDERS: STUDIES IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE. New York: Free Press of Glencoe (Macmillan), 1963. Also paperback.
- Benson, R.O. WHAT EVERY HOMOSEXUAL KNOWS. New York: Ace (paper). (Originally published in hardcover as IN DEFENSE OF HOMOSEXUALITY, New York: Julian Press, 1965)
- Churchill, Wainwright. HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR AMONG MALES. New York: Hawthorn Books, 1967.
- Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution. THE WOLFENDEN REPORT. New York: Stein and Day, 1963.
- Cory, Donald Webster. THE HOMOSEXUAL IN AMERICA. New York: Greenberg, 1951.
- Ford, Clellan S., and Beach, Frank A. PATTERNS OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR. New York: Harper and Row, 1951. Also paperback.
- Gagnon, John, and Simon, William, editors. SEXUAL DEVIANCE. New York: Harper and Row, 1967 (paper).
- Hart, H.L.A. LAW, LIBERTY, AND MORALITY. Palo Alto, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1963. Also Stanford and Vintage paperbacks.
- Hoffman, Martin. THE GAY WORLD. New York: Basic Books, 1968. Also Bantam paperback.
- Hyde, H. Montgomery. THE LOVE THAT DARED NOT SPEAK ITS NAME. Boston: Little, Brown, 1970.
- Kinsey, A.C., Pomeroy, W.B., Martin, C.E., and Gebhard, P.H. SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN FEMALE. Philadelphia: Saunders, 1953. Also Pocketbooks paperback.
- Kinsey, A.C., Pomeroy, W.B., and Martin, C.E. SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN MALE. Philadelphia: Saunders, 1948.
- Pittenger, W. Norman. MAKING SEXUALITY HUMAN. Philadelphia and Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1970.
- Schofield, Michael. SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HOMOSEXUALITY. Boston: Little, Brown, 1965.
- Schur, Edwin M. CRIMES WITHOUT VICTIMS. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1965. Also Spectrum paperback.
- Szasz, Thomas S. THE MANUFACTURE OF MADNESS. New York: Harper & Row, 1970.
- Valente, Michael F. SEX: THE RADICAL VIEW OF A CATHOLIC THEOLOGIAN. New York: Bruce, 1970.
- Weltge, Ralph W., editor. THE SAME SEX: AN APPRAISAL OF HOMOSEXUALITY. Philadelphia and Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1969. Also paperback.

January 1971

Our History: The First Bibliography Produced by The Taskforce (continued)

Pamphlets

- A.C.L.U. STATEMENT ON HOMOSEXUALITY. New York: American Civil Liberties Union, August 31, 1967. (National A.C.L.U., 156 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10010)
- THE ARMED SERVICES AND HOMOSEXUALITY. San Francisco: Society for Individual Rights, no date. (S.I.R., 83 6th St., San Francisco, Calif. 94103, .50)
- A BRIEF OF INJUSTICES: AN INDICTMENT OF OUR SOCIETY IN ITS TREATMENT OF THE HOMOSEXUAL. San Francisco: The Council on Religion and the Homosexual, 1965. (Out of print; Xerox copies available for .60 from Barbara Gittings, 241 S. 21st St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103)
- THE CHALLENGE AND PROGRESS OF HOMOSEXUAL LAW REFORM. San Francisco: The Council on Religion and the Homosexual et al., 1968. (C.R.H., 330 Ellis St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102, \$1.00)
- COUNCIL ON RELIGION AND THE HOMOSEXUAL 1964-1968. San Francisco: The Council on Religion and the Homosexual, 1968. (C.R.H., 330 Ellis St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102, .50)
- FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON HOMOSEXUALITY. Chevy Chase, Md.: National Institute of Mental Health, October 10, 1969. (Xerox copies at no charge from Mrs. Martha Kovacic, Office of Communications, Rm. 11-D-06, National Institute of Mental Health, 5454 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, Md. 20015)
- Fluckiger, Fritz A. RESEARCH THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY: AN EVALUATION OF THE BIEBER STUDY ON HOMOSEXUALITY. Privately printed, 1966. (Available for .75 from Barbara Gittings, 241 S. 21st St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103)
- Heron, Alistair, editor. TOWARD A QUAKER VIEW OF SEX. London: Friends Home Service Committee, 1963, revised 1964. (Friends Book Store, 302 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106, \$1.00)
- Parker, William. HOMOSEXUALS AND EMPLOYMENT. San Francisco: The Corinthian Foundation et al., 1970. (Corinthian Foundation, 83 6th St., San Francisco, Calif. 94103, \$1.00)
- Pittenger, W. Norman. A TIME FOR CONSENT. London: SCM Press, Ltd., 1970. (Morehouse-Barlow Co., 14 East 41st St., New York, N. Y. 10017, \$1.15)
- Treese, Robert L. HOMOSEXUALITY: A CONTEMPORARY VIEW OF THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE. San Francisco: Glide Urban Center and The Council on Religion and the Homosexual, 1966. (C.R.H., 330 Ellis St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102, .75)
- Tripp, C.A. WHO IS A HOMOSEXUAL? Privately printed, 1966. (Available for .50 from Barbara Gittings, 241 S. 21st St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103)

Articles

- "The Consenting Adult Homosexual and the Law: An Empirical Study of Enforcement and Administration in Los Angeles County." Univ. of Calif. at Los Angeles Law Review, Vol. 13, No. 3, March 1966, pp. 644-832.
- Hooker, Evelyn. "The Adjustment of the Male Overt Homosexual." Journal of Projective Techniques, Vol. 21, 1957, pp. 18-31. Also in: Ruitenbeek, Hendrik M., editor, THE PROBLEM OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN MODERN SOCIETY, New York, Dutton, 1963.
- Kameny, Franklin E. "The Federal Government vs. the Homosexual." The Humanist, May/June 1969, pp. 20-23.
- Lyon, Phyllis, and Martin, Del. "The Realities of Lesbianism." Motive, Vol. 29, Nos. 6-7, March/April 1969. (Motive, P.O. Box 871, Nashville, Tenn. 37202)
- Rash, John P. "Reforming Pastoral Attitudes Toward Homosexuality." Union Seminary Quarterly Review, Vol. XXV, No. 4, Summer 1970, pp. 439-455.
- Wood, Robert W. "Homosexuality and the Church." The Ladder, Vol. XIII, Nos. 3-4, Dec. 1968/Jan. 1969. (The Ladder, Box 5025, Washington Station, Reno, Nevada 89503)

The Task Force on Gay Liberation is working on a longer, annotated bibliography on homosexuality, and welcomes comments on this list or help on the other. For further information contact: Israel Fishman, Upsala College Library, East Orange, New Jersey 07019.

Out in DC: GLBT Clubs, Lounges and Bars (a compilation from websites like gaycities.com)

Dupont Circle is a traffic circle, neighborhood, and historic district in Northwest Washington, D.C. The traffic circle is located at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue NW, Connecticut Avenue NW, New Hampshire Avenue NW, P Street NW, and 19th Street NW. You'll find a number of gay businesses, from bars to cafes to boutiques, along the streets emanating from Dupont Circle, in particular along the blocks of P Street Northwest extending west to Rock Creek Park.

1409 Playbill Café Bar

1409 14th St. NW, 202-265-3055

Apex Lounge

1415 22nd St. NW, 202-296-0505

Bachelors Mill, (downstairs in Back Door Pub) 202-544-1931

Back Door Pub, 1104 8th St. SE, 202-546-5979

Banana Café & Piano Bar

500 8th St. SE, 202-543-5906

Be Bar

1318 9th St. NW, 202-232-7450

Chief Ike's Mambo Room, 1725 Columbia Rd. NW, 202-332-2211

Cobalt DC, 1639 R St., NW, 202-331-4473

Dupont Italian Kitchen, 1637 17th St., NW, 202-328-0100

D.C. Eagle (leather bar), 639 New York Ave., NW, 202-347-6025

Diversite, 1526 14th St. NW, 202-234-5740

Fireplace, 2161 P St., NW, 202-293-1293

Freddie's Beach Bar

Across the Potomac Near Reagan Airport, karaoke and drag shows.

555 23rd Street South, Arlington, VA 703-685-0555

Green Lantern (Men, Bears),

1335 Green Ct. NW, 202-347-4533

Hamburger Mary's, 1337 14th St., NW, 202-232-7010

Hung Jury, 1819 H St., 202-785-8181

JR's Bar & Grill, 1519 17th St., NW (between P & Q), 202-328-0090

La Cage Aux Folles, 18 O St., SE, 554.3615

Larry's Lounge, 1836 18th St. (At T St. NW), 202-483-1483

MoVa

1435 P St. NW, 202-797-9730

Mr. P's, 2147 P St. NW, 293.1064

Nellie's Sports Bar

DC's gay sports bar

900 U St. NW, Washington, DC 202-332-6355

Nob Hill, 1101 Kenyon NW, 202-797-1101

Omega D.C., 2122 P St., NW, 202-223-4917

Phase One (Women, Males *must* have female escort. Oldest Lesbian bar in US), 525 8th St. SE, 202-544-6831

Remington's (Men, Country/Western)

639 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 202-543-3113

Town Danceboutique

DC's mega gay club & reincarnation of Nation and Traxx

U Street Corridor - 2009 8th Street NW, Washington, DC



GLBTRT congratulates Tom Wilding and Stephen Stillwell on their upcoming wedding. Tom and Stephen met in Washington DC on April 20th, 1971 and will be getting married there on June 27th, 2010.

Member Profile: Anne L. Moore



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

During my first library job I didn't envision ever being a librarian but when I returned to school in 1988, I took a job as a student assistant at the campus library. That was when I saw librarianship as a career option and looked into library school. Teaching had been my career goal at that point so librarianship seemed like a great way to achieve that. But first I spent two years completing a history M.A.

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

It was a half time job from 4 to 11 pm doing retrospective conversion at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo Ontario about 1980. After a few months I got a full time job in catalog (ue) processing; thankfully at the end of the era of typing up library cards. I could never line up the cards correctly in the typewriter. But it was still the era of cards and filing in the card catalog(ue) every Wed and Fri morning. I moved to other campus jobs in the midst of coming out and coping with the death of a close friend who was a coworker. A couple of years

later I returned to school.

Tell us about your current job.

I am a Special Collections Librarian. About two years ago I was offered a position in Special Collections & University Archives at UMass, moving from being Coordinator for Access Services. It was a total career change and while very challenging has been quite rewarding. As my job title suggests I do cataloging (which I had not done since the 1980s), but also reference for the manuscripts, university records as well as the rare book collection and work to build the lgbtq collections here. To increase my knowledge of archives and archival practice, I am enrolled in the Simmons College certificate in archives, which I hope to finish this fall.

Did/do you have a mentor?

I had a history professor who taught me how to use primary sources, the value of social history AND how to write a thesis. More recently my mentors have been a couple of my instructors from Simmons, who are supportive. Of course, I have live day to day examples of many things being taught in the classes, from mold eradication (Preservation) to increasing access to 19th Century class photo albums (Photography in Archives).

Do you have any heroes in library land?

My heroes are the librarians and others who fight challenges and book bans. It takes such courage to go against the grain in a community; risking job loss, friends and community.

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

I have a short window of time now when I don't have class related reading. I just finished *Brooklyn* (Colm Toibin) (recommnd), am reading *Take A Bishop Like Me* (published in 1979) by Paul Moore, Jr., in preparation for reading *The Bishop's Daughter: A Memoir*, by Honor Moore. I am also likely to pick up *The Ladies Almanac* (Djuna Barnes) having just found a 1928 1st edition in a collection I am working with.

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

It is meeting and connecting with members and ALA staff. I have developed so many friends since joining the task force in 1998.

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

Yes

Anything else you'd like to add?

Over the past couple of years I have not attended most of the ALA conferences, opting instead for job related training at NARA and Rare Book School (at UVA) in the same time period. So I have missed people and events. I am looking forward to being back as a regular attendee at conferences and participating much more actively within the RT.

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. Or, if journalism is more your style, send in articles about GLBT library services and collections in and around your community.

Book Awards Endowment Update

Publishing has come a long way since the first LGBT book for young people, *I'll Get There, It Better be Worth the Trip* by John Donovan was published in 1969, followed by a trickle of books in which many had tragic endings, until now, when there are enough books published for this market that we can pick and choose among them for the best to recommend to youth audiences.

The Round Table is very excited to be able to present the first Stonewall Book Award for Children's/Youth Literature at Annual 2010. The winner is *The Vast Fields of Ordinary* by Nick Burd, a novel published for teens about that important summer between high school and college, during which the protagonist, Dade, has to deal with his parents' dissolving marriage, relationships with a boyfriend in the closet, and with someone new on the scene who embraces his sexuality and adores Dade. Five honor books were also named, targeting audiences ranging in age from babies to teens, and including a picture book title about a transgender child.

With the new award category comes the need to increase the book award endowment another \$85,000 from its current \$90,000 to \$175,000. We have approximately 900 members. If each member could make a donation of \$100, that would put us over the top. With the economy the way it currently is, \$100 will be too much of a burden to many of us, but I know there are those who can donate more, and combining those donations with smaller donations of \$25 to \$75, or even less, I think we can reach our goal this year.

I urge you all to think about the books that meant all the difference to you, perhaps as a teenager, or later as an adult coming out. For me, that book was *Patience and Sarah*, our first book award winner, which showed me, as a teen, that it was possible to have a life-long romantic and sexual love with another woman.

Please join me in making a donation to the Book Awards Endowment, in memory of yourself as a young person, in memory of a library which bought the book that made you feel good about coming out, or the librarian who guided you to the books that made a difference in your life.

Thank you.

Nancy Silverrod, Co-Chair, GLBTRT

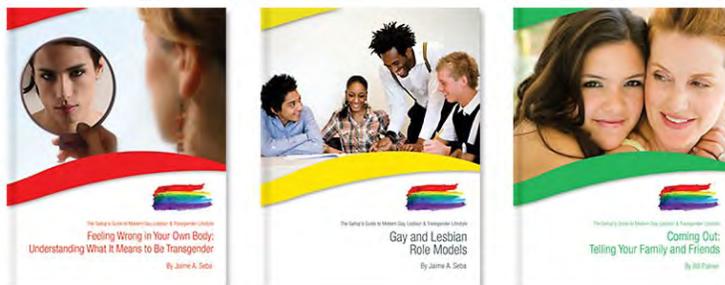
GLBTRT Meetings & Events Schedule, 2010 Annual Conference

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	8 – 10 am	Beacon Hotel & Corporate Quarters - Embassy 108/110
	All Committees Meeting Time	10:30 – Noon	Beacon Hotel & Corporate Quarters - Cabinet Room
	Stonewall Book Awards Committee I (Closed Meeting)	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Beacon Hotel & Corporate Quarters - Presidential Library
Sunday June 27, 2010	Rainbow Project Breakfast (Ticketed Event)	8 – 10 am	Washington Convention Center - Room 201
	GLBTRT Membership Meeting	10:30 – Noon	Renaissance Washington - Meeting Room 04
	Rainbow Hollinger Box Program: LGBTQ Archives	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Washington Convention Center - Room 152A
	Stonewall Book Awards Committee II (Closed Meeting)	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Beacon Hotel & Corporate Quarters - State Room
	Membership Pavilion Celebration	4 – 5 pm	Washington Convention Center - Exhibits Floor, ALA Membership Pavilion
	40th Anniversary Social	5:00 – 8 pm	Hotel Monaco
Monday June 28th, 2010	Stonewall Book Awards Brunch (Ticketed Event)	10:30 – 1pm	Washington Convention Center - Room 207A
	Queer Teens: LGBTQ Young Adult Novels	4:00 – 5:30 pm	Washington Convention Center - Room 152A
Tuesday June 29th, 2010	Steering Committee II	10:30 – 1 pm	Washington Convention Center - Room 154B

Mason Crest to Publish Teen GLBT Series

Educational Publisher Mason Crest recently announced the creation of a series of books geared toward young adult students that focuses on a variety of topics surrounding gay lifestyle titled *The Gallup's Modern Guide to Gay, Lesbian & Transgender Life*. I received advanced copies of several series titles including *Coming Out: Telling Family and Friends*, *Gay Believers: Homosexuality and Religion* and *Gay and Lesbian Role Models*. I was quite interested in the series because I work with youth in my library and local community. I had the good fortune of speaking with **Louis Cohen** from Mason Crest as well as **Dr. James Sears** Senior Consulting Editor on the series.



Mason Crest evolved from the staff of Chelsea House Publishers and they pride themselves on quality educational materials for young people. Chelsea attempted a GLBT publication in 1985, *Gays and Lesbians of Achievement* following the publication of *African Americans of Achievement*. Mr. Cohen spoke frankly regarding the book's success, or lack thereof. The title was well received by review houses, but, in terms of sales, the book seemed ahead of its time. The folks at Mason Crest revisited the subject matter for many years questioning whether or not it was time to revisit. As Mr. Cohen indicated, this area is now underdeveloped, and this series seeks to be a pioneer on library bookshelves. The lives and experiences of gay men and women are now part of mainstream culture in a way that does not compare to 1985!

This series of books is aimed toward the pre-teen and early teenage group of both homosexual and heterosexual 'tweens. It confronts the issues honestly, sympathetically, and without bias, offering young adults, whatever their sexual orientation, the necessary facts to build understanding and tolerance. The series will appeal to young people because it features the stories of young men and women as they come out, struggle with their orientation and or gender and spiritual systems. Struggling with identity and mixed messages from the media are part of the daily life of a young teen. This series hails from a positive perspective, and it is unthreatening to someone of this age group. The layout is quite welcoming, and I was most impressed with boxed features that define terms used by the text, as well as "read more about it" and "find more on the internet" features that encourage further self-education. Mr. Cohen noted that the unthreatening style was important to the development of the series. They are geared to young adults from a publisher who is looking to educate everyone. He noted that young people in their 'tween and teen years are impressionable, whether you are asking them to study about another culture, drug education, or minorities. That understanding has led to a quality product that meets its goals of educating without intimidating. The writing style is personalized; true stories give the books a human quality. Mr. Cohen noted that children are coming out at younger ages and students as young as middle school are coping with something they are going to grow up with in their social lives and work lives and they will need to be able to accept people and their differences.

Dr. Sears also commented on new statistics regarding teens and sexual orientation. He indicated that initial data from the 1970s indicated that people were coming out at ages 18 and 19, yet today it is not uncommon to see kids coming out in their early teens. Dr. Sears has studied and written about young people's experiences. He was contacted by Mason Crest to consult on the series because of his extensive expertise in the field of gay and lesbian studies and education. He brings 27 years of vast experience on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender studies to the books, including serving as the founding editor of the Journal of LGBT Youth. Dr. Sears spoke about the context surrounding these books. He suggested that the series is so important because it provides information in a readable way, but also it is an important message in terms of official knowledge available in libraries for access by young people. The history of gay men and women is not a part of any curriculum; in fact, children are miseducated by hetero-centric learning environments. Subjects are taught from a 'straight' perspective, fearing discussing alternative sexual details of history, literature, science, etc. I asked Dr. Sears about the place books such as these could have in the standard curriculum, and he supported the inclusion of these materials emphatically. He gave the example of gay history month in October and the discussion of National Coming Out Day in *Coming Out: Telling Family and Friends*. Should a teacher lack basic knowledge of gay and lesbian history, this titles will provide references he or she could use in the classroom.

Dr. Sears indicated the important role of teachers and librarians from a generational standpoint. We should learn from the successes and failures of generations before us. Without stories of our role models and histories, we cannot reach out to the generations that will follow. Our values have changed over time and in order to continue to make progress our students need our help as educators, as well as reference tools and access to information.

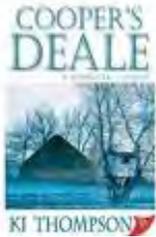
The Gallup's Modern Guide to Gay, Lesbian & Transgender Life will be available in the fall of 2010. The 15 books comprising the series examine coming out, positive role models, and supportive communities. The series also covers the social and political stigma that GLBT people still face. Mason Crest brings factual information to students in hopes that increased education on the subject will result in a greater acceptance of gay, lesbian and transgender tweens. Mason Crest will be attending ALA annual and should have book jackets available. They hope to have additional galleys, but you may provide contact information to request a sample. There is a website featuring the series, <http://www.LGBT-Books.com>. The books should also be available this fall in an e-book format through a shopping cart located on the website.

Sarah E. Wright
Youth Services Librarian
Potomac Community Library

Audiobook Reviews

Thompson, KJ. *Cooper's Deale: A Romantic Comedy.*

Narr. Nancy Stewart. Unabridged. Dog Ear Audio, 2009. Approx. 6.5 hours. Audiobook. \$24.95. ISBN: 9781935061090.



Cooper's Deale follows Addy Cooper, who (after her grandmother's death) moves from California back to her childhood hometown to take care of her brother,

Tommy, who is mentally disabled. To help pay for expenses, Addy takes in boarders.

All goes well; and the only issue is Addy's long-time unresolved feelings about her ex-high school sweetheart.

But then, Addy's problems multiply after she stumbles upon the dead body of Scott Vincent, a reporter investigating the disappearance of small amounts of radioactive material, and she finds herself falling for one of her boarders, an undercover federal agent investigating Addy for the murder. How the murder is solved involves Tommy and the reporter's film.

If listeners can stay with the audiobook until the third disc, they will be rewarded with a story that is well crafted. Up to that point, the selected voice intonations used by the narrator for several characters makes it difficult to listen the narrative.

The purchase of this audiobook is optional for libraries that have a collection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender audio books.

Reviewed by, **TJ Lusher**

Film Reviews

Asian Queer Shorts.

San Francisco: Frameline, 2009. \$24.99. 85 min.



Strand Releasing has packaged five Asian gay short films from Frameline that have been on the film festival

circuit the last few years. Asian directors from Indonesia, the Philippines, the United States, and the UK examine contemporary gay life in their respective gay communities, while a South Korean director takes an historical approach.

As with many anthologies, the collection is a mixed bag. The oldest film, *Yellow Fever*, from the UK, examines (in a campy way) whether or not an Asian man can be happy with another Asian, as opposed to a Caucasian. In *Dissolution of Bodies*, from the US, two men having a one night stand discuss the philosophy of the body and of desire. *Last Full Show*, examines the first crush of a Filipino young man. In *A Crimson Mark*, a Korean government bureaucrat falls in love with a younger, less powerful man. And in the Indonesian film, *Still*—to me, the least effective in the collection—a teen wanders around town in a film beautifully shot and lighted, but, despite numerous viewings, I just don't see in it what the blurb says is happening.

Libraries collecting in film studies and gay studies should certainly select this DVD, and larger public libraries should also consider.

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

The Baby Formula.

Dir. Alison Reid. With Megan Fahlenbock and Angela Vint. Wolfe Video, 2010. 81 min. \$24.95.



Athena and Lilith want to have a baby, and they want their child to be the biological child of both women. Luckily, Athena works in a scientific research lab where biologists have managed to fertilize one female mouse with another

female mouse's eggs. After cajoling one of the scientists into secretly performing the procedure on them, Athena is

impregnated by Lilith. Later, Lilith is impregnated by Athena, without Athena even knowing about it.

Unfortunately, this comic film staggers while juggling a variety of weighty issues on top of the main premise—Alzheimers, addiction, unaccepting parents, and pregnancy jealousy. Wasn't the miracle of two women making *one* baby more than enough of a subject? The faux documentary style of the film detracts more than it adds, and doesn't

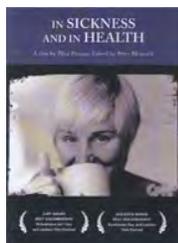
mesh with the narrative—if the couple is trying to keep the scientifically suspect procedure a secret, why bring in the film crew?

Quality comic relief is supplied by a number of supporting characters (the randy grandmother and serious scientists, specifically), but that doesn't make up for ponderous plotline.

Reviewed by, **Nicole Pasini**
Management Analyst - Training and Staff

In Sickness and in Health.

Dir. Pilar Prassas. Women Make Movies, 2007. DVD. 57 min.



In Sickness and in Health documents life partners and gay rights activists Marilyn Maneely and Diane Marini, one of seven couples involved in the "Lewis v. Harris" trial that led to New Jersey's Civil Union Act in 2006. This documentary shows

how Marilyn and Diane's relationship essentially became the focus of the case, showing the very real impact of denying people their civil rights.

In 2002, Director Pilar Prassas began filming the seven couples who were denied marriage licenses by the state of New Jersey. Two years into filming, Marilyn Maneely was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gherig's Disease), forcing Marilyn and Diane to face very real limitations due to not being legally recognized as partners by the state. Through family photographs, home videos, and interviews, we witness Marilyn's health rapidly declining, their family's struggle to provide her care, and their community's reactions as they confront their own limitations under the

law.

For example, Marcye and Karen, together for over 15 years with two children, and one of the couples involved in the trial, spoke of originally choosing not to enter into any legal partnership until same-sex marriage was legalized for political reasons. However, through witnessing Marilyn and Diane's struggles, they have to face the idea that, for the sake of their family's health, any legal recognition might be better than none at all. Long-time couple Chris and Craig, also friends of Marilyn and Diane and involved in the trial, express their anger and frustration at the "caste system" constructed by the state by differentiating between marriage, civil unions, and domestic partnerships, and New Jersey's ultimate refusal to grant the same rights to everyone, thus causing inequities in families' economics and physical and emotional health. One of the most poignant demonstrations of this is when Marilyn dies 10 months after being diagnosed, and Diane, who has been with Marilyn for over a decade, is not allowed to sign her partner's death certificate.

The introduction and the beginning of *In Sickness and in Health* are somewhat

incongruous with the remainder of the film. The opening uses archival footage of weddings and other scenes that might be read as "typical suburban life," along with a voiceover reminiscent of a 1940's and 1950's promotional film. This definitely brings the viewer in, but the archival footage is rarely used after the opening, which gives the sense that the film has two different styles. In addition, the beginning of the film introduces the three couples very quickly and is edited in a way that might make it difficult to figure out where the story is going. However, after the first 10 minutes, the film comes into its stride. The editing between interviews, home movies, and photographs smoothes out and it is easy to get lost in this compelling story.

One will also note this documentary's ability to withstand time. Though the story covers a relatively short period, ending with the passing of New Jersey's Civil Union Act, it can easily be applied to many civil rights issues. This film would be well suited for academic settings and large public libraries.

Jesse Nachem is a Records Specialist at the University of California.

Film Reviews: Young Adult

In the Family: Marriage Equality and LGBT Families.

Dir. Jen Gilomen & COLAGE. Youth in Motion Ser. Frameline, 2008. 49 min. <http://frameline.org/youthinmotion/inthefamily.html>



In the Family is actually comprised of two short documentary films, *In My Shoes: Stories of Youth with LGBT Parents* and *Out in the Heartland*. Both films were

produced by Frameline and COLAGE in 2005, but still come across as fresh and current.

In My Shoes is a youth-created production that profiles five teenagers who have parents or guardians who are LGBT. The variation in their experiences,

from being adopted to living with a post-op trans uncle, and responses from relative silence to vigorous protest and political engagement, create a compelling picture of the many ways families are created and children develop.

Out in the Heartland also focuses on GLBT families; in 2004, a constitutional amendment defining marriage as "between one man and one woman" passed by 75%. The interviews with GLBT people and their families, conducted during the lead-up and aftermath of the election, are heartrending.

The two films are a wonderful set, illustrating both the importance of GLBT families, and the effects of discriminatory legislation. *In the Family* is highly

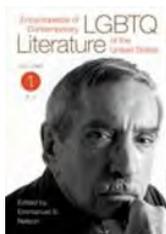
recommended for public libraries, and would be great for a film night, especially with teens. Frameline offers curriculum and action guides at <http://frameline.org/youthinmotion/inthefamily.html#guides>.

Reviewed by, **Nicole Pasini**
Management Analyst - Training and Staff Development
San Mateo County Library

Book Reviews: Non-fiction

Nelson, Emmanuel S., ed. *Encyclopedia of Contemporary LGBTQ Literature of the United States*.

Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood, 2009. 2 Vol. \$195.00. ISBN 978-0-313-34859-4. ISBN 978-0-313-34860-0 (e-book).



The *Encyclopedia of Contemporary LGBTQ Literature of the United States* is not only an essential purchase for all academic libraries and major public libraries, but also enjoyable book. Covering a wide range of LGBTQ authors from 1980 to date, it focuses primarily on quality

literary authors, but also includes some genre writers.

The *Encyclopedia* is the first of this scope since the two-volume *Gay and Lesbian Literature* (1994, 1998) from St. James Press/Gale. *Literature* gives more detail on authors, more critical analysis, and better bibliographies, but it is outdated and its pages are dense. The new *Encyclopedia* is reader-friendly with a more accessible style, as well as larger type and larger margin. The *Encyclopedia* complements another essential title, edited by GLBTRT members Ellen Bosman and John Bradford, *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Literature: A Genre Guide*, which arranges and annotates GLBTO books by subject.

The *Encyclopedia* includes entries for 150 gay male authors, 101 lesbians, 14 bisexuals, and only 4 transgender people. The contributors appear to be fairly balanced between males and females. Most contributors are faculty members or graduate students, although there are a few authors and only a couple of librarians. Females frequently contribute articles on male authors; males frequently on female authors.

Authors not covered in *Literature* (1994, 1998) that are covered in the new *Encyclopedia* include Augusten Burroughs, Octavia Butler, Patricia Cornwell, Gary Indiana, Fenton Johnson, Paul Reed, Paul Russell, Alex Sanchez, David Sedaris, Tom Spanbauer, and John Morgan Wilson. There are a few odd entries and omissions: Ronald Donaghe has an entry, whereas similar writers of gay romances are omitted. Two major mystery authors, Richard Stevenson and Ellen Hart, are not included. Stevenson was one of the first and best in his genre, and Hart is one of our most popular lesbian authors. Other notable omissions are Brad Gooch, Scott Heim, and Bart Yates, all of whom are successful writers of quality fiction.

With its more than 120 contributors, the quality of the entries varies. The entries for some authors include some general analysis, while others are straight-forward narratives. The tradeoff of analysis in *Literature* (1994, 1998) for readability in the new *Encyclopedia* is a double-edged sword; the articles may be easy to read, but they also may be less interesting. The entries vary from 500 to 2,000 words and, according to the editor, the length reflects the importance of the author.

In addition to the entries for hundreds of authors, the *Encyclopedia* includes a rather arbitrary set of about 65 subject articles and only eight articles on individual books. The subject articles are too short to be more than cursory treatments. Given its prominence in gay male fiction, the article dealing with "coming out," at less than three pages, is too short and discusses only one novel in depth: a young adult novel from

1969—published well before the *Encyclopedia's* main dates of coverage (1980 to date). The article on the gay male novel mentions books published since 2000 from only three authors. Yet one of those **three doesn't rate an individual entry in the *Encyclopedia***. There are articles about science fiction, but none for mysteries, despite extensive publishing in the latter genre.

Bibliographies in the *Encyclopedia* are disappointing because they are so short and leave out major sources of information about the authors. For example, contributors cited only four of the thirty-three substantial interviews (many 20–40 pages long) with U.S. gay male authors that were conducted in three books: *Something Inside* (1999), *Gay Fiction Speaks* (200), and *Hear Us Out* (2003). These interviews are far more substantial than many of the handful of resources cited at the end of most entries. The contributors also should have cited articles from *Literature* (1994, 1998).

The lack of significant analysis and the paltry bibliographies are major flaws that should be corrected if there is a second edition, but they are outweighed by the strengths of the *Encyclopedia*. With its broad scope and high level of readability, the *Encyclopedia* is an excellent choice for bibliographers and book buyers. LGBTQ readers should request the purchase of this book at their libraries.

Reviewed by Larry Romans
Vanderbilt University Libraries

Sides, Josh. *Erotic City: Sexual Revolutions and the Making of Modern San Francisco*.

New York: Oxford UP, 2009. hardcover. 292p. \$29.95. ISBN: 978-0-19-537781-1.



San Francisco has a long history of liberalism and permissiveness, especially in matters of a sexual nature. Most assume that this reputation stems from the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s, and the subsequent media attention that the city garnered as a result. In *Erotic City*, Sides sets

aside this notion, and begins his history at the very founding of the city as a major metropolis during the Gold Rush of the

1850s. Miners and industrialists brought a market for prostitution and burlesque shows, and by the 1920s the city was looking for ways to clean up its image, mostly through closing or moving such establishments. As Sides argues, however, time and time again, the desire for the erotic returns even stronger, and the city finds new ways of celebrating sex.

After World War II, San Francisco saw a surge of population growth as military men and women decided to stay in San Francisco instead of moving back home. The influx of newcomers reinvigorated the

sex industry in San Francisco, and new forms of public sexual expression—strips clubs, pornography, homosexuality—became visible in the city. This set the stage for the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s and the development of gay and lesbian culture in the 1970s with San Francisco leading the way in both areas. As more conservative citizens fled to the suburbs, San Francisco was quickly taking on a new character, and developing a reputation that lasts until the present day.

(Continued on page 10)

Sides, Josh. *Erotic City: Sexual Revolutions and the Making of Modern San Francisco.* (continued)

As had happened before, the backlash to this new attitude of public sexual permissiveness, coupled with the advance of AIDS, put a damper on the culture of the erotic in San Francisco in the 1980s and 1990s. As had happened before, groups of sexual minorities and those in the sex industry were not held back for long, and rebounded by a push to organize and demand political power. The character

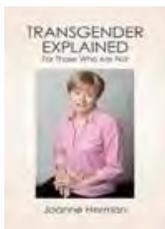
of the city began to change as well, moving from the idealism of the 60s to the materialism of the 80s and 90s, and this changed the sexual culture of the city, as well by commoditizing it. Sides concludes *Erotic City* by arguing that sex and sexual desire have not only shaped the history of San Francisco, but all postwar American cities.

Highly recommended for academic and large public library collections, and smaller collections with a focus on 20th Century American history, urban studies, or queer studies.

*Reviewed by, Matthew P. Cizek
Head Librarian, Penn State Shenango*

Herman, Joanne. *Transgender Explained for Those Who Are Not.*

Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2009. paperback. 148p. \$14.95. **ISBN-13:** 978-1449029579(sc). **ISBN-13:** 978-1449029661(e)



The short, easy-to-read chapters in *Transgender Explained for Those Who Are Not* began as columns in *The Advocate* during 2006 and 2007.

Author Joanne Herman's goal in both the original and updated essays is to provide an easy-to-understand, non-threatening introduction to the world of transgender for anyone who may have a transgender person in their life or anyone wanting a quick introduction to the topic.

Four sections structure the book and cover a broad spectrum of topics: The Primer (basic vocabulary, discrimination, success

stories, transgender children, and the medical establishment); Advanced Topics (regret, deception, religion, sexism, feminism); My Story (Herman's personal account of transitioning); and Resources (annotated bibliography, talking points, and web resources).

This is not meant to be an academic book, so the tone is conversational and the text lacks formal notes. While Herman achieves her goal of a non-threatening, easy-to-understand introduction to the topic, academics will want to trouble some of the definitions, arguments, and the focus on normalization.

Readers will benefit from the insight to the medical system, everyday challenges transgender folks face, and Herman's first

person accounts. Despite its flaws, *Transgender Explained for Those Who Are Not* can be a very useful introduction, but it should not be used as a sole resource on this topic.

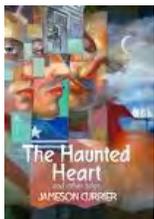
This title is recommended for academic and public libraries.

*Reviewed by, Amy Hribar
University of Minnesota*

Book Reviews: Fiction

Currier, Jameson. *The Haunted Heart and Other Tales.*

Maplewood, NJ: Lethe Press, 2009. paperback. 206p. \$15.00. ISBN: 978-1-59021-203-5.



Aptly dedicated "to the living and the lost," these 12 stories deal with ghosts—both terrifying ghosts of ill omen and those offering guidance and protection to the men they choose to haunt.

In his introduction, James Currier writes of forming the desire a number of years ago to move beyond his reputation as an AIDS writer. In reinventing himself, he remained concerned as ever with issues relevant to the lives of contemporary gay men. Setting down a list of topics to address, he included "substance abuse,

gay marriage, serving in the military, domestic abuse in gay relationships, hate crimes, homophobia, and living outside of urban areas"—all represented here. At the same time, Currier began a study of classic ghost stories, a genre that had fascinated him since boyhood. (Favorites mentioned are the works of M. R. James, Henry James, E. F. Benson, Edith Wharton, and Ambrose Bierce.) The best of the resulting collection draws upon the past in observing the present, and in doing so never fails to disturb and entertain.

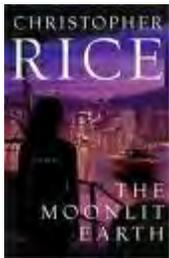
Six of the stories were previously published, three of them in anthologies of "best" gay fiction.

Recommended for libraries with an interest in gay-themed fiction, genre fiction, or both.

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

Rice, Christopher. *The Moonlit Earth*.

New York: Scribner, 2010. hardcover. 362p. \$25.00. ISBN 978-0-7432-9407-2.



The latest novel from Christopher Rice, *The Moonlit Earth*, is a mixture of contemporary thriller and family drama. The book begins at a party for the central character, Megan, who has returned home after failing in a nonprofit organization. At the party, we meet Megan's

brother, Cameron, who has recently reconnected with their estranged father. Cameron, a flight attendant, is on his way to his flight to Hong Kong and there is little time for brother and sister to discuss family matters.

In Hong Kong, the plot switches to one of

international intrigue, including bombings, kidnapping, terrorism, and corrupt multinational corporations. Megan is led on a long and unconvincing chase to learn what has happened to her brother. During this sequence we are given some background to the characters, which slows the pace of the action, but is also the only place that we see any gay content.

In this instance, the mix of family drama and thriller did not work. I would have preferred Mr. Rice to stick to one or the other. The constant switching of the novel made it very hard to get to know the characters, and therefore, to care about what happens to them. The gay characters are primary to the plot, but are secondary in the telling of the story. They seemed very two dimensional. I found Rice's previous novel, *Blind Fall*, to be

much more interesting with more fully developed characters.

This is an average book that will not offend many sensibilities. It is appropriate for 13+ readers. There is some violence and some sexual situations discussed, but no actual sex scenes, straight or gay. I would not recommend this book for its gay content, but more as a straight-forward thriller with some gay characters.

Reviewed by, Scott Clonan
Adult Services Librarian
Rainbow Library
Las Vegas Clark County Library District

James, Winston G. *Shaming the Devil: Collected Short Stories*.

Hollywood: Top Pen Press, 2009. paperback. 176p. \$14.95. ISBN: 0977079708.



Talented author G. Winston James delivers erotically-charged stories that delve into the entangled wants and desires of same gender loving black men. Fervor and beauty ever present, he takes the reader on a journey into the gay black male experience with some stories that will shock

readers, and make them want to holler, while others resonate deeply in the souls of men who have experienced homosexual urges from boyhood.

The first story, "Uncle," is an innocent, yet subtle antidote about a six-year-old dealing

with queer feelings for his uncle that he doesn't understand, while "Confining Room" speaks directly to homosexuality.

In the moving story "Church," a young black man named Langston who is infected with AIDS returns home with a plan to "check" his family church for their arbitrary treatment and castigation of African American males who somehow fell into the gay "lifestyle." Lyrically, James paints the church environment and Langston's decisions in the deliverance of his seemingly magical life cut short, along with his deep rooted, but unfounded beliefs in a church he feels was unsupportive. After opening his eyes and his heart, Langston finds the welcoming bosom of his church

family and the spirit of the Lord ready to caress him and his distraught mother with unconditional love. "God grants them the gift of life...It's not for any man to tell God's children how to live."

Reminiscent of Genet's *Our Lady of the Flowers*, James' dynamic storytelling reveals his ability to create stories that entice readers to want to read more and more. Highly recommended for public libraries.

Reviewed by: Michelle D. Dartis
MLS degree candidate
Indiana University-Purdue University,
Indianapolis

Wilkins, Connie, ed. *Time Well Bent: Queer Alternative Histories*.

Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2009. paperback. 184p. \$15.00. ISBN: 9781590211342.



Connie Wilkins eagerly read the GLBT speculative fiction anthologies in the *Bending the Landscape* series, but volumes on fantasy, science fiction, and horror were not followed by

a collection of GLBT alternate history—until now. In *Time Well Bent*, Wilkins collects 14 original allohistorical stories from the point of view of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered characters, to fill this void in speculative queer fiction.

Alternative history is that branch of fiction in which a pivotal event in the past is changed, altering everything that comes

after to some degree. The point of change from our history is the focus of these stories, but each tale is followed by a brief author's note that provides a little background and speculation on the effects of the divergence.

My favorite of the stories, Dale Chase's "A Matter of Choice," reimagines Thomas Jefferson as a gay man determined to include same-sex marriage in the Bill of Rights. "Great Reckonings, Little Rooms," by Catherine Lundoff, involves twins, mistaken identities, and collaboration between great gay playwright Christopher Marlowe and Shakespeare's unsung sister, Judith. "A Happier Year," by Emily Salter, posits that E.M. Forster published *Maurice* soon after completing it in 1914—to the comfort of soldiers in the fields of

Flanders—consequently starting the emergence of modern GLBT culture a generation earlier. M.P. Ericson's "A Spear Against the Sky," considers what might have been had two great British leaders, Cartimandua and Boudicca, been lesbian lovers united against the Romans.

This anthology contains several other high-quality, thought-provoking stories. My only complaint is that bisexual and transgender alternate histories are given short shrift. I recommend this book for public and high school libraries, and academic libraries with science fiction or GLBT literature collections.

Reviewed by John Bradford
Head, Automation & Technical Services
Villa Park Public Library
Librarian

Berman, Steve, ed. *Wilde Stories 2010: The Year's Best Gay Speculative Fiction*.

Advanced Readers Copy. Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2010. paperback. 228p. \$15.00. ISBN: 978-1-59021-301-8 (paperback) -- 978-1-59021-301-8 (library binding).

Wilde Stories 2010 is the third annual edition in Lethe Press's series showcasing gay speculative fiction (fantasy, horror, and science-fiction) published in the previous year. The protagonists of the stories are exclusively gay males. However, the authors of the 12 short stories included in this edition include nine men and three women. Editor Steve Berman states, "I neither know nor care what their orientations might be. . . . The story's identity matters to me, not the writer's."

There are eight fantasy stories, three horror stories, and one science fiction story. The quality of the stories is uneven, but several are gems. "Barbaric Splendor," by Simon Sheppard is an interesting tale of a

shipwrecked Dutch East Indies Company crew that finds its way to fabled Xanadu. "I Needs Must Part, the Policeman Said," by Richard Bowes, which was nominated for the 2009 Nebula Award for Best Novelette, explores how unconscious patients in hospitals are in the intersection of the real world and a world populated by ghosts. Jameson Currier's "Death in Amsterdam" investigates cultural tensions between gays and Muslims in the Netherlands. The final story, "The Far Sore" by Elizabeth Hand, is a delightful fantasy about a former ballet dancer spending the winter at a deserted summer camp, and the enchanted woods on the other side of the lake.

A sly humor is present in several of the stories, including "Where the Sun Doesn't Shine", by Rhys Hughes, and "The Sphinx Next Door," by Tom Cardamone. Two of

the stories, however, were incoherent, including, unfortunately, the only science fiction story in the anthology.

The 2008 edition of *Wilde Stories* was a nominee for the 2008 Lambda Literary Award for LGBT Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror.

Wilde Stories 2010: The Year's Best Gay Speculative Fiction is recommended for academic and public libraries serving GLBT populations, and those libraries with an interest in fantasy and horror fiction.

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

The Fall Newsletter will feature the work of school media specialists, academic librarians, and other professionals who work with young adults and children in response to requests from the newsletter survey. The deadline for Fall is August 31, 2010. If you have any ideas or would like to highlight your work or collection, please e-mail Sarah Wright swright@pwcgov.org.

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