

NEWSLETTER

OCLC RECORD NUMBER 20077538, ISSN 1045-2893

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2, SUMMER 1992

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

GLTF Annual Conference Schedule

SAN FRANCISCO
June 25 - July 2, 1992

Thursday, June 25

Pre-Conference Program:
When Sex is the Question:
Who Asks, Who Answers.

Hotel Nikko, Room: Grey Pearl 1
2 - 5:30 p.m.

(\$25 - ALA members, \$30 non-members
Advance registration through ALA/OLOS
On-site registration begins at 1:30 p.m. -
check or cash only)

Friday, June 26

Reception/ Archives Tour:
Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern CA.
2940 16th Street, Room B2, San Francisco
(415) 626-0980
5 - 8 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting: Hyatt Regency Hotel,
Embarcadero Room A, 8 - 10 p.m.

Saturday, June 27

Book Awards Committee : Hilton Hotel,
Room: Walnut B, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

1993 Program Planning Committee: Hotel Nikko,
Room: White Pearl 1, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Annual Book Awards Presentation: Hilton Hotel,
Room: Imperial B, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Annual Program: Gay and Lesbian Media
After Mapplethorpe-
Sheraton Hotel , Rose Ballroom, 2 - 4 p.m.
ACRL ARTS co-sponsor

Speakers: R.J. Curry, Gay and Lesbian Press Assoc.
Michelle Wolf, San Francisco State University
John DeCecco, Editor, *Journal of Homosexuality*

Social: 6 - 9 p.m. at Eureka Valley Harvey Milk Memorial
Branch Library, 3555 16th St., San Francisco (415) 554-9445

Sunday, June 28

Gay Freedom Day Parade: 11 a.m.

Monday, June 29

Membership Meeting: Marriott Hotel, Room 5-J
9:30 - 11 a.m.

Country Western Night Out:
Location: Rawhide II, 280 7th St., between Folsom &
Howard, San Francisco
Free Dance Lessons - 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Open Dancing - 9:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Tuesday, June 30

Steering Committee: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Room:
Embarcadero Room A, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Roland Hansen, Male Co-Chair:

The most crucial problem in need of attention right now relates to the operation of the GLTF Information Clearinghouse. At this point, the position of Coordinator remains vacant. That's the bad news. The sort-of good news is that all of the materials are in one place; back-up copies of original materials on disks are in another place for safekeeping. These materials are just waiting for the right person to come along to handle them. Right now, I have all the materials for distribution. Cal Gough has back-up copies. Cal also spent an enormous amount of time updating all the documents, and reorganizing everything for the next Coordinator, making the job a lot easier. Thanks very much, Cal, for all your excellent work. I have been filling orders and they are all caught up, at least through March.

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED RIGHT NOW TO BEGIN COORDINATING THE CLEARINGHOUSE ACTIVITIES.

This is a demanding job. Being in a recession economy doesn't help, since institution-supported photocopying and postage is extremely helpful. However, it is not required since we do have funds for reimbursement. We just don't profit as much if we have to pay for copying, for example, than if it can be done at the workplace. It just might mean future price increases. One of the goals is to provide these items for as cheaply as possible, that is why we have limited the price increases. There have been orders for the entire package from several large libraries, (The Los Angeles Public Library ordered 2 copies of everything) as well as orders for the free items. If anyone is interested, please contact me right away and I will be happy to discuss the finer details.

Other business:

▼ Agenda items for the Annual Conference will go out around June 15. Karen Whittlesey-First, Female Co-Chair, and I will be meeting here in Chicago on June 12, and we will be reviewing these topics. Anyone with additions to the agenda, please send them to me as soon as possible, even if it is later than June 15.

▼ Response to the pre-conference is, so far, very good. Gail Purches at ALA/OLOS reports "many" inquiries. Check the final schedule for the date, place, time, and topic. On-site registration will begin at 1:30 p.m.; advance registration is not required.

▼ The Liaison to the Feminist Task Force position on the Steering Committee is still vacant. To volunteer, attend any of the GLTF meetings in San Francisco, or contact Karen Whittlesey-First, (617) 495-4295.

▼ During the conference, I will be staying at the Atherton Hotel, 685 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, arriving June 26th and checking out (as it were) July 1. Anyone with anything urgent can also contact me at a friend's home: In care of Douglas Shoemaker, 391 Day Street, San Francisco, CA 94131. See you in San Francisco.

Roland Hansen
3824 N. Fremont
Chicago, IL 60613
(312) 899-5096 (w)
(312) 472-3555 (home w/machine)
(312) 263-0141 (fax at work)

Karen Whittlesey-First, Female Co-Chair:

All GLTF Steering Committee members and task force members who are attending their first ALA conference are invited to stop by at my room at the Holiday Inn Civic Center on Sunday evening between 5 and 6:30 to meet each other, share some light refreshments, and chat about the day's Pride March. It will be a chance for new members to meet some "old-timers" as well as a place to put up your feet for a while.

If you need to get in touch with me during the conference, I'll be staying at the Holiday Inn Civic Center from 6/24 to 7/1; phone (415) 626-6103.

Attention: GLTF Book Reviewers & Newsletter Contributors

or anyone who might be interested in becoming a book reviewer or reporter...let's get together for lunch after the membership meeting on Monday, June 29.

Details will be announced at the membership meeting. Hope to see you there!

GLTF NEWS

Gay/Lesbian Book Award

The Gay and Lesbian Task Force Book Awards Committee is pleased to announce its winners of the 1992 Gay/Lesbian Book Awards. The awards are given annually to books of exceptional merit examining lesbian and gay experience, and published in the year prior to the year the award is granted. Awards are given for literature and nonfiction. The award winning books are selected by a group of thirteen librarians from public and academic libraries throughout the United States. This year the fifteen titles nominated as finalists were drawn from a cumulative list of over 350 identified titles.

For Literature, the 1992 award goes to Paul Monette for *Halfway Home* (New York: Crown Publishers). Monette has written several works of fiction and nonfiction about the impact of AIDS on PWA's and their friends and loved ones. Each has managed to convey the pain and tenderness and grim humor of living in the vortex of the AIDS epidemic. *Halfway Home* speaks to the transformations that take place in the life of one man who opens himself to his own capacity to love through entanglements with a large supporting cast, including an estranged brother and his young son.

Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth Century America (New York: Columbia University Press) has been selected as the 1992 nonfiction winner. The book's author, Lillian Faderman, has written a comprehensive and exacting social history of the rooting and flowering of lesbian community and culture in modern America.

Both books were selected from a list of fifteen finalists. The runners-up, all worthy of recognition as some of the best books of 1992, include:

Nonfiction Finalists

Are You Two...Together? by Linsey Van Gelder and Pam Brandt. Random House.

Cancer in Two Voices by Barbara Rosenblum and Sandra Butler. Spinsters.

Cures: A Gay Man's Odyssey by Martin Duberman. Dutton.

Violence Against Lesbians and Gay Men by Gary David Comstock. Columbia University Press.

The Zuni Man-Woman by Will Roscoe. University of New Mexico Press.

Literature Finalists

An Atlas of the Difficult World: Poems 1988-1991 by Adrienne Rich. W.W. Norton.

Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men edited by Essex Hemphill. Alyson Publications.

Hawkwings by Karen Osborne. Third Side Press.

The Man Who Fell in Love With the Moon by Tom Spanbauer. Atlantic Monthly Press.

Piece of My Heart: A Lesbian of Colour Anthology edited by Makeda Silvera. Sister Vision Press.

The Road Before Us: 100 Gay Black Poets edited by Assoto Saint. Galiens Press.

A Stone Gone Mad by Jacquelyn Holt Park. Random House.

The Two Mujeres by Sara Calderon. Aunt Lute.

The book awards will be presented on Saturday, June 27 at the American Library Association Annual Conference in San Francisco. Lillian Faderman will be on a book tour and unable to attend the awards presentation, but has written a speech for the occasion. Paul Monette will accept his award in person. Susan Hoffman, Chair of the Book Award Committee says, "On behalf of the Book Award Committee, I would like to extend an invitation to the presentation to each of you, and hope that you will bring a friend or colleague."

With the selection of the 1992 winners, the Gay/Lesbian Book Awards Committee turns its attention to reading titles published during 1992. The committee welcomes and encourages nominations from the general public, excluding only those persons affiliated with the author or publisher. Nominations for English language books published in 1992 will be taken through December 31, 1992. Nominations should include a brief statement—one to three sentences—as to why the title is being recommended. Nominations should be sent to the following address: Susan Hoffman, 180 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

The committee is also in need of two new female and two new male members. If you would like to volunteer to serve on the committee, or would like more information about the committee's work, please drop a note to Susan Hoffman at the above address or speak to her at the awards presentation.

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Steering Committee Membership List

May 1992

Male Co-Chair

Roland C. Hansen
Readers' Services Librarian
SAIC Flaxman Library
37 S. Wabash
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 472-3555 (h)
(312) 899-5097 (w)
(312) 263-0141 (fax)
7/91 - 7/93

Female Co-Chair:

Karen L. Whittlesey-First
Harvard Law School Library
434W Langdell Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 495-4295 (w)
(617) 495-4449 (fax)
E-Mail:
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Bitnet: Whittles@Hulawl.Bitnet

Secretary/Treasurer

Joseph Eagan
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Government Reference Service
400 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(301) 486-6310 (h)
(301) 396-4042 (w)
(301) 396-9537 (fax)
7/90 - 7/92

Book Award Committee Chair

Susan Hoffman
180 Wilson Library
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 824-4196 (h)
(612) 626-7298 (w)
(612) 626-7585 (fax)
BITNET: s-hoff@uminnl
7/91 - 7/93

Clearinghouse Coordinator: Vacant

Newsletter Committee Chair/Newsletter Editor

Kathy Anderson
Atlantic County Library System
Community Relations Office
2 S. Farragut Avenue
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
(609) 546-7385 (h w/machine)
(609) 625-2776 (w)
(609) 625-8143 (fax)
7/91 - 7/93

1992 Annual Program Committee Chair

Timothy Lynch
Nebraska Library Commission
1420 P. Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 471-2045 (w)
(402) 471-2083 (fax)
7/90 - 7/92

Publicity Committee Chair

Leon Bey
Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library
215 E. Third Street
Dayton, OH 45402
(513) 227-9500 x 324 (w)
7/91 - 7/93

Special Committees

Feminist Task Force Liaison: Vacant

Finance Committee Chair

Leon Bey
Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library
215 E. Third Street
Dayton, OH 45402
(513) 227-9500 x 324 (w)
7/91 - 7/93

NEWS IN BRIEF

▼ The Oregon Library Association is encouraging its members and the public to protest a state constitutional amendment proposed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance that would direct state and regional agencies, particularly educational agencies, to set standards for youth by recognizing certain behaviors — homosexuality among others — as wrong. Patrick Grace, chair of the state's

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Intellectual Freedom Committee, expressed fears that positive portrayals of homosexuals in history and society would be challenged as promoting homosexuality if the amendment passes. The Alliance is now collecting the 89,000 signatures necessary to put the issue on the November ballot. The group was previously successful in having the governor's executive order banning discrimination against gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals in public employment rescinded.

from *Library Journal*, March 15, 1992, p. 18.

▼ A proposal that Utah Board of Education allow books that describe being lesbian or gay as an acceptable lifestyle was rejected by the Board of Education on Friday, March 13. Under current guidelines, a text is excluded if it "...treats homosexuality as a desirable or acceptable lifestyle" among other prohibitions. Board member Frances Hatch Merrill was quoted (about homosexuals), "If we allow this [proposal to take effect], then eventually they are going to be the norm."

from *Au Courant*, April 6, 1992, p. 13.

▼ In San Francisco, the local chapter of the North American Man-Love Association (NAMBLA), a group that advocates legalized sex between men and boys, does not intend to continue meeting at the San Francisco Public Library, Potrero Branch, as it had been for 2 years. In the wake of a major public controversy spurred by three weeks of media attention by the NBC-TV affiliate, KRON, the group chose not to renew its meeting room application. In response to the media attention and to community concern, SFPL revised its meeting room policy, which now includes a priority list for use of meeting rooms that gives library sponsored programs first choice.

from *School Library Journal*, March 1992, p. 138;

Library Journal, March 15, 1992, p. 16.

▼ GLTF was cited in an article in *Empathy* magazine as a source for help in getting gay and lesbian materials into libraries. Michael Sloothaak, author of the article, reports that an OCLC search showed that *Christopher Street* and *Gay Community News* each have about 100 library subscribers nationwide, contrasted with 1400 library subscribers to conservative and religious magazines. Even *National Lampoon* has more library subscribers (138) than *The Advocate* (82).

from *Empathy*, Volume 2, #2, 1990/91, p. 57.

▼ Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium in Vancouver, British Columbia, is going to court on September 28, 1992, with the help of British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, to fight for the freedom to import lesbian and gay books into Canada. In business since 1983, the store is the largest retailer of gay and lesbian literature in Western Canada. Since 1985, Little Sister's has faced escalating harassment from Canada Customs, including book seizures. Fundraising efforts to help with the court battle are underway. To contribute: British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, Little Sister's Defense Fund, #518-119 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V6B 1S5. For more information, contact Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium, 1221 Thurlow Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V6E 1x4, Tel: (604) 669-1753, Fax: (604) 685-0252.

from Little Sister's flyer

▼ *Sightlines*, published by the American Film and Video Association, recently featured an article on "Pride and Prejudice", a 1991 film/lecture series featuring films on homosexuality from the New York Public Library Collection. Author Alan Hertzberg notes that in the current trend toward multiculturalism, the gay population is never included as a minority group. The article challenges people in the library/educational field to consider including gay and lesbian culture in an extended concept of multiculturalism. The process of putting together a model gay and lesbian film series is detailed in the article, which also includes a filmography.

from *Sightlines*, Winter 1992, p. 17-20.

▼ *RQ*, published by the Reference and Adult Services Division of ALA, recently featured guest columnist Yvonne Raaflaub on "Problems of Access to Lesbian Literature" in its "The Alert Collector" column. The column generated several letters to the editor, one which added many additional bibliographic sources to the article's list and another which accused *RQ* of venturing on an "advocacy quest to destroy the moral-social structure of our civil life" and compared homosexuality with bestiality.

from *RQ*, Vol. 31, No. 1, Fall 1991, p. 19-23 and Spring 1992, p. 455-456.

▼ *Women Library Workers Journal* is back in business after a hiatus for reorganization. Originally edited by a volunteer board, the magazine is now published by McFarland Publishing. Reviews of books, periodicals, AV and other media are featured in the journal, along with articles and news items. Contact WLWJ, McFarland Publishing, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640.

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▼ The Fourth Annual Lambda Literary Awards were announced by Lambda Book Report. 1992 winners include:

Children's and Young Adult

The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans and Other Stories
by Johnny Valentine; illustrated by Lynette Schmidt.
Alyson Wonderland.

Lesbian Fiction (tie)

The Gilda Stories by Jewelle Gomez. Firebrand Books.
Revolution of Little Girls by Blanche McCrary Boyd. Knopf.

Lesbian Nonfiction

Cancer in Two Voices by Sandra Butler and Barbara Rosenblum. Spinsters Book Company.

Gay Men's Fiction

What the Dead Remember by Harlan Greene. E.P. Dutton.

Gay Men's Nonfiction

Zuni Man-Woman by Will Roscoe. University of New Mexico Press.

Reported in *Philadelphia Gay News*, May 29-June 4, 1992, p. 16-29.

▼ David G. Welton, student in California State University's Social Science Master's Program, is looking for survey instruments and related research on the topic of his master's thesis, assessment of attitudes and behaviors of university faculty and staff toward gay and lesbian people. He can be contacted at 851 Pomona Ave. #23, Chico, CA 95928, (916) 345-7860.

▼ Long Island's chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friend of Lesbians and Gays) sent a packet to every library on Long Island, which included a suggested bibliography, several PFLAG flyers and a poster to be displayed on their public bulletin board.

from *The PFLAGpole*, Spring 1992, p. 5.

▼ Library of Congress subject headings "of current interest" include: "Gender Identity"; "Sexual Orientation." Cancelled headings include: "Coming out (Sexual identity)" with replacement heading: "Coming out (Sexual orientation)."

from *Cataloging Service Bulletin*, No. 56, Spring 1992, p. 16.

NEWS

New Major Gifts Donated to San Francisco Public Library Gay and Lesbian Center

Barbara Grier and Donna McBride, publishers of Naiad Press, the largest lesbian publishing house in the world, have announced that they will donate their private collection of lesbian and gay materials, amassed over the past 42 years, to the Gay and Lesbian Center of the new San Francisco Main Library.

The Gay and Lesbian Center will house a comprehensive research, literary, historical, and archival collection. The collection will be the first collection of its kind in a public library in America. The new Main Library is scheduled to open in late 1995.

"The gift of the over-ten thousand volume Grier-McBride collection to the Gay and Lesbian Center is of incalculable importance," said Ken Dowlin, City Librarian. "Without question, this is the most complete personal library of lesbian and gay books in the English language."

The Grier-McBride collection contains books and monographs dating from 1860 to the present, including the entire collection of works from Spinsters, Aunt Lute, Firebrand, Cleis Press, Banned Books, Alyson, Knights and Naiad presses, as well as all gay and lesbian publications from St. Martins, first editions of works by Henry James and Virginia Woolf, and personal correspondence and ephemera. The comprehensive collection includes every major, significant gay or lesbian publication, with one exception: *Mephistophela*, by Catulle Mendes (1890).

Another major individual contribution of \$500,000 has been made by San Francisco civic leader James Hormel. Diane Benjamin, co-chair of fundraising for the Gay and Lesbian Center, called Hormel's action "unprecedented." "As far as we know, it's the largest individual gift ever made to a gay and lesbian project," she said.

Hormel expressed the hope that his gift will encourage others to support the Gay and Lesbian Center, adding, "San Francisco has written so much of America's gay and lesbian history it's appropriate that the national archive be located in our new library." He also called on women and men throughout the country to add their support to this vital center for scholarship where, as he put it, "the lesbian and gay past can be preserved and the future shaped."

from San Francisco Public Library press release, April 30, 1992.

First Annual National Lesbian and Gay Book Month Announced for June 1992

The Publishing Triangle, an association for lesbians and gay men working in the publishing industry, is pleased to announce that the first annual National Lesbian and Gay Book Month will take place in June 1992. Coinciding with Gay Pride Month, the promotion will use this time of heightened awareness to bring lesbian and gay books to the attention of a wider public, much as Black History and Women's History months have done with their respective literatures.

The Triangle's goal is to have National Lesbian and Gay Book Month help promote reading and sale of lesbian and gay books nationally. "We want to provide a catalytic environment in which publishers can publish and promote their gay and lesbian titles," explains Roger Riger, a publishing consultant at Market Partner International in New York City.

Recent surveys of gay and lesbian consumers rank them significantly ahead of the national averages in terms of household income, educational level, and professional advancement. So much so that the *Wall Street Journal* (July 18, 1991) has called the lesbian and gay community a "dream market." According to Research Alert, a consumer research newsletter based in New York, the average annual income for a gay or lesbian household is \$48,625, compared to the average U.S. household income of \$36,250.

Gays and lesbians are also more frequent book buyers on average. A reader's survey in *Out/Look*, a gay/lesbian journal, found that gay men and lesbians buy an average of 35 books a year, at least half of which are specifically gay/lesbian titles. This consumer trend has led to an explosion in the number of lesbian and gay titles published in the past decade and, as significantly, in those kept in print during the same period.

In the U.S. alone, there are over 40 bookstores identified as primarily lesbian and gay. The two largest gay and lesbian booksellers, A Different Light in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco and Lambda Rising in Washington, D.D., Baltimore, and Rehobeth Beach, MD, each report sales per square foot in their lead stores of over three times the national average; \$1100 vs. just under \$300. The average return rate for these stores is also only one-third that of the national average.

Additionally, many prominent independent bookstores and national chains such as Tower Books, Borders, Rizzoli and B. Dalton have created, had enormous success with, and continue to expand their lesbian and gay sections.

According to Carol Seejay, publisher of *Feminist Bookstore News*, "Lesbian titles accounted for approximately 40% of all sales in the one hundred feminist bookstores in the U.S. and Canada." Together these bookstores realize over \$30 million in book sales annually.

Lesbian and gay small presses continue to grow and thrive. Since 1973, Naiad Press of Tallahassee, FL has been dedicated solely to lesbian books. With a backlist of over 180 titles, Naiad now puts out at least 24 titles a year. Alyson Publications of Boston, MA — a gay and lesbian publisher for the past 13 years — recently created Alyson Wonderland, an imprint dedicated to books for children in gay and lesbian families.

As many colleges add gay and lesbian studies courses to the curriculum, several university presses are publishing books that appeal to both a trade and an academic audience. Both Columbia University Press and New York University Press have created a gay/lesbian series. Following the successful path paved by small presses, many mainstream publishers are now recognizing both the literary and commercial importance of gay titles.

The American Booksellers Association holds their annual convention to promote the English-language book industry. It is an energetic combination of trade show, seminars, social gatherings and literary salon. Roundtables, panels and other events dedicated to lesbian and gay publishing as well as an entire aisle of exhibitors filled with lesbian, gay and feminist publishers all hold a prominent place within the convention. Recently the ABA announced plans to publish a specialty newsletter dedicated to news about publishing and selling lesbian and gay titles.

Lambda Rising Bookstore, which also publishes *Lambda Book Report*, the only literary review dedicated to lesbian and gay literature, sponsors the Lambda Literary Awards (see p. 6) which coincide with the ABA convention every year. This black-tie event creates publicity for lesbian and gay literature, formal recognition for authors, along with an increase in sales for the titles nominated and those that win.

"In the past, our literature has been changed by writers from different ethnic and racial minorities, and that change has always involved struggle, a turf war for power. Now the time has come for gay fiction to renew American literature in the only way it can be renewed — by contesting its social and literary assumptions," said editor, teacher and author George Stambolian.

It is just this phenomenon which the Triangle seeks to celebrate and promote with this first annual National Lesbian and Gay Book Month.

Most Recent Additions to GLTF Clearinghouse

The Task Force's Library Information Clearinghouse, established in 1987, monitors the library press and gay and lesbian periodicals for materials of interest to librarians. The following items published last year have been added to the Task Force's Clearinghouse. Publications produced by the Task Force itself are available through the Clearinghouse; write for an order form.

If you know of other published or unpublished items about gay/lesbian librarianship, or come across them in the future, please notify the GLTF Clearinghouse Coordinator, c/o ALA Office for Library Outreach Services, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

If you would be willing to monitor your local gay/lesbian newspaper (or some other periodical) for items of interests to librarians or library users, please contact Cal Gough, 491 Seminole Ave., Apt. 14, Atlanta, GA 30307.

Articles and Conference Papers

- Anderson, Bev. "Meetings Scheduled [by Gay Activists] with Minneapolis [Public] Library, School Board." *Equal Time* (Minneapolis), February 15-March 1, 1991, p. 3. "Minneapolis Library Chief Meets with Gays." *Equal Time* (Minneapolis), March 1-15, 1991, p. 13.
- Anger, David. "Quatrefoil Library: Striving to Do the Right Thing." *Equal Time* (Minneapolis), February 15-March 1, 1991, p. 14. [In same issue, p. 21: "Quatrefoil Library Begins Second book Discussion Group."]
- Beard, William Randall. "Libraries an Unlikely but Important Source of Gay Activism." *Equal Time* (Minneapolis), March 1-15, 1991, p. 10-11.
- "A Conversation with [Former GLTF Coordinator] Barbara Gittings." *Quatrefolio* (Quatrefoil Library, Chicago), vol. 1, no. 3 (May 1991), pp. 3-4.
- "Decade Dance: The 1980s [in Gay/Lesbian Literature] Remembered." *Lambda Book Review*, March/April, pp. 10-13. [See also, p. 14, "Faces of the 90s" and, pp. 15-17, "1990: The Year in Review" by Richard Labonte.]
- D'Erasmus, Stacey. "The Gay Nineties: In Schools Across the Country, Gay Studies is Coming On Strong." *Rolling Stone*, no. 614 (October 3, 1991), pp. 83+. [Gay studies programs at Duke, CUNY, and Sarah Lawrence.]
- Fasbinder, Joe. "Gays and Lesbians in Education: Teachers Face Harsh Lessons in Reading, Writing, and Discrimination." *Advocate*, no. 576 (May 7, 1991), p. 56+.
- "[Free Library of] Philadelphia...Accepts Donation of Gay Books [from P/Flag and Others]." *Au Courant* (Philadelphia), January 21, 1991, pp. 8, 13.
- "Free Library [of Philadelphia] Stocks Gay Books." *Au Courant* (Philadelphia), March 11, 1991, p. 17.
- Freiberg, Peter. "Lesbian Herstory Archives, Largest in the World, Begins New Era." *Southern Voice* (Atlanta), November 7, 1991, p. 23.
- Flagg, Gordon. "[Use of] Langston Hughes Poem [in a Lesbian/Gay History Month Display] Divides Gays, Blacks at Los Angeles Public Library." *American Libraries*, vol. 22, no. 7 (July/August 1991), pp. 610-611, 613. [Other coverage of this story: *Bay Area Reporter* (San Francisco), April 11, 1991, p. 12. *Equal Time* (Minneapolis), April 26-May 10, 1991, p. 6. Minnesota Library Association Social Responsibilities Roundtable *Newsletter*, vol. 4, no. 5 (June/July 1991), p. 1. *BLK*, no. 32 (July 1991), p. 23, *GLTF Newsletter*, vol. 3, nos. 3/4 (Spring/Summer 1991), p. 11.]
- "Gay and Lesbian History Month." Minnesota Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table *Newsletter*, vol. 4, no. 5 (June/July 1991), p. 1.
- [Gay/Lesbian Book Fund Established at Minneapolis Public Library] *Equal Time* (Minneapolis), November 22-December 6, 1991, p. 7.
- "Gay Youth Novels [Donated by the Bay Area Network of Gay & Lesbian Educators] Vanish from Contra Costa [California] Schools." *Bay Area Reporter* (San Francisco), September 26, 1991, p. 4.

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- Gittings, Barbara. "Gays in Library Land: The Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association: The First Sixteen Years." *Women Library Workers Journal*, vol. 14, no. 3 (Spring 1991), pp. 7-13. [Text of Gittings' speech to the GLTF at the June 1990 ALA Conference.]
- Haile, M. "Bookstore in Chicago Rejects Black Gay Magazine." *BLK*, no. 30 (May 1991), p. 14.
- Harper, Jorjet. "Lammys Redux." *Lambda Book Report*, vol. 2, no. 12 (September/October 1991), pp. 14-15. [Summary of 3rd annual Lambda Literary Awards ceremony.]
- "[Indiana State University Library School] Professor Acquitted of Murder [is] Now Campus Celebrity." *New York Native*, May 6, 1991, p. 11.
- Jackson, I. "On Risks and Agenda for Lesbian and Gay Teachers." *Radical Teacher*, no. 39 (Winter 1991), p. 16.
- Johnson, Walt. "Prejudices and Our Profession." *American Libraries*, vol. 22, no. 7 (July/August 1991), p. 391. [Letter to the editor, responding to Walter Mitchell's earlier letter in the May issue, p. 291.]
- Kniffel, Leonard. "Minneapolis Public Library Told to Extend [Insurance] Benefits to Gay Partners." *American Libraries*, vol. 22, no. 10 (November 1991), p. 935.
- "Librarian [and GLTF Member Daniel Tsang] to Document [U.S. Government] Spying on Gays." *American Libraries*, January 1991, p. 20+.
- McNaron, Toni. "Making Life More Livable for Gays and Lesbians on Campus." *Educational Record*, vol. 72, no. 1 (Winter 1991), pp. 19-22.
- Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, vol. 40, no. 6 (January 1991), p. 12. [Summary of incidents arising from a complaint that a library in the Chapel Hill, NC Women's Center promotes lesbianism.]
- Paar, Roz. "Gay/Lesbian Booksellers Plan Formal Organization at ABA." *Publishing Triangle News*, vol. 2, no. 1 (Summer 1991), pp. 5.
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- Provenzano, Jim. "Out in Print." *Advocate*, no. 586 (September 24, 1991), p. 70. [About *Out on Campus*, a newsletter serving gay professionals in higher education.]
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- Quinn, Judy, and Rogers, Michael. "Gays Celebrate New Los Angeles Public Library Programming." *Library Journal*, vol. 116, no. 10 (June 1, 1991), pp. 28, 30.
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- Saslow, James M., and Maves, Carl. "Lavender Academia Debates Its Role." *Advocate*, no. 586 (September 24, 1991), pp. 66+.
- Schneider, Marcia (Community Relations Librarian, San Francisco Public Library). "Gay and Lesbian Center Launched for San Francisco's New Main Library." October 10, 1991. [Press release.]
- Sears, James T. "Helping Students Understand and Accept Sexual Diversity." *Educational Leadership*, vol. 49, no. 1 (September 1991), pp. 54+. Reprinted in *Education Digest*, vol. 57, no. 4 (December 1991), pp. 53+.
- Stewig, John Warren. "Prior Restraint and the Depiction of [Gay and Lesbian] Families in Picture Books." Paper presented at the 1991 conference of the American Library Association. [Contact: Professor John Warren Stewig, Enderis Hall, P.O. Box 413, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI 53201; (414) 229-4814.]
- Thistlethwaite, Polly. "No Queers Here." *Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter*, no. 12 (June 1991), p. 9. [LHA joins ALA's GLTF campaign to improve indexing of gay/lesbian periodicals. Other coverage of this effort: *Bay Area Reporter* (San Francisco), February 28, 1991, p. 7. *American Libraries*, vol. 22, no. 4 (April 1991), p. 365. *SRRT Newsletter*, no. 99 (March 1991), p. 5.]
- Wrenn, Jenny, and Weathers, Carolyn. "Visibility through Book Publishing: The Story of Clothespin Fever Press." *Collection Building*, vol. 11, no. 1 (1991), pp. 32-34.

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Bibliographies

- Fejes, Fred. "Gays, Lesbians, and the Media: A Selected Bibliography." *Journal of Homosexuality*, vol. 21, nos. 1/2 (1991). Reprinted in *Gay People, Sex, and the Media* edited by Michelle A. Wolf and Alfred P. Kielwasser (Harrington Park Press, 1991), pp. 261-277.
- Wavle, Elizabeth M. "A Gay and Lesbian Core Collection." *Choice*, July/August 1991, pp. 1743-1751.
- "Keeping Families [with Gay Members] Together: Recommended Readings" compiled by the Lambda Rising Bookstore (Washington, DC) for the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. August 1991. 4 pages. Order form included.
- "Lesbian and Gay History Sources: Some Essential Research Guides." *Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter*, no. 12 (June 1991), p. 10. [Annotations for 19 items; listing of 16 "additional titles of interest." For a copy, send \$1 to: Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10116.]

Revised GLTF Checklists and Directories

- "Publishers of Gay/Lesbian/Feminist Books" revised for GLTF by Cal Gough (with assistance from Adam Schiff and Ellen Greenblatt).
- "Bookstores Specializing in Gay/Lesbian/Feminist Books" revised for GLTF by Cal Gough.
- "Special Collections of Gay and Lesbian Materials" revised for GLTF by Cal Gough.
- "Gay and Lesbian Professional Groups" revised for GLTF by Cal Gough.
- "Famous or Distinguished Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals" revised for GLTF by Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt.

Report

- City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission. "A Report on the Controversy Regarding Allegations of Homophobia within the Los Angeles Public Library." December 19, 1991.

Guidelines

- "Gays and Lesbians on Stage: How to Find Gay/Lesbian Plays." Revised for GLTF by Cal Gough.
- Thistlethwaite, Polly. "Before You Donate Your Collection to the Archives..." *Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter*, no. 12 (June 1991), p. 9. [Instructions for preserving and arranging materials intended for donation to the LHA; useful for any person contemplating donating their papers to any archive.]
- "What One Librarian Can Do to Improve Services to Gay and Lesbian Library Users." Prepared for GLTF by Cal Gough and John Littlewood. June 1991.

Library Pathfinders and Book Lists

- Atlanta-Fulton Public Library. "Gay and Lesbian History and Culture." Revised August 1991. [For a copy of this six-page guide contact: Cal Gough, (404) 730-1910.]
- Durham County Library [Durham, NC]. "Lavender Knowledge: Lesbian and Gay Nonfiction: A Selected Reading List."
- New York Public Library. "Celebrating Lesbian and Gay Pride: Booklist [of] Recent Titles."

Publications List/Order Form

- "Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies," "Materials Distributed by the Office of the UW System Women's Studies Librarian," and "[Subscriptions to] Periodical Publications." [For a copy, contact: UW Women Studies Librarian, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706; (608) 263-5754.]

Petition

- "Library User's Petition to Reader's Guide to Index Gay/Lesbian Periodicals." Prepared by GLTF member Polly Thistlethwaite.

BOOK REVIEWS

NONFICTION

Coming Out Within: Stages of Spiritual Awakening for Lesbians and Gay Men — The Journey from Loss to Transformation. By Craig O'Neill and Kathleen Ritter. Harper Collins, 1992. \$10.00. (ISBN 0-06-250706-0)

Not since John Fortunato's *Embracing the Exile* has there been such a moving and touching work on the pain and loss which is ever present in the lesbian and gay community. This collection of personal vignettes manages to bring the reader in touch with how truly universal loss is. The essential theme of this work is that through our acceptance of loss in life, which O'Neill and Ritter compare to the bearing of the cross by Jesus, we can as spiritual beings, transform that loss into something wonderful and new. By "integrating" loss within our lives, O'Neill and Ritter state that gays and lesbians can then move on and "reformulate" their lives and a new realistic and meaningful image.

Most remarkable in this work is the author's compassionate final chapter which embraces all people in that it seems to paraphrase 1 John by saying "God is love, and any relationship that reflects love reflects the source of love." In what seems to be a truly inspired work, one statement stands tall:

...Regardless of how God is understood or defined, the goodness and providence of a supreme being is reflected in the gay and lesbian soul. God has knit gay men and lesbians out of the fiber of her or his being and as such, their sexual orientation reflects the image and likeness of the living God...

How ironic that after the publication of this work, O'Neill's Catholic hierarchy has sought once again to do "violence" to the gay and lesbian community by rendering a loss to the Catholic community of one of its most compassionate priests. One can only quote O'Neill and Ritter in saying, "God has created lesbian and gay people, and to do violence to them heaps contempt on their Creator."

Charles Whitlow
AT & T Tax Librarian
Morristown, New Jersey

World Guide to Nude Beaches & Recreation. By Lee Baxandall. Naturalists Editions, 1991. \$21.95. (ISBN 0-934106-16-9)

If a gay guide of national scope to nude resorts, beaches, and swimming holes exists, this reviewer has not found it. The gay traveler faces a dilemma; whether to wade through a national nudist guide, like *The North American Guide to Nude Recreation* (American Sunbathing Society), or an international guide, like Lee Baxandall's *World Guide*, to find the few resorts noted for a gay clientele; or, whether to turn to a general gay travel guide, like *Odysseus* or *Spartacus*, there to seek out the clothes optional entries. Gay fold may, with good reason, choose the latter course. The subtext of the nudist guides, in text as well as photos, is unrelentingly hetero.

But both nudist guides are, to their credit, fine within their stated objectives. Both are also produced and updated by large, well established nudist associations. They are slickly produced, with glossy photos and attractive layout, taking the reader from the most lavish resort to secluded little hide-a-ways accessible only on foot. Baxandall's *Guide* also advises the unwary sun worshiper to stay zipped up in certain innocent looking but notorious locations where police action can be swift. (See the Central California section for a chilling photo.)

A good selection of gay and lesbian travel guides is found in *The Big Gay Book* (John Reston, Plume, 1991), pages 487-495.

David Soltesz
Fairview Park Regional Library
Fairview Park, Ohio

(A note from the Book Review editor: our copy of the 1983 edition has been requested 20 times on interlibrary loan and is currently out; our copy of the 1991 edition (added February 14, 1992) is currently out on interlibrary loan and we have received 2 requests since it was loaned. Please add this book to your collections so our library patrons can have it!)

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Putting Out 1991; A Publishing Resource Guide for Lesbian and Gay Writers. By Edisol W. Dotson. Putting Out Books, 1991. Paper. \$12.95. (ISBN 0-9628387-0-5)

This bibliography amazed and delighted me. It is an excellent source of publisher information for gay and lesbian writers and for writers on gay and lesbian related subjects. The editor states this is only a partial list and makes no claim for its absolute completeness, and rightly so, since as a compiler he can include only information from publishers who elect to respond with the required information.

I know of no other one source which supplies for the seeker the types of information found in this bibliography. Under each publisher, be it book, journal, newsletter, newspaper, or theater it is possible to find all the publishing information that any would-be author needs prior to submission of an article or story.

There are a few flaws, none of which would prevent my purchase of this item. I would have found a geographical listing helpful, first by state and then by city. (Doing Nebraska would be easy.) I found the inclusion of subscription information unnecessary and a waste of space since that type of information is available elsewhere. Also the subject index is so very broad almost any title in the bibliography could be placed in any one of the twenty three subject categories.

I find this an excellent source for information for those wishing to publish gay or lesbian oriented material be it tutorial or titillating you can find a potential publisher her.

Recommended for academic and public libraries.

Ray B. Means
Creighton University
Omaha, Nebraska

Two Women Revisited; the Poetry of Jeannette Foster and Valerie Taylor. By Jeannette Foster and Valerie Taylor. Banned Books, 1991. Paperback. \$7.95. (ISBN 0-934411-29-8)

This is an expanded version of a book published in 1976 by Womenpress. Tee Corinne introduces the work of two women who were published earlier this century and ignored for the past 30 years. Much of their original work was published in "women's" magazines in the thirties and forties and not recognized as lesbian in focus. Foster and Taylor were friends although a generation apart in age and Taylor was active in the publishing of

this volume. The poems speak of love, family, everyday activities and nature. The variety is wide and this book is appropriate for library trying to expand its 20th century women's poetry collection.

Pauline Klein
DeKalb County Public Library
Atlanta, Georgia

Low Down. By Tim Lowe as told to John Patrick. STARBOOKS, 1991. Paper. \$9.95. (ISBN 1-877978-22-1)

It is difficult to believe that Patrick intended to be taken seriously with this mixture of fact and fiction as the reader is tossed about between reality and make believe. At one point Patrick states this is the real and true life story of Tim Lowe while the next page has the reader transported into the viewer world to become a watcher of video, via script, with Lowe as the featured artist, or perhaps a better word would be performer.

If you know Tim Lowe, this may interest you or if you have developed a taste for John Patrick's works, you may wish to add this to your reading list. I was not familiar with either but based on this brief encounter (72 pages of actual dialogue), I'm more inclined to be interested in the biographer than the biographee. Both are exhibitionists but Patrick does it with more of a flair.

The book ends with a list of 29 video films in which Lowe plays a prominent role. For each title there follows a description taking anywhere from one to three paragraphs and using up to 15 pages.

If you really want to know something about the porno industry and its stars, this isn't the book. It's a quick read for a quick fix and not recommended as library material.

Ray B. Means
Creighton University
Omaha, NE

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Lesbian/Woman. By Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon.
Volcano Press, 1991. Hardbound. \$25.00.
(ISBN 0-912078-91-X)

This is the twentieth anniversary edition of this landmark book which is an anecdotal account of what it means to be a lesbian. The authors, partners for 38 years, write with great affection about what it was like for them and their friends and acquaintances to be lesbians in the fifties and sixties. The book is written in a story-telling, conversational style as if you were sitting around the living room chatting over coffee. It is very readable and enjoyable.

Martin and Lyon address many aspects of ordinary living as well as dealing with some of the more charged issues and concerns which are still very much alive in the lesbian community today. They talk about the idea of butch/femme roles; about coming out; about the influences of mainstream religion and mainstream society in opposition or support of homosexuality. They talk about lesbians in relation to the women's movement and in relation to the gay liberation movement. They talk about the founding and the demise of the Daughters of Bilitis, an organization which the authors established in 1955 to "to aid the Lesbian in discovering her potential and her place in society."

As part of this twentieth anniversary edition, there is an lengthy "Update 1991" where, in segments of a few pages in length, the authors provide progress reports about how far lesbians and the lesbian/gay liberation movement has come — or stalled — in the intervening years since *Lesbian/Woman* was first published.

Overall, this is an accessible cultural account of lesbians in the United States since the fifties. It makes no attempt to be scholarly or definitive. There are no footnotes, no bibliography, no index. This is written as homey vignettes about normal lesbians leading normal lesbian lives — or trying to in the midst of general cultural non-acceptance of the lifestyle. Lesbians of all ages should find this a useful overview.

Highly recommended, especially for public libraries. Even for those libraries that already have the 1972 edition, the price is not too steep as it includes the "Update 1991." An appropriate addition for academic libraries that have lesbian and women's studies materials and do not own an earlier edition.

Jo McClamroch
University of Minnesota
Duluth, MN

Legends: The Worlds Sexiest Men. Volume 1. Edited by John Patrick. STARBOOKS, 1992. Paper. \$9.95. (ISBN 1-877978-24-8)

Billed as a "disarming look at the sexiest men in the world [which] immortalizes these icons from a gay male's unique perspective." The book categorizes "the sexiest men in the world" into three groups, Movie Stars (including the homophobe Mel Gibson), Music Stars (includes Prince and the late Jim Morrison), and Porno Stars (Jeff Stryker, Al Parker, et. al.).

The book devotes several pages of largely anecdotal information to each of the 25 men, including such tidbits as genital size, probably gay sexual experiences, and a filmography for each, fastidiously asterisked when an actor appears in a film nude or semi-clad. Also included for the porn stars is a listing of their feature videos.

This is by no means serious literature, nor does it pretend to be. While some readers may want a copy for personal reading, this book's place on library shelves is dubious at best. The author has written several biography style books about gay adult movie leading men; as well as several works of fiction; and, recently edited *A Natural Beauty*, a compilation of erotic stories.

David R. Hardee
Student, University of South Carolina
College of Library and Information Science
Columbia, SC

Are You Girls Traveling Alone? Adventures in Lesbianic Logic. By Marilyn Murphy. Clothespin Fever Press, 1991. Paper, \$10.95. (ISBN 1-878533-03-7)

Marilyn Murphy is a sixty year old, self-described radical feminist political activist. This is a collection of forty-three essays, written between 1982 and 1991, all originally published in *The Lesbian News*.

These essays are well-written, often insightful, sometimes controversial. The title essay (which brings to mind Van Gelder and Brandt's "Are you two...together?") describes some of the travels Murphy and her lover have taken in their RV through the U.S. and Canada and the amazement voiced by women of their generation that these "girls" were traveling alone — i.e. without a man.

"Would knowing this have made a difference?" in which Murphy briefly outlines the careers of such lesbians as physicians Elizabeth Blackwell and S. Josephine Baker, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Jane Addams, is inspiring and thought provoking.

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Murphy has a penchant for provocative statements like "I believe the Lesbian is the quintessential rebel...[and] lives the profoundest non-conformity." One of the controversial essays is "Mother of the Groom" in which she describes her decision not to attend her son's wedding, despite their seemingly warm relationship, to protect his involvement in a "ceremony which celebrates the institution which is the cornerstone of ... oppression [of women]." (Murphy had been married and the mother of four when she came out at the age of forty-three.)

I would certainly recommend this title for any collection - public, academic, women's studies. It can be sampled selectively or read straight through.

Most chapters close with annotated references. There is an index and the appendix lists the publication dates of the essays.

Martha E. Stone
Treadwell Library
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

Amazing Grace: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Faith. Edited by Malcolm Boyd and Nancy L. Wilson. Crossing Press, 1991. Paper, \$10.95. (ISBN 0-89594-479-0)

Perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of gay and lesbian life is participation in mainstream organized religion. So many persons have opted out of traditional belief systems and worship experiences; some because of the limiting political or ethical stances assumed by many mainline Christian denominations; some because early church education develops a heavy burden of guilt and self-recrimination in gay and lesbian participants. Many have simply walked away from the churches, believing there is no place there for them.

For those who stay within a structured Christian setting, survival often depends upon compromise, closeting or celibacy. Those who stay do so because of a commitment to a heritage, because of the need to belong, or because they sincerely believe that they can and will facilitate positive change.

To serve as a gay or lesbian clergy person is particularly difficult; how does one function amidst the strictures of an organized church and still be true to oneself? How can one express and rejoice in a faith, in the face of the unfairness and overt/covert bigotry of some ministries? How can one be truly "out" and yet true to one's vocation?

Amazing Grace: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Faith is a collection of autobiographical essays which retrace the spiritual journeys of dedicated men and women serenely committed to their faiths. Each of these faith journeys had also included acceptance of and commitment to their gay and lesbian lifestyles, but not without periods of disillusion and denial. Jonathan Emerson tells of one of his fellow seminarians, and his need to visit his college chaplain for confession: "...I went to my priest and told him that I needed to confess my ungratefulness. Of course he didn't get my drift, so I told him again that I had not accepted my sexual orientation as a gift from God, and I needed to confess my ungratefulness."

The expression of joy and commitment reverberates through each of these essays, and the inspiring stories told cannot help but move readers. Highly recommended.

Jim McPeak
Lepper Public Library
Lisbon, OH

Drum Beats: Walt Whitman's Civil War Boy Lovers. Edited by Charley Shively. Gay Sunshine Press, 1989. Paper. \$10.95. (ISBN 0-917342-07-5)

Shively brings together the correspondence between Walt Whitman and the numerous soldiers he met and attended as a volunteer male nurse during the Civil War. He details the environment of the encampments and the hospitals, the many situations in wartime which encouraged homosexual friendships among the soldiers, and the particular attraction that Whitman felt of the soldiers and patients he met. It is safe to say that Whitman approached his nursing with nearly equal amounts of compassion and sexual tension, and that many soldiers responded in kind. Shively includes representative letters from fifty soldiers and lovers, and they form a dramatic portrait of Whitman as caregiver, as confidant, and as lover.

But Shively undermines this work by throwing in some unsupported suppositions, language which is anachronistic and vulgar, and sweeping statements which are at best biased and at worst paranoid. His book is not helped by writing such as, "Whitman had chosen not to fight [in the war] but to become the poet of the Civil War. Those homophobes who attack Whitman for not taking up the rifle attack poetry as well." Or this particularly ridiculous statement: "Except for a few Whitman scholars, most people accept Whitman's homosexuality because they think poetry is insignificant and thus appropriate for the sexually disordered."

Shively further weakens his book by taking a side journey conjecturing the sexual orientation of both John Wilkes Booth and Abraham Lincoln. Although this certainly may bear researching, such speculation is simply not appropriate to the thesis of this work. If that were not enough, Shively manages to set back for several millennia both Gay Studies and United States History by speculating on the length of Lincoln's penis based on his long fingers and his shoe size!

It is really unfortunate that a book of great promise had to be bogged down by its author's sloppy scholarship and lurid writing. I would consider this book only for those collections specializing in Whitman; those persons interested in the Whitman correspondence would do well to skip the first 100 pages of the book. Otherwise forget it.

Jim McPeak
Lepper Public Library
Lisbon, OH

Out Here Flying: Lesbian Poetry. By Jan Hardy.
Sidewalk Revolution Press, 1986. Paper. \$3.95.
(ISBN 0-961-74060-4)

This collection of poetry explores better than any book of essays what it's like to function in the world as a lesbian. Subjects range from sisters to mothers to teachers to cruising women to alcoholic friends to abused friends to exes to being the only single at a party full of couples. We can relate. Hardy tells stories; some poems have plots, and things happen. She writes with much humor and passion.

In the first poem, we learn the origin of her publishing company's name, Sidewalk Revolution Press. The poet imagines a lesbian revolution if women would only go up to strange women on the streets and tell them "...yr face looks like the sun with all that/ blond hair shining out like rays / & you really look beautiful." The poet concludes, "I shd try it."

Lyrical and flowing, the poems radiate with delicious images that linger. Her married sisters live in a world so remote that the poet's letters are likened to "messages in bottles / lapping like waves against / the shores of their country." She includes several erotic poems, presaging the later collection she edited, *Wanting Women: An Anthology of Erotic Lesbian Poetry* (1990). I highly recommend libraries purchase this slim, inexpensive, lavender-colored, stapled book. Readers will be enchanted by the images and by the love and caring expressed between women.

Kathy Ruffle
College of New Caledonia Library
Prince George, B.C.

Sodomy and Interpretation: Marlowe to Milton. By Gregory W. Bredbeck. Cornell University Press, 1991. Paper. \$12.95. (ISBN 0-8014-9945-3)

"Sodomite" is a word dark, repugnant, and forbidding not only to society at large but also to many gays and lesbians. Bradbeck, in this scholarly study, looks at the concept of sodomy as it evolved in Renaissance England from 1590 to 1660. The earliest construct of sodomy entailed witchcraft, heresy, paganism, atheism, sedition, and sexual aberrations; it was not until the close of the Renaissance that sodomy came to denote a narrow range of sexual behavior. The scholars of the period utilized the terms sodomy or sodomite synonymously with homoeroticism or homosexuality. In addition to this inherent research problem, in the sixteenth and seventeenth century the conceptualization of gay and lesbian identity did not exist. Employing a deconstructive criticism standpoint, Bredbeck analyzes the writings of Renaissance authors Barnfield, Drayton, Johnson, Marlowe, Milton, and Shakespeare, along with related legal and broadside material of the period.

In his interpretation of the historical context of homosexuality, Bredbeck further utilizes the work of contemporary theorists such as Hocquengam, Foucault, Althusser, Frisleva, Deluze, and Guttari. While *Sodomy and Interpretation* is a difficult read, its scholarly value cannot be denied. Along with works such as Bray's *Homosexuality in Renaissance England*, Saslow's *Banymede in the Renaissance*, and Smith's *Homosexual Desire in Shakespeare's England: A Cultural Poetics*, this work will form a core resource for gay/lesbian academic research for the Renaissance period. It will have broad applications beyond Renaissance scholars to also include gender theorists, gay and lesbian scholars, and academicians in the field of homosexual history.

Michael A. Lutes
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN

Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them. By David Island and Patrick Letellier. Harrington Park Press, 1991. Paper. \$17.95. (ISBN 0-918393-97-3)

This groundbreaking book co-authored by David Island and Patrick Letellier uncovers the secret world of gay domestic violence. Island is a San Francisco legal and communications consultant and Letellier a former victim of an abusive partner. Both are activists in gay domestic violence prevention.

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Once every 90 seconds a gay man coupled with a violent partner is abused in the U.s.; approximately 500,000 men a year suffer such abuse. With the paucity of reliable statistics, this may be only the tip of the iceberg, Island and Letellier state.

Gay domestic violence has been widely hidden by the male homosexual community, and has been ignored by society at large. Research is very minimal, and myths predominate. Community resources to deal with abused partners are non-existent with the exception of several major cities.

Key tenets expounded in the text are the theory of gay domestic violence, myths, recurrent abuse patterns, profiles of batterers and victims, escape from abusive situations, use of friends as helpers, the role of therapy, the psychology of violence, and abuse prevention.

Interspersed throughout the text are succinct accounts of Letellier's personal experience with such abuse, including how he achieved freedom from the situation.

This is the first examining of the issue of gay domestic violence, and is an invaluable resource for those in the helping professions, victims of abuse, and the general public.

Michael A. Lutes
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN

The Big Gay Book: A Man's Guide for the 90's. By John Preston. Plume, 1991. Paper. \$14.95. (ISBN 0-452-26621-1)

Author and former *Advocate* editor John Preston took on a daunting project and has produced an incredible book. In 534 pages he has gathered information that covers all aspects of gay life.

The book is divided into chapters which cover areas such as organizations, culture, campus life, sports, and entertainment. The communications chapter looks at gay magazines and newspapers, radio, and television. The chapter called "How We Lead Our Lives" covers the workplace, the military, relationships and families, coming out, gay youth, aging, finances, and health. The "Gay Spirits" chapter, in addition to religion and spirituality, also included recovery and self-help.

The book is more than just a directory of U.S. and Canadian groups and organizations. There are discussions about the issues surrounded many of these subjects, as well as lists such as the recipients of the ALA Gay/Lesbian Book Award, best places to live, universities with gay/lesbian student groups, and even the top ten

songs for aerobics! Quotes from a variety of people are featured throughout, including one by Bob Hope decrying anti-gay attacks. The book is illustrated with logos, photographs of gay events, and magazine and book covers. Of value to both librarians and library users are the reading lists in each chapter. Much of the information will also be useful for lesbians.

My only criticism is that the book is indexed only by state, which is useful, but not by subject. The table of contents is very thorough, but a subject index would make it a little easier to use.

Preston has made every attempt to keep the information accurate and current. It's fun to browse, and recommended for all libraries, especially those in smaller towns where such information may not be available elsewhere.

Walt Johnson
Minneapolis Public Library
Minneapolis, MN

Cancer As a Woman's Issue: Scratching the Surface. Edited by Midge Stocker. Third Side Press, 1991. Paper. \$10.95. (LC 91-8809, ISBN 1-879247-02-8 sic)

This is an anthology of writings by lesbians and heterosexual women who have experienced breast and/or reproductive tract cancer. The title is misleading because few of the short stories, essays or journal excerpts discuss any cancer except those that can be diagnosed in women. The contributors explore a wide variety of mechanism used, including education, activism, increased reliance on friends, and support groups, to cope with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

By far the best contribution was by Laura Post, a psychotherapist, whose journal excerpt about a patient dying of metastatic cancer was beautifully written. The author's commitment to medicine and her patient ring true.

Most of the contributors who go in depth about the medical aspects of their disease are hazy about pathology diagnoses; this book should certainly not be considered a reliable source of medical information. It contains, as the editor notes, the voices and perceptions of women with cancer who responded to requests for contributions from feminist publications.

The writers cover topics ranging from the purely personal fears of death to the level of funding allocated for treatment of cancers which afflict women exclusively, in contrast to AIDS funding; whether the victim - or survivor - of cancer has been given a gift or a curse; whether the individual bears any responsibility, due to

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her lifestyle, for contracting cancer, or whether the responsibility lies entirely with the U.S. government's lack of concern for environmental toxins and other carcinogens.

There are a number of spelling or typographical errors. There is no appendix to explain medical terminology, though some chapters contain bibliographic citations, and a few medical terms are defined in the text or footnotes. The contributors to the book are listed in alphabetical order by their first name. There is a brief index, and a list of alternative women's cancer resource groups and "selected recommended publications" ranging from Audre Lorde's *The Cancer Journals* to Susan Sontag's *AIDS and Its Metaphors*.

This book should be of interest in collections of lesbian/feminist health care issues, or where interest warrants; I do not feel it is an essential purchase for a general collection.

Martha E. Stone
Treadwell Library
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

Gay Roots: Twenty Years of Gay Sunshine; An Anthology of Gay History, Sex, Politics, and Culture.
Edited by Winston Leyland. Gay Sunshine Press, 1991.
Hardcover. \$40.00 (ISBN 0-940567-13-X); Paper. \$22.95.
(ISBN 0-940567-12-1)

Most of the material in this wide-ranging "celebratory anthology" was originally published in one of the first, one of the longest-lasting (1970-1982), one of the most controversial, and one of the most respected publications for gay men produced by the original shock wave of the Stonewall Rebellion. Additional material for the anthology was drawn from out-of-print books published by Gay Sunshine Press, established by "Gay Sunshine Journal" editor Leyland in 1975. It is astonishing how much work of historical or still-timely importance was originally published in *Gay Sunshine*. You'll find here (to choose only a few things at random) the famous article on the "gay lineage" connecting Walt Whitman's love-making to Allen Ginsberg's; Huey Newton's position paper on why gay men and lesbians should be considered allies to the Black Liberation Movement; Ralph Schaffer's moving essay on ageism among gay men; John Rechy's prophetic 1978 piece on the New Censorship.

There are pieces by and/or about W.H. Auden, Malcolm Boyd, Jean Genet, Allen Ginsberg, Yudio Mishima, Ned Rorem, Tennessee Williams. There are all-too-brief excerpts from wonderful (and incidentally, previously anthologized) interviews with Allen Ginsberg, John Giorno, Lou Harrison, Christopher Isherwood, Roger Peyrefitte, and Gore Vidal (alas, only the interview with Isherwood is published here in its entirety).

There is poetry by Verlaine, Rimbaud, Genet, Cernuda, Ginsberg, and Leyland favorites Jim Everhard and Edward A. Lacey. There are well-written and groundbreaking scholarly essays by Eric Garber, Charles Shively, Allen Young, and Ian Young.

The amount of material by or about gay authors outside the English speaking world is remarkable: essays, short stories, and poems translated from the French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Russian, and Greek. Leyland briefly introduces each piece with a helpful and remarkably complete bio-bibliographical note. These gems and much of the other historical, biographical, political, critical, creative, and erotic materials included more than compensate the reader for the inclusion of some of the less important items (or items available elsewhere): too many samples of Boyd McDonald's *Straight to Hell* sex fantasies; an early version of Karlinsky's work on Russian pre-Revolutionary gay literati that appears in a more polished form in another recently published anthology; and, some mediocre poetry.

The most serious flaw of this anthology is its antipathy not only to the contributions of lesbians to the "Gay Cultural Renaissance" of the 1970's, but a near total obliviousness to their existence. The brief profile of a famous lesbian writer in the essay written by Simon Karlinsky is the only rare and refreshing exception to the otherwise males-only material. Not a single word of this 700 page anthology that includes over one hundred contributors is written by a lesbian. Despite what this reveals about the politics of the gay male literary "community" served by a largely male controlled press of the 1970's, this is an important collection and every public and academic library, and every gay operated library should buy the hardcover edition. Lesbian operated libraries may find it difficult to spring for even the paperback.

Cal Gough
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
Atlanta, GA

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Journey to Brotherhood; Awakening, Healing and Connecting Men's Hearts. By Frank Cardelle. Gardner Press, 1990. Paper, \$15.95. (ISBN 0-89876-153-0)

The inability or unwillingness of men to articulate emotional expression, and the efforts of writers to define and respond to these problems has spawned a literary cottage industry over the last several years. The main figures in the masculinity movement, Robert Bly and Sam Keen, struggle with the male emotional persona: Bly couches his exploration of father/son synergy in the darker interpretations of the fairy tale Iron John; Sam Keen's *Fire in the Belly* appeals to the primal tribal core he feels lies dormant and untapped in men. The movement toward the rediscovery of masculinity, and the ability of men to communicate within that masculine framework.

Frank Cardelle also maps this territory, with middling results. He provides an overview of man's inability to express the array of human emotion, what occurred historically and culturally that reinforces this handicap, and what steps each man can take to facilitate change. He asserts that it is quite possible that men can be emotional and sensitive with no loss to masculinity or emotional stability, and uses illustrations of anecdotal case histories gleaned from his work as men's counselor, as well as moments from his own personal life.

Some of this will come as lightning sharp revelation to some readers, and for them this books should prove helpful. It does not speak to the gay audience — indeed, Cardelle goes to lengths to assure the reader that the embracing of a more sensitive self in no way demeans the masculinity or heterosexuality of the reader.

Many gay readers, after overcoming this small bit of homophobia, will discover that there is little that they did not know, had they but considered the issues. Indeed, some of the revelatory material herein should be readily apparent to all but the most obtusely macho of males. Generally speaking, gay men are much inclined toward self-examination and self-appraisal, and many will have worked through the consideration of sensitivity and male roles. However, for those men who need to learn and not fear self-expression and legitimate emotional response, Cardelle's book may prove helpful.

Jim McPeak
Lepper Public Library
Lisbon, OH

Rebellion: Essays 1980-1991. By Minnie Bruce Pratt. Firebrand Books, 1991. Paper. \$10.95. (ISBN 1-56341-006-0)

Activist, essayist, and award winning poet Minnie Bruce Pratt's strong voice speaks to us in this collection of 11 essays written in the past twelve years. Some are taken from speeches or talks she gave at Vanderbilt, Cornell, Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival, Afro-American and White-American Women's organizing conference, the Guggenheim Museum upon accepting the Lamont poetry award, and the National Women's Studies Conference. Others are previously published pieces, from *Feminary; A Feminist Journal for the South* (collective run journal she helped found) and other journals.

Born and raised "Southern white Christian" in central Alabama in the segregated 1950's and 1960's, Pratt recounts for us the painful process of dealing with the racism and anti-Semitism inherent in her upbringing and our culture. She speaks of how she lost her two young sons, in the heat of her divorcing husband's hate, when she came out as a lesbian and refused to deny it; and the joy of having the love and respect of those two young men now. In "I Plead Guilty to Being a Lesbian," she and other members of LIPS affinity group describe the excitement, frustrations, and incredible joy of the October 1987 civil disobedience at the Supreme Court, protesting among other things the 1986 Bowers vs. Hardwick decision so detrimental to campaigns to repeal sodomy laws.

This is an unabashed and painfully honest account of her life of self-examination, always questioning, asking the never before asked, challenging assumptions. Her writing style is expert—scholarly but not pedantic; passionate and polemical, and unpretentious.

The author was recipient of the ALA/GLTF 1991 Gay/Lesbian Book Award for her book of poetry, *Crime Against Nature*. I recommend this book of essays for adult collections in public and academic libraries.

Dana Artemis Fogg
MLS Student
Texas Woman's University
Denton, TX

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FICTION

Stranded. By Camarin Grae. Naiad Press, 1991. Paper. \$9.95. (ISBN 0-941483-99-1)

This is lesbian feminist science fiction at its best. Set in 1992, three disembodied minds (or DM's) travel from Allo to save the world from another DM, Zephkar, who has inhabited the body of James Lane. Zephkar forms a religious right group trying to turn the U.S. into a theocracy. While finding bodies to occupy who will volunteer to help rid the world of Zephkar, the DM's make comments on the state of the world, vegetarianism, religion, politics, animal rights, drugs, and child rearing. Mixed in with the political statements and science fiction are exciting, explicit sex scenes. The book is a quick read and belongs in science fiction collections or libraries with a strong lesbian/feminist collection.

Pauline Klein
DeKalb County Public Library
Atlanta, GA

Murder is Germane. By Karen Saum. Naiad Press, 1991. Paper. \$8.95. (ISBN 0-9411483-98-3)

This is the second Brigid Donovan mystery. (The first was *Murder is Relative*, which I have not read.) Brigid is 52 years old, a recovering alcoholic, a former nun, a lesbian, and an amateur detective. All these conditions work themselves into and out of the storyline.

This particular tale involves the disappearance and presumed murder of a man who worked for the INS (Immigration & Naturalization Service) in Maine. Very quickly the plot thickens and we find there are connections to drug smuggling in Panama, where about half the story is played out. Eventually we are subjected to three very gruesome murders, an attempted murder, a suspicious death, one beating, a little torture, a great deal of drinking and drunkenness, much unrequited lesbian lust among current and former nuns, and one sexual encounter between the heroine and a woman twelve years her senior whom she has desired for more than fifty years.

There are too many characters and just a bit too many subplots. There are many scenes that start and then stop abruptly. The writing is uneven, there is no genuine tension. Overall, this is a rather ordinary murder mystery. Recommended for purchase by lesbians who want a very light read and who want to support lesbian presses, and

for lesbian reading rooms. Not recommended for purchase by libraries.

Jo McClamroch
University of Minnesota
Duluth, MN

The Hallelujah Murders: A Poppy Dillworth Mystery. By Dorothy Tell. Naiad Press, 1991. Paper. \$8.95. (ISBN 0-941483-88-6)

Dorothy Tell's first book, *Wilderness Trek*, was a story of six women who go camping together, and the adventures they have. One of the strongest and most engaging characters from that book, Poppy Dillworth, is now the heroine of her own murder mystery series. *The Hallelujah Murders* is Tell's latest effort, and the best.

A sixty-five year old lesbian detective isn't your average dyke, but Tell writes of her with so much verve and wry humor that Poppy seems like a friend by the end of the book.

Poppy and her new partner, Belle Stone, are called by old friends to investigate the death of a woman who was leading a local movement to save a river. Fairly predictably, the good gals are in favor of saving the river, and the bad guys are on the side of damming it and creating a large recreational lake (and some handsome bank/real estate profits). It isn't all simplistic, however, with some bitchy women and nice young men thrown into the process. When a prime suspect commits suicide, things get even messier. And the ending is something of a surprise. The story is tremendous fun to read. The author has a strong sense of place, in this case Texas. In her hands, the weather and the geography become part of the tale.

The book is suitable for collections of contemporary lesbian/gay fiction and mysteries. It's especially positive in depicting older lesbians — aches, triumphs, and all.

Susan Lee Sills
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA

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A Natural Beauty: Erotic Tales of Tender Young Lovers.
Edited by John Patrick. STARBOOKS, 1991. Paper. \$11.95.
(ISBN 1-877978-18-3)

The eighteen short stories in this anthology portray varied situations in which boys, teenagers and young men experience homoerotic awakenings, love, sex, and violence. Although the overall quality of the prose is acceptable, one-dimensional characters and predictable plots trivialize the contents. Relevant themes such as man-boy love, coming out, self-acceptance and dealing with peers, family and society are not realistically explored. Unprotected anal and oral sex are often graphically described, but safe sex and health issues are ignored. Amateur photos of teenage boys scattered throughout the book further detract from the work's appeal to serious readers. Not recommended for any public, academic or special library collections.

Joseph Eagan
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Baltimore, MD

The Blessed. By Nona Caspers. Silverleaf Press, 1991.
Paper. \$9.95. (ISBN 0-941121-04-6)

This novel is two separate stories told in alternating chapters. The larger part is the first person story of Magda, kidnapped and held prisoner in a basement by a middle aged woman she names Mrs. Savior, a not-so-motherly character with two holsters, one carrying a gun and the other a Bible. In the first chapter, she shoots Magda's big toe off for trying to turn off the TV tuned permanently to an evangelist station. Later, she makes her eat soap because she said that the Apostles probably had crushes on Jesus. Mrs. Savior apparently intends to cure Magda's open lesbianism by converting her, but Magda is totally cynical: "Religion is a business. Anyone with a cerebrum knows that..." The other story is the diary of a college freshman, Karen, over the course of a semester in 1986. Karen is a rather ordinary, sheltered, introspective, studious and increasingly unhappy person who finally manages to kiss her best friend and roommate, Amy.

Magda's tale is beautifully told, as her imprisonment allows her lots of time to reminisce, hallucinate and devise ruses to escape Mrs. Savior. Caspers expertly captures the religious zealot, as well as the mind of the prisoner deprived of any sane contact.

Of course, the two takes intersect, and that is part of the problem: the connection between college student Karen and prisoner Magda is not revealed until the very end. In the meantime, this reader was more frustrated than mystified by their relation. Maybe I'm dense, but I didn't figure out how the stories intertwined until the author finally spelled it out. Was I supposed to figure it out before then? It would have made much more sense of the story, especially Karen's rather mundane, schoolgirl-ish ramblings about dorm life. But then, I can never guess the killer in "Murder, She Wrote" either.

This novel is about much more than religion. Readers will enjoy it for its vivid characters and energetic writing. Libraries should purchase where there's a need for good, serious fiction in which lesbian identity is not central to the story.

Kathy Ruffle
College of New Caledonia Library
Prince George, B.C.

Kiss and Tell. By Robbi Sommers. Naiad Press, 1991.
Paper. \$8.95. (ISBN 1-56280-005-1)

Robbi Sommers, author of previous Naiad books *Pleasures* (1989) and *Players* (1990) here presents a variety of sexual fantasies in the form of 13 unrelated short stories. They usually get right into it after a minimum of scene setting. One story takes place at work (a dentist's office; Sommers is a dental hygienist), one at medical school, and two offer up that elusive lesbian fantasy, the (up-to-now) straight married woman who actually makes the first move on the interested but hesitant lesbian. There is a gang rape scene involving a group of tattooed women clad in biker leathers and a woman in a pink poodle skirt. There is a menage a trois in which one woman is given pleasure while blindfolded. And, yes, there is a Harley-riding cop who gives our heroine all she could ask for in billy club heaven, and more.

Though brimming with straight-ahead sexual fantasy, the stories often offer intriguing twist endings, a la O. Henry. In "Married With Kids", for example, the narrator reveals at the end that her (previous) straight conquest is also her ex-husband's new (and soon to be ex-) wife. "[The husband's] sole purpose was to launch women into lesbianism," having done so twice.

It is somewhat unfair to quote erotica: "...she slices her tongue up and down in my gel" loses something all by itself. Sometimes Sommers' writing is quite good, bringing the scene to life with vivid description and apt metaphors. A girl in a bar is entranced by a nearby pool table, its

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triangular geometrics paralleling her love affairs. On the other hand, Sommers can be flat, with prose such a "I swayed hypnotically to the music."

Libraries may want to consider the book's explicit sexual content. Lesbians opposed to S/M should consider that much of the fantasy involves consensual pain and use of such appliances as a razor handle, the butt end of a knife, the aforementioned billy club, and electric mixer beaters (!).

This is enjoyable lesbian erotica. I don't recommend that you read these stories all at once, as I did. They are best enjoyed one at a time.

Kathy Ruffle
College of New Caledonia Library
Prince George, B.C.

In the Game: A Virginia Kelly Mystery. By Nikki Baker. Naiad Press, 1991. Paper. \$8.95. (ISBN 1-56280-004-3)

We are introduced to Ginny Kelly in this first novel of a new Black writer's mystery series. Ginny and her friend Bev are two of the few Black graduates of the business administration school of a "vine covered white people's institution." The first person narrative form draws us into Ginny — a cynical, self-deprecating, heavy drinking, upscale, Chicago lesbian working in financial services. She tickles our funny bones, reminds us that we are none of us saints, and succeeds as anti-heroine. Bev's new lover Kelsey is found shot to death in the alley behind a lesbian bar, and Ginny involves herself in finding the murderer. She indulges in a short affair with an obsessive, pursuing woman; learns of the suicide of a business associate of the murdered woman; and flies to Boston for further sleuthing.

Ginny has a keen grasp of human nature, responding to, "Would you ever marry a white man?" with an honest "No." Even though Ginny is not trying to hide her lesbianism, the naive co-worker remains unenlightened — and unaware she's unenlightened.

This is an enjoyable "read" — strong on character development and easy on details about murdering and corpses. There is some sexual activity, and the author treats it off-handedly, casually fading away from any explicit descriptions.

Recommended for larger collections of contemporary lesbian fiction.

Dana Artemis Fogg
MLS Student
Texas Women's University
Denton, TX

The Sparkling Lavender Dust of Lust. By Tee Corinne. Banned Books, 1991. Paper. \$8.95. (ISBN 0-934411-4992)

Tee Corinne's book is a beginning exploration of some parts of the San Francisco lesbian/gay communities. If you ever wondered what the lesbians were doing while Maupin was writing *Tales of the City* et alia, you can at least find out what they're doing now.

Centered on five lesbians of various ages who live in San Francisco and are from sundry parts of the South, the nexus of this novel in short story form is a gallery opening show of the photographs of one of the main characters, Jo.

Clair is the unwitting subject of several of Jo's photos. In her late 30's, she has spent the past 15 years caring first for her parent and then for a young gay artist who had AIDS; her one relationship, with Gilliam, ended when Gilliam announced she was getting married. Gilliam, the most obviously troubled of the group, is now divorced, and completing her dissertation on contemporary women artists, among whom Jo is one of her favorites. Jo's landladies are Dell and Lotimarie. Dell, a recovering alcoholic and incest survivor, is now a counselor for troubled teens; Lotimarie is in her fourth post-cancer year, and has just started a small lesbian/feminist publishing company with her retirement money; her first employee turns out to be Clair. Jo, the photographer, hasn't settled down with anyone yet, but is strongly attracted to some of the women in her photography support group — and more so to Clair. The comparison with weaving is very tempting: separate lives/threads coming together, briefly forming a knot, then some staying while others go off in different directions, perhaps to meet again later.

All these women are well, if briefly, drawn and have their own voices. The minor characters are strong too, and I found myself looking forward to the next book to find out what happens: do Jo and Clair develop a relationship? Is Dell able to help Gilliam? What about Gilliam and Rosemary? What about Clair's gay Uncle Paul and his partner? Does Lotimarie retain her health? What about Jo's daughter?

This book is recommended for all collections which include lesbian and gay fiction.

Susan Lee Sills
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA

How Would You Feel if Your Dad Was Gay? By Ann Heron and Meredith Maran. Alyson, 1991. Paper, \$9.95. (ISBN 1-55583-188-5)

Gloria Goes to Gay Pride. By Leslea Newman. Alyson, 1991. Paper. \$7.95. (ISBN 1-55583-185-0)

Two entries from the Alyson Wonderland series for children which gloss over harsher realities, but create positive models of gay lifestyles for young readers.

How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay? deals with the problems faced by children with gay/lesbian parents. When third-grader Jasmine makes a remark while making Father's Day cards in class that she has three fathers (birth, step, and gay-step), news travels fast and her brother is soon being ridiculed in the school playground. This issue eventually leads to a school assembly where non-traditional home settings are considered and contrasted. Heron and Maran sensitively illustrate that few homes are of the mom, dad, kids, and dog variety, and that alternatives are just as acceptable and just as loving. The book is an affirmation for any child, regardless of the number, gender, or sexual preference of his/her caregivers; and it's a lesson in tolerance and acceptance for any reader. For ages 6 - 10.

Gloria is going to the Gay Pride Parade with her mothers, Grace and Rose, and talks enthusiastically of her life with two moms, and of the parade. When they get to the parade, they see their mail carrier, Gloria's music teacher, and a co-worker of Grace. The events of the day are described in a low-key yet positive way. Russell Crocker's pencil drawings provide pleasant impressions of Gloria's day (even the anti-gay demonstrators are handled sensitively). A nicely constructed picture book — my only hesitation with it is that many children live far from communities with Gay Pride Parades, so the plot frame may have little context for readers. At the same time, its message that gay lives are joyful lives, although romanticized, is affirming to gays, lesbians, and their children, and a gentle education for others. For ages 5 - 8.

Jim McPeak
Lepper Public Library
Lisbon, OH

The Bunny Book: A Novel for Anyone Who Believes Life and Death Are, After All, A Wonder. By John D'Hondt. GLB Publishers, 1991. Paper. \$11.95. (ISBN 1-879194-05-8)

Dear Reader, if you like your books to have frequent salutations like this and if you like to be tossed about in a melange of myth, legend and folklore of rabbits, witches and hexes, of an interspersed fantasy which could be labeled "Roberta in Bunnyland," and then have it occasionally woven together with what must be a semi-autobiographical story of a lover dying of AIDS, then this may be the read for you.

However, I offer a word of caution. While it may have been a true cathartic effort for the author to deal with the tragedies surrounding us, it is often presented here in cloyingly grating and cliched expressions. Phrases such as "Oh dear, sweet little bunny, this is the first bit of comfort I've had in who knows how long!" and "falling apart at the seams" are used more often than the sometimes clever and vivid writing that does appear. The bunny theme was evidently chosen here because the lovers were grasping out for larger-life meanings and because Chinese mythology holds that "the hare is the symbol of inverts—nobody knows why—and is considered their patron." This reader did not get swept into the effort. Larger fiction collections could consider this as a marginal possibility.

Reed Coats
Fairfax County Public Library
Fairfax, VA

Castro Street Memories. By N.A. Diaman. Persona Press, 1988. Paper. \$14.95. (ISBN 0-931906-05-9)

George Pappas, fresh out of NYU, is having dinner with his lover when a telegram arrives telling of his father's death. Leaving immediately, George returns to the family home in Los Angeles for the funeral and finds that he has inherited \$50,000 in early '70's dollars. With money in hand, George heads for San Francisco and Castro Street.

There he settles and through his eyes we see the growth of Gay Liberation in the '70's to the beginnings of AIDS in the early '80's. But only from the sidelines, because throughout it all, George treats all of life very casually, never allowing anything or anyone to really come close. Never getting involved, never truly caring. Until AIDS. And even then, the larger personal issues concern a future lack of money and his apartment being sold, not the deaths of some of his friends.

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The story is quite fascinating. I never came to "like" George, but then I didn't "dislike" him either. He is not your normal protagonist. He isn't championing issues. He isn't delving deeply into his soul. George is a nice guy who happens to be a bit shallow. This is his story. And ours. Reported from the fringe.

Only two things detract from the overall effectiveness of the novel. One, the complete lack of quotation marks made it nearly impossible to separate random thoughts from conversations. The second is the difficulty in judging the passage of time. Years and dates are rarely mentioned, though several important events (Harvey Milk's assassination) help.

Recommended for libraries with an active Gay literature following; not for those just starting to build one.

T.R. Salvadori
Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library
Glassboro, NJ

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If you would like to be a reviewer or would like to receive reviewer guidelines, contact the Reviews editor, David Streeter, at the following address:

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The *GLTF Newsletter* (ISSN 1045-2893) is an official publication of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Subscriptions are \$5 per year in the U.S.; \$7 in Canada and Mexico; \$10 for all other countries. **Subscription address:** Gay and Lesbian Task Force, OLOS, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. **Editorial Address:** GLTF Newsletter, Kathy Anderson, Atlantic County Library System, 2 S. Farragut Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. **Changes of Address** should be sent to the Editorial Address listed above.

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