



# GLBTRT Newsletter

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

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

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Summer 2013

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## Conference Buddy Program:

[http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/  
involved/buddy](http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/involved/buddy)

Does ALA has your current  
email address, phone number,  
etc.?

- log in to [ala.org](http://www.ala.org) (top right)
- click "update your profile"
- click "Contact information"
- you can change your mailing and email address in this box
- if you change anything, click save and continue at the bottom of the page.



## From the Chair

First, I welcome our new officers to the board. The list is on p. 16, and you can learn more about each of them in the [last issue of the GLBTRT Newsletter](#) [pdf]. My deepest thanks to all who ran for our open offices and board seats. I hope we'll continue to attract candidates of your caliber.

Thanks also to those of you who voted. We had over 302 ballots for GLBTRT offices. We're an organization of 935 members. That's a 32% turn out. We'll try to do better than that next year. And think about running for a GLBTRT office next year. Openings are on p. 16 with complete information

on our [election page](#).

Second, if you've coming to ALA Annual Conference, have a look at the GLBTRT events. The links on our [conferences page](#) will take you to the conference scheduler. Use this to build your personal conference schedule and see who is attending events.

Last, where has the time gone? I'm at the end of my term as round table chair and I feel as if I'm just getting into a rhythm.

This inaugural year of the board was a busy time. Many of us had new roles and responsibilities that we're still defining. We've also confronted unexpected questions like what a board even is and how it works. I've lobbied ALA for some training in this area and will continue to do so. The board governs your round table and it directs the work of your organization's committees. This is why [running for office](#) and voting in elections is extremely important.

I spent the last year learning about being a chair. There were many obligations and details: committee and representative appointments, committee orientation development, general committee support, and event scheduling and planning. I've been taking notes so future chairs will have a sense of a schedule and obligations.

I've also been taking lots of notes since I started volunteering for the round table in 2009 and interviewed many people about their round table work. These notes slowly formed a draft procedure manual. As chair, I needed this information to convey responsibilities to volunteers. The manual includes things such as what we expect of our committees, representatives, and officers. As past-chair, I'll make sure we somehow adopt this manual so that it blends with our [bylaws](#) and our [leadership responsibilities document](#).

Over the last year I also worked to implement a monthly board meeting schedule. Although we didn't meet every month, we had placeholders on our calendars. Hopefully we can continue this tradition into the future. Last month we held our first open board meeting online, another tradition I hope we can continue.

During the last year John Amundsen, our ALA Staff Liaison, has always been an incredible resource. I want to thank him for his support of our organization and his boundless enthusiasm.

What a great moment this is. Things feel more orderly by the day. I'm following Anne Moore into the role as past-chair, Roland Hansen is coming in behind me as chair, and Ann Symons will join us as chair-elect. We have a great board assembled with new and veteran round table members. Many of our committees are humming along or soon will be.

Shared governance is never easy. Volunteer work can be messy, and it's often easy to forget that all this effort goes towards promoting our literature to the world. Our time is well spent: [GLBTRT Volunteer Form](#). (Sorry, I couldn't resist.)

*David*

## 2013 ALA Annual Conference Schedule

### Saturday, June 29, 2013:

8:30-11:30 am: Executive Board Meeting Sheraton—Lincoln Boardroom  
 10:30 am-noon: Program: Outreach to LGBT Homeless Youth McCormick Place—S106b

### Sunday, June 30, 2013:

10:30-11:30 am: GLBTRT Membership Meeting McCormick Place—N132  
 10:30-11:30 am: Pushing the Boundaries: LGBTQ Presentation and Representation of/by Asian/  
 Pacific American Writers (See p. 4) Hyatt Regency McCormick Place—Jackson Park 10A  
 1:00-2:30 pm: Program: Access Denied! Filtering: Trouble, Tyranny, and Triumph  
 Hilton Chicago—Williford A.

**6:00-8:00 pm: GLBTRT Social—Ann Sather Restaurant, 909 West Belmont Avenue**

### Monday, July 1, 2013:

10:30 am-2 pm: Stonewall Book Awards Brunch—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place—Hyde Park, 11AB

### Stonewall Book Awards Brunch:

Donald Weise, founder of Magnus Books, will keynote the 2013 Stonewall Book Awards Brunch. With more than two decades of experience in publishing LGBT literature, Weise served as publisher at Alyson Books and senior editor at Carroll & Graf Publishers. His new venture, begun in 2010, has published such leading authors as Samuel Delany, Edmund White, and Stonewall winner Keith Boykin.

Tickets to the brunch are \$55. For more information, and to register, please visit [www.alaannual.org](http://www.alaannual.org).  
 Registration code: GBT1.

### Leather Archives & Museum:

The Leather Archives & Museum invites members of the ALA GLBTRT to visit our library, archives, and museum while you're in Chicago. Just mention your affiliation with the round table at check-in for free admission. If you'd like a tour of the stacks/archives, we'll do our best to accommodate.

We're a short 10-minute walk off the Red Line (Loyola stop), and street parking near the LA&M is obtainable, especially during the day. We're just 2 blocks away from GLBT bars and businesses including Touché, Jackhammer, 6410 Leather, and Parlor.

Hours and directions are available at <http://www.leatherarchives.org/about/about.htm>

Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions or would like to schedule a time to see the archives / closed stacks.

## ALA-GLBTRT Newsletter Archives

On this 25th anniversary of the *GLBTRT Newsletter*, thanks to Don Bell of Shelton State Community College (AL), the GLBTRT newsletter archives from 1988 are almost complete. Still missing are some issues from 1988-1990 and 1993 as well as the years 1994 and 1995. If your attic, basement, office, or other place houses these, please let us know. To look at back issues, go to <http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/newsletter/collection>.

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 nelcward@charter.net

### Newsletter Deadlines

Summer Supplement	7/15/13
Fall	
Midwinter	
Midwinter Supplement	

# GLBTRT Programs at 2013 Annual Conference

## Safe in the Stacks: Community Spaces for Serving Homeless LGBTQ Youth

Panelists will provide insight in how to serve and welcome homeless LGBTQ youth in our community and in our libraries. What are the needs and issues we can address and become advocates for?

A question and answer period follows. Dr. Winkelstein, whose dissertation research focused on this population, and our wonderful panel of speakers and experts are here to share their insights on this pressing issue!

### Moderator and Speaker:

Dr. Julie Winkelstein, Librarian/Writer/Advocate

### Speaker Panel:

Jama Shelton, Director of Forty to None Project, True Colors Fund, New York City

Bonnie Wade, Director, TransLife Program at Chicago House

To Be Determined, Director, Night Ministry, Chicago

To Be Determined, Youth Client from the Night Ministry, Chicago



**Saturday, June 29, 10:30-Noon**

**Room: McCormick Place, Room s106b**

## Access Denied! Filtering: Trouble, Tyranny, and Triumph

Internet filtering is a touchy issue that libraries have had to deal with as major sources of internet access for many of our users. How often are our patrons being denied access to legitimate sources they need?

Join us to explore the legal climate of filters, how they work, and other implications of their use. We'll also explore the "Don't Filter Me" program of the ACLU.

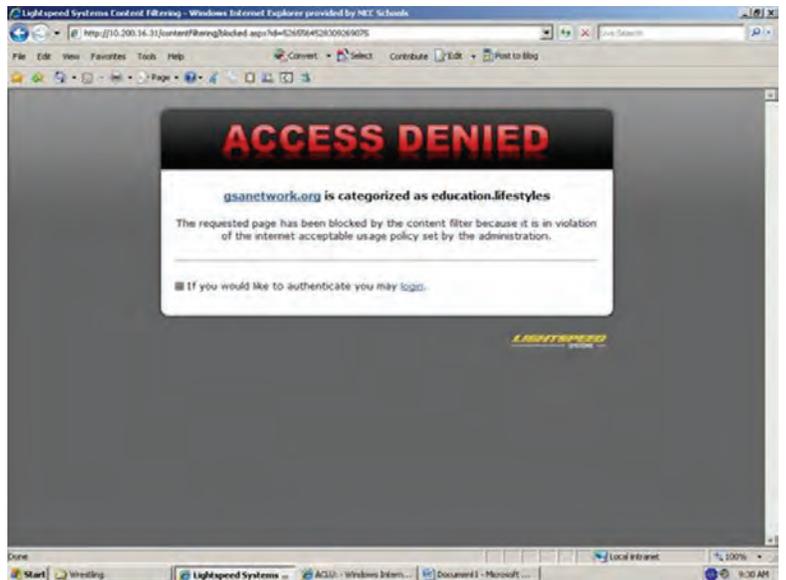
### Speakers:

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Deputy Director of ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom

Tony Rothert, Legal Director of ACLU, Eastern Missouri

**Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, from 1-2:30 pm**

**Room: Hilton Chicago - Williford A**



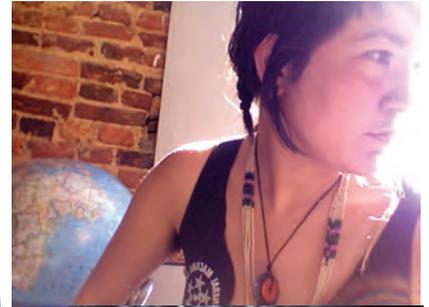
**We're very happy to bring these programs to you and hope you'll join us in Chicago!**

## GLBTRT Programs at 2013 Annual Conference



### Pushing the Boundaries: LGBTQ Presentation and Representation of/by Asian/Pacific American Writers

Sponsored by APALA and GLBTRT, this program focuses on the representation, or lack thereof, of LGBTQ members within the spectrum of the Asian/Pacific American (APA) community, particularly in literary works by APA LGBTQ writers. It also discusses the movement of presenting and representing APA LGBTQs in literature through activism and agency, whether as an individual or as a group pushing the boundaries within and outside the walls of APA and LGBTQ communities.



#### Moderator/Speaker:

Mary Anne Moharanj (above), author of *Bodies in Motion*, a Sri Lankan-American novel-in-stories and nine other titles

#### Speakers:

Malinda Lo (bottom right), award-winning journalist in LGBT media and author of award-winning YA books.

Dwight Okita, third-generation, gay Japanese-American poet and novelist.

Linda Nguyễn, soon-to-be MLIS graduate and queer artist living in Minneapolis (MN).

Sine Hwang Jensen (top right), graduate student in archives, records, and information management with a passion for cultural heritage preservation and Asian Pacific American history.



## YA Book Removed from Illinois Classrooms after Complaint

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (Stephen Chbosky) lost its standing in eighth-grade classrooms of Glen Ellyn Elementary District 41 (IL) after parent complaints. Although a committee recommended that the book be retained for independent reading, the school board voted 4-2 against the recommendation and removed copies of the book from classrooms. The school library does not have the book in its collection. *Wallflower* had survived a 2006 attack in Northwest Suburban High School District 214 but lost in Portage (IN) high school classrooms as well as other areas. People interested in book bannings can keep up with the news by subscribing to Intellectual Freedom Action News at [ifaction@ala.org](mailto:ifaction@ala.org).

ALA [sells](#) the *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, and supplemental information is posted [online](#).

## Authors Available in Schools to Discuss Work, LGBT Issues

[LGBT Writers in Schools](#) will connect authors with classrooms via free Skype or in-class visits to discuss the author's work and LGBT issues. Designed for teachers of high school classes, universities and colleges, the LGBT Writers in Schools program is an opportunity for writers to discuss their work openly with students and to encourage diversity not only in the students' reading and writing lives, but also in society at large. This initiative will broaden the foundation of experience for students of Literature, Creative Writing, English, and Secondary Education. You can also donate books to the project for school libraries.

To schedule a visit or for more information, contact Monica Carter at [mcarter@lambdaliterary.org](mailto:mcarter@lambdaliterary.org)

**June 30, 2013 is the deadline for the Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation 2013 Playwriting Competition. All works must present lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender life in a positive manner and be based on, or directly inspired by, a historical person, culture, work of art or event. The foundation also offers grants to production companies. See [abbfoundation.org](http://abbfoundation.org) for more information.**

## Texas Library Association Sponsors Panel on LGBTQ Lit



As part of the Texas Library Association Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, the GLBT Interest Group sponsored a panel discussion called "Out

of the Closet and Onto the Shelves: GLBT Literature Today."

Panelists included Peter Coyl (above right), Dallas Public Library and Stonewall Book Awards Committee chair; Christie Gibrich, Grand Prairie Public Library and Rainbow Project chair; and debut novelist Tim Federle, author of *Better Nate than Ever*. The panelists discussed the top 10 books from this year's Rainbow Book list and the Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children's

and Young Adult Literature Stonewall Book Award winner and honorees.

Speaking to a near capacity crowd (including Raina Telgemeier (below right), author of the Stonewall Honor Book *Drama*, the panel book-talked each title, shared thoughts about the importance of the books, and gave readers advisory tips to the audience.

Conference participants offered positive feedback on the session, with one person sharing on Twitter that two days into the conference this was "the best session [at TxLA] so far."

Due to the success and positive feedback, plans to offer a similar panel at TxLA 2014 in San Antonio are in the works.

[Thanks to Peter Coyl for the article and photos.]



## Juneau Empire Publishes Series on LGBT Community

From Ann Symonds--"Small Town America: Juneau, Alaska, population 30,000, publishes a daily newspaper. Yes, it contains local, national, and international news, but of late the front page has looked very different as the papers has decided to focus more on local issues. The first local series is entitled 'LGBTQ in the Capital.' I hope you will take time to read the articles. It certainly is a model for other communities. Proud to be a Juneau resident." [Ed. Note: This is powerful writing.]

[LGBTQ in the Capital, Part I: Coming out and early struggles of the community](#)—"An average straight person assumes someone they're looking at is straight."

[LGBTQ in the Capital, Part II: Some members of the community - who they are](#)—"We're here, we're queer and we'd like to say hello."

[LGBTQ in the Capital: An Alaska Native perspective](#)—An Alaska resource for youth on issues of sex, sexuality and gender, Iknowmine.org, talks about Alaska Native treatment of minority sexuality.

[LGBTQ in the Capital, Part III: Fighting for marriage equality](#)—After facing the challenge of coming out, of dealing with bullying and seeking acceptance from one's family, friends and community, still more obstacles face those in the LGBTQ community.

[LGBTQ in the Capital, Part IV: Struggles for equal rights](#)—There are many rights and protections that have not yet been granted to the sexual minority, things as basic as protection from being fired from a job or denied housing.

[LGBTQ in the Capital, Part V: Support and celebration in the LGBTQ community](#)—Despite the challenges highlighted in this series, from coming out and bullying to seeking marriage equality and protection from discrimination, and even being barred from donating blood, members of the LGTBQ community say there is still plenty to celebrate.

## Comic Book Commemorates Stonewall Uprising Anniversary

On the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stonewall, Bluewater Productions is releasing a 32-page comic book to commemorate the event and examine its legacy. Written by Michael Troy and illustrated by David T. Cabrera, the special edition publication is funded through a crowd-sourcing campaign by [indiegogo](#). Other comic books from Bluewater feature openly gay subjects such as RuPaul, Ellen DeGeneres, and Rosie O'Donnell.

## Around the Youth Circuit: Book Cover Controversy by Jenna Goodall



In the past few months, I have noticed many discussions regarding book covers. Most notably thus far has been YA author Maureen Johnson's Coverflip experiment. She asked her [Twitter followers](#) to take a popular book and make a new cover for it by switching the author's gender and imagining the result. Some examples were later

posted on [Huffington Post](#).

The same day, Johnson also wrote an article for Huffington Post titled "[The Gender Coverup](#)" that discusses the perceptions of books by female authors and how their covers reflect these perceptions. She states about books written by men, "You tend not to hear 'light,' 'fluffy,' 'breezy,' or 'beach read.' It tends to be more straightforward--that they liked it, didn't like it, hadn't read it, might read it. There are fewer assumptions made. Somehow, we have put books into gender categories."

Maureen Johnson did not stop there. She posted on her [Tumblr](#) answers to some frequently asked questions about Coverflip and her general views as well as her ideas of an action plan in hopes something can actually change. She explains, "Coverflip's ultimate goal is to show that books have no gender. Let's stop pre-determining what's for boys and what's for girls. And it aims to do this by playing around with the cover image to show that covers are simply covers, and you can

switch them around and change perception in a heartbeat." She gives ideas for how teachers and librarians can do Coverflip activities.

Through the powers of social media, the Coverflip experiment blew up. I will not even attempt to cover all the feedback from news sources, blogs, and other authors. However, some good places to start if you feel so inclined to look into this further are the [Coverflip Tumblr](#) and YALSA's The Hub blog post about [Coverflip](#). Over at STACKED, there is an interesting post inspired by the Coverflip movement about authors using [initials](#) instead of their full name, particularly a female author writing from a male point of view.

Whereas Johnson demanded change in book covers, YA author Malida Lo celebrated because "mainstream publishers have been moving toward more frank representations of LGBT romance on their YA covers" in her post, "[Representing LGBT Romance on Young Adult Book Covers](#)." This post was sparked by the cover of David Levithan's *Two Boys Kissing* which will be released this fall and features a close-up of the faces of boys kissing on the cover. She showcases other books that have a same-sex romance featured on the cover from hand-holding to passionate embraces.

Maureen Johnson and Malinda Lo both agree that it is up to the public to influence the covers that are created. Johnson states on her Tumblr post, "If publishers know you want something different, they will be DELIGHTED to oblige. They're really only trying to please you, reader."

## Stonewall Award Results in GLBTRT Member Discussion

In 2009, Lambda changed its guidelines for the awards to the requirement that authors who submitted their works to the competition must self-identify as LGBTQ. The decision was changed after a few years, and now all authors may enter the Lambda Literary awards. The same rule holds for the GLBTRT Stonewall awards, that any author may be considered for the award, resulting in a healthy discussion on the round table e-list about the Youth Award winner in 2012 with the appropriate title *Almost Perfect*.

In the novel, the protagonist, a straight teenage boy, develops an attraction to the cute new girl in town and then discovers that she was born male and is transitioning into a female. Kyle Luckoff wrote that the plot cannot avoid "clichés and stereotypes because trans people, especially trans youth, are constantly told that we will never be loved for who we are and that we have no hope of leading happy lives." He "look[s] forward to seeing a more diverse range of stories present both in the stories that get written and the ways that reviewers approach those stories.

Grafton Kale Kevan wrote that the book seemed to be that "trans panic defense" is "legitimate (just so long as you don't take it too far). A further objection from a blog is that the award for books for youth are "supposed to give librarians access to a few books that are safe to recommend to LGBTQ teens."

As Peter Coyl pointed out, the "safety" of the book is not part of the award; "it is to recognize and honor books of exceptional merit relating to the GLBT experience."

Reviews also pointed out the problem of stereotyping but have positive statements about the book. *Booklist*: "Many teens—both those familiar with transgender issues and those who are not—will welcome the honest take on a rarely explored subject." *Kirkus*: "The author tackles issues ... with humor and grace in an accessible tone that will resonate with teens who may not have encountered the issue of transgender identity before." *SLJ* identifies it as "a first purchase for all high school collections and could easily be given to middle school readers who are undaunted by its length."

As everyone agreed, awards are the choice of the judges. The group is now working on the next round of Stonewall awards that are gaining greater and greater visibility in the world of readers.

# GLBTRT Members across the Internet

A little over two years ago, I started a blog on politics. It was originally more reviews of feminist and LGBTQ books but changed direction within a few months. The inspiration came from Eleanor Roosevelt, the person who changed the landscape of the United States, and wrote a daily column.

Now an avid blogger, I wanted to know what GLBTRT members are writing. Thanks to all the responses I received; they displayed great diversity and personality! If your blog isn't listed, let me know so I can put information about your writing in the next newsletter.

Nel Ward, [nelsnewday.wordpress.com](http://nelsnewday.wordpress.com)

## The Library World:

Ingrid Henny Abrams: Newly-elected board member and youth library in Brooklyn who works on Hurricane Sandy Book Relief:

<http://magpielibrarian.wordpress.com/2012/11/18/i-wish-you-would-look-at-our-wishlist-sandy-childrens-book-relief/>

<http://magpielibrarian.wordpress.com/2012/11/11/the-library-is-now-open-lending-a-hand-at-queens-libraries-howard-beach-branch/>

Sami Gardner: Focusing on queer librarianship resources and features a blog, its mission is to promote LGBT representation and outreach by providing practical resources to information professionals. It features link collections to queer organizations, magazines, social networking, and more along with more academic resources for librarians like queer bibliographies, studies, and exemplary library outreach. <http://queer4books.samigardner.net/>.

According to Gardner, Book Alchemy combines librarianship with a pop culture twist to create a foamy web brew that is both nutritious and delicious. It is written for the library-inclined and features regular columns for the discerning pop culture jockey. <http://bookalchemy.samigardner.net/>

Karen Schneider: Librarianship, LGBT issues, and everything else. <http://freerangelibrarian.com>

Suzie Day of Mental Health Law Library, WA (Perth, Western Australia): Catering to minority groups within information services, the blog mostly focuses on LGBTI and disability issues and also recaps any conferences. [www.CatalogueThis.com](http://www.CatalogueThis.com)

Jeremy Snell: I started blogging this year about library web services. [blog.jgsnell.com](http://blog.jgsnell.com). [See another Snell blog at "Just for fun."]

Lucas McKeever: For his involvement with a grant called "Mix-IT-Up!"--a youth advocacy program at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign that pairs

GSLIS students with community partners--McKeever works at the Uniting Pride (UP) Center which is the LGBTQA Resource Center serving Champaign County. Updates about his site are tagged with "UP CENTER." <http://mixituplis.wordpress.com/>

Becca Sorgent: Incarceration and education. <http://exploringprisonlibrarianship.wordpress.com/>

Juan Carlos Vegas: Spanish/English bilingual entries to The Network for LGBT Health Equity Blog on current happenings on LGBT health in Puerto Rico from a volunteer LGBT community organizer in Puerto Rico. <http://lgbthealthequity.wordpress.com/author/activistlibrarianpr/>

Also with the support of Margie Álvarez, a Spanish-English bilingual virtual library of LGBT health resources, an educational component of the Citizens' Alliance Pro LGBTTA Health of Puerto Rico. <http://www.saludlgbtta.org/apps/links/>

## Books:

Eleanor Moss: I have a tumblr blog with Sarah Stumpf, a public librarian in Illinois, devoted to reading, reviewing, and discussing bisexuality and bisexual issues in literature. <http://bisexual-books.tumblr.com/>

Kevin Coleman: Mostly reviews of queer books. <http://queerliteracy.tumblr.com/>

Greg Kroemer: The website with blog is for Northeast Indiana Diversity Library. [www.nidl.info](http://www.nidl.info).

Todd Krueger: Posts on a readers' services blog for the public library system. <http://www.bcpl.info/category/between-the-covers-blogger/todd>

Carolyn Caywood: Reviews of books for the public library. <http://vbplrecommends.blogspot.com/search/label/K%20Picks>

Tess Goldwasser (Youth Services Librarian and Early Childhood Community Liaison, St. Mary's County Library, Lexington Park, MD): Book reviews mixed with a bit of personal and other incidental information. <http://readsomethingfabulous.blogspot.com>

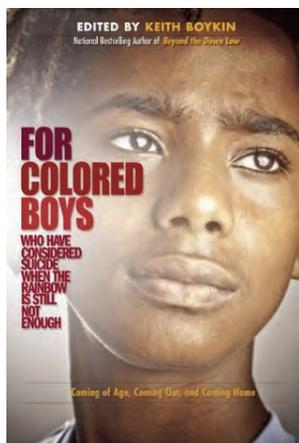
Laura Ashlee Graves: A review blog, mostly devoted to YA, with "bookish" comments. <http://owltellyouaboutit.com>

Christie Gibrich: A blog about books and book-related topics by four youth librarians. [teenlibrariantoolbox.com](http://teenlibrariantoolbox.com)

(Cont. on page 8)

## Book Reviews: Nonfiction

***For Colored Boys: Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Still Enough.* Ed. by Keith Boykin.** Magnus, 2012. Paperback. 333p. \$15.95. 978-1-936833-15-3.



Inspired by playwright Ntozake Shange's 1974 iconic choreopoem, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf*, the book *For Colored Boys* is a collection of writings by forty-four black, gay and transgender individuals who discuss a wide array of issues:

**Sexual abuse:** Poet Rodney Leonard opens up about the abuse he was subjected to by a male family friend in *Teaspoons of December Alabama*:

"I've been watching your round, girl-butt for a long time...you know you want it, anyway."

**The Down-Low Phenomena:** Contributor Antonio Brown states "...yet many frat boys and jocks shared an open secret we always knew as the "down low."

**Suicide:** In his introduction, Boykin shares the dis-

heartening story of an eleven-year-old black student who hanged himself after months of enduring harassment and anti-gay bullying.

**Homophobia within African American and Latino communities:** Writer Topher Campbell shares his view in *Coventry, Christ, and Coming of Age*: "The idea of homosexuality in fundamentalist black churches is always treated with hysteria and hyperbole, ridicule and disdain"...[and, yet] "our communities are already full of secrets and lies."

This anthology speaks to the 1991 classic *Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men* authored by the late Joseph Beam and Essex Hemphill in that, by design, it educates and inspires those seeking understanding and the ability to live their own truth. The writers' voices are authentic representations of empowerment and the willingness to triumph over their fears and live the life that is tailor-made for each and every one of them.

**Reviewer: Michelle D. Dartis, MLS  
Indiana University Alumni**

## GLBTRT Members across the Internet

### Part professional/part personal:

Henry Mensch: I'm breathing some fire back into my blog that's mostly library and technology topics, but sporadic non-library content (amateur radio, the state of the world,... ). [www.henare.org/libblog](http://www.henare.org/libblog)

Mack Freeman: This personal blog has the odd book review. [www.johnmackfreeman.com/blog](http://www.johnmackfreeman.com/blog)

Brady Clemens: Mostly about science/creationism, the blog isn't limited to that. <http://themockingjaywriter.blogspot.com/>

Gabi Toth: I'm taking a break from/looking for library work and have started a very small greeting business. [Cuddlepill.blogspot.com](http://Cuddlepill.blogspot.com)

Amanda Clay: I have an author blog, semi-queer, for my book and stuff. [www.amandaclay.net](http://www.amandaclay.net).

### Just for fun:

John Otto: A blog on weaving, updated sporadically. [weaverjohn.livejournal.com](http://weaverjohn.livejournal.com)

Carolyn Caywood: "Totally unlibrary." <http://clubmallard.blogspot.com/>

Dawn Betts-Green: These personal blogs have sporadic entries.

<http://obsessivecompulsivedawn.blogspot.com>

<http://dinosaurinthelibrary.blogspot.com>

Jeremy Snell: Personal blog. [bikingbuddhist.com](http://bikingbuddhist.com).

## Help Wanted:

Joe Floyd, the Women's & Gender Studies Librarian at the University of South Florida in Tampa Florida, has a potential donation of a GLBT collection with a focus on gays in Asia. He has been told that it consists of "primary source materials," mainly photographs and articles from journals/magazines and small press GLBT publications. If you are interested, please contact him at [jfloyd@usf.edu](mailto:jfloyd@usf.edu).

Researchers at Sam Houston State College are conducting a study on how librarians and library staff view the collection of sexually related materials for libraries, whether for education, entertainment, and/or research purposes. You can find out more about this at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NZT9P79>

## Book Reviews: Fiction

### Lee Lynch. *The Raid*.

Bold Strokes Press, 2012. Paperback. 310p. \$16.95. 978-1-60282-753-0.

In this novel, Lynch follows the lives of The Old Town Tavern “regulars in 1961 Massachusetts—their stories of jail time, hospitalizations, emotional upheaval, and the publishing of names in the paper which leads to loss of job, family, and home—after a raid filled with police brutality.

The author gives a voice to people who experienced these atrocities by not sweeping these raids under the carpet. The after effects are more horrendous than the actual event, including both the physical pain, and, more importantly, the emotional pain and loss.

As a result, strangers come together into a family, drawn together by a safe place and then by a desire to save this place despite their lingering fears. After secrets are exposed, members come together to support each other, lovers bond and separate, relationships blossom and die.

Although fictional, these events could have happened to anyone who found a home and family in a neighborhood gay bar before Stonewall and even today where intolerance still abounds.

This book is a must read, not only for the relationships and the love, but the historical importance of the brutal tearing apart of these “families” and their lives.

Reviewer: s.n.



### Best Gay Stories 2012. Ed. by Peter Dubé.

Lethe Press, 2012. Hardcover. 200p. \$23. 978-1-59-21-387-2.



This annual series began in 2008 with the first three volumes edited by Steve Berman, the founder of the press. I gave both the 2009 and 2010 volumes a “thumbs up” rave review. Last year (2011), the editor torch passed to Peter Dubé of Montreal—novelist, biographer, and cultural critic—who, like Berman, is “into” queer, speculative and surreal fiction.

“Gay” refers to the stories but not to the authors; this collection has one female au-

thor. All the stories were copyrighted in 2011 were previously published.

The fifteen stories range in length from two pages to 25 pages for the first story, a “speculative surreal” story about a bar run by angels who all fly away toward the end of the story. Two victims of suicide (a brother in one case, a former lover in the other) find each other. The second story is about “caking” in which a guy gets his Latino trick to sit on a fancy wedding cake who is, unfortunately, lactose intolerant. Absorbing too much, he suffers all night.

Many authors are relatively unknown, but some are well-established gay writers, including Felice Picano, Noel Alumit, Jeff Mann, and Ian Young. Picano’s piece is taken from his volume of memoirs of people who impacted his life (*True Stories*, Chelsea Station Editions,

2011). Two pieces are described as essays, rather than fictional stories. Mark Ambrose Harris’ charming memory of “Beautiful Books” in his local public library as he was growing up includes William Burroughs’ *Naked Lunch* and a book of Robert Mapplethorpe’s photographs of naked men. The second essay is Jeff Mann’s meditation on bondage play with a hunky Hungarian while his partner watches and gets upset.

The single story written by a woman, “Action” by Cecilia Tan, is a nice story but lacks gay content. Two actors starring in a “gun movie” become friends until one is accidentally killed when blanks bullets turned out to be real; later the other actor commits suicide.

This volume portrays more sex than last year’s offering, for example, “Gay for Play” by Conner Habib, a college professor turned porn star. The story also provides philosophical speculation.

All but one of the stories/memoirs/essays are told in a straight-forward narrative fashion and are well-crafted. One story, William Henderson’s “Words between Words” is a kind of stream of consciousness, repeating the same words over and over again, reminiscent of the movie *Last Year at Marienbad*.

A common theme is overcoming lost love and seeking new love. A prime example is the last story “The Fermi Paradox”: nothing works out for the characters.

These stories are all notable works. The collection is recommended for all libraries and readers serious about current gay writing.

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

## Book Reviews: Fiction

### Joyce Thompson. *How to Greet Strangers: A Novel.*

Lethe Press, 2013. Paperback. 246p. \$15. 978-1-59021-271-4.

Hiding from one's own life, facing past demons, cults, HIV status, disappointed parents, death, murder, and more are combined in this introduction to Thompson's new character. Based in the San Francisco/Oakland area, Archer Barron is a law school graduate who never took the bar, an HIV-positive drag queen of multiple personalities, and an ex-member of a Santeria cult.

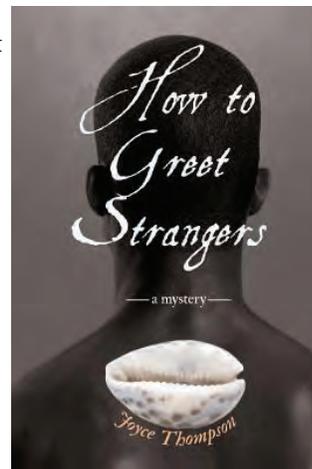
When a current member of the cult approaches Archer for help, he experiences a stream of memories and past acts centering around his involvement with the cult. As Archer reacquaints himself with this business, the cult's leader is murdered. But this is more than a murder mystery; the book also explores Archer's reasons for cross-dressing and his desire to express his feminine side. He also works to find his true self through an exploration of religion and his career.

The issue of rape on college campuses is also dealt

with as Archer encounters disturbing instances of this violent act through his job as a university night watchman. Readers will be drawn into Archer's story as he meets with old lovers, faces HIV status in present-day California, and explores his time with the cult of Santeria.

Thompson examines several important topics in this novel, and it is an important work to include in any fiction collection.

**Reviewer: s.n.**



### Liz Bugg. *Oranges and Lemons: A Calli Barnow Mystery.*

Insomniac Press, 2012. 308p. \$16.95. 978-1-55483-065-7.

In her second mystery, PI Cali Barnow goes undercover at a top Toronto advertising agency, charged with the task of trying to ferret out an accounting anomaly and figuring out the culprits. Little does Calli know that she is stepping into a hornet's nest which is, in part, caused by the head of the agency, the person who hired her. Besides dealing with corporate espionage, Calli deals with changes in her personal life as her girlfriend, Jess, pushes for a wedding, a traditional wedding that many women dream about.

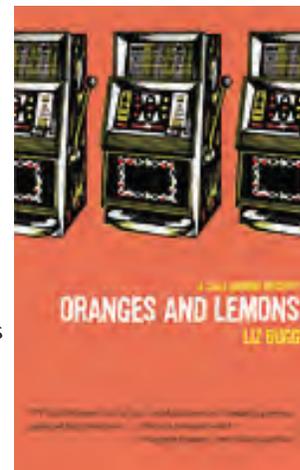
Set in the Bay Street area of Toronto, the novel realistically looks at not only the inner workings of an advertising firm but also the marriage issues facing the LGBT community in Canada. High speed chases, kidnapping, gaming addictions, drag queens, and intercul-

tural relations abound in this novel of mystery, suspense, and love with several graphic lesbian sex scenes.

Readers will sympathize with Calli as she must change her ways to go undercover, face changes in her own personal life, and face demons from her past.

The book definitely belongs in a public library's mystery collection.

**Reviewer: s.n.**



### Daniel Allen Cox. *Basement of Wolves.*

Arsenal Pulp Press, 2012. Paperback. 151p \$15.95. 978-1-55152-446-7.

Michael-David, a paranoid aging actor who has been ruined by fame in mainstream movies, is hired by a Scientist to star in a rotten film about a trombone player and wolves. Fretting about the filming, he hides in an L.A. hotel from imagined adversaries shortly before the premiere. Michael-David goes deeper into his own head, believing that his curse is intensifying and he must live alone to avoid cursing others yet he links up with a sexy skateboarder who wants to mix up his dangerous chemicals in Michael-David's room. Yet the actor finds Tim a refreshing change because he doesn't acknowledge the actor's fame.

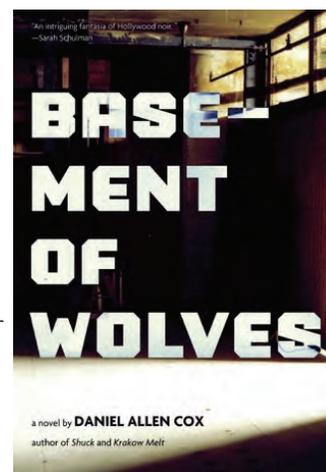
The book focuses mainly on their time in the hotel and examines Michael-David's attempts at trying to figure out Tim. Tim's refusal to participate in sexual acts only arouses Michael-David more as he also imagines what is

happening with his employer, Chris, and Chris's wife, Diana.

Filled with dark yet witty dramatic scenes, the book details explorations of being lost in one's own thoughts and seeking to find one's true self by examining the actions of others, including a graphic erotic scene.

This is a valuable book for fiction collections.

**Reviewer: s.n.**



## Book Reviews: Fiction

### *Wilde Stories 2013: The Year's Best Gay Speculative Fiction.* Ed. by Steve Berman. Lethe Press, 2013. Paperback. 274p. \$18. ISBN: 978-1-59021-

Different subgenres of speculative fiction in these dozen stories provide a queer twist on past, present, and future from dystopian, technologically advanced futures to ghost stories set in a medical school supplied by grave-robbers, with a substantial amount of variety in between.

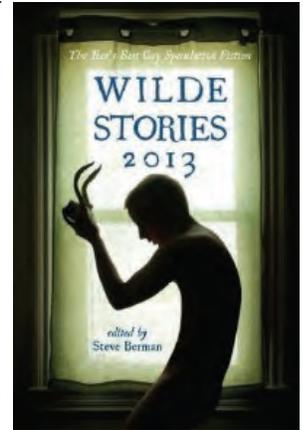
Every one of this wide variety of stories was well done as the authors displayed a variety of writing styles and structures to their stories. Their prose ranged from clear and precise to beautiful and evocative.

One particularly enjoyable story, Alex Jeffers' "Tattooed Love Boys," deals with the confusion created by two characters rapidly and inexplicably changing genders, pronouns, and embodiments. Rahul Kanakia creates an unsettlingly believable future in "Next Door" when squatters take over houses owned by people entirely plugged into the Internet and plagued by pesticide-resistant bedbugs. Hal London's "Sic

Him, Hellhound! Kill! Kill!" plunges into the frenzied mind of a love-struck werewolf and takes on the current obsession with pretty boy vampires. And "Renfrew's Course" by John Langan is a lovely meditation on the longevity of love and the persistence of mistrust.

This short story collection is highly recommended for public libraries, particularly with patrons known for interest in queer literature and/or speculative fiction.

**Reviewer: Kyle Lukoff, Librarian  
Corlears School, New York City**



### Tasha C. Miller. *She Wants Her.*

Creative Afflictions Press 2012. Paperback. 336p. \$15. 978-0-98547-780-6.

Young, gifted, and black. Oh, and let's not forget, lesbian. These adjectives describe main character Cleopatra (Cleo) Giovanni to a "T." Tasha Miller sets the bar pretty high in her first novel about a provocative Cleo who, by all accounts, is a chick magnet to the umpteenth power who is always on the prowl for her next short-term prey. However, underneath all the bravado, what she truly seeks is "the one" that will capture not only her wandering eye but also her heart...the one who will make her believe fairy tales really can last forever.

Miller also introduces us to closeted lesbian Jacqueline Tripp, a curvaceous, caramel-coated beauty, who happens to already have the scoop on Cleo. She takes her on a ride that is every bit as electrifying as it is sobering, smothered in the realities of life itself that snip off her wings while in mid-flight during their tumultuous relationship. *"I can lead you into a love like you've never seen. Again, this is not a poem. I just want you to know that I see you."*

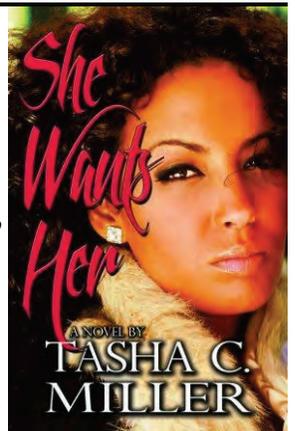
Destroyed by the inconceivable betrayal of Jacqueline and haunted by dark, brooding characters from her past, Cleo reverts back to old habits, along with gal pal Shawn. They im-

merse themselves in the pleasures of free-flow loving with nameless, faceless females, but Cleo has a deep yearning that cannot be denied. *"...she will shut down and stop feeling altogether and eventually, replace you with the bodies of numerous other women."*

Ultimately, Jacqueline won't let her go; she wants her more now than ever. But how far is she willing to push the envelope in order to woo her back into her arms? Time heals all wounds and the budding love affair that Cleo yearned for all her life soon comes beckoning at her door again and she accepts her future wifey back into her loving embrace.

*She Wants Her* makes an excellent addition to any LGBT collection and is suitable for all types of libraries.

**Reviewer: Michelle D. Dartis, MLS  
Indiana University Alumni**



### Rob Byrnes. *Strange Bedfellows.*

Bold Strokes Books, 2012. Paperback. 264p. \$16.95. 978-1-60282-746-X.

The indiscreet photo in a mistaken tweet by Austin Peebles, an aspiring young politician, leads to the biggest job ever faced by Chase and Grant, two cash-strapped criminals who are hired to remove all evidence of this picture.

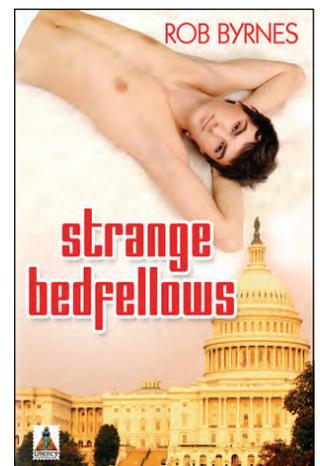
The main characters are gay, but the focus of this novel is on the criminal activities, the quirky characters, and the mishaps that occur time and again. Whether the criminal is the traditional suburban mother who works as a pickpocket to raise her standard of living, the professional who does these capers for fun, or the son of a reformed criminal turned lawyer who has fantasies of being a superhero, these characters will have you laughing as you hang on your seat for the next adventure to run its course.

Throughout the novel is the underlying reason for these escapades, the political errors of Austin Peebles and a gung-ho

blogger out to ruin him. If something can go wrong, it will go wrong for Chase and Grant, including an oversleeping gang member, a lost pair of underwear, and a cross-state ride hanging onto the back of a stolen garbage truck. The shocking ending brings to light an elaborate double-cross.

*Strange Bedfellows* will fit any adult political or mystery collection.

**Reviewer: s.n.**



## Book Reviews: Memoir/Biography

### Scott Terry. *Cowboys, Armageddon, and the Truth: How a Gay Child was Saved from Religion*. Lethe Press, 2012. Paperback. 288p. \$18. 978-1-59021-366-7.

Growing up in the Jehovah's Witness religion was hard enough for Scott Terry, the unwanted child of a first marriage; growing up and realizing who he was as a person was harder still. This memoir is a powerful story not only about dealing with and escaping from abuse but also about coming to terms with being gay in an atmosphere that regarded it as both unnatural and sinful.

Terry grew up with almost no memory of his mother. He was raised in the home of his father Virgil and his stepmother "Fluffy," a woman who despised both Terry and his sister and did everything to make their lives hell. That Terry did escape in the end is gratifying, but at times reading through the catalog of horrors that he had to undergo is unnerving in the extreme, from being forbidden to touch Fluffy's television or take food without express permission to being physically abused and accused of lying when a school exam revealed that he needed glasses.

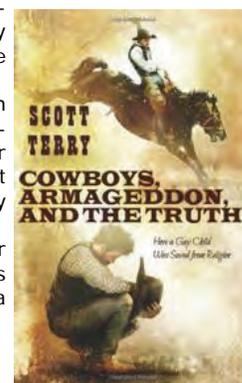
While certainly there are happy moments in his childhood, nearly all of them are in the company of relatives outside of his home. He suffered nothing but abuse from his stepmother in the presence of a father who refused to acknowledge that this abuse happened.

A constant thread throughout these recollections is the growing consciousness that he was gay. Terry prayed daily to be attracted to women instead of men but slowly grew to accept who he was as a person and find happiness and fulfillment as a gay man. Through this process, he had to break away from the faith of his childhood and from a father and step-siblings who still do not accept him as gay or as an ex-Witness (one who has left "the Truth", as the Witnesses would say).

The only flaw with this work, if it can be said to have any, is that in certain places the reader might like more detail. For much of the work, the reader knows that Terry has two step-siblings but they only rarely appear in his narrative.

For those interested in biographies or memoirs, however, this is a work that is not to be missed. This work would be a valuable addition for many public libraries.

Reviewer: Brady Clemens



### Jennifer Finney Boylan. *Stuck in the Middle with You: A Memoir of Parenting in Three Genders*. Crown, 2013. Hardcover. 304p. \$24. 978-0-7679-2176-3.

Having married and fathered two sons, Boylan transitioned to live as a woman within the same family. She wrote about her transition in *She's Not There* and about the continuity of her life from boyhood to womanhood in *I'm Looking Through You*. This third memoir focuses on parenting as seen from the perspectives of Daddy, Maddy, and Mommy. Maddy was the word her sons created for her new role in their lives.

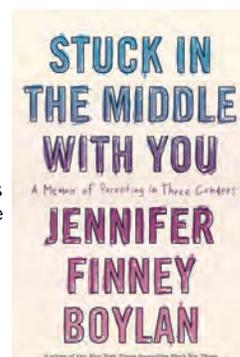
Boylan begins with the early years as father to Zach and Sean which includes memories of her own father and growing up as a boy. In the middle section, she describes the period from when she told her wife, Deedie, through her transition and her sister-in-law's untimely death. The family went to Ireland for a year while Boylan tried to self-medicate gender distress with cross-dressing. The tension of living a lie began to affect parenting, and one incident, when Boylan tells Zach that boys protect girls by hiding their pain, is particularly wrenching. By the third section, the boys are adolescents, and Boylan has settled into life as a woman while coping with her mother's failing health.

Following each of the three sections, Boylan shares interviews with friends, some of them well-known writers, about their relationships with their parents and with their children if they are par-

ents. Their stories cover diverse families--straight and single-sex, happy and dysfunctional—and those with both tragic losses and successful children with disabilities. The book concludes with Anna Quindlen's interviewing Deedie and Jenny together. Readers of the previous memoirs will appreciate hearing Deedie's viewpoint.

The multiple perspectives illuminate the ways in which parenting does and does not depend on separate roles for father and mother. Families in which a parent is transgender will find reassurance, and parents of any kind of family can learn from these varied experiences. Because Boylan is a wonderful storyteller with a wry streak of humor, any reader can enjoy her memoirs. In a year when a Supreme Court Justice thinks that families with two parents of the same gender are newer than cell phones, this book is the perfect response.

Reviewer: Carolyn Caywood, Retired  
Virginia Beach Public Library



### Andrew E. Stoner & Peter A. Conway. *Cobra Killer: Gay Porn, Murder, and the Manhunt to Bring the Killers to Justice*. Magnus Books, 2012. Paperback. 292p.

This is the true account of the vicious murder of Bryan Kocis, the owner and producer of the male/male pornographic video company, Cobra Video LLC, and the subsequent death of the company. The authors present an unbiased, well-researched, and documented account of the field of gay pornographic videos from the views of the owners, the stars, and those involved in the lives of these individuals. This book brings to light a rarely explored group of people, and aims to raise awareness of the business aspects, the liaisons and backstabbing that occurs in this field, and the unique concerns of those working in the field.

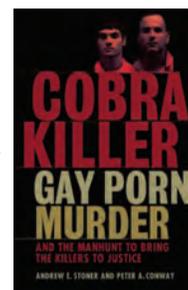
Legal aspects of working in the pornographic industry are combined with the relationships formed by those who make their careers. The discussion of health issues include the some-

times controversial decisions made about condom use.

For the first time the twisted tale of the events leading to the murder of Kocis and the unending efforts to bring his killers to justice are presented for the public eye. The authors expose secrets as they unfold this tale of espionage, alliances, and murder.

Readers will find themselves a better understanding of the sex worker's world of employment, concerns, and exploitations as well as the true crime drama of Kocis death.

Reviewer: s.n.



## Book Reviews: Memoir/Biography

### Rae Spoon. *First Spring Grass Fire*.

Arsenal Pulp Press, 2012. Paperback. 137p. \$14.95. 978-1-55152-480-1.

In this thin volume, Spoon tells several stories at once, some more effectively than others. It's a fairly straightforward memoir, interesting and engaging but still indulging in the navel-gazing inherent in the genre.

Spoon relates the various hardships of their life (a fervently religious family, a schizophrenic father, angst over a nonconforming gender) with precise, at times beautiful, prose. Woven in are other aspects of their life, hinting at a burgeoning musical career and a unique fashion sense, but these are only glimpses in the fairly traditional story of a rough upbringing and subsequent escape.

The narrative jumps and skips around in time, not confusingly, but enough to obscure any sense of momentum. Mentions of an eating disorder and self-harming behaviors show no sense of resolution. While Spoon's queer identity (or at least, their attraction to girls) is well-described, there is no corresponding detail given about their gender identity or how they related to the word "trans."

In some ways this style is refreshing. It's an important step

that a queer and trans person can write a typical memoir without feeling the need to excruciatingly explain their identity or have the storyteller's natural voice and authorial inclinations be overcome by a coming-out narrative. Unfortunately, for a work dedicated to self-exploration and explication, there is unsatisfyingly little of it.

That said, however, it's an enjoyable, clearly-written story, valuable both on its own merits and for what it represents in the genre of queer memoir. This is recommended for any library with a public readership. There is enough in this memoir to appeal to those who are already fans of Spoon, or are fellow travelers, or just appreciate a well-told story.

**Reviewer: Kyle Lukoff, Librarian  
Corlears School, New York City**



### Bambi L. Lobell. *A Strange Sort of Being: The Transgender Life of Lucy Ann/Joseph Israel Lobdell, 1829-1912*. McFarland, 2012. Hardcover. 231p. \$45. 978-0-7864-4805-0.

There is nothing more affirming for anyone in the process of coming out and claiming a particular sexual identity than to be able to read the life stories of others who have gone before them. For transgender people, this is more difficult than usual, given the historic attitudes defining sexuality as either male or female, with no alternative spaces permitted.

*A Strange Sort of Being* began as the author's dissertation and opens with a very readable discussion of the problems of interpreting the life of an individual who repeatedly and emphatically declared that they were "a man in all that the name implies" (despite being born in a female body) and who lived in a relationship with another woman as husband and wife for decades while being subjected to the attentions of both local law enforcement agencies and the medical profession.

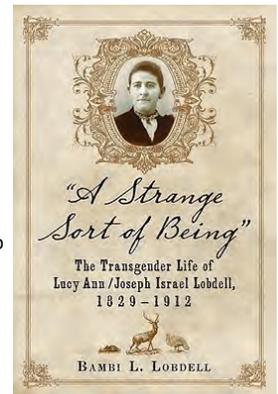
Useful features include the full text of Lobdell's 1855 autobiography and numerous contemporary discussions and depictions

which attempted to cope with the challenge to nineteenth-century American views on sexual identity posed by the facts of this life.

Geographic coverage ranges from Lucy Ann/Joseph Israel's childhood and youth in upstate New York to later residences in Minnesota and Pennsylvania in full male garb and social privilege.

Most useful for librarians wishing to build depth into their transgender collections in all types of libraries.

**Reviewer: Robert Ridinger  
Northern Illinois University**



### Rodger Streitmatter. *Outlaw Marriages: The Hidden Histories of Fifteen Extraordinary Same-Sex Couples*. Beacon Press, 2012. Hardcover. 224p. \$26.95. 978-0-8070-0334-3.

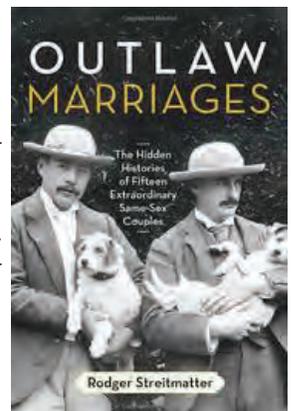
The timing for this book could not be better with the eminent decision from the U.S. Supreme Court regarding marriage equality in the country. In chronological order, Streitmatter profiles fifteen same-sex couples in which at least one partner achieved fame: Walt Whitman and Peter Doyle, Martha Carey Thomas and Mamie Gwinn, John Marshall and Ned Warren, Jane Addams and Mary Rozet Smith, Bessie Marbury and Elsie de Wolfe, J. C. Leyendecker and Charles Beach, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Solita Solano and Janet Flanner, Mercedes de Acosta and Greta Garbo, Aaron Copland and Victor Kraft, Tennessee Williams and Frank Merlo, James Baldwin and Lucien Happersberger, Robert Rauschenberf and Jasper Johns, James Ivory and Ismail Merchant, Frances Clayton and Audre Lorde.

The author's premise is that the extraordinary achievement of the better-known partner would not have been possible without the unacknowledged support of the other partner. Several chapters begin with some variation on "Flanner wouldn't have succeeded without the help she received from her same-sex partner." And several chapters conclude with a lament such as "None of the obituaries or numerous tributes that appeared in the nation's major publications made any mention of Mercedes de Acosta."

Streitmatter becomes a little tedious, especially when the couple were themselves hiding the relationship or it had already ended painfully.

Nevertheless, the research and presentation of these marriages together is a great service that can expand our national re-evaluation of the meaning of marriage in our society. *Outlaw Marriages* would be an excellent discussion starter as it presents both successful and dysfunctional relationships and demonstrates that it is the couple, not the magistrate or preacher, who make a marriage. This book needs to be available in all libraries.

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



## Book Reviews: Youth

### Innosanto Nagara. *A is for Activist*.

Kupu Kupu Press, 2012. Board book. 26p. \$15. 978-0-9883448-9-1.

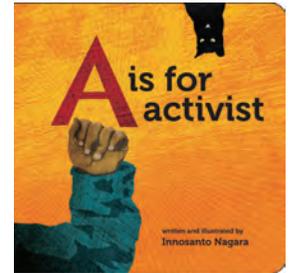
This board book for small hands is an atypical abecedar, more focused on radical vocabulary than teaching the alphabet. It is unclear whether this title is a joke intended for adults like "Go the Fuck to Sleep" or if it is legitimately geared towards young children—hopefully the former, not the latter. As a litmus test, I showed it to some of my students from six to nine years old. They enjoyed looking for the cats included on each page but didn't seem to understand many of the words.

There are some families that are deeply steeped in Leftist traditions, where young children would be exposed to words and concepts such as abolitionism, grassroots, and *vox populi*. Other families, even very progressive ones, may need to undergo hours of explanation and long, ongoing conversations about ideas raised on every single page. While this is not necessarily a bad thing because it's never too early to start talking with children about the environment or social justice, I wonder if a clumsily-rhymed collection of chants is an effective way to accomplish this. There isn't even a clear or unified format of the text.

A couple of the pages are simple ABAB rhymes which don't even scan properly. Most others rhyme in a more disjointed way, and others don't rhyme at all. The words on each page that begin with the assigned letter of the alphabet are capitalized, but even then it can be confusing which page stands for which letter: for example, the letter "U" where "W" words actually signify labor rights. Then we read, "Wait. That's not U, that's DOUBLE U. U is for Union. Union Yes!!"

Even those who love radicalizing children's literature will see that this book is not the way to do it. This book is recommended for libraries serving children of progressive parents who may want to expose their children to these concepts, no matter how difficult to read.

**Reviewer: Kyle Lukoff, Librarian  
Corlears School, New York City**



### Elisabeth Kushner. *The Purim Superhero. II.* by Mike Byrne.

Kar-Ben Publishing, 2013 Hardcover. 32p. \$17.95. 978-0-7613-9061-9.

Picture books with fun, age-appealing storylines and a valuable, universally applicable lesson in which the queer parents (in this case two fathers, Daddy and Abba) are not a source of conflict but just another kind of supportive family structure are delightful to see.

Nate, who seems to be six or seven, wants to dress up like an alien for Purim, but all his friends are going as superheroes. After a conversation with his dads about the risks and rewards of staying true to your individuality, he finds a unique costume compromise, and his friends agree that it's more fun to do what you want than what other people want you to do. The writing is clear and concise, well-suited for shorter attention spans but not patronizing for older readers.

There are so many topics covered by this short and sweet book. Kids interested in superheroes and aliens will enjoy Nate's quandary and might get some new ideas for Halloween

or Purim. Jewish kids can get a lot out of seeing their religious traditions presented in a way that's not didactic; it is simply a part of Nate's life experience. Kids with queer parents will see families similar to their own without any explanation or apology. And kids who are queer, gender-nonconforming, or otherwise unique will receive a powerful message about the benefits of being yourself, without any warnings about the stress and trauma that sometimes comes along with those lessons.

This book is highly recommended for libraries serving patrons eight years and under.

**Reviewer: Kyle Lukoff, Librarian  
Corlears School, New York City**



### Rigoberto Gonzalez. *Mariposa Gown*.

Lethe Press, 2012. Paperback. 230p. \$13. 978-1-59-21-353-3.

In this sequel to *The Marioposa Club*, Gonzalez follows the adventures of Maui, Trini, and Lib in their final year of high school at Caliente Valley High, a poor, Latino-area in the Los Angeles Valley. The young LGBT teens, all members of the GLBT Mariposa Club, have formed a strong bond of friendship that is tested time and again.

From an accepting family, Maui is a devoted friend and son of a Mexican restaurant manager. Trini, a female imprisoned in a male body, is abused by her father. Wishing only to escape her father, design clothes, and study cosmetology, Trini provides the drama for the group. A political activist and peacekeeper, Lib doesn't flaunt his intelligence. He becomes valedictorian and receives a scholarship to Dartmouth.

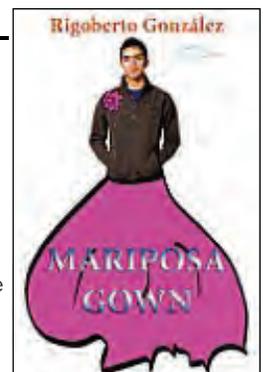
A new member of the club, Sebastian is the son of a wealthy developer who comes a life of wealth and privilege. All four face separate demons and decisions while together making a statement at their high school by creating a

lasting legacy of an integrated prom which has, for the first time, a gay prom king and queen.

Sebastian's place in the group is threatened when his father brings a new construction company to town, one which does not respect the Mexican workers. The book also touches on love, parents, separating after high school, and life with divorced parents.

This rite of passage tale of high school friendships and the strength of families belongs in any young adult collection. Teens, whether heterosexual or not, face the issues in this novel which draws out the similarities facing those of differing gender identities.

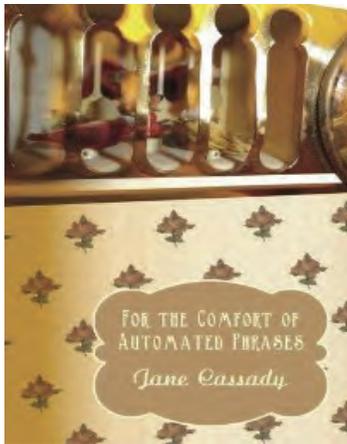
**Reviewer: s.n.**



## Book Reviews: Poetry

### Jane Cassady. *For the Comfort of Automated Phrases.*

Sibling Rivalry Press, 2012. Paperback. 73p. \$14.95. 978-1-937420-17-8.



This collection of poems could steal the heart of even the most ardent poetry hater. From the first poem, "For Those About to Plan Weddings, We Salute You," to the last, "To Amy and the Rained-Out Science Carnival," Cassady proclaims her love for a broad and generous array of people, places, things, and events.

There are love poems

to whole cities and life events both major and minor. Poems of longing and wistful remembrance share the pages with poems about pop culture and board games and are jostled by celebratory shouts for the reader's attention.

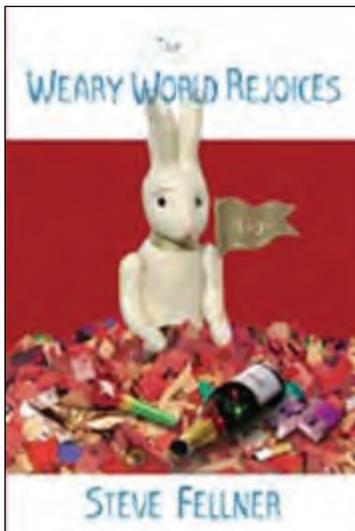
The poet invites the reader along on her road trip through Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Texas. She writes poems to strangers, to friends, to the old cell phone that she just can't part with. She casts her net wide and the result is a mix of poems that give the reader a sense of what it's like to live with open eyes and an open heart.

Recommended for all collections

**Reviewer: Sarah Corvene**

### Steve Fellner. *The Weary World Rejoices.*

Marsh Hawk Press. 2011. Paperback. 59p. \$15. 978-0-9846353-0-6.



Fellner has created a can't-put-down collection that takes a post-confessional, darkly humorous tone and maintains it through poems that attack many of the touchstones of contemporary life including sex, methamphetamine abuse, love, sickness, and politics.

This collection is at its best when it reveals tiny portions of a life that leave the reader curious for more. For instance, "A

Love Poem for Paul" begins with the intriguing lines "Who else could make/my trips to the psych ER/feel like first dates?"

With an attitude that nothing is off-limits or too scared for a smirk, Fellner attacks a wide variety of topics in brief poems full of attitude.

Included in the first two sections are odes to crystal meth, promiscuity, Miss Piggy, agoraphobia, and gay men who claim in their online profiles that they are not into "mind games." In a more reflective tone, the third section focuses on the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie (WY), examining how this event still resonates in the second decade of the 21st century. The quiet intensity of these poems is perhaps best

summed up by "Shoelaces," comparing the use of Shepard's killers using his own shoelaces to bind him to a fence with tying the shoelaces of a child in a gesture that sends them "into the world safe and protected." Fellner ends on a hopeful note that society may come together and take action against the horrors of our collective past.

Although the entire collection is impeccably strong, delivering one full-bodied poem after another, the poems co-written with his husband Phil E. Young ("Doctor's Note," "Secret Ingredients," and "Get-Away") serve as a break from the rest of the collection. These poems tend to be more intensely narrative and lack the level of humor that makes the rest of the collection come alive. Though these poems shine individually, they fail to meld as harmoniously with the rest of the collection as those written by Fellner.

Steve Fellner authored a previous collection of poetry, 2007's *Blind Date with Cavafy*, selected for the Marsh Hawk Poetry Book Prize and the Thom Gunn Gay Male Poetry Award. He is also the author of a 2009 memoir *All Screwed Up*.

*Weary World* is highly recommended to libraries of all types, particularly those with strong contemporary poetry collections, and to individuals with a love of confessional poetry, memoir, satire, and those who see humor in the darkest of topics.

**Reviewer: Mack Freeman**

## Calendar:

**June:** LGBT Pride Month

**June 3, 2013, New York City:** The 25th Annual Lambda Literary Awards Ceremony, Great Hall at Cooper Union, 30 Cooper Square. Finalists are listed [here](#).

**June 27-July 2, Chicago:** ALA Annual Conference, McCormick Place.

**July 16:** International Drag Day

**July 28-August 4, 2013, Los Angeles:** Writers Retreat for Emerging LGBT Voices, workshops by Samuel Delany (Fiction), Malinda Lo (Genre Fiction and Young Adult Fiction), Sarah Schulman (Nonfiction), and David Groff (Poetry).

**Labor Day:** Southern Decadence (New Orleans)

**September 23:** Bisexuality Day

**September 22-28:** Banned Books Week

**October 2013:** Giovanni's Room celebrates its 40th anniversary.

## Congratulations to the New Members of the Board of Directors:

New officers begin their terms on July 3rd and conclude at the close of Annual Conference:

- ◆ Ann Symons: Chair-Elect (three-year cycle as Chair-elect 2013–2014; Chair 2014–2015; Past Chair 2015–2016)
- ◆ Dale McNeill: Treasurer (two-year term: 2013–2015)
- ◆ Directors-at-Large: Ingrid Abrams and Lisa Johnston (two-year term: 2013–2015)
- ◆ Peter Hepburn: Round Table Councilor (three-year term: 2013–2016)

Reminder for the 2014 [election](#): Chair elect; secretary (two-year term); Directors-at-Large (three seats, two-year terms)

## Those Who Led the Way

**Cheryl Chow**, 66, a proudly out educator and activist, died March 29, 2013. She had married her partner of ten years, Sarah Morningstar, earlier that month. Ms. Chow is also survived by their 5-year-old daughter, Liliana Morningstar-Chow.

**Donald Richie**, 88, died on February 19, 2013 in Toyko. Openly bisexual, Mr. Richie was a noted writer and critic.

## GLBTRT Executive Board Roster

**David Vess, 2012–2013**  
Chair  
[david.vess@gmail.com](mailto:david.vess@gmail.com)

**Dale McNeill, 2011–2013**  
Treasurer  
[dale.mcneill.ala@gmail.com](mailto:dale.mcneill.ala@gmail.com)

**Larry Romans, 2012–2014**  
Director-at-Large  
[larry.romans@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:larry.romans@vanderbilt.edu)

**Roland Hansen, 2012-2013**  
Chair-Elect, 2012-2013  
[rchansen@colum.edu](mailto:rchansen@colum.edu)

**Peter Hepburn, 2010–2013**  
GLBTRT Councilor  
[Peter.Hepburn@canyons.edu](mailto:Peter.Hepburn@canyons.edu)

**Joel Nichols, 2012-2013**  
Director-at-Large  
[nicholsj@freelibrary.org](mailto:nicholsj@freelibrary.org)

**Anne Moore, 2012–2013**  
Past Chair  
[amoore@library.umass.edu](mailto:amoore@library.umass.edu)

**H. Frank Cervone, 2012-2014**  
Director-at-Large  
[fcervone@purduecal.edu](mailto:fcervone@purduecal.edu)

**Shawn Vaillancourt, 2012-13**  
Director-at-Large  
[svaillancourt@uh.edu](mailto:svaillancourt@uh.edu)

**Andrew Johnson, 2012–2014**  
Secretary  
[afj@nwlink.com](mailto:afj@nwlink.com)

**Lewis Day, 2012-2014**  
Director-at-Large  
[lewis\\_day@harvard.edu](mailto:lewis_day@harvard.edu)

**J. Linda Williams, 2010-2013**  
ALA Executive Board Liaison  
[jwilliams@aacps.org](mailto:jwilliams@aacps.org)