



# GLBTRT Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 21, No. 1     ♦     Spring 2009

## ALA, GLBTRT Elections Under Way

### Book Reviews (Pages 6-10):

- *David Inside Out*
- *I Kiss Girls*
- *Mexican Heat*
- *The Slow Fix*
- *Got 'til It's Gone*
- *Fist of the Spider Woman*
- *I Do!*
- *Death of a Pirate King*
- *The Child*
- *Sexual Fluidity*
- *Finding Out*
- *Sensuous Spirituality*
- *Transgender History*

### DVD Review (Page 10):

- *Ten More Good Years*

The terms of GLBTRT Interim Co-Chair **David Vess** and GLBTRT Treasurer **Dale McNeill** end at the close of ALA Annual on July 15, 2009. Neither officer is running for re-election.

The three candidates for GLBTRT Co-Chair are:

- **Dale McNeill**, Director of the Community Services Library Department, Queens Public Library
- **Victor Schill**, Assistant Branch/Children's Librarian, Harris County Public Library
- **Walter "Cat" Walker**, Head Cataloging Librarian, Loyola Marymount University

There is one candidate for GLBTRT Treasurer:

- **Ellen Bosman**, Head of Technical Services, New Mexico State University Library.

In addition, the Membership Committee of the GLBTRT has identified the following GLBTRT members running for ALA Council:

- **Mario Ascencio**
- **Bart Birdsall**
- **Michael J. Miller**
- **James Teliha**

You may also wish to look at the candidates who are members of the various groups represented by Diversity Council. You'll find them listed on page 2 of this issue.

The GLBTRT and the Diversity Council cannot and does not officially endorse these candidates for ALA Council, but provides the

list to inform our membership and other interested parties.

Each of the candidates for ALA President, **Kenton Oliver** and **Roberta Stevens**, attended a GLBTRT Steering Committee meeting during ALA Midwinter in Denver to express support for the GLBTRT and ask for the votes of its members. Oliver stressed his longstanding support for intellectual freedom and the freedom to read—including his 1993 defense of **Nancy Garden's** *Annie on My Mind*. **Roberta Stevens** took a more pragmatic approach, pointing to connections she made working at the Library of Congress that could assist ALA in achieving its agenda.

Check out Oliver's website at:

[www.kentoliver.com](http://www.kentoliver.com) and Stevens' website at: [barbarastevens.com](http://barbarastevens.com) for more information on their positions. Also, watch the questions posed to each presidential candidate on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=778215C3D4893125](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=778215C3D4893125)—including longtime GLBTRT member **Karen G. Schneider's** query on the gap between ALA policy and practice in supporting GLBT rights.

Cast your ballots before the polls close at 11:59 P.M. CDT on Friday, April 24.

*Contributors: **John Bradford, Matthew Cizek, Lisa Johnston, and Karen G. Schneider***

## Analyzing Newsletter Survey

We just finished up a six-week survey of our membership on the direction of the Newsletter—how often it should be published, paper or electronic, what sort of content it should have.

248 members responded (and left 110 separate written comments). Membership Chair **Matthew Cizek** and I are

looking these over and will be releasing a summary of these results in the near future.

**John Bradford**  
*Editor, GLBTRT Newsletter  
Head, Automation  
& Technical Services  
Villa Park Public Library  
Librarian,  
Leather Archives & Museum*

Deadlines for the newsletter for the next year will be:

<i>Summer 2009</i>	June 5, 2009
<i>Fall 2009</i>	August 22, 2009
<i>Winter 2009</i>	November 20, 2009
<i>Spring 2009</i>	March 12, 2009

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

## Diversity Council Candidates Listed

The Diversity Council annually compiles a list of ALA Councilor-at-Large Candidates who are active members of the constituent groups of Diversity Council. The Diversity Council includes representatives from: The American Indian Library Association (AILA), the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), Libraries Serving Special Populations Section of the Association of Specialized & Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA-LSSPS), the Black Caucus of ALA (BCALA), the Chinese-American Librarians Association (CALA), the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table of ALA (GLBTRT), and the National Association to Promote Library &

Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA). The Diversity project does not endorse these candidates but provides this list to inform the membership of ALA:

**Jose Aponte** - REFORMA  
**Mario Ascencio** - GLBTRT, REFORMA  
**Valerie P. Bell** - BCALA  
**Bart Birdsall** - GLBTRT  
**Irene L. Briggs** - BCALA  
**Rosario Garza** - REFORMA  
**Michael A. Golrick** - BCALA  
**Mario M. Gonzalez** - ASCLA-LSSPS, REFORMA

**Tracie D. Hall** - BCALA  
**Dora T. Ho** - CALA, REFORMA  
**Alys Jordan** - BCALA  
**Alfred Kagan** - BCALA  
**Johan H. Koren** - AILA  
**Michael J. Miller** - GLBTRT  
**Leslie Monsalve-Jones** - AILA, REFORMA  
**Virginia (Ginny) B. Moore** - BCALA  
**Eva Poole** - BCALA  
**James Teliha** - GLBTRT  
**Kelvin Watson** - BCALA  
**Shixing Wen** - CALA  
**Yuhfen Diana Wu** - CALA

## Bylaws Revision: Reviewing and Reworking

The GLBTRT Bylaws Revision Committee members are **John Sandstrom**, **Norman Eriksen**, and **Roland Hansen**, Chair. One of our first concerns is to review the current document and correct grammatical errors, update the language and standardize the format. This process should be completed by the end of March. Norman submitted a number of revisions, which we are reviewing. **Nancy Silverrod** also submitted suggested revisions. All of these revisions will be looked at individually and incorporated into a draft document to be sent to Steering Committee members before Annual Conference this Summer.

One of our tasks is to sort out what should be in the bylaws and what should be in a

procedures manual. Sometimes it is a fine line between what should be in which document. Most of the duties for each officer are complete, with the exception of adding online or virtual responsibilities for some positions. Depending on the decisions made regarding virtual participation by ALA Council as a whole, we may need to do further revisions to the bylaws to incorporate these decisions. Also, some of the overreaching bylaws of ALA already govern what Round Tables may or may not do. This also needs to be researched.

As stated above, our goal is to send the draft out in early June. Bylaws may be adopted at the Annual Membership Meeting at the 2009 Annual Conference provided we

either publish them in the newsletter, or post them on the website and the list serve, 30 days before the voting takes place. The alternative would be to have the revisions on the 2010 ballot for RT membership voting.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Bylaws Revision Committee may contact Roland at [rchansen@colum.edu](mailto:rchansen@colum.edu), or contact either of the RT Co-Chairs, **Nancy Silverrod** and **David Vess**. Additionally, committee members are open to receiving any further suggestions for changes to the bylaws.

**Roland C. Hansen**  
*Chair, Bylaws Revision*  
*Head of Access Services and Planning*  
*Columbia College Chicago Library*

## External Relations: Spreading the Word

The External Relations Committee recently worked with **Macey Morales**, Manager, ALA Media Relations, to distribute a press release announcing the recipients of the Stonewall Book Awards. In doing so, the committee tailored the press release to an external ALA audience; providing some background on the Round Table and the history of the book award. The committee is satisfied the ALA media list does include a range of national, regional and local GLBT publications. We eventually hope to hear from RT members that they have seen the release in print.

The Committee recently underwent a change in membership with three new members coming on board since the start of the year: **Peter Hepburn** (Digitization

Librarian, University of Illinois at Chicago), **Jesse Nachem** (Lucasfilm Film Archive), **Jason Phillips** (Government Documents and United Nations Reference Librarian, Mississippi State University).

In the meantime, **Anne Moore** (Special Collections Librarian, University of Massachusetts Amherst) has stepped aside as committee chair. The Committee is grateful to her for all she has done recently to guide its efforts and looks forward to her continuing work as a committee member. **Peter Hepburn** has taken over as chair of the Committee.

**Peter Hepburn**  
*Chair, External Relations*  
*Digitization Librarian,*  
*University of Illinois at Chicago*

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 GLBTRT Newsletter Editor  
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## Profile: Tracy Nectoux



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

Around 2001, I had a career crisis. I was teaching Composition/Rhetoric at a community college.

Though I loved being in the classroom and

helping students, I did not enjoy teaching writing. I didn't see that situation ever changing, so I took a deep breath and just quit my job. My background is in English literature, so I sought sanctuary at the Urbana Free Library. I worked there part-time for almost a year, shelving books and helping with preservation. I loved it from day one and knew I'd found my calling.

### Tell us about your current job.

As cataloger for the Illinois Newspaper Project at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ([www.library.uiuc.edu/inp/](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/inp/)), I travel the state to inventory and catalog newspaper collections at public, academic, and museum libraries in Illinois.

I am extremely lucky to be working at an institution where academics and scholarship are still valued and is also a safe workplace for those of us in the LGBT community. I've been out at work from day one, even as a graduate assistant, and my employers and co-workers never once made me feel uncomfortable about being so. I know this isn't the same everywhere, so it's important that I give the University of Illinois the props it deserves as a welcoming, safe place for us to work.

### Did/do you have a mentor?

I've never had an official mentor. Instead, I simply introduced myself, joined conversations on the GLBT-RT listserv, and volunteered for things that interested me. However, when I joined GLBT-RT, **Paul Higdon** contacted me almost immediately, and I felt instantly comfortable approaching him about any number of issues and questions. He's always been willing to take the time to advise me. Also, **K.R. Roberto** (my roomie in Anaheim! Woot!) has always been willing to answer any questions I've had. He's been a pleasure to work with and to know. I consider both K.R. and Paul my "unofficial" mentors.

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

I review books for this newsletter, so I've just finished *Vintage: A Ghost Story*, by **Steve Berman**. I do recommend it if you

like young adult Gothic fiction (which I do). I plan to sing its praises for the next issue. I also recently completed *In Defense of Elitism*, by **William A. Henry**. It's a little dated (pub. 1994), but it is still a very relevant, important book. It's interesting to read it in the context of living in a nation that elected the Bush administration not once, but twice. If Henry was alive today, he'd hold up this as proof that he was right all along, and I'm not sure he wouldn't be justified in doing so. The book both inspired and infuriated me. I agree with some of it and disagree with more of it, but yes, I'd recommend it, if only to challenge one's own ideologies and prejudices.

### What is your favorite movie? Song? TV show?

Hard questions! Let's see...favorite movie will have to be *Star Wars*, simply because it has the best of everything: acting, directing, cutting edge FX (for the time), action, philosophy, Good vs. Evil, even a little romance. It was magical to me as a kid.

Favorite TV show: Hmm . . . I'm pretty addicted to *Lost* right now. *Deadwood* is fantastic. But I think I'm going to have to go with *The X-Files*. I mean really, what a perfect show! My specialty in graduate school was Victorian Gothic and *The X-Files* pushed a lot of my buttons. It fed my love of drama and the supernatural. The acting, directing, and writing were the best on television at the time. And that eerie music...what's not to love?

Favorite Song? Just check out my Facebook! It's become *Tracy's Fan-Girly Music Page*. I think even more than books, music influences much of my thinking today. It's where I get my inspiration and my poetry. I literally couldn't live without it. If I ever lose my job, it won't be because of incompetence; it will be because I take too much time off to go to rock concerts.

My favorite song changes with the wind, but **Trent Reznor's** "Hurt" is probably one of the most moving songs I've ever heard, and watching him sing it... well, it's a gift that he gives to us every time he chooses to perform this song live. I think that **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and **Tim Rice** are a magnificent combination. Currently, the rock group **Ours** can pretty much do no wrong. Same with **Sigur Rós**. Same with any project with which **Steven Wilson** is involved. **Jimmy Gnecco** (of **Ours**) is, in my opinion, the most talented singer of the past 50 years. And **Trent Reznor's Year**

*Zero* is the soundtrack to my activist life. Ok, if I don't stop now, I'll start volunteering to make mix-CDs for everyone, and you'll all be in the same boat that **Jenna Freedman** is currently in.

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

Well, it's surprising that, as much as I love music, I simply loathe MySpace, but I do. Want to know why the country is in the shape it's in? Check out MySpace. I have never gotten into Second Life. Just no time. I don't even know what WoW is (a **Robertson Davies** fan site?). I have a Blog (<http://trickledrops.blogspot.com/>) but rarely update it. It was supposed to be a place to express my creativity and scholarship, but I've done nothing with it, possibly because I'm neither creative nor scholarly.

I'm not sure what I want my Blog to be. It just sits there, neglected, reproaching me.

I have a Facebook that I really enjoy playing around with, but the social network I enjoy the most is my Last.fm account (<http://www.last.fm/user/TracyNectoux/>), and it's the only account I use for actual networking. It is so valuable. I find tons of music there. It's a fantastic resource for finding music and artists similar to my own taste. I've discovered at least ten new artists just in the last year from listening to my neighbors' radios on Last.fm.

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

My gratitude and respect for GLBT-RT is enormous. Being a part of it these past two years has been a joy, and being your Secretary is an honor. I realize I didn't "win" my election, since I ran unopposed, but, seriously, thank you so much for allowing me to become involved and for being so welcoming.

### Tracy Nectoux

Cataloger, Illinois Newspaper Project  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



## David Vess Named Interim GLBTRT Co-Chair

The Steering Committee accepts, with regrets, Co-Chair **K.R. Roberto's** resignation and wishes him better health.

**David Vess**, (Visiting IMLS Portal Librarian & Assistant Professor of Library Administration, Grainger Engineering Library Information Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), assumed the office of interim Co-Chair February 17,

2009. He will serve through the end of ALA Annual 2009..

The Steering Committee discussed several possible replacements for the position, and contacted the best candidates. David enthusiastically replied, and he comes to us with strong recommendations from both **K.R. Roberto** and **Tracy Nectoux**. David also was recently honored with a Best of

LRTS Award for his article "Approaches to Selection, Access, and Collection Development in the Web world."

Please feel free to direct questions to the Steering Committee; our e-mail addresses are on the last page of this issue.

**Nancy Silverrod**  
GLBTRT Co-Chair  
Librarian, San Francisco Public Library

## Matthew Shepard Web Archive Launched



The American Heritage Center at the University of

Wyoming is pleased to announce the completion of the Matthew Shepard Web Archive, made possible by a grant from the University of Wyoming's President's Advisory Council on Minorities' and Women's Affairs.

Matthew Shepard was a gay student at the University of Wyoming. He was brutally beaten on the night of October 7, 1998 by two men, Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson. He died four days later in a hospital in Ft. Collins, CO. Since Shepard's murder ten years ago, the AHC has been collecting material such as photos, news clippings, UW President's correspondence, memorial banners, pamphlets, and

ephemera to document the murder and events that followed. At the same time, people throughout the world were affected by his murder and used the World Wide Web as a place to document, reach out, create, organize, and share. Websites are thus an important part of the societal memory of Matthew Shepard, his murder, and related events and issues.

With a one month subscription to Archive-It (a service from the Internet Archive that assists archives in preserving websites) the AHC captured seventy websites that broadly document the ten year mark since the murder of Matthew Shepard and related lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. Included in the archive are blogs, wikis, videos, memorial web pages, a MySpace page, and Flickr photos. It also includes the websites of organizations, films,

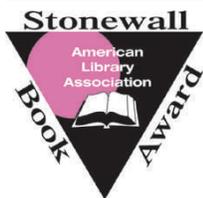
books, music, and events related to Matthew Shepard.

The Matthew Shepard Web Archive can be accessed through the University of Wyoming's online library catalog at: [catalog.uwyo.edu](http://catalog.uwyo.edu) and through a finding aid in the Rocky Mountain Online Archive at: [rmoa.unm.edu](http://rmoa.unm.edu)

Preservation of the websites will be managed by Archive-It. It is hoped that the archive will not only enhance the AHC's existing material on Matthew Shepard, but will be valuable to the general public as a unique resource.

**Laura Uglean Jackson**  
University Archivist  
American Heritage Center  
University of Wyoming

## 2009 Stonewall Award, Honor Books Named



The GLBTRT Stonewall Book Awards Committee is proud to announce the 2009 awards for non-fiction and literature. The

Barbara Gittings Literature Award winner is *Light Fell*, by **Evan Fallenberg**, published by Soho Press. Set in the context of Professor Joseph Licht's 50th birthday party, this debut novel sensitively expresses and portrays the dilemma of an Israeli gay man who twenty years before left his wife and five young sons for the love of another man. Now Joseph is trying to reconcile this life changing decision with his responsibility to his family, his spirituality, and his God. With rich characterization and eloquent writing Fallenberg explores the inner lives of a family and the universal applicability of the social and religious issues they face.

The Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award winner is *Dishonorable Passions: Sodomy Laws in America, 1861-2003*, by **William N. Eskridge, Jr.**, published by Viking. This landmark volume explores a historically underrepresented area of GLBT legal and social scholarship. The destructive impact of sodomy laws is traced through their evolution and the consequences for the men and women who were impacted by their creation and enforcement. It makes a complex subject approachable for a general audience. This is the perfect marriage of scholarship and readability.

This year's Stonewall honor books in literature are: *The Conversion*, by Joseph Olshan (St. Martin's Press); *A Perfect Waiter: A Novel*, by **Alain Claude Sulzer** (Bloomsbury); and *The Sealed Letter*, by **Emma Donoghue** (Harcourt).

The Stonewall honor books in non-fiction are: *Assisted Loving: True Tales of Double Dating with My Dad*, by **Bob Morris** (Harper); *Sex Variant Woman: The Life of Jeannette Howard Foster*, by **Joanne Ellen Passet** (Da Capo Press); *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South*, by **E. Patrick Johnson** (University of North Carolina Press); and *Swish: My Quest to Become the Gayest Person Ever*, by **Joel Derfner** (Broadway Books)

The members of the 2009 Stonewall Book Awards Committee include **Elizabeth Briggs** (Chair), **Andrew F. Johnson**, **Eric W. Johnson**, **Lisa Johnston**, **Danielle Pollock**, **James Simonis**, **Dale McNeill**, and **Robert B. Ridinger**.

From GLBTRT press release, online at: [www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/glbtrt/stonewall/2009.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/glbtrt/stonewall/2009.cfm), accessed 3/21/2009

## 2009 Rainbow List Announced

The Rainbow Project is proud to announce the 2009 Rainbow List, a joint undertaking of the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table and Social Responsibilities Round Table. Featuring well-written and/or well-illustrated titles with authentic and significant gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered/queer/questioning (GLBTQ) content for youth from birth through age 18, this year's bibliography presents 34 outstanding titles, published in the last 18 months and representing a broad range of GLBTQ experience.

Coming-out stories have consistently made up a large part of GLBTQ literature, as have "problem novels" populated by characters defined by orientation. But the books on this year's Rainbow List go much farther by offering young readers rich characters embodying the full spectrum of youth and family experience. Primary characters are gay, lesbian, transgendered, questioning, and straight, and they grapple with varying degrees of acceptance and prejudice from their friends, families, and communities, as well as from themselves.

Four titles were found by the Rainbow Project to be of exceptional quality and are thus highly recommended:

**Ewert, Marcus.** *10,000 Dresses*. Illustrated by **Rex Ray**. 2008. 32p. Seven Stories Press, \$14.95. (978-1583228500). PreS-Gr. 2. Bailey dreams of wearing beautiful dresses, but her family disapproves of her understanding of her true self.

**Dole, Mayra Lazara.** *Down to the Bone*. 2008. 367p. HarperTeen. \$16.99 (Trade); \$17.89 (Library binding). (978-0-06-084310-6; 978-0-06-084311-3). Gr. 8-12. After sixteen-year-old Laura is outed at school, kicked out of her home, and rejected by her girlfriend, she finds herself and her community in this hilarious debut novel with an all-Latino cast.

**Harmon, Michael.** *Last Exit to Normal*. 2008. 275p. Knopf, \$15.99. (978-37584-982). Gr. 9-11. Ben and his two dads move to rural Montana where Ben absolutely does not fit in and finds it harder to deal with having two dads than he did in their previous urban home.

**Tamaki, Mariko** and **Jillian Tamaki.** *Skim*.



2008. 140p. Groundwood Books, \$15.00. (0888997531/9780888997531). Gr. 9-12. Would-be Wiccan and goth Skim, aka Kimberly Keiko Cameron, is revealed in this graphic novel as a sometimes target for the popular students at her all-girls private school in Toronto, where she falls in love with her English teacher Ms. Archer.

The members of the Rainbow Project are: **John Andrews, Helma Hawkins, K.T. Horning, Arla Jones, Natalie Kendall, Sharon Senser McKellar, Michael Santangelo, Victor Schill, Chair Nel Ward, and Christie Gibrich**, Assistant to the Rainbow List for Public Relations and Support.

This year's complete annotated list is available online at:  
[rainbowlistwordpress.com/rl-2009](http://rainbowlistwordpress.com/rl-2009)

From announcement on Rainbow Project website, [rainbowlist.wordpress.com/rl-2009/introduction-2009/](http://rainbowlist.wordpress.com/rl-2009/introduction-2009/), accessed 3/18/2009

## Boswell and Nestle Prizes Awarded by CLGBTH

**Regina Kunzel's** *Criminal Intimacy: Prison and the Uneven History of Modern American Sexuality*, published by the University of Chicago Press, won the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History's 2009 John Boswell Prize. The John Boswell Prize is given for an outstanding book on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, and/or queer history published in English during the two previous years.

In *Criminal Intimacy*, Kunzel combines cultural, social, and intellectual history to produce a work of grand scope and great originality. Through a careful and finely textured analysis of the writings of prison officials, inmates, reformers, and academic investigators, Kunzel places the prison right in the middle of the history of sexuality in the United States. She argues convincingly that attention to sexual relationships in prison dramatically complicates any simple straight-line theories about the historical evolution of sexual identities. And she suggests that the prison is a good place to look if one wants to understand the tensions, anxieties, and contradictions that have swirled around sex across the last

century or more. Kunzel is professor of history and gender, women, and sexuality studies and the Paul R. Frenzel Land Grant Chair in Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota."

**Ryan Darrow's** "A Great Surge of Purpose: Gay Persons with AIDS and Alternative Therapies" won the CLGBTH 2009 Joan Nestle Undergraduate Prize. The Joan Nestle Undergraduate Prize is given for an outstanding paper on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, and/or queer history completed in English by an undergraduate student during the previous two years.

In "A Great Surge of Purpose," Darrow investigates the efforts of gay men in the 1980s to take control of their lives and their health. He explores a mostly forgotten, but at the time quite vital, aspect of the social history of the AIDS epidemic and the U.S. in the 1980s. This is a fine essay in the recent history of sexuality, medicine, and everyday life. A McNair Fellow, Darrow wrote this essay under the direction of Professor **Pippa Holloway** at Middle Tennessee State University.



Founded in 1979 as the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History to promote the study of homosexuality in the past and present by facilitating communication among scholars in a variety of disciplines working on a variety of cultures, the group since 1982 has been officially recognized as an affiliate of the American Historical Association and meets annually in conjunction with them, sponsoring sessions on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer history. A membership vote in 2008 changed the name of the group to the Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered History—the logo hasn't quite caught up, yet. One need not be a member of the American Historical Association to join CLGBTH.

The 2009 Prize Committee was chaired by **John D'Emilio** and included **Amy Sueyoshi** and **Red Vaughan Tremmel**.

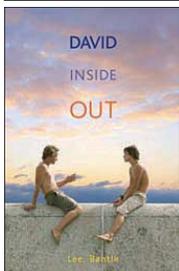
For further information, contact CLGBTH chair **Ian Lekus** at [lekus@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:lekus@fas.harvard.edu).

From Committee on Gay, Lesbian History press releases, dated 2/27/2009.

## Book Reviews: Youth

### Bantle, Lee. *David Inside Out*.

New York, NY: Henry Holt & Co., 2009. hardcover. 192p. \$16.99. ISBN: 9781416900399.



In his first novel for young adults, **Lee Bantle** has created a wholly believable and likable protagonist in David Dahlgren. In a story based on Bantle's own experience of growing up gay in Minnesota, the book

takes David from creating a plan to be straight to accepting his sexuality.

Covering such rites of passage as a disastrous first love (with closeted track

teammate Sean) to coming out to a parent, this title is a stand-out in the crowded YA field, a practical, relatable read-alike for the now classic *Rainbow Boys*. David not only deals with his homosexuality but, in a rare treat, visits a gay bookstore and finds a supportive ear on a gay crisis helpline, gaining a larger sense of community and belonging. His process of coming out to his mother is facilitated by her watching the end of *My Beautiful Laundrette* with David and his best friend, Eddie, who is also gay. David's friendship with Eddie is another treat; they draw strength and support from each other's experiences, though at times it

is difficult.

While Bantle's prose is not always elegant, the book has short, readable chapters, a sympathetic narrator in David, and a storyline that readers will be eager to finish. The book contains significant sexual content, but it's handled in a mostly non-explicit way that serves the narrative. Highly recommended for libraries of all sizes as a first purchase.

*Reviewed by* **Angie Manfredi**  
Head of Youth Services  
Los Alamos County Library System

### Harris, Gina. *I Kiss Girls*.

Prizm Books / Torchere Press, 2007/2008. paperback. \$13.95. ISBN: 1603703543.



Joanie feels doomed to be the third wheel. Her best friend, Zane, always seems to get the girl, and as far as she can tell, she's the only lesbian at her school. Of course, Joanie is only out to Zane, so even if there were other lesbians, they

might not recognize her either.

Everything changes when new girl Kate comes to school, and needs tutoring in math by Joanie and in chemistry by Zane. Both Joanie and Zane end up with crushes on Kate, driving a wedge in their relationship, and when Kate shows interest in Joanie, Zane doesn't take it very well.

But having a girlfriend doesn't solve all of Joanie's problems. She's in the closet at home and at school, and Kate isn't and

doesn't want to be. When Joanie's parents arrange a prom date for her with a football player, Kate almost breaks things off.

As can be expected, things turn out fine after a few bumps and bruises (some of them literal). A quick and entertaining read, especially for the reluctant reader.

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

## Book Reviews: Fiction

### Baumbach, Laura and Josh Lanyon. *Mexican Heat*.

Crime & Cocktails Ser. 1. Albion: MLR Press, LLC., 2008. paperback. 260p. \$15.99. ISBN: 9781934531051.



*Mexican Heat*, the first in the MLR Press' Crime & Cocktails series, follows the gritty adventures of San Francisco police detective Gabriel Sandalini, who is working deep undercover as the hired gun for Ricco

Botelli: the head of a west coast crime family. As the story unfolds, Botelli offers his sister, Gina, to the Mexican drug lord Don Jesus Sanchez as his next wife, in

hopes of establishing an alliance between the two families.

But while Sandalini's main interest is in destroying Botelli, it is Sanchez's second-in-command, Miguel Ortega, with whom he becomes most intrigued and entangled. The story's plot line has the requisite twists, turns, and love scenes that will leave readers pleasantly exhausted at its conclusion.

*Mexican Heat* is the first joint effort by **Laura Baumbach** and **John Lanyon**.

These authors are widely known and respected by fans of the man-to-man erotic romance genre, which features gay eroticism crafted to appeal to both men and women. *Mexican Heat* is the 13th book by Baumbach (the proprietor of ManLoveRomance Press) and the 14th for Lanyon.

Libraries that currently have a GLBTQ fiction collection are encouraged to add this title to their adult romance sections.

*Reviewed by* **TJ Lusher**  
Founders Memorial Library  
Northern Illinois University

## Build Your Vita! Write Reviews!

To become a part of the team of reviewers that publish in the GLBTRT Newsletter, or to receive a copy of our guidelines for book reviews, email Book Review Editor **Tracy Nectoux** at: [tnectoux@illinois.edu](mailto:tnectoux@illinois.edu)

## Coyote, Ivan E. *The Slow Fix: Stories.*

Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2009. 152p. paperback. \$16.95. ISBN: 9781551522470.

A proud native of the Yukon, **Ivan Elizabeth Coyote** is a spoken word performer, longtime columnist, and author of three previous story collections. Her 2006 novel, *Bow Grip*, was named an American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book.

In *The Slow Fix*, Coyote collects a series of brief first-person vignettes and essays that first appeared in *Xtra!West*, Vancouver, BC's largest gay biweekly. Strongly autobiographical in flavor, they celebrate the ties of family, a love for the unspoiled wilderness, and the connections sometimes forged by lonely strangers. Coyote also muses on gender identity, notably in "The Future of Francis," which returns to a boy

she first wrote about when he was three. Back then, he loved wearing dresses and regarded Coyote as his favorite uncle because they were the "same kind of different." At eleven, he's turned tough and cool and is nearly indistinguishable from the other boys in blue parkas. As he barely acknowledges her from the playground, Coyote misses the Francis he used to be, but recalls her silent promise that she will always love what he is right now.

Overall, these are quiet stories, with little angst or knee-slapping humor, although the self-identified Mafioso who took exception to Coyote's sloppy necktie and gave her a "nonconsensual thirty-minute lesson in proper manly attire" did make me laugh out

loud.

Recommended for inclusive GLBTQ collections and those with an interest in Canadian literature.

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



## Duplechan, Larry. *Got 'til It's Gone.*

Amber Dawn, ed. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp, 2009. 190p. \$17.95. ISBN: 9781551522517.

*Got 'til It's Gone* is **Larry Duplechan's** fifth novel, his first in fifteen years. 1985's *Eight Days a Week* introduced the character Johnnie Ray Rousseau, whom he has described as "a young, black, openly gay, middle-class, college educated protagonist with a penchant for girl-group music, 1930s movie musicals and a well-placed wisecrack." Johnnie is back, and the previous description remains accurate, although he's no longer young (pushing fifty), and he's starting to deal with the physical aches and pains of age.

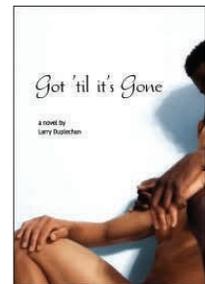
This book finds Johnnie dashing between Los Angeles, where he has started seeing

an amazingly gorgeous young man whom he met on the Internet (where else) and Palm Springs, where his beloved mother is undergoing some serious medical treatment. Although older and (perhaps) somewhat wiser, Johnnie is still capable of emitting the clever quip and wise observations well mixed with pop culture references, running from **Cher** to **Tom Petty** to Charlie Brown. The prose is snappy and well-paced, laced with pithy descriptions like, "tall, dark, and handsome. Very **Christopher Reeve**, post-Superman, pre-tragic horseback riding accident." Or, "I think the word 'epiphany' has been grossly overused of late (as have the words

'empower,' 'self-esteem,' and 'latte.')."

*Got 'til It's Gone* deals with the eternal concerns of friends, family, and love, and reading the book is like catching up with an old pal who has survived, grown, and can still make you laugh. Though not profound, it is warm, engaging and definitely a good read. Recommended for all fiction collections.

Reviewed by **Michael Colby**  
University of California, Davis



## *Fist of the Spider Woman: Tales of Fear and Queer Desire.*

Amber Dawn, ed. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp, 2009. 190p. \$17.95. ISBN: 9781551522517.

This collection of five poems and eleven short stories addresses how fear and fantasy intersect for queer women. Considering this topic, it isn't surprising that many of the tales involve SM sex turning frighteningly real; however, the ones that stand out are those that either transcend this idea or deviate from it.

One of the best among this collection is **Nomy Lamm's** "Conspiracy of Fuckers," a story about a phone sex worker who hates giving into the trite, traditional fantasies of her clients, yet is inevitably drawn to them in the end. Just as compelling is **Amber Dawn's** "Here Lies the Last Lesbian Rental

in East Vancouver," which takes place in a house inhabited by a young dyke couple and haunted by a violent lesbian ghost.

**Elizabeth Bachinsky's** poems addressed to the **Marquis de Sade** reveal her conflicted emotions about SM sex, and **Aurelia T. Evans's** "In Circles" reframes the childhood legend of Bloody Mary, describing the fate of intersex women at the hands of a demon who forces them to look at their bodies before she kills them.

Not all the entries work; **Suki Lee's** story about being stalked by a Parisian landlady takes a bizarre turn when the narrator is covered with the bodies of dead mice, and

**Megan Milks'** fantasy about sex with a giant slug will have limited appeal.

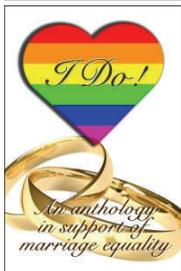
Purchase for women's studies collections and where queer fiction is popular, but make no mistake: This is erotica, and will draw challenges in some communities.

Reviewed by **Daisy Porter**  
Senior Librarian  
San José Public Library



## *I Do!: An Anthology in Support of Marriage Equality.*

Kris Jacen, ed. Albion, NY: ManLoveRomance Press, 2009. paperback. 289 pp. \$13.49. ISBN: 9781934531709.



*I Do!* is a new collection of twenty GLBT fantasy, historical fiction, and contemporary short stories. All proceeds from this book's sale go to the Lambda Legal Fund's fight against Proposition 8

in California. The table of contents identifies both the sexual orientation of the story and its "heat rating," a scale of explicit sexual content ranging from "sweet" to "spicy" to "scorching."

A number of stories in this anthology truly excel. **Clare London's** "Outed" is a brief, humorous story about a British family's

birthday party that goes awry when Rob is "outed" by his Auntie Queenie. **Lisabet Sarai's** "Making Memory" is a touching story of a chance encounter between Nicole and Maggie (women haunted by memories and loss) and the moment of "summer," intimacy, and comfort they share.

**Tracey Pennington's** "The Lindorm's Twin" and **Alex Beecroft's** "Desire and Disguise" each have narrative and structural faults. "The Lindorm's Twin" is an intriguing twist on the familiar tale of The Prince and the Pauper but fails to achieve its potential with its abrupt shifts and poor foundation. Beecroft's "Desire and Disguise" is historical fiction, told through the perspective of a desperate straight man who unintentionally receives sexual release from a gay man in

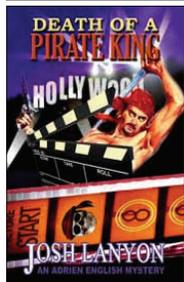
drag, or so it initially seems. This narrative perspective is cumbersome and difficult to follow but eventually offers unique insights into these types of encounters and what it means to be transgendered.

This anthology offers everything from warm, thought-provoking stories to erotica. The result is a varied mixture of mostly quality work, and the TOC guide can direct readers toward their personal literary preferences. This anthology would make an excellent addition to any established GLBT fiction collection.

*Reviewed by Jason D. Phillips*  
Government Documents & United Nations  
Reference Librarian  
Mitchell Memorial Library  
Mississippi State University

## *Lanyon, Josh. Death of a Pirate King.*

Adrien English Mystery Ser. 4. Albon: MLR Press, 2008. 248p. paperback. \$14.99. ISBN: 9781934531310.



In *Death of a Pirate King*, **Josh Lanyon** weaves yet another exciting detective story. Adrien is a writer, bookseller, and amateur gumshoe who reluctantly gets involved in another case.

At a Hollywood dinner party, the Pirate King twitches and crashes into his soup, dead. Who murdered this former Hollywood leading man? To help with the investigation, the openly bisexual actor, Paul

Kane asks Adrien to use his sleuthing skills and keep him informed as he talks to possible suspects. Adrien himself is considered a suspect, so it is in his best interest to help with the case.

However, while questioning other possible suspects, he is forced to confront his own heart's issues. His ex lover, Jake Riordan, is a cop on the case and is now once again in his life. If being a suspect for murder isn't stressful enough, try running a bookstore, having some semblance of a love life, and juggling your family too. *Death of a Pirate King* is certain to leave its readers waiting for the fifth installment to see what Adrien

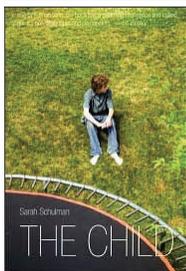
gets into next, and how his love life improves.

Those readers who haven't read the other books in the series will be able to read and enjoy Book Four in this series. It is a swift read with a plot that moves along slowly at first, and then draws us in, as it teases with possible suspects and wholly believable events. A good and well-written gay detective novel, suitable for any adult leisure reading.

*Reviewed by Johnnie Gray*  
Interlibrary Loan Librarian  
Christopher Newport University

## *Schulman, Sarah. The Child.*

Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2008, c2007. 229p. paperback. \$17.95. ISBN: 9781551522432.



In *The Child*, **Sarah Schulman** follows two intersecting storylines. Eva, a lesbian lawyer-turned-English instructor, is undergoing tests for breast cancer; her partner is a struggling playwright. Stew, a

fifteen-year-old gay teen, is arrested by an undercover cop he propositions in a public restroom. Under pressure, Stew relinquishes the names of a male couple he met online, with whom he has just had sex. David and Joe are subsequently arrested for

pedophilia. Eva is enlisted to help in David's defense by AIDS-afflicted lawyer Hockey Notkin. Before David's case comes to trial, Stew has an emotional breakdown and murders his 6-year-old nephew. The court intends to try him as an adult.

This inequity in the law—where Stew is considered a child in one legal battle and an adult in another—is the most thought-provoking twist in the story, one that could have been the crux of a terrific novel. Schulman, however, has too many other issues on her agenda—age of consent laws, the marginalization of women and gays, the health care, insurance, and theater industries, the legal system—and manages

to trivialize them all through improbable situations and characters who are unrealistic, dysfunctional, and incapable of logical conversation. Is the awkwardness of their interactions and dialogues intended to be amusing—or poignant? Either way, Schulman falls short of the mark, leaving the reader with little empathy for their situations.

Recommended only for fans, those looking for a quick read, or as a springboard for discussion on intergenerational sex.

*Reviewed by Roseann Szalkowski*  
Senior Cataloger  
Skokie Public Library

## Book Reviews: Non-Fiction

### Diamond, Lisa M. *Sexual Fluidity: Understanding Women's Love and Desire.*

Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2009. 152p. paperback. ISBN: 9781551522470.

For *Sexual Fluidity*, **Lisa Diamond** interviewed 100 women—five times each, over a ten-year period—about their current sexual attractions, intimate involvements, and perceived orientation. The majority of interviewees were young (recruited from college campuses) and lesbian or bisexual, with about a dozen straight women added to the mix.

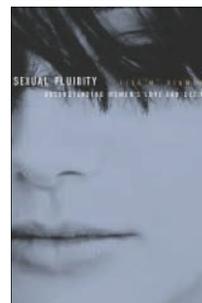
At least, that was how the study started. Over the next ten years, her cohort demonstrated what Diamond came to call "sexual fluidity"—attractions that shifted unexpectedly to include or exclude a particular gender, attractions based on personality rather than gender, and desire

developing out of emotional attachment instead of the other way around. Diamond theorizes that, in general, women possess a greater capacity for sexual fluidity than men, although individuals of both genders will vary along this continuum as well.

Diamond is well aware that her hypotheses can be (and already have been) misinterpreted and misused by opponents of gay rights, so she allows the reader no shortcuts. She describes her own data and other psychologists' findings at length, explains her reasoning thoroughly, and she clearly spells out what she thinks her findings mean, as well as what they do *not* mean.

This is a thoughtful contribution to what we already know about women's inner lives and the complexity of human sexual identity. Recommended for academic and public libraries.

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



### Meem, Deborah T., Michelle A. Gibson, and Jonathan F. Alexander. *Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies.*

SAGE Publications, Inc., 2009 c2010. paperback. 462p. \$44.95. ISBN: 9781412938655.

Published in 2009, *Finding Out* is an excellent and sophisticated textbook for undergraduate courses in LGBT Studies. The authors note that most LGBT courses rely either upon celebratory articles or upon works too theoretical to be useful in teaching undergraduates. This text finds the middle way. It addresses all major issues presently discussed in LGBT Studies and is divided into sections entitled History, Politics, Literature and the Arts, and Media.

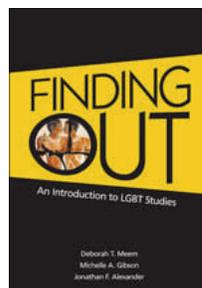
The first chapter discusses whether same-sex identity existed prior to the nineteenth century. The second chapter addresses social constructionism. Queer transgressive

aesthetics is treated in the Literature and Arts section. There is no chapter on sociology per se, but sociological influence is felt throughout.

Given that differences of opinion exist among LGBT scholars on most of the issues addressed in the book, readers will find something here with which to disagree. But textbook writing that is meant to be more than a bland restatement of consensus views always engenders some disagreement. The authors deserve credit for producing a work that is not bland and that presents on-going disciplinary conflicts in a way that undergraduates will comprehend.

The book includes primary sources in each chapter and serves as a great jumping off point for classroom discussion. Anyone interested in teaching undergraduate courses in LGBT Studies should give this text serious consideration.

Reviewed by **David Woolwine**  
Assistant Professor of Library Services  
Hofstra University



### Mollenkott, Virginia Ramey. *Sensuous Spirituality: Out From Fundamentalism.*

Revised and Expanded Edition. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2008. 256 pages. \$25.00. ISBN: 9780829818055.

Influenced by **John Milton's** creation of the word *sensuous* [to avoid associations with the word *sensual*], **Virginia Ramey Mollenkott** considers the LGBT community's place within Christian theology

First, she examines her own spiritual life journey, that of being "forced out of the fundamentalist community" due to her "female secondariness, [her] transgender

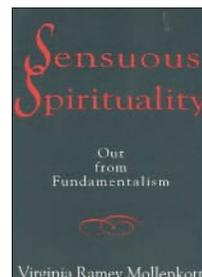
qualities, and [her] sexual orientation."

Next, Mollenkott thoroughly explores the impact of heteropatriarchal power on history, culture, and Christianity, and examines how bridges can be built between those of differing theological views.

*Sensuous Spirituality* would best serve patrons in academic libraries specializing in

religion and theology, gender studies, and feminism.

Reviewed by  
**Dave Combe**  
E. P. Foster Library  
Ventura, CA



## Stryker, Susan. *Transgender History*.

Berkeley: Seal Press, 2008. 190p. paperback. \$12.95. ISBN: 9781580052245.



In *Transgender History*, **Susan Stryker** provides a comprehensive overview of American transgender history from the mid-twentieth century to the present. This assessable volume provides a good

introduction to the topic, starting out with an overview of terms and concepts. Stryker then presents the cultural underpinnings of this movement in the mid-1800s, including

the first ordinances against appearing in public "in a dress not belonging to his or her sex." This is followed by a rich presentation of the many people and events that shaped this movement, including **Reed Erickson**, **Beth Elliott**, and **Leslie Feinberg**. Throughout the book, Stryker incorporates the relationship between the feminist movement and the transgender movement.

Aware of the dearth of books on this topic, Stryker provides interesting sidebars, a reader's guide, photographs and graphics, plus an index and extensive bibliography.

Stryker has a Doctorate in United States History from Berkeley, has served as the

executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, and has held visiting faculty positions at Harvard University, University of California-Santa Cruz, and Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. She will become Associate Professor of Gender Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, in the fall.

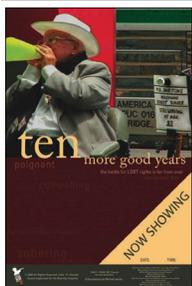
*Transgender History* would be an important addition to any gender studies, gay/lesbian studies or women's studies collection.

Reviewed by **Morgan Gwenwald**  
Sojourner Truth Library  
SUNY New Paltz

## DVD Reviews: Nonfiction

### Ten More Good Years.

Dir. Michael Jacoby. Perf. Harry Bartron, James Bidgood, Ivy Bottini, et al. LookOut Films, 2008. 71 minutes. \$19.95 for home use; \$125.00 for community groups & nonprofits (public libraries, community centers, high schools); \$295.00 for institutions (colleges, universities, nursing homes, hospitals)



*I blew the house up trying to get out of that closet! There's no more closet because there's no more house!*

The spirit of the Stonewall Riots is beautifully captured in the stories of Miss Major and other LGBT

people in **Michael Jacoby's** loving documentary, *Ten More Good Years*. That spirit, and the people who embody it, stand in sharp contrast to a sad reality: elder services in America are not hospitable to

LGBT people. Based on assumptions of heterosexuality, discrimination is often rampant in institutions that provide care for the elderly, forcing many LGBT people to hide their orientation from care providers.

Jacoby, his crew, and the subjects of the film illustrate all the barriers this population faces. Considered as a group, LGBT elders must contend with many unique challenges as they age, often in isolation, without families, spouses, or children. Trans people are particularly at risk, as laws and policies of states and care agencies do not consider gender identity and expression.

Moreover, while often very well educated,

many LGBT elders chose work that was LGBT-affirming but not lucrative. Add to that burden the inability to receive a deceased partner's pension or social security survivor benefits, as well as discriminatory tax laws, and it is easy to see how our elders can easily become destitute.

Highly recommended to anyone interested in retirement, elder care, and/or equal rights protection for LGBT people.

Reviewed by **David S. Vess**  
Visiting IMLS Portal Librarian & Assistant  
Professor of Library Administration  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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