



GLBT-RT Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 21, No. 2 ♦ Summer 2009

ALA Rainbow Project Gets Attention, Acclaim

Book Reviews (Pages 6-10):

- *Out and Proud in Chicago*
- *I Told You So*
- *The Dictionary of Homophobia*
- *Looking for Anne of Green Gables*
- *A Time to Speak*
- *Deadly Nightshade*
- *Bend in the Road*
- *Blood Claim*
- *Verge*
- *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*
- *10,000 Dresses*
- *Book of Boy Trouble*
- *Book of Boy Trouble, Volume 2*
- *YSquarePlus*

Almost five years ago, a GLBT-RT member went to the Steering Committee with the idea of an annual bibliography of recommended books for young readers from birth through age 18. Now the ALA Rainbow Project—a committee of nine GLBT-RT, SRRT, YALSA, and ALSC members—is in the midst of reading, analyzing, and nominating books for its third list which will be decided at ALA Midwinter 2010 in Boston.

Where the Rainbow Project fits into the ALA structure has received on-going discussion from its inception. This was settled when a mediation at ALA 2009 Midwinter Meeting in Denver gave GLBT-RT and SRRT dual responsibility for the Project, taking advantage of members' expertise from both round tables. During its 2009 Midwinter meetings the Rainbow Project selected **John Andrews** as Chair-Elect; he will take over as Chair after Midwinter 2010.

The Rainbow Project is beginning to work with GLSEN, which wishes to feature Rainbow books on its website. There will more about this cooperative endeavor in the next newsletter. Members are also planning a breakfast at ALA Annual 2010 in Washington, D.C., an event that will continue during even years of the ALA summer conference.

As many of you know, books appropriate for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/questioning youth are still not plentiful. Yet the present database of potential nominations for the next list now numbers 60 books, of which nine

have already been nominated. The Project is hoping to consider between 50 and 100 books for the next list.

The publicity surrounding this Project has been overwhelming: blogs and websites from ALA divisions and round tables, library districts, gay publications, and authors, to mention a few. *Booklist* highlighted ten titles in the March 15, 2009 edition and published the entire list in their May 15, 2009 online edition. There was even a mention of the Focus on the Family coming out against the Rainbow Project list in their daily podcast, "Family News in Focus" on March 11.

Changes noted by writers of these entries include the facts that many books on the 2009 list come from small presses and are about GLBT children and teens rather than their parents. Although most of the 2009 books are directed toward older readers, this may change for the 2010 bibliography. For example, two of the nominated books are board books published for the pre-kindergarten set.

"Take a look at the list - you'll be ready when someone asks for

help with this topic [transgender children]." This quote from the Arapahoe Library District (Colorado) blog about the book *10,000 Dresses* explains why this bibliography is vital to young readers. A posting to this blog read: "I think this list is wonderful! I love how it gives readers another view/perspective on other people's lives and its influence and impact on those around them. It's a great way to show the younger crowd too how important it is to understand diversity, in all its dimensions."

If you have a need for such a list, look for our next bibliography, covering recommended books from July 2008 through December 2009.

More information about the Rainbow Project, including past lists and currently nominated books, is at www.rainbowlist.wordpress.com Other sources of information are www.myspace.com/rainbow_list and www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=48654643189

Nel Ward, Chair
ALA Rainbow Project

Deadlines for the newsletter for the next year will be:

<i>Fall 2009</i>	August 22, 2009
<i>Winter 2009</i>	November 20, 2009
<i>Spring 2010</i>	March 12, 2010
<i>Summer 2010</i>	May 14, 2010

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

Going Out in Chicago

More information and complete listings are available via *Funmaps*, www.funmaps.com (click on Chicago), and also check the *Alternative Phonebook*, www.apb-chicago.com

Community Resources

Center on Halsted

3656 N Halsted, 773-472-6469
Chicago's GLBT community center. Tours after GLBTRT Social! See longer description on Page 5.
www.centeronhalsted.org

Gerber-Hart Library and Archives

1127 W Granville, 773-381-8030
Midwest's leading GLBT library/archives.
www.gerberhart.org

Hollywood Beach

Hollywood & Sheridan
South half of the beach is popular with the Boystown crowd.

Leather Archives & Museum

6418 N Greenview, 773-761-9200
Dedicated to the compilation, preservation, & maintenance of information, materials & history for the leather& fetish community.
www.leatherarchives.org

Bookstores

Quimby's Bookstore

1824 W North Ave,
773-342-0910
Strong collection of alternative lit,, graphic novels, comics & zines.
www.quimbys.com

Unabridged Books

3251 N Broadway #1, 773-883-9119
Bookstore known for GLBT literature and non-fiction.
www.unabridgedbookstore.com

Women & Children First

5233 N Clark, 773-769-9299
One of the largest feminist bookstores in the country, with a great selection of books by and about women, children's books, and GLBT books.
www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

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American Library Association
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Chicago, IL 60611

Letters to the editor, correspondence to the above address care of:

John Bradford,
GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
jpbmls@yahoo.com

Restaurants

You won't have too much trouble finding a place to eat in Chicago - except around the Convention Center.

Besides the standard fare recommended by American Libraries, here are some GLBT-friendly restaurants that support our community.

Andie's Restaurant (Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, vegetarian)
5253 N Clark, 773-784-8616
1467 W Montrose, 773-348-0654
www.andiesres.com

Angelina Ristorante (Italian)
3561 N Broadway, 773-935-5933
www.angelinaristorante.com

Ann Sather (Swedish)
929 N Belmont, 773-348-2378
www.annsather.com

Chicago Diner (Vegetarian)
3411 N Halsted, 773-935-6696
www.veggiediner.com

Cornelia's (Mediterranean)
748 W Cornelia, 773-248-8333
www.ilovecornelias.com

En • thai • ce (Thai)

5701 N Clark, 773-275-3555
www.enthaice.com

Hamburger Mary's (American)

5400 N Clark, 773-784-6969
www.hamburgermaryschicago.com

Kitsch'n on Roscoe (American)

2005 W Roscoe, 773-248-7372
www.kitschn.com

Las Mananitas (Mexican)

3523 N Halsted, 773-528-2109

Pepper Lounge (World / Fusion)

3441 N Sheffield, 773-665-7377
www.pepperlounge.com

Raw Bar & Grill (Seafood)

3720 N Clark, 773-348-7291
www.rawbarandgrill.com

Tomboy (American)

5402 N Clark, 773-907-0636

Tweet (Next to Big Chick's)

(American [Breakfast], French/Mediterranean [Dinner])
5020 N Sheridan, 773-728-5576
www.tweet.biz

(Continued on page 3)

QPHC: Not Your Normal Health Resource

The Queer People's Health Collective grew out of **Riley Johnson's** determination to improve health care for queer and trans folk. He still does most of the work himself, but has entered into partnerships with other organizations and individuals. In June 2009, Johnson was named one of Chicago's "30 Under 30" by the *Windy City Times*.

The newest program of the QPHC is a cooperative venture with the Chicago Women's Health Center to create and facilitate access to gynecological services for trans folk. The organizations help the transgendered find doctors and will provide an escort to make sure the patient is comfortable and secure in asserting his or her identity. As Johnson says, "We don't like being told to choose between our identities to get services or support, so we don't want you to have to do so either."

Other services the QPHC provides through its Web site at qphc.org are

- Pamphlets to educate health care providers on queer and trans health issues

- Collecting data and anecdotes on the provision of queer- and trans-inclusive health care



- Action alerts on threats to queer and trans health care
- And the real gem of the site, documents that help the queer or trans health consumer find information on subjects from self-injection of testosterone to breast self-exams to finding a friendly doctor. The QPHC strongly supports FTM health issues, but leaves out information on such gay community issues as AIDS and methamphetamine addiction. Still, these topics are covered extensively on other sites, and it is good to see so much trans-friendly health advice.

John Bradford

Editor, GLBTRT Newsletter
Head, Automation & Technical Services
Villa Park Public Library

Going Out in Chicago (Continued)

Bars

3160

3160 N Clark, 773-327-5969
Live music (piano & cabaret) but no cover.
www.chicago3160.com

@tmsphere

5355 N Clark, 773-784-1100
Dance/video bar, male dancers & strippers on weekends.
www.atmospherebar.com

Baton Show Lounge

436 N Clark, 312-644-5269
Nationally renowned drag shows, you may need reservations.
www.thebatonshowlounge.com

Berlin Nightclub

954 W Belmont, 773-348-4975
Cutting edge club culture, and check out the murals by the bar.
www.berlinchicago.com

Big Chick's

5024 N Sheridan Rd, 773-348-4975
Laid-back, friendly bar . DJs on Fridays and Saturdays. Very welcoming to transgendered.
www.bigchicks.com

Bobby Love's

3729 N Halsted, 773-525-1200
Dance bar, karaoke. Bears on Sunday night.
www.bobbyloves.com

Buck's Saloon

3439 N Halsted, 773-525-1125
Relaxing neighborhood bar, with patio. Both men and women frequent this bar.
www.buckssaloonchicago.com

Cell Block

3702 N Halsted, 773-665-8064
Boystown's leather bar
www.cellblock-chicago.com

Charlie's

3726 N Broadway, 773-871-8887
Chicago's GLBT country/western bar
www.charliesonline.com

Circuit/Rehab

3641 N Halsted, 773-325-2233
Biggest dance club in Boystown and very popular with Latino men. Rehab is an attached martini bar.
www.circuitclub.com

The Closet

3325 N Broadway, 773-477-8533
Intimate lesbian bar (some men come in); best Bloody Mary in town. Bingo and karaoke on Thursdays.
www.theclosetchicago.com

Cocktail

3359 N Halsted, 773-477-1420
50's lounge with DJ's & dancing; fills up with a trendy, diverse crowd.
www.cocktailbarchicago.com

Crew

4804 N Broadway, 773-784-2739
GLBT sports bar/restaurant, displays memorabilia from out athletes.
www.worldsgreatestbar.com

El Gato Negro

1461 W Irving Park Rd.,
773-472-9353
Latin bar with drag shows.
www.elgatonegrobar.com

Granville Anvil

1137 W Granville, 773-973-0006
Neighborhood bar, older crowd.

Hunters Chicago

1932 E. Higgins Road, Elk Grove Village, IL,
847-439-8840
Northwest suburban dance and cruise bar. Some leather, crossdressers.
huntersnightclubs.com/chicago.php

Hydrate

3458 N Halsted, 773-975-9244
Popular dance bar; DJ's after 11 pm.
www.hydratechicago.com

Jackhammer/The Hole

6406 N Clark, 773-743-5772
Neighborhood bar, with back patio. The Hole is a leather bar with a mural by Axel.
www.jackhammer-chicago.com

Little Jim's

3501 N Halsted, 773-871-6116
Halsted's original gay meat market. Dark, seedy, and inviting.
www.littlejimschicago.com

Lizard's Liquid Lounge

3058 W Irving Park Rd., 773-463-9617
When the city's oldest lesbian bar (Lost and Found Lounge) closed, the space became Lizard's Liquid Lounge. Mix of neighborhood folks and Lost and Found regulars.
www.lizardliquidlounge.com

Manhandler

1948 N Halsted, 773-871-3339
Well south of Boystown, a dark and cruisy neighborhood bar that attracts an older crowd.

North End

3733 N Halsted, 773-477-7999
Chicago's original gay sports bar, still popular after 25 years.
www.northendchicago.com



Roscoe's Tavern and Café

3354 N Halsted, 773-281-3355
Dance club popular with younger gay men, with cruisy outdoor cafe.
www.roscoes.com

Second Story Bar

157 E Ohio Street, 312-923-9536
Downtown neighborhood bar with back room. Very cheap drinks.

Scot's

1829 W Montrose, 773-528-3253
Mellow uptown bar.
chicagoscotsbar.com

Sidetrack

3349 N Halsted, 773-477-9189
Popular video bar is the one of the largest gay clubs in Chicago. Vodka slushies are house special. Host to 2009 GLBTRT Social! See longer description on Page 5.
sidetrackchicago.com

Spin

800 W Belmont, 773-327-7711
Late night dance mecca for young GLBT and straight people of all races and genders.
www.spin-nightclub.com

StarGaze

5419 N Clark, 773-561-7363
North Side lesbian bar (some men) with a diverse clientele and a beer garden in the back. Latin night Fridays.
www.stargazechicago.com

Touché

6412 N Clark, 773-465-7400
Friendly neighborhood bar, with a fun back bar. Some leather.
www.touchechicago.com

Bar reviews and directions at:
centerstage.net/bars/styles/gay.html

Going Out in Chicago was compiled by
Louis Lang, born and bred in Chicagoland.

Kate Clinton, Fumerist



Entertainer, author, actress, activist, CNN commentator - there are so many ways to describe **Kate Clinton**. I like the way she tags herself - a "fumerist," or feminist humorist - and her sharp, funny insights into American politics and society from a queer angle.

Exposed to her humor through a lesbian friend who'd seen Clinton's show in Chicago, I listened to her tapes and CDs, watched the occasional TV special, read her books - and I made sure my libraries bought her material, starting in 1995 with an audiocassette. When her people contacted the *GLBTRT Newsletter* to announce her latest book, *I Told You So* (see review, page 6) and to offer an interview, we jumped at the opportunity.

John Bradford, Editor
Head, Automation & Technical Services
Villa Park (IL) Public Library

JB: I first heard of your comedy in the late 1980's, but you had already been performing for some years by that time. How and when did you get started as a stand-up comedian?

KC: I began performing in 1981 - if you don't count the eight years I was a high school English teacher, and I would - because my best friend got tired of me saying that I wanted to try stand-up comedy. She booked me in a club and told me I was on in a month and she didn't want to hear my whining any more. We all should have friends who take us at our word.

JB: How has your humor helped to sustain you over the years?

KC: To quote **Fred Wynne** in *Mary Poppins*, "I love to laugh." It helps me get through anything. My job is to get other people to laugh. I once asked my doctor if he thought that having all those years of laughter coming at me would boost my adrenal system and extend my life. He said that adrenals are values neutral. I asked him if he knew the concept of buzzkill.

JB: You have a strong activist streak. Do you see a synergy between your humor and your politics?

KC: We all have to use our skill sets to help political groups. I would be thrown out of board meetings for doodling, but I am happy to help out any of my favorite organizations by emceeding marches, fundraisers, and conferences. I have a new career as stand-up auctioneer. Turns out I can guilt trip people into parting with cash for a cause even in this market. Does the ALA need something auctioned off? Call me.

JB: Your third book, *I Told You So* (reviewed in this issue on page X), was released in May. What led you to begin writing as well as performing?

KC: I was not a good typist and it was before word-processing. Yes there was such a time, kids. So I basically had to take my writing around and speak it out loud. Perhaps it's an old teaching habit, but I have always written out a lesson plan for my shows. The whole show is on MapQuest. I might not follow it, but I need to know it's there. The habit of writing feeds the performing and performing feeds writing. If something in a performance seems to be better suited for PowerPoint, I try to remember it for an essay later.

JB: The DVD *Kate Clinton: 25th Anniversary Tour* joins several other CDs and DVDs of your performances - and one audiocassette. *Kate Clinton Live at the American Music Hall*, is still only available on cassette. Any chance that will be re-issued as a CD? I'd love to listen to it again, but I don't have a cassette player anymore!

KC: Soon I'll be able to beam it to you just by concentrating - tell me a convenient time to send. I want to do a Wit Sampler of my favorite cuts from my eight comedy collections. And if we start now, I could have a boxed set of my three books out by the holidays. If there still are holidays or boxed sets.

JB: You have embraced the new media, with a well-designed Web site, email lists, and your own blog - *CommuniKate*, kateclinton.com/communikate/blog.html -

I have even seen you on *HuffingtonPost* and a couple of other blogs. Has bypassing the mainstream media helped you to connect better with your fans?

KC: Embraced? My savvy publicist has pushed my Ludditic self, arms crossed and scowling, every step of the way. And she was right. So far I've successfully resisted Twittering. That best friend who booked me in a club warned me not to give it all away on the internet. Look at what happened to newspapers. The wide net of the internet in combination with old fashioned good content is now critical for every writer. Granny learns.

JB: What authors and/or performers had the biggest influence on you?

KC: **Mary Daly**, **Adrienne Rich**, **Audre Lorde**, **Muriel Rukeyser**, and **June Jordan** had a huge influence on me in my early years of performing. They didn't do standup but their ideas and attitudes gave me confidence to do my own brand of writing. I twittered their big ideas into laugh lines. Seeing women like **Carol Burnett**, **Moms Mabley**, and **Lily Tomlin** make people laugh was formative. My mom had a wicked dark Irish sense of humor. In high school my best friend's mom was my comic mom. She made me do dramatic readings of Christmas letters they received. She taught me to look at every day life as found comedy prompts. She had all the comedy albums of the day and we listened to **Nichols and May**, early **Richard Pryor**, and **Bell Barth**.

Interviewed by John Bradford, with the assistance of Michelle Karlsberg

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

To become a part of the team of reviewers that publish in the *GLBTRT Newsletter*, or to receive a copy of our guidelines for book reviews, email Book Review Editor **Tracy Nectoux** at: tnectoux@illinois.edu. Or, if journalism is more your style, send in articles about GLBT library services and collections in and around your community.

GLBT Programs Scheduled for ALA Annual

Spectrum Institute's <i>Professional Options Fair</i>	Thursday, 7/09, 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Allegro Hotel
GLBTRT Steering Committee I	Saturday, 7/11, 8:00 am - 10:00 am	Hilton Chicago, Northwest Hall #2
SRRT All Task Force Meeting (Rainbow List)	Saturday, 7/11, 8:00 am - 10:00 am	Palmer House, Wabash Parlor
GLBTRT All-Committee Meeting	Saturday, 7/11, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Hilton Chicago, Northwest Hall #2
<i>Transgender Issues Workshop</i> (GLBTRT Members Only)	Saturday, 7/11, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Hilton Chicago, Northwest Hall #2
Stonewall Book Award Committee I (Closed)	Saturday, 7/11, 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Hilton Chicago, Conference Room 4B
GLBTRT Social	Saturday, 7/11, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Sidetrack (3349 N Halsted)
Center on Halsted Tour	Saturday, 7/11, 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Center on Halsted (3656 N Halsted)
Membership Meeting	Sunday, 7/12, 10:30 am - noon	Hilton Chicago, Lake Michigan
<i>What Makes Tango So Scary?</i>	Sunday, 7/12, 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm	McCormick Place West, W194a
Stonewall Book Award Committee II (Closed)	Sunday, 7/12, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Hilton Chicago, Conference Room 4B
<i>38th Annual GLBTRT Stonewall Book Award Brunch</i> (Ticketed Event)	Monday, 7/13, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm	McCormick Place West, W196b
<i>Forty Years Since Stonewall</i>	Monday, 7/13, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	McCormick Place West, W194a
<i>GLBTRT 101</i>	Monday, 7/13, 4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	McCormick Place, Membership Pavilion
GLBTRT Steering Committee II	Tuesday, 7/14, 8:00 am - 12:30 pm	Palmer House, Indiana Room

Saturday Night: Social and Tour of Center on Halsted



Breaking with the tradition of the past several years, the GLBTRT Social will be held Saturday evening. Sidetrack offered us space for free, letting us spend the Social funds on refreshments and drink tickets - but our normal Sunday evening slot would have interfered with their very popular Sunday Show Tune Singalongs!

Sidetrack is one of Chicago's most popular bars, stretching across 8 storefronts and encompassing multiple bars within the bar - each with its own style and atmosphere, in eclectic but pleasing architecture. And the slushies sure take the edge off the heat!

Join us for drinks, appetizers, fun, and prizes, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Saturday, July 11 at Sidetrack.

Getting to the Social and the Tour of the Center on Halsted

Getting to Sidetrack (3349 N Halsted) or Center on Halsted (3656 N Halsted) is pretty easy using the L. From the Loop, take the Brown Line (Direction: Kimball) or Red Line (Direction: Howard) to Belmont:

Halsted is 3.5 blocks east of the L station. If you come to the Sheffield Ave corner, turn around and walk the other direction! When you get to Halsted, turn Left. Sidetrack will be 2.5 blocks north, on the east side of the street. The Center on Halsted is about 3.5 blocks further north.

Enjoy using Metra and the CTA trains and busses getting around the city and suburbs (plan your trips at www.transitchicago.com/travel_information/trip_planner.aspx)

Besides the Brown Line and Red Line, don't forget the Metra Electric Service between downtown and McCormick Place!



The Center on Halsted is excited to offer GLBTRT members and guests tours of the facility immediately after the Social, from 8:00 - 10:00 pm, Saturday, July 11.

Opened in 2007, the Center now sees over a thousand visitors daily. People come to use the Technology Center, see plays, attend classes, meet with counselors, dine in the café, shop in the organic market, play in the gym, organize, socialize and relax. Modern and spacious, the Center has become an exciting and prominent symbol of the Chicago GLBT community.

10 organizations share space in the building to serve the social, recreational, cultural, and social service needs of Chicagoland's GLBT population. Come see the Center, and what a determined community can achieve!

Sunday's Membership Meeting: Don't Forget to Vote!

Some important bylaws changes will be voted on at the Membership Meeting on Sunday morning.

The ALA Rainbow Project will be presented as a new Standing Committee of the GLBTRT, and bylaws language will be presented to formally add them to our governing structure. Already a Task Force in the SRRT, the ALA Rainbow Project would become a joint project of the two round tables if this language passes.

Other suggested bylaws changes would excise dated language and clarify the responsibilities of the committee chairs and officers.

Some amendments may happen during Steering Committee I or during the Membership Meeting, but please familiarize yourself with the proposed changes on ALA Connect at: connect.ala.org/node/75692 (Rainbow Project) and connect.ala.org/node/75662 (other changes)

A Fond Farewell

The publication of this issue marks the end of my three-year tenure as Editor. Cutbacks at my library, combined with my partner's job loss immediately after Midwinter 2009, make it impossible for me to afford Midwinter in Boston and unlikely to be at Annual in DC. As a provision of the GLBTRT bylaws requires my attendance at both these events, I had to resign.

I have enjoyed putting the Newsletter out for you, and am gratified that my efforts were so overwhelmingly appreciated by those who took the Newsletter Survey this Spring. As of press time, a new Editor has not been named, but I expect the Co-Chairs to make their decision known shortly. I will work with my successor to make this transition as seamless as possible.

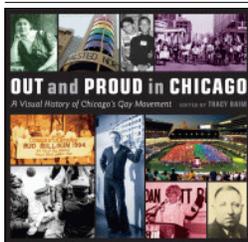
John Bradford

Editor, GLBTRT Newsletter

Book Reviews: Non-Fiction

Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community.

Edited by Tracy Baim. Chicago: Agate Publishing, 2008. hardcover. 224p. \$30.00. ISBN: 9781572841000.



Tracy Baim's *Out and Proud in Chicago* is the companion book to the local PBS documentary of the same name and the accompanying

web site www.chicagogayhistory.org/. This resource is comprised of historical photographs and short articles written by 35 different authors about Chicago's GLBT community from the 1800s to the present.

The articles, drawn from the city's many archives and publications (and supplemented by interviews conducted by the editor), provide an overview of the people, places, organizations, and events that are or have been important to the GLBT community in Chicago. Six time periods, each with an associated theme (e.g. 1950s – 1960s: The Seeds of Change; 1980s: Silence = Death), are used as a way to structure the flow of material.

Additionally, all of the visual materials in the book carry descriptive captions, thus integrating the visuals into the text as historically important artifacts.

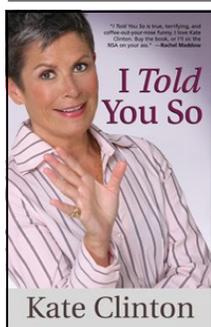
Baim includes a bibliography of many of the resources consulted. The book lacks an index, however, which would have been helpful for readers interested in searching for information on specific individuals, events, or locations.

Out and Proud in Chicago is recommended for both local and statewide institutions that have LGBT collections, but also for any institutions that contain regionally-focused LGBT collections and materials.

Reviewed by **TJ Lusher**
Northern Illinois University

Clinton, Kate. *I Told You So*.

Boston: Beacon Press, 2009. hardcover. 189p. \$22.00. ISBN: 9780807044421



If you've never had the opportunity to enjoy Kate Clinton's brand of smart, in-your-face lesbian feminist humor this book provides a taste of what you've been missing. Over 80 short chapters (from collected columns and routines) are

arranged chronologically by topics (i.e., Bawdy Politics, Faith-Based Comedy).

Kate examines the topics of our lives, usually political, always hilarious, often bittersweet. Until **Rachel Maddow** hit the scene, Kate was about the smartest lesbian comic out there; only now does she have *some* competition.

This is a volume that is best enjoyed being read aloud to friends and lovers (or, lover, if you're that way).

So have you heard the one that goes: "Praying should be like doing your Kegel exercises: no one needs to know you are doing it and you achieve lovely results." Put this in your collection, and thank you Kate, for helping to get us through the dark times with humor and heart.

Reviewed by **Morgan Gwenwald**
SUNY New Paltz

The Dictionary of Homophobia: A Global History of Gay & Lesbian Experiences.

Edited by Louis-Georges Tin. English Language Edition. Trans: Marek Redburn. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2008. hardcover. \$44.95. ISBN: 9781551522296.

In 2003, Presses universitaires de France published the groundbreaking *Dictionnaire de l'homophobie*. But though the text was highly acclaimed and "unanimously well-

received," its editor, **Louis-Georges Tin**, found himself a victim of his dictionary's topic. Upon *Dictionnaire de l'homophobie*'s publication, Tin learned that "doors that

had previously been open were now closed" to him, and his contract at the University of Paris was terminated. Thus, while literary

(Continued on page 7)

Dictionary of Homophobia (Continued)

society lauded Tin's achievement, homophobia among Tin's colleagues dictated his fate, and simultaneously provided ironic proof of the profound need for Tin's book.

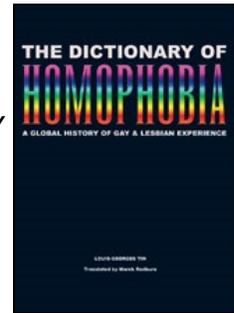
This 2008 translation - the first English translation - updates rights gained and abuses committed since the 2003 edition. It is comprehensive, well-documented, and often reads like a conversation - an intelligent, informed, *necessary* conversation. Standard dictionary format is used; however, the articles can be divided into five categories: (1) Theories used to

justify homophobia; (2) Historical agents and victims of homophobia; (3) Homophobia in regards to geographical and historical places and settings; (4) Homophobia in environments and institutions (i.e., schools, homes, workplace); and (5) Homophobic rhetoric.

The Dictionary of Homophobia contains 160+ enlightening essays, written by over 70 people from over fifteen countries. And though (as the subtitle states) its focus is homophobia, Tin includes informative, thorough entries on biphobia and transphobia as well.

Strongly recommended for all libraries.

Reviewed by **Tracy Marie Nectoux**
Cataloger, Illinois Newspaper Project
University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign



Gammel, Irene. Looking for Anne of Green Gables: The Story of L.M. Montgomery and Her Literary Classic.

New York: St. Martin's Press, 2008. hardcover. 320p. \$27.95. ISBN: 0312382375.

In *Looking for Anne of Green Gables*, Irene Gammel focuses on the writing of **L.M. Montgomery's** most famous book. She uncovers sources, traces parallels between Maud and Anne, and considers the ways in which Anne served as an alter-ego who was universally loved (unlike Maud), and was able to be freer than Maud ever could be. She also discusses Montgomery's personal life: her unsatisfactory family relations, her passions for other girls and then women, her desire to make a home with another woman, the men in her life,

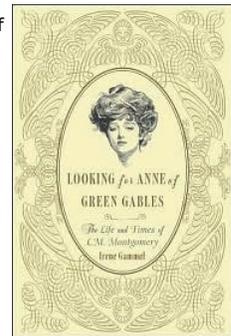
and her anxiety about male-female relationships and sexuality. Montgomery probably falls into that category of emotionally lesbian women, who probably never acted on their feelings.

Looking for Anne of Green Gables ends with the publication of *Anne of Green Gables* and its sequels, trouble that Montgomery had with her publisher, her marriage (and disappointments in it), and her two sons. It then skips to her death many years later, which hinders it from serving as a complete biography. Still, Gammel's book is a

fascinating portrait of a troubled woman who gifted young readers with a story that is still treasured today.

Recommended.

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



Marvin A. McMickle. A Time to Speak: How Black Pastors Can Respond to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic.

Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2008. paperback. 144p. \$20.00. ISBN: 9780829818031.

The pastor of Cleveland's Antioch Baptist Church exhorts his colleagues to recognize how AIDS is affecting the African-American community. AIDS is now the leading cause of death among black women aged 25 - 34, and black teenagers are disproportionately represented among new AIDS cases.

Black churches are not generally allies on GLBT causes, and McMickle acknowledges that the early association of AIDS with gay sex still influences black congregations' response to the pandemic. He recognizes further that statistics simply do not motivate the black church community the way a Biblical mandate does. His observations may help GLBT persons outside the black community understand how the moral authority of

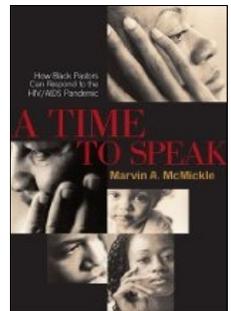
the Bible—with its promise that God's justice will eventually prevail—was a profound source of strength during the civil rights movement, and is equally important to black churches today. AIDS ministries will only be supported by black congregations if they are shown to be compatible with Biblical teachings.

In making his case, McMickle focuses on Jesus responding with touch and healing to a man with leprosy, another highly contagious disease that made its sufferers into social outcasts. He also speaks candidly about the skepticism his own church faced while developing AIDS ministries. Their perseverance, he concludes, was made possible by "a direct appeal to the authority of scripture as a source of compassion and not

condemnation."

A Time to Speak is recommended, with the caveat that many gay readers will probably not be drawn to it, as they'll be able to tell from the title that it is addressing a specific audience.

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



Book Reviews: Fiction

Banis, Victor J. Deadly Nightshade.

Albion, NY: MLR Press LLC, 2009. paperback. 217p. \$14.99. ISBN: 9781934531747.



Victor J. Banis

Although closely following a traditional mystery formula, **Victor Banis' *Deadly Nightshade*** is pure erotic fantasy. In the real world, openly gay men and lesbians have served in the San Francisco Police Department for decades. In the world of Stanley Korski, however, being a gay member of the SFPD makes him so exceptional that after a single week on the force he's brought in to

investigate a homicide when eyewitnesses report that the shooter was a drag queen. Stanley's arch patter and campy ways terrify his police detective partner, the manly and hirsute Tom Danzel. (Tom's so manly he has to ask what a Neanderthal is.) Of course the two officers complement each other beautifully as they pursue the perp, and of course Stanley falls hard for the unattainable-or-is-he? Tom.

Stereotypes abound, but originality is hardly the point, and if *Deadly Nightshade* is not quite as witty as it tries to be, by the end I was intrigued enough to wonder what

could possibly happen next. Fortunately, this is the first of a series, to be followed by *Deadly Wrong* and *Deadly Dreams*.

Victor Banis has written more than 150 books, including the 2008 memoir *Spine Intact, Some Creases*.

Recommended for large, gay-themed collections.

Reviewed by

Joyce Meggett

Division Chief for Humanities
Chicago Public Library

Barrack, Jeanne. Bend in the Road.

Albion, NY: MLR Press LLC, 2009. softcover. 261p. \$14.99. ISBN: 9781608200023



Jeanne Barrack

Bend in the Road consists of two gay Jewish romances centered around an 1880's Eastern European Yiddish traveling group. The first part focuses on how Aryeh and Dani fall in love during rehearsals for a production for Purim, the holiday which celebrates the saving of the Jews of Shushm by **Queen Esther**. The second part, the love story of Yuval and Tsvi (also

called Dovid), is set during rehearsals for a wedding performance. Characters appear in both sections of the novel, but the sections are independent in terms of plot.

Thematically, both stories are similar in that they are structured around celebrations of Jewish culture and a sense of family within the traveling group.

Romance is about wish-fulfillment, and Barrack offers a more sophisticated wish-fulfillment than one might expect. Erotically explicit in parts, the author creates a space where being part of Jewish tradition, gay, in love, and part of a family are all acceptable, and indeed, necessary. The two couples

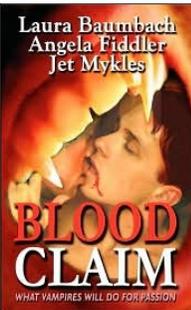
hunger for romantic and sexual love, but also for a sense of family and a desire to feel connected to God. Although not a deep examination of these issues, Barrack offers two readable fantasies in which homophobia, anti-Semitism, and spiritual alienation are overcome.

Recommended for public libraries with an audience interested in gay male romance. Not recommended for libraries with limited budgets seeking to expand their GLBTQ holdings, as there are better resources available that examine these issues.

Reviewed by **Travis Alan Ferrell, MLIS**

Baumbach, Laura, Angela Fiddler, and Jet Mykles. Blood Claim.

Albion, NY: MLR Press, LLC, 2008. softcover. 213p. \$14.99. ISBN:9781934531167.



Laura Baumbach, Angela Fiddler, Jet Mykles

Vampires are hot. Vampires with souls; vampires that sparkle; or just the regular kind with the long, mean teeth: people just can't seem to get enough, and it is on this premise that these three erotic tales are based.

In **Laura Baumbach's** first story, "Winner Takes All," ancient vampire Malcolm Crane

seeks out the son of the man he desired but never had, in hopes that perhaps the next generation will be able to satisfy his physical and emotional needs. The second story, **Jet Mykles' "Wolfe's Recluse,"** tells of techno-geek Matt's loss of his boyfriend, and the new life he finds in the arms of the vampire who stole him away. "The Gift of the Raven" by **Angela Fiddler**, details a three-vamp battle to claim the love of a boy named Corbin.

As a whole, the collection is entirely, blandly adequate. The stories are competently told, the sex hot enough to serve its purpose,

which in this case seems to be gay titillation made by, and for, straight women, as it lacks the more primal urgency men create for themselves (though the BDSM element in Fiddler's story comes closer). Nonetheless, the title offers nothing truly original, nor anything that can't be found for free on a thousand slash blogs. Libraries should save their money for the next vampire collection, whose publication is as inevitable as sunrise.

Reviewed by **Amanda Clay**

Librarian, Lakeview Elementary School,
Oklahoma.

Egloff, Z. *Verge*.

Ann Arbor: Bywater Books, 2009. paperback. 280p. \$14.95. ISBN: 9781932859683.

Claire McMinn is a young aspiring filmmaker struggling to find direction, stability, and identity while in recovery. In some subtle and not-so-subtle ways, her journey with Claire soon after she's become sober, and begins coming to terms with mistakes made before her recovery, with the limitations of the people in her life, and with her own identity.

We begin with Claire being fired from her teaching assistant position by her film professor, who has just learned of Claire's affair with his wife. Claire then arrives home to find that her best friend, Shelley, has been abused again by her husband, and needs to go to a safe house. These

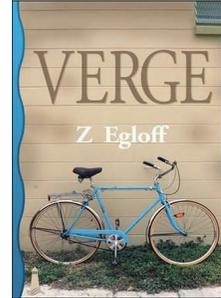
two events bring Claire to Sister Hillary, who runs a community center in town, and who loans her the camera she needs to complete her course work. What Claire does not count on is her attraction to Sister Hillary.

Verge is Egloff's first published novel. Despite some of the prose and dialogue sounding forced, Egloff manages to weave several complex and realistic characters together. Claire is a likeable protagonist because of her flaws, and her new, almost clumsy attempts at self-examination. Claire's dealings with friends and an alcoholic family who aren't always able to take care of themselves, present us with a character that doesn't always say or do the

"right" thing, which is refreshing. The language can be cumbersome at times, especially in the beginning, but the story is compelling.

Recommended for those looking for a quick and entertaining read.

Reviewed by **Jesse Nachem**
Lucasfilm Archives



Book Reviews: Youth

Burd, Nick. *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*.

New York: Dial Books, 2009. hardcover. 320 p. \$16.99. ISBN: 9780803733404.

Opening on a truly horrendous prom night for our narrator Dade, **Nick Burd's** first novel, *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*, never quite lives up to the promise of its vivid first scene: Dade is in the bathroom, hiding from the fact that Pablo, the boy he loves, is currently out on the dance floor with his girlfriend, unwilling to acknowledge their relationship.

Burd's novel takes place over the summer before Dade leaves for college, as he tries to figure out what he wants out of life and a relationship. Most of the narrative deals with Dade's burgeoning relationship with Alex Kincaid, an older boy who is a part-time drug dealer. Pablo, however, becomes

angry and aggressive in the face of Dade moving on.

The way Burd depicts Pablo is the true problem here: Pablo becomes a caricature of the tortured closet case. This portrayal is even more uncomfortable when paired alongside Dade and Alex's quite romantic and more healthy relationship. Worse still is Pablo's ultimate fate, which is not only grisly and more likely to be found in a much older and less enlightened book, but used by Dade as a fairly narcissist way to reflect on his life. The real shame is that Burd's writing is superb and artful, he does a great job capturing the feeling of the last summer before college. The rest of the story and

characterization, however, just don't work.

Recommended only as a supplemental purchase for libraries with large collections.

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



Ewert, Marcus, and Rex Ray. *10,000 Dresses*.

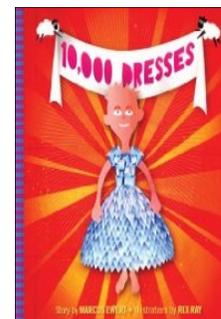
New York: Seven Stories Press, 2008. hardcover. 32p. \$14.95. ISBN: 9781583228500.

Every night young Bailey dreams about dresses, one on each step of an endless staircase, each dress more beautiful than the last. But when she tells her mother, father, and brother about the dresses, and asks for help in making them, they scold her, saying, "Dresses aren't for boys." Bailey explains that she doesn't feel like a boy, but they each respond that she is and "that's that!" Finally, Bailey finds a friend who is also fascinated with dresses and they begin to create some together.

10,000 Dresses is the first book for children depicting the experience of a child who is transgendered, or at least gender-variant. Bailey's experiences, and the initial reactions of family members, are accurate and realistic, as is the importance of finding an understanding friend. The illustrations are child-friendly and colorful. The story is simple and appropriate for children as young as three or four, and invites discussion between parent and child. Such books are sorely needed, and this one is a real success.

Recommended for all libraries serving youth.

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



Book Reviews: Comics & Graphic Novels

The Book of Boy Trouble: Gay Boy Comics with a New Attitude.

Edited by Robert Kirby & David Kelly. [San Francisco]: Green Candy Press, 2006. paperback. 132 p. \$15.00 ISBN: 9781931160452

The Book of Boy Trouble. Volume 2, Born to Trouble.

Edited by Robert Kirby & David Kelly. [San Francisco]: Green Candy Press, 2008. paperback. 100 p. \$15.00 ISBN: 9781931160650



Robert Kirby started *Boy Trouble: Gay Boy Comics with a New Attitude* in 1994 as a thirty-page photocopied alternative zine, showcasing work from mostly twenty-something gay male comic artists. In 1995, **David Kelley** joined Kirby to put out issues in 1995, 1997, and 2000. They released the fifth issue, an eighty-page trade paperback, at the tenth anniversary in 2004 – and the positive gay and alternative press this generated convinced the editors to publish a volume of *Boy Trouble's* greatest hits.

The Book of Boy Trouble presented the best work previously published in the zine, and it gathered in new comics by both established

and new contributors – as the editors put it, “taking a long sideways glance into the past as we continue into the future.” Mostly illustrated in black and white, there are 24 pages of color comics.

Punk rock, bad dates, porn arcades, chance meetings, coming out, staying in – all are fair game to the seventeen artists included. These stories are all personal, provocative, and powerful – I can only pick out the best of the best. I was immediately hooked by the first story, “Instruction,” by **D. Travers Scott** and **Robert Kirby**, of a twenty-year-old on his first visit to one of Chicago’s porn arcades. **David Kelley** does a touching “Queer Tribute to Kurt [Cobain]” and enthusiastically illustrates a **Spoilsport** song, “Boys on the Beach.” **Michael Fahy** made me laugh out loud at “Self Portrait.”

The Book of Boy Trouble. Volume 2, Born to Trouble, expands color comics to the entire book. Artists from the 1970’s and 1980’s –

Howard Cruse, **Jenifer Camper**, **Robert Triptow** – join the 1990’s boys and their successors. Sexual preference and gender lines are broken, reflecting changes in the artists who contributed to later zine issues.

Again, the best of the best: **Anonymous Boy’s** “Wayne Gets Groped” is a great tale of a closeted punk rock fan at a concert. **Ed Luce’s** “Wuvable Oaf in ‘Chat Attack’” takes a humorous look at on-line hookups (with the assistance of Wuvable Oaf’s adorable cats). “Evil Bear Man” by **Justin Hall** details an episode in the life of a fetish escort. And **Tim Fish’s** “The Voodoo That You Do So Well” is a sweet story of how a voodoo doll pulls two lonely men together.

Both books are recommended for public and academic libraries with comics/graphic novel collections. Be aware, though, that nudity is used to tell some stories in both volumes.

Reviewed by **Louis Lang**
Leather Archives & Museum

Park, Judith. *YSquarePlus*.

New York: Yen Press, 2007 [2008 English language edition]. paperback. 200p. \$10.99. ISBN: 9780759529274.



YSquarePlus, a sequel to **Judith Park’s** 1997 *YSquare* manga, continues the story of best friends Yagate, a gay student, and Yoshitaka, who is straight. Though tagged OT for “older teen,” this book is not sexually

explicit, and Yagate’s sexuality is accepted matter-of-factly by all of the characters.

Originally published in German, the story dialogue is translated into English, but traces of German remain in the graphics, usually with explanatory notes. The story’s conclusion brings to mind older, dated, gay YA fiction, in that the boy gets the girl, but the boy does

not get the boy.

YSquarePlus is recommended for public libraries with patrons interested in manga.

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

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