

Librarian/Activist Joanne Goodman Passes On

Joanne Goodman, activist and longtime librarian at the Boston Public Library, died after a long and difficult illness at her home in Harwich, Massachusetts on Tuesday, October 9, 2007.

In 1987, Goodman began as a paraprofessional at the Boston Public Library. In 1990, after completing her MLIS degree at Simmons College, she was appointed to a professional position in the Readers and Adult Services Dept. in the Main Library. A year later, she moved to children's librarian at the Main Library and in 1992 became children's librarian at the Fields Corner branch. In 1995 she was promoted and began working at the Egleston branch. Goodman was named Branch Librarian at Grove Hall branch in 2001, and retired in early 2006.

Goodman also had a rich career of activism. She was an original member and an early chair of HQ76.3/New England: Lesbian, Gay

and Bisexual Librarians and Library Workers; she laid the groundwork for it to become a New England Library Association section in 2001. She served on the planning committee for OutWrite, a national conference for queer writers held in Boston during the 1990s, organizing and presenting panels, including one memorable panel in which Joanne interviewed children about their reactions to children's books dealing with gay and lesbian lives. She helped organize a well-attended librarians' caucus at all the OutWrite conferences.

Through social circles and OutWrite connections, Goodman knew many of New England's gay and lesbian writers. As branch librarian, she regularly programmed readings by GLBT writers at Grove Hall. She was consistently committed to acquiring and making accessible GLBT materials.

For years Goodman lived in the central area

of Jamaica Plain, and bought a weekend house on the Cape with her longtime partner, **Robyn Michaels**, whom she married in 2004. Goodman was extremely devoted to their family of cats, and more recently to her little dog Joey as well. After retiring in 2006, she and Michaels moved to their house on the Cape full-time.

Those who knew **Joanne Goodman** personally would agree that she was an exceptional person. She was a loyal friend blessed with a giving and generous spirit. Her trademark laughter and delightful sense of humor were infectious. Even during her long and difficult illness, she managed to remain mostly upbeat and positive. An outstanding librarian, activist and friend, she will be deeply missed.

John DeSantis
*Cataloging & Metadata Services Librarian,
Dartmouth College*

Discrimination Suit against LOC Allowed to Proceed

Rejecting the federal government's attempt to throw out a transgender veteran's sex discrimination lawsuit against the Library of Congress, a federal judge ruled November 28, 2007 that the case can go forward. The American Civil Liberties Union brought the lawsuit in June 2005 on behalf of 25-year U.S. Army veteran Diane Schroer who was offered a job as a senior terrorism researcher but was later told she was not a "good fit" after her future boss learned she was in the process of transitioning from male to female.

After retiring from the military, Schroer, who had been hand-picked to head up a classified national security operation while serving as an Airborne Ranger qualified Special Forces officer, applied for a position with the Library of Congress as the senior terrorism research analyst. Soon thereafter she was offered the

job, which she accepted immediately. Prior to starting work, Schroer took her future boss to lunch to explain that she was in the process of transitioning and thought it would be easier for everyone if she simply started work presenting as female. The following day, Schroer received a call from her future boss rescinding the offer, telling her that she wasn't a "good fit" for the Library of Congress.

In its motion to dismiss, the government argued that Title VII, which protects against sex discrimination, does not protect transgender workers. The court rejected this argument, ruling that the fact that Schroer is transgender does not bar her from bringing a sex stereotyping claim. The court said: "Title VII is violated when an employer discriminates against any employee, transsexual or not, because he or she has failed to act or appear sufficiently masculine or feminine enough for an employer."

"Today the court sent a very clear message that employers can be held liable when they make decisions about whom to hire based on stereotypical views about gender as opposed to merit," said Sharon McGowan, a staff attorney with the ACLU's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project. "Employers, including the government, are now on notice that discriminating against transgender workers may land them in court."

A YouTube video of Schroer talking about her experience is available online at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEPsK_axRqo

A copy of the decision, the complaint, a bio and photographs of Diane Schroer are available online at: <http://www.aclu.org/lgbt/transgender/24969res20050602.html>.

From American Civil Liberties Union Press Release, 11/28/07

GLBTRT Newsletter (ISSN 1533-7219) is an official publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association. It appears quarterly in March, June, September, and January. Subscriptions are included in your membership fee to the round table via annual membership to the GLBTRT.

American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.,
Chicago, IL 60611

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

John Bradford,
GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
jpbmls@yahoo.com

Writing Our History, With Your Help

This would seem to be an optimal time to tell all of you that I am beginning work on a history of the task force/round table. My work around **Barbara Gittings** contributions to our group have alerted me that the other 23 years (those BG was not involved in) have not been documented.

This is my sabbatical project (beginning late Jan 08 until mid July 08). So, I would love to see this program happen and I would be

thrilled to see us do more around our history as we approach our 40th anniversary.

If any of you have stashes in your basements or memories to share, please let me know.

Anne Moore
*Coordinator for Access Services
W.E.B. DuBois Library
University of Massachusetts Amherst
amoore@library.umass.edu*

GLBTRT Midwinter Schedule set

Steering Committee I / All Committee	Saturday, 1/12	8:00 am – 12:30 pm	Radisson Plaza Warwick, Crystal Ballroom
Book Awards Committee I	Saturday, 1/12	1:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Four Seasons Philadelphia, Boardroom 461
Book Awards Committee II	Sunday, 1/13	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Four Seasons Philadelphia, Boardroom 461
GLBTRT Social	Sunday, 1/13	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Free Library of Philadelphia, Independence Branch (18 S. 7th Street)
Steering Committee II	Monday, 1/14	8:00 am – 12:30 pm	Marriott Philadelphia, Franklin 6

Out in Philadelphia

A compilation from various sources (chiefly *Damron's Men's Travel Guide* and [gophila.com's GLBT section](http://gophila.com)) of GLBT-friendly places in Philadelphia to eat, drink & play. All phones have a 215 Area Code.

Restaurants / Cafes

10th Street Pour House (Cajun/Creole)
262 S. 10th St., 922-5626

Abbraccio (Italian)
820 S. 47th St., 727-8247

El Azteca (Mexican)
714 Chestnut Street, 733-0895

Carmen's Famous Italian Hoagies
12th and Arch St., in Reading Terminal Market, 592-7799

Le Castagne (Italian)
1920 Chestnut St., 751-9913

The Continental (American/Asian)
134 Market St., 923-6069

Cresheim Cottage Café
(American Eclectic)
7402 Germantown Ave., 248-4365

D'Angelo's (Italian)
256 S. 20th St., 546-3935

Davio's (Italian)
111 S. 17th St., 563-4810

Figs (Mediterranean)
2501 Meredith St., 978-8440

A Full Plate Café (Southern Eclectic)
1009 N. Bodine St., 627-4068

The Happy Rooster (American)
118 S 16th St., 963-9311

L2 (American Eclectic)
2201 South St., 732-7878

Liberties (American)
705 N. 2nd St., 238-0660

Lolita (Mexican)
106 S. 13th St., 546-7100

My Thai (Thai)
220 South St., 985-1878

The Plough and the Stars (Irish)
123 Chestnut St., 733-0300

Pompeii (Italian)
1113 Walnut Street, 829-4400

Sal's on 12th (Italian)
200 S. 12th St., 731-9930

Sansom Street Oyster House (Seafood)
1516 Sansom St., 567-7683

Seafood Unlimited (Seafood)
270 S. 20th St., 732-3663

Siam Cuisine (Thai)
925 Arch St., 922-7135

Striped Bass (Seafood)
1500 Walnut St., 732-4444

Swanky Bubbles (Asian)
10 S. Front St., 928-1200

Valanni (Mediterranean/Latin)
1229 Spruce St., 790-9494

Venture Inn (Italian)
255 S. Camac St., 545-8731

El Vez (Mexican)
121 S. 13th St., 928-9800

White Dog Café (American Eclectic)
3420 Sansom St., 386-9224

Zócalo (Mexican)
3600 Lancaster Ave., 895-0135

Clubs / Bars / Lounges

12th Air Command
(Men, also Restaurant)
254 S. 12th St., 545-8088

The Bike Stop (Men, Levi/Leather)
206 S. Quince St., 627-1662

Bob & Barbara's (Gay/Straight)
1509 South St., 545-4511

Bump (Men, Women; also Restaurant)
1234 Locust St., 732-1800

Club Platinum
1502 Brown St., 684-0591

Fluid (Gay/Straight)
613 S. 4th St., 629-3686

Key West (Men, Women)
207 S. Juniper St., 545-1578

The Khyber (Gay/Straight, Bands)
56 S. 2nd St., 238-5888

Lounge 125
(Gay/Straight, Private Club)
125 S. 2nd St., 351-9026

North Third
(Gay/Straight mix, also Restaurant)
801 N. 3rd St., 413-3666

Palmer Social Club
(Gay/Straight, Private Club)
601 Spring Garden St., 925-5000

The Post (Men)
1705 Chancellor St., 985-9720

Pure (Men, Private Club)
1221 St. James St., 735-5772

The Raven
385 W. Bridge St., 862-2081

Shampoo (GLBT/Straight mix)
414 N. 8th St., 922-7500

Sisters (Women; also Restaurant)
1320 Chancellor St., 922-7500

Tavern on Camac (Men, Women;
also Restaurant)
243 S. Camac St., 545-0900

Uncle's (Men)
220 Locust St., 546-6660

The Westbury (Men, Women;
also Restaurant)
261 S. 13th St., 546-5170

Woody's (Men,
Country & Western)
202 S. 13th St., 545-1893

XO Lounge
(Men, Women)
1437 South St., 735-2220

Compiled by
Louis Lang
Technical Consultant
Leather Archives
& Museum



Barbara Gittings Collection at Free Library of Philadelphia



Founded in 2001, the Barbara Gittings Collection of gay and lesbian materials is named in honor of **Barbara Gittings**, an early pioneer in the fight for gay and lesbian civil rights. Gittings' commitment to libraries was galvanized when, as a teenager, she was unable to find any books about gay people at her local library.

She was among those who demonstrated for the civil rights of the gay community during the mid-1960s at the Pentagon, the White House, and Philadelphia's own Independence Hall, laying the foundation for the Stonewall Riots of 1969. Her involvement began in the Fifties, when she founded the New York chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis, the nation's first lesbian organization. From 1963-1966, she edited the organiza-

tion's lesbian journal, *The Ladder*, updating the magazine's illustration format to photography in order to put a human face to lesbianism. One of her early victories was convincing the American Psychiatric Association in 1973 to drop homosexuality as a category of mental illness.

Though Gittings was not a librarian, she long led the American Library Association's Gay Task Force (which evolved into the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table) and set up a gay kissing booth at the 1971 ALA convention in Dallas. She wrote the history of this task force—the first gay caucus in a professional organization—entitled *Gays in Library Land*, in addition to editing the association's gay bibliography. Gittings was awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the ALA in 2003. She lived much of her

adult life in Philadelphia and the collection named in her honor is housed within blocks of her early civil rights marches. The Barbara Gittings Collection, established in 2001, is the second largest GLBT collection in a public library (after the James Hormel Collection in the San Francisco Public Library) and features over 1500 books, music, DVDs, audiobooks, and periodicals.

Visit the Barbara Gittings Collection at the Free Library of Philadelphia's Independence Branch on 7th street, between Market & Chestnut. This branch is open Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 8 pm; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 am to 5 pm; and Saturdays from 1 pm to 5 pm.

From the description of the Barbara Gittings Collection, accessed 11/20/2007, on the Free Library of Philadelphia's Website, <http://libwww.library.phila.gov/>

...and Gittings/Lahusen Papers to UMass Amherst

Over 1,000 books collected by gay rights pioneers **Barbara Gittings** and her life partner, **Kay Tobin Lahusen** have been given to the UMass Amherst Libraries' Department of Special Collections and University Archives. This collection includes a long run of the early lesbian periodical, *The Ladder*, to works on the psychology of homosexuality, novels by gay authors, and examples of the pulp fiction of the 1950s and 1960s. Gittings was active in the campaign that led to the American Psychiatric Association (APA) dropping its categorization of homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973. She appeared in the documentary

films "Before Stonewall" (1987), "After Stonewall" (1999), "Out of the Past" (1998) and "Gay Pioneers" (2001).

Gittings began collecting books on gay topics after coming out during her freshman year at Northwestern University and being unable to find material that helped her understand her gay identity. This inspired a lifelong effort to make libraries useful to GLBT patrons.

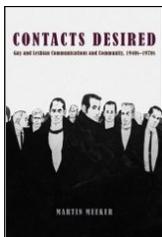
Kay Lahusen is considered the first photojournalist of the gay movement. She has documented GLBT political and cultural events since the 1960s and took many of

the photos in the collection of Barbara Gittings as an activist. She was a co-editor with Gittings of the magazine *The Ladder*, one of the twelve founding members of the Gay Activists Alliance in 1969, and is the author of *The Gay Crusaders* (1972). Her photographs of homophile protests have been widely published and exhibited.

Brett-Genny Janiczek Beemyn

Director, the Stonewall Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst Co-Chair, Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals Board Member, Transgender Law and Policy Institute

CLGH Presents Boswell Prize in LGBTQ History



Martin Meeker was honored with the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender 2007 John Boswell Prize for his 2006 book *Contacts Desired: Gay and Lesbian Communications and Community, 1940s-1970s*.

This work investigates how individuals formed a homosexual identity, particularly if there were no openly gay or lesbian people around. Meeker sees three important innovations in communications that let gays and lesbians to see themselves as part of a larger social movement, even if isolated and

invisible in a small town: The homophile movement of the 1950's; an intense media-generated interest and attention to homosexuality in the late 1950s and early 1960s; and self-published gay and lesbian bar guides, gossip sheets, magazines, and fiction that circulated widely from the 1940s to the 1970s.

Meeker serves on the board of the GLBT Historical Society and is a historian in the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California, Berkeley. He also coauthored *The Gay Detective* (San Francisco: Cleis Press, 2003) and coedited *Queer Frontiers: Millennial Geographies, Genders, and Generations* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2000).

The Committee on Lesbian and Gay History—an affiliated society of the American Historical Association—promotes the study of homosexuality in the past and present through encouraging communication between scholars in a variety of disciplines working in a variety of cultures. Find more information on the CLGH at:

<http://www.usc.edu/libraries/archives/clgh>

The John Boswell Prize is awarded in odd-numbered years for an outstanding book on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual and/or queer history published in English during the preceding two years.

From CLGH Website and the GLBT History Society newsletter, Our Stories, Fall 2007

Member Profile: tatiana de la tierra

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

Well, if being a librarian's pet in school counts... I was a librarian wanna-be in elementary school in Homestead, Florida. In the midst of poverty and hopelessness and difficult times at home, I discovered stability and order in the library. I volunteered in the school library, shelving books and helping keep order, as supervised by **Mrs. McKinley**, the head librarian. This gave me access to the back room where they kept the "sexuality" books---I had direct access to books with pictures of genitalia. There were probably words too, but I remember the pictures. You could say I learned to fondle books at a young age. Then, in Miami-Dade Community College, I was a library assistant as part of my financial aid arrangement. I spent a lot of time in the stacks just pulling books out and looking at them while on the job. There was something so very sacred about having those big fat hard books in my hands.

And my first "real" job---Well, I got my M.L.S. at University at Buffalo (UB) in 2000 and immediately after doing so I started my Jean Blackwell Hutson Library Residency at UB's Undergraduate Library (UGL). When the residency was up, two years later, I was hired in the same library as an information literacy librarian. I loved working at UGL. I had tremendous freedom and support to explore different facets of the profession. I spent some time with a cataloger, for instance, watching her catalog and talking with her about the decisions she was making in the process of cataloging. I did bibliographic instruction, coordinated library programming for Educational Opportunity Program students in the summer, revamped the *Library Skills Workbook* that's required of all undergraduates, curated a few exhibits, and did collection development in Latino and Caribbean studies, Theatre and Dance, and some Spanish-language materials (including gay and lesbian books).

Tell us about your current job.

I am Director of Hispanic Services at Inglewood Public Library. I moved to Long Beach, California six months ago and started this job just one week after getting into town. I loved Buffalo and had some wonderful friends there, but I also had an urge to move on, to do the California dreaming thing. And the position opened up at Inglewood just then.

Here, I am in this whole other world of public libraries. The transition was shocking because the institutional culture here is so different from UB. For instance, here we communicate via memos and one-line e-mails! We (the librarians) are not individuals---we are departments. And, similar to UB but on a different scale, the budget is constrained and the bureaucracy of making things happen is very layered.

But my job is very important. There are a lot of Spanish-speaking immigrants here and it's my job to provide them with library materials and services in Spanish. So I am teaching adults the basics of how to use the computer---from how to handle a mouse to how to search on the Internet, etc. Starting next week, I'll be doing Spanish and bilingual story time for children. And in addition to buying books in Spanish, I am involved in processing them. Most of this is new to me and some of it is great fun, such as getting to know children's books. In general, it's very meaningful work.

Did/do you have a mentor?

I had a tough time in library school. Like most people, I didn't know what librarians actually did and I had this romantic notion that I'd be reading books all day. I was not up to speed with technology. By the time I'd figured out that this library thing wasn't what I thought---basically, on the first day of school---it was too late to go back. I'd just moved from El Paso, Texas after finishing my MFA in creative writing, clear across the country. In Buffalo, I didn't have friends to start off with---I didn't know anyone. That's when my mentor stepped in. **Glendora Johnson-Cooper**, a seasoned librarian who was in charge of the residency program, was the coolest. She took me to a lesbian theatre production and introduced me to the director, who introduced me to some of the local dykes. She took me out for dinner to check on me. She encouraged me to pursue my interests and to develop myself in the ways I was drawn to, and she supported me along the way. The director of UGL, **Margie Wells**, was also the best. I learned so much from her. She was a director who regularly staffed the reference desk and did library instruction just so she could stay in touch with what was happening on the ground floor. I saw how she was student-focused and flexible, and how she advocated on the Libraries' behalf within administrative ne-

gotiations. It was impressive. I have great respect for and am indebted to Margie and Glendora.

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

I'm reading a book of poetry, *Habitación de hotel* (Hotel Room)

by **Cristina Peri Rossi**. A friend went to Spain earlier this year and brought it back for me; it was published in 2007. It's so damn good that I've tried to stretch it out so it doesn't end. She's from Uruguay and has been exiled in Barcelona since the 70s. Cristina is my favorite lesbian poet. She also writes novels and creative nonfiction but it's the poetry that gets me the most. It's smart and sensuous and beautiful. I love her work so much that I translated one of her books of poetry into English---*Estrategias del deseo / Strategies of Desire*. I'm looking for a U.S. publisher now. As I read *Habitación de hotel* I think of how I'd translate some of the poems. But I don't know that I'd do another translation as it's a labor of love and I'm a writer more so than a translator. I wanted to translate *Estrategias / Strategies* because there is so little Latina lesbian poetry around (in English or in Spanish), at least not in print. Have you noticed? And while Cristina's work isn't all homoerotic, *Estrategias* is, and so is *Habitación de hotel*. (Here's her web site: <http://www.cristinaperirossi.es/index.htm>.)

What is your favorite movie? Song? TV show?

I'm a little bit ashamed of what I watch on TV. I got hooked on *Damages*, *The Closer* and *Medium*. I like to watch movies on cable. Whatever happens to be on, even if it's stupid, almost any kind of movie, with a preference for mysteries and psychological thrillers.

Music-wise I'm all Latin with a nationalistic preference for Colombian music. I like **Carlos Vives**, **Juanes**, **Shakira**, **Grupo Niche**, **Garzón y Collazos**, **Joe Arroyo**... and I absolutely love vallenatos, especially the older ones. I used to travel and buy records everywhere I went; I have an international record collection that's getting some action here in Long Beach. My friends come over and we play records, so I'm re-discovering **Maria Bethania**, **Yma Sumac**, **Mercedes Sosa**, **Willy Chirino**, **Maria Dolores Pradera**, **Linda Leida**. It's very cool to have music back in my life in this fun way.



Photograph by Kim Meyer

tatiana de la tierra, continued...

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

No, I haven't jumped on that. I don't really have time to participate in a meaningful way. I love to communicate, though, and really enjoy e-mail for this purpose, at least when it's not work-related. And I like to talk on the phone. But when it comes to socializing, honestly, I'd rather do it in person!

Anything else you'd like to add?

Right now I'm in the midst of editing a zine. It's called *About the Tongue / Sobre la lengua*, and it consists of creative writings, reflections, and graphics collected during "Tongue2Tongue: Provoking Critical Dia-

logues Among Queer Women of Color", a conference that took place in Los Angeles September 7-9, 2007. I wanted to capture the moment, to see what we were thinking and feeling for this herstorical gathering. It's not often that you have queer lesbians and trans people of color gathered for the purpose of dialoguing with each other.

The writings took place during the time frame of the conference. We came up with prompts to stimulate submissions. For instance, "If you could create your own gender, what would it be?" We also set up public writing spaces so people could write on the wall. We had a "Wishing Wall," a

"Horny Haiku" space, and "Adios Diosa," a space to write remembrances for **Yolanda Retter**, the Latina lesbian librarian activist chingona who passed on in August. [See *GLBTRT Newsletter*, Fall 2007, page 4.] *About the Tongue* will be a one-time zine, full of snippets, dreams, desires, and realities. It's my literary child of the moment, the one I'm feeding and loving and envisioning. The one I'm waiting to have in my hands.

tatiana de la tierra, GLBTRT member since 2000 (*I think, with a lapse in between*), Co-editor of the REFORMA Newsletter, Director of Hispanic Services at Inglewood Public Library

Tom Bouden: Drawing on Experience



Belgian comic artist Tom Bouden began his cartoon career early, self-publishing his *Piet & Inge* chapbooks in grade school. He even had one of his scenarios ("Piet & Inge in the Jungle") printed

in a local youth magazine. Bouden developed his art right through high school, working on student magazines and inventing new characters and storylines. He later studied animation in Ghent.

In 1990, Bouden drew posters for a GLBT youth group. Max & Sven, the characters he used, went on to star in their own comic strip series, helping Bouden land jobs drawing for the Belgian GLBT monthly *ZiZo* and for the Dutch GLBT youth magazine *Expreszo*. These cartoons were compiled for Bouden's first album in 1994.

In 1997, Bouden began a new series, "Max & Karel" for the Dutch weekly *Gay Krant*. He also worked for Disney and wrote plays, TV shows, and newspaper comics, and his work appeared in a widening circle of GLBT magazines. His gay comics began to be collected in the *Flikkerzicht* series (through volume 7 by now).

Bouden also draws the children's cartoon collection *Kidcity*, based on the popular Belgian Website, <http://www.kidcity.be>, and writes scripts for the Belgian comic series *W187*. In 2007, Bouden drew and/or wrote nine comic books and assisted in five more.

His works have been published in Dutch, French, Spanish, German, and Italian. His first award for comics was in a contest on the children's TV show *Kameleon* while in grade school; in high school, he won an award for his comic strips from the weekly newspaper *De Volksmacht*. His most prestigious prize, though, is the 2006 Beste

Nederlandstalig Album for *Het Belang van Ernst* (available in English translation as *The Importance of Being Earnest*). His Web site is: <http://www.tombouden.be>

How & when did you start cartooning?

On a spring day, somewhere in 1980, when I was 9, I was walking home from school with two friends, when we decided to become famous. One friend wanted to become a movie star. He's a director now. The other one wanted to be famous as a professor (lots of Belgian comics have professors as main characters). He's now a doctor in chemistry. And I wanted to become a comic artist. So that afternoon I made my first page.

Which artists influenced your style?

I suppose it started with the artists all Belgian (or, rather, Flemish) kids read: Vandersteen en Nys (who are really, really famous over here - their main series contain more than 200 books), Hergé (who only had 22 books) and series as *Lucky Luke*, *Asterix*, *Spirou* and many others. Of course, I've grown as a reader and now I also read more obscure things. One of the artists who showed me that there's a market for gay comics is German Ralf König, whose work I discovered as a student.

What have you read recently?

I have just finished reading Stephen Fry's *The Hippopotamus* for the second time. He was a big influence in my early publishing years when I was writing my dialogues. Before that I read a Holmes-book, but not by Doyle, and some Woodhouse. But if you want to know what comics I read: I'm heavily into Alan Moore at the moment.

You tell some pretty sexy stories about men in love and lust. Has that caused you any problems?

Not that I know of. I never had any nega-

tive reactions, or no one ever didn't give me a job because of my other work. I also make comics for kids (pretty well known comics in fact), and no one ever made a comment about the fact that I also draw quite explicit gay stuff. Maybe they make those comments behind my back but as long as I don't hear them, I don't mind.

Some of your books are translated into English - Max & Sven, In Bed with David & Jonathan, and now, Queerville. [In Bed with David & Jonathan and Queerville are reviewed on page 7.] Am I missing any? Are there plans to translate others?

You are not missing any. Those are the only ones translated in English and at the moment there are no plans to translate any others. But if *Queerville* is successful enough.... By the way, *David & Jonathan* and *Queerville* are strictly speaking not translations, because there aren't versions in other languages of those books.

What are you working on now?

I just finished a comic-version of *Tom Jones*, the book by Henry Fielding. Just as in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, I've made it into a contemporary story, but I haven't turned it into something gay. I also write a comic series based on a TV-show for kids and I work as an assistant for another comic artist. And this week will see the premiere of an adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* I wrote (in a series of adaptations of classic stories in comic-mold. I've also written and drawn the last book in the series: *Around the World in 80 Days*). It would be nice if those books could be translated into English, but I don't think it will ever happen.

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

Reviewers Sought for *GLBTRT Newsletter*

It is important that the *GLBTRT Newsletter* publish reviews of many books, both worthy of adding to collections and those titles that are not of high quality. These reviews should be professional and they should also express our unique perspective as GLBT people.

Because we can include only 12 to 14 reviews in each of our quarterly issues, reviews should be between 180 and 250 words long. Some titles will require longer reviews due to their complexity, importance, or controversial nature. Please let me know if you are submitting a review that is significantly longer so we can check

for space in the review section. Reviews must state what the book is about and include an evaluation. Please compare it to similar titles if possible. End reviews with a recommendation and indicate audience. Please point out language or illustrations that might cause issues for some readers or collections, but do not let these comments influence your recommendation unless that content is inappropriate or extraneous to the book. Reviews must include your byline with your job title and institution.

Please note: If you have contributed to a

title or have any kind of relationship with an author, you may not review that book. Examples of reviews can be examined in all issues of the *GLBTRT Newsletter*.

Please contact me if you would like to become a reviewer.

Lisa N. Johnston, Book Review Editor
Associate Director
Sweet Briar College Library
134 Chapel Rd., Sweet Briar, VA 24595
434-381-6306
ljohnston@sbc.edu

"I never read a book I must review; it prejudices you so." - Oscar Wilde

Book Reviews: Children's

Sanchez, Alex. *The God Box*.

New York: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2007. 272p. ISBN 9781416908999. Hardcover \$16.99.

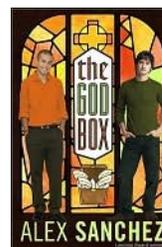
In his newest book, **Alex Sanchez** tackles one of the thorniest problems facing GLBTQ people of all ages: what is our place in the Christian community and how do we address the people who use the Bible as an instrument of oppression.

The novel centers on Paul, a high school senior in a small Texas town. He is a devout Christian with a loving girlfriend, and an active social life, but he is tormented by his thoughts and dreams of other men. As Paul struggles to banish his feelings through prayer and willpower, Manuel, a new boy, moves to town. Manuel professes to be a gay Christian, which confuses and

intrigues Paul. Their friendship causes a rift between Paul and his friends, and it is not until Manuel is a victim of a gay bashing, that Paul stands up for his new friend and begins to come to terms with his conflicted ideas about himself.

Though usually adept at mixing issues with characters and appealing plots, Sanchez falters here, letting the enormity of the topic overwhelm the story. While lengthy dialogs about the Bible may comfort some teen readers, the sad fact remains that for some non-religious and readers who are not conflicted about their sexuality, these sections drag, taking the book down with them.

Character development is limited to degrees of religiosity and even the obligatory dash of romance is not enough to rescue Sanchez's story. While his YA fans will enjoy the book and there is certainly a need to address this topic, it is unfortunate Sanchez's attempt is more sermon than story.



Reviewed by **Amanda Clay**
Library Media Specialist
Lakeview Elementary, Norman, OK

Book Reviews: Graphic Novels

Bouden, Tom. *In Bed with David & Jonathan*.

Berlin: Bruno Gmünder Verlag, 2006. 80 p. ISBN 9783861879732. \$22.95

Bouden, Tom. *Queerville*.

Berlin: Bruno Gmünder Verlag, 2007. 80 p. ISBN 9783861874492. \$27.00

Tom Bouden gives readers a glimpse into contemporary Belgian gay life. He casts a practiced but unjaundiced eye on inspiration and internet hookups, on coupling and cruising. Bouden's art style is like that of fellow Belgian **Hergé**, but lustier.

Bouden drew himself into *In Bed with David & Jonathan*: Bouden's online ad catches the eyes of gay couple David and Jonathan and he is invited to join them in a threesome. During the afterglow, Bouden discovers both David and Jonathan are fans of his work. He gives them a copy of his newly-published romance.

In this story within a story, told completely in pictures, David meets Jonathan in a park and the two spend a torrid night together, with the promise of more to come.

Queerville is a selection of comic strips from Bouden's work in *Flikkerzicht*, *ZiZo*, and *Gay & Night*. Bouden points out on his blog that the emphasis in this collection is his sexiest strips, not necessarily his best work. Still, if the drawing is not quite up to the quality of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, it is still very good. Although some minor spelling errors emerge in translation, Bouden's essential wit comes through quite well.

Because of the frank, sex-positive nature of the drawings and storylines, librarians will need to be ready to defend these books against censors. Recommended for public and academic libraries with established GLBT or graphic novel collections.



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

Book Reviews: Fiction

Baumbach, Laura. *Details of the Hunt*.

Albion, NY: MLR Press, 2007. 360 pages. ISBN 9780979311024. Soft cover \$16.99.



When Talos of Oracan—a 26th-century bounty hunter—agrees to travel to the 18th century and capture blood-thirsty buccaneer Aidan Maymon, he expects an untamed, dangerous, crafty pirate.

Aidan does not disappoint but Talos soon learns that his captive pirate is also a clever, virile, incredibly handsome man: one who quickly inflames his desires and captures his heart.

Laura Baumbach's *Details of the Hunt* is

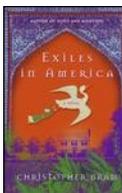
a rousing and boisterous science fiction romance and light, fun reading. This book is not without flaws: the villains are one-dimensional; the female characters are either pathetic victims or unappealing shrews; and the book contains numerous, distracting typos. That said, Talos and Aidan are delightfully engaging, likable characters. Readers will want them to defeat their foes, overcome their differences, and fall in love. Moreover, despite its imperfections, *Details of the Hunt* contains moments of brilliance. The climactic scene describing Talos' ulti-

mate triumph over the nefarious Barlow is truly chilling. Baumbach's ability to write a red-hot, spicy sex scene is beyond question. She clearly possesses a dynamic and lively imagination. This book is perfect for those who don't take their reading pleasure seriously, or for those who do but want a change of pace. Recommended for public libraries containing a well-stocked *adult* romance section.

Tracy Marie Nectoux
Monographic Cataloging and Metadata
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bram, Christopher, *Exiles in America*.

New York: William Morrow, 2006. 369 p. ISBN 9780061138348. Hardcover. \$24.95.



The exiles in America are Abbas, a sexy, swarthy, exciting, egotistical Iranian painter, his exotic Russian wife, and their two handsome children, a boy and a girl. It's about a tumultuous affair between the Abbas, a visiting artist at William and Mary College in Williamsburg, VA, and Daniel, a regular member of the art faculty, also a painter. Daniel and his partner of more than 20 years have an open relationship in which both are free to

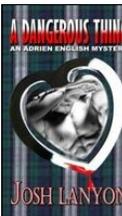
play outside, but playing is one thing and a passionate on-again off-again love affair is quite another. It is so intense and consuming that both the other partners/spouses are drawn in. And when Abbas' older Iranian brother, a member of the Iranian government, comes to persuade Abbas to return to the Islamic Republic, visits from the FBI and the brand new U.S. war in Iraq soon follow. The story does not end happily for anyone. Bram is one of our best gay writers, whose talent has attracted attention well beyond the GLBT community, especially with *Father*

of *Frankenstein*, which become the well-received film *Gods and Monsters*. Bram is a master at creating complex characters and portraying difficult situations with compassion and understanding. This novel is not a fun read, but it's well worth reading for its thorough, psychological exploration of an affair.

Reviewed by **James D. Anderson**
Professor Emeritus of Library
and Information Science, Rutgers University
The Ometeca Institute, St. Petersburg, FL

Lanyon, Josh. *A Dangerous Thing: An Adrién English Mystery, 2nd ed.*

Albion, NY: MLR Press, 2007. 238 pages. ISBN: 9780979311055. Soft cover \$16.99



Adrien English, the smart-alecky mystery writing bookstore owner with a bad heart makes his second appearance in *A Dangerous Thing*. Needing some time away, he flees Los Angeles for his ranch in northern California. He arrives to find a still-warm body in the driveway, and that's just the

beginning of his problems.

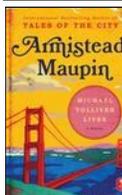
Lanyon delivers a well paced, entertaining mystery. The story is witty and engaging, showing the author's mastery of language and love of word play. The plot is complex enough to satisfy most mystery readers but could leave the super-sleuths wanting more. The amateur detective has an excellent sense of humor and a sarcastic streak that's hard not to love. The main characters are

well rendered and easy to get to know, even for a reader starting with this second book in the series. The relationship between the openly gay English and his closeted lover is believable and enhances the story rather than taking center stage. Recommended for mystery and gay collections.

Reviewed by **Sarah Corvene**
Serials Cataloger
Harvard Business School

Maupin, Armistead. *Michael Tolliver Lives*.

New York: Harper Collins, 2007. 277 pages. ISBN: 9780060761356. Hardcover \$25.95.



Maupin has said that his latest book *Michael Tolliver Lives* is not a sequel to the Tales of the City series. In some ways he is correct, the story is told solely from the viewpoint of Michael

Tolliver, one of the main characters from that series. However many of the same characters featured in *Tales* pop up in this

story, which makes it a definite continuation after a hiatus of 15 years. Maupin has said that as he wrote this book, those characters just kept popping up into the story. "Whatever I have to offer seems to come through those characters, and I see no reason to abandon them."

Michael Tolliver is now 55 and alive as the title indicates. Something he hadn't planned

on because he has been HIV+ for 20 years." He also hadn't planned on being in a relationship with a man 21 years his junior, "or an *entire adult* younger, if you insist on looking at it that way". Michael spends the book coming to terms with aging and all that it means.

The story itself is like the *Tales* series. It is a breezy, amusing read. Surprisingly the same

Michael Tolliver Lives, continued...

time that the story is full of what we might call disappointments or the sadness inherent in life, it is also filled with the joy simply living day to day can bring. Maupin handles writing both the joy and pain in a way that leaves you feeling positive about

the experience. Nothing surprises or shocks you in the book as through the eyes of Michael you know what is going to happen ahead of time. The appealing new characters to emerge from this story, such as Jake, only left me wanting another book so I

could get to know the new people in Michael's world. Recommended for all libraries with GLBT or popular fiction collections.

Reviewed by **Stephen Stratton**
Head of Collections and Technical Services
CSU Channel Islands

Sweeney, Aoibheann. Among Other Things, I've Taken Up Smoking.

New York: Penguin, 2007. 256 pages. ISBN: 9781594201301. Hardcover \$23.95

Among Other Things, I've Taken Up Smoking is a dreamy, hushed story of the struggle between self and other, identity and becoming. The main character, Miranda, is a young girl who lives with her father on Crab Island off the coast of Maine. After moving there to work on his translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Miranda's mother dies in a boating accident. Her father becomes more deeply involved in his work – to the point of avoiding people and life, in general – and the only other adult she sees regularly is Mr. Blackwell, who lives across

the bay. Mr. Blackwell has played a major role in her development by helping her father raise her through the years and is as much like a father as Miranda's dad. Because of their isolation, Miranda doesn't get the same social interaction as other kids and becomes a bit of a loner. She grows up experiencing the trappings of a small town outcast when her father gets her a gig in New York City with some of his former colleagues. New York is predictably exciting, overwhelming and new, affording an opportunity for a sexual awakening and to gain

insight into her father's life. The book is well written and reflects the thoughts of a young woman, working to make sense of her surroundings and to find her place in the world. Recommended for collections of young adult and adult fiction with GLBT themes.

Reviewed by **Rebekah Kilzer**
Systems Librarian
The Ohio State University Libraries

**Book Reviews: Nonfiction***Docter, Richard F. Becoming a Woman: A Biography of Christine Jorgensen.*

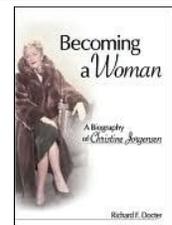
New York: Harrington Park, 2007. 297 pages. ISBN: 9781560236665. Hardcover. \$49.95 ISBN: 9781560236672. Soft cover. \$19.95.

As the first average American to be surgically altered from a male to a female physical form and to publicly acknowledge that fact, Christine Jorgensen laid the groundwork for the conception and dialogue about transsexuals and transgender possibilities in the mass media. Yet a definitive biography of Jorgensen has not been available until this thoroughly researched and readable volume. Docter's frequent analytic comparison of statements

made by Jorgensen in her 1967 autobiography (and at other times in her life) with information given by individuals ranging from the son of the physician who oversaw Jorgensen's case to members of Jorgensen's own family, as well as relevant document collections at the Danish Royal Library and the Kinsey Institute, offers the reader an in-depth portrait of the person behind the myths that emerged since Jorgensen's return to the U.S. from Denmark.

A selection of black and white photographs is included. Recommended for libraries with GLBT collections.

Reviewed by **Robert Ridinger**
Professor & Electronic
Information Resources Manager
Northern Illinois University Libraries

*God Comes Out: A Queer Homiletic.*

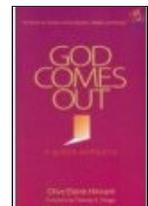
Edited by Olive Elaine Hinnant. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press. 2007. 210 p. ISBN: 9780829817300 \$24.00

Beginning with the presumption that most religious conversation regarding the GLBT community is about us rather than with us, this book collects and analyzes sermons and homilies presented by out ministers who are members of our community. The first chapter reviews "the homiletical landscape" over the past 40 years detailing

how anthologies of sermons gradually came to include women, African American, Latino, Asia American, the disabled, and with this book, GLBT preaching, and serves as an bibliography of this literature. The final chapter reviews the editor's survey of 46 LGBT and supportive straight clergy about "how these clergy are heard differently."

Most valuable in church, seminary, academic libraries, and public libraries where there is an interest in religion or GLBT social issues.

Reviewed by **David Combe**
Librarian Specialist
Ventura County Library, CA

*Halperin, David M. What Do Gay Men Want? An Essay on Sex, Risk, and Subjectivity.*

Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 2007. 167p. ISBN: 9780472116225. Hardcover. \$22.95.

David Halperin sets out to create a way of speaking about gay men's subjectivity without invoking standard psychological and psychoanalytic categories. He hopes to

do this in regard to what is perceived by the mainstream press and many writers on HIV prevention as gay male sexual risk taking. He is critical of writers on HIV/AIDS educa-

tion and prevention who invoke the concepts of internalized homophobia and/or low self esteem or the Freudian notion of the death wish. Working from **Jean Genet** and the

What Do Gay Men Want?, continued...

It doesn't quite work as an explanation but does open up the possibility of questioning the psychological and

gay contemporary writer **Michael Warner's** piece in the 1995 *Village Voice*, Halperin introduces the idea of abjection as part of a proposed counter-discourse.

It doesn't quite work as an explanation but does open up the possibility of questioning the psychological and

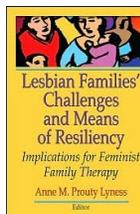
psychoanalytic orthodoxies that now prevail and which he argues inevitably pathologize gay men. This is a great book for that reason and should be read by everyone currently working and writing in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention. It is also a needed contribution to queer theory which, Halperin notes, prefers to avoid the question of gay male subjectivity. This work is highly recommended for aca-

demical libraries which have GLBT, counseling, social work, and social service programs or where courses on GLBT issues are regularly taught.

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

Lesbian Families' Challenges and Means of Resiliency: Implications for Feminist Family Therapy.

Edited by Anne M. Prouty Lyness. Haworth Press, 2007. 174p. ISBN 9780789034281. Soft cover. \$25.00.



Although the book is purportedly a tool for therapists, it is extremely useful for any

Ann M. Prouty Lyness has assembled various scholarly papers focused on the concept of lesbian "resiliency." It is worth noting that this book is also published as the *Journal of Feminist Family*

Therapy, v. 18, no. 1-2, 2006.

Although the book is purportedly a tool for therapists, it is extremely useful for any

lesbian couple, or individual, facing the issues discussed in this publication. Three of the essays are studies involving lesbian parenting issues; what are the advantages and disadvantages of the various methods of becoming parents, how do the children of gay and lesbian parents compare to those of heterosexual couples, etc. Two essays discuss the unfortunate prevalence of domestic violence within some lesbian relationships. The final essays cover general

stressors challenging lesbian couples. Lyness targets therapists as the audience for this publication; however, it is full of useful information for any lesbian considering parenthood or in an abusive relationship. Highly recommended for both public and academic libraries.

Reviewed by **Jennifer J. Meister**
Technology and Reference Librarian
The Free Public Library of Monroe Township,
Williamstown, NJ

McColly, Michael. The After-death Room: Journey into Spiritual Activism.

Brooklyn: Soft Skull Press. 2006. 262 p. ISBN: 9781932360929. \$15.95.



against HIV among gay and straight youth, among the sex workers and drug users shunned and ill-treated by their governments, families, and religions. Finding medical advances in Europe and North America quieted Western fears and damp-

Michael McColly gives a disturbing and penetrating autobiographical account of his journey to fifteen places affected by AIDS in Asia, Africa, and the US between 2000 and 2002. He tells of activists who struggle

ened activism, and left drug companies to control the efforts of charities, the author turns to the poor and other marginalized HIV victims.

McColly takes his spiritual practice of yoga to communities and self-help groups where enormous numbers of those infected with HIV survive without support from family, jobs, or medical care. This is the "after-death" region where he interviews and offers encouragement to activist-leaders. ("After-death room" refers to the holding room in some Buddhist monasteries where

bodies await disposal.) McColly tells in frank terms his own HIV story, and reveals, without moralizing, the addictions and desires of many of the AIDS survivors he meets.

High school and mature readers will find McColly's quest for wholeness in the midst of his search for ways to help others compelling and memorable reading. Footnotes and an HIV agencies list are extensive.

Reviewed by **Paul Scaer**
Librarian, Science Leadership Academy,
Philadelphia, PA.

GLBTRT Officers and Committee Chairs

Cal Zunt
Co-Chair, 2006-2008
cal.zunt@cpl.org

KR Roberto
Co-Chair, 2007-2009
kr.roberto@du.edu

Dale McNeill
Treasurer, 2007-2009
dale.mcneill@queenslibrary.org

Lewis Day
Secretary, 2006-2008
lewis_day@harvard.edu

John Sandstrom
GLBTRT Councilor, 2007-2010
SandstromJC@elpasotexas.gov

David Gray
Fund Raising, 2006-2008
david.l.gray@state.ma.us

VACANT
External Relations

Paul Higdon
Membership, 2006-2008
phigdonj@yahoo.com

John Bradford
Newsletter, 2006-2008
jpbmls@yahoo.com

Anne Moore
Nominating, 2006-2008
amoore@library.umass.edu

Barbara J. Pickell
Program Planning, 2007-2009
barbara.pickell@myclearwater.com

Bob Jaquay
Stonewall Book Award Celebration Planning,
2007-2009
rl_jaquay@yahoo.com

Rich Di Russo
Stonewall Book Award, 2007
Richard.Dirusso@tusconaz.gov

