



GLBTRT Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 21, No. 4 ♦ Winter 2009

Community Church of Boston

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- *Drag Queen in the Court of Death*
- *The 38 Million Dollar Smile. A Donald Strachey Mystery*

Note that the location of the Social has changed as of Monday, January 11. Last week the Round Table was notified that, due to water damage from a leak, the Community Church of Boston was not able to host our Social nor receive book donations.

*Please join us at The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine during Midwinter 2010 to socialize with other GLBT librarians and hear readings from award-winning writers Lesléa Newman (author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*) and Michael Willhoite (*Daddy's Roommate*). This event is free and open to all but donations are most welcome. We are also hosting a book drive at the event for a local GLBT organization. Bring a book to the to donate to the Boston GLASS Community Center, a GLBT youth drop-in and counseling center sponsored by the Justice Resource Institute.*

Directions to the The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine:

[Google Map](#) (fill in your starting point for driving or public transportation directions)

[Directions in a PDF with an Illustration](#)

The Community Church of Boston is a small community based church that states as its propose "united for the study and practice of universal religion, seeking to apply ethical ideals to individual life and democratic and cooperative principles to all forms of social and economic life." The church was founded in 1920 by Clarence Russell Skinner and John Haynes Holmes and has been an active non-sectarian, human-centered peace and justice congregation from its inception.

The congregation is led by **Jason Lydon**, Congregational Director. Services often feature inspiring and thought-provoking speakers on social justice topics. Membership in the congregation is small but growing;

there are sixty active members but the church is open to visitors from diverse faith communities. The congregation is composed of members who benefit from their practice and faith as Jews, Atheists, Humanist, Christians, Theists, Agnostics, Buddhists and Pagans. The theology of the church reflects its Unitarian roots; individuals and communities are affirmed in their free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Boston Alliance of Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Youth benefits from use of the Community Church when they hold their weekly meetings in the facility. Free and anonymous HIV testing is offered every Wednesday, 6-9pm. Meetings are facilitated by young people under the age of 22 and the youth who attend discuss topics related to sexual health, relationships, drugs, families and coming out.

Located in Copley Square, the Church is easily accessible by public transportation (www.mbta.com). Take the Green Line subway to the Copley stop; the church is half a block away.

The Community Church has a very small resource library that is in desperate need of useful and current titles for LGBT youth. Donated materials will be catalogued by volunteers and made available to youth in the congregation. Books will be collected during the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table Midwinter Social.

Donations may also be mailed to the church at the following address:

Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

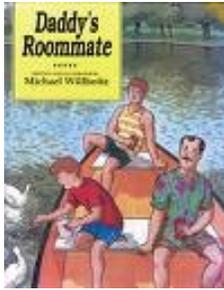
Deadlines for the newsletter for the next year will be:

<i>Spring 2010</i>	March 12, 2009
<i>Summer 2010</i>	May 14, 2010
<i>Fall 2010</i>	Aug 31, 2010
<i>Winter 2010</i>	Nov 30, 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.

Gay Children's Authors Headline Freedom to Read Foundation/GLBT Round Table Event at ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston

Authors Leslea Newman (Heather Has Two Mommies) and Michael Willhoite (Daddy's Roommate) will be discussing and signing copies of their groundbreaking books at the Freedom to Read Foundation's (FTRF) fifth annual author event, to be held in conjunction with ALA's Gay, Lesbian,



Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table Midwinter Social.

Please join us at [The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine](#) during Midwinter 2010 to socialize with other GLBT librarians and hear readings from award-winning

writers Leslea Newman (author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*) and Michael Willhoite (*Daddy's Roommate*). This event is free and open to all but donations are most welcome. We are also hosting a book drive at the event for a local GLBT organization. Bring a book to the to donate to the [Boston GLASS Community Center](#), a GLBT youth drop-in and counseling center sponsored by the Justice Resource Institute.

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[Google Map \(fill in your starting point for driving or public transportation directions\)](#)

[Directions in a PDF with an Illustration](#)

Refreshments will be provided throughout the event. Donations will be accepted at the door to cover costs and benefit FTRF's

Conable Scholarship. The GLBTRT planned to conduct a book drive of "useful and current" titles for GLBT youth for the Community Church of Boston's resource library but may cancel the book drive.

Heather Has Two Mommies and *Daddy's Roommate* have been two of the most frequently challenged books in the U.S. since they were published twenty years ago. They were among the first children's books to focus on gay and lesbian parents, and have been challenged (jointly and separately) innumerable times, including during the well-publicized "Rainbow Curriculum" controversy in New York City. They were also the subject of a Freedom to Read Foundation court case in Wichita Falls, Texas, in which a federal court overturned a law allowing the "banning by petition" of those books and others.

Newman is the author of 57 books for adults and children. She is currently the poet laureate of Northampton, MA. A resident of Rhode Island, Willhoite has written and illustrated several other children's books, including *Daddy's Wedding* and *Uncle What-Is-It is Coming to Visit!!*

The Freedom to Read Foundation, a First Amendment legal defense organization

affiliated with the American Library Association, was founded in 1969 to promote and defend the right of individuals to freely express ideas and to access information in libraries and elsewhere. FTRF fulfills its mission through the disbursement of grants to individuals and groups, primarily for the purpose of aiding them in litigation, and through direct participation in litigation dealing with freedom of speech and of the press.



The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association is committed to serving the information needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered professional library community, and the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered information and access needs of individuals at large. GLBTRT is committed to encouraging and supporting the free and necessary access to all information, as reflected by the missions of the American Library Association and democratic institutions.

History of the GLBT Round Table

Growth 1971

The 1971 ALA Annual Conference, in Dallas, was a high point for the year old Task Force on Gay Liberation (TFGL). Participating in the SRRT 'counter conference', the TFGL events including 'Free kisses' during time allotted at the JMRT and SRRT booths in the Exhibit Hall, two programs, a dance and an open house in the hospitality suite. But the event that is still an integral part of the group today was not publicized in advance of the conference. This was the first book award.

In the months after the 1970 founding in Detroit, the TFGL held meetings about every two months in New York City. These meetings were usually at a member's apartment. Throughout the year, the group focused on developing an annotated bibliography, fighting the refusal of the University of Minnesota to hire Michael McConnell, investigating subject headings and classification schemes, and planning for the Dallas Conference. The minutes do not mention developing a book award, however, there is mention of an award in correspondence between Israel Fishman and Barbara Gittings. In this letter, dated May 24, 1971, Israel discussed not publicizing the winner in advance of the Conference and not informing anyone else in the group. He also suggested writing the publisher to inform 'him'.

The book award presentation was made as part of the Business Meeting. After an update about the conference events, an address by Barbara (on the history of gay rights), and the 'crowning' of Barbara as coordinator, the presentation was made to Alma Routledge, who had written under the pseudo name of Isabel Miller. Unable to find a publisher, Miller self published *A Place for Us*, printing 1000 copies at a cost of \$840, in September 1969. By the time of the award, she had sold 900 copies "out of a shopping bag" for \$2.25 per copy. In the spring of 1971, McGraw Hill had agreed to publish it, which it did in 1972 as *Patience & Sarah*. With just 100 copies of the book left to sell and publicize the award, the Task Force agreed to give Routledge \$100 toward the cost of having additional copies printed. The actual award was a parchment scroll. During the conference, Routledge was pictured participating in the 'Kissing Booth' with Gittings, one of the most common images from the conference. A tape of the Business Meeting is part of the Israel David Fishman Papers. Manuscripts and Archives Division. The New York Public Library. Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

Anne L Moore
Special Collections Librarian
W.E.B. du Bois Library
University of Massachusetts Amherst

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

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

Sarah E. Wright,
GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
Swright@pwcgov.org

GLBTRT Midwinter Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting Name	Time	Location
Saturday January 16, 2010	Steering Committee I	8 – 10 am	Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Room 255
	All Committees Meeting Time	10:30 – Noon	Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Room 103
	Rainbow Project Committee	1:30 – 3:30 pm	OMNI Parker House, King Room - Mezzanine Level
	Stonewall Book Awards Committee (closed meeting)	1:30 – 3:30 pm	OMNI Parker House, Isabella Stewart Gardner Room Mezzanine Level
	Ad-Hoc Bylaws Committee	4 – 5:30 pm	The Westin Boston Waterfront, Otis Mtg Rm- Lobby Level
	Rainbow Project Committee	4 – 5:30 pm	OMNI Parker House, King Room - Mezzanine Level
	Stonewall Book Awards Committee (closed meeting)	4 – 5:30 pm	OMNI Parker House, Isabella Stewart Gardner Room Mezzanine Level
Sunday January 17, 2010	Rainbow Project Committee	10:30 am – Noon	OMNI Parker House, King Room - Mezzanine Level
	Rainbow Project Committee	4 – 5:30 pm	OMNI Parker House, King Room - Mezzanine Level
	Stonewall Book Awards Committee (closed meeting)	4 – 5:30 pm	OMNI Parker House, Isabella Stewart Gardner Room Mezzanine Level
	GLBTRT Social & Freedom to Read Foundation Author Event	6 – 8 pm	The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine 10 Shattuck St. Boston, MA 02115 PDF document of directions
Monday January 18, 2010	Rainbow Project Committee	8 – 10 am	OMNI Parker House, King Room - Mezzanine Level
	Steering Committee II	4 – 5:30 pm	Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Room 255

Finding Fledermaus: The Anthony De Blase Papers Project

After the death of the prolific writer, editor and longtime leather community activist **Tony De Blase** in Portland Oregon in 2000, his partner **Dr. Andrew Charles** sent his personal papers to the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago . The shipment of seventy-two boxes at once created the largest collection based on the career of an individual in the history of the Archives and posed significant questions of organization and access. The initial examination revealed that no fewer than twenty-five boxes were periodicals, which were merged with the existing journals collection.

Inventorying and organizing the remaining forty-seven boxes into a coherent research resource has been my task for the past six years, and I am pleased to report that the project is nearly completed. I had met Tony in the mid-1990s and worked with him at the Archives , most memorably when it was housed in an overcrowded storefront (before the current building was acquired) and the two of us had an evening shift , explaining the then-new concept and its goals to a stream of visitors in Chicago for the IML contest. Taking on the task was my way of paying tribute to his life and work, and learning more about a friend I had only just begun to know...

Making contents lists of the boxes themselves began in 2003, and I was amazed at the sheer depth and range of the records De Blase had kept for the period 1986-2000. Rather than impose an artificial scheme on the collection, I tried to preserve the original arrangement of the files to reflect the character of Tony's highly varied life. As the inventory proceeded, major bodies of records were identified, including a massive amount of correspondence (handwritten, typed and printed emails) with many leading erotic artists and writers (such as The Hun and Joseph Bean. Internal records from De Blase's years as owner and editor of the *Desmodus* publishing house and *DRUMMER* magazine, and planning documents and memos from his work as a member of the executive committees , staff. and boards of directors of several major leather community organizations were also present. The latter range from the National Leather Association and the International Mr. Leather competition to the early years of the Leather Archives itself.

A notable feature is numerous original manuscripts of his erotic fiction written under the pseudonym *Fledermaus*, reflecting his doctoral-level academic

training in zoology (with a research specialization on bats) and his former staff position as a mammalogist at Chicago's Field Museum. He had also kept a reasonably complete file and bibliography of his literary output beginning with his first professional publications which was placed into its own section of the papers to keep it available, including copies of his 1995 anthology *Flederfiction* .A surprise was the amount of artwork in the collection, some of it commercially produced slide sets (some tagged with the issues of *DRUMMER* where they were used) but many photo sets and drawings sent to Tony directly from the artists themselves. And there were (and remain) the inevitable artifacts that fall into the " what is it ? " category (which is notably missing from the Library of Congress classification scheme).

Somehow, I think *Fledermaus* would approve . Researchers wishing further details on the De Blasé papers can link to its finding aid .(<http://www.leatherarchives.org/collections/catalog/PERS0014.html>)

Composed By Robert Ridinger

Member Profile: Robert Ridinger



When or how did you know you want to be at work in the library field?

Libraries were always places that I felt at home in- as well as having the mystery of thousands of unread books lurking down every aisle- I wanted a job that, unlike most, would allow me to explore whatever subjects I wanted to, whenever my interests took me in a particular direction- and being a librarian was the perfect choice.

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

My first library job was as a part-time reference/circulation librarian at the Engineering and Sciences Library at Carnegie-Mellon four nights a week and Sunday evenings-I learned a lot about fields I haven't had to use much since- metallurgy, for example,

Tell us about your current job.

I am currently a tenured full professor on the University Libraries faculty at Northern Illinois University, with collection development and research liaison and reference responsibilities for 7 academic departments and interdisciplinary programs. A particularly stretching duty is to look for new electronic resources (both free Internet sites and from vendors) and add them to the NIU website- getting paid

to surf the Web is great fun but slightly unreal at times...and my faculty keep me from getting bored.<g>

Did/do you have a mentor?

Several- probably the most influential were my rare books professor at Pitt, Fr. Romano Stephen Almagno and the librarian who called me halfway around the world by requesting a Peace Corps Volunteer for a recataloging project at the National University of Lesotho, Ma'Lineo Nana Tau.

Do you have any heroes in library land?

The late Barbara Gittings and Dr. Phillip Immroth

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

Right now I'm wading through the finalist

titles for the 2009 Stonewall Book Award

What's the best part about being part of the GLBT-RT?

Being able to see the growth of resources in GLBT studies (or whatever alphabet soup we're using at the moment) and to be able to work for the acceptance of our folks as equal colleagues in all professional settings

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

I'm passing on the social networking resources for now- my mailbox is full enough as it is! <g>

Anything else you'd like to add?

I'm also in my eighth year as a member of the Board of Directors of the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago.

Assistance Needed to Assemble Newsletter Index

Currently, Sara Marcus and David S. Vess of the GLBTRT Web Committee are leading an effort to establish a complete, digital collection of all our organization's Newsletters. This multi-year project will involve locating print versions of past newsletters, assessing both born digital and print Newsletters, building a thorough index, applying quality metadata and structure to the files and making them all available on the GLBTRT website. The work in this project may inform a future project to digitize historical documents of the Round Table.

Do you have past issues of the GLBTRT Newsletter from the beginning through 1997, and the year 2001? **Sara Rofofsky Marcus** would appreciate assistance in obtaining access to older issues in order to create an index of the newsletters. She can be contacted at srofoskymarcus@qcc.cuny.edu or via telephone at 718 281 5795. Back issues may be mailed to the following address:

Sara Rofofsky Marcus
Library, Queensborough Community College
22-05 56 Ave
Bayside, NY 11364

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 reviews, email the GLBTRT Reviews Editor **Tracy Nectoux** at: tnectoux@illinois.edu. If journalism is more your style, send in articles about GLBT library services and collections in and around your community.

Going Out in Boston

Information obtained from <http://www.bostonnightclubnews.com/gayboston/index.html> and <http://boston.gaycities.com/> with the assistance of **Michael Dello Tacono**.

Restaurants

209

209 Columbus Ave
(617) 536-0972
www.209boston.com
Burgers and other pub food

Addis Red Sea

544 Tremont St.
(617) 426-8727
www.addisredsea.com
Ethiopian cuisine

Grasshopper

1 North Beacon St.
Allston, MA 02135
(617) 254-8883
<http://grasshoppervegan.com>
Vegan restaurant

Joey V's

315 Shawmut Ave.
(617) 338-5638
www.joeyvs.com
Casual pizza and pasta

Pepper Pot

208 Dudley Street
(617) 445-4409
www.209boston.com
Family Jamaican restaurant

Pho Republique

1415 Washington Steet
(617) 262-0005
www.phorepublique.com
Casual Vietnamese fusion

The Red Fez

1222 Washington Street
(617) 338-6060
www.theredfez.com
Syrian/Lebanese mezzes

Rocca Kitchen & Bar

500 Harrison Avenue
(617) 451-5151
www.roccaboston.com
Italian cuisine

Sibling Rivalry

525 Temont Street
(617) 338-5338
www.siblingrivalryboston.com
Watch two brothers cook Iron Chef style

South Street Diner

178 Kneeland Street
(617) 350-0028
www.southstreetdinner.com
24 hour dinner food

Stella Restaurant

1525 Washington Street
(617) 247-7747
www.bsotonstella.com
Italian food, guest chefs, open until 1:30 am

Sultan's Kitchen

116 State Street
(617) 570-9009
www.sultans-kitchen.com
Turkish cuisine

Tremont 647 & Sister Sorel

647 Tremont
(617) 266-4600
www.tremont467.com
American classics, open for dinner and pajama brunch

Bars and clubs

The Alley

265 Washington St.
(617) 263-1449
www.thealleybar.com/
Bear bar with darts and karaoke

Boston Eagle

520 Tremont St
(between Berkeley St & Dwight St)
(617) 542-4494
Low key dive bar

Buzz @ ARIA

246 Tremont Street, Boston
(617) 338-7080
<http://www.buzzboston.com>
Popular men's dance club.

Club Café

209 Columbus Ave.
(617) 536-0966
www.clubcafe.com
Video bar, lounge, and restaurant. Men and women.

Dbar

1236 Dorchester Ave.
Dorchester, MA
(617) 265-4490
www.dbarboston.com
Upscale Martini Lounge

Fritz

26 Chandler @Berkley Street
(617) 482-4428
<http://www.fritzboston.com/>
Gay sports bar

Jacques

79 Broadway (Theater district)
(617) 426-8902
www.jacques-cabaret.com/
Drag bar, \$10 cover Friday and Saturday

Machine

1254 Boylston Street
(617) 536-1950
www.machine-boston.com/
Huge dance floor, cheap cover

Midway Café

3496 Washington Street, Jamaica Plain, MA
(617) 524-9038
www.midwaycafe.com
Ladies dance night, live music, cash only

Milky Way

284 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain
(617) 524-6060
<http://www.milkywayjp.com/>
DJs, craft brews, and lesbians

Pure at Club Pearl

275 Tremont Street
(617) 542-4077
<http://www.shuttavac.com/pure/index.php>
Friday night lesbian dance party

Ramrod

1254 Boylston Street
(617) 266-2986
www.ramrod-boston.com/
For the leather crowd

Rise

306 Stuart Street
(617) 423-7473
<http://www.riseclub.us>
After-hours club, mixed crowd



Going Out in Boston (Continued)

Book Stores

Calamus Books

92B South Street
(617) 33801931
<http://www.calamusbooks.com>
GLBT literature

New Words Books

7 Temple Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 876-5310
<http://www.cetnerfornewwords.org>
GLBT titles and women's action center

Lucy Parsons Center

549 Columbus Avenue
(617) 267-6272
<http://www.lucyparsons.org>
Progressive, radical bookstore and community space

Community Resources

Bay Windows

46 Plympton Street
(617) 266-6670
<http://www.lucyparsons.org>
New England's GLBT newspaper

Bisexual Resource Center

P.O. Box 1026
Boston, MA 02117
(617) 424-9595
brc@biresource.net
The BRC is committed to providing support to the bisexual community

Boston Lesbian and Gay History Project

46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 641-8609
www.historyproject.org
Organization working to record the history of GLBT Boston

Fenway Health

Ansin Building
1340 Boylson Street
(617) 267-0900
www.fenwayhealth.org
Health services provider for the Boston GLBT community

The Women's Center

46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 354-6394
www.cambridgewomencenter.org
Anti-racist women's community action center

Round Table Member Attends IFLA Conference

There I was, day two of my trip to International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and I hadn't yet left the United States due to a variety of weather related delays. "Act of God," the airline employee in Minneapolis told me the day before as my travel day ended after the first of three scheduled legs that would take me to Milan. Day two was threatening to end at Detroit Wayne County International Airport, which had not even been on my itinerary until a big storm over JFK airport in New York had re-routed my flight to Michigan suburbia.

With a line building up behind me of other Europe-bound travelers from my flight, the agent told me that she could *possibly* get me to Rome, but that was only flight to Europe leaving that late in the day from Detroit. No continuing flight to Milan; Rome take it or leave it. I took it. I was already going to miss the first meeting of the Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section I had been nominated to serve on, and I didn't want to miss the second meeting by delaying another day and a half in getting to Milan.

The Services to Multicultural Populations Section met three times over the five days of IFLA. There were also two programs that the Section sponsored. On Sunday, the Special Interest Group (SIG) on Indigenous Matters met to open up the discussion of what the SIG can do for IFLA, and what topics attendees wanted the SIG to address in future IFLA work. The SIG was approved this past year by IFLA board and the Multicultural Section is the sponsor for the SIG. Lorie Roy who is an ex-officio member of the Multicultural Section Steering Committee led the Indigenous Matters program. The second program was held Wednesday and was entitled *Creativity*

and the Arts: libraries building on multicultural heritage. It featured four speakers, one each from Norway, Serbia, Romania, and the USA, who discussed programs at their libraries that focused on services or programs in libraries designed to increase multicultural understanding. The presentations were well received by a very large crowd.

As this was my first time to attend IFLA as a working member of a section, I knew I would be busy. The steering committee convened twice after I arrived. One meeting was held off-site from the convention center at the Goethe Institute, just a block from the Duomo. Final plans for the post conference satellite meeting in Palermo, *Libraries and Society: a pan-Mediterranean perspective*, were discussed. Although I was unable to attend the Palermo meeting, word was that it was a rousing success.

One of the big projects I learned about was the work the section has done on the IFLA Multicultural Library Manifesto. It has now been translated into 14 languages, with more to come, but two steering committee members Kirsten Leth Nielsen of Norway and Mijin Kim of Canada have also been working hard to get the document endorsed by UNESCO at their 35th general conference meeting this fall. The good news is that the Manifesto was indeed endorsed by UNESCO in Paris this October. The hard work by the Steering Committee in particular Kirsten has paid off in the international recognition that multicultural services in libraries will now receive. The manifesto can be viewed at the Section website. <http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/the-ifla-multicultural-library-manifesto> If anyone is interested in translating the Manifesto into a language not currently available, feel free to contact me about the task.

In addition to the great programs and Section meetings, the opportunity at IFLA to see and interact with colleagues from around the world is fantastic. Touring local libraries with the conference goers and learning about the local history and culture is also guaranteed.

The midyear meeting is scheduled to happen in Moscow in late February. This is generally a section working meeting and no programs or conference is planned in conjunction with the meeting. It will be a test of my Southern California clothing to travel to Moscow in the winter. Next year's conference has been switched to Gothenburg, Sweden after the original host city was unable to support the event. The meeting will take place August 9-16 and the theme is *Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress*. Keep your eyes open for conference program proposal requests if you are interested in presenting at the next IFLA.

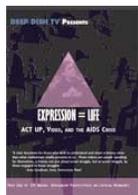
The opportunity for dialogue as well as learning from colleagues around the world is something that cannot be beat when attending an IFLA conference. I look forward to the opportunity to work hard as a representative to the Services to Multicultural Populations Section of IFLA, as the current members have lifted a high bar for service on the committee. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about IFLA or the Services to Multicultural Populations Section.

Stephen Stratton
Head of Collections and Technical Services
John S Broome Library

Film Reviews

Expression = Life: ACT UP, Video, and the AIDS Crisis.

Prod. Mark Read. DVD. Deep Dish TV, 2008. 180 min. \$350.00 (Institutional); \$50 (Individual). ISBN: 978-1-6070-2080-6.



Expression = Life: ACT UP, Video, and the AIDS Crisis, joins other recent projects (e.g., retrospective exhibits and the ACT UP Oral History Project) that remember – and critically return to – the work of ACT UP, a direct-action group founded in New York City in 1987.

Disc one of *Expression = Life* presents a collection of AIDS activist videos in their entirety: *Angry Initiatives*, *Defiant Strategies* (1998), *Be a Diva* (1990), *Like*

a Prayer (1991), and *Transformer AIDS* (1991). Disc two offers a one-hour compilation of clips from the four films (as well as *Book of James* (2002) and *Target: City Hall* (1989)) and a panel discussion about the films. Panel speakers include former ACT UP members, documentarians, and media studies scholars.

Expression = Life works on a number of levels: the videos document AIDS activism in New York in the late 1980s to early 1990s, and exemplify citizen journalism during those years. Both the videos – and the actions they document –

critique dominant AIDS discourses. The panel discussion further elucidates tensions between ACT UP and mass media, and considers the state of AIDS activism in the present.

Expression = Life is accessible to a wide audience, with the caveat that it employs graphic language in its commentary on queer culture, sexual practices, illness, death, and political indifference. It is recommended for all libraries.

Reviewed by, Alana Kumbier
Research and Instruction Librarian
Wellesley College

Visionaries & Victories: Early Leaders in the LGBT Movement.

Dirs. Joan E. Biren and Eric Slade. Youth in Motion Ser. Frameline, 2008. DVD. \$24.99. 114 min.



This DVD contains two documentaries, which provide entertaining, in depth views of the growth of the early gay and lesbian movement. Each hour-long film

focuses on three of our pioneers.

***No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon*, by JEB (Joan E. Biren).**

Confronting a society that considered them "illegal, immoral and sick," Del and Phyllis trace the history of their

organizing work for lesbian rights against the background of the 1950s and 60s. In 1955 they founded the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the first public organization for lesbians in the U.S., and were partners for more than 50 years.

***Hope along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay*, by Eric Slade.**

Follows, through interviews and archival film footage, his growth as an activist, communist, and founder of the Mattachine Society, one of the first gay organizations in the U.S. This "golden brotherhood" was organized along the lines of a socialist underground organization to protect its members. After the "Red Scare" propelled the organization to purge Harry and other

activists, he moved on to research "two spirit" people, joined the counter-culture youth movement of the 60s, and finally founded the Radical Fairies.

Together, these two videos provide a powerful testament to the early organizing efforts in our movement, and give the viewer a good sense of the political and social realities of the 1940s and 50s. Put this video in your library; it belongs in EVERY kind of library, for classroom use, personal growth, and public education. A Curriculum & Action Guide for the DVD is available at the Frameline web site.

Reviewed by, Morgan Gwenwald
SUNY New Paltz

Equality U.

O'Brien, Dave (dir). San Francisco, CA: Frameline, 2008. DVD. 90 min. \$250 (discounted pricing available for K-12 schools, public libraries, and small nonprofits).

"There are 200 colleges in the country where you can be kicked out simply for being gay, and I couldn't just sit by and do nothing," says Jake Reitan, 23-year-old LGBT activist, Christian, and co-director of the Soulforce Equality Ride.



Equality U tells the story of Jake and the 32 other young activists on the Soulforce Equality Ride who toured the country to visit religious colleges and universities with discriminatory policies against LGBT students. The documentary focuses on a

handful of individual Riders and schools, using a combination of footage, interviews, and personal video diaries.

The film touches on a number of issues faced by LGBT youth, from the difficulties of balancing Christian faith and gay identity to the fear of being cut off financially from one's parents for coming out. The central conflict of the film, however, is the internal struggle faced by the group as they attempt to reconcile their differing philosophies of social justice activism.

At times, the focus on the drama within the group threatens to distract from the

real results of their action. Still, *Equality U* is a moving film that documents an important project. The passion of the Riders demonstrates the lasting power of the tactics of nonviolent resistance espoused during the Civil Rights Movement.

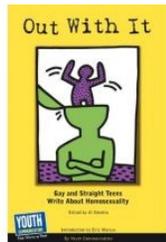
Recommended, particularly for college and university libraries.

Reviewed by, Caitlin Shanley
Instructional Design and Technology Librarian
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga,
Lupton Library

Book Reviews: Young Adult

Desetta, Al, ed. *Out With It: Gay and Straight Teens Write About Homosexuality*.

New York: Youth Communication, 2009. 2nd ed. 153p. softcover. ISBN: 9781933939728.



with harassment, and many others. Each story is crafted in a way that conveys

Al Desetta's *Out With It* is a great collection of writings by gay and straight teens that focuses on a multitude of topics that are important to young adults, such as coming out, identity, religion, dealing

emotion and intelligence. All 25 short stories open with artwork that relates to the corresponding story.

Out With It is an excellent showcase for the artists and writers featured within. This book is mainly geared towards teens, but is accessible to anyone, regardless of his or her sexuality. Many of the stories are written in an autobiographical manner, and all are endearing and powerful. Those who grew up feeling different from their peers due to their sexuality will certainly

identify with the stories contained here.

Out With It will be an valuable resource for counselors and any library, but most especially high school libraries. This deceptively small book is packed full of hope and understanding.

Reviewed by, Johnnie Gray
Interlibrary Loan Librarian
Tribble Library
Christopher Newport University

Lo, Malinda. *Ash*.

New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2009. hardcover. 272p. \$16.99. ISBN: 978-0316040099.



Ash has known a fairy, Sidhean, since the time that her mother died. And though they are drawn to each other, he has refused to grant Ash's wishes to return her mother to life, or to take her to fairy

land, where she believes her mother to be living. Malinda Lo's *Ash* is a dark retelling of the classic Cinderella story. But instead of featuring a kindly fairy-godmother, *this* particular fairy is the kind usually featured in fairy tales: one who demands a high price for granting wishes.

land, where she believes her mother to be living.

As she grows older and accepts the death of her mother, Ash has other wishes, and Sidhean agrees to grant two of them: (1) that she can participate in the King's hunt, to which she has been invited by the King's huntress, Kaisa; and (2) that she can attend the King's ball. The price that Ash agrees to pay for these wishes is to belong to Sidhean. He tells her that he will collect his payment at a later date.

But at the ball, Ash recognizes that the price to which she has agreed is too

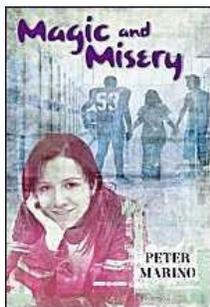
high: she realizes that it is Kaisa with whom she is in love. Whether or not she can renegotiate a price with Sidhean is questionable, and it is not only her future with Kaisa that hangs in the balance, but her warm friendship with Sidhean.

This book is highly recommended for teens who enjoy fantasy, and for all readers who enjoy reading fairy tale variations.

Reviewed by, Nancy Silverrod
San Francisco Public Library

Marino, Peter. *Magic and Misery*.

New York: Holiday House, 2009. hardcover. 293p. \$17.95. ISBN: 9780823421336.



topics are TJ and Pan. When they first meet, TJ develops an enormous crush on "golden boy" Pan; consequently, when he comes out, she's both embarrassed and

Peter Marino's *Magic and Misery* covers numerous aspects of teenage life: first love; class consciousness; bullying; parents/step-parents; friendships; being gay; being straight; and even prom. And at the center of all of these angsty

hurt. But she quickly realizes that she wants Pan in her life regardless, and they soon settle into a true friendship.

Then TJ begins dating Casper, a sweet, smart football player, and this time it's Pan who must adjust to the changing dynamics of his friendship with TJ. But it's not easy for Pan, and he makes that clear to both TJ and Casper. Though Pan seems irrational at times, his reasons behind his actions are due to his fear of forced isolation. If TJ loves someone more than him, what will that mean for his lonely existence?

Marino beautifully captures the oftentimes complicated, *always* romantic relationship between straight girls and their gay

boyfriends. He's written likable and realistic characters who have none of the pretentious posing often found when an author tries too hard to illustrate "modern teens." Rather, Marino's characters—adults and teens alike—are funny, flawed, well-meaning, kind, selfish *real* people.

Note: This book contains an alarming gay bashing, and the publisher's 14+ age restriction is appropriate. *Magic and Misery* is highly recommended. This delightful, thoughtful book belongs in all libraries that have young adult patrons.

Reviewed by, Tracy Nectoux
Quality Control and Metadata Specialist,
Illinois Newspaper Project
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Book Reviews: Non-Fiction

Badgett, M.V. Lee. *When Gay People Get Married: What Happens When Societies Legalize Same-Sex Marriage.*

New York: New York UP, 2009. hardcover. 287p. ISBN-13: 978-0814791141.



M.V. Lee Badgett's *When Gay People Get Married* delivers an important work that examines the effects on societies that allow same-sex couples to marry.

While Badgett is an American scholar and a

lesbian who advocates same-sex marriage, she scrutinized research that had already been conducted on this topic. Badgett claims that "the value of including stories of marriage in the context of real people – those Dutch couples I interviewed and even my own

story – is to add a layer of knowledge that has been largely missing in the debate. The personal stories link the broad abstract numbers and the powerful cultural institution to the individual lives affected by the law."

Badgett examines what happens in European societies that allow same-sex couples to marry. She studies why people marry in the first place, what marriage means to both homosexuals and heterosexuals, whether allowing gays to marry changes heterosexual marriage, and whether the right to marry would change the gay community.

There are numerous publications on same-sex marriage, but this title appears to be the most comprehensive, scholarly examination of the topic yet. Readers who are already advocates of marriage equality will be moved to think about

marriage in ways that they, perhaps, have not considered before. I was stunned to discover that there are many members of the gay community who are anti-marriage for various reasons, but particularly because of its political and religious history.

Recommended for academic libraries, especially those specializing in sociology, gender studies, and gay/lesbian studies.

Reviewed by, Maria Landrum
Children's Librarian
Jefferson Parish Library
Metairie, Louisiana

Bergman, S. Bear. *The Nearest Exit May Be Behind You.*

Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2009. 205p. \$18.95. ISBN: 978-1-55152-264-7.



Every week is full of tiny gender moments, little queer vignettes, these rich and telling interactions that give me an endless running commentary about what the world sees in me... (It Only Takes a Minute I, 43).

The Nearest Exit May Be Behind You is S. Bear Bergman's second book, and if it is possible, Bergman has delved even further into the many facets and richness of gender identity, inside and outside LGBTQ communities. The same candid self-awareness, sensitivity, and self-deprecating wit found in *Butch Is a Noun* is here in even larger quantities.

The Nearest Exit ranges from short, humorous observances of day-to-day gender insight in the series *It Only Takes a Minute* I-IV, to longer, more exploratory essays examining the complexity of gender and identity, such as *The Velvetten Tranny*, and *I'm Just Saying*.

In very personal narratives, Bergman questions gender norms, expectations, and uncomfortable subjects within the LGBTQ community. In *Just a Phase*, Bergman examines his own process of coming out, multiple times, within the community, and to himself in regards to sexuality and gender identity, which shines light on Bergman's life when writing *Butch Is a Noun*. This struggle is also highlighted in the painful and validating essay "Shame," as well as the uplifting speech given by Bergman on the Transgender Day of Remembrance in 2008.

By taking the time to look at life's small details, we are gently brought to the larger stories of our families and communities, Western culture and custom (see *Dutiful Grandchild*).

The Nearest Exit contains a small amount of sexual explicitness, but it puts complex ideas in an accessible format. It is recommended for academic and public libraries.

Reviewed by, Jesse Nachem
Assistant Archivist, Lucasfilm Ltd.

Courtois, Wayne. *A Report from Winter.*

Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2009. paperback. 279p. \$18.00. ISBN: 978-1590212356.



A Report from Winter is the memoir of Wayne Courtois, who uses vivid descriptions of the harsh Maine winter as a metaphor for his relationship with his detached and cold family. It describes in detail the dichotomy

between Wayne's distant relationship with his relatives, and the loving bond between Wayne and his long-time partner Ralph.

At the start of the novel, Wayne is flying alone to Portland to be with his dying mother Jennie, whom he has not visited in 10 years, and who isn't expected to make it through the week. When he arrives in Portland, he is also reunited with his gay brother Bruce, his partner Greg, and his Aunt Louise.

The death of his mother, being back in Portland, and reconnecting with the family he hasn't seen for so long proves so distressful, that Wayne calls on Ralph to come up and be with him during this difficult time.

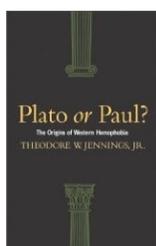
Ralph brings a veritable warmth and emotion to the situation that Wayne describes as "a report from winter." Together they weather the storm (both literally and figuratively), and Wayne is able to let his mother go.

A Report from Winter is recommended for academic and public libraries.

Reviewed by, Rachael Elrod
University of Louisville

Jennings Jr., Theodore W. *Plato or Paul? The Origins of Western Homophobia.*

Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2009. 244p. \$25.00. ISBN: 9780829818550.



Theodore Jennings' *Plato or Paul?* argues that the commonly held belief that same sex relationships were readily accepted by the Greeks, while Paul and early Christianity were

hostile toward them is simplistic. Jennings examines Greek texts from Plato, Hellenistic Christian writers, Paul, and post-Biblical writers, and he suggests a different view.

Jennings asserts that the pre-Christian Greeks were more homophobic than typically believed, and that common

reading of Paul is merely *interpreted* as homophobic. He explains that Hellenistic homophobia is grafted into post-Pauline Christian theology, that it is not actually part of the early church, and as such, can be overcome without damage to Christianity: "It is not that we are homophobic because of the Bible; rather, we read the Bible as we do because we are influenced by homophobia." While I read widely in religion and theology, I have not studied Greek; however, there is nothing to suggest that Jennings misuses or abuses the language analysis, which is crucial to his case.

Jennings' argument is compelling and moving, and many believing members of the LGBT community will find in it solace and hope. *I hope it is true; I want it to be true.* But this book's argument is ultimately

unconvincing. Too many pages have phrases such as: "as seems plausible"; "may have been"; "sources suggest"; and "tends to confirm." The book feels too tentative. That being said, an extensive review of Greek, Hellenistic, and post-Pauline theological writers' evolving views of the Genesis story of Sodom is always useful.

This title is recommended for academic libraries collecting in Greek and Hellenistic classics, Christian texts and theology, sexuality and gender studies, and Western history through the sixth century CE.

Reviewed by, Dave Combe
EP Foster Library
Ventura, CA

Summers, Ken. *Queer Hauntings: True Tales of Gay and Lesbian Ghosts.*

Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2009. paperback. 195p. ISBN: 9781590212394.



Ken Summers' *Queer Hauntings* features ghosts and haunted locations of the famous and not-so-famous variety. It is an excellent overview of the many places that are haunted by gay spirits, and provides legends and tales about the

hauntings, some detailed and others quite brief. Gay establishments and suspected Hollywood homosexuals all have their place here.

These ghosts and spirits lack malevolence, but seek contact with the living, not having realized their own demise. Of the stories, the Upstairs Lounge fire in New Orleans is particularly terrifying, while the story of the two ladies of Llangollen contrasts with a message of love eternal. The first section of *Queer Hauntings* focuses on locations within the United States, while the second section explores various parts of the world.

Summers provides contact information for those who are curious and may want to experience a queer haunt. This book is

easily the first of its kind and a very welcome edition for gays and lesbians that like to get goose bumps in the middle of the night – for reasons other than someone pulling the covers off of them!

Recommended for any library that wants to add another dimension to its supernatural section. Suitable for teens and adults alike.

Reviewed by, Johnnie N. Gray
Interlibrary Loan Librarian
Christopher Newport University

Book Reviews: Fiction

Berman, Steve, ed. *So Fey: Queer Fairy Fiction.*

Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2009. paperback. 342p. \$18.00. ISBN: 9781590212288.



This collection of short stories, all covering the intersection between queerness and magical beings, from brownies and selkies to *yosei* and *huli jing*, is interesting, but uneven.

Many of the selections rise to the challenge of building a world in a short format; Richard Bowes' *The Wand's Boy* and Berman's own *The Price of Glamour*, beg to be extended into full-length novels where

the tantalizing worlds can be better explored. Some (*The Coat of Stars*, by Holly Black and *Detox*, by Elspeth Potter) do a wonderful job of bringing the modern world together with the magical one, but others (*From Asphalt to Emeralds to Moonlight*, by Aynjel Kaye) are more flash than substance.

There are some unfortunate typographical and grammatical mistakes that could have been caught by more careful editing, but Berman's inclusion of stories based in Japanese and Chinese mythology is a

thoughtful one. Queer fairy fiction is ripe genre, and if there are future editions of *So Fey*, they would benefit from even more diversity, mining the richness (and potential queerness) of monsters like *chupacabras* and skin-walkers, and tricksters like Anansi and Coyote.

So Fey is recommended for most collections, especially those where short stories and fantasy circulate well.

Reviewed by, Nicole Pasini
San Mateo County Library

Califia, Pat. *Macho Sluts.*

Vancouver, Arsenal Pulp Press, 2009. 398p. Trade Paper \$19.95. ISBN: 978-1-55152-260-9.



Twenty-one years after it first appeared, causing much consternation in the lesbian community and a protracted censorship case in Canada, *Macho Sluts* returns in a new 2009 edition. A breakthrough of explicit, X-rated fiction focused on the lesbian leather

community, it is one of those rare works

that is actually well-written, as well as . . . well, hot, especially if you are inclined toward S/M scenarios.

In the intervening years since, the book's author, Pat Califia, transitioned to a bisexual transman (Patrick), and the queer world has undergone its own changes. But *Macho Sluts* stands out as a "classic," still able to educate and inspire, a relevant addition to an adult queer collection. This edition includes a new forward by the author, an introduction by Prof. Wendy

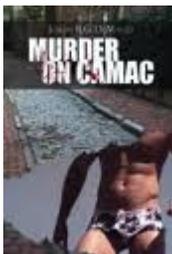
Chapkis, (Sociology and Women & Gender Studies, Univ. Southern Maine in Portland) and background on the trial.

You might not have the nerve to place it in your collection, but maybe I'll loan you my copy, if you get down on your knees and say the proper words.

Reviewed by, Morgan Gwenwald
SUNY New Paltz

DeMarco, Joseph R. G. *Murder on Camac.*

Mapleshade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2009. paperback. 393p. \$18.00. ISBN: 9781590212134.



Marco Fontana is a private investigator, not a porn star, as his name might imply. Based in Philadelphia's gayborhood, he also owns a company of male strippers called StripGuyz. Thirty-two, five feet eleven, sexy

Marco has no glaring faults, although his integrity and deep caring for people can cause unforeseen conflicts in his work. He surrounds himself with people he can trust, such as Olga, his wise-cracking secretary (what P.I. doesn't have one?), and Anton, StripGuyz' hot manager, who would marry Marco in a minute if he would commit.

When Helmut Brandt, a writer who believed that Pope John Paul I had been assassinated, is murdered, Marco is stunned. A decade before, Marco had seen Brandt at a book signing at Giovanni's Room. Impressed with Brandt's enormous charisma and self-acceptance, Marco had gathered the courage to come out. He has a personal interest in finding Brandt's killer.

Marco's investigation takes him from a sleazy hustler bar near City Hall to the top story of the Archdiocesan headquarters.. Since Marco holds the principle that "subterfuge to solve a case is one thing but games between friends or potential friends or lovers is not how I work," he almost

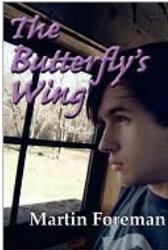
overlooks something important that could link a love interest of his to Brandt's murder.

This fast-moving mystery, the first in a series, has interesting Philadelphia locations, wonderfully rendered dialogue, many colorful characters—and, uniquely, lots of heart. *Murder on Camac* is highly recommended for libraries with large mystery collections.

Reviewed by, W. Stephen Breedlove
Reference and Interlibrary Loan Librarian
La Salle University Library

Foreman, Martin. *The Butterfly's Wing*.

Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2009, 1996. Trade paperback. 303p. \$18.00. ISBN 978-1-59021-129-8.



Martin Foreman's moving novel, *The Butterfly's Wing*, was originally published in 1996, and republished by Lethe Press in 2009. It relates the story of two gay men from England, Andy McIlray and Tom Dayton. Andy has a university education, works for an international aid

organization, and frequently travels to foreign countries for his job. In contrast, Tom has worked at numerous places as a waiter and is a homebody. Together they

own a small hobby farm near London. On one of his trips to Peru, Andy is kidnapped by the Shining Path insurgents. The novel opens about one year after Andy's kidnapping.

The Butterfly's Wing is written in diary format. The first half of the novel consists of Tom's diary entries, and presents his hopes and worries after being separated from Andy for an entire year. Andy's journal entries—made during his captivity—comprise the second half of the novel. The contrasts between Andy and Tom, highlighted in their diary entries, as well as the ups and downs of their

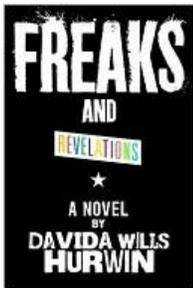
emotions over time, are what make *The Butterfly's Wing* unique and memorable. This is a love story, as opposed to an adventure story.

The Butterfly's Wing is highly recommended for both academic and public libraries serving a GLBT population or building a GLBT collection.

Reviewed by, Paul Hubbard
Retired Public Reference Librarian

Hurwin, Davida Wills. *Freaks and Revelations*.

Little, Brown and Company, 2009. \$16.99. ISBN: 9780316049962.



Davida Hurwin's *Freak and Revelations* outlines, in alternating chapters, how two teens from different, but equally painful backgrounds come to meet in a violent attack in Southern California.

At 10, Doug's older brother, Carl, is shot by a black man, which fuels the already racist

leanings of their parents. He begins to drink and use drugs at an early age, and becomes more distant from his parents, and more disaffected with life. Only when he discovers

the Punk rock scene does he begin to feel connected to anything. Unfortunately, it is the more violent and extreme aspects of the scene that entice him. That, combined with the racist attitudes he was raised by, influences Doug's decision to become a skinhead.

Jason's family is equally problematic, and when his parents divorce, his mother suddenly becomes very pious and strict. Meanwhile, at 12, Jason is beginning to notice other boys in dance class. But when he comes out at a family meeting, his father walks out, and his mother kicks him out, leaving Jason with no idea of what to do other than go first to San Francisco's Castro District, and then later to L.A. Jason resists turning tricks as long as he can, but soon finds himself over his head, using drugs and getting into dangerous

situations with older men.

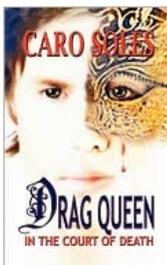
One night, Doug and his friends, high and angry, decide to go out queer bashing. They find Jason with a friend at a restaurant that they consider to be *their* territory. Jason is chased into an alley, where Doug and his friends beat him and leave him for dead.

Hurwin's thought-provoking novel is based on a true story, and she presents both characters sympathetically and powerfully. *Freaks and Revelations* would make an excellent discussion choice, useful in a variety of classroom settings, or as a book-group read.

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

Sole, Caro. *Drag Queen in the Court of Death*.

Albion, NY: MLR Press. 2009. Softcover. 256p. \$14.99. ISBN: 978-1-60820-011-5.



Death, love, guilt, family troubles, deceit, and more face staid history professor Michael Dunn-Barton as he returns to his home in Toronto. But when he encounters the world of the drag queen and her court, performances such as Wilde Nights, and a hidden body, Dunn-Barton learns more of

his ex-lover Ronnie's past than he ever wanted to know. Rather than letting sleeping dogs lie, he continues to dig, to solve the murder of a body found stuffed in a trunk in Ronnie's apartment. Dunn-

Barton also comes to terms with his homophobic sister, his wife whom he's never divorced, and his need for companionship. Along the way, he also discovers the real truth about his lover Ronnie, traveling back 25 years to unveil secrets better left hidden, and those better opened for airing.

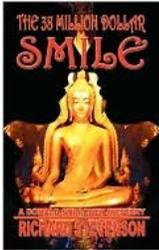
Set mainly in Canada, Sole's work delves deeply into the lives of hidden and flamboyant gays in the late 1980s and 1990s, demonstrating the acceptance that has been gained, and also the prejudices that still remain. Well-written and researched, this mystery / thriller will engage the reader from the start and not let up until the end. Suitable for any mystery

collection, the content is gay only in the sense that the main characters are gay. This is a wonderful addition to any collection where there is a wish to demonstrate that mainstream LGBT mysteries can be as good as "traditional" ones.

Reviewed by, Sara Rofosky Marcus
Assistant Professor
Electronic Resource / Web Librarian
Queensborough Community College

Stevenson, Richard. *The 38 Million Dollar Smile. A Donald Strachey Mystery.*

Albion, NY: MLR Press, c2009. 278p. ISBN: 978-1-60820-013-9.



This is the 10th Donald Strachey mystery, some of which have been Lambda Prize Finalists and several of which have been made into movies. Stevenson (whose real name is Richard Lipez) is indeed a talented storyteller and writer.

As in past stories, this complex mystery begins in Albany, NY, Strachey's home base. But it quickly moves to Thailand, where we're

treated to a thorough taste of the underside of that society. And not just the political turmoil that makes the U.S. news either, but the corruption and brutality common in some spheres, especially among the police and military. Thai public relations will not be pleased.

The reader can get bogged down in the many complicated Thai personal names. This is made more difficult when the name of a key character gets changed accidentally (p. 84) and two characters get mixed up (p. 206)—errors not prone to spell-checker correction.

Mystery fans will enjoy this book despite the challenges, especially the large audience of Stevenson's detective Donald Strachey and his partner Timothy Callahan. There are lots of gay characters, but no sex apart from references to it. Libraries that cater to mystery fans will want to add this book to their collection of Donald Strachey mysteries.

Reviewed by, James Doig Anderson
Professor Emeritus of Library & Information Science
Rutgers University

History of the GLBT Round Table

While exploring GLBTRT materials in the ALA Archives for the Website Committee's newsletter index project, (page 4) I found the following brief, inspiring speech among delightful conference flyers, earnestly compiled bibliographies and meeting minutes. On a single sheet of paper are four crisply typed paragraphs — the acceptance speech Isabel Miller delivered upon receiving the first Annual Gay Book Award from the Task Force on Gay Liberation, Wednesday, June 23, 1971 at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas Texas.

Anne Moore's contribution about the history of our Round Table's Stonewall Book Award (page 2) made us think this speech is a perfect artifact from the archives to share.

David S. Vess, University of Illinois

Acceptance Speech - First Annual Gay Book Award - American Library Association Convention - Dallas - June 20-26, 1971

Thank you for this award, which pleases so many of my selves---the one that grew up in the stacks of a small public library in northern Michigan, the one that wrote A Place for Us and enjoys being told when people like it, and the one who is gay and proud.

I think the existence of this award tells gay people something we've been needing to hear: that homosexuality is an interesting and valid source of subjects for artists, that it is worth the full concentration of artists, and that the true things we observe in it have a general human meaning.

As our great anti-homosexual artist Robert Frost said in another connection, "something we were withholding made us weak, until we found it was ourselves we were withholding ... and forthwith found salvation in surrender."

I hope gay artists will more and more stop withholding themselves from their work. I hope we will more and more look to our own lives and our friends' lives and to our great secret history for subjects and inspiration, and I hope organizations like this will more and more confirm us when we do.

Isabel Miller

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