



GLBTRT Newsletter

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

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

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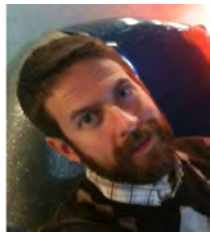
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Does ALA has your current email address, phone number, etc.?

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

From the Chair...



As 2013 begins, ALA election preparations are in full swing. Now is the time to consider running for office in the GLBT Round Table or other ALA groups.

The round table has a number of offices to fill in this election: chair-elect; treasurer; two directors-at-large seats; and our round table councilor position. (See page 16 for information about running for office.) Voting will be open from 19 March to 26 April, 2013. Make sure that ALA has your current contact information by logging into ala.org and updating your profile information.

An important part of our mission is guaranteeing that LGBT members are represented across the Association. To achieve this, GLBTRT will maintain and share a list of our members running for offices in an effort to promote them.

If you're running for office in the GLBTRT or elsewhere in the Association, tell us about your plans on the membership email list. Let us know what position you're running for, and send us a link to your Facebook election page or web site. Useful information includes what you hope to accomplish in that office and why people should vote for you. You can join our membership email list by visiting our [Email Lists page](#).

Since the executive board launched in July, we've kept in touch through our email list, conference calls, and a few practice online meetings. The board faces many challenges in its inaugural year, but we're making wonderful progress addressing these questions: What does it mean to be an executive board? How do you conduct good meetings online and in person? Why meet at all? What processes do we need to help us conduct our work? How do we work with our committees to assure that important tasks are accomplished while looking to the future?

Toward that end, I've already begun lobbying ALA staff to offer ongoing training in conducting and participating in meetings, a fundamental demand of our professional lives. I've had extensive training on conducting and participating in meetings, and yet I still consider myself a novice.

In November the Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) took a great step in this training with its webinar "Going Virtual Without Going Mad" which covered how other round tables have embraced virtual meetings. GLBTRT member Carolyn Caywood discussed her experience with virtual meetings at work and within ALA. Carolyn is the GLBTRT Representative to the Freedom to Read Foundation and Chair-elect of the Retired Members Round Table (RMRT). [The recording of the meeting is posted](#). An article about the webinar is on page 5.

A few months ago I expressed a concern to our board about the lack of formal charges for some administrative committees (web, membership, fund raising, etc). Joel Nichols and Larry Romans, two directors-at-large, will soon solicit input from our membership about this project. Watch for email from Larry and Joel about this on the [GLBTRT Email List](#). The board hopes to formally charge all committees by Midwinter.

The ALA Midwinter Meeting begins in Seattle in just a few weeks. You'll see the GLBTRT meetings and the social on the ALA [conference scheduler](#) and on page 2. The scheduler has a number of features to improve your conference planning and experience. Log in to the scheduler to see who is attending events, shop for events to add to your own schedule, and export your schedule to your personal calendar. The results of our award and book list committee meetings and board meeting minutes will be posted on the round table email list.

If you have any questions, contact me at david.vess@gmail.com. If you wish to send questions to the board, or other round table groups, visit our [contact page](#).

David

Midwinter 2013 Meeting Schedule

Saturday, January 26, 2013:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 8:30-10:30 am: Executive Board Meeting | Fairmont—Congress Rm. |
| 10:30-11:30 am: Current Issues for the GLBTRT: Censorship, Challenges, Banned Books (See p. 3) | Fairmont—Congress Rm. |
| 1:00-5:00 pm: Over the Rainbow Project Committee Meeting I | W Hotel—Studio 2 |
| 1:30-5:30 pm: Stonewall Book Awards Committee Meeting I (closed) | Sheraton—Everett |
| 2:00-5:00 pm: Rainbow Project Committee Meeting I (Joint SRRT) | Renaissance Hotel—Rm. 525 |

Sunday, January 27, 2013:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 9:00 am-5:00 pm: Rainbow Project Committee Meeting II (Joint SRRT) | Renaissance Hotel—Rm. 525 |
| 1:00-5:00 pm: Over the Rainbow Project Committee Meeting II | W Hotel—Studio 2 |
| 2:00-4:00 pm: Stonewall Book Awards Committee Meeting II (closed) | Sheraton—Everett |

6:00-8:00 pm: GLBTRT Social—Diesel, 1413 14th Avenue, Seattle; (206) 322-1080



The GLBTRT social at Midwinter 2013 is a reasonable walk (depending on the weather) or a short cab ride from the Convention Center. The bar will be open, but the music will be turned down. There will be food (appetizer type of food) and cash bar.

Opened about 18 months ago, the venue has received positive reviews from its patrons, including "good strong drinks" and "pretty tasty grub."

If you have any extra time in Seattle, you might want to check out the [Seattle Arts Guide](#) on the ACRL Arts Section website.

The Rainbow Project [invites people](#) to attend their meetings. Times and locations are above in the schedule of meetings.

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Newsletter Deadlines

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Winter Supplement | 2/15/13 |
| Spring 2013 | 3/15/13 |
| Summer 2013 | 5/15/13 |
| Summer Supplement | 7/15/13 |

Around the Youth Circuit by Jenna Goodall



The Davis School District in Utah is being sued over violation of First Amendment rights for removing *In Our Mothers' House* by Patricia Polacco from the shelves of elementary libraries.

The book is about a family raised by lesbian mothers. It was originally challenged by the parent of a kindergartner who brought the book home.

Initially, the school moved the book to a section for older readers, but the kindergartner's parents were not satisfied with this. They gathered 25 signatures on a petition for further action to be taken against the book. It was then decided by the district committee that the book would be placed behind the counter and a parent signed permission slip would be required for a child to check out the book.

One mother of three children in the district, Tina Weber, was not happy about the limited access of this book. She decided to contact the American Civil Liberties Union to ask for help in making a case against the district. They are now representing her in this class-action complaint and [insisting the book be returned](#) to the shelves.

The author of the book released a powerful video response to her book being restricted. In her [response](#), she explains the inspiration behind the book.

If you are unfamiliar with the book, you can view a reading of it from [a video](#) made by the Salt Lake County Library.³

And Tango Makes Three had finally dropped off the top 10 banned book lists in 2011, having been on it for the [previous five years](#). It seemed people had finally realized that a sweet book about a penguin family was not harmful to children. Alas, Tango has not seen the end of his criticism quite yet: ten scheduled performances of "And Then Came Tango," a play inspired by the true story, have been canceled in Texas at Austin-based elementary schools. The play was put on by students from the University of Texas Department of Theatre & Dance.

"The subject matter communicated in the play is a topic that the [Austin Independent School District] believes should be examined by parents/guardians who will discuss with their elementary school age children at a time deemed appropriate by the parents/guardians," [stated Greg Goodman](#), fine arts director of the AISD.⁵

Fortunately, this did not mean the end for "And Then Came Tango." A handful of schools outside the district were interested in performances for their students. The cast also offered [five free public performances](#).

Molly Wetta posted on YALSA's blog, The Hub,

her reflections after attending the [panel](#) "The Invisible Minority: LGBTQ Teens and Their Literature" at YALSA's YA Literature Symposium. According to Wetta, only 55 of all the young adult novels published in 2012 featured queer characters. She highlighted some of this year's titles as well as some titles to look forward to in 2013. In addition, she talked about the presentation given by one of the panel's speakers, Brian Katcher, author of the Stonewall Award-winning book *Almost Perfect*.

I was lucky enough to also attend this presentation, and I was impressed and inspired by Katcher. As Wetta noted in her post, Katcher identifies as straight and teaches in rural Missouri. He set out to write a romance story with a twist and came out with a story about a transgender person. When the idea initially popped into his head, he made sure to do his research of the transgender community. He stated in his presentation that at first he was just looking for factual information about transitioning but quickly became swept up in all these peoples' stories. He then knew that this was a story that needed to be told.

A few months ago NPR published a list of the 100 Best-Ever Teen Novels, a list that received a lot of backlash for how [white-washed](#) the contents were. Only two books featured protagonists of color. I cannot say this as fact, but I think a large reason is that authors (or their publishers) are afraid to write about characters of different ethnicities for fear of getting it wrong. The same thing can be said about GLBT characters.

I think Katcher is a great model of showing that authors *can* write about all different kinds of characters as long as they do their research to avoid creating clichéd and stereotyped characters. Another great model is author Libba Bray whose book *Beauty Queens* featured characters of different ethnicities and religions, GLBT characters, and a character with a disability. I hope that these authors will be inspirational to others so we start to see more and more books that accurately represent the diversity we see in our world.

The GLBT Round Table will feature a discussion of book challenges, censorship and banned books as part of its ALA Midwinter Conference schedule.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, January 26 from 10:30 to 11:30 in Fairmont Hotel, Congress Room. The session will feature Angela Maycock, Assistant Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, providing a brief overview of how to deal with a challenge and the work of the OIF in dealing with challenges and bans. There will be a chance for questions to both Ms. Maycock and librarians who have dealt with these situations in their libraries. If you will be at Midwinter and have recently defended challenged books or materials, please email [Joel Nichols](#) and [Anne Moore](#).

iQueeries Brings LGBT Students Together at UW

The Information School at the University of Washington is proud to announce that it has formed a student organization called iQueeries, dedicated to supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and supportive ally students in the iSchool.

Membership is open to all students, staff, and faculty members at the iSchool, which houses the UW's MLIS program as well as a Master of Science in Information Management, a PhD in Information Science, and an undergraduate degree program in Informatics.

The University of Washington has a fairly robust LGBT support network on campus, including a permanent space, the Q center, dedicated to LGBT campus issues, and a variety of student-run organizations.

The name 'iQueeries' was first conceived of by some MLIS students at an autumn 2011 meeting of Rainbow Grads, the UW's school-wide organization for LGBT graduate students. However, it wasn't until spring 2012, after filling out a survey about LGBT student groups in MLIS programs across the country, that members of the student ALA chapter at UW got fired up to start such a group in earnest.

After meeting with the Diversity Programs coordinator at the iSchool and hearing that the idea for an LGBT group came up every year but had never actually materialized, a group of MLIS students got organized over the summer and mobilized a campaign at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year to drum up interest in the school, particularly among incoming new students

Positive interest was generated during student orientation, open meetings were held, and a vision was created for the group.

The mission of iQueeries is to provide a safe space within the iSchool to socialize with LGBTQ peers; to engage in professional development within information fields; to provide official channels for communication between LGBTQ students, faculty, and administration of the iSchool; to promote awareness of LGBTQ issues in information professions throughout the iSchool and beyond; and to support LGBTQ student leadership opportunities.

Already this year, iQueeries has hosted several open meetings and engaged in political activism. In October iQueeries members worked to create posters and fliers in support of Referendum 74, the measure to legalize same-sex marriage in Washington state, which succeeded on November 6, 2013. Social gatherings are also a priority, with visits to 'queeraoke' night at the neighborhood gay bar on the calendar for winter and spring.

The group has a [blog](#) and hopes to make connections with other MLIS student and professional organizations, such as the ALA GLBTRT, either online or in person at ALA Midwinter.

—Eli Gandour-Rood

Eli, native to the Pacific Northwest and a massive karaoke enthusiast, is a second-year MLIS student at the University of Washington iSchool.

Pop-up Bookstore Needs Help! Manhattan's only bookstore dedicated to LGBT literature may be able to move from a temporary location into a permanent home on the Lower East Side if their fundraising campaign is successful. The Bureau of General Services Queer Division, or [BGSQD](#), went into business on November 15 as a pop-up store at Strange Loop Gallery (27 Orchard Street between Canal and Hester) after the borough's only bookstores for the LGBTQ community closed. Bent Pages, which sells used and out-of-print LGBTQ literature on Staten Island, is the only other store in New York City. BGSQD has been invited to stay at the gallery through February 28; the gallery will also present an exhibition by documentary photographer Samantha Box on queer homeless youth during February.

Meet Kristen Hylton

Kristen Hylton is proud to be the Liaison for GLBTRT and NMRT this year until the close of ALA Annual 2013. She has been a member of the GLBTRT since 2010 when she began her library studies and recently decided it was high time to get more involved. She hopes her work will help encourage new membership in GLBTRT and facilitate collaboration between the two round tables.

December 2012 marks the completion of her Master of Library and Information Science degree from San José State University. Reference and Instruction are her specialties, though she also finds herself more and more drawn to Youth and Teen Services--she's definitely something of a kid at heart! In addition to her newly-minted MLIS, Kristen holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and minor in Latin American Studies from Sweet Briar College.

In her spare time, Kristen enjoys reading fantasy and science fiction novels, especially if they feature LGBTQ characters and is also a huge fan of graphic novels and manga. She loves visiting aquariums of all kinds, though she admits a soft spot for the Monterey Bay Aquarium in particular. Her favorite sea creature is the sunfish. When she can find the time and funds, Kristen likes to travel and has spent time in Great Britain, Australia, and much of the continental U.S. (though she hasn't made it to many of the northern states or the Midwest yet). She also hopes to brave the language barrier someday and visit places like Spain, Japan, Italy, Norway, and South Korea.

Kristen enjoys meeting new people, so feel free to get [in touch](#) with her!



Round Tables Explore Virtual Meetings

With travel to ALA conferences becoming more expensive and participants receiving less funding, the organization is looking into increased use of virtual meetings. The Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) sponsored a webinar on November 28 to address this issue. Following is the information about this webinar provided by Anne Moore, Past GLBTRT Director.

Mary Ghikas, Senior ALA Executive Director, began with an overview of ALA's policy on [virtual meetings](#). Meetings must be open to all members with ten days advance notice and permission from all participants if the meeting involves streaming. Non-ALA copyrighted content might require permission. ALA allows and encourages virtual meetings.

The webinar focused on synchronous meetings because a committee doing work by email is not covered by ALA meeting rules. Ghikas also emphasized that there are not two classes of committee members, real and virtual: there are just members.

Hallie Pritchett discussed MAGIRT's use of virtual meetings. Its executive board meets virtually every other month, and all committees are required to meet

twice between Annual and Midwinter. They found that SKYPE was the easiest software, over Connect. Meetings were set using Doodle Poll and then announced to the full members via the roundtable list. The group is investigating audio-only streaming.

Linda Crook described the virtual meetings of the New Members Round Table. With 171 committee members on 26 committees, NMRT has been having e-board meetings since 1999. Carolyn Caywood, Retired Members Round Table as well as GLBTRT and IFRT, implemented state virtual meetings when Virginia's budget cuts affected travel. Her ideas were basic, such as distributing documents in advance and having a Plan B, but she said that the chair shouldn't manage the technology.

It should also be noted that the round tables are required to pay for streaming and other costs. Even with SKYPE, the committee must rent a microphone to have best results.

Interested parties should definitely check out Caywood's [bibliography](#).

For more information, check out the [archived](#) information.

News Bits

Oscar Gittemeier clued us in on this cool library calendar—"[Libraries Are Such a Drag](#)." All proceeds go to the Georgia Library Association Beard Scholarship.

From Mack Freeman: For those of you who are interested, the long-running webcomic *Questionable Content* by Jeph Jacques has just introduced its first trans character. The conversation where Claire reveals her trans status begins [here](#) and is still ongoing; and [here](#) is the comic where (to the best of my knowledge), Claire first appears.

The Dean Hamer collection is now housed at the [Kinsey Institute Library](#) at Indiana University. Best known as the discoverer of the "gay gene," he also became a director and producer of documentary films, including the Emmy Award-winning PBS film *Out in the Silence*, which examines the reactions to his marriage to his partner Joe Wilson in a small conservative town in rural Pennsylvania.

The University of Victoria (BC) now has the [largest transgender archive](#) in the world, including the full run of the underground magazine *Transvestia* from 1960 through 1986. The thousands of papers, plaques, photographs, newsletters, certificates, posters, and tapes in the collection came from Rikki Swin, a Chicago manufacturer of plastic injection molding who moved to Victoria in 2007. Archives of other leading activists such as Ari Kane and Merissa Sherril Lynn extended the long list of rare items. And the number of items is still growing as the [website](#) has elicited offers from all over the continent. Although 25 per cent of the collection has been catalogued and made available to the public, only one per cent has been digitized.

January opens [nominations](#) for the Lambda Literary Outstanding Mid-Career Novelist Prize with two cash prizes of \$5,000. The awards will be presented to two LGBT-identified authors and recognizes LGBT content of importance to the LGBT community. Winners are emergent LGBT authors who have written and published at least three novels, or two novels and substantial additional literary work such as poetry, short stories, and essays.

[LGBT Writers in Schools](#) project connects authors with high school, university, and college classrooms via free Skype or in-class visits to discuss the author's work and LGBT issues. Contacts are [John Pruitt](#), Gay/Straight Educators Alliance, or [Monica Carter](#), Program Coordinator, LGBT Writers in Schools Program.

Those Who Led the Way

Filmmaker, photographer, playwright, and philanthropist **Arch Brown**, born Arnold Krueger, died of natural causes at his home in Palm Springs, California, on September 3, 2012. He was 76 years old. Famous during the 1970s and early 1980s as the director of a series of feature-length gay pornographic films, Brown began writing plays with *News Boy* in the late 1970s. During the last decade he founded and ran the Thorny Theater, in Palm Springs, which showed several gay-themed plays each season. Brown's lifelong partner, Bruce Brown, died in 1993. There are no survivors.

Celebrated poet, activist and author **William Brandon Lacy Campos** died in New York City on November 9 at the age of 35. He was the co-executive director of Queers for Economic Justice and a prominent figure within the nation's social activist and "activist" communities as well as a prolific blogger and social media personality. Campos' great-great uncle was the Black historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the second Black man to be awarded a doctorate from Harvard University and the founder of Black History Month.

GLBTRT Members Attend IFLA Conference in Helsinki

Several GLBTRT members attended the IFLA 2012 World Library and Information Conference in Helsinki last summer. Michael Miller presented on his Fulbright award at the pre-conference entitled *Transcending Boundaries to Increase Cultural Understanding between Countries* in Lappeenranta (Finland), and Sarah Dahlen presented on rubrics in information literacy at

the satellite meeting entitled *The Road to Information Literacy: Librarians as Facilitators of Learning* in Tampere (Finland).

The Itinerant Poetry Librarian, Sara, (UK) has provided her multi-year adventure of making poetry available on the road through her [twitter account](#).

Noémi Somorjai of Hungary used the poster session to present *Libraries for Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Library Users*. Because poster sessions are an excellent way to draw attention to the needs of LGBT library services and user populations is to present sessions or posters at conferences, both Noémi and I want to encourage people to submit posters and programs for IFLA meetings.

The call for papers for the main WLIC next year in Singapore and the satellite meetings will be [posted](#) at the conference website.

We look forward to a joint program of the Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section in Singapore with the Education and Training Section and the Special Interest Group on Indigenous Matters.

—Steve Stratton



Pride Foundation Provides Toolkit for LGBT-Supportive Laws

A new [toolkit](#), supported by Pride Foundation, helps tribal governments change laws to support tribal members who are Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer. Native Two Spirit/LGBTQ individuals now face some of the highest disparities in the United States. More than half of Two Spirit/LGBTQ students experience violence at school because of their sexual orientation, and 56 percent of transgender Native Americans have attempted suicide. The [toolkit](#) identifies areas where existing tribal laws may unintentionally discriminate and offers sample legal language that tribes can adopt.

Creating the toolkit was a collaboration of the Indigenous Ways of Knowing Program at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling, Native American Program of Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Western States Center, and Basic Rights Oregon. Coinciding with the release of the toolkit, BRO presented a special screening of an eight-minute video that focuses on the trials and triumphs of Two Spirit Native Americans. The video is the latest in a series featuring LGBTQ families of color.

GLBTRT Buddy Program for ALA Conferences

The GLBTRT Buddy program brings together an active veteran member of the Round Table with a novice round-table member or with any member becoming active for the first time or after a long absence.

If you are a novice or newly active member, we want to pair you with a veteran active GLBTRT member who can answer your questions and introduce you to other members at the GLBTRT Social and other events. If you are already an active member of GLBTRT, please consider volunteering to spread the GLBTRT word. Each veteran volunteer will be provided with information to give your novice buddy.

The Membership Committee asks that veteran volunteers:

- Commit to the program for one Annual Conference or Midwinter Meeting
- Attend the GLBTRT Social
- Touch base with assigned buddy before conference via phone or email

- Meet with buddy just prior to or at the Social
- Introduce your buddy to other GLBTRT members at the Social
- Give advice and information on GLBTRT meetings & activities

If possible, make a commitment to meet at least once more with buddy at the conference, to touch base with them on how the conference has gone and answer any questions. This could be at a GLBTRT meeting, over coffee or lunch, etc.

Whether you are a novice or a veteran, just answer the questions at the online GLBTRT Buddy page (<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/membership/buddy>) so that we can make the best buddy match possible. We will try to match you with someone who works in the same type of library where you currently work or hope to work in.

If you know of anyone who will be participating that you would like to be matched with, please indicate it on the online form. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Romans at larry.romans@vanderbilt.edu

Shawn Vaillancourt's excellent article, "[Libraries as Safe Spaces](#)," appeared in a December issue of *American Libraries*.

Book Reviews: Fiction

L.A. Fields. *My Dear Watson*.

Lethe Press, 2013. PB. 276p. \$18. 978-1-59021-368-1.



Years after the retirement of Arthur Conan Doyle's famous fictional detective duo, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson, Fields reconnects the two in this excellent addition to the collection of novels about Doyle's characters. The catalyst for the meeting in this book is Dr. Watson's fictional second wife, who wants to meet the man who became her husband's lover decades earlier.

Doyle uses Watson to document most of the cases that the two detectives solve. Fields uses a fresh approach with Mrs. Watson's chronicles, in chronological order, of her husband's experiences with the "strange fellow," as she describes Holmes. Her observations are interspersed among her recording of the one evening in 1919 when the 65-year-old Holmes comes to dinner, shows a delightful perspective of not only the mysteries but also the background of Victorian/Edwardian culture and language.

It is a grand ride with Mrs. Watson as, with great trepidation, she greets Holmes with her husband by her side, having learned from Watson's stories that he and Holmes are still lovers. It is an evening of jealous jabs and pointed sparing between the two as they fight over Watson. Yet throughout the evening, her antagonism toward Holmes and her desire to never see him again gradually shifts to a grudging respect and understanding that Watson needs to keep a closeness with Holmes in order to be happy.

The writing resonates far more deeply than just the added development of characters that have fascinated readers for over a century. More than a romance, it shows an amazing warmth and understanding about diverse relationships as well as great fun in following the flashbacks of Holmes' cases.

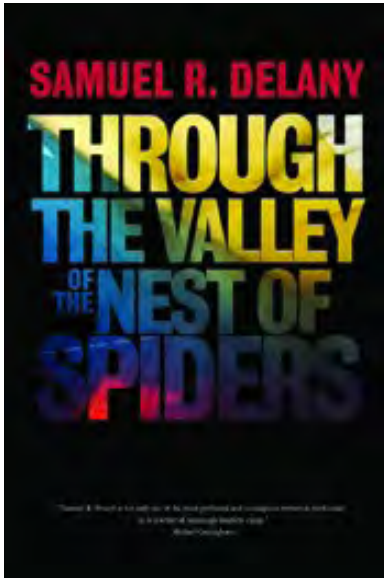
My Dear Watson is a great addition to the hundreds of spinoffs to the Sherlock canon, the best of which may have been Laurie King's *Mary Russell Series*, but it can also act as an introduction to the Holmes stories or stand alone as a really good read. Recommended for all public libraries.

Reviewer: Sue Hardesty, Retired Librarian

Book Reviews: Fiction

Samuel R. Delany. *Through the Valley of the Nest of Spiders.*

Magnus Books, 2012. Paperback. 804p. \$21.95 978-1-936833-14-6.



This novel is a masterpiece, a magnus opus, not only for its length but because of its stature as a magnificent literary work. Delany is one of our most famous and prolific contemporary American writers who also happens to be black and gay. Among his 47 works, the most famous are *Nova* (1968), *Dhalgren* (1975), *Return to Nevèrÿon* (1979-87), *The Mad Man* (1995), and *Dark Reflections* (2007).

Written between 2004 and 2011, this is a life-long saga that can

be compared to earliest classics like Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Instead of wide-ranging travel adventures, this portrays a life-long loving relationship between a young white boy and a slightly older black or mixed-race boy.

They meet in a T-room on the day Eric, the white boy, arrives with his black stepfather to his mother's small community on the Georgia coast. In the T-room he meets Morgan (whom everyone calls "Shit") and his father "Dynamite," and almost immediately they create the beginning of a relationship that lasts their entire lives.

The saga here is this relationship and their mutual adventures in and around a black gay utopia called "The Dump," created and financed by a wealthy black gay man. First they are garbage men, then they manage

(and enjoy) a gay porn theater, and finally the two men (after Dynamite's death) retire to an off-shore island dominated (nicely) by lesbians.

The best review of *Valley* is [Steven Shaviro's](#) which proclaims "It is the best English-language novel that I know of, of the 21st century so far." The up-and-coming Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Junot Díaz writes, "A deeply affecting chronicle of a lifelong partnership ... by turns generous, unsparing and bursting with life (and sex) in all its difficult, rousing, prismatic splendor. A truly staggering achievement ..."

The title is an homage to Italo Calvino's 1947 novel *The Path to the Nest of Spiders*, which, in that coming-of-age novel during World War II in Italy, the boy has a secret hideout for protection from the Fascists. Yet Delaney's book has no nest of spiders and no hide-outs; instead a loving and free relationship extends to a large circle of friends, family, and neighbors.

The boys meet in 2007, and their relationship extends to at least 2077 when Shit dies, close to the age of 90. With little sense of science fiction, the book simply depicts down home in a small Georgia coastal community with minor hints of future technologies.

By the end we have multiple partner marriages and young people of both sexes often uncovering their tops and genitals. A side theme is Eric's obsession with a difficult book of philosophy, Spinoza's *Ethica*, which he reads over and over again throughout the novel.

Every library serious about American literature and specializing in LGBT literature must have it.

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

Molly Beth Griffin, Molly Beth. *Silhouette of a Sparrow.*

Milkweed Editions, 2012. Paperback. 191p. \$16.95. 978-1-57131-701-8.



Silhouette of a Sparrow is an absolute treasure of a book. As a Minnesota native passionate about the 1920s, I instantly fell in love with this coming-of-age book.

Because of a polio epidemic, shy 16-year-old Garnet Richardson is sent to a lake resort to live with distant relatives for the summer. Her dreams of becoming an ornithologist and visiting the local amusement park change after she meets Isabella, an outgoing flapper.

Instead of following her mother's wish for her to get married, she struggles to find where her true love lies. Garnet's entire summer is turned upside down as she transforms from a quiet girl to a rebellious woman.

Griffin writes an intriguing story with incredibly relatable characters. I only wish I had access to this book when I was figuring out my own sexuality. I believe many teenage girls will find this book as irresistible as I did.

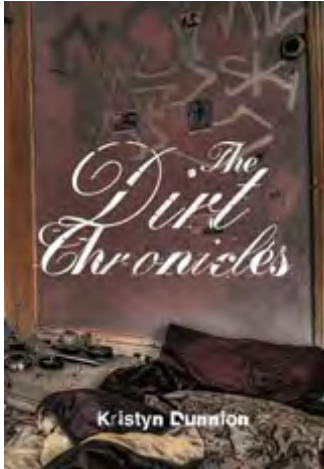
Silhouette is suggested for any public library's young adult section, especially one with a large teen population. Recommended for ages 13 years and older.

Reviewer: Talia Earle, MLIS Student St. Catherine University, Minnesota

Book Reviews: Fiction

Kristyn Dunnion. *The Dirt Chronicles*.

Arsenal Pulp Press, 2012. Paperback. 246p. \$17.95. 978-1-55152-426-9.



Dunnion's elegant book is more postmodern novel than the short stories that it is billed as—intense, thick realities where real characters live out sad and exhilarating lives. They range from undocumented immigrants to queer teens in the criminal justice system, gutter punks to crime bosses, and yet exist inside a carefully structured fictional whole that puts outsiders in and shows readers around subcultures in Toronto—gritty squats and lofts, desperate

tenements, and lonely roads.

Dunnion's earlier experimental lesbian sf novel, *Big, Big Sky*, featured vivid alien landscapes and bodies, so it comes as no surprise that the setting of these stories is engrossing and specific enough to read like an sf world. It also vividly demonstrates the emotional play of the narrative.

This book shows graphic violence. Powerful characters and institutions cruelly abuse others. But Dunnion's razors are sharper than just that. Her characters

show that the victims are not weak, and several of them fight back hard. Here a character, a teenaged lesbian in another kind of prison, works out her survival: "*Creak*. I lean against the second step. *Crack*. An old board breaks loose--the wood comes free when I tug hard at one end. Nice. Now I have a weapon: a spider-infested two-by-four with rusty nails at either end. I rinse the thing off in the sink, wash the sticky white nests down the drain."

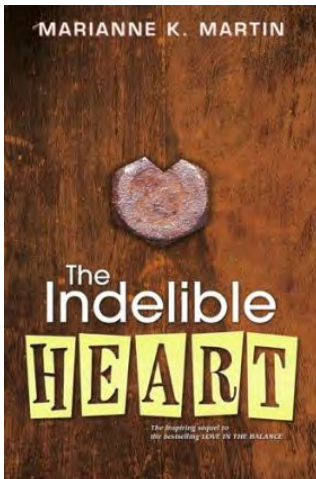
Gay male readers will appreciate the quirky and sexy romance that ignites between a disaffected office worker and the blond Viking of a bike messenger named Two Ton, whose honest desire, brute force, and unexpected but frustratingly limited emotional tenderness captivates. He eventually cycles back around in this narrative in a minor way, showing again how tightly Dunnion weaves her threads.

Recommended for collections of lesbian, gay, and bisexual fiction, as an adult novel with strong older teen crossover appeal, and for readers hungry for strong queer women characters. Of particular note is that one of the teenaged lesbians is Native American, and part of the narrative follows her and her girlfriend back to the reservation where she grew up.

Reviewer: Joel Nichols
Free Library of Philadelphia

Marianne K. Martin. *The Indelible Heart*.

Bywater Books, 2011. Paperback. 232p. \$14.95 978-1-932859-775.



Sequel to Martin's *Love in the Balance*, this novel continues the stories of four characters introduced in the earlier book as well as introducing new women in these stories of friendship, second chances, love, and passion.

Based on the true story of the May 5, 1992, murder of Susan Pittmann and her lesbian partner Christine Puckett by their homophobic neighbor James Brooks, Martin shows the ripple of this anti-gay event on the families and friends of the victims.

In addition to Sharon's struggles with her friends' murders, two other strongholds in their LGBT community, Sage and Deanne, are dealing with their own family problems, including a Native American daughter who is facing prejudice at school because of her heritage and her lesbian mothers. Sharon has also split with her

previous lover and is with a new, younger lover, Kim who fails to understand Sharon's loss. With many frustrations in her new relationship, Sharon is unable to deal with the "or worse" side of the partnership.

When the killer asks for an early release date, Sharon's friends worry that she will once again start drinking through her depression.

Martin shows strong female characters striving to overcome adversity while supporting each other with strength and tough love. The characters draw in the reader through their suffering and triumphs. The emotions flowing throughout the novel ride on a roller coaster as the lives of the couples weave together.

Those who like Fannie Flagg and the television show *Army Wives* will be drawn into this story. This book will be a good addition to any chick lit collection for adults or mature young adults especially those who like love scenes. (Reviewed from an advanced readers copy.)

Reviewer: s.n.

Book Reviews: Speculative Fiction

Sean Eads. *The Survivors*.

Lethe Press, 2012. Paperback. 222p. \$15. 978-1-59021-299-8.



The aliens have landed, and Craig Mencken, a freelance journalist for a struggling car magazine in Denver, is annoyed. No, the aliens are not destroying cities or threatening to blow up the planet. They are not doing much of anything except for ignoring people and getting in the way.

Two aliens have moved into Craig's home which is why he is annoyed at them. They raid his refrigerator, lie around on his couch and bed, and refuse to acknowledge Craig's existence. Everyone is wondering why the government is not reacting to the invasion.

As the aliens continue to land all over Earth, Mr. Morrison, the owner of the car magazine, assigns Craig to write an "interview" with the aliens to boost the magazine's circulation. Craig prepares a list of questions, and one of his resident aliens provides the answers. No one believes the published interview because

it is in car magazine, but it brings Craig to the attention of an FBI agent and causes him to be reunited with his ex-lover Scott who is involved with a shadowy group called "The Company." Craig is drawn into its clutches.

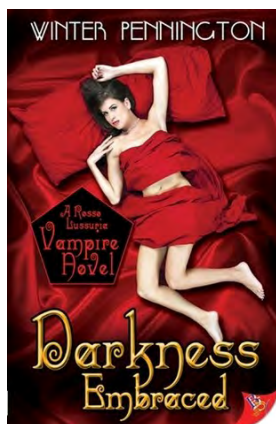
Aliens are central to the novel and space ships are mentioned, so *The Survivors* can properly be called a science fiction story. The ideas and themes that are explored, however tangentially, are what make it an interesting read. The aliens treat humans with an indifference that mirrors our indifference towards despised groups such as the homeless. The issue of coordinated action versus blind rage is central to the second half of the novel. Should the people of earth suffer in silence or is vigilante action justified when the government does not protect its citizens. The issue of overpopulation also comes into play.

While this novel is lighthearted at the beginning, it turns rather dark towards the conclusion. *The Survivors* is recommended for public libraries as well as academic libraries. (Review from advance reader's copy.)

Reviewer: Paul Hubbard
Retired Public Reference Librarian

Winter Pennington. *Darkness Embraced* (*Rosso Lussuria Vampire #1*).

Bold Strokes, 2011. Paperback. 241p. \$16.95. 978-1-60282-221-4.



Reborn a vampire and sired by the Queen of the Rosso Lussuria, Epiphany was the Queen's beloved pet and sexual partner, at least for the first part of her rebirth. When she is cast from the Queen's protection, losing her protection from the more experienced vampires called Elders, Epiphany must remain as inconspicuous as possible to avoid becoming a target.

Approaching her 200th year, Epiphany is called to face the challenges to elevate her clan status to that of an Elder, bringing her to the same political standing as the very vampires she dreaded and feared. The challenges become more dangerous than anyone could imagine as Epiphany becomes a pawn and a motivation for those seeking to overthrow the Queen.

A political espionage-esque tone overlays the romance in the tale, and the harsh vampire politics are always just underneath the surface of the love, strife, lust, and hate faced by cross-level romances among jealous former lovers and want-to-be lovers. The nu-

merous graphic sex scenes, realistically portrayed, belie the fantasy nature of this romance novel, complete with magical swords, vampires, and Dracules.

The backstabbing, fighting for power, greed, and hierarchy are all metaphorically adept at portraying any governmental or political organization, symbolically bringing to light the very underpinnings of treason and politics occurring today.

The novel can be classified as lesbian erotica with sizzling scenes that demonstrate how vampires and Dracules both enjoy the physical sensualities of the human body. Yet the plotting and planning leads it to be also considered a romance/mystery.

Pennington draws the readers in from the beginning, causing them to empathize with Epiphany and wondering why she was cast out and then brought back. The beginning creates such questions as why the Queen who sent her away becomes Epiphany's strongest supporter and whether Vasco is a true friend or only following orders. Friendships, alliances, mythical beings, and love underscore the plot from start to finish.

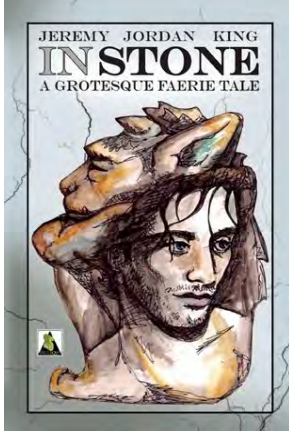
Whether readers are seeking a book on vampires or romance, this novel meets both needs. It is recommended for libraries that collections in these areas.

Reviewer: s.n.

Book Reviews: YA Fiction

Jeremy Jordan King. *In Stone: A Grotesque Faerie Tale.*

Bold Strokes, 2012. Paperback. 141p. \$11.95. 978-0-7582-0438-7.



This young adult novel/contemporary faerie tale begins with a hate crime committed against 22-year-old Jeremy, a recent college graduate during the economic crisis who lives in a questionable part of New York City. Jeremy is saved by a mysterious figure, who he cannot remember seeing. Jeremy's guardian also happens to be a centuries-old gargoyle.

The novel examines the relationship between Jeremy and his guardian and friends, as he tries to find his way in the world. For many adults in

their early twenties, the story is a familiar one. Jeremy's trying to find a job while thousands of dollars in debt and only finding employment in the food industry is a universal narrative. On top of this, Jeremy is also gay and searching for love.

This book is recommended for ages 13 and over because of some graphic scenes of violence and language. It will be a welcome addition in public libraries with a GLBT teen section or in a high school library.

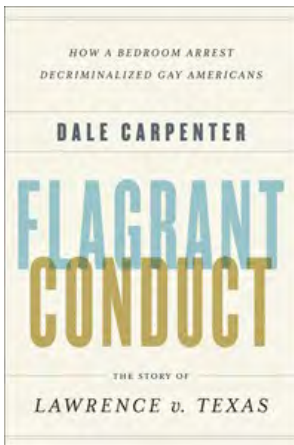
Suggest this to patrons who express interest in fantasy, GLBT fiction, and/or contemporary literature.

**Reviewer: Talia Earle, MLIS Student
St. Catherine University, Minnesota**

Book Reviews: Nonfiction

Dale Carpenter. *Flagrant Conduct: The Story of Lawrence v. Texas.*

Norton, 2012. 345p. \$29.95. 978-0-393-06208-3.



I was only 14 years old when the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision came down, but I can remember the news reports on that day. Even then I realized what an important decision it was.

At that time, however, my 14-year-old self had no idea how a late night arrest for homosexual sodomy in Houston, Texas, in 1998 would help change a history of gay discrimination in the United States forever. This is the case that made same-sex sexual activity

legal throughout the United States.

Dale Carpenter, the Earl R. Larson Professor of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law at the University of Minnesota Law School, does a fantastic job of presenting a well-rounded take on the issues at stake. The first part of the book, "Before the Arrest," details the different players in the case, briefly explores sodomy laws in the world, explains the history of gay rights in Houston. The second section, "The Arrest," details the arrest at Lawrence's home under the charge of "homosexual conduct."

"After the Arrest" clarifies the various court proceedings over the four years of this case's lifespan. This is the part in which where the narrative really comes alive.

The highlight of the book is Carpenter's illumination of the Lawrence legal team's internal thought process. Lawrence and Garner, the men arrested on the charge of homosexual conduct, were far from the perfect poster children. Men of different races, separated in age by over 20 years, not in a committed relationship, and with criminal records, they were considered low-class. The legal team's challenge was to keep the issue of gay rights and sodomy laws front and center while avoiding what many of the lawyers considered a potential public relations nightmare.

At times, it can feel as though the book is too segmented because the discussion of the arrest and the case doesn't begin until almost a quarter of the way through the book. A more mixed discussion may have made this book more engaging for general audiences.

The point-by-point examination undertaken by Carpenter allows, however, for an in-depth study of the issue that both casual and professional scholars can appreciate.

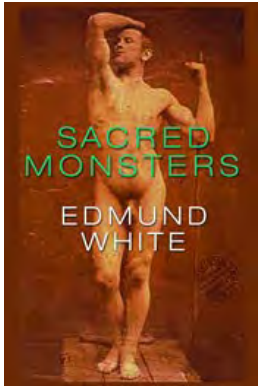
This book is recommended for any person interested in the legal history of gay rights or the evolution of queer status over time. Also, this is a perfect book for any library collection that has an extensive collection of case histories, legal narratives, or queer interest items. Accessible to all audiences, *Flagrant Conduct* does not require prior information to understand all of the issues and forces at play in this seminal court case.

Reviewer: Mack Freeman

Book Reviews: Nonfiction

Edmund White. *Sacred Monsters.*

Magnus Books, 2011. Hardcover. 255p. \$24.95. 978-1-936833-11-5.



In this collection of essays from 1984 to 2011 by an American gay author, most of the writings have appeared elsewhere, primarily in the *New York Review of Books*. The one on Reynolds Price which is not listed as previously published also appeared there. White explains in the Preface that the title of the collection comes from the French expression *monstre sacré*, meaning someone who, despite faults and eccentricities, is above criticism.

The essays are not scholarly nor do they employ any form of literary theory, but they are learned, witty, and insightful. Also they are frequently full of detail about the lives of their subjects. For example, the reader learns about the personal relationship between William James and Howard Sturgis in the chapter entitled "Portrait of a Sissy" and that Edith Wharton had a kinder view of the Sturgis novel *Belchamber* than did James.

These are the views of an important generation,

the one born in the pre-Stonewall period but largely coming to adulthood in the period of the gay rights and sexual liberation movements before moving into the time of AIDS and the present. The essays on Truman Capote and David Hockey are particularly good at giving a direct look in on that world. The other essays do so indirectly by showing what White values in literature and in a life.

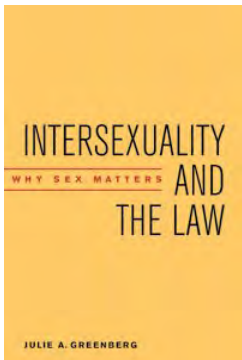
It is hard to imagine the exact use of such a collection of essays in an academic library because budgets are being cut and almost all of the essays can be gotten from subscription databases. A library may want to retain the essays in one piece as history, a way of representing Edmund White's views of a gay world now passing.

Clearly an academic library wanting to hold all of Edmund White's writings would want the book. It would also be a good addition to any public library collection where the essays are not easily gotten from other sources.

**Reviewer: David Woolwine, Associate Professor
Library Services, Hofstra University, Hempstead**

Julie A. Greenberg. *Intersexuality and the Law: Why Sex Matters.*

New York University Press, 2012. Hardcover. 169 p. \$32. 978-0-8147-3189-5.



An important addition to the growing number of books examining intersexuality, this book's goal "is to help shed light on which legal strategies may most effectively end discriminatory practices against people with an intersex condition and potentially assist other marginalized groups." Julie A. Greenberg, Professor of Law and former Associate Dean at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and an internationally recognized expert on the legal issues relating to sex and gender identity, is well qualified to define how the law impacts the lives and treatment of intersex people in our country.

According to Greenberg, "Approximately one in fifteen hundred to one in two thousand births involve a child who is born with genitalia so noticeably atypical that a specialist in sex differentiation is consulted and surgical alteration is considered."

Greenberg approaches her topic from the standpoint of the intersex activist movement, clarifying how the law can be used to enhance the lives of those with an "intersex condition." In contrast to other social justice movements, she considers whether the intersex movement can form beneficial coalitions with other movements.

Clear and useful definitions for a range of terms that are often misunderstood (including transgender, transsexuality, gender identity, and sexual orientation) enhance this discussion of the sociological and legal issues affecting intersex people.

In describing the medical practices carried out against intersex infants, Greenberg explains the assumptions that surgeons make about "normal" genitalia. She then examines the legal strategies that could be used to challenge these practices.

A large portion of the book is dedicated to explaining the parallels between the legal challenges of the intersex community and the transsexual community. She writes that, to date, the most litigated area in regards to sex determination is the establishment of a person's sex in order to marry. She also discusses identity documents and sex classification as these are used to determine housing opportunities and restroom use.

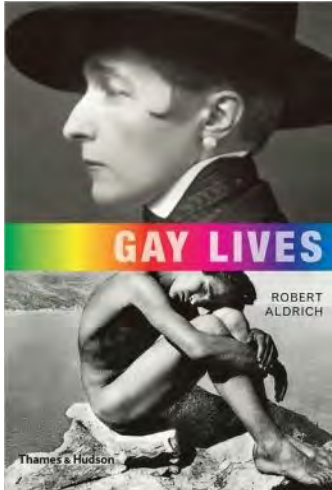
Greenberg also presents an overview of the intersex movement and its history. She states that the goal of her book "is to help shed light on which legal strategies may most effectively end discriminatory practices against people with an intersex condition and potentially assist other marginalized groups." This is a valuable book and should added to every collection.

**Reviewer: Morgan Gwenwald, Outreach Librarian
Sojourner Truth Library, SUNY New Paltz**

Book Reviews: Nonfiction

Robert Aldrich. *Gay Lives*.

Thames & Hudson, 2012. Hardcover. 304p. \$29.95. ISBN 978-0-500-25190-4. [128 illustrations; 56 in color]



These 67 biographical sketches of deceased individuals and seven of couples oriented toward same-sex relationships stretch from 2400 B.C.E. to the recent past from all over the world.

Aldrich, a professor of European History at the University of Sydney (Australia) writes in a clear, straight-forward style. The pairs focus on those who are eternally linked in history, such David and Jonathan; the individual sketches often describe multiple relationships.

Lavishly illustrated with portraits, paintings, photographs and other illustrations, the book is printed on heavy paper, giving the illusion that the illustrations are plates.

Ranging from two to four pages, the sketches each have sources listed at the back of the volume next to a comprehensive name index leading to the individuals mentioned in the sketches. Several other persons are included in most of the sketches, and cultural and historical background enhance the information.

The mystery is the reason behind Aldrich's decision of people to highlight. Many are famous (Sappho,

Michelangelo, Walt Whitman, Christopher Isherwood, Oscar Wilde, T.E. Lawrence, Del Martin, Harvey Milk), but others are not. Most subjects lived in Europe, but Egypt, Israel, China, the USA, Australia, Brazil, Japan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, India, and Iran are also represented.

Although occupations are extremely varied, the subjects are primarily poets, writers, photographers, painters, and other artists. Several are soldiers, emperors, or kings. Less common are a philosopher, religious (a monk, a friar, a nun, a cardinal), sexologists, a politician, a diplomat, teachers, a sinologist, and even a criminal and a waiter. Most of the subjects are men; only 17 sketches of women are included.

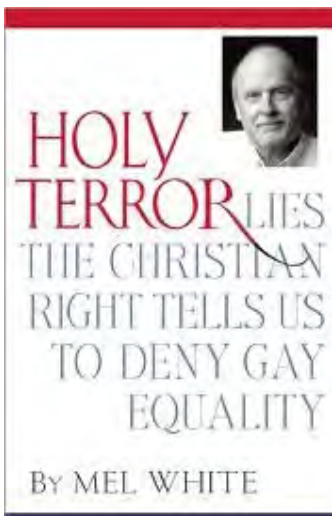
Arranged somewhat chronologically, the sketches begin with "Ancient Ancestors," followed by the Middle Ages and the Enlightenment, "Founding Fathers and Mothers" mostly from the 19th and early 20th centuries, "The Fin-de-siècle and Belle Époque," and ending with the recent past.

Other sections are more topical: "Women Who Loved Women," sex and politics, male beauty, "Radicals and Activists." Some sections are geographical: "Love in the Levant," "Japonisme," and "International Lives in the Modern Era."

Every library with any interest in the lives of LGBT folk will want to add this beautiful book to their collection.

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

Mel White. *Holy Terror: Lies the Christian Right Tells Us to Deny Gay Equality*. Magnus Books, 2006. Paperback. 384p. \$15.95. ISBN: 978-1-93683309-2.



Opening up with a tale of backroom deals between politicians and far-right, fundamentalist Christian groups, White traces the early history to the present of various high profile Christian leaders and their plans to destroy any rights of gays and lesbians.

Conspiracies abound through out *Holy Terror*, and would make anyone terrified of being gay or lesbian in America if you take what White is saying truly seriously.

However, this book was written in 2006 and while most editions update to present new information, this

book does not. Six years ago the future of gay and lesbian rights looked bleak. Since then there have been huge strides forward, such as the abolishment of Don't Ask Don't Tell, some states legalizing marriage equality, and the Democrats adding the support of equal marriage in their party platform.

While I believe the intent of *Holy Terror* is good and true, White includes chapters comparing the Christian Right to Nazis. As someone who feels that the only time one should make a Nazi comparison is when a group of people are being specifically targeted and killed for who they are, I think the book was over the top and lost a lot of credibility.

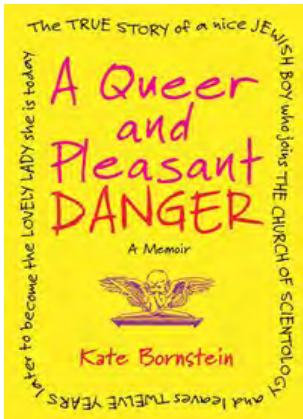
Holy Terror would work well in a public library setting, but, because it does not reflect the current state of the gay and lesbian affairs, it would do well in a history section rather than current affairs.

Reviewer: Talia Earle, MLIS Student St. Catherine University, Minnesota

Book Reviews: Memoir/Biography

Kate Bornstein. *A Queer and Pleasant Danger.*

Beacon Press, 2012. Hardcover. 258p. \$25.95. 978-0-8070-0165-3.



One of the most interesting, funny, and moving queer memoirs to appear this year is Bornstein's sharing of her most exceptional life, "the true story of a nice Jewish boy who joins the Church of Scientology and leaves twelve years later to become the lovely lady she is today."

She maintains that her inspiration for this book, six years in the making, is that her daughter, located high in the Church of Scientology and

forbidden to speak to her, will come across this book, and then... Well, if that happens there will certainly be a sequel, but in the meantime, track down this engaging, wildly embracing tale of discovery and transition.

Bornstein unflinchingly tells about her life from childhood near the Jersey shore to her experimental years at Brown University and escape from the draft followed by her tumble into Scientology. In her eleven

years with the Church she rose rapidly in the ranks and became a member of L. Ron Hubbard's inner circle, the Sea Organization.

Through the years she moved back and forth from boy to girl personas, pausing between the two, and trying on the fringes for good measure. After leaving the Church and two Scientology marriages Bornstein transitioned through gender reassignment surgery and entered the gay communities of Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, and New York. Crediting the queer theatre movement with saving her life she now deals with "Lady Death" in the form of chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Those familiar with this gender outlaw's other works (four books, performance art, and daily activism) will likely be intrigued by this memoir. The brave and honest book will find a well-deserved home in any queer collection or library that recognizes the growing interest in gender theory and identity.

**Reviewer: Morgan Gwenwald, Outreach Librarian
Sojourner Truth Library, SUNY New Paltz**

Book Reviews: Graphic Narrative

No Straight Lines: Four Decades of Queer Comics. Ed. by Justin Hall.

Fantagraphics Books, 2012. Hardcover. 308p. \$35. 978-1-60699-506-8.



This showcase of GLBT comics from the past forty years is absolutely fascinating, especially in giving the reader a wide variety of topics impacting the GLBT community. Arranged chronologically, the comics are split into three sections: pre-AIDS, the AIDS epidemic, and contemporary comics.

The comics before the AIDS epidemic were more light-hearted, less concerned with serious topics. When AIDS began affecting the GLBT commu-

nity, the comics take a much darker tone as shown in both the subject matter and the art. In comparison,

the more contemporary GLBT comics speak more about trans and bi topics, living with HIV, and being a survivor.

No Straight Lines exposes the reader to a wide variety of artistic styles and voices. An excellent introduction by editor Justin Hall gives a short overview of the history of queer comics.

Because the comics include explicitly sexual topics, this collection is suggested for a mature audience. The collection would be best suited for an academic or public library to expand their GLBT section and could be suggested to patrons who are interested in comics, GLBT history, and/or DIY culture.

**Reviewer: Talia Earle, MLIS Student
St. Catherine University, Minnesota**

The newest edition of *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, DSM-V, has changed "Gender Identity Disorder," referring to transgender people, to "Gender Dysphoria," no longer linked with sexual dysfunctions. At the same time, the DSM-V moved backwards by changing "Transvestic Fetishism" to "Transvestic Disorder" and grouped it with paraphilic diagnoses such as pedophilia and exhibitionism. The DSM-V is to be released in May 2013. More information about these changes at <http://nelsewday.wordpress.com/2012/12/22/>

Book Reviews: Poetry

Matthew Hittinger. *Skin Shift*.

Sibling Rivalry Press, 2012. Paperback. 113p. \$19.95. 978-1-937420-14-7.



How many different ways can we change our skin, and how does that change matter? That is the principal question taken up by Matthew Hittinger's 2012 collection *Skin Shift*. Hittinger approaches this topic from a variety of vantage points, examining change as different as Narcissus to Wonder Woman, from folktales to He-Man. In every piece, however, the idea of change is always present. Sometimes the change is desired; other times, it is unstoppable. In all these changes, though, it's not just

the skin that shifts, but something inside as well.

This collection contains the work of two of Matthew Hittinger's chapbooks: *Narcissus Resists* and *Platos de Sal*, both of which are among the strongest works in the collection. Although not related to anything else, thematically, this work serves as an update to Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in subject matter, even name-checking the classic at one point.

If you prefer poetry with a conversational tone and a fast-flowing tempo, you will find the best pieces in this collection are "Narcissus Resists" and "Platos de Sal" which attack the idea of transformation on two different fronts. "Narcissus Resists" updates the ancient Greek myth of Narcissus and turns it on its head by placing it in a modern

setting with a focus on technology, the Internet, mass media, and how these create change in the modern world. "Platos de Sal," on the other hand, tells the story of a young gay man conversing with his abuela about the changes to the homefront that have happened since he left and the transitions in the older woman's life that have echoes in his own. Both are incredibly touching, written in such a way that the reader wants to simultaneously read through them at a rapid clip so as to finish the whole piece and to slow down and savor the unfolding narrative.

In many cases, the intrepid reader will need to read with one eye on the poem and another on a reference source to get the full nuance of each poem. The allusions and references are thick on the page, and, due to the author's wide-ranging experience in both literature and art, not all of these allusions are immediately recognizable to all readers. While the poems are readable without this level of knowledge, much of the meaning is sacrificed without this context, especially in the shorter pieces.

This collection is suggested for any library with a modern poetry collection and for any person interested in the idea of change. Librarians may wish to suggest this to English teachers as extended reading because this work plays on many classic works with transformation as a central theme including Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, and a number of Greek and Roman myths.

Reviewer: Mack Freeman

Stephen S. Mills. *He Do the Gay Man in Different Voices*.

Sibling Rivalry Press, 2012. Paperback. 102p. \$14.95. 978-1-937420-08-6.



"Fearless boys with glitter in their blood" from the poem "A History of Blood" perhaps best encapsulates the mindset that Mills takes in his first book of poetry. This collection explores different facets of gay experience in the 21st century with a focus on sex and violence.

Mills consistently ties moments of personal importance with larger world events: for instance, a poem about fisting someone for the first time is tied to the day that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was repealed.

The poet rejects the notion that we should "...hide the good parts. The 'dirty' parts. A culture/obsessed with sex, yet so afraid of it." This culture confronts that shame by unabashedly ignoring it, and the result is this fantastic collection.

The book is structured into three divisions, each part having a narrative running throughout it. The first section primarily details the memories, action, and sexual practices of the author with his longtime partner. Interspersed with these everyday occurrences, the poet returns to the ideas of tragedy through repeated references to a pair of boys

hanged for sodomy in Iran and to gay bashings in the United States.

The second piece is composed entirely of the poem "An Experiment In How to Become Someone Else Who Isn't Moving Anymore" which uses the life and crimes of Jeffrey Dahmer as a counterpoint to the speaker's life. The last is an extended sequence of poems that arose from Mills' correspondence with Edmon Vardanyan (aka Nickolay Petrov), a gay porn star who was sentenced to prison in Louisiana for the assault of an elderly couple.

This third part is the weakest of three sections. Although the story of the correspondence between Mills and Petrov unfolds in a narrative and interesting way, a few of the poems in this cycle ("September 21, 1991" and "Lines From a Prison Letter") fall short of the emotional immediacy that characterizes much of the rest of the collection.

This book is a breath of fresh air and a competent first step for a poet who hopefully has a long career ahead of him. It is one that can be read again and again.

The collection is highly recommended for any library with an interest in gay and/or contemporary poetry. It should be noted that this collection contains explicit sexual imagery, but it is highly recommend to individuals who like boundaries pushed and literature unsanitized.

Reviewer: Mack Freeman

Calendar:

January 14: GLBTRT Board Meeting

January 21-25: No Name-Calling Week

January 25-29, Seattle: American Library Association Midwinter Meeting

January 29: Deadline to run for GLBTRT office

February 4: Deadline to file petition to become candidate for ALA Councilor-at-Large

February 12: National Freedom to Marry Day

It's Time to Run for GLBTRT Office!

The deadline to run for GLBTRT office is January 29, 2013, but please sign up before January 1. The election is in March with the results announced in early May.

This year the Round Table will elect

- ◆ Chair-Elect (three year cycle as Chair-elect 2013–2014; Chair 2014–2015; Past Chair 2015–2016)
- ◆ Treasurer (two-year term: 2013–2015)
- ◆ Directors-at-Large (two seats, two-year term: 2013–2015)
- ◆ Round Table Councilor (three-year term: 2013–2016)

To be eligible for an office, the candidate must:

- ◆ be a member of ALA and GLTBRT;
- ◆ attend meetings at Annual Conferences and Midwinter Meetings;
- ◆ be able to engage in deliberations via email throughout the year;
- ◆ and participate in virtual meetings.

To run for an office, register at <https://www.alavote.org/Nomination/Login/Login.aspx?e=120>. To nominate someone else to run, contact Larry Romans <larry.romans@vanderbilt.edu>. To be on the ballot, candidates must complete the biographical information form no later than February 4, 2013. Candidates are responsible for editing biographical information and statements; ALA staff will not proofread or edit biographical information. Any questions should be directed to Larry Romans.

GLBTRT Executive Board Roster

David Vess, 2012–2013
Chair
david.vess@gmail.com

Dale McNeill, 2011–2013
Treasurer
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