GLBTRT Newsletter

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

http://www.ala.org/glbtrt

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Vote!
Deadline: April 26, 2013

Does ALA has your current email address, phone number, etc.? 
• log in to ala.org (top right) 
• click "my account"
• 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

Midwinter Meeting is always an exciting time for the round table. It’s when our awards and book list committees deliberate, in marathon meeting sessions, to determine their lists. The release of the Stonewall Book Awards, Over the Rainbow Book List and Rainbow Book List was met the usual buzz. At one point my twitter client locked up as the @GLBTRT messages were coming in. My thanks to those committees who dedicated so much time to make these lists come into being: Stonewall Members; OTR Members; and Rainbow Members.

Thanks to past-chair Anne Moore, we held a fantastic session about banned books. The session, Current Issues for the GLBTRT: Censorship, Challenges, Banned Books was led by Angela Maycock, Assistant Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom. Angela talked about dealing with challenges and shared the services OIF provides for librarians facing challenges. There was a lively discussion with Ms. Maycock and librarians. Sadly, many in the audience have dealt with these situations in their libraries. If you ever face a challenge, contact the office. Even if you don’t avail yourself of their services, they need to collect data about book challenges.

The board meeting went well. We didn’t conduct specific round table business as we had a number of visitors. To learn more, visit our meeting notes with links to reports and other information [Word document]. As more reports from our committees, representatives and liaisons come in, I will add them.

Thanks to member Nancy Jacobson and Treasurer Dale McNeil, our social was a great success. Mike Reis, Mark Hurst and the great staff at Diesel, 1413 14th Avenue, Seattle, WA took care of us. It was a great night.

ALA elections begin 19 March. Did you get an email with, Email Address Validation for ALA 2013, in the subject line? If not, update your email address. See our instructions to the left. Ballots will be emailed March 19 to the 21st.

The talent and experience of this year’s GLBTRT board candidates is far too much to list, but you can find a summary of these on pp. 9-13. For a more complete listing, check the ALA ballot.

In the coming months, Chair-elect Roland Hansen will make committee appointments for terms starting July 1. If you’ve already volunteered, we have your application. Visit our Committee Volunteer Form for more information.

Thanks to Nel Ward and the Newsletter Committee we have this great Newsletter to share with you. David — david.vess@gmail.com
Stonewall Awards

Given annually to English-language titles of exceptional merit relating to the LGBT experience, the GLBTRT Stonewall Book Awards currently include three award-winning titles and twelve honor books. The awards will be presented to the winning authors or editors at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago in June.  http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/award

The Barbara Gittings Literature Award:

“The Last Nude,” written by Ellis Avery and published by Riverhead Trade.

The Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award:

“For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Still Not Enough: Coming of Age, Coming Out and Coming Home,” edited by Keith Boykin and published by Magnus Books.

The Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award:


The members of the 2013 Stonewall Book Awards Committee are: Chair Amanda L. Clay, Lakeview Elementary School, Norman, Okla.; Robert Bittner, University of British Columbia School of Library Archival & Information Studies, Vancouver; W. Stephen Breedlove, Lasalle University, Philadelphia; Em Bosman, New Mexico State University, N.M.; Peter D. Coyl, Dallas Public Library; Sarah Dahlen, California State University, Monterey Bay, Seaside, Calif.; Lewis Brian Day, Harvard University Houghton Library, Cambridge, Mass.; Joanna Wai Fu, Simmons College, Boston; Hillary Tess Goldwasser, St. Mary’s Country Library, Lexington Park, Md.; Dr. Rebecca D. Hunt, Northern Illinois University College of Education, De Kalb, Ill.; Laurie Spurling, Denver Public Library; Stephen Edward Stratton, CSU-Channel Islands, Camarillo, Calif.; Sarah Watstein, University of North Carolina At Wilmington, N.C.; Zeke White, Baltimore County Public Library and Donald L.Yarman, Delaware (Ohio) County District Library.
Stonewall Honor Books

The Barbara Gittings Literature Award Honor Books:

“The Absolutist,” written by John Boyne and published by Other Press.

“The Song of Achilles,” written by Madeline Miller and published by Ecco.


The Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award Honor Books:


“Eminent Outlaws: The Gay Writers Who Changed America,” written by Christopher Bram and published by Twelve.


The Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Honor Books:

“Drama,” written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier and published by Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.

“Gone, Gone, Gone,” written by Hannah Moskowitz and published by Simon Pulse, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division.


Over the Rainbow Book List Top Ten for 2013

Recommended GLBTQ books for adults: This year’s list includes 84 titles published between July 1, 2011 and Dec. 31, 2012. The complete list is at [http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/overtherainbow/](http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/overtherainbow/)

In 1927 Paris, a young American woman named Rafaela meets Tamara de Lempicka and agrees to pose nude for the artist; this novelization of love, desire, and betrayal is based on de Lempicka’s actual life and work.

In this graphic memoir, writer and cartoonist Alison Bechdel recounts her fraught relationship with her mother, as well as other significant female relationships, with musings on psychoanalytic theory, Virginia Woolf, and Donald Winnicott.

In 1987, June Elbus, 14, overcomes her misery at the loss of her beloved artist uncle, Finn Weiss, by making friends with the uncle’s lover, Toby, not knowing that her parents hated the lover Toby because they believed he had killed Finn by giving him AIDS.

The theme of discontent ties together these nine short stories--sometimes funny and other times poignant--in which the protagonists explore the issues of sexuality, rituals, and fulfillment.

Powerful, lyric poems paint wonderfully brutal, sexual (LGBT), racial, and steamy pictures, mostly set in rural areas and the South.

Twenty-eight essays and memoirs from a culturally and racially diverse group of LGBT writers document the role New York City has played on in their lives--a true love letter to the city.
Over the Rainbow Book List Top Ten for 2013

Marcus’ photographs depict the physical and mental transformations from one sex/gender to another and the effects of these transitions on the body.

Hall brings together an overwhelming variety of queer-themed comics written and drawn by Western artists over the past forty years.

A memoir of love, passion, isolation, pain, and longing, largely set in the atmospheric backdrop of Manila during the People Power Revolution, examines the crossroads of her Torregrosa’s relationship with Elizabeth—its growth, its mellowing, its end, and the trials of the relationship in terms of separation, work, self-fulfillment, and career.

Winterson’s painful childhood presided over by her difficult adoptive mother is followed by her search for and eventual reunion with her birth mother.

From the Over the Rainbow Committee: The committee's mission is to create a bibliography of books that exhibit commendable literary quality and significant authentic GLBT content and are recommended for adults over age 18. The selections are not intended to be inclusive; they are intended as an annual core list for readers and librarians searching for recommendations of a cross-section of the year's titles. Although the committee attempts to present titles for a variety of reading tastes and levels, no effort will be made to balance this bibliography according to subject, area of interest, age, or genre.

The 2013 Over the Rainbow Committee includes Danielle Pollock, Chair, Albuquerque, NM; Bob Graziano, Chair-Elect, Chicago, IL; Andy Foskey, Cleveland, TN; Martin Garnar, Denver, CO; Paige Mano, Racine, WI; Kelly McElroy, Iowa City, IA; Caroline Nappo, Champaign, IL; Robert Ridinger, De Kalb, IL; and Nel Ward, Newport, OR.
From approximately 150 youth LGBTQ titles released between July 2012 and December 2013, the ALA Rainbow Project, sponsored by GLBTRT and SRRT has released its 49 books chosen for reading levels from birth through age 18. Below are the top ten; the entire list is at http://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/

Colby can’t seem to get any love. Her mom died a few years ago, her trucker dad is always on the road and her girlfriend just dumped her for a guy. When she rescues a stray dog who has been hit by a car, Colby starts to piece her life together with lots of help from her friends.

Music geek Gabe has just come out to his family as transgender but is still known as Liz at school. He uses his late-night community radio show to try on his male identity and encourage listeners to explore their own “b side.” Will the show’s growing popularity expose his secret?

When Cam’s conservative aunt discovers her niece is a lesbian, she sends Cam to God’s Promise, a church camp that promises to “cure” young people of their homosexuality. Cam’s engaging voice tells her story with wry humor, intelligence, and a strong sense of place in eastern Montana.

There’s only one thing Astrid Jones can do when a growing attraction to her co-worker Dee becomes too big and too confusing: send her love to airplane passengers flying overhead while she tries to figure out who she is down here on the ground.

Something strange has been going on with Reese Holloway since her car accident and her top secret medical treatment. But will she be allowed to figure it out, or will others take her apart to figure it out first?
**Rainbow Book List Top Ten for 2013**


Stirring and memorable, this novel is a reimagined retelling of the Homeric story of the love between Achilles and Patrocles.


Looking back on what they wished they knew when they were younger, 64 of today’s award-winning GLBTQ authors write and illustrate letters to their former selves in a way to reach out to those who are in the shoes they once filled.


After sharing a secret with his best friend, a Latino teen’s ideas about what it really means to be a man are challenged. Should he play “straight” and keep his standing among his peers in the neighborhood, or come out and be his true self?


Dante and Aristotle are opposites in almost every way but, nevertheless, the two boys are best friends, almost like two halves making a whole. Saenz’ lyrical novel examines the bonds of friendship and the uncertainties and saving graces of love.


Callie is a passionate theater geek who plunges into her middle school’s production of “Moon Over Mississippi” with enthusiasm for all things theater: sets, props, lighting – you name it, she’s on it. When twins Justin and Jesse join the cast, Callie quickly develops a crush on one, a friendship with the other, who is gay.

*From The Rainbow Project members: The year 2012 will be remembered as an important landmark in the struggle for GLBTQ rights. On the one hand, national and state elections polarized attitudes and big business took sides on GLBTQ issues. At the same time, marriage equality saw major wins in four battleground states, the President of the United States came out in support of gay marriage, and the 113th Congress welcomed seven openly gay and bisexual members into its halls. In this changing and hopeful political climate, the Rainbow Project proudly announces their 2013 Rainbow List.

The committee members evaluated over 150 books published between July 2011 and December 2012, aimed at youth from birth through 18. Some nominated books were not selected for the final list because the intended audience was not young readers. Two of these titles stand out because they include information important for GLBTQ youth and those who work with and support them: Rainbow Collections: Selecting and Using Children’s Books with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Content, by Jaime Campbell Naidoo and Transitions of the Heart: Stories of Love, Struggle and Acceptance by Mothers of Transgender and Gender Variant Children, by Rachel Pepper.

Reflections on YA Lit—The Queer Kind

"It’s always open season on gay kids.” Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick (1991)
"Books are a lot tougher than they appear.” Jonathan D. Katz (2012)

I have become an avid fan of queer YA lit since I became a member of the Stonewall Book Awards Committee. After reading many books in consideration for the Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children’s & Young Adult Literature Award, I have found that the best queer YA books, because of their sheer readability, impact (they don’t shy away from hard-hitting topics), and literary quality, rival most books written for adults.

For example, Brian Sloan’s A Really Nice Prom Mess will hook you from the first page, Davida Wills Hurwin’s Freaks and Revelations indelibly describes the trauma of gay-bashing, and Peter Cameron’s beautifully written Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You is this generation’s I’ll Get There. It Better Be Worth the Trip.

My not-so-guilty pleasures are books that belong to what I call the "gay lad lit" category, books like James Howe’s Totally Joe and Bill Konigsberg’s Out of the Pocket. These books do not ignore the unpleasant aspects of high school as experienced by queer guys; through them I can relive my school days in an alternate universe. For instance, with Stephen Chbosky’s The Perks of Being a Wallflower I can have a secret romance with a football jock along with Patrick whereas in reality I played clarinet in marching band and never came within sniffing distance of a football player.

Many adults read YA literature. According to a recent study conducted by Bowker Market Research, 55% of the buyers of YA books are 18 or older, with the largest group ages 30 to 44 accounting for 28% of YA book sales. These buyers said that 78% of the time they were buying these YA books for their own reading. Even a recent issue of AARP: The Magazine, published for 50+ folks, included an article about YA lit being read by adults. Does this adult buying phenomenon also hold true for queer YA books? I hope so.

When I recently shopped for queer YA titles, I found only Brent Hartinger’s Geography Club at the Barnes & Noble across the street from where I live. Then I went to Giovanni’s Room, our GLBT bookstore in Philadelphia, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year. Guess what? I found all the titles I was looking for, including David Levithan’s Boy Meets Boy and Rigoberto Gonzalez’s The Mariposa Club. I shouldn’t have been so hasty to buy Hartinger’s novel at B&N.

Ed Hermance, the proprietor of Giovanni’s Room, told me that he and his staff established YA sections in their men’s and women’s fiction sections a couple of years ago because there are now enough books of this kind to justify committing separate shelves to them. They also have a separate children’s area. When I visit the store they always have new queer YA books on display. If they don’t have a title I want, I will obtain it through their fast online ordering service, and they will probably stock it for the store.

Do other GLBT bookstores have YA sections? The biggest obstacle to obtaining this information was finding GLBT bookstores that are still in business. I found four stores that appeared to be real GLBT bookstores, not just “emporiums” that sell sex toys, hot underwear, and gay lifestyle mags. None of them responded to my emails.

Jeannette Winterson writes, “[Literature] isn’t a hiding place. It’s a finding place.” This is probably what scares parents, school boards, and public library trustees who try to ban queer YA books. Margaret A. Edwards, one of my teachers in library school, wrote in 1969, “Too many adults wish to protect teenagers when they should be stimulating them to read of life as it is lived.” Today, it is more important than ever that YA writers give queer youth stories that validate their existence in the strongest ways possible.

At the Youth Media Awards at ALA Mid-Winter in Seattle, the Stonewall Book Awards Committee brought national attention to several tough queer YA books. Is it naïve to hope that by reading and learning from powerful books like these that queer youth can change the world? If it isn’t, then someday we can refute Kosofsky’s statement quoted above and triumphantly shout, “OPEN SEASON ON GAY KIDS IS CLOSED!”

W. Stephen Breedlove
Chair-Elect, Stonewall Book Awards Committee
Candidate for GLBTRT Chair

Ann K. Symons

Current Position: International Library Consultant, Symons et al., Douglas (AK)

Highlighted ALA Activities: ALA President (1998-99); ALA Council (1985-2000); ALA Executive Board (1989-96, 1997-2010); ALSC Caldecott Committee (2007); ALA member since 1981; also active in Alaska and Oregon library associations, PFLAG.

Major Accomplishments: Wrote ALA's Filtering Resolution and spearheaded its passage; developed "Libraries An American Value" (ALA Policy Statement, 1999); survived challenge to *Daddy’s Roommate* in Juneau School District (2000); acted as International Library Consultant to Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Latvia, Russia, Germany, and Brazil (2000-2005) and to FDR Colegio, American School of Lima, for censorship challenge to picture books showing same sex parents (2012).

Statement of Professional Concerns: At this critical moment in our nation’s history, librarians have an unprecedented opportunity to deliver on the promise of equal access. Together we must galvanize support to improve services for GLBT community, friends and advocates. I want to lead GLBTRT at a time when we are so well positioned to reach out and realize the dream of equal access and services for all. Our next Roundtable chair needs a deep understanding of ALA as well as knowledge of the issues, and the ability to network across the Association. I have been involved in GLBT issues since 1992 when we successfully fought to keep *Daddy’s Roommate* on the shelves of all of our elementary school; I do not back down in the face of controversy. As proud GLBTRT members, we need to tell our story. We need to be confident in the face of challenge. I ask for your vote.

Candidate for GLBTRT Councilor

Peter Hepburn

Current Position: Head Librarian, College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita (CA)


Major Accomplishments: Represented the RT on Council and shared issues back to the RT from Council; worked on resolutions related to indication of domestic partner benefits in job listings in ALA publications and related to censorship of GLBT materials.

Statement of Professional Concerns: I am seeking re-election as GLBTRT Councilor. I have worked diligently at representing the Round Table and its interests at Council and elsewhere in the Association, and I hope I have earned a second term. I would continue to ensure that our voices are heard by our colleagues and that we all are working toward common interests. I would continue to communicate back to the Board and the membership matters of concern and seek broad insight. It would be an honor to be re-elected. I would like to serve the Round Table for another three years as Councilor, and I ask for your vote.

Candidate for GLBTRT Treasurer

Dale Keith McNeill

Current Position: Assistant Director for Public Services, San Antonio Public Library (TX)


Major Accomplishments: Speaker for Texas Library Association (2010, 2012); Guest lecturer at University of Missouri-Columbia’s graduate library school (2011); Panel member at Rhode Island Library Association on “Creating Safe Spaces for GLBT Youth” (2011); Panelist and program planner for PLA “Building Better Libraries: Guiding Successful Projects” (2010).

Statement of Professional Concern: Dale McNeill has been a member of GLBTRT (and the Task Force) for more than 30 years, serving twice as a member of the Stonewall Book Award jury and as co-chair. He has worked as a children’s librarian, reference librarian, branch manager, and library administrator in urban public libraries. He is committed to the success of the Round Table and would be happy to serve in another term as Treasurer. His LinkedIn profile is at [www.linkedin.com/in/dalemcneill/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/dalemcneill/)
GLBTRT Director-at-Large Candidates

Ingrid Henny Abrams

Current Position: Children's and Young Adult Librarian, Brooklyn Public Library (NY)

ALA Activities: ALA Emerging Leader (2012); Grassroots Subcommittee 2012; ALA member since 2011; also active in NYC library advocacy group.

Major Accomplishments: I am currently working Hurricane Sandy Book Relief in New York City: acquiring donations, making wishlists, advocacy for affected areas, volunteering in understaffed libraries (specifically Howard Beach) and sorting book donations. For further information, you can go to my personal librarian and style blog and the sites for Urban Librarians Unite which deal with New York City librarian budget cuts, grassroots advocacy, and current projects, such as the Hurricane Sandy Children's Book Relief.

Statement of Professional Concerns: As a newer member of ALA, I hope to add my enthusiasm and energy to the GLBTRT. Despite all of the participation options within ALA, I am most interested in working with this Round Table. As a children's and young adult librarian, I am most concerned with outreach to queer children and teens. I am also interested in involving grassroots advocacy efforts and involving Emerging Leaders and new ALA members in GLBTRT activities.

Thomas Joseph Fortin

Current Position: Deputy Director, San Mateo County Library (CA)

ALA Activities: PLA National Conference Program Planning Committee (2010); PLA Director-at-Large (2011-2013); ALA member since 2001; also active in New York Library Association.

Major Accomplishments: With over 20 years of experience in public libraries, Tom Fortin has had many opportunities to witness firsthand the commitment library employees share in serving their communities. Having worked in libraries in the Midwest and on both coasts, first as a reference librarian, then as a small business specialist, branch manager, and currently as an administrator, Tom admires the tireless professionalism library staff demonstrates every day. He expects it's what earns the respect of the many library advocates in the communities we serve. The hallmark of Tom's current position is to support library staff in their drive to do their best for communities struggling through difficult budget years trying to maintain services and doing more with less. Tom is so thankful that he may have this chance as a GLBTRT Director-at-Large to serve his own community of librarians with the respect and appreciation they deserve.

Statement of Professional Concerns: Tom Fortin is interested in serving the GLBTRT Office simply out of respect for the hard work of library employees across the country. As a Director-at-Large Office member, my role would be to share my experiences and ideas in an effort to make the GLBTRT as responsive as it can be to its constituent members on the front lines of public service.

Charles E. Kratz

Current Position: Dean of the Library, The University of Scranton (PA)


Major Accomplishments: I have dedicated my work and service in our profession to a great enthusiasm for libraries. My passion is thoroughly grounded in an understanding of the past and knowledge and commitment to the purpose and the principles that underpin the services we provide. My greatest accomplishment is the passion I bring to helping individuals and communities grow, to preserving intellectual freedom, to supporting equal rights and social justice, to building bridges that span cultural, physical, and socio-economic barriers for many in our communities, to providing opportunities for resource sharing, innovative services, and community collaboration, and to fostering lifelong learning and literacy.

Statement of Professional Concerns: As a Director-at-large, I am interested in working with the Round Table to support the GLBT library community. My particular area of interest and expertise is fundraising. I will work strongly on the Executive Committee to help the Round Table to fundraise for the endowment that supports The Stonewall Book Award- Barbara Gittings Literature Award, the Stonewall Book Award-Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award, and the Stonewall Book Award-Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children’s & Young Adult Literature Award. It is critically important that the endowment that supports these awards is strengthened so that the Round Table can continue to recognize this excellence in the years to come.
GLBTRT Director-at-Large Candidates

Lisa N. Johnston

Current Position: Associate Director, Sweet Briar College Library, Sweet Briar, VA


Major Accomplishments/Statement of Professional Concerns: Serving as Associate Director of Sweet Briar College’s library, which happens to be in conservative rural Virginia, my position here required me to become involved with ALA. I have been an active member of the GLBTRT since 2001, when I was appointed to the Stonewall Book Awards jury, then called the GLBT Book Award. The Round Table became my home at ALA, as I continued to serve as representative to ALA’s Diversity Council. In 2009 I was reappointed to the Stonewall Book Awards Committee as a member and then chair for 2010-11, the 40th anniversary, and the first year of its inclusion in the Youth Media Awards, which has gotten the award and the GLBTRT so much fantastic publicity. My work with the committee that year was the most satisfying and likely the most influential work I will ever do with ALA. I am currently the RT’s representative to the Diversity Council and serve as the liaison to the Lambda Book Awards via the External Relations Committee. Though I have and continue to serve on committees with RUSA and ACRL, my membership in the RT, has given me opportunities to learn and share ideas with a group of people that have become a community to me. I hope to continue my service to the GLBTRT as a member of the Board.

Michael J. Miller

Current Position: Acting Chief Librarian, Bronx Community College (NY)

ALA Activities: GLBTRT Co-Chair (1997-1999); Secretary, College Libraries Section of the ACRL (2012-2013); Representative to Legislative Assembly (2012-); OITP, Traditional Cultural Expression working group (2008-2010); Member, Council Committee on Electronic Member Participation (2007-2009); active in IFLA; ALA member since 1993.

Major Accomplishments: US Dept. of Education Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Program (2011); publications on mentoring, information communication and technology infusion, and educational technology; further information at http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/~mmiller/MaghrebIndexB.htm

Statement of Professional Concerns: If elected, I would be very interested in advancing our relationships with “external” partners, re-visiting the filtering and access problems still standing after CIPA and COPA, and expanding our presence and collaborations within and across the larger parent organization. Of course, taking marching orders from the informed about the concerns of our membership would be the core of the work of leadership.

Joel A. Nichols

Current Position: Branch Manager, Free Library of Philadelphia (PA)

ALA Activities: GLBT-RT Director-at-large (2012-3); ALA member since 2008; also posts on the Free Library blog.

Major Accomplishments: Continuing work as a Director-at-large on the GLBTRT Executive Board to clarify committee charges, communication with members, and outreach to new and prospective members of the round table; encouraging interdepartmental and interdivisional staff cooperation through initiating brown bag lunches for children’s librarians, creating and managing a wiki for staff collaboration, training other staff to use iPads, generating internal documents for other staff (how to set up a branch Facebook page, how to write a book review for our website), etc.; integrating virtual and digital library services with analogue ones, such as using multimedia tools in hands-on after school science programs and using author websites to enrich a book club discussion; promoting and delivering bilingual library services at the Free Library, including children’s programming and outreach to parents and other adults; publishing a book about using iPads in library programming and several recent conference presentations in 2012 and 2013. Further information is available on the Free Library blog.

Statement of Professional Concerns: I seek to expand the active membership of the round table, especially with new librarians, queer librarians of color, and more women; to make the round table a relevant and useful addition to members’ professional lives as a resource community, as well as a professional and social one. Other concerns are digital inclusion and increasing digital literacy skills and access in vulnerable populations; early literacy and the importance of teaching and modeling family literacy that prepares children to succeed in school and strengthens family connections and parents’ literacy skills; professional ethics and continued professional development in order to deliver superior information services that are user-centered, available to all communities, relevant, and innovative; and teen and youth services that value the unique needs of young people, offer opportunities for empowerment and participation, and foster their development into literate, analytical, compassionate and respectful adults.
GLBTRT Director-at-Large Candidate

Shawn P. Vaillancourt

Current Position: Education Librarian, University of Houston (TX)

ALA Activities: ACRL - EBSS Instruction for Educators Committee, Member (2011-2013); GLBTRT Director-at-Large (2012-2013), Program Planning Committee Member (2009-2011), Program Planning Committee Chair (2011-2013); ALA member since 2009.

Major Accomplishments: Assisted with organization of GLBTRT programs in 2010 and 2011, including "The Rainbow Hollinger Box" and "Vampirim Just Got a Little More Colorful: Queer Vampires" and oversaw planning for the 2012/2013 programs; currently assisting the Instruction for Educators Committee with developing a rubric for IL assessment in Teacher Education.

Statement of Professional Concerns: I believe the key to successful librarianship is in understanding user needs, whether in work with the user populations I serve, promoting that understanding with other librarians, or in working to provide services and access that address these needs. It is to this end that I have pursued equity in access and developing a deeper understanding in users through instructional efforts as major focus areas in my career.

News from the LGBTQ Book/Library World

The Bayard Rustin Center at Guilford College (Greensboro, NC) needs LGBT books to stock their library. You can contact the BRC Library Intern April Parker with any questions, comments, suggestions, and needs: 862-588-1521, aprke2@uncg.edu

The LGBT Community Center (New York) created a controversy when noted author Sarah Schulman was banned from an appearance because she planned to discuss her book about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The resulting discussion on the GLBTRT Email List made for interesting reading. If you're not a member, you might want to subscribe.

Vassar is profiting from the impending arrival of members from the hate-group Westboro Baptist Church on February 28—almost $100,000 thus far. The funds gained by raising $100 for every minute of the Westboro protest will go to The Trevor Project, a suicide prevention organization that focuses on LGBT youth. The Westboro flier claims a connection between LGBT people and those who attend Vassar who "fancy themselves the leading thinkers of our generation."

Do anti-gay books have a place in the library? The ALSC blog had an interesting discussion about the subject.

The Stonewall Book Awards has received a great deal of press since Midwinter Meeting. Giovann’s Room in Philadelphia (also see p. 8) sent an email announcing all the winners, published a flier, and displayed award winners next to its register. A previous newsletter discussed the extensive collection of transgender library and archival materials at the University of Victoria, and a member asked about other library or archival collections. Following are responses on the GLBTRT Email List:

Julie Winklestein sent a link to the transgender resource collection at Oak Park Library (IL) and reported an excellent presentation at ALA a few years ago.

Carolyn Caywood wrote that Ann Arbor (MI) has a large academic collection referenced in an article by Dallas Denny.

GLBTRT has posted a number of links for transgender resources.

The Feminist Task Force of SRRT has announced its 2013 Amelia Bloomer list of recommended books for youth that portray stories of women and girls finding their individual and collective voices.
Books published before 12/1/11, not reviewed in the GLBTRT Newsletter.

The GLBTRT Review Committee is grateful to publishers for providing books and films for our volunteer reviewers. We regret that we are unable to review all the materials that are submitted but wish to acknowledge these titles so that our readers will have information about books and films submitted to the GLBTRT Newsletter.


Loving her life in a small beach town, Alden McKenna is bowled over by Weston Duvall, but the success of their relationship may require that Alden grow up.


Jude Jaeger’s series of one-night stands satisfies her until she meets Mary.


Closet Hindu banker Rahul, his unsuspecting wife, and his lover, a secreted younger Muslin bookstore clerk, provide the nucleus of this stunning, compassionate novel set in West Hollywood; Rahul’s hothead son, Ajay, provides the catalyst for the collision. *The Two Krishnas* was a 2013 Over the Rainbow pick.


At 11, Paul, caught between his fundamentalist faith and his growing sexual interest in other boys, is in the midst of odd characters including friend Lady, a black girl who doesn’t want to attend an integrated school; his father who searches for extra-terrestrials, and his mother who wants to be a country music star. *Personal Saviors* was a 2013 Over the Rainbow nomination.


Heartbreaking and funny vignettes of adolescents in the 1980s who live in a suburban Massachusetts town are carefully crafted in a minimalist prose style.


A.C. Henley was from the Dallas-Fort Worth area and lived in Texas with her partner until her death in 2009 from ovarian cancer. Her parents were strong Catholics, yet her mother was also part Apache and honored those traditions as well. McKee was Henley’s only published book, but she had a number of stories posted on online sites. McKee was 2012 Rainbow Award Winner for Best Lesbian Mystery/Thriller.
Books published before 12/1/11, not reviewed in the GLBTRT Newsletter.

The GLBTRT Review Committee is grateful to publishers for providing books and films for our volunteer reviewers. We regret that we are unable to review all the materials that are submitted but wish to acknowledge these titles so that our readers will have information about books and films submitted to the GLBTRT Newsletter.

Zombies plus lesbians lead to a breathtaking adventure as Devin tries to escape a besieged furniture store to rescue her girlfriend in Nowhere, Ohio.

Thirty years after Irene Laureux’s husband was killed in the 1968 Paris student and worker riots, she is still on the hunt for his secret lover, Frederick Dubois, who knows how and why the man died.

These ten speculative short stories follow swashbuckling female pirates, highwaymen, opera singers, Shakespeare’s sister Judith—even the Queen of Air and Darkness.

After the death of her partner, Clara Dearheart talks to her dead clients in a funeral parlor until she encounters soap-opera-writer Bebe Franklin who is looking for a career change.

Three authors share their memories of Christmases past and present—of office parties, dinner tables, reconnections, and anticipation.

Eighteen women share their poetry in honor of Sappho to celebrate lesbian love with original black and white artwork by two contemporary artists.
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Her professional and personal lives in shambles, Dr. Kimberly Donovan flees to California where a mutual attraction with Dr. Jess McKenna, LA Metro’s Chief of the ER, stirs dark memories and causes buried emotions to surface.


Hunter Roswell’s past returns to haunt her when a serial killer, responsible for the deaths of five women, stalks her.


After discovered with his first gay love, 14-year-old Charles is forced into a mental hospital for ten years before he vengefully pursues his mother who had committed him.


Holed up in the Scottish Highlands and working on a computer game about World War I, 30-year-old Richard tries to get over his sexual obsession with straight bad-boy Luke while they were enrolled at the same university, but an unexpected visit from Richard’s sister takes him back when she keeps asking what had happened ten years earlier. Strachen’s book was a 2013 Over the Rainbow nomination.


Five years after a homophobic attack ends David Lloyd’s career, he runs a private detective agency, and a missing person’s case shows him that he has not dealt with the past and his current relationship with his long-time partner.


Passion flows in antebellum Louisiana when Baton Rouge business woman Corrine Staples goes to New Orleans to help her longtime friend Della Prentiss and finds herself being seduced by Della’s daughter Katie.


A witch hunt of suspected lesbian activity in Waves stationed at their training center in Maryland leads to the dismissal of five women; 45 years later a journalist tells their story of the summer of 1965.
Calendar:

March 19: ALA voting begins.

April 19: Day of Silence in which students take a vow of silence to draw attention to the bullying and harassment that LGBT students face each day.

April 13, Noon–6:00 pm, New York: 5th Annual New York Rainbow Book Fair (Midtown Holiday Inn, 440 W. 57th Street), sponsored by CLAGS, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at New York City University's Graduate Center.

April 26: Deadline for casting ALA ballots.


June: LGBT Pride Month

June 3, 2013, New York City: The 25th Annual Lambda Literary Awards Ceremony, Great Hall at Cooper Union, 30 Cooper Square.

June 27–July 2, Chicago: ALA Annual Conference, McCormick Place.

July 28–August 4, 2013, Los Angeles: Writers Retreat for Emerging LGBT Voices, workshops by Samuel Delany (Fiction), Malinda Lo (Genre Fiction and Young Adult Fiction), Sarah Schulman (Nonfiction), and David Groff (Poetry).

Those Who Led the Way

Gerda Lerner died on January 2, 2013, at the age of 92. She is considered one of the founders of Women’s Studies and authored more than a dozen pivotal works of women’s history.

Jeanne Manford, the founder of PFLAG, died on January 8, 2013 at the age of 92. President Obama noted part of her history in his groundbreaking HRC speech in 2009.

Julia Penelope died on January 19, 2013, at the age of 71. Co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, she was a major voice in lesbian literature and political theory.

Michael Triplett died on January 17, 2013, at the age of 48. He was president of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association and was survived by his partner Jack.