



GLBTRT Newsletter

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A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered
Round Table of the American Library Association
<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>



From the Editor

Hello, everyone!

Things are rolling right along with our 2nd newsletter published by the Haworth Press. Much thanks to Haworth for their generosity!

No other news on the newsletter front, other than always needing more submissions for upcoming issues, so if you have any ideas, please contact me!

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is **November 16th, 2005**, so please have all your book reviews, officer reports, and general interest articles sent to me before that time!

Thanks for all of your continued support, and please let me know if there are any questions or comments about the newsletter!

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
kenwells@ufl.edu



From the Co-Chairs

Now begins my two year term as the Male co-chair of the GLBTRT. I have been involved with GLBTRT and SRRT GLBTF activates since I joined ALA in 1995 focusing on programming and money related areas. Over the next two years I will continue the work that was begun when we became a roundtable in 2000 and I have some special projects in mind that will improve our professional and community visibility.

As we move forward and continue to grow as an organization we will need the knowledge and skills of all of the members. It is easy to participate on a committee since much of the work is done electronically via email. To volunteer for a committee contact Lewis Day the membership chair. If you have ideas for a program contact Gary Wasdin. If you want to donate money, contact Jim Simionis or Dustin Lamore. Contact information is posted on our website.

The GLBTRT list can be a major source of information on many GLBT library issues. Do you have a question? Post it to the list and somebody is bound to have an answer or knows who has the answer. Both Anne Moore and I are here to make sure that things get done, and that the organization grows and fulfills the needs of our membership. If you have any questions, concerns or comments regarding RT activities or procedures, please feel free to email me. My contact information is below.

I look forward to working with everybody and getting to know as many people as possible. If you are ever coming to visit New York City let me know in advance so we can arrange some time to come visit my library here in Brooklyn.

Yours in service,

Norman Eriksen
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American Library Association
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As reported in the last issue of the newsletter, the committee is busy wading through loads of books worthy of consideration for our award.

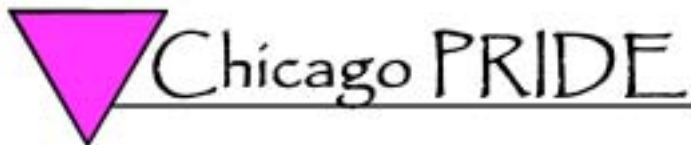
This year's committee consists of:

Chair: Robert L. Jaquay, William K. Sanford Town Library; Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: Robin Imhof, University of the Pacific Library; Immediate Past-Chair: Mary Callaghan "Cal" Zunt, Cleveland Public Library; Jeffrey Beall, University of Colorado at Denver; Michael J. Miller, Queens College, CUNY; Lindsey Schell, University of Texas, Austin; Billy C. Beal, Meridian Community College; Richard DiRusso, Tucson-Pima Public Library; Rose M. Jackson, Portland State University; Walter "Cat" Walker, Loyola Marymount University; Amy Hribar, Montana State University; Elizabeth Briggs, East Carolina University.

We are still accepting recommendations for nominations for Literature and Non-Fiction Titles. Books being considered need to be in the English language, and published between October 1, 2004 and September 30, 2005. Please send titles, with a short description and endorsement to rl_jaquay@yahoo.com. We will keep you posted.

For more information about the Stonewall Book Awards Committee, or to suggest a title be considered for the award, please contact:

Bob Jaquay, Chair
Stonewall Book Award Jury
rl_jaquay@yahoo.com



On a hot Sunday Afternoon in June a few intrepid souls gathered together to march in the 2005 Chicago Pride Parade. This was the first time that GLBTRT members marched under our new banner (thank you Steve for having it made on such a short notice).

I arrived with my partner, Lem Bowen, on Belmont Avenue, to find Steve Stratton standing there alone with the banner talking with three people from the Gerber Hart Library. Steve was very glad to see us since he was wondering how to march with the banner without any help.

We marched after the Gerber Hart Library and not to far from the contingent of students and teachers from the local chapter of GLSEN. As we moved along the parade route more RT members joined until we were up to a total of 13 people. I attempted to get some of our members (Lars Hagelin, Lewis Day) who were standing along the parade route to join the march but they decided to stand and watch the parade go by.

As the group marched along the route we were warmly received by the cheering crowds and people reached out to shake our hands. Sometimes I felt like I was a politician running for office. In the beginning we were quiet but slowly we started to wave, reach out to the crowd and getting into the festive atmosphere that surrounded us. Bill and Steve called out to the crowd "Show us your library card".

As we marched along we started to think of slogans for signs- "Show us you library card, we give good reference, Librarians do it in the stacks" were just a few that I can remember. Maybe for next march, we can have signs made to carry and things to hand out to the crowd. It is not often that we are able to participate in Pride events while attending a conference, but I look forward to participating in future marches.

Those of us who marched that afternoon had a good time and to those who did not march you missed a lot of fun.

The following people marched in the parade. I know that I am missing a few names but I forgot to put the report book in my uniform pockets that morning and Officer Bowen was off duty. If those ladies send me their names I will add it to official record.

GLBTRT Marchers

Norman Eriksen | David Gray | Steven Stratton
Susan Searing | John Sandstrom | Jim Simonis

Partners auxiliary

Lemuel Bowen | Bill Bergfalk
Ralph Valente | Christine Jenkins

Norman Eriksen

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LA&M READ posters debut at IML, ALA
John Bradford, jpbmls@yahoo.com

When the Leather Archives & Museum opened the Teri Rose Memorial Library in February 2005, visitors and researchers were lavish with their praise. Over the years, the LA&M had collected donations of books, periodicals and catalogs; this collection was now available to leatherfolk in a comfortable, well-designed workspace.

The LA&M's Library Committee realized that, despite the initial success of the grand opening, something would have to be done to keep the Teri Rose Memorial Library in the eye of the community. Outreach and publicity was needed, even as the committee continued to try to organize the collection and reach agreement on the best approach to library automation.

Serendipity stepped in: One of the Library Committee members, Louis Lang, had just joined the American Library Association (and its GLBT Round Table). Among the first pieces of mail he received after that was the ALA Graphics catalog. And, as a new pledge for the Chicago Leather Club, he was looking for a project.

In libraries across the country, American Library Association posters featuring celebrities are plastered on walls. People as diverse as Jimmy Smits, Grant Hill, the Indigo Girls and Britney Spears hold books and exhort people to READ. ALA Graphics sells software with a license allowing any purchasing library to make up its own READ posters, featuring community celebrities, so long as the posters are not sold and are not pornographic. Lang purchased the software for the Teri Rose Memorial Library and started taking pictures of important people in the leather community.

The Chicago Leather Club approved this as his pledge project in March. Lang wanted posters and miniposters available during International Mr. Leather at the end of May, where he could be sure they would reach a large part of the leather community, and then again at the American Library Association Annual Convention in June, where the library community could also take note.

International Mr. Leather 2004 Jason Hendrix and Mid-America Conference of Clubs President Threasa Rushing agreed to be the first leatherfolk to appear on the Teri Rose Memorial Library READ posters and miniposters, which proved phenomenally popular. At IML, 360 participants chose one of the posters or miniposters at the LA&M booth in the Vendors Market. During ALA, nearly 100 more miniposters were picked up from the GLBT Round Table booth in the Exhibits Hall. This year's miniposters remain available at the Teri Rose Memorial Library and will accompany traveling exhibits from the Leather Archives & Museum.



GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS

My goal is that we review many books, both books we recommend and books we do not recommend. These reviews should be professional, combining the best practices of the library profession and our unique perspective as GLBT individuals. Keeping in mind that The Newsletter is not infinitely expandable, these reviews should be between 120 and 180 words long. Yes, some books demand longer reviews because of their complexity, controversial nature or importance. When you feel that a book you are reviewing will need additional space please let me know so I can plan.

Reviews should clearly state what the book is about and include an evaluative section. It is always helpful if you can compare it to other books. The review should end with a clear recommendation and indicate audience. If there are situations or language which may cause problems these should be pointed out. Such situations, language, etc. need should not overly influence the recommendation unless they are inappropriate, extraneous to the book, or badly handled.

I think that LJ and Booklist are good models. The reviews I enjoy reading are from Kirkus, but I would be hard pressed to do one of that literary quality for every book I read.

Below is a sample review for you to consider. More are available upon request, or see other reviews in this issue. Please note the bibliographic form and the form for your byline.

This is a quick set of guidelines to get us through the current issue. Please help me by sending me your comments.

Ray Barber, *Book Review Editor*
rbarber@penncharter.com

Kings & Queens: Queers at the Prom. By David Boyer. Soft Skull Press. 2004. 160 p. paperback (ISBN1-932360-24-7) [306.766]

David Boyer uses the high school prom to wrap stories about coming out and living as a homosexual. The book is divided into sections with profiles from the 90's, 80's, 70's and 60's, and back through the 1930's. Each profile includes the date and place of their high school senior year, pictures and a summary, in their own words, about their senior prom. A postscript gives information on where they are now, and a bit about how they got there. Extras include a style guide, prom trends and a section on how the American idea of a senior prom has spread around the world. Each profile is surprisingly gripping and many make you think of your own high school experience. The pictures will bring knowing nods from older readers and gales of giggles from teens. This book offers a good window into the high school experience and would be a good addition to a YA or high school library collection.

Reviewed by Mark Singer, High School Librarian, retired.



YGA (Young Gay America)

\$5.95 per issue. Bi-monthly. \$25.00 US annually

This new magazine for gay and lesbian youth aims to provide an alternative to other youth-oriented magazines such as Seventeen or YM. Produced for Canadian and US audiences, its cover art and contents are meant to be presentable on the mainstream newsstand. In the editor's words, YGA is "something that affirms your sexuality, rather than exploits it", a nod in the direction of the overtly sexual XY magazine.

XY Magazine, also produced for North America, sports about 100 large glossy pages per issue, with plenty of underwear ads and handsome models, mostly white and bare. This may sell on newstands, but not serve the school population, where healthy kids want and need real-world diversity and appearance. It's fair to say that most high school and college students will see themselves represented in the pages of YGA, where photo essays, interviews, stories and columns feature gay and lesbian themes, and serve the interests of black, Latino, and white youth. Concerns of transgendered kids, interracial couples, punk and goth as well as button-down types are also presented. YGA's summer issue, for instance, looks at what gay/straight alliances mean outside of school, the etiquette of skinny-dipping, and the art of graffiti writers. Smaller and lighter than XY, YGA is under 70 pages. Each issue has a major topic such as sports, romance and friendship, parents, sex, even religion.

Including all this has its price: the type-face is often small, articles are tightly fit on the page. But those who grew up on the Dorling-Kindersley format won't mind. Editor Mike Glatze crams book, film, and music reviews, horoscopes, a biography on a gay/lesbian pioneer, and letters from readers into each issue. A native of the US, Glatze says he based YGA in Halifax, Nova Scotia to hold costs down. YGA is two dollars less per issue than XY (\$7.95 an issue or \$55 for a subscription). By contrast the Advocate, written for adults, is bi-weekly, and only costs \$39 per year.

Like XY, YGA has a website, <http://www.ygamag.com>, which tells the story of the magazine – it grew out of a nation-wide support movement— and provides subscribers with YGA magazine articles online. The magazine itself provides lots of safe web addresses to suit a wide variety of interests, in accord with the all-encompassing "queer" identity. Honesty and safety are hard to find in the world of young adults online, but the YGA website allows personals, and gives answers to sexual questions. Readers are encouraged to submit articles and ideas. Based on the print and online publication, this brave newcomer to the world of magazines for youth deserves a place in high school and college libraries.



Dear Friends,

Under One Roof has announced the formation of "**The Above and Beyond Fund**," a special fund to assist HIV/AIDS service organizations in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The goal in establishing the fund is to assist AIDS service organizations devastated by Hurricane Katrina in reopening their doors as soon as possible so that they may continue to provide critical services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS. We thought that this would make a great story idea on how the LGBT community is responding to the devastation. If you would like to know more about the fund or interview me, Mike Marshall, the executive director of Under One Roof, please contact me with the information below.

In addition to the development of the fund, Under One Roof has recruited a diverse advisory panel of local HIV/AIDS service providers who will advise the Board of Directors of Under One Roof on how the funds raised should be distributed. The panel consists of the following individuals:

- 1) Kevin Burns, Executive Director, Shanti
- 2) Brett Andrews, Executive Director, The Positive Resource Center
- 3) Gloria Nieto, Executive Director, Lyon Martin Women's Health Services
- 4) Mike Smith, Executive Director, San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund
- 5) Perry Lang, Executive Director, Black Coalition on AIDS

Please contact me if you have any questions and as an FYI - Donations can be made online (<http://www.UnderOneRoof.org>) or mailed to:

The Above and Beyond Fund

c/o Under One Roof

549 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

Sincerely,

Mike Marshall, *Executive Director*

Under One Roof

Mike@underoneroof.org

For those interested in more general Hurricane Relief efforts, the Red Cross has a very helpful website, with easy online donation forms, as well as lots of up-to-date information on current relief efforts.



<http://www.redcross.org/>





Encyclopedia of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history in America, edited by Marc Stein (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons/Thomson/Gale, 2004, 3 v. (approx. 1200 pages) ISBN 0684312611 \$400.00. [306.76/6/097303]



The first major modern encyclopedia dealing with lesbian and gay life and culture was the ill-fated **Encyclopedia of homosexuality** edited by Wayne R. Dynes, Warren Johansson, William A. Percy, and Stephen Donaldson (New York: Garland, 1990, 2 v.). It was withdrawn by the publisher when it was discovered that some of the ostensibly female writers were really males masquerading under false female names.

Garland replaced this 1990 encyclopedia with a new set of two encyclopedias in 2000, with one volume focusing on gay male topics and one volume on lesbian topics: **Gay histories and cultures: an encyclopedia**, edited by George E. Haggerty with John Beynon and Douglas Eisner (New York: Garland, 2000, xlviii, 986 p.) and **Lesbian histories and cultures: an encyclopedia**, edited by Bonnie Zimmerman (New York: Garland, 2000, 862 p.). The list price for these two volumes together is \$315.

The major difference between the 2000 Garland encyclopedia and the 2004 Scribner/Thompson/Gale work is the definite U.S. focus of the new work. Whereas the 2000 encyclopedia covers the world, with separate articles on all major countries and regions, this new work specifies in its introduction that "America" in its title definitely means only the U.S.

This new encyclopedia contains some 550 articles ranging in length from one page (many of the biographies) to 7 or 8 pages (e.g., AIDS and people with AIDS, 7 pages; Literature 1890-1969, 8-1/2 pages). Biography headings include birth and death dates plus primary field of endeavor. Articles use subheadings for sections and conclude with bibliographies of source material and see-also references to related articles. Each article is signed by its author. There are approximately 300 contributors. Unfortunately, in the list of contributors, only their institutional affiliation is listed, along with the titles of their articles. Most affiliations are universities, but a few contributors are "independent scholars" or "independent journalists." Without position titles, there is no way to know if contributors are students (graduate or undergraduate), professors, librarians, or other staff members. (In contrast, the 2000 encyclopedia includes short professional bios for contributors, listing positions, major publications, and similar credentials.)

Many articles include illustrations, mostly photos. Overall there are some 230 illustrations.

The title of this encyclopedia includes the word "history," but it could have used the word "culture" just as well. This work definitely covers LGBT culture, broadly defined, although literature, entertainment and the arts receive much more attention than religion or spirituality. The work opens with a 400-year chronology of major events in U.S. LGBT history.

At the end of the work is a classified listing of articles in 13 categories, which serve to indicate the broad scope of the work: 1. People, subarranged by discipline or field (some 200 of the 550 articles are biographies of individual persons, both living and dead); 2. Politics, subarranged by movements; 3. Culture and the arts; 4. Academic disciplines and fields of inquiry; 5. Identities, communities, and culture; 6. Geographies (i.e. specific states and cities in the United States and a few types of environments); 7. Law and public policy; 8. Economics and labor; 9. Sex, sexuality, intimacy, and relationships; 10. Religion and spirituality; 11. Language, symbols, signs, and concepts; 12. Social life, issues, and institutions; and 13. Social, cultural, and political processes.

The third volume concludes with a list of LGBT archives in the U.S. and Canada and a very professional subject index. Most of the index entries are for individual persons, but they also cover categories of persons (e.g., Actors and actresses, with subheadings such as bisexual, closeted, coming out and outing of, etc.), individual literary and artistic works, companies and advertisements, artistic movements, musical instruments, periodicals, diseases, plus many other topics such as abortion. No entry has too many page references. Broader topics have subheadings to provide specificity. See references lead from alternative forms of entries, such as acronyms.

This work comes in three relatively slender large-format volumes (approximately 9 x 12 inches). It is also available in electronic (ebook) format as part of the **Gale Virtual Reference Library**. Every library serving students from middle or high school through university and the general public needs this encyclopedia, especially if they do not have the 2000 Garland encyclopedia. This new encyclopedia has been featured on "best reference books" lists (e.g., New York Public Library, ALA's **Booklist** and its Reference and User Services Association, **Library Journal**). So far, more than 600 libraries in the OCLC network have purchased it.

Reviewed by James D. Anderson, emeritus professor of library and information science, Rutgers University. (Book Review editors note: the review on the round table website [isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/glbtrt/newsletter.htm] contains a more complete comparison of GLBT encyclopedias)



The LGBT Youth DVD/Video List

Courtesy of Wolfe Video (www.wolfevideo.com)

Contact: Jenni Olston - butch@butch.org

Seeing ourselves represented on the silver screen can be one of the most affirming, empowering and revolutionary experiences we have as lesbian, gay, bi and transgender (LGBT) people coming of age. Below is our select list of LGBT Youth Videos and DVDs for you to round out your collection; or print out and bring along on your next trip to the video store. Enjoy!

Gay:

Beautiful Thing (1996) One of the best-loved gay movies of all time, *Beautiful Thing* tells the story of two British gay teens in love. Clever, poignant, refreshing, not-to-miss.

Camp (2003) This unusual portrait of life behind-the-scenes at a summer musical theater camp features a cast of mostly gay students and has been frequently compared to that other classic musical about young outsiders striving towards their dreams, *Fame*.

Come Undone (2000) Eighteen-year-olds Mathieu and Cedric fall in love in this sweet summer romance from French director Sebastien Lifschitz.

Defying Gravity (1997) A poignant collegiate drama that deftly unfolds the coming out process of a macho fratboy who falls in love with his openly gay friend and grapples with his changing sense of self.

Edge of Seventeen (1998) This charming indie period piece about a Midwestern high school kid coming out in the '80s was a huge hit on the gay film festival circuit. A sweet, romantic coming-out story.

Get Real (1998) This heartwarming teen coming-out tale from Britain tells the story of Steven Carter (Ben Silverstone) and his high school travails.

Prom Queen (2004) Based on the true story of Marc Hall, the Canadian gay teen who sued the Catholic Church for not letting him bring his boyfriend to his High School Prom. This homo-positive "Afterschool Special" stars Aaron Ashmore as the blue-eyed, blue-haired gay rebel hero.

Saved! (2004) When gay teen Dean (Chad Faust) confesses his homosexuality to his girlfriend Mary (Jena Malone) she decides to have sex with him in order to "save" him. This smart teen comedy, set at a Christian High School, was a big hit at Sundance.

Trevor (1994) This heartbreaking short tells the painful but uplifting story of a thirteen year-old boy, Trevor (Brett Barsky) who has a crush on his friend, and a major thing for Diana Ross. Taunted by his schoolmates, Trevor tries to kill himself. His new friend, Jack teaches him about self-acceptance and being

proud of who you are. This film won the Academy Award for Best Live Action Short in 1994.

You'll Get Over It (2002)

Vincent (Julien Baumgartner) is a seventeen year-old champion swimmer who suddenly has to cope with being outed at his high school in this popular French melodrama.

Lesbian:

All Over Me (1997) Teenage aspiring rock-star Claude (Alison Folland) has a semi-requited crush on her best friend Ellen (Tara Subkoff). *All Over Me* features a great cast including a young (pre-L Word) Leisha Hailey as the pink-haired punker, and the adorable Wilson Cruz.

But I'm a Cheerleader (1999) Lesbian heartthrob Clea Duvall steals the show as the moody butch in love with Natasha Lyonne in this fabulous tale of love and longing set in the midst of a campy, highly stylized Homo-Rehab Camp.

D.E.B.S. (2005) This tremendously entertaining lesbian spy romp spoofs a whole range of Hollywood movie conventions and offers up a truly satisfying romance full of cute girls and great one-liners. Look for this one on home video in late-Summer 2005!

The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love (1995) A terrific teen romance about the love between poor white tomboy Randy (pre-L Word Laurel Holloman) and her affluent African American classmate Evie (Nicole Ari Parker). Randy services Evie's Range Rover at the gas station, and things get going from there.

Lost and Delirious (2001) This over-the-top melodrama takes up the long tradition of lesbian Girls' Boarding School movies and features a stunning cast of young female stars (Piper Perabo, Jessica Pare, and Mischa Barton). Melodramatic and intense.

Show Me Love (1998) This tremendously charming teen lesbian romance outgrossed *Titanic* to become the most successful Swedish film in history. Don't be intimidated by the subtitles! This is a terrific film!

Stranger Inside (2001) This exceptionally well-produced drama is an uncompromising story of African-American lesbians. Director Cheryl Dunye tells the story of a tough young butch, Treasure Lee (Yolanda Ross) seeking out her long-lost lifer mother.

Therese & Isabelle (1968) Another good old-fashioned lesbian boarding school romance. With voiceover narration taken directly from Violette Leduc's classic novel, this film has a genuine sweetness throughout in spite of a cheesy Euro atmosphere and a pair of buxom, twenty-something lead actresses pretending to be teenage girls.

The Truth About Jane (2000) Jane's mom (Stockard Channing) assumes her popular daughter is just like every other fifteen-year-old girl. Then Jane meets Taylor (Alicia Lagano) and falls madly in love with her. Suddenly, everyone is trying to figure out how to cope with the realization that Jane is a lesbian. A poignant made-for-cable TV drama.

Bisexual:

Blue Gate Crossing (2002) This Taiwanese film (described as "an is-she-or-isn't-she gay comedy") tells the story of a girl who has a crush on her best friend, and the boy the best friend has a crush on.

The Opposite of Sex (1998) Christina Ricci stars in this viciously funny black comedy as a crazy teen vixen who seduces her gay brother's boyfriend.

Wild Reeds (1995) Four teens explore their desires and attractions in this complex portrait of adolescent sexuality from Andre Techine. Set in 1962 in Southern France, *Wild Reeds* won the Cesar (the French equivalent of the Oscar) for Best Picture in 1994.

Transgender:

Boys Don't Cry (1999) Hilary Swank took home an Oscar for her powerful portrayal of transgender teenager Brandon Teena. *Boys Don't Cry* is, for the most part, the most complex and satisfying mainstream depiction of an FTM transgender character.

By Hook or By Crook (2001) This scruffy, brilliantly made feature film manages to tackle and transcend gender as a category. The quintessential butch/trannyboy buddy movie—about a pair of twenty-something butch-dyke-guys in San Francisco.

Hedwig and The Angry Inch (2000) John Cameron-Mitchell stars as Hedwig, the MTF transsexual rock-star in this feature film version of his legendary Off-Broadway play.

Ma Vie en Rose (1997) Ludo (Georges Du Fresne) falls in love with the neighbor boy and decides he wants to grow up to be a girl so they can get married. First his parents try to humor him until he grows out of this "phase," then it's therapy, then it's plain old-fashioned intolerance. Then he meets a little tomboy who shows him that he's not alone.

Summer Vacation: 1999 (1988) Vivid character development, clever narrative structure and a striking visual atmosphere come together in this beautiful futuristic fantasy which looks at the shifting attractions between four boys at an isolated country school. In a brilliant gender-bending casting twist, director Kaneko cast girls in the male roles, later dubbing in their voices with those of four male actors. VHS ONLY.

LIBRARIANS & VIDEOSTORE OWNERS!

These titles are available for purchase through Ingram (<http://www.ingrambook.com/>) or Baker & Taylor (1-800-775-1800 OR <http://www.btol.com/>).

Also – Download a Free Copy of the Baker & Taylor PRIDE guide for a massive listing of LGBT DVDs and videos available for purchase (<http://www.btol.com/>).

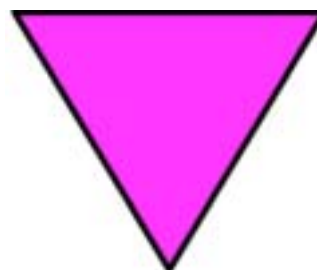


Input needed for Transgender Resource Center

We are requesting help with an exciting project. Recently, we were awarded a subcontract through the University of Washington to set up a Transgender Resource Center within **Outside In**, a social service agency dedicated to serving low-income adults and homeless youth. Our goal is to provide access to relevant, reliable medical information and will include Internet access to a comprehensive network of websites, a circulating fiction and non-fiction collection, and possible journal subscriptions. We will also conduct a poster campaign in conjunction with **Outside In** participants to market the center to the community.

We are in the initial planning phase of the Resource Center and are requesting assistance in finding relevant needs assessment articles in regard to this community. Specifically, we are interested in any case studies, collection development plans, and prior transgender needs assessments. The GLBTRT has proved to be a good source of relevant information, such as the excellent *Bibliography on Transgender and Intersex Topics* from the ALA 2005 Conference. In addition, we have accessed the recommended collection development plans. Any additional information, input or ideas can be sent to Rose Jackson at rosej@pdx.edu or Angie Beiriger at pdx01791@pdx.edu.

Thanks in advance for any assistance.





Book Review!

Luna by Julie Anne Peters: Little, Brown and Company, 2004. \$16.95 hardback. ISBN 0316733695. [F]

Choir Boy by Charlie Anders: Soft Skull Press, 2005. \$16.95 hardback. ISBN 1932360816. [F]



Within the last year two titles have appeared that provide two very different approaches to discussion of the issue of transgender teenagers. *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters appeared in 2004 and was one of the Round Table's Stonewall Award honor books in literature this past year. *Luna* is the brother of story narrator, Regan. The main problem Regan faces is that she has been her sibling's only support, giving a great deal of herself to her brother Liam,

who really wants to be her sister Luna. Regan's days and nights have revolved around Luna and now Regan is facing up to the fact that she has no life of her own and is becoming resentful.



Choir Boy takes completely different tact. Berry is thirteen years old and loves being in the choir at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. He loves the music and the atmosphere so much that he realizes he wants to remain a choirboy into adulthood. He does not want to change, to lose his magnificent voice after training for 8 years. So Berry does what any confused, scared, male might do in a comic setting. He gets himself to a clinic and quickly begins

taking hormones and testosterone blockers. He just hadn't figured that breasts were part of the deal!

Choir Boy is a romp through a confused teenager's life. Berry's exploration, accidental or otherwise, of gender issues is laughingly real. Living half his life in the choir and the other half hiding in his room from his parents, Berry is, to say the least, naïve. Berry stumbles through life seemingly unawares of the steps he is taking until he completes them. It is a state of confusion and uncertainty that I remember well as a teenager, and I am sure exists today for many young adults. The book contains some basic exploratory sex scenes though nothing that hasn't been written about in other teen books. There is some action that make the title suitable only for high school or older kids, though these scenes are handled well and realistically by the author.

Luna is a story of fear and the transformative power of change. The story portrays all of the reactions that family and friends may have to the coming out a trans-person might expect from family and friends. It is, however focused on Regan, not Luna

herself, so we learn more about growing up with a trans brother than learning from the character herself. It is a bold move for author Peters and YA publishing to put forth this title in these restrictive times.

Choir Boy is, on the other hand, focused on Berry. Berry displays all his inner workings for us to see and they are not always pretty or complete. Berry places himself out for the world to watch and the reader has a seat for the entertainment that follows. Not all adults will like *Choir Boy* simply because they believe teens should face emotional issues seriously and antiseptically. But I believe many teens will appreciate author Anders' honest approach to what Berry is going through. Teenage life is not always well thought through and the results are not always sensible and serious. Unlike the review in *School Library Journal* would have you believe, this title is definitely a must for high school and public libraries because it provides another view of growing up with trans issues on your mind.

Reviewed by Steve Stratton, Collections and Technical Services, CSU Channel Islands.



Book Review!

Absolutely Positively Not. By David Larochelle. Arthur A. Levine Books. 224p. hardcover. (ISBN: 0439591090) \$16.95 [F]



Steven DeNarski, 16, only has room in his life for one secret: square-dancing. So, when Steven finds himself attracted to the new, very cool (and quite handsome) sub, Mr. Bowman, he runs straight to the library for a handbook to cure his "deviant" desires. Steven then takes himself through the ringers of teenage masculinity—Victoria's Secret catalogues, hockey jocks, and a whole slew of awkward dates—and along the way finds a cure for his only real deviance: denial. This novel, Larochelle's first, itself takes time to find its pace and character. Steven's obsessive candor as he tries various masculine trappings feels awkward and tedious. Also, many characters at first seem collected from teen novel clichés: socially-conscious best friend, overbearing mother, macho father, vulgar jocks, etc. However, once Steven's voice loses its singular quality in subject and tone, the novel opens up considerably to a string of truly funny and heartening moments. Even the characters' stereotypical qualities begin manifesting in very surprising and touching ways. This results in an extremely rewarding novel, one I recommend for all teen fiction collections.

Reviewed by Joseph Wilk, Library Assistant, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.



Book Review!

The Gay Detective Novel: Lesbian and Gay Main Characters and Themes in Mystery Fiction by Judith A. Markowitz. McFarland & Co, 2004. 302pp. \$35 paperback. (ISBN 0786419571)[813.087]



Mystery aficionados of any stripe or orientation will find much to savor in this thorough, wide-ranging compendium of themes, characters, author information, and more. Markowitz offers a wealth of analysis and background on a broad spectrum of GLBT suspense writers past and present. She categorizes their fictional sleuths by primary occupation (detective, lawyer, journalist, “amateur”), relationships with their individual partners in crime (spouses, best friends, business associates), and frequently occurring major and secondary “social issue”-type themes, among other topics. Writers are listed alphabetically within each broad category, with biographical data and copious quotes from the authors themselves regarding his/her writing motivations and techniques. Markowitz’s breadth is remarkable, and even self-presumed mystery experts will likely find hitherto unknown names within her pages. Unfortunately, a large number of the writers featured in this book are no longer penning mysteries. Thus, many of the titles Markowitz cites are ten or more years old and likely out of print, making easy availability problematic. That caveat aside, however, this unique title will have genuine appeal for both general browsers and cover-to-cover readers, be they person-on-the-street fans of the genre or GLBT literary scholars.

Reviewed by Cathy Ritchie, Theatre Librarian, Dallas Public Library.



Book Review!

The Real Trial of Oscar Wilde: The First Uncensored Transcript of the Trial of Oscar Wilde vs. John Douglas (Marquess of Queensberry). 1895. Fourth Estate. 2003. Merlin Holland. Foreword by John Mortimer. 340 p. hardback. (ISBN 0-00-715664-2)

This trial transcript makes for an exciting read. Attached to this MS is a reproduction of the Magistrates’ Court proceedings against the Marquess of Queensberry, and two appendices containing largely legal papers. Illustrations occur throughout the book. There are extensive, and very informative, footnotes. The footnotes, almost as much as the text, and as Oscar might have said, one might contemplate the writing of book made up

entirely of entertaining footnotes as a new form of art. The transcript of the trial is a great read especially for anyone interested in the whole Wilde drama. It gives insight into Wilde’s personality, the social world of Victorian Britain, and Wilde’s theories of art. The three trials were, of course, both a personal tragedy for Wilde and a landmark event in queer history. The transcript shows Wilde at his wittiest and also as seriously flawed. He was guilty, at least, of very bad judgment and rash behavior, the full cause of which remains a mystery, although one gets the impression from reading the book that the pleasure of transgressing societal boundaries may have played a part in his psychology. I certainly would recommend it for any library that is seriously collecting GLBT materials. High Schools in which students study Wilde and public libraries will wish to purchase.

Reviewed by David E. Woolwine, Ph.D., MLS., Assistant Professor of Human Services, Metropolitan College of New York, Chair, MCNY Faculty Library Committee



Book Review!

A Seahorse Year by Stacey D’Erasmus. 2004 New York: Houghton Mifflin 360 pages. \$24.00 hardback ISBN 0618439234



In Stacey D’Erasmus’s book, *A Seahorse Year*, a San Francisco family – lesbian mom, Nan, and gay father, Hal – struggle to support and protect their 16-year-old son, Christopher as he grows more and more deranged with schizophrenia. His story, along with that of his mother, her lover Marina, Marina’s paramour Shiloh, Hal and his lover, Dan, unfolds in detail as they try to cope with the teenager’s mental illness. Christopher disappears, is found, then is diagnosed and treated while the adults face with their hurts: aging, a secret love affair, and loneliness in a complex city. When his delusions result in a near drowning, the family consigns Chris to a closed institution, El Cerrito where he is successfully treated. But Chris’ girlfriend, Tamara, who believes she understands him better than anyone else, helps him escape from the hospital and they live a highly sexual fantasy in the wild. In the end the family finds some balance, and all along their story and the accompanying stories of Chris’ gay/lesbian parents are drawn in rich, poetic imagery. Serious high school readers and adults will find in *A Seahorse Year* the struggles of all families, gay and straight, for belonging and love with its many pains and rewards.

Reviewed by Paul Scare, Librarian, Masterman School, Philadelphia, PA.



Book Review!



Call for Volunteers!

So Hard to Say. By Alex Sanchez. Simon & Schuster Childrens, 2004. 230 pp. \$14.94 hardcover ISBN: 0689865643. [F]



“Ever since the night Xio held my hand at the movies, I kept thinking: *Does that mean she likes me as girlfriend and boyfriend? I guess so. But do I like her that way?* I wasn’t sure.” Frederick, one of the protagonists began struggling with the issue of homosexuality when he started the eighth grade in his new middle school. Going to a new middle school is hard enough, but moving from Wisconsin to diverse Southern California? Now that’s tough. Xio, the female protagonist, met Frederick on his first

day in class. Due largely to his new relationship with Xio, Frederick begins having conflicting emotions about his sexuality. Sanchez’s novel is broken up into chapters being told alternately by Xio and Frederick. This dual perspective helps illuminate the complexities of middle school and will provide clarity to those dealing with such drama themselves. Recommended for ages 11-15, it may be too young for some teens already in high school. A must-have for any middle school or public library.

Reviewed by **Joey Nicholson**, Assistant Librarian, Touro University Library.

The GLBT Round Table needs your time, talent, and energy if our success in contributing toward libraries and library professionalism is to continue. Filling out and sending this form is one way to let the Round Table know about your interest in serving on committees or in a leadership role. We are eager to learn about how you want to work as a part of the Round Table team.

If you have questions, please contact **Lewis Day**, Membership Committee Chair: lewis_day@harvard.edu

Name:
Library/Organization:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Phone Number:
Fax Number:
E-Mail address:

On which of these committees would you be willing to serve?

- Programming:** plans and conducts programs, the annual book award breakfast, and social activities; coordinates logistics and local arrangements for the Annual and Midwinter meetings.
- Fundraising:** develops goals, prepares budgets, and seeks external funding.
- Library Information Clearinghouse:** identifies, obtains, and distributes materials related to collecting or cataloging gay, lesbian, or bi-oriented materials for libraries; maintains website.
- Newsletter:** compiles, produces, and distributes newsletter, including GLBT related book reviews.
- Book Awards:** reviews materials, selects winner(s), determines appropriate awards.
- External Relations:** coordinates publicity; disseminates Round Table information to interested parties outside ALA; coordinates Round Table correspondence for communications within ALA; develops membership information.

If you've checked multiple, please indicate order of preference:

On which committees have you served in the past, and in what capacity?

Are you willing to serve in a leadership position with one of the committees? Yes No

If yes, please indicate committee preference?

Are you willing to serve as an elected officer? Yes No

Would you be willing to help with any of the following?

- Read Aloud Coordinator | Book Review Editor | Book Reviewer
- Socials Room Set-up | Pride Parade Coordinator | Mailings |
- Grant Writing | Staff Registration Desks | Special Projects |
- Liaison to Diversity Council or other ALA units

Other - Please specify:

What special skills/talents do you have that you would be willing to share with the Round Table?

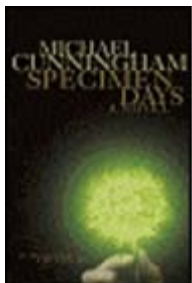
Additional comments:

Please mail this form to: **Lewis Brian Day, Harvard University Archives, Pusey Library, Cambridge, MA 02138**



Book Review!

Specimen Days by Michael Cunningham. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. x, 308 p. \$25.00 ISBN-13: 978-0-374-29962-0 ISBN-10: 0-374-29962-5 [F]



Michael Cunningham is a gay writer, but *Specimen Days* is not a gay novel, unless several of his strange characters constantly quoting Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass* makes it gay. There are no gay characters, no gay relationships, no gay situations. Like his award-winning novel *The Hours*, there are three novellas, this time set mostly in New York City at different times — first in the 19th century at the time of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire, next a few years after 9-11, and finally several

centuries in the future. What holds them together is *Leaves of Grass* and characters who keep reappearing, but in quite different forms. I kept wondering why Cunningham called his new novel *Specimen Days*, which is Whitman’s prose work about the Civil War. *Grass* is an enduring theme, so I would have called it *Grass*! His characters are pilgrims who never arrive. If you are into surrealistic stories by one of our leading gay writers, this is for you, but if you want a gay novel, look elsewhere. Young adults and adults into science fiction or fantasy may enjoy these novellas.

Reviewed by **James D. Anderson**, emeritus professor of library and information science, Rutgers University.