GLBT Community Center of Denver

Founded in Denver in 1976, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Colorado ("The Center") is one of the nation’s oldest organizations serving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. The mission of The Center is to engage, empower, and enrich the GLBT Community in Colorado. As the largest GLBT institution in the state, The Center is the community’s voice on a broad range of issues that affect GLBT people in Colorado.

The Center is the only statewide, nonprofit community center dedicated to supporting and advocating for Colorado’s gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender population. The Center serves as a catalyst for community organizing, support services, social activities, and cultural events.

The Center also offers services and programs for youth and adults and for men and women in areas including health and wellness, HIV prevention, social and support groups and activities for different segments of our community, as well as serving as a meeting place for other community organizations and independent social support groups.

The Terry Mangan Memorial Library, located inside the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Colorado at 1050 Broadway in Denver, is open to the public Monday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Terry Mangan was one of Colorado’s first gay activists and archivists, a founder of the Gay Liberation Front, and the first coordinator of the Gay Coalition, a group founded in 1973 to combat Denver Police Department harassment of gays and lesbians. He authored the book Colorado on Glass: First Fifty Years of Glass-Plate Photography in Colorado, published shortly before his death in 1976. The library of the Gay Coalition and other books from his estate were donated to The Center in his memory to start the present library.

The Library contains more than 5,000 volumes of fiction and non-fiction, including books on lesbian and gay literature, history, psychology and other topics. All materials are available for circulation on the honor system.


Deadlines for the newsletter for the next year will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2009</td>
<td>March 20, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2009</td>
<td>June 5, 2009</td>
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<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>August 22, 2009</td>
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<td>Winter 2010</td>
<td>November 20, 2009</td>
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Please get your reports, articles, book reviews, etc. in by these dates or let us know if there will be a short delay so room can be saved for them in the newsletter.
GLBTRT Midwinter Schedule set

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Steering Committee I</td>
<td>Saturday, 1/24</td>
<td>8:00 am – 10:00 am</td>
<td>Colorado Convention Center, Room 202</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Saturday, 1/24</td>
<td>10:30 am – Noon</td>
<td>Colorado Convention Center, Room 709</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Awards Committee I (closed)</td>
<td>Saturday, 1/24</td>
<td>1:00 pm – 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Westin Tabor Center, Welton Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Awards Committee II (closed)</td>
<td>Sunday, 1/25</td>
<td>1:00 pm – 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Grand Hyatt Denver, Mt. Princeton Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLBTRT Social</td>
<td>Sunday, 1/25</td>
<td>6:00 pm – 8:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Francis Conference Center, 1030 St. Francis Way, on Auraria Campus (Across Cherry Creek from the Convention Center)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steering Committee II</td>
<td>Monday, 1/26</td>
<td>3:00 pm – 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Colorado Convention Center, Korbel Ballroom</td>
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Build Your Vita! Write for the GLBTRT Newsletter!

To become a part of the team of reviewers that publish in the GLBTRT Newsletter or to receive a copy of our guidelines for book reviews, email Book Review Editor Tracy Nectoux at: tnectoux@illinois.edu

Or, if journalism is more your style, send in articles about GLBT library services and collections in and around your community to GLBTRT Newsletter Editor John Bradford at: jpbmls@yahoo.com

And What About Bearforce1?

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=twQlpFrm5iM)

When a metrosexual colleague couldn’t get Rick Astley’s “Never Gonna Give You Up” out of his head, GLBTRT Member Louis Lang suggested a replacement tune—leading to an IM discussion of the gayest music videos on YouTube.

Who won the debate? Follow the links and decide for yourself!

[13:28] TechDaddy: something to get Rick [Astley] out of your head...
Madonna/Vogue
www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fs62sU1igw

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gh1m_~Vou08

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWwymJbJPs

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoTREz2JLB3A

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSqV3rWM4iQ

Before You Go-Go
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hksil-KkebQ

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xv6HtWwO3w

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDUvXiUIjVg

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IpFmEvdJjvw

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqeTpbV9nt0

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNyi6W3V0io

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkXVSOG5f38

Louis Lang
Out in Denver

Information provided by bobmeyers.com, GayDenver.com and 247Gay.com with additional assistance from our own K.R. Roberto.

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<th>Eat</th>
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<th>GLBT Community Center of Colorado</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1515 Market</strong> (American) 1515 Market St 303-571-0011</td>
<td><strong>Boyz town</strong>, formerly the Brig (Strippers) 117 Broadway, (303) 777-9378</td>
<td>1050 Broadway <a href="http://www.GLBTColorado.org">www.GLBTColorado.org</a> 303-733-7743</td>
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<td><strong>The 9th Door</strong> (Fine Dining) 1808 Blake St 303-292-2229</td>
<td><strong>Charlie’s Denver</strong> (Country &amp; Western) (at Emerson St) 900 E Colfax Ave <a href="http://www.charliesdenver.com">www.charliesdenver.com</a> 303-839-8890</td>
<td>Colorado OUT Spoken (GLBT TV Show) 1005 Washington St. <a href="http://www.ColoradoOutSpoken.org">www.ColoradoOutSpoken.org</a> 303-861-0829</td>
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<td><strong>Breckenridge Brewery</strong> (American) 2220 Blake St <a href="http://www.breckbrew.com">www.breckbrew.com</a> 303-297-3644</td>
<td><strong>Denver Detour</strong> (Lesbian) 551 E. Colfax Ave (use back entrance off Pearl) 303-861-1497</td>
<td>Denver Zine Library (magazines) Saturday / Sunday 1-5 1644 Platte Street, Studio 107 (access from the alley) <a href="http://www.denverzinelibrary.org">www.denverzinelibrary.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Earl of Sandwich</strong> (Deli) 1431 Ogden St 303-832-7411</td>
<td><strong>Foxhole</strong> (Men and Women) 2936 Fox St. (303) 298-7378</td>
<td>Tattered Cover Book Store (LoDo - 16th St and Wynkoop St) 1628 16th Street <a href="http://www.TatteredCover.com">www.TatteredCover.com</a> 303-436-1070</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hamburger Mary’s</strong> (Hamburgers) 700 East 17th Avenue <a href="http://www.hamburgermarysdenver.com">www.hamburgermarysdenver.com</a> 303-832-1333</td>
<td><strong>Lannie’s Clocktower Cabaret</strong> (Men and Women) UNDERGROUND @ Historic D&amp;F Clock Tower 16th St. Mall at Arapahoe-Downtown Denver <a href="http://www.lannies.com">www.lannies.com</a> 303-293-0075</td>
<td>Compiled by Corwin Watts Independent Librarian</td>
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<td><strong>Las Margaritas Uptown</strong> (Mexican) 1035 E 17th Ave at Downing <a href="http://www.LasMargs.com">www.LasMargs.com</a> 303-830-2199</td>
<td><strong>Old Tequila Rosa’s</strong> (Latino) 5190 Brighton (303) 295-2819</td>
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<td><strong>Santa Fe Tequila Company</strong> (New Mexican) 901 West 10th Ave. <a href="http://www.santafetequilacompany.com">www.santafetequilacompany.com</a> 303-534-7900</td>
<td><strong>Wave Nightclub</strong> (Late Night / Afterhours) 2101 Champa St 303.299.9283</td>
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<td><strong>WaterCourse Foods</strong> (Vegan) 837 E 17th Ave <a href="http://www.watercoursefoods.com">www.watercoursefoods.com</a> 303-832-7313</td>
<td><strong>Be Merry</strong> Colorado Climax Hockey Team <a href="http://www.ClimaxHockey.org">www.ClimaxHockey.org</a> 303-919-9860</td>
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Marching through Chicago: Prop 8 Protest

My participation in Chicago’s Prop 8 protest was serendipitous. I was to be in Chicago Saturday, November 15 to attend the 2008 Reeling Film Festival. John Bradford and I were to see five films that day (beginning at noon) and write reviews for the GLBTRT newsletter.

Yet for days I’d been seeing announcements of a national protest (organized by JoinTheImpact on Facebook). There was even going to be one in my tiny hometown of Urbana-Champaign. I couldn’t help but feel pretty damn lame, knowing that I’d be sitting in a theater while the equivalent of the second Stonewall happened outside.

The Thursday before I was to leave for Chicago, my co-worker and friend Nathan came to my desk and said he was going to Chicago that weekend. He expressed interest in going to a film or two with John and me. The more the merrier!

So I IM’d John, saying that Nathan was coming with us. Then, I complained about missing the protest. To my delight, John said he wanted to participate in it too. We both agreed that this protest was important, both for civil rights for gays and lesbians and because we felt that, with the coming anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the GLBT Round Table’s upcoming tribute to Del Martin, this would be something we’d want to report in the newsletter. New plan: Attend the protest, see three films instead of five, write both reviews and protest commentary.

When I told Nathan I’d be dumping him for the protest, he jumped at the chance to go with us, saying, “I’m not interested in marriage and don’t plan to marry. But how dare they?!” Indeed. We were on!

Nathan and I traveled by train to Chicago way too freaking early in the morning. We arrived around 9:00am, had utterly delicious brunch at Orange, and walked over to Chicago’s Federal Plaza to meet John. When we got there, more than 500 people had already gathered. The Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus sang; at least a dozen huge rainbow flags waved in the chilly breeze; policemen on horses guarded the crowd; and volunteers stood, holding a huge sign that read “Anti-gay hate is not welcome here.”

The enthusiastic Allison Leber introduced speakers from all ages, races, and political ideologies, including two married (for now) couples from California; two comedienne from 3Way (see Reeling Through Chicago, pages 13-14) protest organizers Corrine Mina, Missy Lorenzen, Nik Maciejewski, and Sid Stokes; Kim Foster of Common Ground, Columbia College’s gay student group; Andy Thayer (my personal hero and another march organizer) and Bob Schwartz of the Gay Liberation Network; Reverend Sherry Lowly of the United Methodist Church; and openly gay Illinois State Rep. Greg Harris.

Counter-protesters huddled across Dearborn Avenue; during our moment of silence, they kept chanting their hate (rude!). Afterwards, Nathan asked me, “What were they saying?”

Hell, I don’t know! There were so few of them that even during our moment of silence, we couldn’t understand their tiny, tiny spiteful chanting.

Eventually, someone suggested that we “start walking.” We did not have a parade permit (and Andy Thayer was ticketed), but we did march anyway. All 4,000+ of us. We just began walking. We covered 4.5 city blocks. We shut down the goddamn streets.

What I remember:

- One of the speakers tossing aside his “beautifully-written” speech, and passionately yelling over and over, “Not anymore! Not anymore!”
- Another speaker making particular mention of our straight allies and everyone cheering
- Walking past the haters and physically willing myself not to spit on the ground they stood upon
- The thousands of voices chanting “Yes we can!” and for once—even if it was just for that moment—not feeling cynical about it

Looking around and seeing people on the street—moms with their kids, construction workers, gutter punks—all standing and smiling and clapping
- Looking up into office buildings and shopping centers and seeing office workers standing at their windows cheering us on
- My shock at the cops, sitting on their horses, smiling at us (!!)
- All the different signs: “Fuck Prop 8”; “That’s OK, I wasn’t using my civil rights anyway”; “Let my brother get married”; “Gay is the new black”; “Bigots Repent”; “I didn’t vote against your marriage”

Americans—gay, lesbian, straight, bi, trans, old, young, black, white, brown, Hispanic, Asian, married, single, poly, etc., etc.—gathered for one purpose: equal rights for all. Hopefully, this is just the beginning.

Tracy Marie Nectoux
Cataloger, Illinois Newspaper Project
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign

This year, the GLBTRT has 2 open elected positions: Male-identified Co-Chair and Treasurer. We hope there will be much competition for these two essential posts.

For descriptions of the duties of these two elected officers, please see Section IV of the GLBTRT Bylaws, at http://its.usc.edu/~trimmer/glbtrt/bylaws.htm

If you are interested in running for election, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee:

Lisa N. Johnston, Chair
lnjohnston@sbc.edu

Emily W. Edwards
lushkav@gmail.com

Chet Mulawka
mulawka@smcl.org

Joel Nichols
nicholsj@freelibrary.org

GLBTRT Elections
Reeling through Chicago: GLBT Film Festival

Reeling: The Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival is the second oldest film festival of its kind in the US and prides itself on showcasing the best LGBT films and videos each and every year. From award-winning international feature films to social documentaries to experimental shorts (and, this year, music videos), Reeling has always presented a range of genres that demonstrate the rich diversity of work being produced. One of the most important cultural events for Chicagoans, it also attracts LGBT people from throughout the Midwest who consider the festival to be the highlight of their cinematic year.

Reeling 2008 presented 77 programs over 11 days from November 6-16. GLBTRT members John Bradford and Tracy Nectoux checked out 3 films together on Saturday, November 15.

The New Twenty
Directed by Chris Mason Johnson
Los Angeles: Serious Productions, 2008, 92 min

JB: There were two gay characters, out of the five principals, but they seemed peripheral to the plot. Tony was the gay brother of the female lead, who found a love interest in a taciturn pox professor; Ben was a bearish amiable loser led on by friends and potential hook-ups alike. The real winning character, though, was the female lead, Julie, as she made her way through a series of love triangles to an independent life. This is a GLBT-accepting movie most libraries could stock without protest but it doesn’t challenge the viewer, either.

TN: The New Twenty is probably one of the best films devoted to the trials and tribulations of beautiful, self-absorbed, upper-middle-class young adults I’ve seen in a while. It hearkens my old-lady self back to St. Elmo’s Fire. And I mean that in a good way. This film is well-acted and directed. The story is compelling and I found myself hoping that everyone I cared about would have happy endings.

But that’s the rub: Of the movie’s eight characters, I only really cared about two of them (just like with St. Elmo’s Fire). And—frustratingly enough—these are the characters who get the least attention. Or, to be fair, it’s their relationship that gets the shaft (and I don’t mean that in a good way).

Because, see, The New Twenty doesn’t treat physical affection between its couples’ equally. This movie’s story is a quasi-love triangle between Julie, her angsty ex-boyfriend and his one night stand, we never see even a single kiss between Tony and his professor. This is jarring and slightly insulting, especially at a lesbian & gay film festival. Having said that, while Tony and Matt are “sexless,” they do share the film’s most romantic moment. Indeed, they are the only stable, loving, mature relationship in the entire film.

I recommend The New Twenty for its acting and interesting story, but—as I bitched to John for a good ten minutes after it was over—it really shouldn’t have been included in this festival’s lineup. 15+

3Way
Produced and directed by Mary Lou Belli, Robert Ben Garant, Courtney Rowe, Nancylee Myatt, Paige Bernhardt.
Los Angeles: 3Way, 2008, 70 min

JB: I was one of about a dozen men in the audience for this show but I was glad I went! Billed as the hottest lesbian comedy not on TV, this was a series of several hilarious sketch comedy webisodes about a straight, washed-up diva who invites a friend to move in, and the friend brings along her girlfriend, and the girlfriend has an oddball ex (who has a stalker) semi- permanently sleeping over. The episode I liked best was “The Dinah Monologues”, but the whole show was fantastic. There’s no nudity but lots of sexual situations and innuendo, so check out www.3waytv.tv before buying for your library. And watch for the forthcoming Three-Way DVD!

TN: This film—actually a type of sketch comedy—is extremely sexy and hysterically funny. The four comedienne (Maeve Quinlan, Jill Bennett, Cathy Shim, and Maile Flanagan) are excellent, and possess both impressive comic timing and obvious chemistry with each other. All four are gorgeous, hot, and brilliant performers. There are very few male actors in 3Way (maybe three?), but those who are included make excellent use of their short time on-screen.

3Way contains a 19-minute opener that deserves mention: Human Potential (written and directed by Christin Baker; Chicago: Tello, 2008). This sketch presents Alison’s first day on the job at a dysfunctional non-profit devoted to advancing athletic opportunities for young girls. Alison is gay and watching her maneuver through conversation after conversation devoted to her “single status” is both hilarious and surprisingly touching. You can watch Human Potential at www.tellofilms.com. 15+

3-Day Weekend
Written and directed by Rob Williams.
Los Angeles: Guest House Films, 2008, 84 min.

JB: We finished our run at Piper’s Alley with this cross between Love! Valour! Compassion! and The Big Chill. Two gay couples head off to a cabin in the woods; each person brings along a gay single friend to spice things up. Clichés abound, from the leather daddy and his boy to the loopy nude yoga coach to the grizzled hustler, and more—but this movie acknow-

(Continued on page 6)
Reeling Through Chicago, continued...

knock-off with noticeably clichéd characters. But, hey, clichés exist for reason, no? In Three-Day Weekend we have: the May/December romance; the Hustler-with-a-heart-of-gold; the I-can’t-be-monogamous-no-no-never guy; the unapologetic-slut-who’ll-never-settle-down guy; the guy-who-was-bashed-and-disowned-but-didn’t-let-it-change-him, who then falls in love with;; the skinny-shy-bookish-lonely-non-posterboy; and, finally, the perfect-but-getting-older-why-isn’t-he-loved? guy.

And still, with all of these clichés, this movie worked for me. There wasn’t a single unlikable or one-dimensional character. Rob Williams managed to write characters and dialog that—if not transcendent of the clichés—at least work well within the structure of the story. Indeed, as John mentions, one of the most enjoyable scenes is one in which they have a discussion of the pros and cons of gay films “then and now,” which becomes surreal as you become aware that they’re also commenting on the very movie we’re watching (freaky!). The dialog is smart, interesting, and never boring.

John is correct that the ending is lazy. His description, “tepid,” is spot on.

This film has full frontal nudity (“nothing blatant,” John?? Is it just my imagination, or did I not see asses and dicks everywhere!!?), but sex is treated responsibly and is never exploitative. I recommend Three-Day Weekend for 17+

GLSEN PSA Campaign Wins Ad Council Award

GLSEN PSA Campaign Wins Ad Council Award

"We are deeply honored and thrilled that the Ad Council recognized the humorous but powerful campaign creative developed by ArnoldNYC in partnership with GLSEN," said GLSEN Executive Director Dr. Eliza Byard. "We are deeply grateful to the Ad Council, Arnold NYC and the countless others who recognized the need for such a message of respect and tolerance."

The campaign is supported by the interactive website ThinkB4YouSpeak.com, which allows youth and educators to take action to ensure a safer and more welcoming environment for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. From 11/20/2008 GLSEN press release.

GLSEN Announces New National Day of Action

GLSEN has announced a new national day of action: TransAction! This is a day for education and celebration of transgender and gender non-conforming people and experiences, a day to begin dialogues about gender and advocate for inclusive schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

TransAction! encourages students to organize a workshop, panel discussion, or similar forum about gender, gender identity and gender roles, and the broader transgender umbrella.

Among other resources, the TransAction! Web site (www.dayofsilence.org/tdr.html) will post a list of trans warriors to celebrate, a list of key terms, and links to other organizations working for the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming people.

Local TransAction! organizers are encouraged to incorporate one or more of the following aspects in their actions:

- Reach out to organizations/community leaders who can help you organize a forum or a workshop.
- Facilitate a workshop on gender identity and the transgender experience.
  - Get familiar with key terms about gender.
  - Highlight various aspects of gender and transgender experiences.
  - Celebrate the contributions transgender people have made in social justice movements.

Member Profile: Cathy Ritchie

What was your first library/library-related job? From ages 5 to 17, I attended a private school in Brooklyn, New York and was a student “assistant” to the librarian. Mrs. Poole conformed to every stereotype known to our profession, up to and including old-fashioned dress and persnickety disposition. Fortunately, I soon realized that she was truly dedicated to us students—just burned out. When I graduated, I was grateful to have known her but still planned to become a library-loving high school English teacher.

During my sophomore year at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, I changed my mind about teaching while earning two English degrees. By the early 1980s, after several dead-end semi-English-major-related jobs, I began library school at the University of Minnesota and knew I had finally found the perfect career. I had originally planned to work in academia post-degree but instead became a “substitute librarian” for the Minneapolis Public Library system, ostensibly as a temporary stop-gap until my dream college job materialized, probably within mere months (I blithely assumed). Three YEARS later, I surmised that ivory towers were not in my future.

Since I didn’t dislike public library work, I switched my job-seeking focus, becoming an Adult Services/YA Librarian at the Decatur (IL) PL. I spent 12 wonderfully formative years there until 1998, when I returned to school full-time to earn a Certificate of Advanced Study [CAS], with a focus on collection development, from the Graduate School of Library/Information Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

My 18 months at UIUC plunged me into a stimulating new environment, along with a GLBT-positive faculty and student body. For my final CAS research project, I did a survey study of collection development policies and practices regarding GLBT-related non-fiction in medium-sized Illinois public libraries (say that three times fast!)—easily the single biggest intellectual undertaking I’d ever faced. My final paper was published in Illinois Libraries in 2001.

Tell us about your current job. Since May 2000, I’ve been Theatre/Film Librarian in the Fine Arts Division of the Dallas (TX) Public Library [DPL]. In many ways, it is a dream job, as I’ve been a passionate theater-lover since I saw Bert Parks in The Music Man on Broadway when I was 5. I first heard about the DPL opening via the GAY-LIBN listserv (hooray for us!) and knew I had to apply, even though I have no academic degrees in theatre or performing arts. I am very thankful that the Library’s powers-that-be thought my avocational background was sufficient for the job at hand. Living in Texas after over 30 years in Illinois and Minnesota has been an adjustment but I’m still grateful to be here.

At DPL, I indulge my love for collection development as I select most of our feature DVD collection, plus all print materials related to theatre, film, and television. I also program weekly “classic” film showings, along with occasional live performances by local theatre groups. Dallas has much to offer arts aficionados, so the environment is always stimulating.

With my manager’s support, I’ve also been active in the Theatre Library Association and have written and spoken locally and nationally on various library-related topics. And I’m currently co-chair of the Library’s GLBT Adult Programming Committee. Since 2005, we’ve brought notable authors to Dallas (e.g., Alison Bechdel, pre-Fun Home!) for appearances at a DPL branch, and offered several GLBT-themed film series at our Central Library. I co-wrote an article about the Committee’s activities for the March/April 2008 issue of Public Libraries, so our experiences may inspire other libraries toward similar outreach efforts on behalf of the GLBT patrons we all serve.

Did/do you have a mentor? When I was a child, the “Walt Whitman” Branch of the NYPL was my initial “home” public library and Larry Brandwein was the first (male and straight!) library professional in my life. He became a family friend while later scaling the heights of the Brooklyn PL system. Then, while working for my CAS at the U of Illinois, I was guided and befriended by faculty members Karen Schmidt, Caroline Haythornthwaite, and my project adviser Carole Palmer, who never let their “academic” orientations get in the way of appreciating my public library worldview. Today, I learn from all my colleagues, as we work towards common goals.

What are you reading right now? Would you recommend it? I always have several books going simultaneously, but some exceptional ones from 2008 are: The Soloist by Steve Lopez; the latest Pulitzer Prize winner for drama, August: Osage County by Tracy Letts; and the hilarious Lois Lenz, Lesbian Secretary by Monica Nolan. I also annually re-read the comic masterpiece A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole. And I always recommend two phenomenal GLBT-related “young adult” novels: Luna by Julie Anne Peters and The Year of Ice by Brian Malloy.

What is your favorite movie? Song? TV show? I admire many films, but when I think about brilliant scripts and impeccable ensemble acting, my two favorites are probably All About Eve and Tootsie.

As for songs, I have many Top 40 favorites but as a bona fide “Broadway baby” since that youthful close encounter with Mr. Parks, show tunes are my greatest loves. By the time I was 6, I knew every word of every song in My Fair Lady, West Side Story, and Camelot. My parents were so proud (not to mention dumbfounded!)...

Two songs that resonate with me personally, thanks to Messieurs Sondheim and Rodgers/Hammerstein respectively, are “Marry Me A Little,” from Company and “Love, Look Away” from Flower Drum Song. But I’m always a sucker for a great “belter” aria—like “Back to Before” from Ragtime and “The Wizard and I” from Wicked. So many show-stoppers, so little time!

I don’t watch much television these days, except for PBS and the various Law and Order franchises. Ditto for reality TV, though I have enjoyed The Apprentice and Hell’s Kitchen. But I have also seen every episode of ER. And since Woman cannot live by Masterpiece Theatre alone, I confess to faithfully watching a “daytime drama, too.

When it comes to so-called “classic” television, my all-time favorite is The Honeymoons. The day after each “Classic 39” episode aired back in the late 1950s, my
Ritchie, continued...

father would re-enact the plot, jokes and Jackie Gleason “business” for his little girl: a nice memory. I know them all by heart now and, baby, they’re the greatest....

Social networks (LJ, Blogger, Second Life, WoW, MySpace, etc.)—yes or no? Afraid not. They’re on my long “to do” list to try someday.

Anything else you’d like to add? For over 30 years, I’ve recorded books for the blind, for agencies in both Minnesota and here in Dallas. Back in the 1980s, I also recorded materials for the now defunct Woman’s Braille Press, headquartered in Minneapolis: my first serious exposure to lesbian literature, lovingly produced for a unique audience. I would enjoy being part of an operation like WBP again. If any RT members know of a similar group up and running, please feel free to contact me.

Kim Wallace: Educator, Author, Advocate

English teacher turned author Kim Wallace began writing the Erik & Isabelle at Foresthill High series after more than a decade of working in the public school arena. After witnessing the disenfranchisement and discrimination against gay and lesbian youth, she felt compelled to write a four-book high school series that would embrace the lives of a typically invisible, and often misunderstood, population. Erik & Isabelle bloomed out of a desire to reach a group of young people in critical need of connection, love, and understanding.

Wallace earned her B.A. in History at UC Santa Barbara, Master’s in Education at UCLA, and Educational Administration credential at Sacramento State University. Currently, she works as an alternative high school vice principal in addition to running her own publishing imprint, Foglight Press. She was a finalist for the 2006 Lambda Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction.

What motivated you to write about teens in high school? I knew that I wanted to be a high school teacher the moment I entered high school as a ninth grader. Four years later, I started teaching at the high school I graduated from. Even though high school is painful, awkward, and difficult in a multitude of ways, I feel drawn to and compassionate towards that age range. Now, fifteen years later, I’m still working at the high school level, currently as a principal. For some reason I just “get” that stage of life and feel like my own survival can inspire kids who can’t quite see the light at the end of the tunnel on their own.

Why did you self-publish? I didn’t plan to, at first. I was picked up by a publisher soon after I finished my first book in the Foresthill High series and we were under contract for a year. Then, right before getting ready to go to press, there was a dreaded several-month silence where no one would return my calls or emails. Soon after, I got my manuscript back in the mail with a letter saying that the company was going through “a transition”, which essentially meant a change of ownership, and they voided my contract. I went back to the drawing board and sent out a new batch of queries and got a lot of great feedback on my book. The main issue for the publishers was that my audience was too niche and too difficult to market to in their minds—one finally admitted that they just couldn’t make money off of it. I knew my audience firsthand and felt that I could find them and that they deserved to have a book series like this to connect to. Thus started my self-publishing venture.

How can people purchase your books? The best ways to order books are through Amazon.com or other book-oriented websites or through my own website: www.foglightpress.com.

Who has had the greatest influence on your writing? There are so many sources of influence who fostered my growth as a writer. The writers who inspired me were Anne Lamott, who reminds me to tap into my sense of humor, Toni Morrison, who challenges my diction and prose, and Sharon Olds, the poet who speaks the truth and turns brutality into beauty. I also credit my sophomore English teacher in high school, Clare LePell, who saw something more in me than I did.

Who’s your favorite YA author? I love YA authors—we are kindred spirits, a rare breed of people who adore teenagers, the messier the better. Some who I personally enjoy reading are Alex Sanchez and Julie Anne Peters. They bridge that gap between adolescence and sophistication, which is an admirable balancing act as a writer.

What are you reading now? Currently, I’m reading a lot of non-fiction articles as the political and economic climates dominate our collective consciousness. To counter those serious topics, I tend to use Rumi like a salve.

Is there anything else you would like to add? Evolving as a creative artist is important to me. I’ve just begun work on a new project called Missed Connections. It is a collection of vignettes inspired by “Missed Connections” personal ads placed in local newspapers and on Craigslist. It hinges on the fantasy we all harbor that there is someone “out there” we’re destined to encounter, fall in love with, or connect with in some meaningful way. It’s for and about those of us who are dreamers, hopeful lovers, and unrequited romantics. This work is stretching my writing voice(s) and I can’t wait to see what it results in.


Meet Erik, the ninth grader who lives under the command of his military dad, starts the day with pushups, and shhhhhh—he happens to be gay. Meet Isabelle, a right-brained freshman who marches to her own drummer, has a mind of her own, and is the only out lesbian at Foresthill High. Erik and Isabelle are best friends.

**Freshman Year:** "Faggot," Erik hears as he walks down the hallways of Foresthill High, but the word is echoing within his mind from the many times he has heard it before. Isabelle breaks the spell when she calls his name and their story begins in a narrative that bounces back and forth between Isabelle’s and Erik’s lives. Isabelle uncharacteristically falls in love with Mandy, a cheerleader, and discovers that sometimes preconceived notions aren’t true. Erik also meets another gay boy, Jeremy, first on the internet and then in person during a track meet.

**Sophomore Year:** As the school year begins, Isabelle encourages her friends to join her in finding a way to "impact our sophomore year in some fabulous way." Erik decides to create a 10K race, and donate the money they’ll raise to charity. Erik and Isabelle search for and find love, but happy endings can seem unlikely in a society that often makes it impossible to be openly gay. Erik goes to San Francisco for Thanksgiving vacation and ends up spending time with his gay cousin, who shows him another lifestyle. Isabelle decides to impact their sophomore year by creating a public service announcement about acceptance and diversity, which starts a dialog among her peers.

**Junior Year:** Eleventh grade is no less trouble-free for Erik and Isabelle than previous years. They stumble in their romances and continue to endure homophobia from their classmates and peers. But both friends confront each challenge with bravery and maturity. The end of Junior year closes in triumph, with a promise of even more excitement for Senior year.

**Senior Year:** Erik spends the year studying abroad in Germany, and meets someone who changes his life. Isabelle and her girlfriend want for Prom Queens, and must fight against the religious right to do so. By the end of senior year, both Erik and Isabelle have found a path for their future.

If stories provide avenues for people to see themselves in literature, then these books do a great job as they deal with teen issues, spirituality, bullying, suicide, coming out, and more. The first two books offer a litany of situations and struggles faced by many gay youth. The third and fourth books contain stronger plots, while offering hope for gay kids. Wallace has created believable characters that mature from uncertain ninth graders—complete with all their inherent drama—into settled young adults. Occasionally the narrative becomes confusing as it switches between Isabelle’s and Erik’s lives. Although there are sexual experiences in these stories, the sex isn't graphic. I am looking forward to see what Wallace comes out with next. Recommended for high school and YA collections.

Reviewed by Sharon Flesher-Duffy
Library Media Specialist
Nashua High South (NH)

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**James Buchanan’s** *The Good Thief* is a work of fiction that combines several genres. Nate and Caesar meet by chance and kindle a spark that wouldn't have ignited had they known anything about each other beforehand: Nate is a cop with the LAPD and Caesar makes a living by breaking into houses.

As in much romantic fiction, opposites attract, but fight the attraction. As in erotic romance, they fall into bed pretty quickly. There is sexually explicit lovemaking by page ten, and the reader is treated to equally graphic encounters with regularity.

Another genre element added to the mix is that of the crime novel. In what starts out as a routine robbery, Caesar discovers evidence of a crime far more monstrous than his own. He finds himself with no other choice but to reluctantly turn to Nate, resulting in a case that pits...
Buchannan, continued...

the both of them against the power structure of the LAPD (and throws them together for a lot more erotic action).

Due to Buchanan’s devoted following, The Good Thief is recommended for larger fiction collections that don’t shy away from erotica.

Reviewed by Michael Colby
Shields Library
University of California, Davis

DeSimone, Lewis. Chemistry.

Relationship dynamics always seem to follow a somewhat typical pattern in the beginning: boy meets boy, they date, and they start to get more serious. It is with this last phase that this story gets interesting. Neal meets Zach, and everything is great, until it is discovered that Zach's lethargy and indifference is caused by a chemical imbalance. Neal sticks by Zach's side through the various ups and downs, but is forced to examine his soul for answers that he may not be prepared to admit.

Chemistry is very coherent picture of having to deal with a loved one who is suffering a mental illness, from diagnosis through treatment. The book easily flows as you learn about both of the lovers' pasts and how they have come to breaking points within the relationship. Neal is more the intellectual, who has had very typical relationships. Zach's past has left him at a point where he can no longer commit to the confinements of a relationship for any length of time. Neal comes to realize that Zach is consuming his time and energy when his friend Martin forces him to reflect on what is keeping him tied to Zack. Martin is a true friend to Neal, never judging him or pointing blame.

In the spectrum of gay fiction, Chemistry is an adult version of Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower. Suitable for any library's adult collection.

Reviewed by Johnnie N. Gray
Interlibrary Loan Librarian
Paul and Rosemary Trible Library
Christopher Newport University

Kelly, Christopher. A Push and a Shove.

Christopher Kelly’s first novel shows the destructive effects of bullying and sexual obsession. Terrence O’Connell first called Ben Reilly “gaywad” when they were in seventh grade in 1986. Ben didn’t fight back because he knew that Terrence’s name-calling was true—and because he was in love with Terrence. Terrence’s bullying continued until their junior year in high school when he followed Ben home one day. Ben knows he will always remember Terrence saying, "Don't fall."

Ten years later, a violent incident at the Staten Island high school where Ben teaches revives his bad memories. Ben vows to locate Terrence and get revenge—by seducing him. Finding that Terrence is a successful magazine writer in New York, Ben contacts him. Can “old enemies” become “new friends”?

Nobody knows a bully as well as his victim. And Ben is relentless in his pursuit of Terrence. Kelly drenches the cat-and-mouse scenes between the two young men with sexual tension and clever dialogue. Ben thinks he knows what he wants; Terrence doesn’t know who he is. When they go mountain biking in Vail, push finally comes to shove. They both find that getting revenge can really be a bitch.

A Push and a Shove is a swift-moving, entertaining, yet disturbing novel. Winner of the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Debut Fiction, this novel is highly recommended for gay fiction collections.

Reviewed by W. Stephen Breedlove
Reference Librarian/Interlibrary Loan Coordinator
La Salle University Library

Rode, Michelle. Water Seekers.

Michelle Rode’s Water Seekers is set 30 years after a nuclear apocalypse. Each chapter is narrated in two parts: the present day by an unnamed narrator and in a topically related account, an omniscient narrator—an “old one” named Zara—recalls life before the disaster and reveals experiences from childhood onward.

The unnamed narrator, a young loner traveling from camp to camp in the Southwest desert looking for work in exchange for food and water, has been listening to rumors of a place in the North called the Great Lakes, where water is supposedly easy to come by. He plans to check these rumors out and is convinced by Zara that traveling in a group would be safest. Ultimately, a group with varying survival skills set forth. They encounter storms, hostile camps, quicksand, and illness as they search for something no one is sure even exists.

Though the main characters in this novel are not gay or lesbian, there is minor positive/neutral lesbian content in the story. Recommended.

Reviewed by Nancy Silverrod
San Francisco Public Library
**Book Reviews: Nonfiction**


This collection of poems, unpublished in book form until now, covers roughly a thirty year period, and is an excellent opportunity for readers who may not be familiar with Jeffery Beam’s poetry to become acquainted with his style.

The back cover of the book sums up this reader’s experience of the poems as “lyrical, metaphysical poetry,” a conversation between our physical world and our spiritual being. While Beam’s male lovers serve, in large part, as the subject matter for his poems, their erotic passion and the sense of solitude that comes from the loss of a lover are universal emotions to which all readers can relate.

A man of many creative talents, Jeffery Beam’s publications include nine books, numerous articles, three audio publications, and one lyrical opera. He has also served as the poetry editor of Oyster Boy Review.

Beam is a library assistant to the Biology Librarian in the Botany Library on the North Carolina University–Chapel Hill campus.


Ellen Bosman’s and John Bradford’s genre guide is an essential resource for reader’s advisory and collection development for libraries needing to expand their existing collections of GLBT literature. Three initial chapters introduce GLBT RA services, and provide background that is helpful to both gay and straight library staff preparing to assist library patrons to better use this genre. Then follow 13 chapters, each covering a specific type of literature, ranging from science fiction to graphic novels to life stories. These chapters provide a definition of the literature type, describe its characteristics, provide historical overview, and explain the chapter’s organization.

The entries include bibliographic information, a brief annotation with awards received, subjects assigned to the entry, and valuable “read-alikes” for RA work. A bibliography, author / title index, and subject index conclude this outstanding contribution to Libraries Unlimited’s Genreflecting Advisory Series.

**Wilde Stories 2008: The Best of the Year’s Gay Speculative Fiction.**
Edited by Steve Berman.

Wilde Stories 2008 is the first in an annual anthology series reprinting gay-themed fantasy, horror, and science fiction stories published the previous year. Steve Berman’s introduction makes his reasons for this series clear: “As the ‘interstitial’ and ‘slipstream’ literary movements gain momentum, more and more authors are interweaving their traditional gay themes—coming out, homophobia, and self-acceptance—with a bit of the strange and weird.” Gay culture, according to Berman, as seen in glossy magazines and graphics-heavy websites, is one that only claims to welcome differences. Despite the value of the alien/monster as a metaphor for outsiders, “any guy who shows a deep-seated interest in dragons or rocketships is a social reject, a nerd,” someone who finds himself lingering in a different kind of closet.

Hal Duncan’s witty “The Island of the Pirate Gods” and Joshua Lewis’s “Ever So Much More Than Twenty,” a touching fantasy about time and love, are among the collection’s best. In “Lycaon,” Peter Dubé has something new to say about werewolves, desire, and memory. “The Emerald Mountain,” by Victor J. Banis and “An Apiary of White Bees,” by Lee Thomas are also not to be missed. On the strength of these five I look forward to Wilde Stories 2009. The remaining entries include conventional ghost stories, and some less predictable tales involving time travel and magic rooms, extraterrestrial sex-tourists, more werewolves, and a pair of kinky thieves. Finally, a short excerpt from a novel presents a coming-of-age story with magical elements.

Recommended for general collections with an interest in gay or imaginative literature.

Reviewed by Joyce Meggett
Division Chief for Humanities
Chicago Public Library

Reviewed by TJ Lusher
Assistant Dean
Automated Library Systems
Northern Illinois University

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Reviewed by Joyce Meggett
Division Chief for Humanities
Chicago Public Library
Brooks, Adrian. *Flights of Angels: My Life with the Angels of Light.*

San Francisco in the 1970s was a city of action: artistic, social, sexual, and political. In this atmosphere, radical art and theatre flourished, giving birth to such groups as The Cockettes and the Angels of Light. Born of East Coast affluence, Adrian Brooks’ inner drive as a poet and artist soon brought him to San Francisco and into the heart of this “magical vortex.”

In telling his story, and the story of the Angels, Brooks allows readers to experience these transformative times and meet the broad spectrum of individuals whose contributions—both positive and negative—made the queer arts scene in California and America what it is today.

Brooks’ story is fascinating; the people and events with which he was involved make juicy reading for anyone interested in queer history, theatre history, or the history of the Bay Area. The only drawback is, unfortunately, Brooks himself. His arrogant, self-congratulatory tone is tempered only occasionally with false modesty (his claim to understand the sufferings of the poor because he only allowed his trust fund to pay him the equivalent of a monthly welfare check is laughable), and toward the book’s end, the writing becomes fragmented, with people and events introduced and then forgotten. Despite these flaws, *Flights of Angels* remains an interesting read, and though its audience may be limited, those who seek out this story will not be disappointed.

Reviewed by
Amanda Clay
Library Media Specialist
Lakeview Elementary
Norman Oklahoma

**The Butch Cook Book. Edited by Lee Lynch, Nel Ward, and Sue Hardesty.**

The Butch Cook Book is a compilation of recipes from the kitchens of many butch Lesbians, and covers a complete range of foods, from hors d’oeuvres to desserts. Or, to use the butch terms: beginnings to sweet talk. There are also recipes for drinks, pet foods, and food for “the morning after.”

The recipes themselves are easy to follow and include basics (Hummus) and comfort foods (Mac and Cheese), to complicated entrees and desserts, including a good selection of meat and vegetarian dishes to satisfy the most demanding butch diner.

Scattered throughout the cookbook are articles on and about butch history, along with other bits and pieces of amusing and useful information. There is a biography for each of the contributors and each chapter heading has a line drawing involving food and power tools. Some of the drawings were rather odd, so because I was unsure of what power tools have to do with cooking, I contacted one of the authors, Nel Ward, and asked why. Her succinct answer: “It’s a butch thing.” So find those power tools and dig out that blender and serve up a dinner from The Butch Cook Book.

I recommend this book for GLBT archives and public libraries, in addition to cookbook collectors within the GLBT community.

Reviewed by Norman Eriksen
Assistant Division Manager
Languages Literature and Fiction
Brooklyn Public Library


The radical reappraisal spoken of in the subtitle of this book is James Davidson’s disagreement with Kenneth Dover’s 1978 *Greek Homosexuality* (Vintage Books) and with subsequent Foucaultian takes on Dover. Both Dover and those who followed him offered interpretations of homosexuality which tended to focus on anal penetration and on power relations, as well as a largely uniform description of the phenomenon in the ancient Greek world.

Davidson, drawing on a multitude of sources—myths, vase paintings, Platonic dialogues, plays, architecture, and histories—sometimes produces interpretations which are more fanciful than convincing. However, one conclusion he draws, that there existed various homosexualities in the ancient Greek cities and among Greek cultural groups (Cretan, Spartan, Theban or Boeotian, Athenian), is convincing. His ultimate position, that the one shared characteristic of all these types of homosexuality is an emphasis on same-sex, largely male, coupling is somewhat controversial.

Nonetheless, this book is a necessary item in any collection (academic or public) that holds either Dover’s earlier work or Foucault’s writings on sexuality.

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

At times compelling, *Deliberate Indifference* author Troy Owensby's earnest attempt to tell the story of Chris Wehner's horrific experience within the penal system—is nonetheless flawed, if not quite fatally, by its attempt to serve as a paean to its subject.

The distinction between Jack's voice and Chris's voice is never quite clear. Are we really hearing Wehner's words unfiltered? It’s very hard to say. It might have been roused to righteous indignation at the callous, unfair treatment relayed by Wehner if I had seen any corroborating evidence of the story's truthfulness. This may seem harsh, but the book could have made its clean case far more effectively with the inclusion of other voices and proper documentation, i.e. footnotes and a bibliography.

At one point, Wehner states matter-of-factly, "Although I was a convicted felon, I was still a citizen of the United States. Punishment may have been earned, but abuse certainly was not." No one could possibly argue with this sentiment. Hopefully, Deliberate Indifference is recommended for LGBT-specific collections; marginally recommended for public libraries of all sizes; and not recommended for academic libraries, except perhaps as part of a McNaughton or leisure reading collection.

Reviewed by David C. Murray
Reference Librarian
Temple University Libraries
Anyone familiar with trends in YA reading, as well as literacy teaching strategies, knows that the current hot topic is Graphic Novels. Well beyond the Snoopy and Spiderman of yesteryear, these new titles offer something for readers of every ability, taste, and orientation, and they’re being published at an ever-increasing rate. Which begs the question: how do librarians decide what’s best in general, much less what’s best in service to their special populations? And how does a reader know which titles would be worth checking out or even purchasing? To address this dilemma, Prism Comics began publishing an annual guide to LGBT titles and storylines, the fifth edition of which is in current release.

A fun read in and of itself, *Prism Comics: Your LGBT Guide to Comics #5* offers reviews, artist and author interviews, convention dates, excerpts, and amusing one-off extras like "Top 10 Signs You Are a Mad Scientist." Beyond its own merits, the guide offers solid information on LGBT titles, storylines, and characters in graphic works by a variety of publishers. While libraries of more limited means or smaller LGBT patronage might want to save their money for purchasing complete titles rather than merely a review, more affluent libraries would do their LGBT patrons a great service by providing them with this excellent and entertaining resource.

Reviewed by Amanda Clay
Librarian
Lakeview Elementary School

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**Violence Against Women in Contemporary World Religion: Roots and Cures.** Edited by Daniel C. Macquire and Sa'diyya Shaikhh.


A companion volume to *Heterosexism in Contemporary World Religion*, reviewed in our Summer 2008 issue.

Both of Macquire and Shaikhh’s collections were prepared by the Religious Consultation on Population, Reproductive Health, and Ethics and declare the same goal: to identify elements within the world’s religious traditions which will help overcome their inherent tendencies toward heterosexism and violence against women, respectively. All of these faiths originated in deeply patriarchal cultures, which are often reflected in their sacred writings and subsequent religious practices, but each also contains teachings, conceptual symbols, or interpretive traditions which renounce violence and support the full equality of women and GLBT persons.

The contributors to both volumes are a diverse set of theologians and religious scholars who write primarily from within the tradition being discussed. Attention is given to a variety of traditions: essays in the present volume address Buddhism, Hinduism, traditional Chinese teachings, and African traditional beliefs, as well as the three Abrahamic faiths.

Unfortunately, *Violence Against Women* is an uneven collection compared to the previous volume, which treats all faiths with sensitivity and insight. The three chapters on Christianity are rightly critical of the long history of misogyny in the Christian tradition, but disappointingly offer few suggestions on using life-affirming elements of Christian theology to counter it. Given that the central goal of the project is to show how religions “contain the cures for the misogyny they have caused and abetted,” these are serious flaws.

Reviewed by Ruth Ann Jones
Special Collections Cataloger
Michigan State University Libraries