

# GLBTRT Newsletter

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

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

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## From the Chair:

Midwinter Conference will take place in Dallas. As I prepare for this conference, I cannot help thinking about the images of the then Gay Liberation Task Force at the 1971 ALA annual conference in Dallas. The first book

award, the kissing booth in the exhibits, a sit-in by 4 task force members of an Intellectual Freedom Committee SURJUDP DQG WKH μFURZQLQJ award, the kissing booth in the exhibits, a sit-in by 4 task force members of an Intellectual Freedom Committee

This conference in Dallas will also draw attention to the round table and raise awareness of our work. The Rainbow Project and Over the Rainbow will announce their book lists for 2011, and the Stonewall Children's/Young Adult award will be announced as part of the youth media awards for the second year. There will also be updates on the Stonewall Book Award Endowment. This

spring, the round table will elect five

chair-elect and secretary.

After the annual conference, an executive board comprised of the chair, past chair, chair-elect, secretary, treasurer, councilor, and directors at large will replace the current steering committee. This structure will offer more opportunities for involvement in the round table and give members more choice in the type of volunteer activities available.

Speaking of volunteers, I would like to thank Karen Schneider and Nel Marie Duffield for stepping forward to assume the positions of interim secretary and newsletter chair respectively.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the members of the Stonewall Book Award, The Rainbow Project and the Over the Rainbow Project committees for their dedication and hard work. I know we are all looking forward to hearing the results of their year of consideration.

For those of you who are attending Midwinter, I will look forward to seeing you at our meetings and social.

## Midwinter GLBTRT Social:

One of the highlights at Midwinter is the Round Table's Social. You'll learn which books won Stonewall Book awards in Literature and Nonfiction (Youth awards are at the big ALA Youth Media Awards event the next morning), get a chance to see which books are in the Rainbow Project and Over the Rainbow final lists, enjoy time with friends and colleagues, and partake in some refreshments. In Dallas, the Social will be catered by local Mexican restaurant Pepe y Mitos (vegetarian

### Newsletter Deadlines:

Spring 2012	3/15/12
Summer 2012	5/31/12
Fall 2012	8/31/12
Winter 2013	11/31/12



# News from the Round Table Officers/Committees

## RT Makes Changes in Steering Committee, Needs Candidates

At the end of the 2012 Annual Conference in Anaheim, the governing body of the round table will significantly change in accord with the vote taken by the membership last year. At present the governing body is called the Steering Committee and is composed of the officers and the committee chairs. After the Anaheim Conference, the governing body will be called the GLBTRT Executive Board and will be composed of the officers and five (5) Directors-at-Large. The officers are the Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and GLBTRT Councillor.

The authority and responsibilities of the governing body will not change, but the name and composition will. The new Executive Board, like the current Steering Committee, sets the direction and manages the affairs of the round table, determines its policies or changes therein, actively encourages support for its goals, establishes financial policies of the round table, and is accountable for round table assets.

2QH FKDQJH WKDW UHVXOWHG IURP ODVW \HDU¶V YRWH KDV DOUHDG\ taken place. Instead of having two co-chairs of different gender identity, the round table will have a single chair who is elected to a three-year term on the Board --the first year as chair-elect,

the second as chair, and the third as immediate past chair. This year our chair-elect is David Vess, the chair is Anne Moore, and the immediate past chair is Dale McNeill.

The duties of the Directors-at-Large are to share in the authority and responsibilities of the Executive Board. The Directors must attend and vote at all meetings (face-to-face or by electronic means) of the membership and the Executive Board and carry out assignments given to them by the Executive Board.

The new structure of the governing body will change elections. First, every year there will be an election for Chair-Elect, who will serve for three years as stated above. Second, the round table will elect Directors at-Large. So that all five of the Directors will not start and leave office at the same time, creating a big problem for main-



The newest Stonewall Book  
\$ZDUG WKH &KLOGUHQ¶V <RXQJ \$GXOW  
Literature Award, has a name <sup>2</sup>The  
Mike Morgan and Larry Romans  
&KLOGUHQ¶V <RXQJ \$GXOW /LWHUDWXUH  
Award.  
In recognition of a significant

Charles P. Rose.

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SURYLGLQJ VXSSRUWLYH UHVRXUFHV ´  
'XQFDQ VDLG /\*%7 JURXSV ³FDQ KHOS  
make schools safe and affirming  
HQLURQPHQWV IRU HYHU\RQH ´  
+LV OHWWHU EHJLQV ³+DUDVVPHQW  
and bullying are serious problems in  
our schools, and lesbian, gay,  
bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)  
students are the targets of  
disproportionate shares of these  
problems.

Thirty-two percent of students  
aged 12-18 experienced verbal or  
physical bullying during the 2007-

William Perry Moore IV (1971-2011), openly-gay author, screenwriter, and film director, was author of award-winning Hero, a YA novel about a homosexual teenage superhero; he died on February 17, 2011.

Joanna Russ

a + e 4EVER follows a year in the lives of Asher and Eulalie, two gender- and sexuality-ambiguous misfits who find each other on the fringes of high school society.

Ash is an androgynous newcomer to the school where Eu has spent several years unsettling the mainstream crowd with her heavy-metal-listening butch ways. Their developing friendship, built through drawing sessions, raves, and a shared love of alternative music, forms the basis of this graphic novel.

The first chapter introduces us WR \$VK¶V IH DU RI EHLQJ of a long history of unpleasant and non-consensual physical

encounters. Later chapters address many more of the emotional and physical abuses that non-gender- and non-sexuality-conforming teenagers face, from schoolyard bullying to rape. Merey handles these topics in a way that brings to mind the UK television show Skins, addressing the trauma that is often ignored with an unsentimental directness.

The visual presentation of a+e 4EVER is as unconventional as its topic 2 revelations about the protagonists unfold via multiple fonts and drawing styles, giving the book a disjointed and rebellious feel. Readers may conclude that format was designed with more thought to defying convention than to readability, as many of the fonts are nearly illegible, and some of the characters visually indistinguishable from each other.

However, these formatting choices WR on f i l t e r a s i n g of authenticity, and readers will feel thoroughly immersed in the confusing

world of adolescents who are figuring out how to live in a hostile world without any adult figures to provide guidance.

Although the topics of this novel are timely, previously mentioned stylistic issues such as the variety of indecipherable fonts make this a weak graphic novel from a purely technical point of view. Finally, though it does portray the realities of adolescence for many LGBTQ people, it lacks the poignancy and warmth that draws so many readers to similar coming of age titles, such as & U D L J 7 K R P S V R Q ¶ V % O D Q N H W V a+e 4EVER is suitable for adults and older teens, due to its graphic sexual and violent content. I recommend it for public libraries that already have a sizable collection of LGBTQ-themed YA materials.

Reviewer: Emily Grantz Learning Resources Technician Ohlone College, Fremont (CA)

### Weselcouch, Katy. The Floundering Time.

San Jose, CA: SLG Publishing, 2011. Paperback. 159p. \$12.95. ISBN: 978-1-59362-222-

4.

7 K L V 3 J U D S K L F I L U V W I H Z S D J H V 3 H U K D S \ Q R Y H O ´ P D \ V § just came off a Sandman marathon, to 20-somethings just leaving college or about to leave college 2at least a comfortable, middle-class, L V R O D W H G Z R F R O O H J H D U H they all?) 2with no outward concerns

beyond their own close community of friends and love interests, but it left me bored and disinterested within the

backs round out the relationship concerns that form the bulk of the story. Emma spends most of her frames mooning over her transgender friend Elliot. The Floundering Time is : H V H O F R X F K ¶ V I L U V W F R P L history of writing zines. It tells the story of Emma and Joey, best friends, in the last week of their senior year at D Z R P H Q ¶ V F R O O H J H D V \ through the usual drunken parties, car trips, and packing, all while avoiding the future. Several flash-

backs round out the relationship concerns that form the bulk of the story. Emma spends most of her frames mooning over her transgender friend Elliot.

The Floundering Time should find a home in a young-adult fiction collection in a fairly liberal public library that houses an extensive collection of S95 304.01 T9renJ t ( ) J7 EMC /P < /MCID 30



# Faraday, Jess. The Affair of the Porcelain Dog.

Valley Falls, NY: Bold Strokes Books, 2011. Paperback. 236p. \$16.95. ISBN: 978-1-60282-230 -6.

The summer of 1889 finds Ira Adler is living in luxury as the kept boy and confidential secretary to London crime lord Dr. Cain Goddard. Born and raised in the slums of Whitechapel, 25-year-old Ira is trying to decide whether he loves Cain or merely the luxurious life Cain provides him.

& DLQ ¶ V OL IH LV LQ GDQ JH unraveling, however, due to the theft of a porcelain dog that contains details of the risqué life that led to his dismissal from a teaching position at Cambridge. Sent to retrieve the porcelain dog from a pawn shop, Ira is interrupted by

& DLQ ¶ V ULYDO ¶ V ORYHU 'U 7L ZKR LV DV FKDQFH ZRXOG KDYI After a struggle, Ira gains possession of the dog only to have it stolen by a nimble-fingered yet surprisingly strong prostitute. Feeling the need to redeem himself, Ira sets out to track the dog down in the complex and dangerous underworld of London.

+ HOS DSSHUV LQ WKH IRUP rival, Andrew St. Andrews. He, too, is being blackmailed with evidence hidden in WKH GRJ 8QH [SHFWHGO \ , UD ¶ \ friend Nate appears with information both useful and confusing.

Opium, a gay brothel, an Afghan war hero, martial arts, and a men-only restaurant all play a part in the mystery. Along the way Ira discovers things about himself and his relationship with Cain.

The Affair of the Porcelain Dog is an excellent mystery. The characters are complex and in general not what they seem on first sight. Many unexpected twists and turns keep the novel intriguing right up to the end. The historical setting of late Victorian London is portrayed accurately.

It is recommended for mystery collections at public libraries, especially those in gay- and lesbian-friendly areas, and college and university collections.

Jess Faraday has written several short stories and translated three books. This is her first novel. It is also available in Kindle and Nook editions and as an eBook from the publisher.

Reviewer: Paul Hubbard  
Retired Public Reference Librarian

# Dawn, Amber. Sub Rosa: A Novel.

Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2010. Paperback. 310p. \$19.95. ISBN: 978-1-55152 -361 -3.

, Q \$PEHU 'DZQ ¶ V first novel, runaway Little is rescued from a bad night at the Legion and taken to a mysterious haven isolated from the city.

Sub Rosa is a place above memory where sex workers with unusual charms fulfill the needs of the

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## Book Reviews: Romance

Erastes. *Mere Mortals: A Novel.*



Siblings Robin and Ruby first appeared in Karl O'Keefe's Lambda Literary Award-winning novel, *The World of Normal Boys*. This sequel is set about seven years later, in 1985. Robin is spending the summer in Philadelphia, living with

his friend George and trying to maintain a long-distance relationship with Peter, his graduate student lover back in Pittsburgh.

George has gotten Robin a job at a bookstore in Pittsburgh where Robin, the only white-skinned

employee is working to save money for school, although his barely competent performance keeps his employment in jeopardy. He has been bumped up from the waiting list to acceptance into a senior-year semester studying acting in London.

Then, the relationship falls apart. Ruby heads to the Jersey shore for a weekend with her nerdy boyfriend Calvin, leaving a cryptic message about running into an old friend from her troubled past. Her subsequent disappearance on the eve of the anniversary of a family tragedy leads to a search reverberating with memories and past emotions, as Robin and George

find a possibly long-unacknowledged attraction stirring.

Soehnlein has created very believable characters in *Robin and Ruby*.

Kirby, Rob, ed. Three, #1.

Minneapolis: Robert Kirby, 2010. Paperback. 32p. \$6.25. ISBN: 9780615377346.

Kirby, Rob, ed. Three, #2.

Minneapolis: Robert Kirby, 2011. Paperback. 32p. \$6.25. ISBN: 9780615480619.





Persistence: All Ways Butch and Femme. Ed. by Coyote, Ivan E./Zena Sharman.  
Trans. David Miller. Vancouver, B.C.: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2010. Paperback. 134p. \$12.95. ISBN: 978-1-55152-

## Book Reviews: Nonfiction

This volume brings together twenty-seven narratives authored by twenty-nine librarians, all of whom identify as being part of the LGBTQ community. At least one of the six parts-- trajectories (or coming-out stories), sex and the institution, the rest of the rainbow (beyond L and G), coming out in time, coming out in place, and coming out in the field --will hit home with any reader.

Baring their souls, the authors inspire as they educate, not only on individual scenarios but on the lives as LGBTQ librarians throughout the United States.

Whether just starting out and searching for a type of library and environment, seeking a career change, or pondering the right time to come out LGBTQ people will benefit from this book. It covers not only the personal issues but also the history of librarianship as related to LGBTQ persons and topics, domestic partnerships, and attitudes toward LBGTQ.

Similar to first person narratives in *Daring to Find Our Names* edited By J. V. Carmichael (Greenwood, 1998) and

*Liberating Minds* edited by N. G. Kester (McFarland, 1997), this is the first collection in over 10 years that demonstrates the changing times and attitudes not evidenced earlier because of changes in the past decade.

Contributors include the well-known such as Ellen Greenblatt and the unknown such as a pseudonymous legislative librarian.

This is a must read for any loet98EMCsmc7(6)smuth-17(6)vecM

GLBTRT Officers / Committee Chairs / Steering Committee