

GLBTRT Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 24, No. 2

Summer 2012

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2012 Annual Conference Schedule—Anaheim

Friday, June 22

7:30-9:00 pm Rainbow Project Meeting (SRRT/GLBTRT) HIL-Oceanside

Saturday, June 23

8:00-10:00 am Steering Committee Meeting I HYATT-Garden 1

10:30 am-12:00 pm All Committee Meeting MAR-Grand Salon G-H

1:30-3:30 pm Fabulous Havens:
Libraries as Safe Spaces for the Needs of LGBT Youth ACC-201C

3:00-5:00 pm ALA Diversity and Outreach Fair ACC, Hall A Special Events Area

4:00-5:30 pm Exploring Rainbow Family Collections ACC-202A

Sunday, June 24

10:30 am-12:00 pm Membership Meeting MAR-Grand Salon D

1:30-3:30 pm Fabulous Havens:
Libraries as Safe Spaces for the Needs of LGBT Youth ACC-209B

6:00-8:00 pm Social: OS-Tortilla Jo's, 1510 Disneyland Dr, Bldg A

Monday, June 25

10:30 am-2:00 pm Stonewall Book Awards Brunch MAR-Grand Salon A-D

4:00-5:30 pm Coming Out in Print:
The LGBT Literary Landscape Today ACC-202B

Tuesday, June 26

9:00-11:00 Steering Committee II ACC-212A

Congratulations to New GLBTRT Board Members

As part of the GLBTRT restructuring process, round table members have elected five directors-at-large to an executive board which will replace the current steering committee. New board members:

Frank Cervone, Director-at Large, 2012-2014

Lewis Day, Director-at Large, 2012-2014

Larry Romans, Director-at Large, 2012-2014

Shawn Vaillancourt, Director-at Large, 2012-2013

Joel Nichols, Director-at Large, 2012-2013

Roland Hansen, Chair-Elect 2012-2013; Chair 2013-2014;

Past-Chair 2014-2015

Andrew Johnson, Secretary, 2012-2014

As specified in the round table [2011 Revised Bylaws Implementation Roadmap](#), the steering committee will continue to manage the affairs of the round table until the close of the

2012 ALA Annual Conference. At that time, the steering committee will be dissolved, and the GLBTRT Executive Board will form. See the [GLBTRT Bylaws](#) for more information. Continuing members of the Executive Board:

David S. Vess, Chair-Elect 2011-2012; Chair 2012-2013; Past-Chair 2013-2014

Anne Moore, Past-Chair 2012-2013

Dale McNeil, Treasurer, 2011-2013

Peter Hepburn, Round Table Councilor, 2010-2013

J. Linda Williams, ALA Executive Board Liaison, 2010-2013, Ex officio

ALA Staff Liaison will continue to be Elliot Mandel, Pro-

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Newsletter Deadlines

Fall 2012	8/31/12
Winter 2013	11/31/12
Winter Supplement	2/15/13
Spring 2013	4/1/13
Summer 2013	5/15/13

Public Library Shows Model Community GSA

GLSEN's "How to Start a Community GSA" suggests turning to the [public library](#). Here's how one public library in Virginia got involved.

"The Beach District Gay Straight Alliance has helped me through rough times by having a safe place to go and people to talk to. It helped me gain the courage to be open with who I am and to realize that I am not alone. I have not had time my senior year to attend the meetings, but I do miss them and wish I could go to the meetings if my agenda allowed me to. There is no discrimination in the GSA. It is like a little piece of hope in a whole world of doubt," Daniel told us.

Virginia Beach has a dozen high schools, about half of which have their own GSAs. We started the Beach District GSA as a way for students from different schools, with GSAs and without, to talk together and learn from each other.

We even had students visit from other cities in the region to get advice on how to start their own GSAs. But it all began with an [article](#) in the local newspaper.

The Bayside High School GSA started in the 2004-05 school year with three faculty advisors. The public library staff learned about it the next year when one of the advisors, Veronica Salcedo, was interviewed about the club in the Virginia Beach *Beacon*. Ms. Neva White and I asked how we could be helpful, and we presented a book talk at one of the GSA meetings.

In the 2008-09 school year, Ms. Salcedo initiated a monthly gathering for faculty advisors and allies. This culminated in a prom, really just a party, at another of the high schools. Ms. White and I chaperoned and provided some games--Guitar Hero, Wii. The students so enjoyed meeting other GSA members from different schools that we resolved to hold regular meetings the following school year at the public library.

Beach District GSAs was launched in the fall of 2009 for all the students and advisors. Sometimes parents would join us. The students set up a [Facebook](#) page for announcements. It took a while to sort out

what was feasible. Attempts to plan a major trip and to raise funds turned out to be too much for such an informal group. A smaller field trip to see a performance of *The Laramie Project* was very successful, and another prom/party drew students from several schools.

The public library provided a handout with meeting dates and useful links like The Trevor Project and the GLBTRT page on bullying resources. Books and movies for checkout were on display when the students arrived. Our best year, 2010-2011, had over twenty students coming to the meetings.

In the summer of 2011 an LGBT Center opened in Norfolk to serve all of Hampton Roads. Its mission priority is youth and many of the same people are involved. Several of the most enthusiastic students also graduated that June. These may be the reasons that attendance de-

clined this year.

Across the state Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs) at high schools have a high leadership turnover rate and often cease to exist when the founder graduates, according to Southerners on New Ground's *Virginia Key Findings Report* 2012. Still we are hopeful for next fall because the students have told us we've made a difference in their lives.

Now in college, Connor looks back: "The Beach District GSA Meeting meant a place where I could be myself, where rivalries and prejudices meant nothing; where I could feel the importance and connection of an LGBT community before I even fully knew what I was part of."

Ericka described the Beach District GSA: "It was a place where I could truly be myself and not be judged for it. We all had different tastes in music, styles, and friends, but the number one thing we had in common was acceptance and love."

Carolyn Caywood, retired from the Virginia Beach Public Library

From a GLBTRT member: Where can I find some written document or précis on what would be the characteristics of a public library providing a good level of service to its GLBT patrons, both adult and youth? What sorts of collection development, public outreach and programming activities would be a model? He said that he had found the GLBTRT site to be "very good." John Otto responded, "A good modeling of public libraries serving the transgender communities are the [Oak Park \(IL\) Public Library](#) and the

Information graduate programs often mimic the larger professional world, with students specializing in a variety of areas including archives, information architecture and other more technical fields, and libraries. Because of this, students are likely to get involved in student chapters of their respective professional organizations. But students who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender often feel a need to become involved in a student group which helps them combine their personal lives with their professional aspirations.

I approached the task of finding out which library schools (by which I mean any program that offers a MSIS or MLIS, or equivalent) had some sort of GLBT student group by informally polling ALA student groups through the ALA student chapter email listserve, and by reaching out to colleagues on the GLBT Round Table. Of the nearly thirty people who responded to my inquiry (representing about 27 distinct library schools), five reported that their program had a GLBT student group. A further look at different library school websites revealed a few other schools with such groups. In all, it seems that there exists just a handful of library schools with GLBT student groups around the country.

The groups that I was in contact with reported that they often spend their time doing a variety of things, including group meetings, discussion groups, facilitation of GLBT programs for the larger library school community, and networking with other GLBT librarians on their campus. One obvious benefit of the existence of these groups is the ability for a student to quickly find people who may be in a similar personal situation—or at least be sympathetic to them—and make the possibly-difficult graduate school years a bit easier. Another great benefit of these programs is bringing awareness to GLBT-related issues in the profession, not only to students who identify as GLBT, but also to the larger library school community.

Once a student is out of graduate school, GLBT student groups also have the ability to strengthen the new graduate professionally. One thing that many current students report is that they need to learn how to function as a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender person in the profession. While any new professional must figure out things like whether or not to tell their

colleagues about their personal lives, new information professionals must also navigate how they are going to function academically or intellectually. This may involve integrating their personal identity with their academic or intellectual identity, or it may not. Being an active part of a GLBT student group in graduate school gives students a chance to see how that aspect of their personal lives can intersect with their professional lives, and can better prepare them for success.

While a handful of GLBT student groups exist

Help Wanted from the LGBTQ Community

The Sexual Minorities Archives, a national collection of LGBT literature, history, and art located in Northampton, Massachusetts, launched **two oral history projects** this May expected to last for a period of one year. *Trans Stories: Breaking the Silence* will document the experiences of diverse transgender and gender non-conforming people, while *LGBT Elders Speak Out* will collect the life stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals ages 55 and older who live in Western Massachusetts. Anyone over 18 is encouraged to participate in *Trans Stories*.

"The lives of our LGBT people, our relationships and families, and our work with groups and organizations often go undocumented and unstudied," said Bet Power, Executive Director of the Sexual Minorities Educational Foundation, Inc. and Director/Curator of the Sexual Minorities Archives (SMA). "Whether an LGBT person has been part of a major event or community organization or has stories to tell about everyday life, the mission of the SMA is to record, preserve, and make accessible the historical narratives of our lives. We can help shape a queer people's history of information that is too often omitted from mainstream libraries and academic archives," he said.

Hampshire College student interns Brittnei Hayes and Samuel Belmonte will conduct the oral history interviews at the Sexual Minorities Archives in Northampton or in participants' homes. Participants will receive a copy of their interview transcript and videotape, and may specify the level of privacy or accessibility they wish for their interview as it is added to the media collection at the SMA.

lesbians over the age of 16 in Canada and 18 in the United States, willing to participate in a study about their **experiences with health-care professionals**. This study has received clearance from the University of Windsor's Research Ethics Board. To find out more, go to: <http://www.uwindsor.ca/lesbianhealthstudy>.

Brandi Amara Sky needs submissions for a **proposed anthology, *Faux Queen Anthology***, centered on "bio"-women performing gay male frag (the faux queen) and encompassing all the diverse women who are performing frag: faux queens, bio queens, femme dragsters, high femme drag, burlesque performers, transgender women, and many others. Contributions can include everything from personal experiences/stories to academic theories of female performances of frag as well as photographs of performances, first time in frag, etc. A brief autobiography with photos and/or other fun stuff should be emailed to submissions@fauxqueens.com

June, Deadline for *Out in the Silence* Award Nominations

Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson presented their first *Out in the Silence* [awards](#) last December, named after their film, to highlight and honor the courageous young people who raise LGBT visibility, call attention to bullying and harassment, and promote safe schools, inclusion, fairness and equality. Grand Prize (\$1,500) went to Farrington High School Gay-Straight Alliance at a diverse, inner-city Hawaiian public school; Impact Award (\$750) was presented to Oregon Student Equal Rights Alliance, a statewide coalition of student equal-rights groups; and New Group Award (\$500) was given to Equality Club at Arapahoe Community College small-town Colorado.

The Out In The Silence Campaign is now calling for 2012 nominations for these awards with a deadline of [June 30, 2012](#).

Stacey D'Erasmus and Brian Leung have been named Lambda Literary Foundation 2012 Outstanding Mid-Career Novelist Prize Winners

Comment Period on DSM Ends on June 15, 2012

One of the most important books to be published within the next year is the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)* from the American Psychiatric Association. The book is typically considered the 'bible' for any professional who makes psychiatric diagnoses in the United States and many other countries.

The organization has announced a third and final period of public comment with June 15 as the deadline.

[Criteria](#) for the draft diagnostic categories of Gender Dysphoria in Children and Gender Dysphoria in Adolescents or Adults (formerly Gender Identity Disorder, or GID) are unchanged from the second round proposal a year ago, and the Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders Workgroup of the DSM-5 Task Force only partially responded to concerns that community advocates, allies, and care providers raised about the GID diagnosis at

that time.

Criteria continue to characterize gender identities and expressions differing from birth-assigned roles as pathological. That action prevents access to medical transition care for those who need it instead of lowering its barriers.

Even worse, the organization continues the diagnosis of Transvestic Disorder (formerly Transvestic Fetishism) with no medical justification in spite of insistence on its removal. The defamatory "autogynephilia"/"autoandrophilia" specifiers falsely stereotype many transsexual women and men as self-obsessed sexual fetishists.

Responses to these problematic diagnoses in the new DSM edition can be made at the APA DSM-5 [website](#) and the IFGE/e(opsess)-7

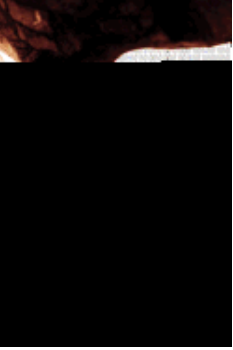
Women of the Mean Streets.

Book Reviews: Adult Fiction

Summers, Robin. *After the Fall*.

Book Reviews: Adult Fiction

Beyond Binary: Genderqueer and Sexually Fluid Speculative Fiction. Ed. by Brit Mandela. Lethe Press, 2012. Paperback. 267p. \$20.00. 978-1-59021-005-5.



Beyond Binary: Genderqueer and Sexually Fluid Speculative Fiction is an anthology of 17 short stories compiled by editor Brit Mandelo. The premise of this collection is that the authors combine speculative fiction with sexual and/or gender identities that are not rigidly defined or binary but are individually defined by the characters in the stories. The genres of science fiction, fantasy, horror, supernatural fiction, and post-apocalyptic fiction are all represented.

In some stories the only speculative aspect seems to be the sexuality of a character, which are limitedly defined as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. However, there are many transgender characters.

Short story collections can be hit-or-miss, often with three or four great stories constituting a successful collection. By this measure, *Beyond Binary* is a great success. "Eye of the Storm" by Kelley Eskridge is a delightful fantasy (swords but no sorcery) about a four-some trying out for the King's army, their unique relationship, and an equally unique prince. Fans of Ellen Kushner's *Riverside* books will enjoy "A Wild and a Wick-

ed Youth," which is set about seven years before her novel *Swordspoint*. Tansy Rayner Roberts' science fiction story, "Prosperine When it Sizzles," combines political battles against Luddites with battles against aliens who have already conquered Earth. A delightful light fantasy is "The Faerie Cony-Catcher" by Delia Sherman, which is set in the court of a Faerie Queen. Sarah Kanning's "Sex with Ghosts," set in the near future, is about the asexual receptionist of a Chicago boutique that rents out robots for sex, who is shocked to discover a robot that looks exactly like her. Liu Wen Zhuang's story "The Metamorphosis Bud" is an amusing story of an 87-year-old woman who wakes up with a penis.

Beyond Binary will make a great addition to public libraries that serve populations interested in literature depicting unusual situations and people that are "outside of the box." College libraries with a good literature department and libraries that serve LGBTQI populations also will want to purchase this book. Please note: two of the stories contain explicit sex scenes.

The publisher, Lethe Press, also offers the book in PDF format.

Reviewer: Paul Hubbard
Retired Public Reference Librarian

Wang, Timothy. Slant: A Novel.

Tincture/Lethe Press, 2011. Paperback. 210p. \$15.00. 978-1-59021-121-2.



Slant is a wonderfully sad, realistic, and compelling bildungsroman about James, a young, gay and nerdy first generation Chinese American student at MIT. When we first meet him, James has already come out to himself, and we follow his painful journey as he learns how to be gay and navigate his romantic and familial relationships, while also struggling with his racial and ethnic identity. We witness him fall in love and lose his virginity to Stan, a young promiscuous artist without prospects.

Next is Michael, a young upper-class Massachusetts patrician sugar daddy, an MD in residence. James learns about "rice queens" and "potato queens," and struggles with his desire and attempts to be more "white" like the Abercrombie & Fitch boys that everyone seems to prefer, even considering eye surgery.

James comes out to his very staid and traditional Chinese parents; it doesn't go well. He graduates from MIT in three years (he is a very smart nerd!), and

though he is accepted to Harvard Medical School (his dying mother's great wish) he instead returns to his homeland in Beijing to teach high school students for a year. He is still friends with Stan and Michael. He drops his adopted American name James and returns to his Chinese name, Zan.

This first novel is very well written and gripping. In line with James'/Zan's nerdy scholarship, it has a fair number of mathematical formulae and chemical symbols (for the drugs he tries), plus some computer programming. The version I reviewed was an advance reader's copy, and I hope the book gets another thorough proofread. Some of the language could be attributed to James'/Zan's parents' diction, but it's out of place with the novel's general style.

But these little problems do not detract from the strong sweep of the story. Timothy Wang has written a great first novel, and the author's blurb promises a second. Any library or reader interested in new work by young gay writers, especially of non-European ethnicities, will want this book.

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

Book Reviews: Nonfiction

Though *Love, InshAllah* contains very few stories from a LGBT perspective (I counted only two), I believe that this work is of interest and use to those teaching LGBT issues. This is a diverse collection of American Muslim women's accounts of falling in love and marrying (and sometimes getting divorced), including converts to Islam, those raised as Muslims (in families of varying degrees of observance), and American Muslims from a variety of ethnic, racial, and national backgrounds.

I suspect that one goal of

Bono, Chaz, with Billie Fitzpatrick. *Transition: The Story of How I Became a Man*. Dutton, 2011. Hardcover. 245p. \$25.95. 978-0-525-95214-5.

While Chaz Bono's childhood was fairly unusual, his struggle to identify the reason for his life-long identity discomfort will sound very familiar to others whose genders don't fit their bodies. His journey was complicated by the fear of becoming an embarrassment to his very public family. Health issues that may have arisen in response to his antipathy for many aspects of his body led to abuse of pain medications. And having come out as a lesbian, Chaz repeatedly fell in love with women who expected him to be a woman too.

All this goes to explain why Bono delayed transitioning until middle age. During the years he suppressed his authentic identity he says, "My being transgender felt like having the Incredible Hulk ready to explode from within me and ruin my life. I didn't realize that I had it all backward, that being a transgender man was my real identity, and that my fear itself was the angry green monster preventing me from truly being myself and being happy." That

happiness and wholeness is palpable in the conclusion of this book.

Bono's autobiography is also interesting for the pictures he gives us of how his mother and his partner coped with his transition. The reality of the changes brought on by testosterone affected them more strongly than they expected. Bono himself sees the changes as a liberation from the passive, pleasing-others-first behaviors that had been part of his attempt to live as a girl. Another interesting insight is that Bono never felt he belonged in the lesbian community. When he met other female-to-male transgenders, he felt that he finally found people with common interests. "In the trans community, I had not only found my peers in an emotional sense, I had found my cultural home too."

Bono has made a career as a spokesperson for the LGBT community, first as a lesbian and now as a transgender man. That continuity led him to observe that "in most cases of homophobia, what people react violent aents(s)4(y.)-4uterests. "In the

Books published before 6/1/11, not reviewed in the *GLBTRT Newsletter*.

