



# GLBTRT Newsletter

A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender  
Round Table of the Americ

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[GLBTRT Social in New Orleans](#)

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but part of a larger LGBT community—had been publicly avowed.” He recognized that the culture at that time would not have permitted them to speak, but “their visibility would have been an antidote to the fear and lies of Anita Bryant and her supporters.”

Over 30 years later, young people are speaking out. When Tennessee Senate voted for its “Don’t Say Gay” bill that prevented any discussion about LGBT issues in Grades K through 8, 13 high school students who attended the session opposed their action. These students were part of a larger group from three downtown Nashville high schools that attended every Senate meeting for two weeks as well as showing their opposition along the street outside the capitol.

I’m proud of the young people across the country willing to be open about their participation in Gay-Straight Alliances and other youth who stand up for bullied kids—like Olivia who reported the physical violence that suffered by a son of lesbian partners. Rebecca Haskell and Brian Burtch’s *Get That Freak: Homophobia and Transphobia in High Schools* (Fernwood Publishing, 2011) supports Bronski’s call for LGBTQ visibility in youth. According to the author’s research, “silence about queer people and the issues affecting them fuelled homophobia and transphobia, which in turn further silences queer youth.” The young people interviewed talked about the missing pieces in teacher training, curriculum, role models, and intervention in bullying. Young people are helping to change these omissions.

I’m proud of their legal struggles and the adults, such as ACLU lawyers, who support them in trying to achieve their rights such part of a le olectheip

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## 2011 Annual Conference Schedule

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### Break Down Barriers with Human Library at ALA Annual

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The Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) of the American Library Association is seeking volunteers to participate in a Human Library, to be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, June 27 at ALA's Annual Conference in New Orleans in MARCC Blaine Kern A .

Volunteers will serve as "human books" and help attendees better understand people of different backgrounds and

cultures. "Human books" are "checked out" for one-on-one, respectful conversations. This unique opportunity allows volunteers to raise awareness of the biases and prejudices that participants have themselves or hold against others. The program ultimately promotes appreciation for differences in background and culture.

The Human Library ([www.humanlibrary.org](http://www.humanlibrary.org)) is an outgrowth of a Danish anti-violence campaign. Since 2000, the movement has brought together people of different backgrounds to have meaningful dialogues, comprehend differences and seek common cause. Human Library programs have

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Vampirism Just Got A Little More Colorful: Queer Vampires

Sunday, 6/26: 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Convention Center - Rm 285

Vampire literature has enjoyed a huge upswing in popularity in recent years, mostly due to such works as the Twilight series and Let the Right One In. In this program we explore the experiences of LGBTQ vampires and their authors. Scheduled speakers are Jewelle Gomez and Dean James.

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## Film Reviews

### *A Marine Story.*

DVD. Dir. Ned Farr. With Drea Weber. Wolfe Video, 2011. 90 Minutes.



This film has won 17 Festival Awards and it's easy to see why. *A Marine Story* is a well-written story that gets to the heart of the absurdity that keeps GLBT people from serving in the armed-forces. The movie begins by telling the audience that it is "Based on true stories".

Drea Weber plays Major Alexandra Everett, "Alex," a mustang with a long and proud family history of serving our country. Put in the position to either earn

an honorable discharge or be kicked out of the military under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, Everett returns home, where she is asked to mentor a young girl, Saffron Snow (played by Paris Pickard), who is on the wrong track and has been given a choice by a judge to either go to jail or join the military.

Weber and Pickard put their whole hearts into the roles they play. Weber's character deals with issues of telling her friends and family why she left the Marines, falling in love and living openly for the first time, and playing the no-nonsense Drill Sergeant to Saffron. Saffron on the other

hand is dealing with her own issues of growing up or else, leaving her druggie friends behind, and forging a new future for herself.

This film is not rated. It does contain violence and may not be suitable for younger viewers. I would recommend *A Marine Story* for public and academic libraries.

*Reviewed by,*  
Reference and Instruction Librarian  
The Citadel

### *Two Spirits.*

DVD. Press & festival screener. Dir. Lydia Nibley. Riding the Tiger Productions, 2010.

*Two Spirits*, the excellent documentary directed, coproduced, and cowritten by Lydia Nibley, explores the brief life and murder of sixteen-year-old Fred Martinez in Colorado.

Fred was seen by his killer as gay, but was seen in his Navajo tradition as a "nadleeh," a person who blends masculine

and feminine characteristics—being two spirited.

As of this writing, *Two Spirits* is scheduled for television broadcast as a segment in PBS's series *Independent Lens* in June 2011. Interviews with family members, Native American scholars, and reenacted scenes examine the nadleeh tradition, Fred Martinez's life and death, and the impact of his death on his family and community. The film's score is performed by Native American musicians.

This documentary should be considered for purchase by all public and academic libraries, and would find use by those studying U.S. history, gender studies, Native American history and culture, hate crimes, and documentary filmmaking.

*Reviewed by,*  
Librarian Specialist  
E. P. Foster Library

## Coming this fall to the

Send your questions about love, life and library science to K. R. Roberto. Please send questions to Newsletter Editor Sarah E. Wright via e-mail, [swright@pwcgov.org](mailto:swright@pwcgov.org).





Lambda Award-winning writer Jeff Mann follows up on his *Edge: Travels of an Appalachian Leather Bear* with this second collection of personal essays. And these essays are deeply

personal – reflecting both his deep affection for the land and people of the mountains and the deep pain the homophobia endemic to the region causes him.

Mann is a gay, pagan, leather bear, and in many ways, you might think this makes him out of place in the mountains of West Virginia. But he is also an Appalachian, and a country boy – and he can't live comfortably away from the region and its people. Instead, he uses his multiple outsider status – gay, blue-collar, mountain, pagan, and bear – to educate and enlighten the classes he teaches and

the communities in which he dwells. The essays in *Binding the God* will do the same for the urbane and sophisticated, the slender and smooth-chested, and the A-list gays, and will remind us all that the GLBT community and GLBT culture is everywhere.

That's not to say that Mann's home does not cause him pain. Despite his deep affection for the land and people of the Mountain South, he is acutely aware of its conservative politics. He looks around at the gym and sees a hot man, his perfect good ol' boy type – and realizes the object of his affection is likely straight and even homophobic. But then, he has a great time bonding with the men painting his house, and they don't mind that he's gay, because he can talk trucks and cowboy boots and country music. Being a hill-queer may be a contradiction – but it's one with which Mann has learned to



## Ball, Carlos A. *From the Closet to the Courtroom: Five LGBT Rights Lawsuits that Have Changed Our Nation.*

Queer Action / Queer Ideas Ser. 10. Boston: Beacon Press, 2010. Hardcover. 286 pp. \$27.95. ISBN: 978-0-8070-0078-6.

Bringing to life, and showing the human side of, five lawsuits related to LGBT issues of family, harassment, discrimination, marriage, and sex, Carlos Ball's *From the Closet to the Courtroom* takes dry legal issues and turns them into prose, without losing the seriousness or implications of these landmark cases.

While the book's table of contents does not

indicate the specific lawsuits discussed, one can quickly identify these through the introductory materials. The cases covered are *Braschi v. Stahl Associates* (1989), *Nabozny v. Podlesny* (1996), *Romer v. Evans* (1996), *Baehr v. Lewin* (1993), and *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), respectively. In the narratives providing the background of each case, Ball also raises awareness of other issues in the LGBT communities occurring at the time, both of the case itself and the times leading up to the individual court case. Subheadings within the chapters organize the narrative into the main players

of the case, the background, the lawyer, the law with interpretations, and the impact with implications.

*From the Closet to the Courtroom* is a valuable book for those interested in LGBT rights, legal history in general, and those wanting to know more about the trials that went forth to bring about a more equalizing of civil rights for LGBT people.

## Savage, Dan, and Terry Miller, eds. *It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living.*

New York: Dutton-Penguin, 2011. Hardcover. 338pp. \$21.95. ISBN: 978-0-525-95233-6

A companion to the popular video project, this book presents first-person accounts by adults assuring GLBTQ youth that, despite the challenges of being young and gay, life gets better.

The It Gets Better Project was initiated last year by sex columnist, Dan Savage and his partner, Terry Miller, in response to a string of highly publicized suicides by gay teens. As they explain in the introduction, Savage and Miller wanted to provide bullied youth access to the stories of happy, well-adjusted gay adults. So they created a YouTube channel, posted a video, and encouraged others to

submit their own. Thousands of videos later, this book collects transcripts of some of the best from YouTube, as well as new pieces. Like the video project, the book's success springs from the variety of voices represented, both famous and unknown. A sample of the writers includes a group of orthodox Jews, Broadway actors, an African-American minister, and a self-proclaimed "big rural dyke."

Though some of the stories suffer without their original video, none are longer than a few pages, allowing for easy browsing. The extensive discussion of bullying occasionally includes slurs and harsh language. There is also some mention of

sex and kink, but nothing explicit.

In addition to the narratives, the book is rich with resources for youth, parents, and teachers. The book and video project — now housed at [www.itgetsbetter.org](http://www.itgetsbetter.org) — present many opportunities for programming and teaching. Given the project's wide success and interest, this is a must for all public libraries and high school libraries.

*Reviewed by,*  
Undergraduate Services Librarian  
University of Iowa Libraries

## McHugh, Erin. *The L Life: Extraordinary Lesbians Making a Difference.*

New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang-Abrams, 2011. Hardcover. 160pp. \$22.75. ISBN: 978-1584798330.

Conceived and written by Erin McHugh, and containing stunning portrait work by Jennifer May, *The L Life* is a glossy and selective Who's Who of American lesbians today. Part of its appeal is

that it is not just a list of "power lesbians" -- though many of the individuals described in this book certainly qualify -- but rather all women who are continually working to improve the world in which we live. McHugh selected lesbians from vastly different walks of life, including a rabbi, a judge, a comedian, an actress, a sheriff, and, my personal favorite, an urban gardener. As a relatively new lesbian longing for role models, I read this book with relish, enjoying each portrayal as I encountered real life

versions of individuals in roles I had previously only met through

Madden, Ed, and Candance Chellew-Hodge, eds. *Out Loud: The Best of Rainbow Radio*.

Advance reader copy. Spartanburg, SC: Hub City Press, 2010. Paperback. 159pp. \$14.95. ISBN: 978189188576-1.

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*Out Loud: The Best of*



**GLBTRT Officers / Committee Chairs/Steering Committee**