

## The Lesbian Edition

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### A Bit of Housekeeping

#### About BTWOF

Books To Watch Out For publishes monthly e-letters celebrating books on various topics. Each issue includes new book announcements, brief reviews, commentary, news and, yes, good book gossip.

#### The Lesbian Edition

covers both lesbian books and the whole range of books lesbians like to read. It covers news of both the women in print movement and mainstream

### Volume 3 Number 6

Dear Subscribers,

My great news (and my sad news) is that I've been offered - and have accepted - a fantastic position as the Director of *Mslexia*, a British magazine about women and writing. It's a superb magazine, rich and dense with information, insight about writing, community, and yes, fermenting social change. It reminds me a bit of *Feminist Bookstore News* in those respects, except that it's glossier and better looking than *FBN* ever was, and of course, that the orientation is women writing, rather than bookselling and publishing. It's a publication that I wish I'd thought of myself, and I'm very pleased to be able to work with the *Mslexia* staff, board of directors, and the outgoing publisher/editor/founder to take it to its next level of development.

The sad news is that, of course, I won't be putting my 24/7 energy into Books To Watch Out For.

But the very good news is that Suzanne Corson, whom many of you know from Boadecia's Books and from her stint as Managing Editor of *On Our Backs* and Executive Editor for H.A.F. Publications, will take over the administration and management, as well as editing, for Books To Watch Out For. She's worked for BTWOF in the past, and occasionally for *Feminist Bookstore News*, and brings a wonderful vitality to promoting and distributing our literatures, to writing, and to getting the exact right book into each reader's hands. And she's meticulous with the details (essential to subscribers) and very, very good with the technical side. I couldn't imagine a better fit for BTWOF, and I wouldn't have felt free to take the new position if she hadn't been available to take on BTWOF.

And me, I'll be in my dream position of being able to read and write for *TLE & MBW* as much as I want (while exploring Northern England) - without having to spend my time managing the pesky details of running a business. What a luxury! So I'm off to Newcastle, and Suzanne will keep the issues rolling off the press, like this, her first. I'll continue to get email at BTWOF, but email [Suzanne@BTWOF.com](mailto:Suzanne@BTWOF.com) for BTWOF business.

And check out *Mslexia* at [www.Mslexia.co.uk](http://www.Mslexia.co.uk).

I'll be back with more reviews as soon as I get settled there.

Yours in spreading the words,  
Carol Seajay

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If your email copy of *The Lesbian Edition* contains little boxes, stars, or other odd characters where apostrophes and dashes should be, you may have a compatibility problem with your email browser. We know such problems exist with Gmail accounts, for instance. If your eyes are tired of navigating around such characters, consider switching to the "text" version of *TLE*. Just request the switch, and instead of receiving the full issue in your mailbox, you'll receive a short email with a link to both the web (HTML) version of the issue and a printable PDF. Email me at [editor@BooksToWatchOutFor.com](mailto:editor@BooksToWatchOutFor.com) to request the change.

To aid booksellers who must convert to the new industry standard thirteen-digit ISBNs, BTWOF now lists the longer ISBNs with each book instead of the ten digit ISBNs.

BTWOF finds it interesting that, as of this writing, neither Amazon.com nor BN.com lists the new ISBN13s yet, and if the longer numbers are input in search boxes, the books in question are not found. Booksense.com, on the other hand, and all of the independent bookstores who use booksense.com websites (including many feminist bookstores), list both ISBN13s and ISBN10s and both sets of numbers are searchable. Leave it to the indies to be ahead of the game!

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publishing. Written and compiled by Carol Seajay.

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### The Gay Men's Edition

announces and reviews new books by and about gay men as well as other books of interest and gay publishing news. Written and compiled by Richard Labonte.

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covers the finest in thinking women's reading, plus mysteries, non-sexist children's books, and news from women's publishing. Written by the owners and staff at Women & Children First, and friends.

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Q. How does BTWOF define "a lesbian book?"

A. We think that any book that belongs to a lesbian is a lesbian book, just as any bike that belongs to a girl is "a girl's bike."

### BTWOF: The Lesbian Edition

covers a wide range of books likely to be of interest to our readers as well as books with lesbian content and books by lesbian writers.

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### Ad Rates

Check out our ad rates at [btwof.com/misc/ARC.pdf](http://btwof.com/misc/ARC.pdf) or contact Leigh for additional information and reservations.

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### Housekeeping

If you want to change your BTWOF email address or other contact information, [click here](#) to update:

- » your subscriber profile
- » whatever has changed.

### Finding BTWOF

BTWOF is published by Carol Seajay and Books To Watch Out

### Lesbians on the Shortlists

Much deserved recognition for some of our authors and titles. Let's hope this trend continues.

#### The Man Booker Prize Shortlist

**The Night Watch** by Sarah Waters was just named a finalist for this year's Man Booker Prize for Fiction. The UK's most preeminent literary award, it aims "to reward the best novel of the year written by a citizen of the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland." The winner of this prestigious prize receives £50,000 while each shortlisted author receives £2,500. The winner will be announced on October 10.

The complete shortlist:

**Desai, Kiran** *The Inheritance of Loss* - Hamish Hamilton  
**Grenville, Kate** *The Secret River* - Canongate  
**Hyland, M.J.** *Carry Me Down* - Canongate  
**Matar, Hisham** *In the Country of Men* - Viking  
**St Aubyn, Edward** *Mother's Milk* - Picador  
**Waters, Sarah** *The Night Watch* - Virago

For more information see [www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com).

#### The Quills

The Quills, a new mainstream literary award cosponsored by Reed Business Information (publishers of *Books in Print* and hosts of the yearly Book Expo America convention), NBC, and MSNBC, was designed so that readers can select *their* favorite books each year. More than 6,000 booksellers and librarians nominate books in nineteen categories (including graphic novels and romance, genres often excluded from literary awards). The public then votes on the finalists.

Two books by out lesbian authors are among those finalists: **Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic** by Alison Bechdel (Graphic Novel category) and **New and Selected Poems, Volume Two** by Mary Oliver (Poetry). Both of these books are also eligible for the overall Book of the Year Award. You can vote for your favorites - and help increase the visibility of lesbian literature - by voting online at [quillsvote.com](http://quillsvote.com), now through September 30. (To see the complete list of nominees, check out [www.thequills.org/2006.html](http://www.thequills.org/2006.html).)

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### More About Alison Bechdel and *Fun Home*

Publisher Houghton Mifflin reports Alison's brilliant *Fun Home* is now in its fifth printing since its release less than four months ago, bringing the total number of copies in print to more than 51,000.

Last month the *New York Times* ran a story about Alison's return to her family's "fun home" for the first time in twenty years:

[www.nytimes.com/2006/08/03/garden/03bechdel.html?ej=5088&en=bc0483b7dd17010c&ex=1312257600&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/03/garden/03bechdel.html?ej=5088&en=bc0483b7dd17010c&ex=1312257600&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&pagewanted=print)

Podcast interview on *The Bat Segundo* Show with Edward Champion:

[www.edrants.com/mp3/segundo63.mp3](http://www.edrants.com/mp3/segundo63.mp3)

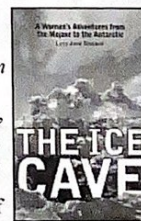
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### Outdoor Adventures and Sports

Lucy Jane Bledsoe (Lambda Literary Award nominated *This Wild Silence* and *Sweat: Stories and a Novella*, ALA-Award winning *Working Parts*) has contributed essays about her outdoor adventures to anthologies such as *Solo: On Her Own Adventure*, and *The Unsavvy Traveler*. Her new book, **The Ice Cave: A Woman's Adventures from the Mohave to the Antarctic**, takes these tales, and others, to a new level. As a collection, the stories explore grace, spirit, will, fear, and the wilderness. From being caught alone in a sudden winter storm to a life-changing trip to Antarctica, from looking for mountain lions near her Berkeley home to encountering grizzly bears while backpacking, with modes of transportation from a kayak to a replica of a nineteenth-century schooner, from snow shoes to her own two feet, Lucy travels all over the world, and within herself, to gain a clearer understanding of her relationship to wilderness.

Animals figure prominently - birds, seals, sea lions, penguins, whales, bears, coyotes, and deer - and she shares both the scientific thoughts about humans vs other mammals and her own musings:

"Humans just aren't made for Antarctic survival. We have no fur and very little fat compared to seals. We're relatively poor swimmers, and we can't go more than a few seconds without air. Really, compared to these seals, compared to so many animals, we



For.

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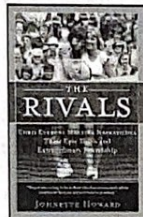
Send books for review consideration for the **Lesbian Edition** to the San Francisco address above.

Send books for review consideration for the **Gay Men's Edition** directly to Richard Labonte at  
 7-A Drummond St W  
 Perth, ON K7H 2J3  
 Canada.



humans are poorly endowed for life *anywhere*. We get by on our wits, but our wits are so deeply flawed. For every brilliant solution we find, there's a matching bit of havoc we wreak. I wonder if we are just a passing species, a mere moment in the history of life on Earth."

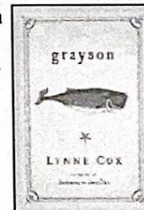
Lucy's prose also beautifully describes the outdoors she sees on her journeys but the true gift - and the difference between this and other "nature writing" - is how her evocative writing allows us in to her body, to truly sense the adrenaline, the endorphins, the fear, the awe, the discomfort, and the wonder. Highly recommended. University of Wisconsin Press/Terrace Books, \$19.95 hardcover, 9780299218447.



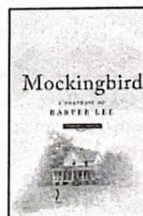
Weekends in the seventies usually found me playing tennis, watching tennis, or both. Billie Jean King, Rosie Casals, Chris Evert, and Martina Navratilova were my favorites. As could be predicted, I loved **The Rivals: Chris Evert vs. Martina Navratilova Their Epic Duels and Extraordinary Friendship** by Johnette Howard. It was an entertaining and fond memory-stoking read. But the author also positions their stories, both individually and collectively, as part of the larger story of women's tennis in the seventies and eighties: battles for prize and expense money, media coverage, union representation, scholarships, sponsorships; the establishment of the Virginia Slims and World Team Tennis tours, the "Battle of the Sexes" match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs; and media coverage of women athletes. Howard then goes one step further and links it all to other social change movements of the time: women's liberation, gay rights, anti-(then Vietnam) war, abortion rights, and the impact of the Iron Curtain. She provides astute analysis of the contrasting media presentations of Chris (pretty, feminine, America's sweetheart) and Martina (foreigner, extravagant, emotional, mannish). Lesbianism on the tour, both actual and perceived, is examined.

She discusses the athletic achievements of these two women, individually and as rivals, and how their rivalry is often compared to that between boxers Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali, although *they* fought against each other just *three* times. And Howard allows us a glimpse into the lives and minds of these phenomenal athletes: their families of origin, their romantic partnerships, their training and playing philosophies, and their friendship with each other. Like any good sports memoir, the appendix includes a table showing each woman's yearly statistics as well as the complete records from their eighty matches. If you enjoy reading about tennis, women's sports in general, women's rights struggles, prominent lesbians, and/or women's friendships, grab a copy of *The Rivals*. Broadway Books, \$14, 9780767918855, with sixteen pages of photographs.

Carol mentions that **Grayson** by Lynne Cox is a "definite read" for those of you who enjoyed *Swimming to Antarctica*. Early one morning when Lynne was 17, her usually quiet training swim was interrupted by a visitor - a baby gray whale. A friend who ran the local bait shop explained to her that the baby was following her, so she couldn't swim to shore - the 18-foot-long whale wouldn't be able to turn around. Though fatigued, she kept swimming, coaxing Grayson farther out to sea, in hopes that his mother would find them... It's about the author's relationships with the locals who watch her swim each morning as much as it is about whales - and determination. Carol says that it wasn't always clear if Lynne were helping the whales or the whales were helping her. Either way, it's a delightful read. Random House, \$16.95 hardcover, 9780307264541.



### Lesbian Lives / Lesbian Lives?



I'm not sure when or where I first heard that Harper Lee is a lesbian, but it was a factoid I glommed onto early in my coming out. As with many people, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was a book that moved me as a resistant-to-the-canon teenager and again when I read it as an adult. It was included in the Publishing Triangle's list of the [top 100 gay and lesbian books](#). With Harper Lee's understanding about outsiders, it was not hard to believe that she's a member of our tribe.

But no confirmation of that "fact" will be found in **Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee**. In his introduction, author Charles J. Shields *does* address the issue, mentioning he is often asked if Lee is gay. "I cannot say if she is homosexual (she was friends with [Truman] Capote and other openly gay people), heterosexual (she and her literary agent, Maurice Crain, were devoted to each other), or just not open to long-term romantic relationships." Shields later quotes Capote saying, shortly after Lee's novel was published, "I have good reason to believe that she is unhappily in love with a man impossible to marry," presumably meaning Crain. Who knows if that were true, though Nelle Harper Lee was close to both Crain and his wife, Annie Laurie Williams, Lee's film agent.

I am all for responsible scholarship when discussing the sexuality of other people, so the care he took with this topic in those two instances didn't bother me. But I did find it annoying that Shields expressed surprise about Lee's familiarity with *The Well of Loneliness*, which she

referenced in a piece she wrote for her college humor magazine. He writes, "Nelle was surprisingly knowledgeable about the topic of same-sex love, especially for a young woman raised in the south more than sixty years ago." Really, if an intelligent, resourceful, literate young woman like Nelle was at all interested or curious about lesbianism, it wouldn't have been difficult for her to find *The Well of Loneliness*.

Issues of sexuality aside, I did enjoy learning more about the witty, private woman who wrote what Shields says is the best-selling novel in the twentieth-century. And it was fun reading snippets from her college-era humor and political writing. Lee, eighty, would not speak with the author, so the book is not as thorough as it might have been if she had given her blessing. However Charles Shields did extensive research and conducted many interviews, and his industriousness shows. Overall, even though I was hungry to learn more about the woman behind *To Kill a Mockingbird*, there's a part of me that respects her desire for privacy and senses her glee that her secrets are still her own. Henry Holt, \$25, 9780805079197.

Read about Harper Lee's first time in print in many years:

[www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6347760.html](http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6347760.html)

In contrast to Charles Shields' *Mockingbird*, the lesbian tendencies of Alli Sheldon were explicitly addressed by both biographer and subject in **James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon** by Julie Phillips. Though she was married twice and probably would never have entertained the thought of leaving her longtime second husband, Ting Sheldon, her passionate, though unconsummated relationships and desires were for women. As she wrote to author Joanna Russ:



"It occurred to me to wonder if I ever told you in so many words that I too am a Lesbian - or at least as close as one can come to being one never having had a successful love with any of the women I've loved, and being now too old and ugly to dare try. Oh, had 65 years been different! I *like* some men a lot, but from the start, before I knew anything, it was always girls and women who lit me up."

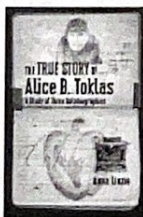
Her sexuality - and her complicated thoughts and feelings about women as beings - were rich fodder for her science fiction writing under the pseudonym James Tiptree, Jr. Yes, those science fiction awards we tell you about each year were named for Alice B. Sheldon.

This biography is dense with back story, analysis of Tiptree's writing and how it was informed by Sheldon's life, and most interestingly, excerpts from Sheldon's journals. What a gift to read her own thoughts about it all. The first quarter of the book was mostly about her mother, a larger-than-life figure in both the Chicago society pages and her daughter's life. As a child, Alice explored Africa several times with her parents and illustrated two children's books about the continent written by her mother. She thought she might become an artist, but in school she became interested in psychology. During World War II, she joined the precursor to the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, wrote about her experiences (*Mademoiselle* published one of her pieces), and became interested in photo interpretation. After V-E Day, she was sent to Germany where she met her second husband, Ting.

Later both Alli and Ting worked for the CIA. Alli came to science fiction writing quite late, submitting her first story in 1967 at age fifty-two. Her work with the CIA became part of Tiptree's past, helping to sell the idea that Tiptree was male, since few women were CIA operatives at that time.

As Tiptree, Alli had strong friendships via post with Ursula LeGuin, Joanna Russ, and Vonda McIntyre among others. In those letters, Tiptree was quite flirtatious, allowing her feelings for these women to flow on paper in ways she had never allowed herself in real life. She also explored her feminist leanings as well as her less flattering thoughts about women. Shortly after her mother died in 1976, Alli began to come out as James Tiptree, Jr. Phillips does a fine job showing how this identity shift had a huge impact on Sheldon's life. Alli even wrote in her journal that she wanted to, at last, try lesbian sex: "I shall start to mix it with women's groups, looking to actualize this. I really believe I shall." But apparently she never did. She did continue to write, to maintain her friendships with other writers, and in 1987, she carried out a suicide pact made with Ting.

Though I'm not much of a science fiction fan, I was captivated by Alli Sheldon's story, the intricacies and complexity of her thoughts and feelings, and the reactions of others to her work as Tiptree. I recommend this biography for anyone interested in science fiction, feminism, women's writing, lesbian lives, and psychology. St. Martin's Press, \$27.95, 9780312203856.

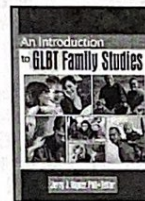
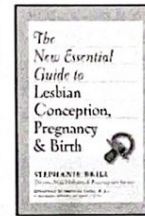


9780877459859.

Anna Linzie thoroughly examines *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* by Gertrude Stein and *The Alice B. Toklas Cook Book* and *What is Remembered*, both by Alice Toklas, in **The True Story of Alice B. Toklas: A Study of Three Autobiographies**. She argues that *The Autobiography* should not be viewed as the primary text about Toklas and that all three should be examined together, without granting any of them more weight. Linzie also puts Toklas very much on center stage here and asserts (as others have) that Toklas was an integral part of Stein's literary legacy. She builds her case convincingly; this is a must read for Toklas and Stein aficionados. University of Iowa Press, \$34.95,

## Family Life

Want to have a baby? Check out **The New Essential Guide to Lesbian Conception, Pregnancy, and Birth** by Stephanie Brill. An update of the guide published in 1999 by Brill and then co-author Kim Toevs, this volume explains the latest information on insemination and fertility technology - including that of special interest to women over forty who wish to get pregnant. Brill (also author of *The Queer Parent's Primer: A Lesbian and Gay Families' Guide to Navigating Through a Straight World*) knows her stuff - she cofounded Maia Midwifery and Preconception Services, has helped more than 500 babies be born, and is parent to four children. And she definitely has her pulse on the changing familial and gender structures in our community - hers may be the first non-science fiction book to use both male and female pronouns when referring to pregnant persons, in order to be inclusive of the increasing number of trans men who choose to get pregnant. Alyson, \$21.95 paper, 9781555839406.



The articles from the first two editions of the new *Journal of GLBT Family Studies* are now available in book form: **An Introduction to GLBT Family Studies**, edited by journal editor Jerry J. Bigner, PhD. Among the selections are: Gianna E. Isreal's paper on transgender persons and their families; a look at siblings and sexual orientation by Esther D. Rothblum, Kimberly F. Balsam, Sondra E. Solomon, and Rhonda J. Factor; research on queer youth and their families by Anthony R. D'Augelli; and Esther D. Rothblum on same-sex marriage. As with many of the Haworth journals-turned-into-books, the target audience for this book is health care and social science professionals, so the jargon of those worlds is used throughout. That being said, the article on communication issues in long-term lesbian relationships by Colleen M. Connolly and Mary Kay Sicola is interesting, useful, and accessible. Haworth Press, \$24.95 paper, 9780789024978.

Family structures are also discussed in Gloria Wekker's **The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora**. She introduces readers to mati work, where working-class women take female, and sometimes male, sexual partners, but reject conventional marriage. The emphasis for these women is their sexual pleasure; the gender of their partner(s) is less important, though for several women Wekker interviewed, sex with women is particularly enjoyed. "Sex with women was felt to be inherently good, healthy, joyous, and fun: *sport*" (emphasis Wekker's). Columbia University Press, \$27.50 paper, 9780231131636.



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## Fiction



Reading **Origami Striptease** by Peggy Munson reminded me of the first time I read Jeanette Winterson's *Written on the Body* - my then-partner was "treated" to my reading aloud from the book because I was so moved by its language. Like then, I wanted to read passages of *Origami* to everyone, wanted to share the rhythm of the prose and the fierceness of the imagery. With *Origami*, even more so than *Body*, there were times when it wasn't quite clear what was going on, but Munson's writing kept me glued to the page, engrossed in the story of the narrator-writer and her relationships with various tranny bois and butches.

"I gave them more than my commitment could have given them. I made us three-dimensional with printer-planed and ballpoint-flattened words. I knew that paper language was the anthill of the human race - the thing that some of us woke up compelled to build upon, and others burned, so it could grow like once-charred prairie grass. Each time I slid beneath my desk to write, I did an origami striptease. First my paper stripped, and then the pen. And then, collapsed, and naked, I imploded into both of them."

The way the story unfolds reminds me of "psychedelic lit" from the sixties and seventies, but in Munson's novel, high fevers, poison, and chronic illness are the culprits of the hazy narrative rather than drugs. Central to the story is the writer's relationship with Jack - the sex, the passion, the love, the illnesses, the intensity.

"Jack fucked the way a kid swings in a swing when he has ten minutes until the end of recess and he really thinks that he can kick the clouds... We weren't confined by the parameters of what a body was expected to provide. I wasn't sure if I could differentiate between the viscera and their imposters."

*Origami Striptease* is a completely queer trip into an anti-wonderland filled with ice hotels and Zamboni machines, characters named the Sludge and the Pharaoh, and more than one kind of heart condition.

Munson is a kick-ass novelist to watch out for. She's been writing hot erotica for years, with her stories included in every edition of *Best Lesbian Erotica* since 1998. She's also the editor of the anthology *Stricken: Voices from the Hidden Epidemic of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome*. *Origami Striptease* was co-winner of the first Project QueerLit contest. (We'll review the other winner, *Supervillainz*, next issue). I look forward to reading what comes out of Munson's feverish pen next. Suspect Thoughts Press, \$16.95, 9780976341192.

Arden Benbow, the lesbian Latina poet heroine from the unfortunately out of print *Faultline* and *Southbound*, returns in *OutRageous* by Sheila Ortiz-Taylor. Arden's beloved Alice and their six children are back in California for most of *OutRageous*, which finds Arden and her best friend Topaz Wilson in Florida to find a home for the large family. Arden, recently graduated from UCLA, has accepted a tenure-track position at a small college near Tallahassee. It's the early seventies, and Midway, Florida isn't quite prepared for an interracial lesbian family. The administration at the college in particular is quite out of sorts about it all and does its best to sabotage Arden's job. But she gamely takes what they dish out, including a last-minute summer school assignment to teach poetry - to the men's rugby team.



Along with academic maneuvering and renovations on the old house she bought, Arden takes a part-time job at a lesbian press, reminiscent of Naiad, Ortiz-Taylor's original publisher. (And yes, Boss Granny bears more than a fond passing resemblance to Barbara Grier.)

Like the first two books in the series, *OutRageous* is filled with lively characters, social justice activism, and the sense that their family is just fine the way it is, thank you very much. Though this new title isn't quite as laugh-out-loud funny as the first two, it does provide some humor as well as a lot of heart. Spinsters Ink, \$14.95, 9781883523725.

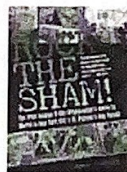
Sheila Ortiz-Taylor and her partner Joy Lewis provided yet another example of the personal being political when they, with the assistance of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, sued a retirement home in Florida for denying them housing due to their sexual orientation. An amicable settlement was reached in 2004. More information can be found at the NCLR website, [www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org).

#### New in paper:

*Bodies in Motion*, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Harper, \$13.95, 9780060781194.

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#### More Nonfiction



**In Rock the Sham: The Irish Lesbian & Gay Organization's Battle to March in New York City's St. Patrick's Day Parade**, Anne Maguire tells of her ten year involvement with ILGO. From ILGO's march with then-mayor David Dinkins in 1991 to the counter-marches protesting ILGO's exclusion in subsequent parades, she provides background, context, and lively personalities to expose ongoing discrimination in our community. Street Level Press, \$15, 9780972929639.

Indie film lovers know it is rare to find reviews and analysis of the films they love and the people who make them. **Independent Queer Cinema: Reviews and Interviews** by Gary M. Kramer should have been cause for celebration, with its 240 pages full of profiles, reviews, and interviews. But lesbian indie fans will undoubtedly be disappointed. Kramer does profile dyke director Rose Troche, though not about *Go Fish*, which he "missed," but about her more recent, though not particularly queer, *The Safety of Objects*. Call me cranky, but what reviewer of indie queer films could have missed *Go Fish*, or at least, not have made sure to catch it later?



The author is particularly fond of *Kissing Jessica Stein* and interviews its straight screenwriters, Jennifer Westfeldt and Heather Juergensen. Lesbian comedian/actor Georgia Ragsdale is profiled, and reviews of *Monster*, *Gaudi Afternoon*, and *Prey for Rock and Roll* are included. But where are *Better Than Chocolate*, *High Art*, *All Over Me*, *The Watermelon Woman*, just to name a few, and why didn't he ever see *Go Fish*!?

As with *The Queer Encyclopedia of Queer Film and Television*, Kramer's book has valuable work in it, but the misnomer of a title rankles me. Call it *Independent Gay Male Cinema* and celebrate that - there really are some great reviews in here. But calling it "queer" with less than ten percent lesbian-interest films is insulting. Harrington Park Press/Southern Tier Editions, \$22.95 paper, 9781560233435.

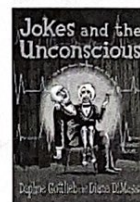


In the eighties and nineties, books about recovery from sexual abuse were published frequently. Though the publishing tide has slowed some, unfortunately the incidence of abuse has not. Alyssa Asteya, a dyke author and photographer, has just published **The Healing Truth**, a simple inspirational

book with evocative black and white photographs. While I liked the content and think the workbook page in the back is a nice touch, future printings of this book would benefit from a resource guide. Lulu.com, \$11.95, 9781411683440.

### Graphically Speaking...

Queer literary pundits will undoubtedly quip that 2006 is the year of graphic novels about college-aged women whose fathers die. But with that, the plot similarities between Alison Bechdel's memoir *Fun Home* and *Jokes and the Unconscious* end. *Jokes*, with text by Daphne Gottlieb and art work by Diane DiMassa, is loosely based on the death of Daphne's father when she was in college. The fictional structure gives the authors additional creative latitude and allows them to create a moving yet macabre work filled with jokes about death and dying. Sasha, nineteen, loses her doctor father to cancer and takes a job at the hospital where he both worked and died. In between her paperwork, she looks up the medical records of people she knows. Secrets, sexual exploration, growing pains, and superstitions abound.



Gottlieb is author of the poetry collections *Final Girl*, *Pelt*, *Why Things Burn*, and editor of this year's *Homewrecker: An Adultery Reader*. DiMassa is the creatrix of the edgy *Hothead Paisan* comics. Alison Bechdel calls *Jokes and the Unconscious*, the first graphic novel for both DiMassa and Gottlieb, "As vivid and surreal as grief itself." Daniel Handler (more popularly known as Lemony Snicket) says it's a "mad scientist's hybrid of a book." I'd add that it grabs your heart in a vise grip, loosening occasionally to allow a snicker to pass through your lungs. Brace yourself and dive in; it's definitely worth the ride. Cleis Press, \$17.95, 9781573442503.

Read an interview with the authors here:

[www.cleispress.com/Gottlieb\\_DiMassa\\_spotlight.html](http://www.cleispress.com/Gottlieb_DiMassa_spotlight.html)

Young folks have been enjoying *manga*, Japanese-style comics in book form for many years, and now lesbians get this graphic novel treatment with *yuri manga*. AniLesboCon (ALC) Publishing is, at this time, the only publisher of yuri manga outside of Japan.



Manga books are often read from right to left, with the cover art on what is traditionally (for English-language books published in the U.S.) thought of as the back cover. The flow of the text balloons in the comics also is the reverse of what we usually see in, say, the *Dykes To Watch Out For* series, so it can take some time to get used to. One example is Eriko Taden's *Works*, a collection of four yuri manga stories, including one about a romance in an office and another about two actors in a play. The art work in this volume is quite explicit and is marked as "Mature Content." It's a good introduction to the genre and includes some

interesting notes from the text translator in the back. ALC, \$11.95, 9780975916049.

To see a variety of yuri manga styles, check out ALC's anthology *Yuri Monogatari 3*, featuring the work of seven contributors. Stories include a couple with lesbian bed death who consider a ménage a trois with alien beings, three young women involved in an unrequited love triangle, and a cute depiction of the YuriCon 05 convention. This volume is also rated "MC" for Mature Content, but unlike *Works*, it has been laid out in a left to right orientation. ALC, \$14.95, 9780975916032.



**Indestructible** by Cristy C. Road is more novel than graphic, but the illustrations that are in this slim volume are full of attitude, vivid expressions, and adolescent punk-rock fashion sense. The story follows Cristy, a Cuban teenager from Miami, as she explores gender, class, friendships with both boys and girls, her sexual identity, Latina culture, masturbation, punk rock music, dating, and most eloquently, self-expression.

"I learned that while we're all socialized to tamper with the well-being of those around us, being an us is not always what its cracked up to be. Growing up, we entertain thoughts of solidarity and compassion, but a lack of constructiveness in most teenagers is in most cases, justifiable. We're judged poorly by those around us because we're tarnished in their vision - loud, poor, horny, queer, outrageous. But while the banter on what bitches we are rustles in memoirs and recollection, we learn to grow from this, and insults fade into ashes.... We remember how every day of our adolescent life was withered with dismay, yet agitated with a warped rendition of hopefulness."

Forgive the grammatical and typesetting errors and get caught up in Cristy's world as she finds the way to herself. Microcosm Publishing (distributed by AK Press), \$6, 9780977055777.

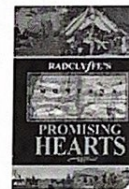
Young gay boys finding love get the PG-rated graphic novel treatment in **Tough Love: High School Confidential** by Abby Denson. The requisite straight female best friend is on hand, as are examples of both understanding parents and, um, less so. *Tough Love* addresses gay bashing and the suicidality of some gay teens, right alongside the wonder of young love. Manic D Press, \$12.95, 9781933149080.

Not lesbian but noteworthy is **The Adventures of Carrie Giver, vol. 1, no. 1: The Cost of Caring** by Theresa Funicello, Diane Pagen, et al. Carrie Miller is a top level official at the Department of Labor, lobbying Congress to implement a Caregiver Tax Credit and educating everyone about the true worth of the unpaid work that women do at home. She is also gifted with ESP and the ability to astral project herself, which she utilizes in her Carrie Giver superhero guise. The publisher is TR Rose Associates, public policy consultants who use this comic strip as one vehicle to bring visibility to social and political issues such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, and unpaid labor. TR Rose Associates, \$3.95, 9780977724604, [www.trroseassociates.com](http://www.trroseassociates.com).

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### Friday Night Reads

**Promising Hearts** by Radclyffe is the sequel to her historical romance *Innocent Hearts*. In the earlier book, Kate Beecher moves with her family from Boston to the Montana frontier. There she meets rancher Jessie Forbes and Jessie's friend, Mae, the local madam. *Promising Hearts* continues the story of Jessie and Kate's relationship and Mae's adventures in the saloon. New to the story is Vance Phelps, a female surgeon from Philadelphia. She passed as male to enlist in the War Between the States and lost an arm in one of the final battles. Wanting a change, she travels to Montana to work with a doctor there. One of her first assignments is to do checkups on Mae and her girls.

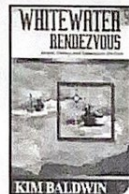


In addition to the rewarding love stories, spicy sex scenes, and a bit of adventure, *Promising Hearts* addresses gender roles, class issues, and provides some medical history. You needn't read *Innocent Hearts* first - Radclyffe provides all the back story needed to enjoy its sequel. *Promising Hearts* is a fun read with a decidedly feminist consciousness and page-turning momentum. Bold Strokes, \$15.95, 9781933110448.



The travel and hospitality industry are the backdrop for KG MacGregor's **Just This Once**. Paula is a night-shift manager at an upscale hotel in Orlando where Wynne, a Baltimore-based marketing manager for a travel agency, stays during frequent visits to her company's home office. A strategic free upgrade for Wynne to the concierge floor leads to flirtatious encounters on that floor's lounge, dinners offsite, and email exchanges when Wynne is back in Baltimore. Both women, devoted to their careers and their families of origin, find in each other camaraderie, play, relaxation, and passion. But an obligation in Baltimore threatens to keep them apart... What I especially appreciate about this book is that these women have *lives*, and they are unapologetic about how important their careers are to them. They have friends and families they are close to. Each is confronted with difficult choices that affect both their work and personal lives, and they weigh the options with intention. Though their romance is a welcome addition for each of them, they don't rely on it for validation as human beings. Can you say amen?! Bella Books, \$13.95, 9781594930874.

I enjoyed Kim Baldwin's **Whitewater Rendezvous**, a romantic adventure tale set in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As in her previous book *Force of Nature*, Baldwin has a great way of bringing the outdoors to life - the smell of a bear, the sounds of the birds, the chill of the water, and the wonder of a herd of caribou are just a few of the spectacles we are treated to. *Whitewater Rendezvous* is about a group of women from Chicago who work in broadcasting and their kayak trip down a river in Alaska. Adventure guide Chaz Herrick is surprised to find herself attracted to a VP of a CNN-type network, Megan Maxwell. Workaholic Megan, reluctantly coaxed on this trip by her sister "Broads in Broadcasting" friends, is alarmed to find that Chaz looks just like the ex who betrayed her so horribly. The water, mountains, a few misadventures, and sweetly meddling friends bring together these two women who have done without love and passion for too long. I also appreciated the author's inclusion of the "Leave No Trace" policy and in the opening notes, several urls for folks wanting more information about this beautiful area of the world. Bold Strokes, \$15.95, 9781933110387.

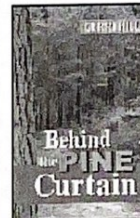


I read **Beneath the Willow** by Kenna White as the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 strikes approached and wondered that there aren't more lesbian-themed books that touch on that event. Perhaps not enough time has passed. Time passing and healing from tragedy are among the themes of White's novel. Paris DeMont is a cardiologist in Manhattan. Her practice has become her life since her partner of eight years, a paramedic, died on September 11, 2001. Memories of her pre-



Gabrielle life in Missouri come to Paris when she visits the farmhouse she inherited from her grandmother. Once there, she renews a friendship with Sloan McKinley, her childhood best friend. When they meet again, there's definitely a there there, but Paris's grief only allows Sloan to get so close... A sweet story of healing. Bella Books, \$13.95, 9781594930539.

**Behind the Pine Curtain** by Gerri Hill is another "going back home" tale: Jaqueline Keys was literally run out of town by her parents when they learn she's gay, and she doesn't return until fifteen years later. Now a successful author living in Los Angeles, she's persuaded to return to her hometown by her father's lawyer, after her father's death. Curiosity leads her back there and reuniting with her childhood best friend - and first crush - Kay, keeps Jackie there longer than she intended. Gerri Hill, author of *Artist's Dream*, *Gulf Breeze*, *The Killing Room*, and several others, keeps getting better and better. Her storytelling skills improve with each book, and the many secondary characters in *Behind the Pine Curtain* serve the plot well. Healing is a theme in this book, as in *Beneath the Willow*, but you'll find more mature writing and story crafting in *Behind the Pine Curtain*. Bella Books, \$13.95, 9781594930577.



I found it a bit hard to take **Combust the Sun: A Richfield & Rivers Mystery** by Andrews and Austin seriously, but I enjoyed it anyway. There are truly funny bits, and the mystery kept me second-guessing myself, even though I thought I had it all figured out early on. Teague Richfield is a screenwriter in Hollywood. Callie Rivers is a friend of Teague's mother back in Texas, and is an astrologer who also happens to be psychic - and gorgeous, to boot. Throw in some Egyptology, Hollywood egos, bad guys, and sexual tension, and you've got an enjoyable, if slightly over-the-top lesbian mystery. One cool thing: our protagonists are in their forties rather than the usual mid-twenties to early-thirties; that's certainly refreshing for those of us of a certain age. Bold Strokes Books, \$15.95, 9781933110523.

#### Erotic Fiction

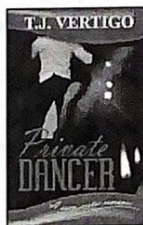
Don't let the opening chapter of **A Taste of Sin** by Fiona Zedde put you off - this book *is* all about lesbians. Desiree Nichols, dyke since high school, did spend two years with Ruben, a queer boy she met in college, and in the opening chapter of the latest book by the author of last year's *Bliss*, Ruben dumps Dez. As with many breakups, Dez is surprised, confused, and hurt, but once she arrives home in Miami to check on her mother's health, she's all about the women.



And does she ever hook up - with many women. This book has too much non-sexual content to classify it as Clit Lit and way too much sex for it to be a typical Friday Night Read. But *A Taste of Sin* has both romance and very hot sex in abundance, along with family drama, social consciousness, and long-held friendships.

Once Dez returns to Miami, she looks up her friends including Rémi Bouchard. Rémi and Dez bonded over being the only two out black dykes in middle school. Though they never dated each other, they often engaged in threesomes together, a practice they resume when Dez comes home. Private sex parties, polyamory, and quick hookups abound in Dez's circle. Then Dez meets Victoria, her twin brother's best friend, owner of the local women's bookstore and café...

A welcome aspect of Dez's complex character is her consciousness about independent businesses, including bookstores, versus chains. We also learn of her close relationship with her deceased Aunt Paulette, a dyke who left Dez a bequest large enough that she doesn't need to work. Dez's mother, Claudia, and twin Derrick also feature prominently in the story. Kudos to Kensington for bringing out another novel filled with dykes of color, living and loving boldly, under the talented pen of Ms. Zedde. Kensington, \$14, 9780758209207.



Another book that's a bit racier than most romances is **Private Dancer** by T.J. Vertigo. With a strip club setting reminiscent of Therese Szymanski's *Motor City Thrillers* featuring Brett Higgins, *Private Dancer* too focuses on a female bouncer-turned-club-owner who falls for one of her employees. There's no mystery here, though, other than how long it will take club owner Reece and Faith to consummate their attraction for one another. The chase is the story here, aided by Cori, "a freaky little dancer with a heart of gold," who is one of the few who have been able to penetrate Reece's reserved being. While it would have been interesting to learn more about what led Faith from her privileged upbringing to her new life in a "gentleman's club," the characters in this quick read are fun. (I wonder if the name of the main character is an homage to Szymanski, who goes by the nickname Reese?) Intaglio Publications, \$16.95, 9781933113586.

### Forthcoming Titles from Cleis Press

From classic lesbian lit to the twelfth edition of their annual lesbian erotica anthology, Cleis Press continues its tradition of eclectic offerings this fall. Cleis, who celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary in 2005, is still run by its founders, Felice Newman and Frédérique Delacoste.



#### AUGUST

**The Illusionist**, by Françoise Mallet-Joris, introduction by Terry Castle, \$14.95, 9781573442534, 264pp. First published in 1951 when the author was twenty, *Le Rempart des Beguines* (*The Illusionist* in English) is the erotic story of a fifteen-year-old girl who has an affair with her father's thirty-five-year-old mistress.

#### SEPTEMBER

**Dark Angels: Lesbian Vampire Erotica**, edited by Pam Keeseey, \$13.95, 9781573442527, 160 pp. A reprint of the mid-nineties anthology which features both contemporary stories and older classics like Cora Linn Daniels' "The Vampire" from 1891.

#### NOVEMBER

**Best Lesbian Erotica 2007**, edited by Tristan Taormino, selected and introduced by Emma Donoghue, \$14.95, 9781573442596, 248pp. The Grande Dame of lesbian erotica anthologies is back with stories by Peggy Munson, Catherine Lundoff, Andrea Miller, and many more.

**Best Women's Erotica 2007**, edited by Violet Blue, \$14.95, 9781573442589, 248pp. The latest edition of the yearly anthology showcasing erotica where women's (lesbian, straight, bi, queer) desires are central.

#### DECEMBER

**Best Lesbian Romance**, edited by Angela Brown, \$14.95, 9781573442619, 248pp. "Girl gets girl" in a new collection with stories by Cheyenne Blue, Lisa Figueroa, Lynne Jamneck, Annika Jones, and many others.

**Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation** by Natalie Hopkinson and Natalie Y. Moore, \$14.95, 9781573442572, 264pp. This book examines the "complicated relationship between women and hip hop" and presents a "multifaceted picture of American black men now," including gay black men. For more about Cleis Press, visit their website: [www.cleispress.com](http://www.cleispress.com).

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### Lesbians Out on the Web

Read an excellent interview with Jane Rule, who Katherine V. Forrest calls "the most significant lesbian writer of the twentieth century": [www.hillgirlz.com/Jane\\_Rule\\_12.html](http://www.hillgirlz.com/Jane_Rule_12.html).

The *New York Times* is running excerpts from the journals of Susan Sontag, who died in late 2004 at the age of 71: [www.nytimes.com/2006/09/10/magazine/10sontag.html?\\_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/10/magazine/10sontag.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)

Kathie Bergquist, columnist for *More Books for Women*, bookseller at Women and Children First, and co-author of *A Field Guide to Gay and Lesbian Chicago*, has donned yet another hat: book editor at *CHILL*, a new lesbian webzine. Check out her first column, "Reading is Sexy": [www.chillmag.com/lifestyle\\_readingissexy.html](http://www.chillmag.com/lifestyle_readingissexy.html).

There's also an interview with Kathie and her co-author, Robert McDonald, about their new book in the *Chicago Sun-Times*: [www.suntimes.com/output/travel/tra-news-guide13.html](http://www.suntimes.com/output/travel/tra-news-guide13.html).

AfterEllen.com recently profiled authors Jeanette Winterson [www.afterellen.com/Print/2006/8/winterson.html](http://www.afterellen.com/Print/2006/8/winterson.html) and Rose Beecham, aka Jennifer Fulton [www.afterellen.com/Print/2006/9/beechem.html](http://www.afterellen.com/Print/2006/9/beechem.html) and reviewed some books on queers in Hollywood [www.afterellen.com/Print/2006/8/hollywood.html](http://www.afterellen.com/Print/2006/8/hollywood.html).

I was a bit surprised that the latter article's author, Rose Yndigoyen, didn't mention *Vampires and Violets: Lesbians in Film* by Andrea Weiss, *The Ultimate Guide to Lesbian & Gay Film & Video* by Jenni Olson, or Boze Hadleigh's *Hollywood Lesbians*. Even though those books are out of print, they are more lesbian-centric than the titles she did discuss (*Queer Images*, *The Celluloid*

*Closet, Behind the Screen, and The Prime Time Closet*). Bemoaning the fact that the more lesbian-centered titles are out of print seems in keeping with AfterEllen.com's mission to promote lesbian visibility in popular culture. That aside, I'm happy that this popular website is continuing to cover lesbian authors and books.

## Happenings - Future and Past

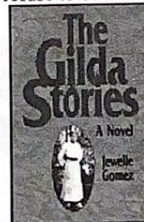
### Fire This Time

The UK will see its first celebration of queer Black and Asian artists and writers this October with Fire This Time: Queering Black History Month. Planned is a day of workshops, films, writing, and visual arts, followed by an evening of performances, spoken word, and deejays. It will be held at the Women's Library in London on October 21 and is presented by *Chroma*, the UK's queer literary journal and rukus!, a Black LGBTQ organization. See [www.firethistime.co.uk](http://www.firethistime.co.uk) for more information.

### Femme 2006

This past August, three of our community's writers - Hanne Blank, Jewelle Gomez, and Amber Hollibaugh - were keynote speakers at Femme 2006, the first national conference "by femmes, about femmes, and for femmes and their allies." More than five hundred femmes and allies congregated in San Francisco to discuss feminism, identity, race, class, surviving abuse, fat politics, spirituality, building community, relationships with butches and FTMs, visibility, discrimination, bisexuality, polyamory, desire, performance, art, aging, history, and much more. It was an empowering, enlightening weekend with many ideas to digest. Other authors who participated in the conference include Laura A. Harris, Dossie Easton, and Shar Rednour.

Hanne Blank (*Unruly Appetites, Big Big Love*, and the forthcoming *Virgin: The Untouched History*; editor of *Zaftig: Well-Rounded Erotica* and other anthologies) called her speech "Tits of Clay: Genderphilia and Changing the World, One Lipstick at a Time." She defined genderphile as "someone who loves gender. Someone who is attracted to the what and the how and the when and the fun of how people create and remix and love and live gender." Hanne encouraged people not to accept narrow views of what a femme is or can be: "Femme tells you to look for the color red; it doesn't tell you what shade of red you'll find." She also challenged the notion that femmes are assimilationist, conforming to straight societal gender roles, or that we pass. Instead, she opines that "Femme is subversive because it breaks the gender rules and expectations of the larger culture in ways that are far more elemental and wide-ranging than the fairly limited arena of what happens in anybody's love life." We are entirely conscious about our femininity and how we express it. We refuse to accept that femme equals inferior and refuse to believe that "intelligence isn't congruent with a liking of nail polish."



Jewelle Gomez, speaking on "Feminism and Femme Radicalism," reminded us that we have to commit to feminist political work, that there is still much work to do, and that some of the work is internal. She infused her speech with art, reading poetry by Chrystos, Cheryl Clarke, and Elana Dykewomon. Jewelle encouraged us to look at our righteous anger; she read numerous statistics to quantify women's invisibility and the discrimination we face, but also advised us to look for ways "we can express the anger, experience it, and point it at the people who have the power - we shouldn't point it at each other." Lookism and stereotyping are alive and well in the LGBT community, but "It is not a surprise that most of us cannot shed centuries of oppression in a couple of years." We

need to give each other room to make mistakes. Jewelle cited several examples of women who have taken their righteous anger and turned that energy around to create real power, such as Nancy Bereano who established Firebrand Books to publish feminist books. (Firebrand published Jewelle's *The Gilda Stories, Don't Explain, Oral Tradition*, and my favorite, *Forty-Three Septembers*.)

Amber Hollibaugh (*My Dangerous Desires: A Queer Girl Dreaming Her Way Home*) spoke about "The Price for Who We Are: Femme Histories, Femme Realities, Femme Futures." She talked about attempting suicide when she "couldn't figure out how to be in a political movement that I couldn't live without but who wouldn't accept me as I am." She has a lot of pain because her own "erotic identity was seen as a betrayal of the movement I was helping to create." And she names the elephant in the middle of the room: the mainstream LGBTQ movement tries to de-emphasize our community's sexuality in reaction to those in straight society who despise us because of it. And when femmes and butches (and leather folks, and kinky people, and transgenders) show up, we are visible, our desire is visible, our sex is visible. So we are often ridiculed, ostracized, not included in those glossy magazine ads. She says, "We can't give away our bodies to the right." Amen.



The Femme 2006 steering committee worked using the feminist model of consensus and discussed their successful process in a plenary session. Information about their process and the conference itself can be found online at [www.femme2006.com](http://www.femme2006.com). They plan to hold another national conference in 2008 and hope that regional conferences will be held on the odd years. Kudos to these fabulous femmes for pulling off a great conference with such inspiring keynote speakers.

### Tee A. Corinne, 1943-2006

Lesbian photographer, artist, writer, and teacher Tee Corinne died peacefully at her home in Oregon this past August. She had been diagnosed with liver cancer in March. Tee, known for her sensual photographs of lesbian couples of all abilities and sizes, several of which have been made into posters found in lesbian homes all over the country, also shared her extensive knowledge of depictions of lesbians and lesbianism throughout the history of art via classes and workshops. She published several collections of her short stories and poetry, illustrated the still-in-print *Cunt Coloring Book*, and was the Art Books editor for *Feminist Bookstore News*.

Sister artist Jean Sirius spent much time with Tee her last few months and created an informative blog to keep friends of Tee's informed of her status. Now the blog is being used to share memories of Tee. BTWOF publisher Carol Seajay has taken on the mission of getting Tee's "Erotic Images of Lesbians in the Fine Arts" slide show into book format. (Interested publishers may email Carol at [carol@btwof.com](mailto:carol@btwof.com).) Several living tributes to Tee's work and memory have been established including the Tee A. Corinne Prize for Lesbian Media Artists. Tax deductible contributions can be sent to: Moonforce Media, PO Box 13375, Silver Spring, MD 20911.

Lee Lynch's tribute to Tee:

[Amazon Trail Sept. 2006](#)

Jean Sirius's blog:

[http://jeansirius.com/TeeACorinne/tee\\_update.html](http://jeansirius.com/TeeACorinne/tee_update.html)

A biography:

[www.cla.purdue.edu/waaw/corinne/CorinneBio.htm](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/waaw/corinne/CorinneBio.htm)

A personal statement from the nineties:

[www.varoregistry.com/corinne/pers.html](http://www.varoregistry.com/corinne/pers.html)

Some of her best known images:

[www.cla.purdue.edu/waaw/corinne/CorinneGal.html](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/waaw/corinne/CorinneGal.html)

Later work:

[http://jeansirius.com/TeeACorinne/Colored\\_Pictures/](http://jeansirius.com/TeeACorinne/Colored_Pictures/)

Info about the "Erotic Images of Lesbians in the Fine Arts" slide show:

[www.cla.purdue.edu/waaw/Corinne/Seajay.htm](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/waaw/Corinne/Seajay.htm)

### Calls for Submissions

Ellen Tevault is collecting stories for an anthology tentatively titled *Superqueeroes*. Heroes can be any race, nationality, species, etc... but must be from some segment of the LGBTQ community. Original characters and plots are sought - no fan fiction or trademarked characters please. Ideally stories should be between 1500-6000 words. Deadline: February 1, 2007. For more details, please email Ellen at [superqueeroes@yahoo.com](mailto:superqueeroes@yahoo.com).

Lee Lynch and Renee LaChance seek more recipes for their *Butch Cookbook*. They want all of you butches - or femme partners of bashful butches - to send up to three of your favorite recipes along with the story behind them - who you cooked for, how people liked it, how well known, or not, it is, where it came from. Recipes for pet treats welcome, too. The deadline is December 1, 2006. Email recipes, stories, and a short bio to [greenhat66@gmail.com](mailto:greenhat66@gmail.com).

### Sabbaticals for Activists of Color

We all know that working for social, racial, economic, and environmental justice is hard, demanding, and exhausting work. And when is there time to read and write? Are you, or do you know, an activist of color who could benefit from a sabbatical? The Alston / Bannerman Fellowship Program issues awards of approximately \$15,000 to ten activists for sabbaticals of three months or longer. No "product" is required of sabbatical recipients, though some do use the time to write. The deadline for the 2007 awards is December 1, 2006. For applications and more information, visit their website: [www.alstonbannerman.org](http://www.alstonbannerman.org).

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Yours in community,

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