

# The Lavender Salon Reader

The Newsletter & Literary Review for  
Gay & Lesbian Reading Clubs

Volume 1 Number 11  
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## Club News

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### AfterWords Book Club, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

AfterWords Book Club will meet April 11 to discuss Paul Monette's award-winning *Becoming a Man*. Everyone is welcome to join in on the discussion. For more information contact AfterWords at 2710 N. Murray Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53211. (414) 963-9089.

### Brown Bag Book Club Madison, Wisconsin

The Brown Bag Book Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. April's discussion will be of Paul Russell's novel

*Boys of Life*.

### Hardy Boys Book Club Ann Arbor, Michigan

The Hardy Boys Book Club (HBBC) had their regular meeting March 24. The highlight of the meeting was the distribution of the last issue of the *Lavender Salon Reader*. Our members were impressed that the HBBC was the lead story. Some of us were concerned that the Phoenix book club still didn't have a name and offered to help select one. Your correspondent observed that the name Nancy Drew Book Club is available and might be appropriate for our "sister" book club.

Opinion was divided on our current book, *Jack* by A.M. Holmes. Some members felt that the book was a bit formulaic; others said it was much better than most young adult fiction. One person observed that the book is not directed at any particular audience; another said that it would probably appeal to gay parents. Most of the group agreed that it was apparent

that the author had attended the Iowa Writer's Workshop. Everyone seemed to think the book's perspective on gay life was different than what we usually read.

Most HBBC members saw the film documentary "Sex Is...", which was recently screened in Detroit. Everyone present seemed to like the film, but we differed on how well it represented the gay community.

We will discuss *The Mayor of Castro Street* by the recently deceased Randy Shilts at our next meeting. In observance of the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, we selected *Stonewall* by Martin

## Inside this Issue:

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### Book Reviews

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### Salon Cooking!

- Baked Hominy

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## Directory of Gay & Lesbian Reading Clubs

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### Phoenix, AZ

☞ (Group yet not named)

### Ann Arbor, MI

☞ The Hardy Boys Book Club

### Appleton, WI

☞ Lavender Reading Salon.

### Madison, WI

☞ The Brown Bag Book Club

☞ Frontiers.

### Milwaukee, WI

☞ Afterwards Book Club

☞ GAMMA Book Club

## The Lavender Salon Reader

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### **Publisher & Editor:**

Michael L. Nitz

### **Editorial Policy**

The Lavender Salon Reader seeks to represent the broad interests of gay & lesbian book clubs; to present a place to share our activities; to provide a forum for the discussion of gay, lesbian and bisexual literature and their related industries. Opinions expressed in reviews of books, videos, and recordings represent those of the authors alone. Publication of names, photographs, or likenesses of any person, organization, event, or business should not be taken as indication of sexual orientation. The Lavender

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## Editor's Note

Welcome!

I want to thank those of you who have shown your support of this publication by subscribing. It's a great pleasure to be able to provide a link between gay & lesbian reading clubs nationwide. Being able to connect is important. The reading of gay and lesbian literature offers us an opportunity to hear our history, often for the first time. Enabling us to understand where our people have come from, what we are going through, and what options our futures can hold. Literature offers us that bridge of sight. It offers us our mythology.

Features within include the announcements from the American Library Association's Gay & Lesbian Book Awards for the best of 1993 literature and non-fiction. The ALA award is the oldest award presented for gay & lesbian writing. In addition, you'll find the finalist for the Lambda Literary Awards here. The Lammy winners will be announced in May. The books honored by these two awards represent some of the best of gay & lesbian writing published during last year.

Please write and let us know what you think of The Lavender Salon Reader. Share the Reader with your friends. We are always looking for reviewers! Enjoy!

## Recent Arrivals!

(The following books, recently received from publishers, are available for reviews. If you are interested in writing a review of any of the following contact the editor.)

☞ Kayal, Philip M. *Bearing Witness: Gay Men's Health Crisis and the politics of AIDS*. Westview, 1993.

☞ Doty, Alexander. *Making Things Perfectly Queer: interpreting mass culture*. University of Minnesota Press, 1993.

☞ Leinen, Stephen. *Gay Cops* Rutgers University Press, 1993.

☞ *Lesbian Culture: an anthology: the lives, work, ideas, art and visions of lesbians past and present*. Edited by Julia Penelope & Susan Wolfe. The Crossings Press, 1993.

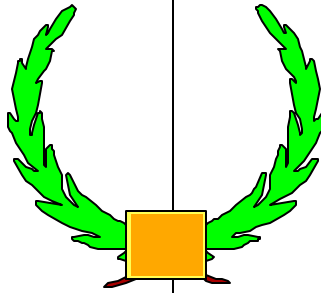
☞ Martin, April, PhD. *The Lesbian and Gay Parenting Handbook: creating and rearing our families*. Harper Perriental, 1993.

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## 1994 GAY/LESBIAN BOOK AWARD WINNERS

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The American Library Association Gay and Lesbian Book Awards Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 1994 Gay/Lesbian Book Awards. The awards are given annually to two books of exceptional merit examining lesbian and/or gay experience and published during the prior calendar year. Established in 1971, the Gay and Lesbian Task Force Book Awards are the nation's oldest and long-lived. The two award winning books were selected by a group of thirteen academic, public, and special librarians from institutions throughout the United States. This year the ten finalists considered for the awards were selected from a list of 47 nominated titles, which in turn were drawn from a listing of over six hundred titles, fiction and non-fiction, that were identified as having gay or



lesbian content.

The 1994 Gay and Lesbian Book Award for Literature goes to Leslie Feinberg for *Stone Butch Blues* (Firebrand Books), a poignant exploration of transgendered identity in the years surrounding the Stonewall Uprising.

Chosen as the 1994 Nonfiction award winner, *Family Values: two moms and their son* by Phyllis Burke (Random House) chronicles the author's transformation from the closet to activism though the catalyst of lesbian parenthood.

Both books were selected from a list of ten finalists. Runners up of the awards, all worthy of recognition as some of the best books of 1993, include:

*(Continued on page 8)*



## Salon Cooking! The best of the Potlucks



### Baked Hominy

**3 cans whole hominy (golden or white)**  
**2 tbs melted butter**  
**2 eggs, beaten**  
**1 can evaporated milk (1 1/2 cups)**  
**1 3/4 cups grated Cheddar cheese**  
**1 clove garlic, chopped**  
**chopped onion**  
**chopped green pepper**  
**crumbled bacon, fried & drained**  
**Paprika to taste**  
**Cayenne pepper to taste**

**Chop up the whole hominy kernels in a food processor. Add the melted butter, eggs, and evaporated milk. Mix in most of the cheese, save some for the topping. Combine thoroughly. Add the paprika and cayenne. Mix in the garlic, onion, green pepper, and crumbled bacon. Pour mixture into a buttered casserole. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 425 degrees until brown. Sprinkle with remaining grated cheese and more paprika. Return to the oven and cook until the cheese has melted. Michael Nitz with indebtedness to Norma Jean and Carole Darden of *Spoonbread and Strawberry Wine*.**

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**Into Distances**by Aaron Shurin

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Sun and Moon Press, 1993  
1-55713-122-8

This collection of 39 poems is suffused with a style that I found disturbing. Of all 39 perhaps four approach an easily comprehended message or feeling. Mr. Shurin's style is difficult to follow because it is peppered with changes in tense, changes in perspective, and contradictory phrases. However, the overriding impression as each and every poem is read is a feeling of lyricism. There is a definite flow to the poems that cannot be ignored. Despite often being confused by the imagery, I was never unaware of the sheer force of the rhythm of each piece.

These poems are no light reading. They require great

concentration and great effort, very often without any real reward. Most disturbing is the often abrupt and unexplained shifts of mood and message of the poem with no subsequent integration to make sense of it all. Therefore the reader is more often that not left profoundly confused and even resentful despite the fluidity and lyrical power of the piece.

There are a few poems that are so well crafted that the reader is swept away by the currents of the emotions of the writing and left feeling a triumphant sense of having made sense of it all, or fitting it all together. However, whether the end result is disturbing or satisfying, the power of the phrases is something to be savored in itself and these poems are full of powerful phrases and images.

Reviewed by Dan Berns, Fond du Lac, WI.

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**calls for abstracts**

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"Lesbian: theory, lesbian: writing new directions in lesbian scholarship on autobiography, life- writing and personalist discourse"

A book of lesbian autobiographical writing, theory and criticism. This collection will contain essays by and about lesbian life-writers who use personal experience as a frame for doing identity- & theory-work.

Papers that discuss creative approaches to women's theorizing & writing (in the traditions of, for example, Elizabeth Meese, Nicole Brossard, Jane Tompkins, Audre Lorde, Daphne Marlatt, Alice Parker, Gloria Anzaldua, Barbara Goddard, Bell Hooks etc.), employing strategies of the self (fictional selfhood, strategic provisionality, fiction/theory, writing the body, etc.) to disrupt ideas of traditional autobiography. Literary criticism and theory are welcome as well as critical work reviewing lesbian life-writings.

Send complete papers, or one page abstracts to describe the theoretical perspectives you will use, the writers you are interested in, the kinds of conclusions you will make, and your investments in lesbian autobiography, lesbian: writing and lesbian: theory.

Please address all correspondence to:

Michelle Reynolds  
Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism  
University College  
London, Ontario  
Canada n6a 3k7

tel:(519) 433-5673  
fax:(519) 433-3421  
email:reynolds@bosshog.arts.uwo.ca  
deadline: july 30, 1994.

Dan Woog is writing a book for Alyson Publications on the subject of gay and lesbian issues in elementary and secondary schools. He is including a chapter on school library media specialists (school librarians)--their roles in schools, their views on gay and lesbian issues as those issues relate in schools, how these issues differ in high schools vs. elementary/middle schools. The tone of the book is anecdotal.

He would like the views of people who are or were school librarians.

Please contact him directly by calling him (collect) at 203-227-1755, or by writing to him at the following address: Dan Woog, 301 Post Road East, Westport, CT 06880. He guarantees the confidentiality of anyone who contacts him.

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## The Lammy Nomination

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**T**he finalists in the Sixth Annual Lambda Literary Awards have been announced. The "Lammys" are sponsored by the Lambda Book Report, a bimonthly review of gay and lesbian literature. The Lammys recognize excellence in lesbian and gay publishing from the previous year. The Lammy winners in each of 16 categories will be announced at a gala black-tie awards banquet held in Los Angeles, May 27, 1994. For ticket information, call 202-462-7924.

Here are the finalists in each category:

### LESBIAN AND GAY ANTHOLOGIES

*Growing Up Gay* by Bennett L. Singer, ed. (New Press)

*Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader* by Henry Abelove, Michele Aina Barale and David Halperin (Routledge)

*Lesbian Culture* by Julia Penelope and Susan Wolfe (Crossing)

*Sisters, Sexperts, and Queers* by Arlene Stein (Plume)

*Eyes of Desire* by Raymond Luczak (Alyson)

### LESBIAN AND GAY HUMOR

*Spawn of Dykes to Watch Out For* by Alison Bechdel (Firebrand)

*Hothead Paisan* by Diane DiMassa (Cleis Press)

*Whores of Lost Atlantis* by Charles Busch (Hyperion)

*Closet Case* by Robert Rodi (Dutton)

*Members of the Tribe* by Michael Willhoite (Alyson)

### LESBIAN AND GAY DRAMA

*Angels in America: millenium approaches* by Tony Kushner (TCG)

*The Destiny of Me* by Larry Kramer (Plume)

*Falsettos* by William Finn (Plume)

*We Oughta be in Pictures* by Julia Willis (Alama Square Press)

*She's Always Liked the Girls Best* by Claudia Allen (Third Side Press)

### LESBIAN AND GAY SF/FANTASY

*Drawing Blood* by Poppy Brite (Delacorte Press)

*In the Garden of Dead Cars* by Sybil Claiborne (Cleis Press)

*The Fifth Sacred Thing* by Starhawk (Bantam)

*Burning Bright* by Melissa Scott (Tor Books)

*The Unfinished* by Jay Laws (Alyson)

### LESBIAN AND GAY SMALL PRESS

*Stone Butch Blues* by Leslie Feinberg (Firebrand)

*Lotus of Another Color* by Ratti Rakesh (Alyson)

*Eyes of Desire* by Raymond Luczak (Alyson)

*Sojourner* by Other Countries (Other Countries)

*Blue* by Denise Ohio (MacPherson & Co.)

### CHILDREN'S/YOUNG ADULT

*The Cat Came Back* by Hilary Mullins (Naiad)

*Saturday is Pattyday* by Leslea Newman; illus. by Annette Hegel (New Victoria)

*We're Not Alone* by Rik Isensee (Lavender Press)

*Living in Secret* by Christina Salat (Bantam)

*Uncle What-is-it is Coming to Visit!!* written & illus. by Michael Willhoite (Alyson Wonderland)

### LESBIAN FICTION

*Sea of Light* by Jenifer Levin (Dutton)

*Stone Butch Blues* by Leslie Feinberg (Firebrand)

*Written on the Body* by Jeannette Winterson (Knopf)

*Women on Women 2* by Joan Nestle & Naomi Holoch, eds. (Plume)

*Home Movies* by Paula Martinac (Seal Press)

### GAY MEN'S FICTION

*Fragments that Remain* by Steven Corbin (Alyson)

*Martin and John* by Dale Peck (HarperPerennial)

*The Listener* by Bo Huston (St. Martin's)

*Living Upstairs* by Joseph Hansen (Dutton)

*Scissors, Paper, Rock* by Fenton Johnson (Pocket Books)

### LESBIAN MYSTERY

*Trouble in Transylvania* by Barbara Wilson (Seal Press)

*Long Goodbyes* by Nikki Baker (Naiad Press)

*Case of the Not-so-Nice Nurse* by Mabel Maney (Cleis Press)

*Divine Victim* by Mary Wings (Dutton)

*I'll be Leaving You Always* by Sandra Scoppetone (Little, Brown)

### GAY MEN'S MYSTERY

*Catilina's Riddle* by Steven Saylor (St. Martin's)



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## A Fantasy/Science Fiction Booklist

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*Unicorn Mountain* by Michael Bishop. (Arbor House, New York. 1988.) Libby, a divorced rancher eking out a living on a Colorado ranch, takes in a young gay relative with AIDS after he has been rejected by his lover and his family. They find their lives transformed when a herd of unicorns is discovered on their ranch.

*The Breeds of Man* by F. M. Bushy. AIDS is cured, but the genetic tampering required for the cure results in a new, sexually androgynous kind human being.

*Sharra's Exile* by Marion Zimmer Bradley. (Daw Books, Inc., 1981.) A sequel to "Heritage of Hastur," Bradley's 1976 novel of gay male awakening. A heterosexual love affair is the central theme of the novel, but significant gay male subplots abound.

*Thendara House* by Marion Zimmer Bradley. (Daw Books, Inc., 1983.) Lesbian relationship is the central theme.

*City of Sorcery* by Marion Zimmer Bradley. (Daw Books, Inc., 1984.) Lesbian lovers on the imaginary world of Darkover search for a mysterious city of telepathic Amazons.

*Warrior Woman* by Marion Zimmer Bradley. (Daw Books, Inc. 1985. Available in paperback.)

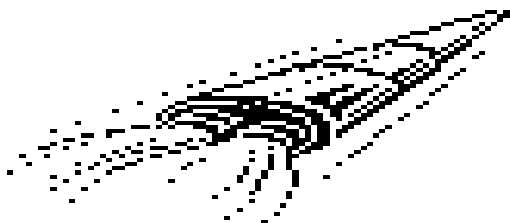
*Ethan of Athos* by Lois McMaster Bujold. (Baen, 1986.) Life on an all-male, entirely homosexual planet.

*Return to Neveryon*

*Tales of Neveryon* (Bantam, 1979.)

*Neveryona, or the Tale of Signs and Cities* (Bantam, 1983.)

*Flight from Neveryon* all by Samuel R. Delany. (Bantam, 1985.)



(Continued from page 1) Club News

Duberman for our June meeting.

For more information about The Hardy Boys Book Club contact Paul McCullough at (313) 925-1080

### Lavender Reading Salon, Appleton, Wisconsin

The Lavender Reading Salon met March 20 to read and discuss the poems and essays by Essex Hemphill from his award winning book: *Ceremonies: poetry and essays*. We had a great time reading the poems and essays aloud; in fact several of the stories and many of the poems beg to be read aloud. The poems that addressed being gay were readily identified with. Those poems which spoke to racial issues we found much more difficult. They did, though, provide for us a forum to discuss the differences of belonging to different minorities. Several members related conversations they had had with black gay friends. We took many thoughts from Hemphill's own writings and drew from the poems published in Assoto Saint's book *The Road Before Us: 100 gay black poets*. Especially pointed is the poem "Invocation" by Sabah As-Sabah.

April's meeting will feature a reading of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America: Mellinium Approaches*.

For more information regarding the Lavender Reading Salon contact Michael Nitz at (414) 738-0497.

### Phoenix, Arizona

Our group in Phoenix met last month and viewed two videos: *Out in Suburbia* (the stories of eleven lesbians) and *Before Stonewall: the making of a gay and lesbian community*. At our next meeting we will be discussing *Hometowns: gay men write about where they belong*.

(Continued from page 5) Lammy nominations

*Mae West Murder Case* by George Baxt (St. Martin's)

*Bohannon's Country* by Joseph Hansen (Viking)

*Torsos* by John Cooke (Warner)

*Dead on Your Feet* by Grant Michaels (St. Martin's)

**LESBIAN POETRY**

*The Marvelous Arithmetics of Distance* by Audre Lorde (Norton)

*The Last Generation* by Cherrie Moraga (South End Press)

*The Black Back-Ups* by Kate Rushin (Firebrand)

*Experimental Love Poetry* by Cheryl Clarke (Firebrand)

*Collected Poems (1930-1993)* by May Sarton (Norton)

**GAY MEN'S POETRY**

*My Alexandria* by Mark Doty (University of Illinois)

*Orpheus in His Underwear* by William Bory (Cythoera Press)

*Collected Poems* by James Schuyler (Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux)

*1990* by Michael Klein (Provincetown Arts Press)

*Tranquil Lake of Love* by Carl Cook (Vega Press)

**LESBIAN STUDIES**

*Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* by Elizabeth Kennedy & Madeline Davis (Routledge)

*Blood, Bread, and Roses* by Judy Grahn (Beacon Press)

*The Apparitional Lesbian* by Terry Castle (Columbia University Press)

*Vampires and Violets* by Andrea Weiss (Penguin)

*What is Found There* by Adrienne Rich (Norton)

**GAY MEN'S STUDIES**

*Stonewall* by Martin Duberman (Dutton)

*A Place at the Table* by Bruce Bawer (Poseidon Press)

*Conduct Unbecoming* by Randy Shilts (St. Martin's)

*Cherry Grove/Fire Island* by Esther Newman (Beacon Press)

*The Queen's Throat* by Wayne Koestenbaum (Vintage)

**LESBIAN BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

*Marguerite Yourcenar* by Josyanne Savigneau (University of Chicago Press)

*Forty-Three Septembers* by Jewelle Gomez (Firebrand)

*How am I to be Heard: Letters of Lillian Smith* by Rose Gladney, ed. (University of North Carolina)

*Mary Renault* by David Sweetman (Harcourt Brace)

*Family Values* by Phyllis Burke (Random House)

**GAY MEN'S BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

*Genet* by Edmund White (Knopf)

*City Poet* by Brad Gooch (Knopf)

*Travels with Lizbeth* by Lars Eighner (St. Martin's)

*Before Night Falls* by Reinaldo Arenas (Viking)

*Coming Unbuttoned* by James Broughton (City Lights)

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Michael L. Nitz, 1474 Home Avenue, Menasha WI 54952

(Continued from page 3) American Library Association

**LITERATURE:**

*Growing Up Gay: an anthology for young people*  
edited by Bennet Singer (New Press)

*The Last Generation* by Cherrie Moraga (South End Press)

*Scissors, Paper, Rock* by Fenton Johnson (Pocket Books)

*She's Always Like the Girls Best: lesbian plays* by Claudia Allen (Third Side Press)

**NON-FICTION:**

*The Lesbian and Gay Parenting Handbook: creating and raising our families* by April Martin (HarperPerennial)

*Lesbian Culture: an anthology* edited by Julia Penelope and Susan J. Wolfe (Crossing Press)

*Lesbians, Gay Men and the Law* by William B. Rubenstein (New Press)

*Stonewall* by Martin Duberman (Dutton)

The book awards will be presented on June 27, 1994, during an awards ceremony at the American

Library Association annual conference in Miami, Florida.

With the selection of the 1994 award winners, the Gay and Lesbian Book Award Committee now turns its attention to reading titles for the 1995 awards. The committee welcomes and encourages nominations from the general public, excluding only those persons affiliated with book publishing firms. Nominations for English language books published in 1994 can be submitted through December 31, 1994. Nominations must include a brief statement -- about one-half page in length -- as to why the title is being recommended.

Nominations may be sent by to Ellen Greenblatt, Chair, American Library Association Gay and Lesbian Book Award Committee, Central Technical Services, Lockwood Library Building, State University of New York at Buffalo, Box 602200, Buffalo, NY 14260-2200. Nominations may also be sent by FAX to (716) 645-5955 or by email to either ULCREG@UBVM (BITNET) or ULCREG@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU (Internet).



**TLSR**

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