GLBTSSS Library—LGBTQA Biographical Resources List

Web Resources

Bisexual Resource Center http://www.biresource.net/
The Bisexual Resource Center envisions a world where love is celebrated, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression. Because bisexuals today are still misunderstood, marginalized and discriminated against, the BRC is committed to providing support to the bisexual community and raising public awareness about bisexuality and bisexual people.

GLBT Student Support Services http://studentaffairs.iub.edu/glbt/
The GLBTSSS Office serves as a resource and information center for campus and community individuals, groups, events, and activities. The office provides a welcoming environment for individuals seeking to grow in their understanding of GLBT issues.

National Center for Lesbian Rights http://www.nclrights.org/
NCLR is a national legal organization committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education.

National Center for Transgender Equality http://www.transequality.org/
The National Center for Transgender Equality is a national social justice organization devoted to ending discrimination and violence against transgender people through education and advocacy on national issues of importance to transgender people. By empowering transgender people and allies to educate and influence policymakers and others, NCTE facilitates a strong and clear voice for transgender equality in our nation's capital and around the country.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force http://www.thetaskforce.org/
The mission of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is to build the power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community from the ground up. We do this by training activists, organizing broad-based campaigns to defeat anti-LGBT referenda and advance pro-LGBT legislation, and by building the organizational capacity of our movement. Our Policy Institute, the movement’s premier think tank, provides research and policy analysis to support the struggle for complete equality and to counter right-wing lies. As part of a broader social justice movement, we work to create a nation that respects the diversity of human expression and identity and creates opportunity for all.

Documentary Films (currently available at GLBTSSS)

Almost Myself: Reflections on Mending & Transcending Gender (2007)
DOC ALMO 2007
After finding a most unusual web site that was seeking funds to help reverse a sex change, award-winning filmmaker Tom Murray set out on a fascinating cross country
journey to explore just a small part of the vastly diverse transgender community. The filmmaker, in trying to define the film and what he learned in making it, said that it could be described as "Transgender 101 by and for a non-transgender person. The film focuses primarily on women who are white and older, yet were identified as male at birth. The stories include journeys of boyhood to womanhood and the struggles of mending and transcending gender (from WorldCat).

**American Transgender** (2012)
DOC AMER 2012
Male or female, boy or girl? Most of us can answer that question without a second thought- but for some people, the answer isn't so simple. This special takes us firsthand into the daily lives of three people who are transgender, revealing a remarkable slice of life. We witness their struggles and triumphs, and experience their hopes and fears. How do they manage at work, build careers, maintain friendships, and nurture lasting personal partnerships? Each of the characters in the film tells their story in their own words as we follow them through life's daily battles and victories both large and small (from WorldCat).

**Anyone and everyone** (2007)
DOC ANYO 2007
Connected by having a son or daughter who is gay, parents across the country discuss their experiences. Individuals from such diverse origins as Japanese, Bolivian, and Cherokee; as well as religions such as Mormon, Catholic, Hindus and others share intimate accounts of how their children revealed that they're homosexual and discuss their responses. The parents also talk about struggling with the pain their sons and daughters have dealt with, such as not being accepted by relatives and/or friends and being ostracized by religious congregations (from WorldCat).

**Bi the Way: A Documentary about the Whatever Generation** (2008)
DOC BITH 2008
The iron curtain between gay and straight is crumbling. The Bible belt is being unbuckled. Recent studies suggest that bisexuality is drastically more widespread than we ever thought. And for young people, dating a girl one week and a guy the next is no big deal. Journeying through the changing sexual landscape of America, the directors of BI THE WAY investigate the latest scientific reports and social opinions on bisexuality, while following five members of the emerging whatever generation teens and twenty somethings who seem to be ushering in a whole new sexual revolution (from WorldCat).

**Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case that Made History** (2010)
DOC BULL 2010
This film tells the story of Jamie Nabozny, a gay student who endured relentless bullying in both middle and high school despite seeking help from school administrators. Jamie fought back, not with his fists but in a courtroom. His historic federal case established that gay and lesbian students have a constitutional right to be free from harassment and bullying (from WorldCat).
Fish Out of Water (2009)
DOC FISH 2009
Fish out of Water tackles the seven Bible verses used to condemn homosexuality and justify marriage discrimination. This feature documentary uses humor and original animation to make a traditionally complex and controversial topic accessible to those who don't like talking about religion and sexuality. Most importantly, Fish out of Water sits down with hundreds of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks to impart their experiences with faith and sexuality. This unique lens spans across culture, race, religion, age, socio-economic level and puts a relatable face on the themes of Fish out of Water (from WorldCat).

Freeheld (2007)
DOC FREE 2007
Detective Lieutenant Laurel Hester spent 25 years investigating tough cases in Ocean County, New Jersey, protecting the rights of victims and putting her life on the line. She had no reason to expect that in the last year of her life, after she was diagnosed with terminal cancer, her final battle for justice would be for the woman she loved. The film chronicles Laurel's struggle to transfer her earned pension to her domestic partner, Stacie Andree. With less than six months to live, Laurel refuses to back down when her elected officials - the Ocean County Freeholders - deny her request to leave her pension to Stacie, an automatic option for heterosexual married couples. The film is structured chronologically, following both the escalation of Laurel's battle with the Freeholders and the decline of her health as cancer spreads to her brain (from WorldCat).

Keep not Silent (2004)
DOC KEEP 2004
Examines the struggles of three Israeli lesbians attempting to live within the context of Orthodox Judaism (from WorldCat).

Lesbians of Buenos Aires (2002)
DOC LESB 2002
This documentary tells the tale of Buenos Aires lesbians, focusing on three personal stories. A former militant woman who now devotes her time to feminine soccer; a young woman who is active so no girl has to go through what she went through and a lesbian mother who recounts how hostile the laws are regarding the rights of lesbian women. In spite of the difficulties their characters go through, the stories have a lot of humor, some soccer and a tour of the city (from WorldCat).

DOC NOSE 2003
Chronicles the lives of two women who have been partners in love and political struggle for half a century. San Francisco icons, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon are known as the founders of the modern lesbian civil rights movement. No Secret Anymore follows them through six decades, tracing the emergence of lesbians from the fear of discovery to the expectation of equality (from WorldCat).
**Red Without Blue** (2007)
DOC REDW 2007

The relationship between two identical twin brothers changes greatly when Alex informs Mark that he wants to become a woman (Clair) (from WorldCat).

**Still Black: A Portrait of Black Transmen** (2008)
DOC STIL 2008

A documentary that explores the lives of six Black transgender men living in the United States through the intimate stories of their lives as artists, students, husbands, fathers, lawyers, and teachers (from WorldCat).

DOC THRE 2004

For 13 years Sam, Steven, and the smart, fun-loving, level-headed East Indian beauty Samantha Singh lived together as men and wife. They slept together, ran a business together, and produced two children—one by the tall, reserved Steven, one by the irrepressible jester Sam. Their relationship is "triogamous," because as they define it, they have a three-way marriage. Filmed over nine years, the film includes interviews with relatives and friends adjusting to the unique arrangement and captures the feelings of the threesome as it evolves. But as years pass and children are born, giddy jokes about indeterminate paternity grow sardonic; business gets stressful; latent issues require therapy. Beyond the buzz of iconoclasm, the filmmakers find these 'lifestyle explorers' in a regular troubled marriage, only with three sides to every problem (from WorldCat).

**Books** (currently available at GLBTSSS)

**Adam's Gift: A Memoir of a Pastor's Calling to Defy the Church's Persecution of Lesbians and Gays** (2011) – by Jimmy Creech
9.100 CREad 2011

Jimmy Creech, a United Methodist pastor in North Carolina, tells the story of how a longtime parishioner's decision to leave the church because of its stand against homosexuality prompted him to research the scriptural basis for the church's position and to conclude that discriminating against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people is morally wrong--a stance that eventually led to his ordination credentials being revoked (from WorldCat).

**An American Family** (2001) – by Jon and Michael Galluccio
6.3045 GALam 2001

The story of two gay men living in New Jersey who embark on a journey to adopt a child. The two men serve as Adam's foster parents and have cared for Adam since he was a newborn, afflicted with AIDS, and born addicted to crack, heroin, marijuana and alcohol. They took their fight to the New Jersey Courts and won (from WorldCat).

**Apples and Oranges: My Journey To Sexual Identity** (1999) – by Jan Clausen
3.220 CLAap 1999

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After more than a decade of "marriage" to a woman with whom she was raising a daughter, Jan Clausen fell in love with a man, stunning herself and the lesbian community to which she had been intimately connected. The experience was, she writes, "like deliberately embarking on a sea cruise off the edge of a flat Earth." In her luminous and affecting memoir, Clausen charts the trajectory of her sexual life - from her first kiss to her later loves - and offers a stinging critique of society's insistence on yoking identity to desire. Rejecting all efforts at sexual sorting, including the label "bisexual," for her own journey, Clausen arrives at an understanding whereby both likeness and difference emerge as deeply erotic.

**Before Night Falls: A Memoir** (1992) – by Reinoaldo Arenas  
9.104 AREbe 1992  
In this powerful memoir of passions both personal and political, Cuban author Arenas describes his voyage from peasant poverty to his oppression as a dissident writer and homosexual. His voracious sexuality pervades the book (numerous encounters are described), and Arenas suggests that the gay world is instinctually non-monogamous, though he was celibate in the "monstrosity" of prison. The young Arenas, in the early days of Fidel Castro's revolution, gained his literary education working at the National Library; he then joined a fervent literary circle. Protesting Castro's support of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, Arenas suffered forced labor in the sugarcane fields, spent more than two years in prison after being prosecuted as a homosexual counterrevolutionary and managed to gain exile along with many other gays during the 1980 Mariel boatlift. Having appended a fierce denunciation to this book of those seeking dialogue with Castro, the 47-year-old Arenas, who was suffering from AIDS, committed suicide in New York City in 1990.

6.376 BRIbl 2010  
A powerful and nuanced tale about the search for family, Blood Strangers is a captivating, multigenerational story of an alternative family. Fascinated from an early age by the holes in her family tree, Briccetti takes it upon herself to search for her father's birth parents. As her search begins to reveal more tantalizing clues about the family she never knew, she is forced to confront her own tenuous relationship with her two fathers the father who gave her up as a little girl and the stepfather she struggles to connect with in her adult years. But when she forms her own family with Pam, her longtime partner, Briccetti learns that families can be made under many different circumstances.

**Borstal Boy** (1982) – by Brendan Behan  
9.102 BEHbo 1982  
This miracle of autobiography and prison literature begins: "Friday, in the evening, the landlady shouted up the stairs: 'Oh God, oh Jesus, oh Sacred Heart, Boy, there's two gentlemen here to see you.' I knew by the screeches of her that the gentlemen were not calling to inquire after my health . . . I grabbed my suitcase, containing Pot. Chlor., Sulph Ac, gelignite, detonators, electrical and ignition, and the rest of my Sinn Fein conjurer's outfit, and carried it to the window..." The men were, of course, the police, who knew
seventeen-year-old Behan for the anti-imperialist terrorist he was and arrested him. He spent three years as a prisoner in England, primarily in Borstal (reform school), and was then expelled to his homeland, a changed but hardly defeated rebel. Once banned in the Irish Republic, *Borstal Boy* is both a riveting self-portrait and a clear look into the problems, passions, and heartbreak of Ireland (from WorldCat).

**The Boy He Left Behind: A Man's Search for His Lost Father** (2000) – by Mark Matousek
9.104 MATbo 2000

A friend of the author's dared him to hire a private detective to track down his father, the man who had left the family and then come back to kidnap his son when the boy was four years old. The resulting search reveals much about his father, his mother, and his own life (from WorldCat).

**Escaping God's Closet: The Revelations of a Queer Priest** (2001) – by Bernard Duncan Mayes
7.4343 MAYes 2001

In an entirely honest and engaging voice, Mayes offers considerably more than autobiographical recollections of his life as priest, journalist, university teacher and administrator, and gay rights activist. Throughout Escaping God's Closet, Bernard Mayes recounts how social and doctrinal oppression posed fundamental challenges to his own belief system, but led him to revelations about sexuality, Christianity, and the nature of human existence itself (from WorldCat).

**The Family Heart: A Memoir Of When Our Son Came Out** (1994) – by Robb Forman Dew
6.1343 DEWfa 1994

In this affecting and eloquent account of the Dew family members' attempts to come to terms with the homosexuality of the elder son, who came out to his parents while a sophomore at Yale, Stephen emerges as a remarkably resilient and self-aware young man. The emphasis of the book, however, is not on him but on his parents, scrambling to reorient themselves in the wake of a revelation that uncovers prejudices these liberal, educated people did not know they had. Their movement out of bewilderment and into acceptance and activism--the Dews join a network of parents of gays and lesbians and petition for institutional support for gay and lesbian students at the prep schools their sons attended--makes for absorbing, inspiring reading (from WorldCat).

**Firebird: A Memoir** (1999) – by Mark Doty
9.104 DOTfi 1999

In *Firebird*, Mark Doty tells the story of a ten-year-old in a top hat, cane, and red chiffon scarf, interrupted while belting out Judy Garland's "Get Happy" by his alarmed mother at the bedroom door, exclaiming, "Son, you're a boy!" *Firebird* presents us with a heroic little boy who has quite enough worries without discovering that his dawning sexuality is the Wrong One. A lyrical, heartbreaking comedy of one family's dissolution through the corrosive powers of alcohol, sorrow, and thwarted desire, *Firebird* is also a wry evocation of childhood's pleasures and terrors, a comic tour of American suburban life, and a testament to the transformative power of art (from WorldCat).
For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Still Not Enough: Coming of Age, Coming Out, and Coming Home (2012) – by Keith Boykin

Addresses longstanding issues of sexual abuse, suicide, HIV/AIDS, racism, and homophobia in the African American, Latino, and Asian-American communities, and more specifically among young gay men of color. The book tells stories of real people growing up gay, seeking love, finding their own identity, and ultimately creating their own sense of personal and political empowerment.

Homo Domesticus: Notes from a Same-Sex Marriage (2007) – by David Valdes Greenwood

Greenwood tells of his marriage to Jason, detailing how in-laws, even Grandpa in the cowboy hat, supported it; disparaging his family, who skipped the 1995 wedding and organized a prayer group to "pray him out of it"; and recalling his pre-ceremony panic when he found he had forgotten his tux trousers. His touching, humorous memoir then deals with such everyday vicissitudes of coupledom-in-general as arguments and stony silences, as well as others peculiar to gay marriage, such as same-sex adoption.


The memoirs of a Berliner, the story of the wonderful Gründerzeit museum, a look at German culture from the point of view of a permanent outsider, Charlotte’s tale, like her life, is a surprising and provocative weave of sex, politics, and history.


Hooper leads readers through his own life story, revealing the positive and unnecessarily encumbered aspects of growing up gay in contemporary society. The noted author and activist writes in a sometimes humorous, sometimes serious, but always sharply informed style, opening a window into the realities of family rejection and acceptance. Whether offering direct guidance for would-be straight allies or sharing the inner monologue of a boy who knew who he was long before early adulthood would allow him to own it, Hooper provides a wealth of insight and argument to push the equality conversation forward.

I'm Walking as Straight as I Can: Transcending Disability in Hollywood and Beyond (2011) – by Geri Jewell

Born with cerebral palsy, Geri Jewell inspired a generation of young people when she became the first person with a disability to appear in a recurring role on prime-time television, with her groundbreaking character on the sitcom The Facts of Life. This candid memoir details her experiences from her traumatic birth to her rise to stardom as a
stand-up comic to becoming a television star, followed by a downward spiral, tax problems, drug addiction, marriage, and an accident that nearly claimed her life.


6.129 HILlin 2008

*Intersex (For Lack of a Better Word)* chronicles one person's search for self in a world obsessed with normal. What is "intersex"? In first-person prose as intimate as a diary, Thea Hillman redefines memoir in a series of compelling stories that take a no-holds-barred look at sex, gender, family, and community. Whether she's pondering quirky family tendencies ("Drag"), reflecting on "queerness" ("Another"), or recounting scintillating adventures in San Francisco's sex clubs, Hillman's brave and fierce vision for cultural and societal change shines through.

*Left-Hander in London: A Field Guide to Transgenders, Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals - In the Family, On the Job and In the Pew* (2011) – by JJ Marie Gufreda

6.138 GUFle 2011

What happens when an ordinary Joe becomes a Jane? That candid, funny and sometimes bittersweet story is told in *Left-Hander in London*. The title refers to realizing you are different from most people, but uncertain how to get to that seemingly far-away place where you will be happy. Joe Gufreda was a loving husband and father, successful businessman and faithful Catholic in the Midwest. But after years of confusion and anxiety, he realized he was not living his true gender and began the journey toward becoming JJ Marie. How to tell people? What to tell people? For anyone hiding and suppressing an important secret, *Left-Hander in London* offers a roadmap on how to go public and what reactions to expect.


9.108 ADDma 2003

Mark 947 chronicles one woman's progress from spirit to flesh, a literal transubstantiation by force of will. Born a boy to loving but religious parents in the rural heartland of Tennessee, Calpernia Addams found her way on an unlighted path from forbidden dreams to fulfillment as a scholar, showgirl and eventually, as a woman. Sultry stage siren by night, intellectual chameleon by day, she worked her way to the top of Nashville's underground entertainment scene without ever succumbing to drugs, alcohol or bitterness, and through it all never lost her heart.

*Mean Little deaf Queer: A Memoir* (2009) – by Terry Galloway

6.7801 GALme 2009

When Galloway was born, no one knew that an experimental antibiotic given to her mother had wreaked havoc on the fetus's nervous system. With disarming candor, the author writes about her breakdowns, her queer identity, and living in a silent world populated by unforgettable characters.

*Mississippi Sissy* (2007) – by Kevin Sessums

9.104 SESmi 2007
Kevin Sessums recounts his childhood and adolescence in the South, explaining how he coped with being different from the other boys in the region and how he refused to accept their labels and discriminations.

*Nina Here Nor There: My Journey Beyond Gender* (2011) – by Nick Krieger

6.128 KRIni 2011

Ambitious, sporty, feminine "capital-L lesbians" had been Nina Krieger's type, for friends that is. She hadn't dated in seven years, a period of non-stop traveling--searching for what, or avoiding what, she didn't know. When she lands in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, her roommates introduce her to a whole new world, full of people who identify as queer, who modify their bodies and blur the line between woman and man, who defy everything Nina thought she knew about gender and identity. This candid and humorous memoir of gender awakening brings readers into the world of the next generation of transgender warriors and tells a classic tale of first love and self-discovery.


9.106 CHIot 2010

No one knew Staceyann's mother was pregnant until a dangerously small baby was born on the floor of her grandmother's house in Jamaica on Christmas Day. Staceyann's mother did not want her, and her father was not present. No one, except her grandmother, thought Staceyann would survive. It was her grandmother who nurtured and protected and provided for Staceyann and her older brother in the early years. But when the three were separated, Staceyann was thrust, alone, into an unfamiliar and dysfunctional home in Paradise, Jamaica. There, she faced far greater troubles than absent parents. So, armed with a fierce determination, she discovered a way to break out of this unforgiving world.

*Sex Changes: A Memoir of Marriage, Gender, and Moving On* (2012) – by Christine Benvenuto

9.100 BENse 2012

Changes is a journey through the end of a marriage and out the other side. Christine, desperate to save her family and shelter her children, discovers a well of strength and resilience she never knew she had. She learns what to tell the neighbors when your husband starts accenting his shirts and ties with heels. She discovers how to manage as a single mother. And she opens herself up to a group of friends who travel with her through her darkest times - and who show her the love and support of true friendship.


7.4243 PERso 2007

*Soulfully Gay* is a personal memoir of an intellectually rigorous gay man wrestling with fundamental issues of meaning and self-acceptance. Joe Perez finds himself on a quest to understand what it means to be gay at the intersection of conflicts between homosexuality and Christianity, faith and skepticism, mysticism and madness. His journey unfolds amid challenges to his health as a recovering addict, a survivor of a psychotic episode, and a man living with AIDS. Joe is able to integrate seemingly contradictory elements—his Roman Catholic upbringing versus his openly gay lifestyle, his authentic mystical
experiences versus the delusions for which he was hospitalized. With a solid understanding of theology and an ability to see through the veils of political correctness, Joe brings a new level of intellect and understanding to the challenges of being a gay man.

9.0003 BOYst 2013

A father for ten years, a mother for eight, and for a time in between, neither, or both ("the parental version of the schnoodle, or the cockapoo"), Jennifer Finney Boylan has seen parenthood from both sides of the gender divide. When her two children were young, Boylan came out as transgender, and as Jenny transitioned from a man to a woman and from a father to a mother, her family faced unique challenges and questions. In this thoughtful, tear-jerking, hilarious memoir, Jenny asks what it means to be a father, or a mother, and to what extent gender shades our experiences as parents.

*Transition: The Story of How I Became a Man* (2011) – by Chaz Bono
9.108 BONtr 2011

At first, America knew the only child of Sonny and Cher as Chastity, the cherubic little girl who appeared on her parents' TV show. Later, she came out on a national stage, working with major organizations toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. Then, within eighteen months, Chaz Bono became the most high-profile transgender person ever. Throughout the book, Chaz touches on themes of identity, gender, and sexuality; parents and children; and how harboring secrets shatters the soul.