



Jane Addams Peace Association

The Jane Addams Peace Association Honors the LGBTQIA+ Community



The month of June is Pride Month, and the Jane Addams Peace Association is dedicated to uplifting LGBTQIA+ people, voices, and culture this month and every day after. During her lifetime, Jane Addams fought ceaselessly for the rights of the disenfranchised in Chicago and around the world. She was also a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and used the Hull-House Settlement to bring members of the community to safety and provide resources to them.

The Hull-House Settlement was considered a “Queer Domesticity,” a term created by author and academic, Shannon Jackson. While many people were married with children, people in the Hull-House neighborhood and in the settlement house were

creating their own meaning of family. While Jane Addams never married and never had children, she was in a long-term relationship with her life partner, Mary Rozet Smith a volunteer Kindergarten teacher.

Throughout history and still today, LGBTQIA+ voices are censored and concealed. In this June newsletter, we are highlighting books and authors that center and celebrate LGBTQIA+ people and changemakers to better understand their experiences within a heteronormative society, and how we can stand against prejudice to ensure the safety, comfort, and equality of all people.

[Learn More About Pride Month](#)

Jane Addams Awarded LGBTQIA+ Books and The Historical Figures That Inspired Them

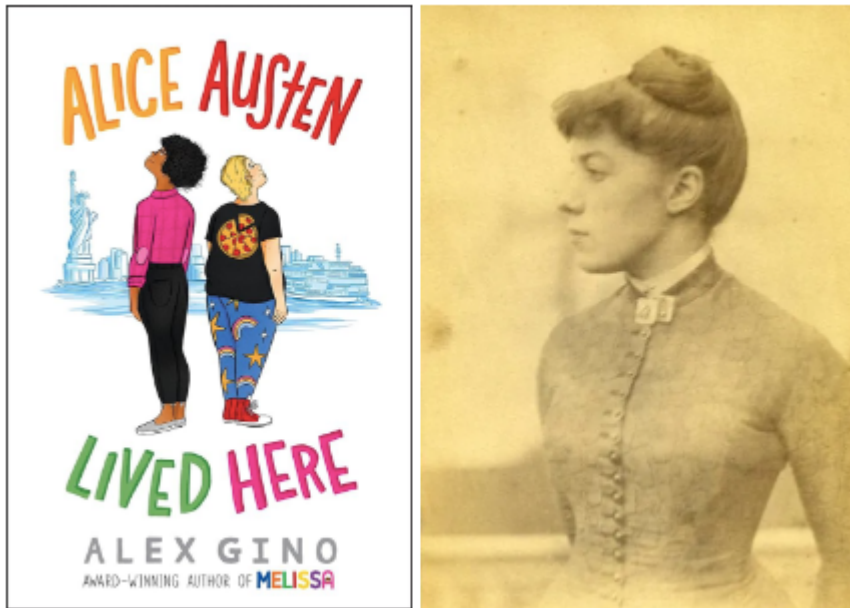


2024 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Winner

***A Song For the Unsung* by Carole Boston Weatherford and Rob Sanders, illustrated by Byron McCray**

This is a story of one of the heroes of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, a gay African American man named Bayard Rustin. This activist isn't as well known as others, but this book brings untold stories to light to give Rustin the recognition he deserves for his contributions to a movement that changed history.

[Learn More About Bayard Rustin](#)

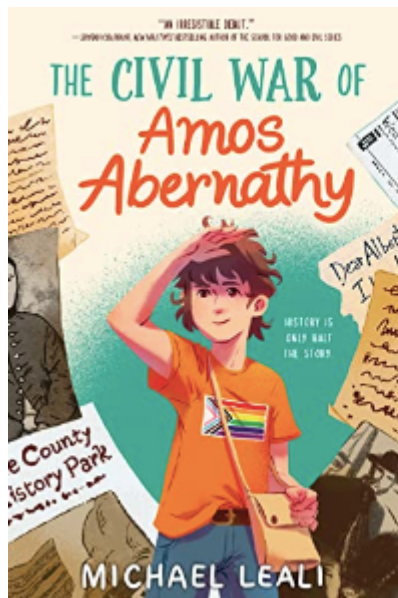


2023 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Finalist

Alice Austen Lived Here by Alex Gino

Sam and TJ are best friends. They are also both nonbinary, and while Sam's family is accepting, they have to deal with a history teacher at school that has a very limited view of who was responsible for making history. Sam decides to enter a contest for a new statue to be put in Staten Island and uncovers the rich history of an artist named Alice Austen. Austen lived with a female partner for many years, and soon Sam is engrossed in the queer history of their area.

[Learn More About Alice Austen](#)

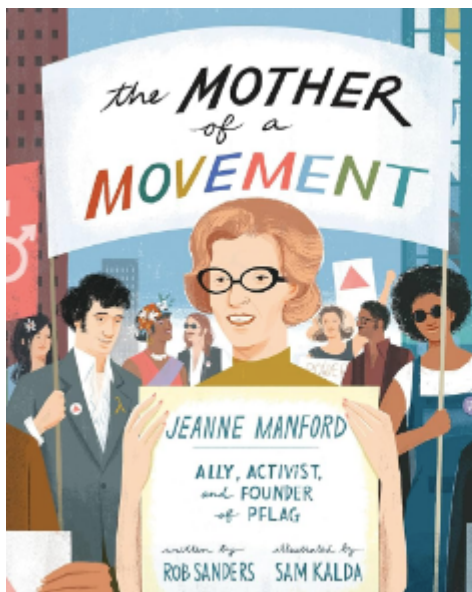


2023 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Finalist

***The Civil War of Amos Abernathy* by Michael Leali**

Amos Abernathy is a historical reenactor. He loves his job, and it only gets better when a cute new volunteer arrives. However, Amos is wondering about the historical LGBTQ+ figures that paved the way for queer kids like him that are missing from historical records. He eventually finds a Civil War soldier named Albert D.J. Cashier, who might have been transgender if he was alive today. Amos wants to share Albert's story, but people in his town sometimes aren't as accepting of queerness.

[Learn More About Albert D.J. Cashier](#)



2023 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Finalist

The Mother of a Movement: Jeanne Manford - Ally, Activist, and Founder of PFLAG by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Sam Kalda

This is the story of a brave ally of the LGBTQ+ community. Jeanne Manford was the founder of PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), a group to support family members and friends of LGBTQ+ people. She started this organization because of her son, who is gay, and was violently beaten by New York officials for handing out pamphlets that had pro-gay messages.

PFLAG Website

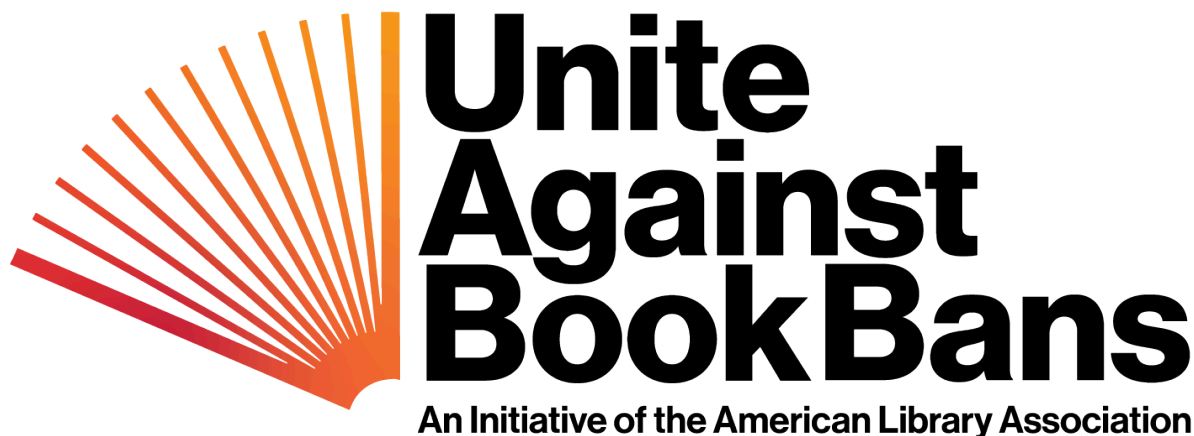


TeachingBooksSM

A very special thanks to Teaching Books for making their invaluable database of children's literature and related sources available to everyone.

You Can Find Our Winning and Honor Books Here

Facts About Book Banning

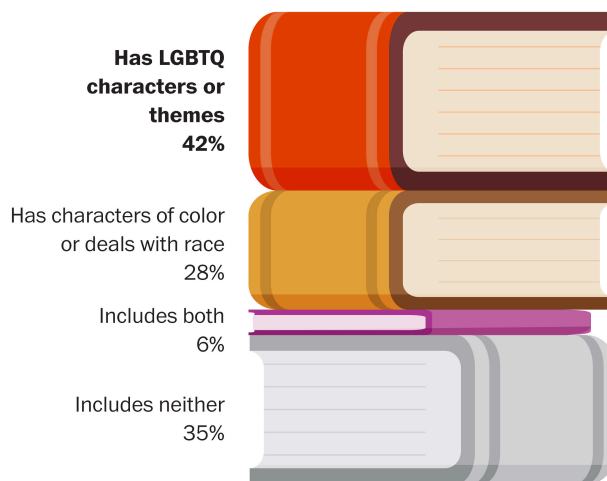


The Jane Addams Peace Association stands with everyone who protects and defends the First Amendment to the Constitution and supports the right of libraries to collect -- and individuals to access -- information. Here are some facts about book banning in the context of pride month:

1. During 2010 through 2019, only 9% of books challenged in libraries contained LGBTQ+ characters or themes. In the beginning of 2023, preliminary data showed that 47% of challenged book titles were LGBTQ+ ([CNN](#)).
2. Advocates warn against banning books with LGBTQ+ themes as it may reinforce stigma and exclusion ([CNN](#)).
3. Many schools have started a practice called "soft censorship" which requires students to get parental permission to read certain books ([The 19th](#)).

42 percent of books challenged have LGBTQ characters or themes

986 total challenges were filed against 386 different books, with some books receiving multiple complaints.



Note: LGBTQ and race categories include overlap, so percentages do not add up to 100.

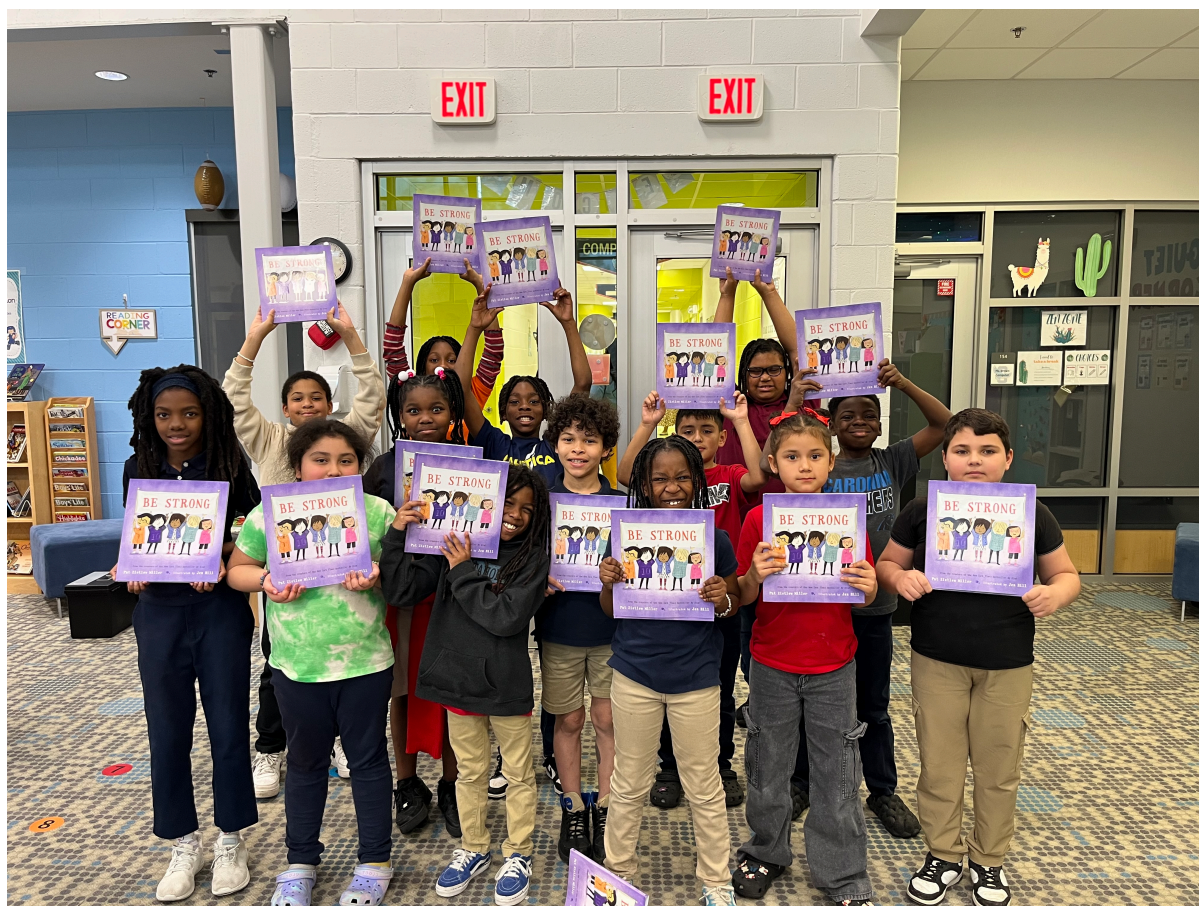
Source: Washington Post analysis of school district records.

[Learn More Here!](#)

Community Highlight

Charlie's Queer Books

"Books in Their Hands" Goes to North Charleston, South Carolina



Last month, the Jane Addams Peace Association visited North Charleston, South Carolina, for our "Books in Their Hands" program with Pat Zietlow Miller, author of the 2022 Jane Addams Award Book Award Finalist, *Be Strong*. This book celebrates finding strength through community and family.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone for their participation and support for this visit. If you are part of a Title 1/low-income school, you are eligible to apply for the "Books in Their Hands" program. Through our "Books in Their Hands program," we bring authors and illustrators to low-income schools nationally to share their Jane Addams award-winning books, and to speak directly with the students and teachers in the community. As a part of our "Books in Their Hands" program, we also donate Jane Addams Children's Book Award commended titles to each student in your classroom.

Apply for "Books in Their Hands" Program Now!

Support Our Work!



The Jane Addams Peace Association perpetuates the spirit of activist and pacifist Jane Addams, her love for children and humanity, her commitment to freedom and democracy, and her devotion to the cause of world peace.

Your donation to the Jane Addams Peace Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible and helps us support authors, illustrators, parents, teachers, and librarians deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.

DONATE HERE

