

JUNE 2025



Pride Month 2025



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 place of “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, who was a volunteer kindergarten teacher.

LGBTQ+ History Reading List



***World Made of Glass*, by Ami Polonsky**

(2024 Honor)

Twelve-year-old Iris Cohen's world is shattered when her father dies of AIDS. The novel takes place in New York City in 1987, when the [ACT UP movement](#) was starting to draw public attention to the indifference of the medical industry and the callous public regard for people with HIV/AIDS and the LGBTQ community in general. Iris is furious at her own loss and what she sees around her, and with the help of supportive adults and friends, channels her anger into activism.

[Learn More](#)



***Alice Austen Lived Here*, by Alex Gino**

(2023 Finalist)

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](#)



***A Song For the Unsung*, by Carole Boston Weatherford and Rob Sanders,
illustrated by Byron McCray
(2024 Winner)**

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](#)



***The Mother of a Movement: Jeanne Manford - Ally, Activist, and Founder
of PFLAG*, by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Sam Kalda
(2023 Finalist)**

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.

[Learn More](#)



The Civil War of Amos Abernathy, by Michael Leali
(2023 Finalist)

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](#)

*Some book summaries are adapted from Teaching Books or Google Books.

2025 Ceremony Highlights



If you missed the 2025 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards Ceremony, you can watch the highlights (and the full ceremony video) on YouTube!

[Watch Here](#)

Books In Their Hands



On May 28th, Books In Their Hands visited Brooklyn, New York with an in-person author visit from Julia Kuo, illustrator of *I Am an American: The Wong Kim Ark Story*, by Grace Lin and Martha Brockenbrough (little bee books). This book was a finalist of the 2023 Jane Addams Children's Book Award. The Peace Association was able to provide over 150 kids with this award-winning book. What a perfect way to close out Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month!

Community Highlight: Common Ground Books



1102 S Adams St Apartment 10, Tallahassee, FL 32301

Common Ground Books is Tallahassee's only LGBTQ+ and feminist bookstore, specializing in banned books, queer books, and feminist books! CGB also has multiple book clubs people can join, most of them centered around queer poetry.

[Learn More](#)

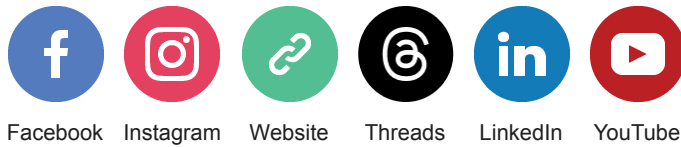
Support Our Work!



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.

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