

# augustana human library

January 29 - 31, 2012



Book Title	Book Topic	Book Abstract
<p><b>Welcome to Your Gay Life</b></p>	<p>Gay Father "Comes Out" in Small-Town Alberta</p>	<p>This is the story of what has been like for a married father of two boys to come out of the closet in a small town. I will tell about the challenges of working at a faith-based college in Ralph Klein's Alberta, and some of the surprising supports I found along the way. Now living in a long-term gay relationship, enjoying great grown-up kids, accepting the support of their lesbian mother and her partner, and feeling the respect of my colleagues, I want to affirm that "it gets better."</p>
<p><b>Stoney Fights Losing Battle</b></p>	<p>Brother Died of AIDS</p>	<p>At first Stoney did not accept his sexual tendencies. Leaving behind his farming background, Stoney moved to Edmonton. Stones' promiscuous lifestyle lead him to become HIV positive.</p>
<p><b>Survival is Not Just about Mortality</b></p>	<p>Breast Cancer</p>	<p>Now a seven-year survivor of breast cancer, this "human book" has lived with a body permanently altered by surgery and, when chemotherapy made her hair fall out, as the object of stares. When dealing with these, as well as making decisions about reconstructive surgery, she revisited what it meant to be embodied in a culture that depicts gendered bodies in fixed and stable forms. Her exploration was and is made more pressing when compassionate "pink" programs reinforce conventional images of normative bodies and "pink" fundraising reconsolidates women as domestic and depoliticized. Recovering from cancer treatments became not simply a plan for survival, but a politicization of what it means to be a survivor in a culturally problematic body and on whose terms.</p>
<p><b>"Positively Positive!"</b></p>	<p>HIV Positive</p>	<p>My life before, the day of diagnosis, and my life after being diagnosed with HIV! How it is different, the same and how people help and hinder the process. What I do to help others and how HIV is affecting the world and more closely Alberta and Edmonton.</p>
<p><b>Parades, Guns and Pick-up Trucks: The Not So Stereotypical Gay Experience</b></p>	<p>Gay Male Stereotypes</p>	<p>What exactly is the gay experience? Is there a manual, newsletter or induction? Often what we see of the gay community is what is portrayed on television or the news, we are good designers, have a fashion sense and are downright FABULOUS! Living as a [small c] conservative gay male in Alberta has it's challenges and goes against the stereotype.</p>

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<b>Layers of Lesbian Love</b>	Celebrating Being a Lesbian	This human book is a story in the making because, although I have extensive experience as a public speaker, I have never before told my story about coming to terms with and, finally, celebrating being a lesbian. I will discuss internalized and societal homophobia, maternal rejection and subsequent acceptance, living a double life in small town Alberta, raising two amazing sons in concert with their gay father and his partner, being happily married to my same sex life partner, and still striving to live a liberated and integrated life.
<b>Survivor of Testicular Cancer</b>	Cancer Survivor	At age 34, with a son aged only six months old, I was diagnosed with testicular cancer. I went through four months of very intense chemotherapy. Where do you find your worth as a human being when all your abilities to do and act are taken away?
<b>Behind the Closet Door</b>	Coming out...	When a gay man or woman announces to the 'world' their sexual orientation we call it 'coming out of the closet'. In this human library I will share the course of my own coming-out - a process which was 40 years in the making. While 'reading' this plot-line of my story, however, this 'book' will also examine the idea that we all have closets that would best be unlocked and pages we may wish to re-write or turn.
<b>Guy Hard</b>	Trans-Gendered Person	It ain't easy being a guy into today's world, especially when almost every single piece of identification you carry loudly proclaims the opposite. Will trans-identified people cause the downfall of computerized society by creating un-resolvable database errors when 'M' stands not only for 'Male', but also for 'Mother'? These and other fascinating questions for enquiring minds will be weighed, measured, and mocked accordingly.
<b>Healing from Childhood Sexual Abuse</b>	Childhood Sexual Abuse	I am willing to share my story of childhood sexual abuse and healing. I am also willing to hear and honour your (or someone you know) story.
<b>Dancing on the Sun</b>	Intersexed	My story starts in March 1953. A post-war baby. I would learn many years later that the ONLY time my mother talked to me about my birth she said that the attendant nurse would describe me as a 'hermaphrodite'. Initially assigned male gender, I had that changed to female after an exploratory operation at age one. My parents were given no tools to deal with this reality. They dealt with it by silence and uncomfortable lies. This is my story of a slow and long climb out of that place of deep shame and fear to in my later years finding my voice and body and a comfort to stand very visibly (thanks to modern media) on a world stage.
<b>Surviving the City and the Village</b>	Gay Man	Prejudice comes in colors, ageism and sexual preference. It lives in the work place, play place, public and private/living space. I have tackled it at work, home and political arenas.