

HAPPY PRIDE

CELEBRATE RAINBOW BOOK MONTH & PRIDE MONTH
THIS JUNE WITH THE 86 FSS LIBRARIES.

This summer we are joining hundreds of organizations celebrating the experiences and voices of the LGBTQIA+ community in recognition of both Pride Month and the American Library Association's Rainbow Book Month.

Held every June, Pride Month not only commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, but also the continued struggle for equal rights, justice, and opportunity for members of the LGBTQIA+ community; the American Library Association hosts Rainbow Book Month in conjunction with Pride, centering the experiences and writings of queer authors.

♥ **LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING NON-BINARY, GENDER-DIVERSE, AND TRANS YOUTHS AND THEIR FAMILIES.** ♥

Starting in 2011, openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members were permitted to serve in the US military; restrictions were expanded with the lifting of the transgender ban on personnel in 2021. While these rule changes are relatively recent, many known and unknown LGBTQIA+ service members served under the Department of Defense prior to these expanded regulations. Today, the US military is committed to ensuring the organization embeds ***“diversity and inclusion practices into the core of our military culture, building on the Department's decades-long tradition of leading the charge in racial and ethnic equity. We must not accept - and must intentionally and proactively remove - any barriers to an inclusive and diverse force and equitable treatment of every Service member”*** as stated by the Secretary of Defense and the DoD Board on Diversity and Inclusion. ¹



Pink, Blue, and You!
by Elise Gravel



Benny's True Colors
by Norene Paulson

This March, the US Air Force announced human rights protections beyond service members to also include their children and family. As an increasing number of states propose laws and pass legislation not only restricting the rights of LGBTQIA+ children, but even criminalizing their existence, the Air Force has intervened on behalf of families during an unprecedented time of anti-LGBTQIA+ sentiment; their support includes securing access to physical and mental healthcare, relocation, and legal support. ***“The health, care and resilience of our DAF personnel and their families is not just our top priority -***

LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE

it's essential to our ability to accomplish the mission. We are closely tracking state laws and legislation to ensure we prepare for and mitigate effects to our Airmen, Guardians and their families. Medical, legal resources, and various assistance are available for those who need them."

-- Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones

In addition to anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation, 2021 saw the highest number of book challenges in the United States since the American Library Association began tracking the data in 2000. Of those challenged, a third of the books were on the topics of gender identity and LGBTQIA+ issues and over 40% were written by an author of color. The top three banned titles, written by LGBTQIA+ authors, include *Gender Queer* (Maia Kobabe), *All Boys Aren't Blue* (George M. Johnson), and *Lawn Boy* (Jonathan Evison).

"Banning my book won't stop me from existing, my story from existing, or future generations of kids like me existing. What is at stake when we ban these books are actual lives who need to read their story and about characters like them so they too know they can exist and thrive in this world."

Join us to celebrate gender-diverse, trans, and non-binary youth throughout the month of June.

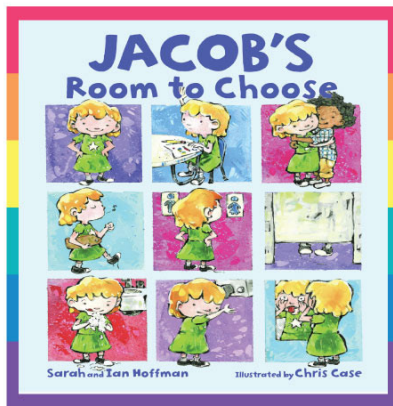
PRIDE THEMED PINS AVAILABLE AT BOTH LOCATIONS ♥ TEEN GRAB-N-GO CRAFT | RAMSTEIN LIBRARY

♥ BOTH LIBRARIES WILL HAVE LGBTQIA+ AUTHORS AND STORIES ON DISPLAY ♥

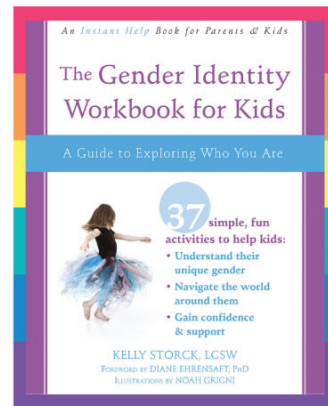
SUGGESTED READING



Girl Haven
by Lilah Sturges



Jacob's Room to Choose
by Sarah & Ian Hoffman



The Gender Identity Workbook
for Kids
by Kelly Storck

FOR MORE INFORMATION & RESOURCES YOU CAN VISIT

PFLAG, HRC, The Trevor Project, GLSEN, Modern Military, Trans Lifeline, Trans Family SOS, It Gets Better, MilPride & LRMC Child and Family Behavioral Health.