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THE
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF ARKANSAS



11 MORE LGBTQ+ Facts From AR History

WELCOME TO THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS

Everything from



Slime Molds

to



Garage Bands



THIS DAY IN ARKANSAS HISTORY

October 7, 2004

Hot Springs (Garland County) native Billy Bob Thornton's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame was unveiled. Thornton is an actor, director, screenwriter, and musician who began his film career in the late 1980s and has since starred in a number of popular and critically acclaimed films. He received an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Sling Blade* (1996). Thornton has been married five times (most notably to actress Angelina Jolie) and has four children. He remains appreciated worldwide for his talent and known for his eccentricities (including his many tattoos and fears of antique furniture and reptiles), as well as his openness about dealing with obsessive compulsive disorder.

[Learn more about Billy Bob Thornton >](#)

BROWSE THE ENCYCLOPEDIA

 Entries

[BY CATEGORY >](#)

[A - Z >](#)

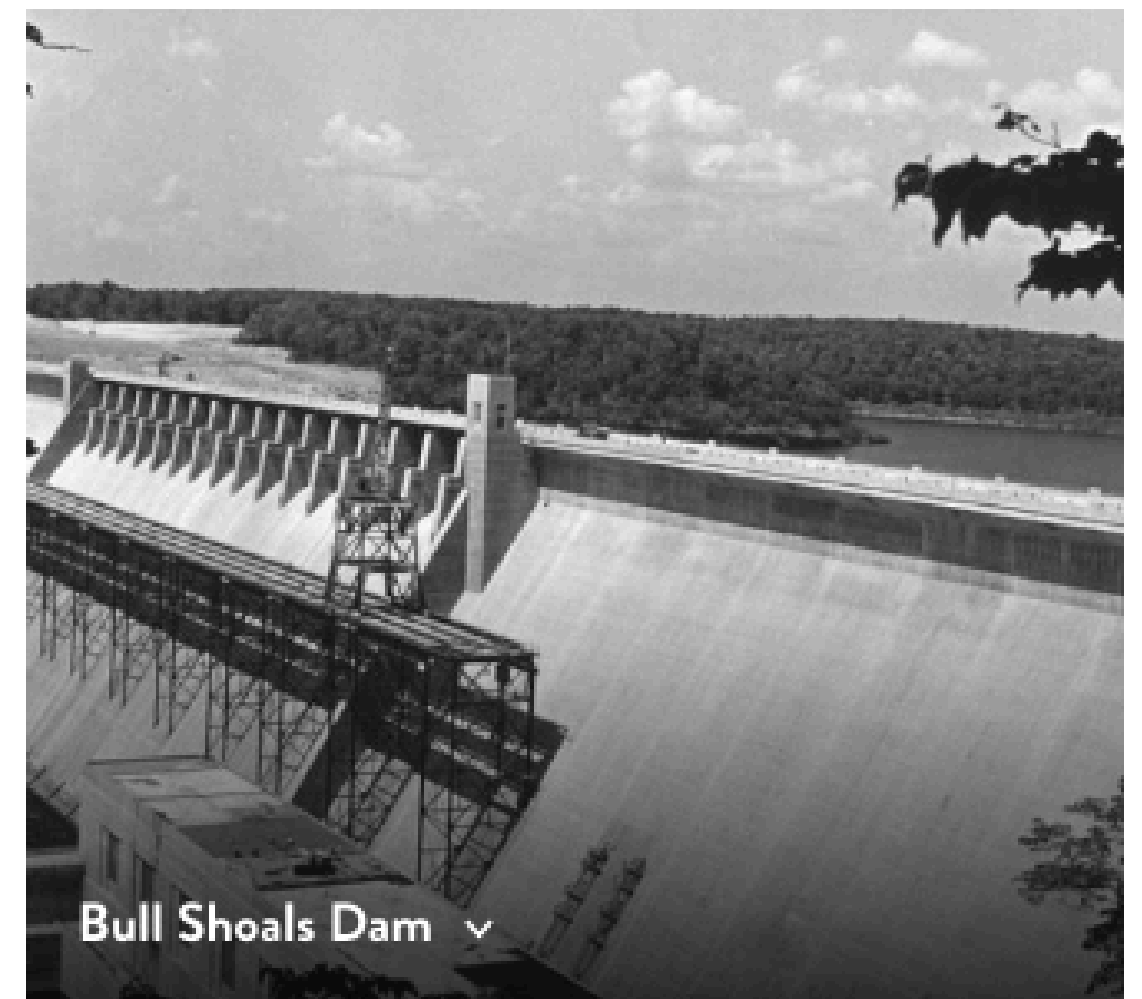
 Media

[BY CATEGORY >](#)

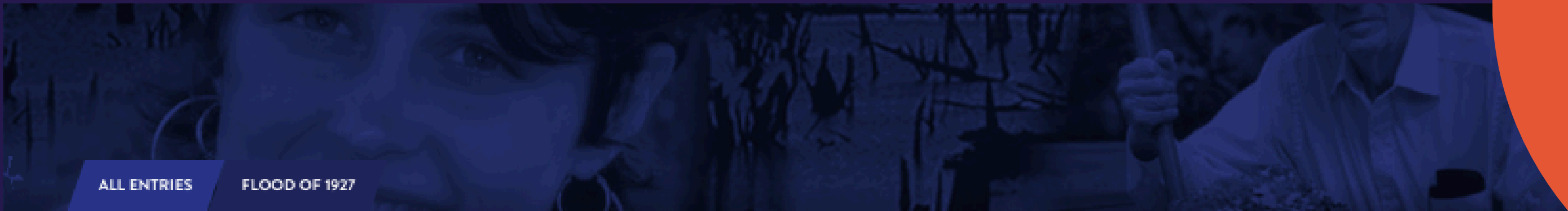
[A - Z >](#)



PHOTO OF THE DAY



Bull Shoals Dam ▾



≈7,600
entries

Flood of 1927

AKA: Great Flood of 1927
AKA: Mississippi River Flood of 1927
AKA: 1927 Flood

The Flood of 1927 was the most destructive and costly flood in Arkansas history and one of the worst in the history of the nation. It afflicted Arkansas with a greater amount of devastation, both human and monetary, than the other affected states in the **Mississippi River** Valley. It had social and political ramifications which changed the way Arkansas, as well as the nation, viewed relief from natural disasters and the responsibility of government in aiding the victims, echoing the **Hurricane Katrina** disaster in the present day.

In largely agrarian Arkansas, the Flood of 1927 covered about 6,600 square miles, with thirty-six out of seventy-five Arkansas counties under water up to thirty feet deep in places. In Arkansas, more people were affected by the floodwaters (over 350,000), more farmland inundated (over two million acres), more Red Cross camps were needed (eighty of the 154 total), and more families received relief than any other state (41,243). In Arkansas, almost 100 people died, more than any state except Mississippi. In monetary terms, the losses in Arkansas (totaling over \$1 million in 1927 dollars for relief and recovery) surpassed any other affected state.

The Flood of 1927 had its origins both in nature and in man. In the late 1920s, technological advances kept pace with the growing economy. Heavy machinery enabled the construction of a vast system of **levees** to hold back rivers that tended to overrun their banks. Drainage projects opened up new, low-lying lands that had once been forests but had been left bare by the **timber industry**.

ENTRY	Flood of 1927
TIME PERIOD	Early Twentieth Century (1901 - 1940)
CATEGORY	Environment / Land and Resources / Natural Disasters
TYPE	Event
LESSON PLANS	1927 Flood (Grades 5-8) Arkansas's Top Ten Events (Grades 6-12) Hard Times (Grades 7-12) Mucket Mania (Grades 6-12) Rollin' on the River (Grades 5-12) Southern Flood Blues (Grades 9-12)

- **EVERY** incorporated community
- **Government** officials
- **Civil rights organizations from NAACP to CLOB**
- **EVERY** military action including the smallest skirmishes
- **Wildlife, flowers, plants**



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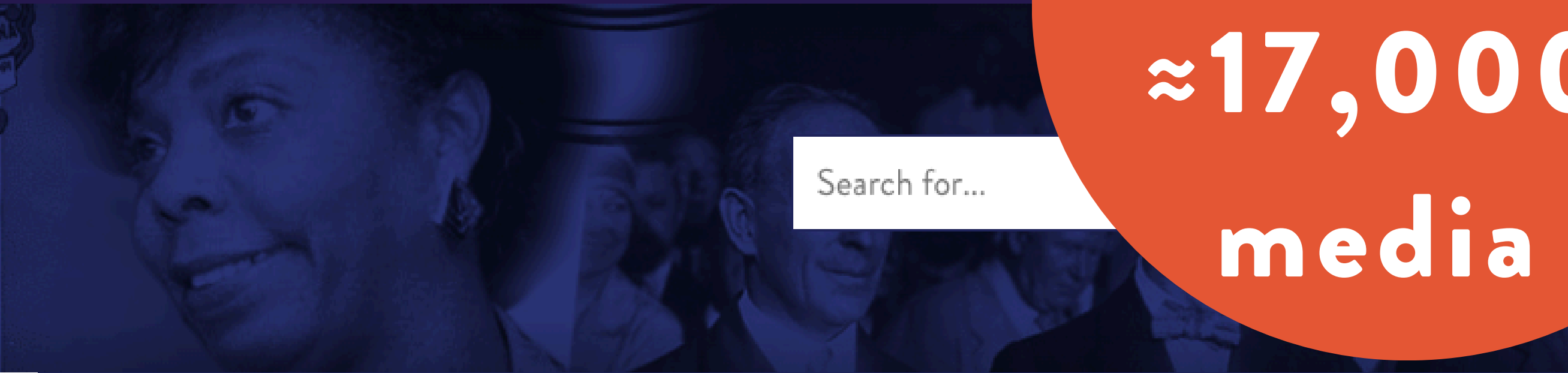
Search results for

flood of 1927



Search for...

≈17,000 media



ENTRIES 264

MEDIA 9



Tupelo Flood



Pine Bluff Flood



Lake Village: 1927 Flood

MEDIA TYPE

- ☐ Photo 5
- ☐ Document 1

CATEGORY

- ☐ Natural Disasters 7
- ☐ Chicot 2
- ☐ Desha 1
- ☐ Monroe 1





THE
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF ARKANSAS



11 MORE LGBTQ+ Facts From AR History

Beth Ditto (1981–)


AKA: Mary Beth Patterson

White County native Beth Ditto achieved renown as the singer and songwriter for Gossip, an indie, dance-punk band based in Portland, Oregon, before pursuing a solo career in music and acting. Ditto is also known for being a model and fashion designer who promotes positive body image, as well as for her outspoken support of **LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) rights**. In 2006, she became the first woman voted “Coolest Person in Rock” by *NME*, a long-running British **music** magazine. She also released her first solo album in 2017.

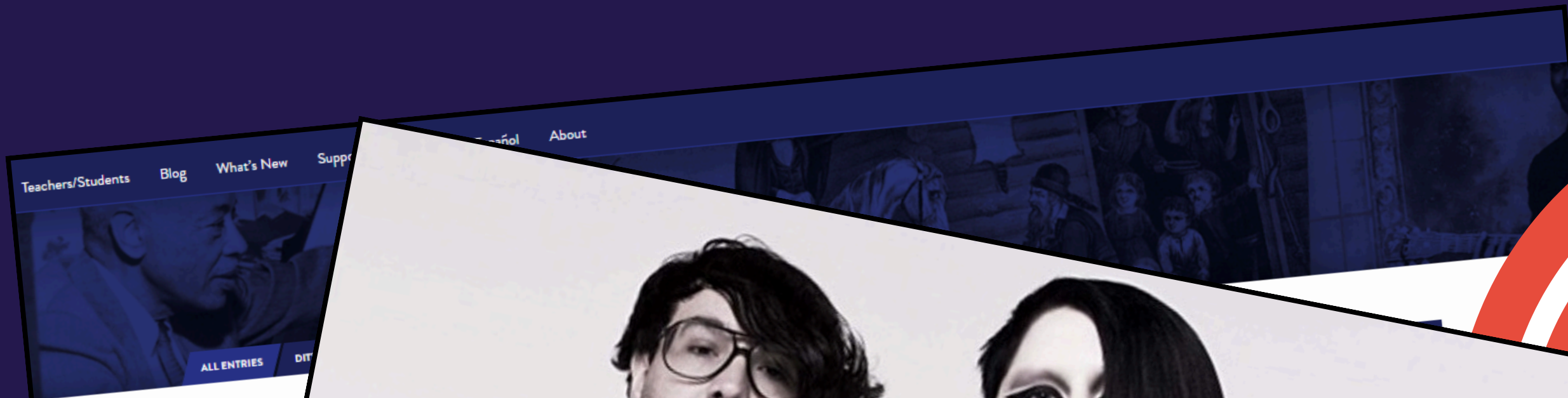
Beth Ditto was born Mary Beth Patterson on February 19, 1981. She was raised by a single mother, Velmyra Estel, and grew up in **Judsonia (White County)**, near **Searcy (White County)**; she did not know her father and was given the last name of the man who helped raise her, Homer Ditto. She has five siblings. After graduating from high school, Ditto left Arkansas to join the feminist punk scene of Olympia, Washington, where the Gossip formed in 1999. Members of the band included guitarist Nathan Howdeshell, drummer Kathy Mendonca, and Ditto. The three were roommates in Olympia, and Howdeshell and Mendonca had played in a band together in Searcy. In 1999, the Gossip released its first recording and began a tour with **rock** band Sleater-Kinney. The Gossip gained acclaim after playing Ladyfest, a feminist event in Olympia, and was profiled in *Time* magazine in a feature covering the event in 2000.

The band’s first album, *That’s Not What I Heard*, was released in 2001, followed by EP *Arkansas Heat* (2002), and a second studio album, *Movement* (2003). After the Gossip’s first live album, *Undead in NYC* (2003), Mendonca left the band to pursue a different career. Drummer Hannah Blilie then joined the group, and the word “the” was dropped from the band’s name. Gossip’s third studio album, *Standing in the Way of Control*, achieved gold record status in the United Kingdom. The title track was written as a protest against the Bush administration’s stance on gay marriage.

In 2007, Gossip joined the multi-artist line-up of the True Colors Tour, the profits of which benefited the Human Rights Campaign. The band’s fourth studio album, *Music for Men*, was released in 2009, and the single “Heavy

ENTRY	Beth Ditto (1981–)
TIME PERIOD	Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform (1968–2022)
CATEGORY	Arts / Music / Rock
TYPE	Person
RACE & ETHNICITY	White
GENDER	Female
RELATED ENTRIES	<div> Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform, 1968–2022</div>





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In 2007, Gossip joined the multi-artist line-up of the True Colors
Rights Campaign. The band's fourth studio album, *Music for Men*, was released



Teachers/Students Blog What's New Support

ALL ENTRIES DIT

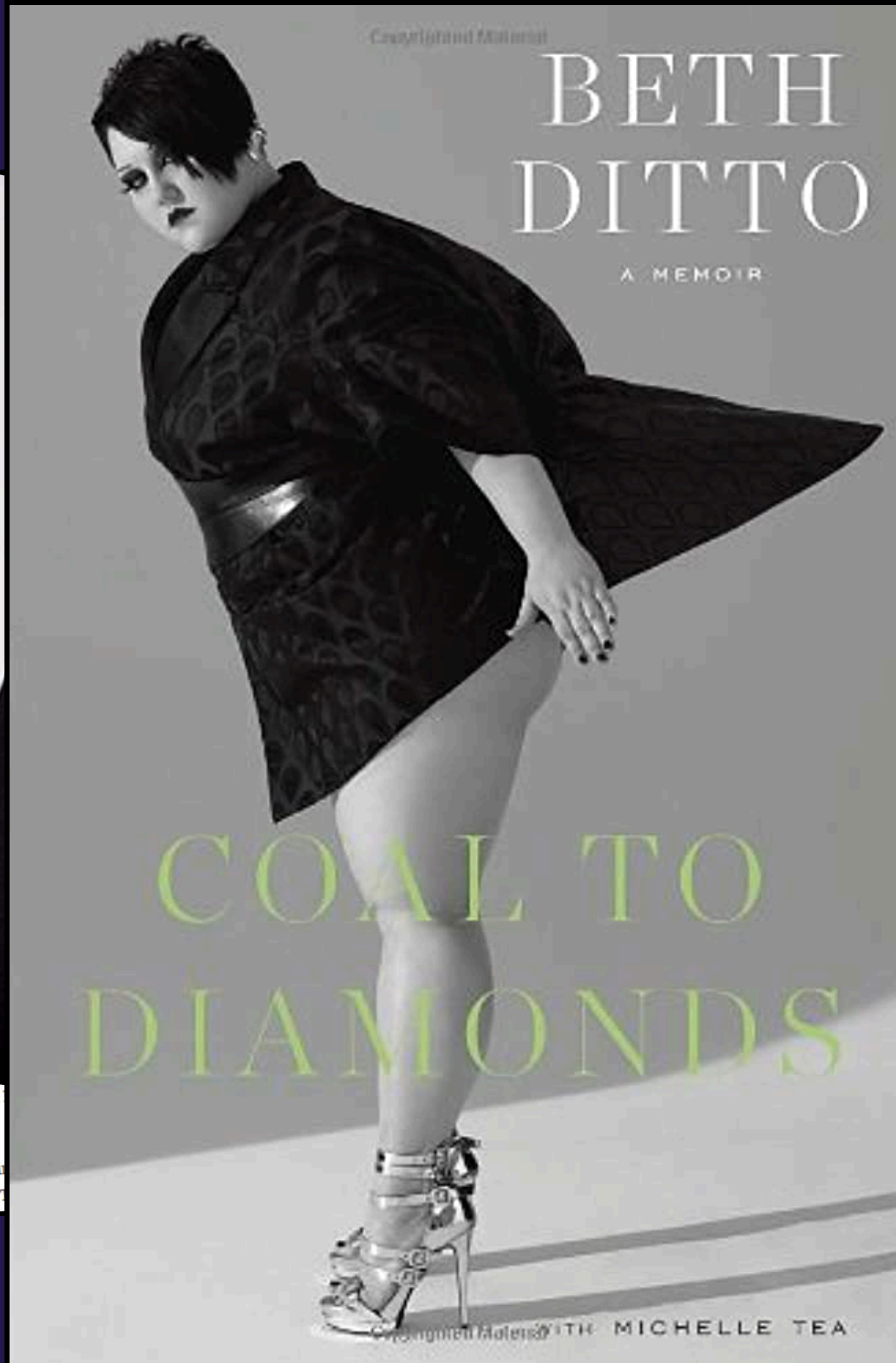
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In 2007, Gossip joined Rights Campaign.





post

Teachers/StudentsBlogWhat's NewSupport The EOAEn EspañolAbout

ALL ENTRIESRIVERS, DIANA

Diana Rivers (1931–)

Diana Rivers is an **author**, artist, and promoter of **women's** communities and art venues. Rivers has published numerous short stories and eight novels in the genre of speculative fiction, seven of which compose the Hadra series. Rivers lives in **Madison County**.

Diana Rivers was born Diana Duer Smith on October 17, 1931, in New York City and grew up in suburban New Jersey near Morristown. Her parents, Schuyler Smith and Elizabeth Larocque, separated before she was three years old. Her mother wrote poems and stories, publishing a book of verse, *Satan's Shadow*, in 1930. Rivers's great-aunt Caroline King Duer was a poet and an editor for *Vogue* magazine, and her other great-aunt, Alice Duer Miller, wrote poems, stories, novels, plays, several movies, and a series of satirical poems supporting **suffrage for women**. Most influential in her life was her grandmother, Eleanor Duer Larocque, also an artist, who helped her study with renowned sculptor Bill Zorach; Rivers lived with him and his family in rural Maine for several summers while she was in her teens. This was also where she met her future husband.

Rivers attended Cooper Union art school in the early 1950s but left to marry Robert Folley, also an artist, and travel Europe to study art. Their first son, Kevin, was born in Paris, France, after which the three traveled by motorcycle through France, Italy, and Greece. They returned to New York City, where Rivers had son Paul, and later moved to West Nyack, New York, where son Sean was born. The family then moved to Gate Hill Coop, an intentional community of artists, writers, and musicians in Stony Point, New York.

In 1970, after she and Folley divorced, Rivers took a solo camping trip west to look for a new place to make a community. She traveled to New Mexico, where Wavy Gravy and the Hog Farm commune had moved after the Woodstock festival. One commune visit led to another, and she then visited Oregon and California. Rivers had previously explored rural Arkansas, and she eventually settled in Boxley Valley near **Jasper (Newton County)**, where she started an intentional community of people wanting to live sustainably upon the land. After a few years, Sassafras, as the community was called, became an **all-women's community**. Rivers chose her last name in honor of her new life. She built her own cabin in the woods and began writing short stories based on her community

ENTRYDiana Rivers (1931–)

TIME PERIOD

Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform (1968–2022)

CATEGORY

Arts / Fiction / Literature and Authors / Sculpture / Visual Arts

TYPE

Person

RACE & ETHNICITY

White

GENDER

Female

RELATED ENTRIES

Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform, 1968–2022



[Post](#)[Teachers/Students](#)[Blog](#)[What's New](#)[Support The](#)



[ALL ENTRIES](#)[RIVERS, DIANA](#)

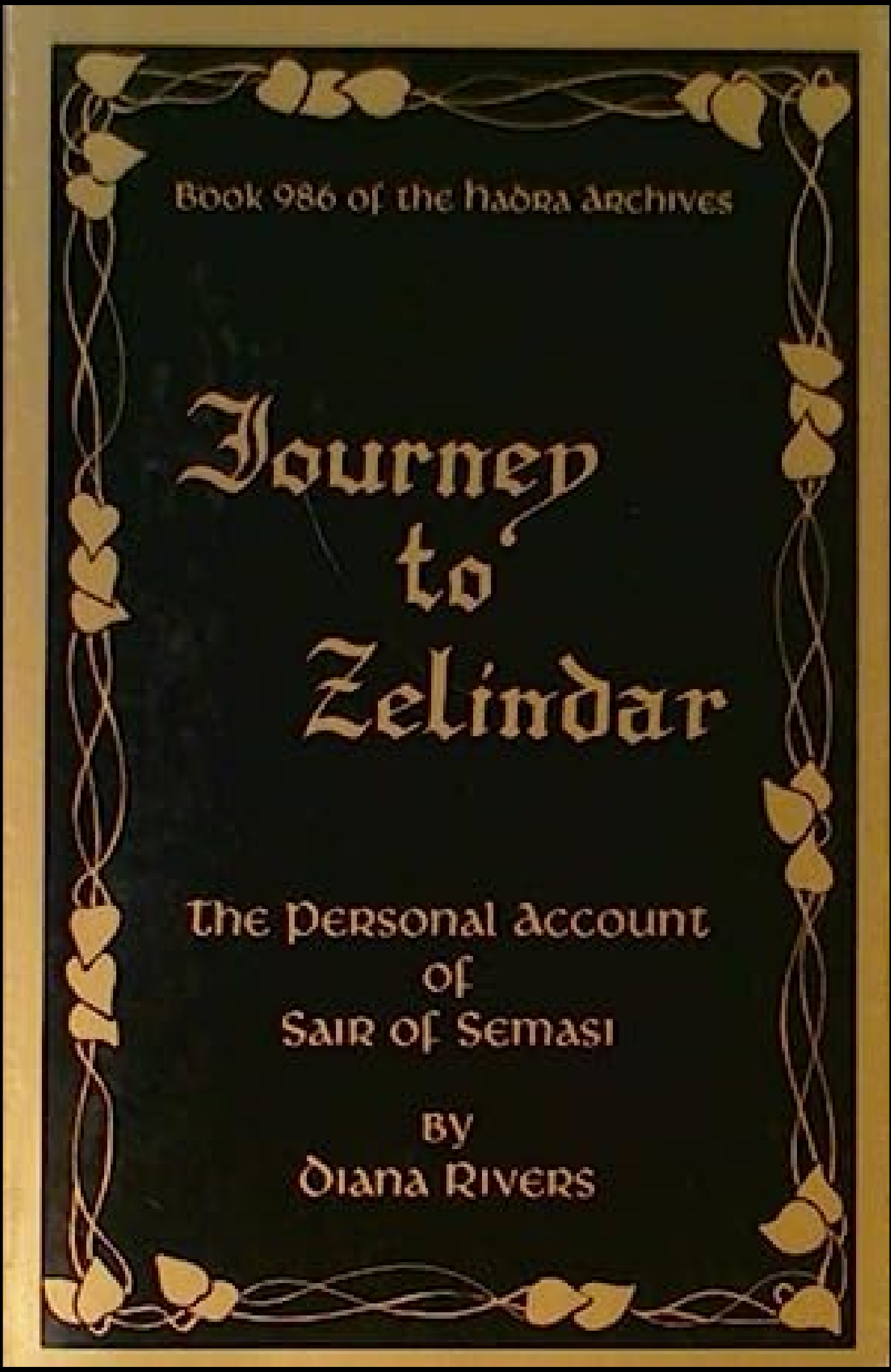
Diana Rivers

Diana Rivers is an **author**, artist, and writer. She has written numerous short stories and eight novels. Rivers lives in **Madison Co**.

Diana Rivers was born Diana Duer in 1938 in Jersey near Morristown. Her parents were 18 and 19 years old. Her mother wrote poems and stories. Her father, Caroline King Duer was a poet and writer. Diana wrote poems, stories, novels, plays, several books. One of the most influential in her life was her grandfather, the renowned sculptor Bill Zorach; Rivers was in her teens. This was also when she began to write.

Rivers attended Cooper Union art school in New York City and Europe to study art. Their first son, John, was born in France, Italy, and Greece. Rivers moved to West Nyack, New York, where son John lived. She was part of a community of artists, writers, and musicians.

In 1970, after she and Folley divorced, she moved to a new community. She traveled to New Mexico and lived in the Woodstock festival. One commune she lived in was previously explored rural Arkansas where she started an intentional community. She moved to Sassafras, as the community was called, where she lived in honor of her new life. She built her home there.





[8-2022\)](#)[re /](#)

[m,](#)



ALL ENTRIES

MOROLES, MARIA CHRISTINA DE...

Maria Christina DeColores Moroles (1953–)

Maria Christina DeColores Moroles (also known by the ceremonial names Sun Hawk and Aguila) is best known for founding and maintaining **Santuario Arco Iris**, an **intentional land community** in Ponca (Newton County) designed specifically as a “sacred land space” for **women** and children, especially marginalized women and children of color. Moroles, a so-called two-spirit woman of Mexican and Indigenous American descent, began living on the 500-acre wilderness preserve in 1976. (Moroles prefers the pan-Indian term “two spirit” to the term “**lesbian**” to describe a third or non-binary gender identification and sexual orientation that derives from **Native American** ceremonial roles and culture.)

Maria Christina DeColores Moroles was born on October 17, 1953, in Corpus Christi, Texas, to Jose Elizondo Moroles of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and Maria Bautista Moroles of Robstown, Texas. She was one of six siblings. Her parents engaged in farm, factory, domestic, and janitorial labor before her father worked his way into management for the Pearle Vision optical company. Eventually, both parents and a sister moved to participate in the business operations of her brother Jesus Moroles, an internationally renowned large installation granite sculptor.

Growing up in Dallas, Texas, Moroles ended her formal schooling in the seventh grade in response to the poverty, racism, and sexual violence she encountered. She eventually earned a General Education Diploma (GED). At age fifteen, Moroles married David Paige; their daughter, Jennifer Jo, was born in 1971. She then moved to northwestern Arkansas, where she became involved in the burgeoning women’s community.

Initially, in 1976, Moroles and her daughter lived on property in Ponca owned by a lesbian land collective called Sassafras. Moroles then negotiated with the Sassafras Women’s Community to deed 120 acres of land, now known as Santuario Arco Iris, to women of color. In 2000, the original purchaser of the Sassafras land, activist and artist **Diana Rivers**, and Moroles agreed to place the remaining 400 acres of what was then called the Wild Magnolia land under the stewardship of the nonprofit Arco Iris Earth Care Project (AIECP). Moroles and her then-partner

ENTRY Maria Christina DeColores Moroles (1953–)

TIME PERIOD

Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform (1968–20

CATEGORY

Civil Rights and Social Change / Gender and Sexuality / Sexual Orientation / Women

TYPE

Person

RACE & ETHNICITY

Hispanic or Latin American

GENDER

Female

RELATED ENTRIES



Civil Rights and Social Change



Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform, 1968–2022





ALL ENTRIES

MORILES, MARIA CHRISTINA P



About

Our Team

Contact

Our Mission

Our Mission is to protect Our Sacred Mother Earth by conserving Ozark wilderness land, teaching environmental education, preserving indigenous and Ozark cultures, and providing a sanctuary that empowers women and children of color, displaced indigenous peoples, and our community with natural and healthy skills for sustainable living and self-sufficiency.



of Reform,

Melissa Elaine Scott (1960–)

A scholar who followed her father, a prominent lawyer, from **Little Rock Central High School** to the academic citadels of the east, Melissa Scott turned to writing fiction in the 1980s and became one of the most honored and prolific authors of English-language science fiction. Over nearly forty years, she has published eighteen original novels, several short stories, and numerous tie-in novels for the science-fiction network-television series *Star Trek* and *Stargate: Atlantis*. Her fiction has been noted for the frequency of lesbian and gay characters, who were often the protagonists. In the 1980s, even among book lovers, there was little knowledge or acceptance of the biological and social diversity of human life in the area of gender and sexuality. The genre of science fiction furnished young Scott a literary medium—the far-away future of cyberspace and interstellar travel—in which **LGBTQ+ identities** were not met with condemnation.

Melissa Elaine Scott was born on August 7, 1960, in **Little Rock (Pulaski County)**. Her father, Isaac Alexander “Ike” Scott, graduated from Little Rock (later Central) High School, got a bachelor’s degree from Harvard College and a law degree from the **University of Arkansas (UA)** in **Fayetteville (Washington County)**, and spent a long career at the large corporate law firm headed by Edward L. Wright. Her mother, Elaine Hoffman Scott of North Carolina, attended Wellesley College, obtained a master’s degree in English from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, and, after marrying Ike Scott, taught English in middle schools in **Springdale (Washington and Benton counties)** and Little Rock. For fourteen years, she was a member and sometimes chair of the state Board of Education, appointed by Governor **Bill Clinton**.

Melissa Scott was a precocious pupil. When she broke an arm in gym class and was sent to the library until it healed, the librarian pulled a science-fiction book off the shelf and suggested she sample the genre. She was taken by it. She went through the small science-fiction sections at school and then the collections of science-fiction, fantasy, and Western literature at the **Central Arkansas Library System**. Two poems and a short story in the high school literary journal, *The Labyrinth*, illustrated her promise as a writer.

While earning a bachelor’s degree in history at Harvard College in 1981, Scott helped produce a college-sanctioned

TIME PERIOD
Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform (1968–2022)

CATEGORY
Fiction / Literature and Authors

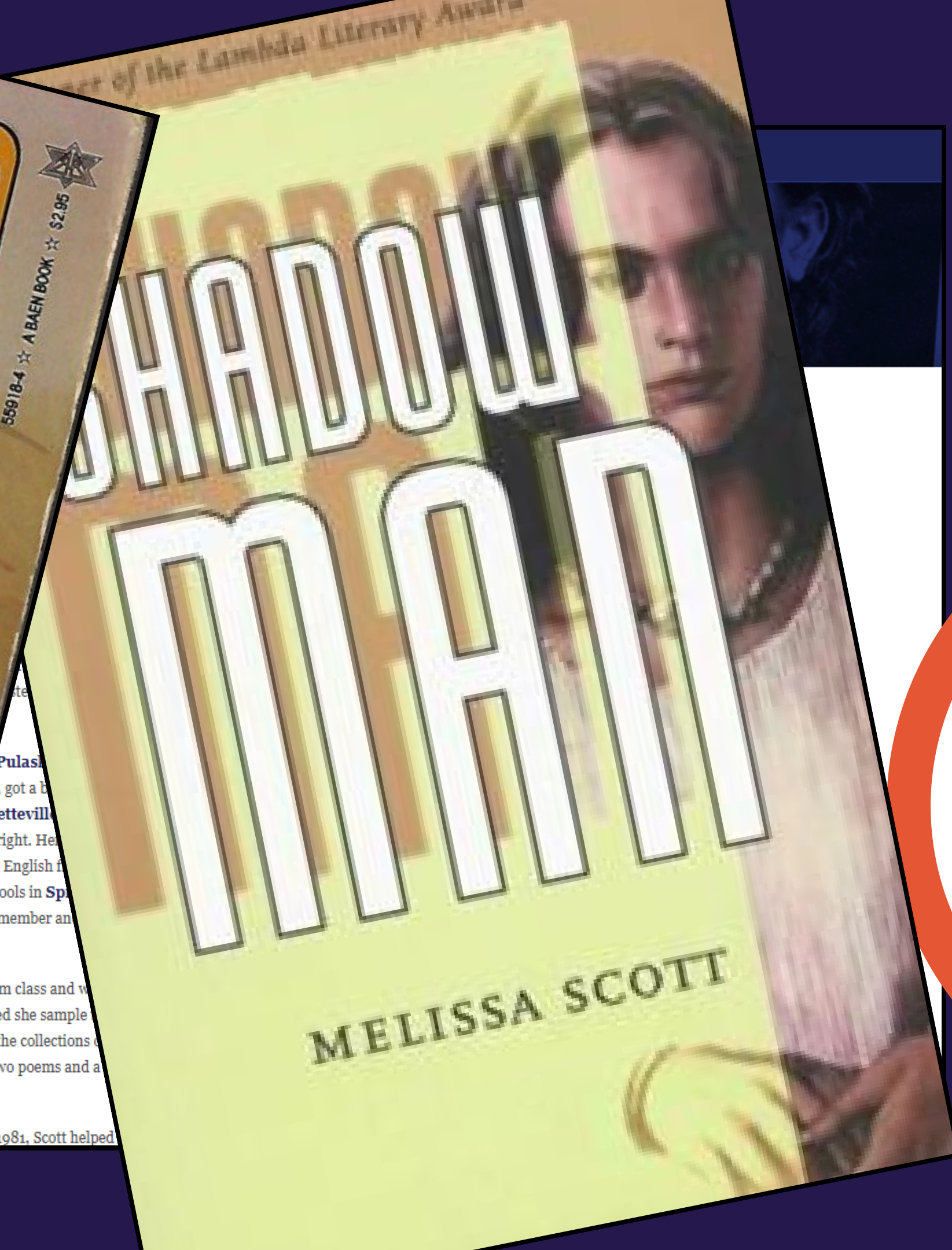
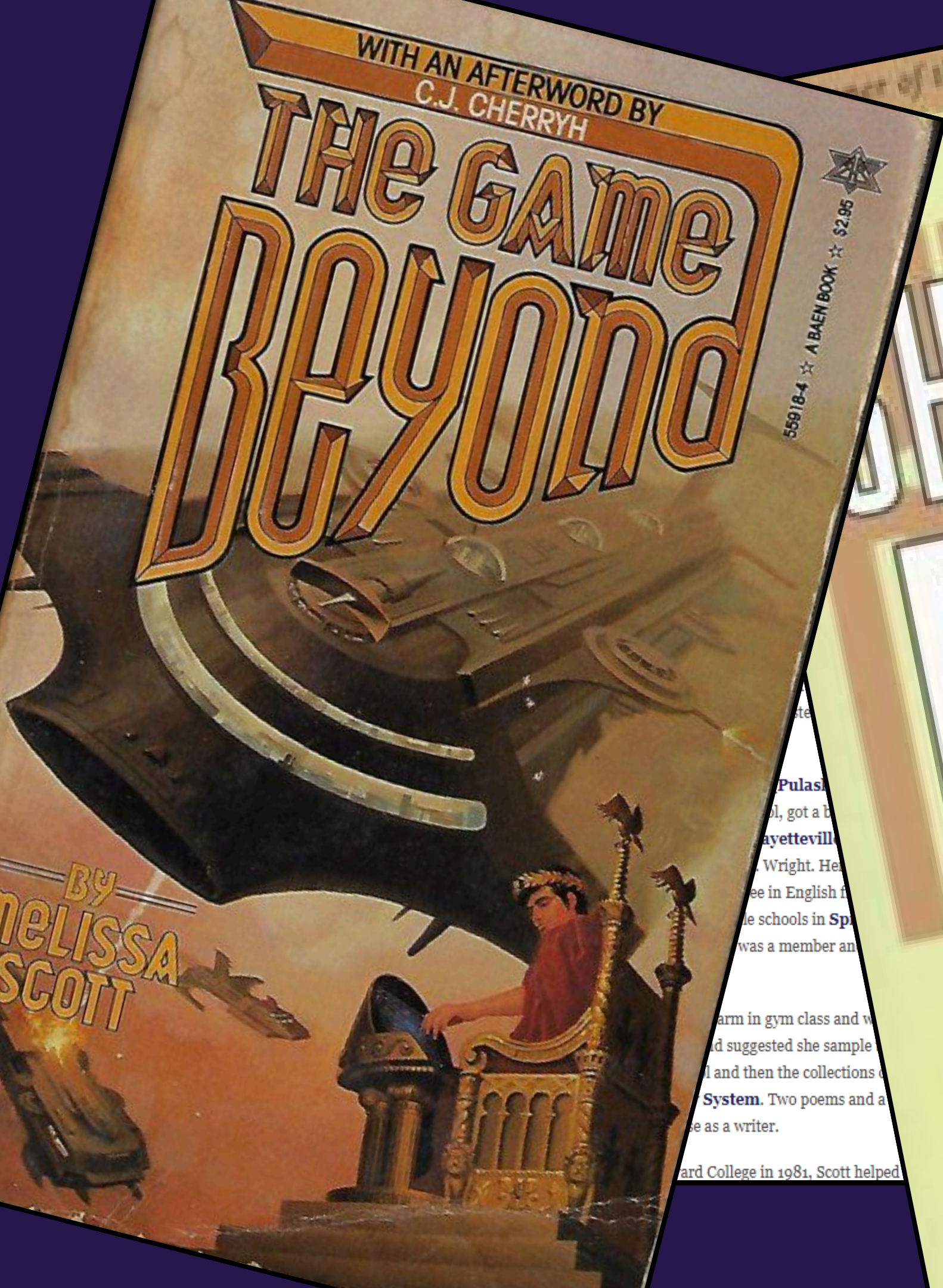
TYPE
Person

RACE & ETHNICITY
White

GENDER
Female

- RELATED ENTRIES
-  Literature and Authors
 -  Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform, 1968–2022







[ALL ENTRIES](#) [LOYD, ROBERT](#)

Robert Loyd (1949–2015)

Robert Loyd—along with his husband, John Schenck—was an activist for **lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights** in Arkansas, especially same-sex marriage. He was also a business owner and a **veteran** of the Vietnam War. Loyd and Schenck co-founded Conway's Pride Parade and were plaintiffs in *Wright v. Arkansas*, a challenge to the state's ban on same-sex marriage.

Ralph Robert Loyd, called Robert or Bobby, was born in Nuremberg, Germany, on September 24, 1949, to Inge and Troy Loyd. His mother had served in Germany's regular army, and his father was an American soldier. Loyd's father brought his wife and son to America when Loyd was three. They lived in **Damascus (Van Buren and Faulkner counties)**. In 1968, at his parents' insistence, Loyd joined the U.S. Army, leaving to fight in the Vietnam War in March 1968. He worked in communications, often in areas that saw extensive fighting. After leaving Vietnam, he was stationed in Colorado and then Germany.

Loyd left the army in 1970, moving to West Palm Beach, Florida, to work as a hairdresser. As his clients often spent most of the year in New York, he had many of the same clients as John Schenck, a hairdresser working on Long Island. They learned of these shared clients after they began dating. Loyd moved to New York, and the couple then moved to Arkansas in 1978 to care for Loyd's mother after the death of Loyd's father.

Loyd and Schenck opened the Lion's Den hair salon in an old gas station outside of Damascus, and then opened others in **Greers Ferry (Cleburne County)**, **Heber Springs (Cleburne County)** and **Little Rock (Pulaski County)**. They moved to **Conway (Faulkner County)** in 1986 and soon purchased a Victorian house near downtown. They opened the Special Effects salon in the house, which they eventually painted bright pink. Later, a "Teach Tolerance" sign was added, and the fence around the yard was painted in rainbow colors.

The couple did not involve themselves in gay-rights activism until a conflict with Conway and **Faulkner County** law enforcement in 2003, which they saw as motivated by homophobia, and public anti-gay comments from Governor **Mike Huckabee**. They said they lost many salon clients at first because of their activism.

[ENTRY](#) Robert Loyd (1949–2015)

TIME PERIOD
Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform (1968–2022)

CATEGORY
Civil Rights and Social Change / Gender and Sexuality /
Individuals / Individuals and Units / Military Science /
Sexual Orientation

TYPE
Person

RACE & ETHNICITY
White

GENDER
Male

RELATED ENTRIES
 Civil Rights and Social Change
 Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform, 1968–2022

5



...not involve themselves in gay-rights activism until a conflict with Conway and **Faulkner County** law enforcement in 2003, which they saw as motivated by homophobia, and public anti-gay comments from Governor **Mike Huckabee**. They said they lost many salon clients at first because of their activism.

RELATED ENTRIES



Civil Rights and Social Change



Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform, 1968–2022

5



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Divergence
1968-2022



ALL ENTRIES LUCIE'S PLACE

Lucie's Place

Lucie's Place of **Little Rock (Pulaski County)** is a nonprofit organization providing support for **LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning/queer)** young adults experiencing **homelessness** in central Arkansas. Lucie's Place aims to provide housing, resources, case management, and job skills training. Lucie's Place is the only organization in Arkansas working to support young LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness.

Lucie's Place was founded by Penelope Poppers. After the death of her friend Lucie Marie Hamilton in 2009, Poppers wanted to start an organization to serve the LGBTQ+ community in honor of Hamilton, who was a mentor and advocate to many. In 2011, Poppers—along with Diedra Levi, Mike Lauro, and Karen Thompson (Hamilton's mother)—planned community meetings, mostly at Boulevard Bread Company on South Main Street in Little Rock, to gauge the level of support among neighbors and community members. Poppers and her team also strove to communicate the pressing need for services to homeless LGBTQ+ young people. According to a study by the American Center for Progress, forty percent of individuals experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ despite the fact that LGBTQ+ people make up only five to ten percent of the general population. Lucie's Place officially gained 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in June 2012, and much of the organization's early focus was on reaching out and teaming up with other homeless service providers in the state to advocate on behalf of LGBTQ+ people seeking those services.

Lucie's Place gained national attention in 2014 when activist Scott Woledge of New York began an online campaign to counter anti-LGBTQ+ statements made by northwestern Arkansas residents Michelle Duggar and Jim Bob Duggar of the television show **19 and Counting**. Woledge urged followers to counteract the Duggar messaging by donating to Lucie's Place. The donations brought in by this campaign all over the world helped Poppers to open the drop-in center in the 300 Spring Street Building in August 2015. The location served as a hub where members could come for intake, case management, and other support. It also served as office space for Poppers and her staff.

Poppers became the director of the organization full time in 2015 and hired an AmeriCorps **VISTA** worker later that year. In 2017, a second full-time staff member was hired. In October 2016, Lucie's Place opened a four-bed residence

ENTRY Lucie's Place

TIME PERIOD

Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform (1968–2022)

CATEGORY

Civil Rights and Social Change / Gender and Sexuality / Poverty / Sexual Orientation

TYPE

Thing

RELATED ENTRIES

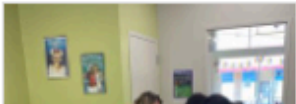


Civil Rights and Social Change



Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform, 1968–2022

RELATED MEDIA





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[ALL ENTRIES](#) [MAPLES, CHERYL KATHLEEN SML...](#)

Cheryl Kathleen Smith Maples (1950–2019)

Cheryl Maples was a prominent attorney in **Little Rock (Pulaski County)** and throughout the state. An outspoken champion of equal rights for all, she was particularly well known for her work on behalf of the **LGBTQ+ community**.

Cheryl Kathleen Smith was born on March 2, 1950, in Santa Monica, California, to Harvey Smith and Patricia Ware Smith. She lived in Pacific Palisades until 1962, when her family moved to Arkansas, eventually settling in **Fayetteville (Washington County)**. Smith graduated from Fayetteville High School in 1968 and married Richard Maples, a student at the **University of Arkansas (UA)** in Fayetteville, that same day. The couple had two sons and three daughters. In 1980, at the age thirty, Cheryl Maples began college, studying first at UA and later at the **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**, earning a law degree in 1987.

From the beginning of her legal career, Maples focused on serving those in need. She took a deeply humanitarian approach to the law and to serving her clients, with a reputation of never turning away someone who had a problem. That approach led one of her daughters to call her a “social worker with a law degree”; Maples once joked that she would have been a multimillionaire if she had collected all the money people owed her. Conservative attorney general **Leslie Rutledge**, with whom Maples clashed in some high-profile cases, termed Maples a “tireless, zealous advocate for her clients.”

As the issue of gay and lesbian rights came to occupy an increasingly prominent place in the American legal landscape in the early part of the twenty-first century, Maples emerged as arguably Arkansas’s most devoted and outspoken advocate of equal rights for gays and lesbians. She filed the nation’s first challenge to a state ban on gay marriages, a suit that led to an initial lower court ruling that overturned the state prohibition (*Wright v. Arkansas*). Consequently, for a brief period, before an appeal to the **Arkansas Supreme Court** put a stay on the lower court ruling, same-sex couples were allowed to marry in Arkansas. The full-scale appeal of the lower court

ENTRY Cheryl Kathleen Smith Maples (1950–2019)

TIME PERIOD

Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform (1968–2022)

CATEGORY

Civil Rights and Social Change / Gender and Sexuality / Law / Lawyers

TYPE

Person

RACE & ETHNICITY

White

GENDER

Female

RELATED ENTRIES

 Civil Rights and Social Change

 Law

 State Politics and Government



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As the issue of gay marriage becomes a more prominent part of the political landscape in the South, the region's political and legal leaders are taking an outspoken advocacy stance. In Alabama, for example, the state's attorney general filed a suit to block same-sex marriages, a suit that was later dismissed by the federal court in **Arkansas**). Conversely, in Texas, the state's attorney general filed a lower court ruling.



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m (1968-2022)

Sexuality /



ALL ENTRIES HYMAN, RALPH ALLEN

Ralph Allen Hyman (1951–)

Ralph Allen Hyman, an activist on behalf of **LGBTQ+ rights**, as well as for those with **AIDS**, was the first openly gay candidate for the **Arkansas General Assembly**. He also was a cofounder of the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Arkansas AIDS Foundation, and The **Weekend Theater**.

Born on April 18, 1951, to a **Jewish** family in Davenport, Iowa, Ralph Hyman is the son of Leroy Hyman and Dorothy Cohen Hyman. He came out as gay at the age of eighteen and graduated from La Mirada High School in California in 1969. He attended New York University, graduating in 1973 with a degree in psychology. His graduate studies focused on homosexuality and the **mental health** profession. In 1974, he completed a master's degree in general psychology from the City University of New York. For his doctorate, he enrolled at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. Receiving a joint internship in 1978 with the Elizabeth Mitchell Children's Center, **Arkansas State Hospital**, and Little Rock Community Health Center, he moved to **Little Rock (Pulaski County)**. He completed his Doctor of Education degree in 1980.

Choosing Little Rock as his permanent residence, Hyman established a private practice. His clientele included those with mental illnesses, people struggling with their sexuality, AIDS patients, and transgender people. He also established support groups for gay men and lesbians, transgender people, and their families. In 1981, he met his life partner, Mark Terry Burnette, a civil rights and education law attorney.

A committed activist, he joined Arkansas Gay Rights (AGR), a gay and lesbian rights organization. In 1983, he testified against HR 25, which sought to "stem the tide of homosexuality" at the **University of Arkansas (UA)** in **Fayetteville (Washington County)**. The bill proposed by Representative Travis Dowd of **Texarkana (Miller County)** urged college and university administrators to take "all lawful measures" to stop homosexuality on their campuses. The bill died in committee. Upon AGR disbanding in 1986, he and other activists founded the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

A **Democrat**, he ran for state representative from District 59 in 1990—the first openly gay candidate for the

ENTRY Ralph Allen Hyman (1951–)

TIME PERIOD

Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform (1968–2022)

CATEGORY

Civil Rights and Social Change / Gender and Sexuality / Sexual Orientation

TYPE

Person

RACE & ETHNICITY

White

GENDER

Male

RELATED ENTRIES



Civil Rights and Social Change



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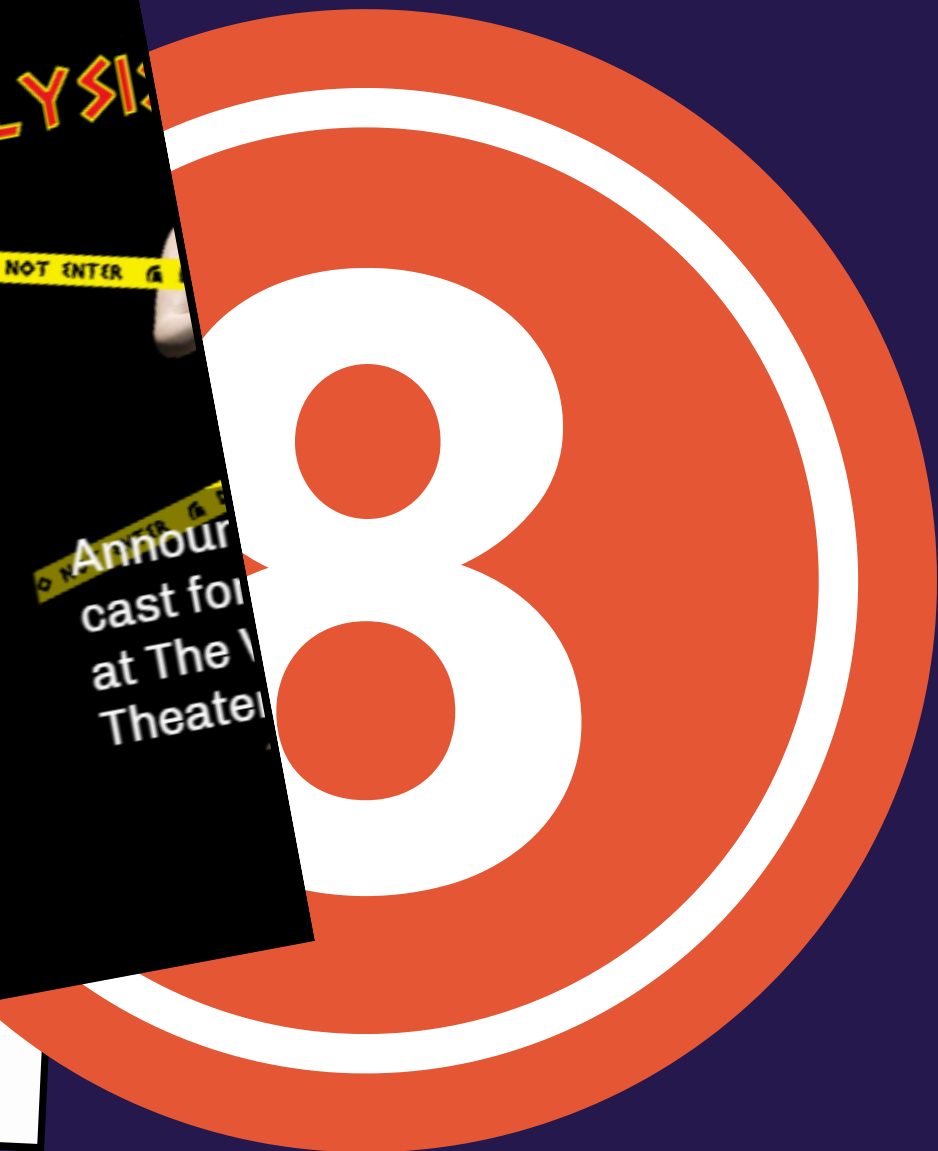
Announcing the cast for Lysistrata at The Weekend Theater!

Lysistrata by Aristophanes June 9-25, 2023 Directed by Amie White and Donna Singleton Buy Tickets // Get a Season Flex Pass Set in ancient Greece, Lysistrata is the comic account of one woman's extraordinary mission to end the Peloponnesian War, as Lysistrata convinces the women of Greece to withhold sexual privileges from their husbands as a means of forcing

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ALL ENTRIES

WEBB, KATHY LYNETTE

Kathy Lynette Webb (1949–)

Kathy Webb—the first openly gay member of the **Arkansas General Assembly**—has had a long career in private business (most notably as co-owner of Lilly’s Dim Sum Then Some restaurant), **philanthropy**, and local and state government. She has also been a leader in the **women’s** rights movement. Webb, who battled breast cancer, served as the founding president of the Chicago-area Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation.

Kathy Lynette Webb was born in **Blytheville (Mississippi County)** on October 21, 1949. The youngest of three children—with a brother twelve years older and a sister nine years older—of Maurice Webb and Atha Webb, she graduated from Hall High School in **Little Rock (Pulaski County)** before going on to Randolph-Macon Woman’s College (now Randolph College) in Virginia. Graduating in 1971, she earned a BA in political science and also played on the basketball and tennis teams. Before she publicly identified as a lesbian, Webb was married to a man from 1973 to 1975.

After college, Webb moved back to Arkansas, where she worked as an account executive for an office supply company. She also was actively involved in the women’s movement, becoming head of the **Pulaski County** affiliate of the **National Organization for Women (NOW)**. In 1982, she won election as national secretary, the only winning candidate who had not been endorsed by the incumbent administration. She was subsequently reelected and served in that position through the end of 1987.

Webb took a break from public life to manage a Domino’s pizza restaurant in Roslyn, Virginia. She earned the company’s Rookie Manager of the Year Award, the first woman in corporation history to be so honored. In 1994, Webb moved to Chicago, Illinois, to become regional vice president of Bruegger’s Bakeries. After working for Bruegger’s for a few years, Webb opened a **barbecue** restaurant in Chicago, Hoxie’s, named after her father’s hometown in Arkansas. She was the founding president of the Chicago area Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation, which was established in 1997.

In 2000, Webb returned to the South, becoming the co-owner and co-founder of Lilly’s Dim Sum Then Some in

ENTRY

Kathy Lynette Webb (1949–)

TIME PERIOD

Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform (1968–2022)

CATEGORY

[Business and Economics](#) / [Business Leaders](#) / [Government and Politics](#) / [Local](#) / [Pulaski Leaders](#)

TYPE

Person

RACE & ETHNICITY

White


GENDER

Female

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Homeless
which was established in 1997.

In 2000, Webb returned to the South, becoming the co-owner and co-founder of...



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Home...

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GENDER & SEXUALITY

Major Griffin-Gracy (1940s?–)

AKA: Miss Major

Major Griffin-Gracy, or Miss Major as she is commonly known, is a transgender **African American** community organizer who has been an activist in groundbreaking **LGBTQ+ movements** since the 1960s. From Chicago, to New York, to San Francisco, and, finally, in **Little Rock (Pulaski County)**, Miss Major has spent her life serving the LGBTQ+ community.

Miss Major was born in the 1940s, assigned male at birth, in the Chicago, Illinois, area. (In her biography, she states that she is unsure of what year she was born and that she doubts official records.) Her family was part of the Black

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Major C

AKA: Miss Major

Major Griffin-Grice is a prominent LGBTQ+ organizer who has been an activist in New York, to San Francisco, and, finally, in **Little Rock**, the LGBTQ+ community.

Miss Major was born in the 1940s, assigned male at birth, in the Chicago, Illinois, area. (In her biography, she states that she is unsure of what year she was born and that she doubts official records.) Her family was part of the Black



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Daniel Black (1965–)

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Daniel Black is a nationally renowned, award-winning novelist. His works are inspired by **African-American** life, history, and heritage in the South—encompassing themes of race, religion, and sexuality.

Daniel Black was born on November 28, 1965, in Kansas City, Kansas, but grew up in Arkansas in **Blackwell (Conway County)**. His great-grandmother, Stella Swinton, was his childhood caregiver. He graduated from Morrilton High School in **Morrilton (Conway County)**.

Upon graduation from Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University) in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1988, he was awarded a full fellowship to Temple University, where he earned a master's in 1990 and a doctorate in 1992, both in African-

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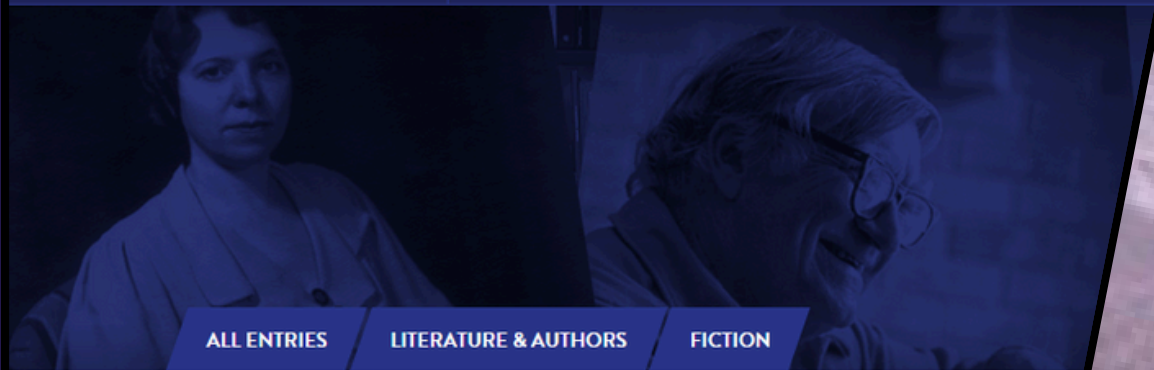
Divergent Prosperity and the Arc of Reform, 1968–2022



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English

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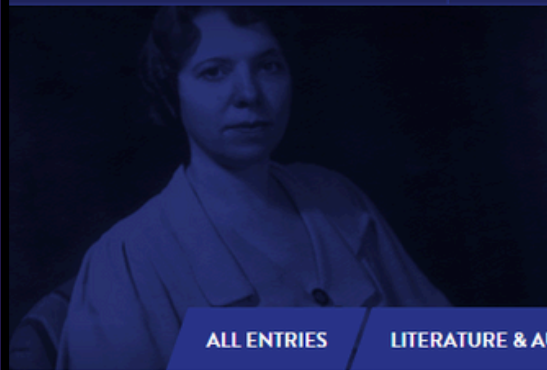
Daniel Black (1965–)

Daniel Black is a nationally renowned, award-winning novelist. His work explores themes of race, class, and history, and heritage in the South—encompassing themes of race, class, and history in the South.

Daniel Black was born on November 28, 1965, in Kansas City, Kansas. He is a graduate of Morrilton High School in **Morrilton (Conway County)**. His great-grandmother, Stella Swinton, was a graduate of Morrilton High School in **Morrilton (Conway County)**.

Upon graduation from Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University), he received a full fellowship to Temple University, where he earned a master's degree in English.





ALL ENTRIES

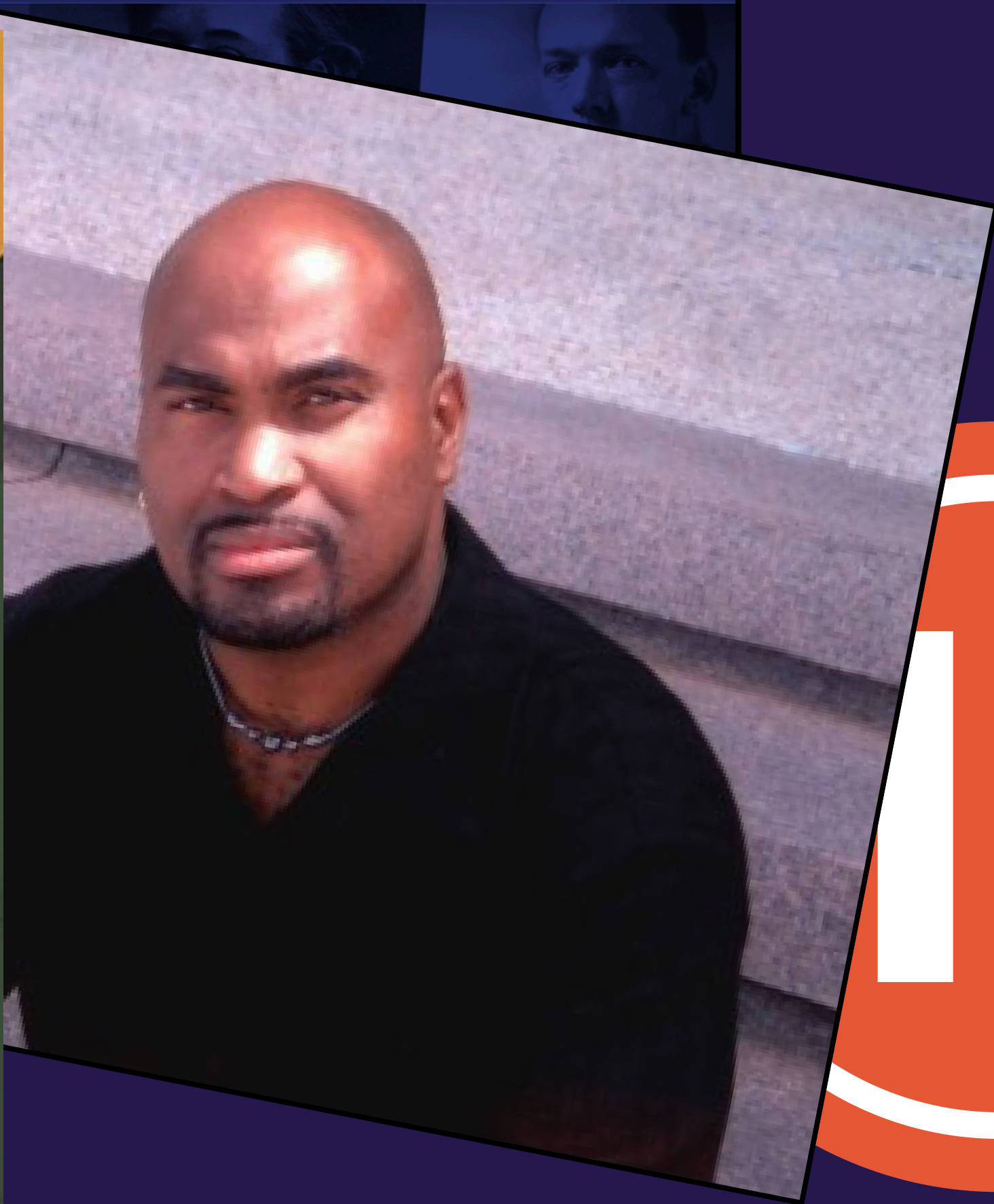
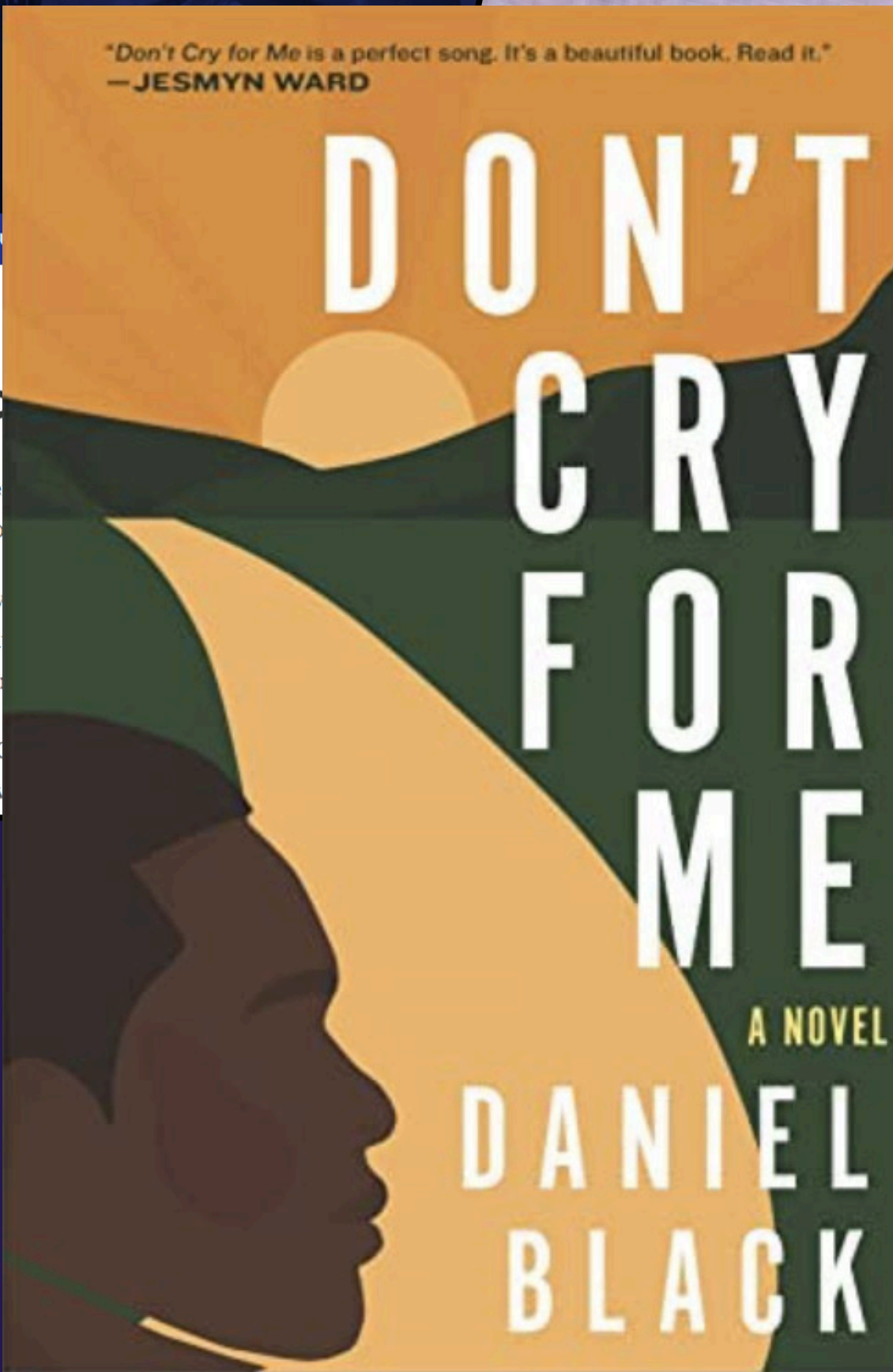
LITERATURE & ART

Daniel Black

Daniel Black is a nationally recognized author of history, and heritage in the South.

Daniel Black was born on November 15, 1968, in Conway County. His grandfather, Daniel Black, was a member of the Morrilton High School in Morrilton, Arkansas.

Upon graduation from Clark College, he received a full fellowship to Temple University.



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QUESTIONS

