

EOA is thrilled to share our monthly JEDI newsletter! September's JEDI Ambassador is Keith Bush. He did a great job of providing such informative content including his own personal experiences. Take a few minutes to read below!

JEDI AMBASSADOR

I'm so excited to be able to share some of my content recommendations for the month of September! Below I've included a ton of information for you to view that highlights my neighbor and the personal struggles she's faced being openly gay in Nashville, a book recommendation that centers on true stories from Natchez, MS, and two great videos. Enjoy!

- Keith Bush



Gail DuBois and Jamie Cox

Let me introduce you to my neighbors Gail and Jamie, who live directly across the street from me. When I bought my condo on Meadowbrook Avenue back in 1995, I had just recently come out to myself the year before at the age of 35. It was a long personal struggle and journey for me. I was definitely not alone, as I learned about the struggles Gail and Jamie experienced being gay in Nashville back in the '60s and '70s. Things were very different in Nashville back then than it was for me in the mid-'90s.... very different. I initially only knew them as the cat ladies because they had numerous cats and some dogs... Pet lovers for sure. I thought I would share the article below from the Tennessean, so you can learn about their personal struggles -- especially Gail's.

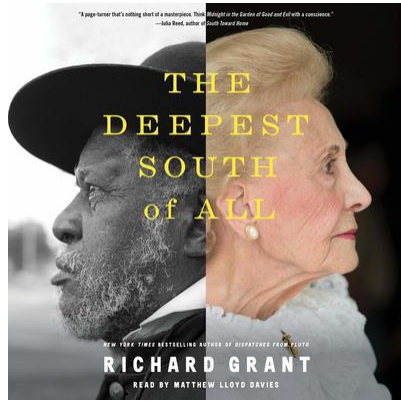


Gail DuBois (left) and her partner Jamie Cox (right)

Victimized and feared: Gay in Nashville before 1970

By: Jessica Bliss via The Tennessean

"Down Dickerson Pike, just past Starlite, was a place where Gail DuBois could sit relatively undisturbed. The CC Club was a straight club, but -- at one corner of the bar -- they let gay people sit and drink. There, for snippets of time, they were sheltered from the contempt and cruelty outside. Except, that is, until the police combed the place. That's when DuBois bolted for the bathroom, climbed through the window and crawled through the weeds outside. "I didn't want them to catch me," she says. This is just a singular snapshot of what it was like to be gay in Nashville before 1970....." [Click the picture to read the entire article!](#)



The Deepest South of All

By: Richard Grant

"Natchez, Mississippi, once had more millionaires per capita than anywhere else in America, and its wealth was built on slavery and cotton. Today it has the greatest concentration of antebellum mansions in the South, and a culture full of unexpected contradictions. Prominent white families dress up in hoopskirts and Confederate uniforms for ritual celebrations of the Old South, yet Natchez is also progressive enough to elect a gay black man for mayor with 91% of the vote...." [Click the picture to learn more or to purchase the book!](#)



Proud by Heather Small (lyric video)



The Story of the Pride Parade - GMA

IN THE COMMUNITY



A few of our EOAs attended Nashville's Pride Parade on Saturday, September 19! It was amazing to see our community come together and celebrate. [Click the photo above for more information about the parade.](#) We had such a good time!