

Kaleidoscope Book Club

Recommended Reads for March 2026

Theme Overview: Rights, Resistance, & the Fight Forward

Theme In-Depth: For March, we invite you to read a book choice rooted in LGBTQ+ resistance, advocacy, and the ongoing fight for rights and safety. Choose a book that explores protest, organizing, community defense, standing up in the face of injustice or anything similar that inspires you, whether through memoir, fiction, poetry, history, or speculative futures. Stories could center on collective action, personal courage, legal battles, chosen family, or the long work of protecting hard-won freedoms. Lighter, hopeful, or forward-looking reads are also welcome, including stories that imagine safer, freer worlds. All genres and age categories—adult, young adult, and beyond—are invited.

*Some titles may be available through our e-book/audiobook platforms - Hoopla and Libby.
When possible, a link is provided to our catalog for physical copies.*

NONFICTION

- **Tomorrow Will Be Different – Sarah McBride (*memoir*)**
A personal memoir tracing McBride’s journey as a trans woman navigating love, grief, and political life, including her rise as the first openly transgender member of the U.S. Congress. (Physical copy available through the Library - [click here](#))
- **Let the Record Show – Sarah Schulman (*history*)**
A deeply researched political history of ACT UP New York, documenting the strategies, conflicts, and victories of AIDS activism from 1987–1993. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
- **The Deviant's War – Eric Cervini (*history/biography*)**
An account of early gay rights activism centered on Frank Kameny, drawing on declassified government files to reveal pre-Stonewall resistance. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
- **We Are Everywhere – Matthew Riemer & Leighton Brown (*photographic history*)**
A visual history of queer liberation movements, featuring over 300 photographs documenting protest, Pride, and organizing across generations. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **Pride – Matthew Todd (*history*)**
A chronological overview of the LGBTQ+ equality movement, covering Stonewall, Pride marches, and major legal milestones. (Available through interlibrary loan - email reference@monroepl.org)
- **American Scare – Robert W. Fieseler (*history*)**
Investigates Florida’s mid-century anti-gay “Johns Committee” and the lives it upended through surveillance and interrogation. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
- **How to Survive a Plague – David France (*history*)**
A definitive account of AIDS activism and the grassroots fight that transformed HIV treatment and public health policy. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
- **Sister Outsider – Audre Lorde (*essays*)**
A foundational collection examining race, gender, sexuality, and power through Lorde’s incisive political and personal writing. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
- **Galileo's Middle Finger – Alice Dreger (*memoir/history of science*)**
Explores scientific controversy, intersex medical ethics, and activism through the author’s own research and advocacy. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
- **Speak Now – Kenji Yoshino (*legal history*)**
A behind-the-scenes look at the legal challenge to California’s Proposition 8 and the fight for marriage equality. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
- **Ace – Angela Chen (*cultural analysis/memoir*)**
A blend of reporting and personal narrative exploring asexuality and the diversity of ace experiences. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
- **The Stonewall Reader – Edited by NYPL (*primary-source anthology*)**
Firsthand accounts, journalism, and archival materials documenting the years surrounding the Stonewall uprising. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **A Queer History of the United States – Michael Bronski (*history*)**
A reinterpretation of U.S. history that centers LGBTQ+ presence, culture, and resistance from colonial times onward. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **Marsha – Tourmaline (*biography*)**
A biography of Marsha P. Johnson, highlighting her role in Stonewall, mutual aid, and trans community organizing. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Still Not Enough – Edited by Keith Boykin (*essay anthology*)**
Essays by queer men of color reflecting on identity, mental health, and survival. (Available through interlibrary loan - email reference@monroepi.org)
 - **Transgender History – Susan Stryker (*history*)**
A foundational overview of transgender history, activism, and cultural change from the mid-20th century to the present. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **How We Get Free – Edited by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor (*intersectional history*)**
Explores the legacy of the Combahee River Collective and Black feminist organizing. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **The Gay Revolution – Lillian Faderman (*history*)**
A comprehensive history of LGBTQ+ rights activism in the United States from the 1950s onward. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **Stonewall:: the definitive story of the LGBTQ rights uprising that changed America – Martin Duberman (*history*)**
A classic account of the Stonewall uprising and its aftermath. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **We Both Laughed in Pleasure – Lou Sullivan (*diaries/memoir*)**
The collected journals of a pioneering trans activist documenting personal life and political struggle. (Available through interlibrary loan - email reference@monroepi.org)
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FICTION – ADULT CONTEMPORARY / HISTORICAL

- **Stag Dance – Torrey Peters**
A novella and short story collection exploring gender performance, trans embodiment, and desire. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **The Prophets – Robert Jones Jr.**
A lyrical historical novel about love between two enslaved men and the consequences of its discovery. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **The New Life – Tom Crewe**
A historical novel following early efforts toward homosexual law reform in 1890s England. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **My Government Means to Kill Me – Rasheed Newson**
Set during the AIDS crisis, a young man becomes involved in New York’s queer nightlife and activist circles. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **The Great Believers – Rebecca Makkai**
A sweeping novel about friendship, loss, and community during the AIDS epidemic. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
 - **The Thirty Names of Night – Zeyn Joukhadar**
A trans man uncovers hidden histories while grieving and searching for belonging. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
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FICTION – FANTASY / SCI-FI / SPECULATIVE

- **The City We Became – N. K. Jemisin**
A contemporary fantasy where New York City’s boroughs are embodied as human avatars defending their city. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))
- **We Set the Dark on Fire – Tehlor Kay Mejia (*young adult*)**
A dystopian novel about elite girls trained for political marriages who join a secret

resistance. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **Pet – Akwaeke Emezi (*young adult*)**

In a town claiming to be free of monsters, a trans girl uncovers hidden violence. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **Girls of Paper and Fire – Natasha Ngan (*young adult*)**

A fantasy novel about court intrigue, abuse, and rebellion within a rigid monarchy. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **The Black Flamingo – Dean Atta (*young adult*)**

A verse novel following a teen discovering identity and confidence through drag. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **The Future of Another Timeline – Annalee Newitz**

Time travelers attempt to alter history to protect women’s and LGBTQ+ rights. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **A Psalm for the Wild-Built – Becky Chambers**

A solarpunk novella about a nonbinary monk and a robot discussing purpose in a post-industrial world. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **The Unbroken – C. L. Clark**

A military fantasy set in a colonized land, centered on rebellion and political loyalty. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **An Unkindness of Ghosts – Rivers Solomon**

A science fiction novel set aboard a rigidly stratified generation ship. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

- **Light from Uncommon Stars – Ryka Aoki**

A genre-blending contemporary story about a trans violinist, found family, and unexpected community. Amid hardship, it insists on queer joy, artistry, and building safer chosen spaces in the present. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))