

augustana human library

October 6 - 8, 2013



Book Title	Book Topic	Book Abstract
I Was a Hungry Billionaire	Escaping war	Surviving the '93 Serbian hyperinflation is one thing, however to survive March 24, 1999 to June 11, 1999 in Belgrade was more challenging due to NATO bombing. I just happened to be born there and experienced that "thing" along with millions of other peaceful men, women, kids and babies.
I See	Visually impaired	This book describes the joys and challenges of living life with a visual impairment.
Guy Hard	Transgender person	It ain't easy being a guy in 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.
Immigrants Are Only Somewhat Welcome	Leaving Nazi Germany to live in Canada	I will describe my experiences as a recent, post-World War II immigrant to rural B.C. and the mixed reception we received. I will explore some of the complex history of our family that had gone through a revolution, two wars, and life in a bombed-out German city before emigrating. What are the gifts that immigrants may have to offer? How are they received?
Healing from Childhood Sexual Abuse	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 story or the story of someone you know. I can also talk about types of healing therapies, family dynamics as well as suing my abuser for my therapy costs. I am willing to go where your interests take us.
Dancing Chick to Chick	Married lesbian	When I was not married I often got questioned about having a boyfriend or asked if I was married. Now that I am married (I choose to wear a ring) I never get questions anymore as they assume I am married. Both past and present questioning is hard to answer as I am not sure about the reaction I will get, when it is safe to answer truthfully and when it is not. Most prejudice I experience comes from just simply being a lesbian, in many ways it has been easier being a married lesbian.

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The Greatest Risk in Life is Not to Risk at All	I have traveled to more than 20 of our world's poorest countries to serve the poor and protect our planet	"The Road Les Traveled" is my story of my real life experiences, in my decision to take real risks to challenge myself to do the two most important things in life: to help the poorest people in our world, and, protect our natural environment. I lived on skid row in Edmonton. I did some long wilderness solo expeditions. I competed in the Ironman Triathlon. For more than 20 years I have guided wilderness river expeditions across Canada's Arctic. I coached Beckie Scott, Canada's first Olympic Gold Medalist Cross Country Skier. I am a humbly defeated candidate in six federal elections, en route to becoming the Prime Minister of Canada. I moved to Quebec to learn French and coach. I almost died of cancer.
Hobbema Bound	Growing up in Hobbema	An Augustana student shares stories of childhood, culture, and the residual effects of the residential school system.
Surviving the City and the Village	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.
Layers of Lesbian Love	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.
The Girl Inside the Walker	Cerebral Palsy	Chances are you have heard about Cerebral Palsy but may not understand what it is. There are many misconceptions about this disability and I am here to answer those question and share with you my daily challenges and the ones I've overcome. A lot of people see being disabled as something to pity or feel sad about... The way I see it, we all face challenges in life and in order to succeed we have to make the best of it.
Six Feet Under	Funeral director	Six feet under, thats right no one comes out of this life alive. The life and times of a funeral service professional.

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<p>PW Goes to Haiti</p>	<p>Fighting crime in Haiti</p>	<p>Cops, coppers, the fuzz, pigs, the doughnut squad, flick, po-po, asphalt cowboys are just a few slangs names for police officers. But being a police WOMAN I am a special breed and I get my own slang -- PW. I will share my experiences not only as a police officer but as a PW as well as being a PW in Haiti for a year.</p>
<p>Square Peg in a Round Religious Hole</p>	<p>Non-religious person working in a religious institution</p>	<p>How am I to survive working in a highly religious environment when I am not religious? It's a bit like being a bartender, enjoying the customers, enjoying mixing and serving drinks, but you do not personally consume alcohol. As the "opiate of the masses," religion is a dangerous, and fascinating creature, one with which I have sparred, seeking understanding, and perhaps taming, for decades.</p>
<p>Total 360: I am a Walking Miracle</p>	<p>An accident, a coma, rehab and a new me</p>	<p>I was riding my motor bike. The motor cut out. I gave it gas. The motor cut in, really fast. The bike took off. I hit a tree. Head on. Stars flies me to Edmonton. What followed was years of my life in a coma and then rehabilitation to learn how to walk, how to talk, how to eat, how to fall asleep. Everything new.</p>
<p>The Fight to Have a Life</p>	<p>Autism</p>	<p>Being included in the world versus being 'kept apart'. The courage and risks it takes to make this choice. The struggle to educate the world that as an autistic person I belong in it as much as everyone else does. A full, rich life is worth the struggle...no matter how hard it is.</p>
<p>How Does She Do It?</p>	<p>Single Mom, full-time student</p>	<p>Ever had more than one job while going to university full-time? Ever had to do that while raising two kids on your own? This book discusses the struggles of a young mom of two and the hardships she has endured whil also finding time to study, keep a high GPA, be a mommy and maintain sanity.</p>
<p>Memoirs of an Emptied Brain</p>	<p>My brain tumour</p>	<p>After unknowingly walking around with a brain tumour, 'Fred', for 30 years, suddenly everything changed, or did it? Delve into the pain, shock and joy of the discovery and unknown that are all part of the exploration of who you are and apparently always have been (at least since Fred joined me while I was in diapers).</p>

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<p>Rejoyce: Adventures with Grief, God and Gays</p>	<p>Grieving mom Joyce's death; coming out as gay</p>	<p>Should I tell her? But she's going to die soon anyway.... this is the story of my mom living with cancer with the added complication that I was coming out as a gay woman. Since my mom's death, I have started re-tracing mom's 1979 European adventure. Would I be able to reconnect with her by traveling her route? Find out! Expect spirituality, romance, nature, and lots of laughs.</p>
<p>A Good Life</p>	<p>Physical/ cognitive challenges</p>	<p>Even though I can't read or drive a car I have a great life. I can go to work, bowling, hockey games and lots of other things. Best of all I have many friends. My journey in life has been different than most but I sure appreciate all I have. My mom and I will share what it is like to live with disabilities.</p>
<p>Hopeful Non-Believer</p>	<p>Atheist</p>	<p>There is no God! In the broadest sense, atheism is the absence of belief in the existence of deities. A growing percentage of the world's population has adopted this perspective, turning from traditional religious beliefs. Join me in conversation about the implications of an atheistic perspective in a community rooted in Christian piety.</p>
<p>Infidel in the Community</p>	<p>Baha'i Faith</p>	<p>I will talk about my experience as a member of the Baha'i Faith (a relatively young, monotheistic religion with Islamic origins and some new ideas). I have worked at Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta, since 1984. With very few exceptions, the Augustana community has beenwonderfully and surprisingly accepting of my religious differences. At times I have felt like an infidel here, but those feelings were largely of my own making,resulting from a fear of being different from those in my community.</p>
<p>Dancing on the Sun</p>	<p>Intersex</p>	<p>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.</p>

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WoW, It's Been How Long?!	Internet addiction	In September 2003 I embarked on a journey for which I was not ready for. As a result of this I started floundering and, ultimately, wound up having absolutely nothing for which my time could be spent on (except my addiction). This book is a story of what I did with that time bound to the Internet.
Scary on the Outside	Autistic teen	I have grown up being a high functioning autistic and will discuss some of my challenges. I also get noticed because of the way I look...but not in the way you would think.
Parades, Guns and Pick-up Trucks	The not so stereotypical gay experience	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.
Judge Not?	Provincial Judge	Many years as a lawyer and then as a Provincial Judge could make you cynical and closed, or, as in the case of this Living Book, grow a deep compassion for humanity and its many struggles. From hardened criminals to first-time offenders, this judge has handed down sentences in the hope that life for others would take a turn for the better.
Survival is Not Just about Mortality	Breast cancer	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.