Lillian Faderman. *The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015. Pp.794. Hardcover $35.00.

Lillian Faderman, Professor of English at California State University, Fresno, and Historian of LGBTQ+ history and literature, focuses on the struggles of gay and lesbian rights and the movements that propelled gay liberation from the 1950s through today. Faderman argues that the revolution began when gays, lesbians, trans, bi and queer people started to fight back against the negative mental illness labels placed on homosexuality by the psychiatric community, the criminalization of homosexuality by the government, and the prejudiced views and violence from society.

While Faderman's study has a limited geographic scope, mainly focusing on events in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Washington D.C., she includes more than 150 interviews, not just of well-known actives, but of everyday LGBTQ+ people harmed by the hatred against them. Faderman explains that the testimony of victims, survivors, and activists whose names have been lost, need to be excavated. These interviews fill in the gaps about the history of important national movements that have excluded the likes of Bayard Rustin and other gay actives. Fraderman thus adds valuable insight into the struggles the LGBTQ+ community faced during the revolution for equal rights and she also explores the progress of the gay civil rights movement. Faderman's extensive research on lesbian history is truly pioneering and a major addition to scholarship that has been overshadowed by a dominant male gay history. Her focus on lesbian history strengthens our understanding of the role both gays and lesbians played in shaping the history of gay civil rights and the further work necessary for the LGBTQ+ community to be fully integrated in society as equal citizens.

Faderman starts her book with two stories that illustrate how far the efforts to secure equal rights have come. While Professor E.K Johnson was prosecuted for sodomy in 1948, ending his career, in 2012 Army Col. Tammy Smith was elevated to the rank of general and her wife openly participated in the ceremony. The two anecdotes showcase many aspects of the struggles, harassment, discrimination, and unjust treatment the LGBTQ+ community had to overcome in the last 60 years.

By structuring the book's ten chapters chronologically and thematically, Faderman guides the reader through major

events and developments such as the arrests in 1940s and 1950s, the Stonewall riots of 1969, the 1970s declassification of homosexuality as a mental disorder, the AIDS crisis, and other significant moments. The book is appropriate for both academic and general readers. *The Gay Revolution* is an important addition to the study of gay history and to anyone interested in expanding their understanding of the LGBTQ+ community.

*Diana Pèrez*