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The Round Table has chosen HIV/AIDS information and education as its program theme for Atlanta. A panel discussion of the issue will be the Atlanta centerpiece. Titled In Denial: HIV/AIDS information services in libraries the panel will include people from within and outside of the traditional library setting. The committee is presently contacting people in Atlanta to solicit participation. The Center for Disease Control will be one of our partners in this program.

In New Orleans, discussion also focused on whether the panel should approach the topic from a local or international perspective. In the end, what may be most important is to show what has been done in this area, and what could be done. Committee members have assigned themselves responsibility for contacting potential panel participants, and all should be in place come June.

Toronto seems so far off – another time, another country. Two possible themes have emerged. Information freedom was the first one discussed. The committee tossed about notions of comparing the concept as it is in the United States to what it is in Canada. From here the discussion moved into the theme of gay-friendliness in libraries, a “homo-hierarchy” of needs. This theme, however, is not necessarily one of meeting patron needs. Indeed, the status of queerness in the profession reared up. The committee has thought of trying to find speakers who are models of high-powered queers in libraries. The so-called glass closet may yet be a Toronto topic.

Toronto can wait a little, or at least be approached a little more leisurely. The Programming and Planning Committee will continue to consider it while members lay down some groundwork, contacting high level GLBT librarians perhaps, or forming networks with our colleagues in Canada.

In the meantime, Atlanta will take center stage. We hope that all of you will support and involve yourselves in the programs there.

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Breakfast Planning Committee Chair! -aP C e r v i e Y e ± ð S h i n g n e t w o r k s w i t h o u r c o l l e a g u e s i n C a n a d a À a 2 s b c " o - b © L

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haven't made your reservations as tickets are going fast. And, we  
The funny thing about big events is that they are always upcoming. And so it seemed at the Midwinter Meetings in New Orleans. The Programming and Planning Committee gathered, bolstered by a few new faces, to get plans for Atlanta 2002 in place and begin considering Toronto 2003.

Being co-chair of the GLBT Round Table has been a rewarding experience, both professionally and personally. I have met and become acquainted with a number of talented people. Thanks especially to Roland Hansen and Steve Stratton, who were terrific co-chairs, and to other Round Table officers and chairs, like Michael Poma, Cal Zunt, Bob Jaquay, John Bradford, and Norman Eriksen, for their commitment. My connections have launched professional possibilities in several areas within and outside of ALA. Most importantly, co-chairing has provided me with valuable leadership experience that will be (and has been) transferable to many other situations. Remember that the next time some supervisor questions the professional relevancy of steering queers.

Leading this particular ALA unit is not unlike herding cats sometimes, but if you know cats at all, you love their individuality and independence. That's what I like about GLBT Round Table members—they are unique and free-spirited. Where else can you find a treasurer who will only wear banker drag with dress shoes when members raise the Book Award endowment to \$40,000? I wonder what he would wear if we raised \$100,000?

Yes, parting seems to bring such sweet sorrow. . . Since my term as co-chair ends at annual, I would love to say, "I am not going to miss those Friday night Steering Committee meetings." However, as past co-chair, I think I still have to attend so I will still be plugging in and playing my part to keep the momentum going. Even were I not finishing up this stint, and passing the ball to the quite capable Anne Moore, our new co-chair, I would still want to stay involved. The Round Table still has work to accomplish. I haven't run out of ideas or enthusiasm yet. Opportunities still abound.

Speaking of opportunities, I won't forget to say that we still need your participation as liaisons and committee members. We are also still seeking a volunteer for a very significant position within the Round Table: chair or coordinator of the Website/Clearinghouse. You can ask me or co-chair Steve Stratton for more details about the duties. You can consult the present website chair, Keith Trimmer, who has done a fantastic job for this organization, or you can check out the RT bylaws listed at [http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala\\_hp.html](http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html) and look under the Section V. which023 TDo out keaven my(and6 (Speaking of opporPomeneaninghnnnections rs.)T like ab34airoBaiseAve tooed Atlthis. Cylaws listed

**About GLBTRT Newsletter**

GLBTRT Newsletter (ISSN 1533-7219) LV DQ  
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Letters to the editor, correspondence to the above  
 address.

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A number of bylaw changes for the GLBTRT will be considered during ALA Annual. Please see our website regarding the proposed changes or attend one of our meetings. Please forward issues and concerns to Roland Hansen. He can be reached at:

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Head of Access Services Columbia College Chicago

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GLBTRT Newsletter.

If you would like to be a reviewer or receive reviewing guidelines, please contact:

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715-836-2522 or Fax 715-836-2902

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situation GLBT services need not be limited to only providing materials, though this is the foundation that good service depends upon.

Outreach is very important to any group of library users, it is extremely important to the GLBT community. Any community that in the past has been marginalized or ignored responds positively to concentrated outreach efforts made in their behalf.

We discussed the various venues that constitute a genuine outreach effort. Bookmarks were brought up as being simple, easy to make and inexpensive. Book clubs and reading groups can be a very effective means of providing outreach and drawing people into the library at the same time. MaryJo's branch in Seattle has had a gay book discussion group that has met for a while now. In Tucson the library is part of the local pride parade (we made the cover of our local glbt rag last year) and annual GLBT OUToberfest. Use some discretion, but most public GLBT events are good bets for providing yourself with positive outreach experiences. The support you'll receive is well worth the effort.

Not all of our experiences have been a walk in the park. Louis, from Phoenix Public, described his frustration at working in system that at times doesn't follow through on their own policies and commitment to service. Frustration lead to action and Louis has had to threaten his administration with litigation in order to guarantee civil rights already in place. With dedication, determination and humor he has prevailed and has made great strides in opening up Phoenix Public to the glbt community and vice versa.

There were many more topics discussed, I don't have room to cover them here. If your still interested in hearing more about the program, you can order an audio cassette of

Looking for tools to better serve your gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered patrons? Our program, Getting Started: Serving Your Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Users with Pride will highlight winning strategies from around the country that can be used at any public library, large or small.

Presenters: Richard DiRusso, Tucson-Pima Public Library (Ariz.); Louis Howley, Phoenix Public Library (Ariz.); Karen Sundheim, San Francisco Public Library (Calif.); Mary Jo Torgeson, Seattle Public Library (Wash.) Organizer: Richard DiRusso, Tucson-Pima Public Library (Ariz.)

I am always leery of late Friday afternoon time slots at conferences they're just too close to happy hour. But, we were lucky, over 100 people gathered to hear four western librarians speak about the nuances, highlights and pitfalls of progressively serving GLBT communities in a public library setting. Our program was two years in the making, until the conference we had only been communicating online. We were loosely organized on what topics we would be covering and how long to speak. It coalesced nicely, with three of us describing mostly positive experiences working within our respective systems, while one of us has had to fight to secure an equal footing in library services for the GLBT people in his community.

We discussed the need for specialized archival collections, such as is housed at the Hormel Center at San Francisco Public. Well on the other hand we also stated the importance of avoiding the ghettoization of GLBT materials and services to one particular library.

The phrase, "we are everywhere" is particularly valid for collection development policies concerning GLBT books, and audio/visual products. Depending on your financial

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A number of companies provide bus and van services from the airport. Details at the Ground Transportation Area. Atlanta Airport Shuttle (800-842-2770) has a service to Downtown Atlanta every 15 minutes. Fare: \$8 one way, \$14 round trip.

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### **Rental Cars**

ALA has negotiated exclusive rates with Avis for rental cars during the conference. For rates and reservations call 800-331-1600 or access the web page created for the conference at: <http://www.avis.com/meetings/tools/bridge2.html?1351>. You must mention the Avis Worldwide Discount Number (AWD), D005980, when calling to receive the special discount.

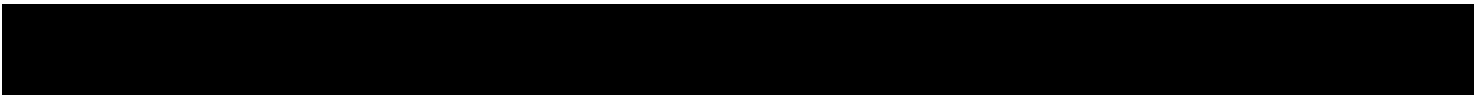
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