

# GLBTRT NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL TRANSGENDERED ROUND TABLE  
OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## From the Editor

Hello, everyone!

I would like to introduce myself to you all as the new GLBTRT Newsletter Editor, Ken Wells. I have been working with Cal Zunt to get myself up to speed with this publication, and I am looking forward to providing the Round Table with interesting, timely information that will be both informative and entertaining.

I hope that all of you will feel free to contact me with any comments, suggestions and especially submissions! Thank you all for your help!

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor  
[kenwells@ufl.edu](mailto:kenwells@ufl.edu) | [kenwells@yahoo.com](mailto:kenwells@yahoo.com)

## From the Co-Chairs

Hi everyone

I just want to say that I hope everyone had a great summer. It was good to see lots of folks in Atlanta. I believe we had a good turnout for the social and pretty good attendance at our Read Aloud and HIV information in Libraries programs.

I want to thank everyone that worked on getting pieces of the conference together for the Round Table. It takes a lot of people to make it a smooth show at the conference and I know several of you worked hard to put it together for us. Thanks again.

I want to say that I had a good year working with Faye Chadwell as co-chair and will miss talking to her as frequently as we did. I look forward to working with Anne Moore in the coming year and know I will call on her as much as I did Faye.

For those that were not in Atlanta and had not heard, the Awards Committee of ALA approves our request for a name change for the Book Awards. They are now officially the Stonewall Books Awards. They were both named after people instrumental in the starting of the original gay task force and keeping it going through those early years of our existence. So we will be awarding the Stonewall – Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction and the Stonewall – Barbara Gittings Book Award for Literature. We hope to be able to better market the award in the community and beyond, with the simplicity of the name Stonewall Awards.

Remember that we are still seeking donations for the endowment of the Stonewall Book Awards. ALA President Mitch Freedman posted a note to the Round Table listserv letting us know he has been out recruiting for the endowment. Mitch told us a friend of his has donated \$3000.00 to go to the endowment fund. Thank you Mr. Freedman and friend!

If any of you have ever gone looking for the winners of various literature awards, then I am sure that you have run across the following Web site. <http://www.literature-awards.com> The creator and Webmaster of the site is Jacqueline McElligott who attended ALA this year and she was at the Awards Breakfast in Atlanta. Jacqueline had the following to say about us in her newsletter that she sends out. Remember that she was there on a press pass and attended all the Book Awards Ceremonies.

"The 31st GLBTRT Book Award Breakfast and Celebration. This was, without a doubt the best ceremony I attended. I say this even though it was held at 7:30 AM! It was brilliant. No taped speeches, no cute book bags or posters, no do-dads. At each seat, get this...was a book! A

great concept, no? Redbone Press publisher Lisa Moore could make a living simply reading. She was mesmerizing. Listening to her alone made it worth the trip. She was great, absolutely stellar! Even more spectacular to note is that she was reading someone else's words. The whole breakfast was a rewarding experience.

Now, the GLBTRT has been in existence 31 years. They need support, in libraries, communities, schools, wherever. After all this time, their membership stands at just over 500. Go to the ALA website, become a member for a few bucks and for a mere \$12 bucks more you can support the GLBTRT. (The answer is 'yes, I have').

The GLBTRT committee announced that they have renamed their honors to The Stonewall Awards. An apt and welcome change and so much easier to say than "the GLBTRT Awards".

We didn't even have to pay her to say all that. Thank you Jacqueline and since you will be receiving this newsletter, welcome to the Round Table.

I look forward to another busy and exciting year.

Steve Stratton

Social Sciences Librarian  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2033

(804) 828 1112  
(804) 828 0151 fax  
[sestratt@saturn.vcu.edu](mailto:sestratt@saturn.vcu.edu)

Faye Chadwell

Head of Collection Development  
1299 University of Oregon  
Eugene, Oregon 97403-1299

(541) 346-1819  
(541) 346-3485 fax  
[chadwell@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:chadwell@oregon.uoregon.edu)

## Treasure's Update

The Roundtable accounts are looking good with over \$11,000 on hand. The social and the book award breakfast were well attended and should produce some more operating fund income. The book award endowment fund in moving forward at a slow and steady pace. Between donations and pledges we are moving closer to the target of \$40,000 but more money is needed in order to reach our goal. If you are interested in donating funds all you need to do is mail a check with a letter stating it is a donation for the book award endowment fund to the following address:

OLOS/ALA 50 East Huron Street Chicago IL 60611 attn Tanga Morris

At this time I wish to welcome all the new committee chairs, female cochair and secretary. Each person should get in contact with me so we can discuss any budget issues you may have, to make sure that you receive copies of the forms and the appropriate committee budget procedure.

The planning process has already begun for the next fiscal year and

## Treasurer's Report Con't

time for people to think about declaring their candidacy for this job. The job is not very difficult and does not require a large amount of work. The person looking to hold this office should have some basic budget planning skills, the ability to read and understand financial statements and be conservative in spending money. Any interested candidates should email me with any questions regarding the position.

Yours in Black Ink,

Norman J. Eriksen, GLBTRT Treasurer  
[n.eriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org](mailto:n.eriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org)

Mail should be addressed and sent to me as follows:  
Division Chief  
Education Job Information Center  
Brooklyn Public Library  
Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn New York 11238

## Program Planning

Book Awards Breakfast Committee Wrap-up or wonderful time in Atlanta

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Annual Book Awards Breakfast in Atlanta. Thanks especially to the Breakfast Planning Committee, Book Awards Committee and the Roundtable Steering Committee members who all provided much needed input. You all (hopefully) know who you are.

When the planning begins, one is never sure what the final outcome will be. Will the guest speaker bomb at the podium, or possibly bore us beyond belief? Will they observe the time restrictions? Will people like the breakfast? Adding to that, the fact that we were to begin at such an ungodly hour, put an added stress on the occasion - would everyone arrive on time?

Well...it is with great relief and much happiness that all reports back from this year's breakfast gave it high marks.

It all began with Lisa Moore's wonderfully honest approach to her pursuit of publishing quality works for lesbians women of color. Reading from her earthy "Bull-Jean Stories", Lisa held the attention of our bleary-eyed contingent, in fact, we all were hanging on each word and phrase. To say that one could not hear the music that usually accompanies these pieces...would be wrong.

Jim Grimsley has always been a welcomed guest to our group-and we haven't seen him at one of our large gathering since he one the award for Dream Boy. Anyone attending midwinter knew that Jim's new book "Boulevard" would be published by the time we met again in Atlanta, and we were anticipating a similar presentation to the one he gave in New Orleans, that being a reading from the book. However, Jim surprised us, and offered a touching reflection on the significance of libraries, our role as GLBT librarians, and the importance of gay writing. In one part he made reference to our stories...and "what it's like to know this unique, tangy, bitter, sweet concoction that comprises a sexual identity outside the norm of society. Once again, all of us were captivated. Thank you Jim.

One of the special treats at the breakfast was the appearance of John Sam Jones, author of Welsh Boys Too, which was an honor book in the Literature category. John was thrilled with our choosing his book as it opened up a significant door for him in his native country. The distinction provided him his trip to the United States, paid for by the

Bob Jaquay  
Chair, Breakfast Planning Committee  
[rl\\_jaquay@yahoo.com](mailto:rl_jaquay@yahoo.com)

## Book Award Committee

The Stonewall Book Award has been busy reading, reading, reading!  
To date we have 20 nominations, mostly in the literature category.

Alas, the Committee needs your help. We don't want to miss your favorite book, so we want to hear from you! Think you've read something worthy of the oldest GLBT book award in the United States? Then send us your nominations.

All you have to do is give us the author/title of a book and explain why you think it deserves an award. Technical details follow:

1. Must be English-language books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experience.
2. Publications from October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002 will be accepted.
3. Reprintings of previously published books will not be considered. However, substantially changed new editions of previously published works and English translations of foreign-language books are eligible

## Library Lessons from Hotlanta

It seems we all have something to learn in stories. The greatest lessons appear to be about ourselves and they are often taught

ATLANTA (June 17, 2002) - No one protested NIMBY-style, although a convention this week brought tens of thousands of educated, questioning types to town. In fact, no one seemed to notice much the hoardes of American Library Association (ALA) members browsing around town during their annual convention. We are, often good-naturedly, unnoticed with our thickened glasses, brown sweaters, and comfortable shoes.

Or so I thought until the morning of June 17th, when I witnessed the 31st annual presentation of the ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Book Award. Renamed the Stonewall Award just this week, it is the oldest book award of its kind. Librarians, it seems, created some three decades ago what is now the oldest book award devoted exclusively to recognizing the literary lot of the gay, the lesbian, the bisexual, and the transgendered.

Wow! and this, from a mousey bunch of bookends known for their one-syllable cry of shhh? There's obviously more to a librarian than (pardon my sexist slur) her looks.

These librarians did their award show in the expected, orderly and equitable fashion. Among the year's winners was Moises Kaufman and members of his Tectonic Theatre. They won the literature category for "The Laramie Project," which centers around the death of a young, white, gay man named Matthew Shepard. Kaufman, I should note, is a Jewish man of Venezuelan descent.

There's a lesson in here regarding diversity ... somewhere.

The morning's two keynote speakers were Emory writing guru Jim Grimsley, a middle-aged white man; and Lisa C. Moore, a youngish black woman who founded RedBone Press, which "focuses on work that celebrates the culture of black lesbians and promotes understanding between black gays and lesbians and black mainstream culture," according to the program.

Hmmm, culture. Preserving and investing in the human culture. Isn't that what libraries and librarians are all about?

The library is little more and yet a lot more, I would argue.

A bitter (not really!) 30-something Christian who's been laid off twice in three years, I hold a master's degree in library and information science. This qualifies me to carry the title, librarian, but I have sought and gained employment in corporate knowledge centers and market research departments, where I have consistently avoided the dreaded "L" word and even its upbeat sis, "cybrarian." There's a sermon lurking in these words regarding labels and self-acceptance.

More than one older librarian has cautioned me "to think outside the book," to avoid the stereotyped job title altogether. Not a bad idea, considering the better salary, the sometime-higher level of professional respect, and the evolving face and definition not only of librarianship, but of all industries in our global knowledge-centered economy. Ours is a turbulent time, what with Internet speed, eBooks and MP3s, an oft-clandestine seemingly world war in the mix, and age-old cultural tensions and prejudices that unite and divide.

I return to the thought of my fellow librarians by any name, the custodians of cultures. I think of Ms. Moore, who founded an alternative press to emphasize black lesbians' contributions to the human record. Her father, she said at this morning's presentation, remarked to her recently that one of her press' lesbian-centered books was a romance that he could understand. He could see the storyline plausibly developing between two black women, even between two white men. The daughter was pleased and herself somewhat astounded, even in her own retelling of the episode drawn from her life.

Bobbie Combs and Danamarie Hosler. Other gay and lesbian affirming titles such as *Lucy Goes to the Country* by Joseph Kennedy and John Canemaker should also be included.

Material Access

Insure gay and lesbian family materials are available in subject specific areas and the regular stacks. Too often titles such as the above mentioned *Heather Has Two Mommies and Daddies Roommate* are relegated to non-fiction under sociology or parenting classification rather than the picture-book section where they belong. In fact why not have multiple copies in both areas?

Vertical file Resources

Hard copy resources such as news clippings, journal articles, publications from parenting organizations, copies of studies on the children of gays and lesbians, information on local parenting groups and resources could be gathered for a vertical file.

Journal Subscriptions

Subscriptions such as *Gay Parent* magazine and others that provide a positive and healthy perspective on alternative families including cross-cultural, single parenthood, and children being raised by grandparents could be added to the serial collection.

Internet Resources

Provide links to websites such as *Proudparenting.com*, list-serve information, regional support organizations and groups, legal referrals and legislation as standard bookmarks on public research terminals.

Children's Programs

Actively seek out and encourage these gay and lesbian families to attend story-hour and include alternative family stories and themes in these and other programs.

Posters and Exhibits

Include same gender parents in poster displays and photographs of library-sponsored events. Perhaps even include them when

85 0 TWe Tf86

**Report from the Leather Archives**

The Leather Archives and Museum, which originated in a proposal put forward by Chuck Renslow, creator of the *International Mr. Leather* contest, in the autumn of 1992, exemplifies the diversity and range of types of historical materials necessary to document the life of a gay and lesbian subculture. Its first public space was in a storefront on Clark Street in Chicago adjacent to the Chicago Eagle leather bar, quarters which were inadvertently immortalized in a promotional video narrated by the late Dr. Anthony De Blase, designer of the widely-adopted leather flag. As word of the existence and purpose of the collection spread, holdings quickly mushroomed through donations by individuals and leather-related organizations to the point that by 1998 locating a new home was imperative. Under the direction of writer and artist Joseph Bean (who assumed the directorship in 1997) the Archives found an ideal space at 6418 N. Greenview Avenue near Loyola University in a building which at various times has been a synagogue, two types of church, and a theater. Collections were transferred to the new site in 1999 and a capital campaign begun with the expectation of completing mortgage payments by the 2004 deadline. In 2001 Bean completed his term and was succeeded by current director Rick Storer.

Holdings of the LAM were founded on the private collection of oil paintings and line drawings created by Renslow's late partner Dom Orejudos (better known as the artist Etienne), although runs of major leather community periodicals such as *Drummer* and *The Leather Journal* were soon added, beginning the growth of a periodical collection reaching from the 1940s to date and representing a spectrum of opinion from *Justice Weekly* to *The ADVOCATE*. Renovation of the Terri Rose Library is currently underway. Of unique value are the files of several hundred newsletters chronicling the work and activities of leather and levi clubs, organizations and businesses worldwide. Other formats collected include photographs and films from the physique studios of the 1950s and 1960s, clothing (which covers formal club uniforms and vests as well as a growing body of T-shirts from bars, runs, contests and various events), oral histories, the official archives of the National Leather Association, the International Gay Rodeo Association, and the Chicago Hellfire Club as well as all *International Mr. Leather* contests, and commercial and privately produced videotapes. A special collection of note is the *Colors Project*, dedicated to the assembly and preservation of the varied insignias and heraldic devices created as designs for backpatches and formal organizational logos for leather social and motorcycle clubs. An unusual part of the LAM is the *Pin Collection* (currently numbering several thousand items), which takes as its focus the various types of pins created, exchanged, and worn within the leather community as event memorabilia, organizational and personal friendship pins, an important yet ephemeral art form.

Outreach to and participation in the library profession was a part of the Archives structure from the beginning. As an institution, the Leather Archives contributes to the Subject Authority Cooperative (SACO) program which allows for the proposal of new headings for the LC classification system, through the work of Adam Schiff, principal cataloger of the University of Washington, who has successfully submitted seven new headings, with three more awaiting decision. The first formal presentation made to a general librarians' audience detailing the Archives' origin and purpose was the presentation made by staff librarian Rob Ridinger in New Orleans on June 28, 1999 as part of the GLBTRT program "Daring To Save Our History", with regular updates since provided to the GLBTRT executive committee at ALA conferences. Further information about the Archives and its collections, hours and opportunities to visit, research and volunteer can be found at the website, <http://www.leatherarchives.org/> or by phone at 773-761-9200.

Task Force On Restrictions On Access To Government  
Information, Conference Update, 2002 ALA Annual  
Gary Cornwell and Duncan Aldrich, co-Chairs  
<http://www2.library.unr.edu/dept/bgic/duncan/ragi.html>

Attending: Steve Hayes, Dan Barkley, Patrice McDermott, Sherry DeDecker, Jerry Reynolds, Prue Adler, Mary Alice Baish, Sue Davidson, Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, June Pinnell-Stephens, Cathy Hartman, Laura Dickson, Cindi Wolf, Bessie Condos Tichaver, Lynne Siemers, Jan Fryer, Ridley Kessler, Tom Andersen, Joan Moffson, Mary Wilke, Jan Comfort, Ann Sullivan, Peter Watson-Boone, Rebecca Watson-Boone, Robert Walter, Minnie Crump, James B. Casey, Gary Cornwell, Duncan Aldrich.

The Task Force (TF) met on Friday, June 14, from 10:00am to Noon. Following introductions, Co-Chair Gary Cornwell outlined the charge of the TF and delineated goals for this meeting. The session's goals

## ALA 2002: Adult Literacy

ALA Pre-Conference Program, "Different Voices, Common Quest Adult Literacy and Outreach in Libraries June 13-14, 2002

This program was initiated as a way to share ideas to develop and implement outreach strategies to marginalized populations. One of the components, along with immigrants, the incarcerated and so forth was outreach to GLBT populations; we were one category among about a 10 or so. The food was good and the speakers were enlightening as well as encouraging with their rhetoric of that we as simple librarians can do to make the world and our communities a better, fairer place. Months before I had been asked to facilitate for those who were interested in developing their services to gays and lesbians as well as the transgendered. I have been involved with doing just that for a while now through my own library system. I was looking forward to this program, had assembled a presentation package just for this event and brushed up on my facilitator capabilities. Was I in for a disappointment, not in the program or the way it was organized, but in the fact that not one of my fellow librarians had thought it important enough to sign-up for the GLBT outreach facilitation sessions. Not a one. Steve Stratton and I were the lone librarians at our GLBT Outreach table (which is another story in itself – we faced a hostile advocate of library services to the incarcerated who told us we had no right to be in the same room as her group. Prisons and homosexuals no possible connection, right?).

For the few hours that the facilitation segment ran, Steve and I sat alone and were a little amazed that not one person thought that outreach to our community was worth it. Maybe we were being a tad on the sensitive side, but it bothered us. After all our population was the one that could be found in all the other focus groups. The elderly, uh huh, rural, yep, immigrants, si, the incarcerated...well you get the point; we are everywhere and we deserve dedicated services, just like everyone else.

This response, or lack of one, leads me to believe that a survey needs to be done among librarians and within libraries to find out just what type of service is specifically being given to queer library users. There are some funds out there for library related projects and we need to see if we can use them to develop a survey or related project that will give this roundtable an idea of what type of library services are out there and what work needs to be done to improve them. One thing the pre-conference demonstrated is: that if WE don't take the initiative to serve our own no one else is going to.

Richard DiRusso  
Chair, External Relations Committee  
[RDirus1@ci.tucson.az.us](mailto:RDirus1@ci.tucson.az.us)

## A Chill in the Library

© St. Petersburg Times, published July 23, 2002

Under the USA-Patriot Act, passed by Congress in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, librarians have been made unwitting partners in the FBI's search for potential terrorists. Any records a library might retain on a patron's reading choices or Internet use are now retrievable by federal law enforcement with an easily obtainable court order. Librarians, traditionally defenders of intellectual freedom, are being pressed to become extensions of law enforcement, and many are balking at the new job description. Librarians, traditionally defenders of intellectual freedom, are being pressed to become extensions of law enforcement, and many are balking at the new job description.

Judith Krug, the American Library Association's director for intellectual freedom, has been advising librarians who think this new use of library records is antithetical to their mission. She proposes establishing a system of regular record deletions to put information on patron's tastes and interests out of reach well before the FBI comes to call.

Krug notes that the Patriot Act eliminates the need to show probable cause before invading a patron's privacy. The new law allows the FBI to go to a secret foreign intelligence court, claim the information desired is part of a terrorism investigation and walk away with a court order allowing it to take a look at all the Internet traffic emanating from a library on a particular day.

Moreover, librarians are prohibited from disclosing anything about law enforcement's visit.

Some library professionals may relish their new role. At the Lely campus of Edison Community College in Collier County, library staff recently contacted campus security about three Middle Eastern-looking men who were whispering while using library computers to look up Islamic newspapers. That call in turn prompted a call to the Collier County Sheriff's Office, which dispatched deputies to seize the library's computer hard drives for further investigation.

Mary Faulkner, library director, said her staff acted correctly in contacting security and refused to comment further. But the situation raises disturbing questions. What exactly was suspicious about the behavior of these men: Whispering in a library? Reading newspapers in their native language? Being Middle Eastern?

The Patriot Act is trying to remake librarians into citizen spies, and while some librarians have slipped happily into that role, many others are raising concerns. Do you suddenly feel a chill in our public libraries?

[http://www.sptimes.com/2002/07/23/Opinion/A\\_chill\\_in\\_the\\_librar.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2002/07/23/Opinion/A_chill_in_the_librar.shtml)

## Book Review

"It has often been noted that in the Western tradition homosexuality was first called the sin of sodomy, then regarded as the crime of buggery, next was considered the disease of psychological inversion, but now has become like an ethnicity. And where sinners are condemned, criminals are imprisoned, and psychological inverts are hospitalized, members of ethnic groups participate in politics."

These words are the opening to the preface of *Gay and Lesbian Americans and Political Participation: A Reference Handbook*, by Raymond A. Smith and Donald P. Haider-Markel. This very useful reference book is part of the Political Participation Series which examines different political groups in America. The first chapter contains basic definitions and demographics of the LGBT population in the United States and a short history of the LGBT political movement. The second chapter expands into a detailed history of LGBT political involvement focusing on protest politics from the Stonewall Riots to contemporary Pride marches. Further chapters detail, "Interest Group and Social Movement Participation," "Electoral and Political Party Participation," and "Being 'Out' in Public Life." There are sections on documents and legislation concerning LGBT people, key players and terms, a chronology, and useful resources. All chapters end with references and suggested further reading. This book is written in a clear, interesting style, and will be a welcome addition to any library. It provides a solid introduction to the LGBT political movement, and encourages the reader to both read more on this subject and become politically involved.

Elaine Needelman  
Sr. LTA, University of Florida Libraries  
[elaneed@mail.uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:elaneed@mail.uflib.ufl.edu)

## Closing Thanks

I would like to thank everyone that helped make this, my first edition of the GLBTRT newsletter, a success. Everyone was very helpful with both information and article submissions. I hope that you will all continue to send such interesting and insightful submissions in the future. I am glad to answer any questions you might have regarding the newsletter, and I welcome your suggestions and comments, as they are the best way for me to provide you with the kind of information you want to read!

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor  
[kenwells@ufl.edu](mailto:kenwells@ufl.edu) | [kenwells@yahoo.com](mailto:kenwells@yahoo.com)

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

This newsletter is now included in your membership fee to the GLBTRT via your regular ALA membership registration. Just be sure to join the GLBTRT when you renew your membership or initially join.

Subscription questions should be forwarded to the newsletter editor at [kenwells@ufl.edu](mailto:kenwells@ufl.edu) or [kenwells@yahoo.com](mailto:kenwells@yahoo.com). Thank you for your support.

GLBTRT Newsletter

Ken Wells, Editor

GLBTRT

ALA / OLOS

50 East Huron St.

Chicago IL 60611

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

First Class U.S. Mail