

A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association



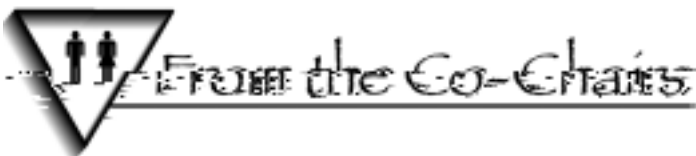
Greetings!!

Congratulations to those who were recently married during ALA in Toronto! Let's all hope this trend continues in the coming years!

I have also been converting past issues of the newsletter into PDF documents, and TJ Lusher is placing them on our new ALA website! Please feel free to look for more issues online at:

<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>

Thanks to everyone for making this newsletter come together so seamlessly! I am so pleased to get your articles and reports, and I hope that you will continue! mmsg teme forfuture issues.r



Hello everyone! It's autumn again. Fall semester has started up and the summer reading programs are over for another year. So I better clean up the rest of my summer duties before I get even further behind.

Thanks go out to all the people that were in Toronto and picked up the slack for those of us that were not able to be there. I can only speak for myself, but I was disappointed that I was not allowed to attend. I know I missed some great programs and a wonderful awards breakfast. Speaking of that, John DeSantis gets a round of applause for putting together the last minute arrangements of the breakfast. I also want to say thanks to Anne Moore for handling all of the co-chair duties and Roland Hansen for assisting her in that work. Peter Hepburn and Martin Garnar for handling all of the programming issues that came up in Toronto.

I also want to thank Barbara and Kay for their attendance during the conference. I was very disappointed that I did not get to see Barbara accept her ALA Honorary Membership, but I can tell from the pictures that it was a wonderful event. Also, thanks to the crew that handled the last minute details

for the social. It was a great job that everyone did at the conference, thanks again.

In my never ending crusade to get bibliographies and booklists onto the Website, I am once again asking folks to please send me their lists that they have created. Whether it is for your public, academic, or school library we want to highlight some books in different areas. People, both professional and otherwise really do send me questions asking for lists. I don't always have suggestions so it is nice to have access to bibliographies and booklists I can refer them to read. In the past year I have been asked for lists for young children, teens, adult learners, GLBT sports issues, and GLBT people in higher education. So there are a few examples. You will be given credit for your work on the Web site of course and enjoy knowing that you helped others find good books.

Providing that I am not barred from traveling again, I will see you all in San Diego at Midwinter.

Steve Stratton, *Head, Collections & Tech Services
Cal State-Channel Islands
Stephen.Stratton@csuci.edu*

Anne L. Moore, *Coordinator for Access Services
W.E.B. Du Bois Library
University of Massachusetts
amoore@library.umass.edu*



I'll be brief. But I wanted to pop in and thank everyone who served time in our little corner in the back of the woods past the Moose and the Woodpecker, turtles and birds and way down in

sha thoughtto pett up a wedding chapel...!! wam gla thea tw

Emily Edwards
Chair, Membership Committee

eedwards@leegov.com



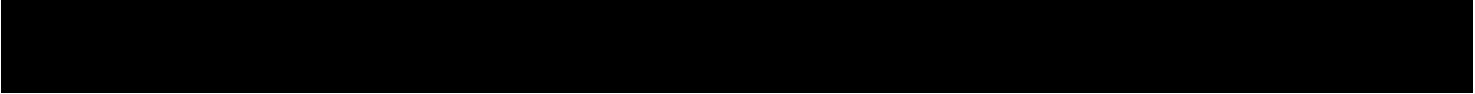
The External Relations Committee has two new members: Elsa Bruguier, a librarian at the Union County College system, Plainfield Campus and Holly Merce, Metadata Coordinator for the University of Kansas Library System. Great to have them aboard. Thanks for all who showed interest in lending a hand!

The Tucson-Pima Public Library system celebrated National GLBT Book Month (yes, we got it listed as an entry in Chase's 2003 Calendar of Events p. 303) with a visit from Trans author Patrick Califia. Mr Califia drew a crowd of about 200 people, some driving from as far away as Phoenix, to see him. Patrick's talk focused on censorship issues and how this relates to GLBT and Erotica authors as well as the chilling effect of the Patriot Act on society and the institutions of libraries. Afterwards, he told us that it was one of his best gigs ever.

The GLBT Services Committee of TPPL developed a handsome set of genre and subject book marks for June also. They cover about 10 subject matters from humor to self-defense. The bookmarks, as well as the talk, could not have been produced without funding from the Friends of TPPL. We are grateful to have such a wonderful bunch of open-minded people support us. They come through so often and it helps us to avoid scrambling for funds through outside sources, we're lucky.

Until next issue, adios!

Richard DiRusso, Chair
External Relations Committee



The University of Connecticut Archives & Special Collections acquired the library and papers of Foster Gunnison, Jr. between 1994 and 1996. The collection includes materials from all four of Gunnison's major interests: gay and lesbian history, railroads, barbershop quartets, and smoker's rights. By far, the largest volume of material comprises his massive collection of railroad books and ephemera. That material has been sorted and is in the process of being cataloged. The smaller parts of the collection include his unflagging devotion to



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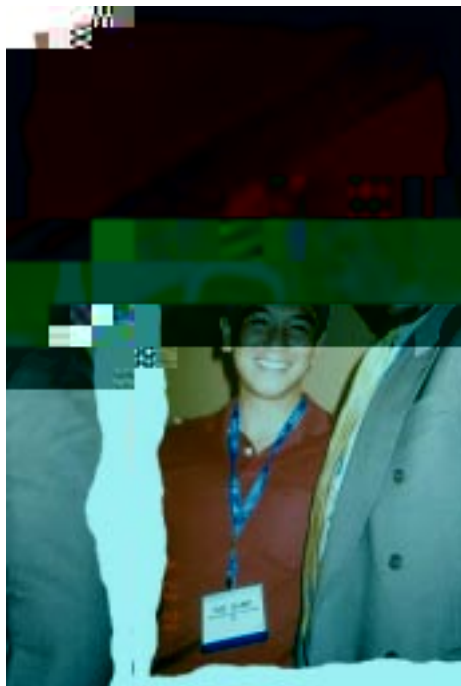


Dykes and Sundry Other Carbon-Based Beings to Watch Out For. By Alison Bechdel. Alyson, 2003. 128 pp. \$13.95 Paper (ISBN 1-5558-3828-6)

Bechdel marks the twentieth anniversary of her Lambda Literary Award-winning *Dykes to Watch Out For* comic strip with this tenth compilation, the first volume to be published by Alyson Publications. In this collection of strips originally published serially from 2000 to 2002, Mo and her friends process the 2000 election, 9/11, and other major events while navigating through their personal crises. Clarice and Toni reach their own twentieth anniversary, travel to Vermont for a civil union, and find themselves slipping into the world of soccer moms. As sales fall at Madwimmin Books, Mo begins thinking about a new career as a librarian. Meanwhile, Sydney continues her quest for tenure at the local university, Lois explores the boundaries of gender, and Sparrow worries that having a baby with her boyfriend might change her identity as well as her life. A bonus comic at the end of the book follows Mo, Sydney, Lois, Ginger, Sparrow, and Stuart as they deal with their changing family dynamics.

This sharp and funny volume is a good addition for libraries with GLBT and/or graphic novel collections. If your library lacks the earlier volumes in the series, do not miss the chance to purchase the re-releases from Firebrand Books.

Reviewed by **Beth Tarr**, Children's Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library



Above: Noel Alunit (left) and Cecil Hixon (right). Noel was the 2003 winner of the Stonewall Book Award-Barbara Gittings Literature Award for fiction, for his book, *Letters to Montgomery Clift: a novel*.

Queering Christ: Beyond Jesus Acted Up. Robert E. Goss. Pilgrim Press, 2002. 263 pp. \$20.00 cloth (ISBN: 0-8298-1498-1)

In his earlier work, *Jesus Acted Up: A Gay and Lesbian Manifesto*, Goss tried to reclaim Christianity for sexual minorities by asserting that the radical Jesus of biblical times would be siding with radical queer activists of the 20th century. His latest effort is not meant as a sequel, as that is a separate project still under development. Instead, *Queering Christ* takes a different approach to the question of LGBT Christians and the church. Rather than fight for a spot within the existing structure, Goss proposes starting from scratch and rebuilding Christianity using a queer aesthetic. Queering is defined in the preface as "spoil[ing] or interfe[r] with." Goss asserts that spoiling something that's already spoiled (i.e., the Christian church) in order to make it more inclusive (i.e., welcoming to LGBT people) is "a good." Having defined his method, Goss lays out his task of queering Christianity in four areas: sexuality, Christ, the Bible, and theology. In each area, he reconstructs basic concepts of Christianity from a queer perspective, thus building a belief system that fully validates LGBT Christians as intrinsically ordered. His personal application of this belief system may not resonate with all readers, but they will certainly create a starting point for further thought and discussion. Academic libraries supporting programs in religion or LGBT studies should purchase this book, as should public libraries with strong collections in these areas. If you don't already have *Jesus Acted Up* in your collection, correct that oversight when you order *Queering Christ*.

Reviewed by **Martin Garnar**, Assistant Professor of Library Science and Reference Librarian Regis University.



Above: Left to right: Ann Symons, Anne Moore, Barbara Gittings, Nancy Garden and Nancy's partner - Sandy

Fierstein, Harvey. *The Sissy Duckling*. Simon & Schuster, 2002. Elmer the duckling is not like the other boy ducklings, and he suffers the derision of his schoolmates and his father, but he proves that a "sissy" can be a real hero. Papa's declaration "If Elmer is a sissy, then I wish I were a sissy too!" is a resounding moment of triumph. **Ages: 4-9**. The best overlooked book of the year in terms of awards.

Krakow, Kari. *The Harvey Milk Story*. Ridley Park, PA: Two Lives Publishing, 2002. A picture-book biography about the life and death of gay rights leader and San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk. Attractive illustrations and a simple story line make this useful for introducing young readers to this modern-day hero. **Ages: 5-10**. Highly recommended.

Okimoto, Jean Davies and Elaine M. Aoki. *The White Swan Express: A Story About Adoption*. New York: Clarion, 2002. While four baby girls in China wait for their new parents to arrive from the United States, seven adults are preparing for their trips to China to take home their new daughters. Among the adoptive parents is a lesbian couple. Beautiful watercolor artwork, and a warm, loving story will appeal not only to young adoptees from China, but all young children. **Ages: 2-6**. Highly Recommended.

Chambers, Aidan. *Postcards From No Man's Land*. New York: Dutton, 2002. During a visit to the Netherlands, Jacob stays with the bisexual grandson of an old family connection, Daan, carries on a flirtation with Ton, a gay youth who he initially mistakes for a girl, meets a girl he is attracted to as well, and learns some surprising family secrets. Winner of the Michael Printz Award, 2003. **Ages: Teen**.

Freyman-Weyr, Garret. *My Heartbeat*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002. Fourteen-year-old Ellen has had a long-standing crush on her older brother Link's best friend, James. When Link hears rumors that people think he and James are a couple, he dumps James. Ellen turns to books to understand what homosexuality is, and to James (who was in love with Link, and considers himself bisexual) with whom she ultimately develops a sexual relationship. This award winner (Publisher's Weekly Best Books for Children, 2002 and Michael Printz Award, 2003), is rather overrated, given that the potentially gay relationship ends badly. **Ages: 12-16**.

Nancy Silverrod, Librarian
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-557-4417
nsilverrod@sfpl.org

The GLBT Round Table needs your time, talent, and energy if our success in contributing toward libraries and library professionalism is to continue. Filling out and sending this form is one way to let the Round Table know about your interest in serving on committees or in a leadership role. We are eager to learn about how you want to work as a part of the Round Table team.

If you have questions, please contact **Emily Edwards**, Membership Committee Chair: EEDWARDS@leegov.com

Name:
Library/Organization:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Phone Number:
Fax Number:
E-Mail address:

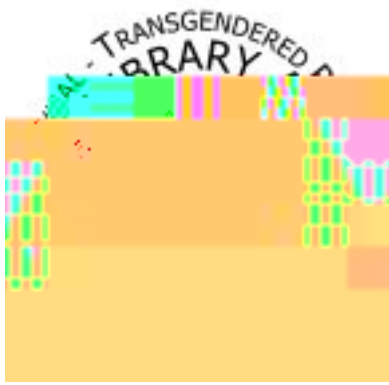
On which of these committees would you be willing to serve?

Programming: plans and conducts programs, the annual book award breakfast, and social activities; coordinates logistics and local arrangements for the Annual and Midwinter meetings.

Fundraising: develops goals, prepares budgets, and seeks external funding.

Library Information Clearinghouse: identifies, obtains, and

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**GLBTRT Newsletter
Ken Wells, Editor
c/o GLBTRT
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50 East Huron St.
Chicago IL 60611**

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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*.

Thank you for your support!!