



GLBTRT er Newslett

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

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



Hello, everyone!

I hope you all enjoy the first issue of 2005! This is another e-only issue of the newsletter, and I hope you all have been able to access this format without any problems, as switching this this format for our non-ALA issues is a significant cost-savings for the Round Table.

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is **May 18th, 2005**, so please make sure to have all your book reviews, officer reports, ALA information, and general interest articles sent to me before that time!

Thanks for all of your continued support, and please let me know if there are any questions or comments about the newsletter!

Ken Wells, *GLBTRT Newsletter Editor*
kenwells@ufl.edu



Happy Spring. Well, I admit that the weather doesn't feel like spring yet but I'm hopeful that soon the clouds will dry up and I can see the sun again. I know Anne is hoping that the snow stops falling soon so the drive to work gets easier.

I want to draw attention to our programs in Chicago for the annual meeting. We have one program we are putting together "Addressing the Information Needs of Transgender Individuals". This will be a panel of librarians addressing the information needs of the primary subgroups that comprise the Transgendered community (crossdressers, Transsexuals and gender-deviant individuals). This session will also address the sources of information important to members of the trans community. A bibliography will also be developed for the program.

We are also co-sponsoring a program in Chicago with the Office of Diversity entitled "Out of the Margins: GLBT Librarians, Libraries, and Literary Activism". Speakers include: Steven

Fullwood, Founder, Black Gay & Lesbian Archive; Reginald Harris, Poet & Librarian, Enoch Pratt Free Library; Natalie Kendall, Librarian, Leather Archives & Museum; tatiana de la tierra, Information Literacy Librarian, University of Buffalo; Joe Tragert, Marketing VP EBSCO Publishing, EBSCO GLBT Life Database Project.

Of course we have the usual Read Aloud as well as the Awards Dinner celebrating the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Round Table. I know that we will have wonderful speakers and award winners at the dinner.

Plans for Chicago call for us to march in the GLBT Pride parade which will be going on during ALA this year. We are looking to either find the banner that was last used by the RT (then Task Force). If changes can not be made to the original banner, then we are looking for volunteers that might be interested in putting together a banner for us to carry in the parade. Contact Anne or I if you are interested. More details will be made available the closer we get to conference time, stay tuned.

If you are not a member of our listserv and want to join us for our sporadic conversations and opinions you can go to the ALA electronic list sign up service at <http://lp-web.ala.org:8000/> It involves registering but then you can sign onto or off any of the open ALA lists. You can also send a message to our Round Table Secretary Andrew Johnson at afj@u.washington.edu and he can sign you up for the list.

See you soon.

Steve Stratton






Leather Archives & Museum burns mortgage, opens library

To celebrate its recently retired mortgage, the Leather Archives & Museum held a mortgage burning ceremony on February 20, 2005. LA&M President and Founder Chuck Renslow set fire to the papers, before an audience of nearly 200 leathermen and -women. LA&M Chief Librarian Natalie said, "Having our own building ensures we will not be excluded....Our memories, our belongings and our information about this lifestyle are safe."

The LA&M retired the mortgage on its building in August, 2004. Over \$400,000 was raised from individuals, organization, businesses and private foundations during a seven-year capital campaign to purchase and renovate a 10,000 square foot building at 6418 N. Greenview Avenue, on the north side of Chicago. The LA&M compiles, preserves and maintains historical, archival and literary material and memorabilia dealing with leather and related lifestyles—including but not limited to that of GLBT communities—for historical, educational and research purposes.

The Teri Rose Library at the LA&M also opened that weekend. With over 4000 books and periodicals, the Teri Rose Library serves as a reference and general reading collection of published material on the BDSM/fetish/leather lifestyle. The library will also be made available for club and organization meetings and presentations.

Teri Rose was a Chicago teacher and an active, well-loved member of the leather community. After her unexpected death in 1999, her friends began volunteering labor and fundraising to dedicate the library in her name.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Catherine Ritchie, Dallas Public Library

Cathy Ritchie is the Theatre Librarian at the Dallas (TX) Public Library. She moved to Texas in 2000 after completing a Certificate of Advanced Study at the University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign; for her final project, she researched collection development issues regarding GLBT non-fiction. Her earlier years as a public librarian were spent in Minnesota and Illinois, so her recent foray into "Bush Country" has been interesting for her on many fronts!

In her current position, Cathy serves on a system-wide committee formulating GLBT-related programming for Dallas's Central Library and selected branches. Thanks to the efforts of this group, authors Julie Anne Peters and Alison Bechdel will be appearing in Dallas later this year.

In her spare time, Cathy writes a book review column for the monthly Springfield, Illinois gbt newspaper Prairie Flame, along with other articles and reviews for library magazines and newsletters. She has also recorded books for the blind for over 25 years.

Cathy is also serving on the prize jury selecting the 2004 recipient of the Theatre Library Association Award, given annually to the year's outstanding book in film or television. Cathy was the only public librarian chosen for the panel this year, making the prospect of evaluating over 100 titles in a two-month period somewhat easier to bear! She looks forward to meeting fellow Round Table members at ALA in Chicago.



Kings & Queens: Queers at the Prom. By David Boyer. Soft Skull Press. 2004. 160 p. paperback (ISBN1-932360-24-7)

David Boyer uses the high school prom to wrap stories about coming out and living as a homosexual. The book is divided into sections with profiles from the 90's, 80's, 70's and 60's, and back through the 1930's. Each profile includes the date and place of their high school senior year, pictures and a summary, in their own words, about their senior prom. A postscript gives information on where they are now, and a bit about how they got there. Extras include a style guide, prom trends and a section on how the American idea of a senior prom has spread around the world. Each profile is surprisingly gripping and many make you think of your own high school experience. The pictures will bring knowing nods from older readers and gales of giggles from teens. This book offers a good window into the high school experience and would be a good addition to a YA or high school library collection.

Reviewed by Mark Singer, High School Librarian, retired.

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In the Absence of Men. By Philippe Besson. Carroll & Graf,

Conference programs can reach their audience. Local projects on tough topics can succeed. The truth of these statements has been demonstrated at the Mid-Continent Public Library in the last year. At the 2004 PLA Conference in Seattle there was a GLBTRT program entitled "Getting the Green Light for GLBT Services." Some librarians from MCPL inadvertently met at this program. Spurred by the fact that we had new-found allies a project was born.

Following presentations made at the monthly staff meeting about our conference experiences, it became obvious there was further staff interest. Since that time our group (now totaling six, from different branches and departments) has fielded questions from interested staff, done extensive collection analysis, and successfully approached the library administration to proceed with on-going collection development and staff training. As a result, close to 200 titles (totaling over 1,000 copies) of notable and award winning GLBT titles have been added to the library's collections, new and forthcoming GLBT titles are a regular feature at monthly material selection meetings, and a presentation has been made to branch managers covering issues and materials for GLBT services. Also, a major bibliography was posted to the library's Readers Advisory page (<http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/readers/>), along with lists and links to major GLBT literary award sites.

Building on these successes, the project is now expanding. Staff handouts have been converted to html format providing an easily expandable staff education tool, work has begun to compile recommendations for GLBT documentary and feature films, and we hope to conduct another branch manager update. We are also developing strategies for publicity and outreach materials.

Response has been quite positive both from staff and administration, and usage of the newly acquired materials is encouraging. Our experience confirms that if you are thorough, do careful research, and keep your administration informed, very good things can happen. This was the advice that Richard DiRusso and Lynn Everts gave at the PLA program. It is good advice—and you'd be amazed what can happen.

Lars Hagelin, *Special Projects Librarian*
projects@mcpl.lib.mo.us
Mid-Continent Public Library
<http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/>



Dealing with Legal Matters Surrounding Students' Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. National School Boards Association. 16 p.

Controversies due to students' gender identification and sexual orientation are common today. School administrators, teachers, parents and, most of all, by students, face these issues. Clubs, curriculum, reading lists dress code, social events and harassment have all been the focus for community disagreements and sometimes litigation. While sexual orientation and gender identification are not mentioned in the constitution, it does shed light on what can and can't be done. This brief publication, sponsored by twelve educational organizations, covers both written law and case law to outline practices which insure that students receive the benefits of the rights guaranteed to them. There are still gray areas when courts in various states disagree and states have passed disagreeing laws. The authors are quick to point out these areas. This publication can be downloaded free from <http://nsba.org/cosa/secualorientation>. Add a link from your catalog, print a copy and add it to your collection. This is a must for almost every library.

Reviewed by **Ray Barber**, *The William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*



Fabulous!: A Loving, Luscious, and Lighthearted Look at Film from the Gay Perspective. By Donald F. Reuter. Broadway Books. 2004. 192 p. \$16.95 paperback (ISBN0-7679-1600-X)

It takes over twenty five pages for the author to supply an understanding of what criteria were used to select the fifty five movies that are profiled in the book. The answer seems to be the author chose his favorite movies. Each film profile supplies the release date, actors and directors and a brief plot summary. Some space is given to explain the "gay" twist each film may offer, but the twist is often way out in left field. A "still" for each film is featured, and a list of similar films is included. All films are carefully footnoted, and there is an extensive index. The real question is "what is the value of this book"? If you are looking for a good movie reference book, this volume would be a good but limited source. If you are looking for a good history of gays and lesbians in film look elsewhere.

Reviewed by **Mark Singer**, *High School Librarian, retired.*



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 **Lewis Day**, Membership Committee Chair: lewis_day@harvard.edu

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 distributes materials related to collecting or cataloging gay, lesbian, or bi-oriented materials for libraries; maintains website.
- Newsletter:** compiles, produces, and distributes newsletter, including GLBT related book reviews.
- Book Awards:** reviews materials, selects winner(s), determines appropriate awards.
- External Relations:** coordinates publicity; disseminates Round Table information to interested parties outside ALA; coordinates Round Table correspondence for communications within ALA; develops membership information.

If you've checked multiple, please indicate order of preference:

On which committees have you served in the past, and in what capacity?

Are you willing to serve in a leadership position with one of the committees? Yes No

If yes, please indicate committee preference?

Are you willing to serve as an elected officer? Yes No

Would you be willing to help with any of the following?

- Read Aloud Coordinator | Book Review Editor | Book Reviewer
- Socials Room Set-up | Pride Parade Coordinator | Mailings |
- Grant Writing | Staff Registration Desks | Special Projects |
- Liaison to Diversity Council or other ALA units

Other - Please specify:

What special skills/talents do you have that you would be willing to share with the Round Table?

Additional comments:

Please mail this form to: **Lewis Brian Day, Harvard University Archives, Pusey Library, Cambridge, MA 02138**

**GLBTRT Newsletter
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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