

GLBTF NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL TASK FORCE OF THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the Editor:

Greetings fellow librarians and library-friendly subscribers! With this issue, we begin our second year resuming publication. The members of the task force are working hard on many fronts. The Book Award Committee announced its winners for the best non-fiction and fiction work of 1997.

Plans continue to be finalized for ALA's Annual Conference in Washington D.C. this summer. Special thanks also goes out to Jules Tate, Kenn Bicknell, and Ellen Bosman. Ellen and Jules have been working hard to finalize the 1998 Annual Program, External Relations/Volunteers, and the Book Award Breakfast! Thanks Jules, Kenn, and Ellen! Thanks also goes out to all of those who review books for the GLBTF.

Congressman Barney Frank will speak at this year's Book Award Breakfast. Please make your reservation early! This popular event sells out quickly. Tickets will only be available in advance. They will not be available at the door.

We also ask that you take a look at the bylaws and an organizational chart of the GLBTF, reprinted here. We would like your input between now and annual. Revisions will be voted on during annual. Specific questions can be directed to the cochairs.

As always, we thank you for your support. The cochairs.

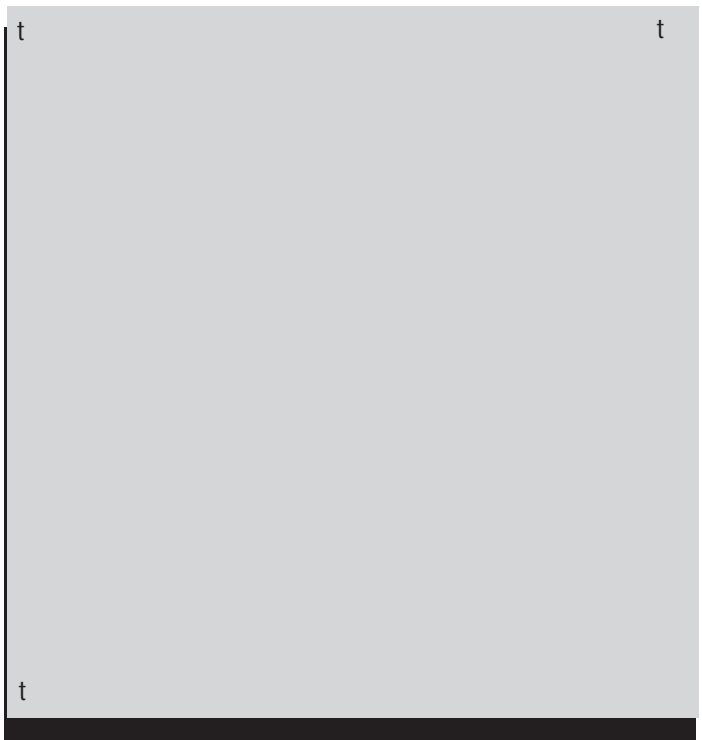
Annual GLBTF Book Awards Announced

The winners of the GLBTF Book Awards have been announced. The winner in the Non-fiction category is Adam Mastoon for his work *The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young People* (William Morrow and Co./Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books ISBN 0688149316).

Lucy Jane Bledsoe was awarded best best work of Literature for *Working Parts: A Novel* (Seal Press, ISBN 187806794X).

Awards will be presented at the Third Annual Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award Breakfast on Monday, June 29, 1998 at the 1998 Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Washington D.C. by the GLBTF.

Congressman Barney Frank (D-4-MA) will be the featured speaker the Book Award Breakfast. See the the ticket reservation form later in this issue.



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time please come to one of their meetings at Annual and join

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GLBTF WEBSITE !!!

Check for last minute conference changes on the
web. You can reach the GLBTF at:

http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html

or

[http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/
rtables_home.html](http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/rtables_home.html)

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GLBTF
PROGRAM PLANNING NEWS

The 1998 GLBTF annual program will be: "What Have You Done for Me Lately? Lesbian and Gay Youth Speak Out."

Bylaws of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force
Social Responsibilities Round Table American Li-
brary Association
(approved July 1994
draft revision 1. September 20, 1995)

I. Purpose

The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force of the American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table shall: promote the improved quality, quantity, and accessibility of library materials of particular interest or usefulness to lesbians, bisexuals, and gay people; [promote awareness of and develop funding sources outside of ALA for the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force Book Awards;] developing promote and defense [defend] unrestricted access of all library users to information by or about gay, lesbian, and bisexual people; provide bibliographic services to librarians, archivists, other information professionals, and library users; work toward eliminating job discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual employees of libraries, archives, and information centers; advocate revising classification schemes, subject heading lists, indices, etc., in order to remove terms derogatory to the lives, activities, and contributions to culture and society of lesbian, bisexual, and gay people; remind the membership and leadership of the Association as often as necessary that many librarians, archivists, other information specialists, and library users are lesbians, bisexuals, or gay men; support other minority groups working for adequate representation and equal opportunity within the Association; work with groups outside the Association interested in improving the legal rights of bisexual, lesbian, and gay people; provide opportunities for gay, lesbian, and bisexual librarians, archivists, and other information specialists attending Association

Subscriptions to the newsletter will be handled by the Newsletter Coordinator who shall maintain an account to handle the income and disbursement of these funds and of any funds raised through paid advertisements. The Committee will publish the newsletter at least four times each year.

Steering Committee. The elected officers and appointed coordinators of the Standing Committees shall constitute the Task Force Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Task Force between its membership meetings; determine the times and places of membership meetings; review the Task Force budget; authorize whatever Task Force projects, activities, and publications are not authorized at membership meetings; review each new Task Force publication before it is published or distributed; make recommendations to the membership; provide guidance to the Co-Chairs; and perform the other duties specified in these by-laws. The Steering Committee may not make a decision inconsistent with a decision made by the Task Force at a membership meeting.

Special Committees and Projects. Special projects shall be authorized by the Task Force Co-Chairs as the Task Force membership, its Steering Committee, or the Co-Chairs shall from time to time deem necessary to carry out specific activities, including the creation or revision of publications, that are consistent with the goals of the Task Force. Any member of the Task Force may propose a special project by describing the idea or publication at a Task Force meeting or through an announcement in the Task Force newsletter, and asking for volunteers also interested in the proposal. Upon endorsement of the project by the membership or by the Steering Committee, the Co-Chairs shall appoint an individual to coordinate the project or to direct those interested to designate a coordinator. New publications of the Task Force must be reviewed by the Steering Committee before distribution. The Steering Committee shall establish the price (if any) of a Task Force publication.

VI. Finances

Budget. The Co-Chairs are responsible for preparing the annual budget for the Steering Committee's review by the end of its first meeting at the Association's Midwinter Conference. One of the Co-Chairs shall deliver the budget to the first Midwinter meeting of the Action Council of the Social Responsibilities Round Table for review. The Co-Chairs will present the approved budget to the Task Force membership during the Midwinter meeting. Changes in the budget may be proposed by the membership at any Task Force meeting or by a member of the Steering Committee between membership meetings. Changes approved by the membership or by the Steering Committee will be requested at the first meeting of the Action Council of the Social Responsibilities Round Table at the Association's Annual Conference.

Reimbursements. Task Force members who incur an expense in connection with an authorized budgeted Task Force activity may submit a request for reimbursement to the Co-Chairs. Receipts must be provided to support such a request. The Co-Chairs will reimburse authorized expenses in a timely manner. Reimbursements for expenses over \$25 must be authorized in advance by the Task Force's written budget or by a majority of the Steering Committee.

Income generated by a project or publication by a Standing Committee will be used to support the continued work of that committee. Income generated by the activity or publication of a special committee will be used to further the work of that special committee

until the committee has completed its work or its publication. Each coordinator of a standing or special committee will maintain records of financial transactions connected with the work of the committee.

1. Task Force Listservs

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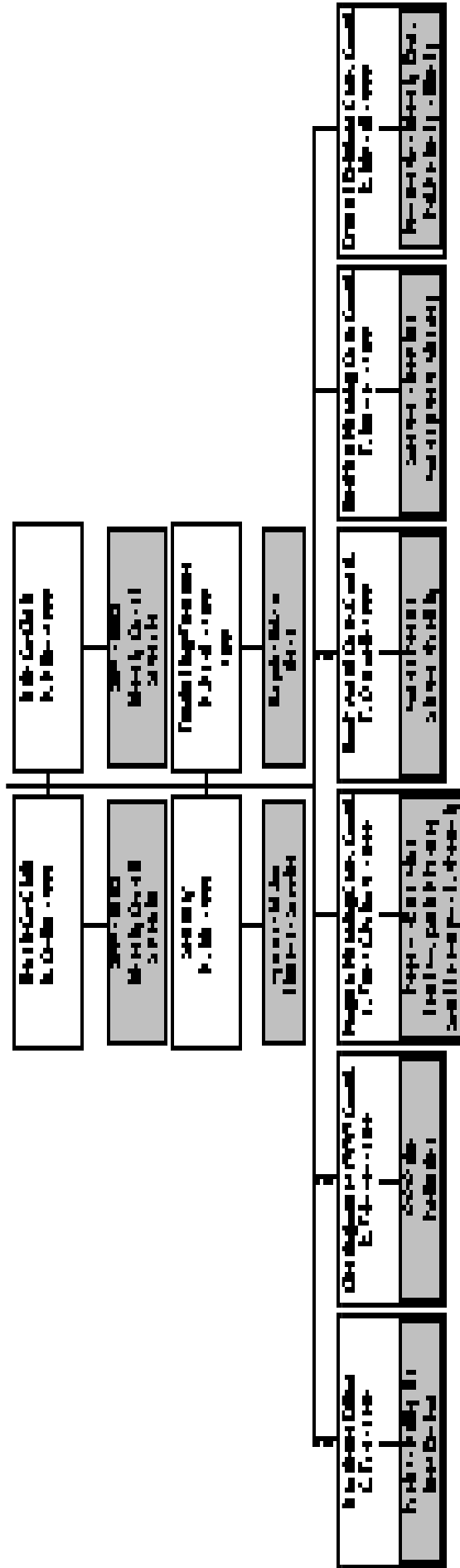
The Task Force shall maintain a listserv for current and immediate past Steering Committee members. Subscription to the listserv shall be limited to those currently on the Steering Committee and immediate past Steering Committee members, whose subscriptions will continue for one year after the end of their term. Steering Committee members without e-mail will receive paper communication from the Secretary.

Committee listservs

Task Force Standing or Special Committees may establish listservs for internal communication. Task Force Co-chairs shall be added as subscribers to all Standing or Special Committee listservs. (amended 6/7/97)

VIII. Parliamentary Authority

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VIX. Amending the By-Laws

Any provision of these by-laws may be changed at a regular meeting of the Task Force by a majority of the voting members attending, provided that the proposed amendment has been announced at a previous meeting or has been published in an issue of the Task Force newsletter. Otherwise, at least three-fourths of the voting members attending must approve a proposed change in the by-laws before the change can become effective.

End of Bylaws

Book Award Committee

From: Faye Chadwell, Book Award Committee Chair

The American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award is the oldest award of its kind, having been established in 1971 by members of the library profession to honor outstanding works by or about lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. The 1997-98 GLBTF Book Award Committee, which I presently chair, has 14 members, seven men and seven women. This year's committee is composed of five members from public libraries, five from academic libraries, two from special libraries, one library science professor, and one member still seeking her first permanent position within the profession. In addition to planning an annual awards breakfast and publicizing the book award itself, the committee's most important purpose is scouring the world of lesbian and gay publishing in order to make two awards: one for the best English-language literary work (fiction, poetry, drama) and one for the best non-fiction book in English.

The work of any book awards committee is helpful to librarians because of the many factors that complicate the selection and, ultimately, the acquisition of titles for our collections. One significant factor, to which almost anyone on a tight budget can relate, is the ratio of what one would like to buy versus the funds one has available to spend. There just never seems to be enough funding to make libraries all things to all people.

By honoring these outstanding books, the Book Award Committee provides a valuable book selection tool for the library community, where there has been an historical tendency to ignore or dismiss books with gay, lesbian and bisexual content. Librarians have sometimes been reluctant to acquire these books for their collections or have chosen to restrict access to them. And even when librarians themselves were not denying lesbian and gay titles, genuinely concerned or thoroughly disgusted patrons were demanding that we refrain from purchasing "objectionable" titles, shelve "distasteful" works where children could not view them, or remove the offending volumes from our collections.

This past is not necessarily past. In our own state, according to statistics compiled by the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse, titles with gay, lesbian, and bisexual content were often the target of would-be censors during the last five years, most notably during 1992-93. Because of the recent treatment of lesbian and gay titles, and a legitimate concern over possible reaction in the future, the work of the Book Award Committee becomes even more important. Today, it provides librarians with a powerful collection development tool and a rationale for collecting gay, lesbian and bisexual books.

If you were to interview members of the first Book Award Committee, they would certainly comment on the scarcity of titles available to our libraries.

Book Reviews are a regular feature in the GLBTF Newsletter. If you would like to be a reviewer or receive reviewing guidelines, please contact:

Barb Stevens, GLBTF Book Review Editor
4302 Woodridge Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 836-2522
Email:

Necessary Hunger. By Nina Revoyr. Simon & Schuster, 1997. (ISBN 0-684-83234-8)

This book is full of issues: interracial relationships, competitive sports, inner city problems, teenage crime, young people thrown out of home because of their sexuality, teenage insecurities. Despite so many themes this is a great read and a fascinating story.

The story is told by Nancy who is Japanese American and a basketball player. Nancy's father falls in love with Claudia, who

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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