

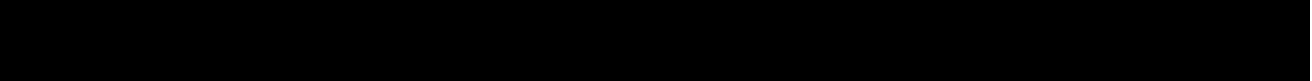


Season's Greetings, everyone!

This issue is a pre-ALA printed issue, so be sure to note the GLBTRT schedule for Boston's ALA Conference, as well as the "OUT" guide for Boston provided by Lewis Day!

Thank you all for continuing to support the newsletter with your thoughtful comments and consistent, timely submissions. I would especially like to thank Catherine Ritchie, who has been a true joy to work with, and a real go-getter for newsletter articles, and Ray Barber, who has been providing me with many book reviews! It's this kind of continued support that will sustain this publication as a valuable resource for the GLBT Community in libraries.

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is **February 16th, 2005**, so please make sure to have all your book reviews, officer reports, and general interest article emailed to me before 9on1kfortheGakc -0.uportime!raries.



In past meetings and in conversations with members there has been some discussion about the procedures of scheduling meetings and programs for annual conferences. I thought this would be a good time to go over the ground rules and time frames established by ALA.

Our meeting times are established by the steering committee. If we choose to change something we will bring it up at the general membership meeting. By and large the current times are our traditional meeting times. It is the same way for programs. Traditionally, we have programs on Monday and Saturday afternoons. We also have the Breakfast on Monday morning followed by the Read Aloud. There are certain times we do not schedule things because we know they will be in conflict with other organizations that many of our members also belong to and there are certain times that ALA prohibits groups from using. ALA's scheduling procedure is all about deadlines.

The deadline for program ideas is the last day of the preceding annual conference. At the end of Orlando 2004 we submitted ideas for Chicago 2005. The ideas, the times, the setups are not written in stone. This does give ALA a good ballpark figure as to the types of programs that will be offered, their times and anticipated attendance. It also aids them in their tracking system that you see in the final program. Remember, when you are sitting in a hotel ballroom listening to a program; it didn't come free. One way or another, it was paid for. There is now an online form that we can use to submit information. The current deadlines for Annual 2005 are:

Oct. 22, '04 Events requiring tickets, including preconferences, banquets etc., including their descriptions and prices must have been entered.

The deasubmit information.




Free Periodical from the Leather Archives and Museum

The Leather Archives in Chicago is pleased to be able to offer a back set of its revised and expanded research newsletter, *Leather Times*, to interested GLBT special collections and local gay and lesbian archives and libraries. Three issues are currently in print for 2003 and 2004; older issues of this title

ALA 2005 MidWinter Conference
 Boston, MA
 GLBTRT Meeting Schedule

<http://www.ulib.niu.edu/lgbt/conferences.htm>

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Steering Committee I	Sat. Jan. 15	8:30am-11:00am	COL Colonnade West
All Committee	Sat. Jan 15	11:30am-1:00pm	HYAT Duxbury
Book Award I	Sat. Jan. 15	2:00pm-5:30pm	PARK Beacon Hill
Book Award II	Sun. Jan.16	12:30pm-3:30pm	PARK Stuart
GLBTRT Social	Sun. Jan 16	6:00pm-8:00pm	Cottonwood Cafe 222 Berkeley St. (617-247-2225)
Steering Committee II	Mon. Jan.17	8:30am-11:00am	HIL Maverick A

Take a break from the meetings, exhibits and historic sites! The GLBTRT Social at Midwinter will heat up the cold Boston night with Southwestern flair at Cottonwood Restaurant and Cafe. Located four short blocks from the Hynes Convention Center, Cottonwood is Boston's premier Southwestern restaurant.

The social will be on Sunday, January 16, from 6 to 8 p.m.

This year's social is presented by Ebsco, Inc., and will include a sumptuous assortment of the restaurant's signature dishes, including Cowboy Potstickers, Anasazi Antipasti, and many other treats. Bar offerings include multiple Best-of-Boston award-winning margaritas, mojitos and an extensive beer and wine list. Try the prickly pear margarita for a fuscia tequila kick!

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Bars

The Alley
14 Pi Alley/Court Square, Boston (Downtown)
617-263-1448
Boston's neighborhood gay-owned gay bar. Home to several bear, leather and levi groups, the Alley is Boston's home away from home for men without pretense. Pool tables, video games and jukebox.
Open 7 days 'til 2 a.m.
<http://www.thealleybar.com/>

Circuit Girl
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington Street, Somerville.
Lesbian and gay. Huge dance floor, pool tables balcony bar with sofas.

Club Café
209 Columbus Avenue, Boston (South End)
617-536-0966
Recently rebranded as 209 (the restaurant) and Moonshine (the cabaret and video lounge). One of the mainstays of the gblt community, and one place where all segments of the community mingle with ease. Open till 2 a.m.
<http://www.clubcafe.com/clubcafe2004.html>

Dedo
69 Church St, Boston (Bay Village)
617-423-6969.

Cozy, multi-level lounge in Bay Village. Professional crowd, comfortable surroundings. Open between 4 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Eagle
520 Tremont St, Boston (South End)
617-542-4494
Every city seems to have a neighborhood bar called the Eagle and Boston is no exception. Simple in the truest sense of the word, it features a big bar, a pulsing dance music beat and gets progressively more crowded as the clock approaches closing time. This IS the last call destination for many. No cover, open till 2am

Fritz
26 Chandler St, Boston (South End)
617-482-4428
Quintessential neighborhood bar, with leather overtones. A popular locale for "last call." Open noon to 2 a.m.

Jacques
79 Broadway St, Boston(Bay Village)
617-426-8902
Boston's old-style "show bar." Drag and cabaret acts. Open 'til midnight.

Luxor
69 Church St, Boston (Bay Village)
617-423-6969
Multilevel video (up) and sports (down) bar. Open till 1am.

Paradise
180 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge
617-494-0700
Cambridge's full-time gay bar, located blocks from MIT, featuring male strippers, adult videos and cruising. Diverse crowd. Open 'til 1 a.m. Sun-Thurs, 'til 2 a.m. Fri-Sat.

Ramrod
1256 Boylston St., Boston (Fenway)
617-536-1950
Leather/levi cruise bar with two personalities. Upstairs, the Ramrod is a typical leather/levi bar, with pool

and a backroom dress code; downstairs, Machine features a large dance floor, pool tables and video games. The upstairs bar is older, more into leather; Machine draws a younger, fashion-conscious crowd. Open to 2 a.m.

Book Stores

Cuttyhunk Bookshop
540 Tremont Street (@ Clarendon), Boston (South End)
617.574.5000
Boston's oldest gblt bookshop (previously known as We Think the World of You) is a South End mainstay.
<http://www.wethinktheworldofyou.com/about.html>

Calamus Bookstore
92B South Street (South Station)
617-338-1931
Full-service gblt bookshop.
<http://www.calamusbooks.com/index.shtml>

Harvard Book Store
1256 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge (Harvard Square)
800-542-READ
Cambridge's independent bookshop since 1932, in the heart of Harvard Square.
<http://www.harvard.com/>

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
6 Plympton Street, Cambridge (Harvard Square)
(617) 547-4648
Established in 1927, the Grolier is a national treasure.
<http://www.grolierpoetrybookshop.com/>

Restaurants

The Prudential Center and Copley Place malls, adjacent to the Hynes Convention Center, contain numerous restaurants, including national and local favorites: Cheesecake Factory, Chili's, Movenpick, Legal Seafoods, Dick's Last Resort. The Back Bay neighborhood, where the Hynes, Pru and Copley Place are located, is one of Boston's signature shopping and dining areas, with restaurant choices ranging from Vinny T's of Boston to Sonsie to Fiagle a Bagel.

Addis Red Sea
544 Tremont Street (@ Clarendon), Voston (South End)
(617) 426-8727
Authentic Ethiopian cuisine, and a local favorite for 16 years.
<http://www.addisredsea.com/>

Buddha's Delight
3-5 Beach Street, Boston (Chinatown)
An all-vegetarian favorite in the bustling center of Chinatown.
617-451-2395

Cottonwood Restaurant and Cafe
222 Berkeley Street (@St. James), Boston (Back Bay)
(617) 247-2225
Southwestern food prepared with New England attitude! The GLBTRT social will be held at Cottonwood.
<http://www.cottonwoodboston.com/>

Hammersley's Bistro
553 Tremont Street (@ Clarendon), Boston (South End)
Contemporary bistro with a devoted local following.
617.423.2700
<http://www.hammersleysbistro.com/>

Legal Sea Foods
A ubiquitous Boston favorite, Legals (to the locals) is all over town. The Legals nearest the Hynes Convention Center is in the Prudential Center. (617) 266-6800
<http://www.legalseafoods.com/>

Locke-Ober
3 Winter Place, Boston (Downtown)
(617) 542.1340
A Boston institution for 150+ years.
<http://www.lockeober.com/>

GLBT Non-Fiction in Illinois Libraries: A Study

In 2000, for my final project towards earning a Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, I researched collection development policies/procedures pertaining to selection of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender [glbt]-related adult non-fiction in “medium-sized” Illinois public libraries. A literature review revealed that no such study of this breadth or emphasis had previously been undertaken.

While the data I amassed are now over four years old, I believe my findings are still relevant for librarians serving glbt patrons, in terms of both collections and ready access/awareness thereof.

I surveyed Illinois public libraries serving populations of between 25,000 and 100,000, excluding the Chicago metropolitan area. I chose facilities in locales lacking an adjacent larger city with other glbt resources upon which patrons could potentially draw.

I ultimately obtained information from 42 libraries regarding collections, selection practices, policies, access/outreach efforts, and intellectual freedom issues. The data were amassed via a ten-page questionnaire, in-depth follow-up telephone interviews with selected respondents, and supplementary searches of some libraries' online catalogs.

I formulated tables for each category's statistical findings, and discussed their implications in a detailed narrative. This summary will focus on collections, and “outreach”.

Collections

Almost 100% of all the libraries surveyed include glbt-related non-fiction in their collections. The best-represented subject areas were so-called “social issues,” glbt history, performing arts, and health, with finance ranking lowest. However, only 50% of the libraries subscribe to any glbt-oriented periodicals, with less than 3% carrying glbt newspapers.

That said, motivation is strong even if actions are sometimes lacking: close to 98% of respondents either “agree” or “strongly agree” that glbt-related non-fiction belongs in a public library collection.

Nevertheless, over 70% of the libraries surveyed stated that “sexual orientation” was *not* included in their official collection development policies as a potential factor for use in forming selection decisions—even though, in the “additional comments” sections of the survey, several respondents noted that their policies *did* mention such general phrases as “all parts of society served,” or “multiple viewpoints”.

In my telephone interviews, I suggested the possibility of directly adding glbt-related terms to collection development policies sometime in the future. I sensed underlying desire on some librarians' part to “avoid overlooking any one group” by using general, non-specific language in their policies.

While my “collections” data represented basically good news, I question whether these libraries risk the “out of sight, out of mind” syndrome—i.e., that a given group can and will be overlooked if it is not specifically acknowledged in an institution's official collection development policy. Just how disruptive would the words “gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender” *really* be, even if, as I suggested in my final narrative, homosexuality was used not so much to describe a special “group,” but perhaps instead as a “trait of authorship”?

Access/Outreach

My study's findings regarding patron access to glbt-related non-fiction material and, most particularly, a given library's efforts to make its community *aware* of the very existence of such collections were among the most disturbing to me personally. While the respondents' basic attitudes on this subject were not inherently negative, if we coin the cliché that actions speak louder than words, many Illinois public libraries, circa 2000, were cloaked in silence.

During my years as a central Illinois public librarian, I witnessed daily proof of the importance of booklists and pathfinders as marketing tools extraordinaire for our patrons. Among my own proudest accomplishments at that time were several annotated lists describing our glbt fiction and non-fiction holdings. My hopes were thus high that other libraries in the state might be following suit. Alas, no.

When asked if their libraries offered glbt-related bibliographies of any kind, almost 80% of the respondents admitted they did not. Several of my follow-up interviews revealed, however, that lists were routinely compiled on behalf of *other* interest groups and occasions, including Black History Month, Asian-American Awareness Month and, in one unforgettable instance, “Dental Month”!

While I do not for a moment begrudge all people their moment in the bibliographic sun, it became painfully obvious to me that the providing search tools containing even a *whisper* of homosexual content was something most librarians felt unable to do—though several I spoke to were totally in favor of the idea in theory. As I stated in my final narrative, “Considering that all but one of the libraries in this study do indeed include glbt-related non-fiction materials in their collections, such an omission is striking.”

In-house displays on glbt-related topics fared equally poorly. Close to 70% of responding libraries had never assembled such an exhibit, though, of course, displays abounded in numerous other areas. While many of the librarians were philosophically amenable to having, for example, a “GLBT Pride Month” book table of some sort, such real-world concerns as ongoing fundraising efforts and potential vandalism effectively acted as deterrents before the fact.

While these particular findings were greatly discouraging, I can only hope that, were I to redo the study today, the results would be more positive.

My project also examined the libraries' specific selection procedures (e.g., what review sources were used in locating glbt-related non-fiction), library staff awareness regarding glbt activity in their communities, and any censorship attempts their institu-



Luna: a Novel. By Julie Anne Peters. Little, Brown and Company, 2004. 248 p. \$16.95. hardback (ISBN 0-316-73369-5)

Nominated for the National Book Award, *Luna* is sure to make many best books lists this year. Liam and Regan are brother and sister. They love and protect one another. For years Regan has kept her brother's secret, but now things are changing. When she wakes up in the middle of the night she sees a beautiful girl at the foot of her bed. This is Luna, the person her brother is and is becoming. Now Luna wants to appear in public, in the shopping mall at first and then at school. How can Regan protect her? How can Regan sustain her own life and relationships with her friends? Literature takes us to places we have never been and gives us experiences we may never have, making us different people after the journey than before. Yes, there are slight flaws, but *Luna* is beautifully written and you will find you care very much what happens to Liam and Regan. While written for high school students this title is just too good to only have in the young adult collection

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



The Bermudez Triangle. By Maureen Johnson. Razorbill Penguin Young Readers Group, 2004. 357 pp. \$16.99 hardback (ISBN 159514-019-0)

Nina, Avery and Mel were inseparable teens. The three were the Bermudez Triangle. Then Nina went off to a summer program for high school leaders at Stanford. When she returned to start her senior year things were different. She had a boyfriend on the West Coast and things also seemed different with Avery and Mel. The three of them were no longer a triangle. Nina sees Avery helping Mel with her necklace, but then it hits her, they are kissing! Nina feels left out, "Why didn't they tell her?" Nina strives to bring balance back to the triangle. Things really fall apart when Avery decides that she may be a bi-sexual and begins dating a male classmate. Mel sure of her identity as a lesbian is devastated. The many middle school girls who can't wait for the next sequel to *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, *The Princess Diaries*, and *Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging* will be lining up to take this title out.

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



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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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!!