

GLBTF NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1997

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1

It is with great excitement that the GLBTF announces the resumed publication of the GLBTF Newsletter. Since we have been out of publication for several years, we are extending any existing subscriptions through Spring, 1998.

We will be making many changes and additions to the newsletter in the coming months. Our next issue will be issued in time for you to receive it before the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco in June, 1997. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please email me at: mzunt@phoenix.kent.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

-M. Callaghan Zunt
Newsletter Editor

Winners of GLBTF Books Awards announced

"Hood," written by Emma Donoghue and published by HarperCollins was named the winner of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award for literature at the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) held February 14-20 in Washington, D.C. The nonfiction award went to "**Geography of the Heart**," written by Fenton Johnson and published by Scribner.

The awards are sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force of the ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT). A committee of 14 public, academic and special librarians made the selections.

Set in Dublin, Ireland, "Hood" tells the story of a woman coming to terms with the sudden death

of her lover. "Geography of the Heart" is a moving memoir chronicling the author's relationship with his lover Larry Rose and Rose's eventual death from AIDS.

"In both of these books, committee members were struck by the realistic portrayals of grief, loss and survival. In this sense, the books resonated not only within the gay and lesbian experience, but also within universal human experience," said committee chair John C. DeSantis, assistant head of cataloging at Amherst College, Amherst, Mass."

Finalists for the literature award are "The Beauty of Men," by Andrew Holleran, published by Morrow; "Funny Boy," by Shyam Selvadurai, published by Morrow; "Toward Amnesia," by Sarah Van Arsdale, published by Riverhead Books; and "Bailey's Beads," by Terry Wolverton, published by Faber and Faber. Finalists for the nonfiction award are "Straight News: Gays, Lesbians and the News Media," by Edward Alwood, published by Columbia University Press; "Free Your Mind: The Book for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth — and Their Allies," edited by Ellen Bass and Kate Kaufman, published by HarperPerennial; "Heaven's Coast," by Mark Doty, published by HarperCollins; and "Cracks in the Iron Closet: Travels in Gay and Lesbian Russia," by David Tuller, published by Faber and Faber.

The awards will be presented at the second annual Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award breakfast on June 30 at the 1997 Annual Conference of the American Library Association in San Francisco.

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Mark E. Martin, Male Co-Chair

One of the great joys of being a part of the Task Force is being able to get together with friends in more or less exotic locales, to work together toward common goals, and to relax with each other over cocktails and dinner. It certainly helps ameliorate the damage from the less sterling events at these ALA functions! Washington was no exception to the rule.

The Task Force is beginning to flow smoothly into new areas of growth and responsibility. Sure, we are still learning how to do these new things effectively and efficiently, but we are doing them. Thanks to those many individuals who have worked on Task Force committees and events over the years: without your effort there would be not be a Task Force. Thanks also go out to all of you who are currently working to continue the efforts of those who have come before. With luck and a great deal of our own effort the GLBTF will live to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020!

There is still alot of work to be done though. Revision of the GLBTF bylaws is perhaps the most critical internal issue facing us. New requirements initiated by the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) for all task forces under their pervue have made our existing bylaws out of date. Areas requiring revision include the following: financial self-sufficiency for awards and accompanying events, creation of committees, technological innovations, and finally the natural divergence of word from deed over time.

External events have also had their affect on the GLBTF. The creation of the Diversity Summit by ALA is one of the main areas of our focus. The Diversity Summit is an effort to strengthen the position of all minority groups within the larger organizational structure of the

American Library Association, of which the GLBTF is a part. We are very fortunate to have Wendy Thomas, former GLBTF Co-Chair, on the Diversity Summit's bylaws creation committee to represent us.

Secondly, like Bonita, I recognize the gender and race imbalance in the GLBTF. I hope that we will be able to recruit (yes, recruit!) other women and minorities to join us. I also hope that we will be able to increase the overall diversity of the GLBTF, as well as strengthen our relationship with other minority task forces within ALA. I see our participation in the creation of the Diversity Summit as a first, small step in this direction.

If this column has an air of looking back, it does. My two year term as Co-Chair ends at the ALA Annual in San Francisco this summer. I am very fortunate to have been able to serve the Task Force these past few years and I look forward to continued involvement in the years to come. I believe that there is simply too much to do for any of use to remove our talents from the group. I urge all of you to step forward, to join us, volunteer to serve in whatever capacity is comfortable for you.

There is still a few months left in my tenure, so please contact me if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. My email address is: memartin@tcac.net.

--Mark E. Martin, Co-Chair



IN UPCOMING ISSUES....

ALL GOOD THINGS COST MONEY...GLBTF FUNDRAISING FOR ANNUAL BOOK AWARD EVENT AND FUTURE PROGRAMING

IS THERE LIFE AFTER PRODUCING YOUR FIRST NEWSLETTER? A NEWSLETTER EDITOR TELLS ALL!

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE "NEW" ELLEN!!!

-(well, maybe...)

Bonita Corliss, Female Co-Chair

The ALA Midwinter Conference was an adventure to me. I had my first taste of operating in my new role as Co-Chair of the GLBTF. I also attended my first Diversity Summit (more on that later). I got the flu and discovered that my hotel had been invaded by a heard of tennagers visiting Washington D.C. Now that I am back home and fully recovered, I have some thoughts on what I would like to work on during the next two years.

First and foremost. I will be actively looking for other women to become involved with the taskforce. The ratio of men to women is still heavily in favor of men - which is not bad, but it is not inclusive enough given our mission. I am hopeful that we will have a good opportunity in San Francisco to interest some more women in our work.

The bylaws are dates and need to be reviewed and updated. Two willing and able volunteers have offered to work on this project, but more are always welcome.

Fundraising is still very much center stage. ALA has mandated that all ALA Taskforce events must be self-supporting by the year 2000. Specifically, this means that the GLBTF Annual Book Award Event, and any other future events must become financially viable and self-supporting. Again, fundraising ideas and volunteers are needed for this work.

As I mentioned earlier, I did attend my first ALA Diversity Summit during Midwinter. The main purpose of the the meeting I attended was to review the proposed bylaws for this group, which intends to operated outside the established structure of ALA. The purpose of this group is to encourage, support, and mentor minority librarians within the library profession. At the meeting, I encouraged the use of the word "minorities" instead of "ethnic minorities" in the bylaws. I think that this work would be more accurate and inclusive. The final bylaws will be adopted at ALA Annual. I am pleased that Wendy Thomas, former GLBTF Co-Chair, is one of the members of the Diversity Summit's Bylaws Committee.

I have always felt good about being involved in the taskforce. Since 1992, I have met and worked with many wonderful people. I am doubly glad to be able to serve as your Co-Chair for the next two years. If you have any questions, problems, or suggestions please email me at: bcorliss@spl.lib.wa.us.

-Bonita Corliss, Female Co-Chair

About GLBTF Newsletter

GLBTF Newsletter (ISSN 1045-2893) is an official publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It appears quarterly in March, June, September and December. Subscriptions are \$5 per year in the U.S.; \$7 in Canada and Mexico; \$10 for other countries. Send Changes of Address to the Editorial Address.

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GLBTF WEBSITE !!!!

Check us out this spring on the ALA Website at:

<http://www.ala.org>

GLBTF MEETING SCHEDULE ALA ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO 1997

LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED

GLBTF PROGRAM PLANNING NEWS

Date/Time	Committee/Event
Saturday, June 28th 9:30am - 11:00am (Part of SRRT All Task Force Mtg.)	Steering I
2:00pm - 4:00pm	Book Award
6:00pm - 8:00pm (Main Library, San Francisco Public Library)	Social Event
Sunday, June 29th 9:30am - 11:00am	Planning
Monday, June 30th 8:00am - 10:30am	Book Awards Breakfast
11:00am - 12:30pm (No Kid'in Around: Womyn's Press in the New Millennium)	Annual Program
2:00pm - 4:00pm	Membership
8:00pm - 10:00pm	Read-Aloud Event
Tuesday, July 1st 8:30am - 11:00am	Steering II

Program Planning Committee Meeting Minutes and Update

The following paragraphs summarize the work of the GLBTF Program Planning Committee (PPC) during the **1997 Midwinter Conference in Washington D.C.** For the past two years, the PPC has been led by the tireless efforts of Michael Miller, Social Work Librarian at Columbia University. Michael's term as Chair of the PPC ends at the ALA 1997 Annual Conference in San Francisco.

1997 Program Update. Miller reported that the 1997 program has been settled as a look at Lesbian/Feminist Press issues and reported that in working closely with Mev Miller of the women's press library project, speakers have been contacted and confirmed. Miller also stated that the author **Susie Bright** been confirmed as one of the panelists.

Miller briefly reviewed the 1997 Midwinter planning accomplishments including thanks to Tanner Wray, Steve Kerchoff, and Howard Jaffe for efforts in establishing accommodations for both the GLBTF Read-Aloud and for Social Event during this conference.

Gail Defendorf made a surprise visit to the meeting to display a nearly finished parade banner which will be used in the San Francisco Pride Parade this summer. She will make arrangements to make sure that the banner gets where it needs to be for the June parade. (Incidentally - The Banner looks FABULOUS!)

Miller related the San Francisco Local Arrangement's Committee's (LAC) progress regarding ALA Annual 1997. The activities

CLIP AND SAVE ME!!!

include parade preparations, the social event booked at San Francisco Public Library (SFPL). LAC is also trying to entice "big" names to attend the social. LAC members are also working hard to raise local funding and donations for this event. LAC is also trying to collect national magazines/gay literature for distribution at the social. LAC is also trying to find venues other than the SFPL Main Branch to house the "Family Friendly" Exhibit while our conference is in town. LAC contact wants to offer tours of the Castro during ALA.

Miller announced that co-sponsors for the 1997 Annual Program will be contacted. Those included will be SRRT, the ACRL Women's Studies Section, and the SRRT/ Feminist Task Force. (It was subsequently learned that the SRRT, of which the GLBTF is a part, is an automatic co-sponsor and that the FTF will co-sponsor provided that our program does not run into a schedule conflict with their own programs.)

The PPC then discussed the program framework for the 1997 GLBTF annual program. The program will be entitled "**No Kid'in Around: Womyn's Press in the New Millennium.**" The program will immediately follow the GLBTF's Book Award Program on Monday, June 30, 1997 from 11:00am to 12:30pm. Panelists will discuss the trends and issues. Panelist include **Carol Seajay, Susie Bright, Jewelle Gomez, and Mev Miller, and publisher Bereano.**

Miller will follow up with official invitations to the speakers and keep both speakers and committee members informed of planning progress.

1998 Program Ideas. The group discussed possible program topics for the 1998 Annual Conference. Based upon Co-chair Mark Martin's ideas of diversity and serving g/l/b/t patrons, the PPC wanted to address librarianship in a "sensitivity training" type of manner. The program would focus on user needs to queer information for a range of patron populations.

Potential speakers discussed included represen-

tatives from groups like PFLAG, the Pink Panthers, Schools/Teachers, as well as a Children/Young Adult author, and a cataloger/indexer were discussed as possibilities. Possible authors discussed included Jacqueline Woodson and Michael Willhoite. Possible moderators discussed included the author, Will Manley.

A tentative title of "**Pink Information: How the Local Touch Impacts Patron Access,**" was given to the program. The title for this program strived to reflect the theme of "Libraries: Local Touch - Global Reach," developed by ALA President-elect, Barbara J. Ford.

Program ideas and plans will be further developed and solidified during the PPC meetings at ALA Annual.

Program Planning Chair Needed. Miller also announced **chair-ship vacancy as of June 1997**, since his two year appointment as Program Planning Chair will end. Any one interested in working in this capacity is encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in serving as Chair of the PPC or volunteering in any other capacity, please fill out and mail the form at the back of this newsletter or contact Michael Miller by phone at (212) 854-5159 or via email at: mjm83@columbia.edu.

Local Arrangements for ALA 1997 Annual in San Francisco. The GLBTF Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) is working diligently on several events to be held during the ALA 1997 Annual Conference. As noted in the schedule, the **GLBTF Social is set for Saturday, June 28th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the San Francisco Public Library's new Main Library.** We are currently looking for sponsors to help foot the bill for wine and other refreshments. If anyone knows a person or company willing to donate, please let us know! The SF LAC contact is Chet Mulawka. If you can volunteer or help with event donations contact Chet privately

at: (415) 591-7811. Bay area librarians are especially welcome to join the on-going Local Arrangements Committee in their work.

The members of the GLBTF along with other g/l/b/t librarians will also have a contingent marching in the SF Pride Parade. Along with the Pride festivities going on during the week, the Gay/Lesbian Film Festival is also on while ALA is in town! The LAC hopes to give us advance notice about the film festival, as well as other events, since tickets sell out quickly.

The GLBTF is very excited about these coming events. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Valerie Mead and **Steve Russo** were the guest editors of the Winter 1997 issue of "New Jersey Libraries," which was devoted to lesbian and gay issues. "New Jersey Libraries" is the official publication of the new Jersey Library Association and it is distributed to its 1,400 members.

Topics included in the periodical were: publications for gay and lesbian teens, gay and lesbian fiction, services to g/l/b/t library patrons, and how libraries can help teens who are discovering their homosexual nature.

Copies of the issue are available for \$4.00 from: New Jersey Library Association, P.O. Box 1534, Trenton, NJ 08607. For more information you can call Steve Russo at (908) 229-7477.

-Source S. Russo

FYI - How to Subscribe to GAY-LIBN

If you have an internet accessible email account, a good way to keep in touch with fellow G/L/B/T librarians is to subscribe to GAY-LIB, the electronic listserv dedicated to the issues and concerns of

G/L/B/T librarians. To Subscribe to GAY-LIBN send an email message to: LISTPROC@USC.EDU

The text of your note should only read: Subscribe Gay-Libn Your Full Name (i.e. SUBSCRIBE GAY-NET JAMIE SMITH).

-Source G. Klein, Willamette Univ.

G/L/B/T Workplace Listserv Announced

gibt-workplace is a new listserv focusing on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people in the workplace. It is a general discussion list on any topic which is in some way related to both GLBTs and the workplace, including being closeted, outed, and coming out; relations with co-workers and managers; managing, and activism to attain equitable treatment and benefits. This is the appropriate place to post news stories, action alerts, question, or general discussion issues. To subscribe, send an email to: Majordomo@QueerNet.ORG. The text of your note should only read: subscribe glibt-workplace your email address. Questions? Contact klyndon@queernet.org.

Canadian librarian **Norman G. Kester**, MLIS, has announced the pending publication of his work "**Liberating Minds: The Stories and Professional Lives of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Librarians and Their Advocates.**" McFarland & Company will release the work in June of 1997 (ISBN 0-7864-0363). This work promises to be a significant addition to the professional literature of librarianship. It will be reviewed in an upcoming issue of the GLBTF Newsletter.

-Source Gay-Libn 2/97

BOOK REVIEWS

Reviews are a regular feature of the *GLTF Newsletter*. If you would like to become a reviewer or to receive reviewer guidelines, contact the Reviews Editor.

Barbara R. Stevens
(see below)

Book reviews will return as a regular feature to the GLBTF Newsletter in future issues. If you are interested in reviewing works for us, please contact our Book Review editor and send her the information below.

Reviewers Needed

Have you ever found yourself taking issue with reviews of your favorite works? Do you enjoy knowing which of our issues are attracting the attention of the popular press? Have you haunted bookstores to spot the latest literary works with a gay, lesbian, bisexual themes? Are you interested in evaluating scholarly research which focuses on our community?

If your answer to any of the preceding questions is a resounding "Yes!" and you're not currently serving on the GLBTF Book Award committee, then we need you to consider serving as a reviewer for the GLBTF Newsletter book reviews section. Currently we have an urgent need for people to review poetry, literature, and scholarly works.

Reviewers may request the book review editor to obtain specific titles for review, or, may simply opt to receive works in a particular genre for review. Reviewers may also indicate how many books they wish to review at one time; although it is extremely rare for any single reviewer to have more than four works under review simultaneously.

All you need to do to become a reviewer is to provide the information requested on the form below and send it to:

Barb Stevens
1706 Birney Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701.

If you have questions to ask before you volunteer, call (715) 836-2522 or e-mail: stevenbr@uwec.edu.

Gay and Lesbian Task Force Newsletter Reviewer's Information

Name
Title

Library

Library Address

Mailing Address (if different than library address)

Office phone
Home phone
FAX Number

E-mail address(s)

Subject areas/types of works that I prefer to review:

Please indicate below any times of the year that your schedule makes it difficult for you to review books:



GLBTF By-Law Changes Proposed

GLBTF member Cal Gough proposes that we amend our By-Laws by adding the two new provisions to page four ("Special Committees and Projects"): "The Task Force will decline to authorize or endorse the alternatives available" and

"Any member of the Task Force undertaking or asked to participate in a commercial venture is welcome to publicly identify himself/herself as a Task Force member in connection with the venture, but the member will make it clear that his/her participation does not constitute the Task Force's authorization or endorsement of that publication, project, activity, or product."

The following briefly summarizes the background regarding these proposed GLBTF By-Law changes. Authors and publishers (among others) periodically ask the Task Force to "endorse" their book or promotional event. Cal hopes that this revision would provide guidance in responding promptly, rationally, and consistently to these requests. He is particularly concerned that the Task Force not lend its name to a publication that Task Force members have not read (or to promotional events for a book that has been commercially published) and that Task Force meeting time be devoted to Task Force business and not to discussing logistics surrounding requests for Task Force assistance in promoting outside ventures.

Other GLBTF members are encouraged to contact **Cal Gough** via email at:

gap003@sol1.solinet.net.

GLBTF MEETING SCHEDULE ALA ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO 1997

LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED

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9:30am - 11:00am	Steering I (Part of SRRT All Task Force Mtg.)
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2:00pm - 4:00pm	Membership
8:00pm - 10:00pm	Read-Aloud Event
Tuesday, July 1st	
8:30am - 11:00am	Steering II

1997 Book Awards Breakfast

The second annual GLBTF book Awards Breakfast will take place **Monday, June 30, 1997** at 8:30am in San Francisco during the ALA Annual Conference. This year the event will be a served sit-down breakfast, rather than a buffet. The breakfast is the GLBTF's primary fundraising event to ensure the continuation of our annual book award.

In addition to the presentation of the awards to this year's winners, **authors Fenton Johnson and Emma Donoghue**, we will feature guest speakers and prizes. Please make your reservations for this event early, as we are expecting this San Francisco event to sell out. Tickets are \$30 per person. Please remember that this is our primary fundraising event. Last year's Breakfast was an overwhelming success. See you there!

To purchase advance tickets, send \$30.00 per person by check or money order by June 1, 1997 made out to "ALA/SRRT/GLBTF" to:

Roland C. Hansen
Readers' Services Librarian
John M. Flaxman Library
37 South Wabash
Chicago IL 60603

Call for Nominations

Nominations for the 1998 Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award are now being accepted. The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award is presented to English-language works published in the year prior to the announcement date. All books published in December 1996 or the first eleven months of 1997 are eligible. The award is given in two categories: Literature and Nonfiction.

Nominations for the Book Award may be made by any individual not affiliated with the publisher of the book being nominated. Authors may not

nominate their own works. A short statement (30 to 50 words) describing why the book is being nominated must accompany the nomination. This nomination must be submitted to the Book Award Committee Chair by November 30, 1997 and be postmarked by this date or it can not be accepted. Nominations will be accepted by both regular and electronic mail, as well as by fax.

Nominations should be sent to Faye A. Chadwell, Chair-Elect ALA/SRRT/GLBTF Book Award Committee:

Faye A. Chadwell
Collection Development
Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1299
(503) 346-3485 Fax
email: chadwelf@oregon.uoregon.edu

Winners are announced during ALA's Midwinter Conference. The award, which consists of a commemorative plaque and a cash stipend, is given to the winning authors or editors at the GLBTF Book Award Breakfast held during ALA's

Volunteer with the GLBTF !!!

Join us! Two vacancies on the GLBTF Steering Committee will be filled at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, Summer 1997.

- * **GLBTF Male Co-Chair,**
- * **Program Planning Chair,**

-Both for two year terms, 1997-1999

Additionally, we are always looking for energetic committee members, too. Nominated candidates must be members of SRRT, and of course ALA. Please mail your nominations to the GLBTF at the ALA address on the back of this newsletter.

Attention GLBTF Members!
Is your *GLBTF Newsletter* Subscription Current?
Will You Be Moving Soon? Please Report Address Changes!

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

ATTENTION! All newsletter subscribers currently listed on the GLBTF subscriber list will be extended for a one year period (Spring 1997- Spring 1998). The GLBTF appreciates your support and hopes that this extension will help reestablish our relationship with our subscribers.

Please note that your payment of the \$10 annual SRRT/GLBTF membership fee does not include subscription to the *GLBTF Newsletter*. You must pay a separate \$5 subscription fee (\$7 for Canada and Mexico; \$10 for all other countries) to receive the *GLBTF Newsletter*.

Send a check or money order and this form to American Library Association, SRRT/GLBTF, Office of Library Outreach Services, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL, 60611.

Please enter/renew my subscription. Enclosed is a check for \$5, payable to ALA/SRRT/GLBTF for a one-year subscription.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

GLBTF Newsletter
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