

GLBTF NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED ROUND TABLE OF THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the Editor:

As of June 30, 1999 the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force was **promoted to round table status. We are now the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association (GLBT-RT)**. Through the hard work of our committee members and volunteers we have improved our organizational standing with ALA. Michael Miller has graciously agreed to be the chair of the Ad hoc Transition Team. His article further in this issue describes our recent accomplishments and scopes out our future goals.

American Libraries (August 1999, p82-83) covered our annual program "**Daring to Save Our History; Gay and Lesbian Archives.**" Our esteemed elder (and co-founder of the GLBTF) Barbara Gittings served as moderator for this panel discussion. Panelists included the following speakers: Jim Van Buskirk, director of the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center of the San Francisco Public Library, Lucinda Zoe of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, Jim Carmichael of the University of North Carolina/ Greensboro Department of Library and Information Studies, and Rob Ridinger, Information Resources Manager at Northern Illinois University.

Our Elections Committee is hard at work identifying and recruiting possible candidates for ALA Council.

Finally, Kenn Bicknell of our External Relations Committee, Jim Van Buskirk, and I have submitted a proposal to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) Creating Change 1999 Conference in Oakland, CA in November. We hope to conduct an information session regarding the work of the GLBT-RT and talk about combating censorship issues.

As always, we thank you for your support. If you have questions or concerns, please email me at: cal.zunt@cpl.org or write me via the address noted inside.

-M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
Newsletter Editor

Annual GLBTF Annual Book Awards

Breakfast a Success

The 4th annual Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award Breakfast was held at Le Meridien Hotel during this year's New Orleans annual meeting. A capacity crowd, including outgoing, incoming and future ALA Presidents Ann Symons, Sarah Ann Long, and Nancy Kranich respectively, enjoyed a variety of speakers and presentations.

This year we honored **Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*** (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 1998) in the literature category and **Sarah Schulman's *Stagestruck: Theater, AIDS and the Marketing of Gay America for nonfiction***. Other finalists for the two awards were Literature: **Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel, eds., *Bending the Landscape*** (Overlook); **Carol Guess, *Switch*** (Calyx); Mark Merlis, ***An Arrow's Flight*** (St. Martin's); and **Pamela Sneed, *Imagine Being More Afraid of Freedom than Slavery*** (Henry Holt). Non-fiction finalists were **Pat Griffin, *Strong Women, Deep Closets*** (Human Kinetics); **John Loughery, *The Other Side of Silence*** (Henry Holt); **Joan Nestle, *A Fragile Union*** (Cleis); and **Barbara Smith, *The Truth that Never Hurts*** (Rutgers University Press).

Schulman was present to receive her award, as well as a plaque for her earlier citation for ***After Delores***. She is the only writer to have been honored in both award categories. In her talk, Schulman offered insightful comments on the under-represented attention given to lesbian writers in mainstream American writing and publishing, citing, for example, wildly disparate figures regarding grants given to gay male writers vs. lesbians.

Unable to attend because of a teaching commitment in Provincetown, Cunningham forwarded thank-you remarks as well as recommending a section of his novel to be read (by Book Award Committee member Daniel Barden).

(Con't on page 7)

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Roland Hansen, Male Co-Chair

As most of you know, the "Task Force" has now become a "Round Table". The Transition Team was well prepared for a thorough grilling by Council, but as it turned out, all went fairly smoothly.

I want to extend my congratulations to all those people who worked on this project. An extra thanks (and a hug) to Michael Miller, immediate past-co-chair for spearheading the process. After the ALA Annual conference, the Steering Committee created an Ad Hoc Transition Committee. Michael Miller is chairing this committee and will work closely with ALA HQ in facilitating our "coming out" as a Round Table.

And speaking of committees, we need some committee members for vacancies on the Program Planning Committee and the Book Award Breakfast Planning Committee. These are urgent needs. The Program for 2000 Annual Conference is pretty much in place; there is not a lot of work involved. We need to plan a 2001 Program Proposal for Midwinter, which will take a bit more effort.

The 30th Anniversary Gala is just beginning to take shape (Annual Conference 2000, Chicago) and needs some fleshing out. The Book Awards presentation and the Anniversary will be combined in 2000. The Breakfast Planning Committee will need to begin planning for Annual 2001. It sounds more complicated than it is. Please contact me directly and we can discuss the details.

Some of you may recognize my name as being a previous co-chair of the GLBTF. I was elected again (by acclamation) in New Orleans. I've been active with the task force since 1981, or so, and I'm glad to serve again as Male Co-Chair of the Round Table.

I welcome any and all suggestions, input, comments, etc. that any of you have. There will be a lot to do, and a lot to discuss during the transition, and we need members to get involved. There are many things to do that don't require a lot of time, and don't require attendance at Midwinter.

Lots of work gets done electronically, and sometimes even by telephone - how old-fashioned!! So please keep in touch and get involved!!

Roland C. Hansen Readers' Services Librarian
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
37 S. Wabash Chicago IL 60603
312.899.5096 (w) 312.899.1851 (fax) 773.275.1635 (h)
email: rhanse@artic.edu

From Shari Clifton, Female Co-Chair

Welcome to the GLBTRT! I feel very privileged to have been able to attend the Council III meeting at the ALA Conference in New Orleans. As Roland has mentioned in his column the Transition Team, led by outgoing co-chair Michael Miller, was prepared for questions regarding the task force's request to move to round table status. There were none and the recommendation of the Committee on Organization that "Council approve the formation of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table" was approved unanimously without further discussion. What a wonderful moment in our history!

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 \$10 per year in the U.S.; \$12 in Canada and Mexico; \$15 for other countries. Send change of address to the editorial address.

Subscription Address: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force, OLOS, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Letters to the editor, correspondence to the above address care of:

GLBTF Newsletter Editor -
M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
or via email at: cal.zunt@cpl.org

I would like to welcome Roland as the new male co-chair and express my appreciation for his willingness to serve in this capacity once again. He brings such a wealth of experience to this position (and at such a young age!), experience I know the round table will benefit from. Thanks too, go to Michael Miller for continuing his service as Chair of the Ad Hoc Transition Committee; I can't think of a more capable individual to fulfill this vital role.

Below is a brief recap of some 1999 Annual Conference activities and decisions:

* Nick Roselli will replace David Van Hoy as the round table's male Diversity Council representative.

* Please help welcome Rick Block, incoming chair of Program Planning, and Michell Hackwelder as the new chair of the Breakfast Planning Committee.

There is always room for additional members on these committees so let either Roland or myself know if you're interested.

* A hearty thanks to all of the Breakfast Planning Committee members for another successful, moving event; Ellen Bosman, Chair, Faye Chadwell, John DeSantis, Joseph Eagan, Roland Hansen, Nick Rosselli, and Jules Tate.

Three ALA presidents were in attendance: Ann Symons, 1998-99 President said a few words of welcome; Sarah Long, 1999-2000 President and President-Elect Nancy Kranich were also able to join us for at least part of the event.

* The social was moved out of the traditional Saturday night slot to Sunday, a move which facilitated setup for the Book Awards Breakfast and provided a good crowd for the Read Aloud. This success has prompted us to change traditions and adopt Sunday night for the Social from 6:00 to 8:00 pm followed by the Read Aloud and then setup for the Breakfast. As Roland has mentioned the Book Awards Breakfast will not take place in Chicago because of the 30th anniversary gala, however, it isn't too soon to begin making plans for 2001.

* Congratulations should be extended to chair Chet Mulawka and all members of the Program Planning Committee who put together **this year's conference program, Daring to Save Our History: Gay and Lesbian Archives**. I received a wonderful note from Barbara Gittings who moderated the panel thanking us for including her in the program. Barbara's partner, Kay, also issued a challenge. She has developed a wonderful series of posters chronicling the first fifteen years of the task force, a history which Barbara and Kay helped create.

We need someone who is willing to step forward and chronicle the next fifteen years including our move to round table status. I think Kay would be an excellent source of information about where to start; surely we have some archivists or "archivists at heart" who would be interested in this project.

* The move to round table status will facilitate our ability to seek grant funding for programs and projects as well as aid us in coordinating with GLBT groups in other professional organizations. Let either myself or Roland know if you have special expertise or if you have an interest in becoming involved in these sorts of activities.

* Finally, a need that the GLBTRT must meet and meet soon is the development of bibliographies or pathfinders that detail GLBT resources suitable for children and young adults. With parenthood quickly approaching for my partner and myself these are projects near and dear to our hearts. If you have suggestions for the development of these resources or are in the process of developing them yourself please let me know.

Let me hear from you!

Shari Clifton
Assistant Professor / Head, Reference &
Instructional Services
University of Oklahoma Health
Sciences Center Library
Phone: (405) 271-2670 - Fax: (405) 271-3297
email: shari-clifton@ouhsc.edu

Round Table Update

ROUND TABLE!!! When did that happen!?

Several parties have expressed an interest in an anecdotal recounting of the processes leading to the growth of the GLBTF into the ALA / Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Round Table. As with most processes in this volunteer organization, the road was long. Fortunately, that is where the difficulty stopped! Here's how I experienced it...

As attendees at many of the GLBTF functions have heard the co-chairs chant, several issues have pressed us over recent history. The TF has had difficulty comprehending the financial processes of the ALA home accounting offices, the book awards have expanded into a "profit-making" breakfast (though after all ALA, expenses even that is slim), and also had to be self-supporting by the year 2000.

We've also wanted to attract substantial funds for an endowment for book awards as well as other programming and support purposes yet the task forces within ALA can't "legally" perform fundraising. We ran into ideological issues about GLBTF inclusion in the ALA's Diversity Council of which we are now a part. Finally, ALA has proposed to shift its planning methods thus creating a more selective and perhaps competitive programming environment. Hence, the GLBTF becomes at risk of losing control over our regular annual programming opportunities.

After much discussion at GLBTF Steering Committee meetings and Membership meetings over the past few years, the group decided that moving up within the organization would help us to overcome some of the technical obstacles to the survival of all that we do. We also discussed the need for the TF to become a more central resource within the parent organization as it struggles with Internet filtering, diversity, and intellectual freedom issues, all of which contain strong GLBT themes.

About a year and a half ago, the GLBTF consulted several other Round Tables that had originally been SRRT task forces on what was involved with the process and how we could petition successfully.

From after that time discussions of the TF explored the pros and cons of round table status, including the topic of breaching the "safety" of the anonymous place within the organization that the GLBTF has provided for those who did not want to be "out."

The major ideas that seemed to surface were:

- 1) to be more "out" was equated to being a better resource,
- 2) with good and independent financial tracking, fiscal opportunities and accounting could lend better self-support, and
- 3) that a more prominent presence within the parent organization should lend to greater self-determination and expanded leadership activities.

In direct and perhaps sometimes indirect preparation for the change we were seeking, the GLBTF instituted several landmark changes over the past few years.

The Diversity Council participation and the Book Award Breakfast were mentioned above. The clearinghouse functions of the past have been absorbed by the GLBTF Web site and the GLBTF established several committee discussion lists to improve communication and productivity. The GLBTF also expanded and solidified its structure by growing new units. The External Relations, the Breakfast Planning, and the Elections committees were all created and adopted into existence with the revision, expansion, and adoption of the GLBTF bylaws (6/99).

As those developments were under way, the Steering Committee elected to form an ad-hoc committee for Round Table Status. I believe that was at Annual in Washington D.C. (1998). As the committee started, they approached the SRRT Action Council to announce GLBTF intentions and to gain the blessing of our parent group. After discussions which mainly centered upon the diminishing effects that our separation might inflict upon SRRT and an eloquent reminder by Sandy Berman of the history of the incubatory nature of SRRT, we were given the blessing and asked to keep SRRT updated on progress.

The ad-hoc committee then designed the petition prior to the social at Midwinter in Philadelphia (2/99) which many people signed at that event. It was also mounted on the GLBTF www pages. Unfortunately, due to a wording technicality, the petition had to be redesigned and signatures recollected at Annual in New Orleans (6/99). This effort was very successful and yielded upwards of 200 signatures in support of our move to Round Table status. Among others, the signatures of Ann Symons, Nancy Kranich, and Barbara Gittings (dare anyone say it was invalid!) were scrawled onto our lists.

The ad hoc committee chose to prepare a packet of information that was presented to ALA Council's Committee on Organization and to our liaison office, OLOS (Satie Orange, Director). They also sent a similar heads-up for support to selected "friendly" members of ALA Council. The packet contained information about programs, bibliographies, book awards, and our organizational chart and bylaws among other items, all of which are accessible via our www pages.

The co-chairs and other GLBTF members were present at the Committee on Organization's final meeting during the ALA Annual Conference (June 29, 1999 2:00pm M.E. Convention Center Rm. 232 - NOLA) to present and defend the petition for round table status.

After discussions and questions about how our expanded status and activities would enhance the organization, how our move would effect SRRT survival, and compliments on our work and presentation, the Committee on Organization of the ALA Council voted to recommend our petition for adoption by Council. Again the co-chairs and other GLBTF members were present at the ALA Council's final meeting during the ALA Annual Conference (June 30, 1999 8:30 am M.E. Convention Center Ballroom II - NOLA).

After intense discussion at our GLBTF Steering Committee II the previous day and good vibes from the previous vote in our favor, things looked good (but honestly, I was still a wreck!). After watching the ensuing magic of the process of Council and how it addressed various issues such as the budget and programming initiatives, the Committee on Organization presented its recommendation to Council.

Jules Tate, Coordinator for the Annual Social at New Orleans relayed the following message via the GLBTF discussion list later that day... "At 11:04 AM CDT on Wednesday, June 30, 1999, having received an recommendation from its Committee on Organization (COO), ALA Council voted unanimously without any objections to create the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table."

This, and the future, is history!!!

Michael J. Miller,
Proud member of the ALA GLBTRT

P.S. I've been elected as Coordinator of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Round Table Transition of the ALA GLBTRT.

If you'd like to help in this effort. Fill out a volunteer form on our www site http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html and list the committee name on it! We have plenty to do! Or feel free to contact me below:

Michael J. Miller, MLS, MS
Member, ALA/GLBT-RT
Manager, Reference and Electronic Resources
Brooklyn Public Library
Library Development Office
Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238
(718) 230-2715; FAX (718)230-6702

Book Award Breakfast

Madcap Librarians Brave New Orleans Mugginess

One hundred and fifty-eight librarians awoke early on the morning of June 28 and braved the muggy New Orleans weather to attend the Fourth Annual Book Awards Program and Breakfast. They were rewarded with breakfast at the attractive, air-conditioned Le Meridien Hotel, and the opportunity to hear ALA President Ann Symons and several wonderful speakers.

President Symons' opening remarks commended the award winners, recounted her experience as a librarian dealing with gay and lesbian youth, and noted the importance of honoring G/L/B/T literature. Also present were ALA Presidents-Elect Sarah Long and Nancy Kranich.

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award for non-fiction literature was awarded to Sarah Schulman, author of **Stagestruck: Theatre, AIDS, and the Marketing of Gay America**. Book Award Chair Faye Chadwell called Schulman's work "a provocative statement about the commodification of gay and lesbian culture," and Ms. Schulman's acceptance speech echoed these concerns. Ms. Schulman invited audience comment, and a lively discussion ensued. Ms. Schulman's was also recognized as the first two time winner of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award; **After Delores** was the fiction winner in 1989.

In the literature category, Michael Cunningham was honored for **The Hours**, which subsequently won a Pulitzer Prize. Although Mr. Cunningham was unable to attend the Program, he communicated his appreciation via letter, which was read by Book Award Committee member Daniel Barden. Daniel also read a selection from **The Hours** at Mr. Cunningham's request.

Mystery writer Mrs. Antonia Fennelly Catoire and editor Kyle Scafide added local color to the event. Mrs. Catoire, pen name Tony Fennelly, entertained the audience with humorous anecdotes regarding how a heterosexual female writer composes mysteries featuring a gay male detective.

Particularly amusing were the anecdotes regarding her book **The Glory Hole Murders**.

Kyle Scafide, former editor and publisher of New Orleans' gay/lesbian newspaper, continued to engage the audience. Drawing a parallel between the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, Mr. Scafide asked us to imagine a world without librarians, a world in which gay/lesbian works were neither collected nor accessible. He reminded the audience of our professional contribution, and encouraged the group to continue making information freely available to all individuals.

In addition to the wonderful presentations, attendees who did not evaporate from the heat received 2-3 free books, due to generous donations from publishers and individuals. The books which were given to those librarians who subsequently evaporated will be available next year!

Speaking of next year, mark July 10, 2000 on your calendar! The Awards Program will be a combined Gala to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the oldest Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered professional organization in the country, as well as the Task Force's ascendancy to a Round Table!

The event will be held in the beautiful Chicago Cultural Center, formerly the Chicago Public Library, and speakers may include Lambda award-winning author Nancy Garden and Congressman Tammy Baldwin.

Your attendance at this historic event is strongly encouraged, but your assistance is desperately needed! If you can help, please contact me at: ebosman@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu or submit a volunteer form from the web: <http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/glbtfvolunteer.html>

Many thanks to the Breakfast Planning Committee: Faye Chadwell, John DeSantis, Joseph Eagen, Nicholas Rosselli, Roland Hansen, and Teresa Burgin. Thanks also to all those who helped organize the book donations the evening before the breakfast.

Ellen Bosman, Chair
1999 Book Awards Breakfast Program

PROGRAM PLANNING

"Daring to Save our History" (and Herstory) a Success

Another Program Committee year has come and gone. I need to thank those who have made our programs and social a success in New Orleans.

* To Jules Tate and PFLAG for organizing another wildly successful social.

* To Mike Poma and Ethel-Ruth Magal for smuggling the social food supplies down from Wendy Thomas' hotel room.

* To Mark Martin for smuggling the food up to Wendy's in the first place.

* To Wendy Thomas for not eating or drinking any of the party food while it was stored in her room.

* To Barbara Gittings, for moderating a wonderful program on Gay and Lesbian Archives.

* To our panelists, Lucinda Zoe, Jim Van Buskirk, Jim Carmichael and Rob Ridinger for making our program a success.

* To our 125 program audience members.

* To Kay Lahusen, the charming partner of Barbara Gittings who foraged for leftover banquet food elsewhere in the hotel for committee members left tidying up after the program - the brownies were especially delicious!

* To the wonderful readers who read moving and fun passages from their favorites books and their own writings at our annual Read Aloud event.

* To Michael Miller and Shari Clifton who had to answer many a hysterical email from me while planning this years events. To Cal Zunt for reminding me to write this article!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Chet Mulawka
Program Planning Chair, 1999.
mulawkac@pls.lib.ca.us

Celebrate the GLBT-RT's 30th Anniversary in Chicago 2000

The 30th Anniversary Program Planning Committee needs your efforts! During the ALA Annual Conference in 2000 in Chicago, the GLBTF will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. Save the date of Saturday,

If you can volunteer some of your time and energy, contact Roland Hansen at: 312.899.5096 (w)
312.899.1851 (fax) 773.275.1635 (h) email:
rhansen@artic.edu

Book Award Breakfast (Con't from Page 1)

Please see Ellen Bosman's article in this issue regarding further details of the breakfast and of our other guests.

Plans are well underway for next year's millenium event in Chicago, a one-time combined dinner gala celebrating our entire Round Table.

-Submitted by David Garnes

Address for GLBT-RTWEBSITE

We have a new website address. You can now reach the GLBT-RT at:

[http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/
ala_hp.html](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)

Election Committee

The newly established GLBTRT Elections Committee is looking for nominees for female co-chair and secretary. If you would like to run for either position, or would like to recommend someone for either opening, please contact me by November 15th. The Committee will announce the names of candidates at Midwinter.

We are also looking for RT-friendly candidates who are running for ALA Council. We will work to publicize pro-RT candidates in the coming months. Please contact:

Steve Russo
Coordinator
Elections Committee
phone: 603-432-6140
email: stevrus@aol.com



Book Award Committee

Call for Book Nominations

We are accepting nominations for the year 2000 American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award, sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table.

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award is presented to English-language works published in the year prior to the announcement date. Since Isabel Miller's *Patience and Sarah* received the first award in 1971, a total of 42 books have been honored for "exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual experience."

The committee that surveys these multitudes of lesbian, gay and bisexual publications is made up of equal numbers of men and women from various types of libraries across the United States. Ultimately the committee reviews the nominees and selects five finalists each in the categories of non-fiction and literature (novel, short story, poetry and drama). Two award books are then chosen from among these finalists. For next year's award, all books published in December 1998 or the first 11 months of 1999 are eligible.

The award, which consists of a commemorative plaque and a cash stipend, will be announced not later than February 2000 and presented to the winning authors at the summer American Library Association Annual Conference.

Nominations for the Book Award may be made by any individual not affiliated with the publisher or the author 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 should accompany the nomination, which must be submitted to Committee Chair David Garnes by November 30, 1999.

Mail must be postmarked by the nomination deadline. Nominations will be accepted by regular and electronic mail, as well as through facsimile transmission (FAX).

Nominations may be sent to:

David Garnes
Homer Babbidge Library
Box U-5RIS
University of Connecticut
Storrs CT 06269

email: dgarnes@lib.uconn.edu
Fax: 860-486-6100

BOOK REVIEWS

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: stevenbr@uwec.edu

The GLBTF is looking for book reviewers. If you are interested, please contact Barb Stevens at the information above.

Completely Queer: the Gay and Lesbian Encyclopedia. By Steve Hogan and Lee Hudson. Henry Holt and Co., 1998. (ISBN 0-8050-631-6; paper) \$25.00.

No public or academic library collection is complete without *Completely Queer* in its collection. No other single resource contains as much historical and literary information of interest to the GLBT community. Whether you want to know the birth name of writers who have written under various pseudonyms, the winners of literary awards, the history of various movements within the queer community, a listing of gay detective novels, or a myriad of other information, this is an excellent source. Of particular interest is the information on the founding of the ALA/SRRT Task Force on Liberation, its evolution to GLBTF, and the listing of the book award recipients. Not only does *Completely Queer* serve as a ready-reference with balanced coverage of both gay and lesbian topics, it makes fascinating reading for all.

Reviewed by Barbara Stevens
Asst. to the Chancellor for Affirmative Action
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Phone: 715-836-2522 FAX: 715-836-2902



Nestle, Joan. *A Fragile Union: New and Selected Writings*. Cleis Press, 1998. ISBN: 1-57344-040-X. \$14.95

"Now I sit, as the night grows later, in a room in the city trying to put up words to stand against the flood of knowledge and memory, words to hold at bay the pain of a failing body, words that commemorate the persistent need to touch, to discover, to survive the loss of assured beauty."

--Joan Nestle, *The Ridge Runners*

In *A Fragile Union* Joan Nestle's new collection of essays, narratives and short stories is a stirring testament to her lifelong activism, to her ongoing commitment to the lesbian community as chronicler and champion of lesbian life and ways of relating. Her credentials as preeminent lesbian historian include being an "out" lesbian activist in pre-Stonewall America, co-founding the Lesbian Herstory archives in 1973, educator, author and editor of award-winning works like *A Restricted Country* (Firebrand, 1987) and *The Persistent Desire: A Femme-Butch Reader* (Alyson, 1992).

The book is grouped into three sections: I. Letter to My Community, II. The Politics of Thinking, and III. Our Gift of Touch. Together, the sections work to present the themes of lesbian sexuality and politics, butch-femme relationships, the importance of preserving lesbian and gay history, and the love between lesbians and gay men. Nestle calls her writings "offerings", that is-"pieces of understanding or of questions...as fragile as the body that lived them, my body, like yours." Some of the most intense and vibrant writing in the book deals with her journey as a woman living with colon cancer and her "last CR group", a Cancer Care support group. Beautiful writing and an insistent honesty mark all of Nestle's writing.

A Fragile Union is an important book from a major lesbian author and is highly recommended for public and academic libraries. While some of the pieces included have been previously published in other books and periodicals, most have been newly revised for this collection. An extensive bibliography of Nestle's work is included.

Reviewed by: Kathy Anderson, MLS
Principal Reference Librarian,
Atlantic County (NJ) Library System

Clendinen, Dudley and Nagourney, Adam. *Out for Good: the Struggle to Build a Gay Rights Movement in America*. Simon & Schuster, 1999. ISBN: 0-684-81091-3.

An alternate subtitle for Clendinen and Nagourney's book *Out for Good* could have been "the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in the American Gay Rights Movement from 1969 through 1988." Beginning with the police raid at the Stonewall Inn in 1969, the book follows the beginnings of the fledgling gay rights movement in several major American cities: New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New Orleans, and San Francisco through the year 1988.

The strength of this work lies in its balanced reporting, immense readability, and its superior research. The primary drawback to this book is that it reads like volume two of a three-volume work. One wishes that the authors had broadened the timetable of this work to include the earlier and later eras of our history.

An admitted newspaper and local politics junkie, I loved this book despite its flaws. The intimacy of the writing and insight into the heroes and "demons" of the age were fascinating. Unlike many histories of its type, the language and tone were not overly academic, nor were individual profiles trite.

Further, the timeliness of this work could not be better. The organizational and personality battles currently raging around the controversial Millennium March scheduled for next year in Washington DC echo throughout these pages.

Its authors are award-winning journalists for the New York Times. They have brought their keen sense of observation, gift of storytelling, and superior interviewing skills to elaborate an era of Gay American history. Worth noting, too, are the outstanding source notes which will undoubtedly be referred to by historians and those interested in the Gay Rights Movement for years to come. Appropriate for larger public libraries and academic libraries.

Reviewed by: Cal Zunt, MLS
Branch Manager
Carnegie West Branch
Cleveland Public Library

Of Interest...

In the June 15, 1999 issue of Library Journal, there is an article (p.55) entitled, **“Out on the Shelves? Not Really”** by **Patricia Loverich and Darrah Degnan**, two librarians at the Durham NC County Library.

The two authors checked 33 books that were finalists for the Book Award against the holdings of 136 public libraries serving 50,000 or more. 76 libraries serving 250,000+ had none of the titles! Three libraries serving over a million people only had 3 of the books.

They ascribe the lack of these titles in many libraries in part to the fact that these books often are not reviewed; but they also strongly state that they feel librarians are consciously not selecting GLBT titles.

They go on to make a strong statement about libraries needing to serve all their clientele. A good article!

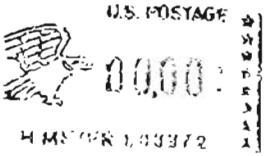
Submitted by Rob Ridinger

Volunteer with the GLBFT !!!

Join us! We are always looking for energetic **committee members**. Interested candidates must be members of SRRT, and of course, ALA. Please mail/email your nominations to the GLBTF at the ALA address on the back of this newsletter, or attend our meetings during conference and see if you would like to volunteer. **We look forward to working with you!**



REGULATED
FIRST CLASS



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

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

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 \$10 subscription fee (\$12 for Canada and Mexico; \$15 for all other countries) to receive the *GLBTF Newsletter*.

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

The GLBTF Newsletter Committee maintains the subscriber address list. It is confidential and not release to ALA. Subscription questions should be forwarded to the newsletter editor.

Please enter/renew my subscription to the GLBTF Newsletter! Enclosed is a check payable to ALA/SRRT/GLBTF for a one-year subscription.

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email address: _____

Yes! I would be interested in volunteering for the GLBTF. Please contact me at: _____

GLBTF Newsletter
M.Callaghan Zunt, Editor
c/o ALA / GLBT-RT
OLOS
50 East Huron St.
Chicago IL 60611

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS

