

# GLBTRT NEWSLETTER

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

## From the Editor:

Events and programs for ALA Annual are being finalized. Late breaking news: The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center in San Francisco is planning to hold our GLBTRT reception during the ALA conference to honor **Barbara Gittings'** contribution to the library field. It is tentatively scheduled for Sunday June 17, 6-8 p.m. at the Hormel Center.

Barbara was also recently honored with the opening of the **Barbara Gittings Lesbian/Gay Collection** at the Independence Branch Library of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The collection features over 1,500 items. For more information go online to: <http://www.library.phila.gov>.

ALA Presidential Candidate, Mitch Freedman was officially endorsed by the GLBTRT during Mid-winter. Mitch Freedman is long time advocate of both progressive causes and GLBT rights. He made a point to come in person to speak to our Round Table's Steering Committee. He was the only candidate, to date, to present his qualifications to the group and listen to our concerns.

-M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt  
Newsletter Editor

## Program Planning

A DAY FULL OF GLBTRT PROGRAMS AT ANNUAL...MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On Monday, June 18th 2001 we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Book Awards at our annual author breakfast. Immediately following this event are two programs you won't want to miss.

First, we will be hosting a special **Family Storytime Read-Aloud program**. Ceci Chapple is busy gathering storytellers to create a program celebrating ourselves as family, in all of its facets. From 2pm to 4pm, we will be hosting a program called "We Are Family". This program will explore the dynamics of the GLBT family and how we as librarians can meet the needs of this vibrant community which often goes unnoticed. ALA Past-President Ann Symons will be our moderator for this event and stimulate our panelists to offer a dynamic discussion of the topic.

The panelists are: **Francis Ann Day**, editor of "Lesbian and Gay Voices", **Robert-Jay Green, Ph.D**, Director of the Alternative Family Institute **San Francisco/Oakland**, and **Bill Vratsidis Adult Services Librarian, Totonto Public Library**. A member of PFLAG/San Francisco will also be on the panel. Other than on Monday the 18th, we are also planning a visit to the GLBT Historical Society and a Walking Tour in SF sponsored by Harper Collins. Preliminary plans have the walking tour end at our social.

**Bob Jaquay**  
Breakfast Planning Committee Chair  
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## Treasure's Update

Challenge Grant: Received \$1100 in donations for GLBTRT on \$2000 challenge pledge. Donor was disappointed that the amount was not met. Book Award pledges: Amount pledged \$12,750 from four sources. Need to get a minimum of \$40,000 to start ALA endowment fund.

Fund Raising: have a lot of ideas. Need help in sorting through and making plans a reality. Active membership on fund raising committee needed.

Membership: 307, as of November, 2000. Balance of GLBTRT account at the start of the new fiscal year: \$5,323. Advertising revenue from the Gala event book enabled us to get some money in our account and clear off the debt. At this time, we are able to cover our bills. Will report new balance when we get the current finance report at Annual.

Procedures: Draft procedures sent to all committee chairs whose committee involves expenses or revenue. Chairs must review and make corrections. The procedures will be followed including the timeline. Will be writing other procedures, as needed.

Chair Term: my term ends at Annual in SF. Will be running again for second term. Still much to be done to ensure smooth operation.

I remain yours in black ink,

**Norman Eriksen**  
Treasurer  
[n.eriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org](mailto:n.eriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org)

## From the Co-Chairs

### Faye Chadwell, Female Co-Chair

Greetings to all GLBT Round Table members and supporters: Midwinter in DC afforded us an opportunity to discuss many important issues, strategize about future programs face to face, finalize our budget, and select and announce the winners of the 2001 GLBTRT Book Awards. We also managed to enjoy a few relaxing hours at Sheridan's Restaurant, Saloon and Dance Hall. With the bustle of Midwinter behind us, the RT remains busy planning activities for the annual conference in San Francisco where we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Book Award.

**The Book Award Breakfast will honor this year's winners, Sarah Waters' *Affinity* (Riverhead/Penguin Plenum) and William N. Eskridge's *Gaylaw: Challenging the Apartheid of the Closet* (Harvard University Press). Dorothy Allison, author of *Bastard Out of Carolina*, will be one of the featured speakers.**

We are also fine-tuning plans for this year's ALA program entitled, "We Are Family," and our customary entertaining social hour, as well as a walking tour of queer sights in San Francisco. At the annual membership meeting we will be selecting a name (or names) for the Book Award itself and choosing a new, and viable designation for this RT. No matter how you slice it, GLBTRT is not an easy acronym.

As co-chairs, we have our work cut out for us—attending even more meetings than usual at ALA, coordinating and guiding the RT steering committee meetings, acting as spokespersons and liaisons, and answering questions. Another important official duty we have, according to our bylaws, is to appoint coordinators of standing and special committees. To do this we need your assistance.

As is true in many professional organizations, a core group of people regularly dedicates itself to keep the group viable. The GLBTRT is no different. We are grateful for the long devotion of many, yet we still require additional capable and willing individuals. We need colleagues to chair several committees and coordinate activities like the social, the Read-Aloud, and our exhibit hall table. We need volunteers to flesh out somewhat meager membership on all committees.

"What's in it for you?" you might ask. Well, we are glad you asked and pose these questions in response: Do you want to sustain this country's first gay, lesbian & bisexual professional organization? Are you looking for committee assignments, leadership roles, to give your resume or vita an extra edge when you hunt for your next position or promotion? Would you like to see ALA continue to hear a strong advocate voicing the necessity for high-level, broadly accessible library materials and services of interest and usefulness to LGBT people no matter what their age? Would you like to combine our aspirations to develop as a library professional with a desire to bring effective change to the GLBT community via libraries?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then contact us about becoming more involved. You can also check out our Volunteer Interest Form at this URL: [http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala\\_hp.html](http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html). We welcome your commitment.

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### About GLBTRT Newsletter

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## Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee met during Midwinter. We reviewed the budget and the expectations of costs for an average year. This provided the committee with an idea of how much is spent on book awards and what a fundraising campaign would need to raise to cover costs.

Writing two fundraising letters was discussed. One would be directed toward current members, friends, and allies of the Round Table. This would engage the membership in the start up of the endowment fund to support the Book Awards. It would also allow the Round Table the opportunity to show support for the awards before approaching vendors for donations.

ALA requires an initial amount of \$40,000 to open an endowment fund. Donations so far total \$12,750 towards this goal, including one pledged donation of \$10,000. A second letter would be written and addressed to vendors. Discussion included possible vendors to approach and seeking a member of the Round Table willing to attach their name to the fundraising drive to the vendors. Several people were named who could attract donors. A goal of \$100,000 was set for the endowment fund drive. This amount will allow the Book Awards to be funded on the interest derived from the endowment at current costs. Letters were assigned to be drafted. Facilitating the expedient approval of the letters by ALA was also discussed.

So look for the donation letters to arrive soon. Please copy and forward them to friends and allies who may not currently be members of the Round Table.

Updates will follow in future newsletters. In addition the Fundraising Committee is still looking for a chair. Anyone interested in chairing the committee or willing to nominate someone, please contact our co-chairs.

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## An Open Letter to all GLBTRT Members

It is important for our Round Table to be actively connected with the Association as a whole. To this end, some of you may have seen my "rant" on the listserv. This letter repeats that statement. To members of the Steering Committee — ALA's rules give each Round Table a seat on the **Education Assembly, the Recruitment Assembly, the Legislation Assembly, the Literacy Assembly, the Planning and Budget Assembly, and the Membership Promotion Task Force.**

**Make sure that GLBTRT has effective representation on these groups.** This is important for building bridges within the Association. It also will show the Association that we are here and that we will be players. Consider three year appointments to these groups as it will give the representative the ability to grow and develop into the position and to be more effective representative for the rest of us. Now to the members — consider nominating yourself or others for these slots. Attend a meeting or two of the group you are most interested in to see if it is a good fit.

Help the Round Table, the Association, and your own career through seeking and accepting one of these appointments. For more information on any of these — check out the ALA Handbook and/or contact a current member of one of the groups.

— **Stephen Stillwell**  
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**Reviews are a regular feature of the  
GLBTRT Newsletter.**

If you would like to be a reviewer or receive reviewing guidelines, please contact:

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