



GLBTRT Newsletter

Vol 16
No 3



Fall
2004

A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered
Round Table of the American Library Association

<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>



From the Editor

Hello, everyone!

I would like to start out by apologizing to all of you for being so late on this issue. I had too many things going at once, and was not able to get this out until now. The next issue will not be late!

This issue is our first electronic-only issue of the GLBTRT Newsletter. At ALA in Orlando, we discussed problems with our budget, and one of our biggest expenditures is this newsletter. In an attempt to reduce costs, we decided to only print pre-ALA issues, and the other two issues will be electronic-only, which you can print on your own if you desire. I hope this is acceptable for all of you, and as always, I welcome your feedback!

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is **November 12th**, so please make sure to have all your book reviews, officer reports, ALA information and general interest article emailed to me before that time!

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, or if you wish to submit something for an upcoming issue, please email me.

Ken Wells, *GLBTRT Newsletter Editor*
kenwells@ufl.edu



From the Co-Chairs

Hello Members, Friends, and Visitors.

I am just going to say a few things about how you as members of the Round Table can get in touch with the committee chairs and leaders in the the Round Table. I know that we all look forward to hearing from you. We want to hear your ideas about the Round table as well as see your involvement in the GLBT RT. Our contact information can be found at the end of this note.

Another way to share your ideas, thoughts or wishes for the RT is to join the listserv where most of the Round Table

discussions take place. To subscribe to the Round Table list you will want to visit the ALA list server registration page, <http://lp-web.ala.org:8000/> After setting up your account you can view the many discussion lists that ALA runs. You can then sign up for our list. Look for it under glbtrt-l. If that is too difficult or doesn't achieve the desired result, then send a note to Andrew Johnson, our Round Table Secretary, and he will also be able to subscribe you. Remember if you move to update your e-mail with the listserv. Please join the discussion and help us grow the Round Table.

This issue marks the first time that our Round Table newsletter will be published solely in electronic format. Due to cost increases over the last few years, it has become quite expensive to publish and print the newsletter 4 times a year. We recognize the place that the newsletter holds in the hearts of many long time members, but the paper, printing, and mailing costs have become more than our small treasury can bear each year. At the January meetings in Orlando a decision was made to move the newsletter to be published twice yearly in paper form and twice yearly in electronic form only. We hope that this is a compromise that will help us direct our finances to areas that we believe that Round Table wanted to focus on, such as programming at our annual conference.

It was great to see everyone at the annual Stonewall Awards breakfast in Orlando and our social on Sunday evening. I hope that we can see you all at future events and programs and encourage your communication and participation in the Round Table.

Steve Stratton, *Head, Collections & Tech Services*
Cal State-Channel Islands
Stephen.Stratton@csuci.edu

Anne L. Moore, *Coordinator for Access Services*
W.E.B. Du Bois Library
University of Massachusetts
amoore@library.umass.edu





Co-Chairs Report (Continued)

Following is a list of all GLBTRT Committees and their respective Chairs:

Co-Chairs

- Anne L. Moore 2004-2006 amoore@library.umass.edu
- Stephen Stratton 2003-2005 stephen.stratton@csuci.edu

Treasurer

- Margaret Pas 2003-2005 mpas@sympatico.ca

Secretary

- Andrew Johnson 2004-2006 afj@u.washington.edu

Breakfast Planning Committee

- John C. DeSantis (2005)
John.C.DeSantis@Dartmouth.EDU

Clearinghouse/Website Committee

- T.J. Lusher (2005) C60TJL1@wpo.cso.niu.edu

External Relations Committee

- Richard V. DiRusso (2005)
Richard.DiRusso@tucsonaz.gov

Fundraising

- Jim Simonis simonis@mail.lemoyne.edu

Membership Committee

- Lewis Day (2006) lewis_day@harvard.edu

Newsletter Committee

- Kenneth Lee Wells (2006) folken@nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu
- Beth Tarr - btarr@lapl.org (Book Review Editor)

Nominating

- Robert Ridinger (2005) C60RBR1@wpo.cso.niu.edu

Program Planning Committee

- Damian Lambert (2005) dqmlambert@hotmail.com

Stonewall Awards Committee

- M. Callaghan (Cal) Zunt (2006) Cal.zunt@cpl.org

ALA Councilor for Small Round Tables

- Jordan Scepanski jordan.scepanski@zu.ac.ae



Share Your Stories! Calling All Ideas!

Be it career advice, book titles, life stories, cautionary tales, or tips on unjamming a photocopier—I've never known a librarian who isn't ready and eager to "share" with colleagues, no matter how serious or mundane the topic!

Well, we on the GLBTRT Newsletter Committee now invite you readers to "share" with us, and our membership, any and all vignettes from Your Life in the Library Trenches. We want to hear your first-person accounts of what it's like to be a glbt librarian in today's America, whether your institution is academic, public, or corporate.

Need a jump start? Here are a few ideas, out of myriad other possibilities!

What have your overall experiences been as a glbt librarian at your particular institution?

What degree of official administrative support do you personally enjoy (or not)?

If you are out to your colleagues, what sorts of challenges have you faced in that regard, if any?

What opportunities have you had to influence your library's collection development practices regarding glbt-related material?

Has your library made any special efforts to implement glbt-relevant programming or outreach (displays, booklists, etc.)? If so, how successful have they been?

Have you ever done any formal surveys or made any quick-and-dirty observations of how glbt-specific materials are used (or not!) in your facility? What have you discovered?

Have you ever been confronted by glbt-related censorship attempts, either in-house, or via patrons? How were they resolved?

How do YOU feel about your role and influence as a glbt librarian in today's American library system?

No matter how separated we may be geographically, our stories deserve to be shared, as we derive strength from our common struggles and triumphs.

If you are interested in submitting an article for an upcoming Newsletter on these, or any other glbt librarian-related topics, contact Ken Wells, kenwells@ufl.edu. The next deadline is November 13. We look forward to hearing from you!

Cathy Ritchie

GLBTRT Newsletter Committee
[critchie@dallaslibrary.org](mailto:critchier@dallaslibrary.org)



It was an honor to speak before people devoted to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans written word. I was equally awed by my company on the dais. I was sharing space with some of the people who impacted my youth and refined my palate: Barbara Grier published some of the first lesbian literature I read, John D'Emilio wrote about the men and women who were absent from my school history books, Christopher Bram created characters I wanted to know or become.

Then there were the talented authors whose work wasn't published at that time. Julie Anne Peters writes books that help young adult readers see the normalcy of GLBT life. Monique Truong has created a wonderful musing of a little noted character in a notable lesbian couple's life.

I am grateful to have been asked to share my story and be in the good company of advocates of GLBT literature and fellow writers.

Steven Reigns
Author



Following is Steven's speech from the Stonewall Awards ceremony at the 2004 ALA Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.

Good Morning, I'm Steven Reigns and it is an honor to address you today. I've always seen librarians as the preservers of our written culture. At a young age I realized that I didn't need to know all the answers, I just need to befriend the reference librarian. Since I've always held the knowledge of librarians in high regard, I was a bit unsure what I could tell you that you couldn't look up. Maybe I'd stand up here and read inspiring quotes by famous gay or lesbian authors. To look those up I would have had to ask a librarian and re-quoting the work back to you just seemed redundant.

So I thought, well, I'll tell you about my story and my feelings about libraries because it seemed like one of the few things that couldn't be looked up.

About four years ago, I raised my standards on who to date. Aside from owning a vehicle, having a job, not doing drugs, chewing with their mouth closed, and understanding the importance of high-thread-count sheets, I added another standard — they needed to own a library card.

I was not interested in men with library cards out of some odd intellectual kink desire. I was interested because a library card symbolized a desire for knowledge, a willingness to learn and explore. I don't need to date another bibliophile but I do need to date someone open to new information.

The resources housed in libraries give opportunities to learn, to feel, to explore, and to move beyond our own life experiences. I also know some must go because of the free video and DVD rentals. This is OK, too. Because I am an obsessive reader and always falling into low-paying professions, libraries have given me access to books I could not have afforded or would have been subjected to reading on the floor of my local bookstore.

I discovered books out of default. As a child I was seen as dorky, and I was made fun of. I didn't have a peer group to speak of and didn't have any athletic ability. I was an awkward boy who came from a household of extreme emotional, physical and sexual abuse. I liked men and also knew that this was one more trait that wouldn't be accepted by my schoolmates. My friends and confidants were characters from the pages of young adult fiction.

At 16, I got a fake ID, discovered gay bars, sex, drugs...and left the library behind. I rediscovered it awhile later when I gave up partying and stopped avoiding all of the issues I didn't want to confront.

When I was ready to face my past abuse, ready to really embrace my sexuality, ready to explore what it really means to be gay in American society....I found solace in books.

On the shelves of the St. Louis County Library, I discovered poets like Sapphire and Essex Hemphill, who spoke out in the times others had been silent. I found historians Martin Duberman and John D'Emilio, who tracked and traced the origins of gay culture. I found the novelists Dorothy Allison, Edmund White, and Christopher Bram, who told stories about characters I loved. I found the diaries of Anais Nin and Keith Haring and memoirs of Sarah Schulman and Audre Lorde, detailing the personal struggles and paths of people I related to or respected. I discovered anthologies that offered me a sampling of voices from across the spectrum edited by Irene Zahava, Amy Scholder, and John Preston.

My library card helped me claim my life. I don't know an accurate metaphor for what it meant to me; a map, a compass, a fortune told, a life preserver, a bible, a Buddha.

In that library, all for free except for my overdue fees, I found role models, heroes and idols. I also found, and still read, people who have helped perpetuate the hate that we face daily — those who hate our culture and actions. I still read books by the opposition, but read them a bit less. I can find those opinions and theories by walking down the street.

What I'm more interested in are those who are changing and challenging the society we live in. Those like Kate Bornstein, Mark Doty, Bernard Cooper, Les Wright and Minnie Bruce Pratt who are charting the path of what it's like to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or trans in our society.

This year marked the second year I've organized an event for GLBT History Month at my local public library in Tampa. Historically the library has organized and sponsored events for Black History Month, National Poetry Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month, yet have always lacked an "out, non-straight" presenter. The month of June seemed completely neglected. I naively brought it to the attention of the programmer, thinking she'd see the error in her ways. Unfortunately, she didn't see any error at all and didn't intend to have any gay programming. I was told that library programming requires planning two years in advance. I asked why weren't they thinking of gays and lesbians in 2001? She wasn't amused. I wrote a proposal for a library sponsored event and it was denied. The safe sanctuary I had always known libraries to be, the place where I first found acceptance of my desires and feelings, the first place I found friends, now seemed flawed. The lack of GLBT programming seemed to validate that our culture, our community, and our experiences are not of worth. I was persistent, tenacious, and found a loophole. Because the library was a public building, I was able to reserve the auditorium provided my event was free and open to the public. So last year I organized *Loving In Fear* and got 100 people to the library to hear gay and lesbian authors read their work. I didn't recruit solely from the gay reading circle or from the gay arts organizations. I went to bars and clubs and handed out flyers. I even had flyers at the bathhouse. Because the library shouldn't be a place for academic exclusion, just as it shouldn't be place for the exclusion of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and trans?

This past year, the library refused to sponsor an event *again*, even after having two years to plan for it. So, I threw another event. *Loving In Fear* for 2004 brought in about 90 people. Part of our job as concerned citizens, librarians, library cardholders, and supporters of equal and free rights is to be vigilant about the representation of people in the margin. I'm going to keep organizing this annual event until the library treats gay programming the same way it treats its other programming.

I see my own writings and the literary event organizing work I do as ways to help youths (and even the not-so-young) who are struggling with the issues I've had to face. Since my public library isn't the safe space I always thought libraries to be, I'm creating it until the library itself does.

Today I've told you my story about being a shattered boy growing up in suburbs of the Midwest who found hope in the tomes I read at the library. But I'm just one person and mine is only one story. There are thousands more... from that single library alone. Librarians give us the resources to help redefine our lives.

Book reading is not a dying art. It is a sacred art. I see librarians as the priests and priestesses of that sacred art. You have my sincere gratitude and I thank you.

Steven Reigns is a poet living in Florida and author of *Your Dead Body Is My Welcome Mat*, which published in 2001. He is currently working on a second poetry collection and teaches creative writing workshops to GLBTQ youth groups.



Endowment Fund

Current Balance for the eight months ending April 30, 2004: \$30,033.28 (end FY 03 balance = \$23,986.62)

The RT requires a \$40,000.00 balance in the endowment fund (an ALA accounting rule) in order to begin using the interest to fund part of the RT's book awards. Until the fund reaches the \$40,000.00 mark, interest earned is being rolled over into the principle.

General Fund

All donations received by the GLBTRT for the current fiscal year have been to the endowment fund. There have been no donations to our general fund. Prior to the setting up of the endowment fund, the GLBTRT's total revenues have been much greater than its expenses. Without any donations going into our general fund, our expenses have been greater than our revenues. In the next two or three years the buffer that has accumulated due to donations will be depleted. At that point the RT will have to pay all expenses from monies received through dues (see budget). Hopefully this will be mitigated by reaching the \$40,000.00 endowment target. Fortunately, the breakfast and social have been self-sustaining.

Other than the awards breakfast, the greatest expense that the RT incurs is the newsletter. In order to lower expenses we may want to discuss the possibility of sending the newsletter via e-mail to willing members. For FY 05 the budget does not include funds for facilities rental nor for conference equipment rental. We will need to find a 'free' site to hold our social in 2005. It was necessary to cut costs in certain areas in order to balance the budget.

Please review the budget and send any questions, suggestions, or comments to me at:

Margaret Pas, GLBTRT Treasurer
mpas@sympatico.ca

GLBTRT Newsletter (ISSN 1533-7219) is an official publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association. It appears quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Subscriptions are included in your membership fee to the round table via annual membership to the GLBTRT.

American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.,
Chicago, IL 60611

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

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
kenwells@ufl.edu

**The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table
Proposed Budget - Fiscal Year 2005**

<u>Budget Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY05 Budget</u>
Revenues		
Dues		
4000	Dues/Personal (560x12)	\$6,720.00
Sales		
4110	Subscriptions	\$10.00
Meeting & Conferences		
4220	Meal Function - Awards (150x50)	\$7,500.00
	Meal Function - Social	\$1000.00
4400	Donations (operating expenses)	\$0.00
	Total Revenues	<u>\$15,230.00</u>
Expenses		
Payroll Related		
5016	Professional Memberships	\$100.00
Travel		
5210	Transportation	\$0.00
5216	Lodging & Meals	\$0.00
Meeting & Conferences		
5300	Facilities Rent	\$0.00
5301	Conference Equipment Rental	\$0.00
5302	Meal Functions - Catering Expenses Awards	\$6,000.00
	Meal Function - Social	\$800.00
5303	Exhibits	\$400.00
5304	Speaker/Guest Expenses	\$800.00
5305	Speaker/Guest Honorarium	\$1,000.00
5306	Awards	\$2,000.00
5350	Program Allocation	\$350.00
Publication - Related		
5402	Printing - Outside (newsletter/brochure/fund raising)	\$1,700.00
5410	Mail Service - Outside (newsletter/fund raising)	\$400.00
Operating expenses		
5500	Supplies/operating	\$30.00
5523	Postage * E-mail/Outside	\$500.00
5599	Misc. Expense	\$250.00
Inter-Unit-Transfers		
5901	IUT/Prod. Serv./Admin. Fee	\$50.00
5902	IUT/ITTS	\$50.00
5909	IUT/ Dist. Ctr.	\$100.00
5910	IUT/Repro	\$50.00
5911	IUT/Gen. Oh	\$650.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$15,230.00</u>



The Gay & Lesbian Atlas. By Gary J. Gates & Jason Ost. The Urban Institute Press, Washington, DC 2004. 232pp. \$49.50 paperback (ISBN 0-87766-721-7)

I can't recall how many times I was discussing with my parents, or relatives, or people at work, or well just about anyone that would listen, the fact that GLBT people are everywhere. I usually got the condescending, sure they are Steve, just not here in this neighborhood, or this city, or county, or other useful geographic entity that they chose to name. I would fume and know I was right but had no proof that showed I knew what I was talking about.

Now, thanks to Gary Gates, Jason Ost and The Urban Institute Press, I have the reference book I have needed all those years. The Gay & Lesbian Atlas presents in colorful format of maps and charts, all the states and a number of cities, so that everyone can see the numbers of same sex couples. Thanks to a few questions on the United States Census 2000, researchers are able to deduce that yes, every state DOES have couples. In fact I learned in this book, over 99 % of US counties have gay and lesbian couples living in them. There are 3141 counties (or their equivalent) in the country, only 32 of them, we know now, do not have gay and lesbian couples living openly in them. In fact, 97 percent of US Census tracts (geographic areas with approximately 2000 people, regardless of size) have gay and lesbian couples living in them. Census tracts are what legislators use to redraw congressional districts after every census also, so rest assured, that conservative congressperson that says he never met a gay person needs to get to know his congressional district better because we are everywhere according Gates and Ost.

There are maps, charts and statistics for all 50 states, and 25 metropolitan areas are included also with similar colorful maps, detailing county and census tract numbers, size, location patterns, and data are extensively discussed prior to the chapters on states and metro areas. An extensive bibliography at the end can provide further reading in gay and lesbian demographics for those that are interested. Some interesting facts I learned in the book include: Vermont leads the country in concentration of gay and lesbian couples; Mississippi, South Dakota, Alaska, South Carolina, and Louisiana are the states where same-sex couples are most likely raising children; Women prefer Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and Santa Fe to Seattle, New York, and San Francisco where the men prefer to live; Hispanic same-sex couples are most likely to live in Texas, while African-American same-sex couples are most likely to live in the deep south.

The 2000 US Census was the first time that anyone attempted to measure any particular spectrum of the GLBT population in this country. True, it only measured same-sex households,

and we all know that there are many more single, or non-coupled households out there that would increase GLBT numbers further than those discussed in the book. But this is the first discussion of the first time we have been counted. It hopefully will allow people to see that we are here, there, and truly everywhere. Buy the book for your library, every town now has no reason to deny that gay and lesbian people do indeed live there.

Reviewed by Steve Stratton, Cal State-Channel Islands.



Borrowing Time: A Latino Sexual Odyssey. By Carlos T. Mock. Floricanto Press, Mountain View, CA, 2003. 288 pp. \$35.00 hardback (ISBN 0-915745-54-2)

Carlos Mock has written a book that tells a sweeping story of life. It stands out from other stories in current gay literature because the tale is told from the standpoint of a Latino man, growing up in a strong Catholic family in Puerto Rico, a view not seen often in GLBT literature up until now. Floricanto Press, a publisher of digital products and Latino, Chicano, Mexican American, and Hispanic books, sought to reach out to a market they felt was not covered well. It is well past time for such a book, and Mock has a well told story, that examines life from this perspective.

In some ways "Borrowing Time" fits the Magical Realism of García-Marquez. Mock has bent and turned the story of his own life into a fictional piece worthy of the allusion to Paul Monette in the title. The main character is struggling to understand his life in the face of his diagnosis with HIV. He is also struggling, in the stories he tells, with coming to terms with being gay, his family's rejection, a Catholic upbringing on the island, and a friendship that goes sour. It really is a story for all people to read and one that will be important for young Latinos coming to terms with their identity.

Reviewed by Steve Stratton, Cal State-Channel Islands.



James T. Sears' Southern Studies Collection Established at Stonewall

On April 30th, James T. Sears, author of *Growing Up Gay in the South* and 13 other books, donated his collection of materials authored from southern gay communities to Stonewall Library & Archives as the core of the James T. Sears' Southern Studies Collection.

Dr. Sears, as quoted in an interview in GayToday.com, stated "Stonewall Library and Archives is the South's pre-eminent gay-owned and operated archives and the boxes I delivered are just the start of what I foresee as an on-going major effort, namely to preserve the materials and chronicle the histories of LGBT organizations and groups throughout the South."

The collection consists of approximately 40 boxes of magazines, newspapers, newsletters, organizational records and personal papers and memorabilia from cities such as Birmingham, AL, Norfolk, VA, and Charleston, SC. Dr. Sears intends to add to the collection both from his own materials as well as materials solicited throughout the southern United States.

Dr. Sears is the author of over 125 publications including book chapters, articles, essays, scholarly papers and books. Published books include *Lonely Hunters: An Oral History of Lesbian and Gay Southern Life, 1948-1969* (finalist for the 1997 American Library Association gay non-fiction award) and its sequel, *Rebels, Rubyfruit & Rhinestones: Queering Space in the Stonewall South*. His book *Overcoming Heterosexism and Homophobia* was the winner of the 1999 GLSEN Award at the Lambda Literary Awards. He is currently completing *Behind the Mask of the Mattachine* due to be published later this year.

Dr. Sears may be contacted through his web site at www.jtsears.com.

The Stonewall Library & Archives' mission is to collect, preserve, organize for use, and lend materials relating to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender culture and history. Stonewall is located at 1717 N. Andrews Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

Fred Searcy
f_searcy@bellsouth.net



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 **Emily Edwards**, Membership Committee Chair: EEDWARDS@leegov.com

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: **Emily Edwards**



GLBTRT Newsletter
Ken Wells, Editor
c/o GLBTRT
ALA/OLOS
50 East Huron St.
Chicago IL 60611

Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Gainesville, Florida
Permit 1

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

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!!