



GLBTRT Newsletter

Vol 18
No 3



Fall
2006

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!

This is my first issue as your GLBTRT Newsletter Editor. **Ken Wells** developed and expanded this publication over his four years as Editor; while I may not have quite as many great ideas, I hope to bring the same enthusiasm to this task that he did. Ken continues working for the GLBTRT as a member of the External Relations Committee.

Ray Barber has also moved on from his post as Book Review Editor; **Lisa Johnston** has taken on that role. With the cadre of reviewers Ray developed, Lisa will continue to bring us highlights of GLBT fiction and nonfiction each issue. If you have an interest in book reviewing, contact Lisa at: lnjohnston@sbcc.edu.

Haworth Press continues in its enthusiastic support of the newsletter. The printing and mailing of each issue is completely underwritten by **Haworth**. Thanks a million!

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, or if you wish to submit something for an upcoming issue, please email me. Thank you, and please continue supporting the newsletter whenever you can. I am always happy to get new material!

John Bradford, *GLBTRT Newsletter Editor*
jpbmls@yahoo.com

Newsletter deadlines for the next year will be:

Winter 2006	November 17, 2006
Spring 2007	March 17, 2007
Summer 2007	May 15, 2007
Fall 2007	August 15, 2007

Please try to get your reports, articles, book reviews, etc. in by these dates or let us know if there will be a delay so room can be saved in the newsletter.



From the Co-Chairs

The conference at New Orleans was a success for both ALA and the City of New Orleans. Everywhere I went I found the people of the city as friendly and welcoming as in the past. Many of the people I talked with were happy that ALA did not cancel the conference; in fact a special t-shirt was on sale in the shops: "Librarians do by the book / ALA supports the Big Easy". On Tuesday, I had to go to five stores before I found one.

The Social was a great success, as usual. Thank you, **Gary Wasdin** and **Damian Lambert**, for organizing the event. Damian was able to provide a special dish for the event courtesy of FEMA--three boxes of MRE's (a.k.a. meals ready to eat or meals rejected by everybody). They were a big success. (So, has anybody eaten one yet?) All the funds collected that night will be donated to New Orleans Public Library Foundation to buy GLBT books for the library system.

Two days of volunteer work by conference attendees resulted in many people doing much hard work cleaning and repairing buildings around the city. **Anne Moore**, her partner **Vivian**, and **Bill Berghof** were among the many people who participated.

The past year has seen many improvements in the operations of the roundtable, we have moved closer to the \$40,000 mark for the endowment fund even as we mourn the passing of our founder **Israel David Fishman**. This upcoming year should prove to be just as busy, so if you have the time please volunteer to serve on one of the many committees. Contact **Paul Higdon**, the Membership Chair, to let him know you are interested in serving on a RT committee.

See everybody in Seattle,
Norman Eriksen
Assistant Division Manager
Language and Literature
Brooklyn Public Library
GLBTRT Co-chair



In recognition of the hospitality of the New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) and the citizens of New Orleans, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table turned the Annual social into a fundraiser for the NOPL. The Library graciously agreed to allow the Round Table to hold this social event at the beautiful Milton H. Latter Memorial Branch, a turn-of-the-century mansion in Uptown New Orleans. The social was held on Sunday evening, June 25, 2006.

The Round Table will present proceeds from the fundraiser to NOPL for the purchase of GLBT-themed books for the library's collections. About ninety attendees contributed a total of \$500.

Rebuilding library collections is one step towards rebuilding the city of New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina damaged every public library in New Orleans. Eight of twelve branches were completely ruined by wind, water, and mold. Revenue loss forced layoffs of 80% of the staff. Damage estimates run as high as \$30 million.

Damian Lambert, GLBT Round Table member and branch manager of both the Nix and Alvar library branches, made local arrangements for the GLBTRT social, including use of the Latter branch library. Damian stated, "New Orleans Public Library has received many generous donations from individuals, groups, and corporations. We are very appreciative and grateful for everything they have done for us.

"As a member of the GLBT roundtable," Damian continued, "I am both pleased and honored that our group chose to use their annual social as a fundraiser. I was concerned that with so much we have to rebuild and replace, GLBT materials would be overlooked.

"The money from the fundraiser will be the start of a GLBT collection that will be housed at the Alvar Branch in the Bywater neighborhood. With that seed money and the donations of GLBT materials from our membership, we will have a very fine and extensive collection."

The Alvar branch was one of the damaged branches and was renovated recently by Library Journal and ALA volunteers. The branch will be open to the public beginning July 5. Bywater is an historic neighborhood of 19th century homes. Many musicians, artists, and local eccentrics call the Bywater home.

You can still contribute to rebuilding the New Orleans Public Library; visit <http://www.nutrias.org/~nopl/foundation/katrinafoundationdonation.htm> for details.

Reasons to Join the External Relations Committee:

1. You aren't required to attend Midwinter or Annual Conference – but if you do, you can be an official Round Table greeter and meet many people!
2. It's not time-consuming; you can volunteer for as much or as little as your schedule allows.
3. You can write press releases to promote Round Table events and activities – or you can send them to GLBT media.
4. You can work closely with the Book Awards Committee to announce the Stonewall Book Award recipients – it's the next best thing to serving on the BAC!
5. You can share your creativity by designing posters and printed materials to promote the Round Table.
6. Distribute to library and information science schools – keep the Round Table's membership growing!
7. Have you ever thought, "The Round Table should be doing XYZ...?" Join the External Relations committee and get your voice heard!
8. I'll write a nice letter of thanks for your service to the committee and the Round Table (some of us need those things for our professional files).
9. Learn the ropes and become chair of the committee in 2007/2008!
10. (In the words of **Rich DiRusso**) Are you responsible, motivated as well as light-hearted and gay? Join the committee because we need you! Contact **Holly Mercer** at: hmercerc@ku.edu



The Stonewall Book Award Committee is already hard at work selecting and reading titles for 2007 award consideration. We would very much like to hear from RT members on what recently-published GLBT books you've read and enjoyed. The award guidelines, as described on the website, are as follows:

"The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered (GLBT) Book Award of the American Library Association is given annually to English-language books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experience. The award is given to works published in the United States in the previous calendar year, although works published elsewhere may be considered. (For the purpose of award eligibility, the calendar year shall be understood to include the 12 months from October 1 through September 30). Reprintings of previously published books will not be considered. However, substantially changed new editions of previously published works and English translations of foreign-language books are eligible for the award."

Recommendations for consideration will be accepted until **October 31, 2006**. Please send titles, along with a short description and endorsement to rimhof@pacific.edu.

Members of the 2007 Stonewall Book Award Committee are: **Robin Imhof**, Chair; **Richard DiRusso**, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; **Robert L. Jaquay**, Past Chair; **Billy C. Beal**; **Rose M. Jackson**; **Walter "Cat" Walker**; **Amy Hribar**; **Elizabeth Briggs**; **James Carmichael**; **Beth Gallego**; **James Simonis**; and **Arla Jones**.

Yours in supporting and promoting exceptional GLBT books,

Robin Imhof, Chair
2007 Stonewall Book Award Committee
rimhof@pacific.edu
(209) 946-2544

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:

John Bradford, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
jbmls@yahoo.com

2005-2006 ALA Memorial Resolution # 13 2006 ALA Annual Conference Memorial Tribute to Israel David Fishman

Whereas, Israel David Fishman, librarian, businessman, rabbinical student and massage therapist, died on June 14, 2006 at age 68; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman graduated from the City College of New York with a B.A. magna cum laude, and from Columbia University with a M.S. with honors; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman's prophetic passion for social justice led him to found, in 1970, the first gay professional organization in the world: ALA's Task Force on Gay Liberation (now known as the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Roundtable of the American Library Association); and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman's influence on and contributions to the above-mentioned organization led to the naming of one of the Stonewall Book Awards as the "Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction"; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman appeared as one of the featured subjects in *Trembling Before G-d*, the acclaimed 2001 documentary film dealing with lesbian and gay Orthodox and Hassidic Jews; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman served on the Board of Directors of the Park Slope Food Coop since 1998, and as its President since 2005, working tirelessly to maintain the Coop's stability and further its growth; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman was an ethical and spiritual person with a brilliant and creative mind, a lover of all things Italian, of the Yiddish language and Ashkenazik culture, and of Chazzanuth (cantorial music) of the Golden Age, and was an avid race walker, and passionate and skilled vegetarian cook; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the membership of the American Library Association express its gratitude for his lasting contributions as an organizer, activist and advocate for social justice and equality; and be it further

Resolved, that this Association express its sincere sympathy to his life partner Carl Navarro, and that copies of this resolution be sent to Carl and to the Co-Chairs of the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table.

Moved by: John DeSantis, Councilor-at-Large
Seconded by: K.R. Roberto, Councilor-at-Large



GLBT ALMS Conference Reports



A weekend in the Minneapolis

When I told a friend that I was going to Minneapolis for a gay librarian conference, his response was, "Isn't that kind of redundant?" He was right, of course.

So how gay was my first conference as a library professional? Here are a few superlatives.

Best greeting: **Elizabeth Kerekere** welcomed us with a Maori chant when she opened the conference Friday morning.

Best greeting: **Elizabeth Kerekere** welcomed us with a Maori chant when she opened the conference Friday morning.

Best encounter: I realized as she stood on the podium preparing to give her keynote address that it was none other than **Barbara Gittings** whom I had shared the hotel hot tub with the night before. I felt like an osmotic activist. She was happy to meet me, too.

Best habit: The bearded Faerie and Sister of Perpetual Indulgence who sat in the lobby selling back issues of *RFD*. She wore her wimple to **Frank Kameny's** eighty-first birthday reception at the Frederick A. Weisman Museum of Art.

Most unusual circulating collection: St. Paul's Quatrefoil Library, a queer community institution in the Twin Cities for twenty years, proudly counts a circulating collection of pornographic videos among its holdings--complete with a viewer's guide.

Holiest relics: The Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota includes among its extensive holdings books salvaged from the fires which otherwise consumed sexologist and gay activist Magnus Hirschfeld's library when the Nazis commandeered and destroyed his Institute for Sexual Science in 1933.

Best place to find librarians after dark: Kilt night at the Minneapolis Eagle, naturally.

Best outcome: I was asked to help Chicago's Leather Archives & Museum develop a "leather thesaurus" to provide subject access to the specialized materials in its collections, a project I couldn't be happier to participate in.

Best hosts: All of the disarmingly friendly Minnesotans who made our visit educational, inspiring, and fun. Thank you!

Matt Johnson, Taxonomy Analyst,
Exchange Place

Mesmerized in Minnesota

The featured presenters were dazzling. From **Elizabeth Kerekere's** mesmerizing stories about the Maori people's struggle under colonialism to **Andreas Pretzel's** fascinating presentation on the proposed "Memorial to the Homosexuals Persecuted under the National Socialist Regime," the GLBT-ALMS conference was an extraordinary experience I will always remember. Listening to **Frank Kameny** and **Barbara Gittings** recount their stories as early gay activists was a reminder that the ongoing struggle for our full civil rights has been paved by their courage and commitment. It was a privilege to be in their presence. I would encourage all of you to try to join me at the next conference.

Robin Imhof, University of the Pacific
rimhof@pacific.edu

Point – Counterpoint

I know a large number of GLBTRT members attended the GLBT ALMS conference in Minneapolis on May 18-21, 2006. That was just a little too late for the deadline of the Summer 2006 newsletter.

While **Rob Ridinger** has written up a lengthy article on this conference for the Fall 2006 issue of the GLBTRT newsletter, if there are any attendees who want to send in a paragraph or two of their impressions of GLBT ALMS, that would be great.

Please send them to me at jbpmis@yahoo.com and we will work them into a larger piece that shows several different perspectives.

John Bradford
GLBTRT Newsletter Editor

When you get an article for the GLBTRT newsletter about the ALMS conference that was held in Minneapolis, could you please do a favor for us acronym challenged folks?

I cannot find an explanation of what ALMS is! Is it an acronym or nickname? I fully understand what the conference covered, but it might be helpful for others interested in this, to know what it stands for, so that they might be looking out for more events closer to where they live/work.

GLBT ALMS Conference Reports

There are some conferences & organizations that have put me on their email lists, or post to groups that I belong to, that have complained out loud about poor turnout, while never noticing that they never explained what their acronym organization was about!

Luckily, that has never been a problem for ALA nor our GLBTRT.

Gary M. Klein

Librarian for Management, Economics, Education, Psychology, Public Policy.
Hatfield Library / Willamette University / Salem, OR 97301 USA
gklein@willamette.edu

I believe it is an initialism for Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections. I never heard it actually pronounced, everyone referred to "this conference" or gave the whole "Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections" spiel. I kept on referring to it as ALSM, which made it hard to search for, too. (It may, however, help explain why so many of the participants showed up at the Minneapolis Eagle Friday night.) I finally bookmarked the page so I could find it again:

<http://www.lib.umn.edu/events/glbta/alsm/>

John Bradford

*Excerpts from an e-mail exchange between
John Bradford and Gary Klein,
July 26, 2006*

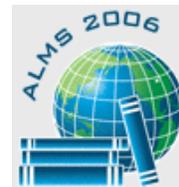
Dateline Minneapolis

There are conferences when you know from the first moment that you are part of a unique moment in history and when you can feel the foundations of many good things being set in place. That was the case at the first international GLBT ALMS (Archives, Libraries, and Museums and Special Collections) conference hosted at the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus from May 18-21, 2006.

Over 150 participants from as far afield as New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Australia and the United States (with a good representation of GLBTRT members) spent three exciting and exhausting days sharing their researches and discussing ongoing issues of preservation and conservation from a wide range of professional and nonprofessional perspectives.

The opening speaker was New Zealand activist **Elizabeth**

Kerekere, followed by a morning of panels on cataloging, fundraising, introducing GLBT material into existing course structures, children's and young adult GLBT literature, and archiving on the Web. This last program featured staff from the Rainbow History Project of Washington, DC, Chicago's LGBT Religious Archives Network, the Queer Zine Archive Project in Milwaukee, and the History Project based in Boston.



The second and highly colorful keynote speech was given by the Round Table's own **Barbara Gittings**, who was gallantly introduced by **James Carmichael**. The afternoon's panels offered presentations on media outreach, problems of making private collections public, rescuing endangered material and the political aspects of ALMS work.

Friday evening was marked by a spectacular reception and buffet dinner at the Weisman Art Museum, a diverse building clad in polished steel plates that blazed in the setting sun. During the evening, keynote speaker and veteran activist **Frank Kameny** was serenaded for his 81st birthday and specimens of the athlete's uniforms from various holdings of the Gay Games were presented to the Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota.

Saturday started with an electrifying keynote address by **Kameny**, followed by discussion of problems of archiving data on subjects as diverse as sports and music, difficulties of getting GLBT books into school libraries, and evening receptions at the Hennepin County Government Center in downtown Minneapolis (showcasing the current GLBT History Exhibit) and the 20th Anniversary celebration at Quatrefoil Library in St. Paul.

Sunday, the final day, provided time for poster sessions and an interesting presentation on the information needs of FTM (female to male) transsexuals given by **John Otto** of Seattle. **Andreas Pretzel**, remembrance activist and curator of Berlin's Research Unit for the History of Sexual Science (run by the Magnus Hirschfeld Society), brought the formal conference to an international close by discussing the planned "Memorial to the Homosexuals Persecuted under the National Socialist Regime", which will be established as a national monument in Berlin, and presenting the range of suggested designs.

The plenary session came to swift agreement on the value of continuing the dialogues begun during the weekend, with a feeling of unity best expressed in the comment by one member that "We don't need to create a network - we are the network." The organizing committee was empowered to

put together a proposal to make the GLBT ALMS meetings an ongoing event, and six different cities have already expressed interest in hosting the next event in two years time.

GLBT ALMS built on the idea of a formal organization for GLBT archival collections, libraries and special collections and museums, a proposal last tried in the 1980s with the short-lived International Association of Gay and Lesbian Archives and Libraries. This promises to be an exciting and productive association, one we have needed for some time to provide a forum for ongoing research and the varied challenges of collecting and conserving GLBT culture in all its infuriating detail.

Rob Ridinger, Northern Illinois University
rridinger@niu.edu

Banned Books Week September 23-30, 2006

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year. Observed since 1982, the annual event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.

Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular *and* stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them.

Who decides what you will find freely available in your public and school libraries? Almost 25 years after its initiation, Banned Books Week has special resonance as GLBT-themed books and materials come under attack.

Support for Banned Books Week comes from several sources: the American Booksellers Association, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the American Library Association, the American Society of Journalists and Authors, the Association of American Publishers, and the National Association of College Stores are all sponsors. Banned Books Week is endorsed by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Libraries and bookstores across the country plan events and promote the reading of banned and challenged works,

For more information on Banned Books Week and how you can participate, check the Web site of ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm>

GLBTRT Officers

Co-chairs

Norman Eriksen (2005-07)
n.eriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org

Cal Zunt (2006-08)
Cal.Zunt@cpl.org

Secretary Lewis Day (2006-08)
lewis_day@harvard.edu

Treasurer Dustin Lamore (2005-07)
dustin.lamore@dsu.edu

Merritt Humanitarian Fund

The LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund was established as a special trust in memory of **Dr. LeRoy C. Merritt**. It is devoted to the support, maintenance, medical care, and welfare of librarians who, in the Trustees' opinion, are:

Denied employment rights or discriminated against on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, creed, age, or place of national origin;

Threatened with loss of employment or discharged because of their stand for the cause of intellectual freedom, including promotion of freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and the freedom of librarians to select items for their collections from all the world's written and recorded information.

A full description of the Fund, including instructions on qualifications for assistance, how to apply, and a profile of Dr. Merritt are all available at <http://www.merrittfund.org/>.

Please send in your news!

If there are programs, challenges, services of interest or concern to GLBT patrons, librarians, or collections in your area, they will be of interest or concern to the Round Table. If you have an author you'd like to interview, a local resource to plug, a new idea or a good perspective, share it with your colleagues. Send your news to Newsletter Editor John Bradford at jpbmls@yahoo.com



Loose End by Ivan E. Coyote. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2005. 176 p. (ISBN 155152192X) \$14.95.

The book is a collection of 47 short stories that Ivan Coyote wrote for her monthly column in *Xtra West*. Coyote calls her work "kitchen table stories" – the sort of stories to be told to an audience of friends and family.

In addition to writing, Ivan Coyote is a noted storyteller and spoken word artist. These stories reflect that talent, as you read you slow down to a spoken pace, to a storyteller's pace. They are stories of her neighborhood in East Vancouver, of her extended family, of growing up in the Yukon, of everyday life, welcoming you inside her world and making it your own. Some of the most touching, and the funniest deal with the complications that come from living, as she does, on the borders of established gender roles. Others simply observe the world, reminding us that the wonderful, the magical, and sometimes the ugly can be found in the small things – the overheard conversation, the elderly couple, and the everyday business of living. *Loose End* would be a great addition to any high school or adult fiction collection.

Reviewed by **Nicholas Rosselli**, Reference/Systems Librarian, Indiana University Northwest.



ManBug by George K. Ilsley. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2006. 256p. (ISBN 1551522039)

Young adult Sebastian, gay and detached from ordinary relationships because of Asperger's Syndrome, sees the world through the eyes and senses of entomology, his scientific obsession. His lonely passage through school, where classmates rejected him for his inexplicable behavior – Sebastian experiences his feelings toward other people as colors such as green and blue and is overwhelmed by smell – to adult independence and falling in love, is told in terse, wry and often funny mini-chapters. Humans share the narrative with descriptions of insects that inhabit their lives. In this disjointed style Sebastian's autism comes through to the reader. Canadian George Ilsley makes us fit together the puzzle pieces of Sebastian's romance with Tom, a bisexual adventurer, as the two discover in the intersection of their differences – Tom compensates for his dyslexia with new age philosophy – a way to be lovers. Sexuality and the confusion men feel about love is portrayed frankly, offering some deep insights. Sebastian and Tom's story belongs to many young people, gay and straight. Recommended for mature high school readers.

Reviewed by **Paul Scaer**, Librarian, Science Leadership Academy, Philadelphia, PA.



The Good Neighbor by Jay Quinn. New York: Alyson Books, 2006. 328p. (ISBN 1555839339) \$24.95.

Jay Quinn's third novel tells the story of two unhappy couples living next door to one another in a pricey Florida

housing development. Austin has recently lost his job, so his wife Meg is supporting the family, which puts stress on their otherwise conventional marriage. Next door are Rory and Bruno, a traditionally butch/femme couple, who argue over Bruno's infidelity and Rory's desire to spend his time recording music rather than keeping house. Rory and Austin begin spending days together while their partners are at work, and inevitably, a brief love affair ensues. Nearly all of the action takes place among the four principals.

Such an arrangement requires skillful characterization to be successful, but Quinn falls short here. Rory and Austin are nearly interchangeable as sensitive men down on their luck, while Meg and Bruno are one-dimensionally macho. Furthermore, there isn't enough dialogue to establish characters and relationships; any conversations exist only to move the plot along, and all four leads rely on clichéd expressions that don't help to differentiate them from one another. Recommended only for public libraries with high circulation of gay romances.

Reviewed by **Daisy Porter**, Senior Librarian, San José Public Library



Gay day: the golden age of the Christopher Street Parade by Hank O'Neal. With Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, and Neil Miller. New York: Abrams Image, 2006. 160 p. (ISBN 0810955083) \$24.95.

Previously unpublished, these photographs by Hank O'Neal offer a visual history of the early annual Gay parades held on Christopher Street during the years 1974-1983. In 1982 O'Neal came to know Allen Ginsberg when the two worked together on a recording of Ginsberg's songs, *First Blues*. Shortly after that the two men picked out about 120 of O'Neal's photographs and Ginsberg wrote captions for them, in a rapid process O'Neal compares to improvisational jazz. O'Neal tried to market the book in 1983 but could not find a publisher so the project was abandoned. When Ginsberg died in 1997, O'Neal took the manuscript to Abrams Image and found support for publication.

The images are presented chronologically, beginning with the modest Christopher Street Liberation Day March, now the Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender PRIDE March. Most of the photographs are accompanied by Ginsberg's rich, sometimes acerbic captions. The book closes with an afterward by Neil Miller, who provides a concise, fascinating history of the Gay liberation movement. As a history of the LGBT movement the book reminds us how diverse our causes have been, with references to icons, objectives, and antagonists as extreme as Anita Bryant, the Gay Men's Health Project, and Harvey Milk; it also contains images of banners and signs with such expressions as, "I'm Proud of my Gay Son," "God is Gay," and "A.I.D.S. : We Need Research. Not

Hysteria." Hank O'Neal's photographs are at once comic, tragic, and sensual. It will be valued both by historians and the general reader.

Reviewed by **Gene Hayworth**, Associate Professor, University Libraries, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.



When Charlotte Comes Home by Maureen Millea Smith. New York: Alyson, 2006. 247 p. (ISBN: 1-55583-934-7) \$24.95

In her finely-crafted debut novel, librarian and native Nebraskan Smith creates a story that is so personal, so authentic, and so emotionally wrenching that it reads like a memoir. Fred Holly, presently divorced, gay, and the father of two daughters, recalls his childhood in 1960s/70s Omaha, beginning at age eight, the year his third sibling, Charlotte, is born and the Day family moves in next door. Both Fred and his sister Sarah are immediately enamored of extraordinary, tap-dancing, 8-year-old James Day. The novel covers their friendship over the years, culminating in their senior year in high school when James falls in love with his debate coach and the Holly family is rocked by tragedy with the death of little Charlotte. Smith has created a complex cast of eminently likable characters and a multi-layered story of grief, loss of innocence, unrequited love, and the bonds of friendship and family. A wonderfully touching coming-out, coming-of-age story with a strong sense of place and time – expect to shed plenty of tears (but not to be disheartened)! Reminiscent, in many respects, of Alison Smith's recent memoir *Name All the Animals* (2004).



The Young in One Another's Arms by Jane Rule. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2006. 240p. (ISBN 1551521814) \$16.95.

Part of a series of new editions of GLBT literature named Little Sisters classics in honor of the famed Canadian bookstore, Jane Rule's *The Young in One Another's Arms* won the Canadian Authors Association Best Novel of the Year Award when it was originally published in 1977.

Set in Vancouver near the end of the Vietnam War, the novel is essentially about community, connection and family. The war serves only as a backdrop, a reason for the gathering of young people in a boardinghouse run by Ruth, a middle-aged woman who functions as a surrogate mother for them all.

The dance of the young people's relationships with each other and with Ruth, and Ruth's relationships with her infirm

mother-in-law, absent husband and dead daughter are the heart of the novel. Issues of women's liberation, race relations and opposition to the government run throughout, but are secondary to the personal dramas of the characters, their stories told in spare but lyrical prose.

The preface by Mark Macdonald and new introduction by Lambda Award winner Katherine V. Forrest set the novel squarely within its context and offer insight into the text. Reviews of the novel from 1977 are included as appendices. *The Young in One Another's Arms* is a classic that would be an asset to any collection.

Reviewed by **Sarah Corvene**, Serials Cataloger, Harvard College Library



The Fabulous Sylvester: the Legend, the Music, the Seventies in San Francisco by Joshua Gamson. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 2005. 306 p. (ISBN: 0805072500) \$26.00.

The 2006 Stonewall Book Award winner for non-fiction tells the life story of one of disco's greatest performers and arguably the music world's first openly gay black diva.

Sylvester James, Jr., born in 1947 in South Central Los Angeles, was obviously "different" even in his early years, when playing dress up in his female relatives' clothes offered more appeal than tossing a ball. His musical talents were quickly evident, as well, and he would glean much of his later vocal styling from his Pentecostal church, where he began performing at age 6. While Sylvester's voice eventually evolved into a natural baritone, his effortless falsetto ultimately became his trademark.

Sylvester began his professional singing career with a group of black drag queens known as the Disquotays, whose motto "be fabulous, be the party, look good" became his mantra for life. His fame grew with the years, along with his style and outrageousness, reaching its peak in the disco era of the late 1970s.

As the author shows, Sylvester's talents and musical awareness were deep and wide-ranging. He enjoyed "classic" jazz and idolized that era's female singers, such as Billie Holiday. By all accounts, his stage shows combined fun, glitz and a never-ending beat, mixed with skillful touches of "church," an influence that never left him. His same-sex relationships were numerous, and, for the most part, short-lived.

As the 1980s approached, Sylvester and his inner circle were confronted by the specter of AIDS, which claimed him in 1988. His *joie de vivre* would nevertheless be remembered and cherished by many.

Gamson recreates the life and times of this unique

trailblazer. Using interviews with characters from Sylvester's life, he interweaves discussions of social issues and events that were front and center in San Francisco and around the nation at that time.

This book is suitable for adult general readers, especially those with special interest in the 1970s West Coast music scene.

Reviewed by **Cathy Ritchie**, Theatre/Film Librarian, Dallas (TX) Public Library



Youth, Education, and Sexualities: An International Encyclopedia edited by James T Sears. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 2 v. (ISBN: 0313327483(Set); 0313327548 (v. 1) 0313327556 (v. 2)) \$175.

The question of sexuality is one that most educational institutions and systems find problematic, so much so that it is frequently explicitly prohibited or at best defined to a marginal representation in the curriculum, a practice often reflected in the way the subject is treated in reference works. Editor James Sears (perhaps better known as one of the leading scholars of the gay and lesbian history of the American South in works such as *Lonely hunters : an oral history of lesbian and gay southern life, 1948-1968* (1997) and its predecessor, *Growing up gay in the South : race, gender, and journeys of the spirit* (1991)) has assembled the first in-depth treatment of the topic on an international scale ever issued as a separate work, greatly expanding available information beyond its usual appearance as articles in works such as the *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History in America* (2004) and the *Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture* (2006). Two hundred and forty-two articles written by academics, teachers, and activists from South Africa, Great Britain, Canada, Mexico, China, Hong Kong, Iceland, Japan and New Zealand as well as the United States focus on "the extant knowledge on research, policy and practice on queer sexualities...its intersection with young people and their formal as well as informal schooling." (p. xv).

Each article is provided with a list of references for further reading, with online resources noted separately. Cross-references are not given for every entry, although linked subjects are indicated in the text in bold print. Illustrations are limited to black and white photographs, line drawings, and reproductions of artworks. Given the rise of debates with schools over whether to allow gay-straight alliances to exist as formal organizations and the scattered nature of the professional literature on this topic, this set fills a distinct gap in GLBT reference. Most valuable for high school and public library collections despite the price, although college and university collection supporting degrees in education or gay and lesbian studies will also find it a useful acquisition.

Reviewed by **Rob Ridinger**, Northern Illinois University



The Night Watch by Sarah Waters. New York: Riverhead, 2006. 450 p. (ISBN: 159448905x) \$25.95

In her highly anticipated fourth novel, acclaimed British writer Sarah Waters breaks out of the Victorian mold of her previous three books and places the reader squarely in the squalid, war-torn grittiness of 1940s London.

Employing the unique format of dividing her story into three periods (1947, 1944, and 1941) presented in reverse chronological order, Waters first introduces us to her characters in their damaged, post-war state, morally and emotionally exhausted by their experiences and resigned to the circumstances that fate has dealt them. Kay, former ambulance driver and gallant, self-sacrificing butch prototype now aimlessly wanders the streets; Duncan, who survived prison and the suicide of his teenage lover, lives complacently with the elderly Mr. Mundy, his former corrections officer; Viv continues her unpromising affair with a married man; and Helen is overwrought by jealous fears that her current lesbian lover is cheating on her.

That we are engaged at all by this disheartened bunch is a tribute to Waters' skill. The interactions of her characters are, for the most part, true-to-life and she masterfully conveys the sense of purpose that women acquired during the war and the dispiriting expectation that they revert to traditional, passive roles afterward. She also paints vivid scenes of the destruction and heartbreak of the nightly bombing raids. But there are no surprises in this telling and none of the dramatic plot twists for which Waters is known. Ultimately, the format itself fails the story – and the characters. That we meet them under dismal circumstances, having had no opportunity to develop any empathy for them, and learn their histories already knowing that their futures are fairly bleak (at least up to 1947 – with few hints beyond that to elicit much hope), makes them more pathetic than sympathetic over the course of the novel.

Written chronologically, the ending would be unacceptably unsatisfying, writing it "backwards" does not remedy that. Not without merit, and certainly evocative of an interesting period and place, *The Night Watch* doesn't live up to Waters' previous efforts.

Reviewed by **Roseann Szalkowski**, Senior Cataloger, Skokie Public Library, Skokie, IL

Thank you all for contributing to another issue of the GLBTRT Newsletter!

This could not have been achieved without your collective help and continued support!



The Rice Queen Diaries: a Memoir by Daniel Gawthrop. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2005. 252 p. (ISBN 155152189X) \$16.95

Despite its provocative title, *Rice Queen Diaries* gives the reader three gifts for the price of one. Yes, here are the day-by-day adventures and misadventures of a self-avowed practicing "rice queen," who feels a special attraction for East Asians, but the desire, the sex, and the occasional obsession are interpreted with a large doses of queer cross-cultural theory. It is not often that a sex diary has so many erudite footnotes. Gawthrop's book is also an insightful travelogue, seen through young gay eyes, focusing mostly on Thailand, where the author visits and then lives for three years. Vietnam also gets illuminating attention during a visit there.

Gawthrop is a journalist, a profession he began in British Columbia and pursued in Bangkok. He has learned to write well. His nicely-designed book is illustrated with a photograph or illustration at the beginning of each of the 19 chapters. The pictures are not identified, but the reader can usually figure them out from the ensuing text.

The Library of Congress suggests subject headings for the author, for gay men in Canada and Asia, and for Asians. Libraries buying this book should add headings for Queer theory and for Thailand. "Rice queens" is not yet an authorized subject heading, but it may soon be on the way with this worthy literary warrant.

Reviewed by **James D. Anderson**, emeritus Professor of Library and Information science, Rutgers University



Calling all members!

The membership committee cordially invites you to complete the membership profile found on: <http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/glbtrt/memberprofile.html>.

We're working to ascertain exactly who makes up the Round Table. The information provided will be used to assist in program planning, designing promotional materials, and finding interested parties for liaison positions. All information will be kept exclusively within the steering and membership committees.

We appreciate your assistance!



The GLBT Round Table needs your time, talent, and energy if our success in contributing toward libraries and library professionalism is to continue. Tell us how you can help!

Name
Library/Organization
Address
City **State** **Zip**
Phone Number
Fax Number
E-Mail address

- On which of these committees would you be willing to serve?*
- Book Award:** choose the Stonewall Award-winners
 - Breakfast Planning:** plan GLBTRT Book Award Breakfast event held at ALA Annual
 - External Relations:** disseminate Round Table information to interested parties inside and outside ALA
 - Fundraising:** locate external funding for GLBTRT
 - Membership:** help to recruit & retain GLBTRT members
 - Newsletter:** write/edit/layout book reviews and articles
 - Nominating:** discover candidates for GLBTRT elections
 - Program Planning:** plan programs and pre-conferences
 - Read-Aloud:** coordinate & moderate program at ALA annual
 - Social hour:** make local arrangements for our social hours, held during ALA Midwinter & Annual
 - Website Committee:** develop & maintain GLBTRT Web

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? If yes, please indicate committee preference.

Are you willing to serve as an elected officer?
 Yes No

What special skills, talents or assets do you have that you would be willing to share with the Round Table?

Additional comments:

Please mail this form to:
 Paul Higdon
 Lima Public Library
 650 W. Market St.
 Lima, OH 45801

or email your interests and questions to
 Membership Committee Chair Paul Higdon at:
higdonp@limalibrary.com