



GLBTRT Newsletter

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A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered
Round Table of the American Library Association
<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>



From the Editor

Hello, all!!!

Thank you all, once again, for helping to make this issue of the newsletter come together. I apologize for this issue being a bit late on the calendar. I'll be sure to have the next one back on track in time for ALA in Orlando, making the deadline for the next issue is **May 14!** Sorry for the short interval!

Also I'd like to ask the Round Table to please think about writing some short general interest articles for the upcoming issues of the newsletter. During my time as Editor, many of you have sent in some wonderful pieces, and have really made this newsletter a success. I sincerely thank you all for that support. But as is my role, I need to ask you to continue that support. If you've participated in an interesting GLBT event in your library, or if there is an interesting GLBT collection you know about.. anything at all that might be of interest to this group, please write something up to share with all of us. There are so many amazing things going on today in the global GLBT community, and we all need to be more aware of what's really out there!

That's enough for my rant. If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, or if you wish to submit something for an upcoming issue, please email me. I'll be more than happy to help in any way I can.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

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



From the Co-Chairs

Hi everyone.

I wanted to use my space in this letter to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, calls, and e-mails that I have received from you. Your words have meant a lot as I get back to work and life after Rob's death. It is great to know that there are so many people that had us in their thoughts. I am sorry that I missed out on Midwinter and hope to see all of you in Orlando in June. If I owe anyone e-mail or correspondence just remind me and I will take care of it. I lost track of a lot of e-mail and hope I have not forgotten any questions or requests you may have sent me.

I know a lot of you have been busy with Round Table activities and I just wanted to thank you all. TJ Lusher for getting the Web site running. Deborah Battisti and committee for getting the update to the YA bibliography. Cal Zunt, Rich DiRusso, and Lynn Evarts for their program at PLA in Seattle. There is always plenty to do so don't hesitate to get involved.

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Stonewall Book Awards Announced

The 2004 winners of the Stonewall Book Awards were announced to thunderous applause on January 11 at the GLBT Roundtable social held at the spectacular Mission Branch of the San Diego Public Library during the ALA Midwinter meeting.

Monique Troung is the winner of the Barbara Gittings Award in Literature for **The Book of Salt** (Houghton Mifflin). The Book of Salt chronicles the life of Binh, the Vietnamese French immigrant and his years as Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas' live-in cook in 1930s Paris. **The Book of Salt** is a savory delight of unexpected depth, beauty and emotion. John D'Emillo is the winner of the Israel Fishman Award in Nonfiction for **Lost Prophet: the Life and Times of Bayard Rustin** (Free Press), the thrilling, in-depth portrait of the late activist.

The Stonewall Book Awards, formally called the ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) Award was established in 1971 and is the oldest award of its kind.

The Stonewall Book Award finalists in literature are:

The Cutting Room (Cannongate) by Louise Welsh
Keeping You a Secret (Little, Brown) by Julie Ann Peters
Lives of the Circus Animals: A Novel (Morrow) by Christopher Bram
Southland (Akashic) by Nina Revoyer

The Stonewall Book Award finalists in nonfiction are:

Beautiful Shadow: a Life of Patricia Highsmith
(Bloomsbury) by Andrew Wilson
Before Stonewall: Activists for Gay and Lesbian Rights in Historical Context (Haworth) edited by Vern L. Bullough, RN, PhD
Intertwined Lives: Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict and their Circle (Knopf) by Lois W. Banner
Ridiculous: the Theatrical Life and Times of Charles Ludlam (Applause) by David Kaufman

Please join us at the annual Breakfast Awards on Monday June 28, 2004 in Orlando, Florida as we honor the winners.

Many thanks to Anne Moore, Stephen Stratton, Richard DiRusso and Andrew Johnson.

Much gratitude to the members of the Book Award Committee

Mary Callaghan "Cal" Zunt, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect- Cleveland Public Library
Norman Eriksen, Brooklyn Public Library
Lynn Evarts, Sauk Prairie High School
Ronald C. Hansen, Columbia College Chicago Library
Robert L. Jaquay, Sanford Town Library
Katie Lynds, San Francisco Public Library
Jamie McGrath, Oakland, CA
Chet Mulawka, San Mateo County Library
Teresa Y. Neely, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Katia Roberto, University of Georgia
Nick Rosselli, Indiana University
Marshall Shore, Phoenix Public Library
Barbara Stevens, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Cecil Hixon

Chair, 2004 Stonewall Book Award Committee
chixon@nypl.org



Save the Date: **Stonewall Book Awards Breakfast**

Please join us on **Monday, June 28 in Orlando, Florida, from 7:30am to 10:00am** as we celebrate the presentation of our 33rd Annual Stonewall Book Awards for Literature and Non-fiction.

Join your friends, the winning authors and other guests for this traditionally sold-out event. It's always a wonderful way to round out your conference.

Tickets will be available for \$50 through conference registration. Pre-register, as tickets go fast!





Hello everyone! The website continues to grow and prosper. According to the website statistics kept by the University Libraries at Northern Illinois the GLBT site is a received almost 2,000 visits for the month of February 2004. Please continue to send along corrections and updates for the website! People are looking at the site!

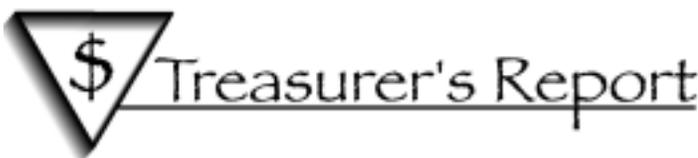
We have added a new bibliography entitled the Gay Holocaust check it out at http://www.niulib.niu.edu/lgbt/Gay_Holocaust_Final.htm. The hand-outs from the PLA presentation will soon be added to the website- so keep an eye out for that information.

I am in the very early stages of creating a searchable database for the Stonewall Book Awards. When the finished you will be able to search for items by author, title, winner/finalist, year and category (non-fiction vs. fiction).

I am also adding meeting information to the website for the upcoming ALA meeting in Orlando. If you have a meeting you would like to have added- send me the date, time, place and title. TBA is okay, just remember to update as you received further details.

So stay tuned, the fun has just begun!

TJ Lusher, Chair
Web/Clearinghouse Committee
tlusher@niu.edu



Endowment Fund Tops \$30,000 Mark

As of February 29, 2004, GLBTRT's endowment fund has a principal of \$30,484.26. This represents an increase of almost 29% from a year ago. ALA requires a minimum principal amount of \$40,000 in order to endow GLBTRT's book award fund. This means that we still need to raise \$9,500 to establish the endowment. In order to generate sufficient income to fully support both the "Stonewall – Israel Fishman Award for Nonfiction" and the "Barbara Gittings Award for Literature" we will need to raise at least \$75,000. The "Stonewall Book Awards Endowment" is important to the GLBTRT in order to create financial stability allowing us to be less dependent on unpredictable membership dues.

To date the GLBTRT has a membership of 560 people. Dues collected from membership fees are used to cover all operating expenses, including annual book awards but excluding our annual breakfast which has been self supporting. The RT is currently in good financial shape.

Margaret M. Pas
Treasurer, GLBTRT
mpas@sympatico.ca



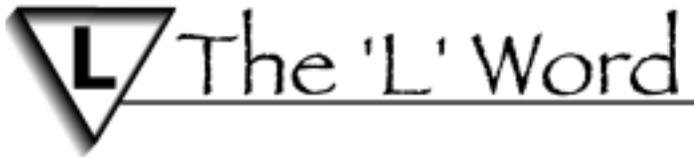
The Harvey Milk Story. By Kari Krakow. Two Lives Publishing, 2002. 32 pp. \$17.95 hardback (ISBN 096744683X)

Author Kari Krakow's picture book biography describes the life and assassination of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man elected to public office in the U.S. Krakow describes the life of an extremely popular boy who becomes an internally troubled youth when he realizes that his secret sexual orientation may ostracize him from his family and friends. Harvey's pivotal move to San Francisco's Castro district provides the safe environment for him to become openly gay, yet Harvey soon realizes that even in San Francisco, gays experienced significant discrimination. He decides to run for the Board of Supervisors to try and end some of the injustices he has witnessed.

While the initial focus of this biography is on Harvey and his relationships, the conclusion leaves the reader unclear as to how these relationships evolve after he becomes involved in politics. At the same time, these unknowns may provide a springboard for discussions or further reading.

Talented illustrator David Gardner's previous work in animation studios is apparent in his watercolors that depict Harvey's personal and political life. The assassinations themselves are visually and verbally dealt with in an accurate but delicate manner. While this book may be targeted for upper elementary students, anyone ten and above may be informed, enlightened, and moved by this courageous man's fight for equality.

Reviewed by Jim Kaisen, Ph.D., Western Illinois University; Karen Hindhede, M.A., Black Hawk College



The L Word(s) Among Us in the Library World

tatiana de la tierra, Arts and Sciences Libraries, University at Buffalo

I first heard about "The L Word" when I went to the chiropractor for an adjustment. I had just gotten back from Spain and my chiropractor asked me what I was doing there. "Interviewing lesbian and gay writers and publishers," I told her.

She got really excited. "Oh, have you heard about the lesbians?"

"No," I said. "What about them?"

"Well, I don't know, but they're on the cover of a magazine!" She called out to the receptionist to get it for me.

"It's in the back room," said the receptionist. "I can't have *that* out in the waiting room." *That* was *New York* magazine, which had a suggestive yet completely G-rated image of the stars of "The L Word" on the cover with the banner "Not Your Mother's Lesbians" running across their torsos.

I read the feature article on the airplane on the way to Midwinter in San Diego, along with the article on "bois," the young hip dyke playboys with the wham-bam philosophy on girl-on-girl sex. I noted the absence of Latina lesbians in both articles and wondered how Showtime could get away with eliminating Chicana lesbians from Los Angeles. The lesbian beauty standard proposed in the program was worrisome—glamorous and privileged white women with just a little bit of brown thrown in for spice. I dozed off with that horrid thought and soon landed in San Diego.

The next day, at the Convention Center, I found myself chatting with a gay Latino colleague from Reforma, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking. We bumped into each other at registration, went for some coffee, and talked about Reforma's lack of visible queer representation in the programming and in the membership. I've been addressing these kinds of issues via my Latin@ lesbian and gay bibliography and my research on queer Latin@ materials and the subject headings assigned to them. So far, I've focused on my research, but now I'm wondering what I can do about Reforma's lack of attention to certain L words—lesbianism, literature, and language.

My colleague cleared his throat. "You know, you're just too in-your-face," he said. "That turns people off." He suggested that I tone down the volume. I thanked him for being honest. Yet toning it down is just not my style.

Richard Rodriguez presented the next day about the browning of America. I was moved to tears at one point; he is so eloquent, so sharp, brown and beautiful. I wanted to yell out "I love you!" to him from where I was standing in the back, against the wall. Yes, some things bother me—his use of the word "Hispanic," his take on affirmative action, his invisible queer identity. But when I hear him I hear a poetic thinker,

someone who speaks his truth, and I love him for doing it so well.

Later that night, I did a reading at Casa del Libro, a Latin@ bookstore in the gay region at Hillcrest. My book, *For the Hard Ones: A Lesbian Phenomenology* is a bilingual treatise on lesbianism. It was co-published by Chibcha Press from Buffalo and Calaca Press from San Diego, and Calaca hosted the event. It was attended by mostly local queer Latin@s. At the end of the reading a man wanted to know if the name I used to publish was also the name I used at work in my library. And did my colleagues know what I wrote about? "Yes," I said, to his astonishment. "It's called intellectual freedom."

But freedom is relative. I had been interviewed for a local Latin@ publication about my book. When the journalist presented the piece to the publisher, it was vetoed because my book includes graphic literary sexual imagery of lesbianism. Neither the journalist nor my publisher protested; they took it in stride, as if censorship for edgy queer writings is par for the course.

The next evening, at the social for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table (GLBTRT), a White gay man said something along the lines of, "I'm sorry I missed your reading but since I'm not Latina I didn't think it was so relevant." I should have thanked him for being honest.

Latin@ issues are largely not considered relevant by (White) queers, just like queer issues are not considered relevant by (heterosexual) Latin@s. I hate to say this because you'd think that by now, with all the multi-culty diversity talk in the library world and beyond, I could say something different. Why wouldn't a White queer librarian think that a Latina lesbian's experience matters? Why wouldn't a straight Latin@ librarian think that homosexuality is relevant to the Latin@ community? This divide keeps those of us who are both Latin@ and queer in a quandary.

Which is my greatest allegiance? I have to ask myself. Lesbian? Or Latina?

I am a separatist from way back. Me and my friends, we stick to our own. We have our own groups, our own writers, our own saints. It becomes an insular world, though, and after a while, it gets old. I put myself in the Latina lesbian ghetto and now I am trying to give this identity its rightful place in the bibliographic world.

I want to say that the queer/Latin@ connection does matter because what we care about as human beings is ultimately reflected in our libraries, in our collections, in our archives, in our subject headings, in our cataloguing practices, in our policies, in the ways in which we serve our users, and in every single system in place in our libraries. Homophobia happens in a series of small and seemingly insignificant ways, yet the overall impact is large. From the internalized homophobia of the queers who don't want to claim their sexuality to the queers that want to shut up those of us who do; from the editors who censor to the publishers who are complicit in the censorship; from the receptionist at the chiropractor's office to the glossy homogenized dykes in "The L Word."

Both homophobia and racism happen by omission as well. Reforma does a great job of addressing issues pertinent to public libraries, mentorship, and bilingual children's litera-

ture. But what about issues pertinent to academic libraries and bilingual queers? The GLBTRT highlight contemporary English-language queer books and bring visibility to queers in the profession. But what about Spanish-language queer books? And what about addressing issues of diversity within the queer community? Why is it that there are hardly any out gays in Reforma and hardly any Latin@s (or other people of color) in GLBTRT?

I want Richard Rodriguez to talk about the queering and Spanishing of America. I want the local Latin@ media to include queers in their coverage. I want everyone to think about the new Latin@ "majority" of the minorities and what this implies when it comes to collection development and programming for our patrons in the libraries. Let's not forget that some of these Latin@s are homosexual and either Spanish-speaking or bilingual. That many are immigrants from a slew of different countries, from Cuba and Colombia to Mexico and Guatemala. There is already great concern that the library profession is ill prepared to serve this vast and diverse community because of a shortage of librarians with adequate language and cultural skills. I'd like to add sexuality to the mix here.

And I invite collective thought on what could be done to address the queer/Latin@ connection. How about a book award for Spanish-language queer books? A think tank for considering how language and sexuality affect collections, catalogs, and library services? Resource guides that identify and review Spanish-language gay materials and demystify the distribution of these materials in the U.S.? An assessment of queer Latin@ cultural coverage in academic databases? A study that pinpoints queer Latin@ holdings in Latin@ and queer archives?

I don't think White people are inherently racist or that Latin@s are pathologically homophobic. Instead, I think there is a cultural disconnect that keeps us in our own worlds, sheltered from the rest. We can stay here, or we can venture out. I call for us to step outside of what we think is ours and expand our boundaries. Those of us who are bilingual and bicultural live in multiple worlds all the time. We cross that border every time we say a word in English, every time we have a desire in Spanish. Being elastic, bouncing from one world into the next, this is good. As librarians, I hope we go out of our way to venture into these other worlds.

A professor from a university in the northeast called me recently to tell me that he taught *For the Hard Ones* in one of his classes. He told me that, on the day my book was discussed, several young women were in tears; they said that it was the first time they had ever read anything that spoke to them in their language. I want all librarians to hear this. Sometimes, we need Literature in our Language(s) and Latin@ cultures—in our L words. And this should matter to all of us.

19 de enero de 2004, buffalo, nueva york

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Science, Scripture, and Homosexuality. By Alice Ogden Bellis and Terry L. Hufford. The Pilgrim Press, 2002. 128 pp. \$12.00 paper (ISBN0-8298-1485-X)

In *Science, Scripture, and Homosexuality*, Alice Ogden Bellis and Terry L. Hufford argue that scientific research indicating homosexuality may be genetically determined must lead Christians to rethink Biblical interpretations of homosexuality as a sin. Citing Christian responses to Copernicanism and Darwinism as precedents, the authors contend that history ultimately attests to the willingness of Christians to accommodate themselves to scientific discoveries. "Since fairly early on in church history," the authors write, "many thoughtful Christians have striven to reconcile the truth of the Bible with science" (46).

Certainly, such a claim is counterintuitive, and the evidence presented in support of it seems selective and superficial. Indeed, inadequate support of rather dubious arguments is a hallmark of *Science, Scripture, and Homosexuality*. The authors accept uncritically the attempts of scientists to discover a "gay gene" and ignore the potential for anachronism in inferring homosexual condemnation from the Old and New Testaments. Compounding the problem of too little analysis is the fact that long stretches of the book are devoted to matters unrelated to the specific nexus of science, scripture, and homosexuality. Bellis and Hufford assume at length, for instance, that the heliocentric controversies of the past must be analogous to present-day debates over homosexuality. However, the authors gloss over the vastly different notions of "truth" that are at stake here. How can questions of planetary orbits, which can be addressed via observation and experimentation, be compared to questions of sexual behavior, which must evoke a host of cultural, biological, psychological, and religious factors? More fundamentally, how does one even begin to negotiate questions of authority in defining the relationship between science and religion?

Unfortunately, Bellis and Hufford offer no persuasive discussion of such difficulties. Despite the authors' good intentions, *Science, Scripture, and Homosexuality* will be of little help to readers who wish to revisit the Bible with less-prejudiced minds.

Reviewed by David Robinson, Ph.D., Rare Book and Special Collections, The Library of Congress





Getting the Green Light for GLBT Services *GLBTRT's 1st PLA Program*

Lynn Evarts, Cal Zundt and myself spoke to a crowd of about a 100 people on a chilly Seattle morning (Friday, Feb. 27th at 8:30am). We discussed the aspects of how to implement GLBT services (at any level, i.e. collection development, outreach, programming) within the library's greater service plan. I emphasized the importance of obtaining administrative support, why it is necessary for successful service and what steps to take to achieve it. Cal spoke about the need to develop broad bases of support within the community and among library staff. Lynn stressed how important it is to have visibility, especially among teens. We all expressed how an organization like the GLBT-Rroundtable can help people with concerns like these, as well as, developing ties with other glbt people and our allies in the profession. A lively question and answer period followed.

Richard DiRusso, Chair
External Relations Committee
RDiruss1@ci.tucson.az.us



Eight Seconds. By Jean Ferris. Puffin, 2002. 192 pp.
\$5.99 paper (ISBN 0142301213)

John wins rodeo competitions. He dates a girl that makes other high school guys envious. He fights well enough to dish out as many black eyes and bloody noses as he receives; however, during a series of late night discussions with another rodeo competitor named Kit, something awakens deep within John.

Before author Jean Ferris wrote this coming of age novel for teens, she spent time observing at a rodeo camp. As a result, she captured the highly competitive and macho atmosphere that exists among cowboys. The ideal that these young men aspire to is that of a rugged fighter who runs down any sort of deviation from this masculine image. The juxtaposition of this ideal with being gay creates significant tension in Ferris' book.

With the craft of an experienced writer, Ferris raises and lowers time and again the possibility of John being gay. The story does not end on the last page as readers contemplate John's recognition of his own sexuality and the truth about friendships and trust. This book may be found in the QCAD library.

*Reviewed by Jim Kaisen, Ph.D., Western Illinois University;
Karen Hindhede, M.A., Black Hawk College*



Applications are now being accepted at:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/olos/literacyoutreach.htm>

Celebrating Extraordinary Examples Of Diversity
In America's Libraries

7th Annual Diversity Fair 2004
ALA Annual Conference
Saturday, June 26, 2004
3:00 to 5:00 PM in the Exhibits Area

All kinds of exciting things are happening at the 7th Annual Diversity Fair 2004. Here are a few things to look for:

- * New look and larger audience!
- * New location on the ALA Exhibit Hall Floor!
- * "Best of Show" recognition for creativity, visual appeal and stated impact on local community

* PRIZES for the first time!**

1. First Place: \$500 DEMCO gift certificate
 2. Second Place: \$200 DEMCO gift certificate
 3. Third Place: \$50 DEMCO gift certificate
- Supported by DEMCO, INC

**ALA units are excluded from "Best of Show"

Winners will be recognized in the conference newspaper, Cognotes, American Libraries, and the Office for Literacy & Outreach Services website at <http://www.ala.org/olos>.

For more information contact **Tanga Morris** at:
800-545-2433 #4294, ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611 or at divfair@ala.org.



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
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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!!