



GLBTRT Newsletter

Vol 18
No 1

Spring
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!

I hope that 2006 is finding everyone well! My term as Newsletter Editor is drawing near it's end. The next issue will be my last as Editor. **John Bradford** will be succeeding me in this role, and I am confident that he will do an outstanding job! Please join me in thanking and congratulating him!

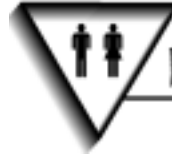
Ray Barber, our **Book Review Editor**, has asked me to pass on a message to everyone. Please send all book reviews directly to him at rbarber@penncharter.com, as he will look them over and format them appropriately for the newsletter, before sending them on to me. He maintains a list of reviewed books, so it is very important that he act as a hub for all reviews. He is also more than willing to hear your requests for book reviews, so feel free to contact Ray anytime.

I am also in search of candidates for the next **Book Review Editor**. **Ray Barber** is currently in this role, but I would like to have a potential successor lined up so that Ray can help acclimate this person to the duties of the job (though the length of Ray's term in office is currently unspecified). The reviews that Ray has been sending me are wonderful, and certainly numerous! I think that the inclusion of book covers is an especially nice touch. These reviews have made a wonderful addition to this publication, and I would like to see that trend continue.

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is **May 17th, 2006**, so please have all your book reviews, officer reports, ALA info, and general interest articles sent to me before that time!

Thanks for all of your contributions and input, and as always, special thanks to the **Haworth Press** for their continued support! Please let me know if there are any questions or comments about the newsletter!

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
kenwells@ufl.edu



From the Co-Chairs

As the ALA election season approaches, it is time to consider all the various positions up for election, from ALA President to Councilors to our own Round Table officials. This year, we elect a new secretary and a co-chair. Traditionally the election for secretary has been paired with 'female' co-chair and the treasurer position happen during the year a 'male' co-chair was elected.

In 1999, when the task force became a 'Round Table', we added 'transgender' to our acronym in order to broaden our inclusively and ultimately institutionalize our support for the transgendered community. However, we must realize that the current bylaws for our Round Table are in conflict with this ideal. While masculine and feminine gender identities are common to us, we must appreciate that gender identities do exist outside this binary. Therefore by having positions designated as 'male' and 'female' we essentially silence the 't' in glbt.

When this issue was raised two years ago, both Steve Stratton and I agree the round table needed to act on changing this. So last year during Annual Conference, we proposed a change at the Membership meeting. Unfortunately the membership meeting had only limited attendance so it was proposed to put this on the ballot for a vote.

I strongly urge you to vote during the annual ALA this spring and to support (with a 'yes' vote) the proposed bylaw change outlined on page 3. We need to make the GLBT Round Table a welcoming and friendly environment for all glbt individuals; regardless of their orientation or identity.

Norman Eriksen

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Students in the Department of Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles started an official graduate student organization, named Library & Archive OUTreach.

Inspired by ALA's GLBT Round Table, Library & Archive OUTreach formed out of a growing concern among library and archival students to provide its members, affiliates, and library, archival, and information studies field with a forum for discussion and an environment for education and learning regarding the needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered professional community and population at large. The group was especially needed at UCLA, which serves a large GLBT professional community and numerous GLBT library students.

The group has been given significant support by numerous librarians and organizations at UCLA, including the LGBT Resource Center; Yolanda Retter, Librarian, UCLA's Chicano Studies Resource Center; and Jennifer Schaffner, Reference Librarian, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. Within the Department of Information Studies, professors Beverly Lynch, Clara Chu, and Anne Gilliland have been invaluable advisors.

Since the group formed in December 2005, considerable progress has been made toward planning events and promoting GLBT issues in the information field. We created a Website last month <http://polaris.gseis.ucla.edu/liboutreach/>. The Website features information about our organization, reference books, online resources, a list of LGBT scholarships, and a list of prominent Libraries and Archives, as well as current news headlines in GLBT information service.

We are currently planning the OUTreach Symposium to be held on Friday, November 17, 2006. It will be moderated by Anne Gilliland, and some of the panelists who are confirmed to attend include Yolanda Retter; Jim Van Buskirk, Program Manager, James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center; Jim Carmichael, Professor, University of North Carolina, Greensboro; Susan Parker, Deputy University Librarian, UCLA; and Dan Tsang, Social Science Data Librarian, Jack Langson Library, UC Irvine. Proposed topics include collection development, reference services to teens, how to provide multicultural LGBT resources and services, LGBT issues in archives and special collections, workplace identity management, and promoting gay and lesbian collections.

While students are not required to become a member in any "official" way to participate in events and discussions, there are approximately 20 students who email each other directly, as well as others who receive our emails through the Department list serves. Our email address is libraryOUTreach@ucla.edu.

Patrick Keilty
MLIS Student, UCLA
President, Library & Archive OUTreach
pkeilty@gmail.com

ALA Annual Programs - New Orleans

The Round Table will host a wide range of events in New Orleans, and we look forward to seeing you there! Our feature program promises to be as intriguing as it is educational. The Drag Kings of New Orleans.

Our Annual read Aloud program will be held off-site, just prior to the Sunday Social. We hope you will be able to join us, and bring along your own fiction or non-fiction to read, or the work of your favorite GLBT author.

This year's Social will be on Sunday evening, 6-8pm. All proceeds collected at the Social will be donated to a local organization to assist with their recovery from Katrina. Stay tuned for details!

We have shuffled our normal schedule around a bit, in an attempt to help streamline your busy ALA weekend. Sunday is now THE day to spend with your GLBTRT colleagues. We hope this new structure will allow you to attend the programs and events that interest you.

Annual Program
The Drag Kings of New Orleans
Sunday, 1:30pm-3:30pm

Read Aloud in New Orleans
Sunday, 4-5:30pm

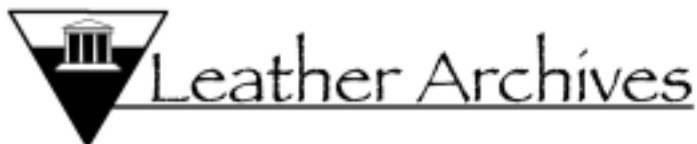
GLBTRT Social
Sunday, 6-8pm

YALSA Program of Interest
(for anyone not attending the Awards Brunch)
**Out of the Closet, and into the Library:
Access to GLBT Materials for Teens**
Monday, 10:30am-12pm

See you in The Big Easy!

Gary Wasdin, Chair
Program Planning Committee
wasing@newschool.edu





Leather Archives

Leather Archives

De Blase Papers Inventory Completed

In March, 2006, the preliminary inventory of the primary personal papers collection held by the Leather Archives and Museum, the legacy of the career of artist, writer, mammalogist and publisher Anthony De Blase, was completed after three years of transcription.. The forty-eight boxes contain a wealth of detailed information about topics as varied as the design and presentation of the now- famous " Leather Pride Flag", internal management of the widely circulated magazine *Drummer* (which served as the venue of publication for many pieces of erotic fiction and portfolios of photographic art), the origin and growth of the chapters of the National Leather Association, and the growth in public visibility and activism by the leather community through such gatherings as the Living in Leather conferences. The files also contain a substantial number of story manuscripts by both De Blasé and other authors (some later published in his collection *Flederfiction*, named for his nom de plume, *Fledermaus*, itself based on his research at Chicago's Field Museum on the bats of Iran.) . Other formats present in the collection include photographs, drawings, holdings of specialized periodicals, organizational minutes, and a voluminous array of De Blase's personal and business correspondence over several decades. The basic inventory will be refined and consolidated before a listing is placed on the home page.

Rob Ridinger

rridinger@niu.edu

Proposed Bylaw Wording Changes

(changes are in bold)

IV. OFFICERS

Titles and Terms of Office:

- The Round Table shall elect two **Co-Chairs of differing gender identity**, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, each serving a term of two years.
- **One Co-Chair** and Secretary shall be filled during even numbered years.
- **One Co-Chair** and Treasurer shall be filled during odd numbered years.
- Officers may not hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms without approval of the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee will select a person to serve for the remainder of the term of any office that becomes unexpectedly vacant.



GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS

My goal is that we review many books, both books we recommend and books we do not recommend. These reviews should be professional, combining the best practices of the library profession and our unique perspective as GLBT individuals. Keeping in mind that The Newsletter is not infinitely expandable, these reviews should be between 120 and 180 words long. Yes, some books demand longer reviews because of their complexity, controversial nature or importance. When you feel that a book you are reviewing will need additional space please let me know so I can plan.

Reviews should clearly state what the book is about and include an evaluative section. It is always helpful if you can compare it to other books. The review should end with a clear recommendation and indicate audience. If there are situations or language which may cause problems these should be pointed out. Such situations, language, etc. need should not overly influence the recommendation unless they are inappropriate, extraneous to the book, or badly handled.

I think that LJ and Booklist are good models. The reviews I enjoy reading are from Kirkus, but I would be hard pressed to do one of that literary quality for every book I read.

Below is a sample review for you to consider. More are available upon request, or see other reviews in this issue. Please note the bibliographic form and the form for your byline.

This is a quick set of guidelines to get us through the current issue. Please help me by sending me your comments.

Ray Barber, *Book Review Editor*

rbarber@penncharter.com

Kings & Queens: Queers at the Prom. By David Boyer. Soft Skull Press.2004.160 p. paperback (ISBN1-932360-24-7) [306.766]

David Boyer uses the high school prom to wrap stories about coming out and living as a homosexual. The book is divided into sections with profiles from the 90's, 80's, 70's and 60's, and back through the 1930's. Each profile includes the date and place of their high school senior year, pictures and a summary, in their own words, about their senior prom. A postscript gives information on where they are now, and a bit about how they got there. Extras include a style guide, prom trends and a section on how the American idea of a senior prom has spread around the world. Each profile is surprisingly gripping and many make you think of your own high school experience. The pictures will bring knowing nods from older readers and gales of giggles from teens. This book offers a good window into the high school experience and would be a good addition to a YA or high school library collection.

Reviewed by Mark Singer, High School Librarian, retired.



Stonewall Book Awards Announced

At the social during the midwinter conference in San Antonio, the Stonewall Book Award Committee met, and selected this years winners as well as the Honor Book recipients.

Among the many titles we had a chance to consider, the final five in each category clearly stood out among the rest, and when it came time to select the winning title in each category, the committee clearly knew which ones would receive the top honor.

The winner of the Barbara Gittings Book Award for Literature is Abha Dawesar for *Babyji*, published by Anchor, and the winner for the Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction is Joshua Gamson for *The Fabulous Sylvester: the Legend, the Music, the 70s in San Francisco*, published by Henry Holt and Co..

For more information on these titles, as well as information about the Honor Book winners go to the Roundtable website <http://www.ala.org/ala/glbtrt/welcomeglbtround.htm>.

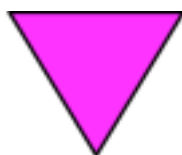
I am pleased this year to announce that both of our Award winners are scheduled to be at our Awards Brunch on Monday June 26. Josh Gamson is particularly eager to be there and meet us.

At midwinter we say adieu to the members of the committee who have served their term. Many thanks go to past chair Cal Zunt, Lindsay Schell, Michael Miller, and Jeffrey Beal. Robin Imhoff will be assuming the position of committee chair after conference in June, and started coordinating the process for next years awards at the end of Midwinter.

I am please to announce that Richard DiRusso was elected as Vice Chair/Chair Elect.

I hope you all are planning on attending our Awards Brunch, as I know that John Sandstrom is busy putting together a spectacular event. See you all in New Orleans.

Bob Jaquay, Chair
Stonewall Book Award Committee 2005-6
rl_jaquay@yahoo.com



Annual Awards Brunch in New Orleans

While we don't know what hotel and we don't know the menu we do know we are going to have a great time!

So come join us for the Awards Brunch on Monday at 10:30 am in New Orleans. Our speakers this year are this years book award winners, Joshua Gamson, author of *The Fabulous Sylvester: The Legend, the Music, the '70s in San Francisco* and, in a surprise announcement to late for the program book, Abha Dawesar, author of *Babyji*.

I look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans, but if you have any questions, comments, or complaints, please give me a shout.

John Sandstrom, Chair
Book Award Brunch
Sandstrom.JC@elpasotexas.gov



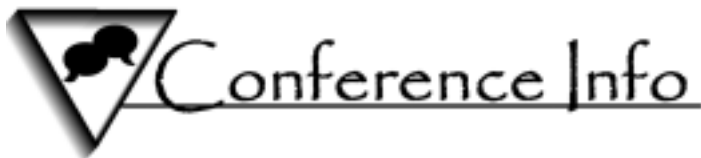
Request from treasurer for in-memoriam donations

On February 28, 2006, my former partner and still very close friend, John Steven Lesmeister, died unexpectedly at the age of 50 at his home in Fargo, North Dakota. John was an avid reader of political and historical works, having been elected state treasurer of North Dakota at the young age of 26 in 1980. When I first told John that I was to become treasurer of GLBTRT, he was thrilled to learn that ALA included a group specifically for LGBT library workers and LGBT-related library issues. I would like to extend an invitation for Round Table members to donate to the GLBTRT Book Award Endowment in memory of John. Please include with your payment a letter stating that the donation is in memory of John Steven Lesmeister and is to support the GLBTRT Book Award Endowment.

Donations should be mailed to: Tanga Morris, ALA/OLOS, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Thank you very much. The Round Table Steering Committee, especially me, appreciates any donations to the Book Award Endowment in John's name.

Dustin P. Larmore, Treasurer (2005-07)
ALA GLBT Round Table
dustin.larmore@dsu.edu



GLBT ALMS 2006

The first international conference of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) archives, libraries, museums, and special collections (ALMS) will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 18-21, 2006. The purpose of the conference is to promote the development of, use of, and protection of GLBT archives, libraries, museums, and special collections worldwide, and to provide for contact and networking between GLBT ALMS globally.

The conference will provide an educational setting in which staff from public and private GLBT ALMS can meet to discuss mutual problems and learn from experts how to deal with issues confronting the daily use of their collections, such as:

- Cataloging GLBT collections
- Fundraising for GLBT collections
- Censorship and sexually-explicit material
- Integrating GLBT collections into the classroom
- Preservation issues
- Working with the media

Conference sponsors include the University of Minnesota Libraries and its Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies. The Tretter Collection houses over 30,000 items of interest to GLBT communities. The collection is international and multilingual in scope. Books form the core of this collection but there are also textiles, glassware, film, music, art works, and three-dimensional objects such as event buttons and furniture.

Another sponsor, Saint Paul, Minnesota's Quatrefoil Library, has served the GLBT and sexual minority community since 1986 with a circulating collection of books, videos, DVDs, and sound recordings and a large collection of non-circulating periodicals.

For more information or to register, please visit: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/events/glbталms/>

Submitted by **John Bradford**, jpbталms@yahoo.com



Oklahoma City Libraries To Move Books On Gay Families

by *365Gay.com* Newscenter Staff



(Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) Nine months after state lawmakers called on publicly funded libraries to remove books on gay families Oklahoma City's Metropolitan Library Commission has voted to move the books to a separate section available only to adults.

The LGBT-themed books are geared to children's reading levels - from just learning to read to about age 12.

The new section will be called the "parenting collection" and lumps books on gay families and growing up gay with books on child abuse, domestic violence and substance abuse.

Oklahoma state legislators last May passed a non-binding resolution telling libraries that books written for children about gay families should be placed in Adults Only sections. (story)

They specifically criticized "King & King," "Daddy's Roommate," "The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans" and "Heather Has Two Mommies."

The new section will be employed at all 17 libraries in the Oklahoma City-County library system.

Eight citizens addressed the library board before the vote. All were opposed to moving the books.

One was a gay pastor - the Rev. Dr. E. Scott Jones, of the Cathedral of Hope in Oklahoma City.

"Look at me. Am I someone you should be afraid of?" he said. "Please do not insult me and others like me by passing this reprehensible proposal that segregates us and equates us with child abuse, drug abuse and family violence."

Karen Parsons, a lesbian and a former teacher, said she was "appalled" by the proposal.

"It's not up to the library to be the thought police or to act as parents," she said.

Despite the criticism the commission voted 12-to-1 for the plan.

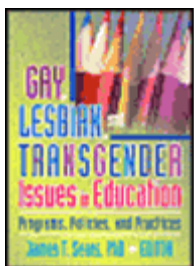
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Book Review!

Gay, lesbian, and transgender issues in education. Edited by James T. Sears. Harrington Park Press. 2005. 209 p. paperback (ISBN 1-56023-524-1)

James T. Sears collects a fascinating range of articles and essays first published in the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Issues in Education* into one well-organized volume. International in scope, the book addresses issues in the education of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth worldwide.



The first section of the book offers essays written by youth in several countries, commentary written in response by the editors of the journal, and the youth's return response. These essays give a living face and voice to a population that is often too distant and seen as merely a problem to be solved, not as a living population.

The second section consists of research-based articles addressing the diversity of the GLBT youth population, the history of LGBTQ studies in higher education, and bullying in Canadian schools. The final and most directly applied section addresses a wide range of existing programs in high schools and colleges. The examples and discussion of successful programs, and of potential pitfalls, will be of much interest to anyone involved in a GLBT student program, whether established or nascent.

This book is highly recommended for academic libraries with general or Education collections and for teacher professional development collections in high schools.

Reviewed by **Susan Swogger**, Director of Library Services at Argosy University/Phoenix (AZ).

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.

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

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
kenwells@ufl.edu



Book Review!

Babyji. By Abha Dawesar. Anchor Books. 2005. 356pp. \$13.00 paperback (ISBN: 1400034566)



The 2005 Stonewall Book Award winner for fiction brings us a unique heroine in an unexpected locale. Anamika Sharma is a 16-year-old honor student and physics whiz living with her parents in Delhi, India, circa the late 1980s. Her boundless curiosity and enthusiasm for life lead her to explore her own sexuality as well. With few or no qualms, Anamika embarks upon affairs—or “freelances,” as she puts it—with both an older divorced woman and her

family's married female servant.

Simultaneously, she explores a possible sexual relationship with a female classmate, almost becomes intimately involved with the father of her best male friend, and must also deal with school-related issues. As the world becomes increasingly complex for Anamika, she juggles it all with a combination of wide-eyed wonder, self-certainty, and intellectual curiosity. Ultimately, she leaves India to study in America, older and wiser but with charm intact.

Dawesar does a superlative job of depicting the Indian environment and culture surrounding Anamika and her peers, all the while guiding us through this unfamiliar terrain via an ingratiating, insightful narrator. In the view of at least one critic, Anamika is a sister spirit to Molly Bolt, Rita Mae Brown's memorable **Rubyfruit Jungle** heroine. The comparison seems apt.

Babyji is both an excellent coming-of-age novel, and a refreshingly multicultural view of nascent lesbian teenage life, reminding readers that the quest to find one's place in the world is not the exclusive province of any one country or culture. Anamika Sharma belongs in the gallery of GLBT literature's most memorable creations. Recommended for high school and adult collections.

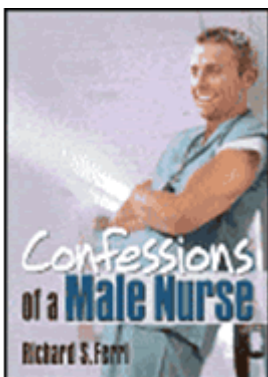
Reviewed by **Cathy Ritchie**, Theatre/Film Librarian, Dallas (TX) Public Library.





Book Review!

Ferri, Richard S. **Confessions of a Male Nurse**, by Richard S. Ferri. New York: Harrington Park Press, 2005. hardbound 16.95 (ISBN: 1506023296X)



This witty and sometimes raunchy novel relates in vivid, present-tense prose chronicles the career and romances of a gay man in the 1970s and 80s. Nurse Richard Steele (Ferri's alter ego?) starts out a boy from the New York suburbs, whose widowed mother supports them with two jobs. Richard recovers from a crippling spinal curvature and develops a boyhood crush on the TV character Sky King.

His progress through nursing school and increasingly tough jobs in New York is told with wit and an attention to detail that reflects real-life experiences of the author. Without flinching Ferri relates the hard work of finding romance and friends amid the pleasure-seeking culture of 1970s New York City, bringing the reader to the opening days of the AIDS epidemic. Insightful about the needs of his patients and many friends, nurse Steele leaves his audience wondering what will happen to his impossibly romantic "marriage" to a handsome doctor. Those who aren't put off by frank sexual language will find this short novel worth the read.

Reviewed by **Paul Scare**, Librarian, Masterman School, Philadelphia, PA.



Book Review!

Contemporary Research on Sex Work. Haworth Press. hardcover \$49.95 (ISBN: 0789029634) paper \$24.95 (ISBN: 0789029642)



Simultaneously published as volume 17, numbers 1 and 2 of the *Journal of Psychology and Human Sexuality*, this highly readable volume continues the tradition established by Haworth Press of spinning off theme issues of its journals as monographs, a useful collection development option for those librarians wishing to expand their holdings in GLBT studies and related fields but whose budgets do not allow for new subscriptions. In this instance, eleven papers covering the United States, Cambodia, Canada, Argentina and the Philip-

ines have been assembled, taking as their focus the world of commercial sex and those persons of all genders who work in it. A major shift in definition which should be noted by librarians and researchers seeking information on this topic is the abandonment of the historical term "prostitution" for the more generic "sex worker", although the Library of Congress subject headings do not reflect this shift. The introduction provides a quick overview of the prevailing trends in research on prostitution and calls for a reassessment of the ways in which this aspect of sexuality has been studied, with the editor (a Hunter College and CUNY psychologist who serves as director of Center for HIV/AIDS Educational Studies and Training) noting that "venue, gender and policy" (p. 2) affect the lives of sex workers and should be considered in any evaluation. Topics addressed in more than one paper are HIV/AIDS, risk assessment and management, childhood sexual abuse, relationships with the police, and the impact of a variety of social settings on sex workers and their clientele. **Summary:** Useful for college and university libraries and GLBT community center reading collections.

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

Ohio Library Under Pressure To Remove Gay Papers

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Columbus, Ohio) A public library is no place for gay newspapers a member of the Upper Arlington library board says. Board member Bryce Kurfees wants Outlook Weekly, an Ohio LGBT paper removed.

The paper, and a second LGBT publication - Gay People's Chronicle - were the subject of a similar dispute last summer.

Both papers had been available, along with other newspapers, in the entranceway of the library. After a noisy protest by a conservative community group the gay papers were moved to a tall bookcase near the front desk in a compromise effort aimed at keeping them in the library but out of the hands of children.

Now Kurfees wants Outlook out altogether.

"You've got these erotic, pornographic articles and you've got an elementary school 100 yards away. It's not a good combination," Kurfees told the Columbus Dispatch.

Kurfees is one of two new additions to the library board in the suburban Columbus community.

The other new member, Brian Perera, says he too is hearing continued complaints about the papers from residents.

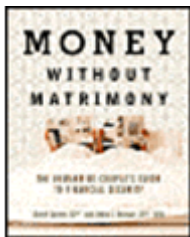
The board appears about equally divided on whether to bar the papers or leave them where they are.

The American Library Association, in a report issued last year, said that attempts to have LGBT themed material removed from library shelves increased by more than 20 percent in 2004 over the previous year.

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Money Without Matrimony: the Unmarried Couple's Guide to Financial Security. By Sheryl Garrett and Debra A. Neiman. Dearborn Trade Publishing. 2005. 248 p. (ISBN: 1419506889)

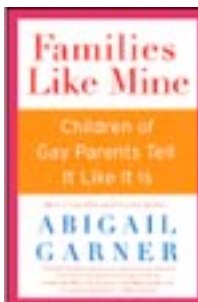


In this valuable resource, designed for both same-sex and opposite sex unmarried couples, Garrett and Neiman explain the financial ramifications of coupling and the options available to couples for protecting each other financially in lieu of the 1,140+ legal protections that automatically accompany marriage. In well-organized chapters and clear, concise language supplemented by real-life examples, and with a helpful glossary and an adequate index, the authors provide a framework for discussion of financial goals and how to achieve them. The strength of the book lies in its emphases on honest discussion between partners and the necessity of planning for the worst-case scenario, its inclusion of wide-ranging topics of importance from taxes to children, the currency of its information (including the legal rights afforded same-sex couples from state to state), and, especially, its solid presentation of essential, basic information. This is not, however (nor does it purport to be) a guide for budgeting, investing, or doing the necessary paperwork to implement a financial plan, nor does it offer the in-depth, detailed presentation many readers might expect. Those who choose to do more of the nuts-and-bolts work of creating a financial plan themselves before consulting a professional will find *Living Together: a Legal Guide for Unmarried Couples* (Nolo. 12th ed., c2004) an excellent source of sample legal forms and additional information. Lesbian and gay couples should also consult J.K. Lasser's *Gay Finances in a Straight World: a Comprehensive Financial Planning Handbook* (McMillan, c1998) which, though slightly outdated, is more numbers-oriented and may be more specific to their needs. Nonetheless, *Marriage without Matrimony* is highly recommended as an introductory resource and a great tool for couples who are ready to open the discussion on this often sensitive topic.

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



Families like mine : children of gay parents tell it like it is. By Abigail Garner . New York : HarperCollins., 2004 . 256 p. hardbound ,Harper, \$24.95(ISBN: 0060527579) ; paper Perennial \$13.95 (ISBN: 0060527587)



While Leslea Newman's children's books *Heather Has Two Mommies* and its lesser known cousin *Gloria Goes To Gay Pride* incited a fair degree of controversy when they were published in 1989 and 1991 (somewhat overshadowed by Michael Willhoite's hugely debated 1990 book *Daddy's Roommate* and its 1996 sequel, *Daddy's Wedding*), the majority of non-fiction monographs discussion and incorporating the views of sons and daughters of lesbian and gay parents appeared during the late twentieth and early twenty-first century. Anthropologist Kath Weston laid the groundwork for this new genre with her 1999 study *Love Makes A Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents and Their Families*, followed quickly by Noelle Howey's *Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up With Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Parents* in 2000 and two works in 2003, *Sons Talk About Their Gay Fathers; Life Curves* by Andrew Gottlieb (issued as part of the Haworth Gay and Lesbian Studies series) and *Gay Dads : A Celebration of Fatherhood* by David Strah, The same year that *Families Like Mine* appeared, Judith Snow's *How It Feels To Have A Gay Or Lesbian Parent: A Book by Kids for Kids of All Ages* was published, giving Abigail Garner's work a heightened impact due to its timely focus on the voices of children involved in gay and lesbian family life.

In *Families Like Mine*, Abigail Garner attempts to augment the discussion of children who are either born into or find themselves living in households headed by gay men and lesbians , initiated with Kath Weston's 1999 study *Love Makes A Family* , and does so in a highly readable and thoughtful manner, speaking as a grown heterosexual and self-described "culturally queer" child of a gay father who came out when she was five. Basing her work upon interviews with fifty such children now adults, she firmly debunks the idea that a child from such a household will suffer psychological damage while addressing the unique sets of problems they encounter. These range from how these children are treated due to their living situation , which Garner terms " growing up under scrutiny " , the idea that such kids *must* be different because of where and how they live and their own version of ' coming out " , to their emotional roles in divorce and living as both queer and straight kids of gay parents. Useful for public, college and university libraries and high school collections.

Reviewed by **Robert Ridinger**, Northern Illinois University.



Book Review!

Sonny's House of Spies, by George Ella Lyon. New York: Atheneum, 2004. Hardbound, \$16.95 (ISBN: 068981685)



Small towns, someone has said, are like movie sets behind which people play out their lives. This is doubly true of the small Alabama town where Sonny Bradshaw is growing up during the 1950s. Named, Sonny, after his discredited father, the boy's real name is hidden, submerged like the many secrets that adults in the segregated South keep, or try to keep, from one another. Author George Ella Lyon scrapes away the veneer of genteel behavior practiced by

Sonny's family and friends, There's his gay dad who leaves for New Orleans and spies on them through his boyhood friend, "Uncle Marty" himself a closeted homosexual, managing a failing business. Selma, Sonny's lonely mother, gets by with help from gin and a Pentecostal church. Mamby, the family's Ethel Waters-like housekeeper, draws a protective veil of euphemisms over the racial disparities of their town until her daughter is caught in a tragic accident. Sonny tells his story innocently at first, then with growing understanding of the complex people and events surrounding him. Young adult readers will wince at his mistakes and the oppressive atmosphere of Mozier, Alabama. But they will also smile at the sly truthfulness of Loretta, Sonny's older sister, and laugh at the bizarre funeral and burial of Uncle Marty. After the surprises and double meanings in the story, readers will take pleasure in the love and honesty that finally comes to Sonny and his house of spies.

Reviewed by **Paul Scare**, Librarian, Masterman School, Philadelphia, PA.



Book Review!

Noble Lives: Biographical Portraits of Three Remarkable Gay Men. By Marc E. Vargo. Harrington Park Press, 2005. 158pp. \$9.00 paperback. ISBN: 1560235454

The author offers reasonably informative biographies of Jazz Age author Glenway Wescott, legendary American composer Aaron Copland, and Nobel-Prize-winning United Nations Sec-

retary-General and diplomat Dag Hammarskjold. All three men were highly accomplished and acclaimed in their respective fields, and their careers, according to Vargo, were all keenly influenced by the differing degrees to which each embraced his homosexuality.



Westcott and Copland were relatively open about their orientation and lifestyles, albeit occasionally discreet as befit the political atmosphere of their eras. In the case of Hammarskjold, however, since no definitive proof exists that he was indeed gay—or, for that matter, sexual with *either* men or women—Vargo relies instead on implication

and inference, mixed with a heady amount of psychological analysis that may not be totally justified.

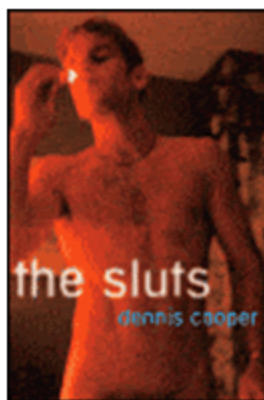
Nevertheless, these are relatively well-written, serviceable biographical sketches, though with a few proper name misspellings and some awkward grammar throughout. Brief supplemental bibliographies are also included. This book offers a decent introduction to the lives and sexuality of these particular men, and would be suitable for both adults and senior level high school students.

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



Book Review!

The Sluts. By Dennis Cooper. New York: Carroll and Graf, 2004. Paper \$14.95 (ISBN: 0786716746)



Told in the format of internet email transcripts, *The Sluts* purports to tell the stories of male prostitutes and their clients. True to the nature of web-based chat rooms and electronic mail, the horrifying client letters followed by commentaries by a "webmaster" make little sense and can hardly be taken at face value. This pastiche of murderous, sexual ramblings leaves the reader wondering if any of what Cooper describes ever hap-

pened. The author gives no help in deciphering his lurid farce. Not recommended.

Reviewed by **Paul Scare**, Librarian, Masterman School, Philadelphia, PA.



The "On" Position: The Sexual (Mis)Adventures of a Hollywood Journalist. By Katie Moran. Chicago and Los Angeles: Volt Press. 2005. 214pp, cloth. (ISBN: 1566252253)

Do not be fooled by the exciting title, Katie Moran's book, *The "ON" Position*, is anything but an erotic work; rather it is a gentle, guided tour through all things 'relationship'. The book



covers such topics as one-night stands, first loves, exploring bisexuality, ex's, sexual chemistry, and boundaries, among other topics. If the reader takes the cover at face value and expects the most exciting tour-guide for Los Angeles, easily discovering some famed clubs and "do-not-miss" venues, they will be disappointed. Moran has written a very well-conceived account of her lessons-learned and observations about relationships. Through reflection, storytelling,

and investigation, Ms. Moran has compiled one of the most honest books on elements of relationships and couple-hood, from the physical to the psychological and everything in between. While sexual experience and exploits are mentioned, they do not hold a prominent place in the stories nor are they graphic in any manner. *The "ON" Position* is more a self-help exploration into some key elements of successful relationships and the ways in which people go about creating that bond. This book is appropriate for older teens to young adults and beyond. Not a good choice for an LGBT collection unless any mention of LGBT qualifies such a title.

Review by **Tiffani R. Conner**, University of Connecticut.



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

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

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 **Lewis Day**, Membership Committee Chair: lewis_day@harvard.edu

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: **Lewis Brian Day, Harvard University Archives, Pusey Library, Cambridge, MA 02138**