

GLBTF NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL TASK FORCE OF THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the Editor:

Greetings fellow librarians and library-friendly subscribers! With this issue, we begin our second year resuming publication. The members of the task force are working hard on many fronts. The Book Award Committee announced its winners for the best nonfiction and fiction work of 1997.

Plans continue to be finalized for ALA's Annual Conference in Washington D.C. this summer. Special thanks also goes out to Jules Tate, Kenn Bicknell, and Ellen Bosman. Ellen and Jules have been working hard to finalize the 1998 Annual Program, External Relations/Volunteers, and the Book Award Breakfast! Thanks Jules, Kenn, and Ellen! Thanks also goes out to all of those who review books for the GLBTF.

Congressman Barney Frank will speak at this year's Book Award Breakfast. Please make your reservation early! This popular event sells out quickly. Tickets will only be available in advance. They will not be available at the door.

We also ask that you take a look at the bylaws and an organizational chart of the GLBTF, reprinted here. We would like your input between now and annual. Revisions will be voted on during annual. Specific questions can be directed to the cochairs.

As always, we thank you for your support. If you have questions or concerns, please email me at: cal.zunt@cpl.org or write me via the address noted inside.

-M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
Newsletter Editor

Annual GLBTF Book Awards Announced

The winners of the GLBTF Book Awards have been announced. The winner in the Nonfiction category is Adam Mastoon for his work *The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young People* (William Morrow and Co./Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books ISBN 0688149316).

Lucy Jane Bledsoe was awarded best work of Literature for *Working Parts: A Novel* (Seal Press, ISBN 187806794X).

Awards will be presented at the Third Annual Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award Breakfast on Monday, June 29, 1998 at the 1998 Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Washington D.C. by the GLBTF.

Congressman Barney Frank (D-4-MA) will be the featured speaker the Book Award Breakfast. See the the ticket reservation form later in this issue.

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Michael Miller, Male Co-Chair

Greetings GLBTFers and friends!

It was great to see everyone at Midwinter and I was very pleased to see so many new faces participating in the activities of each of the committees. The new external relations, breakfast planning and fundraising committees are off to a roaring start. Please be sure to read their updates in this issue.

Now there's more work to do. In the last issue, I stated that the bylaws needed to be updated. In this issue you shall find the full text of the bylaws as they now stand as well as a copy of the new ALA/SRRT/GLBTF organizational chart. The Bylaws are grossly out-dated. They need to reflect our new committees and need to have consistency and organizational structure more firmly wrought.

'What changes?' you say? How about adding the mission statement that has been in development since 3-4 years ago? How about calling business and/or membership meetings just membership meetings? How about adding the sections for the three new committees, and reassigning duties based upon that new organization, and, and, and...

Please take a look at the Bylaws as they now stand and compare them to the organizational chart. Email or mail revision comments to me at my information below. All comments received by May 1, 1998 will be considered when the revision is crafted. Then, in the next issue of the newsletter, the newly revised Bylaws will be inserted for membership scrutiny. As per the Bylaws themselves, a vote will take place at the Annual Steering Committee I (Friday evening) on the adoption of the revised Bylaws. Thanks for your help on this. Happy Spring!

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-- Michael Miller, Male Co-Chair

Bonita Corliss, Female Co-Chair

Midwinter in New Orleans was a productive is somewhat soggy time for the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Task Force. We were given two days of sun and two days of drenching rain, so I guess that makes it fair. Luckily for us, Saturday night was one of those balmy southern evenings and our social event co-sponsored by PFLAG New Orleans was a wonderful event. There were lots of old friends and many new faces as well. From a personal perspective, I was thrilled that my partner's mother was able to fly in from Atlanta to join us for this special event.

I have to say that I am just amazed at the way the members of all of our various committees accomplish the tasks before them. Our book award winners will be honored at our Third Annual GLBTF Book Awards Breakfast. The popularity of this event continues to grow with each passing year, so remember to send in your reservation early. As someone who has attended the first two, know that you are in for a unique event. The authors and other speakers never fail to impress me with their thoughts and readings. Out Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts will be our keynote speaker this year! Don't miss it!

Our Program Planning Committee is preparing an enlightening program highlighting the information needs of gay, lesbian and bisexual youth and their advocates.

Beyond that they are looking towards the next two years of programming. So, if you have an interest and some

About GLBTF Newsletter

GLBTF Newsletter (ISSN 1045-2893) is an official publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It appears quarterly in March, June, September and December. Subscriptions are \$10 per year in the U.S.; \$12 in Canada and Mexico; \$15 for other countries. Send change of address to the editorial address.

Subscription Address: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force, OLOS, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

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

GLBTF Newsletter Editor -
M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
or via email at: cal.zunt@cpl.org

time please come to one of their meetings at Annual and join in the fun.

Also be aware that we will be holding elections for officers in Washington D.C. Keith Trimmer has offered to stay on as Clearinghouse Coordinator unless someone else has a burning desire to take over from him. Michael Nitz will be concluding his term as secretary, and I will be handing over the duties of co-chair to the next in a long line of strong females. Our elections are held at the second steering committee meeting and are open to all. Current members of SRRT/GLBTF are eligible to vote.

For updated information about all the work of the task force and our schedule of events and meetings in Washington D.C., please visit our website at:

http://www-lib.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html. As always, I can be reached via email at: bcorliss@spl.lib.wa.us or c/o Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, WA 98104. See you in Washington D.C.

-- Bonita Corliss, Female Co-Chair

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GLBTF WEBSITE !!!

Check for last minute conference changes on the web. You can reach the GLBTF at:

http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html
or
http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/rtables_home.html

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Book Award Breakfast Reservation Form

Join with librarians, publishers, authors and readers to honor the 1998 winners of the oldest gay, lesbian and bisexual book awards in the United States. The awards breakfast is a fundraiser to endow the Book Awards and to ensure their future. The breakfast will feature a full sit-down breakfast, doorprizes, and giveaways.

Date: Saturday,
Location: To be Announced.
Speaker: Congressman Barney Frank (D-4-MA)

Tickets: \$30, if received before June 1
\$40 after June 1

After June 1, tickets *must* be purchased through the ALA Meal Ticket Office at the Conference. There will be *no* ticket sales at the door.

Please complete the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Your email _____

Number of tickets _____

Amount enclosed _____

Check number _____

Make check payable to: ALA/SRRT/GLBTF

Mail check to:

Ellen Bosman
Indiana University
Northwest Library
3400 Broadway
Gary, IN 46408

You will receive confirmation of your order via email within two-three weeks. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact: Ellen Bosman at 219-980-6947 or via email at: ebosman@indiana.edu.

GLBTF PROGRAM PLANNING NEWS

Read Aloud at Midwinter 1998

The 1998 GLBTF annual program will be: "What Have You Done for Me Lately? Lesbian and Gay Youth Speak Out." This event is co-sponsored by: YALSA, ALSC, PLA, AASL. It will be held on Monday, June 29, 1998 at 10:30 am - noon.

Gay youth and their advocates will discuss how librarians, educators, and other allies can begin to address their issues and provide the resources they need. Two brief videos will introduce the program: "My Mom-mies Two Names Are Judy" (10 minutes), produced by the Lesbian and Gay Parents Association; and the two minute testimony of alumnus Ken Goodman to the Montgomery (Maryland) County Board of Education. A short bibliography of recommended works for educators will be provided by the moderator, listing appropriate literature for various age groups in the K-12 range.

Moderator: Jill Karpf, Middle School Media Specialist, Montgomery County Maryland Public Schools, and Founding Member and former Co-Chair of Gay-Lesbian-Straight Education Network, D.C. chapter (GLSEN-DC). Panelists will include: Willy Diaz and Harry Santana from Green Chimney Social Children's Services, Inc. (A New York City social welfare organization) and a young person from the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL) in Washington, D.C.

The theme of the GLBTF ALA Annual 1998 program will center on the "pink" information needs for children and related children's issues. This program reflects ALA President Barbara Ford's theme during her tenure: "Libraries: Global Reach, Local Touch."

You can contact me via email at: ajtli@jazz.ucc.uno.edu.

--Jules Tate
PPC Chair 1997-98

The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force Read Aloud Event for the ALA Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans was held on Saturday, January 10, 1998 during the ALA Midwinter Conference in New Orleans.

Those who attended were treated to an eclectic selection of readings from various works of prose, poetry, and plays. Among the works selected by readers were some "classics," as well as original verse compositions. Especially interesting was the reading of the classic poem by W.H. Auden, "A Day for a Lay."

The GLBTF Read Aloud at ALA Annual in Washington, D.C. is less than six months away. Please plan to attend the Read Aloud program, and be sure to circle the date and location on your schedule of GLBTF meetings and events when that becomes available. And not only attend the Read Aloud, but plan to read a selection yourself!

We have a rich literary heritage from which to choose and original writings especially are welcome. If you forget to bring a selection with you, don't despair! You can select a reading from the works which will be available at the program.

I look forward to seeing and hearing you at the GLBTF Read Aloud Event this summer.

Victor Schill
Read Aloud Event Coordinator

Bylaws of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force
Social Responsibilities Round Table American Library Association
(approved July 1994
draft revision 1. September 20, 1995)

I. Purpose

The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force of the American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table shall: promote the improved quality, quantity, and accessibility of library materials of particular interest or usefulness to lesbians, bisexuals, and gay people; [promote awareness of and develop funding sources outside of ALA for the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force Book Awards;] developing promote and defense [defend] unrestricted access of all library users to information by or about gay, lesbian, and bisexual people; provide bibliographic services to librarians, archivists, other information professionals, and library users; work toward eliminating job discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual employees of libraries, archives, and information centers; advocate revising classification schemes, subject heading lists, indices, etc., in order to remove terms derogatory to the lives, activities, and contributions to culture and society of lesbian, bisexual, and gay people; remind the membership and leadership of the Association as often as necessary that many librarians, archivists, other information specialists, and library users are lesbians, bisexuals, or gay men; support other minority groups working for adequate representation and equal opportunity within the Association; work with groups outside the Association interested in improving the legal rights of bisexual, lesbian, and gay people; provide opportunities for gay, lesbian, and bisexual librarians, archivists, and other information specialists attending Association conferences to meet and socialize with one another; and promote the Association's Library Bill of Rights and its Code of Ethics.

II. Membership

Voting Members. Anyone who subscribes to the newsletter of the Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table may fully participate in all activities of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force.

Nonvoting Members. Any voting member or other person or organization who wants to remain informed of the Task Force's activities may do so by subscribing to the Task Force's newsletter. Nonvoting members shall not hold office, participate in Task Force decisions, or vote in Task Force elections.

III. Meetings The Task Force shall conduct at least one general business meeting at the Association's Annual Conference and at least one general business meeting at the Association's Midwinter Meeting. The Task Force Steering Committee shall meet at least once before the first business meeting of the Task Force membership at both the Annual Conference and the Midwinter Meeting, and at least once following the final business meeting of the Task Force membership at the Annual Conference and the Midwinter Meeting. Membership and Steering Committee meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend them.

IV. Officers

Titles and Terms of Office. The Task Force shall elect a male Co-Chair, a female Co-Chair, and a Secretary / Treasurer, each serving a term of two years. The positions of Female Co-chair and Secretary shall

be filled during even numbered years. The position of Male Co-chair 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. (amended 6/7/97)

Qualifications. Candidates for elected offices must be members of the Association, must be voting members of the Task Force, and must agree to attend the membership and Steering Committee meetings scheduled for the Annual Conferences and Midwinter Meetings during his/her term of office.

Elections. At a business meeting during the Association's Annual Conference, the Co-Chairs will announce the names of qualified individuals who have stated an interest in running as candidates for vacant offices. At that meeting, other individuals may also announce their candidacy for vacant offices. All current voting members of the Task Force attending the business meeting shall have the opportunity to vote. Newly elected officers will take office the day following the Annual Conference during which they are elected.

Duties of the Co-Chairs. The duties of the Co-Chairs include: attending all membership and Steering Committee meetings; presiding at meetings; preparing and distributing an agenda for each meeting; appointing the coordinators of standing and special committees and delegating tasks as appropriate to these coordinators; representing (or appointing a designee to attend) meetings of the Social Responsibilities Round Table's Action Council; writing reports of the Task Force activities and submitting Task Force budgets to the Action Council; implementing assignments made by the Task Force membership or the Steering Committee; acting as spokespersons for the Task Force; and responding promptly to correspondence addressed to the Task Force; preparing budget requests to submit to the Action Council of the Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table; and handling reimbursement requests for authorized expenses incurred by Task Force members in connection with Task Force activities. No decision or instruction made by a Co-Chair shall conflict with a decision or instruction made by the Task Force membership or its Steering Committee.

Duties of the Secretary / Treasurer. The duties of the Secretary / Treasurer include: attending all membership and Steering Committee meetings; recording minutes of these meetings and promptly distributing copies of them to Steering Committee members and to other individuals or organizations mentioned in the minutes; maintaining a file of Task Force minutes; maintaining the GLBTF Steering Committee listserv (GLBTF-L), adding and deleting subscriptions as directed by the Co-chairs, responding to requests for subscription, and working with the ALA Internet Coordinator, who is list co-owner. (amended 6/7/97)

V. Committees

The Task Force shall pursue its goals primarily through the work of its committees. The work of each committee shall be coordinated by a voting Task Force member designated by the Task Force Co-Chairs. Whenever possible, a committee coordinator will be selected after consultation with other committee members. Any individual expressing an interest in working with a Task Force committee will be allowed to participate in its work. The coordinator of a Task Force committee is responsible for initially contacting and remaining in adequate communication with everyone who has expressed an

interest in working with the committee; for overseeing the work of the committee; for keeping the Task Force Co-Chairs informed of the committee's plans, needs, activities, problems, and budget requests; and for reporting the committee's activities to the Task Force at its business meetings.

Standing Committees. The ongoing work of the Task Force shall be carried out by its Standing Committees. A new Standing Committee must be authorized by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a business meeting of the Task Force. Standing Committee coordinators shall serve two-year terms, the appointments (or reappointments) of half of them staggered with the other half. Coordinators of the Newsletter and the Clearinghouse shall be appointed (or reappointed) in even-numbered years, and the Coordinators of the Fundraising/Publicity Committee, the Book Awards Committee, and the Newsletter Editor shall be appointed (or reappointed) in odd-numbered years. Any coordinator of a Standing Committee who cannot attend a Steering Committee meeting shall communicate his/her committee's activities, concerns, needs, or budget requests to the Co-Chairs and/or the Steering Committee in advance of the meeting.

Program Committee. The Program Committee is responsible for planning and conducting programs and social activities sponsored or co-sponsored by the Task Force at the Association's Annual Meeting and Midwinter Meeting, and for coordinating the logistics of these activities with the Task Force Steering Committee and with the Association's conference-planning staff. In order to facilitate arrangements (including publicity for meetings and events sponsored by the Task Force), the Program Coordinator is particularly responsible for attempting to create liaisons with gay, lesbian, and bisexual librarians and others living in the cities hosting the Association's Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting.

Fundraising/Publicity Committee. The Fundraising/Publicity Committee will work in tandem with the Steering Committee to develop fundraising goals and publicize the programs, activities and publications of the Task Force. The Fundraising/Publicity Committee has the following publicity responsibilities: to develop written materials to encourage Task Force membership; to annually distribute information about the Task Force to library schools; to disseminate membership information and publicity for meetings and events, including the meetings of the Book Awards committee, that are sponsored by the Task Force during the Association's conferences and meetings; the Fundraising/Publicity Coordinator is responsible for developing business contacts, coordinating fundraising efforts, and managing relations with external organizations in efforts to produce funds to support the Book Awards program and other

projects approved by the Steering Committee and the membership at large. (amended 6/7/97)

Library Information Clearinghouse. The Library Information Clearinghouse is responsible for identifying, obtaining, and distributing written materials related to collecting or cataloging gay-, lesbian-, or bi-oriented materials for libraries; for identifying, obtaining, and distributing written materials helpful to individuals in borrowing gay-, lesbian-, or bi-oriented materials from libraries or interested in improving the quality, quantity, classification, or availability of gay-, lesbian-, or bi-oriented information in libraries; and for identifying, obtaining, and distributing written materials related to the unique issues faced by gay, bisexual, and lesbian employees of libraries.

t The Clearinghouse Coordinator, with the help of volunteers and the guidance of the Steering Committee, is responsible for developing and following procedures to organize and distribute these materials;

for obtaining from the authors or holders of copyright permission to distribute relevant items through the Clearinghouse; for responding promptly to inquiries about or orders for Clearinghouse materials; for maintaining a bank account to handle income received for publications purchased through the Clearinghouse, for reporting Clearinghouse expenses to the Steering Committee; for maintaining and publicizing a list of materials available through the Clearinghouse; and for developing liaisons with other information-providing organizations which publish gay-, lesbian-, or bi-oriented materials helpful to librarians or to library users. The Coordinator has a special responsibility for alerting the Steering Committee and the Task Force membership to publications produced by the Task Force itself that need to be revised, and to which new publications might further the goals of the Task Force. The Coordinator will annually submit to the Steering Committee and all Clearinghouse members a written report of the Clearinghouse's activities during the previous year.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Book Award Committee. The Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Book Award Committee shall annually designate a book of particular importance and quality that promotes or describes a subject of concern to lesbians, bisexuals, and/or gay men. The Committee shall develop written procedures for selecting the winner of this award that are consistent with the American Library Association guidelines for awards. The Book Award Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that the committee completes its deliberations and communicates its decisions to ALA personnel in time for adequate publicity for the formal announcement of the award winner at the Association's Annual Conference. If the committee decides that the author of the book selected is to receive a monetary award or other payment involving money from the Task Force's budget, the Book Award Coordinator will request the amount needed from the Steering Committee before a date determined by the Steering Committee.

Newsletter Committee. The Newsletter Committee is responsible for compiling, producing, and distributing a newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep members of the Task Force who cannot attend Association Conferences and Meetings informed of Task Force activities, decisions, and accomplishments; to announce proposed projects or publications and to invite interested individuals to participate in working on these projects or publications; to report other news of interest to Task

Force members; and to serve as a forum for the discussion of views among Task Force members about the Task Force's activities, priorities, and problems.

The Newsletter Editor shall maintain an automated list of newsletter subscribers; provide mailing lists or mailing labels of subscribers' names to the Steering Committee members who request them; handle, in accordance with principles agreed to by the Task Force or its Steering Committee, all requests for the lending or selling of the Task Force's newsletter mailing list. In addition to overseeing the production and distribution of the newsletter, the Newsletter Coordinator shall also monitor the newsletters produced by the gay/lesbian/bisexual caucuses of other professional organizations for news of interest to Task Force members, and shall mail copies of each issue of the Task Force's newsletter to the editors of these publications and to other organizations interested in the Task Force's work.

The Steering Committee shall determine the cost of a subscription to the newsletter. The cost of the newsletter shall not exceed the income generated by subscriptions (and advertising revenues, if any); additional funds from the Task Force's regular budget used to pay expenses incurred in connection with producing and distributing the

Subscriptions to the newsletter will be handled by the Newsletter Coordinator who shall maintain an account to handle the income and disbursement of these funds and of any funds raised through paid advertisements. The Committee will publish the newsletter at least four times each year.

Steering Committee. The elected officers and appointed coordinators of the Standing Committees shall constitute the Task Force Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Task Force between its membership meetings; determine the times and places of membership meetings; review the Task Force budget; authorize whatever Task Force projects, activities, and publications are not authorized at membership meetings; review each new Task Force publication before it is published or distributed; make recommendations to the membership; provide guidance to the Co-Chairs; and perform the other duties specified in these by-laws. The Steering Committee may not make a decision inconsistent with a decision made by the Task Force at a membership meeting.

Special Committees and Projects. Special projects shall be authorized by the Task Force Co-Chairs as the Task Force membership, its Steering Committee, or the Co-Chairs shall from time to time deem necessary to carry out specific activities, including the creation or revision of publications, that are consistent with the goals of the Task Force. Any member of the Task Force may propose a special project by describing the idea or publication at a Task Force meeting or through an announcement in the Task Force newsletter, and asking for volunteers also interested in the proposal. Upon endorsement of the project by the membership or by the Steering Committee, the Co-Chairs shall appoint an individual to coordinate the project or to direct those interested to designate a coordinator. New publications of the Task Force must be reviewed by the Steering Committee before distribution. The Steering Committee shall establish the price (if any) of a Task Force publication.

VI. Finances

Budget. The Co-Chairs are responsible for preparing the annual budget for the Steering Committee's review by the end of its first meeting at the Association's Midwinter Conference. One of the Co-Chairs shall deliver the budget to the first Midwinter meeting of the Action Council of the Social Responsibilities Round Table for review. The Co-Chairs will present the approved budget to the Task Force membership during the Midwinter meeting. Changes in the budget may be proposed by the membership at any Task Force meeting or by a member of the Steering Committee between membership meetings. Changes approved by the membership or by the Steering Committee will be requested at the first meeting of the Action Council of the Social Responsibilities Round Table at the Association's Annual Conference.

Reimbursements. Task Force members who incur an expense in connection with an authorized budgeted Task Force activity may submit a request for reimbursement to the Co-Chairs. Receipts must be provided to support such a request. The Co-Chairs will reimburse authorized expenses in a timely manner. Reimbursements for expenses over \$25 must be authorized in advance by the Task Force's written budget or by a majority of the Steering Committee.

Income generated by a project or publication by a Standing Committee will be used to support the continued work of that committee. Income generated by the activity or publication of a special committee will be used to further the work of that special committee

until the committee has completed its work or its publication. Each coordinator of a standing or special committee will maintain records of financial transactions connected with the work of the committee.

1. Task Force Listservs

GLBTF-L

The Task Force shall maintain a listserv for current and immediate past Steering Committee members. Subscription to the listserv shall be limited to those currently on the Steering Committee and immediate past Steering Committee members, whose subscriptions will continue for one year after the end of their term. Steering Committee members without e-mail will receive paper communication from the Secretary.

Committee listservs

Task Force Standing or Special Committees may establish listservs for internal communication. Task Force Co-chairs shall be added as subscribers to all Standing or Special Committee listservs. (amended 6/7/97)

VIII. Parliamentary Authority

Disputes over the procedures used in making a decision at a Task Force or Steering Committee meeting shall be resolved by reliance upon the provisions contained in the "Rules of Order" that ALA Council is using at the relevant moment. (amended 6/7/97)

VIX. Amending the By-Laws

Any provision of these by-laws may be changed at a regular meeting of the Task Force by a majority of the voting members attending, provided that the proposed amendment has been announced at a previous meeting or has been published in an issue of the Task Force newsletter. Otherwise, at least three-fourths of the voting members attending must approve a proposed change in the by-laws before the change can become effective.

End of Bylaws

Book Award Committee

From: Faye Chadwell, Book Award Committee Chair

The American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award is the oldest award of its kind, having been established in 1971 by members of the library profession to honor outstanding works by or about lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. The 1997-98 GLBTF Book Award Committee, which I presently chair, has 14 members, seven men and seven women. This year's committee is composed of five members from public libraries, five from academic libraries, two from special libraries, one library science professor, and one member still seeking her first permanent position within the profession. In addition to planning an annual awards breakfast and publicizing the book award itself, the committee's most important purpose is scouring the world of lesbian publishing in order to make two awards: one for the best English-language literary work (fiction, poetry, drama) and one for the best nonfiction book in English.

The work of any book awards committee is helpful to librarians because of the many factors that complicate the selection and, ultimately, the acquisition of titles for our collections. One significant factor, to which almost anyone on a tight budget can relate, is the ratio of what one would like to buy versus the funds one has available to spend. There just never seems to be enough funding to make libraries all things to all people.

By honoring these outstanding books, the Book Award Committee provides a valuable book selection tool for the library community, where there has been an historical tendency to ignore or dismiss books with gay, lesbian and bisexual content. Librarians have sometimes been reluctant to acquire these books for their collections or have chosen to restrict access to them. And even when librarians themselves were not disingenuous, genuinely concerned or thoroughly disgusted patrons were demanding that we refrain from purchasing "objectionable" titles, shelve "distasteful" works where children could not view them, or remove the offending volumes from our collections.

This past is not necessarily past. In our own state, according to statistics compiled by the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse, titles with gay, lesbian, and bisexual content were often the target of would-be censors during the last five years, most notably during 1992-93. Because of the recent treatment of lesbian titles, and a legitimate concern over possible reaction in the future, the work of the Book Award Committee becomes even more important. Today, it provides librarians with a powerful collection development tool and a rationale for collecting gay, lesbian and bisexual books.

If you were to interview members of the first Book Award Committee, they would certainly comment on the scarcity of titles available for consideration at the time the first award was given to Isabel Miller for her classic lesbian novel, *Patience and Sarah*. Because of the burgeoning growth in lesbian publishing in the 1990s, today's committee members review several hundred titles annually, a wide range of works published by small presses and mainstream publishing houses alike. It has become increasingly hard for librarians and patrons to ignore this mass of publishing, just as it is hard to disregard literature that a group of librarians have chosen to honor for more than 25 years.

For critics of lesbian literature, like Karen Gounaud of the Family Friendly Library Association, the fact that librarians annually honor lesbian books may never provide convincing evidence that lesbian titles belong in libraries. These critics believe that books with gay, lesbian, or bisexual content must inherently lack literary merit, thereby failing to acknowledge that this literature has garnered significant recognition through both gay and non-gay literary awards. Our committee's past winners and nominees include, for example, Paul Monette (National Book Award winner), Dorothy Allison (National Book Award finalist), Reynolds Price (National Book Critics Award), and Minnie Bruce Pratt (Academy of American Poets Lamont Poetry Selection).

As with any controversial literature, librarians need to remember that to deny a literature's existence, or simply not to select representative titles, is to ignore a part of our human heritage. For me and many of my fellow committee members, the ramifications of denying gay literature a place in our libraries go beyond the destruction of a literary, cultural, and historical heritage. Given the high rate of suicide among gay youth, the absence or loss of affirmative role models that a young person might find between the pages of, say, *Uncommon Heroes*, or *Am I Blue?* can mean the difference between life and death.

I am proud of my involvement with the ALA Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award Committee and proud of its contribution to the larger goals of the library profession. One of these goals relates directly to Article II of the Library Bill of Rights: the identification and provision of "materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues." The committee's work of analyzing and honoring gay and lesbian literature greatly assists librarians in choosing the best titles for their collections, whether those librarians are at small college libraries, rural public libraries, or large research libraries.

This essay was published in the Hatfield Library newsletter, *Moveable Type*, Willamette University, Salem, OR. Faye A. Chadwell is head of collection development, University of Oregon Library System, Eugene. email: chadwelf@oregon.uoregon.edu

BOOK REVIEWS

Book Reviews are a regular feature in the GLBTF Newsletter. If you would like to be a reviewer or receive reviewing guidelines, please contact:

Barb Stevens, GLBTF Book Review Editor
4302 Woodridge Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 836-2522
Email: stevenbr@uwec.edu.

Overcoming Heterosexism and Homophobia: Strategies That Work. Edited by James T. Sears and Walter L. Williams. Columbia University Press, 1997. (ISBN 0-231-10423-5, paper)

This insightful collection of thirty-one essays focuses on educational strategies which have been used by various teachers, educators, workshop leaders, and social scientists to address issues of heterosexism and to combat homophobia in our society. Recognizing that this work would need to cover a broad range of topics and could at best merely touch on the surface, the editors decided to exclude political and legal strategies and focus on other areas of social change. Within those parameters, they have created a highly successful book.

Although the authors of the essays have included suggestions of techniques that work as well as analyzing those which have not been successful, the reader who hopes for a step-by-step manual to various training programs will be disappointed. Thus, this is not an easy resource for the novice human relations trainer who is about to give a first workshop on homophobia. However, experienced professionals will often identify with the reactions described as well as noting aspects of the techniques which might be adopted or modified to meet their own needs.

It is precisely the fact that these essays are written by people who actually do homophobia and heterosexism training that will also make them useful in the education of students in various social service professions. Thoughtful analysis of the essays will prepare students for issues they will face in the future as well as helping spur discussion of areas in need of further research.

Recommended of all academic libraries. In addition, it should be on the bookshelf of every human relations professional who does any form of training workshops because it serves as an excellent reminder of the pervasiveness of heterosexism in our society.

Barbara R. Stevens
Assistant to the Chancellor for Affirmative Action
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young People. By Adam Mastoon. William Morrow, 1997. (ISBN 0-688-14931-6)

Growing Up Gay: The Sorrows and Joys of Gay and Lesbian Adolescence. By Rita Reed. W.W. Norton, 1997. (ISBN 0-393-04092-5)

These two beautiful, sensitive portraits of lesbian and gay adolescence are the cream of the crop of a recent surge of publishing on the subject. Both books, through the exploration of the lives of individual young people, present a clear picture of both the struggles and rewards of coming out and do it in a way that will be helpful for young people, their parents and friends, teachers, counselors, and other allies. As photographic works, both books fight one of the most harmful and destructive facts of gay adolescence, the isolation and feeling of being "the only one." Through the photographs and narratives, the reader gets to know these extraordinary young people in an intimate way as they share their daily lives, triumphs and heart-breaks with us.

The Shared Heart, a finalist of the 1997 ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force Book Award, presents photographic portraits and narratives of young people of diverse backgrounds and experiences. The portraits are compelling and the deeply personal narratives are spell binding in their honesty. Each portrait contains a section written in the subject's handwriting, which creates an even more intimate feeling for the reader.

This is a book that has the power to change lives, a book that it is impossible to put down without being moved and enlightened. *The Shared Heart* is an essential purchase for school, public, and academic libraries, as a unique and powerful portrait of lesbian and gay adolescence.

Growing Up Gay, in contrast, follows just two young gay people as they move from adolescence to adulthood, Jamie Nabozny, a Wisconsin teenager who successfully sued his school district for failing to protect him from harassment, and Amy Grahm, a high school student just beginning her coming out process. Primarily a book of documentary photography, *Growing Up Gay* lets the reader get deeply involved in the everyday lives of Jamie and Amy. The photographs are narrated by the subjects and reflect the joys and pains of first loves, bonding with friends, and families dealing with

the changes in their children. The result is a valuable in depth look at growing up lesbian and gay and a book that would be an excellent addition to both public and school library collections.

Kathy Anderson
Reference Librarian
Atlantic County (NJ) Library System

Necessary Hunger. By Nina Revoyr. Simon & Schuster, 1997. (ISBN 0-684-83234-8)

This book is full of issues: interracial relationships, competitive sports, inner city problems, teenage crime, young people thrown out of home because of their sexuality, teenage insecurities. Despite so many themes this is a great read and a fascinating story.

The story is told by Nancy who is Japanese American and a basketball player. Nancy's father falls in love with Claudia, who is black. Claudia and her daughter Raina (also a top high school basketball player) move in. The story covers the last few months of high school during which both girls are targeted by college recruiters. They are also adjusting to this new household. Nancy is attracted to Raina, who is involved with the cheating Toni.

One of the strengths of this book, however, is that it is not about "coming-out". Both Nancy and Raina are perfectly comfortable with their lesbianism and much of the story has nothing to do with this issue. Through Nancy's eyes we see the problems of the inner city Los Angeles neighbourhood in which they live, her feelings about basketball and the college recruitment process, her perception of her contemporaries, her views of her father and Claudia, and above all her fear of moving out of a familiar environment, and of losing Raina. The book ends with Nancy looking back regretfully, many years later, at the things she did not do or say.

This book is full of issues: interracial relationships, competitive sports, inner city problems, teenage crime, young people thrown out of home because of their sexuality, teenage insecurities. Despite so many themes this is a great read and a fascinating story. It belongs in all young adult library collections; and would be greatly enjoyed by any young lesbians who are into sports.

--Linda Main
School of Library & Information Science
San Jose State University

Love <enter>. By Paul Kafka. Houghton-Mifflin Co., 1997. (ISBN 0-395-86001-6 paper)

If a cleverly written story about 2 lesbians and 2 straight young men, written entirely from the point of view of the younger (and more completely self-absorbed) of the men is your preference, this book may appeal to you.

Dan, the narrator, describes his present life (as an intern in OB/GYN) in the parts in between "the story". The story is told in a series of letters he writes on a computer during breaks at the hospital. The letters are stored under a password, "Love", which is how the book gets its title. In the story, all four are at that halfway house of youth, the time between college and medical school/career, spending a year in Paris. Margot and Bou have been together for three years; Dan and his polymath roommate Beck have just met.

The four of them meet and eat and talk and drink and ski and dance together for a brief, enchanted time. The fact that Dan instantly falls in love with Margot and Bou is no real problem, since Dan believes that somehow this love need not be consummated. Unfortunately this idyllic state doesn't last.

Some of the best writing is reserved for the minor characters. Their concierge, Germaine, is an interesting gnome, with passions for astrology, herbalism, and spiritualism. The only two characters who do not become very real are the lesbians. They are described as having different personalities and physical characteristics, but seem to have share one voice, whether it's teasing or serious or neurotic.

This is suitable for general collections of fiction.

Susan Lee Sills
Director of Student Affairs
University of California - Irvine

Physique: The Life of John S. Barrington. By Rupert Smith. Serpent's Tail, 1997. (ISBN 1-85242-374-9)

In the somewhat more innocent days before the explosion of gay porno magazines and videos, so called physical culture and physique magazines were the chief sources of visual stimulation for gay men. Jon S. Barrington, who pioneered the art of erotic male physique photography got his start in 1938 when, at the age of 17, he began photographing handsome young men who posed for him at London's men's swimming pools. John had an eye for male beauty and used his personal charms to pick up, photograph and seduce a series of men.

Throughout the London Blitz, John befriended and photographed lonely servicemen, enjoying the Bohemian underground nightlife which continued to flourish. Barrington was attractive to both men and women, and although he looked down on the effete gay subculture and considered himself bi-sexual, most of John's lovers were men. He was also a celebrity chaser and struck up acquaintanceships with Noel Coward, Bob Marley, John Lennon, Alain Delon, and Nureyev. Through the decades from the 1940's through the 80's, John photographed and loved a series of strikingly beautiful young men - workers, bodybuilders, models, beach boys - making a living selling his prints and publishing limited edition magazines such as Youth In the Sun, Manifique, Male Model Monthly, Formosus, and Hard. He also surprised himself by having a passionate love affair with the girl friend of one of his lovers, and quickly married her. His 35 year marriage and two daughters gave John the respectability he desired, but did not hinder his search for ideal men to photograph and to love. The French Rivera became a favorite haunt, and there he discovered some of his best subjects, while launching a lucrative escort service - The Gay Bachelor! Up until his death from leukemia in 1991, John continued his work, traveling to New York for an exhibition of his photos and publishing a book of his best figure studies - The Romantic Male Nude.

The timeless beauty of Barrington's models is evident in the 100 black-and-white photos which illustrate this book and clearly establish him as a master of eroticism. Recommended for academic, special and larger public library collections.

Howard Miller
St. Louis, Mo.

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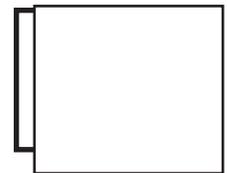
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