



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

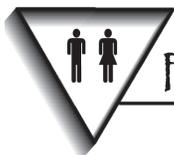
Hello, everyone! My term as Newsletter Editor ends with this issue. It has been a pleasure working with everyone over the past few years. I owe my successes to the collective support of the GLBT Round Table. Your support and enthusiasm have made my job an enjoyable one. **John Bradford** will be succeeding me as the next Editor, and I am confident that he will do an outstanding job! Please join me in both thanking and congratulating him!

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is **August 15th, 2006**, so please have all your book reviews, officer reports, and articles sent to John at jpbmls@yahoo.com before that time!

I also want to extend a special thanks to the **Haworth Press** for their support of this newsletter! Their continued generosity in funding the production and shipping of our newsletter has allowed our Round Table to remain more financially viable, and the final product is always very attractive! I hope that this relationship continues to grow under the Editorship of John Bradford.

Again, thank you!

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
klwells@gmail.com



From the Co-Chairs

This has been quite a year for me and the RT. ALA council and the ALA membership have finally recognized the importance of the various smaller roundtables and starting next year we will have our own voice on council. Many people have worked hard and long to bring this change about. It is now up to us to make sure we select the best person for the job when nominating and choosing candidates for the election next year.

I have learned many things and have made some mistakes during my first year as co-chair. The various people on the steering committee have been there to help me learn the job and the membership has given me insight as to where the RT needs to go in the future.

I wish to thank Anne Moore and Andy Johnson for their years of service as co-chair and secretary. They were there to help answer my questions about many things. Anne will continue to serve the

roundtable as the chair of the nominating committee. She will have the fun task of finding candidates to run for the positions of co-chair and treasurer in addition to newly created GLBTRT councilor. Andy Johnson will be able to enjoy his retirement without the having to deal with lots of bounced messages and maintaining our list.

Cal Zunt brings to the job of co-chair past experience as the GLBTF co-chair and as the past chair of the book award committee. Having served as the co-chair in the past will help in planning the changes needed for the future. Lewis Day will assume the job of Secretary. As the past membership chair, Lewis has gained much knowledge of how to deal with the various sections of ALA which will serve him well during the next two years.

Remember the RT exists because various people have volunteered their time and skills to ensure that we have a voice within ALA. If you can please volunteer to serve on the various committees, join in the list discussions or post a query to the list and if you have ideas or any concerns contact any member of the steering committee.

Norman Eriksen

*Assistant Division Manager Language and Literature
Brooklyn Public Library
n.eriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org*

In June I will conclude my second term as co-chair. The past four years have been a wonderful gift for me of meeting people, making new friends and gaining new skills and perspectives.

I have enjoyed getting to know so many of the members of the Round Table and wish there were more time to chat with each of you. The opportunity to meet our winning authors and speakers has also been fabulous. It has always served to reinforce the importance of libraries and books.

I am grateful to all of you who have contributed to the Round Table and provided me with support and guidance. Your time, energy, and support have made this commitment enjoyable and doable.

Beyond the members of the Round Table, I want to acknowledge my appreciation to the ALA staff who work with us. Satia and Tanga – I have valued your support but also your friendship and hugs.

Thanks again to all of you for making the experience of being co-chair such a rewarding and enjoyable one for me.

Anne L. Moore, Coordinator for Access Services
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National Library Week at the LA&M

The Teri Rose Memorial Library, a non-circulating browsing and research collection housed at the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago, commemorated National Library Week by asking LA&M members and supporters to submit their favorite leather/BDSM and non-fiction books.

From the suggestions, volunteer librarian John Bradford compiled two lists, one of 97 fiction and another of 157 non-fiction books, and ordered them by each book's rank on Amazon.com as of March 26, 2006. As the LA&M collections involve the whole spectrum of the leather and related lifestyles (including but not limited to GLBT communities), the lists reflect a broad diversity of interests. As an artifact of the ranking method, the works of Anne Rice and Diana Gabaldon lead the fiction list.

You can find both lists on the LA&M Web site at: <http://www.leatherarchives.org/resources/pr29.htm>

LA&M celebrates 15 years

Hundreds of revelers gathered at the Palmer House in Chicago on Saturday, May 27 to mark the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Leather Archives & Museum. The event brought donors, supporters, staff and volunteers—all in formal leather—to celebrate together in one of the major parties of the International Mr. Leather 2006 Weekend. Each partygoer received a commemorative pin.

Extended hours and a shuttle service from the IML host hotel provided opportunities for contestants and attendees from out of town to visit the LA&M, including its Teri Rose Memorial Library. For those with tighter schedules, the LA&M staffed a booth in the Leather Market, distributing LA&M READ posters, selling LA&M clothing and souvenirs, running their perennially popular used video and magazine sale, accepting donations, and enrolling and renewing members.

New READ Posters available

The LA&M has used its READ posters, which debuted last year at International Mr. Leather 2005, to publicize its Teri Rose Memorial Library

Louis Lang produced a second set of READ posters and mini-posters for the LA&M. Initially distributed during International Mr. Leather 2006, the first of this year's posters features author and International Ms. Leather 1996 Jill Carter. The second presents librarian, queer cultural historian, and GMSMA member Matt Johnson.

Both sets of READ posters and mini-posters are available at the Leather Archives & Museum, in the Teri Rose Memorial

Library. This year's mini-posters are also available at the GLBTRT booth in the Exhibits Hall.

John Bradford

jbmls@yahoo.com

GLBTRT Read Aloud and Social Raising Funds for NOPL Collections

Join us for the GLBTRT Read Aloud and Social in New Orleans, on Sunday, June 25th. This year, all funds collected at the Social will go towards rebuilding the GLBT collections of the New Orleans Public Library system.

Both programs will be held at the Milton H. Latter Memorial Branch of the New Orleans Public Library, located in the Garden District at 5120 St. Charles Avenue. The Read Aloud will be from 4pm – 5:30pm. The Social will follow, from 6pm – 8pm.

The Read Aloud is an annual program in which all attendees are encouraged to read from their own writings, or from the works of their favorite GLBT authors. It's a great time to catch up on the newest publications, and to revisit some old favorites. Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama....anything goes! Plan to share 5-10 minutes from the chosen work...enough to capture our interest, and encourage us to read the entire work on our own.

The Social is our twice-a-year chance to catch up with friends and colleagues in an informal and fun setting. We are, after all, the coolest of the Librarian set (admittedly, a rather easy contest to win, at best.) All are welcome, be you a member of the Round Table, or part of the glitterati-at-large.

We do ask for a donation at our social, and this year all funds collected will go to the New Orleans Public Library, to purchase GLBT materials for their collections. Please consider making a larger than usual contribution to assist with the gargantuan task that NOPL faces, rebuilding their stacks book by book.

If you are not attending the conference and/or social, and you'd like to make a contribution, please send your checks to me prior to June 20th, made payable to GLBTRT: Gary Wasdin c/o The New York Public Library, Office of Staff Development, 455 Fifth Ave, 6th Floor, NY, NY 10016-0122.

Thanks for your support, and we look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Gary Wasdin, Chair

Program Planning

gwasdin@gmail.com

For Immediate Release - May 16, 2006

Publications Serving North Carolina and South Carolina Merge

Charlotte based Q-Notes and Raleigh's The Front Page become one, increasing editorial content, advertiser base and readership

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — After decades of service to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) readers in both Carolinas, *Q-Notes* and *The Front Page* have become one. Announced publicly May 16, the merger has been years in the making and will offer readers across the two-state area access to more editorial material tailored to their specific regions.

"We're very excited about this accomplishment," says *Q-Notes* publisher Jim Yarbrough. "We've talked about doing it for years and it finally seemed like the time was right. This is great for readers across the Carolinas because of the new content we'll be carrying and for the advertisers because of an expanded distribution base and our subscription service." *The Front Page* began publishing in the Raleigh area in 1979 under the direction of Jim Baxter, who was spearheading an effort to connect North Carolina's LGBT community on a statewide level.

"For several years I had talked with one of the original backers of the paper — Art Sperry — about how change might happen for the gay community in North Carolina," recalls Baxter. "We agreed that a statewide effort would be needed. In order for that to happen some dependable means of statewide communication would be needed. That's how *The Front Page* got started."

Over the next three decades *The Front Page* provided readers in North Carolina and later South Carolina stories about local and national news and arts and entertainment.

Q-Notes initially debuted as a monthly newsletter in 1983 and would continue to be produced by an all-volunteer staff for the next two years. It eventually ceased publication due to lack of volunteer manpower, but would be reborn in June of 1986 as a monthly tabloid-style newspaper. By the late '80s, *Q-Notes* was being distributed to readers in both Carolinas.

In June 1996, *Q-Notes* moved to an every-other-week publishing schedule and added access to the publication via internet in late 1998.

The fact that the merger, a re-design and the 20-year anniversary of the publication all come at the same time is certainly no coincidence.

"After 20 years of service to readers across two states, we felt that making the announcement about the two papers merging in a freshly re-designed package only made sense," says Yarbrough.

The Front Page's former front man Baxter will come on board as a writer for *Q-Notes* — a development Yarbrough is enthusiastic about.

"I've followed Jim's work for many years," Yarbrough says. "Jim is a very talented writer and we're lucky to get him. I'm looking forward to a long and successful, mutually beneficial relationship."

Visit our website at www.q-notes.com.

For more information contact:
David Moore, Editor, *Q-Notes*
704-531-9988
editor@q-notes.com

A KATRINA 5K Run/Walk to help support the Colleges and Universities in New Orleans

Dear All,

Our colleges and universities in New Orleans are still struggling to survive - some are doing better than others, but the need is still great. On June 24, 2006 "A KATRINA (Keeping All The Resources In New Orleans Alive) 5K Run/Walk, A National Day of Support for Higher Education in New Orleans - Turning the Negative into Positive" is being conducted. This event is historic in that it is calling for persons from around the country to participate and take an additional stand of support for our schools. Many of you around the country may have attended one of these schools or know of persons who have. Again, the call is for persons from around the country to register as honorary members of the race and show a day of national support. We are hoping that Presidents Bush and Clinton join us but we don't know of this yet.

Please pass the word on and see the attached information. The website address is <http://www.akatrinawalk.com>. Thank you in advance.

K-HEAF
P.O. Box 740483
New Orleans, LA 70174

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American Library Association
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Chicago, IL 60611

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

John Bradford, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
jbmls@yahoo.com

ALA Annual Conference 2006
New Orleans, LA - June 22-28, 2006
GLBTRT Schedule

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Steering Committee I	Sat. June 24	8:00am-10:00am	JW Orleans/Rosalie/St. Claude
All Committee	Sat. June 24	10:30am-12:00pm	JW Conde & Frontenac
Book Award I	Sat. June 24	1:30pm-5:30pm	INTER Fulton
Drag Kings of New Orleans: Documenting Cultural History	Sun. June 25	1:30pm-3:30pm	HIL Jasperwood
Book Award II	Sun. June 25	1:30pm-3:30pm	MARCC Magnolia
Read Aloud New Orleans	Sun. June 25	4:00pm-5:30pm	NO Public Library - Latter Branch
GLBTRT Social	Sun. June 25	6:00pm-8:00pm	NO Public Library - Latter Branch
GLBTRT Annual Stonewall Book Awards	Mon. June 26	10:30am-1:00pm	OMNI East/Center Salon
Steering Committee II	Tues. June 27	8:00am-12:00pm	MCC 290

Non-Round Table Events of Interest:

ALA-DiversityCouncil

"I Don't Know Any Gay People!: GLBT concerns across diverse communities"

Sun. June 25 1:30pm-3:30pm MCC 297

YALSA

"Out of the Closet and into the Library: Access to GLBT Materials for Teens"

Mon. June 26 10:30am-12:30pm MCC 388-390

**I Don't Know Any Gay People!
GLBT concerns across diverse communities**

Sunday, 1:30 - 3:30 pm Convention Center, Room 297

This session will explore GLBT informational and social concerns which affect the diverse ethnic and cultural communities we serve. Speakers will discuss their outreach efforts to GLBT communities. A discussion will follow which explores prejudice, denial, anger, ignorance, and disservice that can affect collections, services, and interactions in the public spaces we maintain.

Sponsored by the Diversity Council and moderated by Michael Miller.

Speakers: Mario Ascencio, Visual Arts Liaison Librarian, George Mason University; Rose Jackson, Reference Librarian, Portland State University; Jody Gray, Academic Outreach Librarian, University of Minnesota Libraries

Annual Awards Brunch in New Orleans

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
SandstromJC@elpasotexas.gov





Going OUT in New Orleans

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504.581.2678

St. Peter Guest House
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800.535.7815

Nightlife

Big Daddy's
2513 Royal St.
504.948.6288

Bywater Bar.B.Que/
Lorenzo's/Out Back Bar
3162 Dauphine St. @ Louisa
504.944.445

Café Lafitte
<http://www.lafittes.com/>
901 Bourbon St.
504.522.8397

Cutter's
706 Franklin Ave.
504.948.4200

The Corner Pocket
<http://www.cornerpocket.net/>
940 St. Louis
504.568.9829

The Country Club
634 Louisa Street
504.945.0742

Cowpokes/The Barn
www.cowpokesno.com/
2240 St. Claude
504.947.0505

Double Play
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504.523.4517

Golden Lantern
1239 Royal Street
504.529.2860

Good Friends Bar
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740 Dauphine St.
504.566.7191

Moulin Rouge
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504.944.1888

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504.561.8939
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504.527.0703

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breakfast, lunch, dinner and desserts

International Resource Network

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) was founded in 1991 as the first university-based research center in the United States dedicated to the study of historical, cultural, and political issues of vital concern to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and communities. By sponsoring public programs and conferences, offering fellowships to individual scholars, and functioning as an indispensable conduit of information, CLAGS serves as a national center for the promotion of scholarship that fosters social change.

The International Resource Network (IRN), based at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center and funded by the Ford Foundation, aims to link up researchers (from both academic and community bases) in areas related to diverse sexualities and genders. The goals of the IRN are to expand knowledge building, to foster comparative and collaborative projects among researchers, to advance curricular and course development, and to widen the availability of scholarly resources.

One crucial component of the IRN is a dynamic international website (IRNweb.org). Among other aspects of the IRN, the website will be a key instrument for: expanding connections among researchers through an extensive searchable directory; making data, findings, and articles more widely available; linking academic research with activism and vice versa, sharing course syllabi and strategies for developing LGTBQ Studies programs; and fostering comparative research. It will provide directories, bibliographies, chatrooms, listservs, links, an on-line newsletter, specially created content, and a dynamic archive of research materials. And it will have an architecture that permits regional editors to upload materials to a central webmaster.

We envision the IRN not simply as a clearinghouse for documents, but as a digital library. As that digital collection grows in size, providing the most precise search results for end users becomes more and more critical. The development and implementation of a multilingual GLBT thesaurus providing international coverage and offering refined subject searching capabilities to our end users will also be a core element of the IRN website.

Rather than having multiple thesauri in different languages, we will be generating a single, multilingual thesaurus in English, Spanish, French, and Chinese (Mandarin). The thesaurus will also incorporate terms in other foreign languages which lack exact equivalents in the IRN languages.

End users will interact with the thesaurus at two points: when uploading content to the site and when searching for content on the site. IRN is working closely in concert with our web developers to ensure that interfaces will successfully mediate the complexity and extent of the thesaurus for the user at both these points.

Though the thesaurus being developed by the International Resource Network is principally intended to serve IRN users, we also view it as continuous with a often overlooked tradition of GLBT controlled vocabularies extending back at least three decades. A reappraisal of these older thesauri serves to fill a void in our knowledge about the history of information organization by and about GLBT people, as well as GLBT history more broadly. It is our hope that a recollection of this history of knowledge production will both spur and guide contemporary efforts in the same direction.

IRN is eager to involve interested scholars and information professionals in the generation and ongoing support of a new web-based thesaurus for and by GLBT people. We are hopeful that the thesaurus, like the IRN itself, can become a collaborative community project to which many can contribute and from which many can benefit. For more information, please send an email to clagsglobal@gc.cuny.edu.

Matt Johnson

Library Consultant, International Resource Network
trekdrop78@hotmail.com



Book Review!

Some Dance to Remember: A Memoir-Novel of San Francisco 1970-1982. By Jack Fritscher. Harrington Park Press. 2005. 437 p. paperback (ISBN 10: 1-56023-327-3) [813.54]

This re-released 1990 "fictional" account of life in San Francisco which spans post Stonewall to the early days of the AIDS epidemic has been compared to "the gay *Gone with the Wind*". Narrated by Magnus Bishop with excerpts from the main character's diary, Magnus shares the adventures of writer Ryan O'Hara. Ryan meets "homomasculine" body builder Kick Sorenson as they become the golden couple of Castro Street. This account of gay history covers it all; from specific subcultures of leather scenes in the bathhouses and bodybuilders using steroids to universal experiences in the dynamics of relationships with lovers, family and friends. Despite the fictional account, real historical references are used including Harvey Milk and Armistead Maupin. The subject matter in this novel maybe too mature for youth but very worthwhile to readers in any type of library interested in origins of present-day gay culture.

Reviewed by Lisa Forslund, Assistant Professor, Saint Cloud State University.



Book Review!

Male-Male Intimacy in Early America: Beyond Romantic Friendships. By William Benemann. Harrington Park Press, 2006. 322p. paperback (ISBN-13 978-1-56023-345-9) [306.76]

Benemann's examination of male-male intimacy spans backwards in time from the reign of Henry VIII and forward to the publication of Harriett Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, with the bulk of his examination devoted to the Revolution and the Early Republic. He offers a reasoned approach to a queered reading of correspondence, diaries, fiction, military and prison records, and medical texts of the period; while documentation is scarce, the "pervasive reluctance to concede even *latent* desire between two men sets up serious obstacles to our understanding of sexuality in American history," a fact borne out

by the fractured reception of C. A. Tripp *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* (2005). While the term "romantic friendships" has been used to describe the homosocial relationships of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century—thus obviating the need to explain the verbal excesses of that period—the author expands and refines that rather simplistic typology to add "romantic mentorships" (intergenerational relationships) and "erotic employment" ("body servants" and slaves). His nuanced discussion of the womanish British delegate Andrew Merry, the foppish secretary Augustus John Foster, the outlandish Virginia Congressional representative John Randolph, and the scandalmonger James Thomson Callendar provide case studies that encourage deeper thinking about gay historical typologies. Moreover, his understanding of the basic tenets of queer theory and postcolonial theory are clearly rendered, and illuminate the texts he explores. Benemann's book is comprehensive in its treatment of gender dynamics. The source list is quite useful in itself, and the index is well-detailed. The volume is recommended for academic and large public libraries that support gay and lesbian collections as well as for individual gay historians who may find it a valuable personal reference.

Reviewed by **James V. Carmichal, Jr.** Department of Library and Information Studies. The University of North at Greensboro. Greensboro, NC.



Book Review!

Between Mom and Jo by Julie Anne Peters. Little Brown & Co., 2006. 232pp. \$16.99. (ISBN: 0316739065) Fic

Peters brings readers yet another sensitive story of glbt-related joys and struggles within a family setting. Middle-schooler Nick loves his two mothers, Erin and Jo, a lawyer and blue-collar worker, respectively. Theirs is a happy "normal" life, as they deal with pet care, work schedules, school projects and other minutiae of family dynamics. However, hard times intervene when Erin is diagnosed with breast cancer, and Jo's drinking becomes excessive as she faces job layoffs and unemployment. Though Erin recovers, tensions between her and Jo intensify, and the couple eventually splits after Erin becomes



involved with another woman. As are many children of "straight" divorce, Nick becomes caught in the middle when birth mother Erin refuses to grant visitation rights to Jo, who never formally adopted him. Nick's determination to have Jo in his life leads to turmoil and depression which Erin seems reluctant to confront. After several plot turns, the conflict is resolved in a way that may seem surprising, but which portends a happier life for Nick.

As is customary with Peters's novels, readers are treated to superb characterizations and sharply realistic dialogue, parallel with absorbing plot development. Her cutting-edge theme of same-sex divorce and its effects on the children deeply loved by both parents will resonate with thoughtful readers, and offer much food for discussion. While this novel does not reach the literary and emotional glories of her National Book Award nominee **Luna**, it is nevertheless a fine effort. It will be particularly suitable for mature readers at the junior high and high school levels.

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





Book Review!



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,



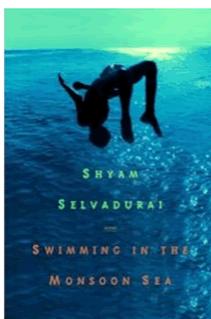
the boy's real name is hidden, submerged like the many secrets that adults in the segregated South keep, or try to keep, from one another. Author George Ella Lyon scrapes away the veneer of genteel behavior practiced by Sonny's family and friends, There's his gay dad who leaves for New Orleans and spies 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.

Swimming in the Monsoon Sea. By Shyam Selvadurai. Tundra Books, 2005. 274 pp. \$18.95 hardcover (ISBN 0887767354). F.

The hot, humid Sri Lankan summer of 1980 is the setting for Shyam Selvadurai's first novel for young adults, *Swimming in the Monsoon Sea*.



Amrith, the fourteen-year-old protagonist, plans on spending this summer like every other summer, living quietly in the house of his adopted parents, Aunty Bundle and Uncle Lucky, and preparing for the school play. His plans make a drastic change, however, when his cousin from Canada, Nires, shows up and decides to stay for a visit. Amrith has never known another boy like his cousin and quickly begins to fall in love. But while Amrith prepares for his role in *Othello*, Nires begins to show an

interest in Aunty and Uncle's daughter, Mala. Events come to a head as the monsoon begins to swell the sea and Amrith's jealousy swells to uncontrollable heights.

Selvadurai immaculately portrays the lush background of Sri Lanka and truly captures the essence of young adult angst. The heat of passion among the teens blends seamlessly with the humidity of the tropical summer. The vibrant descriptions, realistic and lively characters, and engaging story make this book impossible to put down. A great addition to any collection, one of the great features of the novel is the gentle and non-graphic way it handles Amrith's self-acceptance. This helps make the book suitable for pre-teens up through adults.

Reviewed by **Joey Nicholson**, University of California, Berkeley, jnichols@library.berkeley.edu

THANK YOU ALL!!!

Thanks, again, to everyone in the GLBT Round Table for your continued support of this newsletter. It has truly been a remarkable experience working with you all over the past few years, and it has been very rewarding to me to see how it has grown during my time as Editor. I am especially proud of how well the presence of book reviews has grown under **Ray Barber**, our Book Review Editor. He has done a splendid job of finding quality reviewers and working with publishers. I sincerely hope that this trend of high-quality book reviews continues to be a part of this publication into the future. I also want to make sure that everyone is fully aware of the support we receive from the **Haworth Press**. They fully fund the printing and shipping costs of each issue of this newsletter, and they produce a fine product. For any future newsletter issues, contact your new Editor, **John Bradford**, at jbmls@yahoo.com.

Again, thank you all for everything!

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
klewells@gmail.com



Book Review!

Vancouver voices : a novel. By David Watmough. (Vancouver, B.C. : Ripple Effect Press, 2005. 160 p. ISBN 1-894735-09-9)\$12.50 F.

David Watmough was born in London in 1926, raised in Cornwall, came to North America in 1952, and settled in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, after a time in New York and San Francisco. He has appeared on CBC radio, written monodramas, plays, and essays, but is best known for his earlier interlocking short stories and later novels. Both his short story collections (**No More Into the Garden**. 1978) and several novels (**Thy Mother's Glass**. 1992) explore the life of "Davie" from his experiences during World War II, through forming a long term with "Ken", a professor, to aging in British Columbia. Like John Updike, his protagonists keep age with himself and Like Armistad Maupin's, earlier interrelated short stories evolve into novels. His writing is more witty than Updike, and addresses more serious issues than Maupin.

His latest novel, *Vancouver Voices*, departs from his long standing tradition of chronicling the developments in Davie and Ken's lives, but instead portrays the growing friendship between a late middle aged woman and a young gay man, a friendship which distresses her son and daughter-in-law.

When asked why he was so good at picturing the inner lives of women. He replied that he was blessed with a certain ambiguity of sexuality. Perhaps this explains David Watmough's uncanny ability in this novel to so convincingly portray the inner feelings and ideas of a still vigorous but aging woman.

The growing friendship and understanding between this middle aged woman, the young gay gardener, and his new priest lover, allow them to weather false accusations of pedophilia against the priest.

David Watmough is a major Canadian and gay author. He deserves far greater recognition than he has so far received.

Reviewed by J. McRee (Mac) Elrod, Director, Special Libraries Cataloguing. Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada



Book Review!

Klein, Fritz. **Life, Sex, and the Pursuit of Happiness.** Harrington Park Press. 2005. 214p. paperback. ISBN: 1-56023-577-2.

As a practicing psychiatrist and researcher on bisexuality, Fritz Klein has the credentials to craft a story of a psychotherapist

and his bisexual patient. He succeeds in presenting a detailed psychological portrait of the emotional and sexual lives of the two main characters—Dr. Paul Manes and Randy Gold—but with a clinician's touch for narrative and dialogue which some readers may find frustrating. And, readers who approach this book with the expectation to gain a greater understanding of male bisexuality may be disappointed. Randy Gold's occasional intimate encounters with men seem purely for satisfying his insatiable need for sex, but one may ask—What of the emotional ties a bisexual man may experience in his intimate relationships with other men?

That is missing here, and would be preferable in the development of a bisexual fictional character.

Reviewed by Victor Schill, Assistant Branch/Children's Librarian, Harris County (TX) Public Library.



Book Review!

Dare To Hope: Saving American Democracy by Jason West. New York: Miramax Books/Hyperion. 2005 ISBN 1-4013-5328-3\$22.00.

This stimulating, frank and thoughtful book by the 26-year old house painter, Green Party, mayor of New Paltz, New York, was published in August 2005, one month after the district attorney dropped all charges against him for performing numerous same-sex weddings at the village hall. **Dare To Hope** is not simply the personal story of a public official's decision to take a stand, with which many voters disagreed, but also addresses the meaningful changes needed in our society due to problems brought on by the current low level of political participation and representation in our nation at all levels. West expresses several major areas of concern including: environmental preservation, sustainable management of local resources and community activism to combat globalization. Given his unique background, first hand political experience and social philosophy this book will fit well in public library collections of all sizes, and be a unique addition to college and university libraries supporting degree programs in history, political science, business, public administration and environmental science.

Reviewed by Robert Ridinger, Chair, Electronic Information Resources Management, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Idaho Trustees Asked to Revisit Joy of Gay Sex

From American Libraries Online

A group of concerned citizens urged the Nampa, Idaho, city council May 14 to press the city library board to revisit for a third time its decision to retain the Joy of Gay Sex in the library collection. "We have a lot of kids in there," Mayor Tom Dale said, according to a May 17 Associated Press report. "We need to have a safe place for them."

Explaining that Nampa Public Library must "meet the needs of a diverse group in our community," board Chair Sharon Brooks explained that trustees refused complainant Randy Jackson's request for reconsideration twice "based on the principle of freedom of information rather than that book."

Jackson told Fox-TV Boise affiliate KTRV May 14 that he browsed the title after learning that a 15-year-old boy had reported to his mother that he had found Joy of Gay Sex on a library table. "One of the chapters is titled daddy-son sexual fantasies about two people having sex together and pretending they are father and son," Jackson said. He has also called for the removal of eight other titles, including the Joy of Sex, because he finds them "very pornographic in nature [with] very explicit and detailed illustrations and photographs."

Jackson has gained support from the Idaho Values Alliance, whose website (<http://www.idahovaluesalliance.com/>) on May 19 posted an e-mail Mayor Dale sent to area resident Tracy Mattox. "I will be working in the days before the next Library board meeting to help the board understand that they do have broad authority in determining the books placed in the library collection, and their status therein," Dale wrote. "My preference would be for the books with explicit pictures, and particularly with chapters advocating breaking the laws of our state and nation, to be totally removed from the library. We do not need to provide them to anyone."

Acknowledging the authenticity of the e-mail, Mayor Dale told American Libraries that Mattox's was one of many messages he had received regarding the controversy. He emphasized that while he has "no statutory authority to tell the board what to do," he has "the same rights as any other citizen to address the board with my concerns."

Nampa library trustees may also receive input from defeated Boise city council candidate Brandi Swindell of Generation Life. She wrote on her blog (<http://www.brandiswindell.org/blog.asp>) May 15 that, acting on a tip from Randy Jackson's wife Lynette Jackson, Swindell's group would draft an open letter to ask an anonymous potential donor to NPL's capital campaign to "hold funds until these books are no longer accessible to children."

Posted May 19, 2006.



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**