

# GLBTRT NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL TRANSGENDERED ROUND TABLE  
OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## Program Planning

Plans are complete for the Annual Book Awards Breakfast in Atlanta on Monday June 17th. This year we celebrate the 31st Annual presentation of our prestigious awards with great guest speakers and our award winners for literature and nonfiction.

This year, keeping our sights on the fact that we are in the South, we are especially excited to have Jim Grimsley, author of *Boulevard* and GLBT Book Award Winner *Dream Boy*, as well as Lisa Moore, publisher at Redbone Press and editor of *Does your Mama Know?, an anthology of Black Coming Out Stories*.

This year's book award for Literature is *The Laramie Project*, and playwright and artistic director of the Tectonic Theatre project Moises Kaufman will be accepting the award.

The award for Nonfiction is *The Scarlet Professor: Newton Arvin, a Literary Life Shattered by Scandal* will be presented to author Barry Werth. We will also be hearing from Honor Award recipient John Sam Jones, author of *Welsh Boys Too* who is making a special trip to join us.

Being in Atlanta cries out for southern hospitality at the breakfast, and the committee plans not to disappoint you. The breakfast will be held in the Georgia East room of the Renaissance Hotel, and will start a half hour earlier this year. **I know that 7:30am is a real challenge for anyone used to running on gay time, but, rest assured, it will be well worth the effort.**

So..if you haven't made your reservations yet....please do so, as tickets are going fast. And, we'll see you in Atlanta!

**Bob Jaquay**  
Breakfast Planning Committee Chair  
rl\_jaquay@yahoo.com

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The funny thing about big events is that they are always upcoming. And so it seemed at the Midwinter Meetings in New Orleans. The Programming and Planning Committee gathered, bolstered by a few new faces, to get plans for Atlanta 2002 in place and begin considering Toronto 2003.

The Round Table has chosen HIV/AIDS information and education as its program theme for Atlanta. A panel discussion of the issue will be the Atlanta centerpiece. Titled *In Denial: HIV/AIDS information services in libraries*, the panel will include people from within and outside of the traditional library setting. The committee is presently contacting people in Atlanta to solicit participation. The Center for Disease Control will be one of our partners in this program.

In New Orleans, discussion also focused on whether the panel should approach the topic from a local or international perspective. In the end, what may be most important is to show what has been done in this area, and what could be done. Committee members have assigned themselves responsibility for contacting potential panel participants, and all should be in place come June.

Toronto seems so far off – another time, another country. Two possible themes have emerged. Information freedom was the first one discussed. The committee tossed about notions of comparing the concept as it is in the United States to what it is in Canada. From here the discussion moved into the theme of gay-friendliness in libraries, a “homo-hierarchy” of needs. This theme, however, is not necessarily one of meeting patron needs. Indeed, the status of queerness in the profession reared up. The committee has thought of trying to find speakers who are models of high-powered queers in libraries. The so-called glass closet may yet be a Toronto topic.

Toronto can wait a little, or at least be approached a little more leisurely. The Programming and Planning Committee will continue to consider it while members lay down some groundwork, contacting high level GLBT librarians perhaps, or forming networks with our colleagues in Canada.

In the meantime, Atlanta will take center stage. We hope that all of you will support and involve yourselves in the programs there.

**Peter Hepburn**  
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## From the Co-Chairs

Being co-chair of the GLBT Round Table has been a rewarding experience, both professionally and personally. I have met and become acquainted with a number of talented people. Thanks especially to Roland Hansen and Steve Stratton, who were terrific co-chairs, and to other Round Table officers and chairs, like Michael Poma, Cal Zunt, Bob Jaquay, John Bradford, and Norman Eriksen, for their commitment. My connections have launched professional possibilities in several areas within and outside of ALA. Most importantly, co-chairing has provided me with valuable leadership experience that will be (and has been) transferable to many other situations. Remember that the next time some supervisor questions the professional relevancy of steering queers.

Leading this particular ALA unit is not unlike herding cats sometimes, but if you know cats at all, you love their individuality and independence. That's what I like about GLBT Round Table members—they are unique and free-spirited. Where else can you find a treasurer who will only wear banker drag with dress shoes when members raise the Book Award endowment to \$40,000? I wonder what he would wear if we raised \$100,000?

Yes, parting seems to bring such sweet sorrow. . . Since my term as co-chair ends at annual, I would love to say, "I am not going to miss those Friday night Steering Committee meetings." However, as past co-chair, I think I still have to attend so I will still be plugging in and playing my part to keep the momentum going. Even were I not finishing up this stint, and passing the ball to the quite capable Anne Moore, our new co-chair, I would still want to stay involved. The Round Table still has work to accomplish. I haven't run out of ideas or enthusiasm yet. Opportunities still abound.

Speaking of opportunities, I won't forget to say that we still need your participation as liaisons and committee members. We are also still seeking a volunteer for a very significant position within the Round Table: chair or coordinator of the Website/Clearinghouse. You can ask me or co-chair Steve Stratton for more details about the duties. You can consult the present website chair, Keith Trimmer, who has done a fantastic job for this organization, or you can check out the RT bylaws listed at [http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala\\_hp.html](http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html) and look under the Section V. which covers committees. There are a lot of exciting things someone could do within this job. Steve and I have a lot of our own ideas and would love to see someone take on the challenge of keeping us in the public's eye via our website.

Part of the commitment of serving as chair of a committee is agreeing to attend Round Table meetings at

ALA annual and ALA midwinter conferences. Part of the benefit of serving comes from helping to put together a terrific line up of activities like we have planned for ALA Annual in Atlanta. Check out the list within this newsletter or visit our website online.

Before whooping it up with the Indigo Girls at the ALA Scholarship Bash, I look forward to mixing it up with you at our Annual Social on Sunday from 7-9pm. This year we will gather at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse ([www.outwritebooks.com](http://www.outwritebooks.com)), located at 991 Piedmont Ave. Of course, my favorite GLBT event has to be the Book Award Breakfast. This year's event features author and playwright Jim Grimsley and Lisa Moore and celebrates the work of Book Award winners, Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project and Barry Werth.

Thanks again for the chance to serve as your RT co-chair. I look forward to seeing you at ALA in Atlanta and in the future (Philadelphia, Toronto, San Diego, Orlando).

Best,

**Faye A. Chadwell**

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## About GLBTRT Newsletter

**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 your annual membership fees to ALA.

American Library Association  
50 E. Huron St.,  
Chicago, IL 60611.

Letters to the editor, correspondence to the above address.

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

A number of bylaw changes for the GLBTRT will be considered during ALA Annual. Please see our website regarding the proposed changes or attend one of our meetings. Please forward issues and concerns to Roland Hansen. He can be reached at:

**Roland C. Hansen**

Head of Access Services Columbia College Chicago  
Library 600 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago IL 60605  
312.344.7431 312.344.8062 fax  
rchansen@popmail.colum.edu

## Volunteer with Us

Volunteer with the GLBTRT!!!

Join us! We are always looking for energetic **committee members**. Interested candidates must be members of ALA. Please mail/email your nominations to the GLBTRT at the ALA address on the back of this newsletter, or attend our meetings during conference and see if you would like to volunteer. **We look forward to working with you!**

**Late News:** Atlanta (20 May, 2002) - -

**Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse will host a signing of THE END OF INNOCENCE by Chastity Bono on Friday, June 14, at 7:30 PM.** Outwrite Bookstore is located at 10th Street and Piedmont Avenue in Midtown.

**Reviews are a regular feature of the GLBTRT Newsletter.**

If you would like to be a reviewer or receive reviewing guidelines, please contact:

**Barbara R. Stevens**  
**GLBTRT Book Review Editor**

Email: [stevenbr@uwec.edu](mailto:stevenbr@uwec.edu)  
715-836-2522 or Fax 715-836-2902

## Treasure's Update

At of the January 2002 statement the balance on hand is \$11,074.12. I do hope that the membership is able in this time of tight funds to consider making a donation to the book award endowment fund. Funds are slowly coming in and I am starting shopping for a new three piece banker suit to wear at the social in Toronto (If we do not make the goal I can always use for interviews). I wish to take this time to thank all those people who already have come forward with donations.

As the annual conference draws near many messages are being sent to me regarding the availability of funds for various conference expenditures. So far the money has been budgeted but I wish to stress to every committee member and committee chair that expenses must be considered as part of any planning process. I have written up budget procedure for each committee and recommend that the committee chairs write up procedures for the operation of their committee. Formal written procedures will help us handle our funds more efficiently.

In one year my term of office will end and now is the time for people to start thinking about who will take over this job. The qualifications are as follows: good budgeting skills, record keeping and the ability to say no as needed. Any interested souls should talk with me about the job and its responsibilities. By the time I leave every policy will be in place so the transition will go easy.

Yours in Black Ink,

**Norman J. Eriksen**, GLBTRT Treasurer  
[n.eriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org](mailto:n.eriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org)

Mail should be addressed and sent to me as follows:  
Division Chief  
Education Job Information Center  
Brooklyn Public Library  
Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn New York 11238

## Of Interest

Note: the following program was presented at the Public Library Association's National Conference in March, 2002. Thanks to Rich DiRusso for providing this summary.

### **Getting Started: Serving Your Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Users with Pride**

Looking for tools to better serve your gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered patrons? Our program, **Getting Started: Serving Your Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Users with Pride** will highlight winning strategies from around the country that can be used at any public library, large or small.

Presenters: Richard DiRusso, Tucson-Pima Public Library (Ariz.); Louis Howley, Phoenix Public Library (Ariz.); Karen Sundheim, San Francisco Public Library (Calif.); Mary Jo Torgeson, Seattle Public Library (Wash.) Organizer: Richard DiRusso, Tucson-Pima Public Library (Ariz.)

I am always leery of late Friday afternoon time slots at conferences they're just too close to happy hour. But, we were lucky, over 100 people gathered to hear four western librarians speak about the nuances, highlights and pitfalls of progressively serving GLBT communities in a public library setting. Our program was two years in the making, until the conference we had only been communicating online. We were loosely organized on what topics we would be covering and how long to speak. It coalesced nicely, with three of us describing mostly positive experiences working within our respective systems, while one of us has had to fight to secure an equal footing in library services for the GLBT people in his community.

We discussed the need for specialized archival collections, such as is housed at the Hormel Center at San Francisco Public. Well on the other hand we also stated the importance of avoiding the ghettoization of GLBT materials and services to one particular library.

The phrase, "we are everywhere" is particularly valid for collection development policies concerning GLBT books, and audio/visual products. Depending on your financial

situation GLBT services need not be limited to only providing materials, though this is the foundation that good service depends upon.

Outreach is very important to any group of library users, it is extremely important to the GLBT community. Any community that in the past has been marginalized or ignored responds positively to concentrated outreach efforts made in their behalf.

We discussed the various venues that constitute a genuine outreach effort. Bookmarks were brought up as being simple, easy to make and inexpensive. Book clubs and reading groups can be a very effective means of providing outreach and drawing people into the library at the same time. MaryJo's branch in Seattle has had a gay book discussion group that has met for a while now. In Tucson the library is part of the local pride parade (we made the cover of our local glbt rag last year) and annual GLBT OUToberfest. Use some discretion, but most public GLBT events are good bets for providing yourself with positive outreach experiences. The support you'll receive is well worth the effort.

Not all of our experiences have been a walk in the park. Louis, from Phoenix Public, described his frustration at working in system that at times doesn't follow through on their own policies and commitment to service. Frustration lead to action and Louis has had to threaten his administration with litigation in order to guarantee civil rights already in place. With dedication, determination and humor he has prevailed and has made great strides in opening up Phoenix Public to the glbt community and vice versa.

There were many more topics discussed, I don't have room to cover them here. If your still interested in hearing more about the program, you can order an audio cassette of the program through the PLA homepage. Just follow the links from the 9th Annual Conference Site.

We concluded with a question and answer period and a viewing of The Stonewall Riot, puppet show video. Then a group of us went out and caught the last round of happy hour, very happy hour indeed.

**Meeting Schedule for the  
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table  
American Library Association Annual Meeting  
Atlanta, GA  
June 13 -June 18, 2002**

**Thursday, June 13th** 8:30am-8:00pm **Preconference: Different Voices, Common Quest: Adult Literacy & Outreach in Libraries** Marriott Marquis, Imperial Ballroom, Salon B

**Friday, June 14th,** 8:30am-2pm **Preconference: Different Voices, Common Quest: Adult Literacy & Outreach**

8:00-10:00pm **Steering Committee I** Marriott Marquis, Chablis/Picard

**Saturday, June 15th** 8:30-11:00am **All Committee Meeting** Embassy Suites, Legacy Ballroom E

11:30am-12:30pm **Introduction to Women's Issues in ALA** (SRRT program, co-sponsored by GLBTRT, Pay Equity Committee (Council) and Women Administrators Discussion Group (LAMA)) Georgia World Congress Center, Room A311

2:00-5:30pm **Book Award Committee** [closed meeting] Hilton, Rockdale

3:00-5:00pm **Diversity Fair 2002: Libraries Build Community**  
[http://www.ala.org/olos/divfair/2002\\_diversity\\_fair.html](http://www.ala.org/olos/divfair/2002_diversity_fair.html)  
Georgia World Congress Center, Room B206

**Sunday, June 16th** 9:30 AM-12:30pm **Membership Meeting** Ritz Carlton, Committee Room

7:00-9:00pm **GLBTRT Social Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse**  
<http://www.outwritebooks.com/>  
**991 Piedmont Ave., Atlanta, GA 30309**  
Tel: 404-607-0082

**Monday, June 17th** 7:30am-10:00am **GLBTRT Book Award Breakfast - 31st Anniversary Celebration**  
Renaissance, Georgia East ***Note earlier time!***

10:30 AM-12:00noon **Read Out in the South (Read Aloud)** Renaissance,  
Georgia West

1:30-3:30pm  
**Program: In Denial: HIV/AIDS Prevention Issues in Library Services**  
Georgia World Congress Center, Room B306

**Tuesday, June 18th** 8:30-11:00am **Steering Committee II** Marriott Marquis, Thames

GLBTRT Website: [http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala\\_hp.html](http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html)

[http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/rtables\\_home.html](http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/rtables_home.html)

**ALA Travel Technology Group:** 800-999-0925  
**United Airlines:** 800-521-4041

### **Airport Shuttle**

A number of companies provide bus and van services from the airport. Details at the Ground Transportation Area. Atlanta Airport Shuttle (800-842-2770) has a service to Downtown Atlanta every 15 minutes. Fare: \$8 one way, \$14 round trip.

### **MARTA**

(404) 848-5501

[www.itsmarta.com](http://www.itsmarta.com)

Rapid rail, 150 bus routes to downtown, Underground, Omni, Lenox, Arts Center. Fifteen minute rail service to airport. \$1.75 one-way fare, free transfer. Please see the March issue of American Libraries magazine for a coupon for a MARTA Visitor's Pass.

### **Rental Cars**

ALA has negotiated exclusive rates with Avis for rental cars during the conference. For rates and reservations call 800-331-1600 or access the web page created for the conference at: <http://www.avis.com/meetings/tools/bridge2.html?1351>. You must mention the Avis Worldwide Discount Number (AWD), D005980, when calling to receive the special discount.

### **Rail**

AMTRAK

800-USA-RAIL

[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

### **Other websites of interest:**

<http://www.accessatlanta.com/>

<http://www.webguide.com/>

<http://www.high.org/>

<http://fox97.com/>

<http://www.variety-playhouse.com/>

<http://local.yahoo.com/?spid=9240748>

<http://www.futurecast.com/gcg/atlanta.htm>

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ftp/ffc/>

<http://www.itsmarta.com/>

<http://www.sixflags.com/parks/whitewater/home.asp>

<http://www.scitrek.org/>

<http://www.roadatlanta.com/home.html>

<http://www.atlantaguidebook.com/enter.htm>

<http://www.atlantation.com/>

**Dear Members and Friends of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table:**

In 1971, the Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association established the first Gay and Lesbian Book Award to honor outstanding works in lesbigay publishing. It became an official award of the American Library Association in 1986. Beginning in 1990, the Book Award expanded into two categories: nonfiction and literature. In 1994 and again in 1999, the Award's name was changed to reflect the acknowledgement of our larger community.

**We are the oldest book award of its kind. We now strive to be able to support this award through an endowment.** Like all awards sponsored by the ALA, the GLBT Book Award must now be self-supporting, through either donations or an endowment. The Round Table believes that establishing such an endowment would allow the membership to utilize its regular budget and concentrate its energy more fully on presenting quality programming at conferences and less on year-to-year funding concerns. It would create a stable funding mechanism for many years to come for the GLBT Book Award.

The money that the Book Award needs to survive each year goes to a variety of areas. The first priority is to fund the award itself. Each winner of the GLBT Book Award receives a check for \$1000. The Round Table has also in the past been able to provide transportation and lodging for the winner at the annual conference city so that the winner may appear in person to accept the award.

These costs can vary depending on how far the book award winning author has to travel, the lodging costs in the conference city, our ability to split costs with other ALA groups, etc. So it would be the goal of the endowment to provide secure lodging and travel, in addition to the award amount, so we can assure our winners that they are indeed welcome to accept the award in person.

In order to establish an endowment within ALA, a division or round table must have an initial start-up of \$10,000 and an additional estimated \$30,000 to support the award in perpetuity. Already some members and friends of the GLBT round table have given monies totaling \$13,750 toward this goal. We would like to ask our friends and members to consider making a small donation of \$100 to assist the Round Table in starting the endowment. If all 400 current members of the GLBT Round Table

gave this tax-deductible amount we would be able to open the endowment account. We hope you will consider this goal worthy of your donation. Currently the GLBTRT has secured one pledge of \$10,000. There have also been three additional pledges ranging between \$750 and \$1000 from members of the Round Table. Please consider joining these members in supporting the continuation of the GLBT Book Award.

Using the donations from this campaign, the Round Table hopes to show grant making and funding organizations how important this award is to the library community and the GLBT community.

Please think about this endowment donation as you renew your membership this year. Indicate to ALA that you are including money as a donation to the GLBT Round Table for the Book Award. Or simply detach the form at the bottom of this page and send a donation now. As mentioned earlier the GLBTRT is a 501(c)3 organization, making your donation tax-deductible. Credit cards can be used to make donations for amounts over \$25.

Thank you for your time and donations,

**Faye Chadwell, Co-chair**  
**Steve Stratton, Co-chair**  
**Norman Eriksen, Treasurer**  
**GLBTRT Round Table**

**Yes, I would like to contribute towards the establishment of an endowment for the ALA GLBTRT Book Award!** I have enclosed a one time tax deductible donation in the amount of  
\$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$750 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to make a pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_ divided over the course of the next 3 years. Please find my first check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

For payment by credit card include the following:  
Master Card \_\_ Visa\_\_ American Express\_\_  
Card number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make all checks out to: ALA/GLBTRT

Mail this form to:  
Saita Orange  
OLOS  
American Library Association  
50 East Huron Street Chicago IL 60611  
Please include your name and address with your contribution. Thank you!

**SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:**

**This newsletter is now included in your membership fee to the GLBTRT via your regular ALA membership registration.** Just be sure to join the GLBTRT when you renew your membership or initially join.

Subscription questions should be forwarded to the newsletter editor. Thank you for your support.

**GLBTRT Newsletter**

**Editor**

**c/o GLBTRT**

**ALA / OLOS**

**50 East Huron St.**

**Chicago IL 60611**

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