Annual Conference

Annual Conference Meeting Schedule

June 27 (Thursday)
Steering Committee Meeting, 8 - 10 p.m. Hyatt Boardroom

June 28 (Friday)
Business Meeting, 2 - 4 p.m. Georgia World Conference Center, #254-W

June 29 (Saturday)
GLTF Social, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. RADISSON/Red Plantation Suite

June 30 (Sunday)
Programming Committee, 9 - 11 a.m. Check Conference calendar.
GLTF Read-Aloud, 4:30—6:30 p.m. RADISSON/Grand Ballroom

July 1 (Monday)
GLTF Program
“Gay and Lesbian Library Service: Exploding The Myths, Dismantling The Barriers”, 2 - 4 p.m.
Check Conference calendar.

July 2 (Tuesday)
Steering Committee Meeting, 9 - 11 a.m., Hyatt.
Check Conference calendar for room.

Be sure to check the Annual Conference Guide for changes or omissions and to verify meeting times and places.

Guide to Atlanta

A guide to Atlanta is being published as a special supplement to the newsletter. It was prepared by Cal Gough, long-time member of the ALA Gay and Lesbian Task Force with the assistance of Celeste Tibbets, from the ALA Feminist Task Force. That guide accompanies the newsletter. We hope that you find it of use during the Annual Conference.

Bring a Book to Atlanta!

Want to share selections from your favorite gay or lesbian fiction or nonfiction title with your colleagues from across the country? Participating in the Gay and Lesbian Read-Aloud at the Annual Conference in Atlanta offers you the chance to do this. In a supportive setting, you can read from any work that has had an impact on you.

Don’t forget: bring a book to Atlanta and share it with us at the Gay and Lesbian Read Aloud!

GLTF Business

Fundraising Ideas

T-shirts, buttons, socials - these are all fundraisers being considered by the Task Force to bolster our financial strength. Your ideas, talents and energies are needed in this important effort. A Fundraising/Finance Committee has been established and needs your help. For more information, please contact: Joseph Eagan Government Reference Service Enoch Pratt Free Library 400 Cathedral Street Baltimore, MD 21201, telephone 301.396.4042.

GLTF Announces 1991 Winners of Gay/Lesbian Book Award

The Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association is pleased to announce the winners of the 1991 Gay/Lesbian Book Award. This award has been given annually since 1972 to books of exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian experience, making it the oldest award of its kind in the United States.

The awards will be presented during the Gay and Lesbian Task Force’s program at the American Library Association’s Annual Conference in Atlanta.

For fiction, the 1991 Gay/Lesbian Book Award goes to Crime Against Nature by Minnie Bruce Pratt (Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books). Pratt’s autobiographical sequence of poems is a powerful, moving account
of a mother who is forced to choose between custody of her children or love for another woman. Pratt chooses to be true to her identity, and these poems poignantly reveal the anger, loss, and injustice that denies lesbians and gay men even basic rights. Crime Against Nature has also been honored as the Lamont Poetry Selection for 1989 of the Academy of American Poets, and is a finalist in the lesbian poetry category for the Third Annual Lambda Literary Awards.

The Encyclopedia of Homosexuality, edited by Wayne Dynes (NY: Garland) has been selected as the 1991 Gay/Lesbian Book Award nonfiction winner. The Encyclopedia is a landmark in the field of gay and lesbian studies. This two-volume set is the first work to attempt to collate, summarize and synthesize the vast and ever-burgeoning scholarly and popular literature on homosexuality. Over 700 articles from researchers around the world are included, covering an amazingly wide array of topics. This important work is essential for all high school, public, and academic libraries, and will likely serve as a major resource for years to come. Crime Against Nature and Encyclopedia of Homosexuality were selected by the ALA Gay/Lesbian Book Award Committee from a large number of nominations sent in to the Committee from both librarians and the general public. The Committee narrowed these nominations to 6 finalists in fiction and 8 finalists in nonfiction. The runners-up, all worthy of recognition for all high school, public, and academic libraries, and gay and lesbian books of 1990, include:

**Fiction**


Landscape: Memory by Matthew Stadler. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons. 


A Place I’ve Never Been by David Leavitt. NY: Viking. 

**Nonfiction**


For more information on the ALA Gay/Lesbian Book Award, contact the Chair of the Gay/Lesbian Book Award Committee, Adam Schiff, Associate Librarian, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. Tel. 415.750.7104.

**Former Book Award Recipient Writes of Importance of GLTF Book Award**

The following is an excerpt from a letter written to Adam Schiff, Chair of the GLTF Gay and Lesbian Book Award Committee:

...Finally, let me express my heartfelt thanks to the ALA Gay and Lesbian Task Force, for awarding your 1982 award to my book, Crime Against Nature. I was not able to come to your ALA meetings to receive the award, since I was already scheduled to be in Germany at that time (to receive an award from the World Congress for Sexology, for the same book). I deeply regret having to miss that occasion, since I highly respect the work that your task force has done over the years. Nevertheless, I have seen the impact of getting these awards, both on the attention given to my book, and to the respect shown by professors at my university. I am happy that Beacon Press chose to prominently mention the ALA Award on the back cover of the paperback edition of The Spirit and The Flesh. These awards definitely had a large impact in getting journals to agree to review the book (for example, the Journal of the American Academy of Religion recently devoted ten pages to a favorable review essay on this book, a rare occurrence), and also to shutting up the homophobic professors at my university who were attempting to dismiss the importance of my research. As I wrote in my Preface, academia has often been less than supportive to lesbian/gay research. Your award does a good deal to bring about significant improvements to that situation. This has become so evident to me, due to my own experience, that I agreed to chair last year’s Ruth Benedict Prize Committee, for a book award to the best anthropological research on homosexuality. This award is sponsored by the Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists, and was inspired by your pioneering efforts. Thanks to all the members of the present and past ALA committees for your contributions. Keep up the good work.

Walter L. Williams  
Assoc. Prof. of Anthro. and the Study of Women and Men  
University of Southern California
New Publications Available from Clearinghouse

• What One Librarian Can Do to Improve Services for Lesbian and Gay Library Users, compiled by Cal Gough and John M. Littlewood (1991). This pamphlet offers a variety of ways to improve service to gay and lesbian library users. Most of the suggestions do not require group action or special funds; they are simple suggestions how to improve service that one librarian can realistically do. The cost is $1.50.

• A Reading List for Gay Men, compiled by Adam Schiff (1991). This extensive bibliography lists titles of interest to gay men in a variety of subject areas: Biography, Cinema, Drama, Gay Couples, Health and Sexuality, Fiction, Young Adults (fiction and non-fiction), and many other subject areas. The cost is $3.00. A Short Reading List for Lesbians is also available for $1.00.

• Gays in Library Land, by Barbara Gittings (1990). Many people were moved when Barbara Gittings talked about the first 16 years of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Task Force at the 1990 Annual Conference. Her stories of creative exhibits, guerilla theatre, and meaningful dialog within ALA were inspiring. We are delighted to announce that the the written history she mentioned in her talk is now available from the Library Information Clearinghouse. (Barbara’s involvement in the Gay Liberation movement dates back to the 1950s. She became involved with what was then the Task Force on Gay Liberation in 1970, the year of its founding. She became coordinator in 1971, and was a guiding force until she stepped down in 1986. In her history of the Task Force, she writes of the programs we sponsored, the successes we’ve had, and the failures, too. She offers a unique perspective, not only on ALA and the Task Force, but on the larger Gay Liberation movement, and developments such as the explosion in gay and lesbian publishing.) The cost is $1.00.

Please send requests to: GLTF Library Information Clearinghouse, ALA Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS), 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

News Notes from Midwinter Meetings (1991)

The two Steering Committee meetings and one Membership meeting at the ALA Midwinter Conference in Chicago focused on four major questions:

• What programs, projects, and by-law changes will attract more members, especially women, to the Task Force?
• Should our present Male/Female Co-Chair system be replaced by a Chair/Chair-Elect arrangement, given the continuing vacancy in the Female Co-Chair position?
• How can we adequately fund and publicize our major endeavors, especially the Book Award and the Clearinghouse?
• Finally, how can we persuade index publishers, especially the H. W. Wilson Company, to include more lesbian and gay periodical titles in their print, CD-ROM and online products?

Underlying all other issues was the need for a larger, more active and more diverse membership. Plan now to attend our meetings and programs in Atlanta so that your voice will be heard.

Joseph Eagan
Secretary-Treasurer of the GLTF

GLTF Member Joseph Smalley Dies

Joseph Smalley died of complications due to AIDS on May 4. He was a cataloger at New York University. Joseph attended ALA in Dallas in 1989 where he came out at GLTF meetings as a PWA and organized the first meetings for HIV+ librarians at ALA. He was a brave, politically astute, socially conscious activist as well as a top-notch cataloger.

Other News

Gays in the Workplace

The following is excerpted from the article “A New Acceptance: Gay Support Groups are Beginning to Pay Off in the Workplace,” which appeared in the Los Angeles Times, July 18, 1990:

Gay and lesbian employees have organized locally at UCLA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, several South Bay offices of the Xerox Corp. and the RAND Corp. in Santa Monica. Groups have also formed at Apple Computer Inc., Hewlett-Packard and Sun Microsystems Inc. in the San Francisco Bay area. Outside California, organizations have been sanctioned at Digital offices in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Georgia and at 10 offices of US WEST Communications, the successor to Bell Telephone, in Boise, Denver, Des Moines, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Omaha, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, Seattle, and Tucson. These groups, ranging from two workers at US WEST in Boise to 250 in a social organization at DEC, have taken significant steps to improve their corporate environment.
At Apple Computer in Cupertino, Calif., gay employees pressed for and received an amendment in the company hiring policy that prohibits discrimination based on "sexual orientation."

Groups at Xerox and RAND urged their companies, which were considering similar amendments to their hiring policies, to act on them. The changes were quickly approved.

At Digital, one gay support group, the DEC Policy and Action Committee, persuaded management to offer educational programs throughout the company on gay and lesbian life. The seminars are presented almost every week somewhere among the company's 70,000 U.S. employees, Zimmerle said.

At UCLA, members of the Lesbian and Gay Faculty-Staff Network met with chancellor Charles E. Young and persuaded him to create the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Gay and Lesbian Community at UCLA. Four Faculty-Staff Network members serve on the 15-member committee, which is considering creation of a campus center where gay and lesbian students could turn for help or information.

At RAND, members of the Lambda Link group hold periodic educational meetings—which have included a seminar on work-related and interpersonal aspects of AIDS and a film on slain San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk—for fellow employees. About 40 people usually attend the gatherings.

Gay employees at Xerox created a computer message system, which is used to help solve common problems. This year message writers helped one gay employee find a life insurance policy that would accept a same-sex partner as beneficiary. They also helped an employee obtain a homeowner's policy for herself and her partner.

Thousands of gays and lesbians nationwide have formed support groups in the workplace in the hopes of transforming their corporate culture. These organizations have asked for—and received—written policies prohibiting discrimination based on employees' sexual orientation. They conduct seminars for heterosexual employees on lesbian and gay life, serve as a management resource on gay and lesbian issues, help employees fight harassment on the job, and search for life insurance companies that accept same-sex partners as beneficiaries.

The support groups allow them to expend less energy hiding their sexual orientation and put more effort into their jobs. Executives at corporations that encourage support groups simply point to the bottom line: employees who feel comfortable in the workplace are good for profits.

A small but rapidly growing number of employers nationwide provide supplies, publicity, meeting space, computer communication lines and corporate vehicles for the support groups, which started to crop up in the late 1980s.

Said Walter Williams, a USC associate professor of anthropology who specializes in societal attitudes toward sexuality, "We see much more massive numbers [of gay employees] who have revealed their identities in the workplace and organized either informally on the social level or formally through institutionalized caucuses."

Understandably, said Williams, the groups have been established at "newer, innovative companies that tend to be dominated by more innovative individuals just because they are in new fields."

Activists say the next corporate battleground may be over equal medical benefits for same-sex spouses. "If I have a spouse and children, they can't get the same medical benefits that you can if you are married," said Brad Rubenstein, part of the technical staff at Sun Microsystems Inc., in Mountain View, Calif., and one of 75 members of Gays, Lesbians and Friends (GLAF) at Sun. Rubenstein said GLAF and management are discussing alternative insurance systems that would provide those benefits.

AT&T Furthers Acceptance Sexual Orientation Through Employee Support Groups, Diversity Workshops, and Educational Resources

In 1990, AT&T formed its first Lesbian and Gay Support Group. The name of the organization is LEAGUE which is an acronym for Lesbian and Gay United Employees. Formed with the support of the Human Resources Division, EO/AA policy group, LEAGUE works primarily to bring about support regarding gay and lesbian issues in the workplace. It has established an educational resource center through the AT&T Library Network branch in Summit, New Jersey.

Founder and chief spokesperson for the group, Stephen F. Mershon, works to make sure that the 15-year-old nondiscrimination policy toward sexual orientation within AT&T is recognized and followed. One of the groups which has made a strong commitment to educate its employees in the area of sexual orientation or affectional orientation is the Chief Financial Officer Organization. Through the encourage-
ment of upper management, five-day and three-day diversity workshops have been instituted for all employees within the organization to attend. Recently, pilot programs by Brian McNaught have been brought in through the cooperation of both LEAGUE and the CFO Training and Personnel Groups to address the problem of homophobia in the workplace. Other organizations within the AT&T enterprise are also pursuing sexual diversity programs similar in nature.

Charles Whitlow
AT&T Tax Library
New York, New York

Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU of Southern California

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was founded to "maintain throughout the United States . . . the rights of free speech, free press, free assemblage and other civil rights . . . ."

Basically, the ACLU is devoted exclusively to the protection of our rights and liberties as defined in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The ACLU protects, without favor, all those whose civil rights are threatened, and makes no political commitments except to the Constitution.

The Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter (LGRC) of the ACLU of Southern California works to protect these and other rights as they pertain to lesbian and gay people, and to actively combat the proponents of discrimination and prejudice.

Today, the gay and lesbian movement is making progress on many fronts to secure civil rights for the millions of gay men and lesbian women in this country. Yet, while progress is being made, the road is still a long one and many battles remain to be fought.

The ACLU has been engaged in controversy since its inception some 70 years ago. Many of its court cases have secured liberties now taken for granted. Government spying and secrecy, unreasonable searches, electronic eavesdropping, and many other invasions of citizens' rights have been stopped in cases litigated by the ACLU across the nation. ACLU cases have extended our rights to seek counsel, to vote, to run for office, to speak, publish, and demonstrate, to privacy, and to citizenship.

The LGRC Offers:

* Monthly Newsletter—Free to the membership, it is designed to keep members informed of LGRC activities, local, state, national and international cases, laws, and issues.

* Diligently Work to Advance gay & lesbian civil liberties in the areas of partnership, parenting, taxation, police practices, etc., and to keep the ACLU affiliate abreast of gay/lesbian concerns in these areas.

* Lobby Elected Officials to protect our civil liberties and work to defeat anti-gay/lesbian initiatives (e.g., Prop. 6/Briggs Initiative) and various counterproductive AIDS initiatives (e.g., Props. 64, 69, 96, and 102).

LGRC's monthly programs have included: gay and lesbian parenting; the lesbian civil rights agenda; the HIV disclosure controversy; AIDS/HIV and immigration; lesbian and gay homeless; police practices and the gay/lesbian community; pro-choice and the g/l community; updates on ACLU state lobbying; gay bashing.

The ACLU has litigated in the following landmark cases:

* The Norton Sound cases defended against the dismissal of 8 female sailors whom the Navy accused of alleged lesbian activity while aboard the USS Norton Sound.
* Curran v. Boy Scouts argued that the Boy Scouts are included within the scope of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, and cannot discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.
* In re Batey, in which they won custody for a gay father and, after his death, found custody for his lover, over the objections of the mother who had kidnapped the child.
* Vasquez v. INS allowed a gay man to receive his green card after he was deported.
* Stout v. Westbourne Venture, which allowed a gay man in West Hollywood to fly the "rainbow flag" representing lesbian and gay pride from within the balcony of his apartment.
* Chalk v. Orange County School Board of Education, in which a Federal Court ordered that a teacher with AIDS be allowed to continue to teach.
* Thomas v. Atascadero United School District, which allowed an elementary school boy with AIDS to attend school.
* Doe v. Centinela forced Centinela Hospital to change its policy which required mandatory HIV testing for all patients in its residential chemical dependency recovery program.
In addition the LGRC is:
- Filing lawsuits using existing laws and regulations to prevent AIDS-related discrimination.
- Monitoring government programs on AIDS testing and confidentiality, and challenging those that violate civil liberties.
- Drafting model ordinances and laws for AIDS testing and confidentiality.

With support from members the ACLU/LGRC can expose and counter the tactics of the Jerry Falwells, Lyndon LaRouches, Lou Sheldons, William Dannemeyers, and all those who believe the solution to AIDS lies in massive restrictions on individual liberty.

Basic membership: $30; Basic joint membership: $50. (Membership & LGRC contributions are not tax-deductible.) Checks with name and address may be sent to ACLU/LGRC, 633 S. Shatto Place, Los Angeles, CA 90005.

**Documentary on Pioneering Psychologist Hooker to Air on PBS**

An important new documentary film is in the finishing stages of production and will be broadcast on public television in 1991. *Changing Our Minds: The Story of Dr. Evelyn Hooker* chronicles the life and work of the first mental health professional to study gay men and prove that they were as "normal" as their heterosexual counterparts.

Friend to Stephen Spender, W. H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood, Dr. Hooker coined the phrase "gay community." It was Hooker's groundbreaking study, conducted at the height of the McCarthy era, which ultimately led to the declassification of homosexuality as an illness by the American Psychiatric Association in 1973. The results of her studies changed psychology as a science forever, and opened the way for a broader understanding of human behavior and human adjustment. Her research, which employed a single-blind design, was the standard in the field at that time.

Her research into the emotional adjustment of gay men in the 1950s was the chief impetus behind the elimination of homosexuality as a diagnostic category from the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*. Analogous to the way scientists of the 1940s disproved the myth of white superiority in intelligence, in the midst of the McCarthy era Hooker proved that homosexuals are not intrinsically pathological. Rational public health responses to AIDS would never have been possible without Hooker's early work.

The film's director, Richard Schmiechen, won the Academy Award for *The Times of Harvey Milk*. The producer, Dr. James Harrison, is a clinical psychologist and Executive Director of New York's Foundation for Integrative Studies. Nancy Langer of Planned Parenthood is associate producer.

*Changing Our Minds* is explicitly targeted at the broad American public. In addition to 12 million viewers of public television, the film will also be shown to medical, nursing, social work, psychology and teaching students. That is why this May, the film's director, Academy award winner Richard Schmiechen, put 80 minutes of footage on a sample reel and began showing it to small focus groups. Some of these groups are made up of lesbian and gay leaders.

But the majority of the focus groups were explicitly heterosexual men and women not particularly concerned with gay rights. These participants were culled from New York's borough of Queens, traditionally the area used by marketers and focus group coordinators to assess what language and images move middle-America. They have most frequently questioned why they have never heard about what science knows about homosexuality.

By getting such early feedback from mainstream audiences the producers believe they will be able to create a final film that will move, affect, and educate students and the reasonable majority of Americans.

*Changing Our Minds* hired three of the best archivists in the documentary film business. Two were involved in the award-winning *Eyes on the Prize* civil rights documentary. These paid professionals, along with a number of community volunteers have unearthed a wealth of forgotten historical material. Much of it visually documents the misuse of psychiatry, particularly in the 1940s and 50s, from spraying a gay military officer with high powered hoses and using aversive conditioning and electroconvulsive treatment on others, to performing a lobotomy on a young jazz musician because his "sexual intercourse" was "in error" — all in a vain attempt to change their sexual orientation.

One of the project's most interesting archival discoveries was made by a volunteer researcher who analyzed every mention of homosexuality in *Time* and *Life* magazines from the 1930s through the 1960s. What emerged was clear evidence that it was not until the release of Dr. Hooker's NIMH Task Force on Homosexuality in 1969 that editorial policy relating to gays dramatically improved.

*Changing Our Minds: The Story of Dr. Evelyn Hooker* will tell three untold American stories: how a courageous scientist persevered against amazing odds and rolled back centuries of misinformation; how the professions of psychiatry and psychology changed the way they viewed human emotion and human sexuality; and how today's gay self-esteem movement is grounded in research done decades ago.

*Changing Our Minds* will be released on videotape
News in Brief...

...New York’s Elysian Field Booksellers, since 1972 the country’s largest dealer in out-of-print gay/lesbian books, is no more. Proprietor Ed Drucker died of an AIDS-related disorder last October. Ed donated his 40,000-item collection to Cornell’s Collection on Human Sexuality.

...Alyson Publications added three publishing imprints last year. The first was Lace Publications the lesbian erotica line. Then they started Alyson Wonderland, a children’s line. Finally, Don Allen, who published the Grey Fox line for several years, is moving into semi-retirement and Alyson has acquired his Perineum Press imprint of seven Phil Andros titles, the books that Samuel Steward wrote pseudonymously in the 1960s.

...Any gay or lesbian stamp collector among the readers of this newsletter will want to subscribe to another one called the Lambda Philatelic Journal. This intriguing nine-year-old quarterly newsletter comes with an $8/year membership in the Gay & Lesbian History on Stamps Club. Contact: Ed S. Centeno, P.O. Box 230940, Hartford, CT 06103.

...The latest U.S. postage stamp to honor a gay man was issued June 8. The stamp depicts lyricist Cole Porter (1981-1964).

...GLTF member Robert Ridinger’s 456-page Homosexual and Society: An Annotated Bibliography was published last spring by Greenwood Press. (ISBN 0-313-253-57-9; $49.95)

...A Different Light bookstore’s 24-page mail order catalog of gay and lesbian literature is available. Contact info: 548 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014; Tel. 212.989.4850.

...Finally off the presses: the long-awaited second edition of Uranian Worlds: A Guide to Alternate Sexuality in Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror, edited by Eric Garber and Lyn Paleo (G.K. Hall, $35). The annotations for over 900 novels and short stories and nearly 100 films are some of the most interesting reading of this or any year.

...The New York Public Library received the International Gay Information Center (IGIC) collection documenting the gay movement in the United States from the 1950s through the 1980s. Described as a major resource, the gift comprised over 100 boxes of documents including the records of the IGIC, the records of other organizations and people active in the gay civil rights movement, as well as printed materials, such as flyers, leaflets, circulars and newsletters, which chronicle the daily social and political activities of gay organizations in cities across the country. The collection will be housed in the Research Library’s Division of Special Collections.

...Jerry Neuman Productions in Oakland is soliciting gay/lesbian-themed radio scripts for two-minute radio spots publicizing public library services and materials that Neuman plans to sell to public radio stations nationwide. The company will pay $35 for every script selected for airing. For script guidelines, contact them at 1200 Lakeshore Avenue, Suite 20-A, Oakland, CA 94606; Tel. 415.452.4774.

...According to the Seattle Gay News via a story in the newsletter of the Society of American Archivists’ Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable, the Laine Family Foundation is soliciting grant proposals for entertainment and/or service activities that would support or enrich the gay/lesbian community. Application deadline is October 1; the proposals selected would be funded in December. Contact the Foundation at: Suite 170, P.O. Box 410990, San Francisco, CA 94141.

...Gay and Lesbian Library Service, the recently-published anthology edited by GLTF members Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt (McFarland, 1990; $36.50) is so far garnering positive responses. The Minnesota SRRT Newsletter said the book was “comprehensive ...worthwhile for its appendices alone.” The current mail order catalog from Philadelphia’s Giovanni’s Room Bookstore mentions the book’s “thoroughly researched ...essays.” Booklist reviewer Charles Harmon notes that “librarians who remain uncomfortable with its topic or who encounter resistance to attempts to provide service to their gay and lesbian patrons will particularly value its support.” Richard Labonte, writing for the Advocate, refers to the book’s “anecdotal charm and behind-the-scenes reflections” and calls it “an interesting general [audience] read.” Writing for the Lambda Book Review, Labonte calls Gay and Lesbian Library Service “the most unexpectedly wonderful reference book of the year...a must-read for any library activist.” Wilson Library Bulletin’s Norman Stevens calls the book
"thoughtful," "straightforward," and "positive," and explains why he thinks its publication is "extremely important." Library Journal called it "invaluable to beginning and small collections." GLS is a runner-up for ALA's Gay/Lesbian Book Award for nonfiction this year.

...Clothespin Fever Press is a publisher of lesbian books that's operated by librarians (and 1990 Gay/Lesbian Book Award finalists) Jenny Wren and Carolyn Weathers. CFP distributes a newsletter containing articles on the lesbian, library, and book publishing worlds. Entitled Lesbian Line, the newsletter is free to anyone who requests it (about 5,000 people are getting it already). Contact info: 5529 North Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90042; Tel. 213.254.1373.

...LC Gay/Lesbian Subject Headings Watch: Last November, the Library of Congress finally instituted the heading AGED GAY MEN. This comes a mere 10 years after such a heading was first suggested. (Hennepin County Library has used the term GAY SENIORS since January 1981.) The "new" heading will improve access to books like Quiet Fire: Memoirs of Older Gay Men (Crossing Press, 985). Strangely enough, LC has for several years been using the term AGED LESBIANS. The question now is: how long will it take LC to convert all its awkward-sounding AGED terms to OLDER or SENIOR ones?

...Included in the second volume of the Women's Studies Encyclopedia edited by Helen Tierney (Greenwood, 1990): a three-page survey by Victoria L. Shannon of pre-Stonewall lesbian literature, mostly novels. Shannon notes that "in 1956, Sex Variant Women in Literature listed 324 titles; in 1975, The Lesbian in Literature listed over 2,000 titles. In the 1980s, lesbian literature proliferated to the point where it would be virtually impossible to compile a comprehensive bibliography..."

...The Choice editorial board decided last year to produce annual lists of recently-reviewed titles in eight interdisciplinary fields, including Gay & Lesbian Studies. Work is underway on four of these lists (on Afro-Americans, the Environment, Native Americans, and Women), and the Choice board is accepting comments on all components of their new project. Send letters to: Gordon Rowley, Chair, Choice Editorial Board, 100 Riverview Center, Middletown, CT 06457.

...Librarians aware of documents relating to gays and the Nazi Holocaust may wish to bring them to the attention of the librarian of the national Holocaust Memorial Museum, still under construction. Contact: Elizabeth Koenig, Librarian, Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC.

...The 3rd Annual Lambda Literary Awards were presented at a May 31, $75-per-ticket banquet at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. See the next issue of the Lambda Book Report for details on nominees and award winners.

...According to Publishing Triangle News, writer T.R. Witomski is urging a boycott of Knights Press, Inc., claiming they "systematically rip off gay writers." For information, contact Witomski at P.O. Box 4145, Toms River, NJ 08756.

...Columbia University Press has launched a lesbian and gay studies series, with three books already in production.


...Excerpt from a letter to the "Reader Forum" column of the May 1991 issue of American Libraries: "...Moral opposition to homosexuality [and objections to] racism and discrimination [are] ... entirely different things... Where does a professional organization like ALA get off, legitimizing such deep, dark sins as homosexuality and lesbianism by recognizing and funding a 'task force' of same?" The letter, written by Walter W. Mitchell at the Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC, was published in support of Lee Fink's article "Librarianship Needs a New Code of Professional Ethics" in the January issue and in disagreement with two readers' responses to that article published in the March issue.

...Among the steadily growing number of gay/lesbian electronic bulletin board systems (BBS) is the Gay & Lesbian Information Bureau (GLIB). The new board allows subscribers to search, among other things, a medical advice column, the comments of people participating in special interest groups for owners of different computers, travel news, an AIDS info database, and a today-in-gay-history calendar feature. GLIB's telephone number is 703.578.4542.

are selective (the GLTF’s unannotated directory of book publishers includes 74 outfits not mentioned by Dotson), but the new guide will prove invaluable to authors.

...The Fifth Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference will be held at Rutgers University, November 1-3, 1991, sponsored by Rutgers and Princeton Universities. For more information, please contact Monica Dorenkamp or Beryle Chandler, Center of the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture (CCACC), Rutgers University, 8 Bishop Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Telephone 908.932.8678 (voice); 908.932.8683 (fax).

...The Campaign to End Homophobia is sponsoring “Challenging Oppression: Creating Multicultural Communities,” at the University of Illinois, Chicago, on July 5-7, 1991. A small working conference of 200-300 people, the meeting will develop strategies for further educational efforts, discuss broad educational objectives and social policy on homophobia, and showcase the work of leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with interest groups: K-12 programs, higher education, spirituality and religion, mental health, sexuality and health education, media, arts, and legal issues. For further information, contact: 1991 National Conference, P.O. Box 1293, Oak Park, IL 60304-1293. Telephone 708.524.2305.

...New York University Press announced that it will publish “Cutting Edge: Lesbian Life and Literature” edited by Karla Jay. This will be the first university press series devoted entirely to lesbian concerns. The editor is currently seeking book length manuscripts in any area of the humanities (no individual essays please). Abstracts and inquiries should be sent to: Karla Jay, P.O. Box 1235, New York, NY 10008-1235.

...the March/April 1991 issue of the Lambda Book Report (V.2, N.9) takes a look at who and what shaped the gay and lesbian literature of the 80s. A list of the literary forces of the 80s included the American Library Association’s Gay and Lesbian Caucus [sic] (now the Gay and Lesbian Task Force).

Affinity Credit Card Program Benefits Gays/ Lesbians

The Pride Foundation of Seattle, Washington offers an affinity credit card in the Pacific Northwest for those individuals who wish to support gay and lesbian issues. The Foundation negotiated with a Seattle-based bank to set up the so-called affinity credit card program like hundreds of other organizations around the country that target organization members in groups ranging from the National Organization for Women to the American Library Association. Organizations with affinity programs solicit members and supporters of their groups for credit card applications which are then run through the credit checking routines of the bank overseeing the program. The bank pays a small fixed percent of the monthly charges on the organization’s credit-card accounts back to the group at no added cost to card holders.

The Pride Foundation has helped the gay and lesbian community in the Northwest to become self-sufficient by providing funding for the arts, education, and health and human services. When individuals with a Pride Foundation credit card make purchases on their card, a portion of the purchase funds go to the Pride Foundation which has made grants to over 100 organizations since 1985.

Currently the program is available only to people in the Northwest (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) but the Foundation is continuing to work toward an affinity program available to people all across the country. The turquoise credit card has “The Pride Foundation” printed on it along with the Foundation’s logo and the MasterCard logo. The Pride Foundation’s color is turquoise and the desire was to have something that a person didn’t necessarily have to be out of the closet to use. It doesn’t say gay or lesbian on it so that the really out activists as well as the person who is still very closeted can contribute to the community with use of the card.

For information on the Pride Card, write to: The Pride Foundation, 1535 11th Avenue, Suite 202, Seattle, WA 98122.

Electronic Magazine Provides Free Access to Gay Information

The (Electronic) Gay Community Magazine (GCM), formerly called the Emerald City News, is an online publication available free of charge to thousands of gay men and lesbians on computer systems across the country. News releases sent to the GCM are generally posted on the same day that they are received, reaching thousands of gay men and lesbian women with the speed of electronic communications.

The goal of The (Electronic) Gay Community Magazine is to entertain, educate, and inform. Information such as health, politics, book and movie reviews, lifestyle, campus news, news shorts, and editorials are provided. The online magazine is distributed to gay and gay-supportive computer systems without charge.

Advertising is solicited to cover the costs of compiling the publication. Anyone wishing to advertise in the (Electronic) Gay Community Magazine, should call 316.269.0913 and ask for advertising rates.

Individuals or organizations may send news releases to: The (Electronic) Gay Community Magazine,
Resources for Gay Couples

Gay and lesbian couples looking for a couples support group, legal information, or a way to win domestic partnership benefits might start with a free list of resources available from Partners Newsletter For Gay & Lesbian Couples. The annotated directory, "Resources for Gay & Lesbian Couples," is available in a newly-expanded edition that lists two dozen social, political and support organizations and more than 70 books, tapes and films.

To receive a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to: Partners Resources, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109.

Partners, a 16-page bi-monthly publication, contains interviews, news, and features to support committed same-sex relationships." A subscription is $21 per year; $3 for a sample issue.

Lesbian Activists Target Reader’s Guide with Stickers

WARNING

THE READER'S GUIDE EXCLUDES THE LESBIAN AND GAY PRESS.

None of the articles cited here come from gay or lesbian periodicals. References to information about AIDS, gay bashing, lesbian parenting, censorship, and homophobia come from mainstream publications representing a narrow range of views. The H.W. Wilson Company, maker of The Reader's Guide, has refused to correct this homophobic bias. Call or write the H.W. Wilson Company. Tell President Weins to index lesbian and gay periodicals such as The Advocate, BLK, Gay Community News, The Lesbian News, Out/Look, and OutWeek. Put an end to ignorance about gay and lesbian lives, histories, and politics.

ZAPI
Leo Weins, President, H.W. Wilson Company
950 University Ave., Bronx, NY 10452
1-800-367-6770

An ad hoc group of lesbian activists has begun to insert stickers pictured above (actual size), inside the H.W. Wilson publication Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature in selected libraries.

Gay and Lesbian News Network Launched

The Gay/Lesbian International News Network (GLINN) has been launched. It is a computer-based, non-profit news service for the gay and lesbian press and is open to individuals, non-profit organizations and businesses involved in the gay/lesbian community. Anyone with a computer and a modem can dial into the system and read the latest news and access many other features on the system. Uploading access to the system is free and full access is available with a membership.

GLINN is requesting press and news releases issued by organizations that impact the gay/lesbian community. In order to expedite the delivery of press releases, one or more of the following procedures be used:

• Place GLINN on your first class mailing list. The address is: P.O. Box 93626, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0626.
• Fax your press releases. The 24-hour fax number is 414.289.0789.
• Upload ASCII files containing press releases via computer directly. The number is: 414.289.0145. (8N1 2400).
• Sign up as a member a place releases directly into the news conferences, have copyright clearance to use news articles in newsletters, have access to special databases and other online resources. (Membership is available from $15 to $55, depending on the size of your organization.)
Gay Hospitality Exchange Founded

In the spring of 1990, a number of gay men from Europe and North America, who like to travel and receive visitors but were appalled at the sizeable chunk of travel budget which goes to hotel rooms in which little time is spent, discussed the need for some sort of organization whereby they could offer hospitality to others who were prepared to do the same thing. Borrowing some ideas from a straight club which already existed, they formed GHEI (Gay Hospitality Exchange International) as a non-profit organization to promote international travel and friendship among gay men. It is in no way meant as a dating network.

After three months of active promotion of this idea, with tremendous support from numerous gay publications, it was very clear that its time had come. Enthusiastic letters offering assistance arrived from all over and they now have contacts across the U.S. and Canada, in Trinidad, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, South Africa, India, Egypt and numerous countries of Europe. The first membership directory was to be published by spring of 1991.

Every spring GHEI will publish a membership directory and send out updates during the year as they become necessary with new members joining. Each member will include his name, address and phone number, the languages he speaks, willingness to accept smokers or not, and what he is offering in the way of hospitality and how many he can receive at a time (singles, couples, or…) as well as a description of up to 100 words (possibly including age, occupation, interests, lifestyle, etc.) - whatever he thinks prospective hosts or guests might like to know. Annual membership is $20 (US or CDN).

Members may request up to two nights hospitality. Obviously, the host may invite the guest to stay longer and it is hoped that we will all take into account that our guests may have come from some distance which would make a bit longer stay more welcome than changing homes every couple of days.

Members may offer anything from a sleeping bag on the floor to the guest bedroom. You may also choose to offer breakfast, airport pickup, information about the city or the gay scene or even mini-tours during the visit but that is up to you. Guests don’t pay for the hospitality because they too are members, who in turn also receive guests. However, as guests we should keep in mind the amount we are saving on hotels and a dinner invitation (or small gift) to the host(s) might be in order and appreciated. Members contact other members directly using the directory.

For more information including a brochure and membership form, write to: Gay Hospitality Exchange International, c/o: Garnet Colly, P.O. Box 612, Station “C”, Montreal, Quebec, H2L 4K5. Telephone: 514.434.6223. Correspondence in English, French, Spanish, German and Greek can be handled.

LA Public Library Celebrates Gay/Lesbian History Month

The Los Angeles Public Library will become the first major library to establish an annual Gay and Lesbian History Month. Beginning this year, the event will be celebrated each June. Its purpose is to recognize the contributions of gays and lesbians in all fields and to let patrons and employees know about these previously unacknowledged accomplishments. Each branch will be given the opportunity to display pictures, books and other materials by and about gays and lesbians. Special programs by and about lesbians and gays will be conducted at some branches.

This effort is being made with the assistance of GLUE (Gay and Lesbian United Employees), an organization of Los Angeles city employees. Lesbian and gay non-profit organizations wishing to distribute their brochures and fliers to the public through LAPL’s 63 branches and Central Library should send materials to GLUE in quantities of 1000 or more. Donations have already been received from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), Project 10, and the Youth Outreach Services of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. Public speakers and conductors of workshops on topics by or of interest to gays and lesbians are also asked to contact GLUE.

GLUE is also seeking to establish a model collection of gay and lesbian books and other materials. GLUE is soliciting contributions from the manufacturers, distributors and publishers of these materials.

For further information, contact Cosmo Bua at 213.651.0945. GLUE’s address is P.O. Box 13421, Los Angeles, CA 90013-0421.

National Association of Lesbian and Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NALGAP) Offers Publications

- The NALGAP Annotated Bibliography: Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Lesbians/Gay Men by Steven L. Berg, Dana Finnegan, and Emily McNally (ISBN 0-
9618753-1-3; $25) is the most complete listing of resources dealing with lesbian/gay alcoholics in existence. Including over 900 fully annotated citations, the bibliography is fully indexed by author, title, and subject which makes it an extremely useful reference book.

Annotations are descriptive and quickly summarize the main points in the article.

The literature covered in the bibliography ranges from early psychological literature to the most recent studies in the field. Articles from professional journals as well as the small press are also included.

Berg is currently writing a dissertation on "AA, Spiritual Issues and the treatment of Lesbian and Gay Alcoholics" and edits NALGAP's quarterly publication. Finnegan and McNally co-authored Dual Identities: Counseling Gay and Lesbian Clients and co-Founded the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NALGAP).

Also available is the National Directory of Facilities and Services for Lesbian and Gay Alcoholics by Ron Vachon (ISBN 0-9618753-0-5; $5), who is director of the Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Concerns for the City of New York.

The Directory lists over 300 Facilities and services, both professional and peer level, for alcoholic and chemically dependent lesbians and gay men that provide lesbian/gay positive services.

Listings are alphabetized by state and city and include information on types of services which are provided, fees and hours, to whom services are provided, and whether the staff is professional, paraprofessional, peer, or volunteer.

The Facilities and Services Directory is an excellent resource for anyone working in the chemical dependency field. It is particularly useful for aftercare planning in communities other than one's own and for identifying resources which are available in one's own community.

Contact info: NALGAP is 204 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011; Tel. 212.713.5074.

Building a Library Shelf by Shelf

The Publishing Triangle and the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York formed a committee to establish a lending and browsing library of lesbian and gay literature at the Center which will open in June.

The Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library was named in honor of the late poet and late author/activist. It will add immeasurably to the literary life of the gay/lesbian community. Although the New York area is well served by local gay, lesbian, and feminist bookstores, there remains the need for the obtainability of books by people who cannot afford to buy them, and the need for a repository which will maintain the availability of books that go out of print. Book fairs, readings, lectures, seminars, and story-telling programs are planned, and most importantly, the library will establish a literacy program for those in need of help with their reading skills.

Currently needed is money and volunteers to staff the library. Donations of $25 or more will obtain automatic membership with the Center in addition to helping the library fund; $250 will designate the donor as a Contributor; $300 as a Sponsor; and $1,000 as a Sustainer. Send checks payable to the Publishing Triangle (please indicate that your donation is for the library) to Trent Duffy, Treasurer, 33 E. 7th St. #3-B, New York, NY 10003. All contributions are tax deductible.

Anyone interested in volunteering to be a librarian or helper, should contact Brian Phillips at telephone 212.614.7932. For other inquiries please contact Stan Leventhal at 462 Broadway, Suite 4000, New York, NY 10013, telephone 212.996.8400.

BOOK REVIEWS

NON-FICTION


This work includes over 770 articles on a wide variety of topics which directly or indirectly relate to male and/or female homosexuality. The varied articles address topics, persons, etc., in many different cultures throughout all periods of history, covering general topics, social and political movements, specific ideas and theories, a variety of literary and scientific topics, and more. There are many biographies of gay men, lesbians, and others included; the personalities were selected for many different reasons. Most are included for being notable in or for making significant contributions to gay and lesbian history, political or church leadership, philosophy, social theory or the arts and music. Due to space limitations, separate biographical entries are not given for living persons. Notable ones are mentioned in various articles and listed in the index; for example, Harry Hay is mentioned in the article on the Mattachine Society, and his name is in the index.

The articles are written by scholars and experts in...
many different fields; most are signed and many include bibliographies for further reading. Most of the articles that are not signed were written by the editor. Entries include sketches of different countries, in which the historical and current status of homosexuality is presented. The diversity of topics covered in the Encyclopedia is seen in the following list of articles: Gay Studies; Shamanism; Aging; Poetry; Lesbian Separatism; Discrimination; Jean Genet; Gertrude Stein; Faggot; Archives and Libraries; AIDS; Monasticism; Witchcraft; Canon Law; Eleanor Roosevelt; Harvey Milk; Holocaust; Gay; Folklore; Lesbian; Dance; Moms Mabley; Coming Out; Art; Visual; Berdache; Stonewall Rebellion; Seafaring; Friendship, Male; Consciousness Raising; Law, United States; Joe Orton; Slang Terms; Anal Sex; The Papacy; Oral Sex; Fantasies; Friendship, Female Romantic; Working Class; Erotization; Transvestism, Theatrical; Third Sex; Pirates.

The cross-referencing and the index are both generally quite good, making it easy to find elusive or related topics; within articles, the topics, names, etc., that have their own entries elsewhere in the Encyclopedia are in bold print. The index refers the reader to many names and topics mentioned in other articles, though a few omissions were noted. It has no listing for the International Gay and Lesbian Archives, the Lesbian Herstory Archives, or the Canadian Gay Archives, though all three are mentioned in the article on "Archives and Libraries." Similarly, the book Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence is mentioned in the article on Monasticism, but neither the title nor the editors' names are listed in the index.

An interesting and useful feature in the front of the volume is "A Reader's Guide." It lists the Encyclopedia's articles in broad subject groups to facilitate the systematic or at least more complete study of a particular subject area. In addition, the articles are listed here with one, two, or three asterisks, which indicate the degree of specificity of the topic within its broader category. This helps to identify the overview articles which may be good places to begin to read about a topic of interest. In other words, this "Reader's Guide" really serves as a sort of thematic index, allowing the reader to see quickly what articles are included in a broader subject area. "Major Topics" listed here include the following: Art and Aesthetics; Gender; Homophobic Concepts; Literary Biography and Concepts; Literature; Gay and Lesbian Movement; Oriental Studies; Performing Arts; Relationships; Sex Research; Sexual Sites; Sociology.

Although the Encyclopedia is organized in a scholarly fashion, it is an extremely readable and interesting work and most of the articles are written for the lay person. Considering its size and the scope of coverage of the subject, it is well worth the price of $150.00. This is a work that can not only answer many questions, but even more importantly, can spark new and deeper interests in a wide variety of topics dealing with the many aspects of gay and lesbian studies. It is a book that should be in every public, school, and academic library.

Stephen Fowlkes
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia


In the early 1980s the bodies of twenty-two young men were found along the highways of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. In 1983 Larry Eyler was arrested in Indiana and brought to trial in Illinois. Convinced that Eyler's constitutional rights had been abridged, a judge in Illinois ordered him released. Danny Bridges, aged fifteen years, became the twenty-third victim six months and two weeks later. Crime journalist Gera-Lind Kolarik covered the case and was instrumental in the investigations. Written in a facile reportorial style, the author chronicles the developing evidence and the subsequent trials. Recommended for true crime and larger gay collections.

David Streeter
Pomona Public Library
Pomona, California


Here is an interesting and significant scholarly collection, translated from the French, of twenty-three distinctly French essays by and interviews with well-known French writers and literary critics defining the concept/concepts of "homosexualities" in the French literary tradition.

French writers, especially since the "late 18th Century" have had a long love affair, as it were, with homosexuality and have attempted to define "its" parameters and come to terms with particular concepts, terms and notions by analyzing the writings of gay writers or writing of their own sexuality and personal experiences. The combined results shows little consensus on what it means in language to be "homosexual."

The collection is divided into two distinct parts. In the first part, "Cultural Contexts," writers and critics reveal their confusion and lack of agreement while they reconsider and restructure previous notions with a distinct cultural framework. In the second part, "Criti-
This volume would indeed enlighten studies of French literature. It is a welcome addition to most public or academic libraries.

Jane Jurgens
Northeastern Illinois University Library
Chicago, Illinois


This book arose out of Ms. Humphrey's need to cope with the humiliation she endured during the interrogation and administrative procedures established by the Army Reserve, when she was accused of "being a practicing homosexual."

In the author's own words: "The stories contained in this book are the experiences of the gay man or woman who either has served honorably and not been discovered, or has been ousted from the military." These first hand oral histories come from interviews with 28 men and 14 women, who earned various levels of rank within the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and the National Guard.

There were many passages where I could almost hear the voices of the various friends and foes who are part of each person's story. Folks were thrown out for "practicing homosexuality", but no one was ever tossed out for their heterosexuality, even when they too were caught while engaged in sex. About one third make comparisons to Truman's executive order of 1948, forcing the integration of blacks within all ranks of the Armed Forces, as something that gays and lesbians would love to see happen for them. All of those interviewed questioned the hypocrisy of the Armed Forces regulations regarding homosexuality and the capricious ways in which it is applied.

Being a collection of oral histories, there are considerable amounts of slang, as these are peoples' own unedited words. The appendices and reference notes provide ammunition to any researcher who would like to do further work on investigating the military's history and regulations regarding sexuality.

This book would be an excellent selection for any library, as it is suitable for any audience, from teenagers on up.

Gary M. Klein
University of Toledo
Ohio

The irony of reviewing this book as the U.S. military commenced the "liberation of Kuwait" was not lost on this reviewer, for the U.S. Department of Defense pursues deliberate policies of prejudice, discrimination and harassment towards gays, lesbians and bisexuals in America.

Two separate studies by DOD's Defense Personnel Security Research and Education Center (PERSEREC) questioned these homophobic policies in regard to the suitability of sexual minorities for military service and national security clearances. Both reports were suppressed by Pentagon brass, but the persistent efforts of Representatives Gerry Studds and Patricia Schroeder to obtain and release them proved successful. This Alyson paperback contains both reports, commentary by Congressman Studds and editor Dyer, and internal military memorandum blasting the PERSEREC studies and their authors.

Gays in Uniform is an important document for Washington policy makers and for any American concerned with national defense and national security or with civil rights. Recommended for all federal government, academic and large public library collections.

Joseph M. Eagan
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Baltimore, Maryland


Here is an informative, convenient, almost indispensable self help manual that will assist gay and lesbian couples confronted with the variety of legal choices, necessities, entanglements and prejudices they face as couples. The guide covers "living together" contracts and what they should contain; the practical realities of renting or buying; insurance; credit cards; joint ownership of property; wills, trusts and estate planning. The chapter on parenting discusses adoption, artificial insemination, foster parenting, guardianships and child custody. A list of lesbian and gay legal referrals is provided.

Recommended for all libraries but especially for public library collections.

Jane Jurgens
Northeastern Illinois University Library
Chicago, Illinois


This book of lesbian and gay lists will amuse, challenge, and inform readers of any sexual orienta-
tion. Gay and lesbian adults and teenagers will especially want to read it from cover to cover.

Over 100 lists are divided into seven chapters; a detailed table of contents and a nine-page index turn *Lavender Lists* into a useful reference tool for library and home use. Many items in the lists are a paragraph in length and provide a capsule look at people, events and things. Despite an inherent Western and twentieth century bias, many lists contain information from other cultures and eras. The authors also acknowledge that information about gay males predominates among the lists and entries. Most of the information is accurate, although some may be subject to question or interpretation. For example, Hadrian’s lover Antinous is listed under “20 People Who Committed Suicide” although the cause of his death on the Nile is still in doubt. My favorite lists were “16 Couples and How They Met” and “25 Noteworthy Practices in Other Cultures.”

This fascinating compilation is recommended for all public and high school library collections.

Joseph M. Eagan
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Baltimore, Maryland


*Selected Letters* is divided into chronological sections introduced by biographical sketches. These biographies, which could stand alone, and the thorough endnotes strengthen and support the letters.

Whitman did not write literary or intellectual letters but wrote about his private life although discreetly. He was not explicit about homosexual feelings or actions but the editor does not contrive heterosexual apologies for the emotions and affections expressed in the letters. Miller accepts that Whitman’s phrases “love of comrades” and “adhesive nature” are codes for homosexual feelings, codes which would be clear to the sympathetic reader but which Whitman could deny when questioned by the unsympathetic.

The letters about visiting Army hospitals during the Civil War are striking as historical documents and also as personal documents expressing Whitman’s nurturing, almost maternal nature.

I recommend this book for public, college, and high school libraries.

Bill Edminster
Gerber-Hart Library
Chicago, Illinois


This is a well researched, comprehensive, and very readable study of a commonly misunderstood subject. It stands out from many of the books Biery lists in his bibliography as a work written for heterosexual and gay or lesbian people. This book sets out to explain homosexuality to us all, and it succeeds. Biery divides the book into lengthy sections that deal with concepts ranging from the definition of homosexuality to a beautiful section on homosexuality and the church.

Each of the shorter chapters in every section opens with a thought-provoking quotation by luminaries from Oscar Hammerstein II to Thomas Paine. The book begins with an explanation of scientific studies of homosexuality—Biery pointing out that none of these studies was conducted by an actual homosexual. The lengthy discussion of homophobia is particularly thought-provoking. Biery discusses the contributions of all segments of society to this problem, from the media to the gay and lesbian community, and the experience of institutionalized homophobia.

Biery personalizes his book with anecdotes from his own life; his discovery of his difference and his coming out process. *Understanding Homosexuality* is wide in its scope, but the writing never resorts to generalizations or oversimplification. Biery even includes tips for the coming out process for his gay and lesbian readers, as well as a chapter for their straight family and friends. The work is well documented and includes an index and a bibliography for further reader. This book is recommended for all public and academic libraries.

Lisa N. Johnston
Sweet Briar College
Sweet Briar, Virginia


Written as a guide for the Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches, this sourcebook should change its title to *The Welcoming Community: Resources for Affirming Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Lifestyles*. The book brings together in a sensitive, factual prose the realities of the gay, lesbian, and bisexual lifestyles. It gives to Christian and non-Christian gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals a useful resource tool in combating “Biblical Fundamentalism” which continues to plague the culture.

The Welcoming Congregation makes a commitment to “celebrate the lives of all people and their ways of expressing their love for each other” and seeks to, within its scope, create a guideline for a spiritual environment which will be “inclusive and expressive of the concerns of gay, lesbian, or bisexual persons at every level of congregational life.”
Each congregation begins this process by exploring their own feelings toward their gay, lesbian, and bisexual brothers and sisters in a questionnaire. After reviewing the questionnaire results, facilitators directs the congregation through a series of awareness workshops which deal with the many facets of the gay, lesbian, or bisexual lifestyle. From homophobia to AIDS fear, the workshops present to the community a chance to see what it means to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual in a predominantly heterosexual world. It presents several touching “coming-out” stories which could be useful to youth struggling with their own sexual identity. It culminates with the concept that gay, lesbian, and bisexual people need heterosexual allies who are supportive and that congregations that choose to be “welcoming” can make a difference.

This book should be a ready reference source for general information on the gay, lesbian, or bisexual experience. It should be obtained for theology collections as a required reference for pastoral training within all Christian denominations. It would be useful for any organization seeking to become a “welcoming community.”

Charles Whitlow, AT&T Tax Libraries Morristown, New Jersey


As Bernard Spiro tells us in his introduction to this book, he had all this paper collected from his career as a musical comedy lyricist, and needed to get it organized. What better way than to publish a collection of his lyrics? And since his literary agent told him that books by lesser-known authors won't sell unless there is sex or violence in them, he intersperses his book with autobiographical snippets illuminating his coming to terms with his homosexuality.

The unconventional coupling of unrelated topics might work occasionally—but not with this book. Spiro wrote lyrics for any number of forgotten shows, none of which were particularly memorable. And his writing of his life as a husband and father and late-comer to a gay sensibility, although sincere, meanders from one clump of cliches to another, with no apparent goal in sight. Equally apparent is that there was no editor in sight, either.

One senses that there was not enough material for two books, and so this one was spliced together with whatever was available. The result is unfortunate. Not recommended.

Jim McPeak
Lepper Public Library Lisbon, Ohio


In Emily Dickinson: Woman Poet, Bennett succeeds excellently at her stated aim, “to help make Dickinson accessible to teachers, students, and general readers”, while still producing a work of considerable original scholarship. She does an admirable job of presenting lucid arguments that incorporate contemporary feminist and literary critical theory while neither losing the average, educated reader in a sea of jargon nor oversimplifying her analysis. Bennett weaves together the texts of Dickinson's poems and the context of her life in an eminently readable and challenging work.

Beginning by setting the scene with a discussion of the work of other women poets of the day, Bennett builds her lesbian interpretation of Dickinson by analyzing in turn “the metaphysical basis for [her] intellectual and linguistic experimentation”, the religious poetry, the nature poetry, the psychological poetry, and finally, Dickinson’s erotic imagery. The woman-centered Emily Dickinson who emerges from this analysis is a far more dynamic and believable character than the frustrated spinster found in so many other studies of her work and life. Bennett’s attitude toward the biographical details she posits is refreshing and unpretentious. “Plausibility is, in my opinion, the best we can aim for,” she states. Her arguments are indeed plausible and convincing. Our understanding of both Dickinson’s poetry and her life is greatly enriched by Bennett’s interpretation.

Highly recommended for all academic libraries and for public libraries which collect literary criticism or literary biographies.

Suzy Taraba
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina


Similar in style and layout as the more famous Book of Lists series by Wallace and the Gay Book of Lists by Rutledge, the Alyson Almanac is more topic-specific than the former and more serious than the latter. The index is by name, subject and title, making it easy to browse for areas of interest.

The book is divided into chapters of varying topics ranging from “Highlights of History” to “A Dictionary of Slang and Historical Terms” to a Congressional report card provided by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Other sections offer general advice on books, movies, travel agents and in important areas such as seeking the right therapist. The weakest section, which occupies over 80 pages, concerns people who are, were, or may have been gay or lesbian. The
key phrase here is "may have been." Like many other similar collections of lists the reader is presented with evidence, some convincing, some not, about a well-known individual's supposed homosexuality or bisexuality. While this section is great fun to read, and it is clear whether the individual has acknowledged their sexuality or not, the overall effect weakens the Almanac's value to librarians as a serious reference tool. Even with this one weakness, this is an excellent source for information on the gay and lesbian community.

The Almanac was compiled by the staff of Alyson Publications with contributions from various individuals and organizations, some credited in the chapters, some not. The publisher note states plans to issue updates "every year of two." Let's hope they follow through. Recommended.

T.R. Salvadori
Glassboro Public Library
Glassboro, New Jersey


Gay activist Kevin Berrill provides a powerful introduction to Rench's book for young teenagers who either think they are gay, have gay friends or family members, or who simply want information on this subject.

Each chapter deals with specific issues—friends, family, religion, and safe sex—by asking a series of questions typical of the age group addressed: "How do you become gay or lesbian?" or "Do gays and lesbians have families?" These questions are introduced by short fictionalized scenarios that are somewhat distracting though they are intended to present each subject in a manner the young person can understand. The information Rench provides on support services for young gays and their families and friends is invaluable. She also includes a short bibliography that features works of both fiction and nonfiction that deal with her subject in greater detail. Understanding Sexual Identity does include an index.

Janice E. Rench has written a valuable book that will introduce her young readers to understand what it means to be gay, as well as to support their gay friends and family members. This book is recommended for middle or high school libraries, public libraries, and academic libraries that have collections of nonfiction young adult books.

Lisa N. Johnston
Mary Helen Cochran Library
Sweet Briar College
Sweet Briar, Virginia

This is a tender, thought-provoking collection of first person narratives by children of lesbians. Most of the children are between six and twenty-six.

While many of the children are happy, some have painful stories to tell. In families of lesbians, as in all families, some parents are better at parenting than others, and some families are more dysfunctional than others.

The families represent a wide range—some of the children have two lesbian mothers; some began their lives in more "traditional" families; some are adopted; one lived with separatists; some struggle with their mother’s lovers; several must keep their mothers' secrets or face a custody battle. Through it all, these children seem not only to survive, but to flourish.

I heartily recommend this book. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the diversity of people and families, or in the amazing resilience and capacity for understanding that children have. The message that comes through time and again is that it may not be easy growing up with a lesbian mom, but these kids wouldn't trade the experience.

Louise Rafkin, who also edited Different Daughters, a similar collection from the mothers of lesbians, has once again produced a marvelous book full of honesty.

Nancy Higgs
Evansville-Vanderburgh County Public Library
Evansville, Indiana


This second book of essays from Gail Sausser (the first was Lesbian Etiquette, 1986) continues the chronicles of her life, loves, losses, and observations on lesbians and some of our worlds.

If you read the earlier book, you know that she touches humorously and insightfully on meeting women, losing women, clothes for the wrong occasion, sex, and holidays.

The 22 brief chapters are mostly humorous (although less so than the first book) and frequently penetrating. They range from "Morning Hair" and "The Divorce Party" to "Confessions of a Movie Mush" and "My First Night with a Dental Dam."

This book is suitable for collections on contemporary lesbian and gay life.

Susan Lee Sills
University of California
Irvine, California

Generally speaking, one of the tenets of fundamentalist American Christianity is the literal interpretation of the Bible. This is a basic belief held by some members of nearly all mainstream Christian denominations, and is an absolute in more conservative and extremist sects.

This has proven a two-edged sword: it provides a comfort zone for Christians who need a rigid structure for their religious beliefs; and it has become a means of condemning the civil rights and feminist movements, as well as a weapon against gay and lesbian lifestyles. The results have been a continuing hostility to gays, lesbians and feminists, and often rejection of Christianity by those groups.

John Shelby Spong is the Episcopal bishop of Newark, and Peck’s Bad Boy of the Christian Left. In this study, Spong reviews biblical scholarship to demonstrate that literal interpretation is simply insupportable. He shows how many of the stories of the Old Testament are apocryphal; others are chronologically inaccurate. The four main books of the New Testament often contradict each other, and Paul was captive to the social mores of his times.

Spong’s argument that the Bible can in fact be basis for an abiding faith, and that minorities need not feel disenfranchised is a strong one. His hypothesis that Paul was probably a repressed homosexual weakens that argument somewhat, but it is an interesting consideration nonetheless.

It is doubtful that Spong’s book will change the minds of many fundamentalists, but it will provide support for readers who have had to wrestle with the apparent opposition of lifestyle and religious faith. Recommended for general readers and for all religion collections.

Jim McPeak
Lepper Public Library
Lisbon, Ohio


Hay was not the sole founder of the Mattachine Society but his ideals and efforts did assemble the society, which has served as a model for gay organizations since 1950. Hay’s unique contribution was his vision of homosexuals as an oppressed and organizable minority. Hay’s experience in the Communist Party gave guidance in the organization of Mattachine but just as the Party forced him out for being gay, Mattachine forced him out for being Communist.

No longer able to participate in either group, Hay began to research the history and cultural significance of homosexuals and came to see the minority as a tribe which needed to recover its own culture and innate spirituality. Homosexual males who believed in assimilation and in seeking acceptance by straight society were just male impersonators. Hay developed the philosophy of the Radical Faeries to embody a uniquely gay consciousness.

Although the author is a Radical Faerie and an admirer of Hay, Timmons does not present Hay as a bland saint. He doesn’t hide Hay’s streak of stubborn self-righteousness and moral arrogance, which contributed to divisions in the Mattachine Society and among the Radical Faeries, but which also gave the drive necessary for the creation of both groups.

Hay’s life makes inspiring reading as he overcomes obstacles and finds true love at age fifty. The book is a good source for gay history and a guide for gay political and spiritual activists. It is appropriate for academic and public libraries.

Bill Edminster
Gerber-Hart Gay and Lesbian Library
Chicago, Illinois

FICTION


“Scuttlebutt”—military slang for gossip or news.

It is a bit unnerving to review a book about women in military training one week after the commencement of the Persian Gulf War. It was especially disconcerting to do this after reading in the newspapers about the San Diego woman in the Navy who was discharged recently because she announced publicly that she was a lesbian.

This first novel is a thinly-disguised autobiographical view of the author’s own passage through the Navy’s boot camp for women in the early 70s. Perhaps to avoid having this account appear dated, the outside world does not impinge much on the world of the bootcamp, although anti-war demonstrations and the burgeoning women’s rights movement must have been in the news then. Given the time (and the place - the South), the issue of black women in the service is presented sensitively.

Seaman Recruit Weston meets her fellow recruits in winter, and spends the next ten weeks learning. She learns military language, Navy rules and regulations, and how to spit polish shoes, among other essential tools. She also learns about racism, friendship, and homophobia. In the end, she may have learned enough to come out to herself.
This is a fascinating account, using the author’s point of view almost exclusively. She shares it all with us—the surge of power as she’s selected acting recruit commander, her homesickness, her growing feeling that the Navy wanted them all to believe that it owned their lives. The incidents she reports, whether funny or sad, sound all too true. My favorite was the occasion involving the contraband “toothbrush holder” and its aftermath. That account moved from high humor to anguish, a difficult accomplishment for a new writer. The characters are believable, from the street-wise tough girl to the poor girl hoping to improve the life of her family back home, and Weston herself - not really sure why she enlisted. The variety of voices makes the story move well.

The book would be a good place to go to put “flesh” on the statistics involving women in the military or military training. While it is not a specifically lesbian book, it displays a sense of growing awareness of women, women’s rights, and even lesbian rights.

Susan Lee Sills
University of California
Irvine, California


Gay photographer Willie Hickler is invited to join an expedition to Peru by an old friend. After arriving in South America, Willie meets, and gradually believes himself to be in love with Ernesto Mena, one of the Peruvian guides. Through occasional letters to his widowed sister-in-law and through Wilson’s use of a flash forward technique where Willie can dissect what had occurred in the past, the reader can follow the development of Willie’s affection for Ernesto and the resulting frustrations inherent in a one-sided relationship. This cross cultural relationship is fascinating to witness, as are the many issues dealt with by the author.

The novel begins in the year of the expedition, 1911, which enables the author to develop a more leisurely pace than most novels set in the present day, allowing for lush descriptions of the countryside, the characters, and the historical background needed to explain the novel’s setting.

Wilson’s use of the flash forward technique, which does show the reader a more mature Willie in an established relationship in 1926, causes several awkward passages, but nothing so severe as to distract from the overall effect of the novel.

Beautifully written, this is an unusual type of coming out story in that Willie already accepts his sexuality. His lesson is that others will accept it and him. That is the reader’s lesson as well.
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