SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Friday, January 24, 1992
Steering Committee
8 - 10 p.m.

Saturday, January 25, 1992
Business/All Committees Meeting
2 - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 25, 1992
** GLTF Social
Check for details.

Sunday, January 26, 1992
Book Awards Committee (Closed Meeting)
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 27, 1992
Program Planning Committee
9:30 - 11 a.m.

Tuesday, January 28, 1992
Steering Committee
2 - 4 p.m.

** Tim Lynch, Program Committee Chair, could use some assistance with the Social. Any Texans who would like to help out, call Tim Lynch at (402) 471-2045.

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Midwinter Conference is just around the corner. I will be staying at the Emily Morgan Hotel, arriving Friday afternoon and leaving Wednesday morning. Anyone with agenda items should send them to me before January 15, or leave a message for me at the hotel. To contact me:
Roland Hansen, Readers' Services Librarian
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
37 S. Wabash
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 899-5097 (w) (312) 263-0141 (fax)
or 3824 N. Fremont
Chicago, IL 60613
(312) 472-3555 (h w/machine)

As of this writing, there are still vacancies on the Steering Committee for:
Female Co-Chair
Clearinghouse Coordinator
1993 Program Planning Committee Chair
Feminist Task Force Liaison

It is crucial that these positions are filled as soon as possible. Anyone interested should contact me immediately.

New Business/Midwinter Agenda Items
▼ By-Law Revisions
▼ Co-Sponsorship of Annual Program with Feminist Task Force
▼ Exceptional Achievement Award Proposal
▼ Information Clearinghouse Status
▼ 1993 Program
▼ Budget
These are just some of the topics for discussion, along with many of our ongoing projects. Please bring your thoughts and ideas with you to San Antonio and San Francisco (June 1992).

Old Business/Acknowledgments

I would like to express a belated and heartfelt thank you to the previous newsletter editor, Steve Wooldridge. Steve made many significant changes and enhancements to the Newsletter that really improved the quality of the publication. Among these enhancements were setting up the mailing list to generate labels and to track subscription information; establishing the exchange program to get newsletters from other gay and lesbian organizations; and instituting the necessary programs and software to standardize the format of the Newsletter. And let's not forget the ISSN and all the paperwork that was needed to get that accomplished. Due to the pressure of recent work developments, this acknowledgment is somewhat delayed, but speaking for the entire Steering Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation for Steve's contribution.

Roland Hansen, Co-Chair

Member News

▼ At the November 1991 conference of the Arizona State Library Association, GLTF member Cal Gough co-presented a program, "Gay and Lesbian Library Service: Exploding the Myths, Dismantling the Barriers." Susan Perry of the Stanford University Data Center was co-presenter. Another program offered at the conference was "Marching to a Different Drummer: Gays and Lesbians in Young Adult Literature," which was presented by librarians from public libraries in Tucson and Scottsdale.

▼ The Journal of Homosexuality, published by The Haworth Press, has recently been voted for selection in the Social Sciences Index published by The H.W. Wilson Company. GLTF member Polly Thistlewaite has led a national campaign to have H. W. Wilson Company indexes include major gay and lesbian periodicals in their coverage.

NEWS IN BRIEF

▼ The nursing school at the Binghamton campus of the State University of New York has established an experimental electronic network for AIDS patients in the community who want information, medical advice, or social contact. The network, called AIDSNET, is the first piece of a proposed large-scale support systems for homebound patients and their caregivers. Two nurses who specialize in AIDS monitor the bulletin board, answering questions about treatment, medication, and other matters.


▼ The University of California/San Francisco Library has received a $38,674 grant from the National Archives to head a model AIDS history project. The project has gathered treatment records, minutes of meetings, reports, photographs, personal papers, and diaries from over 35 AIDS-related agencies and local health care providers.

from American Libraries, November 1991, p. 1008

▼ The Astraea Foundation will fund five lesbian writers $11,000 each to pursue their work. They have one grant cycle per year and applications will be available after December 1 from: Lesbian Writers Fund, Astraea Foundation, 666 Broadway #520, New York, NY 10012

from News from Spinster's Book Company
▼ The Minneapolis (Minn.) Civil Rights Department ruled September 12 in favor of three lesbian paraprofessional employees of the city’s public library who want insurance benefits extended to their domestic partners. The staffers maintain that by not allowing them the same benefits for their partners as it allows heterosexual married employees, the library is discriminating on the basis of affectional preference.

Jane Anglin, the first employee to file the charge of discrimination against the library, commented in an *Equal Times* newspaper article, "I was thrilled that finally we have some vindication; there is some piece of the city (bureaucracy) that gives consideration that we are a family." According to Beverly Balos, attorney for the three employees, the next step is a negotiation process between the City Attorney and Balos.


▼ *Harper’s Magazine’s* July 1991 issue highlighted the work of Sanford Berman, Head Cataloger at the Hennepin County Library in Minnetonka, Minnesota, in "Tomorrow’s Card Catalogue." Among the list of new subject headings cited: "Compulsive Behavior in Gay Men" and "Lesbian Cartoonists".


from *Harper’s Magazine*, July 1991, p. 28 and Hennepin County Library Cataloging Bulletins and monthly reports.

▼ The Publishing Triangle, a national organization dedicated to the furtherance of gay and lesbian writing and publishing, has added a Northern California Chapter. Anyone interested in knowing more about the chapter or joining in its meetings, should contact Bert Hermann at Alamo Square Press, P.O. Box 14543, San Francisco, CA 94114 or (415) 252-0643.

from *Publishing Triangle News*, vol. 2, no. 1, Summer, 1991

▼ The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, held a formal inauguration on October 4. The Center is the first university-affiliated research center in this country for gathering, disseminating and encouraging scholarship on the lives of lesbian and gay people. Established in April 1991, the Center has already sponsored a variety of public forums and monthly colloquia on such topics as the AIDS epidemic, lesbians and gays in the universities, and literary theory from a gay perspective. Future programs include research fellowships, archival resources, and publications.

from inauguration brochure for Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies

▼ The Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc., through its Respect All Youth Network, has released three issue papers on gay and lesbian youth. The Issue Paper #1 is "Who Is Killing Whom? The Role of Sexual Identity in Youth Suicide"; Issue Paper #2 is "You Can Help: Gay and Lesbian Youth in Crisis"; and Issue Paper #3, a longer piece, is "Youth and Homosexuality." The series, completed by Respect All Youth project consultant Ann Thompson Cook, is available to educators, librarians, parents, youth workers and others. To receive single copies of the three-paper set, send a $5 donation to Respect All Youth, Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc., 1012 14th St. N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20005.

from P-FLAG press release, November, 1991

▼ A panel of four members of the lesbian and gay communities came together to discuss "Gays and Lesbians and Library Service" at the Midwest Federation of Library Associations Six Quadrennial Conference in Minneapolis on October 30, 1991. Presented by the Minnesota Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table, the panelists explored issues of library censorship, selection, access, personnel policy, and service. Panelists were William Randall Beard, Artistic Director, Magic Circle Ensemble; Harvey Hertz, Owner, A Brother’s Touch Bookstore; Cynthia Scott, Editor and Publisher, *Equal Time: A Newspaper for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals*; and Marie Hanson, Library Aide II, Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center. A strategy session and resource sharing of gay and lesbian materials followed the presentation.

▼ *Diseased Pariah News* is a quarterly publication "of, by, and for people with HIV disease." Black humor, recipes, erotic video reviews, safe sex comics, resource listings are featured. For more information, contact Diseased Pariah News, P.O. Box 31431, San Francisco, CA 94131, (415) 891-0455.

from Minnesota Library Association Social Responsibilities
Round Table Newsletter, vol. 4, no. 7 (September 1991)

▼ A library project of the Southwest Connecticut chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) resulted in the donations to 10 libraries of a set of six
books designed to educate family members of gay people about homosexuality. Lester Sharlach, a founder of the chapter, was quoted in a newspaper story as saying that parents who are reluctant to attend support meetings will often go to the library to seek information.

The Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. has issued a recommended reading list, together with Lambda Rising Bookstore. The booklist's subject areas include: "Accepting Your Child"; "About Being Gay"; "Lesbian and Gay Youth"; "Religion"; "Spouses"; "Children of Lesbians and Gays"; "For Young Readers"; "AIDS/HIV." To request the booklist, contact the Federation at P.O. Box 27605, Washington, D.C. 20038-7605, (202) 638-4200.

Chicago's Gerber/Hart Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives celebrated its 10th anniversary on October 25, 1991, with a reception featuring noted writer Essex Hemphill, editor of *Brother to Brother*, and Alison Bechdel, creator of *Dykes to Watch Out For*. The event also featured a live auction of personal artifacts from lesbian and gay authors, including a signed photograph of Jack Kerouac taken by Allen Ginsberg. The Archives moved to larger, more accessible space recently and the anniversary fundraiser helped to provide funds to sustain and grow the library. One of the oldest and largest lesbian and gay libraries in the country, Gerber/Hart has a collection of over 4,000 titles, as well as periodicals, reference materials, videos, and archives. The new address is 3352 N. Paulina St., Chicago, IL 60657.

The *Journal of the History of Sexuality* announces a special issue on lesbian and gay history to be published in volume 4, number 1 (July 1993). Submissions are being sought, with a deadline of June 30, 1992. For more information, contact the Editor, Professor John C. Fout, *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504.

The University of Miami, Louis Calder Memorial Library, has responded to the AIDS information needs of local health professionals by serving on an AIDS referral database on the Library's INNOPAC computer system. The database, a prototype of a community-based system for health professionals, was funded in part by a grant from the National Library of Medicine. Users can search the AIDS database by any of nine indexes: organization/person/research study name, organization type, medical specialty, health and social services, mental health services, education and information services, research site, research type, and research eligibility. Access to the database is available to library users at the Calder Library's 15 online catalog terminals, to campus users through the University's local area network, and to health professionals throughout the community via dial-up ports.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

**NON-FICTION**


A valuable collection of poems and short essays, nearly all reprinted elsewhere, by political activist, social historian, feminist and lesbian, Susan Sherman. Her work encompasses nearly three decades and comments upon many of the complicated, often overwhelming, indeed radical changes that have taken place during these times in society and in her head.

This collection is divided into three sections: "The Color of the Heart" contains comments on her personal odyssey; "Cuba, Chile, Nicaragua" are reflections on the changes taking place in the countries she visited in the sixties, seventies, and eighties, especially her observations on the women's movement in Nicaragua; in "Divisions" and "Sexuality and Identity" she defines her personal identity as a human being and as a woman who has become "woman identified"; "The Counterfeit Revolution" evaluates the roles of Marshall McLuhan, Jacques Derrida and Jacques Lacan and their respective roles in the politics of the sixties; and finally, in "Creativity and Change" Sherman's persona as artist and creator emerges: "The work of art is, as a person is, both memory (the past) and the activity (the present). It is as each human being is, at each moment simultaneously complete and in the process of completion."

Jane Jurgens
Northeastern Illinois University
Chicago, Illinois

This delightful anthology is dedicated to cats and the women who are devoted to them. The stories, poems, and opinions will make you cry, laugh, love, and question your relationship to animals in general and cats in particular.

Eloquent tributes to cats past and present will please cat lovers. The healing power of pets is demonstrated in a story about an abused child and the pet who befriends her. Look for the surprise ending to this one. An essay on the spirituality of feline lives proposed that humans have a lot to learn from the cats whose lives they share.

A discussion of environmental illness and cat allergies raises important questions about individual and collective responsibility to people with disabilities. The ethics, morality, and power relationship inherent in pet ownership is also discussed in a thoughtful essay by a radical lesbian feminist. In reading these two essays, the reader will question assumptions about pets which may not have been faced in the past.

All in all a wonderful book with fine photos, funny cartoons and an interesting collection of materials. Recommended for public libraries who collect gay/lesbian non-fiction and for any cat lovers.

Pauline Klein
Atlanta, Georgia


From the introduction, written by Leonard Bernstein right before his death, to the epilogue, Hadleigh provides the reader with another fascinating Hollywood-type teaser of who has/is/may have done what in the music industry. Filled with tabloid quotes, out of context statements and interviews with the anonymous star and/or executive, people from Piaf to Merman to lang (sic) are painted as stars benefiting from their gay and lesbian followings while hating them as in Merman's case, embracing them as did Piaf, or possibly joining in as is suggested in lang's case.

The author lapses from his music theme by occasionally including actors, actresses, and movie directors. It's unfortunate as the space could have been used to include more recording artists; Melissa Etheridge comes to mind. As one of the stated goals of the author is to provide a "starting point" of documentation of the roles gay, lesbian, and bisexual artists have played in the music industry, the inclusion of the movie industry seems to be out of place.

However, the book is a lot of fun. Buy a copy and sit it next to Hollywood Babylon or even with one of the author's previous works, Conversations With My Elders.

T.R. Salvadori
Margaret E. Heggan Public Library
Washington Township, New Jersey

FICTION


The majority of this book is written in the form of conversations — external, and in the case of the main character, internal. This style demands an author who can not only hear different voices, but can make the reader hear them also; author Wings succeeds.

One of the telling uses of this is the manner in which Kincaid's (the heroine) voice changes. At the beginning of the story, she has a recognizable southern accent. When she moves to California, she soon decides to lose the accent because of the way people respond to her and to it. She succeeds so well that her lover doesn't realize Kincaid is from the south at the beginning of their relationship, and the reader is startled to see how it has slipped away.

The story takes us from Kincaid's youth in a poor white southern family; her adoption by a well-to-do couple and move to southern California; discovery of her interests and abilities as a teenager and young adult; eventual acknowledgement of her lesbianism; and finally acceptance and healing of the scars from her early years. Along the way the author works below the surface of the story to talk about the dance of the universe, communications with dolphins and the power of Grandma Kincaid to "sing up the sun."

Many of the characters are recognizable: the lesbian diving instructor, the "best friend" that Kincaid grows away from; the supportive adoptive parents. Indeed, they are almost too good. It's hard to believe that any parents could say the right thing so often. Kincaid even has a wonderfully understanding, compassionate lover.

The book is suitable for a collection with contemporary gay/lesbian fiction, especially one aimed at the older teen/young adult audience.

Susan Lee Sills
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, California

This is a short lesbian coming-out novel. The style is fast-paced and the book is a quick read. The setting at a lesbian music festival adds humor as the author does a good job of portraying the realities and contradictions of festival culture.

Themes of sexual abuse, rape, alcohol/drug abuse, celibacy, couple vs. non-couple society, fat women, and political correctness are all briefly covered in descriptions of workshops and conversations that will sound familiar to anyone who has attended a festival.

Rosie and Dawn are long-time friends who don't really know each other. Dawn tells Rosie she is a lesbian and invites Rosie to the festival. Rosie attends, meets Calypso and immediately begins lusting, all the while protesting her heterosexuality. Dawn and her old love rekindle both the love and hate which shaped their previous life together. In addition, Dawn and Rosie have a fling. By the end of the book, Rosie, whose character at the beginning claimed to have never thought about lesbians, is an enthusiastic partner in hot lesbian sex. Her homophobia is not very strong and to be an accurate portrayal I believe it should have been discussed at greater length.

The book makes a strongly positive portrayal of coming out while briefly discussing some of society's homophobia. It is recommended for public libraries with a strong fiction collection. A good book for young women who are questioning their feelings about being lesbian.

Pauline Klein
Atlanta, Georgia


In the eight stories that make up Food and Spirits, gifted Native American writer Beth Brant gives the reader journeys home. Home is a physical or a spiritual place to the characters in these moving stories.

Violet of "Wild Turkeys" returns to her hometown of Fairview, Michigan to difficult memories of an abusive marriage, memories of her mother's legends, and new friends. In "Food and Spirits" Elijah decides to take a trip to Detroit to visit his beloved twin granddaughters. He brings his home in his soul and in a bag of fry cake and fish to people he meets on his journey across the Canadian border. "This Place" is the most difficult story in Beth Brant's collection. A young man returns from his life as a gay man in a large city to the reservation where he was born. "David came home because he was dying." David thought he could either be a gay man or a Native American, but never both, so he left one part of himself to live with half of himself. The story describes healing rituals and family relationships at the end of David's life.

Beth Brant's Food and Spirits can be highly recommended for public or academic libraries with short story collections, collections on Native American culture, collections of writings by Native Americans, or Women's Studies collections. It is an excellent work.

Lisa N. Johnson
Sweet Briar College
Sweet Briar, Virginia


A Brigid Donovan mystery. Called by Claire Du Lac to Quebec from her home in Greenville, Maine, Brigid Donovan is offered the job of writing the history of H.O.P.E. (Helping Others, the Poor Especially), an organization whose aims are "to alleviate human suffering in whatever form it appears." This is a cover for Brigid's real assignment, the investigation of the death of Du Lac's son-in-law David Thorne. Is Thorne's daughter, Genevieve, in the cloister willingly or as a captive? The Thorne family relationships are very complex as Brigid soon learns. As she unravels them, she dashes about the country at a sometimes frenetic and humorous pace.

Thin as a mystery, but a good read as the story of Brigid and those with whom she interacts. Brigid is a recovering alcoholic and the detailing of her struggle with recovery is well handled (although her frequent checking of her "meeting book" is a bit tiring).

Recommended for larger collections.

David Streeter
Pomona Public Library
Pomona, California


It is 1946 and Ensign Philip Froelich has shipped into Seattle awaiting a General Court Martial trial on a charge of insubordination. On shipboard he enjoyed working in close contact with the ship's personnel. On land, he cannot get a seat on the bus to take him to the
Naval Station. Commander Tim Danelaw observes the young sailor's needs and provides the transportation. As the story progresses, Danelaw is involved in a divorce and Froelich is being pressured into a marriage he does not desire. The bond between the two men deepens and their desires are finally realized one night in San Francisco. As the finely crafted love story emerges, they grow into a close relationship that lasts until the death of Commander Danelaw in a plane crash.

This is an intelligently written novel. The characters in the book are well developed, especially those of Danelow and Froelich. It provides the reader with sensitive insight into the closeted gay world of the 1940's. It portrays a very positive gay image.

First published in 1950, Quatrefoil was reprinted by Alyson Publications in 1982. This new edition adds an epilogue by the author detailing the model for Philip Froelich and the story behind the novel. This book should be in every library.

David Streeter
Pomona Public Library
Pomona, California

Reviews are a regular feature of the GLTF Newsletter.

REVIEWERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

If you would like to be a reviewer or would like to receive reviewer guidelines, contact the Reviews editor, David Streeter, at the following address:

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The GLTF Newsletter (ISSN 1045-2893) is an official publication of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Subscriptions are $5 per year in the U.S.; $7 in Canada and Mexico; $10 for all other countries. Subscription address: Gay and Lesbian Task Force, OLOS, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Editorial Address: GLTF Newsletter, Kathy Anderson, Atlantic County Library System, 2 S. Farragut Ave., Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Changes of Address should be sent to the Editorial Address listed above.

Editorial Committee: Kathy Anderson, Editor; David Streeter, Assistant Editor/Book Review Editor; Charles Whitlow, Advertising Editor.

* Cataloging Note: Two previous issues in 1991 were incorrectly numbered as Vol. 3, No. 1 & 2; and Vol. 3, No. 3 & 4. This issue is numbered correctly.