From the Editor

Greetings!!

Congratulations to those who were recently married during ALA in Toronto! Let’s all hope this trend continues in the coming years!

I have also been converting past issues of the newsletter into PDF documents, and TJ Lusher is placing them on our new ALA website! Please feel free to look for more issues online at: http://www.ala.org/glbtrt

Thanks to everyone for making this newsletter come together so seamlessly! I am so pleased to get your articles and reports, and I hope that you will continue sending them for future issues. If anyone is interested in contributing to the next issue, just send me an email. November 15 is the deadline!

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
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From the Co-Chairs

Hello everyone! It’s autumn again. Fall semester has started up and the summer reading programs are over for another year. So I better clean up the rest of my summer duties before I get even further behind.

Thanks go out to all the people that were in Toronto and picked up the slack for those of us that were not able to be there. I can only speak for myself, but I was disappointed that I was not allowed to attend. I know I missed some great programs and a wonderful awards breakfast. Speaking of that, John DeSantis gets a round of applause for putting together the last minute arrangements of the breakfast. I also want to say thanks to Anne Moore for handling all of the co-chair duties and Roland Hansen for assisting her in that work. Peter Hepburn and Martin Garnar for handling all of the programming issues that came up in Toronto.

I also want to thank Barbara and Kay for their attendance during the conference. I was very disappointed that I did not get to see Barbara accept her ALA Honorary Membership, but I can tell from the pictures that it was a wonderful event. Also, thanks to the crew that handled the last minute details for the social. It was a great job that everyone did at the conference, thanks again.

In my never ending crusade to get bibliographies and booklists onto the Website, I am once again asking folks to please send me their lists that they have created. Whether it is for your public, academic, or school library we want to highlight some books in different areas. People, both professional and otherwise really do send me questions asking for lists. I don’t always have suggestions so it is nice to have access to bibliographies and booklists I can refer them to read. In the past year I have been asked for lists for young children, teens, adult learners, GLBT sports issues, and GLBT people in higher education. So there are a few examples. You will be given credit for your work on the Web site of course and enjoy knowing that you helped others find good books.

Providing that I am not barred from traveling again, I will see you all in San Diego at Midwinter.

Steve Stratton, Head, Collections & Tech Services
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Anne L. Moore, Coordinator for Access Services
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I’ll be brief. But I wanted to pop in and thank everyone who served time in our little corner in the back of the woods past the Moose and the Woodpecker, turtles and birds and way down in the rabbit hole (aka- our Booth) at the Toronto Exhibits. If only I had thought to set up a wedding chapel…! I am glad that we could be a place for Wedding Invitations at least. Grateful thanks also to those who provided literature and candy. Even though we were in that “far from the madding crowd” area, I had very little to pack up, so it was all well received.

Next year, we will have newer and more banners (I think the entire gbizt spectrum should be represented) and hopefully, we will have a larger audience. We may even go Disney. If anyone out there (is that a pun?) has an overwhelming desire to be my Exhibit Booth Coordinator, I would welcome you with open arms and chocolate or whatever it takes. Let me know.

Emily Edwards
Chair, Membership Committee
eedwards@leegov.com
The External Relations Committee has two new members: Elsa Bruguier, a librarian at the Union County College system, Plainfield Campus and Holly Merce, Metadata Coordinator for the University of Kansas Library System. Great to have them aboard. Thanks for all who showed interest in lending a hand!

The Tucson-Pima Public Library system celebrated National GLBT Book Month (yes, we got it listed as an entry in Chase's 2003 Calendar of Events p. 303) with a visit from Trans author Patrick Califia. Mr Califia drew a crowd of about 200 people, some driving from as far away as Phoenix, to see him. Patrick's talk focused on censorship issues and how this relates to GLBT and Erotica authors as well as the chilling effect of the Patriot Act on society and the institutions of libraries. Afterwards, he told us that it was one of his best gigs ever.

The GLBT Services Committee of TPPL developed a handsome set of genre and subject book marks for June also. They cover about 10 subject matters from humor to self-defense. The bookmarks, as well as the talk, could not have been produced without funding from the Friends of TPPL. We are grateful to have such a wonderful bunch of open-minded people support us. They come through so often and it helps us to avoid scrambling for funds through outside sources, we're lucky.

Until next issue, adios!

Richard DiRusso, Chair
External Relations Committee
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Calling all GLBTRT / AASL members! Want to become more involved in a national conference and have fun while you’re at it? Then volunteer to help with the upcoming AASL national conference in Kansas City, October 22nd through 26th. Volunteers are needed to fill a wide assortment of positions every day. If you’re willing or would like additional information, contact your AASL liaison, Ken Stewart, wolffk@msn.com. And, while you’re here, let’s get together and network!

Ken Stewart, AASL Liaison
wolffk@msn.com

Dear Friends,

A heartfelt Thank You from us both to members of the GLBT Round Table for the fabulous time we had with you all at ALA's annual meeting in Toronto.

It was a special time for us because of Barbara's receiving honorary membership in ALA. But it was also special that you included us in your book awards breakfast launching the Barbara Gittings/Stonewall Book Award for Literature.

And the icing on the cake: the wedding cake, that is! We were thrilled to be on hand at the GLBT social in Toronto’s City Hall, when several gay marriages by librarians were acknowledged, and to hear that more couples were going to get married in the next couple of days.

“Librarians lead the way!” we cheered in Toronto. But did you know that a librarian led the way 33 years ago? In 1970 librarian Michael McConnell and his partner Jack Baker applied for a marriage license in Minneapolis, with the press in tow. It was a first in this country.

You, the GLBT Round Table, also were a first in this country, launched in 1970 as the first gay group in a professional association. Congratulations for the outstanding job you’re doing! Keep it up! And bless you for all you did to give the two of us such a wonderful time at ALA’s 2003 conference.

Gayly forward,

Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen
gittingsb@aol.com

August 13, 2003

Barbara receiving an honorary membership in ALA
"Historically, the federal government has fluctuated over the years between policies intended to limit access to information in the name of national security, on the one hand, and policies to assure open public access to information, on the other. From its inception, the Bush Administration has exhibited a renewed tendency toward secrecy. This tendency is demonstrated in Attorney General Ashcroft's instructions to executive agencies to narrowly interpret the Freedom of Information Act, a recommendation that would potentially limit public access to unpublished agency information, and White House chief of staff Andrew Card's Memo to agencies instructing them to be diligent in screening from public access information that might pertain to weapons of mass destruction or otherwise be of use to terrorists." From the Report of the Task Force on Restrictions on Access to Government Information.

I had the good fortune to participate in this task force. The discussions were wonderful, brilliant and not a little bit scary in their implications. Please read the entire text of the report and go to some of the links provided. You will come away wondering how we can protect "the Land of the Free" before we see those freedoms dissolve.

The complete report is available at the following URL:


Thanks,

Jerry Reynolds
Talking Book Librarian Senior
Jacksonville Public Library
Jacksonville, FL
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Collectively, the Foster Gunnison, Jr. Papers document the organic evolution of gay and lesbian rights in a way that archives assembled after the fact cannot, and will be of immeasurable value to scholars of the history of homosexuality, gender studies, and social movements in general. Phil Samponaro, PhD candidate in history at UConn, worked on the collection this past year and contributed to this announcement. While not all parts of the collection are immediately available, inquiries may be sent via email to Rutherford W. Witthus at rutherford.witthus@uconn.edu or by phone at 860.486.4508.

Rutherford W. Witthus
Curator of Literary and Natural History Collections
Coordinator of Technical Services and Automation
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
Couples married at ALA during the GLBTRT Social

Chet Mulawka and Ken Frieders, June 20, 2003, were married on a rooftop overlooking Kensington Market, while playing *O Canada*. Fortunately neither grooms jumped.

Barb Stevens and Laurie Newberry, married June 23, 2003. Norman Eriksen and Cal Zunt were their witnesses.

Patricia Pettijohn, University of South Florida librarian, and Laurie Ryan, a Senior Business Analyst at Tech Data Corp., were married Monday, May 23rd, at Toronto City Hall. They live in Saint Petersburg, Florida, and were civilly united in Vermont in October, 2001.

Christine Jenkins and Susan Searing were married at Toronto City Hall on June 23, 2003. Jenkins is an Associate Professor of Library & Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where Searing is Head of the Library & Information Science Library. It was especially fitting that the wedding ceremony took place at ALA, because Sue and Christine had their first date eighteen years ago at the 1985 ALA annual conference in Chicago.

Celebrating their ten years of commitment, Brian Vetruba and Michael Getty were married in Toronto City Hall on July 26, 2003.

Roland C. Hansen and his partner, Bill, were married on June 23, 2003. After attending the Pride ceremony at City Hall, Roland asked Bill to marry him. They went to the marriage bureau to take care of the formal paperwork, and then proceeded to the chapel, arriving just after Barb Stevens and Laurie finished their ceremony. Realizing that they didn’t have any witnesses, Barb and Laurie agreed to take on that role, and the ceremony began!

Roland added, "It was sort of spontaneous, which was kind of fun. We also found out that the judge who married all of us that day is a former librarian! The next day we went to Niagara Falls with Ken Stewart and his partner Tedd. It’s tacky, but we were sad not to see any of the wedding stuff on the Canadian side. We suspect it’s on the US side! We wanted to have our picture taken in one of those bride and groom cutouts. Anyway, we were greatly amused."

Congratulations to everyone who was able to get married during ALA, and a special thanks to those of you who were willing to share your stories with us!

Best wishes to you all!

Bechdel marks the twentieth anniversary of her Lambda Literary Award-winning Dykes to Watch Out For comic strip with this tenth compilation, the first volume to be published by Alyson Publications. In this collection of strips originally published serially from 2000 to 2002, Mo and her friends process the 2000 election, 9/11, and other major events while navigating through their personal crises. Clarice and Toni reach their own twentieth anniversary, travel to Vermont for a civil union, and find themselves slipping into the world of soccer moms. As sales fall at Madwimmin Books, Mo begins thinking about a new career as a librarian. Meanwhile, Sydney continues her quest for tenure at the local university, Lois explores the boundaries of gender, and Sparrow worries that having a baby with her boyfriend might change her identity as well as her life. A bonus comic at the end of the book follows Mo, Sydney, Lois, Ginger, Sparrow, and Stuart as they deal with their changing family dynamics.

This sharp and funny volume is a good addition for libraries with GLBT and/or graphic novel collections. If your library lacks the earlier volumes in the series, do not miss the chance to purchase the re-releases from Firebrand Books.

Reviewed by Beth Tarr, Children’s Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library


In his earlier work, Jesus Acted Up: A Gay and Lesbian Manifesto, Goss tried to reclaim Christianity for sexual minorities by asserting that the radical Jesus of biblical times would be siding with radical queer activists of the 20th century. His latest effort is not meant as a sequel, as that is a separate project still under development. Instead, Queering Christ takes a different approach to the question of LGBT Christians and the church. Rather than fight for a spot within the existing structure, Goss proposes starting from scratch and rebuilding Christianity using a queer aesthetic. Queering is defined in the preface as “spoil[ing] or interfere[ting] with.” Goss asserts that spoiling something that’s already spoiled (i.e., the Christian church) in order to make it more inclusive (i.e., welcoming to LGBT people) is “a good.” Having defined his method, Goss lays out his task of queering Christianity in four areas: sexuality, Christ, the Bible, and theology. In each area, he reconstructs basic concepts of Christianity from a queer perspective, thus building a belief system that fully validates LGBT Christians as intrinsically ordered. His personal application of this belief system may not resonate with all readers, but they will certainly create a starting point for further thought and discussion. Academic libraries supporting programs in religion or LGBT studies should purchase this book, as should public libraries with strong collections in these areas. If you don’t already have Jesus Acted Up in your collection, correct that oversight when you order Queering Christ.

Reviewed by Martin Garnar, Assistant Professor of Library Science and Reference Librarian Regis University.

Above: Noel Alumit (left) and Cecil Hixon (right). Noel was the 2003 winner of the Stonewall Book Award-Barbara Gittings Literature Award for fiction, for his book, Letters to Montgomery Clift: a novel.

Above: Left to right: Ann Symons, Anne Moore, Barbara Gittings, Nancy Garden and Nancy’s partner - Sandy
In this accessible collection of 27 essays spanning almost 40 years, Martin Duberman displays the range of his academic pursuits and interests. Issued three years after the first edition, this version includes updated postscripts and commentaries. The book is arranged in three sections, tracing a path through the latter half of the twentieth century: “Histories of Oppression,” “Sites of Resistance: The Sixties and Seventies”, and “Old Saws/New Refrains”. Within each section, essays are grouped into the three broad topics of race, sexual orientation, and left-wing politics. The essays tend to appear in rough chronological order, so it is easy to trace how Duberman's interests begin to coalesce into the larger theme of exclusion. Although a few essays are dated, most are still timely. As “Racism in the Gay Male World” (1982) demonstrates, many of the issues that have faced the LGBT community for decades still have the same urgency today as they did twenty years ago. One weakness of the book is an occasional paucity of source information. However, Duberman explains that some people requested anonymity, as they feel concerned about having their names connected with the LGBT community. Ultimately, this fact hammers home the realization that, although we’ve come a long way since Duberman began his career as a historian, we have yet to achieve the ideal society envisioned by the Left. If your academic or public library didn’t purchase the 1999 edition, don’t miss this second chance to add this book to your collection.

Reviewed by Martin Garnar, Assistant Professor of Library


“My only books were women’s looks,” quips the subject of Suzanne Rodriguez's splendid biography, *Wild Heart, a Life: Natalie Clifford Barney’s Journey from Victorian America to the Literary Salons of Paris*. Known as “the wild girl from Cincinnati,” Natalie Barney was a wealthy, charismatic lesbian who expatriated to Paris shortly before the turn of the last century. Barney's life and love affairs (the latter continuing well into her eighties) are the stuff of legend, and Rodriguez has done a commendable job of creating an authoritative, well-researched biography as well as a compelling read. Two full-length biographies on Barney already exist (George Wickes' *The Amazon of Letters: The Life and Loves of Natalie Barney and Jean Chalon’s Portrait of a Seducress*), however, this is the first treatment that does not merely focus on the more titillating aspects of Barney's life but also discusses the contributions Barney made to the literary and cultural circles of post-*Belle Époque* Paris. In spite of Barney's somewhat insouciant attitude towards literature, she was a prolific author and a gracious salon hostess. Hers was such a powerful personality that writers (mostly ex-lovers) could not resist including a thinly disguised portrait of Barney in their own works. These writers included Colette, Djuna Barnes, Radclyffe Hall, Lucie Delarue-Mardrus and Liane de Pougy. Barney considered herself a disciple of Sappho, not just for her sexual preference, but also for her genuine desire to promote the creative talents of women.

General interest readers will enjoy Rodriguez’s lively style and it is a worthy addition to any library’s Gender Studies/GLBTQ collection.

Reviewed by Robin Imhof, Reference Librarian, University of the Pacific


First published in 1977, *The Joy of Gay Sex* became a hallmark resource guide. For many gay men, it became the first book they turned to for questions about sex and gay living. With their fully expanded and revised edition, Dr. Charles Silverstein and Felice Picano have updated this valuable, insightful book for the new millennium. Following the encyclopedic format of previous editions, entries cover everything from barebacking and nibbling to etiquette and mythic beginnings.

Compared to the second edition, *The New Joy of Gay Sex*, this new edition has been expanded to include 23 new entries. One notable new area of coverage is online cruising. The authors provide advice on using chatrooms and setting up online profiles. Silverstein and Picano also expanded their discussion of relationship with sections on domestic partnerships and open relationships. A seven page appendix of print and web resources for readers on various topics is one significant improvement over the previous edition; however, these resources are neither referenced in any of the entries nor clearly marked in the table of contents. Although they are obviously well-informed and knowledgeable, it is somewhat puzzling why the authors failed to cite any of their sources throughout the book.

These shortcomings notwithstanding, the book provides gay men with an excellent first-stop resource. All of the entries give practical and straightforward advice for both first-timers and experienced men. The graphic illustrations provide valuable visual aids. As in the other editions, the authors also pepper their entries with entertaining historical and cultural trivia. The book is highly recommended for both public and academic libraries.

Reviewed by Brian Vetruba, Catalog Librarian, Washington University Libraries
Fierstein, Harvey. *The Sissy Duckling*. Simon & Schuster, 2002. Elmer the duckling is not like the other boy ducklings, and he suffers the derision of his schoolmates and his father, but he proves that a “sissy” can be a real hero. Papa’s declaration “If Elmer is a sissy, then I wish I were a sissy too!” is a resounding moment of triumph. **Ages: 4-9.** The best overlooked book of the year in terms of awards.


Okimoto, Jean Davies and Elaine M. Aoki. *The White Swan Express: A Story About Adoption*. New York: Clarion, 2002. While four baby girls in China wait for their new parents to arrive from the United States, seven adults are preparing for their trips to China to take home their new daughters. Among the adoptive parents is a lesbian couple. Beautiful watercolor artwork, and a warm, loving story will appeal not only to young adoptees from China, but all young children. **Ages: 2-6.** Highly Recommended.

Chambers, Aidan. *Postcards From No Man’s Land*. New York: Dutton, 2002. During a visit to the Netherlands, Jacob stays with the bisexual grandson of an old family connection, Daan, carries on a flirtation with Ton, a gay youth who he initially mistakes for a girl, meets a girl he is attracted to as well, and learns some surprising family secrets. Winner of the Michael Printz Award, 2003. **Ages: Teen.**

Freymann-Weyr, Garret. *My Heartbeat*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002. Fourteen-year-old Ellen has had a long-standing crush on her older brother Link’s best friend, James. When Link hears rumors that people think he and James are a couple, he dumps James. Ellen turns to books to understand what homosexuality is, and to James (who was in love with Link, and considers himself bisexual) with whom she ultimately develops a sexual relationship. This award winner (Publisher’s Weekly Best Books for Children, 2002 and Michael Printz Award, 2003), is rather overrated, given that the potentially gay relationship ends badly. **Ages: 12-16.**

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The GLBT Round Table needs your time, talent, and energy if our success in contributing toward libraries and library professionalism is to continue. Filling out and sending this form is one way to let the Round Table know about your interest in serving on committees or in a leadership role. We are eager to learn about how you want to work as a part of the Round Table team.

If you have questions, please contact Emily Edwards, Membership Committee Chair, EEDWARDS@leegov.com

Name:
Library/Organization:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Phone Number:
Fax Number:
E-Mail address:

On which of these committees would you be willing to serve?

- [ ] **Programming:** plans and conducts programs, the annual book award breakfast, and social activities; coordinates logistics and local arrangements for the Annual and Midwinter meetings.

- [ ] **Fundraising:** develops goals, prepares budgets, and seeks external funding.

- [ ] **Library Information Clearinghouse:** identifies, obtains, and distributes materials related to collecting or cataloging gay, lesbian, or bi-oriented materials for libraries; maintains website.

- [ ] **Newsletter:** compiles, produces, and distributes newsletter, including GLBT related book reviews.

- [ ] **Book Awards:** reviews materials, selects winner(s), determines appropriate awards.

- [ ] **External Relations:** coordinates publicity; disseminates Round Table information to interested parties outside ALA; coordinates Round Table correspondence for communications within ALA; develops membership information.

If you’ve checked multiple, please indicate order of preference:

On which committees have you served in the past, and in what capacity?

Are you willing to serve as an elected officer?  [ ] Yes  [ ] No

If yes, please indicate committee preference?

Are you willing to serve as an elected officer?  [ ] Yes  [ ] No

Would you be willing to help with any of the following?

- Read Aloud Coordinator
- Book Review Editor
- Book Reviewer
- Socials Room Set-up
- Pride Parade Coordinator
- Mailings
- Grant Writing
- Staff Registration Desks
- Special Projects
- Liaison to Diversity Council or other ALA units

Other - Please specify:

What special skills/talents do you have that you would be willing to share with the Round Table?

Additional comments:

Please mail this form to: Emily Edwards
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

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

Subscription questions should be forwarded to the newsletter editor at kenwells@ufl.edu.

Thank you for your support!!