

GLBTF Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL TASK FORCE OF THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the Editor:

The events and programs held by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force (GLBTF) during the American Library Association's 1997 Annual Conference were some of the best attended events in the history of the task force!

The Library Journal even referred to our program "No Kid'in Around: Womyn's Press in the New Millennium," as a "must see" event for this conference! Over 130 conference attendees made time for this vital program. The Book Award Breakfast was also attended by a sell-out crowd of 180.

And let us not forget that we do know how to have fun. Over 450 GLBT librarians, their friends and colleagues attended our reception at the San Francisco Main Public Library on Saturday evening.

There was one low spot during the conference due to miscommunication and speculation. Our friend and constant supporter, author Susie Bright, was unable to serve on our panel regarding Women's Presses because of her daughter's birthday party. Her inability to attend was inferred to mean something else all together. Please see Co-Chair Michael Miller's remarks later in this issue.

Book reviews return as a regular feature in this issue, thanks to all the hard work of Barb Stevens, our Book Review Editor and the reviewers. As always, if you are interested reviewing works for us, please fill out the application enclosed.

Several committees now have new chairs. Faye Chadwell joins us as Chair of the Book Award Committee, Jules Tate was voted as new Program Planning Chair, and Michael Miller was approved as the Male Co-Chair for the GLBTF as a whole. We welcome their enthusiasm and involvement.

Many people worked long and hard hours to make this past conference a success. We greatly appreciate their

contribution. Special thanks, in particular go to, Chet Mulawka and the Local Arrangements Committee in San Francisco for all of their hard work. Please see Chet's remarks later in this issue. (If by some chance, we missed mentioning you, please know let us know).

If you have questions or concerns, please email me at: mzunt@phoenix.kent.edu or write me via the address noted inside. I look forward to hearing from you.

-M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
Newsletter Editor

Annual GLBTF Book Award Breakfast a Success

The Second Annual Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award Breakfast held on June 30th at the 1997 Annual Conference of the American Library Association in San Francisco by the GLBTF was an overwhelming success and was attended by a sell-out crowd.

The award for best fictional work went to "Hood," written by Emma Donoghue. The nonfiction award went to "Geography of the Heart," written by Fenton Johnson. Other speakers included lesbian author, and Editor of Drummer Magazine, Wickie Stamps, as well as David Tuller, gay reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle and author "Cracks in the Iron Closet." Please see our article in this issue which describes highlights of this event.

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Greetings GLBTFers and friends! As outgoing coordinator of the Program Planning Committee, I'd like to say thanks to those committee members for all of their hard work. Nothing could have been done without everyone. Everyone reading this note should call the new Chair of the Program Planning Committee, Jules Tate, ASAP to offer whatever you can in order to keep those programs alive and kicking. His e-mail address is: AJTLI@jazz.ucc.uno.edu.

As incoming Male Co-Chair, I must thank you all for the chance to help this organization keep on getting better than ever before. I will work closely with Bonita Corliss and all of you in trying to make whatever improvements to this organization that we can. Please give us as much feedback as possible in this next year as we continue to implement new initiatives.

When the proposed new bylaws are ready for inspection, let us know what you think. When the new committees are announced, please contribute to whichever you feel confident in doing so. When the new activities are underway for fundraising, foundation, and moving up the ALA organizational ladder by becoming a round table instead of a task force, let us know what you want. I can be reached via email at: miller@columbia.edu.

I look forward to trying to help us all keep on moving onward, upward, and OUT!!!

--Michael Miller, Male Co-Chair

t t t t t t
...Where we have been, were we are going...

ALA Annual in San Francisco was a turning point for the Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Librarians Task Force in many ways. The Book Awards Breakfast was a tremendous success with the largest attendance in it's still young history. Wickie Stamps, editor of Drummer Magazine and David Tuller, a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle were both tremendous keynote speakers. Emma Donoghue and Fenton Johnson, this year's GLBTF book award winners for "Hood" and "Geography of the Heart," respectively, brought me up short with the beauty of their readings.

The program directly after the Book Award Breakfast appeared full to capacity and appears to have ook stools we all love so much. The Gay Pride Parade was yet another opportunity for us to strut our stuff, complete with our new banner thanks to Gail Defendorf

(thanks again, "Gailnds") and was edited by the intrepid Norman Kester. Thank you, Norman for all the work you put into coordinating these two events. Thanks also to Chet Mulawka and the Local Arrangements Committee for the great party on Saturday evening. The names of the all of the people who helped with all of these events are too many for inclusion in my limited column space, but we thank you greatly.

Let's just say that some pretty terrific people put a lot of time and energy both in San Francisco and across the country to make sure that all these events were successful. Now that you have all read about the wonderful times we had in San Francisco, be prepared to be hearing from us on a regular basis. Visit our website at: http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html Hats off also to Keith Trimmer our intrepid webmaster and majordomo of the GLBTF Clearinghouse.

Join us in New Orleans for some coffee and beignets at Cafe du Monde...and we will go from there... Please feel free to contact me via email at: bcorliss@spl.lib.wa.us. I look forward to hearing from you.

--Bonita Corliss, Female Co-Chair

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GLBTF WEBSITE !!!

You can reach us on the
Wold Wide Web at:
http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html

About GLBTF Newsletter

GLBTF Newsletter (ISSN 1045-2893) is an official publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It appears quarterly in March, June, September and December. Subscriptions are \$5 per year in the U.S.; \$7 in Canada and Mexico; \$10 for other countries. Send Changes of Address to the Editorial Address.

Subscription Address: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force, OLOS, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

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

GLBTF Newsletter Editor -
M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
or via email at: mzunt@phoenix.kent.edu.

Annual GLBTF Book Award Breakfast a Success

The 1997 GLBTF Book Award Breakfast was held on June 20, 1997 at the Crown Park Plaza Hotel in San Francisco. A record crowd of 180 shared the morning with several dynamic speakers. Award winners for 1997 were Emma Donoghue and Fenton Johnson, both of whom were present to accept their award plaques.

David Tuller, author of *Cracks In The Iron Closet*, read from his work on Russia's gay and lesbian world. He offered insight into how homosexuals in a non-Western culture work out solutions in their lives in order to survive and live with dignity despite great obstacles.

Author and editor Wickie Stamps, offered a unique look inside the production of *Drummer Magazine*. Her remarks expressed her fierce conviction to be "the voice of the men on the line...who call requesting her to help in the preservation of leather history and their memories."

Fiction winner, Emma Donoghue sparked frequent laughter from the crowd while describing how the British press considers her to be the "spokeslesbian" for all of Ireland. She also gave a very powerful reading from her novel.

Fenton Johnson took the audience along with him on a poignant visit to his deceased lover's parents as he read from his work *Geography of the Heart*, this year's nonfiction winner.

The solid attendance at this second annual event indicate a strength and growth in the work of the GLBTF that should be supported for years to come.

-- Rob Ridinger
Northern Illinois University

Chet Says Thanks...

I would like to publicly thank those that made the ALA/SRRT/GLBTF Social in San Francisco a success:

Local Arrangements Committee members: Jeff Thomas, Jim Van Buskirk, Rachel McLachlan, Katie Lynds, Nancy Silverrod, Desu Sorro, Kenn Bicknell, Rowan Fairgrove, Gen Engel, Jim Mason, John Guarino, Laura Perkins, Adan Griego and Cathie Scalice. You did a great job... let's throw another party!

I also need to thank Marcia Schneider, Public Relations Librarian at San Francisco Public Library, who made it possible for us to use the Gay and Lesbian Center for the social and the children's bookmobile in the parade.

Special thanks goes to the San Francisco Public Library Foundation for granting us \$1,500 to pay for the social. Thanks also to Stanford University and A Different Light Bookstore's Tommi Avicolti-Mecca for sending out invitations to over 200 bay area authors for the social. Thanks to Curve Magazine for donating 100 magazines that were passed out at the social.

Thanks to author Lawrence Hellman for catering the social. Thanks to over 40 volunteers who served as prep crew, greeters, bartenders, and clean-up crew for the social. Jeff Thomas did a terrific job coordinating the crews.

Thanks to Mark Martin and Bonita Corliss for mc'ing. Thanks to Michael Miller for passing the hat for future GLBTF events. Thanks to Gail Defendorf for creating the parade banner.

And I'd like to thank my mother and father... oops, I better stop now.

(con't on the next page)

Chet Says Thanks...(Con't)

Join us for our D.C. Party! I encourage any Washington D.C.- area librarians to contact chairperson, Tanner Wray if you would like to help out with the local arrangements for the 1998 GLBTF Social during ALA Annual next year. Tanner can be reached via email at:

twray@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu.

--Chet Mulawka, Chair
GLBTF Local Arrangements
Committee
ALA 1997 Annual Conference

GLBTF PROGRAM PLANNING NEWS

Program Planning Report ALA Annual '97

Record numbers were present at all GLBTF events during ALA's Annual 1997 San Francisco Conference.

Commendations go to the local arrangements committee headed by Chet Mulawka. Over 80 Queer librarians marched in the S.F. Gay Pride Parade. More than 450 people attended the social sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library.

Our annual program, "No Kid'in Around: Womyn's Press in the New Millenium," was cited in Library Journal as a must see program, had over 130 attendees!

This was an excellent follow-up to the bang up Second Annual GLBTF Book Award Breakfast where seating was at capacity, with 180 attendees.

Future Programs: The theme of the GLBTF ALA Annual 1998 program will center on the "pink" information needs for children and related children's issues.

The Program Planning Committee seeks input for a program title that reflects this content and that reflects incoming ALA President Barbara Ford's theme reflecting the impact of libraries: "Libraries: Global Reach, Local Touch."

Again send suggestions to Jules Tate at the email address below or by mail via the address on the back of this newsletter, by October 11, 1997.

If you are interested in assisting with planning activities for Midwinter in New Orleans in January 1998 or for the events for Annual '98 in Washington, D.C., please contact incoming Program Planning Coordinator, Jules Tate at ajtli@jazz.ucc.uno.edu and plan on attending the two planning committee meetings in New Orleans during the ALA Midwinter Conference in 1998.

I want to thank all the current and past PPC members for all their hard work and support during the three years of my tenure as PPC Chair.

I look forward to the great work and programs that will continue to be developed by this energetic and brilliant group of people. Keep it up! (I'll be watching closely!)

--Michael J. Miller
ALA/SRRT/GLBTF
PPC Coordinator 1995-97

Program Planning Chair
Apologies to GLBTF Friend

Due to many glitches and one inappropriate speculative comment, I must apologize to Susie Bright for adding angst to her already full and busy life!

I'm sorry that her name was not removed from the ALA Annual Conference program before the publication went to print. I'm sorry for making a speculative comment regarding large publisher non-support of small press initiatives -her publisher or manager in particular. I will never air speculative comments in a public forum again.

Finally, I'm sorry that my speculative comment was misquoted as a definite fact as covered in a ALA's Cognotes article reporting on the Annual '97 GLBTF program. Below are a few comments from Susie, cut and pasted (read "directly quoted") from her e-mail message to me dated Thursday, July 3, 1997...

QUOTE

"But, as you guessed, I am anxious to reach the people who attended the workshop, and also the overall ALA conference attendees and programmers, to let them know that:

a) I was not scheduled to make an appearance at the ALA conference this year,

b) that personal reasons prevented me from accepting an invitation to attend this summer's ALA,

c) I respect and enjoy the ALA conventions,

which I have attended with much pleasure in years past, and,

d) Unlike the rumors that spread before and after the event, no one prevented me or counseled me against appearing at the ALA, least of all my publisher or agent."

END QUOTE

Once again, I apologize for any inconvenience and I know the whole task force is looking forward to day that we can work closely in tandem with Susie Bright to make positive things happen in the world of GLBTF publishing and librarianship in general.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Miller, Chair
ALA/SRRT/GLBTF
Program Planning Committee 1994-1997

REVIEWERS WANTED:

Reviews are a regular feature of the GLBTF Newsletter. If you would like to be a reviewer or receive reviewing guidelines, please contact:

Barbara R. Stevens
GLBTF Book Review Editor

Book reviews return as a regular feature to the GLBTF Newsletter in this issue. If you are interested in reviewing works for us, please contact our Book Review editor and send her the information listed below.

Reviewers Needed:

Have you ever found yourself taking issue with reviews of your favorite works? Do you enjoy knowing which of our issues are attracting the attention of the popular press? Have you haunted bookstores to spot the latest literary works with a gay, lesbian, bisexual themes? Are you interested in evaluating scholarly research which focuses on our community?

If your answer to any of the preceding questions is a resounding "Yes!" and you're not currently serving on the GLBTF Book Award Committee, then we need you to consider serving as a reviewer for the GLBTF Newsletter book reviews section. Currently we have an urgent need for people to review poetry, literature, and scholarly works.

Reviewers may request the book review editor to obtain specific titles for review, or, may simply opt to receive works in a particular genre for review. Reviewers may also indicate how many books they wish to review at one time; although it is extremely rare for any single reviewer to have more than four works under review simultaneously.

All you need to do to become a reviewer is to provide the information requested here and send it to:

Barb Stevens
1706 Birney Street

Eau Claire, WI 54701.

If you have questions to ask before you volunteer, call (715) 836-2522 or e-mail: stevenbr@uwec.edu.

Gay and Lesbian Task Force Newsletter
Reviewer's Information

Name
Title

Library

Library Address

Mailing Address (if different than library address)

Office phone
Home phone
FAX Number

E-mail address(s)

Subject areas/types of works that I prefer to review:

Please indicate below any times of the year that your schedule makes it difficult for you to review books:

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BOOK REVIEWS

Queer Representations: Reading Lives, Reading Cultures. Edited by Martin Duberman.

New York University Press, 1997. \$60.00 cloth (ISBN: 0-8147-1884-1; \$22.95 paper (ISBN: 0-8147-1883-3)

Martin Duberman, who is the founding director of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS), City University of New York, had edited an interesting but uneven collection of 34 essays, which are personal narratives and scholarly analyses of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender images portrayed in historical writing, literature, photography and film. Duberman, who is a well-qualified scholar for the task, has compiled and edited this anthology from talks and papers given at several recent CLAGS' colloquia and panels.

The essays are arranged in five sections titled: "Ancient Genealogies, Visualizing Homosexuality, Lives of Texts and People, Approaching Autobiography, and Creating Queer Literatures in the United States." Professor Duberman's introduction explains the rationale for making these selections; however, though he correctly states that many of these essays defy classification, he has failed to provide any connecting text to tie the essays together thematically. There is a useful and detailed index.

While some of the essays were fun to read, most are likely to interest a limited number of readers concerned with the scholarly aspects of lesbian, gay male and transgender images. Recent anthologies of Gay Studies, such as *Inside/Out*, by Diana Fuss, Routledge, 1991, and *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, Henry Abelove, Michele Aina Barale, and David Halperin, editors, Routledge, 1993, may be better choices for a general audience.

This work is recommended for academic libraries with specialized Gay Studies collections serving upper division undergraduates through graduate students.

--Martin A. Smith, Chief Librarian,
Central Reference and Loan Service,
Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Real Live Nude Girl: Chronicles of Sex-Positive Culture. By Carol Queen. Cleis Press, 1997. \$ 14.95 paper (ISBN: 1-37344-073-6)

Carol Queen, a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, feminist performance artist, bisexual activist, educator and "self-avowed whore" is infinitely qualified to have authored this fascinating and informative collection of essays.

Ms. Queen introduces *Real Live Nude Girl* as a look into her sex-positive world, a place she entered thanks to a society, both heterosexual and gay/lesbian that told her what she was did not fit into a "normal" model.

The essay "Dear Mom: A Letter about Whoring," opens the collection and sets the stage for the remaining essays. The author talks to her deceased mother about their life together and fear of sexuality in their family and society.

"Don't Fence Me In" explains bisexuality, labels and a conference of bisexual people that included "at least as many shy-looking librarian types as wild and crazy guys and girls." Other highlights are descriptions of work at a San Francisco sex club in the essay entitled "Meet the Chinese Magnus Hirschfeld." It describes the career of Wen Jing Feng, owner of the only sex shop in China, and finally an essay that gives Madonna the credit she deserves, by discussing her work as a challenging camp entertainer.

Carol Queen's book is a pleasure to read; her essays are brash, witty, learned, and sensitive. She wants to educate the puritanical American masses to be sex positive, celebrate their differences and to live healthier lives through the theory that there are millions of sexualities.

The conservative Family Friendly Library organization will have fun challenging this title. Highly recommended for academic libraries and/or libraries with women's studies, G/L/B/T collections.

--Lisa N. Johnston, Head of Public Services,
Sweet Briar College Library

Liberating Minds: the Stories and Professional Lives of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Librarians and Their Advocates. Edited by Norman G. Kester. McFarland & Co., Inc., 1997. \$42.50 cloth (ISBN 0-7864-0363-2)

This is a fascinating compilation of writings by librarians and their relationships to sexuality, both personally and professionally. It is obvious that editor Norman Kester went out of his way to solicit as broad and varied a range of essays as possible from many perspectives, not the least of which is geographical.

Librarians who are committed to the values and basic tenants of librarianship will find themselves invigorated and refreshed by the obvious struggles and successes of the writers. The destruction of much of the original documentation of lesbian/gay relationships and organizations is cited as the major challenge to the preservation of our cultural history.

One of the book's greatest assets is its success in recording many of these first person accounts and creating a written record of some of the annals of lesbian/gay library history. The book reminds librarians that lesbian/gay librarians exist and are a significant part of our professional ranks.

I would have enjoyed the book more had the intended audience been broadened to include non-librarians. I could quibble that the immeasurable significance of Sandy Berman's work with subject headings would have been more effective set in a context for those non-cataloger readers. This is in keeping with the documentary feel of this work, but those who need to "get it" might not.

I would have also enjoyed reading first person accounts by non-librarians in whose lives libraries and librarians have played a key role, but that is a topic, perhaps, for another book. This is one of those works that should be required reading as part of all library/information studies programs. Many of the writers speak eloquently about the difference that the availability of lesbian/gay materials meant to them at critical moments in their lives.

For readers who suppose that is an easy task to place these materials in libraries today, this book is a wake-up call. It's a cogent reminder of the power that our profession has in people's lives. I suspect, as is often the case, that those in our profession who need to read this book won't. Even if that is true, and the book only preaches to the choir, the choir will love it. I would recommend this title for any library that has more than ten staff members ... because as we know...one in ten is usually ... well, read the book.

--Steven L. Carr, Acting Executive Director,
Lancaster County (PA) Library

Poisoned Ivy: Lesbian and Gay Academics Confronting Homophobia. By Toni A.H. McNaron. Temple University Press, 1997. \$54.95 cloth (ISBN: 1-56639-487-2); \$ 19.95 paper (ISBN: 1-56639-488-0)

Toni McNaron's thirty plus years as a faculty member in English and Women's Studies at the University of Minnesota provides her a unique vantage point to tell both her own encounters and those of more than 300 academicians, each with at least 15 years teaching experience, who have grappled with homophobia and heterosexism throughout academe.

Initially the book was envisioned as a study based upon the responses of long-term academics to questionnaires and follow-up responses via telephone and electronic mail. Ultimately, it is much more than that; as McNaron states "... I see my work as being both a report and a narrative. Sometimes I am speaking from my own story and sometimes from the stories of respondents." From these many voices she weaves a moving, yet thought-provoking, reminder of the silencing effects of homophobia and how that silence affects not only one's personal life but one's teaching and research as well.

Poisoned Ivy is also a record of how increased visibility of gays and lesbians has served as a catalyst to motivate "coming out" in one's academic world as well as in the personal. The myriad of voices remind the reader that the results of such coming out are always unique and range from being denied tenure or promotion to actively being supported in doing lesbian/gay/bisexual scholarship and campus involvement.

Identifying those elements of the academic setting that contributed to creating a positive experience will be a valuable exercise for any institution which is in the process of assessing its climate for gays, lesbians, or bisexuals.

This work should be included in every academic library collection and ought to be required reading for anyone entering the field of higher education administration. It is also a story that anyone who is, or knows, or loves an educator will relate to on a very personal level.

--Barbara R. Stevens,
Director of Affirmative Action,
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Homosexuality: Debating the Issues. Edited by Robert M. Baird and M. Katherine Baird. Prometheus Books, 1995. \$16.95 paper (ISBN 1-57392-003-7)

Robert M. and M. Katherine Baird have utilized their respective areas of expertise in philosophy and law to select thirty-three thought-provoking essays about homosexuality.

Reflecting the diverse opinions of various philosophers, psychologists, religious leaders, legal scholars, scientists, journalists and feminists, the articles attempt to provide insight into many controversial aspects of homosexuality.

Although works attempting to provide insight into diverse perspectives on an issue are frequently simplistic, the editors have managed to achieve a balance of material. The issues discussed are those which receive attention in the popular press and are thus often the focus of undergraduate research: social philosophy, genetics vs. environment, gay rights, gays and the military, and homosexuality and religion.

I would recommend this work for inclusion in collections which serve as a resource for research by advanced high school students or lower division undergraduate students. Larger public libraries should also consider seriously purchase of this work.

--Barbara R. Stevens,
Director of Affirmative Action,
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Terence Rattigan. By Geoffrey Wansell.
St. Martin's Press, 1997. \$29.95 cloth (ISBN 0-312- 16521-8)

My personal rule of thumb when reading a biography is the author must fully engage one's interest by the end of the first chapter or one should move on to the next book. Mr. Wansell accomplishes this handily in this biography about the popular British playwright Terence Rattigan.

Wansell introduces this work by first speaking about why he wrote the book and then painting a series of dramatic vignettes which very effectively introduce you to Rattigan, whose works were produced regularly from 1930s through the 1950s.

The vignettes convincingly create not a collection of dry facts, but a person who lived and breathed. After the introduction, Mr. Wansell shifts to a much more scholarly tone for the remainder of the book. It covers Rattigan's life from before his birth to his death.

This book has been edited as an American edition, incorporating some minor changes from when it was first published overseas in the Fall of 1995. It contains a select bibliography, an adequate index, and a listing of Mr. Rattigan's stage, film and television works. The book is part of private papers and interviews previously unavailable.

One minor criticism: since the book is intended as an "American edition," the author should have taken greater care to avoid or to explain uniquely British terms and slang. It is suitable as either a first book on Rattigan or a supplement to an existing collection.

--Tony New, Systems/Technical Services
Librarian, Rowlett Public Library

Flaming Iguanas: An Illustrated All-Girl Novel Thing.
By Erika Lopez. Simon & Schuster, 1997 \$18.50 paper (ISBN 0-684-83722-6).

This is a novel which is tremendously fun, gorgeously written (meaning the author designed the font and the numerous stamps that adorn almost every page), and intensely sexual. It is also raunchy, raucous, and rowdy! The heroine, Tomato Rodriguez, decides to motorcycle across America, beginning the journey with her new best friend, Magdalena.

Along the way, we are introduced to two Canadian biker Johns, Tomato's joy in the postal system, threapy, flashbacks to her sister and (lesbian) mother, and Arnold T. Smithers and his lesbian wife, Kris Kovique. Finally, Tomato arrives in San Francisco, where she meets the (lesbian) partner of her (now deceased) father.

As with other "road" novels, Tomato's arrival in San Francisco coincides with her "passage" to a new way of being. In short, this is a wonderfully funny, brave, Puerto-Rican-Quaker-biker-chick coming-of-age-journey novel. The author has a strong first-person narrative voice and uses it well; the other characters depicted throughout the work do not come through as solidly.

The intended audience is college-age and above. This work is appropriate for libraries with collections of contemporary G/L/B/T literature.

--Susan Lee Sills,
Women's Studies & Interdisciplinary Programs
University of California-Irvine

The Escape Artist: a Novel. By Judith Katz.
Firebrand Books, 1997. \$12.95 paper. (ISBN
1-56341-085-0)

In the tradition of Scholem Aleichem and Isaac Bashevis Singer, Judith Katz has written an entertaining historical novel set in the 1910's. Unlike her predecessors, Katz includes lesbian eroticism and romance.

The protagonist, Sofia Teitelbaum, addresses her first-person narrative to her lover, "Sweet Hankus." Her parents force Sofia, only sixteen, to marry Tutsik Goldenberg, a stranger visiting Poland from Argentina. Sofia's parents do not know that Tutsik will not marry Sofia; he kidnaps young women for his sister's brothel.

Aport the ship to Argentina, in Tutsik's partment, "Tante" ("Aunt") Sara, introduces Sofia to sex. Although Sofia had sexual feelings for her girlhood best friend, Tamar, Sara's initiation leaves Sofia feeling confused. Once in Madam Perle's brothel in Buenos Aires, the erudite Perle continues Sofia's sexual education, complete with allusions to Jewish sacred texts during lovemaking. The brothel is a part of Buenos Aires' Jewish underworld.

After five years of enslavement, Sofia falls in love with Hankus, a cross-dressing acrobat/magician whose real name is Hannah Lubarsky. Hankus frees Sofia and they escape the gansters who dominate their lives to start a new life together in Moisesville, the Jewish settlement on the Argentine pampas financed by Baron de Hirsch.

Intended for an adult audience, this novel belongs in any library which acquires contemporary and lesbian fiction, Judaica, and women's studies. For the most part competently-written and well-paced, the novel's many Yiddish words ought to have been translated. There also are a few unusual usages. For example, "Talmud Torah" is a religious school, not the sacred text which is simply "the Talmud"; "Tanach" is the usual acronym for the Hebrew Bible, not "Tanuch." These quibbles aside, Katz has written an exciting and enjoyable romantic adventure.

--Elizabeth F. Stabler, Librarian,
92nd Street YM&YWCA

Call for Book Nominations

Nominations for the 1998 Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award are now being accepted. The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award is presented to English-language works published in the year prior to the announcement date by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force of the American Library Association. All books published in December 1996 or the first eleven months of 1997 are eligible. The award is given in two categories: Literature and Nonfiction.

Nominations for the Book Award may be made by any individual not affiliated with the publisher of the book being nominated. Authors may not nominate their own works. A short statement (30 to 50 words) describing why the book is being nominated must accompany the nomination. This nomination must be submitted to the Book Award Committee Chair by November 30, 1997 and be postmarked by this date or it can not be accepted. Nominations will be accepted by both regular and electronic mail, as well as by fax.

Nominations should be sent to:

Faye A. Chadwell, Chair,
ALA/SRRT/GLBTF Book Award Committee
c/o Collection Development
Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1299
(503) 346-3485 Fax
email: chadwelf@oregon.uoregon.edu.

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In the body of the text type:

Subscribe Lezbrian <your name>.

--Source: Lezbrian Listserv

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association has launched the Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, a multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed, quarterly scientific journal.

Individual personal subscriptions are \$55 annually; institutional subscriptions are \$165. For subscription inquiries and orders, write to the publisher: Subscription Department Plenum Publishing Corp. 233 Spring Street New York, NY 10013 or call 212-620-8468. The announcement of the journal appears on page 14 of "The Nation's Health" for July 1997.

--Source: Richard Barry, MDiv., MLS Librarian/Archivist American Nurses Association 600 Maryland Ave., S.W. Suite 100 West Washington, D.C. 20024-2571 202-651-7143 fax: 202-651-7008 rbarry@ana.org via Gay-Libn

Introducing ARTEMIS: Feminist/Lesbian Etexts

The mailing list ARTEMIS is a one-way distribution list announcing new releases of Artemis Etexts, feminist and lesbian fiction and nonfiction. New subscribers receive a list of the 20+ available etexts. Announcements of new releases are transmitted approximately once every three weeks. The email addresses of subscribers to ARTEMIS are confidential, and are not available to anyone.

To subscribe, send an email to:

specpress@earthlink.net

In the body of the text type:

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--Source: Owner: Odile Santiago at:
specpress@earthlink.net via
Gay-Libn

Outsourcing Book Selection and Cataloging in Hawaii Strongly Criticized

On Sunday, June 29, 1997 during the ALA 1997 Conference, the decision by Hawaii to outsource book selection and cataloging in State managed libraries was discussed. This program was sponsored and co-sponsored widely by committees including SRRT, IFRT, ACRL/WSS, and PLA.

The Hawaii Model of outsourcing differed radically from approval plans, collection profiles, and other common collection aids. The entire book budget and core library functions of materials selection and cataloging were handed over to a private corporation for 5 1/2 years.

Hawaii librarians detailed the history, implementation, and impact of this approach and discussed the significant problems arising from it.

The Hawaiian State Legislature recently voted to ban the outsourcing of library book purchases, based on the findings of a state committee formed to study the problem. The work Libraries Betrayed: The Hawaii Outsourcing Disaster, will soon be published by CRISES Press which details and analyzes this issue.

--Source: ALA Cognotes
Wrap Up Issue-July, 1997

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