



GLBTRT Newsletter

A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered
Round Table of the American Library Association
<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>

Vol. 19, No. 2 ♦ Summer 2007

Message from Your Co-Chair

Computer technology can assist in communication as well as impede communication. We have become so used to the computer and assume that the programs are working correctly until something goes wrong. But the fun with computers is you often do not know that there is a problem until something occurs that starts an investigation. Most of the error messages received are rather useless and do not help in figuring out what is wrong. The last two "from your co chair" columns that I wrote vanished into cyberspace and **John Bradford** and I can not figure what happened. So in order to make sure this one gets published I am resorting to a method of communication that has existed for many centuries—mail.

The ALA elections are finished and **John Sandstrom** will represent the GLBTRT in council. To **KR Roberto** (Co Chair) and **Dale McNeill** (Treasurer), my congratulations. The jobs you were elected to fill will keep you busy for your entire term of office and beyond. To those who did not win an elected office- please continue to serve the roundtable on a committee and submit your name again when the call for nominations comes in the fall. Name recognition and visibility at GLBTRT functions helps in getting elected to any position.

In the past year we have lost both our founders. I had the chance to get to know both **Israel Fishman** and **Barbara Gittings** and will miss them both. Every member of the RT, every program presented and every bibliography created

continues the work that they started in 1970/71. As librarians, we are able to pass on our cultural memory onto the next generation and help create the tools and resources for them to create their own legacy so it too can be passed on to those that follow them.

I will be spending the next four years serving on the Budget Analysis and Review Committee. Thank you, **Loriene Roy**, for appointing me to this committee. **Lewis Day** and I have much work to do as we move forward in creating a procedure manual for the GLBTRT. This project will slim

down the bylaws and will make sure the GLBTRT functions smoothly.

It was fun and I learned a lot about the GLBTRT and its membership.

Norman J. Eriksen
Assistant Division Manager Language and Literature, Brooklyn Public Library
GLBTRT co-chair 2005-2007
Budget Review Analysis Committee 2007-2011
RUSA Materials Review Committee 2007-2009
neriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org

Council Candidates Elected

Diversity Council candidates elected to ALA Council were:

Gladys Smiley Bell (APALA, BCALA), **John DeSantis** (GLBTRT), **Allene Hayes** (BCALA), **Em Claire Knowles**

(APALA, BCALA), **Melora Ranney Norman** (ASCLAs, LSSPS), **Cristina Ramirez** (REFORMA), **Elizabeth Ann Ridler** (ASCLAs, LSSPS), **Thomas Wilding** (GLBTRT), **Liana Zhou** (CALA).

GLBTRT Officers

Norman Eriksen
Co-Chair, 2005-2007
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Cal Zunt
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Dustin Larmore
Treasurer, 2005-2007
dustin.larmore@dsu.edu

Lewis Day
Secretary, 2006-2008
lewis_day@harvard.edu

Deadlines for the GLBTRT newsletter for the next year will be:

<i>Fall 2007</i>	August 10, 2007
<i>Winter 2007</i>	November 9, 2007
<i>Spring 2008</i>	March 10, 2008
<i>Summer 2008</i>	May 10, 2008

Please try to get your reports, articles, book reviews, etc. in by these dates or let us know if there will be a short delay so room can be saved for them in the newsletter.

Book Reviews (Pages 8-10):

- *Going to Heaven*
- *Male - Male Intimacy in Early America*
- *Gay Power*
- *Seminal*
- *Lust Unearthed*
- *The Manny Files*
- *Glamour Girls*
- *Grief*
- *A Scarecrow's Tale*

GLBTRT ALA Annual Schedule Set

Steering Committee I Meeting	Saturday, 6/23	8am - 10am	Madison Hotel, Montpelier Room
All Membership Meeting	Saturday, 6/23	10:30am - 12:30pm	Madison Hotel, Montpelier Room
Aging Issues for GLBT Patrons	Sunday, 6/24	1:30pm - 3:30pm	Washington Convention Center, Rm 203A/B
GLBTRT Social	Sunday, 6/24	6pm - 8pm	Remington's, 639 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Stonewall Book Awards and Brunch	Monday, 6/25	10:30am - 1pm	Renaissance Washington, Grand Ballroom
Addressing the Information Needs of Female-to-Male Transsexuals	Monday, 6/25	1:30pm - 3:30pm	Grand Hyatt Washington, Franklin/McPherson Room
Steering Committee II	Tuesday, 6/26	8am - 12:30pm	Washington Convention Center, Rm 140B

Don't Miss These Additional Programs with GLBT Content

Diversity & Outreach Fair (See "Leather Invasion ALA," p. 7)	Saturday, 6/23	3pm - 5pm	Washington Convention Center, Special Events Area (behind Aisle 600)
Introduction to Women's Issues at ALA, "I'm not a feminist,"	Saturday, 6/23	1:30 pm - 3:30pm	Renaissance Mayflower, New York Room
Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecture, (See "Coleman Honors Gittings", p. 3)	Monday, 6/25	8am - 10 am	Renaissance Mayflower, Cabinet Room
YALSA: How to be Popular AND Smart! YALSA's Popular Paperbacks List	Monday, 6/25	10:30am - 12:00pm	Washington Convention Center, Rm 146B

Message from Your Editor

In our last issue, I mistakenly said **Rodney Hersberger** was the first ALA Treasurer candidate to ask the members of the GLBTRT for support. **Anne Moore** reminded me that **Teri Switzer** sought our votes in January 2003, when she ran for Treasurer. I'm glad to say our voices counted; both Switzer and Hersberger were elected—as was **James Rettig**, one of two candidates for ALA President to ask for help this year.

You will see some new elements this month. *GLBTRT Newsletter* will regularly feature Round Table Experiences, an article on how the GLBTRT had an impact on an individual member. Another feature article in each issue will be a spotlight interview with a

You'll also find the forms to participate in the Mentor Program, another project of the very active Membership Committee.

The passing of **Barbara Gittings** continues to dominate our news. Let's also remember **Israel David Fishman**, founder of ALA's Task Force on Gay Liberation (which evolved into the GLBTRT), who died just before ALA's Annual 2006. Fishman, like Gittings, was honored in 2001 when the

GLBTRT named one of its annual Stonewall Book Awards for him. In 2001, he also appeared in the groundbreaking and award-winning documentary film *Trembling Before G-d*.

John Bradford, Editor
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GLBTRT Newsletter Seeks Reviewers

Once again we are looking for volunteer book reviewers for our quarterly newsletter.

It is important that the GLBTRT Newsletter publish reviews of many books, both worthy of adding to collections and those titles that are not of high quality. These reviews should be professional and also express our unique perspective as GLBT people. Because we can include only a limited number of reviews in each of our quarterly issues, reviews should be between 180 and 250 words long. Some titles will require longer reviews due to their complexity, importance, or controversial nature. Please let me know if you are submitting a significantly longer review so we can check for space.

Reviews must state what the book is about and include an evaluation. Please compare it to similar titles if possible. End reviews

with a recommendation and indicate audience. Please point out language or illustrations that might cause issues for some readers or collections, but do not let these comments influence your recommendation unless that content is inappropriate or extraneous to the book.

Reviews must include your byline with your title and institution. Examples of reviews can be examined in all issues of the GLBTRT Newsletter.

Please contact me with comments or questions, or to volunteer to write reviews.

Lisa N. Johnston, Book Review Editor
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Letters to the editor, correspondence to the above address care of:

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Out in Washington, DC

A compilation from various sources (chiefly *Washington, DC FunMap*, *Damron's Men's Travel Guide*, & www.gaycities.com) of GLBT-friendly bars, lounges, and clubs in DC

1409 Playbill Café Bar (Gay/Straight mix)
1409 14th St. NW, 202-265-3055

Apex Lounge (Men)
1415 22nd St. NW, 202-296-0505
www.apex-dc.com

Bachelor's Mill (Men, African-American)
1104 8th St SE (Below Backdoor Pub),
202-544-1931

Backdoor Pub (Men, African American)
1104 8th St. SE (Above Bachelor's Mill),
202-546-5979

Banana Café & Piano Bar
500 8th St. SE, 202-543-5906

Be Bar
1318 9th St. NW, 202-232-7450

Blush (Women, African-American)
2001 11th St. NW
www.blushdc.com

Club Chaos (Latino/a)
1603 17th St. NW, 202-232-4141
www.chaosdc.com

Club Fuego (Latino/a)
1438 U St. NW,
www.clubfuegodc.com

Cobalt Nightclub / 30° Lounge (Men)
1639 R St. NW, 202-462-6569
www.cobaltdc.com

DC Eagle (Men, Leather/Levi)
639 New York Ave. NW, 202-347-6025
www.dceagle.com

DIK Bar (Men, Older crowd)
1637 17th St. NW, 202-328-0100

Fireplace (Men, African-American)
2161 P St. NW, 202-293-1293

Green Lantern (Men, Bears)
1335 Green Ct. NW, 202-347-4533
www.greenlanterndc.com

Halo Lounge (Smoke-free, Younger crowd)
1435 P St. NW, 202-797-9730
www.halodc.com

JR's Bar & Grill (Men)
1519 17th Street NW, 202-328-0090
www.jrswdc.com

Larry's Lounge (Gay/Straight mix)
1836 18th St. NW, 202-483-1483

Omega DC (Men)
2122 P St NW (Rear), 202-223-4917
www.omegadc.com

Penn 12 (Women)
1129 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, 240-683-5844

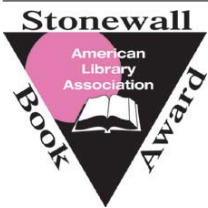
Phase One (Women, Males *must* have female escort. Oldest Lesbian bar in US)
525 8th St. SE, 202-544-6831
www.phase1dc.com

Remington's (Men, Country/Western)
639 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 202-543-3113
www.remingtonswdc.com

Titan Bar
1337 14th St. NW (Above Dakota Cowgirl),
202-232-7010

Tool Shed (Men, Leather/Levi)
1335 Green Ct. NW (Above Green Lantern),
202-347-4533

Stonewall Monday Brunch Details



Please join us for the presentation of the 36th Annual Stonewall Books Awards, following the Coleman Lecture celebrating the life and

work of one of our founders, **Barbara Gittings**. This year we will be joined by the winner of the Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction, **Alison Bechdel**; **Jim Carmichael** for our own celebration of Barbara's work with the Roundtable; and **C. Dixon**

Osburn, Executive Director of the Service Members Legal Defense Network, who will be talking about dismantling the prohibition against gays in the military.

If you still need tickets, please contact me.

John Sandstrom
Chair, Stonewall Brunch Planning Committee
Manager, Collection Development, El Paso Public Library
SandstromJC@elpasotexas.gov

Getting to the Social at Remington's

The GLBTRT Social will be Sunday, from 6-8 pm at Remington's, Washington, D.C.'s premiere GLBT Country Western nightclub. We'll have bars 1, 2, and 4 (including the dance floor). Appetizers and desserts will be served. The bar will be open, and we did promise that our members would buy at least \$450 in drinks! The owner is very excited to have us so look forward to a really great time.

Remington's welcomes folks of any gender or sexual orientation.

Remington's is easy to access using public transportation:

From the Convention Center to Remington's, fare: \$1.35
Depart at 5:13 p.m., from MT VERNON SQ-UDC
Take GREEN LINE towards BRANCH AVE
Transfer at L'ENFANT PLAZA Take ORANGE LINE towards NEW CARROLLTON
Arrive at 5:50 p.m., EASTERN MARKET

From Remington's to the Convention Center, fare: \$1.35
Depart from EASTERN MARKET Take BLUE LINE towards FRANCONIA METRO
Transfer at L'ENFANT PLAZA Take GREEN LINE towards GREENBELT
Exit at MT VERNON SQ-UDC

Honor Dance for Roy at NMAI

The National Museum of the American Indian is hosting an Honor Dance for incoming ALA President **Loriene Roy** on Friday, June 22, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. This event, free and open to the public, celebrates that she will be the first American Indian ALA president.

The NMAI opened in fall 2004 as the eighteenth Smithsonian Institution museum and is located on the National Mall at the corner of Fourth Street and Independence Avenue

Southwest. The Dance will take place in the Potomac Atrium on the ground level of the museum.

Audience members may join in a round dance, moving in a circle while holding hands, or may watch from the balconies. Indigenous peoples are invited to dance in cultural dress, including dance shawls for women.

From IRRT's International Leads



The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian

GLBT RT Mentee Form

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Job Title/Organization: _____

Area of Focus or Special Interest: _____

1. What is your preferred mode of communication (i.e. email, telephone, face to face, etc.)?

2. Do you want to live geographically close to your mentor?

1

5

No

Unnecessary

Indifferent

Great

Essential!

3. What do you want to learn from your mentor?

4. What qualities are you seeking from your mentor?

5. How do you prefer to communicate new ideas (i.e. brainstorm, wait until the idea is fully fleshed out, etc.)?

6. How do you prefer to hear new ideas/feedback (i.e. brainstorm, wait until the idea is fully fleshed out, etc.)?

7. How do you set goals for yourself?

8. Any other information you would like to share that you think would help us better match you with a mentee?

GLBTRT Mentor Form

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Job Title/Organization: _____

Area of Focus or Special Interest: _____

1. What is your preferred mode of communication (i.e. email, telephone, face to face, etc.)?

2. Do you want to live geographically close to your mentee?

1

5

No

Unnecessary

Indifferent

Great

Essential!

3. What do you want to teach your mentee?

4. What qualities do you possess that would make you a good mentor?

5. How do you prefer to communicate new ideas (i.e. brainstorm, wait until the idea is fully fleshed out, etc.)?

6. How do you prefer to hear new ideas/feedback?

7. Any other information you would like to share that you think would help us better match you with a mentee?

Round Table Experiences: Paul Higdon

Initially, I wanted to beef up my resume, and my networking opportunities, by participating in a national level library organization. I selected the GLBTRT as I had a built-in common experience with the majority of the members, and I live in a rural community in Ohio. The routine patron complaints for books that portray homosexuality as something other than evil, and the discrepancies in compensation plans for gay and lesbian staff irk me immensely, and I wanted to join a group to obtain assistance in fighting these battles, both locally and nationwide.

So I signed on as a member, sent in my money, and joined the electronic lists, but for the most part remained a lurker. I had completed the online volunteer form twice, but never heard back from anyone, so assumed things were running smoothly. Then a frantic note for volunteers from the then chair of the membership committee came over the list. I replied to the sender that I had tried volunteering twice, but never heard a word back. He investigated and discovered a typo in the 'send to' address linked to the submit button. So people had been volunteering, but their forms were being whisked away to oblivion! He brought me on board to help the membership committee, and served as a mentor for the next two years.

I remember vividly one discussion we had while manning the booth in Chicago. Feeling

frustrated with what I perceived to be the insular nature of the Round Table, I mentioned that I was likely going to drop it. I did not believe that the GLBTRT had done anything for my resume, nor had my network expanded as much as I had wished, nor was the focus on issues that I believe should be of utmost import. He spoke to me of organic growth, and how the GLBTRT is evolving. We spoke of the nature of bureaucracies, and the glacial pace at which change is made. He mentioned that he believed the best way to affect change was not to quit in disgust, but take a proactive role in leading the changes. I remained active for another year. When he decided to step down as the chair in 2006, he asked me to take his position. Although I didn't

exactly know what all was involved, I accepted as a way to sow the seeds for change and growth, for both me and the Round Table.

The next chapter of my involvement with the RT is unfolding, but as I discover all of the volunteers, willing to use their energies towards growing the organization, I'm glad I followed my mentor's advice and stay involved to facilitate change. I'd love to hear other's experiences regarding the Round Table.

Paul Higdon, Chair
GLBTRT Membership Committee
Lima Public Library
Lima, OH
phigdonj@yahoo.com

Member Profile: Paul Higdon

What was your first library (or library-related) job?

I worked as a volunteer in my elementary school library, reshelving the 398's. I'd forego recess to see all the new mythology books. My very first afternoon, I evidently didn't understand Dewey as well as I thought, as the school librarian took me aside the next day and told me she'd had to spend an hour or two fixing my shelving efforts. She then (very patiently) explained how it worked.

Tell us about your current job.

I'm a reference librarian at a public library, with all that that entails.

Did/do you have a mentor?

I have many mentors, both within the RT and outside of it.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to pass on the knowledge I have received, and serve as a mentor to others.

What are you reading right now?

Right now I am rereading the *Honor Harrington* series, by David Weber.

Would you recommend it?

Most definitely. The character development is outstanding, and it constantly serves as an inspiration to me to perform to the best of my abilities.

What is your favorite movie? Song? TV show?

I generally dislike movies, but my favorite is 'Auntie Mame' with Rosalind Russell. I can't really limit myself to one song, but I enjoy jazz, particularly female vocalists, and big band music. Throw in the occasional swing number, and I'm in heaven! As for TV, I'm afraid I like the cheesy shows: *Xena*, *Buff*, *Angel*, *Dukes of Hazzard*, etc.



Social networks—yes or no? (LJ, Blogger, Second Life, WoW, MySpace, etc.)

I play WoW, but it was getting seriously out of hand, so I've cut back some. I have a MySpace page, but it's currently friends and family only. Likewise, I have a WordPress blog, a Flickr page, a StumbleUpon account, etc. I've read good things about SecondLife, but haven't signed on quite yet.

Do you have other hobbies/ interests?

I like to knit, although I am really bad at it. Similarly, I like to do home improvement projects, but still have a novice skill level. I used to box, and would like to again, but it's been a few years since I've been in the ring. I enjoy video games to the point where it's sinful.

Looking forward to reading about all of you!

--Paul Higdon, ALA GLBTRT member since October, 2003?, Membership Chair - GLBTRT, Member of CLENE-RT, member of PLA, Reference Librarian

Get Involved!

To volunteer to serve on a GLBTRT committee or task force, liaison with other units of ALA, or run for an office, use the Professional Interests field in the Membership Survey to tell us. This information will be used to make future committee appointments.

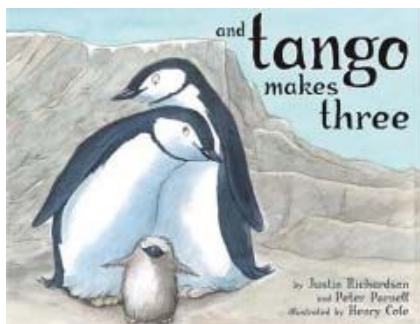
We're already getting some great data from the Membership Survey but if you have not taken it, your voice has not been heard!

Volunteers

To volunteer or to take the GLBTRT membership survey, go to:

<http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/glbtrt/>

And Tango Makes Three Tops ALA's 2006 List of Most Challenged Books



Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell's award-winning *And Tango Makes Three*, about two male penguins parenting an egg from a mixed-sex penguin couple, tops the list of most challenged books in 2006, due to the issues of homosexuality.

Three others of the 10 most challenged books were challenged because of homo-

sexual themes: the *Gossip Girls* series by **Cecily Von Ziegesar**, *Athletic Shorts* by **Chris Crutcher**, and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by **Steven Chbosky**.

The list also features two books by author **Toni Morrison**. *The Bluest Eye* and *Beloved* are on the list due to sexual content and offensive language.

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) received a total of 546 challenges last year. A challenge is defined as a formal, written complaint, filed with a library or school, requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness. Public libraries, schools and school libraries report the majority of challenges to OIF.

"The number of challenges reflects only incidents reported," said **Judith F. Krug**,

director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. "For each reported challenge, four or five likely remain unreported."

The Web site of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, www.ala.org/oif, has several resources for reporting and combating challenges. For assistance with actual and possible challenges to books, Internet access, magazines, and other library materials, you also may contact **Erin Byrne**, Associate Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, 800-545-2433, ext. 4221, ebyrne@ala.org, or the Office for Intellectual Freedom, 800-545-2433, ext. 4223, oif@ala.org.

From ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom press release, May 10, 2007, and the Office of Intellectual Freedom Web site, May 11, 2007

Gerber/Hart Celebrates National Library Week, Gittings



Chicago's Gerber/Hart Library celebrated National Library Week on Wednesday, April 18 with a READ-a-thon and

the unveiling of a poster created especially for the event.

The Gerber/Hart archives is comprised of the papers of individuals, organizations, and businesses. Primarily a post-Stonewall collection, the archives documents the life and

activities of GLBT individuals and enterprises in Chicago, Illinois and the Midwest. Historian **John D'Emilio** is the subject of Gerber/Hart's first READ poster. D'Emilio chose to be photographed with *De Profundis* by **Oscar Wilde**, a book that influenced his coming out process. D'Emilio hosted the READ-a-thon and talked about *De Profundis*. Community members also read selections from their favorite books, GLBT or not, and explained their significance.

During April, Gerber/Hart continued its memorial exhibition honoring **Barbara Gittings**, an early GLBT activist both inside and outside the library community. A condolence book signed by patrons was sent to Gittings's partner, **Kay Lahusen**, at the close of the exhibition. Emailed remembrances from admirers unable to visit Gerber/Hart were transcribed into the condolence book.

From Gerber/Hart event notices, April 2007

Coleman Library Outreach Lecture To Honor Gittings

Monday, June 25, 8-10 am, in the Cabinet Room at the Renaissance Mayflower, the Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecture will pay tribute to ALA Honorary Member **Barbara Gittings**, activist for gay rights and libraries, who died in February 2007.

Gittings was noted throughout her career for

activism for GLBT literature and rights. She chaired the Social Responsibilities Round Table's Gay Task Force from 1971-1986. The task force later evolved into ALA's GLBTRT in 2000, and honored Gittings in 2003 by designating the annual award for outstanding GLBT literature the Barbara Gittings Stonewall Award in Literature.

The lecture will be presented by **Anne E. Moore**, W.E.B. DuBois Library, University of Massachusetts-Amherst; **Stephen E. Stratton**, J.S. Broome Library, California State University Channel Islands, and other speakers.

From ALA Annual program listing

Rainbow History Project Offers Tours of GLBT DC



The Rainbow History Project has mapped out self-guided GLBT tours of DC on its Web site at www.rainbowhistory.org/resources. Choose from themed tours (African-

American, Drag in DC, Whitman in DC, Women) or geographic (Capitol Hill, Dupont Circle, East Dupont, South Capitol).

As well as tours and extensive links on DC GLBT history and culture, the Rainbow History Project has a good collection of links to other GLBT archival and historical organiza-

tions around the nation. The Rainbow History Project formed in 2000 to identify and organize the information sources and archives of DC-area GLBT life and history.

From the Rainbow History Project Web site, April 14, 2007

National Library Week at the LA&M: The Survey Says....

For the second year in a row, the Leather Archives & Museum (and its Teri Rose Memorial Library) marked National Library Week by surveying its members and supporters about their kinky reading.

The LA&M collects, stores, preserves, re-stores, and exhibits the artifacts and evidence of Leather/SM/Fetish lives, lifestyles and organizations, including but not limited to GLBT lives, lifestyles, and organizations. The LA&M's reference and browsing collection of books and magazines is housed in the Teri Rose Memorial Library.

This year, though, LA&M Librarian **John Bradford** went beyond simply asking the members for the titles of their favorite books. He used SurveyMonkey.com to create an online survey which inquired:

- Where do you buy BDSM books and magazines?
- How much do you spend annually on kinky books and magazines?
- Some libraries carry kinky materials. Does yours?
- When was your last visit to the Leather Archives & Museum?
- What is your favorite book of kinky fiction?
- What is your favorite book on a specific fetish?
- Who is your favorite kinky fiction author?
- Who is your favorite kinky non-fiction author?
- What is your favorite BDSM magazine?

Answers to the first question were eclectic, to say the least. The most common responses were "online mainstream vendors" and "leather markets at BDSM events," but LA&M patrons bought their reading materi-

als everywhere from garage sales to academic journals to sex shops to book exchanges with friends.

Survey-takers reported spending sums from nothing at all to over \$250 annually on their kinky reading. 54% of the respondents spent less than \$100 a year.

But they are not borrowing kinky books from their local libraries. Only a few were sure libraries in their communities carried kinky materials. 12% of respondents knew they could get kinky materials at their public libraries; 8% reported a private library in their community carried such materials; 12% reported being able to get these items at their college or university libraries. (Several of these respondents reported multiple library resources in their communities, so the actual number of patrons who had this access was about 25% of the total.) While some of the LA&M's supporters were able to find some materials in their local libraries, the Teri Rose Memorial Library holds many unique items and is the only resource for many of LA&M members, even if only through remote access or occasional visits.

Amazingly, only a little over half the respondents had ever visited the LA&M. Only 36% had visited in the last year. Receiving responses and support from these leather- and fetishfolk is both humbling and enheartening to the LA&M staff and board of trustees. The LA&M truly is "located in Chicago, serving the world."

The top three works of kinky fiction were:

1. *Macho Sluts*, by **Patrick Califia**
2. *I Once Had a Master*, by **John Preston**
3. *The Brig*, by **Mason Powell**



The three favorite fiction authors were:

1. **Laura Antoniou**
2. **John Preston**
3. **Joseph Bean**

The top three works on a specific fetish (kinky nonfiction) were:

1. *Soaked! A Watersports Handbook for Men*, by **Joseph Bean**
2. *The Leatherman's Handbook*, by **Larry Townsend**
3. *The Family Jewels: A Guide to Male Genital Play and Torment*, by **Hardy Haberman**

The three favorite nonfiction authors were:

1. **Joseph Bean**
2. **Guy Baldwin**
3. **Jack Rinella**

The three favorite BDSM magazines were:

1. *Instigator*
2. *Bound & Gagged*
3. *Drummer*

THE LA&M's librarians and staff will use the full lists of titles and authors to help them in developing the collections. Full survey results will be posted on the LA&M Web site, www.leatherarchives.org

John Bradford, Editor
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Villa Park (IL) Public Library
Librarian, Leather Archives & Museum
jpbmls@yahoo.com

Leather Invasion ALA: Road Show Display at Diversity Fair

The 2007 Diversity and Outreach Fair, Saturday, June 23, 3 - 5 pm in the Washington Convention Center (Special Events Area in the Exhibits, behind Aisle 600), will highlight bookmobile and other pioneering services to underserved communities. The Leather Archives & Museum saw an opportunity to showcase their innovative Road Show, which serves distinctly underserved communities: BDSM and fetish practitioners are typically not well served by libraries where they live and many of them cannot regularly make it to the LA&M for a visit. In 2006, the Road Show was developed to meet this need: If leatherfolk can't come to the LA&M, bring the LA&M to leatherfolk!

The LA&M Road Show brings the rich history available at the LA&M out of Chicago. The Road Show displays the history of leather, fetishism, BDSM, D/s and kink through text, photographs and artifacts. The Road Show

is uniquely designed for each event, and exhibits history from a local perspective. Erotic artifacts and kinky books are on display at Road Show exhibitions, allowing participants to touch and feel their history. Interested parties can book the Road Show for their events by contacting the LA&M at roadshow@leatherarchives.org

The Diversity Fair display will include information on the Road Show, as well as artifacts and documents of the Mid-Atlantic region's leather history. To round out the display, LA&M staff will bring promotional materials and items from the Teri Rose Memorial Library, the LA&M's browsing and research library.

Louis Lang
Technical Consultant,
Leather Archives & Museum



Matthais/Leatherbound took the Road Show to the Mannerschwarm Bookstore in Hamburg, Germany during the Lederfest Hamburg, August 7-14, 2006.

Barbara Gittings, Kay Tobin Lahusen Archives to NYPL



Barbara Gittings marches in the picket demonstration at the White House in Washington, D. C., October 1965. Photo by **Kay Tobin Lahusen**.

The New York Public Library acquired a major archive of letters, photos, handbills, manuscripts, publications and other materials accumulated by two pioneers in the long-term campaign for GLBT civil rights. The materials were donated by **Barbara Gittings**, an activist, editor, writer, who died in February in Pennsylvania, and by her life partner, photojournalist and author **Kay Tobin Lahusen**. The *Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen Gay History Papers and Photographs* will reside at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library's Manuscripts and Archives, a repository of literary, historical and political records, including extensive materials documenting GLBT organizations and individuals.

Gittings' papers document her activism on behalf GLBT rights, from her founding in 1958 of the east coast chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis and the editorship of its publication, *The Ladder*, until shortly before her death. Instrumental in the early years of the American Library Association's Task Force on Gay Liberation (which evolved into

ALA's GLBTRT), her files highlight her participation in GLBT organizations over the years, and her work with religious leaders, mental health professionals, and the library community to change public attitudes toward homosexuality. Gittings' writings, protests and other efforts influenced the American Psychiatric Association to remove homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses. In 2003, Gittings received ALA's highest recognition, an honorary membership for efforts to make GLBT materials more available in libraries.

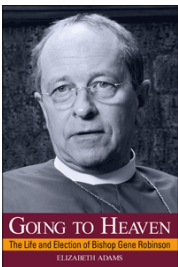
Lahusen's extensive photographic collection documents gay activism - from images of early pickets, portraits of lesbian women for covers of *The Ladder*, and photos chronicling gay activists and activities including protests, parades, and political campaigns through 2005. Included also are files and oral histories used in the preparation of her book *The Gay Crusaders* (1972).

From New York Public Library Press Release, April 25, 2007

Book Reviews: Non-Fiction

Adams, Elizabeth. *Going to Heaven: The Life and Election of Bishop Gene Robinson*.

Soft Skull Press, 2006. 304p. ISBN: 978-1933368221 \$14.95.



In Concord, New Hampshire, on June 7, 2003, **Gene Robinson** was elected as the first verifiably gay bishop in any church in the history of Christianity, setting off a planet wide furor within the Episcopal denomination and bringing a new focus to the sharp

debate on the role of GLBT people in religion. **Elizabeth Adams'** thoughtful, readable and carefully researched biography introduces the reader to all facets of the man behind the hype, his Kentucky childhood, education and calling to the ministry, marriage, and coming out. The book provides invaluable detail on the inner structures and processes of Episcopal/Anglican institutions and the struggles for change relating to the ordination of women, enabling the reader to

place the Robinson case in context. The level of detail offered is extraordinary and reflects all points of view, making *Going To Heaven* an essential title for college, university, and public library collections.

Reviewed by Robert Ridinger
Professor and Electronic Information Resources Manager,
Northern Illinois University Libraries

Benemann, William. *Male-Male Intimacy in Early America: Beyond Romantic Friendships*. 2007 Stonewall Honor Book for nonfiction.

New York: Harrington Park Press, 2006. 322p. ISBN: 978-1560233442 \$39.95

This unique and highly readable book explores the question of how to search out same-gender history in an era when the present terms and concepts used to characterize gay male histories were decades in the future. "Early America" in this context refers to the colonial era through the Revolutionary War, then to the first decades of

the nineteenth century. The book is a comprehensive treatment not only of how and where men who desired their own gender found ways of communicating and connecting, but the social, legal, religious and literary milieus that helped or hampered their efforts. One particularly valuable section gives background on the male homosexual

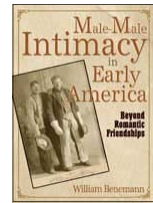
communities extant in those parts of Europe which contributed to the population of the new colonies and the political and cultural clues and customs that formed the matrix within which colonial men sought each other out. The author is an archivist and historian who weaves together a coherent tale from incredibly scattered fragments as diverse as

Male-Male Intimacy in Early America, continued...

police records, newspaper accounts, **Thomas Jefferson's** library, the diaries of military officers, and even the lyrics to *Yankee Doodle*. Readers will recognize some events and cases from citations in other GLBT historical works such as **Jonathan Katz' Gay American History** and **Ric-**

tor Norton's Mother Clap's Molly House : the Gay Subculture in England, 1700-1830 but the majority of the materials presented are new and highly detailed. Useful for the historical and GLBT studies collections of college, university, and large public libraries.

Reviewed by **Robert Ridinger**
Professor and Electronic
Information Resources
Manager
Northern Illinois University
Libraries



Eisenbach, David. *Gay Power: An American Revolution*. 2007 Stonewall Honor Book for nonfiction

New York, NY: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2006. 390p. ISBN:9780786716333 \$27.00

Centering on New York City, **David Eisenbach's** excellent *Gay Power: An American Revolution* details how gay rights activists organized and worked to change the view of homosexuality in the United States by using their knowledge of the media and the "liberal establishment". Through their efforts, the idea that gays and lesbians were a minority group, worthy of legal protection, was advanced from a theory promulgated by early homophile leaders to a widely accepted concept. The conservative backlash to this process is also analyzed.

For the serious historian, the book has sixty

-four pages of footnotes but the book does not read like a dissertation. My only quibble is incomplete indexing. For example, the suicide of **Admiral William Church**, brother of **US Senator Frank Church**, after a blackmail attempt by members of the Chicken and Bulls ring, was not included.

Eisenbach's frank assessment of some of the mistakes and miscalculations of the movement is admirable. His treatment of how the NGTF initially underestimated **Anita Bryant's** efforts against gay rights in Dade County and his critique of the scientific methodology of **Evelyn Hooker's** oft-cited

research are two examples. This honesty about individual and collective strengths and weaknesses of the activists improves the book and does nothing to lessen their contributions. Both scholarly and completely readable, this book is recommended for both academic and public libraries.

Reviewed by **Dave Combe**
Librarian Specialist



Seminal: The Anthology of Canada's Gay Male Poets. Edited by John Barton and Billeb Nickerson.

Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press. 2007. 368p. ISBN: 9781551522173 \$21.95

Seminal is a collection of poems published between 1920 and 2007 by gay male Canadians. It contains a thoughtful introductory essay by **John Barton** that addresses the problems of anthologizing a "tradition" of gay male poets in Canada. The editors cast a wide net, including in the anthology gay male Canadians living outside of Canada, immigrants to Canada, first-nation Canadians and francophones. The volume suc-

ceeds, in the words of the introduction, in providing a "defined point of departure to revisit, revise or even repudiate" the constructed tradition. It also has an excellent section of contributor notes. The only major problem with the anthology is that poems originally written in French are presented only in translation. Recommended very strongly for Canadian libraries and for academic libraries in the United States which

have GLBT Studies or Canadian Studies programs.

Reviewed by **David Woolwine**
Assistant Professor of Library Services and Reference Librarian
Axinn Library
Hofstra University



Waugh, Thomas, and Willie Walker. *Lust Unearthed: Vintage Gay Graphics from the DuBek Collection*.

Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press. 316p. ISBN: 978-1551521657 \$24.95

Lust Unearthed is an examination of a portion of **Ambrose DuBek's** art collection, specifically his gay male erotic art. As such, it is as much biography as art history. The book starts with a chapter on DuBek's life and his interests to give the reader, and a feel for the man who spent so much of his life looking for erotica.

The rest of the book is devoted to two hundred drawings from DuBek's collection. These two hundred pictures are only a small part of the total, but manage to reveal so much about the graphic depiction of

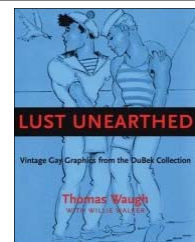
gay male sex during a time when it was illegal, and thus dangerous to keep, let alone collect. These drawings are divided into four national chapters – Germany, France, England and the United States. There are chapters on various fantasies and numbers of participants, as well.

The pictures included draw on the works of well-known artists, such as **EI Greco** and **Etienne**, but also includes works by people unknown. Many of the works suffer from poor preservation, so the illustrations are not always clear. This is not surprising, as these

images were not simply stored away but were actively used by DuBek and his friends for stimulation.

The principal audience for the book seems to be art historians and perhaps by extension GLBT reference collections.

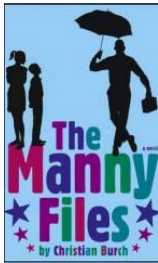
Reviewed by **Corwin Watts**



Book Reviews: Fiction

Burch, Christian. *The Manny Files*. 2007 Stonewall Honor Book for fiction

New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2006. 296p. ISBN: 9781416900399 \$15.95



Christian Burch's *The Manny Files* romps delightfully through the world of Keats Dalinger, a third grader the middle of an eclectic group of siblings: oldest, overachieving Lulu, who hates the sound of certain words; India, a wise and fashion-conscious fourth-grader; and Mirabelle, a three-year-old with

a penchant for nudity. Naturally, the Dalinger family doesn't retain many nannies.

Enter the "manny," who campily squeals about coloring, picks the kids up from school in costume, and sings opera at the grandmother's bedside. Keats, who spends lots of time crying due to a school bully, bonds to the manny's deftness in using wit and charm to navigate difficult situations. Lulu, on the other hand, fears the manny will cause the children to need therapy, so logs all of his quirks in "The Manny Files" in hopes of getting him booted from the job.

The *Manny Files* reads like a cross between *Weetzie Bat* and *Mary Poppins*, with a different sense of "magic." It works well as a

highly aestheticized text that touches on issues of death and dying, bullying, and tolerance with a smile and wink. However, the "always on" quality of the story's broad cast of eccentric characters keeps the book from being dynamic and can grow tiresome. Still, *The Manny Files* offers many compelling moments, and the urge to "Be interesting!" rings long after the last page. Recommended for the children's, teen, and adult fiction collections of larger public libraries.

Reviewed by **Joseph Wilk**
Teen Specialist
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Glamour Girls: Femme/Femme Erotica. Edited by Rachel Kramer Bussel.

New York, NY: Harrington Park Press, 2006. 253p. ISBN: 9781560235347. \$16.95



Sexy dresses, lipstick, high heels, short skirts, shopping and fiery personalities are all features in this collection of twenty-six short erotic stories focusing on sexual encounters between femmes. Stories range from cute and fun to intense and dramatic, from a first-time encounter in a sorority house to an experienced rope-tying mistress at a BDSM play party.

While all the stories involve an encounter between two women, they are not all

"queer" in that the characters aren't necessarily lesbian or bisexual. The editor's introduction expands the definition of femme/femme erotica to include straight, bisexual and bi-curious "girly girls" for the purpose of exploring lesbian sex outside the mainstream heterosexual ideation, as well as outside the traditional butch/femme paradigm. Unlike most collections of erotica, even lesbian erotica, the masculine is downplayed in this collection and often not even mentioned. The book offers erotic stories that explore experiences of women with one another, including those who are often not

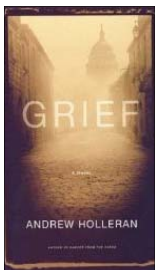
taken seriously as couples in the queer community, or even recognized as queer in the heterosexual world.

While the quality of the writing varies between stories, they cover different topics and scenarios, making the stories accessible for people of all interests. Adult erotica readers will find this collection unique, interesting, and appealing. Recommended for libraries collecting GLBT erotica.

Reviewed by **Rebekah Kilzer**
Systems Librarian
Ohio State University Libraries

Holleran, Andrew. *Grief: A Novel*. 2007 Stonewall Award Book for fiction

New York, NY: Hyperion, 2006. 150p. ISBN: 9781401302504 \$19.95



Holleran's first novel in ten years joins a small but growing body of quasi-autobiographical fiction detailing the lives of gay men in urban America who survived the peak death years of the AIDS epidemic. *Grief* is a first-person meditation on these "homosexuals emiriti", their lives voided by the loss of the rich social worlds in

which they came of age (most famously illuminated in Holleran's own *Dancer from the Dance*).

The anonymous middle-aged narrator is a college teacher, living as a boarder in a house near Dupont Circle. He wanders the streets of Washington, its legions of monuments and museums a kind of mausoleum for the dead, who are palpably present if rarely invoked directly. His reading of the letters of the widow Mary Todd Lincoln serves as a touchstone, her ostentatious and unanswerable sorrow a counterpoint for the protagonist's own more muted if no less intractable melancholia.

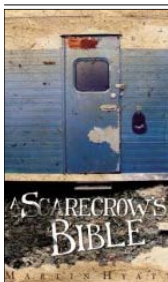
The narrator's (and perhaps Holleran's own) intense self-consciousness around belonging to the disappeared traces of the

past he helped fashion are reinforced by the incomprehension of his students, for whom AIDS and all that came before it are ancient history. The experience of those men "too young to die, but too old to start over" is all too often subverted or shunted aside. Holleran's initial survey of its contours occasions the hope that more such stories may be shared, and the significance of grief in contemporary gay life may be better appreciated.

Reviewed by **Matt Johnson**
Taxonomy Analyst
Exchange Place

Hyatt, Martin. *A Scarecrow's Bible*. 2007 Stonewall Honor Book for fiction

San Francisco: Suspect Thoughts Press, 2006. 192p. ISBN: 9780976341147 \$16.95



Vietnam veteran Gary Slope is only half-alive, closeted in a homophobic small Mississippi town. Gary suffers from shell shock, drug addiction, mind-numbing boredom, and a pathetically empty marriage.

Then he meets Zachary; their attraction is instant

and fierce. Young poet Zachary is a lost soul as self-destructive as Gary, suffering his own addictions and brand of shell shock. Neither believes he deserves this remarkable love but each gives himself over to it and, in doing so, sees himself as he really is.

Martin Hyatt's *A Scarecrow's Bible* is an exceptional debut novel and deserving Stonewall Honor Book winner. His lyrical, moving book combines the deep love,

intense passion, and unimaginable despair shared by Gary and Zachary. This is a novel from which you will not easily escape. Its effects linger like humidity after a southern storm. It is intoxicating. *A Scarecrow's Bible* contains explicit love scenes but nothing inappropriate for young adult readers. Highly recommended for all libraries.

Reviewed by **Tracy Nectoux**
Cataloging Librarian
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign