




GLBTRT Newsletter

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No 4



Winter
2004

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



From the Editor

Season's Greetings, everyone!

This issue is a pre-ALA printed issue, so be sure to note the GLBTRT schedule for Boston's ALA Conference, as well as the "OUT" guide for Boston provided by Lewis Day!


Thank you all for continuing to support the newsletter with your thoughtful comments and consistent, timely submissions. I would especially like to thank Catherine Ritchie, who has been a true joy to work with, and a real go-getter for newsletter articles, and Ray Barber, who has been providing me with many book reviews! It's this kind of continued support that will sustain this publication as a valuable resource for the GLBT Community in libraries.

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is **February 16th, 2005**, so please make sure to have all your book reviews, officer reports, and general interest article emailed to me before that time!

As always, I am more than happy to address any questions or comments about the newsletter, especially if you have something you would like to submit for an upcoming issue!! So please feel free to send me your suggestions!

Happy Holidays, and Best Wishes for 2005!!

Ken Wells, *GLBTRT Newsletter Editor*
kenwells@ufl.edu



From the Co-Chairs

For those of you who are dreading Midwinter in Boston, I regret to inform you New England experienced its first snow of the winter this past weekend. I had hoped for warmer weather through January. Reality is the average January high is 36, average January lows in Boston are 22 degrees. If we choose to reflect on the lowest temps (-17) we should also think about the highest recorded temperatures for January – mid 70s!

Lewis Day and John DeSantis are at work coordinating the Social. Ebsco is providing financial support for this event. Please plan to attend the Social – Sunday from 6 to 8 pm. The event will include food, a cash bar and is being held at a very convenient location, The Cottonwood Restaurant (at the corner of Berkeley and St James St, one block from the John Hancock building). The restaurant's website is: <http://www.cottonwoodboston.com>. Lewis tells me The Cottonwood is a 'Best of Boston' winner. Hopefully reviewing possibilities for the conference such as this will melt away your fears around surviving a few days of winter in the Northeast.

In addition to the Social, the Round Table will hold 3 meetings during Midwinter. The Steering Committee meetings will be held Saturday from 8 to 10 am and Monday from 8:30 to 11:00 am. The 'All Committees' meeting will immediately follow the SC I meeting on Saturday morning – in the SAME location!

Steve and I would like to echo our support for changes to the specific gender requirements for officials of the Round Table. We believe that in order to reflect our support for the transgender portion of GLBT, there needs to be flexibility in the bylaws. Any changes to the Bylaws would have to be approved at the Membership Meeting, held at Annual Conference.

Speaking of Chicago and ALA Annual, we have one program in the planning stages to address issues of library services and transgender concerns. It would be great to have a panel so that we can offer different focuses and address some of the issues. If anyone is interested in being on the panel or has ideas of issues, please send the ideas to either Steve or I. The Round Table activities during Annual will also include the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Round Table.

See you in Boston!

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In past meetings and in conversations with members there has been some discussion about the procedures of scheduling meetings and programs for annual conferences. I thought this would be a good time to go over the ground rules and time frames established by ALA.

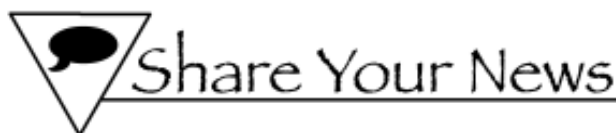
Our meeting times are established by the steering committee. If we choose to change something we will bring it up at the general membership meeting. By and large the current times are our traditional meeting times. It is the same way for programs. Traditionally, we have programs on Monday and Saturday afternoons. We also have the Breakfast on Monday morning followed by the Read Aloud. There are certain times we do not schedule things because we know they will be in conflict with other organizations that many of our members also belong to and there are certain times that ALA prohibits groups from using. ALA's scheduling procedure is all about deadlines.

The deadline for program ideas is the last day of the preceding annual conference. At the end of Orlando 2004 we submitted ideas for Chicago 2005. The ideas, the times, the setups are not written in stone. This does give ALA a good ballpark figure as to the types of programs that will be offered, their times and anticipated attendance. It also aids them in their tracking system that you see in the final program. Remember, when you are sitting in a hotel ballroom listening to a program; it didn't come free. One way or another, it was paid for. There is now an online form that we can use to submit information. The current deadlines for Annual 2005 are:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Oct. 22, '04 | Events requiring tickets, including preconferences, banquets etc., including their descriptions and prices must have been entered. |
| Nov 3, '04 | This is the deadline for everything that does not require a ticket. |
| Jan 21, '05 | Program descriptions are due, this info will be published in the preliminary program. |
| Feb 22, '05 | This is the last day for any change and/or correction in your meetings or programs. This is what will go into the final conference program. |
| April 1, '05 | The schedule of meetings and programs with their room assignments are released. Only corrections can now be accepted. |
| April 5, '05 | Last minute meetings (not programs) can be submitted for inclusion in the program supplement, assuming they still have space. |
| May 1, '05 | This is the deadline for ordering or changing any AV equipment. |

May 1st is the final deadline. It is now just a matter of waiting for the conference and hoping that everything you requested or wanted will pull together. After three years as your program chairperson I have learned that something will always go wrong. If you ask for a room for 50 people there is a good chance you'll wind up in a ballroom for 1000. If you request adjacent rooms for programs that follow one another, there is a possibility of winding up in hotel rooms that are miles apart. Hopefully the membership will continue to suggest interesting and timely programs for our future conferences. As chair of the committee, I would like to point out that both the program and steering committees crave your input.

Damian Lambert, *Program Chair*
dglm Lambert@hotmail.com



Have you recently been involved in any special projects at your library, or served on significant committees? Won any awards? Served your wider community as a library representative? Published any research, or other professional articles? Run away to join the circus? [Just kidding]

But we're *not* kidding about wanting to hear your professional news: anything you'd like to share with your fellow Round Table members. We'll be publishing your items in the Newsletter as often as space permits—as a way of mutually celebrating our achievements and accomplishments as proud glbt librarians.

Please send your news to Ken Wells at kenwells@ufl.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

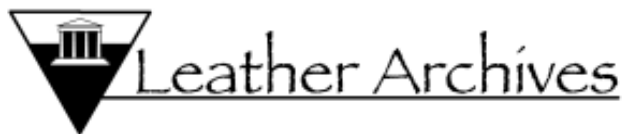
Cathy Ritchie, *Newsletter Committee*
critchier@dallaslibrary.org



At the Midwinter 2004 Conference, the Steering Committee approved a membership in the Freedom to Read Foundation. The Round Table will need to decide on renewing this membership during our meetings in Boston. Last year we joined at the 'sponsor' level (\$100).

Some information about the activities of the Foundation is available from their website <http://www.ftrt.org/>





Free Periodical from the Leather Archives and Museum

The Leather Archives in Chicago is pleased to be able to offer a back set of its revised and expanded research newsletter, *Leather Times*, to interested GLBT special collections and local gay and lesbian archives and libraries. Three issues are currently in print for 2003 and 2004; older issues of this title appeared as the *LA&M Newsletter*, beginning in 1992. Inquiries about *Leather Times* should be directed to the executive director of the Leather Archives, at rick@leatherarchives.org, and please indicate if you would like to be added to the *Leather Times* mailing list for future issues. The title has been assigned an ISSN number to facilitate your cataloging. Issues can be viewed on the Internet via the Leather Archives home page under "Resources".

R. Ridinger, Board of Directors, Leather Archives
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The Line of Beauty. By Alan Hollinghurst. Bloomsbury, 2004. 400 pp. \$24.95 hardback (ISBN 1582345082)

In his latest novel, Hollinghurst stunningly and accurately portrays the material and social excesses of life in London during the 1980s. This winner of the 2004 Man Booker Prize follows the protagonist, Nick Guest, from his first days out of Oxford in 1983. Upon graduation Nick moves in with the Feddens, the wealthy and political family of his straight crush from Oxford. Nick's first experiences as a gay man and his rise in social class, due to association, are brilliantly depicted. To Nick, things seem to be going only better and faster due to his association with the Feddens as he attends marvellous parties packed with lords, MPs, and the very highest of London society. At the same time he delves into a dangerously indulgent relationship with Wani, a Lebanese millionaire and friend from Oxford. However, the parties, sex, snobbery, and rampant drug use cannot go on forever; following those extremes and the looming AIDS crisis Nick's social standing is suddenly on shaky ground. Several large scandals quickly turn the Fedden family against Nick, making him the scapegoat for the family crisis and removing him from the privileged social class. The prose is brilliant, if at times a bit complex, and the descriptions of people, places, and events are so unique and insightful that it is hard to put down. Themes in the novel may be too adult for younger teens, but are appropriate for any mature reader.

Reviewed by Joey Nicholson. Learning Resources Assistant, College of North West London.



King & King & Family. By Linda De Haan, and Stern Nijland. Tricycle Press, 2004. 32pp. \$14.95pbk (ISBN 1582461139)

This sequel to the popular *King & King* follows the two newlyweds King Lee and King Bertie on their honeymoon. During their trip they begin to suspect they are being followed, only to discover a stowaway in their suitcase upon their return home. The kings happily adopt this young jungle girl and start a family of their own. The collage illustrations are bright and colorful, but can sometimes overwhelm the story with too much detail. The text is short and easy to understand, approaching the kings' relationship directly rather than alluding to it. Some may wonder why the kings did not try to locate the girl's family; however, this remains a good introduction to non-traditional families for ages 5-8.

Reviewed by Joey Nicholson. Learning Resources Assistant, College of North West London



Christine Lind Hage, Director Clinton-Macomb Public Library has agreed to come speak to us during our Steering Committee Meeting Monday at ALA Midwinter. She will be joining us for about 10-15 minutes at 9:30 am, for those interested in hearing her. So far she is the only candidate for ALA President to contact us.

Her Web site is <http://www.christinelindhage.net>

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ALA 2005 MidWinter Conference
Boston, MA

GLBTRT Meeting Schedule

<http://www.ulib.niu.edu/lgbt/conferences.htm>

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Steering Committee I	Sat. Jan. 15	8:30am-11:00am	COL Colonnade West
All Committee	Sat. Jan 15	11:30am-1:00pm	HYAT Duxbury
Book Award I	Sat. Jan. 15	2:00pm-5:30pm	PARK Beacon Hill
Book Award II	Sun. Jan.16	12:30pm-3:30pm	PARK Stuart
GLBTRT Social	Sun. Jan 16	6:00pm-8:00pm	Cottonwood Cafe 222 Berkeley St. (617-247-2225)
Steering Committee II	Mon. Jan. 17	8:30am-11:00am	HIL Maverick A



Take a break from the meetings, exhibits and historic sites! The GLBTRT Social at Midwinter will heat up the cold Boston night with Southwestern flair at Cottonwood Restaurant and Cafe. Located four short blocks from the Hynes Convention Center, Cottonwood is Boston's premier Southwestern restaurant.

The social will be on Sunday, January 16, from 6 to 8 p.m.

This year's social is presented by Ebsco, Inc., and will include a sumptuous assortment of the restaurant's signature dishes, including Cowboy Potstickers, Anasazi Antipasti, and many other treats. Bar offerings include multiple Best-of-Boston award-winning margaritas, mojitos and an extensive beer and wine list. Try the prickly pear margarita for a fuscia tequila kick!

As always, the social will be the site of the announcement of the Stonewall Book Award winners for the year. Join us as the winners and honor titles are announced. Come to the social and see old friends and colleagues while meeting new ones!

Cottonwood's staff of lesbian, gay and queer-friendly servers, bartenders and management eagerly await Round Table members!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

GLBT Round Table 35th Anniversary Dinner

at ALA Annual Convention
Chicago, IL

Monday, June 27, 2005
6:30pm - 9:30pm

Tickets are \$70.00 per person

Gay-Friendly in Boston
by Lewis Day

Boston is an old city, but one full of college students. It is a city identified with the Boston Brahmins and Boston Irish, yet is a complex and diverse minority-majority city. Boston is a dynamic urban center with a long-standing community of empowered gay men and lesbians, with rich communities of self-identified bisexuals and transgender and intersex activists. Members of the GLBT Round Table should find most places they visit in Boston (and particularly cultural sites, restaurants and entertainment venues) very queer-friendly.

One center of GLBT life in Boston is the South End, home to a number of bars, restaurants and shops catering to us. The commercial heart of the South End is Tremont Street, between Berkeley and Fairfield Streets, and is within walking distance of the convention hotels.

Boston is a neighborhood city, consisting of areas which were once independent cities (such as Charlestown, Dorchester and Jamaica Plain), and many areas are still referred to by their neighborhood district. Many areas are centered on squares (Harvard-, Copley-, Dudley-, and so on), and knowing these designations are useful in knowing how to get where you want to go.

Getting Around

Boston's mass transit system is known as the T (short for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority). T subways operate on color-coded lines (red, blue, orange and green) on a spoke-and-hub system (with downtown being the hub). Subway lines serving the Hynes Convention Center area in the Back Bay are the Green (with stops marked Copley, Hynes, Arlington and Prudential) and Orange (Back Bay). Connections to the Red line (for Harvard, the JFK Library, and other points of interest) are at Park Street (Green) and Downtown Crossing (Orange). Connections to the Blue Line (for the Airport) are at State (Orange) and Government Center (Green). Subway fares are \$1.25 (one way). The T also operates buses and commuter trains. In fact, you may take the commuter train all the way to Newburyport, Worcester, or even to Providence, RI.

MBTA information: <http://www.mbta.com/index.asp>
Subway map: http://www.mbta.com/traveling_t/schedules_subway.asp

Bars

The Alley
14 Pi Alley/Court Square, Boston
(Downtown)
617-263-1448
Boston's neighborhood gay-owned gay bar. Home to several bear, leather and levi groups, the Alley is Boston's home away from home for men without pretense. Pool tables, video games and jukebox.
Open 7 days 'til 2 a.m.
<http://www.thealleybar.com/>

Circuit Girl
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington Street,
Somerville.
Lesbian and gay. Huge dance floor,
pool tables balcony bar with sofas.

Club Café
209 Columbus Avenue, Boston
(South End)
617-536-0966
Recently rebranded as 209 (the restaurant) and Moonshine (the cabaret and video lounge). One of the mainstays of the gblt community, and one place where all segments of the community mingle with ease. Open till 2 a.m.
<http://www.clubcafe.com/clubcafe2004.html>

Dedo
69 Church St, Boston (Bay Village)
617-423-6969.
Cozy, multi-level lounge in Bay Village. Professional crowd, comfortable surroundings. Open between 4 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Eagle
520 Tremont St, Boston (South End)
617-542-4494
Every city seems to have a neighborhood bar called the Eagle and Boston is no exception. Simple in the truest sense of the word, it features a big bar, a pulsing dance music beat and gets progressively more crowded as the clock approaches closing time. This IS the last call destination for many. No cover, open till 2am

Fritz
26 Chandler St, Boston (South End)
617-482-4428
Quintessential neighborhood bar, with leather overtones. A popular locale for "last call." Open noon to 2 a.m.

Jacques
79 Broadway St, Boston(Bay Village)
617-426-8902
Boston's old-style "show bar." Drag and cabaret acts. Open 'til midnight.

Luxor
69 Church St, Boston (Bay Village)
617-423-6969
Multilevel video (up) and sports (down) bar. Open till 1am.

Paradise
180 Massachusetts Avenue,
Cambridge
617-494-0700
Cambridge's full-time gay bar, located blocks from MIT, featuring male strippers, adult videos and cruising. Diverse crowd. Open 'til 1 a.m. Sun-Thurs, 'til 2 a.m. Fri-Sat.

Ramrod
1256 Boylston St., Boston (Fenway)
617-536-1950
Leather/levi cruise bar with two personalities. Upstairs, the Ramrod is a typical leather/levi bar, with pool

and a backroom dress code; downstairs, Machine features a large dance floor, pool tables and video games. The upstairs bar is older, more into leather; Machine draws a younger, fashion-conscious crowd. Open to 2 a.m.

Book Stores

Cuttyhunk Bookshop
540 Tremont Street (@ Clarendon),
Boston (South End)
617.574.5000
Boston's oldest gblt bookshop (previously known as We Think the World of You) is a South End mainstay.
<http://www.wethinktheworldofyou.com/about.html>

Calamus Bookstore
92B South Street (South Station)
617-338-1931
Full-service gblt bookshop.
<http://www.calamusbooks.com/index.shtml>

Harvard Book Store
1256 Massachusetts Avenue,
Cambridge (Harvard Square)
800-542-READ
Cambridge's independent bookshop since 1932, in the heart of Harvard Square.
<http://www.harvard.com/>

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
6 Plympton Street, Cambridge
(Harvard Square)
(617) 547-4648
Established in 1927, the Grolier is a national treasure.
<http://www.grolierpoetrybookshop.com/>

Restaurants

The Prudential Center and Copley Place malls, adjacent to the Hynes Convention Center, contain numerous restaurants, including national and local favorites: Cheesecake Factory, Chili's, Movenpick, Legal Seafoods, Dick's Last Resort. The Back Bay neighborhood, where the Hynes, Pru and Copley Place are located, is one of Boston's signature shopping and dining areas, with restaurant choices ranging from Vinny T's of Boston to Sonsie to Fiagle a Bagel.

Addis Red Sea
544 Tremont Street (@ Clarendon),
Voston (South End)
(617) 426-8727
Authentic Ethiopian cuisine, and a local favorite for 16 years.
<http://www.addisredsea.com/>

Buddha's Delight
3-5 Beach Street, Boston
(Chinatown)
An all-vegetarian favorite in the bustling center of Chinatown.
617-451-2395

Cottonwood Restaurant and Cafe
222 Berkeley Street (@St. James),
Boston (Back Bay)
(617) 247-2225
Southwestern food prepared with New England attitude! The GLBTRT social will be held at Cottonwood.
<http://www.cottonwoodboston.com/>

Hammersley's Bistro
553 Tremont Street (@ Clarendon),
Boston (South End)
Contemporary bistro with a devoted local following.
617.423.2700
<http://www.hammersleysbistro.com/>

Legal Sea Foods
A ubiquitous Boston favorite, Legals (to the locals) is all over town. The Legals nearest the Hynes Convention Center is in the Prudential Center.
(617) 266-6800
<http://www.legalseafoods.com/>

Locke-Ober
3 Winter Place, Boston (Downtown)
(617) 542.1340
A Boston institution for 150+ years.
<http://www.locke-ober.com/index.htm>

Mike's Pastry
300 Hanover Street (@ Prince Street), Boston (North End)
(617) 742-3050
and
Modern Pastry Shop
257 Hanover Street, Boston (North End)
617-523-3783
<http://www.modernpastry.com/index2.ivnu>
These two North End Italian bakeries have fierce partisans throughout the region. Taste and decide for yourself!

Olives
10 City Square, Charlestown
(617) 242-1999
The restaurant that started the phenomenon that is Todd English.
<http://www.toddenglish.com/Restaurants/Olives.html>

Pat's Pushcart
61 Endicott St., Boston (North End)
(617)523-9616
Family favorites in the heart of Boston's "Little Italy."

Pomodoro
319 Hanover St., Boston (North End)
Irish chef + tiny storefront in the North End = fabulous Italian!
617-367-4348

Turner Fisheries
10 Huntingdon Ave (in Westin Copley Place), Boston (Copley/Back Bay)
617.424.7425
A favorite for fresh seafood.
<http://www.turnerboston.com/>

Union Oyster House
41 Union Street, Boston (Faneuil Hall/ Government Center)
(617) 227-2750
The oldest restaurant in Boston and the oldest restaurant in continuous operation in the U.S., the Union Oyster House opened in 1826.
<http://www.unionoysterhouse.com/index.html>

UpStairs on the Square
91 Winthrop Street (@ JFK),
Cambridge (Harvard Square)
617-864-1933
Successor to Upstairs at the Pudding, and one of the region's most beloved & special restaurants.
<http://www.upstairsonthesquare.com/index.php>

Museums

Boston Children's Museum
(Downtown)
300 Congress Street, Boston
<http://www.bostonkids.org/>

Harvard University Art Museums
The Fogg Art Museum/Arthur Sackler Museum/Busch-Reisinger Museum
32 Quincy Street, Cambridge
(Harvard Square)
(617) 495-9400
<http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/home/>

Harvard Museum of Natural History,
Herbaria & Comparative Zoology/
Mineralogical and Geological
26 Oxford Street, Cambridge
(Harvard Square)
(617) 495-3045
<http://www.hmnh.harvard.edu/>

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (Fenway)
(617) 278-5166
<http://www.gardnermuseum.org/>

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Boston
866-JFK-1960
<http://www.jfklibrary.org/>

Museum of Fine Arts Boston
465 Huntington Ave, Boston
(Fenway)
(617) 267-9300
<http://www.mfa.org/>

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (West End/
Cambridge)
(617) 723-2500
<http://www.mos.org>

National Heritage Museum
33 Marrett Road, Lexington
(781) 861-6559
<http://www.monh.org/>

Peabody Museum of Archaeology
and Ethnology
11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge
(Harvard Square)
<http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/>

Salem Witch Museum
Washington Square North, Salem
978-744-1922
<http://www.salemwitchmuseum.com/>

Resources

Bay Windows
New England's largest GLBT newspaper
<http://www.baywindows.com/>

In Newsweekly
Coverage of gblt news and entertainment for all of New England.
<http://www.innewsweekly.com/>

Boston Gay & Lesbian Helpline
617-267-9001
(Mon.-Fri., 6-11 p.m.; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 p.m.)

SPECIAL THANKS to **Lews Day** for compiling this EXCELLENT list of resources to help us all to better enjoy all that Boston has to offer!

A more complete version of this list is available for download at:

<http://whatisthenexus.net/OUTinBoston.doc>



GLBT Non-Fiction in Illinois Libraries: A Study

In 2000, for my final project towards earning a Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, I researched collection development policies/procedures pertaining to selection of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender [glbt]-related adult non-fiction in "medium-sized" Illinois public libraries. A literature review revealed that no such study of this breadth or emphasis had previously been undertaken.

While the data I amassed are now over four years old, I believe my findings are still relevant for librarians serving glbt patrons, in terms of both collections and ready access/awareness thereof.

I surveyed Illinois public libraries serving populations of between 25,000 and 100,000, excluding the Chicago metropolitan area. I chose facilities in locales lacking an adjacent larger city with other glbt resources upon which patrons could potentially draw.

I ultimately obtained information from 42 libraries regarding collections, selection practices, policies, access/outreach efforts, and intellectual freedom issues. The data were amassed via a ten-page questionnaire, in-depth follow-up telephone interviews with selected respondents, and supplementary searches of some libraries' online catalogs.

I formulated tables for each category's statistical findings, and discussed their implications in a detailed narrative. This summary will focus on collections, and "outreach".

Collections

Almost 100% of all the libraries surveyed include glbt-related non-fiction in their collections. The best-represented subject areas were so-called "social issues," glbt history, performing arts, and health, with finance ranking lowest. However, only 50% of the libraries subscribe to any glbt-oriented periodicals, with less than 3% carrying glbt newspapers.

That said, motivation is strong even if actions are sometimes lacking: close to 98% of respondents either "agree" or "strongly agree" that glbt-related non-fiction belongs in a public library collection.

Nevertheless, over 70% of the libraries surveyed stated that "sexual orientation" was *not* included in their official collection development policies as a potential factor for use in forming selection decisions—even though, in the "additional comments" sections of the survey, several respondents noted that their policies *did* mention such general phrases as "all parts of society served," or "multiple viewpoints".

In my telephone interviews, I suggested the possibility of directly adding glbt-related terms to collection development policies sometime in the future. I sensed underlying desire on some librarians' part to "avoid overlooking any one group" by using general, non-specific language in their policies.

While my "collections" data represented basically good news, I question whether these libraries risk the "out of sight, out of mind" syndrome—i.e., that a given group can and will be overlooked if it is not specifically acknowledged in an institution's official collection development policy. Just how disruptive would the words "gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender" *really* be, even if, as I suggested in my final narrative, homosexuality was used not so much to describe a special "group," but perhaps instead as a "trait of authorship"?

Access/Outreach

My study's findings regarding patron access to glbt-related non-fiction material and, most particularly, a given library's efforts to make its community *aware* of the very existence of such collections were among the most disturbing to me personally. While the respondents' basic attitudes on this subject were not inherently negative, if we coin the cliché that actions speak louder than words, many Illinois public libraries, circa 2000, were cloaked in silence.

During my years as a central Illinois public librarian, I witnessed daily proof of the importance of booklists and pathfinders as marketing tools extraordinaire for our patrons. Among my own proudest accomplishments at that time were several annotated lists describing our glbt fiction and non-fiction holdings. My hopes were thus high that other libraries in the state might be following suit. Alas, no.

When asked if their libraries offered glbt-related bibliographies of any kind, almost 80% of the respondents admitted they did not. Several of my follow-up interviews revealed, however, that lists were routinely compiled on behalf of *other* interest groups and occasions, including Black History Month, Asian-American Awareness Month and, in one unforgettable instance, "Dental Month"!

While I do not for a moment begrudge all people their moment in the bibliographic sun, it became painfully obvious to me that the providing search tools containing even a *whisper* of homosexual content was something most librarians felt unable to do—though several I spoke to were totally in favor of the idea in theory. As I stated in my final narrative, "Considering that all but one of the libraries in this study do indeed include glbt-related non-fiction materials in their collections, such an omission is striking."

In-house displays on glbt-related topics fared equally poorly. Close to 70% of responding libraries had never assembled such an exhibit, though, of course, displays abounded in numerous other areas. While many of the librarians were philosophically amenable to having, for example, a "GLBT Pride Month" book table of some sort, such real-world concerns as ongoing fundraising efforts and potential vandalism effectively acted as deterrents before the fact.

While these particular findings were greatly discouraging, I can only hope that, were I to redo the study today, the results would be more positive.

My project also examined the libraries' specific selection procedures (e.g., what review sources were used in locating glbt-related non-fiction), library staff awareness regarding glbt activity in their communities, and any censorship attempts their institutions may have weathered.

While my study's overall results left me guardedly optimistic in many respects, much obviously remains to be done in guaranteeing that our public libraries effectively serve *all* of us with thoroughness and vision. Vigilance is key.

I would be glad to correspond with anyone interested in learning more about this study. I can be contacted at critchie@dallaslibrary.org. My final paper, including narrative and tables, appeared in the Spring 2001 edition of *Illinois Libraries*.

Catherine Ritchie
Dallas Public Library
critchie@dallaslibrary.org



Book Review!

Luna: a Novel. By Julie Anne Peters. Little, Brown and Company, 2004. 248 p. \$16.95. hardback (ISBN 0-316-73369-5)

Nominated for the National Book Award, *Luna* is sure to make many best books lists this year. Liam and Regan are brother and sister. They love and protect one another. For years Regan has kept her brother's secret, but now things are changing. When she wakes up in the middle of the night she sees a beautiful girl at the foot of her bed. This is Luna, the person her brother is and is becoming. Now Luna wants to appear in public, in the shopping mall at first and then at school. How can Regan protect her? How can Regan sustain her own life and relationships with her friends? Literature takes us to places we have never been and gives us experiences we may never have, making us different people after the journey than before. Yes, there are slight flaws, but *Luna* is beautifully written and you will find you care very much what happens to Liam and Regan. While written for high school students this title is just too good to only have in the young adult collection

Reviewed by **Ray Barber**. *The William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*



Book Review!

The Bermudez Triangle. By Maureen Johnson. Razorbill Penguin Young Readers Group, 2004. 357 pp. \$16.99 hardback (ISBN 159514-019-0)

Nina, Avery and Mel were inseparable teens. The three were the Bermudez Triangle. Then Nina went off to a summer program for high school leaders at Stanford. When she returned to start her senior year things were different. She had a boyfriend on the West Coast and things also seemed different with Avery and Mel. The three of them were no longer a triangle. Nina sees Avery helping Mel with her necklace, but then it hits her, they are kissing! Nina feels left out, "Why didn't they tell her?" Nina strives to bring balance back to the triangle. Things really fall apart when Avery decides that she may be a bi-sexual and begins dating a male classmate. Mel sure of her identity as a lesbian is devastated. The many middle school girls who can't wait for the next sequel to *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, *The Princess Diaries*, and *Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging* will be lining up to take this title out.

Reviewed by **Ray Barber**. *The William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*



Call for Volunteers!

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 **Lewis Day**, Membership Committee Chair: lewis_day@harvard.edu

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 in a leadership position with one of the committees? 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: **Lewis Brian Day, Harvard University Archives, Pusey Library, Cambridge, MA 02138**



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Thank you for your support!!