




GLBTRT Newsletter

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



From the Editor

Hello, everyone!

I just wanted to wish you all a **Happy Holidays**, and best of luck in 2006! This past year has been a great year for the round table, and for this newsletter. One of our biggest successes this year was moving the production of the newsletter from our own resources to those of the very generous **Haworth Press**, who now covers all of our production and mailing costs for this publication. Many thanks to them for this help!!

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is **March 15th, 2006**, so please have all your book reviews, officer reports, and general interest articles sent to me before that time!

Thanks for all of your continued support, and please let me know if there are any questions or comments about the newsletter!

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



From the Co-Chairs

It has been an odd experience planning for an event and not knowing where it will occur. That is what it was like for me and various members of the steering committee as we finalized the plans for the New Orleans annual conference. Conference Planning and Michael Gorman have agreed that we shall be going to New Orleans next June. I am looking forward to a return visit with the chance to visit my favorite restaurants and pick up some new pieces for the collections. I recommend that everybody start planning now since the housing options will be tight. Hopefully the city will have reopened some of the branches and the main library by then and recalled the staff so they can continue provide the services that the people of the city need to restore their lives and homes.

There has been much activity on the list regarding the Haworth Press cancellation of upcoming issue of the Journal of Homosexuality. Many people made comments regarding censorship

and the possible conflict of interest. A simple question to Haworth Press resolved the issue without the steering committee having to take action but we do need to keep watch out for other possible censorship issues.

The next big topic dealt with transgender rights and the Library of Congress. As I write this message, select members of the RT are composing a resolution to bring to Council for a vote outlining our stand on fair employment for all individuals. Anne Moore and Steve Stratton are following up with the wording changes for various ALA employment policies that were proposed to Diversity Council last year. These changes need to become part of the organization policies and procedures so that future cases like this can be defended with greater ease.

I wish to thank all the people who responded to the request for information on library services for GLBT teens from Debra Whalen at School Library Journal. She has told me that many people came forward and have supplied her with information. I can not wait to see article when it comes out. Sharing information in this manner is one way that we can help each other and the people who use our library collections.

If you have not figured out by now, I am the type of manager who will often asks the person with the complaint or comment on an issue to come up with a solution. So keep this in mind for future list discussions. Always think of a possible solution to the issues at hand and propose this within your posting. This will lead to a fruitful discussion and help us resolve things sooner.

I hope that John Bradford has received lots of names from interested parties who wish to run for Female Co-Chair and Secretary next year. Just think of the fun you will have for the next two years once you win the election.

My best to everybody for the upcoming holiday season and I look forward to seeing everybody in San Antonio in January 2006.

Yours in service,

Norman Eriksen
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W.E.B. Du Bois Library
University of Massachusetts
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In the fall of 2004, thanks to the initial efforts of a technical services colleague and one of our Central Library's administrators, the Dallas (TX) Public Library's GLBT Adult Programming Committee was born. Because one of our founders was well aware of my interest in all things glbt-related, I was invited to join the group, which eventually included several branch and division assistant managers, a member of our cataloging department, and two administrators.

From a humble beginning of impromptu ideas scribbled on a napkin, we began brainstorming exactly what we hoped to accomplish, and how to make it all happen. Prior to my joining the staff in 2000, the library had produced several popular glbt fiction and non-fiction print bibliographies, but it had been a number of years since any systematic outreach efforts to this particular group had been attempted. So the time was obviously ripe for whatever our "team" could devise.

After several discussions, we decided to tackle the challenge of mounting a series of presentations by glbt authors, to take place on Saturday afternoons during fall 2005 at our Oak Lawn Branch Library, which is located in a Dallas neighborhood home to many glbt citizens and businesses.

Since I had had prior professional dealings with Julie Anne Peters, the award-winning author of the young adult novels Luna and Keeping You a Secret, she was our first choice as a presenter. She was utterly delighted to be part of our efforts, and became our "kick-off" speaker on September 17. The attendance was lower than we had hoped, but Julie proved to be a wonderful guest, and we were pleased that our first "event" transpired without a hitch.

On October 29, we welcomed the comic strip artist Alison Bechdel, creator of the legendary series "Dykes to Watch Out For". Once again, audience numbers were disappointing, but she offered a fine program and we were delighted to be hosting her first appearance in Dallas.

Our final event took place on November 19, with an appearance by the celebrated poet/memoirist Mark Doty. Happily, our audience numbers were much improved, with over 40 persons attending. Scheduling this particular event on a Saturday free of any other "must-attend" activities in the neighborhood, combined with a targeted PR push the week before, evidently helped bolster attendance considerably.

Each of our authors offered an hour-long presentation at Oak Lawn, and then participated in a "meet and greet" bookselling/signing session either at the nearby Crossroads Market Bookstore & Café, which specializes in glbt-related merchandise, or at the branch library itself. Despite our fluctuating

audience totals, we on the committee felt that the series was both a worthwhile experience for our authors, and, even more significantly, an opportunity to acquaint that particular neighborhood with its next-door library and all it has to offer.

Finances proved to be a challenge throughout the entire project, as the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina affected many local organizations' ability to sponsor our series as readily as might have been possible at a different time. In 2006, we hope to present more "home-grown" talent, thus not requiring huge expenditures for airfare and speakers fees, and to perhaps shift our focus to programs dealing with current issues facing the glbt community as a whole.

In our "off season," we also hope to produce new bibliographies and pathfinders, in print and online form, on a number of relevant topics, as well as to begin formulating an official collection development statement on behalf of the Oak Lawn Branch Library, which houses one of the largest glbt-related collections in this part of the country.

In short, we on the Dallas Public Library's GLBT Adult Programming Committee look forward to offering programs for our community that are enjoyable, inspiring and maybe just a bit eye-opening. We are all very proud of our involvement in the process so far, and look forward to even more exciting outreach ahead.

Cathy Ritchie
Dallas (TX) Public Library
[critchie@dallaslibrary.org](mailto:critchier@dallaslibrary.org)





Leather Archives

LA&M Tech Update

Infovision's AmLib Library Management Software was selected as the automation tool for the Leather Archives & Museum's Teri Rose Memorial Library at the November meeting of the LA&M Board. This software will allow the conversion of the present volunteer-created Access database of library books into an easily searched catalog. The library catalog will be made available on the Web in 2006, living up to the LA&M's motto, "Located in Chicago, Serving the World!"

Future plans call for the inclusion of other LA&M collections, such as artwork, pins, periodicals and rare books, in the catalog.

A new server was built to house the library catalog and management system software. The server configuration is (for those who are interested in those things):

- Intel Pentium4 630 processor (3 GHz, Hyperthreaded)
- 2 GB DDR2 RAM
- 750GB Disk space (configured as RAID-5 resulting in 480GB available)
- Symantec Gateway (Firewall) with VPN access
- Windows 2003 Small Business Server
- Web Server (AmLib says IIS)
- AmLib LMS (SQLBase database)

Louis Lang

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Review Guidelines

GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS

My goal is that we review many books, both books we recommend and books we do not recommend. These reviews should be professional, combining the best practices of the library profession and our unique perspective as GLBT individuals. Keeping in mind that The Newsletter is not infinitely expandable, these reviews should be between 120 and 180 words long. Yes, some books demand longer reviews because of their complexity, controversial nature or importance. When you feel that a book you are reviewing will need additional space please let me know so I can plan.

Reviews should clearly state what the book is about and include an evaluative section. It is always helpful if you can compare it to other books. The review should end with a clear recommendation and indicate audience. If there are situations or language which may cause problems these should be pointed out. Such situations, language, etc. need should not overly influence the recommendation unless they are inappropriate, extraneous to the book, or badly handled.

I think that LJ and Booklist are good models. The reviews I enjoy reading are from Kirkus, but I would be hard pressed to do one of that literary quality for every book I read.

Below is a sample review for you to consider. More are available upon request, or see other reviews in this issue. Please note the bibliographic form and the form for your byline.

This is a quick set of guidelines to get us through the current issue. Please help me by sending me your comments.

Ray Barber, *Book Review Editor*

rbarber@penncharter.com

Kings & Queens: Queers at the Prom. By David Boyer. Soft Skull Press. 2004. 160 p. paperback (ISBN1-932360-24-7) [306.766]

David Boyer uses the high school prom to wrap stories about coming out and living as a homosexual. The book is divided into sections with profiles from the 90's, 80's, 70's and 60's, and back through the 1930's. Each profile includes the date and place of their high school senior year, pictures and a summary, in their own words, about their senior prom. A postscript gives information on where they are now, and a bit about how they got there. Extras include a style guide, prom trends and a section on how the American idea of a senior prom has spread around the world. Each profile is surprisingly gripping and many make you think of your own high school experience. The pictures will bring knowing nods from older readers and gales of giggles from teens. This book offers a good window into the high school experience and would be a good addition to a YA or high school library collection.

Reviewed by Mark Singer, High School Librarian, retired.

ALA 2006 Midwinter Conference

January 20-25, 2006

San Antonio, Texas

<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2006/home.htm>

GLBTRT Meeting Schedule

Saturday, January 21, 2006

GLBTRT Steering Committee/All Committee Meeting

Date: 1/21/2006 8:00 AM — 12:30 PM

Location: Marriott Rivercenter - Room: Conference Rm. 1

Meeting Type: Open

GLBTRT Book Awards Committee

1:30 PM — 6:00 PM

Location: St. Anthony - Room: Corpus Christi

Meeting Type: Closed

Sunday, January 22, 2006

GLBTRT Book Awards Committee II

Date: 1/22/2006 1:30 PM — 3:30 PM

Location: St. Anthony - Room: Boardroom

Meeting Type: Closed



GLBTRT Social

Date: 1/22/2006 6:00 PM — 8:00 PM

Location: San Antonio Public Library, Central Branch, 600 Soledad (about 1 mile from the Convention Center) Options for getting there include a 20 minute walk, a 5 minute cab ride, or a quick ride on the Streetcar Blue Line – <http://www.viainfo.net/Ride/Streetcar.aspx>. If you are driving, there is a city-run parking garage at the library.

Once you arrive at the SAPL, please use the employee entrance, as the library will be closed to the public. Look for the signs to the GLBTRT Social being held on the 3rd floor. Please bring your ALA Midwinter Badge with you!

There will be beer, wine, finger food, and lots of nice librarians. \$5 donation requested.

More about SAPL at:

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/library/central/>

Meeting Type: Open

Monday, January 23, 2006

GLBTRT Steering Committee II

Date: 1/23/2006 8:00 AM — 12:30 PM

Location: Marriott Rivercenter - Room: Conference Rm. 16

Meeting Type: Open

ALA Mid-Winter Social: San Antonio

All work and no play can make even the hardest of librarians a bit dull. Take out your Mid-Winter Meeting Agenda Planners, and your Sharpie Ultra Fine Point Permanent Marker, and block out **Sunday, January 22nd, 6pm-8pm**. The GLBTRT Mid-Winter Social will most certainly take priority. There'll be lots of goodwill, and maybe one small thrill, but I digress into musical theatre.

The social will be held at the **Central Branch of the San Antonio Public Library, located at 600 Soledad**, in downtown San Antonio, about a mile from the Convention Center. Options for getting there include a 20 minute walk, a 5 minute cab ride, or a quick ride on the Streetcar (Blue Line - <http://www.viainfo.net/Ride/Streetcar.aspx>) If you are driving, there is a city-run parking garage at the library as well.

Once you arrive at the SAPL, please use the employee entrance, as the library will be closed to the public. There is another event here, so look for the signs directing you to the GLBTRT Social, on the 3rd floor. And please bring your ALA Midwinter Badge with you!

For more information, please contact **Gary Wasdin**, Program Chair, wasding@newschool.edu

Hope to see y'all there!

Gary A. Wasdin, Chair
Program Committee
wasding@newschool.edu





Going OUT in San Antonio

Gay & Lesbian Community Center

(210) 223-6106
106 Warren St
San Antonio, TX 78212

Independent Book Stores

Cheever Books
3613 Broadway
210-824-2665
Fine used and out of print titles. Very popular.

Remember the Alibi Bookstore
Castle Oaks Village
8055 West Ave.
210-344-7776
Mystery books on the outskirts of town.

The Twig Bookshop
5005 Broadway
210-826-6411
thetwig.booksense.com
This neighborhood shop specializes in children's lit and Texana.

Food and Drink

Central Market
4821 Broadway
210-368-8600
www.centralmarket.com
Gourmet groceries and take out for your hotel room.

Rainbow Spirits
2811 N. St. Mary's
210-735-8920
Package store.

Café Latino
1621 N Main Ave Ste 9
San Antonio, TX 78212-4353
(210) 220-1845
Coffee, sweet breads, and empanadas. Famous for café con leche.

Carmen's de la Calle Café
www.carmensdelacalle.com
720 E Mistletoe Ave
San Antonio, TX 78212-3521
(210) 737-8272
On Thursdays, Carmen's features live jazz and Spanish

paella, while Friday nights bring tapas (Spanish-style appetizers) and flamenco dancing with classical guitar. Cover charge for live music Thursday and Friday.

Crumpets
3920 Harry Wurzbach
210-821-5600
www.crumpetsa.com
Continental cuisine and European bakery for Sunday brunch, lunch, dinner with bar and live music.

Demo's Greek Food
2501 N Saint Marys St
San Antonio, TX 78212-3739
(210) 732-7777
Typical Greek comfort food in a blue and white room with outdoor tables.

El Milagrito Cafe
521 E Woodlawn Ave
San Antonio, TX 78212-3542
(210) 734-8964
English is not required in this traditional tex-mex joint known for it's friendly staff and fresh food. Located on the North St. Mary's club strip.

Espuma Coffee and Tea Emporium
928 S Alamo St
San Antonio, TX 78205-3419
(210) 226-1912
Popular for Granitas—frozen coffee—, gourmet teas, sweets and light, healthy fare as well as live music on the front porch.

Madhatters
320 Beauregard
San Antonio, TX 78204
(210) 212-4832
<http://www.madhatterstea.com/>
Unique, kitschy diner with large tea and coffee menu in a relaxed atmosphere with WiFi.

Tong's Thai
1146 Austin Highway
210-829-7345
Thai cuisine and bubble tea with live music.

Kingston Tycoon Flats
2926 N.St. Mary's, San Antonio, TX 78212
210-737-1929
Picnic tables, burgers, tex-mex, fried plantains, collard greens and pitchers of margaritas and rum laced concoctions in a popular local hangout for the cholesterol-friendly. Live music.

Candle Light Coffeehouse
3011 North St. Mary's,
Offers "a cup of kindness" & "cultured cruising" as well as a patio.

Sweet Bean Cafe'
2300 N.St.Mary's at Josephine

210-736-2060
Sandwiches, coffee, desserts, great atmosphere.

Bars & Clubs

2015 Club
2015 San Pedro Ave
San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 733-3365
Named best cruising and neighborhood bar by the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, popular in the afternoon. Need we say more?

The Bermuda Triangle
119 El Mio, San Antonio, TX 78216
Phone: (210) 342-2276
Lesbian Bar/ Restaurant with dance floor.

Bonham Exchange
411 Bonham
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 271-3811
Cross Street: Houston Street
There is always a party in this mansion filled with men and a few women, but how is the décor?

The Electric Company
820 San Pedro Ave.
210-212-6635
Dance bar that is lesbian owned, and welcoming to everyone.

The Heat
1500 North Main
212-227-2600
Is San Antonio's largest gay club with video bar, famed DJs and heated patio. Mostly men.

Silver Dollar Saloon
1422 N Main Ave
San Antonio, TX 78212-4305
(210) 227-2623
Urban cowboy-only honky-tonk; cowgirls need not apply.

The Saint
1430 N Main Ave
San Antonio, TX 78212-4305
(210) 225-7330
Speedo-clad boogie men keep the customers coming back.

Petticoat Junction
1818 N Main Ave
San Antonio, TX 78201
(210) 737-2344
Cross Street: Locust Street
Mostly women make up the diverse crowd at this dance club with a lesbian literature alcove and a glass-topped bar.

SA Eagle
1010 Main
210-226-2529
San Antonio's First True Levi/Leather Bar for our leatherman colleagues.

Tagz
5307 McCullough Ave

210-828-4922
Mostly men, but women welcome. Very popular dance bar.

Dark Fire Gallery
7126 Eckhart Road Suite #8
210-682-3500
Extreme toys... Gentle prices!!!
Best selection of BDSM gear, best prices, immediate ship!

Zebra'z
1216 E. Euclid
210-472-2800
Club wear and assorted gay accessories and necessities.



Book Review!

Not the Only One: Lesbian and Gay Fiction for Teens. Edited by Jane Summer. Alyson Books, 2004. 302 pp. \$13.95 paperback (ISBN: 1555838340) [F]

In the new edition Editor Summer has pulled together a collection of fiction that would appeal to most YA readers interested in various permutations of the coming-of-age theme. This variety is one of the strengths of this anthology, although, in a way, it is also a downfall of it. I can think of very few readers who will like all of the stories it contains; yet I can't think of any reader who won't enjoy at least one of them. Ranging from New York City of the 1890's to Africa of the 21st century the very settings reinforce the diversity of this volume. The contributors include such modern lights as Angela Brown, Gregory

Maguire, and Claire McNab. This collection is recommended for those high school and public libraries that have a demand for more literary fiction, whether GLBT or not.

Reviewed by John Sandstrom, Manager, Collection Development and Acquisitions, El Paso (TX) Public Library



Book Review!

When Drama Club is Not Enough: Lessons from the Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students. Jeff Perrotti and Kim Westheimer. Beacon Press, 2001. 227 p. \$17.00 paperback (ISBN: 0807031313) [371.826]

Perrotti and Westheimer have written a straightforward description of the trials and tribulations they went through founding the Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students in Massachusetts. They provide a step-by-step guide for founding this type of program. Their presentation is enlivened by numerous anecdotes by students of their experiences, both positive and negative, of being gay, lesbian, bi or transgendered in the Massachusetts schools. What makes this book so important is that it is one of the first to address in a pragmatic way the nuts and bolts of addressing GLBT issues in elementary, middle and high schools. While the audience for this book is primarily school faculty and administrators, it will also find a readership with any caring adults who are working



GLBT students and students, GLBT or straight, who want to make their schools better, more tolerant places for all students. Because of this approach, this title will find a place in most libraries.

Reviewed by John Sandstrom, Manager, Collection Development and Acquisitions, El Paso (TX) Public Library



Book Review!

And Tango Makes Three. By Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell ; illustrated by Henry Cole. Simon and Schuster Books for Young readers. 2005. (ISBN 0689878451) Preschool-grade 2.

There are many kinds of families in the Central Park Zoo - but none quite like that of Roy and Silo. When the two male



chinstrap penguins form a special bond, exhibiting mating behaviors and ultimately building a nest in which they try to hatch a rock, a sympathetic zookeeper gives them an unwanted egg laid by another penguin. Roy and Silo, taking turns and dutifully sharing parental responsibilities, keep their egg warm

and secure until - "CRAAAACK! Out came their very own baby!" The proud penguin papas raise their chick, Tango, with all the devotion of any avian couple, feeding her, snuggling with her, and swimming together as a family, to the delight of zoo visitors. This true story is gently told, in straightforward language, accompanied by the winsome watercolors of illustrator Henry Cole. Cole's irresistible penguins, simply drawn in soft pastel shades, are expressive of a wide range of emotions (from comic bewilderment to loving adoration) recognizable to any young child. Sure to be a popular selection of same-sex and adoptive parents, this charming tale will appeal to any preschooler and any parent who advocates the truism that 'love makes a family.'

Note: While **And Tango Makes Three** is neither overly didactic nor overtly political, it was inevitable in the current social climate that these penguins - and now this book - would be seen as controversial and as promoting the infamous 'gay agenda.' The media sensation intensified when it was revealed - after six years as a couple and only months after the release of this book - that Roy and Silo have split up and Silo has mated with (gasp!) a female, thus becoming a potential champion of the 'ex-gay' movement. Alas, how anthropomorphism can backfire and fail a cause! This reviewer only hopes that all the ludicrous hype will serve to publicize an endearing story - one that stands on its own merits - to its intended audience.

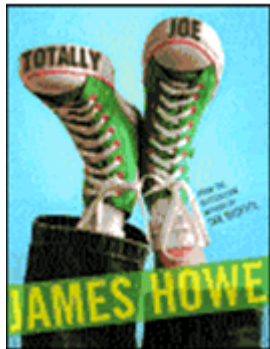
Reviewed by Roseann Szalkowski.



Book Review!

Totally Joe. By James Howe. Atheneum. 208 pp. hardcover. (ISBN: 068983957X)

Joe Bunch, from *The Misfits* (2001), is a pretty lucky kid. He has open-minded parents, a social justice-minded best friend, Addie, and a really solid sense of sexual identity—all at twelve years old! Joe is not so into the “manly-man” thing; he’d rather cook than play sports, giggle than belch, and have his G.I. Joe’s marry each other than go to war. He’d also like to date Colin, the reserved, closeted jock, and therein lies his problem. Colin is skittish about expressing affection, especially when bully Kevin Hennessey seems poised to lash out at them. Joe’s voice leaps and dances in the narrative form: an



assigned “alphabiography,” with a “life lesson” at the end of each letter-based chapter. Joe exults, jokes, and laments his way through this coming-of-age tale, and its fresh lightness and optimism—not at the expense of any insight—takes attention away from the now-typical nature of certain characters, especially Addie, Colin, and Kevin. Readers should appreciate that this book maintains an emotional range without ever losing its smile. Recommended for all teen fiction collections, especially middle school libraries.

Reviewed by **Joey Nicholson**, Assistant Librarian, Touro University Library



Book Review!

A Fire Engine for Ruthie. By Leslea Newman. Illustrated by Cyd Moore. Clarion Books. 2004. 32 pp. \$16.00. Hardcover. ISBN-13: 978-0-618-15989-5.

In her latest picture book, Leslea Newman addresses the issue of what constitutes a gender-appropriate toy. Ruthie, a young girl, is visiting her grandmother, Nana. While Nana wants to share her favorite childhood toys (e.g., dolls and dress-up clothes) with her granddaughter, Ruthie has her own ideas about which toys are fun. She would rather play with the neighbor boy’s fire truck or toy motorcycle.



Ruthie finally speaks up and lets Nana know that while they share several things in common, such as favorite books and food, Ruthie would rather rescue her dolls with a fire engine, than have a tea party with them. Nana ultimately discovers that she also enjoys playing with things that go vroom! One thing that really stands out in this book is how much Ruthie and her Nana love each other despite their very different views on what it means to be a girl.

This book is an excellent choice to launch discussions with elementary school children on gender roles and expectations. There are not enough books dealing with this topic for this age group. (One that comes to mind is *Dumpy La Rue* by Elizabeth Winthrop). Teasing about gender appropriate behavior begins early. All levels of elementary students would benefit from a discussion of gender roles based upon Ruthie’s experiences, although the book is geared toward readers ages 4 through 8.

Reviewed by **Laura Reiman**, Jefferson County Public Schools (Colorado) and **Ellen Greenblatt**, Auraria Library, University of Colorado at Denver



Book Review!

The Queer Composition of America’s Sound: Gay Modernists, American Music, and National Identity. By Nadine Hubbs. University of California Press. 282 pp. paperback. (ISBN: 0520241843)

Nadine Hubbs’ pioneering effort posits the question: how could the gay Aaron Copland gain recognition by queerphobic American institutions like the U.S. Navy as the preeminent composer of Americana? This seeming contradiction is the basis for Hubbs’ exploration into the musical circles of gay modernism in American composition and their otherwise-closeted interactions with greater U.S. culture. In places, Hubbs’ writing, especially when focused on the themes and social ramifications of Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson’s *Four Saints*, resounds with passion and poignancy. In places where the book pushes to elaborate beyond the immediate life and work of Copland and Thomson, Hubbs’ explorations repeatedly run into walls. Hubbs’ founda-



tations rest on establishing queer/hetero-coded dichotomies (e.g., between French tonalism and German serialism) that Hubbs compromises through further research. Hubbs also questions another of the foundations of the book: the readability of queer codes in a non-literal medium such as music. Yet, while the book is repeatedly stymied and ultimately unconvincing, its moments of sparkling clarity and extensive notes offer inspiration for future research into this new field. Recommended for large public, and academic music libraries.

Reviewed by **Joseph Wilk**, Library Assistant, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh — Teens

Book Review!

Talk. By Kathe Koja. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 2005. 134pp. \$16.00 hardcover (ISBN: 0374373825).

In alternating chapters, Kit and Lindsay, high school thespians co-starring in a controversial play with a terrorism theme, narrate this less-than-riveting teenage coming out tale. As the play faces possible cancellation, Kit struggles with his feelings for a local musician, along with the age-old question of how and who to tell about his gayness, and Lindsay copes with a breakup from her latest boyfriend. In time, Lindsay becomes romantically drawn to Kit, and he begins to suffer harassment as the truth leaks out. The production becomes a *cause celebre*, and Kit eventually reveals the truth to



Lindsay, who is shocked and repulsed. Unexpectedly, Kit himself finds a new boyfriend. This novel embraces the "teenage male coming out" plot device with good intentions, but pales when compared to recent quality titles on the same theme. Koja's characters lack strong personality or distinctive voices. While this book would suffice in a young adult collection if funds are plentiful, novels by Brent Hartinger or David Levithan should be higher priority purchases.

Reviewed by **Cathy Ritchie**, Theatre Librarian, Dallas (TX) Public Library

Britain Creating Gay Museum

by Peter Moore, 365Gay.com London Bureau

(London) An organization of LGBT historians, educators and art authorities is working with a British government agency to set up a museum of gay history and culture.

Proud Heritage is contacting museums across the UK asking that they examine their collections - and in many cases reassess them - to help create a gay database.

Things collected by museums over the years may not have seemed at the time to have a gay connection. One example is a Welsh collection on Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby.

Known locally as the Ladies of Llangollen, they lived together in a small cottage from 1819 until their deaths in 1829 and 1831, and were renowned for wearing dark riding habits, an eccentric choice of dress for the time.

Recently Proud Heritage worked with the Llangollen Museum to update reference material on the collection.

"They would never have used the word lesbian to describe their relationship but there is no question that they lived together and shared the same bed," Proud Heritage's director Jack Gilbert tells The Guardian. "We think there may well be similar examples in

Book Review!

Juicy Mother. Celebration: Number One. Edited by Jennifer Camper Soft Skull Press. 2005. 86pp. (ISBN: 1932360700).

For anyone interested in GLBTQ graphic novels, *Juicy Mother. Celebration: Number One* is an excellent introduction to the genre. Filled with a stunning selection of artists' works, this compilation provides a wealth of topics and artistic styles to suit most any taste. *Juicy Mother* includes stories of a purely sexual nature to stories with exceptional social depth. The topics range from innocent touching at a sleep-over, to a Muslim lesbian contemplating her identity, to a teddy bear marriage, to a butch dyke's encounter with her now-grown-up, won't-take-no, cousin. Additionally, six contributors participated in a cartoon jam (each artist draws one panel and passes it along) for this issue—one that tackles a number of stereotypes. As a compilation, *Juicy Mother* is for adults-only, but many of the stories would be suitable for a younger crowd as well.

Juicy Mother is a self-proclaimed "home for the stories about the rest of us;" a graphic novel for grown-ups with panels containing explicit sex and graphic nudity. Those who routinely read graphic novels will want to add *Celebration: Number One* to their collection. This alternative comic would be an excellent addition to any graphic novel collection, GLBTQ or otherwise, and should grace the shelves of the adventurous public or academic library.

Reviewed by **Tiffani R. Conner**, University of Connecticut.

other archives, but because people didn't use words like lesbian and gay 200 years ago archivists have either overlooked it or simply don't realize it's there."

The organization is considering an exhibit from the archives of British prisons that would include the door to Oscar Wilde's cell in Reading jail. It is also looking at possible exhibits of campaign material from gay rights fights and a history of gays in the military.

Once Proud Heritage says once it has gathered a national database on gay material it will create a "virtual museum" of lesbian and gay history said Gilbert.

The next step would be the establishment of a museum building. Gilbert said the heavily gay King's Cross area of London would be an ideal location.

The project has the backing of the museums documentation watchdog, MDA. It is the lead organization in the heritage sector and is already working closely with the London Assembly to unearth similar "hidden histories" in the collections of London curators and archivists.

The plan also has the backing of Britain's two largest LGBT civil rights groups: Stonewall and OutRage.

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Reading Genesis: The Beginning of Wisdom. By Leon R. Kass. Free Press, 2003. 720 pp. \$35.00 hardback (ISBN 0743242998)

In the last year there have been several media reports about the influence exerted by Straussians (intellectual followers of the philosopher Leo Strauss) in the Bush administration. Leon R. Kass is often mentioned as one such Straussian luminary and, in fact, he is the chair of the President's Council on Bioethics as well as a distinguished professor at the University of Chicago. Due to his influence, both in the political realm and in the conservative movement, this book, *Reading Genesis: The Beginning of Wisdom*, should be of interest to GLBT librarians.

The parts of the book which deal directly with same-sex affection and sexuality are small. The term "homosexuality" has only two references in the index. However, the subject matter of the book, patriarch correctly understood (as a Straussian might say) should be of central importance to readers of this newsletter. But first, let's look at the treatment of same-sex attraction and sexuality in the work. First, Kass accepts the view that the sin of Sodom is inhospitality toward strangers but he also holds that in the city's sins, inhospitality and violence, are intimately linked to "sexual perversion", which he believes the author of Genesis views as profoundly selfish. He further links same-sex attraction to the incest later committed by Lot's daughters with their father. In the second indexed reference, Kass writes that homosexuality, incest, and bestiality, as well as child sacrifice, are linked by the author(s) of Leviticus as sins particular to the Canaanites and Egypt, and are ones which do not make the correct distinction between like and unlike or between man and woman. Kass holds that a major goal of the Genesis text is to make these distinctions and to reject the worldview of Egypt, the Canaanites, and of cities in general. A final treatment of same-sex attraction and desire, oddly enough not listed in the index, is in Kass's treatment overall of the patriarch, Joseph. Joseph is presented as a failed patriarch because he is a failed father, a failed son, as assimilated to Egyptian ways, and as a leader who lacks foresight. In what is probably the most unnecessary homophobic passage in the book, Kass speculates that Joseph's tendency to weep, particularly upon seeing his younger brother, Benjamin, is an expression of an overly dramatic, effeminate, homosexual personality, and in the case of interaction with Benjamin, perhaps has its origin in Joseph's incestuous feelings for his brother. The book, therefore, repeats what has become a standard right-wing religious view of same-sex attractions, namely, that they are essentially selfish and produce men who are unfit to rule.

It is also important to realize that Kass is religiously respectful but not necessarily believing or devout. He admits in the preface that as much as he wants to believe, and as much as he respect his familial religious traditions, he is not able to do so entirely. He goes on to write, however, that his "sympathies have shifted toward the biblical pole of the age-old tension between Athens and Jerusalem". This, however, is an affirmation open to many interpretations. It might also be viewed as one possible standard Straussian position, and, I argue should be taken as central to our understanding of the book. Religion for most Straussians is a useful tool for producing rightly governed nations, especially ones in which the leaders are able to appropriately combine cunning and prudence. Straussians are also noted for not saying entirely what they mean. In fact, they hide their most important points within the text by means of ambiguous statements, contradictions, and silences about issues which should be raised or clarified. The truth, so hidden, is to be discovered only by the closest reading. My close, suggested reading of this particular text is that Kass presents the development of patriarch in Genesis as a response of one people to a series of questions concerning rule. These questions are ones which Kass and other Straussians believe must arise in all societies that manage to survive. The questions go something like this: How does one reduce the initially ungoverned sexuality of men? How does one turn imprudent young men into somewhat prudent adults? How does one select prudent leaders? How does one turn men, and women, away from their natural inclination to worship the body and toward actions that have positive consequences for future generations? And What sorts of religious teachings get these jobs done? On this reading, Kass's book is an extended, poetic, argument that patriarchy, as brilliantly developed in Genesis, is meant to solve this set of political, not religious, problems. As librarians, we need to be able to place the book within this larger context.

Finally, in order to help librarians do this contextual placing, and to deal with other Straussian texts, I suggest two excellent commentaries on that philosophical tradition. They are Shadia B. Drury's 1997 book, **Leon Strauss and the American Right**, and Anne Norton's more recent, 2004 work, **Leo Strauss and the Politics of American Empire**.

Reviewed by David E. Woolwine, Ph.D., MLS, Assistant Professor of Human Services, Metropolitan College of New York.



Banned Gay Book Being Returned To School Library

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(University Place, Washington) A book about gay teens removed last month from the University Place school district's library shelves following parents' complaints is going back to school.

The University Place school board endorsed the superintendent's decision to return "Geography Club" to the Curtis High School library, but not the library at Curtis Junior High.

Superintendent Patti Banks says after talks with community members, students and people across the country she decided the book is O-K for older students, but not eighth- and ninth-graders.

The book was pulled from both schools because of concerns it could induce students to meet strangers through the Internet.

Despite her "split decision" the recommendation is a marked departure from statements she made when the book was banned in November.

At that time she said she was alarmed by the "romanticized" portrayal of a teen meeting a stranger at night in a park after meeting the person — revealed to be a gay classmate — in an Internet chatroom.

Banks claimed that she was not anti-gay but was concerned about meeting people in chatrooms.

"We want to send a strong consistent message to all our students that meeting individuals via the Internet is extremely high-risk behavior," she said last month.

In the 2003 book, by Brent Hartinger of Tacoma, a teenager thinks he's the only gay student in his high school until he learns that his online, gay chatroom buddy is a popular athlete at his school. The teen meets others, and they form the school Geography Club, thinking the name will be so boring no one else will join.

Banks had "Geography Club" withdrawn from Curtis Junior High and Curtis Senior High school libraries after a University Place couple with children in both schools filed a written complaint Oct. 21 asking the district to remove the book.

"Geography Club" is one of 10 nominees for the Evergreen Young Adult Book Award 2006. It's received favorable reviews and been placed on numerous adolescent reading lists.

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

If you have questions, please contact **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**