From the Editor:

The work and efforts of the GLBTF continue. This issue contains updates from our committee chairs, information about the Midwinter Conference in New Orleans, and new book reviews. If you will be attending ALA's Midwinter Conference in New Orleans, we hope that you will join us at our social or consider volunteering for one of our committees.

Now for some important administrative issues. First if you have not already done so, please remember to renew your subscription with this issue. This is the last issue you will receive, if your subscription was extended by the GLBTF for 1997 (due to nonproduction of the newsletter in 1996). If you do not renew you subscription, we will not be able to send you future issues. A renewal form is found on the back of the newsletter.

We hope that you find the GLBTF Newsletter a valuable professional tool and that you will continue your patronage.

Second, in order to continue the financial viability of the newsletter we have increased the subscription price to ten dollars annually. We know that membership to ALA is expensive, but we hope that the total of twenty total dollars you spend for the Social Responsibilities Round Table membership and the GLBTF Newsletter subscription will continue.

Please help us keep the issues and concerns of GLBT librarians and their advocates in the forefront of our largest national professional organization, the American Library Association.

In this issue you will also find a schedule of meetings and events for Midwinter. A tear-out list of our meetings and events is enclosed. The location of one key event is has not yet been finalized at press time: the location of the Midwinter GLBTF Social.

The Midwinter GLBTF Social is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 1998, from 6pm to 8pm. Once the location is finalized, the GLBTF will post an announcement on our website and on the two listservs serving GLBT librarians: Gay-Libn and Lezbrian.

Additionally, a flyer indicating the location will be available at the Office of Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) desk in the ALA office at the Convention Center in New Orleans. Our Social continues to be a highlight of the conference for GLBT librarians. We look forward to seeing you there!

On a personal note, my professional life has been a hectic one over the past six months. In June I was hired as Branch Head for the Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library in Cleveland, Ohio. This past October, I held the first gay-oriented program at CPL. Author, activist and publisher Patricia Nell Warren read from her new work "Billy's Boy," the third book in the "Front Runner" Trilogy. She also spoke about her involvement in the Communications Decency Act (CDA), and her work with GLBT youth as a Commissioner of Education for the Los Angeles Unified School District. (continued on page 5)
FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Michael Miller, Male Co-Chair

Greetings GLBTFers and friends! The key term in the title of this GLBTF publication is NEWS! And do we have a-plenty that is new. While reviewing the minutes from the various Task Force meetings from Annual, I was surprised at what has happened to us. We're growing... FAST and BIG!

Let me start by introducing our new initiatives. In San Francisco, the people in attendance voted to establish three new standing committees. They are the Fundraising/Publicity Committee, the Book Award Breakfast Planning Committee, and the External Relations Committee.

The fundraising committee will by coordinated by our beloved former co-chair, Mark Martin of the Temple Archives in Diboll, Texas. The Breakfast Planning Committee will be coordinated by Ellen Bosman of the Indiana University Northwest Library. Last but not least, the External Relations Committee will be coordinated by long time TF friend, Kenn Bicknell of the Redwood City Public Library in California.

What will these committees do? Mark will keep us abreast of the challenges of raising a 1/2 million dollar endowment to support the Book Awards after the year 2000. (Can we deal with the SRRT budget? Will we need to establish a foundation?) Ellen and her group will replicate and then build upon the splendor of the first two Book Awards Breakfasts working in close conjunction with the Program Planning Committee. And Kenn will keep the GLBTF in the profession's, as well as the nation's, eyes. (Watch out for those displays at our events, our responses to bad vibes in the professional literature, and the greeters at every GLBTF event!)

As a result of the arduous work of two GLBTF members, the GLBTF is proud to note that were are a formal member of ALA's Diversity Council. Despite active opposition from others in ALA, Wendy Thomas and Mark Martin represented the interests of all GLBT and gay-friendly librarians in this difficult endeavor.

Now, as an official member of the ALA-wide Diversity Council, we have appointed two representatives to that body. Please give a warm welcome Jennnifer Schaffner of the California Historical Society and David Van Hoy of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They shall be our defenders against professional ignorance of GLBTF initiatives.

Bonita and I have also been busy with additional long-term TF issues including: BYLAWS, STRATEGIC PLANNING, and THE ROAD TO ROUNDTABLESHIP! With the approval of the new committees, changes of the official bylaws must be updated. Our long-term strategic planning initiatives have subsided recently. This strategic focus will be a priority in 1998. The co-chairs will keep you updated on this front.

Please check out the GLBTF web site starting Dec. 1, 1997 to see the draft of the newly revised bylaws. We will debate, revise, and (hopefully) approve these changes at our Steering Committee meetings during the Midwinter Conference in New Orleans.
Our long-term strategic planning initiatives have subsided recently. This strategic focus will be a priority in 1998. The co-chairs will keep you updated on this front. Finally, because of the many budget problems we’ve been faced with as a sub-unit of SRRT within ALA, the steering committee members talked about graduating to a Round Table status. Because our membership is so large and because our initiatives so far-reaching, we have plenty of reason to branch off.

I’ll present a proposal for progress in this area at the second Steering Committee meeting in New Orleans. Hopefully this initiative can be accomplished by the end of the annual 1998 conference. (We’ll discuss the possible renaming of the TF later!)

Incidentally, if you don’t have access to the Internet, contact one of the co-chairs and we’ll have a copy of the bylaws sent to you by mail. Please join in this important discussion: the more voices we include the better we will be heard. I look forward to seeing all of GLBTF friends and new faces in the BIG EASY!!!

-- Michael Miller, Male Co-Chair

Bonita Corliss, Female Co-Chair

"GLBTF looks toward 1998"

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force is looking forward to lots of work and fun during Midwinter in New Orleans. We are still in the planning stages for our annual program, which will be oriented towards the information needs of children, adolescents, and those who care for them.

As gay, lesbian, and bisexual librarians we want children and young adults to have better access to “pink” information than many of us did as children. One way we see that happening is through library services that address the needs of children being raised by gay, lesbian, bisexual, transexual parents, and providing the resources for young adults who are themselves exploring questions of sexual orientation.

As always, we will have a social event during Midwinter that will be held Saturday evening. Stay tuned to our website at: http://www-lib.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html for the location.

Jules Tate will be planning the 1998 Midwinter and Annual conference programs. Chet Mulawka will step in as our Program Planning Coordinator for 1999. Jules can be reached at: jtate@nunez.cc.la.us. Chet can be reached at: mulawkac@pls.lib.ca. We are always looking for volunteers both for program planning and the social. Faye Chadwell and the Book Awards committee will also make the final selection for our annual book awards. Please see Faye's update later in this issue.

Lastly, our newsletter and information clearinghouse publications are available. To order documents from the Clearinghouse, see our website at: http://www-lib.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html If you have questions, contact Keith Trimmer at: trimmer@calvin.usc.edu.

Any other questions or inquiries can be directed to either myself or Michael Miller, my co-chair. I can be reached via email at: bcorliss@spl.lib.wa.us or c/o Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, WA 98104. Michael can be reached via email at: miller@columbia.edu or c/o 328 School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, 420 West 118th St, New York, NY 10027.

-- Bonita Corliss, Female Co-Chair

GLBTF WEBSITE !!!

You can reach us on the World Wide Web at:

http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html
or
http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/rtables home.html
Planning continues for events and programs for both the 1998 Midwinter and Annual Conferences. Please see the list of dates and times for committee meetings and for social events in this issue. Unfortunately, one major detail regarding Midwinter is not yet nailed down; the site of the GLBTF Social. We initially tried to get one of novelist Anne Rice’s homes for our social; but because of a transition in their policy, they were not able to accommodate our request. Hence, we are late in finalizing the location.

The Midwinter GLBTF Social is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 1998, from 6pm to 8pm. Once the location is finalized, the GLBTF will post an announcement on our website and on the two listservs serving GLBT librarians: Gay-Libn and Lezbrian. Additionally, a flyer indicating the location will be available at the Office of Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) desk in the ALA office at the Convention Center.

The place will either be in the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, which is itself in the midst of relocating, or the upstairs of one of the bars in the French Quarter, or either the main branch of the New Orleans Public Library (NOLA) or the Latter Branch of NOPL, located on St. Charles Avenue.

The GLBTF Program Planning Committee is also continuing its work to develop dynamic and relevant programs to address GLBT issues within librarianship.

The theme of the GLBTF ALA Annual 1998 program will center on the "pink" information needs for children and related children’s issues. This program reflects ALA President Barbara Ford’s theme during her tenure: “Libraries: Global Reach, Local Touch.” The committee is in the process of finalizing speakers for this program.

The committee realizes the urgency of getting speakers to commit to the 1998 Annual program. As usual, the Program Planning Committee solicits membership on the committee by as many folks as possible.

Preliminary inquiries have been made by Tanner Wray about sites for the 1998 Annual Social. As soon as the exact location is determined for the 1998 Annual social, members will begin inviting members of Congress, of national organizations located in DC, and members of the administration to attend our social.

We are gratified that a number of people who expressed interest in becoming active with the committee are now on the committee’s listserv. If you have shown interest but have not received any email from the listserv, or if you are interested in getting involved, please contact me again. I have recently changed jobs and may have lost some correspondence in the transition.

There is still time to volunteer if you are interested in assisting with the programs for Midwinter in New Orleans in January 1998 as well. Please email me at the address below. If you are interested in doing committee work, for future events, plan on attending the two planning committee meetings in New Orleans. You can contact me via email at: ajtli@jazz.ucc.uno.edu.

--Jules Tate
PPC Chair 1997-98

Volunteers Needed to Plan Annual Party in Washington D.C.

Join us for our D.C. Party! If you live in the D.C. area and would like to help plan the GLBTF Social for the ALA Conference next summer, contact chairperson, Tanner Wray. Tanner can be reached via email at: twray@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu. Our social in San Francisco last summer was attended by 450 GLBT and gay-friendly library professionals. We hope that you will join us.
The 1997 GLBTF Book Award Committee continues its hard work. Besides reading GLBT titles, the committee has been working to develop a brochure. This brochure will highlight the activities of the GLBTF and provide information about the annual book award itself. In addition, the brochure will serve as means to sell the GLBTF’s award stickers. These sales will assist in the task force’s fundraising efforts.

We are also planning the Annual Book Award breakfast which will be held in Washington DC in 1998. If you are interested in volunteering or if you would like to be on the waiting list to get on the Book Award Committee itself, please contact me at:

Fay Chadwell, Chair
ALA/SRRT Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award Committee
Collection Development
Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1299
(503) 346-3485 Fax
email: chadwelf@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Nominations for this year’s award closed on November 30th. The committee evaluates titles for possible nomination before this deadline. Once works are nominated, the committee reads, evaluates, and selects the best GLBT literary (fiction, poetry, drama) and best English-language nonfiction work for that year, based upon works we receive nominations for.

As the newsletter went to press, we have 6 fiction and 11 nonfiction nominees, but we are guaranteed to see an influx of more nominations as we approach this deadline.

(continued on page 13)
REVIEWERS WANTED:

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

Barbara R. Stevens
GLBTF Book Review Editor

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

Reviewers Needed:

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

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

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

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

Barb Stevens
4302 Woodridge Drive

Eau Claire, WI 54701

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

Gay and Lesbian Task Force Newsletter
Reviewer’s Information

Name
Title
Library
Library Address
Mailing Address (if different than library address)

Office phone
Home phone
FAX Number
E-mail address(s)

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

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


Forget every drippy, politically correct, amateurish lesbian poetry anthology that you have had the misfortune to be exposed to in the past. This is the real thing – a stellar collection of fabulous poetry by lesbian poets. The poetry in the Arc of Love is of the heart-thumping, breathtaking, blood-stirring variety.

This is poetry that you dive into and get totally involved with; poetry that paints a picture of you and your lovers and your friends; poetry that feels like an intense conversation that stays with you; poetry that is packed with the smells, tastes, touches of lesbian loves and lives. Editor Claire Cross draws on her rich background as psychotherapist, activist and writer, culling poetry from diverse sources and from writers of vastly different backgrounds and styles. She weaves the poems into sections that cover the phases of love: The Light of Love; The Order of Love; the Vexation of Love; the Endurance/Evolution/Ecstasy of Love.

Eighty three poets are featured, including well-known poets like Gloria Anzaldua, Chrystos, Judy Grahn, Audre Lorde, Marilyn Hacker, Adrienne Rich and Muriel Rukeyser, as well as emerging poets like Mi Ok Song Brining, Eileen Myles and Melinda Goodman.

The editor’s skillful selection and editing results in an intensely pleasurable reading experience that is also a tribute to the richness of lesbian lives and communities. The Arc of Love is a book that will endure, a major anthology that represents the best of lesbian literature while remaining very accessible to readers, and is an excellent choice for public and academic libraries.

-Kathy Anderson, Principal Librarian
Atlantic County Library
Mays Landing, New Jersey


Dykewomon’s most recent work is the saga of two women who emigrate from Tsarist Russia to New York at the beginning of the 20th century. Actually two narratives, they merge towards the novel’s conclusion. It is in the tradition of Jewish shtetl and immigrant novels. Dykewomon is at her best as she tells Gutke Gurvich’s story. Gutke, born after her mother is raped, becomes a talented midwife with the power to foresee a newborn’s life at the moment of its birth.

Dykewomon’s language is lyrical; she evokes the paradoxical combination of misery and mysticism of Jewish life in Russia’s Pale of Settlement. Gutke’s realization that she is meant to live out her life with Dovid (really Dovida), a banker is sensitively and movingly told. Chava Meyer, whose story occupies most of the novel’s 395 pages, is delivered by Gutke in the novel’s opening pages.

After losing both parents in the Kishniev Pogrom, Chava moves to New York with her aunt and uncle. Enduring the worst of the immigrant experience, she falls in love with her cousin Rose and becomes a union activist. Rose dies in the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. At the Henry Street Settlement, Chava meets Gutke once more. Unfortunately, the portion of the novel dealing with Chava in New York is repetitive and has confusing changes of voice. Chava, an ardent adolescent, is more strident than sympathetic.

However, Dykewomon has an admirable grasp of Jewish life in Russia and New York’s Lower East Side. She includes many historical events and persons of the era. This book belongs in any lesbian fiction collection with a Judaica component. It is suitable for senior high school and adult libraries.

-Elizabeth F. Stabler, Librarian, 92nd Street YM&YWHA New York, NY

The author explores the central creation myth (Nambweap’w) of the Arapesh people of Papua New Guinea and how it has shaped the traditional society roles of men and women. By using stories of individuals in the village and the detailed analysis of the creation myth, the author compares the village of 1985 to the previous visit of 1970.

The society had been organized around a male ritual society called Tambaran. This society defined how men and women would interact, marriage rituals, and work customs. The focal point of the book is the destruction of the Tambaran. This destruction of a traditional society structure was due in part to the conflict that arose between the people and the missionary Protestant church that had evolved into a revivalist church with a millenialist focus. The cult was perceived as the influence of Satan and its removal was essential for the arrival of the millennia.

Members of the Tambaran that had converted to revivalist faith publicly revealed the secrets of the society to the assembled church members. This confession then altered the social fabric of the village. The traditional roles of men and women were reversed in some instances, marriage customs were completely altered with no new effective method replacing them. The private ritual court was replaced by a public legal court and there was an increase of spousal violence.

Recommended for purchase by college libraries and for major reference collections in public libraries. The author’s use of a narrative format makes the book easy to read and understand. Extensive use of end notes provide fuller explanations of the many anthropological studies cited by the author and information on the local language and legal customs.

-Norman J. Eriksen, Division Chief
Education Job Computer Center
Brooklyn Public Library


This lively collection considers tensions between lesbianism and feminism from many different angles. It also explores conflicts between queer theory and lesbian femi-

Other Entertainment: Collected Pieces is a compilation of thirty-seven articles, book reviews, and interviews written by world renowned composer and writer Ned Rorem. The book is divided into six sections: Book Reports, Conversations, Opera, Epitaphs, Remnants and Nantucket.

Each section offers the reader an opportunity to peek into the lives of some of the greatest literary, musical and intellectual lights of the late 20th century. Although all the articles included have been previously published, the arrangement and selection of articles for the present volume create a link between Ned Rorem and his subjects. Not described as an autobiography, Other Entertainment: Collected Pieces is just that, a book designed to tell the reader as much about Rorem as the men and women about whom he writes.

This autobiographical perspective is most vivid in the section called “Conversations.” Here we find perhaps the most interesting piece in the book, an interview with theatre critic, John Simon. As the interview unfolds, we learn as much about Rorem’s attitudes concerning homophobia as we do about Simon’s attitudes. Unfortunately for those hoping to find much about Rorem’s music, they may be disappointed as there are only a few pieces devoted to this topic. His review of the Selected Letters and Diaries of Benjamin Britten does provide a glimpse into Rorem’s musical interests.

Well written and readable even though it is a little gossipy and heavy on the insider arts scene. Other Entertainment would find a good home in any university or college library, or public library if for no other reason than it was good “other entertainment.”

-Michael Kelly
Curator of Special Collections
Ablah Library, Wichita State University


American culture and our daily lives are riddled with explosive issues. One such issue concerns adult male relationships with boys. Author William Armstrong Percy takes readers on a journey back to a past world of Athens and Greece to study the issue in his new work Pederasty and Pedagogy in Archaic Greece.

He chooses a path of well documented reasoning and discourse, employing a regime of esteemed scholars, end notes and an extensive bibliography. Armstrong states unequivocally that his arguments and theories are directed toward an educated and thoughtful audience. Assuredly, his endeavor is a must for any academic or college level institution or for students of Greek antiquity and influence.

Armstrong divides his study into three sections and thirteen chapters, leading readers from pre-institutionalization of pederasty, into a cultural model and finally to diffusion. He also provides a succinct epilogue for readers. His closing arguments herald a thousand year tradition of pederasty and pedagogy ending only with the wave of Christianity altering the Indo-European world.

Kenneth Dover’s Greek Homosexuality, Peter Webb's The Erotic Arts and Margaret Walters The Nude Male: A New Perspective provide insight into Mr. Armstrong’s study. Each author discusses the extensive use and imagery of art, sculpture, and vase painting in society. This is not a text meant to be engulfed in one setting and yet, quite worthy of any personal or institutional collection.

-M.R. Gingrich, Graduate
Archives & History
University of Texas-Arlington

Book Award Committee News
(continued):

The 1997 GLBTF Book Award Committee has 16 members, eight men and eight women. We have five members from public libraries, five from academic libraries, two from special libraries, one library science professor, and one member seeking a permanent position in the library profession. Including myself, some of the members are:

Daniel Barden, Broward County Public Library, FL
Emily Edwards, Birmingham Public Library, AL
Cal Gough, Fulton County Public Library, GA
Al Fritz, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Steve Russo, Long Branch Free Public Library, NJ
Rob Ridinger, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL
Laura Reiman, Lakewood, CO
Ann O’Neill, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Laura Pattison, Boston Public Library
David Garness, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
Tamara Fultz, Brooklyn Historical Society, NY
Suzy Taraba, Wesleyan University, CT
Michael North, The Grolier Club, New York, NY

-Faye Chadwell, Chair
Book Award Committee
SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:
Please note that your payment of the $10 annual SRRT/GLBTF membership fee does not include subscription to the GLBTF Newsletter. You must pay a separate $10 subscription fee ($12 for Canada and Mexico; $15 for all other countries) to receive the GLBTF Newsletter.

Send a check or money order and this form to the American Library Association, SRRT/GLBTF, Office of Library Outreach Services, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

The GLBTF Newsletter Committee maintains the subscriber address list. It is confidential and not release to ALA. Subscription questions should be forwarded to the newsletter editor.

Please enter/renew my subscription to the GLBTF Newsletter! Enclosed is a check payable to ALA/SRRT/GLBTF for a one-year subscription.

Name:
Address:
City:
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Zip Code:
Email address:

Yes! I would be interested in volunteering for the GLBTF. Please contact me at:

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