

GLBTF NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER ROUND TABLE

part of this challenge grant. Checks can be sent to ALA, made out to the GLBTRT; NOTE IN LARGE LETTERS THAT THIS IS A DONATION TO THE RT! The address is noted inside.

Please note that this issue contains an insert from Haworth Press announcing the publication of a new journal, of specific interest to our Round Table members. The insert is provided for informational purposes and is not an endorsement. A review of this journal will be included in a future issue of the newsletter. Since the Round Table is now responsible to generate enough income to support its work, the RT is revisiting its policies at the next conference, but will place the emphasis upon remaining nonbiased in light of the book awards.

-M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
Newsletter Editor

Professorship in Gay Literature Endowed at University of Illinois

John M. Littlewood of the University of Illinois Library "retired" in June 2000 after 38 years as Government Documents Librarian, as Gay Literature Bibliographer, and as Associate Professor of Library Administration. In the 1990s he acquired the second official title with the responsibility of acquiring gay studies materials using a small state supported budget. After his technical "retirement" he moved physically into a different library office but will continue to oversee obtaining gay studies information for his research library.

Earlier a legacy was insured through an endowment to create the John Littlewood/Don Laube Professorship in Gay Literature. This professorship which will be obtained through the library's efforts to obtain a grant from the University of Illinois.

mirror the accomplishments of other gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people across the national, and indeed international, landscape.

We now have about 300 members. We would like to double that number in 2001. Please ask other GLBT-supportive members of ALA to join our Round Table when they renew their Association membership.

Don't forget about our challenge grant! This person will match dollar for dollar up to \$2000 any donations made by roundtable members to the GLBTRT. This grant will end when we meet the goal or by December 1, 2000. Donations from organizations or businesses do not count as

University of Illinois Library
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From the Co-Chairs

Roland Hansen, Male Co-Chair

The ALA Annual Conference in Chicago proved to be quite successful for the RT. The Anniversary Gala came off without a hitch, more or less. I am happy to announce the creation of what we hope will become an endowment fund, which will fund the Book Awards. The initial gift of \$10,000 comes from Stephen Stillwell and Tom Wilding. Additional pledges have also been made, so the seed money is now up to \$13,000 PLEDGED. Anyone else interested in pledging or donating should contact Satia Orange at the ALA OLOS Office for further instructions. This is a great start on our funding the awards on a permanent basis.

The Program and meetings were well attended with some new RT members getting involved. This is great news. We welcome all RT/ALA Members to participate.

The Pre-Conference on Gay Teens was a resounding success with great speakers, panelists, and authors. Attendance was around 125. The highlight for me was hearing Kevin Jennings, Executive Director of GLSEN give a very rousing opening address which got the day off on the right foot, and inspired everyone.

Faye Chadwell comes on board as Female Co-Chair. Robert Ridinger has agreed to chair the Elections Committee

Faye Chadwell, Female Co-Chair

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About GLBTF Newsletter

GLBTF Newsletter (ISSN 1045-2893) is an official publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association. It appears quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Subscriptions are included in your membership fee to the round table via your annual membership fees to ALA.

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Most recently, our annual gala in Chicago was a huge success. Our engaging program on youngadult titles for glbt youth was well-attended. Since annual, folks havebeen plying the listserv regularly with dozens of good ideas.I encourage all round table members to become involved and share their-thoughts and energy. We need you. Bring along a friend or a colleague.And don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns aboutthe round table.

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Volunteer with the GLBTRT!!!

Join us! We are always looking for energetic committee members. Interested candidates must be members of ALA. Please mail/email your nominations to the GLBTRT at the ALA address on the back of this newsletter, or

Treasure's Update

The Gala was a success with 176 places filled. Hopefully we will have made some kind of a profit from this event. The preconference was also well attended and there is a possibility we made see some money from this event as well. Things are starting to look good regarding our funds. At the Gala it was announced by Saita Orange that we have received a pledge of \$10,000.00 to start an endowment for the book awards. Following this announcement Anne Symons and Roland Hansen both made additional pledges of \$1,000.00 each. So we now have a total of \$12,000.00 pledged toward the book award endowment. We need a total of \$40,000.00 to start the endowment. It is now time for every roundtable member to start thinking about contacts, organizations, vendors, foundations etc who we can approach for grants or donations. Any information should be sent to either me or Gary Klein. Also if you wish to pledge money to the book award endowment please do so. The \$2,000.00 challenge grant is still in effect. We have until December 1, 2000 to pick the pocket of a member of the roundtable who will match dollar for dollar everything up to \$2,000.00. At last count we only had \$425.00 in the account. I have made my donation what about you. All donations should be sent by check to the following address: OLOS American Library Association 50 East Huron Street Chicago IL 60611 Checks should be made out to the GLBTRT ALA. Make sure you specify it is a donation in your letter. It is important that every roundtable member become involved in the organization. If you are interested in serving on the fund raising committee let me know. Yours in black ink

Norman Eriksen
Treasurer
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Book Award Committee

Read a great glbt book lately? If it was published in late 1999 or 2000 please consider nominating it for the GLBT Round Table's book award for 2001. The book award committee is accepting nominations for the year 2001 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Book Award. The 2000 winners were *Po Man's Child* by Marci Blackman (Manic D Press) for literature and *My Lesbian Husband: Landscapes of a Marriage* by Barrie Jean-Borich (Graywolf Press) for non-fiction. A list of all winners and honorbooks can be found at http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html

The award, which consists of a commemorative plaque and a cash stipend, will be announced not later than February 2001 and presented to the winning authors at the summer 2001 American Library Association Annual Conference in San Francisco. Any individual not affiliated with the publisher or the author of the book being nominated may make nominations for the Book Award.

Authors may not nominate their own works. A short statement (30 to 50 words) describing why the book is being nominated should accompany the nomination, which must be submitted to Committee chairs by November 30, 2000. Nominations will be accepted by U.S. mail (postmarked by the deadline), electronic mail, or facsimile transmission (FAX). Nominations may be sent to the address/email below.

Committee Chair Anne Moore

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Gay Teen Preconference a Success

Organized by a wonderful collaboration of individuals from GLBTRT, YALSA, AASL, and ALA/OLOS, and offered under the auspices of the Margaret A. Edwards Trust, the day offered up a variety of perspectives on the issues at hand. Each segment in the day was led by a distinguished leader/expert who presented his/her experience, thoughts, and suggestions. Needless to say, much of the credit for this event goes to ALA Past President and GLBTRT supporter Ann Symons. Her energy and commitment to the topic definitely set the tone and pace for the day.

The day began with Kevin Jennings, who is the Executive Director of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network). We were given an overview of the dynamics at play in shaping individual and societal perceptions and realities regarding GLBT persons, starting at an early age. The message: Homophobia, both internal and external can best be dealt with by breaking the silence, and we were called upon to do so in a safe and inviting way.

Following this, we were treated to panel discussions on collection development and effective library practices regarding GLBT literature. Participants in all the discussions gave their first-hand accounts of how they "challenged" and/or worked with the "system" and increased awareness and acceptance in their respective disciplines. Bill Vrantsidis, from Toronto Public Library, gave a wonderful testament to a library and librarian committed to being out there in its service to this population. Many thanks to Shari Clifton, Victor Shill and Anne Moore for their involvement with these panels.

Filled with lots of good ideas, we moved to lunch and to a great talk by author Chris Crutcher. Well known author of *Ironman*, *Athletic Shorts*, etc., Chris talked about the challenges of writing about "real" people and "real-life" circumstances, especially for the teen audience. Not one to be daunted by the threat of censorship, he showed how sticking to your principles can pay off.

The afternoon began with Don Romesburg, who is probably best known for his editing of *Young, Gay & Proud*, and other Gay/Lesbian resources. Don shared his growing-up gay in Alaska experience with us, and how his librarian (Ann Symons) helped to ease his troublesome journey.

Jordan Friedman, director of Columbia University's health education program which produces *Go Ask Alice!*, a health question and answer Internet site, offered first hand accounts into the controversy surrounding this web site, and the ways in which they have dealt with the challenges that have

by Barrie Jean Borich

There was a girl who lived on my block when I was growing up who was as destined to become a cheerleader as I was destined edit the school literary magazine. One morning, on a chilly south side of Chicago bus stop, I told this girl I had just read a good book. "You think all books are good," she sputtered. It was a typical exchange between a popular girl and a smart girl. She meant to wound me, and did, and her future-cheerleader social superiority was upheld, for the moment. But even then I knew there was more in store for me than the ethos of that windy street corner. I knew because while she was perfecting her cartwheels I went to the library. I read books.

Like most writers I spent my childhood deluged in books. But unlike my nieces and nephews today (whose Barbie-doll and toy-truck-strewn bedrooms contain a good many children's stories and novels inscribed by their lesbian aunts) I didn't own many books when I was a kid. If we had been required to own books in order to read them I wouldn't have read very many. I was the first-born child of my generation on both sides of my extended working and lower middle class family, and had scads of aunts and uncles who loved me dearly. But they weren't readers, and would never have thought to give a book to a child. I depended on the library.

The particular box of brown brick and mortar I frequented was the Harvey Public Library in the near southeast suburbs of Chicago, across the street from the YMCA where I learned to swim. My parents were public school teachers and my family spent summers traveling in a truck camper. During the school year I checked out the maximum number of books allowed on my library card, but in the summer we had a special deal. I was able to check a stack of books as high as my head and was allowed to keep them for all of June, July, and August. By the time we returned to the city at the end of the summer my entire pile was fully digested.

It's not the plots that I remember from all those books. I read fast and too hungrily, and



