

# GLBTRT Newsletter

Vol 16  
No 3



Fall  
2004



*Hello, everyone!*

I would like to start out by apologizing to all of you for being so late on this issue. I had too many things going at once, and was not able to get this out until now. The next issue will not be late!

This issue is our first electronic-only issue of the GLBTRT Newsletter. At ALA in Orlando, we discussed problems with our budget, and one of our biggest expenditures is this newsletter. In an attempt to reduce costs, we decided to only print pre-ALA issues, and the other two issues will be electronic-only, which you can print on your own if you desire. I hope this is acceptable for all of you, and as always, I welcome your feedback!

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is **November 12th**, so please make sure to have all your book reviews, officer reports, ALA information and general interest article emailed to me before that time!

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, or if you wish to submit something for an upcoming issue, please email me.

**Ken Wells**, *GLBTRT Newsletter Editor*  
[kenwells@ufl.edu](mailto:kenwells@ufl.edu)



Hello Members, Friends, and Visitors.

I am just going to say a few things about how you as members of the Round Table can get in touch with the committee chairs and leaders in the the Round Table. I know that we all look forward to hearing from you. We want

## Co-Chairs Report (Continued)

Following is a list of all GLBTRT Committees and their respective Chairs:

### Co-Chairs

- Anne L. Moore 2004-2006 [amoore@library.umass.edu](mailto:amoore@library.umass.edu)
- Stephen Stratton 2003-2005 [stephen.stratton@csuci.edu](mailto:stephen.stratton@csuci.edu)

### Treasurer

- Margaret Pas 2003-2005 [mpas@sympatico.ca](mailto:mpas@sympatico.ca)

### Secretary

- Andrew Johnson 2004-2006 [afj@u.washington.edu](mailto:afj@u.washington.edu)

### Breakfast Planning Committee

- John C. DeSantis (2005)  
[John.C.DeSantis@Dartmouth.EDU](mailto:John.C.DeSantis@Dartmouth.EDU)

### Clearinghouse/Website Committee

- T.J. Lusher (2005) [C60TJL1@wpo.cso.niu.edu](mailto:C60TJL1@wpo.cso.niu.edu)

### External Relations Committee

- Richard V. DiRusso (2005)  
[Richard.DiRusso@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Richard.DiRusso@tucsonaz.gov)

### Fundraising

- Jim Simonis [simonis@mail.lemoyne.edu](mailto:simonis@mail.lemoyne.edu)

### Membership Committee

- Lewis Day (2006) [lewis\\_day@harvard.edu](mailto:lewis_day@harvard.edu)

### Newsletter Committee

- Kenneth Lee Wells (2006) [kelken@nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu](mailto:kelken@nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu)
- Beth Tarr - [btarr@lapl.org](mailto:btarr@lapl.org) (Book Review Editor)

### Nominating

- Robert Ridinger (2005) [C60RBR1@wpo.cso.niu.edu](mailto:C60RBR1@wpo.cso.niu.edu)

### Program Planning Committee

- Damian Lambert (2005) [dglm Lambert@hotmail.com](mailto:dglm Lambert@hotmail.com)

### Stonewall Awards Committee

- M. Callaghan (Cal) Zunt (2006) [Cal.zunt@cpl.org](mailto:Cal.zunt@cpl.org)

### ALA Councilor for Small Round Tables

- Jordan Scepaniski [jordan.scepaniski@zu.ac.ae](mailto:jordan.scepaniski@zu.ac.ae)

## Share Your Stories! Calling All Ideas!

Be it career advice, book titles, life stories, cautionary tales, or tips on unjamming a photocopier—I've never known a librarian who isn't ready and eager to "share" with colleagues, no matter how serious or mundane the topic!

Well, we on the GLBTRT Newsletter Committee now invite you readers to "share" with us, and our membership, any and all vignettes from Your Life in the Library Trenches. We want to hear your first-person accounts of what it's like to be a glbt librarian in today's America, whether your institution is academic, public, or corporate.

Need a jump start? Here are a few ideas, out of myriad other possibilities!

What have your overall experiences been as a glbt librarian at your particular institution?

What degree of official administrative support do you personally enjoy (or not)?

If you are out to your colleagues, what sorts of challenges have you faced in that regard, if any?

What opportunities have you had to influence your library's collection development practices regarding glbt-related material?

Has your library made any special efforts to implement glbt-



It was an honor to speak before people devoted to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans written word. I was equally awed by my company on the dais. I was sharing space with some of the people who impacted my youth and refined my palate: Barbara Grier published some of the first lesbian literature I read, John D'Emilio wrote about the men and women who were absent from my school history books, Christopher Bram created characters I wanted to know or become.

Then there were the talented authors whose work wasn't published at that time. Julie Anne Peters writes books that help young adult readers see the normalcy of GLBT life. Monique Truong has created a wonderful musing of a little noted character in a notable lesbian couple's life.

I am grateful to have been asked to share my story and be in the good company of advocates of GLBT literature and fellow writers.

**Steven Reigns**  
*Author*

Following is Steven's speech from the Stonewall Awards ceremony at the 2004 ALA Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.

Good Morning, I'm Steven Reigns and it is an honor to address you today. I've always seen librarians as the preservers of our written culture. At a young age I realized that I didn't need to know all the answers, I just need to befriend the reference librarian. Since I've always held the knowledge of librarians in high regard, I was a bit unsure what I could tell you that you couldn't look up. Maybe I'd stand up here and read inspiring quotes by famous gay or lesbian authors. To look those up I would have had to ask a librarian and re-quoting the work back to you just seemed redundant.

So I thought, well, I'll tell you about my story and my feelings about libraries because it seemed like one of the few things that couldn't be looked up.

About four years ago, I raised my standards on who to date. Aside from owning a vehicle, having a job, not doing drugs, chewing with their mouth closed, and understanding the importance of high-thread-count sheets, I added another standard — they needed to own a library card.

I was not interested in men with library cards out of some odd intellectual kink desire. I was interested because a library card symbolized a desire for knowledge, a willingness to learn and explore. I don't need to date another bibliophile but I do need to date someone open to new information.

The resources housed in libraries give opportunities to learn, to feel, to explore, and to move beyond our own life experiences. I also know some must go because of the free video and DVD rentals. This is OK, too. Because I am an obsessive reader and always falling into low-paying professions, libraries have given me access to books I could not have afforded or would have been subjected to reading on the floor of my local bookstore.

I discovered books out of default. As a child I was seen as dorky, and I was made fun of. I didn't have a peer group to speak of and didn't have any athletic ability. I was an awkward boy who came from a household of extreme emotional, physical and sexual abuse. I liked men and also knew that this was one more trait that wouldn't be accepted by my schoolmates. My friends and confidants were characters from the pages of young adult fiction.

At 16, I got a fake ID, discovered gay bars, sex, drugs...and left the library behind. I rediscovered it awhile later when I gave up partying and stopped avoiding all of the issues I didn't want to confront.

When I was ready to face my past abuse, ready to really embrace my sexuality, ready to explore what it really means to be gay in American society...I found solace in books.

On the shelves of the St. Louis County Library, I discovered poets like Sapphire and Essex Hemphill, who spoke out in the times others had been silent. I found historians Martin Duberman and John D'Emilio, who tracked and traced the origins of gay culture. I found the novelists Dorothy Allison, Edmund White, and Christopher Bram, who told stories about characters I loved. I found the diaries of Anais Nin and Keith Haring and memoirs of Sarah Schulman and Aam(the t6Nin hulma,0.0152 Tc -0 cdue.05 s,irs of Sho spoke out in

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This year marked the second year I've organized an event for GLBT History Month at my local public library in Tampa. Historically the library has organized and sponsored events for Black History Month, National Poetry Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month, yet have always lacked an "out, non-straight" presenter. The month of June seemed completely neglected. I naively brought it to the attention of the programmer, thinking she'd see the error in her ways. Unfortunately, she didn't see any error at all and didn't intend to have any gay programming. I was told that library programming requires planning two years in advance. I asked why weren't they thinking of gays and lesbians in 2001? She wasn't amused. I wrote a proposal for a library sponsored event and it was denied. The safe sanctuary I had always known libraries to be, the place where I first found acceptance of my desires and feelings, the first place I found friends, now seemed flawed. The lack of GLBT programming seemed to validate that our culture, our community, and our experiences are not of worth. I was



## Endowment Fund

Current Balance for the eight months ending April 30, 2004: \$30,033.28 (end FY 03 balance = \$23,986.62)

The RT requires a \$40,000.00 balance in the endowment fund (an ALA accounting rule) in order to begin using the interest to fund part of the RT's book awards. Until the fund reaches the \$40,000.00 mark, interest earned is being rolled over into the principle.

## General Fund

All donations received by the GLBTRT for the current fiscal year have been to the endowment fund. There have been no donations to our general fund. Prior to the setting up of the endowment fund, the GLBTRT's total revenues have been much greater than its expenses. Without any donations going into our general fund, our expenses have been greater than our revenues. In the next two or three years the buffer that has accumulated due to donations will be depleted. At that point the RT will have to pay all expenses from monies received through dues (see budget). Hopefully this will be mitigated by reaching the \$40,000.00 endowment target. Fortunately, the breakfast and social have been self-sustaining.

Other than the awards breakfast, the greatest expense that the RT incurs is the newsletter. In order to lower expenses we may want to discuss the possibility of sending the newsletter via e-mail to willing members. For FY 05 the budget does not include funds for facilities rental nor for conference equipment rental. We will need to find a 'free' site to hold our social in 2005. It was necessary to cut costs in certain areas in order to balance the budget.

Please review the budget and send any questions, suggestions, or comments to me at:

**Margaret Pas**, *GLBTRT Treasurer*  
[mpas@sympatico.ca](mailto:mpas@sympatico.ca)

**GLBTRT Newsletter** (ISSN 1533-7219) 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 annual membership to the GLBTRT.

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**The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table  
Proposed Budget - Fiscal Year 2005**

<u>Budget Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY05 Budget</u>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Dues		
4000	Dues/Personal (560x12)	\$6,720.00
Sales		
4110	Subscriptions	\$10.00
Meeting & Conferences		
4220	Meal Function - Awards (150x50)	\$7,500.00
	Meal Function - Social	\$1000.00
4400	Donations (operating expenses)	\$0.00
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$15,230.00</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Payroll Related		
5016	Professional Memberships	\$100.00
Travel		
5210	Transportation	\$0.00
5216	Lodging & Meals	\$0.00
Meeting & Conferences		
5300	Facilities Rent	\$0.00
5301	Conference Equipment Rental	\$0.00
5302	Meal Functions - Catering Expenses Awards	\$6,000.00
	Meal Function - Social	\$800.00
5303	Exhibits	\$400.00
5304	Speaker/Guest Expenses	\$800.00
5305	Speaker/Guest Honorarium	\$1,000.00
5306	Awards	\$2,000.00
5350	Program Allocation	\$350.00
Publication - Related		
5402	Printing - Outside (newsletter/brochure/fund raising)	\$1,700.00
5410	Mail Service - Outside (newsletter/fund raising)	\$400.00
Operating expenses		
5500	Supplies/operating	\$30.00
5523	Postage * E-mail/Outside	\$500.00
5599	Misc. Expense	\$250.00
Inter-Unit-Transfers		
5901	IUT/Prod. Serv./Admin. Fee	\$50.00
5902	IUT/ITTS	\$50.00
590hFunct-1.4427 TD -001to		\$100.0699

TD -0.0255 Tc 0 50.00

**The Gay & Lesbian Atlas.** By Gary J. Gates & Jason Ost. The Urban Institute Press, Washington, DC 2004. 232pp. \$49.50 paperback (ISBN 0-87766-721-7)

I can't recall how many times I was discussing with my parents, or relatives, or people at work, or well just about anyone that would listen, the fact that GLBT people are everywhere. I usually got the condescending, sure they are Steve, just not here in this neighborhood, or this city, or county, or other useful geographic entity that they chose to name. I would fume and know I was right but had no proof that showed I knew what I was talking about.

Now, thanks to Gary Gates, Jason Ost and The Urban Institute Press, I have the reference book I have needed all those years. The Gay & Lesbian Atlas presents in colorful format of maps and charts, all the states and a number of cities, so that everyone can see the numbers of same sex couples. Thanks to a few questions on the United States Census 2000, researchers are able to deduce that yes, every state DOES have couples. In fact I learned in this book, over 99 % of US counties have gay and lesbian couples living in them. There are 3141 counties (or their equivalent) in the country, only 32 of them, we know now, do not have gay and lesbian couples living openly in them. In fact, 97 percent of US Census tracts (geographic areas with approximately 2000 people, regardless of size) have gay and lesbian couples living in them. Census tracts are what legislators use to redraw congressional districts after every census also, so rest assured, that conservative congressperson that says he never met a gay person needs to get to know his congressional district better because we are everywhere according Gates and Ost.

There are maps, charts and statistics for all 50 states, and 25 metropolitan areas are included also with similar colorful maps, detailing county and census tract numbers, size, location patterns, and data are extensively discussed prior to the chapters on states and metro areas. An extensive bibliography at the end can provide further reading in gay and lesbian demographics for those that are interested. Some interesting facts I learned in the book include: Vermont leads the country in concentration of gay and lesbian couples; Mississippi, South Dakota, Alaska, South Carolina, and Louisiana are the states where same-sex couples are most likely raising children; Women prefer Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and Santa Fe to Seattle, New York, and San Francisco where the men prefer to live; Hispanic same-sex couples are most likely to live in Texas, while African-American same-sex couples are most





**GLBTRT Newsletter**  
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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

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**SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:**

**This newsletter is now included in your membership fee to the GLBTRT via your regular ALA membership registration.** Just be sure to join the GLBTRT when you renew your membership or initially join.

Subscription questions should be forwarded to the newsletter editor at *kenwells@ufl.edu*.

**Thank you for your support!!**