



GLBTRT er Newsletter

Vol 18
No 3



Fall
2006

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



Hello, everyone!

This is my first issue as your GLBTRT Newsletter Editor. **Ken Wells** developed and expanded this publication over his four years as Editor; while I may not have quite as many great ideas, I hope to bring the same enthusiasm to this task that he did. Ken continues working for the GLBTRT as a member of the External Relations Committee.

Ray Barber has also moved on from his post as Book Review Editor; **Lisa Johnston** has taken on that role. With the cadre of reviewers Ray developed, Lisa will continue to bring us highlights of GLBT fiction and nonfiction each issue. If you have an interest in book reviewing, contact Lisa at: lnjohnston@sbc.edu.

Haworth Press continues in its enthusiastic support of the newsletter. The printing and mailing of each issue is completely underwritten by **Haworth**. Thanks a million!

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, or if you wish to submit something for an upcoming issue, please email me. Thank you, and please continue supporting the newsletter whenever you can. I am always happy to get new material!

John Bradford, *GLBTRT Newsletter Editor*
jpbmls@yahoo.com



The conference at New Orleans was a success for both ALA and the City of New Orleans. Everyt1Tw59 lbowelcomingf a conference; in fact a special t-shirt was on sale in the shops: "Librarians do by the book / ALA supports the Big Easy". On Tuesday, I had to go to five stores before I found one.

The Social was a great success, as usual. Thank you, **Gary Wasdin** and **Damian Lambert**, for organizing the event. Damian was able to provide a special dish for the event courtesy of FEMA--three boxes of MRE's (a.k.a. meals ready to eat or meals rejected by everybody). They were a big success. (So, has anybody eaten one yet?) All the funds collected that night will be donated to New Orleans Public Library Foundation to buy GLBT books for the library system.

Two days of volunteer work by conference attendees resulted in many people doing much hard work cleaning and repairing buildings around the city.

Anne Moore, her partner **Vivian**, and **Bill Berghof**rcc0507 Aptesm



**2005-2006 ALA Memorial Resolution # 13
2006 ALA Annual Conference
Memorial Tribute to Israel David Fishman**

Whereas, Israel David Fishman, librarian, businessman, rabbinical student and massage therapist, died on June 14, 2006 at age 68; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman graduated from the City College of New York with a B.A. magna cum laude, and from Columbia University with a M.S. with honors; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman's prophetic passion for social justice led him to found, in 1970, the first gay professional organization in the world: ALA's Task Force on Gay Liberation (now known as the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Roundtable of the American Library Association); and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman's influence on and contributions to the above-mentioned organization led to the naming of one of the Stonewall Book Awards as the "Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction"; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman appeared as one of the featured subjects in *Trembling Before G-d*, the acclaimed 2001 documentary film dealing with lesbian and gay Orthodox and Hassidic Jews; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman served on the Board of Directors of the Park Slope Food Coop since 1998, and as its President since 2005, working tirelessly to maintain the Coop's stability and further its growth; and

Whereas, Israel David Fishman was an ethical and spiritual person with a brilliant and creative mind, a lover of all things Italian, of the Yiddish language and Ashkenazik culture, and of Chazzanuth (cantorial music) of the Golden Age, and was an avid race walker, and passionate and skilled vegetarian cook; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the membership of the American Library Association express its gratitude for his lasting contributions as an organizer, activist and advocate for social justice and equality; and be it further

Resolved, that this Association express its sincere sympathy to his life partner Carl Navarro, and that copies

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.
American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.,
Chicago, IL 60611

Letters to the editor, correspondence to the above address care of:

John Bradford, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
jobmls@yahoo.com

GLBT ALMS Conference Reports



A weekend in the Minneapolis

When I told a friend that I was going

Mesmerized in Minnesota

The featured presenters were dazzling. From **Elizabeth Kerekere's** mesmerizing stories about the Maori people's struggle under colonialism to **Andreas Pretzel's** fascinating presentation on the proposed "Memorial to the Homosexuals Persecuted under the National Socialist Regime," the GLBT-ALMS conference was an extraordinary experience I will always remember. Listening to **Frank Kameny** and **Barbara Gittings** recount their stories as early gay activists was a reminder that the ongoing struggle for our full civil rights has been paved by their courage and commitment. It was a privilege to be in their presence. I would encourage all of you to try to join me at the next conference.

Robin Imhof, University of the Pacific
rimhof@pacific.edu

There are some conferences & organizations that have put me on their email lists, or post to groups that I belong to, that have complained out loud about poor turnout, while never noticing that they never explained what their acronym organization was about!

Luckily, that has never been a problem for ALA nor our GLBTRT.

Gary M. Klein

Librarian for Management, Economics, Education, Psychology, Public Policy.
Hatfield Library / Willamette University / Salem, OR
97301 USA
gklein@willamette.edu

I believe it is an initialism for Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections. I never heard it actually pronounced, everyone referred to "this conference" or gave the whole "Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections" spiel. I kept on referring to it as ALSM, which made it hard to search for, too. (It may, however, help explain why so many of the participants showed up at the Minneapolis Eagle Friday night.) I finally bookmarked the page so I could find it again:

<http://www.lib.umn.edu/events/glbtaims/>

John Bradford

*Excerpts from an e-mail exchange between
John Bradford and **Gary Klein**,
July 26, 2006*

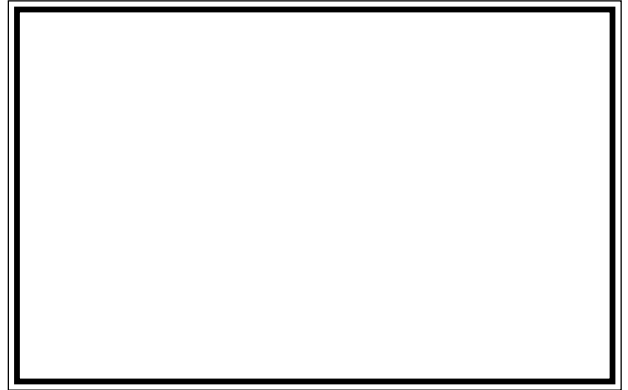
Dateline Minneapolis

There are conferences when you know from the first moment that you are part of a unique moment in history and when you can feel the foundations of many good things being set in place. That was the case at the first international GLBT ALMS (Archives, Libraries, and Museums and Special Collections) conference hosted at the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus from May 18-21, 2006.

Over 150 participants from as far afield as New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Australia and the United States (with a good representation of GLBTRT members) spent three exciting and exhausting days sharing their researches and discussing ongoing issues of preservation and conservation from a wide range of professional and nonprofessional perspectives.

The opening speaker was New Zealand activist **Kirsten** **Minneapolis** **12 1 T**





Loose End by Ivan E. Coyote. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2005.
176 p. (ISBN 155152192X) \$14.95.

The book is a collection of 47 short stories that Ivan Coyote wrote for her monthly column in *Xtra West*. Coyote calls her work “kitchen table stories” – the sort of stories to be told to an audience of friends and family.

ManBug by George K. Ilsley. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2006. 256p. (ISBN 1551522039)

Young adult Sebastian, gay and detached from ordinary relationships because of Asperger's Syndrome, sees the world through the eyes and senses of entomology, his scientific obsession. His lonely passage through school, where classmates rejected him for his inexplicable behavior – Sebastian experiences his feelings toward other people as colors such as green and blue and is overwhelmed by smell – to adult independence and falling in love, is told in terse, wry and often funny mini-chapters. Humans share the narrative with descriptions of insects that inhabit their lives. In this disjointed style Sebastian's autism comes through to the reader. Canadian George Ilsley makes us fit together the puzzle pieces of Sebastian's romance with Tom, a bisexual adventurer, as the two discover in the intersection of their differences – Tom compensates for his dyslexia with new age philosophy – a way to be lovers. Sexuality and the confusion men feel about love is portrayed frankly, offering some deep insights. Sebastian and Tom's story belongs to many young people, gay and straight. Recommended for mature high school readers.

Reviewed by **Paul Scaer**, Librarian, Science Leadership Academy, Philadelphia, PA.

The Good Neighbor by Jay Quinn. New York: Alyson Books, 2006. 328p. (ISBN 1555839339) \$24.95.

Jay Quinn's third novel tells the story of two unhappy couples living next door to one another in a pricey Florida

housing development. Austin has recently lost his job, so his wife Meg is supporting the family, which puts stress on their otherwise conventional marriage. Next door are Rory and Bruno, a traditionally butch/femme couple, who argue over Bruno's infidelity and Rory's desire to spend his time recording music rather than keeping house. Rory and Austin begin spending days together while their partners are at work, and inevitably, a brief love affair ensues. Nearly all of the action takes place among the four principals.

Such an arrangement requires skillful characterization to be successful, but Quinn falls short here. Rory and Austin are nearly interchangeable as sensitive men down on their luck, while Meg and Bruno are one-dimensionally macho. Furthermore, there isn't enough dialogue to establish characters and relationships; any conversations exist only to move the plot along, and all four leads rely on clichéd expressions that don't help to differentiate them from one another. Recommended only for public libraries with high circulation of gay romances.

Reviewed by **Daisy Porter**, Senior Librarian, San José Public Library



Gay day: the golden age of the Christopher Street Parade by Hank O'Neal. With Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, and Neil Miller. New York: Abrams Image, 2006. 160 p. (ISBN 0810955083) \$24.95.

Previously unpublished, these photographs by Hank O'Neal offer a visual history of the early annual Gay parades held on Christopher Street during the years 1974-1983. In 1982 O'Neal came to know Allen Ginsberg when the two worked together on a recording of Ginsberg's songs, *First Blues*. Shortly after that the two men picked out about 120 of O'Neal's photographs and Ginsberg wrote captions for them, in a rapid process O'Neal compares to improvisational jazz. O'Neal tried to market the book in 1983 but could not find a publisher so the project was abandoned. When Ginsberg died in 1997, O'Neal took the manuscript to Abrams Image and found support for publication.

The images are presented chronologically, beginning with the modest Christopher Street Liberation Day March, now the Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender PRIDE March. Most of the photographs are accompanied by Ginsberg's rich, sometimes acerbic captions. The book closes with an afterward by Neil Miller, who provides a concise, fascinating history of the Gay liberation movement. As a history of the LGBT movement the book reminds us how diverse our causes have been, with references to icons, objectives, and antagonists as extreme as Anita Bryant, the Gay Men's Health Project, and Harvey Milk; it also contains images of banners and signs with such expressions as, "I'm Proud of my Gay Son," "God is Gay," and "A.I.D.S. : We Need Research. Not

trailblazer. Using interviews with characters from Sylvester's life, he interweaves discussions of social issues and events that were front and center in San Francisco and around the nation at that time.

This book is suitable for adult general readers, especially those with special interest in the 1970s West Coast music scene.

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



Youth, Education, and Sexualities: An International Encyclopedia edited by James T Sears. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 2 v. (ISBN: 0313327483(Set); 0313327548 (v. 1) 0313327556 (v. 2)) \$175.

The question of sexuality is one that most educational institutions and systems find problematic, so much so that it is frequently explicitly prohibited or at best defined to a marginal representation in the curriculum, a practice often reflected in the way the subject is treated in reference works. Editor James Sears (perhaps better known as one of the leading scholars of the gay and lesbian history of the American South in works such as *Lonely hunters : an oral history of lesbian and gay southern life, 1948-1968* (1997) and its predecessor, *Growing up gay in the South : race, gender, and journeys of the spirit* (1991)) has assembled the first in-depth treatment of the topic on an international scale ever issued as a separate work, greatly expanding available information beyond its usual appearance as articles in works such as the *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History in America* (2004) and the *Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture* (2006). Two hundred and forty-two articles written by academics, teachers, and activists from South Africa, Great Britain, Canada, Mexico, China, Hong Kong, Iceland, Japan and New Zealand as well as the United States focus on "the extant knowledge on research, policy and practice on queer sexualities...its intersection with young people and their formal as well as informal schooling." (p. xv).

Each article is provided with a list of references for further reading, with online resources noted separately. Cross-references are not given for every entry, although linked subjects are indicated in the text in bold print. Illustrations are limited to black and white photographs, line drawings, and reproductions of artworks. Given the rise of debates with schools over whether to allow gay-straight alliances to exist as formal organizations and the scattered nature of the professional literature on this topic, this set fills a distinct gap in GLBT reference. Most valuable for high school and public library collections despite the price, although college and university collection supporting degrees in education or gay and lesbian studies will also find it a useful acquisition.

Reviewed by **Rob Ridinger**, Northern Illinois University



The Night Watch by Sarah Waters. New York: Riverhead, 2006. 450 p. (ISBN: 159448905x) \$25.95

In her highly anticipated fourth novel, acclaimed British writer Sarah Waters breaks out of the Victorian mold of her previous three books and places the reader squarely in the squalid, war-torn grittiness of 1940s London.

Employing the unique format of dividing her story into three periods (1947, 1944, and 1941) presented in reverse chronological order, Waters first introduces us to her characters in their damaged, post-war state, morally and emotionally exhausted by their experiences and resigned to the circumstances that fate has dealt them. Kay, former ambulance driver and gallant, self-sacrificing butch prototype now aimlessly wanders the streets; Duncan, who survived prison and the suicide of his teenage lover, lives complacently with the elderly Mr. Mundy, his former corrections officer; Viv continues her unpromising affair with a married man; and Helen is overwrought by jealous fears that her current lesbian lover is cheating on her.

That we are engaged at all by this disheartened bunch is a tribute to Waters' skill. The interactions of her characters are, for the most part, true-to-life and she masterfully conveys the sense of purpose that women acquired during the war and the dispiriting expectation that they revert to traditional, passive roles afterward. She also paints vivid scenes of the destruction and heartbreak of the nightly bombing raids. But there are no surprises in this telling and none of the dramatic plot twists for which Waters is known. Ultimately, the format itself fails the story – and the characters. That we meet them under dismal circumstances, having had no opportunity to develop any empathy for them, and learn their histories already knowing that their futures are fairly bleak (at least up to 1947 – with few hints beyond that to elicit much hope), makes them more pathetic than sympathetic over the course of the novel.

Written chronologically, the ending would be unacceptably unsatisfying, writing it "backwards" does not remedy that. Not without merit, and certainly evocative of an interesting period and place, *The Night Watch* doesn't live up to Waters' previous efforts.

Reviewed by **Roseann Szalkowski**, Senior Cataloger, Skokie Public Library, Skokie, IL

Thank you all for contributing to another issue of the GLBTRT Newsletter!

This could not have been achieved without your collective help and continued support!

