

# GLBTF NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL TASK FORCE OF THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## From the Editor:

Conference: In many ways, 1998 was a landmark one for the GLBTF in gaining well-deserved attention within ALA and beyond. In-coming ALA President Ann Symons attended our book award breakfast and our program regarding library services to gay youth. This is the first time the president of ALA has attended GLBTF events in our almost 30 year history. She heard the eloquent addresses of our keynote speakers U.S. Representative Barney Frank and author David Bergman, as well as the moving discussions which took place afterward at our program on gay youth. The speakers and Ms. Symons expressed to us how impressed they were with our organization and the breadth of our task force and its members. I saw Ann later during conference. She said that our events were terrific and that she'll plan on coming next year as well.

The Pleasures of Libraries: Author David Bergman has graciously allowed us to publish his keynote address in this issue of the GLBTF Newsletter. His essay, reminds all of us that the work we do in libraries and the presence we make in our profession is valued and esteemed, regardless of whether we identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transexual, queer, "gender defiant," people.

## We need your advice !!!

Input & Volunteering: For those of you are currently volunteering, attending our programs, and/or reading our newsletter, a hearty thank you! We value your interest, participation, and commitment to the GLBTF. If you haven't already, please consider volunteering with the GLBTF by filling out the form on page 11.

30th Anniversary Party & Book Awards Breakfast - Time & Money & Fun: A little less than two years from now, the GLBTF will celebrate its 30th anniversary. The task force would like to know how you want to celebrate. One event? Two? Dinner or just Drinks? Please fill out the form enclosed or fill out the form on our website.

Website: You can reach us now at:

[http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala\\_hp.html](http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html)

Newsletter: I believe that I have cleaned up the mailing list. If you are still having a problem let me know. As always, we thank you for your support. If you have questions or concerns, please email me at: [cal.zunt@cpl.org](mailto:cal.zunt@cpl.org) or write me via the address noted inside.

-M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt  
Newsletter Editor

## Annual GLBTF Annual Program and Book Awards Breakfast a Success

The Third Annual Gala Breakfast for the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Awards was held on June 29, 1998 from 8-10am during ALA's Annual Conference in Washington DC. Over 167 attendees heard the poignant and moving speeches by the keynote speakers and the award winning authors.

Barney Frank talked at length about the political climate in the United States today. He reminded us that although we are winning the cultural war, we are losing the political one. He encouraged all of us to become more active in our communities.

Award winning authors, Lucy Jane Bledsoe and Adam Mastoon were also terrific. Lucy Jane read from her novel "Moving Parts," and talked about her ongoing work with literacy programs in the California Berkeley area. Adam's gracious and eloquent speech was as moving as his photographs of gay teens from his work, "The Shared Heart." Publishers also generously provided six new GLBT fiction and/or nonfiction works, including "The Shared Heart," for all breakfast attendees.

The GLBTF program entitled "What have y1 320.eTn5har

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## From Bonita Corliss, Outgoing Female Co-Chair

It is a measure of how far the GLBTF has come in the last several years that was definitely on display in Washington D.C. during our most recent ALA Conference.

For me the highlight of the whole conference was walking into the Book Awards Breakfast on Monday morning and seeing a sea of faces eager and anxious for the festivities to begin. To have Barney Frank as our keynote speaker, and Ann Symons, ALA president, in our audience just demonstrates to me the higher profile we have assumed both within ALA and the world at large.

As always, our speakers, Lucy Jane Bledsoe and Adam Mastoon were compelling readers and speakers. For me, it never fails...I always get a little misty eyed when the award winners speak. In every case over the last several years, I have been moved by their commitment, their talent, and their ability to put our common experience into words and images. And of course we all have to thank Ellen Bosman for her superb job in organizing the year's breakfast.

The social this year at Howard University was more than a little interesting. After being dropped of at least 8 blocks away by a resistant taxi driver, Cal Zunt and I set off through the annual DC Carribean festival to find the social. Once there, it proved to be a good time of informal relaxation and good conversation. Thanks go to Gary MacMillan for finding the free space for us and hosting the event.

Of course, the work of the GLBTF goes in many other directions as well. As usual, our meetings were productive and revealed just how much more work is still to be done. Much progress was made on the process to revise our bylaws to reflect several new committees that have been created over the last year. My hat is off to all the work Michael Miller has put into this particular endeavor.

Finally, it has been my pleasure to have served as your female co-chair for the last two years. I am happy to announce that this position has been turned over to the capable Shari Clifton. While I will be taking a break from conferences for the next year, I will still be actively involved in the work of the GLBTF via the listserv. I look forward to another year of progress and growth.

--Bonita Corliss

## From Shari Clifton, Incoming Female Co-Chair

Shari's comments will be in the next issue of the newsletter -- the Editor

## New Address for GLBTF WEBSITE !!!

We have a new website address. You can now reach the GLBTF at:

[http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala\\_hp.html](http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html)

or

[http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/rtables\\_home.html](http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/rtables_home.html)

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## THE PLEASURES OF LIBRARIES

by David Bergman

Libraries have been a central part of my life. There's nothing I haven't done in a library. I've slept in them, ate in them, had sex in them. At Johns Hopkins, where I did my graduate work, the German bibliographical section was particularly secluded. And my first sexual experience happened in the Butler Library while I was high school student taking elementary Chinese at Columbia. My aunt was a librarian; I worked in a library; my friends have been librarians. I've eaten with them, played with





Book Reviews are a regular feature in the GLBTF Newsletter.



an engrossing tale, superbly told, and is warmly recommended.

--Catherine J. Ritchie  
Adult Services Division  
Decatur (Ill.) Public Library

Juana Ines de la Cruz, Sister. *Sor Juana's Love Poems: in Spanish and English.* Translated by Joan Larkin and Jaime Manrique. New York: Painted Leaf press, 1997. ISBN 0-965558-6-2.

What an extraordinary person was Juana Ines de la Cruz, known as Sor Juana—a 17th century Mexican nun who became a renowned public figure, a poet, playwright, and intellectual. Her writing ranged from religious and comic plays, to philosophical and moral poems, to polemical works such as *The Answer*, which has come to be regarded as an inspired manifesto on the

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## External Relations Committee Seeks Volunteers

The GLBTF External Relations Committee has formed and is actively seeking those interested in contributing in the following areas: building bridges with other GLBT organizations to promote our mission, membership promotion, monitoring developments regarding the Internet filtering debate as well as Family Friendly Libraries, keeping up to date with GLBT issues on the ALA Intellectual Freedom listserv, and more.

This is a great opportunity to get involved in the organization in a capacity that interests you the most. And remember, the more people that get involved, the easier it will be for us to achieve our common goals.

For more information please contact Kenn Bicknell (or fill out the volunteer interest form ) and check out the GLBTF website.

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or

<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/>

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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.

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