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Round Table of the American Library Association
<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>



From the Editor

Hello, all!!

Thank you all, once again, for helping to make this issue of the newsletter come together. I apologize for this issue being a bit late on the calendar. I'll be sure to have the next one back on track in time for ALA in Orlando, making the deadline for the next issue is **May 14!** Sorry for the short interval!

Also I'd like to ask the Round Table to please think about writing some short general interest articles for the upcoming issues of the newsletter. During my time as Editor, many of you have sent in some wonderful pieces, and have really made this newsletter a success. I sincerely thank you all for that support. But as is my role, I need to ask you to continue that support. If you've participated in an interesting GLBT event in your library, or if there is an interesting GLBT collection you know about.. anything at all that might be of interest to this group, please write something up to share with all of us. There are so many amazing things going on today in the global GLBT community, and we all need to be more aware of what's really out there!

That's enough for my rant. If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, or if you wish to submit something for an upcoming issue, please email me. I'll be more than happy to help in any way I can.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Ken Wells, *GLBTRT Newsletter Editor*
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From the Co-Chairs

Hi everyone.

I wanted to use my space in this letter to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, calls, and e-mails that I have received from you. Your words have meant a lot as I get back to work and life after Rob's death. It is great to know that there are so many people that had us in their thoughts. I am sorry that I missed out on Midwinter and hope to see all of you in Orlando in June. If I owe anyone e-mail or correspondence just remind me and I will take care of it. I lost track of a lot of e-mail and hope I have not forgotten any questions or requests you may have sent me.

I know a lot of you have been busy with Round Table activities and I just wanted to thank you all. TJ Lusher for getting the Web site running. Deborah Battisti and committee for getting the update to the YA bibliography. Cal Zunt, Rich DiRusso, and Lynn Evarts for their program at PLA in Seattle. There is always plenty to do so don't hesitate to get involved.

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Stonewall Book Awards Announced

The 2004 winners of the Stonewall Book Awards were announced to thunderous applause on January 11 at the GLBT Roundtable social held at the spectacular Mission Branch of the San Diego Public Library during the ALA Midwinter meeting.

Monique Troung is the winner of the Barbara Gittings Award in Literature for **The Book of Salt** (Houghton Mifflin). The Book of Salt chronicles the life of Binh, the Vietnamese French immigrant and his years as Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas' live-in cook in 1930s Paris. **The Book of Salt** is a savory delight of unexpected depth, beauty and emotion. John D'Emillo is the winner of the Israel Fishman Award in Nonfiction for **Lost Prophet: the Life and Times of Bayard Rustin** (Free Press), the thrilling, in-depth portrait of the late activist.

The Stonewall Book Awards, formally called the ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) Award was established in 1971 and is the oldest award of its kind.

The Stonewall Book Award finalists in literature are:

The Cutting Room (Cannongate) by Louise Welsh
Keeping You a Secret (Little, Brown) by Julie Ann Peters
Lives of the Circus Animals: A Novel (Morrow) by Christopher Bram
Southland (Akashic) by Nina Revoyer

The Stonewall Book Award finalists in nonfiction are:

Beautiful Shadow: a Life of Patricia Highsmith
(Bloomsbury) by Andrew Wilson
Before Stonewall: Activists for Gay and Lesbian Rights in Historical Context (Haworth) edited by Vern L. Bullough, RN, PhD
Intertwined Lives: Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict and their Circle (KamGmBenedict and :7sh



Hello everyone! The website continues to grow and prosper. According to the website statistics kept by the University Libraries at Northern Illinois the GLBT site is a received almost 2,000 visits for the month of February 2004. Please continue to send along corrections and updates for the website! People are looking at the site!

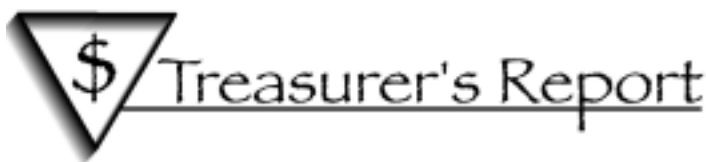
We have added a new bibliography entitled the Gay Holocaust check it out at http://www.niulib.niu.edu/lgbt/Gay_Holocaust_Final.htm. The hand-outs from the PLA presentation will soon be added to the website- so keep an eye out for that information.

I am in the very early stages of creating a searchable database for the Stonewall Book Awards. When the finished you will be able to search for items by author, title, winner/finalist, year and category (non-fiction vs. fiction).

I am also adding meeting information to the website for the upcoming ALA meeting in Orlando. If you have a meeting you would like to have added- send me the date, time, place and title. TBA is okay, just remember to update as you received further details.

So stay tuned, the fun has just begun!

TJ Lusher, Chair
Web/Clearinghouse Committee
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Endowment Fund Tops \$30,000 Mark

As of February 29, 2004, GLBTRT's endowment fund has a principal of \$30,484.26. This represents an increase of almost 29% from a year ago. ALA requires a minimum principal amount of \$40,000 in order to endow GLBTRT's book award fund. This means that we still need to raise \$9,500 to establish the endowment. In order to generate sufficient income to fully support both the "Stonewall – Israel Fishman Award for Nonfiction" and the "Barbara Gittings Award for Literature" we will need to raise at least \$75,000. The "Stonewall Book Awards Endowment" is important to the GLBTRT in order to create financial stability allowing us to be less dependent on unpredictable membership dues.

To date the GLBTRT has a membership of 560 people. Dues collected from membership fees are used to cover all operating expenses, including annual book awards but excluding our annual breakfast which has been self supporting. The RT is currently in good financial shape.

Margaret M. Pas
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The Harvey Milk Story. By Kari Krakow. Two Lives Publishing, 2002. 32 pp. \$17.95 hardback (ISBN 096744683X)

Author Kari Krakow's picture book biography describes the life and assassination of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man elected to public office in the U.S. Krakow describes the life of an extremely popular boy who becomes an internally troubled youth when he realizes that his secret sexual orientation may ostracize him from his family and friends. Harvey's pivotal move to San Francisco's Castro district provides the safe environment for him to become openly gay, yet Harvey soon realizes that even in San Francisco, gays experienced significant discrimination. He decides to run for the Board of Supervisors to try and end some of the injustices he has witnessed.

While the initial focus of this biography is on Harvey and his relationships, the conclusion leaves the reader unclear as to how these relationships evolve after he becomes involved in politics. At the same time, these unknowns may provide a springboard for discussions or further reading.

Talented illustrator David Gardner's previous work in animation studios is apparent in his watercolors that depict Harvey's personal and political life. The assassinations themselves are visually and verbally dealt with in an accurate but delicate manner. While this book may be targeted for upper elementary students, anyone ten and above may be informed, enlightened, and moved by this courageous man's fight for equality.

Reviewed by Jim Kaisen, Ph.D., Western Illinois University; Karen Hindhede, M.A., Black Hawk College

The L Word(s) Among Us in the Library World

tatiana de la tierra, Arts and Sciences Libraries, University at Buffalo

I first heard about “The L Word” when I went to the chiropractor for an adjustment. I had just gotten back from Spain and my chiropractor asked me what I was doing there. “Interviewing lesbian and gay writers and publishers,” I told her.

She got really excited. “Oh, have you heard about the lesbians?”

“No,” I said. “What about them?”

“Well, I don’t know, but they’re on the cover of a magazine!” She called out to the receptionist to get it for me.

“It’s in the back room,” said the receptionist. “I can’t have *that* out in the waiting room.” *That was New York* magazine, which had a suggestive yet completely G-rated image of the stars of “The L Word” on the cover with the banner “Not Your Mother’s Lesbians” running across their torsos.

I read the feature article on the airplane on the way to Midwinter in San Diego, along with the article on “bois,” the young hip dyke playboys with the wham-bam philosophy on girl-on-girl sex. I noted the absence of Latina lesbians in both articles and wondered how Showtime could get away with eliminating Chicana lesbians from Los Angeles. The lesbian beauty standard proposed in the program was worrisome—glamorous and privileged white women with just a little bit of brown thrown in for spice. I dozed off with that horrid thought and soon landed in San Diego.

The next day, at the Convention Center, I found myself chatting with a gay Latino colleague from Reforma, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking. We bumped into each other at registration, went for some coffee, and talked about Reforma’s lack of visible queer representation in the programming and in the membership. I’ve been addressing these kinds of issues via my Latin@ lesbian and gay bibliography and my research on queer Latin@ materials and the subject headings assigned to them. So far, I’ve focused on my research, but now I’m wondering what I can do about Reforma’s lack of attention to certain L words—lesbianism, literature, and language.

My colleague cleared his throat. “You know, you’re just too in-your-face,” he said. “That turns people off.” He

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ture. But what about issues pertinent to academic libraries and bilingual queers? The GLBTRT highlight contemporary English-language queer books and bring visibility to queers in the profession. But what about Spanish-language queer books? And what about addressing issues of diversity within the queer community? Why is it that there are hardly any out gays in Reforma and hardly any Latin@s (or other people of color) in GLBTRT?

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Getting the Green Light for GLBT Services
GLBTRT's 1st PLA Program

Lynn Evarts, Cal Zundt and myself spoke to a crowd of about a 100 people on a chilly Seattle morning (Friday, Feb. 27th at 8:30am). We discussed the aspects of how to implement GLBT services (at any level, i.e. collection development, outreach, programming) within the library's greater service plan. I emphasized the importance of obtaining administrative support, why it is necessary for successful service and what steps to take to achieve it. Cal spoke about the need to develop broad bases of support within the community and among library staff. Lynn stressed how important it is to have visibility, especially among teens. We all expressed how an organization like the GLBT-Rroundtable can help people with concerns like these, as well as, developing ties with other glbt people and our allies in the profession. A lively question and answer period followed.

Richard DiRusso, Chair
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Eight Seconds. By Jean Ferris. Puffin, 2002. 192 pp.
\$5.99 paper (ISBN 0142301213)

John wins rodeo competitions. He dates a girl that makes other high school guys envious. He fights well enough to dish out as many black eyes and bloody noses as he receives; however, during a series of late night discussions with another rodeo competitor named Kit, something awakens deep within John.

Before author Jean Ferris wrote this coming of age novel for teens, she spent time observing at a rodeo camp. As a result, she captured the highly competitive and macho atmosphere that exists among cowboys. The ideal that these young men aspire to is that of a rugged fighter who runs down any sort of deviation from this masculine image. The juxtaposition of this ideal with being gay creates significant tension in Ferris' book.

With the craft of an experienced writer, Ferris raises and lowers time and again the possibility of John being gay. The story does not end on the last page as readers contemplate John's recognition of his own sexuality and the truth about friendships and trust. This book may be found in the QCAD library.

Reviewed by Jim Kaisen, Ph.D., Western Illinois University;
Karen Hindhede, M.A., Black Hawk College



Applications are now being accepted at:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/olos/literacyoutreach.htm>

Celebrating Extraordinary Examples Of Diversity
In America's Libraries

7th Annual Diversity Fair 2004
ALA Annual Conference
Saturday, June 26, 2004
3:00 to 5:00 PM in the Exhibits Area

All kinds of exciting things are happening at the 7th Annual Diversity Fair 2004. Here are a few things to look for:

- * New look and larger audience!
- * New location on the ALA Exhibit Hall Floor!
- * "Best of Show" recognition for creativity, visual appeal and stated impact on local community

* PRIZES for the first time!**

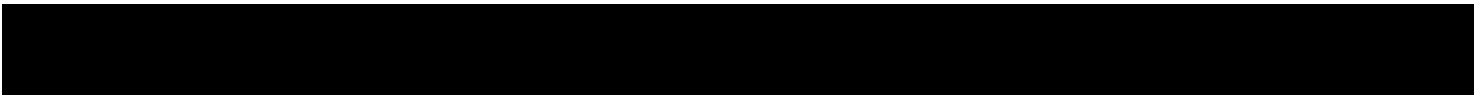
1. First Place: \$500 DEMCO gift certificate
 2. Second Place: \$200 DEMCO gift certificate
 3. Third Place: \$50 DEMCO gift certificate
- Supported by DEMCO, INC

**ALA units are excluded from "Best of Show"

Winners will be recognized in the conference newspaper, Cognotes, American Libraries, and the Office for Literacy & Outreach Services website at <http://www.ala.org/olos>.

For more information contact **Tanga Morris** at:
800-545-2433 #4294, ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611 or at divfair@ala.org.





**GLBTRT Newsletter
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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!!