

GLTF

NEWSLETTER

—Vol. 1, No. 1

Spring 1988—

GLTF STARTS PUBLICATION OF ITS OWN NEWSLETTER

To provide for better cohesion and communications, the GLTF has decided to publish its own newsletter. The newsletter is designed to keep members informed of Task Force activities, decisions, and accomplishments; to announce proposed projects or publications and to invite interested individuals to participate in working on these projects or publications; to report news of interest to Task Force members; and to serve as a forum for the discussion of views about the Task Force's activities, priorities, and problems.

The subscription fee for the GLTF Newsletter is set at \$5.00. The newsletter will be published quarterly, however special issues will be issued as required. Subscription information/requests should be sent to: Editor, GLTF Newsletter, P.O. Box 15115, Washington, D.C. 20003-0115.

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

We're excited that you are now reading the first issue of the Newsletter of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Some of us see each other in person twice a year at conferences, which is not very often. But not all can manage to get to these and thus, we all appreciate the information sharing via the print medium. The Newsletter will keep us in better touch with each other than we have been in the past. Our heartfelt thanks to Vince for following through on an idea that has been expressed off and on over the last few years.

By reading this issue carefully, we hope you'll get a sense of the history of the Task Force and what we are up to. If any of the current projects sound appealing, please get in touch with whoever is coordinating them. If you are not sure who that is by all means contact the organization and we will fill you in.

If you have ideas for other projects the TF should be doing, let us know. When suggesting an idea please consider working on the project yourself. We will be happy to put you in touch with other people who have expressed a similar interest. Other ways to recruit help would be to write up the idea as an article for the next newsletter, or to come and present your ideas at a TF meeting if possible.

Whether you are lesbian, gay, bisexual or straight; a professional librarian, library worker or a book-lover, welcome to the GLFT family. Read, contribute and enjoy.

-----Dee and Ellen-----

CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR FEMALE CO-CHAIR AND SECRETARY/TREASURER

The current term of the Female Co-Chair and the Secretary/Treasurer will expire after the Annual ALA conference this year. Ellen Greenblatt who presently fills the seat will be vacating her position after the upcoming elections. Roland Hansen, the current Secretary/Treasurer plans to run for reelection. Any TF member who desires to run for either of these two positions should contact Ellen Greenblatt or Steve Murden of the TF Nominating Committee for further details. Contact them at: Ellen Greenblatt, 602 Colvin #9, Buffalo, NY 14216 (716-873-6394); Steve Murden, 501 N Boulevard, Apt-5, Richmond, VA 23220

NOTES FROM ALA MIDWINTER IN SAN ANTONIO

--Sybil Moses, the new Director of the Office of Library Outreach Services attended the Steering Committee meeting as the ALA Staff liaison to the GLTF. General discussions concerning the aims and objectives of the TF were held in order to inform Ms. Moses what we are all about and to help develop a stronger association between the TF and ALA leadership.

--The draft of the By-Laws were completed with mailing to the TF membership scheduled for April '88.

--A Nominating Committee was formed with Steve Murden and Ellen Greenblatt directing. Volunteers are welcome and should contact Ellen or Steve directly. (Address above) Those interested in running in the upcoming elections for Female Co-chair or Secretary/Treasurer should also contact the Nominating Committee.

--The ALA Council met January 11-13, and with actions related to ALA organization and policy, voted "to direct the Executive Board to insert Personnel Policy 101, line 3, the phrase 'sexual preference' so that ALA 'would provide equal employment opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, physical handicap, or sexual preference'.

The Council also voted to "deplore discrimination against or denial of library and information access to all persons who have acquired AIDS or AIDS-related complex, or who test positive for the human immunodeficiency virus HIV.

--The Steering Committee decided that all official correspondence should be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer. This includes proposals for future projects which will be distributed to the appropriate people. For those wishing to volunteer on a committee where the committee head has not provided his/her address or phone number, the Secretary/Treasurer will forward your name and number to the committee head. This is

to provide a single address for the TF as well as protect everyone's individual right to privacy if they do not wish their address to be printed. The address to be used is: Roland Hansen, 3824 N. Fremont, Chicago, Il 60613.

—Finally, a memorial resolution was voted on during Midwinter to honor the memory of Joseph Gregg. As a respected librarian he served as the founding chair of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force Thesaurus Committee and the Henry Gerber-Pearl M. Hart Gay and Lesbian Library and Archive in Chicago. Joe strived to improve the visibility and credibility of gay and lesbian librarians within the ALA as well as offering his assistance to anyone who needed it. It was resolved that the Executive Director forward a copy of the Memorial Resolution to the Gerber-Hart Library and Archive as an expression of "our admiration and appreciation for Joseph Gregg's leadership, insight and many accomplishments in gay and lesbian librarianship".

CURRENTLY RUNNING TF PROJECTS

—Approved compilation of an AIDS Information Resource book for librarians, titled Getting AIDS Information to Librarians, to be published in the Summer, 1988. At this time, topics to be included are:

- **A bibliography of bibliographies on AIDS
- **Sources for pamphlets and vertical file materials
- **Sources for film and video
- **Resource list of expert librarians on the subject of AIDS.

Anyone with information for this publication should contact Wayne Mullin, Access Services, McHenry Library, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

—Revision of the 1980 Gay Bibliography with a name change to Gay and Lesbian Bibliography. It will be of interest to the general public, but will be geared for librarians. David Streeter has volunteered to be the coordinator of this very worthwhile project. A proposal will be sent to ALA requesting that this be published by ALA Publications. The Bibliography will include :

- **Literature (fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction)
- **Selected periodicals, pamphlets, audiovisual materials & books
- **Listings of significant out-of-print items

—Volunteers are being sought to assist in the gathering of information as well as the production of these valuable tools. If you can contribute time or know of informational sources, please contact the project coordinators directly or via the Secretary/Treasurer. Any and all help is certainly appreciated.

BOOK AWARDS COMMITTEE

For the second time in the seventeen year history of the SRRT Gay and Lesbian Book Award, two titles have tied for first place. Subsequently, awards will be given to each book at the Annual Conference in New Orleans in July, 1988. The two winners are And the band played on by Randy Shilts, and A Restricted country by Joan Nestle.

Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, rising to a place on the New York Times Best Seller List, named to ALA's "Notable books of 1987," And the band played on is a riveting account of the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

Nestle, teacher, writer, co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, has presented an intensely personal, moving collection of essays in A Restricted country that chronicles from the fifties through the eighties her experiences as a courageous, upfront, iconoclastic lesbian.

Chaired by Leslie Kahn of the Newark (NJ) Public Library, and aided by a committee of nine other librarians from a variety of positions (a total of five men and five women), the Book Award Committee had as its responsibility the selection of a work that made an outstanding contribution to lesbian/gay literature during 1987. Fiction as well as non-fiction titles were considered, including book-length bibliographies; particular emphasis was placed on selecting titles of importance to both men and women. Twenty-two titles were selected for preliminary consideration at the Midwinter meeting in San Antonio, based on nominations that had been received prior to that time. Nominations were accepted from any individual not affiliated with the publisher. Committee members were responsible for reading all of the nominated titles, and voting for the top ten. Leslie tallied the votes and determined the winners. (As an aside, this is the second year that the Task Force Book Award has been an officially recognized ALA award.)

Although titles from large, mainstream publishing houses were represented on the slate of nominations, more than half of the books were imprints of gay/lesbian/feminist/alternative/small presses. Firebrand Books, for example, had three titles on the list; Firebrand was the publisher of A Restricted country. St. Martin's Press, publisher of And the band played on, had two titles on the list. Clearly, the strength and vitality of the gay and lesbian press is crucial in the mission of disseminating information about our lives, both for our intellectual and emotional gratification, as well as for giving the non-gay world an accurate notion of the contemporary gay and lesbian experiences. By searching for and honoring works of exceptional merit by lesbian and gay writers, the SRRT Gay and Lesbian Task Force Book Award continues to play a part in that mission.

-----Richard Oloizia-----

LC ABOLISHES DEROGATORY GAY/LESBIAN SUBJECT HEADINGS

Cataloging specialists at the Library of Congress (LC) were recently authorized to begin assigning commonly-used subject headings to library materials about gay men and/or lesbians.

LC announced the changes in its Cataloging Service Bulletin #39, (winter 1988). A series of new subject headings are now being substituted for several previously used headings that have long been objected to by many gay and lesbian librarians. The old terms: Homosexual, Homosexual Couples, Homosexual Parent, Homosexuals--Legal Status,

Laws, etc., Homosexual--Attitudes, Homosexuals--Travel, Homosexuals--United States, Homosexuals' Writings, were changed. Now, users of library catalogs and periodical indexes based on LC headings will begin finding material under Gays, Gay Couples, Gay Male Couples, Gay Parents, Lesbian Mothers, Gay Teenagers, Homosexuality--Law and Legislation, Gays--Travel, Lesbians--Travel, Gays--United States, Lesbian--United States, etc. (At this point, LC continues to use the term Gay and Gays to refer to materials containing information about both gay men and lesbians.)

LC subject headings are used in the catalogs of thousands of libraries throughout the world, and library users looking for gay-oriented materials have had difficulty locating them due to the unexpected--and sometimes pejorative--headings these materials are listed under. Various librarians have been lobbying LC for at least fifteen years to revise the subject headings used for gay and lesbian oriented materials. Suggestions have been mailed to LC's Subject Cataloging Division; included in articles appearing in library journals, and published in books examining LC's subject headings. Two of the earliest public protests of what many gay people regard as misleading, obsolete, or insulting subject headings were Joan Marshall's and Stephen Wolfe's essays in the 1972 book Revolting Librarians. Another persistent and outspoken critic of misleading LC subject headings has been Hennepin County Public Library's Sanford Berman. And as far back as July 1974, ALA's Gay Task Force voted to ask LC to make many of the changes finally implemented only thirteen years later.

Some of LC's more objectionable headings and cross references--for example, Homosexuality, See Sexual Perversion--were changed in 1975 with the 8th edition of its subject heading system. LC had repeatedly turned down other changes to the 8th, 9th, and 10th editions of its list of subject headings that Berman and other librarians have suggested. The LC Subject Catalog Division's adoption of the new headings was announced a few months after the New York Times finally decided last summer to allow its reporters and editors to begin using (as an adjective only!!) the word gay in its articles and headlines.

Librarians interested in continuing the reform of LC's subject heading system so that accurate headings are used may be interested in signing a petition listing various needed terms that Sanford Berman and others are urging LC's Subject Cataloging Division to adopt. For a copy of the petition, contact Sandy c/o The Hennepin County Library, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343; (612) 541-8570

-----Cal Gough-----

RLG DECIDES USA COLLECTIONS OF GAY LITERATURE OK

At the Midwinter ALA meeting in Texas in January 1988, the Research Libraries Group (RLG)--a consortium of many of the largest collections in the United States including the Library of Congress, Yale, Johns Hopkins, etc. has determined that the systematic collecting of gay and lesbian literature in the United States already quite adequately assures the availability of this category of material as a national resource. There

had been some concern on the part of some collection development librarians serving on a committee charged with investigating weak links in the commitment of RLG to supporting certain areas of collecting, that this category may have been an "under-collected" area which required a greater commitment on the part of the consortium as a whole. Several studies that were done, however, including a national survey, determined that large and important centers of the systematic collecting already exist in Washington, DC (the Library of Congress), New York City (the New York City Public Library), and Chicago (Northwestern University) and that these centers make further commitment by consortium members not already involved in the area of collecting discretionary.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT ALA IN NEW ORLEANS

—FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES USA LUNCHEON, Saturday, July 9, 12-2 p.m. Rita Mae Brown, author of Starting From Scratch, A Different Kind of Writer's Manual, and the recent Civil War novel High Hearts, will discuss her work.

—"PRISONERS OF IGNORANCE: AIDS AND THE INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY", Sponsored by ASCLA Libraries Serving Special Populations Section, Library Service to Prisoners Forum. A noted AIDS expert will discuss the political and public policy controversies concerning AIDS. Librarian Edmund SantaVicca, who has written articles on how libraries disseminate AIDS information, will suggest what actions librarians can take. Theodore M. Hammett will present the results and implications of his research on AIDS education and training in correctional institutions. The program will conclude with questions from the audience. Librarians from all types of libraries will gain useful information from this challenging program.

*****Conference Activities*****

Monday, 11 July 2-5:30 p.m.

Annual Conference Program of the GLTF

"Positively Out: Gay and Lesbian Librarians in the Workplace"

This will be a panel discussion with participants talking about their experiences working as openly gay librarians.

Saturday, 9 July.

2-4 p.m. First membership meeting. No hotel has been assigned yet.

8-10 p.m. Social planned. No site has been established. Further information will be available in the wire baskets provided in the general registration area.

Sunday, 10 July.

4:30-5:30 p.m. Membership meeting. Site to be announced.

**The 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riot which many agree was the birth of the modern Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement is only a year away. Michael Scherker is hoping to publish a book by June, 1989, to celebrate that beginning.

"For an oral history of the Stonewall riots, -I am seeking participants, witnesses, police officers, Stonewall Inn workers, journalists and other interested and involved people who were present at the riots in June, 1969," says Scherker.

"I am also interested in interviewing people who were not at the riots but whose lives were directly or dramatically affected by them. Finally, I am trying to locate photographs, fliers, clippings, letters, diary entries and any other documentary material on or generated by the Stonewall riots."

Michael Scherker can be contacted at 135 Amersfort Place No. 6A, Brooklyn, NY 11210, (718) 434-6814. The proceeds from the book will be used to create a fund for Gay archives and historical works.

**The Fund For Human Dignity, the national lesbian and gay educational organization is planning "The Lesbian and Gay Education Conference: Initiatives Toward a National Education Agenda For Our Culturally Diverse Community." The conference is being held in conjunction with the Second International Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and AIDS forum; Sunday, July 24, 1988 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers in Boston, MA.

The Education Conference seeks to develop a network of individuals, projects and organizations working to educate various communities on lesbian and gay issues. There will be six areas of focus: media education, educating the educators and our youth, educating the nonlesbian/gay community, educating within the lesbian/gay community, education through the creative arts, and educating legislators.

The Fund is the only national organization solely dedicated to fighting anti-gay bigotry through education. It operates the National Lesbian and Gay Resource Center, the only national clearinghouse of educational materials on lesbian and gay issues, and the National Gay and Lesbian Crisisline/AIDS 800. For further information on the conference or services available by the Fund: 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, (212) 529-1600.

SUNNY VON BULOW NATIONAL VICTIM ADVOCACY CENTER

One out of every three American families will be victimized by a violent crime this year. The Sunny von Bulow National Victim Advocacy Center in Fort Worth, Texas, was set up to study and work with the issue of crime victimization. The Center monitors all 50 states and the District of Columbia, promoting the rights and needs of victims of violent crime. The organization strives to:

---serve as a national resource center for victims and their advocates.

---establish training programs and other self-help opportunities to help victims and their advocates deal effectively with the judicial system, understanding victims' rights, seek reparation and cope with grief.

---encourage and promote research concerning victims of violent crime

through establishment of a national databank and resource library.

The Center can help in two ways. First, as a library, the Center serves as a national resource for information about the victim's rights movement. The computerized data bank contains information about more than 3,000 national, state and local victim service organizations. Anyone can receive resources and immediate referrals to appropriate services or victim support groups in their community. The Center's Resource Library contains over 1,200 documents and books in 127 subject areas. Subjects dealing with victimology have been taken from the Sears List of Subject Headings and are cross-referenced with Dewey Decimal Classification numbers, along with the LC numbers. In response to the needs of victim's organizations as well as libraries, a guidelines manual entitled File It was developed. The manual provides an outline of steps to establish historical files of victim's movement and the subject categories for library retrieval.

For gay and lesbians or others concerned, the Center can also help. The Center has set up a network with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. They are jointly working on tracking hate violence towards gays and lesbians. The Center is also tracking AIDS-related violence. They will assist anyone who is a victim of violence get in touch with local organizations to find out what their rights are as victims, and also for support.

For more information or to receive their newsletter, please contact Cindy Arbelbide at: Sunny von Bulow, National Victim Advocacy Center, 307 West 7th St., Suite 1001, Fort Worth, TX 76102. Or call Cindy between 8:00-5:00 CST Monday-Friday at (817)887-3355.

-----Don McComas-----

NOTEWORTHY CITATIONS

Riddell, Gordon. "Library Services for Lesbian and Gays." Library Association Record 90 (2) February 1988, pp. 84, 86.

Has sections on "Rights issues and a guide to information", "current awareness and leisure materials:", "exhibitions, etc.", "social science works written from the lesbian/gay perspectives", "literature reflecting the experiences of lesbians and gay men".

NEXT ISSUE

The January, 1988 issue of the Washington Blade (Washington, D.C.) included the results of the first half of a nationwide survey conducted concerning lesbian health issues.

Catlin Ryan, Project Manager and, Judy Bradford, Primary Coordinator initiated, disseminated and analyzed the results. The survey went out to lesbians in small towns to big cities in all parts of the country. Almost two thousand lesbians were surveyed between winter 1984 to spring 1985. The survey consisted of a 10-page questionnaire

inquiring about social life, general physical and mental health care, stress, discrimination, physical and sexual abuse and more. The second half of the results are due to be released in July, 1988.

The statistics and information resulting from this survey will be outlined in the next newsletter. See you then.

-----Terri J-----

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

The information published in the GLTF Newsletter is obtained from a variety of sources. The Newsletter Committee must rely on the authors concerning the accuracy of material submitted for publication. If the Newsletter receives information containing an individuals address and phone number (i.e. a call for volunteers to contact a task leader for a new project) that information will be reprinted in the newsletter. If an individual does not want this direct contact but would prefer all materials to go through the Secretary/Treasurer, please indicate that when you submit your material to the Newsletter.

Considering the makeup of the GLTF the aim of the Newsletter is to provide valuable information to everyone. Materials will reflect information of concern to gays and lesbians whether they are librarians, friends of the library, or concerned about gay and lesbian issues. Any suggestions, comments, or input to the Newsletter should be directed to: EDITOR, GLTF Newsletter, P.O. Box 15115, Washington, D.C. 20003-0115.

The first issue of the GLTF Newsletter is free to all TF members. Since the Newsletter is self-sufficient there is an annual subscription fee of \$5.00. It can be sent to the EDITOR's address listed above. Thanks for your support!

-----Vince-----