

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:

ALA Annual 1999 is almost here! Members of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force (GLBTF) have been working diligently on the meetings, programs and events planned for this conference in New Orleans, June 24-30, 1999.

MEETING SCHEDULE: Included in this issue is a tear-out schedule of the GLBTF meetings during ALA Annual. Unfortunately ALA has not yet assigned meetings rooms, including the location of the social, as this issue went to print. Check our website or your conference book for any last minute scheduling changes regarding meetings. Please plan to come to our meetings at Annual! We will elect a new male Co-Chair of the GLBTF, revise the bylaws, and continue planning for the year 2000!

ROUND TABLE STATUS: We are still collecting names to petition ALA to enable the GLBTF to attain Round Table status. If you have not signed the petition yet, you can do so on the web at:
http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html. Thanks, as always, goes to our webmaster (and all around great guy) Keith Trimmer for his ongoing technical support.

BOOK AWARD BREAKFAST: This event will be held on Monday, June 28th from 8am-10am. Make your reservation early (registration form is enclosed here) and avoid a sell-out. Tickets will not be available at the door the morning of the event. See the order form enclosed. Pre-Breakfast Party! Help us set up for the award breakfast on Sunday night at 10pm at the location listed in the conference book. We had a lot of fun last year.

GLBTF PROGRAM: Our program this year will look at archival issues regarding GLBT collections. It is scheduled right after the Book Award Breakfast.

LOCATION OF THE GLBTF SOCIAL: has not yet been confirmed. It will be held on Saturday, June 26th from 6-8pm. The New Orleans Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) has again graciously volunteered to sponsor our social. Thanks, P-FLAG! The location will be noted in the ALA conference book.

GLBTF BYLAWS: Revisions to sections of the bylaws will be voted on at Annual. Possible revisions regarding committees, the election committee, voting, finances, and the bylaws themselves are published here. As always, if you have specific questions please email/call the co-chairs.

NEWSLETTER RENEWAL: Please check the renewal date on the mailing label of this issue and renew if needed. The dates refer to the beginning and end of your subscription (i.e. SM98-SM99 indicates that your subscription began with the summer issue in 1998 and went through the summer of 1999).

As always, we thank you for your support. If you have questions or concerns, please email me at: cal.zunt@cpl.org or write me via the address noted inside. Thanks also goes out to our new volunteer, Ron Loomis who assisted in the editing and production of this newsletter. Thanks, Ron! I look forward to seeing you at conference.

-M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
Newsletter Editor

Annual Program and Breakfast Scheduled

The Third Annual Gala Breakfast for the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Awards will be held on Monday, June 28, 1999 from 8-10am during ALA's Annual Conference in New Orleans. The GLBTF program will immediately follow the breakfast.

Speakers at the breakfast will include: Kyle Scafide, former editor and publisher of Impact News, New Orleans's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual newspaper. Mrs. Antonia Fennelly Catoire, pen name Tony Fennelly, New Orleans mystery writer and author of *The Hippie in the Wall*, *The Glory Hole Murders*, and *1 (900) D E A D*.

Sarah Schulman, two time GLBTF award winner and author of *Stagestruck: Theatre, AIDS, and the Marketing of Gay America* and *After Delores* will also attend and speak.

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Michael Miller, Male Co-Chair

Making History is something that this task force should be quite familiar with. I wish we could claim rights to having Michael Cunningham as our winner first, but the world will inevitably list the Pulitzer at the top. Perhaps our award will feature on his publicity.

Whatever happens, I'm excited either way. Our other winner, Sarah Schulman, is the first to receive each of our awards. (What will she write when a children's award is established!?) We are also proud to announce that Barbara Gittings, one of the founders of the GLBTF, will chair this event - which underscores how our own profession preserves the social fabric of our own lives and careers. The President of ALA will speak at our Book Award Breakfast too!

And we, the oldest GLBT professional organization in the... United States (not the world!?), will petition ALA Council for Round Table Status. Read all about each of these events elsewhere in this issue. But first, THANKS.

This is my final submission to the GLBTF newsletter as a Co-Chair. I wish to express how important my work as a committee member and co-chair has been and will continue to be in both my professional and personal life (they do intersect strongly). I have learned the arts of forethought and diplomacy, and of patience and professionalism, as well as friendship and collegial bonding. The road has been rough as well as smooth.

Thanks to all of you who have offered up and have contributed to this experience; for lessons of life that I have learned and will continue to carry me forward throughout a (hopefully, ever) successful career and life. You have given me so much and I can only hope that what I continue to offer this organization can be repayment in kind. KEEP ON MOVING!!! Love, Michael

Michael J. Miller, MLS, MS
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Brooklyn Public Library, Dept. of Programs and Special Services
Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11238
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Shari Clifton, Female Co-Chair

Michael has done a wonderful job of highlighting the major activities of the task force in his column which allows me to take a more personal approach to my own submission for this newsletter. I want to first offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to Michael for his leadership and friendship throughout my first year as the female co-chair.

He has not only been a source of valuable information on the current activities and past history of the GLBTF and SRRT he's also done an excellent job of making the new kid on the block feel welcome, useful and part of it all. It isn't always easy to find time amongst a busy schedule to take care of ALA business and do your job and bring the new kid up to speed but Michael seems to accomplish just that effortlessly. Thanks, Michael and please don't disappear from GLBTF activities!

My second bit of news is that I'm not positive I'll be able to join all of you in New Orleans. My partner, Carolyn, and I are expecting our first baby in August and long distance travel in the last trimester is a big unknown for me right now. My plans, of course, are to be present at conference but I'm discovering that babies have definite opinions about things even before they make their appearance in the world so for the time being I have to be comfortable with "wait and see" mode.

About GLBTF Newsletter

GLBTF Newsletter (ISSN 1045-2893) is an official publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It appears quarterly in March, June, September and December. Subscriptions are \$10 per year in the U.S.; \$12 in Canada and Mexico; \$15 for other countries. Send change of address to the editorial address.

Subscription Address: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force, OLOS, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

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

GLBTF Newsletter Editor -
M. Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
or via email at: cal.zunt@cpl.org

I've thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as female co-chair so far and look forward to another exciting year! Thanks to the member efforts of groups like the GLBTF I feel confident that my child will grow up in a far more tolerant world than I knew as a child. Take care!

Shari Clifton, MLIS
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Assistant Professor /
Head of Reference and Instructional Services
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

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Bylaw Changes

The following bylaw changes have been suggested. For further information or comments, please contact the co-chairs.

The following reflects suggested wording for GLBTF bylaws regarding the Elections Committee:

1) add under section V, "Standing Committees," paragraph 2, sentence 2, after "External Relations Committee" the following: and the Elections Committee

2) add this "Elections Committee" subsection under section V, "Standing Committees," after the section on the Clearinghouse/Website Committee: "In addition to the activities listed under the "Duties of the committee coordinators." the Elections Committee, under the guidance of its Coordinator, is responsible for:

1. preparing the slate of candidates for GLBTF's annual election. According to the bylaws, the "positions of Female Co-Chair and Secretary shall be filled during even numbered years," and the "positions of Male Co-Chair and Fundraiser/Treasurer shall be filled during odd numbered years."

2. soliciting the names of two candidates for each position to be filled.

3. in selecting nominees for vacancies, the committee will consider geographical diversity, and representation from academic, public, school, and special libraries.

4. soliciting input from GLBTF members concerning individuals they recommend as candidates for the offices to be filled.

5. contacting those individuals to confirm their willingness to run for office if nominated, and to compile a pool of names of those willing to serve and the offices in which they are willing to serve.

6. preparing the slate of candidates and presenting at the Midwinter Conference to the GLBTF Steering Committee for approval.

7. seeing that forms are delivered to all candidates; these forms will ask for biographical information, a "Statement of Concern," and the candidates signature.

8. making sure all candidates are aware that the forms must be returned to the Elections Committee before the designated deadline if they wish to be considered by the Committee.

9. sending this information on the GLBTF candidates to the GLBTF newsletter for publication and distribution copies of the information at the Annual Membership Meeting.

10. preparing the ballot for the Annual Membership Meeting.

11. administering the election at the Annual Membership Meeting.

12. determining the eligibility of individuals voting in the election at the Annual Membership Meeting.

13. announcing the results of the GLBTF elections.

14. supporting GLBTF members seeking election to positions on the Action Council of SRRT by: (a) soliciting biographical information from them and distributing this information through the GLBTF newsletter and at GLBTF meetings; and (b) sponsoring a candidates' forum at the Midwinter Conference for these candidates.

15. annually securing the names of at least two individuals willing to serve as ALA at-large Councilors and, on behalf of GLBTF, to recommend those persons to the ALA Nominating Committee.

16. each year supporting the candidacy of at least two GLBTF members for ALA Council at large by supporting their petition drives.

17. including the ALA Council at large candidates mentioned in 15 and 16 above in a candidates' forum at the Midwinter Conference and submitting information about these candidates for publication in the GLBTF newsletter and distributing information about them at GLBTF meetings.

The Elections Committee will adhere to all sections of the bylaws, especially section IV, "Officers," subsections "Elections" and "Qualifications."

***Additional suggested changes are found on page 7**

PROGRAM PLANNING NEWS

Plans are complete for the 1999 GLBTF Annual Program in New Orleans. The program will address archival issues regarding GLBT collections. It will be held on Monday, June 28, 1999 immediately after the Book Award Breakfast.

Volunteer with the GLBTF !!!

Join us! We are always looking for energetic committee members. Interested candidates must be members of SRRT, and of course, ALA. Please mail/email your nominations to the GLBTF at the ALA address on the back of this newsletter, or attend our meetings during conference and see if you would like to volunteer. We look forward to working with you!

30th Anniversary Party

The 30th Anniversary Program Planning Committee needs you! During the ALA Annual Conference in 2000 in Chicago, the GLBTF will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. Please help the Planning Committee design the 30th Anniversary Celebration. Email Victor Schill if you are interested in helping at: vschill@stic.lib.tx.us

Book Award Breakfast Reservation Form

Join with librarians, publishers, authors and readers to honor the 1999 winners of the oldest gay, lesbian and bisexual book awards in the United States. The awards breakfast is a fundraiser to endow the Book Awards and to ensure their future. The breakfast will feature a full sit-down breakfast, doorprizes, and giveaways.

Date: Monday, June 28, 1998 8-10am
Location: To be announced
Speakers: Sarah Schulman, Kyle Scafide,
Tony Fennelly, Barbara Gittings

Cost: \$35, if received before June 1
\$45 after June 1

After June 1, tickets *must* be purchased through the ALA Meal Ticket Office at the Conference. There will be *no* ticket sales at the door.

Please complete the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____ (required) If you do not have email please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your order.

Number of tickets _____

Amount enclosed _____

Check number _____

Make check payable to: ALA/SRRT/GLBTF
Mail check to:

Ellen Bosman
Indiana University
Northwest Library
3400 Broadway
Gary, IN 46408
219-980-6947

ebosman@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu

You will receive confirmation of your order via email within two-three weeks. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact me.

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Meeting Schedule for the
Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force
American Library Association Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA
June 24, 1999 - June 30, 1999

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Tear me out! The following is the schedule of meetings and events for ALA Annual. We look forward to seeing you! See your conference book or our website for meeting locations and any meeting changes.

Committee/Event	Date/Time	Location
Steering I	Fri 6/25 8-10pm	
SRRT All Task Force - Program Planning I Fundraising External Relations Program Planning	Sat 6/26 8-9:30am	
Year 2000 Planning	Sat 6/26 2-4pm	
Book Award (closed)	Sat 6/26 2-4pm	
GLBTF Social	Sat 6/26 6-8pm	
Read Aloud Event	Sat 6/26 8-10pm	
Membership	Sun 6/27 9:30am-12:30pm	
President's Program Conversation re: First Amendment	Sun 6/27 3-5pm	
Breakfast Set-Up	Sun 6/27 10-11pm	
Book Award Breakfast	Mon 6/28 8-10:15am	
GLBTF Program -	Mon 6/28 10:30-12pm	
Membership	Mon 6/28 2-4pm	
Steering II	Tues 6/29 8:30am-11am	

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ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

Conference locations had not been finalized before the newsletter went to press. Once the locations are finalized, the GLBTF will post an announcement on our website and on the two listservs serving GLBT librarians: Gay-Libn and Lezbrian. The site will also be noted on our website at the following sites:

<http://www.ala.org/events/ac99/index.htm>
http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html
http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/rtables_home.html

Additionally, the location will be at a conference space this year, so it will be listed in the conference book. Our Social continues to be a highlight of the conference. We look forward to seeing you there!

ALA Travel Technology Group:	800-999-0925
United Airlines:	800-521-4041
Airport Shuttle in New Orleans:	504-522-3500 (~\$10 each way)
Marathon Transportation:	504-241-0812 or 504-528-0879
Yellow Cab:	504-525-3311
United Taxi:	504-522-9771
New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau	504-566-5011
Visitor's Center (529 St. Ann)	504-566-5031
Lesbian & Gay Community Center/New Orleans (816 N. Rampart St.)	504-522-1103

The following websites list restaurants, bars, and New Orleans' entertainment:

www.nola.com
www.impactnews.com
www.gambit-no.com/NEC.html
www.gayneworleans.com/index.htm
www.gayneworleansguide.com

ALA Conference Map of New Orleans:

Bylaw Changes (con't)

Section II. VOTING STATUS:

Existing text: Voting status is defined by membership in the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table.

Suggested substitution:

Members of the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table are eligible to vote in Task Force elections.

Existing text:

Nonvoting individuals:

Any voting individual or other person or organization who wants to remain informed of the Task Force's activities may do so by subscribing to the Task Force newsletter. Non-voting individuals shall not hold office, participate in Task Force decisions, or vote in Task Force elections.

Suggested substitution:

Leave the first sentence as is. Move the second sentence up to follow the colon after "Nonvoting individuals:." Drop the clause about not being able to participate in TF decisions.

Section V. COMMITTEES:

Existing text: Whenever possible, a committee coordinator will be selected after consultation with other committee members and will have preferably acted in an apprentice capacity during the preceding year.

Suggested substitution:

Whenever possible, a committee coordinator will be selected after s/he has served in an apprentice capacity during the preceding year, and after consultation with other committee members.

Existing text: ... by the end of the Steering Committee I during the Midwinter conference; ...

Suggested substitution:

... by the end of the Steering Committee I meeting

Existing text: ... submitting publicity and website content and information to the Newsletter Editor, the Clearinghouse/Website Coordinator as appropriate; ...

Suggested substitution:

... to the Newsletter Editor and/or to the Clearinghouse/Website ...

Section VI. FINANCES:

Existing text:

The Co-Chairs will present the approved budget to the Task Force membership during the midwinter meeting.

Suggested substitution:

Drop the word membership, since we no longer have membership meetings at Midwinter.

Section IX. AMENDING THE BYLAWS:

Existing text:

... provided that the proposed amendment has been announced at a previous meeting or has been published in an issue of the Task Force newsletter. ...

Suggested substitution:

... or has been published in an issue of the Task Force newsletter and/or on the Task Force Website....

Second Diversity Fair
Scheduled for Annual

The Second Annual Diversity Fair will be held during Annual. The Diversity Fair will be held on Saturday, June 26, 1999 from 3:00 to 5:00pm in New Orleans. Also, please spread the word about the fair and encourage individuals who are addressing diversity in their libraries to attend. Remember that this definition for diversity includes more than just ethnic minority diversity.

Book Award Committee

Winner of ALA's GLBTF Fiction Award also wins Pulitzer Prize

The Hours, written by Michael Cunningham and published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux was named the winner of the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award for Literature this spring. In April of this year, The Hours was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Incoming Book Award Committee Chair, David Garnes (University of Connecticut) describes this novel as a "wonderful exploration of the human condition."

Stagestruck: Theatre, AIDS, and the Marketing of Gay America by Sarah Schulman and published by Duke University Press was named the winner of the Nonfiction Award. "Schulman's work is a provocative statement about the commodification of gay and lesbian culture, especially in the area of theater arts," said Book Award Chair Faye Chadwell (University of Oregon). Schulman will be one of the featured speakers at this year's Book Award Breakfast.

You will not want to miss this event which features the winning authors, some wonderful guest speakers, and giveaways. It is also a great way to show support for the Book Awards.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

The ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table/ Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force Book Award Committee is seeking energetic and hard working members to serve on the 1999/2000-2000/2001 committee.

The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award is the first and most enduring national award for lesbian/gay books. Since Isabel Miller's PATIENCE AND SARAH received the first award in 1971, a total of 40 books have been honored for "exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual experience."

The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award is presented to English language works published the year prior to the announcement date. The award, which consists of a commemorative plaque and a cash stipend, is announced at the American Library Association Mid-winter Conference and presented to the winning authors or editors at that summer's ALA Annual Conference.

We have eight committee slots to fill (total committee members number 14). The committee is structured equally between women and men. (Please excuse the lack of gender diversity; the bylaws were not written in a transgender-inclusive fashion.) The committee also strives informally to obtain diversity in terms of where committee members live geographically and in what kind of library or library organization they work.

There are some obligations and commitments for members. BAC members must be or become members of ALA/SRRT. Appointment to the committee is for a period of two years (for this appointment, formally following ALA annual 1999 through ALA annual 2001).

Committee members also need to commit to attending the ALA MID-WINTER conferences in 2000 (San Antonio) and 2001 (Washington DC). I really must stress the importance of attendance at the mid-winter conferences, since this is the time when we discuss the finalists in person and select our two winners. (Attendance at the annuals is, of course, helpful as well). Finally, committee members may NOT publish reviews of g/l/b/t books while they are serving on the committee.

This committee requires a significant amount of time and energy. Responsibilities include reading many works of g/l/b/t literature and non-fiction published annually; participating in an active (closed) electronic discussion list; collecting reviews of nominated titles from magazines and journals; requesting review copies from non-mainstream publishers; and nominating titles (calls for nominations are submitted to the community-at-large, but committee nominations account for at least half the nominees).

There may be other tasks that come up during the year as well. (Various of these responsibilities are divided up according to interest/willingness after the new committee roster is in place and we get underway).

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact me, the incoming chair of the Book Award Committee. My contact information is listed below. Please include some brief information about yourself (position, present and past library/organization job affiliations), and summarize your reading interests and g/l/b/t literature strengths. Also let me know if you have any questions.

BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED

The 1999/2000 Book Award Committee is ready to begin its considerable work of reviewing GLBT titles for next year's award. The committee is composed of equal numbers of men and women. A conscious effort is also made to achieve member balance in terms of subject expertise, geographical location, and types of libraries represented.

The newly configured committee includes:

Continuing members: John Bradford, Tempe (AZ) Public Library; Jane Cothron, Tulare County (CA) Free Library; David Garnes (Chair), University of Connecticut; John Mitchell, Library of Congress; Anne Moore (Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect), University of Oklahoma; and Laura Quilter, Exploratorium, San Francisco (CA).

Incoming members: Ellen Bosman, Indiana University Northwest; Sarah Holmes, Watertown (MA) Free Public Library; Alison Hopkins, Queens Borough (NY) Public Library; Gary McMillan, Howard University; Victor Schill, Harris County (TX) Public Library; Steve Stratton, Virginia Commonwealth University; Ed Teague, University of Florida; and Karen Whittlesey, American Theological Library Association (IL).

Many thanks to the following members whose terms expired this June: Daniel Barden, Emily Edwards, Al Fritz, Tamara Lee Fultz, Laura Reiman, and Rob Ridinger. And special thanks to Faye Chadwell, for her hard work, tenacity, and inspiring leadership.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
David Garnes, Incoming Chair
ALA/SRRT/GLBTF Book Award Committee

Ref. Libn./Health Sci. Bibliographer
Homer Babbidge Library
University of Connecticut, Storrs CT 06269
dgarnes@lib.uconn.edu
860-486-1256 860-486-6100 (fax)
(860) 486-3593 (fax)

BOOK REVIEWS

Book Reviews are a regular feature in the GLBTF Newsletter. If you would like to be a reviewer or receive reviewing guidelines, please contact:

Barb Stevens, GLBTF Book Review Editor
4302 Woodridge Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 836-2522
Email: stevenbr@uwec.edu.

The GLBTF is looking for book reviewers. If you are interested, please contact Barb Stevens at the information above.

For reasons of space, please note that the following review is edited. For the full review, see H-LIS. Please also see the text of the letter from Israel David Fishman to the GLBTF Task Force regarding this work.

H-NET BOOK REVIEW

Published by H-LIS@h-net.msu.edu (February, 1999)

James V. Carmichael, Jr., ed.

Daring to Find Our Names: The Search for Lesbigan Library History.

Beta Phi Mu Monograph Series No. 5. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1998. xiv +251 pp. Photographs and index. \$59.95 (cloth), ISBN 0-313-29963-3.

Reviewed for H-LIS by Michele Besan, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

In this aptly titled volume, Carmichael has put together diverse materials to begin a search and opens a door to much more work. The book should be of interest to a wide audience. While library history, and particularly gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) library history may seem a small closet in the world, it is an area of rich potential for scholars of women's history, gay and lesbian studies, and print culture. The contributors provide plenty for academics to chew on, but they also offer good reading for anyone interested in GLB community or libraries. If your library does not own it, request it.... Fishman's essay as the actual founder and Cooper's provocative essay pointing to the inconsistency in ALA (its high minded official stance on intellectual freedom on one hand and its ambivalence about concrete action on social issues on the other) combine with Gittings' essay to give a more thorough picture of the development of GLBTF. Together the chapters in this section make a good sourcebook for

someone to undertake a longer history of an organization that is an interesting piece not only of library history but of gay and lesbian activism and the creation of political identity...I laud Carmichael's vision and initiative in undertaking this work. It has been sorely needed. I hope Carmichael himself plans to undertake more of the research this book so clearly invites. Together with his contributors, he has offered us a fine beginning.

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Author Israel David Fishman Addresses Editorial Changes in Essay, "Reclaiming a Founding"

Please note that this letter to the GLBTF from Israel David Fishman dated March 25, 1999 is reprinted in its entirety.

I am writing with regard to the essay, "Reclaiming a Founding," in *Daring to find our names*; the search for lesbigan library history, edited by James V. Carmichael (Greenwood Press, 1998).

I had worked very hard, through many revisions, and over a two-year period, with Prof. Carmichael, to present what I considered and hoped to be an honest, accurate and truthful presentation.

However, just before the book went to press, and totally unbeknown to me at the time, the essay was drastically rewritten. When, and only after publication of this volume I became aware of this rewrite, I was appalled to find the essay to be filled with a substantial number of inaccurate statements attributed to me and to others, major and minor distortions of facts, as well as character assassination and enhancement.

Regretfully and reluctantly I must, therefore, disclaim authorship of said article. My lifelong commitment to the truth has left me no alternative.

While I have been advised by legal experts that there may be a basis here for a civil suit, constraints of time and resources have made me decide not to pursue that particular venue.

Very truly yours,

Israel David Fishman
Brooklyn, NY

Founder (1970) and first Coordinator (1970-1971), Task Force on Gay Liberation, American Library Association (now the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force).

Call for Book Nominations

We are accepting nominations for the year 2000 American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award, sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table.

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award is presented to English-language works published in the year prior to the announcement date. Since Isabel Miller's *Patience* and Sarah received the first award in 1971, a total of 42 books have been honored for "exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual experience."

The committee that surveys these multitudes of lesbian, gay and bisexual publications is made up of equal numbers of men and women from various types of libraries across the United States. Ultimately the committee reviews the nominees and selects five finalists each in the categories of non-fiction and literature (novel, short story, poetry and drama). Two award books are then chosen from among these finalists.

For next year's award, all books published in December 1998 or the first 11 months of 1999 are eligible. The award, which consists of a commemorative plaque and a cash stipend, will be announced not later than February 2000 and presented to the winning authors at the summer American Library Association Annual Conference.

Nominations for the Book Award may be made by any individual not affiliated with the publisher or the author of the book being nominated. Authors may not nominate their own works. A short statement (30 to 50 words) describing why the book is being nominated should accompany the nomination, which must be submitted to Committee Chair David Garnes by November 30, 1999. Mail must be postmarked by the nomination deadline. Nominations will be accepted by regular and electronic mail, as well as through facsimile transmission (FAX).

Nominations may be sent to:
David Garnes
Homer Babbidge Library
Box U-5RIS
University of Connecticut
Storrs CT 06269

dgarnes@lib.uconn.edu
FAX 860-486-6100).

GLBTF Participates at Outwrite

Over 1,000 glbt writers gathered in Boston on February 26-28 for the 8th annual Outwrite Conference. As moderator of a panel entitled "Awards: The Best of the Best?" I was happy to be able to offer comments on our GLBTF Book Award.

Among the other panelists was Jim Marks, whose Lambda Literary Foundation sponsors the Lammies. John DeSantis, chair of the BAC from 1997-97, was also in attendance and provided good counsel and moral support. (John also convened the traditional caucus of the HQ76.3 Librarians and Library Workers group, attended by several librarians, including Steve Russo.)

There was lively discussion at the Awards panel about the pros (and a few cons) concerning this kind of rewarding of excellence. It was great to have the opportunity to extol the merits of our particular process and the hard work of our Book Award Committee members.

David Garnes, Incoming Chair, GLBTF Book Award Committee

Attention GLBTF Members!
Is your GLBTF Newsletter Subscription Current?
Will You Be Moving Soon? Please Report Address Changes!

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

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.

The GLBTF Newsletter Committee maintains the subscriber address list. It is confidential and not release to ALA. Subscription questions should be forwarded to the newsletter editor.

Please enter/renew my subscription to the

GLBTF Newsletter! Enclosed is a check payable to ALA/SRRT/GLBTF for a one-year subscription.

Name:

Address:

City:

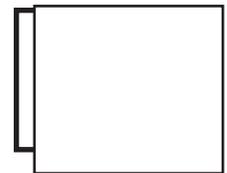
State:

Zip Code:

Email address:

Yes! I would be interested in volunteering for the GLBTF. Please contact me at:

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