

# ALA/SRRT news

# GAY TASK FORCE

Gay Task Force, American Library Association  
( Social Responsibilities Round Table )  
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## GAY BOOK AWARDS

This year's two Gay Book Award winners will be honored during the American Library Association's annual conference, to be held in San Francisco the last week of June. The Gay Book Awards are sponsored by the Gay Task Force of ALA, and will be conferred at the Gay Task Force's program on Monday June 29 at 8 p.m. in the Pacific Room of the San Francisco Hilton. This program is free and open to everyone; one need not be a member of ALA or a librarian to attend.

One winner, Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality by John Boswell (University of Chicago Press, 1980), "shatters the wall of silence" about gay people in history. It examines the social history of Medieval Europe through a case study of tolerance and intolerance as historical forces. "For all its formal scholarship," according to the award citation, "this book is written with such verve, good will and stylistic grace that it is appealing and accessible to any literate person. Reading this book, discovering the previously unknown and often deliberately concealed historical record, chortling over the footnotes, and pondering the implications of the thesis are profoundly liberating experiences for gay and non-gay alike."

The other Gay Book Award winner, The Cancer Journals by Audre Lorde (Spinsters Ink, 1980) reveals a black lesbian poet's responses to physical and emotional trauma. "Her lesbianism is taken for granted, and her lover and friends are presented, without comment on their sexual identity, as the people who love Audre Lorde and who helped her through a devastating experience. The book powerfully illustrates the physically and emotionally healing nature of the love she received from other women."

The Gay Book Awards ceremony will be interpreted in Sign Language.

## IT'S SAFER TO BE GAY ON ANOTHER PLANET

Gay images in science fiction and fantasy are the subject of a panel discussion during the American Library Association's annual conference, to be held the last week of June in San Francisco. The panel, titled "It's Safer To Be Gay on Another Planet," is sponsored by the Gay Task Force of ALA, and will be on Monday June 29 at 8 p.m. in the San Francisco Hilton's Pacific Room. This program is free and open to everyone; one need not be a member of ALA or a librarian to attend.

The panel moderator is Robert Silverberg, author of The Book of Skulls, The World Inside, "Passages," and many other science fiction novels and short stories; winner of the Nebula, Hugo, and Jupiter awards; and past president of the Science Fiction Writers of America.

Panel speakers are:

- Elizabeth A. Lynn, teacher of a feminist science fiction course at San Francisco State University; author of The Watchtower, The Dancers of Arun, and The Northern Girl; author of 1980 World Fantasy Award-winning short story "The Woman Who Loved the Moon."

- Lyn Paleo, Sign Language interpreter; co-author of Uranian Worlds (G. K. Hall and Co., fall 1981).

- Eric Garber, Reference Assistant at South San Francisco Public Library; member of San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project; co-author of Uranian Worlds.

This program will be interpreted in Sign Language.

Texts of the presentation and acceptance speeches for both awards will be available after July 5 from the Gay Task Force, American Library Association, Box 2383, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103; send SASE with request.