The Golden Crown Literary Society (GCLS) is a literary and educational organization for the enjoyment, discussion, and enhancement of lesbian literature. Our goals are to support and strengthen quality lesbian literature by providing places for readers and writers to interact, to encourage and assist new writers and established authors, and to recognize and promote lesbian work.

Our 7th year of operation has seen the GCLS grow in numbers, in strength, and in visibility. It began with our application toward becoming a non-profit organization and ended with our members stepping up on a massive fund raising drive. Here are a few of our achievements:

- Tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Successful implementation of our educational webinar program
- Successful 7th conference that earned enough for GCLS to pay the deposit on the hotel for our 8th conference in 2012
- Members generously donated to our conference scholarship program, through which 6 people were assisted with their conference expenses
- Successful fund raising drive to redesign the CIM and website with increased functionality and reporting capability.
- Raised membership dues to $20 which has increased our operating budget to cover expenses of the organization such as PayPal fees, CPA services, telephone conference calls, Survey Monkey fees, and other operating costs.
- A CPA regularly reviewing our finances to ensure non-profit compliance and that our reports adhere to generally accepted accounting principles.

Here are some of our goals as we move into our 8th year:

- Expand our membership
- Increase visibility and accessibility to all members and potential members
- Offer more educational programs
- Explore the potential of regional groups

This has been an incredibly successful year for the GCLS and I look forward to the prospects for next year.

Patty Schramm
Executive Director
Fulfilling the Mission

Our newest educational offerings have been in the form of webinars. Members have indicated their interest in learning opportunities outside of the annual conference. Future effort will be placed on the marketing and promotion of these events outside of the GCLS to not only increase attendance, but to bring more members to the organization.

During the 2011 calendar year, we offered the following webinars to our members and the general public.

March 19, 2011 – C. J. Harte on "One Step At A Time"

Gross income: $175

For both first time writers and experienced writers, there always comes a point (actually many) where you just get stuck. How do you get started? How do you keep going? What moves your writing?

C.J. Harte is the author of Dreams of Bali and Magic of the Heart. She recently had a short story, “The Life Jacket,” published in the literary anthology High Plains Register. She has also had numerous poems published.

August 13, 2011 – Jean Redmann on "Who Am I And What Am I Doing In This book?"

Gross income: $125

Books are about people, the characters who populate that written world.

J.M. Redmann, author of the award winning Micky Knight mystery series, reveals her trade secrets on how to create and develop believable characters your readers will remember after they’ve closed the book.

October 1, 2011 – Nora Olsen on "The Kids Are Alright: Lesbian and Bi Young Adult Novels"

Gross Income: $75

A lot of lesfic readers don’t know that there are many Young Adult novels (which means fiction for teens) with lesbian and bisexual main characters. Young Adult writer Nora Olsen will explain what a Young Adult (YA) novel is and who reads them, and take you through the history of lesbians in YA. Nora will tell you about the market for YA and give information on both LGBT-specific and mainstream publishers.

Nora Olsen is the author of The End: Five Queer Kids Save The World.
Our 7th annual conference was held at the Lake Buena Vista Palace from June 8th through the 12th. We had a record attendance of 147, with a good mix of GCLS members and first timers, AKA Con Virgins.

Each year our Con Virgins are treated to a conference “training” session. This year it was hosted by our At Large Director of Membership Outreach, Mercedes Lewis. With a lot of humor, Mercedes introduced these new attendees to the GCLS and the fun, educational, and enjoyable functions they would soon attend. At the end of each conference, these Con Virgins are given a free 6-month membership for them to see what the GCLS is about.

KG MacGregor gave an awesome Keynote speech which was followed by our Special Speaker, Elizabeth Sims, who did an equally fabulous job.

There was a diverse offering of educational panels, as well as author readings and Coffee Chats, where authors gathered with their audience in an intimate setting.

One of the highlights of our conference is the Karaoke night on Friday evening. Thanks to the efforts of Karen Badger and her partner, Bliss, it was an evening of hilarity and fun.

We were able to raise $2360 with an author auction and $1963 with the silent auction of many donated items. Our many hard working volunteers also ensured the conference stayed on schedule and that all attendees were properly registered and well informed. Volunteers are what make this conference possible and we can’t thank them enough.

Our awards ceremony was the high point of the conference. For the 2011 awards cycle, we had a total of 155 nominees, 79 finalists and 29 winners. The Ann Bannon Popular Choice Award had 25 nominees, 8 finalists and 1 winner. The Director’s Award was given to Lois Glenn for her countless hours of volunteering to help raise money for GCLS through the annual author auction. Our crowning award, the Trailblazer Award, is given for lifetime achievement in contributing to the field of lesbian literature. It was given this year to Karin Kallmaker by last year’s winner, Lee Lynch. We ended the evening with a dance that could have gone well into the next day. The conference concluded with our annual Sunday Brunch.

We offer special thanks to Lida Verner who took so many beautiful pictures during the conference, which can be found on the website and throughout this report.

While the conference had some issues with the hotel and vendor space, we are working to ensure such inconveniences do not occur again. We were gratified to learn through the survey that most people left with positive feelings. The GCLS apologizes again to anyone that did not have an enjoyable time. As we begin to organize for the 2012 conference in Minneapolis, we hope we continue to offer a wonderful, fun gathering for those who enjoy lesbian literature.
The feedback received from our members was overwhelmingly positive with a response rate of approximately 35%. All questions specific to the conference, the organizational aspects, the service aspects, the content and similar topics received a 95% or higher ranking of satisfactory or higher. The exception to this was the question about the conference facilities which were given a poorer rating, where 49% were satisfied or higher, and 51% were not satisfied or lower.

Some of the suggestions were:

- Shut down Registration desk during major events – e.g. membership meeting, Keynote speaker, etc
- Better initial information for newcomers to the conference, prior to the Con Virgins’ Events
- A better nametag process – one that does not slow down registration and make it clear as to what kind of access participants have. Finally, print nametags to look much more professional.
- The fold up Conference-at-a-glance handout was well received and considered very helpful.
- Make presentation handouts available, or, make PowerPoint’s available online for attendees.
- Preference for a bag over a binder, for notes and conference information.
- Panels, Readings and Coffee Chats – numbers of participants needs to be limited / reduced. Many preferred more coffee chats and fewer readings. Possibly have some of the coffee chats in the evening, so that more could attend without missing out on other presentations.
- Try to arrange future conferences with venues closer together and all on the same floor.
- Preferences for hotel rooms varied, but there was a strong voice for less expensive rooms, with the ability to obtain better rooms for those who could afford it.
- Improve pre-conference advertising of author / editor / publisher pitch sessions.
- Have a "Conference Concierge" person(s), who can answer questions about the area such as places to eat, things to do etc.
- Board members and Volunteers need to be easily identifiable.
- Perhaps the most poignant suggestion was: "Do not sit on the jagged and marred past. Re-create yourself to learning and networking."
## Comparative Conference Finances

### 2010

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### Proposed 2012

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<td><strong>Net GCLS Income</strong></td>
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The GCLS wishes to acknowledge vital support from several dozen volunteers, who freely dedicated their time, energies and creativity. We are deeply indebted to many members of the Society who have contributed both emotional energy and material gifts to its success. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the following list of individual and corporate donors.

Anonymous
Peggy Adams
Kirsty Alexander
Michelle Brower
Jessie Chandler
Elizabeth Coit
Anne Marie De Mooij
Darcie Deo
Sandra DePuit
Marcia Finical
Roselle Graskey

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CL Hart
MaryLou Heintz
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Nelda Ireland
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Ann Storer
Mary Lou Heintz

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E. Plott
Suzanne Corson
Kirsty Alexander
Baxter Trautman
Tarra Thomas/
Bungalow Posh

Thanks to everyone who has contributed so generously.

While we strive for accuracy, we apologize for any errors or omissions.
Conference Donor Acknowledgement

We extend our sincere appreciation to our conference donors and advertisers. Because of you, we were able to keep ticket prices low, provide snack and coffee breaks, as well as offset the costs for technology and sound for the panels and awards ceremony. The scholarship donors made possible for us to pay for tickets, hotel rooms and travel expenses for 6 people to attend the conference, who would not otherwise have been able to afford the opportunity.

Anonymous
Alice B Awards
Beth Wylde
Bella Books
Bluefeatherbooks
Bywater Books
Carleen Spry & Watty Boss
Dawn McDermott
Elaine Mulligan
Fran Heckrotte
Heather Stackhouse
/Suzanne McErlain
Karin Kallmaker
Lara Zielinsky
Lynne Pierce
Nat Burns
Pam Sloss
Renee
Rosa Moran
Taylor Rickard/Morgan Sams
Lynn Ames
Terri Pick
Call To Action

Membership
Membership in the Golden Crown Literary Society is $20/year. Membership offers:

- The GCLS Newsletter (electronic format)
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Member Resources
- Opportunities to provide input regarding various activities or planning.
- Opportunities to serve on committees and sub-committees
- The opportunity to serve on the Board, by election or appointment
- The GCLS yahoo group

Donations
GCLS is dependent on the generosity of our members and friends. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Volunteer
An all-volunteer effort relying on the expertise of its members, the GCLS works to develop programs that provide ways for readers and writers to interact, to encourage and assist new writers and established authors, and to recognize and promote lesbian literary work. We are continually searching for those interested in helping the GCLS grow and prosper. If you would like to serve on an advisory board, please email the director of the department you would like to work with, or contact one of the other advisory board members for more information.

2011 Board of Directors

**Patty Schramm** – Executive Director
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**Mary Griggs** - Director of Sponsorship
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