EDUCATE

PROMOTE

RECOGNIZE

GOLDEN CROWN LITERARY SOCIETY, INC

ANNUAL REPORT 2015
The Golden Crown Literary Society (GCLS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is education, and the promotion and recognition of lesbian fiction and creative non-fiction. Our goals are to:

1) Provide learning opportunities, encouragement and assistance to new and established writers in developing their craft;
2) Provide opportunities to promote lesbian literature including events that bring readers and writers together;
3) Recognize and reward quality lesbian literary works;
4) Be inclusive of all readers, writers, editors, publishers and friends/supporters of lesbian literature, regardless of race, sex, gender, gender identification, ethnicity, nationality, creed, sexual orientation or ability.
A Message From The Executive Director

What a year! Our organization has continued to grow both in numbers and services since its inception, and I am honored to serve as executive director with such a dedicated board of directors, and such a wonderful membership. Our members are amazing. You have big hearts, and you step up when the organization, or individuals within it, need your support. Some of you even do private fundraising activities and make GCLS the beneficiary! My hat goes off to all of you, and we thank you so much for your continued support.

2015 was another banner year with a record attendance of our annual conference, the second year of our Writing Academy began in August and it received our first grant of $1000, our second annual Fall Fundraiser reached our goal of $17,000, and our membership numbers continue to grow.

Looking forward to 2016, we will be expanding our marketing and fundraising efforts with the goal of bringing in new sponsors and donors. We will be introducing our revised Mentoring Program that will offer 3 tiers of mentoring for writers based on their level of development in writing skills. We will be researching how to turn our Video Library into a fully supported archive of Lesbian Literary Presentations, and will be looking for more grants and funding for all our educational offerings. We are also expecting a continued increase in attendance at our annual conference in Alexandria VA / DC Area.
I believe that the GCLS has become an organization that outside sponsors and donors are going to start paying attention to. We welcome your enquiries, and are looking forward to working with you! We are a dynamic group of women, from all walks of life. We serve a purpose and we are making our world a better place. We hope that you will see that as you come to know us.

Thank you everyone for a wonderful year! I look forward to seeing you all at the conference in Alexandria, VA – July 6-10, 2016.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth (Liz) Gibson
Executive Director
2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- We graduated our first class from the Writing Academy;
- We won our first grant;
- We launched the Professional Development Group that provides a long list of instructional videos for authors;
- We launched our video library that has our keynote and special speakers from conferences, our Author’s Salon interviews and more;
- We launched our new platform full of many membership services and functions – from authors pages and blogs to groups, events, and more;
- We are more than 600 strong in our membership;
- We added another Director of Membership position on the Board of Directors bringing us to a total of three (3) Directors of Membership to better serve our members;
- We had 350+ at our annual conference!
- We met our goal for the Fall Fundraiser – thanks to all of you!
- We had the amazing Dorothy Alison as our Keynote Speaker!
2015 HIGHLIGHTS – EDUCATION

Ona Marae, Writing Academy Student
My first Con was Dallas in 2013. It changed the way I look at lesbian literature and my ability to write it. Where else could I have become friends with Sandra Moran or have lunch with Ann Bannon, or have my picture taken with authors who have been my heroes for 25 years, like Katherine V. Forrest and Lee Lynch? Not to name drop, but as a reader let me name drop the women I never thought I would be rubbing shoulders with!
2015 HIGHLIGHTS - EVENTS

Women’s Week, Provincetown, Massachusetts –

- Held a “Meet and Greet” to introduce our members to those interested in the upcoming readings.
- Hosted a fundraiser with the assistance of Fay Jacobs. The event was the most highly attended of Women’s Week, making many aware of our organization, and what we stand for. Authors also read, sold books, and provided autographs. We had a record number of new members join during the event.

Camp Rehoboth Women’s FEST, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware –

- Our member authors showcased their talents by reading, selling books, and signing autographs in the Proud Bookstore.
- They were also afforded further opportunity for exposure by participating in a business expo.

Left Coast Lesbian Conference (LCLC), Palm Springs, California –

- Introduced the public to the organization and our mission, and provided opportunity to become a member.
2015 HIGHLIGHTS – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- Dorothy Alison – Keynote Speaker
- Rita Mae Brown – 2015 Lee Lynch Classic Award Winner
- Fay Jacobs presentation of “Aging Gracelessly: 50 Shades of Fay
- 4 Master Classes; over 15 sessions and presentations
- Many engaging the reader activities such as karaoke, author readings and chats
- Haunted Happening – author readings at Muriel’s of Jackson Square, Séance Room
- Golden Crown Literary Awards in 14 categories

"Who says writing has to be lonely, join the GCLS! Meet wonderful people and learn a hell of a lot!“ - Rita Mae Brown, 2016
GCLS ADVOCATES

**Dorothy Alison, Author, Activist And Award Winner**
Writers live and work in isolation, lesbian writers more so than most, particularly those whose focus is on the much maligned narratives of romance. The GCLS brings those writers together to share resources and advocate against that isolation. On the most basic level this is revolutionary and in some cases lifesaving. I am proud to lend my support to this effort.

**Ann Bannon, Author, GCLS Trailblazer and Award Winner**
The Golden Crown Literary Society is a dream come true, quite literally—a dream I had half a century ago. It’s a wonderful group of talented women writers, publishers, and lovers of the beautiful writing that women produce. Women have a way with words, and they are the ones who can give us memorable portraits of their sisters in every aspect of their lives. What would I not have given to have had the GCLS in my life when I was very young, isolated, and writing about the life I yearned for. And I am delighted and honored to find my own name on one of the valued prizes the GCLS awards each year for fiction: **The Ann Bannon Popular Choice Award**. It’s the happiest possible postscript to my writing years, the very gift I would have given to my own generation, had it been possible back then. Thank you, GCLS.
GCLS ADVOCATES

Katherine V. Forrest, Author, GCLS Trailblazer and Award Winner.
How unique is GCLS? With its total focus on lesbian books of every variety that portray our lives and love for each other in all our own glorious variety, it’s high energy, high spirits, it’s joyful and exhilarating. Entertaining programs and panels fill the days, and everywhere are beautiful women of all ages and books books books! Lesbian readers, lesbian writers, you deserve to experience GCLS.

Lee Lynch, Author, GCLS Trailblazer, and Award Winner
Lesbian readers and writers have long needed a way to gather, get to know one another and share what we can offer. At GCLS that may be expertise, or recognition, or it might simply be an opportunity to joyously wallow in lesbian books. I leave GCLS conferences grateful, energized, inspired, with new friends who feel like family. I’m reluctant to leave at all.

Marianne K. Martin, Author, GCLS Trailblazer and Award Winner
The GCLS Conference stands alone as the only conference in the country totally devoted to lesbian literature. There is no other organization that celebrates our books in such large numbers with an annual conference filled with panels and readings and awards, and offers a unique opportunity for authors and readers to meet and mingle for four days. For me, as an author and a publisher, this is a must attend conference. It is a much needed energy transfer that rejuvenates, empowers and inspires. Please join us for the energy and celebration that only GCLS can offer.
Amia, Deb | Andersen, Elizabeth | Antle, Jay | Aptaker, Ann | Archer, Kiki | Arcus
2015 Sponsors

# 2015 Financial Overview

## Income Statement

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<th>2015</th>
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<td>Professional Fees/Payment to Contractors</td>
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<td>Occupancy / Rent/ Utilities/Maintenance</td>
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<td>-$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing, Publications, Postage</td>
<td>$804</td>
<td>$692</td>
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<td>Other Expenses (including Conference, Writing Academy, Operations)</td>
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<td>$110,415</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$149,397</td>
<td>$111,422</td>
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## Balance Sheet

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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Bank Accounts</td>
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<td>Total 10000 Cash</td>
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<td>$20,958.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Bank Accounts</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</td>
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<td>Liabilities</td>
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<td>Equity</td>
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<td>30000 Opening Balance Equity (3)</td>
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<td>32000 *Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</td>
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2015-16 MEMBER GROWTH

Total Members

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New Members

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<td></td>
<td>91</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>165</td>
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2015 CORPORATE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corporate Officers

President & Executive Director
Liz Gibson

Vice President/Director of Organization
Mary Phillips

Treasurer/Director of Finance
Sandy Thornton

Secretary/Director of Outreach
Carleen Spry

Board Members

Directors of Membership
Beth Burnett and Claudette Dillard

Director of Volunteers
Aschlie Lake

Incoming Director of Organization
Ann Roberts

Director of Events
Mercedes Lewis