Lesbian Literature
Educate ⚜ Promote ⚜ Recognize
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 an amazing year! Our organization has continued to grow and it has been my pleasure to serve as executive director with such a dedicated board of directors, and a wonderful membership. Our members are amazing and more active than ever. Thank you so much for your continued support.

2016 was another banner year with a record attendance at our annual conference, our largest Writing Academy class began its third year in August, we had a successful third annual Fall Fundraiser, and our membership numbers continue to grow.

Looking forward to 2017, we will be expanding our Board of Directors to include a Director of Inclusion and a Director of Organizational Visibility and PR. We will also be consolidating the Director of Events and Director of Volunteers into a new position - Director of Community Engagement.

We will begin the process of rebranding the organization to better identify our mission and goals, and to expand our outreach through the development of regional groups and attendance at key events nationwide.

We will persist! We will rise!
2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Membership

• Membership retention increased by 322% compared to 138% in 2015
• New membership increased by 163% compared to 83% in 2015
• Increased outreach to the members through a monthly newsletter

Education

• Developed a tiered mentoring program as part of the Writing Academy
• Increased the number of volunteer faculty and content experts
• Reached an all time high in recruiting students

Volunteer participation tripled during the Annual Conference

Annual Conference exceeded goal at over 300 attendees
2016 HIGHLIGHTS – EDUCATION

Beth Burnett, Director of Education
In 2016, the GCLS writing academy staff reached out to authors and publishers, creating and maintaining warm and professional relationships. Because of this, the writing academy now has a bank of award-winning, well-established authors willing to volunteer their time to help mentor students into creating the best version of their novels. This is important as we continue to raise the bar of excellence in lesbian literature.

Jaime Konzelman, Writing Academy Student
Through GCLS I've found an endless stream of resources, and a channel for cultivating relationships within the lesbian literary community from both a personal and professional perspectives; all while getting turned on to top notch works of literature and working on my craft. As a new writer I can't imagine where I would be without GCLS.
2016 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.
- 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.
2016 HIGHLIGHTS – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- **Fay Jacobs** – Keynote Speaker
- “Curious Wine” by **Katherine Forrest** – 2016 Lee Lynch Classic Award Winner
- **Jewelle Gomez** – 2016 Recipient of the Trailblazer Award
- 2 Master Classes; over 30 panels and presentations
- Many engaging the reader activities such as karaoke, author readings and chats
- Golden Crown Literary Awards in 14 categories

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**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.
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.
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.

Rita Mae Brown, Author, Lee Lynch Classic Award Winner
"Who says writing has to be lonely, join the GCLS! Meet wonderful people and learn a hell of a lot!“
### 2016 Financial Overview

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<tr>
<th>Income Statement</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<td>Printing, Publications, Postage</td>
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<td>Other Expenses (including Conference, Writing Academy, Operations)</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$150,621</td>
<td>$149,397</td>
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### 2016 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

#### Golden Crown Literary Society, Inc.

#### Balance Sheet

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<th>2016</th>
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<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</strong></td>
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MEMBER GROWTH & RETENTION

- 2014: New Members 70, Renew 92
- 2015: New Members 127, Renew 150
- 2016: New Members 409, Renew
2016 CORPORATE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Members

President, Executive Director
Mary Phillips

Director of Education
Beth Burnett

Director of Membership
Taylor James

Director of Volunteers
Aschlie Lake

Secretary, Director of Events
Mercedes Lewis

Director of Membership
Nikki Little

Director of Organization
Ann Roberts

Director of Membership
Alison Solomon

Vice President, Director of Outreach
Carleen Spry

Treasurer, Director of Finance
Sandy Thornton

Immediate Past Executive Director
Liz Gibson