



FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION NEWS

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Major Supreme Court victory in California violent video game case

In a significant victory for First Amendment rights, the U.S. Supreme Court on June 27 ruled 7–2 to overturn a 2006 California law that banned the sale of violent video games to minors. *Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association, et al.* not only extended full First Amendment protections to video game content but also reaffirmed key Supreme Court decisions protecting minors' First Amendment rights.

The Court's majority opinion, authored by Justice Antonin Scalia, affirmed that violent video games constitute a form of First Amendment protected speech, just like protected plays, books, and movies. It roundly rejected the notion, raised by the state, that depictions of violence could be included in the definition of "obscenity"—one of the few exemptions to First Amendment protected speech—and rejected California's claim that a state could create a new category of content-based regulation that is permissible only for speech directed at children.

In response to California's claim that video games present special problems that require government regulation because they are "interactive," allowing the player to participate in the violent action and determine its outcome, Scalia quoted Judge Richard Posner, whose 2003 opinion in *American Amusement Machine Association v. Kendrick* overturned a similar restriction on the sale of violent video games to minors: "All literature ... is interactive; the better it is, the more interactive."

The Court also reaffirmed its stance, outlined in last year's decision in *U.S. v. Stevens*, that restrictions on violent content are subject to the same standard of review as any other government restriction on protected speech.

As a result, laws like California's restriction on violent video games are subject to "strict scrutiny," meaning that

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Alaska harmful to minors law struck down

On June 30, U.S. District Judge Ralph Beistline struck down Alaska's 2010 law applying the state's harmful to minors law to electronically-transmitted speech. He did so by granting summary judgment to the plaintiffs, including the Freedom to Read Foundation. The plaintiffs had filed a renewed motion for summary judgment on June 16 after the Alaska Supreme Court declined to accept the certified questions submitted to it by the federal court regarding the scope of the statute.

Beistline ruled that the law violated the First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, observing that "[i]ndividuals who fear the possibility of a minor receiving speech intended for an adult may refrain from exercising their right to free speech at all—an unacceptable result."

On August 30, the judge amended his opinion, clarifying that his judgment applied both to the 2010 law as well as to Alaska's original harmful to minors statute that the 2010 law sought to amend.

The case was *ABFFE v. Burns*. Other plaintiffs included the Alaska Library Association, the ACLU of Alaska, local bookstores and artists, and several other members of Media Coalition.

The state has indicated that it likely will not appeal Judge Beistline's ruling.

FTRF's Judith Krug Fund awards six Banned Books Week event grants

Read-outs, Skype chats, film showings, a chalk mural, a censorship simulation, and a "living banned books" event are some of the many projects funded by the Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund's Banned Books Week event grants. Six grants were disbursed this year, the second year of the grants. Banned Books Week took place from September 24–October 1.

Four of the organizations received \$1,000 grants, while the **Bay County (Fla.) Public Library** and the **Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression** each received \$2,500 grants.

Recipients of the grants were:

- **Bay County Public Library**, headquartered in Panama City, Fla., which sponsored several events, including a Read-Out, Censorship Simulation, and a Roundtable Retrospective of a 1986 banned books controversy revolving around Robert Cormier's *I Am the Cheese*. The controversy eventually led to the banning of 60 books in the Bay County School System.
- **Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression, Charlottesville, Va.**, for the creation of a mural, a time-lapse video, chalk drawings, a display of banned books and a movie screening. All events were scheduled to take place at The Community Chalkboard and Podium: A Monument to the First Amendment (a.k.a. "The Free Speech Wall" in front of Charlottesville's City Hall). Judith Krug was named the recipient of the Center's 2009 William J. Brennan Award, the highest honor that the Center bestows.
- **Thomas F. Holgate Library, Bennett College, Greensboro, N.C.** Their "Censorship=Slavery" project focused on banned literature by African American writers, including a Read-Out and displays.
- **Springfield-Greene County Library District, Springfield, Mo.**, held four Read-Outs, a film festival, a panel discussion, an evening with author Sarah Ockler, and an event featuring author Chris Crutcher and an expert on Kurt Vonnegut. Books by

Ockler, Crutcher, and Vonnegut have been the focus of recent censorship attempts in the area.

- **Skokie (Ill.) Public Library**, for a "Read-Out! Road Trip" to Skokie public schools. The Skokie Public Library's Bookmobile transformed into the "Banned Bookmobile," visiting three public schools and featuring readings of banned and challenged books and "Banned Books Bingo."
- **North Dakota Library Association**, for "Living Banned Books and Read-Out" in conjunction with the NDLA Annual Conference in Minot. Participants dressed in t-shirts featuring covers of banned and challenged books; there was also a program on book censorship at the conference.

FTRF established the Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund in 2009 after the death of FTRF Executive Director Judith Krug. Money donated to FTRF in her memory supports programs to increase awareness of intellectual freedom in the library community and among the general public. Visit www.ftrf.org/krugfund for details or to donate.

Chris Finan receives 2011 Roll of Honor Award

On June 24, Chris Finan, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and FTRF Trustee, was presented with the 2011 FTRF Roll of Honor Award at the Opening General Session of ALA's Annual Conference in New Orleans.

Here is the text of his citation:

Thank you, Chris Finan, for your many years of service to the Freedom to Read Foundation. Your vision, leadership, and energy have contributed much to the Foundation.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to intellectual freedom for three decades, as demonstrated by your important work as president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, as member and chair of the National Coalition Against Censorship board, and as a part of the Media Coalition.

Thank you for your longtime involvement in the fight against censorship, including your continuous advocacy for and defense of First Amendment rights at national, state, and local levels. Your

efforts continue to strengthen the free expression rights of booksellers, librarians, library users, publishers, and all who produce, distribute, or use First Amendment-protected materials.

Thank you for your tireless activism in support of reader privacy and for your advocacy for amending the Patriot Act to protect that privacy in libraries and bookstores.

Thank you for your efforts to create and make available extensive resources on free speech, censorship, and reader privacy. Thank you in particular for your steadfast support for and promotion of Banned Books Week to booksellers and others.

Thank you for working to protect the free speech rights of young people, including your leadership of the Kids' Right to Read Project.

Thank you for your thorough and eloquent documentation of the history of free speech, including the role of librarians and booksellers, from World War I through the immediate post 9/11 years in your book *From the Palmer Raids to the Patriot Act: A History of the Fight for Free Speech in America*.

Thank you, Chris, for exemplifying what it means to be an advocate for the freedom to read.

Kenton Oliver
President

Barbara M. Jones
Executive Director

New Orleans, Louisiana · June 2011



ALA President Roberta Stevens presents Chris Finan with the Roll of Honor plaque during the 2011 ALA Annual Conference Opening General Session. Curtis Compton/Cognotes

Submit your nominations for the 2012 FTRF election

Nominations are being accepted for the 2012 Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees election. Five positions on the board will be filled in the election to be held April 1–May 1, 2012. Those elected will serve a two-year term, beginning at the 2012 ALA Annual Conference, and continuing through the 2014 ALA Annual Conference. Trustees are required to attend two one-day meetings per year, which are held in conjunction with ALA's Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting.

James Neal chairs the Nominating Committee. The other committee members are Chris Finan and Judith Platt.

Only FTRF members are eligible to seek election to the Board. Nominations should be sent by December 16, 2011 to: Freedom to Read Foundation, Attn: James Neal, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. You also may e-mail nominations to ftrf@ala.org.

Alternatively, FTRF members may be slated for candidacy by petition by submitting 25 signatures of current FTRF members in support of the candidate. Names of petition candidates, and the required signatures to support each, must be received by the FTRF Executive Director no later than January 31, 2012.



Notes: CBLDF gets seal of approval rights: This fall during Banned Books Week, the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund (CBLDF) announced that it had acquired the rights to the Comics Code Authority's seal of approval. The

iconic seal was established in the 1950s by the Comic Magazine Association of America (CMAA) at a time when comic books were under major attacks by governments and others. Over time, more and more comic books were published without the CCA seal, and by 2011, all comic book publishers announced they were withdrawing from the Comics Code Authority. CMAA approached CBLDF and offered to transfer the rights to the seal shown above. CBLDF Executive Director Charles Brownstein noted, "As we reflect upon the challenges facing intellectual freedom during Banned Books Week, the Comics Code Seal is a reminder that it's possible for an entire creative field to have those rights curtailed because of government, public, and market pressures." CBLDF will take over the licensing of products bearing the seal as part of their fundraising activities.

FTRF applauds Sup. Court decision in *EMA v. Brown*

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the law is presumptively invalid under the First Amendment unless the government can prove that the law is justified by a compelling government interest and is narrowly drawn to serve that interest.

The Court ruled that California failed to meet that standard. It found that the research studies cited by California did not prove that exposure to violent videos caused greater aggression in minors, and showed no greater effects than exposure to cartoons or other media that the state has never tried to regulate. Scalia noted that “[t]his country has no tradition of specially restricting children’s access to depictions of violence.” In fact, as Scalia wrote, “[c]ertainly the books we give children to read—or read to them when they are younger—contain no shortage of gore.”

Most importantly, the Court reaffirmed that minors are not exempt from the protections of the First Amendment, despite a curious dissent by Justice Clarence Thomas claiming that minors have no First Amendment rights separate from those granted by the minors’ parents. Scalia soundly rejected this claim, pointing out that such a decision would allow state control, uninvited by the parents, over a child’s speech and religion and citing with approval the Supreme Court’s 1975 decision in *Erznoznik v. Jackson*: “Speech that is neither obscene as to youths nor subject to some other legitimate proscription cannot be suppressed solely to protect the young from ideas or images that a legislative body thinks unsuitable for them.”

FTRF was joined in its amicus brief by the Media Coalition and several of its members, including the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the Recording Industry Association of America, and the Association of American Publishers. FTRF previously filed a brief in this case at the Ninth Circuit level, and similarly participated in video game cases in Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, and Minnesota—all of which confirmed FTRF’s understanding of the First Amendment.

In a press release, FTRF Executive Director Barbara Jones said, “We are especially pleased that librarians can continue to protect and uphold the First Amendment rights of all library users, including young people, whether the materials in question are video games or any other library resources.”

From Here to Expurgation

By Barbara M. Jones, Executive Director

Ask any curator of literary manuscripts, and they will tell you how extensively some manuscripts are edited before publishing. Often the editing process catches factual errors or reins in verbose writers. Maxwell Perkins, a renowned U.S. literary editor, engaged in painful negotiations with Thomas Wolfe and persuaded him to cut over 50,000 words from *Look Homeward, Angel*. While it destroyed their friendship, critics agree that a better novel emerged.

But there are also instances of editing that constitute censorship: the intentional expurgation of words or topics feared to cause government censorship or public outcry. Expurgation can happen before or after publication. Of recent notoriety is a 2011 edition of *Huckleberry Finn* published by NewSouth Books, in which editor Alan Gribben replaced all instances of the word “nigger” with “slave.”

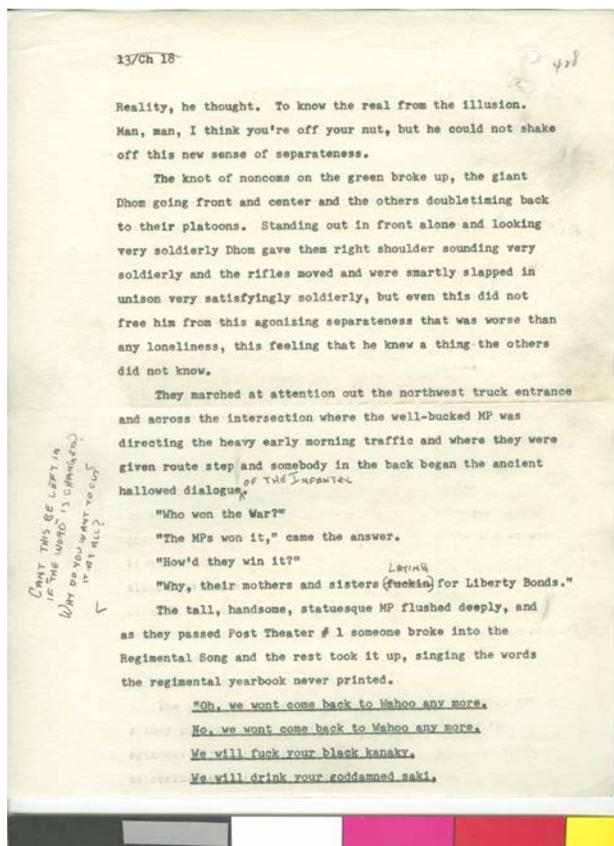
In the 1950’s, James Jones’s manuscript for *From Here to Eternity* was expurgated by his publisher, Charles Scribner’s Sons. According to daughter Kaylie Jones, also an author, all publishers were walking a fine line in that era. Before the famous Supreme Court obscenity trials starting in 1957, the U.S. Post Office acted prominently as a watchdog. Scribner’s alerted James Jones that they were going to excise the word “fuck” as much as possible, hoping that the published book would pass Post Office muster. (There are 36 “fuck”s in the 1951 edition.) There is no record of editor’s instructions regarding the gay-themed passages, but they were expurgated.

This 1951 best seller won the National Book Award, and the 1953 film garnered eight Academy Awards. *Eternity* is based on Jones’s experiences in the U.S. Army infantry—a group of soldiers serving in Hawaii before and during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Jones wanted to capture the life of the “ordinary” foot soldier—off duty drinking, boxing, playing cards, and cavorting with women. The book ends with the attack on Schofield Barracks on December 7, 1941. The book’s authenticity required barracks language and homosexual activity and references.

Like all censorship, there is historical context to the publication of *Eternity*. After World War II, the U.S. attempted to manipulate media of all types to frame the war as “total victory.” Film director and soldier John

Ford was hired by the Army to shoot documentaries at the D-Day landing, and about such topics as PTSD. But then the Army suppressed them. They wanted a happy and noble ending. Homosexual activity, trauma, and salty language were not part of that vision.

When I worked at the University of Illinois, I used to look at their Jones *Eternity* manuscript and shiver to read the author's pleading marginalia: "This needs to stay." "Surely this is not censorable." "Why can't you leave this in if 'the word' is changed"? ("The word" is "fuck.")



An original page from James Jones's manuscript for *From Here to Eternity*, reprinted with permission of the Rare Book and Special Collections Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

In 2009, Kaylie Jones and her brother became the executors of their father's estate. She revealed the expurgations, including gay references, and decided they needed to be restored in a new edition. As she told *The Guardian*: "James Jones believed that homosexuality ... in no way affected a soldier's capability in the battlefield ... we think it's relevant given the Don't Ask Don't Tell controversy."

Happily as a result of Ms. Jones's perseverance, the unexpurgated *Eternity* was published in May 2011 by Open Road Media, an e-book publisher. It is titled *From Here to Eternity: The Restored Edition*.

According to Robert Doyle's *Banned Books: Challenging the Freedom to Read*, the book was removed from two libraries and, despite Scribner's best attempts, the New York City Post Office banned it from the mails in 1955.

Only when advocates like Kaylie Jones take a passionate interest in the author's original words, will these books be restored. Imagine how many lie in manuscript libraries right now—victims of fear.

Other News

Report from Conable Scholarship recipient Audrey Barbakoff

Audrey Barbakoff, a reference librarian with the Milwaukee, WI, Public library, was the fourth recipient of FTRF's Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship. The scholarship provided for Barbakoff's expenses to attend the 2011 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. Per the terms of the scholarship, Barbakoff provided this report to the FTRF Board.



I would like to thank the Freedom to Read Foundation and the Conable family for sponsoring this scholarship. It was an incredible opportunity for me not only to attend my first ALA Annual Conference, but also to experience ALA in a different and deeper way than I would have on my own.

Many people have asked me about my favorite part of the conference. I can't even begin to choose between the wonderful discussions, presentations, meetings, and personal connections that made this such a rich experience! However, attending the FTRF meeting was a particular highlight because it provided a fascinating view into the legal landscape of First Amendment issues. By broadening my perspective, that meeting made me think about the global ramifications of state and local decisions in a new and much more cogent way. I would never have experienced that without the Conable Scholarship, and I am stunned that I might have missed the important and compelling work of such dedicated people! I will always make it a goal to be at that meeting, and am already advocating for my friends and colleagues to join.

But the Conable Scholarship's greatest impact on me was not tied to one particular event. Rather, it was coming to understand the astonishing magnitude of support for those grappling with issues of intellectual freedom. Even small challenges and subtle pressures can feel incredibly isolating; it is too easy for that isolation to become despondence and acquiescence. But after exposure to the incredible support system that includes FRTF, IFC, IFRT, OIF, the Merritt Fund, and others, I now know that there is a resource for anyone grappling with a challenge, a best practice, or even simply a nagging concern that a practice or policy inadvertently abridges some readers' rights. Not only do these groups provide resolutions, guidelines, and a safe forum for powerful discussions, but they bring together an amazing set of professionals with a wealth of personal experience, empathy, and ideas. Getting to know these organizations through the Conable Scholarship has made me realize that there will always be somewhere to turn when in need. Best of all, it has shown me so many ways to become part of that support system for others.

I am looking forward to becoming more involved with FRTF and ALA intellectual freedom initiatives through membership and committee participation. I am also excited to bring your conviction and dedication to my own community, in my work and in my writing. Because of the unique opportunities offered by the Conable Scholarship, I am energized and empowered to make a difference. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity, and thrilled that other new professionals will be able to share it in years to come.

Gordon Conable served several terms as FTRF President until his death in 2005. Gordon's wife, Irene, and the FTRF Board created the Conable Scholarship to honor his commitment to mentoring and to the Foundation.

Report to Council

2011 Annual Conference — New Orleans, LA

The Freedom to Read Foundation reports to the ALA Council at each Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting. The following is an edited version of the report presented at the 2011 Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. The full original version can be found at www.ftrf.org/graduates.

As President of the Freedom to Read Foundation, it is my privilege to report on the Foundation's activities since the 2011 Midwinter Meeting:

FACING THE FUTURE

At the Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, the FTRF Board of Trustees began to set new priorities for the Freedom to Read Foundation, with the goal of firmly establishing FTRF as the premier legal advocate for intellectual freedom in libraries. The trustees took a number of concrete steps toward that goal here in New Orleans, identifying key action areas and approving elements of a strategic plan that will secure FTRF's financial future, expand its membership, and make it possible for FTRF to take the lead in litigation that protects the right to access information. We look forward to concluding the strategic planning process at the 2012 Midwinter Meeting in Dallas.

DEFENDING THE FREEDOM TO READ

The Freedom to Read Foundation's core mission remains the vindication of the public's right to hear what is spoken and to read what is written, no matter how the message is communicated to the public. Laws that aim to restrict publication of constitutionally protected materials—such as state laws that criminalize the distribution of legal materials deemed “harmful to minors” over the Internet—fall squarely within that mission. FTRF is currently participating as a plaintiff in two different lawsuits that are intended to ensure our freedom to read information published via the Internet without restriction or government interference.

The first lawsuit, *Florence v. Shurtleff*, is a long-standing challenge to Utah's “harmful to minors” statute that would impair access to lawful Internet content and allow the state's attorney general to create an Adult Content Registry that could sweep in any site the attorney general

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deems unacceptable. For several months, counsel for the Freedom to Read Foundation sought to reach an agreement with the Utah attorney general that would restrict application of the “harmful to minors” law to those individuals who have one-on-one contact with a viewer and who subsequently disseminate “harmful to minors” materials to that viewer when the individual knows or believes the viewer is a minor. These negotiations failed, and FTRF and its coplaintiffs filed a motion for summary judgment on June 8, 2011.

The second lawsuit, *ABFFE, et al. v. Burns*, challenges Alaska’s newly adopted “harmful to minors” statute that criminalizes the distribution of certain material to minors under the age of 16. Under the new law, a crime is committed if the material distributed fits within the law’s definition of “harmful to minors” and is distributed to a person under 16 years of age or to a person the distributor believes is under 16 years of age.

As I reported earlier, the federal district court hearing the lawsuit issued a preliminary injunction in October 2010, forbidding enforcement of the Alaska statute during the pendency of the lawsuit. Subsequently, FTRF and its coplaintiffs filed a motion for summary judgment that sought a final declaration that the law violated the First Amendment. The state attorney general responded by filing both a cross-motion for summary judgment and a motion asking that the lawsuit be certified to the Alaska Supreme Court for an interpretation of the statute. On June 8, 2011, the Alaska Supreme Court declined the request for certification. The case will now return to the district court for a decision on the motions for summary judgment filed by both parties. *[See p. 1 for an update on this case.]*

The Foundation continues to monitor with interest *Sarah Bradburn et al v. North Central Library District*, a suit filed by the ACLU of Washington against the North Central Library District (NCLD) on behalf of three library patrons and the Second Amendment Foundation. The suit alleges that the library violated the plaintiffs’ First Amendment rights by refusing to disable Internet filters at the request of adult patrons, consistent with standards established in the opinion rendered by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Children’s Internet Protection Act case. The Washington State Supreme Court ruled that the NCLD policy and actions did not violate the state constitution. We are awaiting a decision from the district court judge, who will decide whether the library’s policy and actions violates the U.S. Constitution. *[Update: Judge Edward Shea will hold a hearing on the federal issues in this case on October 25.]*

Finally, like many other First Amendment organizations, we are anxiously waiting for the Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association* (formerly *Schwarzenegger v. Entertainment Merchants Association*). FTRF joined an *amicus* brief in support of EMA arguing that there are no exceptions to First Amendment protection for depictions or descriptions of violence. The brief also took the position that California’s statute is content-based, subjective, and relies on an extremely broad and unconstitutionally vague definition of violence. The implications for library material content and access to currently constitutionally protected information, should the Supreme Court decide in California’s favor, are significant. The last scheduled day for decisions from the Supreme Court this term is June 27, 2011; we will make a full report on the decision at the Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. *[See p. 1]*

DEVELOPING ISSUES: E-BOOKS AND PRIVACY

At its meetings, the FTRF Board of Trustees traditionally sets aside time to discuss emerging issues that raise concern from an intellectual freedom perspective. At the past few meetings, our discussions have focused on e-books, reader privacy, and the use of cloud computing for data storage and use.

It is clear that third-party vendors who provide access to e-books have the capability to track patron data and use information and to retain that information. The laws governing the sharing and disclosure of data held by third parties allow third-party vendors to adopt privacy policies that may differ substantially from the privacy policy in place at the library, thereby permitting patron use information to be divulged by the third-party vendor in contravention of library policy and state law.

As ALA takes up the issue of e-books and libraries, the FTRF Board of Trustees strongly encourages Council, its committees, and its task forces to prioritize the protection of reader privacy in the e-book environment.

2011 ROLL OF HONOR AWARD RECIPIENT CHRISTOPHER M. FINAN

It is my privilege to announce this year’s FTRF Roll of Honor Award recipient, Christopher M. Finan, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression (ABFFE). Chris, a longtime friend (and current trustee) of the Freedom to Read Foundation, is a member of the Media Coalition and a member and chair of the board of the National Coalition Against Censorship.

He has a distinguished career in both study and activism on behalf of the freedom to read. His work on behalf of free speech began in 1982 when he joined the Media Coalition as its coordinator. Finan then joined ABFFE in 1998 as its president, and since then has worked on a host of First Amendment issues, including federal, state, and local legislation and litigation. He has been particularly active in fighting state “harmful to minors” statutes and advocating the role of the bookseller as a partner with libraries, users, publishers, and all who produce, distribute, or use First Amendment protected materials. Finan has been a leader in the efforts to amend the USA PATRIOT Act. Recently he has worked with ALA and brought in new partners to expand the influence and scope of Banned Books Week nationwide.

Finan’s book, *From the Palmer Raids to the Patriot Act: A History of the Fight for Free Speech in America* (Beacon, 2008), received the Intellectual Freedom Round Table’s Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award in 2008. [See p. 2–3 for the text of Chris’s Roll of Honor Award citation.]

2011 CONABLE CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER AUDREY BARBAKOFF

I am also pleased to announce the winner of the 2011 Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship, Audrey Barbakoff, a reference librarian with the Milwaukee (Wisc.) Public Library. Per the terms of the scholarship, all of Audrey’s travel and conference-related expenses were paid by the Foundation. Audrey has attended all FTRF activities at this conference, as well as several other intellectual freedom meetings and programs, and she will write a report on her experience for the Freedom to Read Foundation newsletter.

Barbakoff holds a B.F.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Washington, which she received in 2010. In her capacity at the Milwaukee Public Library, she provides reference and readers’ advisory services; coordinates programs and displays; and blogs. She also coordinates the Teen Advisory Board and leads preschool story times. Barbakoff is a member of the Wisconsin Intellectual Freedom Round Table and recently had an article about the ethics of filtering computers in public libraries published on the peer-reviewed website *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*. This is her first ALA Conference. [Read Audrey’s report to the FTRF Board of Trustees on p. 5–6.]

FTRF MEMBERSHIP

As the Freedom to Read Foundation explores various alternatives for developing new membership as part of its strategic planning process, it continues a membership initiative that has introduced nearly 300 new librarians to the work of the Foundation. Since 2009, FTRF has offered free one-year memberships to graduating library school students, providing them with an opportunity to acquaint themselves with FTRF and its work defending both First Amendment freedoms and privacy rights. The program will continue for another year, during which we will intensify our focus on retaining these new members. More information on the program can be found at www.ftrf.org/graduates.

Other programs that help to expand FTRF’s membership are the state chapter initiative, which aims to count every single state ALA chapter as an FTRF member, and FTRF’s organizational membership campaign. These schemes broaden our reach while insuring critical, necessary support for the Foundation’s programs.

Your own membership in the Freedom to Read Foundation is needed to sustain FTRF’s unique role as the defender of First Amendment rights in the library. Please consider joining (or rejoining) FTRF as a personal member, and please consider inviting your organization or your institution to join FTRF. A brand new membership brochure, available from the FTRF office, can help you extend these invitations. Or you can simply send a check (\$35+ for personal members, \$100+ for organizations, and \$10+ for students) to Freedom to Read Foundation, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Alternatively, you can join or renew your membership by calling (800) 545-2433, ext. 4226, or online at www.ftrf.org/joinftrf.

Respectfully submitted,
Kent Oliver

President, Freedom to Read Foundation

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