COORDINATOR’S MEMO: REPORT ON MIDWINTER

FROM: Gail P. Warner, Action Council Coordinator

Despite a Chicago snowstorm, the SRRT Presidential Candidates Forum attracted an audience of 120 SRRT members, many of whom had provocative and well thought out questions for ALA presidential candidates Bill Summers and Ken Dowlin. As a result of the candidates’ participation during the forum, Action Council decided not to endorse a candidate for 1987. However, a grassroots candidate running on petition came to the final Action Council meeting in search of SRRT endorsement. Linda Anne Dougherty is a branch librarian at Chicago Public, and is currently Vice-President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1215. Dougherty was introduced by SRRT member Herb Biblo, who asked Action Council for a recommendation. Action Council voted to endorse Dougherty for President of the American Library Association. Since she is running on petition as a grassroots candidate, Dougherty has asked SRRT members for aid with her campaign.

In other business, Action Council:

> Approved the formation of a Task Force on the Homeless. The Task Force will investigate ways to serve the homeless, including referral services; the encouragement of coalitions among libraries, government, and private agencies; and

(continues on p. 2)

WALTER, PINKNEY WIN CSK AWARDS

Mildred Pitts Walter, author of Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), and Jerry Pinkney, illustrator of Crescent Dragonwagon’s Half a Moon and One Whole Star (Macmillan), are the 1987 recipients of the Coretta Scott King awards for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions to literature for children and adults published in 1986.

The awards, administered by the SRRT Coretta Scott King Awards Task Force, are given each year to a black author and a black illustrator to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to honor Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood.

Cited for honorable mention are Joyce Hansen, author, Which Way Freedom (Walker); Ashley Bryan, reteller and illustrator, Lion and the Ostrich Chicks and Other African Folk Tales (Atheneum); Pat Cummings, illustrator, C.L.O.U.D.S. (Lothrop).

All recipients will be honored at the annual Awards Breakfast on Tuesday, June 30, at 7:30 a.m. in San Francisco during the 1987 ALA Annual Conference.

Members of the award jury are: Henrietta M. Smith, School of Library and Information Science, University of
MEMO (cont. from p. 1)
consciousness raising for librarians and library users regarding the plight of the homeless. Jim Byrnes, Maryland State Department of Education, Corrections Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21207, is coordinating the new Task Force. Contact Jim if you would like to participate. [Apologies to Jim for misspelling his name in the previous issue.—Ed.]

→Voted to support a resolution advising ALA members to support the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants in their efforts to win back their jobs at TWA, by boycotting TWA and its services. ALA members were urged also to avoid traveling to San Francisco on TWA.

→Agreed to co-sponsor (with the International Relations Committee) a program on "South America and the Abridgement of Human Rights" at Annual Conference in San Francisco, tentatively on June 29.

→Decided to display materials produced by the Southern Africa Media Center (a non-profit institution) at the SRRT booth at Annual Conference.

→Discussed, in usual lively fashion, the increasing level of campaign spending by ALA presidential candidates. It was suggested that the SRRT position (and perhaps battle cry) should be, "We don't want the best candidate money can buy." Several SRRT members will work on a resolution for Annual Conference.

SRRT will celebrate its 20th anniversary at the 1989 Midwinter Conference in Washington, D.C. Plans will be made in San Francisco for a year of celebration in '89. Ideas, comments, and your personal involvement are welcome.

Action Council would like to hear from individual members. Let us know how we are doing. What issues would you like to see addressed?

AWARDS (cont. from p. 1)
South Florida, Tampa (Chair); David L. Searcy, East Atlanta Branch, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library (Chair of the CSK Awards Task Force); Mary Biblo, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools; Barbara Jones, Farmington Community Library, Farmington Hills, Michigan; Ginny Moore Kruse, Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Carole McCollough, Wayne State University Library Science Program, Detroit; Joyce W. Mills, West Hunter Branch, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library.

--David L. Searcy

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The illustrations in this issue are from Treasury of Book Ornamentation and Decoration: 537 Borders, Frames, and Spot Illustrations from Early Twentieth-Century Italian Sources, ed. by Carol Belanger Grafton. NY: Dover, 1986. Limited reproduction is permitted.
REPORT FROM AIP TASK FORCE

During Midwinter, the Task Force on Alternatives in Print decided to revise the Field Guide to Alternative Media, edited by past coordinator Patricia Case. The 1984 guide, which annotates reference tools on alternative materials, has sold well. Copies are still available at $6 from the Task Force at P.O. Box 28977, Santa Ana, CA 92799.

The Task Force is also investigating the feasibility of issuing a monographic series that would cover alternative material within a subject field.

Two exciting programs are planned for Annual Conference in San Francisco. "Public Policy Alternative Sources: Access and Use," co-sponsored with ACRL's Law and Political Science Section, will be a panel presentation by Francis Moore Lappe, Institute for Food and Development Policy; Ben Bagdikian, University of California-Berkeley Journalism Dean; Marc Levin, Institute of Governmental Studies Associate Librarian, UC-Berkeley; and Terry Link, Journalism Bibliographer, Michigan State University. That will take place Saturday, June 27, 2-4 p.m.

The second program, "Sex in the Stacks: Providing Access!", will feature a panel discussing access to sex education and erotic materials, which flourish despite the times. Panelists are Joanie Blank, Down There Press/Yes Press and author of A Kid's First Book about Sex; Susie Bright, Editor, On Our Backs; Lilly Pond, Editor, Yellow Silk; David Steinberg, Red Adler Books and Editor, Erotic by Nature; and Dan Tsang, Social Sciences Bibliographer, UC-Irvine. Sex education and erotic materials from the small press will be on display. The session will take place Monday, June 29, 9-11 a.m.

Also under consideration is a tour of the North Beach area, the location of much small press activity. If you might be interested in such a tour, contact Noel Peattie at Sipapu, Box 216, Route 1, Winters, CA 95694.

The Task Force continues to be active in distributing books to Nicaragua and participating in a collective book exhibit at the National Women's Studies Association Conference each year. For more information or to help on those projects, contact Jackie Eubanks, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210.

Co-coordinator Cathy Seitz and Treasurer Karen Chapman have resigned from their positions, citing other commitments. Their dedication and resourcefulness will be sorely missed. Christina Sokol has gallantly offered to serve as Co-coordinator.

SRRT members interested in participating in our publications projects should write to Christina Sokol, Maddux Library, Trinity University, 715 Stadium Drive, San Antonio, TX 78284 (512-736-7612).

---Daniel Tsang

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ALA COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS

Action Council voted to endorse SRRT members John Sheridan, Linda Pierce, and Gail P. Warner. The Feminist Task Force has endorsed the following candidates: Ginnie Cooper, Marva L. DeLoach, Salvador Guerena, Zoa Horne, Norman Horrocks, Francis M. McDonald, Bonnie Beth Mitchell, Sandra K. Peterson, Linda Pierce, John Sheridan, Catherine "Kitty" Smith, Gail P. Warner, and Darlene Weingand. (The additional names were not brought before Action Council, so a decision not to endorse is not implied.)

When voting for Council members, remember that "less is more." Your votes are weighted, so that if you choose to vote for fewer than the usual 25, you are practicing "bullet voting," and your vote has more influence.

March 1987
INTERIM DIRECTOR APPOINTED FOR OLOS

Helen K. Wright has been appointed Interim Director of the Office for Library Outreach Services. She will serve in this capacity until a permanent successor to Jean Coleman is found. Helen K. Wright has been on the ALA staff since 1958, most recently as Assistant Director for New Product Planning (Publishing Service) and ALA Yearbook Manager. She has held positions at the Chicago Public Library, the University of Utah, Brooklyn Public Library, and New York Public Library. In a letter addressed to Action Council members, Ms. Wright states: "My primary responsibility is to provide the various committees, sub-committees, and other components of OLOS with the sort of competent ALA Headquarters staff support that has been maintained for the past 13 years. . . . I am here to help you and your constituents." ALA's commitment to OLOS is stressed in a letter addressed to the Editor of the Newsletter of the Black Caucus of ALA and sent also to the SRRT Coordinator. The letter, which was signed by President Regina U. Minudri, Executive Director Thomas J. Galvin, and Deputy Director Roger H. Parent, states in part: "We intend to select a new Director who will provide the high profile for the work of the Office and provide leadership for the profession."

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REPORT FROM GAY TASK FORCE

At Midwinter we began planning for San Francisco. Leon Bey is coordinating program ideas and local arrangements, with help from folks in the Bay area. If you can help with either program or arrangements for San Francisco, or 1988 Annual Conference in New Orleans, or arrangements for 1988 Midwinter in San Antonio, especially if you live in one of the host cities, please be in touch with Leon.

We also decided to create by-laws, which will be presented to the Task Force membership in a pre-San Francisco mailing. Paul Weiss is in charge of creating a draft.

Cal Gough is coordinating the establishment of a clearinghouse for the production of materials such as bibliographies and pathfinders. Ellen Greenblatt (with input from others) will work on a bibliography on coming out.

Midwinter participants discussed publicity, membership and recruitment. David Neito will produce a membership brochure as well as other materials. We decided to establish membership criteria. In order to receive a copy of the membership list, and to be entitled to vote for officers and by-laws, Task Force members must be SRRT members. Everyone on our huge mailing list will be asked whether they want to become members. Anyone who didn’t receive the ballot (mailed in December) for the election of officers may want to notify Roland Hansen, to make sure that you get the next mailing.

The Gay Book Award is being reconstituted under Dan Tsang. Contact Dan if you are interested in helping select the best fiction or non-fiction books published in 1987 on the lesbian/gay experience. Being able to attend Midwinter in San Antonio would help, but is not necessary.

Results of Elections and Appointments

Co-chairs
Ellen Greenblatt
602 Colvin #9
Buffalo, NY 14216
h 716-873-6394

Dee Michel
11070 Mississippi Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90025
h 213-478-7660
w 213-825-1288 (M-T 11-5; Th-F 10-2)

Secretary-Treasurer
Roland Hansen
3824 N. Fremont
Chicago, IL 60613
h 312-472-3555
w 312-443-3748 (9-5)
Program Committee Chair
Leon Bey
1362 Harvard Blvd.
Dayton, OH 45406
h 513-274-4749
w 513-224-1651 (T, Th 12-5, 6-9; W, F 9-12)

Gay Book Award Committee Chair
Dan Tsang
Main Library
University of California at Irvine
Irvine, CA 92713
h 714-751-2856
w 714-856-4978 (afternoon & eve. best)

By-laws
Paul Weiss
10 Lodge Way
Ithaca, NY 14850
h 607-257-6742
w 607-255-4527 (B-5)

Clearinghouse
Cal Gough
491 Seminole Ave. #14
Atlanta, GA 30307
h 404-577-4600
w 404-688-4636

Coming Out Bibliography
Ellen Greenblatt (See above)

Publicity/Membership
David Neito
1111 Army Navy Dr. A511
Arlington, VA 22202
h 703-521-7931
w 202-287-6841 (8-5:30)

Thesaurus
Robert Ridinger
Assistant Professor
Founders Memorial Library
Northern Illinois University
De Kalb, IL 60115-2868
w 815-753-1367 (9-3)

Please contact the appropriate person if you would like to work on any of the projects outlined above.

---Dee Michel

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SRRT BOOTH

Volunteers are needed to staff the SRRT booth in the exhibit area at Annual Conference in San Francisco, June 26-July 1. Spending an hour or two at the booth is a good way to participate in SRRT, and a great way to meet new people. If you can help, fill out the form below and return it to Jim Danky, who is in charge of scheduling volunteers.

Return to James Danky, Newspapers & Periodicals Librarian, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State St., Madison, WI 53706

Dear Jim: You can count on me to help staff the SRRT booth in San Francisco.

Name: __________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City: __________ Zip: __________
Hotel (if known): __________

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TASK FORCE TO SPONSOR PRECONFERENCE

The Feminist Task Force will sponsor a preconference on the theme "Librarians as Colleagues: Working Together across Racial Lines," June 24-26 at the University of California, Berkeley. The preconference is designed to increase participant awareness; develop strategies for training others; aid in the development of E.E.O. and affirmative action planning; and build information links in libraries and library professional organizations. Registration, room and board will be $145.00. Complete and return the registration form immediately if you would like to attend. Contact Betty-Carol Sellen for more information.

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CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

Kate Shackford has resigned as Coordinator of the Civil Rights Task Force, as she has left the Council on Interracial Books for Children and is working as a freelance proposal writer and organizational development specialist. Until a new Coordinator is chosen, communications should be addressed to Donnarae McCann, 715 Normandy Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

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COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- aSSRTions: Update on doings at Hennepin County Library

- Librarians/Library Peace Award

- Review of Alternative Library Literature, 1984-85

PRECONFERENCE REGISTRATION

LIBRARIANS AS COLLEAGUES:
WORKING TOGETHER ACROSS Racial LINES
June 24-26, 1987

SRRT FEMINIST TASK FORCE

NAME: ___________________________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________________________
PHONE: __________________________________________

COSTS

Registration, room and board: Wed. (room only); Thurs. (room, breakfast, lunch, dinner); Fri. (breakfast, lunch). Checkout time Fri. is 1:00 p.m.

Basic registration $145.00
Single supplement $18.00 ______
Room for Fri. night $16.00 ______

TOTAL ______

Please make checks payable to: SRRT PRECONFERENCE

Send form and check by April 10 to:

Betty-Carol Sellen
Brooklyn College Library
Brooklyn, NY 11210
Librarians have long felt a desire to show professional support and concern when colleagues suffer from censorship attacks, discrimination, or denial of due process on the job.

The LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund was established in 1970 to provide direct financial aid for the support, maintenance, medical care, and welfare of librarians threatened with loss of employment or discharged because of their stand for the cause of intellectual freedom, including promotion of freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and the freedom to select library materials from all the world's written and recorded information.

In 1975 the scope of the Merritt Fund was broadened to include those discriminated against on the basis of sex, sexual preference, race, color, creed, or place of national origin and/or denied employment rights.

A board of three trustees elected by the donors authorizes grants in response to cases brought to their attention.

Unfortunately, both contributions to and awareness of the Merritt Fund have been limited. Your help is needed to tell library people in difficulty about the support available to them from the Merritt Fund.

Applications for aid should be sent to:
The Trustees, LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611 (312-944-6780).

Please contribute to the Merritt Fund. Your contributions are essential. The Merritt Fund is supported solely by donations from concerned groups and individuals. Send donations to: LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

--Susan Vaughn

[Note: See also Miriam Crawford's letter to the editor of American Libraries, February, 1987, p. 120.—Ed.]
SRRT MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:

To join, subscribe, or renew, please send this coupon, with payment, to:

SRRT Clearinghouse
American Library Association
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Chicago, IL 60611

Please make checks payable to ALA/SRRT Clearinghouse.

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_____ $10 (ALA personal member)
_____ $10 (SRRT affiliate, non-ALA member)
_____ $20 (Institutions)

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