

SRRT Newsletter

A Publication of the Social Responsibilities Round Table
of the American Library Association

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COORDINATOR'S MEMO
TO: SRRT MEMBERS
FROM: GAIL P. WARNER

In April, a memo was sent to all SRRT Action Council members and Task Force Coordinators requesting items for the Action Council agenda. But, as usual, the most interesting agenda items will undoubtedly come out of Council and Membership business during the San Francisco Annual Conference. We expect to have several proposals/resolutions dealing with the issues of election campaign funding and ALA's election timing.

The Action Council meeting schedule for San Francisco is: Saturday, June 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m.; Sunday, June 28, 2:00-4:00 p.m.; Tuesday, June 30, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The SRRT Membership meeting will be held on Sunday, June 28, 2:00-4:00 p.m. (combined with Action Council meeting). Please plan to join us.

This is my chance to recognize Action Council members whose terms are up after the conference. Doris Kirschbaum served as an able Action Council Coordinator in 1985, and is currently Action Council Secretary. Susan Vaughn has been an informed and expert Treasurer, Kay Cassell worked on Conference Arrangements, and Betty-Carol Sellen has been a dedicated and tireless Action Council member. Thank you to all of them, and to Linda Pierce, past Coordinator, who served as Conference Arrangements liaison in 1986.

If you have not signed up to serve a stint at the SRRT booth during the conference, it's not too late. Cut the coupon out of the last issue of the newsletter and send it to James Danky. It's a great way to get -- or stay -- involved with SRRT.

See you in San Francisco!

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM ALERT

The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the New York Library Association is initiating a project to alert librarians nationwide to the need for attention to issues not covered by current state laws and by library policies and procedures governing confidentiality of library records. The Committee is gathering information on gaps in existing legislation and library practices and needs the assistance of library employees in identifying these problems. The Committee hopes that by disseminating the information it collects to the library community, it will assist librarians in strengthening present legislation or formulating new confidentiality laws which are as comprehensive as possible and also will make them aware of measures they need to take within their own institutions to protect patrons' privacy. To illustrate the reason for growing concern, just last December an FBI agent requested (and subsequently obtained by subpoena) from the library at SUNY Buffalo the searches conducted by an Iraqi graduate student.

This incident raises such questions as: should pre-search interview forms contain a permanent record of patron identity? are records of online searches necessarily included among the other library records protected by confidentiality laws?

If you can identify and/or have had experience with such issues or other situations not covered by the laws in your state or the regulations of your library, please send a description of same (and copies of forms and other relevant material) to Carol F.L. Liu, Vice-Chair, NYLA 1FC, Queens Borough Public Library, Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432 (tel. 7180990-0752) by June 15, 1987.

---NYLA Press Release

ANN FAGAN GINGER TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The International Human Rights and Peace Information Exchange Task Forces will co-sponsor a program on "Peace as a Third Generation Human Right" on Saturday afternoon, 2:00 to 4:00, at present scheduled at the Convention Center.

Ann Fagan Ginger, our speaker, is the Executive Director of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, Berkeley, a long-time home of research and support for civil liberties in this country over the past decade and more, expanding that interest to international human rights and peace law. She is a truly outstanding speaker, with lots of information as well as anecdotes at her beck. Do not miss this chance to hear her!

The Peace Information Exchange Task Force will hold the usual number of four meetings in an effort to reach out to the many busy librarians who come to the conference. Our exhibits table is Table no. 8. (International Human Rights exhibit table is no 9; be sure to include it in your tour through the exhibits, too.)

--Elizabeth Morrissett

ENGLISH ONLY BIBLIOGRAPHY

REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish Speaking, announces the publication of The 'English-Only' Movement: A Selected Bibliography, a new reference work which focuses on the issue of English as the official language. Compiled by REFORMA Legislative Committee member Salvador Guerena, this 17-page bibliography is an aid to locating published information on the topic. According to Guerena, "The English-only movement in this country has been fueled by immigration concerns and by the increasing Latino presence...the provision of government services in non-English languages is just one of the many public policy implications of "English-only" legislation." The 'English-Only' Movement: A Selected Bibliography cites 233 items, most of which are found in newspapers, magazines, journals and research reports. Addresses are also given for some of the key organizations which are involved in this issue. To order a copy, send \$3.00 made payable to REFORMA, c/o Coleccion Tloque Nahaque, University Library, UC Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

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* Editor.....Jeanne Kocsis *
* Editorial Board..Elizabeth Morrissett *
* Linda Pierce *
* John Sheridan *
* *
* Deadline for next issue is July 24 *
* *

The indefatigable "Sandynista," Sandy Berman, sends the SRRT Newsletter material from time to time on developments nationwide and in the environs of Minnetonka. While it's interesting to read that writers have formed a union, and that the Governor of California has ordered an investigation of the approval by the state Bicentennial Commission of a racist textbook, the most fascinating items deal with Berman's own employer, the Hennepin County Library. A calendar of National Library Week events reveals that a community library in the county system presented a program on literacy, titled "Why adults can't read... and what you can do about it." The County Library produced a brochure called "Subject: Sexuality," which lists 32 books and 7 films for young people, plus 53 relevant subject headings. Ah, subject headings. Berman's attempt to transcend LC subject cataloging by assigning headings which exhibit both common sense and a sense of social justice are well-documented. (See, for example, interview by Jim Dwyer, cited in "Recommended Reading.") For \$12 (institutions) or \$6 (individuals) you can subscribe to the HCL Cataloging Bulletin. (Send check made out to "Hennepin County Library" to the Secretary, Technical Services Division, Hennepin County Library, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343.) Among additions listed in the May/June 1987 issue are "Asthma camps," "Feminist publishers," "News leaks," and "Yuppies."

Please share your library's socially responsible activities. Send announcements, press releases, brochures, book marks, bibliographies, etc. to the Editor. It may seem to our readers that this publication exists solely to convey conference-related news. Not so! There is life between conferences!

The Coretta Scott King Award Task Force will hold its annual award breakfast on Tuesday, June 30, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Tickets are \$18 by advance reservation not later than June 9 (no refunds after June 9). Send your check or money order, payable to ALA/SRRT CSK Award Breakfast, to SRRT CSK Award Breakfast, ALA Headquarters, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Are you curious about the inner workings of ALA? Want a preview of Council issues? Then visit meetings of the Executive Board in San Francisco. Find out what's going on and report to Action Council. Executive Board meetings are scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Monday, June 29, 9-11 a.m.; and Tuesday, June 30, 2-4 p.m. (The new Board will meet for the first time Thursday, July 2, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) If you are able to attend any of these meetings, consult your program guide for "ground rules for observers."

NEWS FROM THE PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE
TASK FORCE

At Midwinter in January, the Peace Information Exchange Task Force (PIETF) drafted a resolution to establish a Librarians/Library Peace Award. PIETF meant to present it at Action Council's last meeting, but this was precluded by other pressing business. It will be on the agenda at Annual Conference. The proposal conforms to ALA policies 50.12, "Disarmament and Conflict Solving Information in Libraries," and 50.13, "Nuclear Freeze and Arms Race." This is the text:

Resolved:

that the Peace Information Exchange Task Force of SRRT establish a Librarians/Library Peace Award, for the librarian who and/or the library which, in the previous year or two years, has done the most to promote peace and research the causes of war. Such awardable activity may include but shall not be limited to:

- *community organization and leadership;
- *publicity and consciousness-raising;
- *historical research and publication;
- *bibliographical compilation, print or on-line;
- *non-print media creation and distribution.

Award not to exceed \$200.00 US.

The Task Force also decided to draw up a policy statement and goals. Elizabeth Morrissett has drafted the following:

The Peace Information Exchange Task Force has existed since the 1977 annual meeting of ALA. It was set up to inform librarians and others of information resources on peace, conflict management and dispute resolution in wide areas from interpersonal relationships to national and international affairs, for information, research and action. It is organized under the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association, under whose umbrella it has experienced support

closely related to the personal energy and time of interested librarians.

During this time it has presented a number of programs at annual meetings on both the technological and social aspects of war and the personal and societal routes to social change. In addition, it has produced occasional short bibliographies for distribution, and provided exhibits and materials for annual conferences. Two editions of a Directory of North American Peace Research and Action Organizations were produced in 1981 and 1982.

In view of the natural concern of library administrators to maintain the institution they operate, there is a timidity about making frontier social and political information available. This and our own sense of justice makes it important to legitimate the conflict management subject area and to encourage librarians' knowledge of resources in this field during an increasingly militarized period of U.S. history.

Opportunities for persons concerned about world survival and appropriate social change exist in this task force to make their concerns known and to produce materials for distribution.

Goals:

- Educating librarians
- Providing information for library use
- Assisting in information exchange by other groups working for peace
- Offering awards for peace education and service to librarians and libraries
- Sponsoring research
- Publishing and producing materials and research on peace
- Exhibits and programs
- And other appropriate activities in peace and conflict management

If you would like to comment on the draft, come to PIETF meetings at Annual Conference, or contact Elizabeth Morrissett, P.O. Box 141865, Anchorage, AK 99514.

Other Midwinter developments:

There will be a PIETF table at the Annual Conference exhibits.

Bill Delzell agreed to produce a list of the ten best books on peace published in 1986-1987, for distribution at Annual Conference.

Lotte Larsen will develop a short resource guide, annotated for librarians' use, for finding information on peace organizations and activities.

1987 marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Information Exchange Task Force. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

--Adapted from Elizabeth Morrisett's minutes



RECOMMENDED READING

Coleman, Jean Ellen. "ALA's Role in Adult and Literacy Education," 35 Library Trends 207 (1986).

Dwyer, Jim. "Alternative Perspectives: A Conversation with Sandy Berman," 6 Technicalities 3 (1986).

Jerome, Richard A. "Nobody's Ostrich," 66 Rutgers, a Magazine for Alumni & Friends of New Jersey's State University 3 (1987).

An interview with Lester Brown, president of the Worldwatch Institute. Brown is ironically optimistic that the threat of a global environmental disaster will persuade the superpowers to give up the arms race. Find a Rutgers alum and borrow this issue.



AIP PROGRAM IN SAN FRANCISCO

ACRL's Law and Political Science Section and the Alternatives in Print Task Force are combining their interests to sponsor a program on "Public Policy Alternative Sources: Access and Use," scheduled for Saturday, June 27, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The focus will be on often neglected information sources in public policy areas.

Ben Bagdikian, author, media critic, and Dean of the School of Journalism at the University of California-Berkeley, will discuss how the mass media often ignore alternative viewpoints in their coverage of public policy debates.

Frances Moore Lappe, author of Food First and co-founder and director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy, will address how advocacy groups and organizations with alternative public policy ideas struggle to inform opinion leaders, mass media, libraries and the public about their proposals.

Marc Levin, Associate Librarian at the Institute of Government Studies at UC-Berkeley, will speak on methods that research libraries can use to collect, process, and disseminate this information.

Terry Link, Reference Librarian and Journalism Bibliographer at Michigan State University, will address the responsibility of libraries and librarians to provide access to alternative public policy information and discuss how smaller public and academic libraries might accomplish this.

A question-and-answer session, moderated by Peter Allison, Social Science Bibliographer at New York University, will follow these presentations.

Any interested public policy-oriented group may submit information by or about their group for display at the program. Please send all materials to Beth Sibley, Moffitt Undergraduate Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

--From a Press Release

SRRT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Well, folks, we are going to have to make some tough decisions. The first program slot for Annual Conference features four--count 'em, four--programs sponsored or cosponsored by SRRT task forces. Let's hope they take place in nearby meeting rooms, so that if you're torn, for example, between Frances Moore Lappe and Ann Fagan Ginger, you can hear a little bit of each.

Saturday, June 27, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

**"Public Policy Alternative Sources: Access and Use." Speakers: Peter Allison, Ben Bagdikian, Frances Moore Lappe, Marc Levin, Terry Link. Sponsored by ACRL Law and Political Science Section, cosponsored by SRRT Alternatives in Print Task Force.

**"How Does the Public Get Health Information? The AIDS Crisis as a Case Study." Speakers: Lowell Levin, J. Ingrid Lesley, Sam Puckett. Sponsored by Intellectual Freedom Round Table, cosponsored by SRRT Gay Task Force and several other groups.

**"Power to the Animals." Speakers: Helen Lewis, Mary Rosenthal. Sponsored by SRRT Library Union Task Force.

**"Peace as a Third Generation Human Right." Speaker: Ann Fagan Ginger. Sponsored by SRRT Peace Information Exchange Task Force, cosponsored by SRRT International Human Rights Task Force.

Saturday, June 27, 8 p.m.-10 p.m.

**Sponsored by SRRT Feminist Task Force. Program information not available by press time.

**The SRRT Gay Task Force will host a wine and cheese reception at the Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. There will be a presentation by the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Archives. The reception is open to all ALA conferees.

Sunday, June 28, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Participation in the annual San Francisco Gay Pride Parade, sponsored by SRRT Gay Task Force.

Monday, June 29, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

**"South Africa and the Abridgement of Human Rights." Speaker: Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo. Sponsored by ALA International Relations Committee, cosponsored by SRRT International Human Rights Task Force.

**"Sex in the Stacks: Providing Access!" Speakers: Joanie Blank, Susie Bright, Lilly Pond, David L. Steinberg, Daniel Tsang, Celeste West. Sponsored by SRRT Alternatives in Print Task Force.

**"Academic Librarians and Union Activism: The Florida Experience." Sponsored by SRRT Library Union Task Force.

Monday, June 29, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**"Feminist Presses: Diversity in Print." Sponsored by Status of Women in Librarianship Committee, cosponsored by SRRT Alternatives in Print Task Force.

Tuesday, June 30, 7:30-9:00 a.m.

**Eighteenth Annual SRRT Coretta Scott King Award Breakfast. (See separate announcement.)

Tuesday, June 30, 2 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

**"Gay and Lesbian Writers of the San Francisco Bay Area Share their Experiences." Sponsored by SRRT Gay Task Force.

The schedule of task force business meetings was not available at press time.

REVIEW

ALTERNATIVE LIBRARY LITERATURE,
1984/1985; A BIENNIAL ANTHOLOGY.

Edited by Sanford Berman and James P. Danky. Jefferson, NC: MacFarland & Company (Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640) \$35.00.

One of the first things you notice upon opening the 1984/1985 edition of Alternative Library Literature is the choice of cataloging data. LC cataloging appears on the verso of the title page in predictable form, complete with five subject tracings, all ending with "--Addresses, essays, lectures." The alternative version gives credit to the illustrator, Jackie Urbanovic, lists partial contents, and features sixteen on-the-mark subject tracings, such as "Librarians--social responsibility"; "Disabling persons' library services"; and "Libraries and nuclear warfare." Sixteen subject headings may seem a luxury to anyone trying to maintain a card catalog, or any other type of catalog, but, like the articles which follow, they do provide choices as well as indicate the rich diversity in professional literature reflecting social concerns.

The second edition of this anthology contains a total of 56 selections, most of which are reprinted from a combination of alternative (or small press) and standard publications. Examples of the former are Women Library Workers Journal and New Pages; RQ, Collection Building, and the Canadian Library Journal are representative of the latter group. The volume is dedicated to the late Brad Chambers, who headed the Council on Interracial Books for Children, and begins with several tributes to Chambers originating in these pages. There are sections on working conditions, women, peace, censorship, service to children, etc., and a welcome collection of humorous articles. There are also two original articles, "The Co-Production of Library Services for Racial Minorities," by Isidro D. Ortiz and Salvador Guarena, which describes a Santa Barbara Public Library project to improve services to

the Spanish speaking population, and "Apartheid and the Social Involvement of Public Libraries," by Mary Lee Bundy and Wendy Simmons, part of a special section on South Africa.

The user-friendly index facilitates access to the contents. The volume is printed on acid-free paper. Jackie Urbanovic's illustrations are lively and in keeping with the work's tone of good-humored seriousness.

This collection has special significance for SRRT members. Its message goes to the core of what SRRT is all about: Librarians and libraries have a role in social change. From the courageous actions of Zoia Horne in support of intellectual freedom (portrayed in Noel Peattie's interview in Sipapu) to the conflict at COSMEP regarding advertisers (reported in New Pages), we are motivated by example and challenged by controversy, and we owe thanks to Sandy Berman and Jim Danky for bringing this material together.

One suggestion: This reviewer would like to see a list of source publications, with full bibliographic data. This is especially important if the editors continue to increase the proportion of selections from alternative publications. There just may be someone out there who doesn't know how to get hold of Sipapu, or who wants to join Librarians for Nuclear Arms Control.

--Jeanne Kocsis



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