COORDINATOR'S MEMO

FROM: John Hostage, Action Council Coordinator

SRRT members had a full schedule as usual at the Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio. Among the issues which were the focus of attention at Action Council was a report to ALA Council from headquarters about the state of minority hiring and staffing at 50 E. Huron St. Many members felt that there is still an imbalance of minorities and women in the lower ranks and white males in the upper levels. A resolution was presented to Council by SRRT member and ALA Councilor Mary Biblo for staff to prepare a proposal for implementing an affirmative action plan at headquarters.

Another document which caused some controversy was a lengthy proposal for implementing ALA Strategic Long-Range Plan (SLRP). A close reading of the document showed that it gave short shrift to ALA's social responsibilities, and Action Council member (another ALA Councilor) Linda Pierce led the effort to draft some proposed revisions to the plan.

A large part of Action Council's attention was directed toward the candidates for ALA president and treasurer. They were invited to speak with us on Sunday afternoon. Patricia Berger and Rebecca Bingham, candidates for president, and Carla Stoffle, Mary Ghikas, and Bill Roberts, candidates for treasurer, addressed SRRT's questions at length. At its Monday meeting, Action Council had a lively discussion on whether to endorse any of the candidates. There were partisans for each presidential candidate, but there was not a clear majority that felt that either one represented strongly enough what SRRT was looking for, so no endorsement was made. After a discussion of the candidates for treasurer, it was decided to endorse Carla Stoffle for that office. It was felt that she could best continue Patricia Schuman's tradition of independence and clarity in explaining the budget to membership, making sure not only that the books balanced, but that ALA's funds are used in accordance with the members' priorities.

Sibyl Moses, the new Director of the Office for Library Outreach Services, was introduced to Action Council. She also serves as staff liaison for SRRT.

In budgetary news, Action Council approved an additional $1500 for the Feminist Task Force's program on working across racial lines at the Annual Conference in New Orleans. Also, Jackie Eubanks and Nancy Gruber will be coordinating the SRRT booth in the exhibits hall. They will be looking for volunteers to staff the booth during the conference.

* * * * * *
CSK AWARDS TO TAYLOR, STEPTOE

Mildred Taylor, author of The Friendship (Dial) and John Steptoe, illustrator of Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard) are the 1988 recipients of the Coretta Scott King Awards for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions to literature for children and young adults published in 1987.

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 Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood.

Cited for honorable mention were: Alexis De Veaux, author, An Enchanted Hair Tale (Harper & Row); Julius Lester, reteller, Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit (Dial); Ashley Bryan, illustrator, What a Morning! The Christmas Story in Black Spirituals (Margaret K. McElderry Books); Joe Sam, illustrator, The Invisible Hunters (Children's Book Press).

All recipients will be honored at the annual Awards Breakfast on Tuesday, July 12, at 7:30 a.m. in New Orleans during the 1988 ALA Annual Conference.

Members of the awards jury are: Henrietta M. Smith, University of South Florida, Tampa (Co-chair); Carole J. McCollough, Wayne State University, Detroit (Co-chair); David L. Searcy, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library (Chair of CSK Awards Task Force); Rita Auerbach, Stratford Avenue School, Garden City, NY; Mary Biblo, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools; Barbara Jones, Detroit Public Schools; Ginny Moore Kruse, Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

--David L. Searcy

WE NEED A NEW EDITOR

The position of SRRT Newsletter editor will be vacant as of September, 1988. Anyone interested in serving as editor should contact John Hostage, Harvard Law School Library, Langdell Hall, Cambridge, MA 02138, phone (617) 495-4295; or Jeanne Kocsis, University of Massachusetts Library, Collection Development Division, Amherst, MA 01003, phone (413) 545-0058. The major requirements are the ability to meet four deadlines per year, and the ability to attend ALA Annual and Midwinter Conferences. If not an elected member of Action Council, the editor is a member ex officio. Appointment will be made at Annual Conference, New Orleans.
REPORT FROM GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE: MIDWINTER SUMMARY

Paul Weiss and Cal Gough presented the first draft of the new by-laws. A ballot for acceptance or rejection will be submitted to the membership by mail in April. Voters are reminded to vote NO if they feel there are major points of contention. The Steering Committee feels it is important to implement by-laws as soon as possible, to get the Task Force moving. Changes can be made as the Task Force develops and changes.

A nominating committee has been formed. Members are Steve Murden and Ellen Greenblatt. Others are urged to volunteer: send your name to Roland Hansen, at the address given at the end of this article.

The positions of Female Co-chair and Secretary/Treasurer will be vacant. Anyone wanting to run for office should submit their name to the Nominating Committee. (Also, Dee Michel is resigning as Male Co-Chair. The Task Force is searching for a volunteer to fill out the 1988-89 term. Please contact Roland Hansen if you are interested.)

The Steering Committee approved a memorial resolution for Joseph Gregg. Joe began the Task Force Thesaurus Project and was a founder of the Gerber-Hart Gay Lesbian Library and Archive in Chicago. The resolution will be presented to Gerber-Hart after Annual Conference, 1988.

Attendance was very good at General Membership, with many new faces. We welcome everyone and thank you for your involvement.

Three projects were approved:

1. Revision of the 1980 Gay Bibliography with a name change to Gay and Lesbian Bibliography. It will be of interest to the general public, but will be geared to librarians. David Streeter has volunteered to coordinate this very worthwhile project. Anyone interested in working on it should send their name to Roland Hansen. A proposal will be sent to ALA requesting that the bibliography be published by ALA Publications.

2. Compilation of an AIDS information resource book for librarians, titled Getting AIDS Information to Librarians, to be published summer 1988. Among the topics to be included are:
   * A bibliography of bibliographies on AIDS
   * Sources for pamphlet and vertical file materials
   * Sources for film and video
   * Resource list of expert librarians on the subject of AIDS

   Anyone with information for this project should contact Wayne Mullin, Access Services, McHenry Library, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

3. Publication of a newsletter. The first issue, Spring, 1988, will be distributed in April; future issues will be quarterly. Vincent Menotti is editor. The newsletter will be a means of conveying Task Force business to all subscribers. Project proposals, conference information, and reports by the Steering Committee, as well as input from the general membership, will provide readers an opportunity to keep up with the goals and objectives of the GITF. The subscription fee is $5.00 per year. Orders/information should be sent to Vincent Menotti, Box 15115, Washington, DC 20003-0115.

From now on, all correspondence pertaining to general Task Force business should be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer at his home address: Roland Hansen, 3824 N. Fremont, Chicago, IL 60613. This will provide a single address for the Task Force for at least a two-year term.

--Roland Hansen
MORE ON MIDWINTER

At the Action Council meeting on January 9, Miriam Crawford reported on the pre-conference sponsored by the Feminist Task Force. Under the leadership of Francine Kendall, a group of about 20 white women met to discuss their own racism and to target strategies for long-range actions to combat racism. One suggestion that was proposed included setting up a large meeting of groups which are interested in this issue (including SRRT, Reforma, Black Caucus, Asian-American Librarians, and others) with the purpose of increasing communication back and forth between groups and to create joint projects (from their inception) with other groups rather than asking for their support for projects already planned.

Jody Bush addressed the issue of white women getting together to work on their own racism and noted that some people had questioned whether this approach is exclusionary.

SRRT will continue to be at the forefront of this issue and the general consensus was that after the New Orleans conference more projects will grow and we will continue building coalitions.

The revision and reprinting of the SRRT brochure have been postponed; some task forces have not turned in revised descriptions. A new committee will be formed at Annual Conference to tackle this project. Bethany Lawton volunteered to create a one-sheet "stop-gap" brochure to be used (particularly at the SRRT exhibit booth) until the new official brochure can be completed.

--From Action Council minutes prepared by Bethany Lawton, Secretary Pro Tem

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SRRT BOOTH

SRRT will once again provide an opportunity to display literature pertaining to our varied interests. Jackie Eubanks and Nancy Gruber are coordinating the SRRT booth at the conference in New Orleans, July 9-14. These efforts are more effective if someone is there to greet and talk with visitors. It's fun! Please consider spending at least one hour of your conference time staffing the SRRT booth. Send Nancy the coupon below to let her know you're willing to help.

Return to Nancy Gruber, 890 West End Ave., Apt. 6D, New York, NY 10025.

I would like to help staff the SRRT booth in New Orleans.

Name: __________________________

Address: ________________________

City: ____________________________

State: _______ ZIP: ____________

SIBYL E. MOSES TO HEAD OLOS

Sibyl E. Moses has been appointed Director of ALA's Office for Library Outreach Services effective February 8. She has held positions at the University of Ife Library, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, and the New York Public Library Research Libraries (including the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture). At Midwinter, Action Council welcomed Sibyl as SRRT's ALA staff liaison. The OLOS position has been vacant since November 28, 1986.
CANDIDATES FOR ALA COUNCIL

Because of the full agenda at Mid-winter, Action Council did not have time to consider formal endorsement of SRRT members who are running for ALA Council. It was decided, however, to print their names in the Newsletter. The following SRRT members are Council candidates: Toni Bearman, Marva DeLoach, Linda Anne Dougherty, Robert Franklin, E.J. Josey, Diane Kadanoff, Frances McDonald, Orthella Moman, Noel Peattie, Pat Rom, David L Searcy, Betty Turock, Barbara Webb, Mary Elizabeth Wendt, and Binnie Tate Wilkin. There may be others, but these were the only candidates identified by press time. Carla Stoffle, endorsed by Action Council for ALA Treasurer, is also a member of SRRT.

** ****** ******

** NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY UNION TASK FORCE ******

The Library Union Task Force is an interest group of academic, public, special, (etc.) librarians who are involved in collective bargaining from the employee perspective. This group complements the Library Administration and Management Association’s Personnel Administration Section’s Union Relations for Managers Discussion Group which focuses on the employer’s perspective.

LUTF is updating their mailing list. If you would like to be included send your name to: Jeanene McNair, University of South Florida Library, LIB 309, Tampa, FL 33620.

LUTF has submitted a proposal for a poster session at ALA New Orleans this July. The topic is Union Newsletters to Keep Librarians Informed. There is strength in solidarity. Since most faculty unions are a democracy of the activists, the librarians can gain a strength beyond their numbers when they are united.

Newsletters are frequently used as the vehicle to inform and survey the members. They can unite the librarians in a common course of action. Currently newsletters from the Florida and California system will be included in the poster system. If you have a union newsletter you would be willing to share at ALA, contact Jeanene McNair at the above address, or phone (813) 974-2047.

LUTF is planning a hospitality suite at ALA as a forum to discuss "Is the faculty model right for academic librarians?" Invitations will be sent to librarians on the LUTF mailing list. --Jeanene McNair

** ****** ******

** MORE ON LUTF POSTER SESSION ******

The Library Union Task Force has submitted the following statement to ALA in connection with its proposal for a poster session:

Academic librarians have affiliated with faculty collective bargaining unions to preserve their professional welfare by codifying professional privileges and rights. The small group of librarians lack the clout and numbers of a larger powerful faculty group. Although affiliation with the faculty provides an avenue to enhance the librarian’s status, it has a danger that the special librarian issues will become lost. Group solidarity based on common interests can unite and form a librarian power within the faculty union since unions are a democracy of the activists. Member newsletters are used in the collective bargaining process to inform the librarian constituency, survey the members’ needs and interests, and unite the librarians in a common course of action. Both Florida and California have used newsletters to communicate an activist role in demanding benefits (salaries and working conditions) and support of professional activities.
NEWS FROM THE PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE TASK FORCE: MIDWINTER SUMMARY

Noel Peattie reviewed the status of the Peace Award proposal. It was the sense of the Task Force that Noel should inform the ALA Awards Committee that we are still interested in the idea and that we will return to them when we have a resolution which spells out completely all terms and announces a corporate backer. The resolution will also have to be approved by SRRT Action Council. Carol Greenholz and Stephen Stillwell will pursue the idea of a corporate sponsor.

Bill Delzell announced his interest in giving a brief paper on his in-process bibliographic study of the U.S. peace movement during the Truman era. Stay tuned for more information.

In the exhibits, the following items were of interest to our group: the National Issues Forums; Oryx Press' Peace Movements of the World, by Alan J. Day; and University Publications of America's microfilm set on nuclear weapons and arms control.

The work of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security was reviewed. Of particular interest was the thesaurus being prepared by Librarian Susan Connell of CIIPS. Further information can be obtained from the Institute at 307 Gilmour, P.O. Box 3425, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L4.

Agenda topics for New Orleans should be sent to Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr., Librarian, Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

---Stephen Stillwell

REPORT ON LIBRARY EDUCATION ASSEMBLY

At its meeting on January 10, the LEA criticized a proposed policy statement of the Standing Committee on Library Education (SCOLE), suggesting that the wording be changed to "preferred professional degree" and that "professional" no longer be used as a modifier of "librarian." SCOLE's statement is as follows:

The master's degree in librarianship* (in any of its variant designations) from a program accredited by the American Library Association is the appropriate degree for professional librarians.

*Librarianship . . . is meant to be interpreted in its broadest sense as encompassing the relevant concepts of information science and documentation." (p. 2 Standards for Accreditation 1972.)

LEA's suggested change was not accepted, and Council passed the policy without objection from any group at the Council meeting on January 12. Should SCOLE be urged to change the policy again, according to LEA recommendations? The LEA seems to be a joke otherwise. [Comments on the policy may be sent to Jane Robbins, SCOLE Chair, University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Library and Information Studies, Madison, WI 53706.]

---Jackie Rubanks

**********

REPORT FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

The handbook Essays in Equity is progressing well. Only two papers have not been completed. Contact with ALA Publishing continues, and inquiries from two additional publishers have been received.

---Effie Lee Morris

In one recent children's book, Romanies (the authentic name for "Gypsies") appear as kidnappers who inflict a "cruel fate" on anybody they catch. They are, of course, pictured with stereotypic earrings and bandannas, as well as hooks and ropes for snaring unlucky youngsters. Another current work, on the Holocaust, barely refers to Romanies at all, masking the fact that they were the first and last victims of Nazi genocide and that--just like the Jews--they lost between 70 and 80 per cent of their total population.

The alarming truth is that Romanies have experienced centuries of continuing discrimination, slavery, and brutality in both the Old and New Worlds. This terrible and saddening history Ian Hancock--himself an English Rominchar and acclaimed linguist--chronicles from his people's migration out of northern India in about the ninth century A.D. to their tenuous situation in present-day Europe and America. Told with equal amounts of rage and detail--and complemented by many graphics, including historical documents and slanderous cartoons, comics, and reportage from today's British and American press--it is a story of bigotry, pain, and survival that needs to be understood not only to truly comprehend who the Romanies are and finally do them justice, but also to better appreciate and combat the deep-seated racism and cultural arrogance endemic to "majority" Western society.

--Sanford Berman

DID YOU KNOW...

that the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University is offering a course entitled "Housing and Feeding the Homeless"? For more information, see The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 13, 1988, p. A35.

***

IN MEMORIAM

CLARA O. JACKSON

Word has been received of the death last fall of longtime SRRT member, dedicated activist and supporter of progressive causes, Clara O. Jackson. We offer the following memorial tribute:

I first met Clara Jackson at an AASL meeting many years ago. Clara had a warmth and sensitivity that attracted me to her immediately.

Without realizing it I began to look forward to seeing Clara at each ALA conference. Many of our colleagues have memorialized her for her scholarly and academic achievements. But my fondest memories of Clara were those evenings that we had dinner or those mornings that we may have had coffee and talked about ALA, children's literature, political developments or perhaps family.

Clara was a "good" person. She was concerned about others and she was a true internationalist.

Because of her concerns for world peace, sisterhood/brotherhood and an all pervading social conscience, she will be sorely missed. I miss her now.

--Mary Biblo
SRRT MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

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

SRRT Clearinghouse
American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Please make checks payable to ALA/SRRT Clearinghouse.

Name

Street ___________________________ City __________ State _ ZIP __________

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

Back issues are available at $2 each. Indicate numbers: ___________