

# SRRT Newsletter

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of the American Library Association

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## FROM THE COORDINATOR

The Denver Midwinter meeting was a high energy event. Two major issues dominated my time - Amendment 2 and the Israeli Censorship issue.

The Gay and Lesbian Task Force did a superb job of orchestrating events related to Colorado's Amendment 2. A rally on Monday at noon saw about 200 ALA members demonstrating against the amendment. The protest started at the Convention Center, where ALA president Marilyn Miller and GLTF co-chair Roland Hansen spoke. The protesters then moved to the west steps of the state Capitol, several blocks away, where they were lead in songs and chants. GLTF co-chair Karen Whittlesey-First, Feminist Task Force representative Diedre Conkling, Progressive Library Guild co-founder Mark Rosenzweig, MSRRT representative Sanford Berman, and I made brief remarks, as did Susan Searing, who represented the ACRIL

Women's Studies Section, and several other supporters.

ALA issued President Miller's statement to the rally (see p. 3), as well as a release on the move of ALA's 1998 midwinter conference out of Denver, and a fact sheet on ALA's policies on equal rights. Many conference attendees wore at least one of the several available buttons, two of which were distributed by SRRT and the Children's Book Council, and another sold by the Colorado Library Association. Some of the SRRT buttons are still available from the GLTF.

Our special thanks go to Neal-Schuman Publishers for giving their booth to Equality Colorado, to the members of the Children's Book Council for their special posters and buttons, to Mohawk Library Furniture for its poignant empty booth, which had an enlarged copy of a letter to the Governor of Colorado hanging on the back wall, and to CRISES for their excellent display of gay and lesbian materials.

### In Memoriam

*Jackie Eubanks*

*19 November 1992*

The Social Responsibilities Round Table notes with sadness the passing of one of its founding members, Jackie Eubanks, a long-time member of Action Council, and a guiding force in the Alternatives in Print Task Force. Those of us who have worked with Jackie will remember her as one who truly cared. Working with Jackie was at times delightful, at times aggravating, but it was always interesting, fun, and worthwhile. We will sorely miss her.

SRRT passed two resolutions on Colorado Amendment 2. Resolutions against the Amendment also passed ALA Council, ACRL, ALCTS, LAMA, REFORMA and other groups. We are grateful to all of the ALA units who showed their support in Denver. ALA has officially announced its decision to move its 1998 midwinter conference from Denver.

The Israeli Censorship issue resurfaced at Midwinter, and I attended one of the International Relations Committee's (IRC) meetings to discuss the matter. A description of events related to this issue appear elsewhere in this newsletter. The revision to the resolution which was passed in San Francisco, recommended by the IRC and passed by ALA Council, proposes further study of this issue. It is difficult to see what might be accomplished by further study of an issue that has been studied exhaustively already. I hope that the IRC will begin to develop strategies "to support those working for peace, human rights and freedom of information and expression in the Middle East," as directed by the original resolution, at the same time it proceeds with its further study.

I was able to visit with members of the Gay & Lesbian, Feminist, Environmental, and International Human Rights Task Forces during the conference. I thank them all for their warm receptions. As an aside on the above, prior to the meeting of the IHRTF, Mark Rosenzweig and I were standing off to one side having a private discussion when an ALA member, who identified himself as a member of the Anti-Defamation League, took hold of my convention badge (pinned to my sport coat) so that he might copy my name and affiliation down correctly, an action which I found rather threatening.

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--Stephen J. Stillwell, jr.,  
SRRT Action  
C o u n c i l  
Coordinator

## SRRT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

### On the Billions of Books campaign:

WHEREAS illiteracy is a serious problem in the United States as is the underfunding of libraries, and

WHEREAS the development and promotion of literacy and libraries is one of the fundamental tasks confronting ALA, understanding that public libraries must play a key role in combatting illiteracy, and

WHEREAS the program "Billions of Bucks and Billions of Books" proposes to address these serious problems with a gimmicky public relations campaign sponsored by corporate interests and the banking establishment rather than with a serious effort to assure adequate levels of public funding for schools and libraries, and

WHEREAS the strategy of this campaign further advances the dependence of public institutions on unreliable corporate largesse while turning us away from confronting the political fight for government support for the educational and cultural rights of the public, and

WHEREAS predicating ALA's strategy for promoting libraries and literacy on a "Read-a-thon" and a privately funded "national book endowment" is irresponsible and diversionary, and

WHEREAS President Marilyn Miller has not successfully argued the effectiveness of this strategy in dealing with either of the problems,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table encourage ALA to drop the "Billions of Bucks and Billions of Books" project and, instead, to pursue a serious campaign to mobilize grass roots support for increased and sustained public funding of libraries and schools, a campaign which would not mortgage the future of public libraries to the uncertain (and often self-serving) generosity of corporate philanthropy,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted to Marilyn Miller, Hardy Franklin, Sharon Hogan, Arthur Curley, Denver Frederich, Blanche Wools, Carol Nielson, and the library press.

### On the Colorado boycott:

WHEREAS, the voters of the State of Colorado have approved Amendment 2, a state constitutional amendment which negates and abolishes the civil rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, and

WHEREAS, such outrageous and damaging official policy endangers not only lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, but all people, and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association has adopted several anti-bias policies, most notably 54.3 and 54.17, which commit the Association to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of individual life-style,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT resolved that SRRT strongly urges the American Library Association to move the site of its 1998 Midwinter Conference from the State of Colorado;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Colorado, the Mayor of the City of Denver, the Colorado Board of Tourism, the national gay and lesbian press, and the national library press.

(Another version of this resolution was adopted by ALA Council.)

### On future conference sites:

WHEREAS, some states in the United States have already or may in the future enact legislation, pass constitutional amendments, or otherwise give legal sanction to discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association has adopted several anti-bias policies, most notably 54.3 and 54.17, which commit the Association to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of individual life-style,

### **Remarks by ALA President, Marilyn Miller, at the beginning of the rally protesting Colorado Amendment 2, 25 January 1993:**

*We are gathered here today to make a statement to the citizens of Colorado.*

*We are concerned about the passage of Amendment II.*

*We are here as librarians in convention to carry out the business of our Association.*

*We are guests in your state, but when we leave we leave colleagues, family members, and friends whose livelihood, their physical well-being -- even their safety -- are in the hands of the voters. As an Association of concerned human beings, we feel we must speak out on an issue that could divide us as a nation.*

*The American Library Association has a long tradition of supporting equal rights and intellectual freedom. And we feel the existence of Amendment II threatens both -- in Colorado, and perhaps, in other parts of the country, in the form of copy cat legislation.*

*Amendment II has implications for librarians beyond the issue of protection basic of human rights to employment and safety.*

*As a profession, librarians are committed to providing information and resources that reflect the diversity of human experience and promote understanding of all people. Curtailing one freedom only makes it easier to curtail another. Will successful implementation of Amendment II lead to the curtailment of library collections and access to those collections?*

*We know how the line can blur between access to information and denial of our human rights. We learned this during the book burnings in NAZI Germany. Any erosion of human liberty can lead to an erosion of intellectual freedom.*

*This nation has completed a decade marked by divisiveness, mean spiritedness, and decisions made out of fear, bigotry, and intolerance. We who are here today are testimony of the many millions of Americans who say let us respect diversity and let us care about one another. Let us continue developing a nation in which all may be educated, find work, safety, and security. Let us all enjoy freedom of expression and access to that freedom.*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SRRT strongly urges the American Library Association to enter into conference-site contracts only with organizations and legal bodies in cities, counties, or states that do not explicitly discriminate against lesbian, gay, or bisexual people;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Colorado, the Mayor of the City of Denver, the Colorado Board of Tourism, the Mayor of the City of Tampa, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the United States Secretary of Commerce, the National Council of Mayors, the National Governors Conference, the national gay and lesbian press, and the national library press.

(Submitted to ALA Council for action.)

### On corporate sponsorship issues:

WHEREAS there can be little quarrel with the American Library Association seeking funds from private sources to support worthwhile projects; but

WHEREAS the recent collaboration between ALA and McDonald's Family Restaurants on the "Together Is Better" national reading program has resulted in an advertising windfall for McDonald's, libraries clearly and deliberately being used as a promotional and marketing medium for fast foods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table urges ALA to avoid collaborations or funding arrangements in the future that in effect equate books, reading, and libraries with hamburgers or other commodities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Marilyn Miller, ALA President; Ed Rensi, McDonald's President/CEO; *American Libraries*; *Library Journal*; and *School Library Journal*.

### On the "Seeds of Change" exhibit:

WHEREAS the "Seeds of Change" exhibit sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution has been found by reviewers and Native Americans to have a Eurocentric, pro-Columbus slant, and is biased in its presentation of both Native American and African-American cultures and histories (see Bigelow, Bill, "Two Myths are Not Better than One," *Monthly Review*, July/August 1992, pp. 28-48); and

WHEREAS the exhibit is also biased in its assumption that viewers share its distinctly slanted viewpoint; and

WHEREAS ALA and public libraries are committed to providing balanced and truthful information regarding the Quincentennial to a public which includes all races and colors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association encourage libraries hosting "Seeds of Change" to cancel this exhibit in favor of other exhibits which provide a more balanced viewpoint, and that these libraries inform the Smithsonian Institution of the reasons for their cancellations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution, together with ALA's Columbus Quincentennial Resolution, be sent to host libraries, the Secretary and Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and the library and Native American press.

## TASK FORCE REPORTS

### **TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

The task force met twice, in Denver, with a total of fifteen people attending the two sessions. **Doug Rippey** and **Barbara Wagner** from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII Library, distributed information about the revised

version of *Access EPA*, a handbook which is now available, and about *Public Access to EPA's Online Library System*. They also held an open house at their library.

The task force made plans for a program entitled "Tracing the Ecological History of Louisiana's Coast Through Special Collections and Technology" for the annual conference in New Orleans this summer and discussed preparing a handout listing sources on wetlands and on sources for scanning equipment. A related issue which will be discussed at the business meeting in June is that of the proposed EPA regulations on CFCs, which among other things are used in some library preservation techniques.

**Trish Cruse**, one of the co-chairs of the task force, is editor of a forthcoming book, *Environmental Information Sources*, to be published by ALA. Three members volunteered to write summaries and submit abstracts for sources on the three remaining chapters which had no editors.

**Maria Janowska**, editor of the *Green Library Journal*, received a letter from Barbara Rhodes of the World Wildlife Fund asking for comments on the format of a proposed directory project of U.S. and Eastern European libraries with environmental collections. The project is in conjunction with the Special Library Association's Environment and Resource Management Division (ERMD). The task force discussed several possible enhancements to the proposal. **Barbara Wagner**, a member of SLA's ERMD as well as of the task force, will keep task force members posted on the proposed National Institutes on the Environment and their libraries, as well as the directory.

**Doug Rippey** and former task force chair **Terry Link** have proposed a resolution that ALA use chlorine-free paper. It will be discussed in New Orleans when it is more complete. Some language will be needed about how much of the paper ALA uses should be chlorine-free, and how this will be monitored.

--Nancy Pope, co-chair

## CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

The task force joined the President's Committee on Cultural Diversity in supporting a video project to produce a recruitment film directed particularly at increasing the number of people of color in librarianship. Action Council provisionally approved \$7,000 toward the completion of the film and issued a challenge to other ALA units to step forward with financial support for the project. SRRT would like to see the film directed at a broader range of minority recruitment issues.

Additionally, the task force continued the discussion of the *Civil Rights Action Kit for Librarians*, obtaining feedback from civil rights activists. The intent of this project is to increase the availability of articles about multicultural outreach programs that equalize access and service. Given economic stratification, poverty, and the effects of these conditions on education, the challenge to libraries is to create truly innovative institutional remedies. In arguing the case in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the late Thurgood Marshall defined "equal" *vis-a-vis* public institutions as "getting the same thing, at the same time, in the same place."

--Donnarae MacCann, chair

### TASK FORCE ON ISRAELI CENSORSHIP AND PALESTINIAN LIBRARIES

One of the first initiatives of this new task force will be participation in a program with the Palestine Academic Freedom Network (PAFNET) to provide scientific and technical textbooks to schools and universities in the West Bank and Gaza. PAFNET initiated this program in 1992, and in addition is raising funds to provide urgently needed materials for educational institutions and to endow the new public library in Gaza with research materials and general books. Donations of books, journals, other educational materials, and of course cash are welcome. For further information, contact David Williams at (312) 549-6421.

--David Williams, chair

## ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT TASK FORCE

The task force decided at Midwinter to donate \$500 to the Jackie Eubanks Liberation Library at Brooklyn College and \$250 to the *MSRRT Newsletter*, edited by Chris Dodge. The task force also encouraged Byron Anderson to finalize his directory of over 60 significant alternative book publishers, to be distributed free. The directory should be available at the annual conference in June.

Two task force programs are being planned for New Orleans. The first is a panel discussion entitled "The Alternative Library Press: What Is It--and Why Do We Need It?" It will be moderated by Jim Danky and Sandy Berman and feature the editors of a number of journals and newsletters. The second program will be another "Free Speech Buffet," coordinated by Dan Hodge and spotlighting Louisiana and other Southern presses and groups.

--Sandy Berman, acting chair

## LIBRARY EDUCATION ASSEMBLY

ALA's Standing Committee on Library Education (SCOLE) has issued a position paper, *Human Resources in Libraries: Classification and Evaluation*, which was approved by the committee in Denver and will be considered by ALA Council in New Orleans. Copies of the paper are available from the Office of Library Personnel Resources at ALA Headquarters, and comments or suggestions from SRRT members may be submitted to Carol Barta, Avila College, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City MO 64145, or e-mailed to cbarta@vax1.umkc.edu.

Much of the discussion of the assembly meeting centered around the creation of a list or lists of basic competencies or core knowledge which library school graduates should have. Each group (PLA, ACRL, CLENE, etc.) seems to be generating its own set of requirements. The "Century 21 Project," initiated by

the ALA Executive Committee, is also exploring this idea.

--Carol Barta, SRRT Liaison to the Library Education Assembly

## AGENDA KEEPS ACTION COUNCIL BUSY

In addition to the resolutions that appear elsewhere in this newsletter, Action Council managed to get through its entire agenda at the midwinter meetings. There was consensus for co-sponsoring the programs of two other round tables at the annual conference: the Intellectual Freedom Round Table's program, entitled "For Sex, See Librarian," and the Government Documents Round Table's program entitled, "Documents for Diversity." Action Council also endorsed resolutions from GODORT calling for the inclusion of the round tables in the ALA self-study and for round table representation on Council. This latter resolution was withdrawn on the floor of Council. (By the way, a new round table - the Library Support Staff Round Table - was created by ALA Council. We welcome them to ALA.)

SRRT Action Council approved two more state affiliates. The state library associations of West Virginia and Wisconsin have added local Social Responsibilities Round Tables. These have been afforded affiliate status with the national SRRT. They join Minnesota, Washington, Kansas, and Oregon. There are plans underway to add a local SRRT to the Oklahoma Library Association.

The Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries received final approval. The task force will be chaired by former IHRTF chair David Williams. The Intellectual Freedom Task Force, led by Elizabeth Morrisett, received preliminary approval. Final approval will be on the agenda for Action Council at the summer meetings, as specified by the SRRT bylaws.

Action Council heard reports on membership from Steve Murden, and on the newsletter from Tom

Wilding. Task force budgets for 1993/94 were approved, and these will be included in a later issue of the newsletter.

## ISRAELI CENSORSHIP ONCE AGAIN ON ALA COUNCIL AGENDA

The International Relations Committee an ALA Council committee, met in Denver to discuss a number of items. The IRC had indicated that there was some concern about the implementation of the SRRT-sponsored Resolution on Israeli Censorship, which both ALA membership and Council had approved at the summer conference. Action Council coordinator, Stephen Stillwell, was invited to meet with the IRC and made the following statement:

Thank you for inviting me to join you today. I have long taken an interest in the affairs of the world at large. My undergraduate degree is in international relations, and one of my graduate degrees is in diplomatic history. Within both of these programs, my studies were concentrated on the Middle East. I have been able to study in both Egypt and Israel. On a daily basis, I am the librarian at the Center for Science and International Affairs. This Center is the focus of international peace and security studies at Harvard University. Within ALA, I have been active in the Peace Information Exchange Task Force within the Social Responsibilities Round Table for a half-dozen years. This year, I have the added responsibility of Coordinator of Action Council, SRRT's governing body.

I have read the materials in your agenda packet carefully, paying particular attention to Exhibit 5 on the Resolution on Israeli Censorship. I have a number of comments on the Exhibit.

I think that the questions that are raised are good ones. I have raised a number of them myself, notably - "What is the relationship of membership initiatives to Council action?" and "Should ALA have a process for political resolutions?" (By the way there is a slight factual error here, the Legislative Committee did not review the ALA endorsement of the Wellstone National Health Care Bill.)

I agree, as do the members of SRRT, that the facts need to be checked and checked carefully. It was for that reason that those SRRT members present voted against the Resolution on Afghanistan when it was introduced in June of 1991 [at a membership meeting]. This resolution, unlike the one on Israeli censorship, was a "spur of the moment" one introduced with no supporting evidence.

The Resolution on Israeli Censorship had been several years in the making. Documentation was presented and discussed in open fora held throughout the ALA not just within SRRT. Within SRRT, it was discussed at meetings of the Peace Information Exchange Task Force and the International Human Rights Task Force, as well as Action Council. Outside of SRRT, this issue has been discussed in ALA Membership, ALA Council, the African/Asian Studies Section and the Law and Political Science Section of ACRL, the International Relations Round Table, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, the Ethnic Materials and Information Exchange Round Table, the Jewish Librarians Caucus, and this committee. (I believe that at least two members of this committee have been on it during this period of discussion.) Its various iterations were also the subject of articles and letters to the editor in *American Libraries*. Discussion has been ongoing since Dmwinter 1991. At this point, I can not imagine that anyone who wished to, did not have any input or have adequate time to check the veracity of the supporting evidence.

As to whether ALA should be involving itself in such matters, I would assume after reviewing the *ALA Policy Manual* that this issue was resolved in the past. It is abundantly clear in Section 57 on International Relations. I quote: "The American Library Association establishes these objectives and responsibilities for its international relations programs: 1) To encourage the exchange, dissemination, and access to information and the unrestricted flow of library materials in all formats throughout the world." Certainly, a resolution on the closure of libraries in any jurisdiction goes directly to this objective.

Further in Section 57, ALA states that it, and again I quote, "will address the grievances of foreign nationals...." And ALA has done so with the, admittedly flawed, Afghanistan Resolution and with several resolutions on South African apartheid. With long-standing Association policy and the Association's record of doing just that, I do not understand the concern of the Committee over the appropriateness and legality of such steps. Certainly such issues were dealt with long ago. Yet it may be time to reconsider some of these issues, but not within the context of the Israeli Censorship Resolution. Operating procedures should not be changed after the fact.

I have always maintained that the whereases of a resolution should be kept few and generic. I have said never put more than three whereases in, because each whereas will cause 10% of the people to vote against the resolution. For some reason, people tend to focus on them and not on the substance of the resolution, located in the resolves. As the whereases of the Israeli Censorship Resolution have been raised as an issue in your exhibit, let me say simply that after long, often tedious, and contentious discussion at both Membership and Council that these clauses were accepted as factual and were deemed not to be inflammatory. As neither the first or second resolved clause require any action and as the fourth one has already been acted upon. Let's deal with the third resolved.

If I could be so bold, I think that the idea to create a subcommittee

within the IRC to deal with the implementation is a good idea. I think that such a subcommittee should be charged with developing concrete proposals and should be given a deadline for its work. An example of the kind of proposal that could be made is an ALA-UNWRA (United Nations Works & Relief Agency) agreement to provide library materials for the Palestinian communities served by this Agency. I am sure that Council and Membership will want a report on what the IRC has done to fulfill its wishes on this resolution. I am sure that SRRT will support the IRC in its efforts to secure from ALA Headquarters the appropriate staff support for this and other projects.

Thank you again for your permission to speak to the Committee on this issue.

The committee was concerned with the process through which the resolution was passed, claiming that there had not been ample time for review or to verify facts and that its role as advisor on international issues had been bypassed by Council. Committee members expressed concern that the language of the resolution may be misinterpreted by non-native English speakers and they questioned the appropriateness of ALA's addressing foreign governmental and non-governmental bodies, other than the United Nations and its agencies and various foreign library associations. Finally the IRC is concerned about the relationship between the resolution on censorship in the Middle East and that on Israel.

As a result of their concerns, the IRC recommended and Council adopted an amendment to the Israeli Censorship Resolution by adding two further resolved clauses:

Be it further resolved that this document [the original resolution] be referred to the ALA International Relations Committee for study and recommendation, and;

Be it further resolved that the parties previously informed of the resolution be told that ALA has referred the matter to its International Relations Committee for study and recommendation.

The IRC's report is due in New Orleans. The ALA membership meeting there will dedicate some time to a discussion of the issues raised by the IRC. This discussion will include statements from the IRC, the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and SRRT.

## **ALA COUNCIL AND ALSC SLAP SRRT'S HANDS**

The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) passed a resolution in Denver, which was adopted by ALA Council, in response to SRRT's resolution on corporate sponsorship issues. McDonald's Family Restaurants had participated with ALA in the "Together Is Better" program, a program intended to stimulate reading by children in return for McDonald's hamburger coupons and other McDonald's promotions, and kits for the program were distributed unsolicited to 16,000 libraries. Despite the fact that the SRRT resolution was more critical of ALA than of McDonald's, both ALSC and ALA Council thought it necessary to reaffirm to McDonald's their gratitude for past and future generosity and to assure them that SRRT spoke only for itself. Stephen Stillwell, Action Council Coordinator, was allowed to speak in defense of SRRT's action, but numerous Council members rose to the defense of the program and to scold the miscreant SRRT. One councillor posited that the cholesterol content of the program would be more than offset by the increase in knowledge of good eating habits that the program would provide. Another pointed out that McDonald's now also serves salads and more healthful foods, but no one suggested ways to encourage the children to eat them - except by having them read about healthy eating habits! One of SRRT's complaints with the promotion was the relative size of McDonald's corporate logo in relation to anything mentioning ALA. SRRT felt that, while corporate sponsors deserved mention, there should be a better balance between recognition for the sponsor and credit to ALA and its divisions. From ALSC's and Council's actions this does not seem to be a concern of ALA.

## **COUNCIL TAKES ACTION ON SOCIAL ISSUES**

ALA Council dealt with a number of items of interest to SRRT during their sessions in Denver. The lack of implementation of the Poor People's

Services Policy was discussed and deadlines for the development of supporting policies and action were set. The Library Bill of Rights was referred to the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and a proposal for revision and inclusion of the terminology related to gender and sexual orientation is to be presented at the annual conference in New Orleans. At the request of the California and Oregon chapters, Council passed a resolution in support of federal legislative action to protect all people from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

A resolution on the destruction of libraries in the disintegrating Yugoslavia was revised by the International Relations Committee to remove whereas clauses that contained information that could not be documented and to eliminate inflammatory wording, such as "ethnic cleansing." These revisions were in keeping with the IRC's actions on the Israeli censorship issue, and the revised resolution was subsequently passed.

## **SRRT MEMBERSHIP ON THE RISE**

SRRT membership rose over the past year by 321, an increase of 20.4%. While a significant amount of the increase occurred in the student member category (230, or 45.9%), regular personal members increased from 839 to 919, or 9.5%. Some ALA units are seeing membership drops, and it is good to see that SRRT's activities are continuing to draw new members.

## **SRRT MEMBERS ON THE ALA BALLOT**

A number of SRRT members will be on the ballot which will be mailed out this Spring. Both candidates for ALA President, Sharon Hogan and Arthur Curley, are SRRT members. Nominees for ALA Council include SRRT members June Garcia, Carole J. McCollough, and Mary Elizabeth (Ma'lis) Wendt. In addition, several SRRT members are petitioning for inclusion on the ballot for Council. These include Deidre Conkling, Elaine Harger, Al Kagan, Mark Rosenzweig, and David Williams.

## MORRISSETT TO SERVE AS WATCHDOG

The Environment Task Force decide that someone needs to be available to monitor news items and other information regarding the Clinton Administration's environmental policies and activities. Elizabeth Morrissett has volunteered to be the contact person during the coming months and will be alerting others when important events or issues arise. All SRRT members are encouraged send items which they feel should be brought to the attention of the Environment Task Force, SRRT, or ALA as a whole to her at: P.O. Box 18938, Denver CO 80218, or call her at (303) 333-6312.

--Carol Barta, Secretary, Envi.Task Force

## BISEXUAL FORUM ESTABLISHED

A news discussion group was approved at Midwinter by the Steering Committee of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force (GLTF). Its mission statement reads:

The ALA/SRRT/GLTF Bisexuality Discussion Group, pursuant to the Gay and Lesbian Task Force mission "to support other minority groups working for adequate representation and opportunity within the Association," shall: serve as a forum for discussion of the purposes specified in the GLTF bylaws as they relate to bisexuality and librarianship; promote an understanding of bisexuality within the gay and lesbian library communities and the library community at large; and provide an opportunity for bisexual, gay, and lesbian librarians, archivists, and other information professionals to explore common areas of interest and activity. The BDG is open to persons of all sexual orientation and identities.

The first meeting has been tentatively scheduled at the New Orleans Annual Conference for Friday, June 25, 4:30-5:30 PM. Bisexuals are particularly urged to attend. For more information, contact the chair, Mike Montgomery, c/o. GHRD, Princeton Univ. Libraries, One Washington Rd., Princeton NJ 08544-2098; telephone (609) 258-3180; Internet: michael@pucc.princeton.edu .

## FTF MENTORING

In an effort to help promote diversity in librarianship, the Feminist Task Force is sponsoring a mentoring program to encourage women of color to become librarians. Through attendance at ALA's annual conference and through mentoring, the task force hopes to encourage college seniors, library support staff, and other individuals who are interested in librarianship as a profession to enter an accredited graduate library school. Candidates must be nominated by a librarian and will receive free registration to the New Orleans conference. While all candidates will be considered, it is suggested that they live in the New Orleans area.

Mentors are also needed for the project who would agree to have a candidate "trail" them for one day of the conference, to introduce her to the logistics of ALA conferences, and to answer her questions about librarianship. Mentors and mentees will be provided with complimentary tickets to the FTF Author Breakfast on Sunday morning at the conference.

If you will be attending the New Orleans conference and would be interested in being a mentor or in nominating a candidate, please contact Debra Gilchrist, Pierce College, 9401 Farwest Drive SW, Tacoma WA 98498, or call (206) 964-6553. Deadline for nominations is May 15, 1993.

## ALA MEMBERSHIP MEETING QUORUM RULE

ALA Council at its very busy third meeting in Denver passed a resolution aimed at changing the ALA by-laws to require 500 members for a quorum at membership meetings. This change will require a vote by the membership. Since at many membership meetings it is difficult to maintain the present quorum level (200 members), this may in fact do away with membership meetings completely unless ALA administration can begin to plan meetings that are attractive enough to draw members in considerably larger numbers than before. The timing

of membership meetings is important. Evenings are difficult at best, and Wednesday morning is impossible for those who cannot afford to stay one or two additional days. Perhaps, however, the problem is more basic than that. Perhaps if members felt that the initiatives they passed were important and that they would be left intact by ALA Council then they might take these meetings more seriously and feel that they really had a say in the business of the organization. If Council can continue to eviscerate membership resolutions, however, most members will not want to waste their time. Perhaps ALA Councillors could take the opportunity to listen to non-Council members instead of spending so much time at the microphones - not that their opinions aren't interesting. Members should think seriously before supporting this initiative unless they are willing to give over what little influence they have to others.

## CORRECTED PHONE NUMBERS FOR AMNESTY INTL LIAISON

The International Human Rights Task Force's Amnesty International liaison is Cheryl Martin, in Dallas, as reported in the June 1992 issue of this newsletter. Her phone numbers are (214) 521-2489 (office) or (214) 361-0580 (home).

## ACRL SOCIAL ISSUES TASK FORCE REPORTS

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) adopted a policy on social issues at its meetings in Denver. The policy was drafted by an *ad hoc* task force established in 1991. Input was gathered from ACRL members and from various other professional associations.

The policy states that:

The ACRL Executive Board, in deliberating social, political, and economic issues, should take action only when those issues meet the following criteria:

1. Issues are of fundamental importance to the profession of academic librarianship;
2. Issues are directly and clearly identified as consistent with the mission and goals of ACRL and ACRL's Strategic Plan; and
3. Issues are ones for which ACRL is recognized as an authoritative and knowledgeable source by both its membership and the national community (such as issues having to do with intellectual freedom and access to information).

## SRRT ARCHIVES

Do you have files and papers related to SRRT that you have been anxious to get rid of but didn't feel you should throw away? Stephen Stillwell will be more than happy to have you send materials you no longer need or want to him for the SRRT Archives. The archives are maintained as part of the ALA archives, housed at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, and document the history and activities of SRRT and its task forces. Stillwell has been collecting information related to SRRT's history as a part of the activities leading up to SRRT's silver anniversary, which will be celebrated at the annual conference in Miami in 1994. Materials should be sent to him at: CSIA Library, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 79 John F. Kennedy Street, Cambridge MA 02138.

### FROM THE EDITOR'S INBOX

\* The National Clearinghouse on Development and Environmental Education has published *Who's Doing What?*, a comprehensive 273-page sourcebook listing U.S. organizations and institutions which educate about development and other global issues. The book profiles the education programs of 250 hunger, environmental, population, peace and area studies organizations across the country. Joelle Danant is the contact person for information, at (212) 732-8606.

The price of the sourcebook is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. It can be ordered from American Forum, 45 John St., Ste. 908, New York NY 10038.

\* The National Women's History Project has developed a set of materials that addresses the theme of National Women's History Month (March 1993) - "Discover a New World: Women's History." The set includes a speech and visual aids and is available for \$15.50 from the project, at 7738 Bell Road, Windsor CA 95492, or (707) 838-6000. In addition to the set, a 17" x 25" commemorative poster is available for \$6.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. A complete catalog of their other posters and materials is available for \$1.00.

\* The Northeast Ohio Lesbian/Gay Archives was established in 1991 as a collaborative project of the Lesbian/Gay Community Services Center and the Western Reserve Historical Society. Its collection is available for scholarly research at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. For more information about it, contact the historical society at (216) 721-5722, or the center at (216) 522-1999.

\* *The Greenhouse* is a new newsletter published monthly by BRW Environmental Consultants. Its mission statement says "*The Greenhouse* recognizes the existence of a Democracy and a change toward a sustainable society are dependent upon an active, well-informed body politic." As of Vol. 1, no. 2, it claimed five subscribers. For more information, contact *The Greenhouse*, P.O. Box 892, Portland ME 04101.

\* According to a news release by the Public Information Office of Sonoma State University, Project Censored, the top ten under-reported stories of 1992 include: The Great Media Sell-Out; Corporate Crime Dwarfs Street Crime; Censored Election Year Issues; World's Leading Merchant of Death; Iraqgate an the Watergate Law; "We Are Winning the War on Drugs" Was a Lie; Trashing Federal Regulations for Profit; Government Secrecy Makes a Mockery of Democracy; Advertising Pressure Corrupts a Free Press; and Post Cold War

Black Budget is Prospering. *Censored: The News That Didn't Make the News and Why*, the 1993 Project Censored yearbook, published by Shelburne Press, Chapel Hill NC, will be available in March. Call (919) 942-0220 for more information about the yearbook.

\* *Partners for Peace & Justice* is a newsletter produced by the Public Advocacy Program at Oxfam America. It seeks to link project partners in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the Caribbean with people in the U.S. who will advocate on their behalf. For more information, contact James Arena-DeRosa, Director of Public Advocacy, Oxfam America, 115 Broadway, Boston MA 02116, or call (617) 482-1211 x475.

\* The Council for Responsible Genetics publishes a bulletin, *geneWATCH*, which covers social issues in genetics and biotechnology. Subscriptions for individuals are \$24 for six issues and for institutions \$30 for six issues. Lower rates are available for low income and/or student subscribers. CRG can be contacted at 19 Garden Street, Cambridge MA 02138, or at (617) 868-0870.

\* Naiad Press celebrated its twentieth birthday on January 1, 1993, remaining the oldest and largest lesbian publishing company in the world. Twenty-four new lesbian titles will be issued in 1993.

\* This may be too late, as the letter in the editor's inbox is dated October 1, 1992, but there were at that time a few remaining copies of the now dated *Whole Again Resource Guide, 1986/87 Edition*, which were to be discarded soon. The work lists over 3,000 alternative periodicals and sourcebooks. Copies may be obtained by sending \$2.00 for postage to SourceNet, Box 6767, Santa Barbara CA 93160, but call before you write to see whether it is too late: (805) 494-7123.

\* A free poster is available from the Organization for Equal Education of the Sexes, Inc. (OEES) with every order for eight or more posters postmarked on or before March 31, 1993. The OEES offers 97 posters in all in support of multicultural education, featuring women of many races and ethnic groups

and women with disabilities. A free catalog is available from OES/WHM, P.O. Box 438, Blue Hill ME 04614, or call (207) 374-2489.

\* *The Long Road Home* (1992), a concise half hour video documentary about the plight of Guatemalan refugees, has been produced by Andrea Leland. The focus of the video is on a 19 year old Guatemalan of Mayan descent, now living in Chicago, who tells the story of his visit with family and friends in a Guatemalan refugee camp in southern Mexico in 1991. The video is available for purchase or screenings from Andrea E. Leland, 1122 North Milwaukee Ave., Chicago IL 60622, or call (312) 278-2948 or (708) 864-7746.



**Steven R. Harris, Book Review Editor**

**GAY AND LESBIAN LIBRARY SERVICE, edited by Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 1990. 355p. (ISBN 0-89950-535-X) \$36.50 hbk.**

During 1992 a storm of controversy surrounded library purchases of Michael Willhoite's *Daddy's Roommate* (Alyson 1990), a book written for children with gay fathers. In light of these types of controversy, Gough and Greenblatt have produced the first collection development manual focused on selection and dissemination of materials on gay culture. The co-editors clearly state why it is essential for libraries to purchase and retain materials such as Willhoite's book. The editors further refute myths concerning collection development for gay and lesbian patrons.

The book contains fifteen contributed chapters organized under five headings: Collection Development, Special Collections of Gay and Lesbian Materials--Case Studies, Bibliographic Access to Gay and Lesbian Materials, Service Issues, and Special Topics in Librarianship for Gay and Lesbian Patrons.

Several contributors are noted authorities in the field of gay and lesbian studies. Among them are: Wayne R. Dynes (*Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*, Garland 1990); H. Robert Malinowsky (*International Directory of Gay and Lesbian Periodicals*, Oryx 1987); and Frances Hanckel (*A Way of Love, a Way of Life*, Lothrop, Lee, and Shephard Books 1979).

The last half of the book is devoted to appendices covering a multitude of topics pertaining to gay culture. Some of the noteworthy items covered include: a core collection of nonfiction; gay and lesbian bibliographies; a filmography; a discography; a checklist of famous gays, lesbians, and bisexuals; and a directory of gay and lesbian bookstores.

Gough and Greenblatt have produced a highly commendable treatment of library service for gay and lesbian clientele. While written for the professional in the field, it has many sections of interest to the nonprofessional. The necessity of updating the materials is evident and alluded to in the book. While the format of the text does not allow ready updating, a revised second edition should follow shortly. One problem to note, the coverage of the index for titles, authors, performers, directors, organizations, and businesses is solely for those found in the text, not inclusive of those in the appendices or notes.

Elizabeth M. Wavie's bibliographic essay, "A Gay and Lesbian Core Collection" in the July/August 1991 issue of *Choice* magazine includes a recommendation for the Gough and Greenblatt book. I strongly concur with Wavie and believe this book should be available not only in academic institutions and large public libraries, but especially in the small public libraries where gay, lesbian

or bisexual library issues and needs are often overlooked or ignored.

--Michael A. Lutes, University Libraries, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN.

**THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT: A BIBLIOGRAPHY, compiled by Joan Nordquist, Santa Cruz, CA: Reference and Research Services, 1992. 68p. (ISBN 0-937855-46-4) \$15.00 pbk. Address: 511 Lincoln Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.**

*The Feminist Movement* is the latest in the bibliographic series, Contemporary Social Issues, published by Reference and Research Services. The book would be useful in most libraries, but probably most successful in specialized collections or academic libraries. Its format consists of seven sections dealing with such diverse topics as feminist history and pornography. Several of these sections are further broken down into specific categories. The bibliographic entries describe books, journals, and pamphlets, including lesser-known alternative materials. The in-depth coverage and volume of entries make this feminist bibliography well worth the \$15.00 cost. The book also contains a resource section with organizations, additional bibliographies, and directories.

--Susan Marie Pitard, Lemon Grove, CA.

**GENOCIDE: THE ULTIMATE THREAT OF THE NEXT MILLENNIUMS, by Isaac I. Omoike. Baton Rouge: Isaac Omoike Books, 1991. 223p. (ISBN 0-9632236-0-7) Address: 8322 Ned Ave. #B, Baton Rouge, LA 70820.**

*Genocide* is written and published by Isaac I. Omoike. Although the premise, that genocide must be understood and eliminated now, before it escalates any further, is interesting, the book is not well written and poorly

published. Genocide is explored in this treatise both universally and specifically in our lives today. The author also probes the "brainwashing" that enables the public to accept genocide in its given forms. Omoike blames the media for the brainwashing, as we see more violence each day and become desensitized to it. This book might be useful for its appendices, which cover topics ranging from the United States/Soviet Union treaty to ban intermediate- and short-range missiles to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

--Susan Marie Pitard, Lemon Grove, CA.

**FEBRUARY 1965: THE FINAL SPEECHES. By Malcolm X, edited by Steve Clark. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1992. 293p. (ISBN 0-87348-749-4) \$17.95 pbk.**

You've got the cap, you've seen the movie, now read the words. The past year has witnessed an avalanche of Malcolm X products and paraphernalia, but as a *New Yorker* movie review noted, the man is famous largely for what he said, and he said a lot. So here you go, plenty of material straight from Malcolm's mouth, without the [mis]interpretations of anyone. (Funny how a lot of media still spend time trying to discredit a dead man, which attests to two things: the power of his voice and the fear he engenders in those favoring a status quo.)

Pathfinder Press, it should be noted, hasn't been party to any flavor-of-the-month X-plotation; they've been publishing his words since 1965. This volume joins several others still in print.

The final month of Malcolm X's life, as we see in this book, was unbelievably busy and chaotic. Before his assassination on February 21 he delivered speeches in 4 different U.S. cities, granted numerous interviews, traveled to England for several addresses, was forbidden entry into France, and had his house firebombed.

Through all of this one can still hear in the speeches a mind of great penetration and wit turning over subjects of tremendous complexity, examining issues of personal and global significance. Sadly, many of his words still ring true, unheeded in the ensuing 30 years. This point, for example: "... the whole world thinks that America's race problem is being solved, when actually the masses of Black people in America are still living in the ghettos and the slums; they still are the victims of inferior housing; they are still victims of a segregated school system . . . " And yet, despite the seriousness of his topic, a biting humor shines through also. When French emigration officials detained him, he told them, "This couldn't be Paris, it must be Johannesburg."

*February 1965: The Final Speeches* contains the texts of 8 major speeches and 14 interviews or remarks to the press, a chronology of Malcolm's activities during the month, brief commentary by the editor, contemporaneous photographs, the program of Malcolm's newly-formed Organization of Afro-American Unity, extensive notes, and a fairly thorough index. It should be purchased by all collections claiming any coverage of Malcolm X specifically or African American materials in general.

--Steven R. Harris, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

**THE MAXIMUM WAGE: A COMMON SENSE PRESCRIPTION FOR REVITALIZING AMERICAN BY TAXING THE VERY RICH, by Sam Pizzigati, ill. by Howard Saunders. New York: Apex, 1992. 137 p. (ISBN 0-945257-45-7) \$11.95. Apex Press, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.**

This popularly written proposal dives into the debate over the distribution of wealth, a debate engendered by the excesses of the 80's, by the open arrogance of a Donald Trump and a Leona Helmsley, and most of all by the deteriorating lives of poor and middle America.

The author, a labor journalist and editor, begins with an examination of "The Rich People Problem," in itself a refreshing approach to what usually is framed as The Poor, The Homeless, or the Underclass Problem. The increasing polarity of wealth, its effect on the economy, and the consequences of economic inequality on political democracy are all examined. A number of charts give a graphic sense to the statistics.

Also included is a review of historical movements against excess wealth in the U.S., such as Huey Long's "Share the Wealth Clubs" during the depression, and the American Committee on War Finances' call for a "conscription of wealth" in 1917. This section attempts to draw the lessons of the past.

The author's proposal for redistribution of wealth is the establishment of a maximum wage, that is, ten times the minimum wage. This is actually a modest proposal, as it would mean an increase in taxes for only the richest 1%.

The reader is walked through "Life In Ten Times Rule America" where the likely fears and arguments to be raised are dealt with. The question moves from "Can we afford, as a fiscally responsible nation, to enact the Ten Times Rule?" to "Can we afford not to?" One scenario suggested is a state-by-state campaign for a constitutional amendment for a maximum wage.

The easy-to-read, popular format, with accompanying graphics makes it accessible to a broad audience, yet each chapter is accompanied by an abundance of notes for back-up and further reference. The lack of an index is a drawback.

Could the Maximum Wage, the Ten Times Rule, really happen? Would it really work? The scenario Pizzigati presents is somewhat simplistic; he doesn't discuss the worldwide economy and global distribution of wealth, nor the consequences of racial and ethnic discrimination. There is no doubt that the forces arrayed against such a proposal would be formidable. But however the movement for economic justice plays itself out, what's

important is that proposals like The Maximum Wage are an essential and valuable contribution.

--Peggy Elwell, San Jose Public Library, San Jose, CA.

**TEACHING TOLERANCE. Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104. Quarterly.**

*Teaching Tolerance* was founded in 1991 to provide teachers and other educators with resources and ideas to help promote harmony in the classroom. The editor, Sara Bullard, asserts that *Teaching Tolerance* is meant to be a collection of ready-to-use ideas and strategies, and a source of encouragement for the thousands of teachers who are working to build communities of understanding in their classrooms. The editor says that to be "tolerant" is to "welcome the differences and delight in the sharing," and that "tolerance is at the core of good citizenship."

Judging by the first edition, this will be a publication of real substance and high quality, useful to a wide range of individuals and institutions determined to give more than a superficial treatment to the study of multiculturalism. The issue exhibits an attractive, colorful and well designed format. The advisory board consists of outstanding, nationally known leaders in education, such as child psychiatrist Robert Coles; John Hope Franklin, professor emeritus at Duke University; Mary Hatwood Futrell, President, World Confederation of the Teaching Profession; Bill Honig, California Superintendent of Public Instruction; and others.

The first volume contains offerings from teachers who have developed and used techniques that work, as well as articles by the editor and members of the advisory board. Articles include the results of a human rights contest, units on the work of Zora Neale Hurston, an art contest commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr., "Celebrate Values," "Becoming Navajo," "The Freedom Rides Revisited," and others. On-going features will consist of an "Idea Exchange" in which teachers share methods

they've used, "Teaching Tools" with resources to help students learn tolerance and appreciate diversity, "Screening Room," film and video works reviewed, and "One World," visions of harmony in art and prose.

A unique aspect of this publication is that the staff is determined to highlight the "best new materials on the market," focusing on multiculturalism, anti-bias, gender equity, peace-keeping and conflict resolution, gay and lesbian issues, and preventing racism. Another intent is that the publication be free to schools and libraries.

This new publication promises to be an essential tool for schools, teachers, and other educators working with children and young people. Teaching Tolerance draws together a wide range of exciting ideas and classroom experiences, which can help achieve more harmony, and respect for diversity in classrooms throughout America.

--Linda C. Jolivet, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY.

#### TITLES RECEIVED:

If you'd like to review one of these or any other book, please contact: Steven R. Harris, Reference Department, Evans Library, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-5000. Tel. (409) 845-5741.

*Cinco de Mayo: a Symbol of Mexican Resistance.* By Roberto Cabello-Argandona, poetry compiled by Luis A. Torres. Encino, CA: Floricanto Press, 1992.

*Professional Training for Feminist Therapists: Personal Memoirs.* Edited by Esther D. Rothblum and Ellen Cole. New York: Haworth Press, 1991.

*Occupational Therapy Across Cultural Boundaries.* Edited by Susan Cook Merrill. New York: Haworth Press, 1992.

*Review of African Political Economy, V.54 (Surviving Democracy?).* Sheffield, England, 1992.

*A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples.* By Hayden Curry and Denis Clifford. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 1991.

*Homosexuality in Renaissance and Enlightenment England: Literary Representations in Historical Context.* Edited by Claude Summers. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 1992.

*Sexual Transmission of HIV Infection: Risk Reduction, Trauma, and Adaptation.* Edited by Lena Nilsson Schonnesson. Binghamton, NY: Harrington Park Press, 1992.

*Multicultural Pharmaceutical Education.* Edited by Barry Bleidt. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 1993.

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Editor: Tom Wilding  
Book Review Editor: Steven Harris  
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