



SRRT NEWSLETTER

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Issue 138

Coretta Scott King Awards Announced

The Coretta Scott King Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table has announced the following winners of Coretta Scott King Awards: honoring African-American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults.

King Author Book

The Land by Mildred D. Taylor

King Author Honor Books

Money Hungry by Sharon G. Flake

Carver: A Life in Poems by Marilyn Nelson

Ann Sparanese: Guardian of Intellectual Freedom

ALA Council and SRRT member Ann Sparanese recently led an effort to force Harper Collins to release Michael Moore's new book. As keynote speaker at a New Jersey Citizen's Action event, Moore discussed his publisher's request that he rewrite large portions of the book that they deemed offensive in the post-9/11 climate and help defray the costs of reprinting and destroying the 50,000 copies already warehoused. Sparanese

King Illustrator Book

Goin' Someplace Special illustrated by Jerry Pinkney,

King Illustrator Honor Book

Martin's Big Words illustrated by Brian Collier, written by Doreen Rappaport

John Steptoe New Talent Award

Jerome Lagarrigue, illustrator of Freedom Summer

The Social Responsibilities Round Table mourns the death of Virginia Hamilton on February 19, 2002. She was a multiple CSK and Newberry Award winner. She will be missed.

related the incident to the Library Juice list serve resulting in tremendous librarian outrage aimed at Harper Collins leading the publishing house to release the book as written. As of this writing Stupid White Men ...and Other Sorry Excuses for the State of the Nation! is number 1 on the New York Times Bestsellers List.

Inside this issue:

<i>Resolution Against War in Afghanistan</i>	2
<i>Resolution Against Secret Tribunals</i>	2
<i>Resolution on the Protection of Privacy</i>	3
<i>Resolution on Collection Development...Conflict</i>	3
<i>Statement of Concern on Use of Flags...</i>	4
<i>Al Kagan's ALA Council Report</i>	7
<i>TFOE News</i>	9
<i>New Members</i>	10
<i>FTF News</i>	12
<i>Sandy Berman News</i>	13
<i>ALA Fights Bush Executive Order</i>	13
<i>Fred Stoss's Message</i>	15

Resolution Against the War in Afghanistan

Whereas the acts of terror of 9/11 against US targets were not the acts of a sovereign nation, nor carried out in official pursuit of the policy of such a nation,

And whereas these terrorist acts have been attributed to Al Qaeda, a criminal network headed by Osama Bin Laden,

And whereas war against an entire nation in pursuit of the guilty parties constitutes "collective punishment," which is specifically prohibited by international covenant,

Therefore be it resolved that the American Library Association opposes:

- (1) the war in Afghanistan and its possible extension to other nations as an appropriate response to the heinous terrorism of 9/11/01;
- (2) the declaration of an indeterminate "national state of emergency" under which laws are suspended, practices instituted, and precedents set which are destructive of the liberties and rights of the people of the USA (ALA Policy 53.4);
- (3) US Government censorship of the mass media's coverage of the war, depriving citizens of the right to know,

Submitted by Mark C. Rosenzweig, ALA Councilor at Large
Seconded By Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor
Endorsed by SRRT Action Council, 1/19/02

Resolution Against Secret Tribunals

Whereas ALA strongly defends the public's "right to know,"

And whereas the use of secret tribunals is being declared a valid and necessary tool of the US Government in order to fight terrorism,

And whereas secret tribunals raise the gravest concerns regarding the Bill of Rights, the Geneva Conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other national and international covenants,

Therefore be it resolved that ALA opposes the institution of secret tribunals,

And resolved that ALA supports the right of a free press in reporting all trials and legal proceedings,

And resolved that this resolution be distributed to all members of Congress, the President and the Attorney General, and the library press.

Submitted by Mark Rosenzweig, ALA Councilor at Large
Seconded by Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor
Endorsed by SRRT Action Council, 1/19/02

Resolution on the Protection of Privacy Rights

Whereas libraries have been encouraged to assist in identification of "suspects" in the "War on Terrorism,"

And whereas libraries have been expected to turn over confidential library records on demand without court orders, contrary to ALA Policy 52.4),

And whereas the abridgment of free expression rights of foreign nationals is a threat to the freedom of all, according to ALA Policy 58.3),

And whereas ALA specifically opposes governmental intimidation and supports the individuals and groups targeted by such actions, according to ALA Policy 53.4,

Therefore be it resolved that ALA opposes government intimidation, the abridgements of patrons' or employees' privacy rights, illegal obtaining of evidence, illegal search and seizure, and racial and ethnic profiling.

And be it resolved that ALA reaffirms all library users' reasonable expectations of confidentiality.

And be it resolved that this resolution be sent to all members of Congress, the President and Attorney General of the United States and the library press.

Submitted by Mark Rosenzweig, Councilor at Large

Seconded By Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor

Endorsed by SRRT Action Council, 1/19/02

Resolution on Collection Development and Library Programming in Times of Conflict

Whereas the policies and implications of the "War on Terrorism" require the broadest range of analysis and debate,

Therefore be it resolved that ALA encourages libraries to engage in expanded collection activity representing the full range of views on the roots of the 9/11/01 terrorist actions, the parties involved, the responses by the US and other governments, and the "War on Terrorism" and its domestic and global implications,

And be it further resolved that "alternative" information resources be collected and actively promoted, with due diligence in assessment of sources but without regard to support or opposition to US Government policy,

And be it resolved that libraries are encouraged to provide expanded programming to foster understanding between all ethnic and religious groups, and to counter current practices of ethnic profiling.

Submitted by Mark Rosenzweig, Councilor at Large

Seconded by Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor

See ALA Policies 50.10, 50.11

Endorsed by SRRT Action Council, 1/19/02

Statement of Concern on the Use of Flags in Libraries' Public Areas

SRRT recognizes that the US flag ordinarily is appropriately, proudly and respectfully displayed according to custom and law in libraries and public institutions. The display of the colors is a formal matter which is meant to represent the sovereignty and unity of the nation.

However the aggressive display of flags in unusual places, in unusual numbers, and in an unusual manner might be taken to imply, among other things, institutional endorsement of current US governmental policies.

Privileging symbolic speech in possible support of current US governmental policies tends to undermine the library as a place of free thought and compromises the neutrality of the library space. Such unusual displays may create an intimidating atmosphere for some library users who may be deterred in their requests for materials and assistance. SRRT urges libraries to be sensitive to these concerns.

Endorsed by SRRT Action Council 1/19/02

Reflections on New Orleans Midwinter

New Orleans wasn't my first ALA conference but I imagine that it might be one of the more memorable conferences that I will attend. I attended ALA Annual in San Francisco last year but I was focused on finding a position rather than the conference itself. I had assumed that Midwinter would be a mini Annual although I was quickly disabused of that notion by my coworkers. I knew that I would be attending business meetings but I hadn't thought too much about their form or content. I arrived at the Hilton on Saturday morning, found the actual meeting room, and was greeted with a smile by SRRT Newsletter Editor, Jane Ingold. Once everyone had arrived for the meeting I quickly realized I was looking at people whose names were incredibly familiar to me through lurking on SRRTAC-L and PLGnet-L. Once the discussions/debates started I realized that I had found my ideological home within ALA.

It has been a difficult time for anyone who raises their voice in opposition to the activities of the government of the United States. Charges of being unpatriotic or of supporting terrorism are flung at those who would challenge the need or support of citizens of the United States for these government activities. To me SRRT has always represented a safe community for sharing these ideas and ideals and I am happy to have become a member.

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HERE ARE YOUR NOMINEES FOR ACTION COUNCIL

BALTES, JENNIFER, Purdue University, BA, Elementary Education/Middle School Math Education, 1984; Appalachian State University, MLS, 1988; SRRT Feminist Task Force, Co-Chair, 2000-2002; YALSA Michael L. Printz Award Committee, 2000-2001; Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, 1996-2000; Mohave Library Alliance (Mohave County, AZ) Vice-President, 1998-1999; East Valley Young Adult Librarians (Scottsdale, AZ) Chair, 1997-1998; Baker and Taylor/YALSA Grant, 1996

STATEMENT OF CONCERN: As a library professional who works with young people, I have several concerns. First, that libraries continue to provide access to information for youth and adults without threat of investigation or seizure of records. Second, that library services be provided to all citizens regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, appearance, age, or economic status. Third, that librarians welcome library customers and provide dynamic library service that best meets the needs of the customers. Fourth, that new librarians become attracted to the profession through a combination of outreach, recruitment, and improved compensation. Libraries are and have always been the centers of their communities. When we honor that position and provide services equitably and creatively, we can become agents for social change.

KOLTUTSKY, LAURA, BE, in Education, 1998; MLIS, 2001; SRRT Member; IFRT Member

STATEMENT OF CONCERN: I believe that access to information should be foremost amongst the goals of librarianship. Information is critical for individuals to make choices about every aspect of their lives. In a democracy, citizens cannot be denied access to information that would allow them to make informed choices. Information can be misused, twisted and manipulated to serve those who control access to information. This is a crucial time for librarians to be ensuring that information is accessible. Legislation like the Patriot Act will affect how we do our work. The Social Responsibility Round Table is the natural choice to lead ALA's work in this area. I would like to work within the Social Responsibility Round Table, as an Action Council member to ensure that information is accessible to all.

HUDSON, MARK, University of Oklahoma, BA, Letters, 1991; University of Pittsburgh, MA History, 1994; University of Pittsburgh, MLIS, 1999; SRRT member, Beta Phi, Mu, 2000-present

STATEMENT OF CONCERN: Libraries of all kinds can contribute to the development, in the U.S. and internationally, of a vibrantly democratic public sphere by reaffirming and strengthening our commitment to unfettered and equal access to information and knowledge for all members of society. To do this librarians must oppose all forces, whether commercial, political or ideological, that would undermine free and equal access or limit the diversity of viewpoints represented in our collections. We must proactively enable public access to information and ideas from outside the increasingly narrow corporate mainstream, and uncompromisingly resist the encroachment of profit-seeking interests on the library field. Furthermore, librarians should be actively involved with other groups and individuals in defending the basic civil liberties that make what we do possible, particularly now when these liberties are being seriously threatened both here and abroad by the actions of the current U.S. presidential administration.

STOSS, FREDERICK W., Hartick College, BA, Biology, 1972; SUNY College Brockport, MS, Zoology, 1974; Syracuse University, MLS, 1982; SRRT TFOE, Chair, 1995-1999; Action Council Coordinator, 1999-2002; ALA Libraries Build Sustainable Communities Team Member, 2000-2001; ALA Annual Program 2003, 2001-2003; SLA Nominating Committee, 1989; Environmental Information Division, Chair, 1987-1988; Environmental and Resource Management Division By-laws creation Committee Co-Chair, 1988-1989; Public Relations Committee, Chair, 1989-1992; Nominating Committee, Chair, 1991; Science and Technology Division Networking Committee, Chair, 1991; Standards Committee, 1990-1992; Upstate New York Chapter Professional Development, Chair, 1988-1990; Southern Appalachian Chapter President, 1995-1996; Program Planning Committee Chair, 1992-1996; New York Library Association, Founding Member NY SRRT, 2000; Co-Chair, 2001-present

STATEMENT OF CONCERN: Since initially joining ALA I have maintained a strong commitment to promoting the roles of the Social Responsibilities Round Table and its affiliated task forces to other members of ALA, other library professionals outside of the ranks of ALA, and to other professions and members of other organizations, professional societies, students, and civil-minded individuals. I feel that the next steps to be taken by SRRT are to expand its current base of membership and to further communicate its messages

within ALA and externally to others outside of ALA. During my three-year tenure as Coordinator of SRRT I have successfully lead the group through several extremely controversial and tumultuous times. I wish to continue my leadership as Member-at-Large for SRRT and to continue work related to membership development and communications and public relations on behalf of SRRT.

WEIN, TERREN ILANA, Tufts University, BA, 1991; University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, MFA, 1994; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, MSLIS, 2001; SRRT, 2000-2002; Student Chapter of ALA, Publicity Officer, 2000-2001; Association of Jewish Libraries; Special Libraries Association, Illinois Chapter, Solo-librarians division; GSLIS student representative to ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, 2001; Carol Kyle Memorial Award for Graduate Poetry, (UIUC), 2000; Cooperative Communications Scholar, 1994; Colby Fellow, Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, 1992-1994; Besides my work as a librarian at the University of Chicago, I'm the volunteer librarian at my synagogue, a writer, and semi-professional singer. I have an MFA in Creative Writing –poetry- and also write nonfiction work (essays, bibliographies, reviews, etc.) on an ongoing basis for publications ranging from the SRRT newsletter to Jewish feminist magazines to online magazines. While in library school I served on the executive board of our student ALA chapter; I'm currently a member of a small host of organizations. My major accomplishment in life is continuing to learn to balance all the wonderful things I am privileged to be touched by.

STATEMENT OF CONCERN: Recently I was interviewed by a library-student-to-be as part of her application to my alma mater. The questions she had written out were nuts-and-bolts, but we both quickly discovered that what she actually wanted to discuss was what librarians really cared about, and we spent a long time talking about the responsibilities and passions of librarianship. In my first professional library position, I find that my issues of professional concern have a high incidence of overlap with my issues of personal concern... as a progressive, feminist, writer, poet and former educator, as well as a librarian in an academic institution, I find myself struggling on a daily basis with questions of how I can improve my own and other people's understanding of the world we live in. This is an overarching issue that hits all of us in different ways, and a general statement; I am seeking ways to apply my abstract concerns and passions to current issues and concrete problems.

SRRT Nominees to ALA Council

Hampton (Skip) Auld
 Herbert Biblo
 Mary Biblo
 Theresa G. Bigelow
 Diedre Conkling
 Tara Lee Dirst
 David L Easterbrook
 Jenna Freedman
 Carolyn L Garnes
 Roland G Hansen
 Elaine M. Harger
 Rory Litwin
 Deborah D. Mazzolini
 Peter McDonald
 Michael J. Miller
 Veronda J. Pitchford
 Mark W. Weber

Other Candidates to Consider

Gladys Smiley-Bell [BCALA]
 Edward Erazo [REFORMA]
 Carolyn Giambra [BCALA]
 Tracey J. Hunter Hayes [BCALA]
 Joyce E. Jelks [BCALA]
 Ling Hwey Jeng [APALA]
 Steven P. Kerchoff [GLBTRT]
 Rhea Brown Lawson [BCALA]
 Amy E. Mark [BCALA]
 Laurel Minott [BCALA]
 Paula Murphy [BCALA]
 Robert Ridinger [GLBTRT]
 Karen Schneider [GLBTRT]
 Karolyn S. Thompson [BCALA]
 Gertiana Williams [BCALA]

Report to SRRT on ALA Council, January 2002

Report on ALA Council to SRRT, January 2002

By Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor

There was a sense of normalcy at the January 2002 ALA Council meetings. The events of 9/11 influenced discussion and actions, but were very much in the background. The point is that there was no sense of urgency in the need to vigorously oppose the current repressive legislative and executive actions coming out of Washington. Luckily for ALA, there is a new group of activist members of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table who were able to get their resolution endorsed by Council's Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC), and then approved by the ALA Council. Their resolution puts ALA on record in opposing government censorship of the news media and suppression of access to unclassified government information, encourages libraries to protect the privacy and confidentiality of people using libraries, and opposes government intimidation related to speech. The IFC has also circulated a draft privacy interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights that will come forward at the Annual Meeting.

On the recommendation of the Government Documents Round Table, the Committee on Legislation (COL) agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Task Force on Restrictions on Access to Government Information which will report back in June 2002. Council also passed 2 good resolutions on continued access to US Government information and the need to implement the Presidential Records Act. This would force President Bush to release documents from his father's Administration.

SRRT's endorsed resolution on Collection Development and Library Programming in Times of Conflict was endorsed by the IFC, but all of SRRT's endorsed resolutions related to 9/11 that were brought to Council were either soundly defeated or not discussed. We withdrew our resolution on Protection of Privacy Rights because

most of the points were covered by the IFC resolution described above. The resolutions Against Secret Tribunals and Against the War in Afghanistan were defeated, while the resolution on Intellectual Freedom and the Use of Torture in War or Peace was prevented from coming up by a quorum call.

To get a sense of the difficulty of our situation, let me describe what we faced in just getting the issues to the floor. We submitted the first four resolutions in time for the agenda of Council 1, but we found only 3 of them printed on the agenda. When we inquired, we were told that the Resolutions Committee had ruled that our Afghanistan resolution was not appropriate ALA business. Only after showing them ALA's policy encouraging the peaceful settlement of conflicts did they agree to put it on the agenda. Furthermore, ALA Council had passed a resolution last year moving all committee reports before non-committee resolutions. This meant that we could not address any of our issues until the final one-half hour of Council 3, after people had already started leaving to catch flights. Even that was almost prevented because the Council was ready to shut down on noon Wednesday, the time printed on the agenda. However, the ALA meeting booklet had the time listed until 12:30 PM. Unfortunately, due to the American Airlines buyout of TWA (itself a result of 9/11), my flight time was moved up and I had to miss that last half-hour myself.

Unfortunately, we did not get a chance to read the SRRT Statement of Concern on the Use of Flags in Libraries' Public Areas. Our strategy from the beginning was to do this after Council had acted on our resolutions. We thought that reading the statement at an early time might have made it harder to get our resolutions considered. I had made an arrangement to do this during the announcements at the end of Council 3, but it did not happen because I had to leave to catch my flight. We need to find other ways to get the statement distributed.

Council approved the International Relations

Committee (IRC) resolutions on establishing a cooperation agreement with the Association Mexicana de Bibliotecarios and on welcoming the opening of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt. The IRC took no actions on the WTO, but is trying to get a written statement from the US Trade Representative saying that libraries will be taken off the negotiating table. We need to continue to carefully monitor this situation.

SRRT endorsed a resolution last summer that would require ALA to insert a boycott clause in all future hotel contracts. This was in response to the union boycott of the conference headquarters hotel, the San Francisco Marriott, which so disrupted the Annual Meeting. The boycott clause would give ALA the flexibility to void contracts where unions had called official boycotts. This resolution was referred to the ALA Conference Committee and the Budget Analysis and Review Committee. It came back to Council with a strong negative recommendation from the committees. They claimed that none of the major hotel chains would sign such a contract. However, their methodology is flawed. They asked the hotel chains for their positions outside of specific contract negotiations. In my opinion, they got the answer they were looking for. This is a self-fulfilling prophecy if there ever was one. ALA could only win such a concession through hard bargaining where thousands of dollars are at stake. I said this on the floor, but the resolution was overwhelmingly defeated.

Perhaps the most far-reaching Council action was the establishment of bylaws for a 501(c)6 tax status "Allied Professional Association." This issue was debated and approved in concept at the 2001 Annual Meeting. PLA, LAMA and ASCLA argued the purported need of establishing a certification program for various library competencies. Many of the SRRT affiliated Councilors were skeptical of the arguments, and thought that the main purpose was to establish revenue-producing programs. In addition, there seems to be an emphasis on training rather than education, and this will likely turn into requirements for the advancement of public librarians. It is hard to see how social responsibility

would fit into such training programs.

President-Elect Mitch Freedman advocated broadening the 501(c)6 organization to include his salaries initiative and for other possible uses not thought possible under our current 501(c)3 status. Some of us would like to hear what labor lawyers think is possible under ALA's current tax status. Never the less, ALA Council did approve the bylaws, and the Allied Professional Association will be established.

The Special Presidential Task Force on Membership Meeting Quorum held a hearing as well as two meetings in New Orleans. As a member of this task force, I advocated SRRT's desire to lower the quorum and maintain some mechanism to overturn Council actions. At its last meeting, the Task Force decided to advocate reducing the quorum to 1/2 of 1 percent of the membership (now 280) without the ability to overturn Council actions. This was a very close vote, and the minority position will be represented in the report that goes to Council in June 2002 (a quorum of 200, overturn actions by a 3/4 vote and then ratify by a mail ballot where 1/4 of membership vote). SRRT Action Council asked me to chair an ad hoc committee to provide a history of Membership Meetings and a SRRT response.

The SRRT endorsed resolution on establishing an ALA group health care plan was referred to the Membership Committee and to the Budget Analysis and Review Committee. A resolution requiring ALA to hire a candidate with a library science master's degree for the Office of Intellectual Freedom was defeated by one vote. ALA Council adopted a document titled "Principles for a Networked World" which addresses intellectual freedom, privacy, intellectual property, infrastructure, equitable access, and content. One of our SRRT members helped to slightly amend this document.

Council approved 3 items from the Committee on Organization (COO) related to electronic participation in ALA meetings. (SRRT has 2 members on this committee.) Current practices of some

(Continued from page 8)

ALA units are already beginning to violate ALA open meeting policy. COO has developed procedures to legally hold electronic meetings, and to authorize "virtual members" of committees who will be advisory or consulting members.

Finally, two members of the Progressive Council Caucus were candidates for the Executive Board. Steve Labash lost by only one vote, while Sue Berlin was further down the list.

In conclusion, although we did get to address some issues and win a few points indirectly, we again confronted the profoundly status quo nature of the organization. There is a bit of light on intellectual freedom and access to information issues which address ALA's most core values, but the response is very far from what is needed considering the profound threats to our civil liberties and privacy rights in the new "War on Terrorism."

Al Kagan

Sofia 2002: Libraries, Civil Society, and Social Development
14-16 November, 2002
Sofia, Bulgaria

On-going social, political and economic changes in western, central and eastern Europe call for a dialog between stakeholders in the information professions on development of library and information services in the context of the communication revolution. Issues of democratic and economic reforms, digital technology, information access and use, social change and democracy will constitute the core themes of the conference. Organized by the School of Library and Information Management, Emporia State University, Kansas, USA and the Department of Library and Information Sciences, "St Kliment Ohridski," University of Sofia, Bulgaria, Sofia 2002 will bring together a wide range of experts in library and information science; infrastructure, technology, international development and policy from the U.S.A., Canada, Western Europe as well as Central and Eastern Europe.

Visit the website at:
<http://slim.emporia.edu/globenet/sofia/sofia2002.html> for more information and a call for papers.

TFOE NEWS



Task Force on the Environment on Sunday (6/16) at 1:30-3:30 will present program: Promoting Public Health and Community Protection - Can Libraries Help?

What is the role of libraries when the country is faced with events that shock and frighten us? Libraries can be effective partners with governmental and private agencies in offering information and outreach to communities concerned about protecting the health and safety of their citizens. Speakers from government, academia, and a consulting firm will offer a variety of viewpoints and recommendations that educate public about community health, water conservation, disaster relief, and sustainable living resources and practices.

Speakers:

Marlena Wald, Research Director, Division of Emergency Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA. Her topic: How public health, public hospitals, and public libraries addressed health issues at the turn of the century.

Amy Vickers, President of Amy Vickers & Associates in Amherst, MA, an international consulting practice specializing in water conservation. Author of Handbook of Water Use and Conservation, (WaterPlow Press, 2001). Her topic: How cities and individuals can help preserve and protect our water for the future.

Mary Hudak, Public Information Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Atlanta, GA. Her topic: The role of government agencies in dissemination of disaster relief and emergency preparedness information.

Maria Anna Jankowska, Task Force on the Environment, General Editor of the Electronic Green Journal, University of Idaho Library, Moscow, ID

Irwin Weintraub, Task Force on the Environment, Life Sciences Specialist, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY.

News Members

It is always good news when we have the opportunity to add to our ranks. Please welcome these new SRRT Members. If you work or live near by them, drop them a line and welcome them to SRRT. If their areas of interest are related to yours, again thank them for joining SRRT and ask if they need any assistance.

Task Force Chairs, please note the Task Force(s) in which they have indicated an interest. If you live or work nearby, drop them a line to give a friendly, "Hello! and Welcome to SRRT." Be sure to add them to your Task Force eMail discussion lists.

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LABOR EXHIBIT ANNOUNCED

The Institute of Industrial Relations is pleased to announce the opening of a new labor photo exhibit:

EXHIBIT TITLE: "Fighting to Care"
Photographs by Richard Bermack
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 535 Social Workers
January 15- July 15 2002
Director's Lounge, Institute of Industrial Relations
2521 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720

This exhibit is the second in the new Labor Art Gallery at the Institute of Industrial Relations, curated by the IIR Library.
The photos and captions are viewable on the Web at
<http://www.iir.berkeley.edu/exhibit/bermack/>

EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION

This exhibit is about workers who are fighting to provide better services to their clients. Social workers provide help to those in need, and especially working families and the poor. Ironically, these workers are themselves in trouble. A recent study commissioned by the California state legislature found that children's social workers were so overloaded with cases that they had time to complete only half of the tasks legally required of them. The situation is so critical that one out of five county children's social workers quits each year. These photos are part of a larger exhibit and campaign to improve the conditions of all social workers (not just child welfare) so that they can fulfill their mission of creating a better society by helping children and adults live more fulfilling lives. To find out more about the To Make a Difference Campaign, you can go to <http://www.seiu535.org/socialwork>

THE ARTIST: Richard Bermack is the co-editor of the Service Employees International Union Local 535 statewide newspaper, the Dragon. Local 535 represents most of the social workers in California. His writing and photography covering the crisis in social work has won many awards, including the AFL-CIO's prestigious Max Steinbock Award (labor's "Pulitzer Prize") for humanistic spirit in journalism.
For more information, contact Lincoln Cushing, (510) 642-1056, lcushing@library.berkeley.edu.



Feminist Task Force Meeting Highlights from Midwinter

Amelia Bloomer Project: Annual list of recommended books for young readers featuring feminist messages, i.e., empowered and empowering female characters. The project members finalized the list for the 2001 copyright year. The 2002 Amelia Bloomer List will be published in *Women in Libraries*. The FTF listserv, women's and girls' magazines, SLJ, Booklist, and other journals (we hope). It was suggested that we send the list to state chapters as well. This project has received lots of support from publishers.

FTF Website: Pamela Solela has agreed to take on the FTF web site. Jenny will contact Adrienne Lim current web site administrator, about the changeover. Pamela suggested updating all FTF information, moving it to a server where she has administrative access, and perhaps negotiating space on ALA's server. We discussed putting Women in Libraries on as a pdf file, as well as meeting notes, the Amelia Bloomer Project list, and other information.

Introduction to Women's Issues in ALA: This is held at every ALA Annual Conference and is hosted by women's groups in ALA on a rotating basis. FTF did it last year, so we are not responsible for the planning as such. However, it would be good for FTF members to go to lend our voices to the discussion and our support to new women librarians. It will be held Saturday, June 15th 11:30 am-12:30pm.. Generally there is a topic, conversation, and a list of action items. At Annual 2001, there was discussion of the relationship between new and established librarians and the need for a two-way mentoring relationship. At the 2002 meeting, we will need FTF flyers and other print info as well as a representative.

WSS Board: Theresa Tobin brought information from the WSS Board meeting. They would like to honor retirees who have inspired the work of FTF. Suggestions were: we could dedicate a program in honor of an individual (put their name on the printed program materials or on the screen at the beginning of a program). Diedre has many names in back issues of WIL.

Brochure: We desperately need to update the FTF brochure. Jenny will work on creating an electronic copy and getting help creating a new logo (with the FTF initials) from an arty feminist friend.

Looking ahead to Atlanta:

Programs at Annual: Potential programs at Annual 2002 (Atlanta) were discussed:

Feminism/Pornography program: Sue Kane from ACRL/IF has contacted Jenny and asked for FTF's support for this program at the Annual Conference. We voted to offer \$200 financial support if it is needed. Jenny has also attempted to help Ms. Kane by contacting speakers but has not had success yet.

Storm Center: Louise Robbins, author of The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown, will speak about the film Storm Center, upon which the book was based. This program is sponsored by FTF and will take place on Sunday evening, June 16, 2002. We discussed showing the film prior to the program to provide background information for those who have not seen it. It may be possible to show the film during PLG's program slot at Annual, since they have expressed support for it via Mark Rosenzweig..

Women's Night Out: Women's Night Out will be Monday, June 17, 2002 at the Annual Conference in Atlanta. Jane Cothron suggested Charis as a location and she will investigate that possibility.

New Website Profiles the Sanford Berman Papers at the University of Illinois Library

The personal papers of a prominent library cataloger and activist are now profiled in a new website at the University of Illinois Library. Maintained by the University Archives, the website highlights the career of Sanford Berman, a former cataloger at the Southdale Hennepin County Library in Minnesota (1973-1999). Berman is best known for successfully challenging the outdated terminology of widely accepted library catalog subject headings. The Sanford Berman papers are part of the American Library Association (ALA) Archives held by the University of Illinois Library. Madeline Douglass, a professional librarian who worked with Berman at the Southdale Hennepin County Library, developed the website. It can be accessed at <http://web.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/ead/ala/9701040a/berman/intro.html>.

According to Chris Prom, Assistant University Archivist, the website "offers a glimpse into the rich primary source materials held in the ALA Archives. We are proud to hold the Berman Papers. They provide an unvarnished look at controversial issues such as censorship and the socioeconomics of information access." The University Archives at the University of Illinois Library was founded in 1963. Extensive online finding aids are available for many of its holdings and can be viewed by visiting the home page at <http://web.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/>. Materials in the Archives are available for use by teachers, scholars, students, and members of the general public.

THIS JUST IN.....

Hennepin County Library has announced that they will no longer use Berman's user-centered subject headings and will instead conform to Library of Congress subject headings.

ALA and Publishers Fight Recent Bush Executive Order

A new executive order issued by President George W. Bush restricts access to the records of former presidents. The Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association (ALA) and The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) urge librarians to alert their patrons and the public about this effort to close the public record. The U.S. book publishing industry has also urged a federal court to nullify the executive order.

For how librarians can help:
Executive Order 13233
[http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/
executiveorder13233.html](http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/executiveorder13233.html)

Ongoing List of Historical Works That
Would Have Been Affected by Executive
Order 13233
<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/>

The Chilling Effects Clearinghouse is a joint effort of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the law schools at Berkeley, Stanford, Harvard and the University of San Francisco to provide those who receive cease-and-desist letters. It aims to educate users on their online rights. It is located at <http://www.chillingeffects.org>.

The Independent Press Discussion Group, organized by the exhibitors forming Alternative Press Row (Alternative Press Center, Amnesty International, Consortium Book Distribution, Counterpoise, Independent Press Association, and Small Press Distribution), met during Midwinter. It was also attended by several interested librarians. They agreed on a mission: "to promote awareness of independent and alternative presses to the library community". They will work with the Exhibits Roundtable since it works on behalf of publishers while AIP works from the librarian's angle. They make sponsor an upcoming program with Multi-Cultural Review.



The Women's National Book Association--Nashville Chapter acquired art from this year's Coretta Scott King Award--Illustrator winner (*Goin' Somewhere Special*), Jerry Pinkney, and gave it to the Nashville

Public Library in a formal presentation on Tuesday, February 12th. Patricia McKissack, author of the book was present and made remarks. The art given was the spread where Tricia Ann is looking up at the library where the words "Public Library All Are Welcome" are emblazoned above the entrance. Mr. Pinkney also gave a piece entirely unique that read: Nashville Public Library: All Are Welcome that he had originally done for the book but ended up being altered to be more universal in the final book. An interesting sidenote: the huge new Nashville Public Library is on the site of the sit-down strikes that began in Nashville.

The Special Task Force on the Status of Librarians, which was appointed last spring by Nancy Kranich during her ALA presidency, has created a website, with the help of the staff of the Office of Human Resource Development and Recruitment, to share its work with members of the profession. The website gives the background of the task force, some background materials on status issues, a statement of issues identified by the task force, and some informational materials concerning the tax exempt status of the American Library Association. You will find the website at the following URL:
<<http://www.ala.org/hrdr/status.html>>.

FREE EMAIL NEWSLETTER: SMALL PUBLISHERS, ARTISTS & WRITERS NETWORK

SPAWN (SMALL PUBLISHERS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS NETWORK) IS A 6-YEAR-OLD ORGANIZATION NOW GAINING WEB PRESENCE. IT'S OFFERING A FREE EMAIL NEWSLETTER TO ANYONE INTERESTED RIGHT NOW. GO TO WWW.SPAWN.ORG AND CLICK ON "FREE NEWSLETTER."

THE PERSONALS

Thank you to the Action Council for the resolution and tokens of appreciation received at midwinter. We appreciate the expressions showed by SRRT members and hope to continue effectively responding to your ALA needs when indicated.

Thanks again,

Satia Orange and Tanga Morris



I'm looking for an out-of-print ALA poster:

"Gargoyles" Read for American Libraries ...

Terren Ilana Wein
wein@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu



COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Leadership: Responding to the Challenge and the Request

It is a healthy activity for organizations to replenish the ranks of their leadership. ALA elections are just around the corner, and some of you may have already received your ballots for candidates seeking election to various posts from the President of the association to the At-Large members of SRRT's Action Council. Task Forces within SRRT will also be selecting new Chairs, and representatives from the various SRRT affiliate groups will be designated.

Don't forget to vote. It is an important responsibility and right of your membership in ALA.

As these activities take place there will be a wide assortment of committees and other subgroups to be established in SRRT and its task Forces, including the selection or appointment of liaisons, committee chairs, and other offices to held.

If interested in assuming one of these positions of leadership, ACT on your interest. You can volunteer your service when asked. If you feel uncomfortable about "nominating" yourself, contact a friend and have her or him submit your name in nomination. If you are asked to fill an appointed position, do not immediately say, "No thank you."

Take some time to think about the request you have been asked. You have been asked to assume a position of responsibility for service. Your previous experiences or a perceived potential for leadership have been recognized. You are being asked to make a contribution of time, effort, talent, and expertise to help a task force, to help SRRT, or to serve as a representative from SRRT to some other unit within ALA.

These calls to leadership can have tremendous benefits in allowing you to see how the infrastructures of an organization work, beginning where it counts--the grass roots levels, where much of the work supporting ALA is found. You can use these opportunities in service to ALA to hone leadership skills for your current and future places of work. You can also meet a lot of new and interesting people along the way

There are several SRRT members in particular that I would like to make a special request. These are the unknown but soon-to-be-named members of SRRT Action Council. Some of them we know for certain will be members of SRRT AC--The Action Council Members-at-Large whose terms will not expire until 2003 or 2004; our representative to ALA Council remains the same, as does the ex officio position on AC held by the SRRT Newsletter Editor. However, we do not yet know who the new Task Force Chairs and SRRT Affiliate Chairs or representatives are going to be.

From the ranks of the new SRRT Action Council will emerge a new SRRT Coordinator and a new SRRT Secretary. The New Action Council will also have the responsibility of selecting an exhibits coordinator and a membership/recruitment chair. The details of this process are outlined in the SRRT Constitution, which is found in the documents section of the SRRT Web Site at, <http://libr.org/SRRT/docs/srrtcon.html>.

There are many exciting events taking place within our profession in the early days of the 21st Century. This is also a time in the history of our association and the history of our country where the many voices of SRRT and its ideas, concerns, and actions must be presented before our peers within ALA and to others outside of ALA.

In the weeks and months ahead, some of you are going to be asked to be leaders. The first step is to evaluate your potential, then your willingness to take up the mantle of responsibility and serve.

Fred Stoss
SRRT Coordinator

Correspondence and manuscripts may be sent to the editor at:

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Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of ALA/SRRT. The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary or as whimsy strikes.
Next deadline: 05/01/02

SRRTAC-L

The SRRT discussion group SRRTAC-L is open to all SRRT members and is a relatively low-traffic [less than five messages a day unless there's a hot topic brewing] way of keeping up with SRRT's issues and discussions in-between conferences. Help decide SRRT's future directions and join in some lively debates. If you would like to join the SRRT discussion group, send the following message to listproc@ala.org:
subscribe SRRTAC-L [your first name] [your last name]

*You've got mail!
Well, you will if you join the
scintillating discussions on
SRRTAC-L*



SRRT'S WEB SITE

Want more information on SRRT? Want to find contact information for the many SRRT Task Forces? Turn your browser toward the official SRRT web site:
<http://www.libr.org/SRRT>

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