

December
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SRRT Newsletter

Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association

2004 Election Results

There was a great deal of election-related anxiety this past year over computerized voting, hanging chads, illegal voter registrations, disenfranchised minorities, and other issues. We were so busy focusing on the national election that the ALA elections seemed rather insignificant, but SRRT encountered a not-so-trivial election problem, as well. Rather than stating that there were four open positions for At Large Action Council, both the electronic and paper ballots went out with just two slots to be filled. A few emails and phone calls, however, resulted in a replacement paper ballot mailed to all SRRTers. Results were then hand-counted.

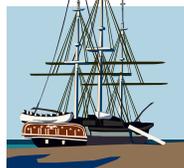
And the winners for the 2004-2007 term are:

Rory Litwin Mark Rosenzweig Dana Lubow Ann Sparanese

Congratulations and thanks for serving! Thanks to all of the candidates!

**Congratulations also to these SRRTers
newly-elected to ALA Council:**

**Therese G. Bigelow
S. Michael Malinconico
Bernard A. Margolis
Katia Roberto
Ann C. Sparanese**



Midwinter Boston 2005

Saturday, Jan. 15, 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
SRRT All Task Force Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 15, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
SRRT Action Council I Meeting

Monday, Jan. 17, 6:30 a.m.-7:30 a.m.
Martin Luther King Sunrise Celebration

Monday, Jan. 17, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
SRRT Action Council II Meeting

Consult the Conference schedule for
locations and additional Task Force
meetings:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2005/home.htm>

A complete list of SRRT officers, liaisons,
and representatives is on page 2.

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Notes from the Editor

Thirty years ago, SRRT had 20 different task forces, a newsletter editor by the name of Sandy Berman, and a non-member subscription fee of \$3.00. As Steven Horn mentioned in a letter to the editor published in the August 1974 issue, \$3.00 would buy 15 beers in Canada. 15 beers! That's enough to wet the lips of all At Large Action Council Members and SRRT Officers! Although still a bargain, our subscriptions are now 5 times as expensive, which, if my math is any good, if inflation for malted products has kept pace with print materials and mailing fees, and ignoring the discrepancies in the exchange rates, means that we should be able to get one beer for a loonie if Midwinter was being held in Toronto. Alas, it is being held in Boston, which means that we'll all have to drink tea, right?

1974 also marked the year that Nixon was pressured into resigning. Most SRRTers are extremely disappointed that Bush was not ousted in the election. If we remain strong in our convictions and stick together though, we *can* overcome. In the meantime, let's gather together in Boston to discuss our direction and brainstorm possibilities while enjoying a few teas or beers—even if they do cost more than a buck.

Wear your Red Sox! See you in Boston! Sally

WE ARE...SRRT!

Officers

SRRT Coordinator: Rory Litwin

SRRT Treasurer: Aureole Maria Johnstone

SRRT Secretary: Marie Jones

SRRT Representative to ALA Council: Al Kagan

SRRT Membership Committee Chair: Fred Stoss

Newsletter Editor (ex officio member, Action Council): Sally Driscoll

At Large Action Council Members

2002-2005

Jennifer Baltes

Fred Stoss

2003-2006

Susan Dillinger

Mark Hudson

Marie Jones

Aureole Maria Johnstone

2004-2007

Mark Rosenzweig

Rory Litwin

Ann Sparanese

Dana Lubow

Task Force Representatives to AC

AIP: Chuck Munson

TFOE: Fred Stoss and Jonathan Betz-Zall

IRTF: Tom Twiss

MLKTF: Virginia Moore

FTF: Theresa Tobin

HHPTF: Michael Santangelo

Regional Affiliate Representatives to AC

Kansas SRRT: Arla Jones and Patti Mersmann

New York SRRT: Rich Peters

Oklahoma SRRT: Shari Clifton

Oregon SRRT: Diedre Conklin

Washington State SRRT: Jonathan Betz-Zall

Progressive Librarians Guild: Elaine Harger

SRRT Liaisons and Representatives to ALA Bodies

ALA Education Assembly: Marie Jones **ALA Membership Committee:** Mark Hudson

ALA Planning & Budget Assembly: Aureole Johnstone **EMIERT:** Gerardo Colmenar

IFRT: Laura Koltutsky **GODORT:** Tom Twiss **FTRF:** Terry Epperson

ALCTS CSS CC:DA: Cynthia Whitacre

Highlights of SRRT Meetings at ALA Annual 2004

Excerpted and adapted from draft minutes prepared by Michael Santangelo

Action Council I, June 26

After introductions, announcements, and a call for agenda items, several resolutions were discussed. (All resolutions that were passed are contained in this newsletter.)

1. Resolution Against the Use of Racist Training Materials by the U.S. Military. Created by Mark Hudson in support of a statement by Racism Watch, which called on President Bush to make an executive order taking Raphael Patai's book, *The Arab Mind*, out of the U.S. military training materials. It was decided that this resolution would be accepted only by SRRT, not presented to ALA Council, and promoted in *Cognotes*.
2. Resolution on Workplace Speech. Original resolution was created by Sandy Berman with the intent to amend the library bill of rights, but rejected by ALA Council. This revised (and much more moderate) resolution would instead, amend the policy manual. Members decided that it should be presented again with the hope that the current political climate and timing related to Berman receiving ALA's Honorary Membership Award, would help it to get passed.
3. Resolution Against the Use of Torture as a Violation of Our Basic Values as Librarians. Originally put forward to ALA Council in 2002, Mark Rosenzweig asked for SRRT endorsement to present it again. Some friendly amendments were suggested and the resolution, with additional ALA changes, was accepted by Council later in the day.
4. Resolution on the Occupation of Iraq. Prepared by Tom Twiss, and adopted after friendly amendment suggestion.
5. Resolution on ALA Partnership and Sponsorships. Created by Al Kagan in response to the increasing commercialization of ALA. Discussion revolved around the need for guidelines vs. exclusion of partnerships and many friendly amendments were suggested. The resolution was tabled for future actions.

The Treasurer's report given by Aureole Johnstone, stirred discussion over CSK finances and the desire for a smooth, equitable transition to EMIERT that would not cause financial problems for SRRT. A proposal by ALA to give SRRT 15% of the money that CSK raises for the next two years was considered in relationship to 2003/2004 fiscal year expenses.

Midwinter notes were approved.

SRRT Membership Meeting, June 28

After attendance and conference announcements, task force chairs, affiliates, and liaisons reported.

TFOE: A program called "Get the Lead Information Out" will be held at Annual 2005 and the task force is discussing ways to make ALA conferences more green. TFOE is looking for someone to produce a web site on being an environmentally-conscientious conference participant.

New York SRRT: Joined forces with public library and intellectual freedom groups in their state and had a gathering at which Mitch Freedman spoke to over 115 attendees. Librarians' perspectives on Patriot Act were provided, which allowed trustees to hear their perspective. NYSRRT and the state's government documents group will present a program, "My Community, My Environment" in Rochester.

Freedom to Read Foundation: (See report in this issue.) Also discussed is the case involving Nazi items being sold on Yahoo, which, because it's against the law in France, the head of Yahoo has been charged there but can't be arrested in the U.S. due to 1st Amendment.

Intellectual Freedom Roundtable: (See report in this issue.) The Torture resolution was strongly supported, but not the Iraq and Intellectual Freedom in the Workplace resolutions. IFRT presented a panel discussion at

the conference; there is a plan to file another CIPA lawsuit in the next few months; they have planned a program to distribute educational materials to library schools; and their membership list is to be made read-only for non-members in an effort to promote activities in which members participate.

GODORT: (See report in this issue.)

Membership Committee: The health insurance plan has been implemented; it's on the Web site. Their main action regards new classifications of membership called 'extended joint ALA membership' which should allow for more affordability for support staff, as it includes ALA membership with LSSIRT and membership in RUSA or ALCTS for \$59. They have not responded to calls for pro-rated membership.

Budget report: Aureole Johnstone described issues with the CSK Task Force's move to EMIERT. (See notes for AC I.)

Newsletter report: Sally Driscoll encouraged members to make the *SRRT Newsletter* a priority among other publications, and to provide important information about SRRT members past and present.

Action Council II, June 28

MLK Day Sunrise Celebration: After introductions, announcements and request for agenda items, Satia Orange and Ginnie Moore discussed changes in the Martin Luther King Day Sunrise Celebration. The responsibility for supporting the Celebration by handling logistics, chosen quotations, organizing program speakers, and more will be shifted from Satia's office to her advisory committee, with the Black Caucus (BCALA) jointly sponsoring the event with MLK Task Force for the 5th year. The advisory committee member who will assist with this year's event will be Doris Jackson, the coordinator of youth services at Atlanta Fulton County Public Library. In addition, Boston will be the 2nd to the last time that the MLK holiday will fall during the ALA conference, a response to BCALA's request that Midwinter not be scheduled for this weekend. The Celebration will continue to be held, though. Satia discussed her involvement with the Celebration as stemming from other events that she had organized prior to MLK Holiday becoming a national holiday. Ginny described how SRRT provided a 'home' for the MLK Task Force. She requested that other SRRT task forces become involved with the MLK Holiday Task Force.

Finances: Satia Orange and Keith Brown (unable to attend) were invited to discuss the transfer of money (\$166,668) from SRRT into EMIERT accounts following the CSK Task Force move. Because of previous debts incurred by CSK when they charged less than the seals cost, a deal was made that 10% of revenue would go to SRRT, including this year.

United Talmud Torah Library: Elaine Harger proposed that SRRT send a sympathetic letter to this Montreal school that was bombed last winter, along with book donations. (See letter in this issue.) SRRT agreed that individual members who choose to donate books will wait until the school sends suggestions and endorsed the letter.

Bylaws Revision: (See Rory's letter and related documents in this issue.) Draft proposal was distributed and the issue will be placed on the ballot next spring.

Volunteers: Katia Roberto resigned as listowner of SRRTAC-L but a call for volunteers resulted in no offers. (After the meeting, Joel Tscherne volunteered.) Fred Stoss mentioned the need for task forces to post volunteer requests to their listservs.

SRRT Resolution Calling for the End of Travel Restrictions to Cuba: Approved. (See newsletter.)

Health Care Access Resolution: Mark Hudson presented this resolution from Melora Ranney Norman, Maine Chapter Councilor. SRRT endorsed it.

Executive Session: Action Council moved into the Executive Session to welcome new AC members and name

new officers, but there was some objection since members were not present. Rory states that he will schedule the appointment of officers next year during the open session, instead. Incoming members of AC are Dana Lubow, Rory Litwin, Mark Rosenzweig, and Ann Sparanese. Rory agreed to continue serving as Coordinator after Elaine dropped her offer and vote is unanimous. Also elected are Aureole Maria Johnstone as Treasurer, Marie Jones as Secretary.



Who's Who in SRRT



Action Council II ended late and many members had to leave, but those who remained until the end are, standing: Michael Santangelo, Fred Stoss, Rory Litwin, Mark Hudson, Tom Twiss, Al Kagan. Front: Elaine Harger, Aureole Maria Johnstone, Dana Lubow, Susan Dillinger, Marie Jones. Missing At Large AC members: Jennifer Baltes, Mark Rosenzweig, Ann Sparanese. Missing Task Force Reps: Virginia Moore, Chuck Munson, Jonathan Betz-Zall.

Proposed Revisions to the SRRT Bylaws

Rory Litwin, SRRT Coordinator

SRRT Action Council has a committee that was formed a couple of years ago to review the SRRT Bylaws and to propose a set of revisions, if needed, to be voted on by the SRRT membership. (Proposed revisions to the bylaws don't have to come from Action Council to be brought to the membership for a vote, but there is no reason that Action Council can't initiate the process as any member might.)

At the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando, this committee, which had Elaine Harger, Mark Rosenzweig, Marie Jones and myself as members, with Norman Horrocks advising, brought a small set of revisions to Action Council for it to endorse for the ballot that will be coming in the spring. Action Council endorsed the proposed revisions for the ballot by a unanimous vote, incorporating some changes that came from the Action Council meeting of the previous Midwinter. (The committee would not have submitted the proposal to the ballot without the endorsement of Action Council, but such endorsement is technically not needed for a proposal for bylaws revision to go to the membership for a vote.)

The full bylaws as they presently exist follow this article in this issue of the newsletter; take a look at Section VII for information on the bylaws revision process. An essential element is that the SRRT membership has to be notified of the proposal at least thirty days in advance of the vote. This article, with the details of the proposal below and the rationale for each change, constitutes that notification.

In "Section III - Membership"... The part now reading, "Any group organized regionally or locally to work on problems of social responsibilities of libraries or librarians will be welcome to associate with SRRT as an affiliate member" would be changed to read, "Any group organized regionally, locally, nationally or internationally to work on problems of social responsibilities of libraries or librarians will be welcome to associate with SRRT as an affiliate member." The reason for this change is to accommodate affiliation with national and international groups, in addition to local and regional groups.

The second item under "Section III - Membership" now has a sentence that says, "Affiliate membership status will be voted on by Action Council after a written request for status has been made by the group requesting recognition." The proposal is to add a clause to that sentence, so that it will read, "Affiliate membership status will be voted on by Action Council after a written request for status has been made by the group requesting recognition and shall be reviewed every three years with consideration given to the group's representation at SRRT meetings and reporting in the SRRT Newsletter." We are proposing this change because the present bylaws don't have any mechanism for reviewing an affiliate group's affiliate status, or for strongly encouraging communication between the affiliate and SRRT. The Committee felt that that communication is extremely important and that we haven't had enough of it, and that making continuation of affiliate status dependent on that communication would be a good move.

The last sentence in "Section III - Membership" now says, "Affiliated organizations shall remit a fee for this affiliation." The proposal is to strike that sentence altogether. No one on Action Council could remember that fee actually being collected from affiliate groups, nor did any of us know of a mechanism for facilitating that fee collection. We also felt that a report from the affiliates on their activities that year would be a more substantive and meaningful requirement for maintaining status than an annual fee.

The first item in "Section IV - Action Council" now reads "The coordinating body of the Social Responsibilities Round Table shall be an Action Council consisting of 10 SRRT members (elected by the SRRT membership), 1 member from each Task Force (selected by that Task Force) and 1 representative from each recognized affiliate." The proposal is to add, after "10 SRRT members (elected by the membership)" the following phrase "1 designated ALA Councilor (also elected by the SRRT membership)." The purpose of this change is to bring the bylaws up-to-date with ALA's decision for the Round Tables to have Councilors, which it made a few years ago. The position of "SRRT Councilor" has been on the SRRT ballot for several years now. This bylaws change would make that person an official voting member of Action Council.

Finally, in the last section, "VII - Amendment," the proposal would add a fourth bullet, that says, "Action Council may make such editorial changes in these bylaws as may not change their substance and meaning. Those changes shall take effect upon such action and shall be reported in the next publication of the SRRT Bylaws and announced in the next SRRT Newsletter." Norman Horrocks suggested this item as a way of taking care of typographical and grammatical errors in the bylaws without having to submit those changes to a vote of the membership after an announcement in the newsletter. He said it was a standard practice to put such a statement in an organization's bylaws.

Those are our proposed revisions. Each will be a separate item on the ballot next spring.

BYLAWS



June 1995

I. Name.

The name of this organization shall be the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association.

II. Purpose.

The purpose of the Social Responsibilities Round Table shall be:

- to provide a forum for the discussion of the responsibilities which librarians and libraries have in relation to the important problems of social change which face institutions and librarians today;
- to provide for the exchange of information about library activities among all ALA units with the goal of increasing understanding of current social problems;
- to act as a stimulus to ALA and its various units in making libraries more responsive to current social needs;
- to present programs, arrange exhibits and carry out other appropriate activities.

III. Membership.

Membership will consist of personal members, regular, student, and other, and of affiliate members. In addition, organizational members of ALA may choose to support SRRT and receive communications, upon payment of annual dues to be determined year by year, but shall not be entitled to membership privileges.

- Any personal member of ALA may elect to become a personal member of SRRT upon payment of annual dues, with the right to vote and to volunteer to serve as an officer. A personal member is free to act in three ways: 1) as an individual, through discussion and action at the annual meeting, through volunteering for committees which serve SRRT, through correspondence, publication and other appropriate activities; 2) by working with a Task Force or project group, through studies and surveys with reports and recommendations and other activities; 3) by organizing and working with local affiliate member groups.
- Any group organized regionally or locally to work on problems of social responsibilities of libraries or librarians will be welcome to associate with SRRT as an affiliate member. Affiliate membership status will be voted on by Action Council after a written request for status has been made by the group requesting recognition. Affiliate membership shall entitle the group to receive publications of SRRT and to participate by reporting on activities for dissemination to all of the SRRT membership. It shall not entitle members of the group who are not personal members of the Round Table to vote or hold office in the Round Table. An affiliate member group is free to take advantage of SRRT communications via newsletters, and can ask for advice and support or other appropriate activities from the Round Table. Affiliated organizations shall remit a fee for this affiliation.

IV. Action Council.

- The coordinating body of the Social Responsibilities Round Table shall be an Action Council consisting of 10 SRRT members (elected by the SRRT membership), 1 member from each Task Force (selected by that Task Force) and 1 representative from each recognized affiliate.
- The 10 elected members of Action Council shall be elected by mail ballot procedures outlined below and shall take office immediately following the Annual Conference. At the final Action Council meeting of the Annual Conference, the incoming Action Council will meet under the auspices of the outgoing Council to select a coordinator, treasurer, recording secretary, exhibits coordinator, and a membership/recruitment chair. These officers will preferably be elected from the at large members of Action Council, but may be selected from the Task Force representatives or the affiliate representatives. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no single person shall serve Action Council in more than one of the six designated offices.
- All Action Council members must be members of ALA.
- The editor of the SRRT Newsletter shall serve by appointment of Action Council. The newsletter editor shall serve a term of 3 years. The editor shall be considered an ex-officio member of Action Council. An editorial board of 3 members shall also serve by appointment of Action Council. Whenever possible, the editorial board should be selected from members of Action Council. If Action Council members are unavailable to serve, the editor may nominate members from the SRRT membership to

Action Council for approval. The term of office for the editorial board shall be 3 years. There will be staggered terms of appointment. The editorial board will advise the editor upon request on matters of editorial policy.

- Action Council shall have the responsibilities of:
 - Determining the membership program at the annual conference;
 - Submitting projects or endorsing projects of volunteer Task Forces of SRRT;
 - Soliciting volunteers and appointing SRRT members to ALA unit positions which accrue to the coordinator ex-officio and to committees to help the Council meet its organizational responsibilities. Such liaisons will serve a 3-year term and may be re-appointed for one additional term;
 - Coordinating the dissemination of information to the SRRT membership.
 - Approving the budgets and expenditures of the Round Table and the Task Forces.
- Action Council elections.
 - terms of office shall be for 3 years, with the right to run for re-election to a second term. Three or four members will run each year to replace the outgoing members.
 - Action Council coordinator will take responsibility for coordinating SRRT elections. Individual members who wish to volunteer to serve will submit their names, their statement of concerns about policy and action on social responsibilities of librarians, and a short note listing their professional experience to the coordinator of Action Council by the required date. The coordinator will then be responsible for ballot preparation in accordance with the ALA specifications. The names of all volunteers will then be submitted to the SRRT membership for election by mail ballot.
- Members of Action Council are responsible for attending all Action Council meetings. Requests for exemption should be addressed to the coordinator before the Annual or Midwinter meetings. Council members will be considered disqualified from office if they fail to attend 2 meetings during a Conference (either Midwinter or Annual) without notifying the Action Council coordinator. Any Action Council member may be removed from office for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance by vote of the Action Council. The proceedings are to be held in executive session. The vote must have a two-thirds majority and be a recorded roll-call. Positions that become available on Action Council shall be filled by the next runner-up in the most recent election, or by appointment from the Action Council.
- Action Council will present an annual report to a scheduled membership meeting at each Annual Conference.
- Action Council is responsible for the scheduling of all meetings of its own sponsorship and of its Task Forces, committees, and project groups. No SRRT meetings can be scheduled to conflict with Action Council meetings, SRRT membership meetings, or other meetings given this status by Action Council.
- A voting quorum for both Action Council and membership meetings will be defined as the number of voting members present at a meeting. Each Task Force and each affiliate member shall receive only one vote on Action Council regardless of the number of coordinators or co-coordinators or representatives which they choose to have present. All members of the Action Council may vote on all issues except financial ones. Only at-large members, elected by the entire Round Table, may vote on these matters.

V. Finances of the Social Responsibilities Round Table.

- The second Action Council meeting of the Midwinter Conference shall be the budget meeting. Each Task Force and project group shall submit an itemized budget request in writing at this time or earlier. Supplemental budget requests may also be submitted to the coordinator at a later date if necessary. The coordinator will then consult Action Council members by phone or mail as necessary concerning these supplemental requests.
- The treasurer of Action Council will be responsible for SRRT financial records.
- Finance of the activities of SRRT will come from dues of the general membership and voluntary contributions to SRRT or to individual groups under its supervision.
 1. for personal and for organizational member shall be required. The dues shall be set by Action Council
 2. treasurer is authorized to approve requests for reimbursement and payment of bills on receipt of proper invoices or records of payments by authorized persons out of SRRT funds in the ALA

accounts.

3. Forces may not keep funds in outside sources. All funds must be in the appropriate Task Force sub fund in the SRRT account.

VI. Task Forces and project groups.

- All SRRT members are encouraged to volunteer for groups in which they have an interest. Personal members may choose to join groups or form their own for specific purposes, in line with the goals of the Social Responsibilities Round Table. These groups may be Task Forces (usually long-term) or project groups (usually of a very short duration).
- Organization of a Task Force requires a statement of goals, projected activities and programs, a proposed budget and the names and addresses of 10 members of the Round Table interested in forming such a Task Force. This proposal may be reviewed by Action Council at two successive meetings, or at the Annual and Midwinter meetings successively. The Task Force may be given probationary status during this time. After a review, Action Council must vote on approval of the new group.
- All Task Forces are encouraged but not required to have some form of written by- laws. All such by-laws, and any changes in them, must be approved by Action Council to ensure that there is no conflict between Task Force and Round Table policies. All Task Forces must submit a written annual report to the second meeting of Action Council during Annual Conference. These reports may be used by the Newsletter Editor as information on the Task Force for general dissemination.
- If an established Task Force does not meet for two successive conference meetings (annual and mid-winter meetings) it will be considered to be discontinued.
- Project groups may be created for short term actions by Action Council at any time. A short statement of purpose, contemplated work or action, budget, and membership involved shall be submitted by the group to Action Council for its vote of approval. A statement on the duration of the project group and its activities shall accompany the petition.
- Task Forces and project groups are asked to encourage their members who are not SRRT members to join SRRT.

VII. Amendment.

- This statement of Organization may be amended by a majority vote of Round Table in attendance and voting at any annual meeting, provided notice of the proposed revision has been sent to members and/or printed in the SRRT Newsletter and/or American Libraries at least thirty days in advance.
- Proposals for revisions may be sent by any member to the coordinator of the Action Council for its consideration, and published in the SRRT Newsletter for consideration at a membership meeting.
- Any personal member may send a proposal for revision to the editor of the newsletter for printing if accompanied by twenty-five signatures of SRRT members. This constitutional revision will then be published and subsequently voted on.



Amy Goodman signs copies of *The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oily Politicians, War Profiteers and the Media that Love Them* in Orlando.

Notes from Annual in Orlando

Although ALA maintains the “One Voice Policy” which prohibits SRRT from speaking for the entire organization, SRRT’s influential voice was loud and clear at the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando. The special showing of Michael Moore’s *Fahrenheit 911*, thanks to Mitch Freedman and Ann Sparanese, filled the 2,300-seat auditorium. At her speech and film presentation, **Amy Goodman** of Democracy Now! stated, “Disney should be challenged by every librarian here at the convention,” referring to the fact that Disney refused distribution of Moore’s documentary. She also called librarians (and no doubt referring specifically to SRRTers!) “freedom fighters” in her accompanying speech to the showing of the film *Independent Media in a Time of War*. The film demonstrated, as she claimed, “media acting as a conveyor belt for the U.S. Administration.”

SRRTers spoke forcefully and eloquently at the **ALA Membership Meeting** on Saturday, June 26: “ALA and Activism: Where to Draw the Line?” One of the SRRT attendees, **Michael Malinconico** stated, “ALA has 60,000 highly-educated, intelligent members and we *can* affect important issues.” **Fred Stoss**, citing female genital mutilation and child labor issues, asked, “What happens when libraries *don’t* take a position?” **Elaine Harger** commented on the futility of ALA even considering drawing a line. “Lines change; they become meaningless. Look at a map. Why draw a line?” **Jonathan Betz-Zall** stressed the importance of ALA taking stances if only for the importance of visibility. **Bernadine Abbott Hoduski** stated, “Everything that is relevant in the country is relevant to libraries. Things like torture affect our patrons.”

Not all SRRTers were delighted with the choice of keynote speaker at the Opening General Session, former counterterrorism czar for both Presidents Clinton and Bush, and author of *Against All Enemies: Inside America’s War on Terror*, **Richard A. Clarke**. An advocate of the Patriot Act and involvement with covert, militaristic operations throughout his career were not what Mark Rosenzweig considered exemplary qualities, but nevertheless, Clarke did not displease the SRRTers in the audience, stating his anti-war position on Iraq and belittling the Bush administration’s handling of the situation. “Terrorism is a tactic, not an enemy... Whether there were weapons of mass destruction was the wrong question. The right question was whether Iraq threatened us.”

Clarke targeted his speech especially to librarians, stating the importance that books have played in the political arena, more so than the Internet and the media, and by making references to some of the most critical books of 2004.

Reading List of Titles Discussed by Clarke:

Anonymous. *Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terror*. Brassey’s, Inc. 2004.

Clancy, Tom with General Anthony Zinni. *Battle Ready*. Grosset & Dunlap, 2004.

Clarke, Richard A. *Against all Enemies: Inside America’s War on Terror*. Free Press, 2004.

Suskind, Ron. *The Price of Loyalty: George W. Bush, the White House, and the Education of Paul O’Neill*. Simon & Schuster, 2004.

Wilson, Joseph. *The Politics of Truth: Inside the Lies that Led to War and Betrayed My Wife’s CIA Identity: A Diplomat’s Memoir*. Carroll & Graf Pub., 2004.

Woodward, Bob. *Plan of Attack*. Simon & Schuster, 2004.

Other titles:

Battle of Algiers-1965 film that depicts the Algerian revolution, used by the Pentagon in 2003

Patterns of Global Terrorism Report, a U.S. State Department document which, when first released, understated terrorism figures that the Bush Administration then used to support their strategies.



Enoch Pratt Leads Martin Luther King Holiday Multicultural Idea Exchange in Orlando

Virginia B. Moore, Chairperson of the MLK Holiday Task Force

Providing impressive details about the numerous and varied 2004 programs of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, Vivian Fisher, Manager, African American Department, led the panel discussion at the 4th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Multicultural Idea Exchange. The event was held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel on Saturday, June 26 during the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando with a highly expectant and enthusiastic audience.

In representing the types of programs held in public libraries, Ms. Fisher gave interesting details about a few of Pratt's highly applauded 2004 programs such as: "Brown v. Board of Education: 50 Years Later - An Evening with Kurt L. Schmoke, Dean, Howard University School of Law and the first African American to be Mayor of Baltimore (1987-1999)"; an exhibit, "Maryland's First Black Lawyers: 1877-1977"; and The Pratt Library Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Lecture, "Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." with Guest Speaker Dr. Brad Ronnell Braxton, Jessie Ball Dupont Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Biblical Studies, Wake Forest University Divinity School (NC) and author of *No Longer Slaves*. In addition, she gave an illustrious report of the "West African Drumming and Dancing Workshops for Teens" in which professional drummers and dancers provided teens with opportunities to listen to African drumming and to learn African dance routines. Included were family and other programs in branch libraries as well as the "Round Robin Jazz Café" with live music that was held in the Pennsylvania Avenue Branch and in the Enoch Pratt Library café.

The second panelist was Rosie L. Albritton, Director, College Library and Associate Professor, Florida Memorial College, Miami, who gave highlights of their academic library's 2004 celebrations and chronicled highly-praised features of past celebrations. Unique and special activities included a web site in tribute to Dr. King featuring biographies, writings, etc., recognition of faculty, staff, and students with special awards for promoting Dr. King's ideals, development of King awards for community service, and a *Resource Guide* (brochure) outlining the civic, cultural, educational, and community-based programs celebrating the King Holiday. Other activities included programs with elected governmental speakers, lectures, seminars, exhibits, film and video showings, banquets, musicals, religious programs, and theater productions. Dr. Albritton's eloquent presentation revealed the high regard held for such events and how the King Holiday has been linked to their library's observance of Black History Month.

The closing panelist was Dorothy L. Guthrie, Director, Student Support Services, Gaston County Schools, Gastonia, NC. She described her activities for the 2004 King Holiday which had been a continuation of "Building Bridges – One World in School: A Collection of Writing by Youth of Gaston County," for which she was Leading Editor while serving as the Education Chairperson for the Gaston County Human Relations Commission in 1999. Many of the writings in the publication honored Dr. King and the King Holiday. Moreover, in describing her effort to observe the King Holiday throughout K-12 schools, she distinguished the work of two (2) elementary library media coordinators by describing their outstanding bulletin boards along with their reading, book discussions, and writing activities to observe the King Holiday. In addition, complete instructions were given in a brochure titled *Ideas for Planning a Coretta Scott King Book Festival*, featuring "Gaston County Schools and Coretta's Books" as a reading enrichment program for the whole school, classroom, library media center, and community involvement. The program will begin in January 2005 during the week that precedes the nationally recognized birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Guthrie said, "Reading Coretta's Books (Winners of the Coretta Scott King Award) will give all children the opportunity to experience an array of African American literature aimed at helping all readers develop a greater appreciation for diversity, education, and perseverance." (Cont. on p. 23)

Report on ALA Council to SRRT by Al Kagan

June 2004

Due to a lot of hard work, SRRT issues did remarkably well in Orlando. Despite the heat and being in one of the most difficult to navigate and plastic environments yet, social responsibility is now a core value, ALA is on the record against torture, and it is likely that we will again soon have real memberships meetings.

The Core Values Task Force II, chaired by SRRT member Pat Schuman, included SRRT activists Michael Malinconico, Melissa Riley, and Mark Rosenzweig. Their report included 11 core values excerpted from already existing ALA policies. They are Access, Confidentiality/Privacy, Democracy, Diversity, Education and Lifelong Learning, Intellectual Freedom, Preservation, The Public Good, Professionalism, Service, and Social Responsibility. Here is the excerpt for Social Responsibility:

"ALA recognizes its broad social responsibilities. The broad social responsibilities of the American Library Association are defined in terms of the contribution that librarianship can make in ameliorating or solving the critical problems of society; support for efforts to help inform and educate the people of the United States on these problems and to encourage them to examine the many views on and the facts regarding each problem; and the willingness of ALA to take a position on current critical issues with the relationship to libraries and library service set forth in the position statement. *ALA Policy Manual, 1.1 (Mission, Priority Areas, Goals).*"

Of course, having such values on the books will not make much difference unless we actively use them to back up our work. One way to use them is for members to bring issues before the ALA Council. That is the function of the ALA Membership Meeting, but the quorum was raised to a level that made it nearly impossible to conduct any business. There is no space for that story here, but suffice it to say that this was a direct response to SRRT's successes in dealing with issues relating to Israel and Palestine. After previously removing the possibility of a Membership Meeting vote to overturn any action of ALA Council, the only power left for such meetings is to send resolutions to Council for consideration. As a member of the Membership Meeting Committee, a committee set up to deal with solving the issue of reestablishing such meetings, I can report that the Committee tried everything before finally proposing a quorum of 75, the same quorum as for the ALA Council. The Council voted 70-68 to bring this bylaws change to the ALA membership on the next ballot. Since most ballot referendums do pass, we can hope that we will again have a real forum for moving grassroots issues to the ALA Council next summer. Of course, we must be ready to counter a campaign against passing this membership initiative.

Our Resolution Against the use of Torture was passed by a vote of 75-47. We declared that torture is "a barbarous violation of human rights, intellectual freedom, and the rule of law." Let's hope our voice joined with many others will have some effect on what is happening at US military bases in Iraq, Afghanistan, Cuba, and elsewhere. Our resolution against the occupation of Iraq was defeated 39-55. The small number voting is explained by the fact that it was taken up late on Wednesday after many people had already left. It is unclear whether or not it could have passed if discussed earlier that morning. Perhaps another 6 months of war combined with movies like *Fahrenheit 9/11* and even minimally better media coverage will sway public opinion enough that we may be able to add our voice to the anti-war movement at the Midwinter meeting.

SRRT had one other resolution that never made it to the floor because time ran out. Sandy Berman proposed a measure affirming freedom of workplace speech for our members. Sandy had once before tried to do this by amending the Library Bill of Rights. We can try again next time. SRRT had endorsed a resolution on national health care reform, but that one also failed to make it to the floor before time ran out. We really need to deal with this time question. One problem is that we now have an extra meeting, the ALA-APA Council, which takes up time formerly allocated for ALA Council. Instead of beginning the ALA-APA Council at 9 AM, we need to move it back to 8 AM.

Those of us hoping for a Cuba-free conference were disappointed. Ramon Colas, previous director of the so-called "Bibliotecas Independientes de Cuba" had a booth in the exhibit hall. He also dictated a "letter" by telephone again asking for general support from the current director of this organization to John W. Berry, chair of



Liaison Report: Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF)

Laura Koltutsky

The FTRF has been actively following first amendment cases as well as challenges to legislation like the Patriot Act. One case in which FTRF filed an amicus brief, *John Doe and ACLU v. Ashcroft*, recently (September 29, 2004) saw Patriot Act Surveillance Power declared unconstitutional by a Federal Court. Another case in Dallas dealt saw the FTRF file an amicus brief to the Texas Supreme Court defending the use of political satire in an alternative weekly, the *Dallas Observer*. This case was recently (September 3, 2004) adjudicated by the Texas Supreme Court and the court voted unanimously that political satire is protected speech. The state level "harmful to minors" legislation is challenged by FTRF in states like Michigan with such statutes.

Liaison Report: Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT)

Laura Koltutsky

IFRT and the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) held several programs in Orlando including "Walking the High Wire: Exploring the Tension among Intellectual Freedom, Privacy, and Intellectual Property" and "Tiny Trackers: The Use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology by Libraries and Booksellers." IFRT will be co-sponsoring a program in Chicago with YALSA on Intellectual Freedom and Youth. IFRT is also working on planning a reception for their official program in Chicago. The new *Intellectual Freedom Manual* was discussed and Martin Garnar of IFC led a discussion of the revisions that were being made to the document. Jim Kuhn, IFRT representative to SRRT, led a discussion about the "One Voice Policy" and IFRT bylaws were revised.

Report of the International Responsibilities Task Force

Tom Twiss, chair

The 2004 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando was a busy one for the SRRT International Responsibilities Task Force. On Saturday June 26, IRTF sponsored a program, "Librarians Confront the War in Iraq." The panel of antiwar activists included Cynthia Banas, a retired librarian and member of Voices in the Wilderness; Chris Gaunt, a Library Assistant from Grinnell College; and Michael Malinconico, member of SRRT and professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama. Michael provided background and perspective based upon his professional experiences in Iraq; Cynthia spoke of her activities in Iraq as a member of the US American Peace Team; and Chris described her involvement in the antiwar movement and the circumstances of her arrests for civil disobedience. Approximately 40 people attended the program.

Also at the conference, IRTF members presented to SRRT Action Council a number of resolutions, including: a "Resolution Against the Use of Racist Training Materials by the U.S. Military," a "Resolution on the Occupation of Iraq," a Resolution Calling for the End of Travel Restrictions to Cuba," and a "Resolution Against the Use of Torture" All of these were adopted by SRRT Action Council, and the "Resolution Against Torture" was also adopted in amended form by ALA Council.

In our task force meeting we discussed several possible topics for the next ALA annual conference. These are still under discussion. Finally, we reviewed the additions to the IRTF website during the past year. These included pages of Alternative Resources on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Alternative Resources on Haiti, and a page on the Discussion on the "Independent" Cuban Libraries.

Report of the SRRT Liaison to GODORT

Tom Twiss

At the 2004 ALA Annual Conference, the Legislation Committee of the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) discussed and approved five resolutions. Ultimately, all of these were adopted by ALA Council. Three of the resolutions were especially significant from a social-responsibilities perspective:

1. "Resolution on Guidelines for "Sensitive" Information." In light of the increasing withholding of "sensitive" information from the public, this resolution reaffirms ALA's opposition to non-statutory restrictions on unclassified government information. In cases where the "sensitive" category is applied, the resolution urges that this be done judiciously, for a limited time, and under explicit guidelines which include a process for systematic review of "sensitive information."
2. "Resolution on Access to and Ownership of Government Information." In light of proposals to turn over control and ownership of government information to non-governmental entities, this resolution "urges Congress to reaffirm the Federal government's responsibility to provide timely, unfettered, permanent, and no-fee access to unclassified information produced . . . by the Federal government."
3. "Securing Government Accountability through Whistleblower Protection." In response to cases of intimidation, loss of employment, etc. by whistleblowers, this resolution urges legislative efforts to provide for "enhanced protection for whistleblowers."

Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) SRRT Annual Report 2003

Karen Bays, Chair 2003

Social Responsibilities Roundtable continued to grow and thrive in 2003-2004. I've had the joy and honor of working with a wonderful group of people! I would particularly like to thank immediate past-Chair, Linda Jordan; incoming Chair, Gypsy Teague; Website Guru, Marla Roberson; Doug Amos, Karen Antell, Sarah Brockhaus, Vickie Dixon, Fran Harbert, Kelley Riha, Anita Roesler, and Cathy Van Hoy. These people did tons of good work, and made it a fun and smooth year for me as Chair.

SRRT planned several interesting conference programs for 2004. We are honored to present Oklahoma Poet Laureate, Francine Ringold as our featured reader for the Poetry Reading at conference. We are hosting Leslie Gelders, Literacy Coordinator for ODL, who will speak on the "Literacy Legacy." We are co-sponsoring a program with the Recruitment and Retention Committee on "Recruiting for Diversity," with a speaker from the Chicago Library System. Ethics Committee is co-sponsoring a table talk with SRRT on "Un-deserved or Underserved Bringing Non-Users Into the Library" with SRRT's own Karen Antell of the OU Engineering Library facilitating the discussion.

SRRT's Award Committee selected an outstanding, ongoing project with a proven track record to receive the 2004 Ruth Brown Memorial Award. We know that their example will inspire others to find innovative ways to provide library services to populations in need. This award will be presented at the Opening General Session.

When you read this report, we will have completed the 3rd Annual Ruth Brown Memorial Golf Classic, which is a fun event and also a successful source of funding for the award. Research was completed to update our mailing list of foundations to solicit financial support to help fund the Ruth Brown Memorial Award. We are grateful that the OLA Executive Board and the new OLA Endowment Committee worked with us to ensure that we do not duplicate fundraising efforts. We are in the process of redesigning the award brochure for printing. Additionally, we are planning a workshop for next year, and SRRT's website is continually updated.

If you are thinking about rolling up your sleeves and getting active in OLA, this is a great roundtable to join. Our meetings are fun, frequently loud, intellectually stimulating, and inspiring because we are united by our common goal "to encourage and recognize the initiation and development of programs that seek to bring library service to individuals normally not served within a community." For more information, just ask any of us, or visit <http://library.ucok.edu/SRRT/>

Books...For Bombs!

In Orlando, Action Council approved Elaine Harger's outreach program proposal that would invite individual members to donate children's books to the United Talmud Torah School in Montreal, site of the 2004 anti-Semitic firebombing. Harger presented the following letter that will be sent to the school with a request for specific titles and/or types of books that the school would like. When a list is available, it will be posted to SRRTAC-L for those people interested in participating in the program. Stay tuned!

Open Letter to the Children of United Talmud Torah School,

This letter to you is from many librarians who belong to a group called the Social Responsibilities Round Table, which is part of a big organization called the American Library Association. The people who belong to our group cherish libraries and we believe that everyone needs to take good care of libraries.

Now that school is back in session, we are sending this letter to let you know that we hope your new library is open. Each of us would like to give a new book to your library and we are sending a list of books that have won an award that our group sponsored for many years – winners of the Coretta Scott King Award. The award is for books that promote peace, brotherhood and non-violent social change. You can read more about the award on the internet at <http://www.ala.org/ala/srirt/corettascottking/abouttheaward/aboutaward.htm>.

We have heard about what happened to your old library, about the fire that burned it so badly, and that made us feel very sad. We felt frightened and angry too. We know you felt frightened and angry and sad too.

Some of the books that burned in the fire are in your new library, in a special exhibit case. The burned books will help you remember how you felt when your library was burned. The burned books will also help you to think about why the fire happened.

Right now, we grown ups don't really know why the books were burned, but we do have some guesses. Someday maybe we will know for sure why the books were burned, but for right now we don't know.

Sometimes books get burned by people who hate the stories inside. These people are called intolerant.

Sometimes books are burned by people who have a sickness that makes them feel good when they burn things that should not be burned. These people are called pyromaniacs.

Sometimes books are burned by people who hate the people who have the books in their libraries. These people are called prejudiced.

Prejudiced people who burn books at schools with Jewish students are called anti-Semites. Prejudiced people who burn books at schools with black students are called racists.

Sometimes books are burned by people who are very sad and angry because something bad happened to their families and friends. People who don't like what they have done call them evil, terrorist, villain, coward. People who do like what they did call them hero, patriot, good, brave. That might sound very strange, but it is true.

Children know, just like librarians know, that books should never be burned. Books are not good or bad, they are just books with stories that we can read and learn from. Even books that we don't like have something to teach us.

It is wrong to burn books. The person who burned the books in your beautiful library was wrong. That person did a very bad thing when he burned your library. That person needs to think for a long time about what he did. He needs to try to feel how frightened and angry and sad he made you when he burned your library.

If he was a pyromaniac he might still feel good that he burned your library, and if he does feel good then he needs help from a special doctor called a therapist or psychiatrist. If he was an anti-Semite who feels proud that he burned your library, then he needs help learning that his prejudice is very wrong.

If he was a person who burned your library in anger, he might still be angry. He might also be sorry. If he is angry, he needs help thinking about why he is so angry. He also needs to think of better, non-violent ways to express his anger. If he is sorry, he needs our help in deciding what he can do to earn our forgiveness for the bad thing he did.

Sometimes it is very hard to forgive someone who has done a very bad thing, but we must always try to understand why that person acted so badly. When we do understand why, then it is our job, our responsibility, to help that person change to become a better person.

The work of understanding and helping people change is called our social responsibility. It is our social responsibility to understand why your beautiful library was burned. And it is our social responsibility to help change mental sickness into mental well-being. It is our responsibility to change prejudice into tolerance and care, and to change anger expressed through violence into anger expressed in peaceful ways. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hoped all people would use non-violence to make our world a better place.

The librarians of the Social Responsibilities Round Table believe this work for change, for a better world, is possible. We believe this work is important. We believe social responsibilities are everybody's job, even yours.

We are sharing our belief in social responsibility with you children at United Talmud Torah School, because we know that children are very good thinkers. Most of the time, children know what is right and what is wrong, what is fair and what is unfair, what is good and what is bad. Sometimes it is very hard to think about bad things that happen, even though it is very easy to have strong feelings about those bad things.

We want you to know that the most important thing we can do when bad things happen, is to feel AND think. And it is especially important to ask lots of questions about our feelings and thoughts. When we ask questions, we begin to understand, and when we understand we can begin to make the world a better place – a place where books and libraries are never burned again.

From your librarian friends in SRRF,

WANTED!

Artists, cartoonists, and photographers
to submit work for the Newsletter.

(Clip art comes in handy, but wouldn't you rather see some unique artwork by your fellow librarians? Also, photographs of events, conferences, and similar occasions are always welcome.

Submit your work and/or contact the editor anytime.
Address on back page.

News about our Members

Publications

De Marco, Joseph R.G. *Mr. Dead Leather & Other Stories*. Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2004.

De Marco, Joseph R.G. "Homosexuality." *Men and Masculinities: A Social, Cultural and Historical Encyclopedia*. Eds. Michael Kimmel and Amy Aronson. New York: ABC-CLIO, 2004.

De Marco, Joseph R.G. "Male Strippers." *Men and Masculinities: A Social, Cultural and Historical Encyclopedia*. Eds. Michael Kimmel and Amy Aronson. New York: ABC-CLIO, 2004.

DeMarco, Joseph R.G. and Barbara Ryan, "Sexual Orientation." *International Encyclopedia of Marriage and Family*, 2nd ed. Ed. James J. Ponzetti, Jr. New York: Macmillan, 2003

Fensenmaier, Steve. "Comments on West Virginia Public Libraries - Salary Survey 2004" and "2004 Library Staff Salaries-Bibliography of Selected Sources." *Library Worklife HR E-News for Today's Leaders* Sept. 2004. Chicago: APA /ALA. <<http://www.ala-apa.org/newsletter/newsletter.html>>.

Hudson, Mark. "U.S. Libraries and the 'War on Terrorism'." *New Politics* 10.1 (Summer 2004). <<http://www.wpunj.edu/~newpol/issue37/Hudson37.htm>>.

Awards and Presentations

Congratulations to John Buschman, department chair and collection development librarian at Rider University, for being awarded ALA's 2004 Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando. The award is given in recognition to a librarian "who invests time and talent to make positive changes in the profession." Buschman is the author of *Dismantling the Public Sphere: Situating and Sustaining Librarianship in the Age of the New Public Philosophy* (Libraries Unlimited, 2003), which demonstrates his scholarly vigor for battling the most controversial issues that undermine our contemporary profession. The award honors the life of Elizabeth Futas, who was also a SRRTer from 1971-1973 and passed away in 1995. Previous SRRT winners include Ann Sparanese, Kathleen de la Pena McCook, Carla J. Stoffle and Dr. Camila Alire.

Congratulations to Dr. Kathleen de la Peña McCook for being awarded the Achievement in Library Diversity Research award sponsored by ALA's Office for Diversity, at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando. The award represents Dr. McCook's significant contribution to the body of scholarly literature that supports library services for minorities and women. McCook is a distinguished university professor at the University of South Florida.

Martha Cornog's 2003 book, *The Big Book of Masturbation From Angst to Zeal* (Down There Press, <http://www.goodvibes.com>), won a Benjamin Franklin award in the reference book category in June. The Benjamin Franklin awards honor the best books and marketing programs in 54 categories and are sponsored by the Publishers Marketing Association. Judges praised the book for its mix of "solid scholarship with an easy-to-read style." Earlier, *Library Journal* called it "particularly well-done and balanced," while *Contemporary Sexuality* described it as "A remarkable combination of substantive information and savvy analysis."

Allyson Davis presented a poster session entitled "Collecting Outside the Box... An Introduction to Alternative Publications" at the 2004 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando.

Tom Twiss and **Mark Hudson** were interviewed on the topic of "Libraries and Social Responsibilities" on the radio program, "Fightin' Lefty Review" on WRCT-FM Pittsburgh in August.

Rosenzweig to Attend Caracas Conference

At the invitation and with the support of the Venezuelan Ministry of Culture, **Mark Rosenzweig**, SRRT Action Councilor and ALA Councilor at-large, will attend an international conference in Caracas on the theme "In Defense of Humanity" an international meeting of artists and intellectuals opposed to the effects on culture and society of corporate globalization under US domination. The conference, at which participants will meet President Hugo Chavez (on whose initiative the meeting has been called) will last from Nov. 29 to December 10.

Tribute to David Cohen

Herb Biblo

David Cohen has reached his 95th birthday and has achieved iconic status at ALA.

ALA has proclaimed his outstanding leadership for achievements in Multiculturalism and Intellectual Freedom. His colleagues, particularly in New York, are well aware of his unstinting efforts in support of intellectual freedom. While the ALA proclamation details many of his achievements, not many realize the determination with which he pursues his ideals. Today we recognize the Ethnic Material and Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) as an integral part of ALA. However, when David originally proposed the Round Table, the Committee on Organization (COO) rejected the proposition. David pursued his ideal and COO still rejected the concept. This went on for several years, when finally David's tenacity won out and COO yielded. I believe this is a scenario that SRRT members can appreciate. SRRT salutes David Cohen in his 95th year and expects to join him in the front lines in our battle to protect our civil liberties.

Radical Reference Premieres at Republican National Convention

Rachel Holt

Since July, I have been a volunteer for Radical Reference (<http://radicalreference.info>). We are a group of librarians from all over the US that worked together to provide street, email, and web reference services to activist groups and the independent media on the eve of the Republican National Convention in New York City. We fielded numerous questions about all aspects of the Bush administration, the war in Iraq, and the convention itself, as well as provided a team of librarians at the demonstrations to help with more immediate concerns ("Where are the bathrooms?" "What do I do if I get arrested?"). RadRef is currently on a short hiatus while we re-tool for our post-RNC existence, in which we hope to offer our services on a wider and more permanent basis.

Blogging for the Democratic National Convention

Jessamyn West wore an official DNC media/press badge that entitled her to entry into the convention center and thus, close encounters with politicians and celebrities. Her daily experiences and reflections were published in her blog, which you can still read at <http://librarian.net/dnc/>. This was the first political convention to provide credentials for bloggers.

ALA Adopts Torture Resolution

Mark Rosenzweig's resolution, originally defeated by ALA Council in 2002, was adopted by Council in Orlando on June 26, 2004, with some changes. That version is now posted on the Web site.
<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=ifresolutions&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=70739>

Resolution Against The Use of Torture as a Violation of Our Basic Values as Librarians

Adopted by SRRT, June 2004

WHEREAS, The American Library Association (ALA) is among the preeminent defenders of intellectual freedom and government openness in the US; and

WHEREAS, Intellectual freedom, our primary value as librarians, cannot be more seriously violated than by forcing speech or enforcing silence through systematic violence by government against detained individuals; and

WHEREAS, The US government has proven its readiness to use torture (including practices such as hooding, shackling, drugging, sleep deprivation, etc.) in the interrogation of suspected terrorists or their suspected accomplices in its "war on terror"; and

WHEREAS, The use of torture and coercive interrogative practices is inhumane, illegal, and destructive of the democratic sensibilities of a free society, to which we as an Association and as a profession are committed; and

WHEREAS, The secrecy which attends the use of torture violates our commitment to open government and the dissemination of true and accurate information of our government's actions; and

WHEREAS, The violence of torture violates our commitment to the rule of law as a protector of the integrity and dignity of the human person; and

WHEREAS, The barbarity of torture fundamentally violates our commitment to the preservation of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS, The threat of torture or the use of torture and similar practices of coercing testimony, confessions, information is universally condemned under international law [e.g. the Geneva Convention, Article 3 and 31 and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, Article 5] and (a) the Fourth Amendment's right to be free of unreasonable search or seizure (which encompasses the right not to be abused by the police), (b) the Fifth Amendment's right against self-incrimination (which encompasses the right to remain silent during interrogations), (c) the Fifth and the Fourteenth Amendments' guarantees of due process (ensuring fundamental fairness in criminal justice system) and (d) the Eighth Amendment's right to be free of cruel or unusual punishment];

BE IT RESOLVED, That ALA condemns the use or threat of torture by the US government as a barbarous violation of human rights, intellectual freedom and the rule of law. The ALA decries--along with the practice of torture anywhere--the suggestion by the US government that under a 'state of emergency' in this country, or in territories it occupies, torture is in any case an acceptable tool in pursuit of its goals; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That this resolution be widely publicized, including the press, the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and members of the United States Congress.

Respectfully submitted by Mark C. Rosenzweig, ALA Councilor at large
second Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor

(Resolution also contains pages of Supporting Documentation, for which there is not enough space to print.)

Resolution Against the Use of Racist Training Materials by the U.S. Military

submitted by Mark Hudson, adopted by SRRT on June 26, 2004

Whereas respected news organizations, including *The New Yorker* magazine and the *Guardian* newspaper, have documented the extensive use of Raphael Patai's *The Arab Mind* by Defense Department policymakers and as part of various curricula used for training U.S. military personnel;

And whereas this book is full of racially charged stereotypes and generalizations and presents an overwhelmingly negative picture of Arab people;

And whereas revelations of torture and abuse in U.S.-run detention centers in Iraq, Afghanistan and Cuba have demonstrated the pervasiveness of a racist, dehumanizing mentality among U.S. military personnel interacting with Arab people;

And whereas Manning Marable, Director of African American Studies at Columbia University, and the organization Racism Watch have called upon the U.S. President to issue an order that *The Arab Mind* no longer be used within any branch of the U.S. government, and have furthermore called for a Congressional investigation into the curricula being used in the military and other government departments interacting with Arab countries;

Therefore be it resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association expresses its strong support for the effort by Professor Marable and Racism Watch to end the use of overtly racist training materials by the U.S. military;

And be it further resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table condemns the use of racist training materials and all racist indoctrination by the U.S. military;

And be it further resolved that this resolution be distributed to Racism Watch, all members of Congress, and the library press.

Sources:

Racism Watch Press Release, <http://www.racismwatch.org/pressreleases.html>.

Brian Whitaker, "Its best use is as a doorstop", *Guardian*, May 24, 2004, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/elsewhere/journalist/story/0,7792,1223525,00.html>.

Seymour Hersh, "The Gray Zone", *New Yorker*, May 24, 2004, http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?040524fa_fact.

Resolution Calling for the End of Travel Restrictions to Cuba

Adopted by SRRT in Orlando. Submitted by Ann Sparanese.

Whereas the right to travel is a Constitutional right about which Justice William O. Douglas wrote "Once the right to travel is curtailed, all other rights suffer," and that travel is a key to "knowing, studying, arguing, exploring, conversing, observing and even thinking;"

Whereas the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the U.S. Department of the Treasury has announced even further regulations on travel to Cuba;

Whereas these new restrictions eliminate all education travel of less than ten weeks except where such travel would "directly support U.S. policy goals;" and,

Whereas “people-to-people exchanges” to Cuba – the largest category of licensed travel previously available to the American people to see Cuba for themselves – were eliminated in 2003; and

Whereas the category of “fully hosted travel” – which allows hundred of US students to study gratis at medical schools in Cuba – has now been eliminated; and

Whereas the new restrictions include violations of basic human rights such as the limitation of family visits for Cuban Americans to only once every three years, regardless of family emergency; and

Whereas the Washington Office on Latin America writes that “the new policy toward Cuba is cruel, inhumane and counterproductive because it hurts ordinary Cuban citizens, further restricts the rights of American families and divides Cuban families;”

Be it resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of ALA urges librarians to file comments with OFAC through <http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/comment.html> opposing the restrictions (deadline was August 16, 2004).

Be it resolved that SRRT urges librarians to write to Secretary of State Powell, local representatives and senators, and Senator Kerry opposing all restrictions on travel to Cuba.

And be it resolved that SRRT supports the travel challenges being organized in July 2004 by Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan, the Venceremos Brigade, and the African Awareness Association and urges librarians to join the Librarians Travel Challenge in the summer of 2005.

Resolution on the Occupation of Iraq

Adopted by SRRT in Orlando. A revised version was defeated by ALA Council. Submitted by Tom Twiss.

Whereas, the justification for the coalition invasion of Iraq have proven to be completely unfounded; and

Whereas, the war already has taken the lives of thousands of Iraqi soldiers, more than 10,000 Iraqi civilians, and hundreds of coalition forces; and

Whereas, these numbers will continue to mount as long as coalition forces remain in Iraq; and

Whereas, during the current occupation many of Iraq's cultural treasures, including libraries, archives, manuscripts, and artifacts, have been destroyed, lost, or stolen; and

Whereas, as long as coalition forces remain in Iraq the inevitable escalation of fighting threatens further destruction of Iraq's cultural heritage; and

Whereas, currently, the U.S. is spending 4.7 billion dollars per month for the occupation; and

Whereas, even a small fraction of these resources would be more than sufficient for rebuilding and greatly enhancing the libraries and educational institutions of both Iraq and the United States;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Iraq of all U.S. military forces, intelligence personnel, and contractors.

Relevant ALA policies:

CD#18.4, Resolution on Iraq

CD#50.11 Nuclear Freeze, the Arms Race and National Security

CD#53.7 Destruction of Libraries

CD#53.8 Libraries: An American Value

Additional precedent: 1971 ALA Resolution on Southeast Asia Conflict

Resolution on Workplace Speech

Drafted by Sanford Berman

WHEREAS the American Library Association is firmly committed to fostering human rights and freedom of expression (Policies 53 and 58.4.1); and

WHEREAS candid, robust debate is essential to the making of sound policy; and

WHEREAS Library staff do not universally enjoy the right to openly discuss library and professional issues without fear of reprisal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ALA Council amend Policy 54 (Library Personnel Practices) by adding:

54.21 Workplace Speech

Libraries should permit and encourage the full and free expression of views by staff on professional and policy matters.

References:

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Berman, Sanford, "Workplace Repression," in his *"Inside" Censorship* (2001), <http://www.sanfordberman.org>

Buschman, John and Mark Rosenzweig, "Intellectual Freedom within the Library Workplace: An Exploratory Study in the U.S.," *Journal of Information Ethics*, volume 8(1999), pages 36-45.

Carney, Stephen Michael, "Democratic Communication and the Library as Workplace." *Journal of Information Ethics*, volume 12, no. 2 (Fall 2003), pages 43-59.



(MLK cont. from p. 11)

After the panelists, an Audience Exchange was moderated by Harriet C. Ying, Branch Manager, Surrats-Clinton Library, Clinton, MD. In this lively discussion, all attendees gave brief features of this year's King Holiday Observance.

The Materials Exchange at the close of the program featured brochures, a selected list of readings, and bulletins from the panelists along with flyers, programs, and posters from Cleveland Public Library, Westchester Library System (Ardsley, NY), DC Public Library (Washington, DC), Montgomery County (MD) School Libraries, University of Scranton (PA) and members of the audience. Following this program, many of our panelists and audience attended at the Diversity Fair in which the King Holiday Task Force has participated since its inception to exhibit and distribute materials from both the King Holiday Sunrise Celebrations and the Multicultural Idea Exchange.

We take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to our panelists and attendees along with SRRT and the OLOS Staff for the success of all of the Task Force's events sponsored to "Keep the Dream Alive." Also, the Task Force is seeking speakers for the Multicultural Idea Exchange at the 2005 ALA Annual and we are recruiting new members and volunteers. JOIN TODAY! HELP TODAY!

INTERVIEW with Noel Peattie

SRRTers tend to be influential and engaging, and it is difficult to select just one person to be interviewed for each newsletter. After I finished the last newsletter and began to agonize over this dilemma, a posting on SRRTAC caught my attention. It was a response from Noel Peattie to Al Kagan's April TV Turnoff Week Announcement, and this peaked my curiosity.

"Hi Al, I don't have a TV. Never had one, never will. I have a computer for news and correspondence; two telescopes; and a reed organ from the 1880's. I have a sailboat in Berkeley, and a girlfriend in a nearby city... I'm happy!"

Noel, you have never lacked in the ability to nourish your soul! Quaker, poetry and fiction writer, newsletter editor, small press publisher, amateur astronomer, sailboat enthusiast, musician—would you say that these define your existence as much as, if not more than, being a librarian?



Noel nourishing his soul.
<http://www.noelpeattie.com>

I have also started doing watercolors; took a class a few years ago, just now came back.

Besides occasionally engaging in SRRTAC discussions, in what other ways do you keep in touch with your past professional life? Do you continue to go to ALA and CLA conferences?

I did go to a CLA conference after I retired (1 Nov. 1992), but I had so much pain in my right leg, I had to go home. As for the ALA conference in San Diego, I'd rather have spent the entire weekend with Chris. Isn't that perfectly dreadful? To prefer a day with one's sweetheart to a committee meeting!

When you reflect on your librarianship, what gave you the most satisfaction?

Helping young people, and collecting out-of-the-way material. The day I ordered, for U. Cal. Davis, the back files of the *San Francisco Oracle* for the then-very-large sum of \$1,000, the university librarian, J. Richard Blanchard, asked me, "Is this worth it?" I answered him, "Sir, I believe it is." I went home singing. Subsequently, the issues and papers were used to reprint a complete set by Regent Press, Oakland. And there was the time, one of several times, in which a student came to me and said, "Thanks to you, for your help at the reference desk, I got an 'A' on that paper." I went home, 'every pebble singing from my boots'.

What advice do you have for new librarians?

I don't know that I have any; computers have so completely taken over everything (and guess who owns the databases?) that it's hard to know what to advise. If I had anything to say, it would be, "At least know *something*! Even if it's Byzantine musical manuscripts or the politics of left-wing parties in the Spanish Civil War—at least know *that*. Don't just get along on how to make the computer run."

Tell me about your involvement with SRRT over the years.

My involvement with SRRT was always tied up with Sipapu, and with COSMEP, the Committee of Small Magazines and Publishers, 1968-1993. I attended meetings of both groups, and reported on them in Sipapu. After my retirement, I continued publishing Sipapu, through the end of 1995; after that, I only caught up with SRRT once they started their list serve. Their news messages are invaluable.

Do you have any words of wisdom for SRRT?

SRRT should join forces with IFRT. Censors big and small are an equal menace to freedom. What happens in foreign countries is interesting, but Americans don't vote there. What happens in our towns and libraries is what we can do something about.

You teach an astronomy class for U. Cal. Davis' Experimental College and the College boasts a very special

library—a real honor for anyone, especially a librarian—the Noel R. Peattie Reading Room and Library. Tell me about this. How did it come to be? Are you involved with book selection or in another capacity?

The NRP Reading Room and Library was an unexpected honor. All I did was send them tons of environmental magazines, which they could never have purchased on their own. They called me down to its (former) location and had me cut a ribbon, while a photographer from the student paper, *The California Aggie*, held a camera. At one time, there were experimental colleges all over the country; now this one and a few others are left.

From 1970-1996 you edited *Sipapu*, an alternative press and small press review journal that featured in-depth interviews with writers, publishers, and other people of interest especially to librarians. The interviews were published as a unit in *A Passage for Dissent: The Best of Sipapu, 1970-1996* (McFarland, 1989) and provide a unique perspective of those decades. Of all the interviews, is there one person who just ‘blew you away?’

“Lily Pond”, editor of *Yellow Silk, the Journal of Erotic Arts*. She ceased publishing some years ago, but the interview I did with her, complete with musical teapot, was exceptional and delightful. I have the original tape somewhere around here.

Noel, you’ve published 4 books of poetry since 1995, although I guess that you have been writing and reading poetry all of your life. Do you remember your first poem? When did you ‘feel’ poetry inside?

My first poem was called “The Waves.” (I hadn’t heard of Virginia Woolf). I was 12. That’s the time when a boy starts developing new interests.

Who are your muses?

My girlfriend, first, although Chris is not a poet. Actually most of the best poets writing in America today are women. I was reading the December 1997 issue of *Poetry Flash*, published in Berkeley, when a bookmark dropped out of that tabloid paper and it had a poem, “The Poet”, by Jane Hirshfield. I’d met a lot of poets in COSMEP, but this poet was a new light. I started collecting her books, and later discovered other poets with the same quality, not technical innovation, not academic footnoting, but the illumination of the every day, what I called in a poem, “the gleam of the ordinary.” Linda Gregg, the late Jane Kenyon, Maxine Kumin, Laurie Sheck, the late Ann Stanford—some of these poets are represented in *A Book of Luminous Things*, edited by Czeslaw Milosz, whose death was reported in the summer. Another anthology is the *Extraordinary Tide, New Poetry by American Women*. I recommend these books and authors to everyone.

Your novel, *Amy Rose*, was published in 1995. This is a lightweight, humorous portrait of a librarian that, because of the numerous professional references, would especially appeal to other librarians. Did you get much feedback from colleagues? What were the real-life situations and/or people who inspired you?

The inspiration came from a column in *LJ*, called “How do you Manage?” stories about management problems in libraries around the country. I decided to do a take-off of this idea, and got Gail Warner and Linda Pierce to advise me. The first issue appeared in Berman and Danky’s *Alternative Library Literature*. Later Amy took over the story and dictated what I was to say. I even worked on it during a librarians’ trip to China. Some of my friends, whom I thought would like it, were horrified. Others, whom I thought would be horrified, were delighted. Actually, all I wanted to do was provide comic relief, like strawberry shortcake with lots of whipped cream getting all over the face.

Your versatility is amazing. You’ve also written, *The Freedom to Lie*, *A Debate about Democracy* (1989) and *from another world completely*, *Hydra and Kraken*, *the Lore and Lure of Lake Monsters and Serpents* (1996). What are you writing these days? How much time do you spend writing?

I’m working on another poetry book. At 71, I figure I may not have lots of time left. I’ve never counted how much time I spend on writing. Thanks, Noel! Order his books from Regent Press, 6020-A Adeline, Oakland, CA 94608.

11 December 1996

1

Intense quiet
of early morning
fog.

No bird calls.

In the kitchen window
a daddy-long-legs
clings to a long-dead
fly.

2

In the afternoon, wind
rises, sobs
several keys.

Outside, clouds,
whole continents, lakes,
fortresses and shrouds,
silver-gray,
move, slowly,
before the west wind.

From *In the Dome of Saint
Laurence Meteor: New Poems*
(Peattie, 1999). Reprinted with
permission from the author.

Earth Day 35th Anniversary

Fred Stoss, co-chair Task Force on the Environment and Biological Sciences Librarian at University at Buffalo--SUNY



April 22, 1970 may be one of the most important days in the history of environmental activism. IT was the day when a generation of college students took to their campuses a call for action. It was a call for governments to act to increase their efforts to assure a higher standard for environmental quality. It was a call for all citizens to learn more about the cause and effect relationships between our human activities and the impact they have on the environments in which we live, work, and play. It was a day to celebrate the true richness and riches of our environment and seek a better means to protect it.

The celebration event known as Earth Day, was created in 1969 and 1970. However, Earth Day found its initial inspirations in the 1950s and 1960s--decades marked by tremendous social and cultural awareness, times of activism and change, times of spiritual enlightenment and consciousness. One cultural concept around which millions of people began to rally was the environment.

The birth of the contemporary environmental movement began with the 1949 publication of Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*, considered by many to be one of the most important books on conservation written this century. Leopold's classic was preceded by the evolution of a contemporary wilderness ethic that began in the 1870s with the creation of Yellowstone National Park (the first such preserve in the world). This land and resource preservation movement extended to 1935 with the publication of *The Living Wilderness* by the Wilderness Society. The Society's first director, Howard Zahniser, drafted the first version of a wilderness bill in 1955. The bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Hubert Humphrey (D-Minnesota) in 1956 and signed into law as the Wilderness Act by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

Several events stimulated a greater concern for the quality of the environment in the 1960s. Among these events were the proclamation that the Great Lakes were declared "dead"--choked by what seemed to be an endless infusion of pollutants, the grounding of the Torrey Canyon off the coast of England, the first catastrophic oil spill from a supertanker, Ohio's Cuyahoga River catching on fire - three times (1936, 1952, 1969)--from the debris and fuels spilt on its surface, the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, a best-selling book stimulating concern over misuse of pesticides and their impact on the environment.

Late in the fall of 1969 the seed for Earth Day was planted when a group of persons in San Francisco lead by John McConnell, approached Peter Tamaris, head of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, with a resolution to devote one day a year (originally proposed on March 21, 1970, the date of the vernal equinox), as day to celebrate the Earth and the intricacies and fragile nature of its interactions. (1) This date is still celebrated as International Earth Day.

Coinciding with McConnell's grass roots initiative, Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin) had become quite frustrated with a lack of environmental interest among his Senate colleagues. Hoping to stimulate popular interest for the environment, Nelson looked to America's non-violent campus activism for inspiration and proposed a series of environmental learning experiences, teach-ins for campuses across the nation. In a speech in Seattle in September 1969, Nelson announced a national environmental teach-in for the Spring of 1970.

Harvard law student Denis Hayes helped to organize one of these teach-ins at Cambridge, after going to Washington, D.C. to interview Senator Nelson, who made one of his most persuasive environmental arguments. Nelson persuaded the young, idealistic student to coordinate the nationwide activities that would

"Earth Day is a commitment to make life better, not just bigger and faster; to provide real rather than rhetorical solutions. It is a day to re-examine the ethic of individual progress at mankind's expense. It is a day to challenge the corporate and government leaders who promise change, but who shortchange the necessary programs. It is a day for looking beyond tomorrow. April 22 seeks a future worth living." - Environmental Teach-In Advertisement, *New York Times*, January 18, 1970

become another Earth Day celebration. April 22 was chosen as the best date to reach the primary audience, college students; a Wednesday was chosen because it would be the least inconvenient for students who were called upon to participate in the event. There would be no competition with weekend activities, the weather in the northern states would be warming, it was after the annual southern migration of spring-break and well before final exams.



The result was a spectacular non-violent demonstration. Folk singer Pete Seeger performed at the Washington Monument, and cars were banned from New York City's Fifth Avenue to accommodate the events. Public speeches, parades, marches, rallies on college campuses, and teach-ins launched the contemporary environmental movement. Seeds planted in earlier years were beginning to provide trees that would bear fruit.

The first Earth Day was the largest focused demonstration in history. Congress closed its doors as politicians went home to attend or participate in local events. Legislatures from 42 states passed Earth Day resolutions to commemorate the date. An estimated 20 million Americans --students, teachers, and officials -- took part in the activities. The wire services carried the story nationwide. The response was dramatic and the call for making April 22nd an annual Earth Day took root. Until recently, this second, "popular" Earth Day has over-shadowed McConnell's original idea for an Earth Day.

The impact on the nation was tremendous. Environmental organizations blossomed and the membership ranks of established conservation groups swelled. The United States Congress, spurred on by the earlier passage of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, passed the Clean Air Act amendments and the Clean Water Act revisions. By the end of 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency was created.

Love Canal, Bhopal, Times Beach, and Exxon Valdez are grim reminders that since the first Earth Day our environmental problems have not been solved. Acid rain, climate change, global warming, and ozone depletion -- topics that have no respect for political boundaries -- show the global dimensions, scientific complexities, and policy dilemmas of contemporary environmental issues.

Today, scores of bibliographic database provide online access to tens of thousands of journal articles, books, proceedings, technical reports, and other forms of literature related to the environment. Searching for environmental data and information these days seems like standing at the base of a towering cliff and being unprepared to begin the laborious assault. From your position in front of the rock wall you are seeing only a part of the whole, and can experience great difficulty and frustration in seeking a direct route to the top. Take several steps back and view the mountain in its entirety. Gather your gear and plot an exact and systematic ascent to the summit. Better yet, take a reference librarian as your guide. They have covered the routes before and are always glad to help others appreciate the views along the way.

For an example of how you can make your office more Earth Friendly, read "Earth Day 2000 Catalyst for Community Outreach Paper" presented at the 1999, on the eve of the 30th Anniversary of Earth Day, at the New York Library Association Annual Meeting, session, "How Green Is My Library?" Includes descriptions of events and activities libraries can do to promote Earth Day. Extensive lists of resources provided as handouts are included in the site. Still a timely document.

(Cont. on next page)

If your community is planning Earth Day events, you might want to volunteer your library as a resource for meetings, displays, and a community-based Web site listing all the events and points of contact. Libraries can play a critical role in helping the communities they serve by promoting and giving assistance to such programs.



Earth Day Internet Resources

Stoss has provided an extensive list of resources that can be used to learn more about the quality of our environment. These sites reflect the environmental theme of the first Earth Day, "Think Globally, Act Locally!" They reflect international, national, state, local, and campus resources and include sites of interest especially for children. (<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/exhibits/earthday.html>)

Libraries can take a part in their community Earth Day Activities by helping to compile and update a directory of local government agencies and organizations dealing with the Environment. The Center for Environmental Information in Rochester New York, has been compiling such a directory for 30 years and serves as a great example. See <http://www.rochesterenvironment.org/> and scroll to the publication.

Notes

- (1) See Earth Day Past, Present, and Future <<http://www.wowzone.com/mc-lee.htm>> for a history of the original Earth Day and its founder, John McConnell. Included in this site is McConnell's original Earth Day Proclamation <<http://www.wowzone.com/proclamm.htm>>. The International Earth Day site <<http://www.earthsite.org/>> is McConnell's continuing efforts to promote awareness for celebrating the Earth. It is noted that this Earth Day takes on a much spiritual mantle in celebrating the gifts of Earth and its resources. Also note that McConnell chose March 21 (Equinox) <<http://www.earthsite.org/origin.htm>> as Earth Day. Read McConnell's own words for an interesting perspective on the other and much more less recognized Earth Day <<http://www.earthsite.org/real-ed.htm>>
- (2) Dennis Hayes was a featured speaker at the ALA Annual Meeting in 2000 in San Francisco at a program sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Round Table, and talked about the future Earth Days and need to rekindle the original spirit of enthusiasm with which the first decades of Earth Day were celebrated.



New York Library Prisoner Program a Success

The Durland Alternatives Library at Cornell University

A photo on the Web site shows an inviting pink loveseat flooded with sunlight, surrounded by pink geraniums and other potted plants. Next to the couch is a periodical shelf with titles such as *Adirondack Explorer*, *Heron Dance*, *Prison Legal News*, *Practical Homeschooling*, *Buddhadharma*, and *Calyx*. Just looking at the photo gives me a sense of peace. This is the Durland Alternatives Library at Cornell University where director, Lynn Anderson, carries on the original mission of providing space for information about alternative communities and lifestyles. In addition, she oversees programs such as the Prisoner Express, which provides books for over 1,000 inmates around the U.S. and sponsors art and writing opportunities. The newsletter, *Prisoner Express News*, provides a creative outlet for inmates and demonstrates the program's success. The program enlists the support of local high school and college students and the Library is always in need of more volunteers and financial contributions to maintain and promote this and other programs and services. For more information, go to <http://www.alternativeslibrary.org/> and/or contact Lynn Anderson at lma2@cornell.edu

SRRTers Work with Librarians Nationwide to Foil Censorship Attempt

The *Raven Magazine* publisher warned the printer, BrioPrint, that his magazine contained “irreverent humor like South Park and MAD TV” as well as satire often critical of the current presidential administration, and BrioPrint assured the publisher that there would not be a problem and responded with a signed contract. Then 4 days later, BrioPrint reneged on the contract, stating that the content was “slandorous” and contained “reverse-racism.” They were apparently concerned about content such as a satirical cartoon depicting George Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld in Nazi uniforms, and a parody of Mel Gibson’s thoughts on more movie projects that reinforce stereotypes similar to those of the Jews depicted in *Passion of the Christ*. Forcing *Raven Magazine* to locate another publisher would have delayed production and delivery until well after Election Day, making the issue dated and irrelevant.

The California Library Association received word about this censorship issue, and soon librarians around the country began an assault on BrioPrint in the form of phone calls, emails and faxes, until the owner, John Marino, surrendered. The following letter is a thank-you from the editor of Raven Magazine. For subscription information, go to the Web site, <http://www.Ravenmagazine.com>

Date October 14, 2004

To freespeechlibrary@fastmail.fm

From editor@ravenmagazine.com

Subject Re Fw please contact this person TODAY, important censorship issue

Dear _____,

Please extend my most heartfelt thanks to your fellow Library Association members for what they did recently in the case of the printing company that refused to honor the printing contract for RAVEN Magazine because he disagreed politically with some of the satire that was critical of the Bush administration, Mel Gibson, and others.

Within MINUTES of you letting your fellow members know about the situation, the printing company owner called our attorney to say that he was being "bombaraded" with phone calls non-stop from librarians urging him to honor his agreement and the spirit of the First Amendment. He received over A THOUSAND emails and faxes in three days! By only the second day, his staff was telling the callers that they would print the magazine after all.

Your fellow librarians are incredible! Their commitment to the printed word, and to a society that welcomes an unhampered flow of various views is truly amazing. Really something to be proud of. I've since learned how you and they were instrumental in preventing publisher HarperCollins from destroying Michael Moore's "Stupid White Men" (which went on to earn Harper millions) and that self-censorship and commercial-censorship are just as bad as state-sponsored censorship since the end result is the same.

I'm sold on the power of librarians and their vanguard position in protecting one of our most cherished rights as citizens when it's under attack. I will definitely be writing about this episode in the very next issue of RAVEN Magazine and letting all readers know who deserves the credit! Our country's librarians.

Sincerely,

Zane Valenti, Editor-In-Chief

RAVEN Magazine

www.RAVENMAGAZINE.com

Letter reprinted with permission from author.

Book Reviews

Thanks to **Rebecca Tolley-Stokes** for her help over the past few years as book review editor, and welcome to Jane Ingold, who will be managing reviews now. In the meantime, we received two books from McFarland and Co. Publishers which are reviewed here as a courtesy. I would like to stress that we have not been receiving relevant titles that would be of interest especially to SRRTERS such as those in the areas of politics, feminism, environmental studies, current events, etc. We hope to solicit these books and Jane also has some good ideas.

Here is a message from Jane Ingold:

I'm baaack! This time as book review editor and I would like to implement some changes in our process. It has been notoriously hard to get new books to review even though Rebecca and I tried mightily to get them. It wasn't until near the end of my term as editor that I realized that we needn't wait for publishers to send us books to review...we are a round table of voracious readers who should be sharing the best of the best in social responsibility and library science materials.

Therefore, I am announcing twin initiatives for SRRT Newsletter book reviews. The first is a policy of acceptance of unpublished book reviews on any current materials that would be of interest to our membership. If you have read something that wowed you and you would like to share with your fellow members, please consider submitting a review (or at the very least sending me a suggestion that someone else do one.) The second initiative is to begin developing a bibliography of social responsibility classics. If you have a favorite book that changed you or charged you up, please ponder writing a review of it. Alternatively, forward your suggestions to me and I will find a newbie (perhaps even myself) to write it. Sally and I truly believe that there is so much that seasoned SRRTERS can offer to up-and-coming members and sharing quality literature is one of them!

I do have a small list of volunteer reviewers, but we can always use more. I will also continue to farm out books as they arrive. Please contact me if you would like to be added to my list. Thanks for your support.

Jane

New Titles of interest to public librarians from McFarland & Co. Publishers
<http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/>

Turner, Anne M. *It Comes with the Territory: Handling Problem Situations in Libraries*. Rev. Ed. 2004.

The director of the Santa Cruz City-County Library System, Turner has revised and updated this classic guidebook that provides creative and sensible ways for handling sticky situations in public libraries. For experienced managers who read the original and have remained current, there is not much new beyond the most obvious Internet-use and sexual harassment scenarios, but for new librarians or those who missed the first edition, this is worth a look. sd

Rivers, Vickie. *The Branch Librarians' Handbook*. 2004.

For novice branch managers who are totally inexperienced, this book addresses many issues about personnel relationships, effective supervision, and day-to-day operations; offers sample ideas for programming and outreach, and includes an Appendix comprised of important ALA documents. It offers little, if any, insight into dealing with contemporary issues such as controversial displays, book challenges, RFIDs, and Internet filters, and although it offers a section called "What to do if you are Served with a Subpoena," it never even mentions the Patriot Act. For a limited audience. sd

IFLA Report 2004 to SRRT

Al Kagan, September 19, 2004



IFLA held its first meeting in South America this year, Aug. 22-27, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Although Argentina has been going through a very rough period economically since 2001, the organizers did an excellent job and the conference went very smoothly. About 3000 participants saw how rich this country used to be in the faded elegance of the architecture and public spaces. The economy is now on the upswing, but President Kirchner lamented that Argentina is still going through “hell” in a speech while we were in town. The current difficulties are directly related to World Bank/IMF structural adjustment demands as well as local corruption. The present government is making a major effort to fight off the World Bank. However for IFLA participants from elsewhere, prices were cheap and it was exciting to be in this vibrant city where the tango is alive and well. Let me just mention one of the best cultural evenings that I have attended in many years of IFLA meetings. The August 25th Velada Cultural at the Teatro Opera was indeed wonderful and included folk ballet, tango, choir, and avant garde (similar to Cirque Soleil, I am told).

The main controversial issue coming before the IFLA Council was a resolution on the defense of public lending in libraries. It was introduced by a group of European and Latin American members expressing concern over the recent evolution of European Union actions on copyright laws. I was surprised to learn that European libraries must pay copyright fees in order to lend books to the public. In some countries, these fees are paid upfront by governments, but libraries will be responsible for such fees elsewhere. The resolution asked for library exemptions to this regulation. After much debate, a substitute resolution was passed asking the IFLA Governing Board to study the question and report back.

One of the most important IFLA bodies is the Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Committee (FAIFE). As an incoming member officially taking office after the meeting, I will report on some of the more important topics discussed. Following on the 2003 IFLA Council resolution asking association members to report on legislation similar to the USA Patriot Act, FAIFE decided to put the collection of such information into its on-going questionnaire process for compiling its world reports issued every two years. The next will be issued in 2005. Theme reports are issued in the years between the world reports. The current 2004 theme report was issued in Buenos Aires, and it is titled, *Libraries for Lifelong Literacy*. It includes chapters on Chile, Namibia, South Asia, and indigenous knowledge and minority languages in Africa.

Special cases that have come before FAIFE include Afghanistan, Palestine, and Cuba. The Committee has been trying to organize delegations to Afghanistan and Palestine for the past several years but various obstacles have gotten in the way. There is some hope for getting these underway this year, particularly for Palestine where the funding is already secure.

FAIFE has issued at least five previous statements on Cuba. The Committee received a request from an organization called People in Need through the Czech TV Foundation, again asking IFLA to address the situation of the so-called “Independent Librarians” in Cuba. It was signed by Vaclav Havel, Elena Bonner (widow of Andrei Sakharov), and other notables from Eastern Europe and Russia. However, it was interesting to see that no librarians signed this letter. Robert Kent from the Friends of Cuban Libraries group spoke again and distributed his press clippings. He found very little support at these meetings filled with South American librarians. He was roundly denounced by several speakers (and with much applause) at a FAIFE program on another topic. There were about 20 Cuban librarians at the meeting, and they also distributed a statement at their booth and poster session. In the end, FAIFE decided that no further action was necessary, and that a letter would be sent noting IFLA’s past actions (which are available on the IFLA website in various places). A draft letter was distributed at the FAIFE meeting. I made several suggestions for a revision to more accurately reflect IFLA findings.

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 in the body of the email, to listproc@ala.org: subscribe SRRTAC-L [your first name] [your last name] To unsubscribe: unsubscribe SRRTAC-L

SRRTMEM

SRRTMEM is an unrestricted email list for announcements from American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table. Announcements come from the SRRT Coordinator, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and the Director of OLOS. The purpose is to keep SRRT members and other interested people informed as to SRRT's activities and to provide information about how to get involved. To subscribe to SRRTMEM, send the following email to listproc@ala.org: subscribe SRRTMEM [your name] To unsubscribe from SRRTMEM, send this command to listproc@ala.org: unsubscribe SRRTMEM

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>.

SRRT Newsletter (ISSN 0749-1670)

is published quarterly by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It is sent to members of SRRT as part of their membership and is available to others by subscription for \$15.00 per year. Subscription is open to both members and non-members of ALA. (We are currently publishing double issues twice/year.)

Correspondence and manuscripts may be sent to the editor at:

Sally Driscoll, Editor, Robert E. Eiche Library, Penn State Altoona, 3000 Ivyside Dr., Altoona, PA 16801
Phone: 814-949-5493/Fax: 814-949-5493/ Email: ssdriscoll@adelphia.net

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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: 4/01/05

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