

June  
2005  
Issue  
150/151

# SRRT Newsletter

Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association

## Rent a bike in Chicago!

Get some exercise! See the city from a new perspective! Beat the shuttle buses and pedal to the meetings listed below. Details on p.19.



### SRRT Programs at Annual 2005

#### All Task Force Meeting

Saturday, June 25, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

#### Introduction to Women's Issues (FTF)

Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

#### The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday Multicultural Idea Exchange

Saturday, June 25, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Destabilization, Disinformation, and Librarians: from Chile, to Cuba, to Venezuela** (IFTF and PLG) Saturday, June 25, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**FTF Amelia Bloomer Project - One Book At A Time: Feminism and Children's Literature Breakfast** \$ Sunday, June 26, 7:00 -9:00 a.m.

#### Ray Patterson Award Program: Copyright Misinformation

ALA – OITP/Co-Sponsor: SRRT

Sunday, June 26, 9:30-10:30 a.m .

#### The Googlization of Everything: What do we have to lose?

Sunday, June 26, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m .

#### EPA Library Open House

Monday, June 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

#### Get the Lead (Information) Out!

Monday, June 27, 1:30 -3:30 p.m.

#### SRRT Membership Meeting

Monday, June 27, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

#### SRRT Action Council II

Monday, June 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Task Force On the Environment

Membership Meeting

Monday, June 27, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

#### Free Speech Buffet AIP

Monday, June 27, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

### MORE MEETING INFO INSIDE

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## We Need People for Task Forces!



When you first join SRRT or anytime thereafter, you have the option of selecting one or more task forces to join. Belonging to a task force is the best way to become actively involved in SRRT. Throughout this newsletter you will find information about each task force and the exciting programs they will be presenting at Annual. Most of the task forces are in need of new members or new leaders: people with vision, ideas, and energy. Feel free to email the coordinator, or if you attend ALA conferences, introduce yourself at one of the meetings or programs and get involved! Read the mission statements, history, and more on the Web sites.

### SRRT Task Forces and Contact Information

#### **Alternatives in Publication (AIP)**

<<http://www.libr.org/AIP/>>

Rory Litwin (rlitwin@earthlink.net)

#### **Task Force on the Environment (TFOE)**

<<http://www.ala.org/ala/srrt/tfoe/taskforceenvironment.htm>>

Fred Stoss (fstoss@buffalo.edu) and Jonathan Betz-Zall (JBetzZall@cityu.edu)

#### **Hunger, Homeless, and Poverty (HHPTF)**

<<http://www.hhptf.org/>>

John Gehner (Jgehner@hhptf.org)

#### **Feminist (FTF)**

<<http://libr.org/FTF/>>

Jennifer Baltes (jenny\_baltes@hotmail.com)

Sarah Dentan, Coordinator-Elect (sarahdentan@gurmail.com)

#### **International Responsibilities (IRTF)**

<<http://www.pitt.edu/~ttwiss/irtf/>>

Tom Twiss (ttwiss@pitt.edu)

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (MLK)**

<<http://libr.org/MLK/>>

Virginia Moore (Ginny.Moore@pgcmls.info)

#### **Information Policy in the Public Interest (IPPI)**

<<http://libr.org/IPPI/>>

Sam Trosow (strosow@uwo.ca) and Mark Rosenzweig (iskra@earthlink.net)

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Correction to the December 2004 *SRRT Newsletter*, which stated in the "Highlights of SRRT Meetings at ALA Annual 2004," that the Resolution on Workplace Speech draft had been "revised (and much more moderate)", and would "amend the policy manual." Sandy Berman pointed out that the 2004 Workplace Speech Resolution draft is identical to the 1999 original (which already amended the ALA policy manual) except for the amendment to Policy 54 (Library Personnel Practices) that states, "Libraries should permit and encourage the full and free expression of views by staff on professional and policy matters." Thanks for taking the time to comment, Sandy.

## Highlights from Action Council I, 2005 Midwinter Meeting

Boston, Massachusetts, January 15, 2005

**In attendance:** Rory Litwin, Mark Rosenzweig, Carol Gulyas, Ann Sparanese, Sally Driscoll, Mary Sue Brown, Dana Lubow, Al Kagan, Gary Colmanar, Elaine Harger, Ginny Moore, Mary Biblo, Tom Twiss, Melissa Riley, Diedre Conkling, Theresa A. Tobin, Jonathan Betz-Zall, Mark Hudson, Sam Trosow, Susan Dillinger, Tiffani Conner, Fred Stoss, Ramona Islam, Elizabeth Richardson, Mary McCord

Approval of minutes from AC I and II at Annual in Orlando.

### Remembering Noel Peattie:

Al Kagan, Elaine Harger, Rory Litwin, Jonathan Betz-Zall, and others spoke about the life of their colleague and friend who passed away in January, and then there was a moment of silence. A sympathy card was passed around for signatures, and one for David Cohen whose wife passed away.

### Treasurer's Report

According to the budget worksheet that Carol passed out, the net assets at the beginning of the year were \$55,544. SRRT took in \$12,000 in dues and made \$16,500 in miscellaneous revenue. Net assets at the end of the year were \$63,373. Discussion focused on the net assets at the end of the year and why this figure was more than expected. Al suggested that the Coretta Scott King expenses may make the difference and then determined to deal with budget issues at AC II.

Tom Twiss requested funding of \$1,000 to cover airfare, etc. for an IRTF program for the summer featuring Clara Budnik from Chile who was a librarian under Pinochet, and moved to approve the necessary additional \$500 appropriation to his committee. Dana Lubow seconded. Elaine suggested that support from PLG was possible if additional funds were necessary and thought this would be a good opportunity to partner a program. AC voted to approve a budget item for Budnik's program. The motion carried.

Sam Trosow mentioned that the Information Policy in the Public Interest Task Force (IPPI) wants to offer a program at Chicago, with Siva Vaidhyanathan from NYU as guest speaker. Discussion centered on whether or not a provisional task force could obtain the money and whether the speaker was appropriate. Carol moved to appropriate \$1,000 for the program should IPPI procure space on the agenda. Mark Hudson seconded. Eight were in favor; motion carried.

### Department of Peace Resolution

Tom Twiss presented this resolution for Kathleen de la Peña McCook. Susan Dillinger offered to support the resolution in Kathleen's absence. Jonathan moved to adopt the resolution and to endorse it and bring it to Council. If it passes SRRT then Al Kagan will bring it to Council. Ann seconded. Discussion centered on whether or not a potential Department of Peace would ever amount to much, and it was agreed to table the item until Annual when Kathleen could be present.

### Bringing America Home Act Resolution

Al introduced the Act by referencing a letter from Sandy Berman of December 6, 2004 which described the BAMA as a comprehensive program designed to alleviate poverty, provide a living wage, health care, etc. Al moved that SRRT pass the resolution. Mark seconded. Discussion concerned the organization's position as sponsor or organizer, whether libraries are specifically mentioned, confusion over the name of the Act, the need to bring related legislation to meetings, that resolutions be something more than a mere gesture by providing more time for Council to study the resolution, and that issues would have more success if they go to the Committee on Legislation (COL) first. Al suggested that SRRT pass the resolution removing ALA and inserting SRRT in the fourth

paragraph and then forwarding this to COL. A motion was made to pass the resolution. Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

### **IFRT Resolutions**

Draft resolutions on radio frequency IDs and national standardized IDs were sent to the SRRT listserv. There was little disagreement about the need for SRRT to endorse issues related to civil liberties and privacy, and that SRRT should oppose the national ID card. Elaine agreed with Ginny and Sam that SRRT support the concepts and principles behind the RFID resolution, but then tabled the resolution until Annual for additional rewording.

### **Resolutions on the Iraq War**

Rory and Ann suggested that with extra time, SRRT can craft a more meaningful effort, build a groundswell in ALA that opposes the war in Iraq. After the Iraqi elections SRRT could circulate a petition, write articles, send messages to council members, and start a grassroots effort.

### **United Talmud Torah School**

Marie Jones received an acknowledgement letter from the school. Elaine had not heard that the school responded.

### **SRRT Committee Service**

Fred encouraged SRRT members to consider annual meeting transitions and their ability to serve beyond SRRT and to work with other ALA units. He asked that we heed calls for help and discussed the difficulties of filling committee slots.

### **Discussion of ALA Strategic Planning Process**

There was not enough time for in-depth discussion of the strategic plan document, *ALA Ahead to 2010*, but comments included whether or not task forces should be responsible for many of the comments rather than SRRT, whether editing the document or changing the organization was more important, that the document contains strong statements about social responsibilities, and other items. More time would be provided at AC II. Meeting adjourned.

Thanks to **Rebecca Tolley-Stokes** for providing the meeting minutes.



### **Reminder to Sign Petition**

If you haven't already, please sign the "Draft Resolution/Petition on Connection between the Iraq War and Libraries." <<http://libr.org/irtf/resolutions/iraqpetition.html>>

The draft resolution calls for "the immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Iraq of all U.S. military forces, and the return of full sovereignty to the people of Iraq;" and for the US to "provide material assistance through the United Nations for the reconstruction of Iraq, including its museums, libraries, schools, and other cultural resources."

This resolution will be placed before ALA Council in June.

—Tom Twiss, Chair, IRTF

## Highlights from Action Council II, 2005 Midwinter Meeting

Boston, MA, January 17, 2005

**In attendance:** Terry Epperson, Carol Gulyas, Sam Trosow, Cynthia Whitacre, Diedre Conkling, Aryana Bates, Peter McDonald, Mark Rosenzweig, Elaine Harger, Spring Raulerson, Mark Hudson, Al Kagan, Sally Driscoll, Fred Stoss, Tom Twiss, Rory Litwin, Theresa Tobin, Dana Lubow, Ginny Moore, Rhonda Neugebauer

**Announcements:** The Progressive Librarian's Guild will be presenting the Miriam Braverman Memorial Award for library/information science students who write an essay concerning social responsibilities and libraries.

### Strategic Planning Document

Discussion first involved the need to put social responsibilities issues up front, in the values section, and specific wording options such as, "Public good, public interest, or social responsibilities," or "Social Responsibility and the Public Good" were considered.

It was pointed out that the feedback form does not have a section for changing the values statement; perhaps the statement should go elsewhere. Others indicated that the values statements in the strategic plan were written before Social Responsibilities were added to the core values of ALA and perhaps it is time for ALA to revisit the values section of the strategic plan and change it to reflect those core values.

Additional discussion took place, indicating that we don't have to limit "Social Responsibility and the Public Good" to one section of the form, but that it can go in both the values and the organizational sections. That idea was taken as a friendly amendment to the motion.

Elaine Harger suggested a specific mechanism for providing feedback to put this information in both the organization section and the values section: placing it in the feedback form under both the section specifically labeled "organization" and at the end of the form under "other" to give feedback on the comments section. The motion carried unanimously.

### Response to threat of Library Closures:

Mark Rosenzweig reported on Council's response to the Salinas resolution, indicating that he did not think it had strong support and that many spoke against it.

Carol Gulyas offered a draft "Endangered Libraries List" resolution, with the idea that this list would be similar to an "endangered species" list, providing a PR vehicle for action on library closures. The final clause of the resolution reads:

"Therefore be it resolved that the American Library Association establish an 'Endangered Libraries List' which will capture and centralize in readily accessible format, information on libraries whose funding is endangered and encourage the dissemination of this list as an organizing tool."

Discussion was generally positive and that Carol Gulyas would work with others to prepare it to be presented to Council at Annual.

### ALA Presidential Candidates:

Christine Lind Hage and Leslie Burger addressed the group, followed by questions from the floor.

Afterwards, E. Harger moved that SRRT support neither of the candidates for office.

M. Rosenzweig seconded. Mark Hudson spoke against the motion, indicating that there might be good reason

to support Burger, who represents SRRT values in many ways, if not in all.  
Vote: 6 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstention

### **Budget**

M. Jones moves that we pass the budget as discussed. (Total \$5,000: \$500 per task force with \$2,000 for FTF's 2006 programs.) M. Hudson seconds.

F. Stoss asked if this includes anything extra for a postcard insert in the newsletter, which would cost around \$400 and be used to gather information from SRRT members about task force interests and bring in new leadership and energy, but it was voted down and suggested that something get printed in the newsletter instead.

### **Resolution Against Disinformation Campaigns**

E. Harger presented the resolution, referring to the Friends of Cuban Libraries as an example of such a disinformation effort. She had given drafts of the resolution to those involved in the Intellectual Freedom committee. She sought SRRT's endorsement so that she could take it to ALA council. D. Conkling suggested it be taken to GODORT and other International Relations committees (ARRL, ALTA, ALCTS). The resolution, containing the following resolved clauses, was moved by Elaine Harger and seconded by Tom Twiss, co-chairs of the International Responsibilities Task Force:

“Resolved that SRRT encourages its members to help raise public consciousness of the many ways in which disinformation campaigns are used to manipulate public opinion in all spheres of life;

Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) denounces the use of librarianship as a cover for disinformation campaigns; and be it further

Resolved that the SRRT calls on the American Library Association, all its members and affiliates to join in efforts to inform the public about the widespread use of disinformation campaigns within our society.”

The motion carried unanimously.

### **SRRT Councilor's Report**

Included in Al Kagan's report, was a comment that ALA may increase the percentage of the endowment dedicated to socially responsible investing, due to the positive return of 14% on the original 1% investment.

### **SRRT Brochure Re-design**

Carol presented a draft brochure that she, Theresa, Rory and Fred worked on and which will be given to OLOS Public Relations for actual design work. There is no charge for the work. Discussion concerned a few issues that had been included and some excluded, but a motion to accept the document in principle carried.

### **Committee on Cataloging**

Cynthia Whitacre reported on process to create AACR3 by the Committee on Cataloging Description and Access. This is a major reorganization since AACR2, focused only on descriptive cataloging (not subject analysis). Al Kagan suggested that Sandy Berman be asked to look at the report.

### **Freedom to Read Foundation**

Terry Epperson reported as liaison to the Freedom to Read Foundation.

The president of FTRF (Gordon Conable) recently died; John W. Berry is to take over for the rest of his term (through June 2005). Generally, the news is good. Many cases are being overturned as unconstitutional, and we've received good things elsewhere. Cases discussed include:

- Ashcroft v. ACLU: Supreme Court upheld the injunction barring enforcement of the Children's Online Protection Act. The case now returns to the District Court to determine whether COPA is the least restrictive means of achieving the government's goal of protecting children from sexually explicit materials.
- John Doe and ACLU v. Ashcroft, et al: Southern District of NY ruled that provisions of the PATRIOT Act which permit the FBI to compel production of information without judicial review is unconstitutional. The government will appeal.
- Muslim Community Association v. Ashcroft: Challenges PATRIOT Act section 215. The government filed a motion to dismiss on the grounds that plaintiffs do not have standing to challenge the law. The court heard oral argument; a decision is pending.
- Video Software Dealers, et al v. Maleng: Challenge a Washington State law barring the sale or rental to minors of video games depicting violence against law enforcement officers. District Court entered summary judgment in favor of the plaintiffs, overturning the provision as an unconstitutional restriction on speech. The state has not appealed.
- ACLU v. Department of Justice: FTRF and ACLU filed a FOIA request for information concerning use of Section 215 of PATRIOT Act following Ashcroft's claim that the FBI had never used the section. After the FOIA request was refused, the plaintiffs filed a lawsuit to force the FBI to process the request. The District Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and in June 2004 the FBI began to release records and documents concerning the FBI's use of Section 215.

Note that the Sunset provisions of Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act (that is, those provisions that require that these sections of the law must be re-affirmed or they expire) are coming soon. This will be a major arena of effort for the FTRF this spring. We have the advantage on this one because we only have to block passage.

#### **Additional items (Meeting extended)**

F. Stoss reports that OLOS would like to create a spreadsheet to keep track of all of their programs at annual meetings. His agenda item "Membership Communication Program" was taken care of under "Budget" above.

R. Neugebauer discusses the formation of a new group called the Emergency Coalition to Defend Educational Travel (ECDDET) that is supported by the Latin American Studies Association's Cuba Section. ECDDET is an organization including members from accredited colleges and universities and academic associations (including AAUP). They are moving toward a court challenge to Cuba travel restrictions based on rights of academic freedom. This organization is supported by a number of groups, and would like SRRT's support also.

E.Harger moved that we support in principle the ECDDET. D. Lubow seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Thanks to **Rebecca Tolley-Stokes** for providing the meeting minutes.



### **Editorial Director of *The Nation* will speak in Chicago**

Victor Navasky, publisher and editorial director of *The Nation*, will give a talk and sign his yet-to-be-published book on Sunday, June 26, at 8 p.m. We will publish the location on the SRRT lists when it is confirmed. Victor's talk is titled "The Case Against Fairness, Balance and Objectivity." Mr. Navasky has been editor of *The Nation* since 1978, and became its publisher and editorial director in January 1995.

## In Loving Memory of Noel Peattie 1932-2005

A Memorial Resolution moved by Elaine Harger, seconded by Norman Horrocks, Al Kagan, Jenna Freedman, and Robert Franklin, ALA, January 2005

WHEREAS we remember the librarian, the advocate of social responsibilities, the author:

*A Cup of Sky, co-authored with his father,, Donald Culross Peattie (1898-1964). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1950.*  
*Sipapu, 1969-1993, 14 linear ft., UC Davis Library,*  
*A Passage for Dissent: the best of "Sipapu" 1970-1988, Jefferson NC: McFarland & Co, 1989.*  
*The Freedom to Lie: a debate about democracy, with John Swan, Jefferson NC: McFarland & Co, 1989.*  
*Western Skyline: new poems, Oakland: Regent Press, 1995.*  
*Amy Rose: a novel in four parts, Oakland: Regent Press, 1995.*  
*Hydra & Kraken: Or, the Lore and Lure of Lake-Monsters and Sea-Serpents, Oakland CA: Regent Press, 1996.*  
*In the Dome of Saint Laurence Meteor, Oakland: Regent Press, 1999.*  
*King Humble's Grave, Oakland: Regent Press, 2001.*  
*Sweetwater Ranch: new poems, Oakland: Regent Press, 2003.*



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And WHEREAS we remember the host who kept our wine glasses and our conversations full:

And WHEREAS we remember the man who answered the question, "What kind of society do you want, anyhow?"

"The answer I propose is: that the society I desire, and which, on a universalizing principle, I want for all, is a society which protects, promotes, and honors the inner life.

I would further suggest, is that the demands,, heard from pole to pole, for freedom, justice, security, equality, education, a safe environment, and a better life for the world's children, —are all grounded in, and reach downward to, this elemental human need: silence, solitude, and the right to rule one's own thoughts: the sanity of the inner life.

And Finally: this inner life, I contend, is an endangered species: assaulted without, and subject to disease within."

<<http://www.noelpeattie.com/InnerLife.htm>>

And WHEREAS we remember the lover of cats:

"Before we leave the library world, we recollect our long-held belief that a library, and the library profession, find their analogy in our cat. The brain of the cat directs him to go out and find a mouse: this is Administration. He perceives, by sight, sound, and smell, the mouse: this is Collection Development. He catches the mouse: this is Acquisitions. He digests the mouse: this is Cataloging and Serials. He comes in and tells us about the mouse: this is Reference. He curls up in a ball and enjoys the mouse: this is Circulation. Finally, later on, he produces, for the out-of-doors, an Annual Report, which no one wants to see. So he buries it. However, he loves, and expects, regular supplies of goodies, and adores being brushed and cuddled and told how beautiful he is. And he has no morals, no politics, and no religion." *Sipapu* v.23, no. 2, 1993, p. 12

And WHEREAS we remember the poet:

### ***The Way to Get Through Life***

*is to try! yes, how?  
to forget  
most of it.*

*Like, all the years at school,  
(but not the lifelong friends,*

*then, the weekends that were joy;  
city adventures);*

*and rather hope for, much later:*

*vast witty banquets;  
at which you'll be honored  
—poems of a lifetime!—  
under glittering chandeliers.*

*And welcome: all goings to bed:  
even those  
alone:*

*except the last,*

*except the last.*

—***The Testimony of Doves***, forthcoming

## ALA Council Report to SRRT, January 2005

By Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor

The January meetings of the ALA Council were calmer than usual. It was amazing that both the second and third meetings ended early. I guess SRRT gave them a bit of a rest. Two SRRT items were raised at the Information Session. I asked about the state of socially responsible investment in the context of the Endowment Trustees report. I would say that we have our toe in the door if not our foot. ALA has now invested 1% of its endowment in a socially responsible fund and has made nearly 15% on it. This was an experiment, and they say that they will do more in the coming year. A Partnership Guidelines document was distributed, and there will soon be a call for comments leading to adopting a revised policy at the annual meeting in Chicago.

I put Sandy Berman's Resolution on Workplace Speech on the agenda, but the discussion was quite discouraging. It appears that many of the administrators on the Council are afraid that passing such a resolution will come back to affect them personally. In any case, the resolution was referred for legal advice and will be revisited in Chicago. Sandy also asked me to submit a resolution supporting the Bringing America Home Act, which addresses homelessness and many other poverty issues. A SRRT member on the Committee on Legislation suggested that since COL was already considering the bill, we ought to lobby for it there and perhaps bring it to the floor in Chicago. So we will see what develops. We also adopted a memorial tribute to long-time SRRT activist Noel Peattie who died unexpectedly just before the meeting. Noel was an inspiration to me when I first got involved in ALA, and to many others in those times. His death was a shocking loss. Thanks to Elaine Harger for composing the creative and literary tribute.

The forthcoming closing of all of Salinas, California's libraries was the hottest issue on the Council floor. The original resolution was debated for a long time, tabled for revision, and finally passed. It seems obvious that ALA should support local libraries but some councilors were worried that ALA would commit too many resources to the effort or that it would impede closing of branches elsewhere. The resolution is vague but gives a free hand to the ALA President and Executive Board to act as they see fit. There was also a long debate on a resolution to add libraries to the funding formulas for the No Child Left Behind Act. Although many or most councilors understand the terrible defects in the Act, it was felt that revisions are coming and that ALA must get its voice heard in this area.

A resolution endorsing comprehensive health care for all American passed unanimously. Other legislative resolutions were approved supporting the continued distribution of printed government documents, access to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency publications, and support for fair protocols for copyright of digital materials and software ("Stop Before You Click" campaign). The International Relations Committee's resolution to aid libraries hurt by the tsunami in South Asia committed ALA to coordinate work with other international organizations. Finally, the Intellectual Freedom Committee's resolution on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology adopted RFID privacy principles.

I would be pleased to try to answer questions about any of these matters.

Al Kagan  
African Studies Bibliographer and Professor of Library Administration , University of Illinois Library  
akagan@uiuc.edu

## Progressive Librarians Guild News

March 15, 2005 Press Release

### Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize Winner Announced

The Progressive Librarians Guild is pleased to announce the winner of the 2005 Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize. Jennifer Downey has been awarded the prize for her essay entitled "Public Library Collection Development Issues Regarding the Information Needs of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Patrons." Ms. Downey is currently enrolled as a graduate student in San Jose State University's School of Library and Information Science.

The Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize is awarded annually for the best essay written by a student of library/information science on an aspect of the social responsibilities of librarians, libraries or librarianship. The prize is named in honor of Miriam Braverman (1920-2002), an activist librarian who was a longstanding member of the Progressive Librarians Guild and a founder of the American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table. She was a strong proponent of the social responsibilities perspective within librarianship and an inspiration to younger librarians entering the field.

Ms. Downey's essay was one of many submitted by library and information science students from colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Their papers considered such subjects as the impact of the USA PATRIOT Act on libraries, open access publishing, the "digital divide" in information access, and numerous other topics. Ms. Downey's essay will be published in a future issue of *Progressive Librarian*, the journal published by the Progressive Librarians Guild. She will also receive a \$300 stipend for attendance at the 2005 American Library Association's annual meeting in Chicago, and an award certificate at the PLG annual dinner. The Progressive Librarians Guild (PLG) was founded in 1990 and is committed to supporting activist librarians and monitoring the professional ethics of librarianship from a perspective of social responsibility. For more information, visit the Guild's website at <<http://libr.org/PLG/>>

Dr. Alison M. Lewis

Chair, Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize Committee, Progressive Librarians Guild

### Progressive Librarians Guild Meeting in Chicago

Sunday, June 26, 5:30—7:00 p.m.

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## Radical Reference

Keep checking <http://www.radicalreference.info/ALA> for the scoop on Radical Reference events at the Annual Conference in Chicago.

Possibilities include:

- \* A librarian bloc in Critical Mass on Friday evening
- \* A librarian zinester zine reading Saturday or Sunday night, maybe at Quimby's
- \* <<http://www.quimbys.com/>>
- \* Radical Reference Skill Shares at the Counterpoise booth in the Exhibit Hall
- \* Radical Reference meeting Saturday or Sunday night

For more information, contact [info@radicalreference.info](mailto:info@radicalreference.info)

—Jenna Freedman

## News about our Members

**Ann Sparanese**, SRRT Action Council Member, was the guest speaker for the October 2004, Pratt Institute's School of Information and Library Studies annual Nasser Sharify Lecture. Her speech was titled "Beyond Censorship: Librarians Confront the National Security State."

**Mark Rosenzweig** has joined the Board of Directors of the "Provisions Library" in Washington DC. See their web site at <<http://www.provisionslibrary.org>> for a description of this new and very ambitious project.

**Steve Fesenmaier** provided research for the 3-part PBS series, "The Appalachians" which aired in March 2005 and the related book published by Random House in June 2004.

**Steve Fesenmaier's** West Virginia office, located on the 4th floor of the State Cultural Center in Charleston, provided the setting for a scene shot in First Run/Icarus Films' "Litigating Disaster," about the Bhopal disaster. The scene depicts the Union Carbide safety director of the Bhopal plant's sister plant, located in Institute, West Virginia, looking at footage taken of the manual controls—as compared to computer controls in the US—and commenting on the difference, despite Union Carbides' statement that the plants were identical.

**Mark Hudson** began a new position in February as Adult Services Librarian at the Monroeville Public Library, located near Pittsburgh, PA.

### SRRTers Attend Venezuelan Conference



Ann Sparanese (SRRT), Mark Rosenzweig (SRRT), Eliades Acosta Matos (Jose Marti National Library, Cuba), Rhonda Neugebauer (SRRT), John Pateman (Information for Social Change, UK) in Venezuela, Caracas, conference, 'Intellectuals and Artists in Defense of Humanity'. Photo submitted by Mark Rosenzweig.

## 2005 Amelia Bloomer Project Introduction

"Alone a woman's voice was a whisper. Together...their voices thundered." (Catherine Gourley, *Society's Sisters*, p. 10)

The struggle for women's rights in the United States has been a history of strong, heroic, fascinating women and men working to change the prevailing trends of society. Publishing, as an industry, has both followed society's restrictive trends and broken new ground in the movement toward freedom for all.

Today, in an increasingly conservative U.S. political climate, quality books exhibiting feminist viewpoints and ideals--especially books for children and young adults--are becoming difficult to find. The Amelia Bloomer Project of the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association examined literally hundreds of titles for readers from birth to age 18 before it selected 30 titles published between July 2003 and December 2004 for the fourth annual Amelia Bloomer list.

The criteria used by the Amelia Bloomer Project in selecting books for the list include:

- Significant feminist content
- Excellence in writing
- Appealing format
- Age appropriateness for young readers

Through the course of the Amelia Bloomer Project, several key markers helped the group determine what is feminist and what is considered appropriate for the list. Among these are the following questions:

- Would the story change if the protagonist were male instead of female?
- Does the material show an awareness of gender-based inequalities with action to change these?
- Do females blaze new trails for themselves and those who follow them?
- Do females use power for purposeful action and empowering others?
- Is the character true to herself?
- Do girls and women take on nontraditional roles?

The books selected for the 2005 Amelia Bloomer List show the fight for the freedom of self, of body, of mind, and of spirit that embody feminist principles. The Amelia Bloomer Project applauds authors, illustrators, editors, and publishers who exemplify the courage to challenge today's society by publishing quality feminist literature for tomorrow's adults.

2005 Amelia Bloomer Project members: Jenny Baltes (WI), Chair; Marilyn Ackerman, Brooklyn Public Library (NY); Jane Cothron, Lincoln County Library District (OR); Christie Gibrich, Dallas Public Library (TX); Helma Hawkins, Kansas City Public Library (MO); Brenda Kilmer, Felix Varela Senior High School (FL); Gay Ann Loesch, Sun Valley Middle School (NC); Nel Ward (OR); and Ilene Cooper, *Booklist*, consultant.

### 2005 AMELIA BLOOMER PROJECT

#### Picture Book

##### Fiction

**Funke, Cornelia.** *The Princess Knight*. Illus. by Kerstin Meyer. 2004. unp. Scholastic/Chicken House, \$15.95 (0-439-53630-8). Gr. K-3. The young princess Violetta proves strength is not measured by size alone.

**Geeslin, Campbell.** *Elena's Serenade*. Illus. by Ana Juan. 2004. unp. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, \$16.95 (0-689-84908-7). PreS-Gr. 2. Following her dream of being a glassblower, a young Mexican girl learns this magical skill on an enchanted journey to Monterey.

**Nonfiction**

**Moss, Marissa.** *Mighty Jackie: The Strikeout Queen.* Illus. by C.F. Payne. 2004. unpaginated. Simon and Schuster, \$16.95 (0-689-86329-2). Gr. K-3 Jackie Mitchell, an 18-year-old baseball pitcher, plays against the legendary heroes Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig—with surprising results.

**Intermediate****Fiction**

**Collins, Pat Lowery.** *The Fattening Hut.* 2003. 186p. Houghton Mifflin, \$15.00 (0-618-30955-1). Gr. 9-12  
When Helen finds out the secret that her tribe's fattening hut contains, she runs away from all she knows for a chance to be free.

**Constable, Kate.** *The Singer of All Songs.* 2004. 297p. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, \$16.95 (0-439-55478-0). Gr. 7-10  
Calwyn, a young priestess of ice "chantment," leaves the safety of Antaris to help save her homeworld from a sorcerer who would claim all the magic for himself.

**Frederick, Heather Vogel.** *The Education of Patience Goodspeed.* 2004. 314p. Simon & Schuster, \$15.95 (0-689-86411-6). Gr. 5-9.  
In 1836, the impatient 14-year-old heroine saves her father's ship and its crew before being confined to a boarding school run by the narrow-minded Reverend Wiggins.

**Jocelyn, Marthe.** *Mable Riley: A Reliable Record of Humdrum Peril and Romance.* 2004. 288p. Candlewick Press, \$15.99 (0-7636-2120-X). Gr. 5-9.  
Mable dreams of being a writer and having adventures, while secretly befriendng a neighbor who holds scandalous opinions about women's rights.

**Pratchett, Terry.** *A Hat Full of Sky.* 2003. 278p. HarperCollins, \$16.99 (0-06-058660-5). Gr. 5-9.  
When young Tiffany Aching's magical talent attracts the deadly attention of a disembodied hiver seeking her soul, not even the combined strengths of the witches and brawling tribe of Wee Free Men may be able to save her soul and her sanity.

**Ryan, Pam Munoz.** *Becoming Naomi Leon.* 2004. 246p. Scholastic, \$16.95 (0-439-26969-5). Gr. 5-9.  
Abandoned by her mother, a shy young girl finds her will and her voice through the search for her father and the help of her loving grandmother.

**Stolz, Joelle.** *The Shadows of Ghadames.* Trans. by Catherine Temerson. 2004. 118p. Delacorte Press, \$15.95. (0-385-73104-3). Gr. 5-9.  
When Malika helps care for an injured man hidden in her home in nineteenth-century Libya, the 11-year-old never dreams that this man, so opposed to women's rights, may satisfy her yearning to read.

**Weil, Sylvie.** *My Guardian Angel.* 2004. 202p. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, \$16.95 (0-439-57681-4). Gr. 5-9.  
Preferring reading and writing to women's traditional work, Elvina, 12-year-old granddaughter of a renowned rabbi, risks her Jewish community when she gives refuge to a young Christian Crusader in 1096 Troyes, France.

**Whelan, Gloria.** *Chu Ju's House.* 2004. 231p. HarperCollins, \$15.99, (0-06-050724-1). Gr. 5-9.  
To protect her baby sister from being sent away as the second girl born to her parents, 14-year-old Chu Ju leaves home to survive on her own in a rural modern-day China.

**Nonfiction**

**Ball, Heather.** *Great Women Leaders.* 2004. 100p. Second Story Press, \$7.95 (1-896764-81-9). Gr. 5-9.  
Be inspired! Ten courageous women from all corners of the world use their intelligence, abilities, and strength to accomplish great things.

**Bausum, Ann.** *With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote.* 2004. 111p. National Geographic, \$21.95 (0-7922-7647-7). Gr. 5-9.  
Violence and persecution followed the women suffragists as shown through the events of the nineteenth century and the fight led by Alice Paul in the early twentieth century.

**Gourley, Catherine.** *Society's Sisters: Stories of Women Who Fought for Social Justice in America.* 2003. 96p. Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, \$26.60 (0-76132-865-3). Gr. 6-9.  
Women from many walks of life and many fields of work agitate for women's and children's issues, changing their roles in society through collective strength.

**Homan, Lynn M. and Thomas Reilly.** *Women Who Fly.* Illus. by Rosalie M. Shepherd. 2004. 103p. Pelican Publishing Company, \$14.95 (1-58980-160-1). Gr. 3-7.  
The authors' love of flying shines in these narratives of women aviation pioneers who were determined to fly.

**Krull, Kathleen.** *A Woman for President: The Story of Victoria Woodhull.* 2004. unpaginated. Walker & Company, \$16.95 (0-8027-8908-0). Gr. 3-7. A girl from poverty and abuse rises to stockbroker and newspaper owner on her way to running for president in 1872, campaigning for women's suffrage and equality.

**Marcovitz, Hal.** Nancy Pelosi. 2004. 120p. Chelsea House, \$22.95 (0-7910-7737-3). Gr. 5-9.

In 2002 Nancy Pelosi did what no woman had done before: she took leadership of the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Stearman, Kaye.** Feminism. 2004. 64p. Raintree, \$22.95 (0-73986-415-7). Gr. 3-7.

This beginning portrayal of the many faces of feminism shows its influence, past and present, around the world.

**Thimmesch, Catherine.** Madam President: the Extraordinary, True (and Evolving) Story of Women in Politics. Illus. Douglas B. Jones. 2004. 80p. Houghton Mifflin, \$17.95 (0-618-39666-7). Gr. 3-7.

When she declares her intention to become President, a girl is shown vignettes of the vital leadership roles of women world-wide in politics, paving the way for aspiring young women leaders.

### Young Adult

#### Fiction

**Aidinoff, Elsie V.** The Garden. 2004. 403p. HarperTempest, \$16.99 (0-06-055605-6). Gr. 9-12

In the beginning, God created the wise, beautiful, and just serpent to train the newly-created Eve in the ways of the world. He knew not what he did.

**Mackler, Carolyn.** The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Things. 2003. 246p. Candlewick Press, \$15.95 (0-7636-1958-2). Gr. 7-10.

Feeling like an alien within her thin, brilliant, and gorgeous family, 15-year-old Virginia deals with her self-image, her first boyfriend, and her disillusionment with some of the people closest to her.

**Winspear, Jacqueline.** Birds of a Feather. 2004. 360p. Soho Press, \$25.00 (1-56947-368-4). Gr. 9-12.

The search for a runaway heiress leads private investigator Maisie Dobbs to a series of murders stemming from activities during World War I.

#### Nonfiction

**Arnesen, Liv & Ann Bancroft, with Cheryl Dahle.** No Horizon is So Far: Two Women and Their Extraordinary Journey Across Antarctica. Illus. 2003. 253p. Da Capo Press, \$26.00 (0-7382-0794-2). Gr. 7-12.

Two women adventurers combine their skills and talents to achieve their lifelong dream of crossing the Antarctic under their own powers.

**Barnet, Andrea.** All-Night Party: the Women of Bohemian Greenwich Village and Harlem, 1913-1930. 2004. Algonquin, \$16.95 (1-56512-381-6). Gr. 9-12.

Twenty-two artists show the true feminist spirit in daring to celebrate their inner selves through demanding the same freedom as men.

**Brackett, Virginia.** Restless Genius: The Story of Virginia Woolf. 2004. 144p. Morgan Reynolds, \$21.95 (1-931798-37-0). Gr. 7-10.

This leading feminist of the early 1900s authored groundbreaking novels, essays, and short stories.

**Carson, Mina, Tisa Lewis, Susan M. Shaw.** Girls Rock! : Fifty Years of Women Making Music. Illus. 2004. 235p. The University Press of Kentucky, \$29.95 (0-8131-2310-0). Gr. 9-12.

With grit, determination, and passion, female rock 'n rollers are taking an increasingly visible and feminist stand, changing a male-dominated music industry and inspiring audiences, other musicians, and fans from all over the world.

**Dublin, Anne.** Bobbie Rosenfeld: the Olympian Who Could do Everything. 2004. 148p. Second Story Press, \$14.95 (1-896764-82-7). Gr. 7-12

This unconventional outstanding Canadian Olympian and sports journalist excelled in a multitude of sports in the early 1900s to the disbelief of males and the amazement of many before encouraging other women to enter sports once dominated by men.

**Roy, Carole.** The Raging Grannies: Wild Hats, Cheeky Songs, and Witty Actions for a Better World. Illus. bibliography, index. 2004. 227p. Black Rose Books, \$24.99 (1-55164-240-9). Gr. 9-12.

This courageous group of older "invisible" women use unorthodox means—antics, songs, costumes, and other expressions of protest—to challenge Canada's political landscape.

**Souad.** Burned Alive: a Victim of the Law of Men. 2004. 225p. Warner Books, \$24.00 (0-446-53346-7). Gr. 10-12.

In this first true account by a victim of an attempted "honor killing," Souad shares the story of her crime, her sentence and horrible punishment, and her survival.

Submitted by

Jennifer Baltés

Facilitator, Amelia Bloomer Project

## INTERVIEW with Fiona Bradley

*I caught up with Fiona Bradley, SRRT's only Aussie librarian, as she accompanied her husband on a study-tour of the U.S. in March. They stopped at many academic libraries. What did you discover?*

The immediate thing I've noticed about U.S. libraries is how many things people are doing at once—students surfing the 'net with their laptops, listening to music on their iPods, open books surrounding them. Academic libraries are really busy places.

Some U.S. libraries are very well-resourced and it's been like going to a candy shop [filled with] books and databases that I haven't been able to access in Australia. Access has varied widely: some have no access at all for visitors, and others have a one-day-per-semester pass system if you register with ID. Many libraries are tourist destinations in their own right—there are lots of libraries listed in my guide book, but when it comes to actually using the resources instead of just admiring them, it can be difficult.



Fiona at the UN in New York City.

*What have you been doing for fun and what has impressed you?*

I like to go to art galleries—I was particularly impressed by the Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Art Institute of Chicago, see bands, and just walk the streets. There is a great alternative culture here. I've been enjoying reading free alternative weeklies like the *Chicago Reader*. Chicago's my favorite city so far in the U.S. It's a magnificent city architecturally and culturally, and beautiful even in terrible weather! And it is wonderful that every library has been full of people.

*You've also traveled previously to Vancouver, Japan, Vienna, and Paris. Did you travel much with your family growing up?*

My family has certainly encouraged me to travel while I'm young. Most Australians learn a foreign language in school so there's always the desire to try out those skills on a holiday! Growing up I traveled to England three times to visit relatives (my parents are British immigrants) and to Thailand and Hong Kong. We also traveled for two weeks a year every year around my home state, Western Australia. Recently, I've also traveled closer to home, to New Zealand and New Caledonia.

*What attracted you to the library profession?*

My family instilled a strong service ethic in me, and librarianship appeals to that. My parents used to take me to the public library twice a week to get new books and I'd be there for hours, checking the card catalogue, looking up subject headings, and getting things on inter-library loan. I won my school's library service prize (for service to the library committee) so I think it was inevitable!

*Your thesis, **Information Literacy and News Libraries**, focuses on the challenge of developing instructional programs in special libraries for journalists. What are the challenges and what suggestions do you pose?*

I think the biggest challenge is the need for skills in understanding the sources of news, for journalists and readers alike. This has a major impact on the reporting of facts. Journalists often have to get source material from somewhere else. How much information about the sources should be communicated to the public? If you read a newspaper, you'll know what comes from Associated Press, but if you watch TV news, you won't know what footage has come from APTV.

So in terms of instruction, librarians in news libraries can teach diverse sources of news so that journalists don't turn to the same sources all the time; they can expand upon the issue of validating sources of information, which is an important part of information literacy; and teach them about sources of news.

*Until recently, Fiona was a librarian at the Radio Resource Centre for the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS Radio) in Sydney, Australia. She established the Music Library Special Interest Group with ALIA. Are you still involved with that?*

The group closed due to a restructure within ALIA, some members moved over to IAML, an international music library group. It was great to get experience in starting and running the group for the two years that I was involved.

*What kinds of music do you listen to?*

Pretty much anything except dance music. My favourite music is indie rock, but in the last year I've been DJ-ing a '60s French pop club. So I have fairly diverse tastes!

*I believe you're SRRT's only Aussie. What attracts you to SRRT and what task forces are you interested in?*

Access to information is the issue I'm most interested in and I think SRRT is the roundtable that addresses that best. I decided to join SRRT in 2002 because I wanted to learn more about underserved populations, sustainability, and alternative points of view in the profession. The task forces I'm interested in are IPPI and AIP.

*You presented a paper at an ALIA conference on the Information Commons. Are you working with this task force at all? Is ALIA working on this issue?*

No. I'd like to do more work on this issue and I've been following developments within ALA, IFLA and the WSIS closely. ALIA, as a whole, tends to be interested in researching social responsibilities issues. For example, ALIA published "Leftovers and Scraps" a report on resources for detainees in refugee centres last year. And the association's director is very interested in issues surrounding the information commons.

*How do librarian salaries compare with the U.S.?*

In dollar amounts, U.S. librarians tend to earn more. Cost of living makes it fairly complex to calculate though. Sydney is an extremely expensive city, whereas cities like Adelaide have cheaper housing. ALIA publishes an extensive guide to salaries in their Salary Scales guide <<http://www.alia.org.au/employment/salary.scales/>> which can be helpful for comparison. Benefits are hard to calculate since we often get more holidays, but individuals pay for health insurance, etc.

*How are Australian librarians affected by, and what are they doing to respond to, the Howard government's promotion of nationalist xenophobia and its support for the U.S. "war on terror" and occupation of Iraq?*

I'm not sure how other librarians are affected or what they are doing. It's not really an issue that's been raised on any forums here. In my library in the last two years we created a collection of materials on Islam, Iraqi history, texts on U.S. foreign and military policy, and so on.

*How has widespread racism affected librarians' day-to-day work, and have any resolutions been passed by library organizations?*

In my experience, we don't have widespread racism in Australia. The vast majority of Australians support multiculturalism. I have not encountered stark divides in Australia like that of North/South Chicago. Only a small minority shares the opinions of Pauline Hanson, etc. ALIA does not pass resolutions, but there was a "Libraries and Multiculturalism" policy that has been removed. Perhaps they felt it was no longer necessary?

*What do you think are the top challenges faced by Australian libraries?*

The cost of resources. We are very reliant on the exchange rate since we acquire so much from overseas. Also library education: like the U.S., Australia is losing schools due to closures and mergers.

*Thanks, Fiona! Read more about her U.S. tour at: <<http://blisspix.net/index.php>>*

## Task Force News

### International Responsibilities Task Force

At our ALA Midwinter meeting, the International Responsibilities Task Force planned the program we will cosponsor with the Progressive Librarians Guild at ALA Annual, "Destabilization, Disinformation, and Librarians from Chile, to Cuba, to Venezuela."

This program will be held on Saturday, June 25, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Attorney Eva Gollinger will discuss U.S. attempts to remove Venezuela's President Chavez from power; SRRT member Ann Sparanese will talk about U.S. destabilization and disinformation campaigns and how librarians can respond; and SRRT member Al Kagan will show a Power-Point presentation on libraries under Pinochet by Chilean librarian, Clara Budnik.

We also discussed the "Resolution on the Connection between the Iraq War and Libraries" and agreed to recommend that SRRT Action Council resubmit this resolution to ALA Council this summer. Currently, the petition/resolution can be found at <http://libr.org/irtf/resolutions/iraqpetition.html>.

Finally, we reaffirmed plans to move the IRTF website to <http://libr.org>; and we discussed plans to add additional "Alternative Resources" pages to the site in the near future.

Tom Twiss  
IRTF Chair

### Feminist Task Force

#### Meetings at Annual in Chicago:

Feminist Task Force Meeting  
Saturday, June 25, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Feminist Task Force Membership Meeting  
Sunday, June 26, 2:00 – 4:00p.m.

FTF Amelia Bloomer Project  
Sunday, June 26, 2:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
and Monday, June 27, 2:00– 5:30 p.m.

Feminist Task Force Meeting  
Monday, June 27, 8:00– 9:00 a.m.

### Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force

The Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force (HHP) invites your participation and input.

Founded in 1996 to promote and implement ALA Policy 61, "Library Services for Poor People", the HHP Task Force has been effective in raising awareness of poverty issues throughout the library field.

Among other accomplishments, the group's activities led to the publication of *Poor People and Library Services* (McFarland 1998), edited by Karen Venturella.

However, much work yet remains to be done.

- 36.55 million Americans, including 13 million children, live in households suffering from hunger due to inadequate income
- 3.5 million people, more than one-third children, are homeless
- 35.99 million people currently live below the "official" poverty line

If you believe libraries and librarians can do more to help and advocate for people in need, please lend your talents to the HHP Task Force.

*For more information, contact*

John Gehner, Coordinator  
[jgehner23@aol.com](mailto:jgehner23@aol.com)

## Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force Update

On March 21st, the Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force (HHPTF) distributed the document "Are Public Libraries Criminalizing Poor People?," a response to punitive library policies that target the most vulnerable citizens.

A copy of the document, which features a list of recommended readings, is available at HHPTF's new Web site <<http://www.hhptf.org>> (and on page 24.) This searchable site will soon feature a range of educational resources, relevant publications, links to advocacy groups, and other information.

In the coming months, HHPTF will continue to work to raise awareness of poverty and its impact on people. Our primary focus is to promote ALA Policy 61 ("Library Services for Poor People") as a guide for inclusive library services and policy making.

Our proposed activities include the following

- 1) Partnering with the Presidential Programming Committee for ALA Conference 2006 to bring poverty issues to the forefront.
- 2) Partnering with ALA groups and social justice advocates to create new educational opportunities and to connect poverty with related social justice issues.
- 3) Partnering with ALA's Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) to survey attitudes toward poor people and to measure current implementation of ALA Policy 61.
- 4) Serving as a clearinghouse for model policies, case studies, and resources that demonstrate ALA Policy 61 in action.
- 5) Creating and distributing useful resources to librarians and policy makers.
- 6) Promoting discussion of the social exclusion/inclusion research that is being done in England and its potential for American libraries. See <<http://www.socialexclusion.gov.uk/>> and <[http://www.semlac.org.uk/socialinclusion\\_report.html](http://www.semlac.org.uk/socialinclusion_report.html)>.
- 7) Promoting HHPTF's mission and message to the next generation of librarians and information professionals.

To become involved in these activities or to recommend others, to share info about your library's services to poor people, or to request more information, contact coordinator John Gehner via e-mail [jgehner@hhptf.org](mailto:jgehner@hhptf.org).

And please visit our Web site <<http://www.hhptf.org>>

## Alternatives in Publication (AIP)

AIP Free Speech Buffet will be held in Chicago on June 27, 6 - 9 p.m. at Roosevelt University, 450 South Michigan Ave. ( Across the street and a few blocks south of the Art Institute of Chicago.) Edibles—savory and sweet catered by Chicago Diner —Chicago's premier vegetarian restaurant. A chance to see the fresh and provocative materials published by the small and alternative press.

## Task Force on the Environment (TFOE)

ALA/SRRT's Task Force on the Environment (TFOE) will sponsor two events at the ALA Annual Conference: organizing a bicycle rental service for conference participants, and working with ALA management on "green conferencing". We are looking for more people to help us with these and other projects; please join us at the program or contact us by email!

Our conference events include an Open House at the EPA Region 5 Library and a major program on how librarians can help abate lead poisoning.

The Open House will be held on Monday, June 27, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the EPA Region 5 Library in downtown Chicago. Librarians will hear EPA's librarians describe sources and services for public access to EPA information resources, community right-to-know, and resources for teachers and libraries. The EPA Region 5 office is in the Metcalfe Federal Building at 77 West Jackson Blvd. in Chicago, Illinois. This is at the southeast corner of the intersection of Clark and Jackson.

The program "Get the Lead (Information) Out!" will be held on Monday,

June 27, from 1:30 -3:30 p.m. Childhood lead poisoning remains a major environmental health and an environmental justice issue. Childhood lead poisoning is also easily prevented. Timely access to information is critical to identify children at risk in urban, suburban, and rural communities and neighborhoods. Speakers from federal, state, local agencies and local lead poisoning prevention programs will describe the extent of the problem and efforts to prevent lead exposure, and what communities are and can do to prevent and stop lead poisoning.

### **Bicycle Rentals at ALA Annual**

For the first time in memory, ALA conference attendees will enjoy discounted rates on bicycle rentals to help them get around Chicago without having to burn petroleum fuel. TFOE has obtained discounted rental rates from Bike Chicago Rentals and Tours, which has three locations:

Navy Pier - 600 E. Grand Ave., 312-595-9600  
Millennium Park Bicycle Station - 239 E. Randolph Street, 888-BIKE-WAY  
North Ave. Beach - 1600 N. Lakeshore Drive, 773-327-2706

The discounted rate is \$10 per day, which includes the use of a helmet and lock. To receive the discount, just show your ALA Conference badge at the shop. To reserve your bike please call Bike Chicago at 312-595-9600 or visit <<http://www.bikechicago.com>> For legal reasons, this opportunity is offered only as information to attendees. ALA is in no way connected to the bike company or responsible for the condition or safety of the bikes. This is not an ALA-sponsored activity. [Thanks to Jenna Freedman for the original idea.]

For a map of Chicago's bike trails, see <<http://www.cityofchicago.org/Transportation/bikemap/keymap.html>>

### **Green Conferences**

TFOE is in the middle of discussions with ALA Conference Services on how ALA's conferences can observe "green" best practices. Conference Services staff have been quite cooperative in sharing information; TFOE would like to form a committee to work with them on the issue. If you would like to participate, please contact co-

chair Jonathan Betz-Zall at [jbetzzall@yahoo.com](mailto:jbetzzall@yahoo.com).

### **About TFOE**

The American Library Association's Task Force on the Environment promotes awareness of environmental issues within ALA; addresses information exchange on the world environment; and provides services, programs and publications that assist librarians with environmental issues in the workplace and in local communities. It is one of the task forces comprising the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table.

Since its formation in 1990, the Task Force has produced more than twenty programs, supported by bibliographies on the environmental issues presented, influenced the ALA to adopt recycled and chlorine-free paper policies, worked with Gale Research as consultants to a new line of environmental reference books for the Gale Environmental Library, supported the virtual National Library for the Environment <<http://www.cnle.org/nle/>>, worked on greening the ALA conferences, and endorsed the Electronic Green Journal <<http://egj.lib.uidaho.edu/index.html>>

Some of our most successful programs were: "How Green is Your Library: Environmentalists at Work" (1990), "Poverty, Development and the Environment: Information Challenges for Libraries" with David Brower, (1992), "Environmentally and Socially Responsible Business: Finding the Information to Make the Decision to Buy or Invest" (1996), "GIS as a Tool for Collaborative Spatial Decision Making (CSDM): Libraries Perspective," (1999), "Earth Day in the 21st century: Environmental Activism" with Denis Hayes, founder of the first Earth Day in 1970, (2001), "Sustaining Libraries for the Future: Energy Efficiency, Friendly Buildings, and Libraries' Sustainability" (2001), "Promoting Public Health and Community Protection: Can Libraries Help?" (2002), "Clear the Air and Water - Environmental selections for children, the public and academic libraries" (2003), and "Are You Missing Any Information? Speaking and Publishing Freely on the Environment" (2004).

For more information, please contact the co-chairs: Jonathan Betz-Zall: [jbetzzall@yahoo.com](mailto:jbetzzall@yahoo.com) and Fred Stoss: [fstoss@buffalo.edu](mailto:fstoss@buffalo.edu).

## Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force

### 6th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Sunrise Celebration

"A wonderful program!" "We heard what we needed to hear!" "They said what needed to be said."

These were a few of the comments heard from the applauding crowd. Some 300 were in attendance and they seemed to be in high, renewed spirits as they hurriedly streamed to their next scheduled events following the sixth Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Sunrise Celebration. The event was sponsored jointly by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force, Black Caucus of ALA, and World Book, Inc. with administration by the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Service (OLOS).

There were greetings from ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano, ALA Executive Director Keith Fiels, and World Book, Inc. Editor in Chief Paul Kobasa. Representatives from the Association's round tables and affiliates presented readings to honor the life, philosophy, and legacy of Dr. King.

Musical performances by Marilyn Andry and the Studio Singers of Eliot Congregational Church of Roxbury, MD added to the tribute as Marilyn Andry's beautiful voice led the audience in singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Then, the children ages 12 to 14 joined her with a very moving and touching rendition of Kirk Franklin's "Lean on Me." And the entire group led the closing song, "We Shall Overcome."

The featured tribute was made by Jean M. McGuire, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO), a voluntary desegregation program that sends minority children from Boston and Springfield to predominately white suburban schools. McGuire said that if Martin Luther King were alive, he would be opposed to the actions of the Bush Administration and against the Iraq War. Moreover, she said that librarians have a major challenge ... "to maintain in the public eye the importance of the legacy of our history, our written word, our spoken word, our hopes and dreams!"

The professional charge for libraries and library workers began with guest speaker Kathleen de la Peña McCook, professor at the

University of South Florida in Tampa, urging colleagues not to hide behind the 501(c)(3) tax status but to speak out against such issues as, "No Child Left Behind" and other issues such as poverty, hunger, and homelessness which can be seen increasingly among many library customers.

In addition, Black Caucus of ALA President-elect Andrew P. Jackson said, "the struggle for equality and freedom is not fully realized... as long as library budgets and hours are cut and threatened...library services are insufficient...there is a lack of equity in library staff salaries... various forms of discrimination still exist...our struggle must continue."

The program was introduced by Virginia B. Moore, Chair, ALA-SRRT Martin Luther King Holiday Task Force. Light refreshments were provided and there were handouts of bright holiday observance ribbons along with copies to *American Legacy: The Magazine of African American History & Culture*, Winter 2005.

Submitted by  
Virginia B. Moore

### 5th Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Multicultural Idea Exchange in Chicago

On Saturday, June 21, 2005 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., a distinguished panel comprised of librarians who have received acclaim for their 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday events, will discuss their programs. Representing public libraries, panelist Bianca Roberts, Manager of Youth Services, St. Louis County Library System, will give highlights of her system's highly recognized events. She will be joined by panelists representing academic and school libraries extending the touts of their programs to "Keep the Dream Alive." The program will include "Audience Exchange" and everyone is asked to bring at least 25 copies of each handout for the closing "Materials Exchange."

Submitted by  
Virginia B. Moore

## SRRT Resolution Against Disinformation Campaigns

Adopted by SRRT, January 15, 2005

Whereas the mission of our professional association, the American Library Association, is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all (Policy Manual 1.2); and

Whereas the ethos of professional librarianship is characterized by commitments to intellectual freedom, open access to information and accuracy of information in pursuing the goal of assisting in the development of an informed citizenry capable of functioning in a political democracy; and

Whereas ALA recognizes the contribution librarianship can make in giving support for efforts to help inform and educate the people of the United States on critical problems facing society (Policy Manual, 1.1); and

Whereas inaccurate information, falsehoods, distortions of truth and covert disinformation campaigns are anathema to the ethos of librarianship and to the functioning of a healthy democracy; and

Whereas substantial documentary evidence exists revealing the history of the U.S. to be riddled with the use of falsehoods in pursuit of political and economic power - practices which clearly constitute a "critical problem facing society" and make the development of an informed citizenry extremely difficult; and

Whereas in recent years the international library community has been subjected to one of these disinformation campaigns, one disguised as a "defense" of "independent librarians" in Cuba, but in actuality part of a larger effort to sway public opinion toward acceptance and support of a U.S. invasion of Cuba - a country which poses no threat to the U.S.; therefore be it

Resolved that SRRT encourages its members to help raise public consciousness of the many ways in which disinformation campaigns are used to manipulate public opinion in all spheres of life;

Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) denounces the use of librarianship as a cover for disinformation campaigns; and be it further

Resolved that the SRRT calls on the American Library Association, all its members and affiliates to join in efforts to inform the public about the widespread use of disinformation campaigns within our society.

Moved by Elaine Harger  
Seconded by Tom Twiss



### Cycling Along The Lakefront

Saturday, June 25, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. An official ALA tour for those who do not want to bike around the city alone. It might be "the perfect way to tour the city, exercise and get some fresh air. The group will have its own professional Bike Navigator to guide them on a trip from Navy Pier to Lincoln Park. This ride includes it all - nature, adventure, history, and beauty." The \$57 fee includes map, water bottle, bike, and biking equipment

## **Resolution on Endorsement of “Bringing America Home Act”**

Introduced by Sandy Berman, Adopted by SRRT, January 15, 2005

WHEREAS poverty, and its attendant hunger, homelessness, illness, and despair, affect millions of Americans and

WHEREAS the National Coalition for the Homeless has crafted with members of Congress a comprehensive and feasible plan—the Bringing America Home Act—to significantly alleviate the extent and impact of poverty in America, specifically addressing issues of affordable housing, living wages, health care, emergency and transitional services, education, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association is explicitly committed to promoting “programs likely to reduce, if not eliminate, poverty itself” (Policy 61.1);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association endorses the Bringing America Home ACT (H.R. 2897) and urges all library boards and state library associations to do likewise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this endorsement be transmitted to the National Coalition for the Homeless and every member of Congress.

For additional details:

November 2004 *NCH News*  
 Donald Whitehead, NCH Executive Director (202-737-6444 Ext. 14)  
[dwhitehead@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:dwhitehead@nationalhomeless.org)



### **Of Interest to Those Attending Annual**

#### **Chicago Labor Conference**

Centenary Week, a conference at the University of Chicago from June 23-26, will celebrate the 100-year anniversary founding of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), featuring Utah Phillips and John McCutcheon in concert, with a variety of informative programs about the history and influences of the IWW. Pre-registration is required. For further information, see these Web sites:  
 <<http://www.iww.org/projects/centenary/events.shtml>>  
 <<http://www.infoshop.org/inews/article.php?story=20050227044332879>>

#### **The Labor Trail Web site**

You don't have to attend the above conference to learn about Chicago's labor history, visit “The Labor Trail”, a Web site created by the Illinois Humanities Council that provides maps and other information for do-it-yourself tours of Chicago's neighborhoods. Visit the places and learn about the events and people—the unsung heroes—who sweated and built Chicago into the magnificent city that is today. You might want to pre-order the maps before you go. The Web site also provides a bibliography and many links. <<http://www.labortrail.org/>>  
 For more information, see the Chicago Federation of Labor's Web site, <<http://www.cflonline.org/news.php?id=279>>

## Book Reviews

Book Review Editor, Jane Ingold

Gogol, Eugene (2004) *Raya Dunayevskaya: Philosopher of Marxist-Humanism*.  
Eugene: Resource Publications.

Raya Dunayevskaya's life spanned "the short twentieth century" between the Russian Revolution and the fall of the USSR. This Ukrainian-American, Marxist philosopher-activist's rich work was influenced by many of the seminal moments of this eventful period: the rise of Stalinism in the USSR, the Civil Rights revolution in America, the Chinese revolution, and the overthrow of the European colonial empires in the Third World. She kept in close contact with the common people who lived through these events in order to use their ideas in moving, as she put it, "from practice to theory." Eugene Gogol, Dunayevskaya's long-time secretary, attempts to explain her theory in *Raya Dunayevskaya: Philosopher of Marxist-Humanism*.

Gogol provides a close reading of Dunayevskaya's four core works: *Marxism and Freedom* (1964), *Philosophy and Revolution* (1973), *Rosa Luxemburg* (1982), and *Women's Liberation and the Dialectics of Revolution: Reaching for the Future: A 35 Year Collection of Essays, Historic, Philosophic, Global* (1985). One of Dunayevskaya's central concerns is the preservation of the revolutionary dialectic. To this end, she went back to Hegel and Marx and Lenin's readings of Hegel. She used Hegel to stress the importance of the revolutionary subjective. She also saw the humanity in Marx's Hegelian focus on the worker as subject in *Capital*. For Dunayevskaya, this was important because it brought the Hegelian dialectic from the abstract into the practical world of everyday politics. To Dunayevskaya, philosophy and politics were inseparable, and she thought that a revolutionary organization must be solidly grounded in philosophy.

What drove Dunayevskaya to develop the philosophy of Marxist-Humanism was a rejection of Stalinist totalitarianism and Maoist excesses. Even though Dunayevskaya worked as Trotsky's secretary in Mexico, she rejected his acceptance of the Soviet Union as a worker's state and classified it instead as a "state capitalist" dictatorship dominated by an administrative elite. However, she also saw the United States as "state capitalist" with much of the rest of the world caught in-between the two cold war powers. Indeed, she drew direct comparisons of revolts in the anti-Soviet bloc to progressive efforts at overturning segregation and Jim Crow in the United States.

It is this kind of independent critique that makes Gogol's book so interesting. He does a fine job of making this complex thinker understandable without over-simplifying her thought. However, there are a few weaknesses. Although Gogol clearly states this isn't an intellectual biography, one wishes he would have included contemporary critiques of her work. He does go into some detail in her political and philosophical disputes with C.L.R. James and Herbert Marcuse, but there is no real attempt to show what influence her ideas had or how they were received. Still, this is a very good book and is recommended for a political theory library collection and for the personal bookshelf of progressives who are interested in an introduction to the political philosophy of an unconventional thinker.

Reviewed by Erik Sean Estep

### About Book Reviews:

If you have a suggestion for a book review, an annotated bibliography, a publisher contact, or other suggestions or comments, contact Jane Ingold (jli4@psulias.psu.edu).

**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](mailto: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](mailto:listproc@ala.org): subscribe SRRTMEM [your name] To unsubscribe from SRRTMEM, send this command to [listproc@ala.org](mailto: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)**

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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: 9/30/05

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