

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

What an exciting time to be involved with EMiERT! We have much to celebrate and even more to look forward to in the coming months ahead.

First, I want to share with you the exciting news that EMiERT is now eligible to have our own representative on the ALA Council! This is the first time in EMiERT's history that we have attained the number of members needed to qualify us for a seat. So, in fact, we also can congratulate ourselves for increasing our visibility and conveying to our colleagues that EMiERT is a dynamic and relevant organization. Many thanks to Gail Schlachter, our treasurer, for working closely with ALA to verify that EMiERT meets the criteria! I am particularly pleased that EMiERT will have a representative on Council at this transitional time; while ALA undertakes a formal membership study, EMiERT looks to increase our relationship and affiliation with other ALA bodies, and our organization plans how to respond proactively to the changes brought by electronic media. The EMiERT representative to Council, like our Executive Board positions, is an office elected by our membership. Soon you will receive the slate of nominations for EMiERT's representative to Council and other open board positions. Please don't forget to vote!!

Those of you who were unable to attend EMiERT's first annual fund-raiser held during ALA Midwinter missed a wonderful evening of good friends, good conversation, and good Philadelphia food! Roberto Delgadillo, chair of our program committee, along with committee members Lisa Chianese and Lyn Miller-Lachmann, did an excellent job of planning the event and selecting the venue, World Café Live. I want to thank each of the committee members for their hard work: Lyn served as DJ and created an energizing playlist from a mix of world music to encourage dancing and conversation AND signed copies of the anthology of short stories she edited, *Once Upon a Cuento*, and her latest novel *Dirt Cheap*; Lisa, our on-the-ground EMiERT representative in Philadelphia, worked with the staff of the World Café Live to organize the fund-raiser and transport our many donated gifts; and Roberto not only oversaw the entire planning process, but also secured the support of several sponsors to make the fund-raiser a success. Our generous sponsors donated so many beautiful books, textiles, and folk art that we were able to hold a silent auction and have such an abundance of door prizes that everyone left with at least one memento of the evening. Please join with me in thanking our sponsors and mention to them at the next library conference that EMiERT really appreciates their support. And thank you to each one of you who attended the fund-raiser. For the new members who joined EMiERT at the fund-raiser, we welcome you and invite you to get involved!

Your Executive Board worked hard on your behalf during the Midwinter meetings to continue to build on EMiERT's momentum. We approved a cash prize of \$250 to support the EMiERT logo contest. In a separate article in this *Bulletin* you will see the announcement of our contest. The Board and I enthusiastically support the work of Martin Goldberg and his committee of Sarah Smith, Gabrielle M. Toth, and Shiela Martina Keaise, in developing this competition. You, too, can participate by submitting a design if you are artistically inclined, or by publicizing the contest to your artist friends, staff in your institution's graphics department, and your local art schools. The winning design will grace all EMiERT print and electronic publications and will contribute to our goal of increased visibility and identification. The Board also approved the recommendation of Rosalind Reisner, chair of EMiERT's Collection Development Committee, to create a bibliography data bank, accessible from the EMiERT web pages. We look forward to the months ahead as Rosalind leads the initiative to collect and compile bibliographies that will be valuable to all of us regardless of our library assignments. And if you are interested in working with Rosalind in developing the data bank, I know that she is looking for dedicated committee members.

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Plans are well underway for the annual program, "Eating Across Cultures: Food Is Culture." Three speakers internationally recognized for their work and research on food and culture will serve as panelists at EMIERT's June 29, 2008 program. Refugio Rochin, Professor Emeritus of Chicana/o Studies and Agriculture & Economics and Founding Director of the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives and the Latino Initiatives Fund, will speak on the importance of Hispanic foods to the heritage of contemporary Latino populations in the U.S. and offer suggestions on how librarians can develop programming to teach their communities about these traditional foodways. Robert Brower, a food historian and writer, will talk about solving the culinary mystery of Abby Fisher, the author of *What Mrs. Fisher Knows About Old Southern Cooking*, one of four African-American cookbooks published in the nineteenth century. Charles Perry, *Los Angeles Times* food journalist and expert on Middle Eastern food and culture, will describe the lasting contributions of Middle Eastern food and cooking techniques to European, Latin American, and our contemporary North American culinary choices. As you plan your schedule for the 2008 ALA annual conference, don't forget to add this Sunday, June 29, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. event to your calendar.

Throughout 2008, EMIERT will be continuing with food as a theme. Homa Naficy, EMIERT Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, and Ani Matosian, one of EMIERT's longtime active members, are requesting that EMIERT members consider sharing a recipe, accompanied by a story about the recipe from your personal history, for an EMIERT cookbook. Please contact Homa, naficy@hplct.org, or Ani, amatosian@yahoo.com, to contribute a recipe or to discuss ways that you can assist with EMIERT's latest publication project.

Over the next few months you will be seeing updates and changes on our EMIERT web pages as Lisa Chianese, our new webmaster, develops and builds our web presence using Collage, the software ALA recently adopted to support the Association overall. On behalf of EMIERT I want to thank Sarah Smith for her service and contributions as our indefatigable webmaster for the past several years. And I want to welcome Lisa, who joins us with great enthusiasm, a multitude of ideas, and a background in both art and technology. We look forward to working with her as we build, experiment, and grow with changing technological opportunities.

I welcome your ideas and comments about new directions for EMIERT.

Respectfully submitted,

Myra Appel, Chair
Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table

EMIERT wants to express our most sincere appreciation to our very generous sponsors who provided financial support and donated items for our first annual fund-raiser held during ALA Midwinter, January 14, 2008.

We particularly wish to note the contributions of:

- YBP Library Services
- Deborah Pergament of the Children's Law Group, LLC
- Beverly and Howard Karno of Howard Karno Books

EMIERT also extends our thanks to:

- Curbstone Press
- W.W. Norton
- Lyn Miller-Lachmann
- Linda Simons of the Roseville Public Library

EMIERT Logo Contest Announcement

The Ethnic and Multicultural Information Round Table of the American Library Association announces a competition for the most original and useful logo for EMIERT. We are seeking a logo that will be eye appealing, gain attention, and reflect EMIERT's identity as the source for information, publications, and presentations on the diversity of ethnic and multicultural populations of the world. This Round Table renders service to ALA members both in terms of multiethnic materials and programs. It is vital to our profession as librarians, who, in serving the total community, work with people from many ethnic groups. The logo will be used on stationery, banners, and publications. The winner will receive a cash award of \$250.

Submissions should convey visual impact when printed in either color or black and white. Submissions will be accepted in print form (no larger than 11x14") that can easily be duplicated digitally, or in standard software such as Adobe PageMaker. There are no limits on how many entries may be submitted. Logos may include graphics, text, and photos. Any copyright clearance is the responsibility of the applicant who is submitting work. All submissions become the property of EMIERT. Winning entries may be altered as needed, and EMIERT retains the copyright and trademark rights.

How Do I Enter?

Send your entry along with your name, address (both snail mail and e-mail), and telephone number. E-mail entry to: mxg35@psu.edu, or send snail mail to:

Martin Goldberg
Library
Penn State
100 University Drive
Monaca, PA 15061

Entries are due no later than **May 1, 2008**.

Contest Rules:

- Logos cannot contain copyrighted or licensed material.
- Logos must have been created and designed by the contestants.
- The winning logo becomes property of EMIERT, and they may edit or modify the logo as necessary.
- Entries cannot be returned.
- The winning entry will receive a cash award of \$250.

What Fiction Means To a Librarian

By Shiela Martina Keaise

Reading for fun is this librarian's goal.
Reading fiction will bring joy in a whole.

They say readers are certified nerds,
With the guarantee of new rewards.

Now, correct this librarian if I am wrong,
Readers turn to leaders vibrant and strong.

These readers are helpful and produce results.
They become determined leaders when adults.

Teach a child to read and he can do it all.
Ignore fiction books and decline a cure-all.

A fiction book entertains, lifts and informs.
Thus, readers are shaped in different forms.

So, what makes a reader love a fiction book?
Let's view the mind of a librarian's outlook.

Fiction books provide an unusual voice
Of charming, mean, evil persons by choice.

Fiction means access to a creative mind.
It means exotic main characters outlined.

The authors of fiction offer so much.
Their wild imagination adds a special touch.

So fiction is not just dull, boring and old.
It's an idea of a writer, smart and bold.

Shiela Martina Keaise is a Children's Librarian with the Colleton County Memorial Library in Walterboro, South Carolina. She's a member of the South Carolina Book Award Committee and the South Carolina Storytelling Network. Shiela is also the author of the forthcoming book: *Hannah and Dexter: The First Meeting*. Shiela Martina Keaise can be reached at shielamartina@yahoo.com or (843) 549-5621, ext. 4.