IFRT To Sponsor Informal Discussion Groups

IFRT is setting up a series of discussion groups that will give to ALA members the opportunity to discuss in a small-group informal setting major intellectual freedom issues and agendas. The discussion groups will be held Sunday, June 25, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Room assignments are given below. The three groups are the following:

"The Work of State Intellectual Freedom Committees: Ideas, Lessons, Approaches." This group will be chaired by Martha Merrill, formerly chair of the Alabama Intellectual Freedom Committee, the winner of the 1989 IFRT State Program Award. Location: Room Bryan A.

"Lobbying for Intellectual Freedom: Working with State Legislatures," chaired by IFRT Board Member Gene Lanier. Mr. Lanier has been widely recognized for his work with the North Carolina Legislature. Location: Brisbane Room.

"Teaching Intellectual Freedom Issues in Library Education," chaired by Judith Serebnick and assisted by Lois Mills, both of the IFRT Board. They are well known for their work in this area. Location: Brisbane Room.

Laurence Miller

JMR/T/IFRT Reception

The Intellectual Freedom Round Table and the Junior Members Round Table will be co-sponsoring an informal get-together entitled "The First Annual Get To Know Intellectual Freedom Reception" to be held Monday, June 26, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., in Days Hotel, Seasons Ballroom Central, North.

Chris Bowen

Judith Crist to Keynote IFRT Program

Those attending the 1989 IFRT Conference Program will receive a systematic overview of the practical problems involved in video selection and access in libraries. The program is entitled "Freedom to View, Instinct to Censor: Video Programming in Libraries" and is jointly sponsored by the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the IF Committees of AASL, ALSC, ALTA, and YASD. The program will take place in the Dallas Convention Center.

(please turn to page 3)
Thanks to the efforts of many, the ALA Conference in Dallas will afford unprecedented opportunity for the IFRT Membership to participate in intellectual freedom activities. In addition to the major intellectual freedom program with film critic Judith Crist as keynoter, the Round Table is organizing three discussion sessions and, in cooperation with the Junior Members Round Table, an IFRT/JMRT joint reception in celebration of ALA's Intellectual Freedom effort. Further information on these events may be found elsewhere in this issue.

The main program, "Freedom to View, Instinct to Censor: Video Programming in Libraries," addresses an area of great concern to librarians across the country and features Gordon Conable, Director of the Monroe (Michigan) County Library System, and Sally Mason, Director of ALA Video and Special Projects. The discussion groups, for the most part, will be led by members of the IFRT Board whom you have elected. Among them will be Martha Merrill, IFRT Secretary and past Chair of Alabama's Intellectual Freedom Committee that is the recipient of the 1989 State Program Award. The IFRT Awards will be given at the 1989 Roll Call of the States. This is the event at which intellectual freedom activists share their experience in coping with intellectual freedom controversies around the country. This year's presentations will be streamlined, but without sacrificing the essential nature of the event -- hearing what colleagues around the country are doing and what they are learning in the process.

A number of special thanks are due the 1988/89 officers and committee members. John Swan and the Organization and Bylaws Committee have produced a manual of procedures for IFRT to ensure the Round Table's continuity and to help officers maintain the pace of expansion and development. Christopher Bowen is revising the membership brochure, has arranged for the IFRT/JMRT joint reception, and is continuing his leadership in membership development and related activities. Scott Kass has substantially upgraded the quality of this publication.

Of special note, though, is the continuing leadership on the part of many who have been associated with the Round Table year after year. It is their dedication to the principles of intellectual freedom and general esprit de corps that has lent to IFRT its momentum and increasing usefulness to those engaged in safeguarding intellectual freedom in libraries.

- Laurence Miller
Judith Crist ... (cont. from p.1)

Center Theatre Saturday, June 24, 2-4 p.m. Keynote speaker will be noted film and drama critic Judith Crist, whose work in both the print and broadcast media has been universally acclaimed. For ten years she was film and theatre critic for NBC and on the Today Show. Since then she has been widely read in TV Guide and has contributed film criticism to Saturday Review and other publications too numerous to mention. Ms. Crist will provide a general perspective on the impact of video on our society and on the issues this raises for libraries.

Gordon Conable, Director of the Monroe (Michigan) County Library System will discuss practices in handling video programming and will expand on a survey done in the State of Washington. In his research, Mr. Conable has drawn some interesting relationships between policies and the acceptance of freedom of access to video as part of library programming.

Sally Mason, Director of ALA Video and Special Projects, will discuss how to encourage greater sensitivity to video issues and how to promote a greater comfort level in making video programming freely available. Included in this will be a discussion of ALA’s role. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Laurence Miller

Immroth Memorial Award Announced

The Intellectual Freedom Service of the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, Madison, Wisconsin, has been selected to receive the 1989 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award.

The Center, which is headed by Ginny Moore Kruse, was founded in 1963 as a noncirculating research library and book examination collection for adults with an academic, professional or career interest in literature for children and young adults.

This prestigious award recognizes the contribution to intellectual freedom in the State of Wisconsin made by the CCBC. This award is evidence that the profession also recognizes a significant contribution to intellectual freedom.

The CCBC serves as a model for intellectual freedom advocates throughout the country. The CCBC has subject interests in alternative press publications for children, children’s literature, intellectual freedom, Wisconsin authors and artists, and young adult literature.

The award will be presented during the Intellectual Freedom Round Table Awards Presentation, June 26, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Union Station Hotel, Pullman A & B.

Fran McDonald

On The Road With Gene Lanier

Many IFRT’ers are asked to speak on intellectual freedom topics from time to time. Few of us have equalled the March and April range of speaking engagements of Gene Lanier, Member-at-Large of the IFRT Board.

March 20 found him addressing a workshop for Greensboro City Schools held in Asheboro, North Carolina, on the topic of “Issues in Education: Intellectual Freedom.”

April 2 found him co-hosting a reception for actress Elizabeth McGovern sponsored by People for the American Way.

On April 6 he was in Houston as a featured speaker at the annual conference of the Texas Library Association with the topic “…and Justice for All.”

April 18-19 found him in Atlanta addressing a symposium at DeKalb College, Atlanta, Georgia, on a panel investigating “The Effect of Censorship on American Education.”

The last week in April he made two presentations at the annual conference of the New Mexico Library Association in Santa Fe entitled “Intellectual Freedom and You” and “Censorship and Free Access to Information.”

It is academic to suggest that he receive some special award for these and other contributions to intellectual freedom since he has already received most of them. But a special “Over the top!” citation may be in order.

Laurence Miller

Alabama Takes State Award

The IFRT is pleased to announce that the Alabama Intellectual Freedom Committee will be the 1989 recipient of the IFRT State Program Award at the ALA Annual Conference in Dallas.

The $1000 award is presented annually to the state intellectual freedom committee that produces the most successful and creative intellectual freedom project.

The award, funded by Social Issues Resources Series (SIRS), was first presented to the South Carolina Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee at the 1984 ALA Annual Conference in Dallas.

Other recipients are North Carolina, New York, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Prior to 1985 the AlaLa IFC did not function.

Martha Merrill, Chairman of the AlaLa IFC since 1985, has led the committee to become a vital and dominant force within the Alabama Library Association. The multifaceted activities and efforts of the committee demonstrate the power a well-organized group can achieve.

Pamela Bonnell
1989 Annual Conference Meetings

- Thursday June 22
  Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees
  9 am-5 pm
  Hyatt Regency Bryan A & B.

  Freedom to Read Foundation New Trustee Orientation
  6:30-7:30 pm
  Hyatt Regency Board Room.

- Friday June 23
  Intellectual Freedom Committee
  8-11 am
  Hyatt Regency Cotton Bowl.

  Org. & Bylaws Comm.
  9-11 am Dallas Conv. Center N203.

  Oboler Award Comm.
  9-11 am
  Dallas Conv. Center N206.

  IFRT/IFC/Div. IFCa Program Planning
  11:30 am-12:30 pm
  Hyatt Regency Bryan A.

  IFRT Executive Comm.
  2-5:30 pm
  Dallas Conv. Center N235.

- Saturday June 24
  Intellectual Freedom Committee
  8 am-12:30 pm
  Hyatt Regency Cotton Bowl.

  Membership Promotion Comm.
  11:30 am-12:30 pm
  Dallas Convention Center N210.

  IFRT/IFC/Div. IFCa Joint Program
  "Freedom to View, Instinct to Censor: Video Programming in Libraries"
  2-4 pm
  Dallas Convention Center Theater.

- Sunday June 25
  IFC/IFRT/Div. IFCa Joint Meeting
  8-11 am
  Dallas Conv. Center N224.

  Coalition Building Task Force
  11:30 am-12:30 pm
  Hyatt Regency Brisbane A.

  Intellectual Freedom Round Table
  11:30 am-12:30 pm
  Hyatt Regency Brisbane B.

  Membership Promotion Comm.
  2-4 pm
  Dallas Conv. Center N219.

- Monday June 26
  Membership Meeting, Awards, Roll Call of States
  9:30 am-12:30 pm
  Union Station Hotel Pullman A&B.

  Membership Promotion Comm.
  2-4 pm
  Dallas Conv. Center N209.

  Intellectual Freedom Committee/AAP Freedom to Read Committee
  2-4 pm
  Dallas Conv. Center Theater.

  Intellectual Freedom Committee/AAP Freedom to Read Committee
  4:30-5:30 pm
  Dallas Conv. Center N219.

  Membership Promotion Comm. Reception
  5:30-7 pm
  Days Hotel Seasons BR Ctrl, N.

- Tuesday June 27
  Executive Comm.
  11:30 am-12:30 pm
  Dallas Conv. Center N213.

  Intellectual Freedom Committee
  2-5:30 pm, Hyatt Regency Sanford Room.

Intellectual Freedom Round Table

Florida International University Libraries
North Miami, Florida 33181