

Minutes  
SRRT Action Council  
Midwinter Conference  
San Antonio, Texas  
25, 27 January 1992

Presiding: Action Council Co-Ordinator - Sherre Dryden

Attendance (25th): At Large Members - Denise Botto, Sherre Dryden, Carolyn Garnes, Deb Gilchrist, Carol Greenholz, Al Kagan, Steve Murden, Mark Rosenzweig, Theresa Tobin, Dan Tsang.

Task Force Representatives - Sylvia Curtis & Jackie Eubanks (Alternatives in Print TF), Roland Hansen (Gay & Lesbian TF), Elaine Harger (Library Union TF), Terry Link (TF on the Environment), Stephen Stillwell (Peace Information Exchange TF), Madeleine Tainton (Feminist TF), David Williams (International Human Rights TF).

Affiliates & Liaisons - Chris Dodge (MSRRT), Sherry Kelley (CCDA Representative).

SRRT Members and Guests - Don Boyden, Bill Delzell, Dotty Granger, Doug Rippey, Bill Stack, Celeste Tibbets.

Attendance (27th): At Large Members - Denise Botto, Sherre Dryden, Carolyn Garnes, Deb Gilchrist, Carol Greenholz, Al Kagan, Steve Murden, Mark Rosenzweig, Theresa Tobin, Dan Tsang.

Task Force Representatives - Jackie Eubanks (Alternatives in Print TF), Roland Hansen (Gay & Lesbian TF), Elaine Harger (Library Union TF), Donnarae MacCann (Civil Rights TF), Stephen Stillwell (Peace Information Exchange TF), Madeleine Tainton (Feminist TF), David Williams (International Human Rights TF).

Affiliates & Liaisons - Chris Dodge (MSRRT), Mattye Nelson (Director of OLOS).

SRRT Members and Guests - Lee Brooke, Flora Cobb, Diedre Conkling, Dotty Granger, Salvador Guarena.

Items Discussed/Decisions Made, not necessarily in the order in which they were reviewed (25th):

- 1) Approved Minutes of the June 1991 meetings in Atlanta.
- 2) Approved in principle a resolution calling for an ALA investigation into the Mark Rosenzweig case.
- 3) Accepted resignation of Elizabeth Morrissett from the Newsletter Editorial Board. Mark Rosenzweig to serve as fill the vacancy.
- 4) Approved the use of the name of the SRRT Task Force on the Environment by Gale Research on books that have been reviewed in some manner by the Task Force.
- 5) Received the Membership/Recruitment and Exhibits reports from

Stephen Stillwell. Accepted his resignation from these two posts.

Items Discussed/Decisions Made, not necessarily in the order in which they were reviewed (27th):

- 1) Endorsed the REFORMA resolution to support the United Farm Workers of America. (Resolution attached.)
- 2) Accepted the final wording of a resolution on the Mark Rosenzweig case. (Resolution attached.)
- 3) Asked the Co-Ordinator and Secretary to seek a different time slot for the annual membership meeting.
- 4) Appointed Steve Murden to the position of Membership / Recruitment Chair.
- 5) Accepted Nancy Gruber's offer to handle the Exhibits for the San Francisco Conference.
- 6) Endorsed a proposed tour by librarians of Israel and the Occupied Territories. (Resolution attached.)
- 7) Agreed to co-sponsor, in name, with no funding, the San Francisco program of ASCLA - LSSPS Library Service to the Deaf Forum.
- 8) Set a March 1 deadline for each task force to submit copy revisions to Stephen Stillwell for the reprint of the SRRT brochure.
- 9) Declined to endorse any ALA presidential candidate. Issued the standard statement of support for all SRRT members running for ALA Council.
- 10) Endorsed in principle, pending final wording, a 1992 resolution on the Israeli censorship issue. (Draft resolution attached.)
- 11) Cut a supplemental budget request for FY 1991/1992 from the International Human Rights Task Force from \$1550 to \$1000. Then approved the supplemental request, restricting its use to printing and publications costs which were not covered in their initial request. Also made it clear that supplemental requests should be made in extraordinary circumstances only.
- 12) Approved the FY 1992/1993 Task Force budgets. Alternatives in Print - \$2000. Civil Rights - no request. Coretta Scott King Award - no request. Environment - \$2000. Feminist - \$1800. Gay & Lesbian - \$1400. International Human Rights - \$1500. Library Union - \$500. Peace - \$550. For a total of \$9750.
- 13) Requested a complete budget report from OLOS to be made

available before the annual conference. A fuller budget discussion will be held in San Francisco.

14) Noted, with some sadness, the apparent demise of the Task Force on Migration, Refugees, and the Homeless.

15) Considered 18 revisions to the June 1981 Constitution of SRRT. Those revisions accepted will be brought before the SRRT membership in San Francisco for final approval. (See attached copy of constitution with changes in boldface.)

date: 31 January 1992

submitted: Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., Secretary.



# ISRAELI CENSORSHIP: A 1992 DRAFT RESOLUTION

**Note:** This is a first draft, to which we invite friendly recommendations and other feedback.

**\*Whereas** there is sufficient documentation provided by Article 19 and other reputable human rights organizations describing a regime of tight censorship and frequent closings of libraries and other research and educational institutions in the Israeli-Occupied West Bank and Gaza,

**\*Whereas** these violations of the freedom of information and expression are part of a military occupation which for 25 years has also been depriving the Palestinian people of basic human rights along with their land and water resources,

**\*Whereas** the large amounts of U.S. aid provided to Israel help to offset the costs of this indefinitely-prolonged occupation, thus making the U.S. and its citizens a party to this tragedy,

**\*Whereas** we also strenuously deplore censorship and human rights violations in the Arab and Islamic countries of the Middle East, but feel that the special circumstances of this occupation and the close involvement of the United States and Israel require us to address this particular situation as an urgent priority,

**\*Be it resolved** that the <sup>SRRT</sup> American Library Association deplores these Israeli violations of freedom of information and expression in the Occupied Territories, and calls on Israel to abide by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other internationally-recognized norms of human rights and freedom of information and expression,

**\*Be it further resolved** that on this 25-year anniversary of the Israeli military occupation, the <sup>SRRT</sup> ALA calls for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza through a negotiated agreement respecting both the right of the Palestinians in those Territories to self-determination and the right of Israel to peaceful and secure borders.

## Resolution on the Mark Rosenzweig Case

The SRRT Action Council finds that there is substantial evidence that Mark Rosenzweig was discharged for political reasons and because of his stand for the cause of intellectual freedom.

Be it, therefore, resolved that SRRT supports Mark Rosenzweig's request that the American Library Association and its agencies, the Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Standing Committee on Review, Inquiry, and Mediation, fully investigate the causes of his discharge by the New York Public Library.

Copies of this resolution will be sent by the Action Council Coordinator to the appropriate ALA offices and the New York Public Library with a request for a response to these inquiries.

Resolution: The Action Council of SRRT endorses the International Human Rights Task Force proposal for a tour by librarians of Israel and the Occupied Territories.

**Resolution to Support the California Table Grape Boycott  
of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO**

Whereas, the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, has maintained a consistent struggle for the rights of thousands of farm worker families they represent; and

Whereas, the United Farm Workers of America has undertaken its "Wrath of Grapes" campaign to alert consumers about pesticides which are used on grapes, about the pesticide residue which remains on the grapes which consumers buy, and about the ways in which these pesticides harm farm workers; and

Whereas, the World Resources Institute reports that over 300,000 farm workers are poisoned every year by pesticides; and

Whereas, California administration bias toward growers' interests and the unwillingness of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board to enforce the law has made free and fair elections impossible; and

Whereas, since the 1960's the United Farm Workers of America, under the leadership of Cesar Chavez, have called for a new boycott of California fresh table grapes; and

Whereas, REFORMA, in its concern over the plight of farm workers and their families, stands with the farm workers in their resolve to improve their lives and assure their rights to safe working conditions and decent living wages and benefits;

Now therefore, be it resolved, that REFORMA the National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish Speaking supports the boycott of California fresh table grapes by the United Farm Workers of America; and

Be it further resolved, that REFORMA endorses and supports the boycott of grapes until California grape growers guarantee that farm workers will have fair and free elections, that contracts will be negotiated in good faith, and that growers will voluntarily stop using five "restricted use" chemicals on fresh table grape crops--parathion, dinosab, captan, phosdren, and methyl bromide; and

Be it further resolved that REFORMA directs that grapes not be served at any of our functions and calls upon its members to support the boycott.

Adopted by REFORMA The National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish Speaking June 29, 1991