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All SRRT members are encouraged to volunteer for groups in which they have an interest. Personal members may choose to join groups or form their own for specific purposes, in line with the goals of the Social Responsibilities Round Table. These groups may be Task Forces (usually long-term) or project groups (usually of a very short duration).

If you’re interested in being involved in an active task force, please feel free to contact the Task Force’s chair.

- **Feminist Task Force (FTF)**
  **Coordinator:** Katelyn Browne
  Provides feminist perspectives and initiates action on issues related to libraries, librarianship, information services, and ALA. Subscribe to the Feminist discussion list.

- **Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force (HHPTF)**
  **Co-Coordinators:** Lisa Gieskes and Julie Ann Winkelstein
  Fosters greater awareness of the dimensions, causes, and ways to end hunger, homelessness, and poverty.

- **International Responsibilities Task Force (IRTF)**
  **Coordinators:** Al Kagan and Tom Twiss
  Advocates socially responsible positions on issues of international library concern.

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force (MLKTF)**
  **Chair:** LaJuan Pringle
  Supports and advances the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday as an American celebration.

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On the Cover: (top left photo) courtesy of Claire Bitner; August 16, 2015, (top right & bottom left photos) courtesy of The Night Ministry, Chicago, https://www.thenightministry.org/housing
Hello everyone! In this issue of the newsletter, you’ll find responses to our June 2022 theme: poverty and homelessness. The questions we posed were: What would you like to share about the work your library has done in addressing poverty and homelessness in your community? What barriers have you encountered? What have you learned?

We’re glad to include the answers we received, which highlight the social justice work libraries are doing related to community poverty and homelessness. This theme is always important but especially in these challenging times of a global pandemic and its impact on all communities, particularly those who were already experiencing food and housing insecurity. We hope the stories that are told here will offer insights into what is being done and perhaps provide some inspiration.

On another note: with ALA Annual coming up in a few days, I am again concerned about the many library staff members who are unable to attend for myriad reasons, including cost. ALA is offering a digital option (which is not financially viable for many folks), but it doesn’t include all the sessions - for example, the session on voting, which could help inform libraries on how to make sure all their community members are able to register and vote. In its commitment to EDI, this could be seen as an example of a lack of understanding of what it means to truly support EDI. To me, supporting EDI would mean access to all programs, with a sliding scale, so library staff across the country can participate and contribute to conversations about how we serve our communities, including helping them to exercise their right to vote and therefore have a say over policies, laws, funding and other issues related to what is on a ballot. The membership meeting at ALA will also not be available for those who have not paid to attend in person. I know there are reasons for this lack of access and there is the hope that hybrid meetings will be in ALA’s future, but I’m sorry to see this.

As always, I am pleased to see another topic of great importance being addressed. Poverty and homelessness has been an ongoing issue in our society. The SRRT Newsletter team is happy to share the stories of those who answered our call for submissions for this topic. Our hope is that their stories will keep this issue at the forefront, especially seeing that we are living in such precarious times.

None of us are exempt from experiencing challenges in life. Think about the times when you had your personal challenges and remember how it felt to have support, knowing that you had an advocate, someone who was in your corner fighting with and for you.

I’ll reiterate the phrase that I mentioned in the March issue, “no man is an island, no man stands alone”. We must always remember this. Be that advocate, whenever and wherever possible.
Statement in Honor of 
Virginia “Ginny” Bradley 
Moore

LaJuan Pringle, Chair Martin Luther 
King Jr. Holiday Task Force

The Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) acknowledges 
and mourns the passing of our beloved Virginia (Ginny) Bradley 
Moore. Ginny’s involvement in ALA began in 1972. Her forever 
legacy includes the establishment and institutionalization of both the 
SRRT Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force and the Martin Luther 
King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration, the annual celebration that honors the 
life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Through her efforts as longtime chair of the King Jr. Holiday Task 
Force, Ginny’s work with SRRT promoted the ideals of equity, 
diversity, and inclusion long before they became buzzwords. This work 
included incorporating the work of the National Library Involvement 
Committee of the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, 
which she chaired from 1992 to 1996, to form the King Jr. Holiday 
Task Force. She worked with ALA’s Office of Literacy and Outreach 
Services to create the Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration, a 
celebration held in partnership with her beloved Black Caucus of the 
American Library Association (BCALA). The event became a staple of 
the ALA Midwinter Meetings and continues to this day as part of ALA 
LibLearnX.

Ginny served as a colleague, mentor, and friend to many of us. But 
what stands out as we remember Ginny is the genuine affection (and 
hugs) she gave us all. If you ever spent any time with or around Ginny, 
you felt her love and adoration. As someone shared: “...she made me 
feel immensely loved.” This is all of us. Everyone felt loved by Ginny.

SRRT has always promoted the ideal of social responsibility as a core 
value of ALA. Virginia "Ginny" Bradley Moore lived and breathed social 
responsibility as her own core value. We celebrate and remember a 
career and life well-lived. We love you Ginny and will miss you.
Although there are still significant discussions on the purpose and power of libraries, there is also considerable positive research on the impact libraries have as socially-responsible institutions to serve marginalized communities.

In 2016, a small group of staff within the Riverside County Library System (RCLS) identified several needs for their patrons experiencing homelessness and the services currently provided by the library available to address those needs. They formed a committee to meet those needs using library resources. Their inspiration was a session at a California Library Association conference where several large metropolitan libraries described how and why they were changing their service hours to address the growing need of their patrons experiencing homelessness to have access to the public library overnight. The mission of the Riverside County Library Homelessness Resource Committee (HRC) is to develop partnerships and resources necessary for patrons experiencing homelessness and mental health issues to improve their quality of life. They developed a three-part strategy for their mission, Training, Awareness & Outreach.

Their work began with the creation of Resource Guides for each of the three geographic zones in the county. Tri-fold brochures were designed to compile county-wide services information with easily editable sections for local resources. These documents were distributed to library staff for continuous updating and provided to patrons in every branch library.

Next, to address the customer service issues staff face when working with patrons experiencing chronic homelessness and who regularly visit the library as a safe

One Library’s Response to Riverside County Homelessness

Shannon Houlihan Ng, Branch Manager, Idyllwild & Anza Libraries, Riverside County Library System

What would you like to share about the work your library has done in addressing poverty and homelessness in your community? What barriers have you encountered? What have you learned?

Courtesy of Patricia Popp, Project Hope: https://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/
Thoughts from a Medical Librarian

Todd M. Grooten, Ruth Lilly Medical Library

I am currently working in a medical library on a university campus, so our exposure to patrons dealing with homelessness and poverty is not as frequent as our public library colleagues. Our staff instruct incoming 1st and 2nd year medical students on evidence-based medicine and how to identify case-appropriate scientific literature which will guide them through their careers as physicians and healers. Members of our staff also participate in the Partner Outreach Program (POP) by representing our library as program ambassadors. This program is administered through the Network of the National Library of Medicine, of which the library is part of Region 6. The main goal of the program is to facilitate access to health information resources and to provide training to underserved and underrepresented groups. We also partner with student organizations to provide outreach to historically impoverished areas of Indianapolis. Social determinants of health have a major impact on people’s well-being and quality of life and can also contribute to health disparities.

As academic librarians we are happy to be able to participate in these outreach efforts. One of the values we embrace as information professionals is social responsibility; not only do we provide access to information, we provide training on how to find and evaluate information sources so the members of our communities can make informed decisions when they find information on the internet, especially health information.

These outreach efforts are well-intentioned, but not without problems, which are often beyond our control. Not all members of the community come from the same educational background and may lack the ability to understand some or even all the information we are trying to share; we do what we can to ameliorate the barriers, but it is impossible to adequately address in the short time we have with them. In many respects the public education system has failed them, which can often be attributed to their socioeconomic status.

One of the things we do as a POP program ambassador is to visit rural and underserved hospitals and clinics in our geographic area and to teach physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals how to search for biomedical literature using PubMed. While this skill is useful it has its limits. When a clinician finds a relevant article after searching, they then must get the article. While current National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy states that any research funded by an NIH grant must be made publicly available through PubMed Central, this still leaves a lot of articles behind paywalls. Biomedical literature is not free, is not cheap and is controlled by a handful of international publishing conglomerates. Clinicians served by our library have the benefit of being able to request articles they need for teaching and research in any quantity and at no cost to them. We have the good fortune of being affiliated with a major research institution which can afford to subsidize the costs of these materials by way of the library budget. Those working in rural hospitals and clinics often lack both the infrastructure and the money needed to access information that would benefit their patients. This is another example of how the system is working against us.

It helps both us and our profession if we view the world through a wider lens when doing outreach because then we can incorporate the ‘larger’ issues into our instruction and be better prepared for any questions that might arise. We should not assume anything about our patrons, but instead provide them clear and concise information and leave out any jargon, which is often poorly understood by anyone who is not a library worker. While we cannot overcome many of the barriers put forth by systemic issues society faces, we can continue to be agents of change both for our profession at large and for the communities in which we live and work.

Voices of Generational Poverty

Christina Dorr, Ph.D
Writer, Speaker, Consultant, Retired Librarian, Adjunct Faculty

Profiles in Resilience: Books for Children and Teens That Center the Lived Experience of Generational Poverty  https://www.alastore.ala.org/prgp

I grew up simultaneously rich and poor. Rich because my father’s passion was farming, dairy farming, to be specific. Our old family farm, barn, house, and grounds were overrun with cows, pigs, chickens, dogs, cats, and other assorted creatures. While I, in no uncertain terms, didn’t appreciate the four-legged creatures that shared our living space, they did provide us with an abundance of eggs, milk, and meat.

I was also rich in another way. Though neither parent valued education, my mother loved to read. Her favorite books were history, nutrition, folklore, and religion. She was highly suspicious of fiction, as untruths were works from the devil, and it was wrong to use valuable time, and engage the imagination in anything that didn’t further one’s understanding of country, duty, and Catholicism. And obviously, her time was at a premium, with a large farm family, and few modern amenities to make domestic life easier. But she read whenever she could spare a bit of time.

Value of Reading

Mom shared her love of reading with the three youngest of us by either reading to us, or telling us stories, every night. She also took us to the tiny red brick public library in the center of the quaint village near our farm. We owned very few books, and the ones we had were communal. So, a trip to the library allowed each of us to find books we enjoyed. I used to check out as many as allowed, and how I wished I could keep them.

According to the Children’s Defense Fund, nearly 20 percent of school age children in the United States are being raised in poverty

we had were communal. So, a trip to the library allowed each of us to find books we enjoyed. I used to check out as many as allowed, and how I wished I could keep them.

Additionally, each of the three of us was given a fifty-cent allowance when the “milk check” arrived twice a month. When Mom shopped at the local grocery store, I went to the adjacent newsstand to peruse the comic books, the only books for children it sold, and the only books my fifty cents could buy. I’d search through the comics to find one Mom would approve of, usually settling on the latest Archie edition. I would devour it on the way home and treasured my growing pile. These books were mine.

History of Generational Poverty

I was a child of generational poverty on both sides of my extended family. The Great Depression permanently scarred both parents, but particularly my mother. Until the day she died at 100 years old, Mother wove tales to anyone who will listen about the dandelion soup her mother used to make to have something hot to serve her family.

She would tell us that during the Depression poverty was the norm and desperation was the rule. She would tell us how her family was huddled together in a large and for the communities in which we live and work.
What’s happening at SRRT and around ALA

UPDATES

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Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force (HHPTF)
Submitted by Julie Ann Winkelstein, co-coordinator

One aspect of addressing homelessness and poverty through libraries that isn’t talked about enough is the role of voting. Local, state and national elections decide where and how money is spent, who will be making decisions about housing, health, rents, ordinances and laws and all the other ways people’s lives are impacted.

As the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NIHC) puts it: “Housing is built with ballots.” In keeping with their “Our Homes, Our Votes” initiative, NIHC offers a series of webinars related to voting. I was invited to be a panelist for a recent webinar on June 13, 2022, and I also invited Jenny Garmon, Civic Engagement Specialist at the Kansas City Public Library, to present with me. The recording of this webinar can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPwZVHQzVhw

I was excited to be given the opportunity to talk about what libraries are doing and can do related to homelessness and poverty and to point out that we make great partners. In advance of the webinar, I reached out on various library listservs, gathering information about how libraries are involved in helping their community members register to vote and actually vote and was glad to receive several examples.

Although voting without a permanent address is legal in every state, there are numerous barriers encountered in the process. For example, having a legal ID that is required in some states or being required to have an absentee ballot notarized. Libraries can and do help with both of these, by helping to collect the necessary documents for IDs or by providing free notary services. However, one of the biggest obstacles to voting while not having a permanent address is being able to receive voting materials and ballots by mail. I’d love to see libraries help with this challenge – if you know of a library doing this, please let me know.

There are many aspects to hunger, homelessness and poverty and I consider voting a critical one. Helping all your community members, including those who are unhoused, to register and vote is one action you can take that will make a difference.

Interested in learning more about the HHPTF? Feel free to contact us! Lisa Gieskes: LGieskes@RichlandLibrary.com and Julie Winkelstein: jwinkels@utk.edu

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SRRT AT ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday, June 24

• SRRT All Task Force Meeting & Annual Membership Meeting, 7:30pm – 9:30pm, Marriott Marquis, Archives

Saturday, June 25

• SRRT Action Council Meeting I, 8:30am – 10:00am, Washington Convention Center, 204C
• ALA Membership Meeting (combined with the Information Session for Members, Councilors, and Executive Board), 10:00am – 11:30am, Marriott Marquis, Liberty Ballroom – see more below
• US-Iran Relations in the Biden Era, 2:30pm – 3:30pm, Washington Convention Center, 145B
• Trita Parsi joins SRRT for a discussion on current events and how it affects the library community.

Sunday, June 26

• Libraries, Free Speech, and Anti-Boycott Laws, 1:00pm – 2:00pm, Washington Convention Center, 147B Tom Twiss from SRRT, Alan Leveritt, publisher of the Arkansas Times, and Luna Martinez from the Center for Constitutional Rights discuss the direct effect on free speech for libraries, and on free speech more generally, of recent anti-boycott laws.
• SRRT Action Council Meeting II, 2:30pm – 3:30pm, Washington Convention Center, 204C
• Progressive Librarians Guild (PLG) Meeting, 4:00pm – 5:00pm, Washington Convention Center, 204C. Join members of the Progressive Librarians Guild at our annual meeting. PLG exists to provide a forum for the open exchange of radical views on library issues.
• PLG / Braverman Dinner, Sunday, June 26, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Baan Siam, 425 I Street Northwest, Washington DC
• PLG members and friends are cordially invited to attend the 2022 Progressive Librarians Guild / Miriam Braverman Prize Dinner in Washington DC. This year’s Miriam Braverman Prize is given to Daniel Clarkson Fisher for his essay “A Promised (but Ultimately Unreachable) Land.”

TO FIND CURRENT SRRT RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THIS YEARS CONFERENCE PLEASE VISIT https://www.ala.org/rt/srrt/ala2022

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Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA)

Submitted by Michele T. Fenton, Assistant BCALA Secretary, and Brenda Johnson-Perkins, Executive BCALA Secretary

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) continues to make great strides in the library profession. In the first six months of 2022, BCALA and its members have accomplished a lot — publishing a book, presenting at conferences, participating in a documentary, adding affiliate chapters, and launching a BCALA chapter for African American MLS students.

In February, The Black Librarian in America: Reflections, Resistance, and Reawakenings was released by Rowman & Littlefield. This is the fourth volume in the Black Librarian in America series and the first edited by an all-woman editorial team. In support of the book, a virtual book promotion and panel discussion was held on February 18th. Panelists included President Shauntue Burns-Simpson, Vice-President Nichelle M. Hayes, Twana Hodge, Rhonda Evans, Dr. Shaudra Walker, and Dr. Ana Ndumu. In addition, President Shauntue Burns-Simpson and Vice-President Nichelle M. Hayes were interviewed by the Indianapolis Recorder, a local African American newspaper, about the book. The Black Librarian in America: Reflections, Resistance, and Reawakenings has been well received and is available for purchase in tangible and e-book format at: https://rowman.com/

On March 25th, at the Public Library Association 2022 Conference in Portland, Oregon, Dr. Grace Jackson-Brown and Dr. Deborah Robinson presented a session, “A Black History Month Taxonomy: Programming in Public Libraries.” The session focused on Jackson-Brown and Robinson’s project “The State of Black History Month in Public Libraries.” Funded with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the project studies how public libraries promote and present programming relating to Black History Month to patrons.

On March 7th, Vice-President Nichelle M. Hayes and Assistant Secretary Michele Fenton were interviewed for the documentary, The Glories of Our Journey: A Community Story. Directed by Ron Lovett, the documentary tells the story of John Hope School #26 (aka Indianapolis Public School #26), an elementary school for African Americans on Indianapolis’s east side in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. Opened in 1881, School #26 was called “Little Tuskegee” because of the high-level education it provided for its students. The school also housed the Paul Laurence Dunbar Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library, the system’s first African American neighborhood branch which opened in 1922 on the school’s first floor.

In the documentary, Hayes and Fenton speak about the positive impact the Dunbar Branch Library had on the neighborhood and about Lillian Childress Hall, the branch’s first manager and Indiana’s earliest known formally trained African American librarian. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the branch’s opening. The Dunbar Branch Library served the Martindale-Brightwood community for 45 years before transitioning to a regular school library in 1967.

The Glories of Our Journey premiered to the public on May 16th in the auditorium of School #26, now the Oaks Academy Middle School. After the screening, a historical marker ceremony sponsored by the Indiana Historical Bureau and the Oaks Academy, Inc. took place on the school’s front lawn. It was a lively and joyful event, as many of the school’s alumni, their families, and special guests witnessed a very special moment in history as the marker was unveiled. The marker will serve as a reminder of the role School #26 and the Dunbar Library played in keeping a community engaged and uplifted during a time of segregation and strife in Indianapolis’s history.

On March 30th, BCALA held the “Breaking Barriers Virtual Symposium.” The symposium was a one-day event designed to educate and inspire African American LIS students. Dr. Jarvis R. Givens, author of Fugitive Pedagogy: Carter G. Woodson and the Art of Black Teaching and a professor at Harvard University, was the keynote speaker. The symposium is part of BCALA’s Breaking Barriers project. Funded by a grant from the IMLS, the Breaking Barriers project aims to support, mentor, and empower African American LIS students and develop them as future leaders in the library profession. Dr. Ana Ndumu and Dr. Shaudra Walker are the project’s directors.

The Breaking Barriers project also includes the launching of iBlackCaucus. As the National Student Chapter of BCALA, iBlackCaucus provides a space in which students can connect and engage virtually with each other. Dr. Ndumu and Dr. Walker will host a workshop on iBlackCaucus, “Envisioning iBlackCaucus: An Interactive, Working Session to Strengthen MLIS Student Engagement,” at the ALA 2022 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. in June. Please check the conference website and schedule for more information: https://2022.alaannual.org/

On May 4th, President Shauntue Burns-Simpson attended a reception hosted by BCALA member Ashley Teagle and Executive Secretary Brenda Johnson-Perkins to launch a BCALA affiliate within the Maryland Library Association (BCMLA). Ashley and Brenda both served with others on the MLA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel to form the affiliate. The goal of BCMLA is to attract more African American library staff members and to encourage and develop them to pursue leadership roles within MLA.

Just six months into 2022, BCALA is continuing to increase its sphere of influence in support of librarians of color!

About BCALA

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association serves as an advocate for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and resources to the nation’s African American community; and provides leadership for the recruitment and professional development of African American librarians.

New Members Round Table (NMRT)

Submitted by Dani Cook, president

NMRT will be sponsoring an upcoming webinar in June on library workers who have caregiving responsibilities – details and dates are being finalized, but I think that might be of interest to SRRT members! Maybe you could point them to https://www.nmrt.ala.org/notes/ to get the latest information?

Additionally, NMRT will be hosting a program at ALA on finding belonging in the field. Details are in the conference scheduler at: https://cdmcd.co/97hE9

Also at Annual, NMRT is co-sponsoring a trivia championship (https://cdmcd.co/ g9nq0) and we will be celebrating our 80th anniversary (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-members-round-table-annual-social-tickets-311479913807)

How to Form New SRRT Task Forces

One strength of SRRT is that it is so easy for members to participate and work on issues in which they have an interest. Over the years SRRT has had over 60 different task forces on all kinds of topics. It takes at least three members to form a new task force. Any three SRRT members can appear at an Action Council meeting and ask for a vote on the formation, which provides preliminary status. If obvious interest is sustained, it then takes a second vote by the Action Council at a subsequent meeting to get a more permanent status.

So this is your opportunity to work on something that is not already covered by an existing SRRT task force. Go for it!
housing, basic needs, and mental health services. In previous years, these events have been able to connect 350 individuals with information, services, and personal health items offered by various agencies and organizations in Riverside County.

The HRC goals continue to be informed by the County of Riverside Point-in-Time Counts. Each year, Riverside County partnering agencies perform two federally-mandated counts of homeless populations living in Riverside County; one of all individuals experiencing homelessness and a second of youth under 24 years old. The results of the February 2022 counts this year revealed the number of those experiencing homelessness has risen 15% for a total of 3,316 people compared to the previous count of 2,884 in 2020.[ii] (Note: The 2021 count was canceled due to the pandemic.) A surprising statistic emerged: although the number of those experiencing homelessness drastically increased, so did the county’s ability to address the unsheltered. The number of people in sheltered situations vs. unsheltered increased by 83%. The county’s effective use of federal stimulus money available during the pandemic made providing an immediate connection to housing available during the count. The HRC is using these numbers to refocus our efforts to provide library and social services to those experiencing homelessness.

The efforts of the HRC have at times appeared to be similar to those of the grandfather in the familiar sand dollar on the beach story.[iii] The number of those in need exceeds the HRC’s ability to provide a solution to homelessness issues in Riverside County. But, in retrospect, each patron served is one sand dollar who has been positively impacted. In the future, additional grant funding is being sought to potentially add medical and health care services in the library. The HRC is actively taking part in evaluating possible services, developing partnerships, and soliciting grant funding to increase social services to both those people experiencing homelessness and other populations. The HRC will continue to develop and implement changes to help alleviate the homelessness crisis for our patrons.

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Serving Youth Living in Generational Poverty

Many classroom teachers, librarians, social workers, and other professionals in the United States were raised in middle class homes, fortunately for them. According to the Children’s Defense Fund, nearly 20 percent of school age children in the United States are being raised in poverty.¹ If we, as a collective group of professionals, don’t understand these children and their families, how can we operate with the needed attitudes, resources, and partners to meet their needs?

As librarians, we need to know that we can’t truly understand how children and teens living in generational poverty feel, and we can’t impose our judgements, beliefs, or expectations on them or their families. Instead, here—in a nutshell—are lessons I’ve learned both from being a child of poverty and having provided library services for children from preschool to grad school over the last thirty years.

• Be present and respectful
• Honor their stories, skills, and knowledge
• Keep their trials and challenges in mind
• Reach out to families and ask what they need
• Ask what the child/teen really wants in life, not what you think they deserve, or often what they think they deserve
• Encourage them in their desires
• Provide opportunities for their choices
• Help them realize that these opportunities may never come their way again
• Don’t impose your values and wishes
• Show hope and help them understand there is no one more important than them, and their needs come first
• Provide excellent literature that reflects and inspires.

This is just the beginning of this conversation, and this is just one story, mine. Poverty runs the gamut of need and desperation, and no child’s situation should be dismissed just because there are worse situations.

We need to continue the talk about the power structures that hold families in generational poverty and why the cycle continues. We need more stories, more voices, and more activism. Here’s my invitation to connect with me and forge forward.

References


Voices From the Past

In every issue, we offer excerpts from past newsletters. This excerpt is from the March 1989 newsletter, issue #91 and is about the Librarians Urgent Action Network. The SRRT newsletter archive can be found here: https://www.ala.org/rt/srrt/newsletter-archive

Librarians’ Urgent Action Network

There has been recent discussion in SRRT about starting a Librarians’ Urgent Action Network. For those of you unfamiliar with these, Urgent Action Networks are programs set up by the international human rights organization Amnesty International to provide rapid response to cases of human rights abuses throughout the world. AI sends descriptions of the particular cases to those people who are part of the network, who in turn write letters or send telegrams to government officials and others in the countries where the abuses have occurred. If a Librarians’ Urgent Action Network were set up, those people interested in being in it would receive about one appeal per month, asking them to write at least one letter as quickly as possible about the case. We would be part of a ‘specific interest’ list and would be notified about writers, publishers, teachers, and librarians who have been detained, imprisoned, persecuted, or subjected to any similar sort of abuse because of their human rights activities. An agreement to write one letter per month isn’t a very heavy commitment of time, yet each person’s letter, combined with many others, can help save a life. If you are interested in getting involved in this, or would simply like to have more information about Amnesty International, please contact:

• Sallie Barringer
• Maddux Library
• Trinity University

Voices of Generational Poverty

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If not now, when?

Don't hesitate to answer the CALL

photo by vectorfusionart
The SRRT Newsletter is always looking for good articles, essays, and letters to the editor. The next submission deadline is August 31, 2022.

The SRRT Newsletter invites submissions from library and information workers, students, educators, and all others who recognize the critical importance of libraries in addressing community and social issues. Please send your submissions electronically in one of the following formats: MS Word, RTF, PDF, or plain text pasted into the body of an email. Submissions should be 500 to 1,000 words and should include the article title, author’s name and title, and school or place of work (optional). Graphics are encouraged. If using images that are already on the Internet, the URL of the image and a caption or description may be added to the text of the submission.

Please email original submissions to SRRT Newsletter Co-Editors Julie Winkelstein and Doreen Dixon at jwinkels@utk.edu and srrt.newsletter.content@gmail.com, indicating "SRRT Newsletter" within the subject line of your email. A confirmation of receipt will be sent in a timely manner.

**Submissions to SRRT Newsletter Reviews**

Submissions for book or media reviews should be sent to Laura Koltutsky, SRRT Newsletter Reviews Editor, at laurakoltutsky@gmail.com, indicating "Reviews" in the subject line of your email.

Submissions should be sent electronically in MS-Word format or a Word compatible format. Reviewers should keep their reviews to 300-500 words; any length much shorter or longer should be discussed with the reviews editor prior to submission. Reviewers should avoid conflicts of interest. Full disclosure should be made to the reviews editor when appropriate.

**Submissions to SRRT Newsletter Letters to the Editors**

The Newsletter invites readers to submit letters to the editors relating to social responsibilities and libraries. The letters should be respectful and thoughtful, either respond to specific content in the newsletter or include suggestions for topics of interest to SRRT members to be addressed in future issues. We will only publish letters of more than 200 words in exceptional circumstances.

Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy. You will be notified if your letter will be published.

Submit your letters to Laura Koltutsky at laurakoltutsky@gmail.com. Please indicate "SRRT Newsletter Letter to Editors" in the subject line of your email. You may submit your letter as an attachment in one of these formats: .doc, docx; or in the body of your email message.

Letters must include your full name, address, a telephone number and email address if you have one. This is for us only -- we don't share this information.

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