

# SRRT Newsletter

A Publication of the Social Responsibilities Round Table  
of the American Library Association

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF MIDWINTER ACTION COUNCIL MEETINGS

\*\* Mark Rosenzweig was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Editorial Board created by the resignation of Elizabeth Morrissett.

\*\* Action Council endorsed the cooperation of the Task Force on the Environment with Gale Research on various publications projects.

\*\* Steve Murden was appointed to the position of Membership/Recruitment Chair.

\*\* Action Council accepted the offer of Nancy Gruber to coordinate the SRRT Exhibits Booth at the 1992 Annual Conference.

\*\* Action Council agreed to co-sponsor a program with ASCLA - LSSPS Library Service to the Deaf Forum at the 1992 Annual Conference in San Francisco.

\*\* After some deliberation, Action Council decided not to endorse any of the ALA presidential candidates. SRRT members are encouraged to vote for candidates for ALA Council who are SRRT members. Postcards will be mailed in the Spring listing these candidates.

\*\* Action Council reviewed task force budgets and made the following allocations:

FY 1991/92 Supplemental Budget  
International Human Rights: \$1000

FY 1992/93 Budget  
Alternatives in Print: \$2000  
Environment: \$2000  
Feminist: \$1800  
Gay and Lesbian: \$1400  
International Human Rights: \$1500  
Library Union: \$500  
Peace Information Exchange: \$550

A full review of SRRT's financial situation will be made at the 1992 Annual Conference. The Office of Library Outreach Services (OLOS) has been asked to prepare a full budget report.

## REPORT FROM THE TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Task Force will sponsor two programs at the 1992 Annual Conference in San Francisco. The first, on Saturday, June 27, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, will feature David Brower, former long-term director of the Sierra Club, who subsequently founded Friends of the Earth, and more recently began the Earth Island Institute. Brower, the subject of John McPhee's Encounter with the Archdruid and the author of For Earth's Sake, will speak on poverty, development and the environment and their information challenges for libraries and society. Tina Peterson of San Jose State University Library and Karin Weinhold of Cuyahoga County Public Library will serve as reactors before the floor is opened to general discussion and questions.

The second program will take place on Sunday, June 28, 8:30 - 11:00 AM, and will focus on the environmental consequences of computers, paper and microforms. Ted Smith, a spokesperson for the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, will address the hazards experienced in the Silicon Valley, the home of computer manufacturers, while representatives from ECONET (an international network for sharing environmental information among grassroots activists), will speak to the usefulness of computers. Similar dialogues can be expected for the paper and microform media.

In other news from the Task Force, Green Library Journal, announced in the last issue of the SRRT Newsletter, was launched with

Task Force members well represented among the editors and authors. Environmental Information Sources: a Guide for Citizens and Libraries, a forthcoming ALA book, is being edited by Task Force Secretary, Flora Cobb, with contributions by other Task Force members as well.

Finally, reusable plastic badges, encouraged by the Task Force, were in use in San Antonio at the 1992 Mid-winter Conference. The Task Force thanks Amy Katzenburger and her staff in the Conference Arrangements Office for seeing this innovation through.

For further information on upcoming Task Force activities and programs, contact Terry Link, Michigan State University Library, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048; Telephone: (517)355-1751; BitNET: 20676tpl@msu.

#### **REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE**

For San Francisco, the IHRTF is planning a panel on "Intellectual Freedom Cases Arising out of the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict." Prospective participants on this panel include Khader Hamide of the "L.A. Eight" case, the group of Palestinians who have been fighting deportation from the U.S. since 1989; Ghazi Falah, a Palestinian geographer who has had his borrowing privileges at the Haifa University Library revoked; Michel Schwartz, an Israeli newspaper editor who has been jailed on treason charges; and Omar al-Safi, a librarian at Bir Zeit University under threat of deportation from Israeli controlled territory. As with last year's IHRTF program, this year's promises to be very lively and well-attended.

#### **REPORT FROM THE PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE TASK FORCE**

The Midwinter meetings of the Task Force were attended by a number of stalwarts and some new faces, as well. The book drive for institutions in the former Soviet Union by the Strengthening Democratic Institutions Project was discussed [see related article elsewhere in this issue]. A proposal to seek ALA support for the Seville Statement on Violence was made. The supporters of

this document are seeking the endorsements of various professional associations the world over. The campaign to have vendors add peace stickers to their spine label offerings was reviewed in light of one exhibitor's distribution of free stickers which included ones for war stories and military adventures, but none for peace or conflict resolution. The program planned for the San Francisco conference is on economic conversion. Attempts will be made to publicize this program through the Public Library Association's journals and newsletters. Plans for the third issuance of the peace award in coordination with its corporate sponsor, SIRS Inc., were finalized. Stay tuned for further announcements. Information on the publications of the United States Institute of Peace and on the ACCESS proposal for the creation of a clearinghouse for grey or fugitive literature in the field of international peace and security studies was exchanged.

#### **RESOLUTIONS BY ACTION COUNCIL AT 1992 MIDWINTER**

At its 1992 Midwinter meetings, Action Council passed the following three resolutions:

##### **RESOLUTION ON THE MARK ROSENZWEIG CASE**

Whereas, 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 ON ISRAELI TOUR

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

## ENDORSEMENT OF REFORMA RESOLUTION

The Action Council of SRRT endorses the following REFORMA resolution:

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

In addition, Action Council endorsed in spirit, pending submission of final wording at the 1992 Annual Conference, the following draft resolution:

## DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI CENSORSHIP

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; and

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; and

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; and

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 SRRT 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 SRRT 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.

#### **MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND HOMELESS STILL LOOKING FOR LEADERSHIP**

As reported in the last issue of the Newsletter, the Task Force on Migration, Refugees and the Homeless is currently without a chair. All of the Task Force's meetings at Midwinter were canceled, and unless a chair is forthcoming soon, it will hold no meetings at the Annual Conference. According to SRRT's constitution, if a task force does not meet for two successive conferences, it is considered to be disbanded. If there is anyone who is willing to take on this leadership role for this important group, please contact the Action Council Secretary, Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., CSIA Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138; telephone: (617) 495-1408.

#### **WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SPAWNS SRRT CHAPTER**

The Wisconsin Library Association is in the process of forming a new SRRT Chapter. Efforts came to fruition at the October WLA meeting, and a petition was submitted to the WLA board in December. Approval by the board is expected in late winter or early spring. In anticipation of that approval, the new SRRT Chapter is planning a program for the October 1992 meeting in LaCrosse, and funds have been allocated to support that program. Ceci Chapple and Becky Steffes have served as the Organizing Committee for WLA-SRRT. For more information, contact Ceci Chapple, P.O. Box 25367, Milwaukee WI 53225, OR: Becky Steffes, Carroll College, Waukesha WI 53186.

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS PROPOSED BY ACTION COUNCIL**

A Task Force (Gail Warner, Linda Pierce, and Cinder Johanson) reviewed the SRRT Constitution and made a number of proposals for revisions. Individual Action Council members added other proposals. The following revisions are those approved by Action Council at Midwinter. To obtain a copy of the proposed, revised constitution, send a request, indicating your preferred mailing address to OLOS/SRRT at ALA Headquarters, or to Action Council Secretary, Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., CSIA Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138 USA; telephone: (617) 495-1408 [24 hour voice-mail]; or fax: (617) 495-8963. SRRT members will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed revisions at the membership meeting at the 1992 Annual Conference, Sunday, 28 June 1992, 8:00 - 10:00 PM.

#### **PROPOSED REVISIONS**

1. Standardization of procedures on the recognition of SRRT affiliates. Addition to Section 3, sub-section B. Insert as second sentence:

"Affiliate membership status will be voted on by Action Council after a written request for status has been made by the group requesting recognition."

2. Change in representation on Action Council for affiliate members. Revision of Section 4, paragraph 1. Change end of first sentence as follows:

Delete: "...2 members selected to represent state affiliates (selected by affiliates, the selection of these 2 representatives to represent the combined affiliates will be the responsibility of the affiliates. These 2 representatives must then be submitted to Action Council for approval.)"

Add: "...a representative from each recognized Affiliate."

3. Additional positions for Action Council. Addition to Section 4, paragraph 2. Change final sentence to read:

"...Recording Secretary, a Conference Arrangements Chairperson, Exhibits Coordinator, and Membership/Recruitment Chair."

4. Clarification on eligibility for office. Addition to Section 4, paragraph 2. Add following sentences:

"These officers will preferably be elected from the at large members of Action Council, but may be selected from the task force representatives or the affiliate representatives. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no single person shall serve Action Council in more than one of the 6 designated offices."

5. Clarification of the position of Newsletter Editor. Addition to Section 4, paragraph 4. Add following sentences:

"The Newsletter Editor shall serve a term of 3 years. The Editor shall be considered an ex-officio member of Action Council."

6. Clarification of the position of the Editorial Board. Addition to Section 4, paragraph 4. Add the following at the end of the paragraph:

"The term of office for the Editorial Board shall be 3 years. There will be staggered terms of appointment. Any Board member not already a member of Action Council, shall be considered one on an ex-officio basis. The Editorial Board will advise the Editor upon request on matters of editorial policy."

7. Limitation of terms for liaisons. Addition to Section 4, paragraph 5, point 4. Add as final sentence:

"Such liaisons will serve a three year term and may be reappointed for one additional term."

8. Clarification of the role of Action Council. Addition to Section 4, paragraph 5. Add as point 5:

"Approving the budgets and expenditures of the Round Table and the Task Forces."

9. Clarification of the role of the Action Council Coordinator and Secretary. Revision of Section 4, paragraph 9 as follows:

Change first line to read: "The Action Council Coordinator will take..."

Change "Recording Secretary" to "Coordinator" and change "Secretary" to "Coordinator" in the body of the paragraph.

10. Voting by Action Council. Addition to Section 4, paragraph 13. Add following sentences:

"Each task force and each affiliate member shall receive only one vote on Action Council regardless of the number of coordinators or co-coordinators or representatives which they choose to have present. Task force representatives may not vote on matters regarding task force budgets. Affiliate representatives may not vote on financial matters. Ex-officio members do not vote unless permitted to do so on a particular issue by decision of the Action Council Coordinator."

11. Change in timing of budget process for the task forces. Revision of Section 5, paragraph 1 as follows:

Change from "...first Action Council meeting" to "...second Action Council meeting."

12. Clarification of ALA/SRRT accounting procedures for task forces. Addition to Section 5, paragraph 3. Addition of point d.

"d) Task forces may not keep funds in outside sources. All funds must be in the appropriate task force subfund in the SRRT account."

13. Streamlining the process of constitutional revision. Revision of Section 7, paragraph 1.

Change "SRRT Newsletter and American Libraries" to "SRRT Newsletter and/or American Libraries."

14. Adoption of the Section, Paragraph numbering system in the Constitution. Addition of a consistent section and paragraph numbering system for ease of reference.

#### REPORT ON THE ISRAELI CENSORSHIP ISSUE

This writer has previously reported on the fate of the ALA International Relations Committee (IRC) draft resolution on Israeli censorship and library closings. He has since learned that the heavy pressure to remove any direct mention of Israel came from the ALA Executive Board, with several IRC members holding out for at least a mention of library closings in the Occupied Territories. After hard negotiations, a deal was struck along these lines, but when the revised IRC resolution was presented to the ALA Council in Atlanta even the one remaining mention of the Occupied Territories was deleted on the grounds that use of such language amounted to "Israel-bashing" (notwithstanding its routine usage by the diplomatic community including the

U.S. State Department). In the face of this remarkable exercise in self-censorship by ALA Council, no one from the top ALA leadership intervened to point out the obvious justification for such language, or to defend the deal which had been made with the IRC in prolonged negotiations.

Shortly after the Atlanta conference, the principal member of the IRC involved in examining the available documentation on Israeli practices wrote to both American Libraries and Library Journal protesting the ALA leadership's handling of this subject. Neither journal published Professor Don Davis' letter in spite of its importance. In January of this year, however, American Libraries did publish a very powerful appeal for principled ALA action by veteran ALA member and former Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair Zoia Horn (p.92). Shortly before the 1992 Midwinter conference, this writer learned that the issue had been placed back on the IRC agenda. He had also urged the International Relations Round Table (IRRT) and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) to reconsider this issue, in light of the fate of the IRC's efforts in Atlanta, and to support a new resolution drafted by the chair of SRRT's International Human Rights Task Force (IHRTF).

At the Midwinter conference in San Antonio it became clear that none of these ALA units were willing to challenge the ALA leadership and support an effort to fashion a new resolution for the ALA membership meeting in San Francisco. Among the rationalizations for inaction were the caveats -- in the case of the IRRT and IFRT -- that these were "only program not policy" committees, and as such could not make such recommendations, in spite of their past practices on other issues, such as apartheid, and in spite of the very nature of round tables as vehicles for grassroots ALA membership concerns. Nor did the IRC, for its part, though clearly a policy-making committee, attempt to rectify the ALA Council's complete dilution of its 1991 resolution.

The issue, therefore, rebounded back to SRRT's Action Council for appropriate action to continue to press ALA for a principled stand [as reported elsewhere in this newsletter]. Action Council voted to endorse in spirit the new draft resolution

on Israeli censorship. The final form of the resolution will presumably be taken to the ALA membership in San Francisco. Comments and suggestions regarding the resolution should be directed to the Progressive Librarians Guild (Attn: Elaine Harger, School of Labor Studies Library, Empire State College, 330 W. 42nd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10036; telephone: (212) 279-7380). Anyone interested in speaking to this issue on the floor of the ALA membership meeting in San Francisco may contact SRRT/IHRTF chair - David Williams, 1903 W. Newport, Chicago, Ill. 60657; telephone: home (312) 549-6421 or office (312) 747-4629.

--David Williams  
Chair, SRRT/IHRTF

#### FEMINIST TASK FORCE IN THE ELECTRONIC WORLD

The Feminist Task Force has established an electronic bulletin board which supports open discussions of relevant topics via Bitnet and the Internet. All interested people, without regard to organizational affiliation, are invited to join the subscribers list and participate in discussions. To subscribe, send to LISTSERV@MITVMA.MIT.EDU the following message:

Subscribe Feminist {your first  
name} {your last name}

(The brackets are for clarity only. Don't use them when you send the message.)

As of early December, some of the topics under discussion included the boycott by the Women's Studies Section of ACRLL of that Division's upcoming Utah meeting and Catherine Stimpson's acceptance of an invitation to speak at that conference.

#### DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR FEMINIST DIRECTORY

March 15 is the deadline for contributions to the Feminist Task Force's SHARE Directory (Sisters Have Resources Everywhere). The directory is scheduled for publication prior to the 1992 Annual ALA Conference. Send your name; work and home addresses and phone numbers; library type; memberships; and information you would like added in the

categories of skills, interests or comments to: Dotty Cranger, Pacific Oaks College, 6 Westmoreland Place, Pasadena, CA 91103.

#### HOMELESS BORROWING PRIVILEGES

To use the term "homeless" to describe or to designate a large group of our fellow citizens is both imprecise and much abused. The term "dispossessed" is preferable, because it throws a net of commonality over a group of people with similar problems. It also provides a specific focus for the rest of society rather than fragmenting that focus over a collection of what may seem unrelated problems. Finally, we prefer it as an honor to William Faulkner's words from The Bear, "dispossessed him dispossessed him dispossessed him dispossessed."

But what does "homeless" mean? California state law says that "Every person has, in law, a residence" (Title 1, §243). The adjoining section, in one of the most poetic passages in the rather dry state code, defines, "place of residence" as, "the place where one remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose, and to which he or she returns in seasons of repose." We have long been partial to that phrase "seasons of repose."

When we casually use the term "homeless" do we really mean the above? Nowhere to go or remain in "seasons of repose"? What an indictment of our system if people live among us without that. Yet one can look into the eyes of the continually wary individuals that carry that sobriquet and be convinced that it must be so.

The San Francisco Public Library has always had a policy that, for purposes of obtaining a library card, if one would produce valid identification with a San Francisco address, one could obtain a library card. Yet a new President of the Library Commission announced that where the homeless were concerned, "...[the library] doesn't have to be the easiest place in the Civic Center to get into." And thereby hangs a tale.

Soon after this statement the Library, in violation of its own policy, allegedly made a blacklist of "hot-line" addresses (addresses known to accept vouchers under

the Mayor's assistance plan) and rejected people who were qualified under the policy if the address on their identification matched the blacklist. A disabled Vietnam veteran took a report of his experience in being refused a library card to the San Francisco Bar Association's Homeless Advocacy Project and the controversy began.

The Bar Association conducted its own investigation but when confronted with the results the Library administration claimed there was no such blacklist. An article which appeared in a local weekly newspaper, the San Francisco Independent, said, "[T]wo men who met the city's current written requirements for a card were still denied cards on the basis of their address - an Eddy Street hotel." This put the San Francisco Public Library in the curious position of finding that people who were stable enough to enter the City's assistance program were not stable enough to have a library card. This seemed, at least, ironic to those of us who felt that it should be the other way around. It is doubly ironic because one has to prove legal "residency" to be admitted to that program.

The de jure policy was that any resident of San Francisco qualified for a library card. The de facto policy was that any resident **too well off** to need public assistance qualified for a library card. The underlying issue was whether or not, in this context, the misapplied residency requirement amounted to a "means test." There was a time when the term "means test" had an ugly sound to it. In San Francisco that is no longer true. Indeed, the first letter of the Bar Association to the Library Commission described this policy as "...withhold[ing] a valuable resource for persons who desperately need every available resource if they are to overcome their plight."

Representatives of the Bar Association then appeared before the Library Commission and the issue was referred to a committee of the Commission. Then, before that committee could meet, Bar representatives met with a Commissioner and worked out a compromise which included the Bar Association "working with the Library" to protect the interests of the homeless. The compromise was regarded as a sellout by the homeless and

true homeless advocates. At the subsequent public committee meeting, every member of the public who spoke rejected the so-called compromise. Nevertheless, the Commission clung to its "deal" and passed it at the full Commission meeting.

The essence of the disagreement with the "deal" was two-fold. First, the "homeless" were not allowed to apply for library cards at the branches like ordinary citizens; homeless cards would only be issued at the Main Library (if it is a two or three step process, that is two or three bus rides; hardly the outreach that we thought the homeless deserved). Secondly, homeless cards were for a short period of time necessitating constant renewal and, we were told, subject to the statistics that would be forthcoming. Do we gather statistics about the return rates of other minorities and then decide that all the privileges will depend on their relative reliability? ("Do potato-eaters return their books on time?") We felt this was a cumulative disincentive to the very citizens who should be encouraged to use the library to improve themselves. After this program was in operation it was found that 37.4% were so disenchanting (humiliating?) with the process that they never used their cards. Might the "homeless" assume that the check-out desk would treat them as poorly as the registration office had done? Does the Library count a policy a success if more than one-third never come back?

The result was that the representatives had lost credibility and were not seen again "working with the Library." The community, having no other spokesperson and having wasted its publicity in the Independent on representation from the Bar Association, had no power to reopen the issue. The issue was buried by the Library administration claiming they were "too busy."

Finally, after two years had passed, public sympathy had turned against the homeless, the Civic Center Plaza had been swept by the police, and the Library was free to put in any policy it chose. The policy, now referred to by them as "consensus," is the most reactionary policy possible to an advocate of civil liberties. The policy is that, if a person is otherwise qualified for a library card but "looks" homeless, he or

she is given the "privilege" of a restricted library card. In this writer's opinion, the Library administration has revealed the most unwarranted class prejudice imaginable, but the President of the Library Commission won, and the San Francisco Public Library is no longer the "easiest place to get into."

Will our society be safer for that extra barrier against some of our citizens? This writer would suggest that it will not be.

--James Chaffee  
The Original Library Movement

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S IN-BOX

\* **McFarland & Company** has issued the **McFarland '91** catalog which includes titles in Asian Studies, International Studies, First Amendment Freedoms, Women's Studies, and others. Included in the editor's copy was a flyer for **Confronting Columbus**, an Anthology, edited by John Yewell, and **SRRT's Chris Dodge and Jan DeSirey**. To obtain a copy of the catalog, contact **McFarland, Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640**.

\* **Haworth Press, Inc.** (10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580) has issued a 1991-1992 New Book Announcement Catalog with titles in a number of areas of concern to SRRT members. They have also issued a pamphlet describing their Gay and Lesbian Studies book program.

\* The Americans With Disabilities Act extends civil rights protection to people with disabilities. A 16-page booklet, **The Americans With Disabilities Act: An Easy Checklist**, is available from the **National Easter Seal Society**, 70 East Lake, Chicago, IL 60601. Single copies are \$.75. Orders under \$10 should be prepaid.

\* **Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc.** ( 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881-9990) planned to premiere **MultiCultural Review**, a quarterly interdisciplinary forum of multimedia citations, articles and critiques representing a spectrum of American ethnic, racial and religious diversity. Each issue is planned to contain two articles, one exploring an aspect of multicultural scholarship or publishing, and the other an aspect of multicultural librarianship.

\* The Fall 1991 catalog of **The Crossing Press** (P.O. Box 1048, Freedom, CA 95019) contains sections on their new releases, as well as on entertainment and humor, spirituality and healing, short story collections, feminist books, lesbian books, science fiction, mysteries, men's studies, cookbooks, and family and children.

\* **SoftLine Information Inc.**, a new electronic publishing company has announced the introduction of **Ethnic NewsWatch**, a full text, fully indexed cd-rom based product, in early 1992. Included will be full text articles from over 100 leading ethnic American publications, such as: **El Diario/LaPrensa**, **New Pittsburgh Courier**, **Reporter Publications**, **Jewish Telegraphic Agency**, **Baltimore Jewish Times**, **AsianWeek**, and **New Lebanese American Journal**. It also includes publications from the Native American, Filipino, Greek, Irish, Indian and Eastern European press in America. For more information, contact **SoftLine Information Inc.**, P.O. Box 16845, Stamford, CT 06905; telephone (203) 968-8878.

\* Back issues of some numbers of the journal **Shmate**, a **Journal of Progressive Jewish Thought** are available from **Sanford Berman** free on request. Supplies of some numbers are limited, but currently available are Nos. 5, 9, 13, 14, 15 16, 18, 19, and 20. Interested parties should contact **Sandy** at 4400 Morningside Road, Edina, MN 55416.

#### HARVARD PROJECT ON STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

The Harvard Project on Strengthening Democratic Institutions has as its goal rendering technical assistance in various spheres of political and economic reforms in the former Soviet Union. The Project has identified a critical need for books and other research materials to support new think-tanks and research institutions in Moscow. Materials are needed on such topics as democracy, international relations, law, market economics, etc. For additional information and a complete listing of needs, contact **Astrid Tuminez**, Assistant Director, **Strengthening Democratic Institutions Project**, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

## PRELIMINARY ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule of SRRT meetings in San Francisco, but changes may occur. The final conference program should contain the authoritative schedule.

### Action Council:

Sat. 6/27 9:30 - 11:00AM  
Mon. 6/29 2:00 - 5:30PM

### Membership:

Sun. 6/28 8:00 - 10:00PM

### Task Forces:

### Alternatives in Print:

Fri. 6/26 6:00 - 10:00PM\*  
Sat. 6/27 2:00 - 5:30PM  
Mon. 6/29 9:30 - 11:00AM  
Tue. 6/30 2:00 - 4:00PM\*\*  
Wed. 7/1 2:00 - 4:00PM

### Civil Rights:

No meetings being scheduled

### Coretta Scott King Award:

Tue. 6/30 7:30 - 9:00AM\*\*\*  
Tue. 6/30 9:30 - 12:30PM

### Environment:

Sat. 6/27 11:30 - 12:30PM  
Sat. 6/27 2:00 - 4:00PM\*\*  
Sun. 6/28 8:30 - 11:00AM\*\*  
Sun. 6/28 4:30 - 5:30PM

### Feminist:

Sat. 6/27 8:00 - 10:00PM\*\*  
Sun. 6/28 9:30 - 11:00AM  
Mon. 6/29 8:30 - 11:00AM  
Tue. 6/30 9:30 - 11:00AM

### Gay and Lesbian:

Fri. 6/26 8:00 - 10:00PM  
Sat. 6/27 9:30 - 11:00AM  
Sat. 6/27 11:30 - 12:30PM  
Sat. 6/27 2:00 - 5:30PM\*\*  
Sun. 6/28 8:00 - 10:00PM\*\*  
Mon. 6/29 9:30 - 11:00AM  
Tue. 6/30 9:30 - 12:30PM

### International Human Rights:

Sun. 6/28 9:30 - 11:00AM  
Sun. 6/28 8:00 - 10:00PM

### Library Union:

Sat. 6/27 2:00 - 4:00PM

### Peace Information Exchange:

Sat. 6/27 11:30 - 12:30PM  
Sun. 6/28 9:30 - 11:00AM\*\*  
Tue. 6/30 8:00 - 9:00AM

### Progressive Librarians Guild:

Sat. 6/27 8:00 - 10:00PM

\* Reception  
\*\* Program Meetings  
\*\*\* Breakfast Meeting

## REVIEWS

**SIMPLE SONGS: STORIES.** by Vickie Sears.  
Ithaca: Firebrand Books, 1990. 165p. ISBN  
0-932379-81-8. \$8.95 (pbk.) \$18.95 (cloth)  
Publisher's Address: 141 The Commons,  
Ithaca, NY 14850.

Simple Songs by Vickie Sears is a collection of Native American story songs. Traditions, different cultures and their conflicts, and growing-up experiences, all find their way into Sears' stories. The stories are well written and pull the reader into the events. Tears, joy, sadness, and indignation are among the variety of feelings which the stories elicit.

Many of the stories could be called "coming-of-age" stories. They reflect the struggles of living and growing up in orphanages and foster homes. A lack of understanding by non-Native Americans is vividly portrayed. Internal and external conflicts between Christian and Native American beliefs predominate in many stories. As one character in the story, "A Fact of Light," states, "I have things from both my cultures that are gifts, but sometimes it's hard to mesh them. Mostly that's from prejudice on either side."

Native American traditions and myths touch and transform lives in some of the stories. In "Dancer," a foster child, labeled as a sociopath, is changed by a Native American dance. In "Sticktalk," a troubled adult is found by a medicine stick, who provides valuable lessons for the adult. Whatever the core of the story, all are fascinating.

The publisher has stated "a song is a gift to each individual, often coming to them after a special event in their lives.

Simple Songs ...is just such a gift." So true. A gift of story songs by a gifted writer.

--**Memory Wilson**, Amos Memorial Public Library, Sidney, OH.

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CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERIES, #15. EATING DISORDERS: FEMINIST, HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS. Compiled by Joan Nordquist. Santa Cruz: Reference and Research Services, 1989. ISSN: 0887-3569. \$45.00 per year (4 issues) or \$15.00 per issue. Publisher's address: 511 Lincoln Street, Santa Cruz, CA 90506.

The compiler states in a letter that the purpose of this bibliography "is to provide quick access to current literature." The bibliography includes "hard-to-find directories, bibliographies, publications and periodicals produced by activist organizations." After going to the local medical school library, this reviewer was unable to locate many of these books and pamphlets, and questions how helpful "hard-to-find" materials are in a bibliography intended to provide "quick access."

The bibliography is divided into four main subject areas. Each of these is then divided into "articles" and "books and pamphlets." Nordquist explains that entries are arranged under useful categories, rather than providing a lengthy subject list of books and journals. There are format inconsistencies, however, since many book citations are found under the "articles" sections.

This bibliography would be appropriate for scholarly work, but for rapid access to these disorders, some online indexing sources may be more helpful and efficient.

--**Jody Branson**, Humana Hospital University, Louisville, KY

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CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERIES. Santa Cruz, CA: Reference and Research Services, 1986-. ISSN 0887-3569. \$45.00 per year (4 issues) or \$15.00 per issue. Publisher's address: 511

Lincoln Street, Santa Cruz, CA 90506.

Numbers 16 through 21 were received for review, covering such diverse topics as drug abuse and animal rights. Each contains around 500 bibliographic citations in about 60 pages of text. The reviewer chose #19: Rape as the target for review.

In reviewing the bibliography, the standards outlined in Tabachnick (J.Acad.Lib. 15-5) were applied. The bibliography has no annotations. No information is readily included in the work as to the competence of the compiler to prepare the bibliography. The scope and audience are identified and justified in the two preliminary sections. The statement that the list includes alternative and feminist materials not generally accessible is somewhat correct, but only minor amounts of such materials are included. Checking miscellaneous pages, one discovers that most of the journals included are covered in places such as Academic Index, that a sizeable percentage of the items noted have ERIC document numbers, and that individual chapters of edited volumes are listed in addition to the volume itself, thus inflating the citation count. The spacing between entries is inconsistent, with some single spaced making them hard to read. An online search would produce a list of more targeted items for around the same price and be more timely, as these printed bibliographies age quickly.

--**Stephen J. Stillwell, jr.**, CSIA Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

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GOING HOME: BUILDING PEACE IN EL SALVADOR, THE STORY OF REPATRIATION. Compiled and edited by Vic Compher, Laura Jackson and Betsy Morgan. New York: Apex Press, 1991. 200 p. (ISBN: 9-945257-21-X) \$17.50 (pbk.) Publisher's address: Suite 9A, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

During the long civil war in El Salvador, over one quarter of the population was forced to flee its homes. Six to seven hundred thousand people became refugees in their own country. Beginning in the early 1980's, thousands were pushed over the border to camps in Honduras. Going Home is the story of their return.

No, Going Home is not just an account of repatriation, it is more importantly a story of building community under the most brutal conditions. The residents of Mesa Grande, Colomoncagua and the other camps/towns rebuilt their lives based on the principles of cooperation. Work, education, food, housing and government became collective goals and efforts. Even gender roles underwent transformation. It was because of these changes that the refugees were able to return to El Salvador as communities - intact, with dignity and unity - defying the Salvadoran military and their U.S. sponsors.

Going Home is a collection of first person accounts by repobladores and their North American friends. The many excellent photographs are quite moving. With the new peace agreement now unfolding, this book serves as a reminder both of what the war was all about and what peace can be about.

--Rob Lerman, Woburn Public Library, Woburn, MA

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