

SRRT Newsletter

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of the American Library Association

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FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hope to see many of your smiling faces in what is sure to be a hot and steamy New York. Many things will be on the agenda for Action Council. We will be discussing our relationship with the Office of Literary Outreach Services in light of its recent staffing changes. We will also be looking at some kind of combined task force meeting format. It is about time that SRRT entered the computer age. A home page for SRRT and each of its task forces, an electronic newsletter for the Round Table and those interested task forces--such items will be discussed at our meetings in the Big Apple.

I want to congratulate the newly elected at-large members of Action Council--**Carol Barta**, **Steven Harris**, and **Wendy Thomas**. Normally, I would also thank those members whose terms of office are ending, but the only person going off the Council is me, so ... Action Council will be electing a new coordinator, secretary, and treasurer.

There will also be one position on the SRRT Editorial Board open. Anyone interested in that slot should let an Action Councillor know. Thanks to **Carolynne Myall** for serving as a member of that Board for the last three years.

I would also like to thank **Sherry Kelley** and **Dan Tsang** for serving as liaisons from SRRT to other groups. They have both served two three-year terms and cannot succeed themselves. So if you are interested in being the SRRT representative to ALCTS-CCS or the Freedom to Read Foundation, please let a member of Action Council know.

--Stephen Stillwell

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TASKFORCE AND AFFILIATE NEWS

ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT



AIP ON THE WEB

The Alternatives in Print Web page is up and running at:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/hum/aip.html>

One function of the page is to provide a guide to "alternative" topics on the Internet. We hope to compile a listing of materials that are of interest to all SRRT task forces. We are seeking suggestions from SRRT members for materials that should be included. What are the most interesting and useful resources out there on the Net? Send your ideas to **Steven Harris** by e-mail at:

notsrh@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The schedule at the New York conference this year will be the busiest AIP has ever had: a business meeting, an award ceremony, two programs, an evening event, and a *Counterpoise* exhibit booth.

Leading off at the Waldorf Astoria, Vertes, Suite U, 8:00-9:00 am Sunday, July 7, is the business meeting. We must elect a new Jackie Eubanks Award Jury. Other topics include the forthcoming 1997 edition of *Alternative Publishers of Books in North America*, compiled by Byron Anderson; the new AIP Web page, established by Steven Harris; the alternative review journal *Counterpoise*, scheduled to start publication in January 1997; and program proposals for the 1997 conference in San Francisco.

Immediately following, 9:30-11:00 am on Sunday at the Waldorf Astoria, Park Avenue Suite S, is the program "Watching the Right: What Librarians Need to Know," with a panel of four experts (listed in the March *SRRT Newsletter*), moderated by **Jim Danky** and **John Cherney**. Get there early. *American Libraries* (May 1996) has highlighted this one among its "Programs and Events of Special Interest," so seating may be scarce. At the start of the meeting, the Jackie Eubanks Award will be presented to **Chris Dodge**. Congratulations, Chris!

The second program, 9:30-11:00 am on Monday, July 8, held in Room 1A 28 in the Javits Convention Center, is "The Alternative Press on the Internet," cosponsored by the Alternative Press Center, Alternatives in Print Task Force, and the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. Panelists will be **Debra Floyd**, East Coast Director, Institute for Global Communications; **Stacy Horn**, president and founder of ECHO (East Coast Hang Out), an electronic salon of over 3,000 members; **A.H.S. Boy**, Internet Archivist, Situationist International; and

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Editor: Carol Reid
Assistant Editor: Ian Duckor
Book Review Editor: Steven Harris
Editorial Board: Carolyne Myall, Mark Rosenzweig, Theresa Tobin.

DEADLINE FOR SEP. 1996 ISSUE: 2 AUG 1996

Sam Husseini, Activist Coordinator, FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting). The program will be chaired by **Peggy D'Adamo** and **Dan Tsang** (for more information, you can contact Peggy at: mdadamo@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu). This topic is also likely to draw a crowd!

That evening, Monday, July 8, 6:00-9:00 pm, we will hold another "Food for Thought: Free Speech Buffet" where small press and alternative publishers from the New York City area can display their materials and meet librarians. This will be the fourth of these almost annual events. The location, arranged by **Elaine Harger**, is the Mechanics Library of the historic General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen (founded 1792). The hundred-year-old building is located just off Fifth Avenue near the New York Public Library at 20 West 44th Street. Free food, cash bar.

Meanwhile, over at the Javits Exhibit Hall, from Saturday until Tuesday, July 6-9, **Charles** and **Nancy Willett** and **Chuck D'Adamo** will be staffing booths 467 and 469, promoting *Counterpoise*, the *Alternative Press Index*, and a broad array of alternative publications. Please come and sign up for a subscription (a steal at \$35) to *Counterpoise*, the new ALA alternative review journal. Fifteen librarians and editors of alternative journals have volunteered to join editor Charles Willett on the editorial board.

Not far away at booth 167, SRRT will have its own space to display information about the activities of all the task forces.

—Charles Willett



TFOE WEB SITE

Terry Link has developed a Web site for the Task Force on the Environment. He just began it and plans to develop it into a handout for the conference. Please send suggestions and feel free to share with members of other groups. The URL for the site is: http://www.lib.msu.edu/publ_ser/tpl/tests/ala.htm.

Terry can be contacted at:
Terry Link
Environmental Policy Specialist
Main Library
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1048

phone: (517) 355-1751
fax: (517) 432-1445
20676tpl@msu.edu

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

What determines whether a company operates in an environmentally/socially responsible manner? How do research organizations track corporate performance in these areas? How do libraries and their users get their hands on this information? TFOE will present "Environmentally and Socially Responsible Business: Finding Information to Make Decisions to Buy or Invest" on Sunday, July 7, 2:00-4:00 pm. This discussion by professionals involved in monitoring the environmental and social track records of corporations will include panelists **Albert Wilson**,

Vice President of TIAA-CREF; **Alice Tepper Marlin**, President of the Council on Economic Priorities; **Steven Lydenberg**, Partner with Kinder, Lydenberg and Domini; and **Dr. Ritchie Lowry**, President, or **Peter Lowry**, VP, of Good Money, Inc.

EPA LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Monday. Afternoon. Third day in The City.
Has the heat got to you yet?
The humidity?
The crowds?

FURTHER RESOURCES

If you are interested in the theme of our technical program and wish to get a good thumb-nail sketch of this topic, then take a look at the "Investing for the Earth" column written by contributing editors Jack A. Brill and Hal Brill (both are registered securities representatives specializing in socially responsible investing.) Their column is featured in the environmental business magazine, *In Business* (ISSN 0190-2458, 419 State Avenue, Emmaus, PA 18049; 610/967-4135). Columns of recent vintage have focused on the performance of environmental funds, bonds, and mutual funds for expanding portfolios. Columns typically are accompanied by a sidebar, "Company Spotlight," a profile of a company highlighted by the authors.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual TFOE Business Meeting will take place immediately after the Sunday afternoon Socially Responsible Investing program. Future directions for TFOE should be the highlight of this meeting, so come with ideas for future programs, publications, electronic presence, or whatever--the goal should be to expand the role and membership of the Task Force on the Environment.

On July 8, take a break from the hectic pace of ALA and head to the Region 2 EPA Library. You can take one of those adventurous cab rides David Letterman frequently describes, hop a bus, or try to navigate New York's subway system. The Region 2 Environmental Protection Agency offices are located at 290 Broadway (212/637-3000).

You will be welcomed by library staff and treated to an array of handouts--brochures, posters, flyers, and pamphlets from the Public Information Center (PIC). You can use the public access workstations linked to the LAN and select one of several options for Library or CD-ROM. Resources available from the EPA workstations include traditional bibliographic materials, as well as regulations and laws, directory listings, and access to the EPA's automated library catalog.

It is hoped that several staff members from other components of the EPA Library Network will be in New York for the ALA Conference. This will provide TFOE members an excellent opportunity to meet this dynamic staff and initiate contacts and network linkages to one of the most valuable environmental information collections in the world. Light refreshments will be served and there have been rumors about TFOE members and EPA staff gathering at a local eatery for dinner after the Open House.

FEMINIST ♀

FTF WEB SITE

The Feminist Task Force has a home page on the Web at: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~holman/FTF/ff.html>, compiled by **Jill Holman**, reference librarian at the University of Oregon Science Library.

LESBIAN HERSTORY TOUR

The Feminist Task Force is sponsoring a tour of the Lesbian Herstory Archives in Brooklyn on Sunday evening, July 7th, during the ALA conference. The Lesbian Herstory Archives houses more than 10,000 volumes, 1400 periodical titles, and 12,000 photographs. The collection includes:

- Every issue of *The Ladder*, the first nationally distributed lesbian publication (1956-1972)
- A 1934 letter by Radclyffe Hall that explained why she wrote *The Well of Loneliness*, the most oft reprinted work of lesbian fiction
- At least 500 pulp novels including Valerie Taylor's *Return to Lesbos* (1963) and Diana Frederick's *Diana* (1939)
- Original manuscripts, letters, and photographs donated by Audre Lorde, who was the New York State Poet Laureate at her death in 1992
- An 1831 issue of *The London Gazetteer*, the oldest original item in the Archives, which documents a reporter's visit to the home of the "Ladies of Llangellen," a lesbian couple who had taken up residence in the hills of Wales

There will be a meeting point in Manhattan and a guide to the Archives. Watch for further details on FEMINIST, the listserv for the Feminist Task Force. (To subscribe to FEMINIST, send e-mail to: listserv@mitvma.mit.edu)

Rosemary McAndrew
Head, Access Services
Elmer Holmes Bobst Library
New York University

phone: (212) 998-2532
fax: (212) 995-4070
mcandrew@elmer1.bobst.nyu.edu
or mcandrew@is.nyu

AUTHORS BREAKFAST

With the theme "Feminist Perspectives on Racism," three speakers have agreed to participate in our Feminist Authors Breakfast. **Barbara Smith**, author and editor, **Cheryl Clarke**, and **Minnie Bruce Pratt**, lesbian poets, are scheduled to speak and read from their work.

Cofounder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, with Audre Lorde, Barbara Smith wrote, "We did decide to be a publisher for all women of color ... This was one of our bravest steps since most people of color have chosen to work in their separate groups ... We were saying that, as women, feminists, and lesbians of color, we had experiences and work to do in common, although we also had our differences." Kitchen Table remains the only resource of its kind in the U.S. Smith has edited several books and written many articles about racism and women's and lesbian communities. Though she is no longer with the press, she continues her work as an editor and author in upstate New York.

Cheryl Clarke is the author of several poetry collections, *Humid Pitch*, *Living as a Lesbian*, and most recently, *Experimental Love*. She began writing in college where she took a writing seminar as a junior, she says, and just "kept on writing." She "turned exclusively to poetry in the late '70s" and has appeared at poetry readings and conferences and

published numerous essays and articles. She is currently a doctoral candidate in English at Rutgers University, and director of Diverse Community Affairs, where she addresses lesbian and gay concerns, as well as those of students with disabilities.

Minnie Bruce Pratt is a well-known lesbian poet and essayist. She has received numerous awards for her poetry collection, *Crime Against Nature*. Her most recent book, *Si/He*, a collection of prose stories, was reviewed in the Fall 1995 issue of *Women in Libraries*. These stories are actually "personal vignettes," wrote our reviewer, "brief invitations to witness a woman's private thoughts as she encounters the people in her life ... Every encounter is laced with the author's attempt to understand the difference between her roles as a female and as a woman. Like her son, she, too, 'wrestles with bone and flesh as [s/he] balances his fugitive selves.'" Pratt's stories appear at the intersection of American women's liberation, the writings of women of color in the U.S. and abroad, and lesbian and gay liberation.

Crime Against Nature, her second book of poetry, describes the relationship with her two sons. The title is a play on the idea that while the phrase is used to describe homosexuality, "the real crime against nature is violence and oppression," as expressed by the judges for the Academy of American Poets, who chose it as the best second full-length book of poetry by a U.S. author in 1989.

In 1991, *Crime Against Nature* won the American Library Association Gay and Lesbian Book Award for Literature; it was also nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. Pratt received a Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry by the National Endowment for the Arts and was one of three writers who received a Lillian Hellman-Dashiell Hammett Award, given by the Fund for Free Expression to writers "anywhere in the world who have been victimized by political persecution." She was selected because of her experience "as a target of right-wing and funda-

mental forces during the recent attacks on the National Endowment for the Arts."

Together with Barbara Smith and Elly Bulkin, she coauthored *Yours in Struggle: Three Feminist Perspectives on Anti-Semitism and Racism*. In the next issue of *Women in Libraries*, we plan to include a lengthy feature story about our other two speakers, Barbara Smith and Cheryl Clarke, and more about Pratt. At present, Pratt lives in the New York City metropolitan area, in Jersey City, New Jersey, and teaches Women's Studies, Lesbian/Gay Studies, and Creative Writing, as part of the graduate faculty of The Union Institute, a non-residential alternative university.

The Breakfast is set for its usual Sunday morning slot, July 7 at 8:30 am. To buy tickets, send \$18 (\$12 for library school students) to:

Dorothy Granger
Pacific Oaks College
5 Westmoreland Place
Pasadena, CA 91103

Tickets will also be available at the conference for \$22.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

On Sunday, July 7, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, FTF is cosponsoring "Women of Influence: Implications of Feminist Leadership Research for Library Historians." **Helen Aston**, author of *Women of Influence, Women of Vision*, will explore characteristics of women's leadership style: vision, commitment, cooperation, empowerment, and risk. **Mark Niles Maack** will relate this new leadership model to library history. **Dorothy J. Anderson** will analyze the leadership style of Mildred L. Batchelder, assessing her lasting impact on children's librarian-

ship and literature. And **Christine A. Jenkins** will speak on the role of youth services librarians during the Depression through the Cold War.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

On Monday, July 8, 9:00-11:00 am, FTF is cosponsoring "Leadership and Collaboration: Librarians Develop Women's Studies Electronic Resources." **Gladys Smiley-Bell** ("Black Women Online") will explain her approach in using electronic technology to locate materials on African and African-American women. **Phyllis Holman Weisbard** ("Fancies, Foibles, and Facts: Promoting Women's Studies Online") will speak about the evolution of women's studies publications into electronic form, the negotiation process with CD-ROM vendors to include women's studies materials, and the method of direct publishing on the Web. And **Ralph Ferragamo** ("The Birth of a Database: The American Lifestyle Series") will discuss the collaborative process involved in developing a new electronic product.

Immediately following the Book Awards Breakfast is our program: "What About the Side Streets: Reaching Underserved Populations," on Monday, July 8, 11:00 am-12:30 pm, in the Loews Hotel, Embassy C & D. Cosponsored by REFORMA and ALA's Black Caucus, this program will feature a compare/contrast panel that will discuss the marketing of outreach programs to various underserved library patron populations. Speakers will represent programs aimed at Spanish-speaking communities, black youth, and lesbian patrons. A general academic multicultural program will be covered as well. Speakers include **Khafre Abif**, Montclair Public Library, Montclair, NJ; **Toni Bissessar**, Latin American Library, Oakland, CA; **Polly Thistlethwaite**, Lesbian Herstory Archives, Brooklyn, NY; and **Deborah Turner**, Multicultural Services Librarian, University of California, Santa Cruz.

GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL

The Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Task Force once again is offering a full menu of meetings, celebrations, programs, and social events at ALA's Annual Conference. As always, please check the final Conference program and GAY-LIBN for last-minute changes and additions.

BOOK AWARDS CELEBRATION

First, 1996 is the 25th Anniversary of the Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Book Awards! Please join us for our first annual GLBTF Book Awards Breakfast, on Monday, July 8, 8:00-10:30 am, at the Loews Hotel, Embassy A. Tickets are available in advance (see order form and full description elsewhere in this newsletter.)

GLBTF is also cosponsoring, with the ASCLA Libraries Serving Special Populations Section, and the Library Service to the Deaf Forum, the program "Meet Some Great (Deaf) Authors" on Sunday, July 7, 2:00-5:00 pm. Several published authors, who happen to be deaf, will speak about their experiences and their work. These authors write for all readers, not only those who are deaf or hearing impaired. The audience may ask questions and afterwards the authors will be available to sign copies of their books. The speakers are: **Harry Lang & Bonnie Meath-Lang**, *Deaf Persons in the Arts and Sciences: A Biographical Dictionary*; **Raymond Luczak**, *Eyes of Desire: A Deaf Gay and Lesbian Reader*; **Mary Beth Miller**, *Handtalk School, Handtalk Zoo*; and **Matthew Moore**, *For Hearing People Only*.

GLBTF BOOK AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Book Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the 1997 award. The Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Book Awards are presented to English-language works published the year prior to the announcement date and are given in two categories: Literature and Nonfiction. All books published in December 1995 or in the first eleven months of 1996 are eligible. The award, which consists of a commemorative plaque and cash stipend, is announced in February and presented to the winning authors or editors at the ALA Annual Conference in June.

Nominations for the Book Awards may be made by any individual not affiliated with the publisher of the book being nominated. A short statement describing why a book is being nominated must accompany the nomination, which must be submitted to the Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Book Awards Committee Chair by November 30, 1996. Mail must be postmarked by the nomination deadline. Nominations will be accepted by regular and electronic mail or fax. Nominations should be sent to:

John DeSantis, Chair

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Book Awards Committee
Dartmouth College Library
HB 6025
Hanover, NH 03755-3525
phone: (603) 646-3605
fax: (603) 646-3702
John.C.DeSantis@dartmouth.edu

For more information on any of the above, please contact the GLBTF cochairs:

Wendy Thomas

Schlesinger Library
Radcliffe College
Cambridge, MA 02138
phone: (617) 495-8647
wendy@harvard.harvard

Mark Martin

Temple Archives
300 Park
Diboll, TX 75941
phone: (409) 829-3543

SOCIAL HOUR

Please join us for the annual GLBTF Social Hour, which will be held on Saturday, July 6, 6:00-8:00 pm. This year, the Social Hour is proudly hosted by the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 208 West 13th St. This is a great time to meet new and old GLBTF friends and to see the Center Library and Archives. If you've never attended a GLBTF social hour before, please come this year!

FEMINIST PRESS RECEPTION

"Celebrating Librarians: Making the Unknown Known" is a reception celebrating 25 years of support for the work of the Feminist Press by librarians. Cosponsored by the GLBTF, ACRL's Women's Studies Section, and the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship, this reception features authors **Maureen Brady, Lois Elias, Ruth Limmer, Robin Morgan, Meredith Tax, and Marilyn Hafner**. The reception will be held on Sunday, July 7, 7:30-9:30 pm, at B. Smith's Restaurant and Rooftop Cage (771 8th Avenue, at 47th St.). If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the Feminist Press at CUNY, 311 East 94th St., NY, NY 10128-5684. Include your name, library affiliation, and address.

GLBTF SCHEDULE

Here's the full schedule of GLBTF events. Please check GAY-LIBN or come to one of our meetings at the beginning of the conference to learn of late-breaking additions. Also, please note we have a new time for our Membership Meeting, and a new Secretary, and we'll need to appoint a new Clearing-house Cochair and Program Planning Committee Chair.

Friday, July 5

8:00-10:00 pm
GLBTF Steering Committee
Sheraton/NY, Liberty Suite 5

Saturday, July 6

2:00-5:00 pm (closed meeting)
GLBTF Book Award Committee

6:00-8:00 pm
GLBTF Social Hour
Parker/Russo Library
Gay & Lesbian Community Services
Center, 208 W. 13th St.

Sunday, July 7

9:30 am-12:30 pm
GLBTF Program Planning Committee
Sheraton/Man., Conference Room 4

2:00-4:00 pm
GLBTF Membership Meeting
Javits Convention Center, 1A 8

4:30-5:30 pm
GLBTF ReadAloud
Javits Convention Center, 1A 8

Monday, July 8

8:00-10:30 am
GLBTF Book Awards Breakfast
Loews/NY Embassy A

11:00-12:30 pm
GLBTF Program "What About the Side Streets..."
Loews/NY Embassy C,D

PROGRESSIVE LIBRARIANS GUILD

Tuesday, July 9

8:00-9:30 am

(note: this will appear in program as

8:00-11:00; we will meet until 9:30 only)

GLBTF Steering Committee

Javits Convention Center 1B 3

*** Also, please remember the SRRT Action Council Meetings: Saturday, July 6, 9:30-11:00 am (Manhattan Crowne Plaza, 1503) and Tuesday, July 9, 9:30-11:00 am (Javits Convention Center, 1E 9)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The IRTF will hold a membership meeting on Sunday, July 7, from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Call **Mark Rosenzweig** at (212) 865-6925 to add items to the agenda.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Sunday, July 7, 9:30-11:00 am, the IRTF will present "Literacy, Libraries, and Liberation in the Americas," an exploration of the role of libraries in several countries within the context of the struggle for social transformation.

FAMILY FRIENDLY?

On Sunday, July 7, 2:00-4:00 pm, SRRT is sponsoring a program that will take a look at right-wing organizations and libraries. In the fall of 1995, a group called Family Friendly Libraries (FFL), supported financially by the Christian Coalition and Focus on the Family, began to attack America's libraries. FFL wants libraries to serve and promote "traditional" family values and uses a variety of tactics to pressure libraries into compliance: censorship, threats to funding, and sensational media reports. This is occurring at a time when conservative groups are introducing "parents' bill-of-rights" legislation on state and federal levels. Speakers for this program will place the "family friendly" phenomenon within historical, cultural, and political context, describe the extent of the group's influence, and tell us how one community organized successful opposition to FFL. Speakers are: **Amy Gilman Srebnick**, faculty member at Montclair State University in New Jersey and author of *The Mysterious Death of Mary Rogers: Sex & Culture in 19th Century New York*; **Lillian N. Gerhardt**, editor of *School Library Journal*; and **Stacy Sachs**, an attorney and cofounder of Northern Virginia Citizens Against Censorship.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLG will hold a membership meeting on Saturday, July 6, 4:30-5:30 pm. We need to discuss future directions for PLG and encourage everyone to attend. We have a good network of progressive librarians around the globe and need to decide how best to utilize our connections.

OFF-OFF BROADWAY WITH PLG

PLG is organizing a "field trip" to En Garde Art's 10th anniversary production of "The Trojan Women: A Love Story." This site-specific performance of **Chuck Mee, Jr.**'s new play will take place among the decaying (but safe) East River Park Amphitheater, known in New York as the first home of Joe Papp's Shakespeare-in-the-Park. Mee's play "is a dark, sardonic work that incorporates shards of our contemporary world--from popular songs to fashion fetishes--to lie, as in a bed of ruins, within the frame of the classical world." Feminist, utopian, sensational! We will attend either the Sunday, July 7th, or Tuesday, July 9th, performance at 8:00 pm. RSVPs are essential. Call **Elaine Harger** at (212) 865-4830 before June 20 to make your reservations. This will be a *real* New York experience!

CENSORSHIP PROGRAM

ACRL's Intellectual Freedom Committee is holding a program on Saturday, July 6, 9:30-11:00 am. Titled "Censorship & Cyberspace: Meeting the Concerns of Academic Librarians," the program's speakers are: **John Buschman**, collection development librarian at Rider University and editor of *Critical Approaches to Information Technology in Librarianship*; **Donna Demac**, attorney, board member of the National Coalition Against Censorship, and author of *Liberty Denied: the Current Rise of Censorship in America*; and **Barbara Johns**, library director at Union College and chair of ACRL's IFC. SRRT member **Mark Rosenzweig** is the moderator.

CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARDS BREAKFAST

On Tuesday, July 9, 7:30-9:00 am, the Coretta Scott King Book Award Task Force will honor the 1996 CSK Award recipients **Virginia Hamilton**, author recipient for *Her Stories*, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon, edited by Bonnie Verberg (Scholastic, Inc.); and **Tom Feelings**, illustrator recipient for *The Middle Passage: White Ships, Black Cargo*, introduction by John Henrik Clarke, edited by Phyllis J. Fogelman (Dial Books, a division of Penguin USA). Author Honor Book winners include: **Christopher Paul Curtis** for *The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963*, edited by Wendy Lamb (Delacorte Press); **Rita Williams-Garcia** for *Like Sisters on the Homefront*, edited by Rosemary Brosnan (Lodestar, a division of Penguin USA); and **Jacqueline Woodson** for *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*, edited by Dianne Hess (Blue Sky Press, an imprint of Scholastic, Inc.). Illustrators: **Leo and Diane Dillon** for *Her Stories*; and **Brian Pinkney** for *The Faithful Friend*, written by Robert D. San Souci (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). Tickets: \$25 in advance by June 21. Send check and SASE to:

Mattye Nelson
OLOS, ALA
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Nearly forty million U.S. citizens now live below the poverty level (\$14,763 for a family of four). Children are the fastest growing segment of the poor. Twenty-five percent of children under six years of age in this nation are living in poverty and 40% of the 37 million individuals living below the poverty level are under sixteen.

What do the increasing numbers of people living in poverty mean for libraries? To borrow from **Fay Blake** in *Libraries, Coalitions, and the Public Good*, "It's the dispossessed, often lacking the means to find what they can use, whom we must help by reeducating ourselves, our communities, our friends; by developing programs for people who 'never come near the library'; and by seeking their knowledge and advice. This may open a new and exciting professional life for us." In 1990, the American Library Association affirmed a "Library Services for the Poor" policy, emphasizing the need for libraries to "recognize their role in enabling poor people to participate fully in a democratic society..."

Read any newspaper and you will find articles on the growth in technology and resources available electronically. But what do these changes mean for our poor and illiterate users? **Susan Lehman Keitel**, the Executive Director of the New York Library Association, warns: "What is the price of failing to act? Information injustice. The risk is information 'haves' and 'have-nots.' The information-rich, those who can pay for their information, will outpace the rest of us who may depend on the services a library can give" (from *Viewpoints*, May 1995).

ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table formed a Task Force on Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty to foster "a greater awareness of the dimensions, causes, and ways to end hunger, homelessness, and poverty, as well as a better recognition of the library/poverty nexus." SRRT's Task Force on Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty--along with the Intellectual Freedom Round Table and the Progressive Librarians Guild--is sponsoring a program entitled "Poor People and Libraries: What's the Connection?" This program was coordinated by **Sanford Berman**, Head Cataloger at Hennepin County Library (Minneapolis) and **Karen Ventur-ella**, Periodicals librarian at St. John's University. The program is scheduled for Saturday, July 6, 2:00-4:00 pm in the Javits Center, Room 1E14.

Five panelists will explore library service to the poor, emphasizing both the theoretical issues of information poverty and practical ways to meet the needs of low-income populations. Among the handouts will be resource lists, sample anti-poverty publications, and ALA's "Library Services for the Poor" policy. The panelists will be **John Buschman**, an associate professor and Information Services librarian at Rider University (Lawrenceville, NJ); **Yolanda Bonitch** from the Manhattan Borough Office of the New York Public Library; **Brian Kenney** from the Public Services Support Office at Brooklyn Public Library; **Natalie Tyler** from the Fourth World Movement; and **Sr. Elizabeth Kella-her**, a Franciscan sister of the Atonement and an educator. Yolanda Bonitch will be talking about the "Read to Me" program that coordinates volunteers to visit shelters for storytelling. Brian Kelley will tell of the grant-funded program "Community Library Information Collaborative" which focuses on outreach to the Haitian community. And Sr. Kella-her will speak on growth and development issues.

25 YEARS OF OLOS

WILSON TELLS US WHERE TO GO!

SRRT will be cosponsoring the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services' 25th anniversary celebration on Saturday, July 6. The 2:00 pm program will be followed by a reception at 5:00 pm. The program is entitled "Intellectual Participation and the Information Age: Issues, Values, and Strategies."

In our communities and on our campuses we are positioning libraries as advocates for equity on the "information highway." Do we really understand the issues of equity in the Information Age? Do we know how to advance intellectual participation for people of varying ages, diverse cultures, disparate economic backgrounds, or different learning styles? What should we be doing to prepare ourselves and our many publics to participate in the Information Age? Let's explore what's at stake for ourselves, our libraries, and those we serve.

At the 25th Anniversary of OLOS, join us in rededicating the library profession to its mission of ensuring the intellectual participation of all people.

A reception celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services and honoring OLOS' first director, **Jean Coleman**, follows a roundtable discussion of issues and strategies. Speakers will be:

- Betty Turock**, President, ALA
- Elizabeth Martinez**, Executive Director, ALA
- James Welbourne**, Assistant Director, Enoch Pratt Library
- Carla Stoffle**, Dean of Libraries, University of Arizona
- Loriene Roy**, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin
- Mary F. Lenox**, Dean, School of Library and Information Science, University of Missouri

GraceAnne DeCandido, editor and director of WilsonWeb, wishes to alert conference goers to an annotated list, created by H.W. Wilson staff and other NYC librarians, of their favorite restaurants, bookstores, cityscapes, shopping venues, and other items of interest for those attending the ALA conference. The general URL for WilsonWeb is: <http://www.hwwilson.com>; the direct URL to the abovementioned information is: <http://www.hwwilson.com/newyork/html>.

NOTE TO SIMMONS ALUM

You may have received a note from **Em Claire Knowles** about the presidential race. In it she chides me for failing to mention **Ching-Chih**'s candidacy. It is true that Ching-Chih is a SRRT member—since the fall of 1995. A few months' membership hardly equates to the long membership in and service to SRRT by candidate **Barbara Ford**. Barbara was endorsed by SRRT Action Council after each of the candidates had made a presentation to that group during the meetings in San Antonio. I am sure the members of Action Council stand by their decision. I know that I do.

Stephen Stillwell
SRRT Action Council Coordinator
Simmons '91

EDUCATION ASSEMBLY AND SRRT

by Jill Holman
SRRT Representative
Education Assembly

Education Assembly works to exchange information and ideas regarding education for library service. This group assists the Committee on Education in establishing ALA policies on education. I attended Education Assembly at the San Antonio ALA Mid-winter meeting and found out what other groups and committees are doing. They are writing curriculum policies and guidelines, and collecting and distributing syllabi in the hopes of influencing library school curriculum. They are writing brochures for non-specialists (for example, a serials brochure for non-serials people such as reference librarians). Outreach and mentoring are also recent activities.

What Do You Think SRRT Should Do Regarding Education for Library Service?

ALA has inclusive policies that are evident in some continuing education, but students are not necessarily getting exposure to relevant social issues in library schools.

I know of discussions about changes needed in library school curriculum taking place in the past year on the Feminist Task Force's listserv. What other changes might we want to implement?

One possibility: SRRT could develop an Educational Policy Statement such as the one ALCTS published in the *ALCTS Newsletter* in 1995 (7:1 p.7, also available on ALA's gopher). Especially interesting is the section on knowledge areas and skills needed by librarians. The SRRT statement could include items such as:

Service to Diverse Populations

- knowledge of diverse groups
- ability to adjust communication (less jargon, speak slowly)
- commitment to building diverse collections

Diversity in Librarianship

- recruitment of diverse groups
- tolerance of others with varied backgrounds and skills
- knowledge of library and information science history and effect of homogeneity on profession
- awareness of current profession with respect to diversity (e.g. minorities still smaller percentage in profession than in population at large, and in lower-status positions)

Politics

- fundraising needed for libraries
- legislative processes affecting libraries
- coalition-building techniques

Class and Economics

- understanding of the effects of class and economics on diverse groups with regard to libraries and information generally

Occupational Safety of Librarianship

- knowledge of ergonomics and other issues of health and safety in the field of librarianship

For ideas and questions, contact:

Jill Holman

Reference Librarian, Science Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1299
phone: (541) 346-2662
fax: (541) 346-3012
holman@darkwing.uoregon.edu

*The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force (GLBTF)
of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association
invites you to a Gala Breakfast
celebrating the 25th anniversary
of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award
sponsored by Bookazine Book Distributor*

*Join with librarians, publishers, authors and readers
to celebrate the 25th anniversary
of the first lesbian/gay book award in the United States.
The event is a fundraiser to endow the Book Award and to ensure its future.*

*Monday, July 8, 1996
8:00 - 10:30 a.m.*

*at Loews New York Hotel, 569 Lexington Ave. (Embassy A Room), New York City during the
American Library Association Annual Conference*

Tickets: \$30 before June 25, \$35 at conference

Featuring

▼ gala breakfast buffet. ▼

▼ fabulous doorprizes and giveaways. ▼

▼ Keynote speakers 1996 Book Award winners ▼

*Jim Grimsley, *Dream Boy* (Algonquin Books)*

*Urvashi Vaid, *Virtual Equality* (Anchor Books).*

*▼ Guest speakers include Jonathan Ned Katz (marking the 20th anniversary ▼
of the groundbreaking *Gay American History: Lesbians and Gay Men in the U.S.A.*),
Patricia Nell Warren (marking the 20th anniversary of the bestselling novel *The Front
Runner*) and Andrew Collins, editor of the new *Fodor's Gay U.S.A.* (Random House).*

Name(s)

Address

Phone or email

Number of breakfast tickets (\$30 each) _____.

*If you wish to be a personal sponsor (\$25/\$10) and be listed in the program booklet, please indicate amount
enclosed: _____. Sponsorship listing to read (20 characters or less):*

*Make checks payable to ALA/SRR/TLBTF. For pre-conference rate, payment must be received by June 25.
Send to Roland C. Hansen, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, JIaxman Library, 37 S. Wabash, Chicago,
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