

# SRRT NEWSLETTER

SRRT Newsletter (ISSN 0749-1670) is published quarterly by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It is sent to members of SRRT as part of their membership and is available to others by subscription for \$15.00 per year. Subscription is open to both members and non-members of ALA.

## SAN FRANCISCO, HERE WE COME

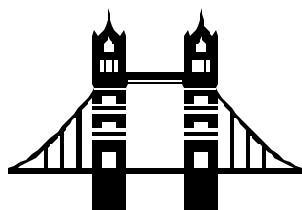
This June's ALA Annual Conference promises to be an informative one for members of SRRT. Several of our task forces are sponsoring programs and, as usual, the Coretta Scott King Awards Breakfast will be a conference highlight. Don't forget to attend the SRRT Action Council meetings. We need and want your input!

**Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

### **"Hungry Eyes: Creating Ways to Serve Disadvantaged Children and Youth"**

*Hunger, Homeless and Poverty Task Force*

Focusing on creative methods and programs, this forum will discuss the issues surrounding providing library services to children and youth confronted with homelessness,



ALA ANNUAL  
June 14-20, 2001

hunger and poverty. Speakers will describe their experiences and discuss various innovative programs created to serve these users. The social and economic conditions increasing the number of disadvantaged children and youth will also be discussed. Co-sponsored by the PLA Service to Children, Youth and Their Caregivers. Speakers: Ken Settington, editor, Young Voices, Toronto Public Library; Gloria Simoneaux, director, Drawbridge, an arts program for homeless children; Stan Weisner, Bay Area Youth at Risk Project.

**Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

### **"Earth Days in the 21st Century, Environmental Activism to Save the Planet"**

*Task Force on the Environment*

Denis Hayes, founder of the first Earth Day in 1970, an event often credited with launching the modern American environmental movement, discusses the history of Earth Day and its importance as a political action model for environmental awareness. Denis was chosen

### Inside this issue:

<i>Action Council Meeting Schedule</i>	2
<i>CIPA Update</i>	4
<i>Danger: Branding Ahead</i>	4
<i>FTF News</i>	8
<i>IRTF News</i>	9
<i>Resolution on International Relations Agenda</i>	10
<i>Chapter News</i>	11
<i>AIP News</i>	11
<i>Rosenzweig on ALA's "One Voice" Policy</i>	12
<i>CSK News</i>	13
<i>UN Breaks Silence on AIDS</i>	14
<i>Fred Stoss on SRRT Membership</i>	15

## ALA Chooses Hotel in Union Dispute as Conference Headquarters

Attendees at this year's ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco may find themselves experiencing déjà vu. When Annual was last held in the City by the Bay in 1997, picketers alerted conference-goers to an ongoing dispute between the Marriott and some of its workers. Yet, ALA chose in October of that year to sign a new contract for the hotel to serve as its headquarters again this year.

To ease the concerns of members ALA released an information sheet about the situation, but many of its assertions have been disputed by the union. Marriott has assured ALA that they hope to have a contract in place by June, but the union holds that this is yet another stall tactic. With the conference right around the corner, this scenario seems unlikely

*(Continued on page 3)*

# San Francisco, Here We Come...

(Continued from page 1)

by the National Audubon Society as one of the 100 most conservation figures of the 20th Century. Hayes believes that information is a powerful force for change. He will present ways that librarians can join citizens in five continents in developing an activist agenda and an informed global constituency to achieve a sustainable planet and efficient use of renewable resources. Speakers: Denis Hayes, President of the Bullitt Foundation in Seattle and Chair of the Energy Foundation in San Francisco (he was national coordinator of the first Earth Day in 1970 and Chair of Earth Day 1999 and 2000).; Frederick W. Stoss, Past Chair of the Task Force on the Environment, SRRT Coordinator and Biological Sciences Librarian, State University of NY, Buffalo

**Saturday, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

## “Introduction to Women’s Issues in ALA”

*Feminist Task Force (FTF), COSWL, ACRL-WSS*

Information about the activities of the women’s issue groups in ALA will be presented by: 1. SRRT Feminist Task Force (FTF) 2. ACRL-Women’s Studies Section (WSS) 3. Committee on the Status of Women in Libraries (COSWL) 4. Pay Equity Committee 5. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table (GLB-TRT) and 6. LAMA Women Administrators Discussion Group. There will also be a discussion about the concerns that are arising from these groups about women’s issues in libraries and ALA. Speakers: Jenny Baltes, FTF Coordinator ; Theresa Tobin, ACRL-WSS Chair; Sarah Barbara Watstein, COSWL Chair; E.J. Josey, Pay Equity Chair; Faye A. Chadwell, GLBTRT Co-Chair; Elizabeth A. Avery, LAMA, Women Administrators Discussion Group Chair

**Sunday, 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

## “Looksism: Issues In the Workplace”

*Feminist Task Force*

We live in a looksist society that judges people, especially females, on the basis of physical appearance. Through this program we will be looking at how looksism affects our hiring and management practices and how we serve the users of our libraries.

**Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

## “Women Moving Mountains: Women and Organizations”

*ACRL Women’s Studies Section, SRRT/Feminist Task Force*

Presentation of WSS Awards: ACRL WSS Award for Career Achievement in Women’s Studies Librarianship sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group to Sarah Pritchard and ACRL WSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women’s Studies Librarianship sponsored by Routledge Press to Marilyn Dunn. Program: Kathryn Deiss discusses issues for women in leadership and organizational development from the perspective of years of training librarians for the Association of Research Libraries and the Chicago Library System. She will raise issues and lead a discussion surrounding the impact of gender on leadership in organizations, on opportunity within organizations, on room for creativity in organizations, and on influence in organi-

zations. She will address the influence/confluence of the rise of Women’s Studies, the Women’s Movement, and focus on understanding gender in the workplace. Speaker: Kathryn Deiss, Director for Education & Training, Chicago Library System

**Sunday, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

## “Sustaining Libraries for the Future: Energy Efficiency, Friendly Buildings, and Librarians’ Sustainability”

*Task Force on the Environment*

Can libraries spend more of their budgets for information resources by spending less for energy? Three speakers will offer practical guidelines on how to plan, design, build, and operate library buildings that are energy efficient, conserve resources, save money, focus on the people and are sustainable for heavy use in the long run. Don’t miss this program – you will gain valuable information on “10 Commandments of Library Energy Conservation,” tips for strategic and sustainable planning in your library, and how to use your own conservation activities to teach the public about energy conservation. Speakers: Cate Gable, Poet, author, teacher consultant, founder and president of Axioun Communications International, Berkeley, CA; Donald Wulfinghoff, author of “Energy Efficiency Manual” and president of Wulfinghoff; James Weiner, Senior Associate, Director of Sustainable Architecture, Fields Devereaux, Architects & Engineers, Los Angeles, CA

**Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

## Coretta Scott King Awards Breakfast

*Coretta Scott King Task Force*

Looking for that special event to top off a great conference year in 2001? Looking for insight, information, and inspiration? Join us for the 32nd Anniversary celebration of this annual breakfast honoring African-American authors and illustrators of books for children and youth. Don’t forget to register early for the Coretta Scott King Breakfast. Tickets sell out early – don’t be disappointed. Fee: \$40



## Mark Your Calendar!

Plan to participate in YOUR Action Council Meetings

The following Action Council meetings are scheduled for the Annual Meeting:

- ? Action Council I Saturday 9:30 AM immediately following the All Task Force Event
- ? Action Council II Monday 2-4 PM

# Marriott Union Dispute...

(Continued from page 1)

Some background on the dispute:

In 1980, to obtain permission to build a hotel on city land, Marriott agreed to not hinder unionization.

Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, Local 2 which represents housekeepers, food workers, telephone operators and baggage handlers won legal recognition in 1996 and has been in negotiations with Marriott since that time.

Following a two-day strike in July 2000, picketing has been on intermittent basis.

On July 27, 2000 the National Labor Relations Board issued a 20-page complaint accusing Marriott of nearly 100 labor law violations concluding that they were: Restraining and coercing employees in the exercising of their rights; discriminating in regard to the hiring or tenure or terms or conditions of employ-

ment of its employees thereby discouraging membership in a labor organization; and failing and refusing to bargain collectively and in good faith. Allegedly, hotel management had repeatedly badgered pro-union workers about the futility of selecting the union as their bargaining representative and prohibiting the wearing of union insignia and buttons as well as the passing out of union leaflets.

Support for the boycotters has been intense. A Labor Day 2000 demonstration that was endorsed by Mayor Willie Brown. Former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich cancelled a scheduled appearance at the California Credit Union League's annual convention in November. The Service Employees International Union Local 790 Librarians Caucus, representing librarians at the San Francisco Public Library, urged ALA attendees to avoid the Marriott. In contrast to ALA's position on moving the conference, in March the National Association of Insurance Commissioners cancelled their June meeting and relocated it to New Orleans.

## ALA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Membership I, Saturday, June 16, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.,  
Gateway Ballroom, Moscone Convention Center

Membership II, Monday, June 18, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, Gateway Ballroom, Moscone Convention Center

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

### Membership I

- ? Mary Y. Moore, Chair of the Council Committee on Education, reports on the committee's voluntary post-masters certification for professional librarians proposal
- ? E. J. Josey, Chair of the Council Committee on Pay Equity, will discuss pay equity and salaries of librarians

### Membership II

- ? Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) litigation will be discussed by Daniel Mach, a member of ALA's Jenner & Block legal team, Candace D. Morgan, President of the Freedom to Read Foundation, and Judith F. Krug, Director of ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom

Please Note: Agendas for Membership Meetings ARE NOT CLOSED, and additional items can be added to them at the beginning of each meeting. A minimum amount of time on the agenda will be devoted to procedural activities. Members of the Council Resolutions Committee will be available to help members draft resolutions they wish sent to Council.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

To take any formal action on these or any other agenda items, a quorum, constituting 545 ALA personal members, must be present at each of the meetings.

If you are a new association member, veteran member, listener or talker, there is something for you at these meetings that goes to the heart of your obligation as an engaged association member. We know from our various e-mail distribution lists that ALA membership has much to discuss. Why not try participating in a face-to-face forum providing a framework for meaningful action?

We hope to see you at these two very important meetings!

## Children's Internet Protection Act Leads to Court Action by ALA



On March 20, 2001 The American Library Association filed a lawsuit in Philadelphia in an attempt to overturn the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) on the grounds that it is unconstitutional. The ALA believes the law restricts access to information that is constitutionally protected.

The law, which became effective on April 20, 2001, was part of Public Law 106-554, a spending bill signed by President Clinton in December. Libraries will be required to use filters or blocking software if they receive Universal Service Discounts or

funds available under the Library Services and Technology Act or Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The stated intent of the law is to blocked access by children to internet sources that meet the legal definitions of child pornography, harmful to minors, and implicit definition of obscenity. Filters may be disabled to "enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes" although these terms are not defined.

Reported problems with filters have been legion from the blocking of Dick Armey's website to actual articles about CIPA itself that contain the word "porn". ALA has been unable to find any filtering program that will block out illegal content yet provide access to constitutionally protected materials.

For more information: <http://www.ala.org/cipa/>

## Concerns Arise Over Corporate Branding

Fears of a potential onslaught of corporate branding expressed at last June's Action Council meeting seem to have been realized. ALA has recently circulated several press releases outlining events that some believe have taken branding to an outrageous level.

A January announcement stated:

"The American Library Association (ALA) is pleased to announce 3M Library Systems has joined '@ your library, The Campaign for America's Libraries', as a founding partner. "The founding partnership we have developed with 3M Library Systems will enable 'The Campaign for America's Libraries' to speak more loudly and more clearly about the value of libraries and librarians in the 21st Century," said ALA Executive Director William Gordon... 'Check-it-out Yourself Day @ your library' is an annual celebration held in conjunction with National Library Week, April 1-7, 2001. It's also an opportunity for patrons to become more self-sufficient in the library by checking out their own materials with the 3M (TM) Self Check (TM) System. "

Another event sponsored by 3M was scheduled for early April:

"March 14, 2001 - 3M, a founding partner of the American Library Association (ALA) @ your library™ campaign, announced today it is sponsoring a Webcast to help kickoff the campaign and provide library professionals with a range of resources to effectively market their libraries. The event will be held Wednesday, April 4, 2001, at 11 a.m. Central Standard Time. To register, visit [www.3M.com/library](http://www.3M.com/library). "

Add to the 3M announcements the advent of a partnership is with Verizon Communications. ALA, as well as the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL), the National Institute For Literacy (NIFL), and Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) have joined together with Verizon to create the Verizon Literacy Network. Their stated aim is to "provide continuous and instant access to a variety of critical resources that promote a more literate America." The website at [www.ala.org/literacy/](http://www.ala.org/literacy/) includes a search box called Ask Verizon Reads, powered by Ask Jeeves in which users can ask questions about literacy.

Although the misuse of corporate funding has long been a SRRT issue it was feared that the advent of the @ your library campaign would lead the ALA to shakier ethical ground. ALA Counselor at Larger Mark Rosenzweig has expressed three significant reservations : we should not promote reliance on the private sector for general operations of public institutions: the

*We have no right...to lease  
the name of the Association  
and, worse, the  
PROFESSION, to  
corporations*

## Concerns Arise Over Corporate Branding..

(Continued from page 4)

circumstances of the giving should imply no official or professional endorsement of the company's products or services, nor should our acknowledgement favor a particular company dealing either with libraries or -- in their capacity as such -- library patrons; and finally, we take pains to keep the profession, its institutions and the association free of implications of "payola".

Many in the SRRT community were also distressed to see an article in ALA News that makes it clear that the @ your library campaign was intended as a vehicle for corporate sponsorships. According to Rosenzweig who has closely watch developments: "This is not what we were led to believe. This is distasteful and a disgraceful reflection on the profession and the Association. We have no right (and the Exec has been given no license) to lease the name of the Association and, worse, the PROFESSION, to corporations (many with vested interests in the library

market, but -- I'm sure -- not to be restricted to them) for the promotion of their products and services. This is a thousand times worse than putting advertisements up in the public library, something which we have resisted, lo these many years, as UN-ETHICAL.

We appear to have crossed a line because the brand "@your library" -- meant to promote libraries and trademarked by ALA -- is being used to promote a product, competing with other products, in this case for the library market, and allows ALA to become involved in unfair promotion of one another matter) over all others. This HAS to be a misuse of the trademark or, if it's not, and this is the kind of "partnerships" which were envisaged by the creators of the campaign, we are involving ALA and libraries in a kind of COMMERCIAL advertising and promotion that really is abusive of the Association and its reputation. "

## Call for nominations from ALA 2002 Nominating Committee

Although the results of the ALA 2001 election hasn't been announced, the members of the ALA 2002 Nominating Committee are beginning their work to develop a slate of candidates for next year's election.

To encourage diversity and leadership development, the Committee has decided to refrain from nominating any current Councilors for election to another term. However, the Committee encourages all Councilors who wish to continue their service to the Association to file as petition candidates in the 2002 election. Petitions will be available from Lois Ann Gregory-Wood, Council Secretariat (lgregory@ala.org) or during the 2001 Annual Conference or 2002 Midwinter Meeting. Petitions require 25 signatures for names to be included on the 2002 ballot.

Councilors who would like to submit names of potential candidates for consideration by the 2002 Nominating Committee should send the following information to any member of the committee by June 1: nominee name; present position, institution; address; telephone; fax; and e mail-address.



**FILL AN EMPTY SEAT...  
MAKE A DIFERENCE!!**

Committee members are:

Barbara J. Ford, chair, 124 W. Polk St. #602, Chicago, IL 60605, e-mail bford@chipublib.org

Betty G. Acerra, Brooklyn Public Library, Brighton Beach Branch, 16 Brighton First Road, Brooklyn, NY 11235-7665, e-mail b.acerra@brooklynpubliclibrary.org

Clara Nalli Bohrer, West Bloomfield Township Public Library, 4600 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48323, e-mail bohrrcn@wblib.org

Judith A. Drescher, Director, Memphis -Shelby County Public Library and Information Center, 1850 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104-4021, e-mail drescherj@memphis.lib.tn.us

Thomas W. Leonhardt, 4070 C Adelaide St., Klamath Falls, OR 97603, e-mail leonhart@oit.edu

Sara A. Lowman, Director of Fondren Library, Rice University, MS-44, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77292-1892, e-mail lowman@rice.edu

Ruth Newell-Minor, 380 Ingleside, Bolingbrook, IL. 60490-3105, e-mail rnewellm25@aol.com

Rod Wagner, Director, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023, E-mail rwagner@neon.nlc.state.ne.us

Nancy P. Zimmerman, P.O. Box 5473, Columbia, SC 29250, e-mail nzimmerman@gwm.sc.edu

# PLG and SRRT Sponsor Nicholson Baker at ALA

Co-sponsors: SFPL Librarian's Guild and Library Employees Union Chapter, Local 790 SEIU

“Best Copy Available”  
Speaker: Nicholson Baker

At the very moment when excellent digitization techniques make permanent access a possibility, the only extant originals have disappeared, with only scratchy and incomplete microforms in their stead. Why has the past been discarded before we have found a proper home for it in the future? What is the purpose of the library? In this evening event Nicholson Baker will speak directly to librarians--the only professionals whose mandate requires them to redress the astonishing loss of the written record. Baker will share with us the revelations from his hot-off-the-press book *DOUBLE FOLD: Libraries and the Assault on Paper*. Notorious among readers for sexy best-selling novels like *Fermata* and *Vox*, Baker is perhaps even more notorious among librarians for his *New Yorker* pieces on the premature

abandonment of card catalogs, books, and newspapers. Regarded by some librarians as an unsympathetic critic and outsider, Baker is beloved by those who know him as the only writer to look for and find the devil in the details. Meticulously uncovered in libraries, his primary sources include frontline librarians and microforms as well as the *Microform Review*. Baker has joined our ranks, so to speak, having founded the *American Newspaper Repository*, which preserves runs--often unique--of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century newspapers he managed to acquire before they would have been turned into novelty items. This talk, followed by a Q&A (bring your questions) and book signing, gives a wider context to the survival of the historical record.



*Nicholson Baker speaks  
Sunday, June 17 at 6:30 PM*



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well, finally! In spite of false starts, fried laptops, illness, and bomb threats (not by anarchists...it was a student's abandoned science project), a new issue of the SRRT Newsletter is done.

My thanks to Fred Stoss, Mark Rosenzweig, Rory Litwin, Al Kagan, Elaine Harger, Ann Sparanese, and assorted Task Force Correspondents for all your help.

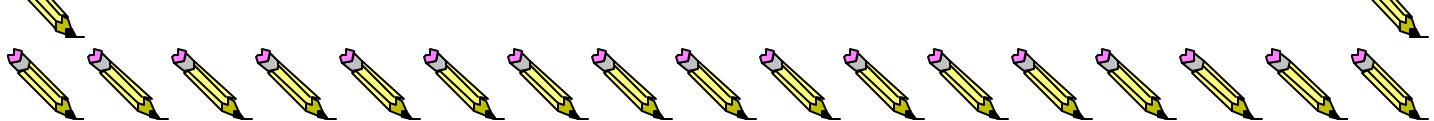
The fact remains that we need more input from YOU to make this newsletter all it can be. Elsewhere in this issue is a call for nominees for the Editorial Board. Please consider serving in this capacity.

My vision for the future issues includes a glimpse into the past. I would like to print a written history of SRRT. If you were around in the beginning and would like to have your say, please contact me. With the advent of the "One Voice" policy, I think we could use some inspiration from our forbearers. In a similar vein, I would like to feature interviews with our current leaders and new members.

Other ways you can help:

- ? Take a cue from Kristin Anderson and report on an event that may be of interest to your fellow SRRTers.
- ? Does your library or another nearby sponsor a program that supports social responsibilities? Why not share the news with us via an article?
- ? Volunteer to be book review coordinator.
- ? Become the newsletter liaison for your favorite task force

I look forward to working with you in the future.



## Report to SRRT on the 66th IFLA General Conference, Jerusalem, 13-18 August 2000

Jerusalem was perhaps the most controversial IFLA venue in the history of the organization. The status of the city is one of the main contentions in the ongoing peace talks. The Palestinian and other Arab librarians boycotted the meeting and instead convened a conference of the Arab Union for Libraries and Information in Cairo. Although IFLA officials stated that they only learned of the boycott fifteen months before the meeting, the Palestinians claim contesting the venue four years ago, one year after the choice was announced. The IFLA Executive Board issued a statement last year stating that the conference "does not confer any particular recognition or status on that venue." This may be a fine theoretical statement, but it was ignored in practice. In fact, the Opening and Plenary Session presumably arranged by the Israeli Organizing Committee turned out to be an explicit showcase for promoting the politics of the State of Israel. A representative from the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) welcomed us to the "unified capital of the State of Israel." This was in Hebrew, so those without headphones for simultaneous translation missed it. The keynote speaker at the Opening Session is usually a government official who talks about libraries, education, or culture in the host country. This was the first time in my knowledge that the speaker was a political scientist who addressed an overtly political topic, the dramatically changed conditions that have led to the peace process. The talk was given by Shlomo Avineri, Director of the Institute for European Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a former Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The session was concluded with a choir singing Israeli peace songs.

Although the Palestinians were effectively silenced at the official meeting, the Norwegian Library Association took the lead in bringing a Palestinian point-of-view to the attendees. A small international group met with Feisal Hussein, the informal mayor of East Jerusalem and the member of the PLO Executive Committee who is in charge of Jerusalem affairs. The group was presented with a statement from the National Conference of Palestinian Librarians which reaffirmed the boycott, noted that the Israeli Government had prevented a workshop for Palestinian librarians, and called for Unesco intervention to maintain the cultural identity of the city. This statement was finally published in the conference newsletter, the *IFLA Express*, on the last day of the meeting. IFLA President, Christine Deschamps, stated at the closing session that the IFLA Executive Board dissociated itself from political incidents during the conference, but claimed that these were beyond the control of the local organizing committee. This was the weakest response possible.

Several other statements were made during the conference in at least two other meetings. I took the opportunity to address the question at both the panel and the business meeting of FAIFE, the Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression. I asked the following rhetorical questions concerning the Opening Session: Why were we welcomed to the "unified capital of the State of Israel?" Why was it focused on the peace process with only the Israeli point-of-view and no chance for discussion? Why were there Israeli peace songs but no Palestinian peace songs? And in a city with a large Palestinian population, why was there not one word of Arabic? At the FAIFE business meeting, I said that the situation was entirely predictable five years ago, and I asked that FAIFE have some input into future venue decisions.

Although the Israeli Organizing Committee had to promise that all would be welcome in its bid to win the venue, it turns out that visas were denied to many third world librarians. It is notable that the Re-

gional Section on Africa's funded speaker was denied a visa as were a number of other African librarians. Many also suffered long and difficult immigration and customs interrogations, both on arrival in Israel and before takeoff at El Al Airlines facilities at other airports. I observed what appeared to be a typical case of profiling on my arrival, the same kind of treatment that blacks often suffer here in the US.

On the positive side, I am pleased to report a successful meeting of the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group. There were about 80 people who engaged in a lively discussion around recommendations to IFLA on addressing the growing gap between the information rich and the information poor, both between countries and within countries. About 30 people have volunteered to work on implementing the recommendations assuming endorsement by the IFLA Professional Board. The recommendations were forwarded to the Professional Board for action at their fall meeting in The Hague.

It was also heartening to find a panel on "Libraries and the WTO." The speakers were Frode Bakken, the current President of the Norwegian Library Association and, Paul Whitney from the Burnaby Public Library in Canada. They explained the excellent IFLA policy on the WTO (which has been endorsed by ALA) and talked about what happened in Seattle. Unfortunately, as opposed to our SRRT panel in Chicago, the spirit of Seattle was not evident in the room. There was also a Guest Lecture on the WTO by Steven Shrybman, also from Canada. He characterized the WTO as the "most powerful organization that has ever existed." For example, he noted that the US has won a case against Canada treating periodicals as commodities, exactly the same way as beer. Local content in Canadian periodicals has no relevance under WTO rules.

There were three notable agenda items at the FAIFE meeting, the recently issued report on the state of libraries in Bosnia and Hercegovina, the draft World Report on the state of libraries in various countries and the controversy around the FAIFE report on Cuba. The Bosnia report has been issued as a monograph. It describes the war devastation and offers recommendations for revitalization. The first World Report will be issued next year and will be something like an Amnesty report on the state of libraries. Marta Terry, the President of the Cuban library association, ASCUBI, made an impassioned rebuttal to the FAIFE report condemning Cuban Government repression against the so-called "Independent Librarians." Her remarks will be available in English shortly. I was able to back-up her remarks by referring to the recent trip by US librarians who visited two of these "independent libraries." I noted that they were neither independent nor librarians, and that their small living room collections of books distributed by the US Interest Section in Havana did not function as libraries.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Margot Brault who told me about the wonderful Jerusalem Hotel and their Alternative Tours. This small, decorative and warm Palestinian Hotel served as my home away from home in East Jerusalem, provided me with wonderful food in their garden restaurant, helped me attend the exquisite Jerusalem Festival for Arabic Music and Jazz, and provided me with political tours to Gaza and The West Bank. A tour of a refugee camp in Gaza was an experience I will not easily forget. I did learn more about the Medical Library in Gaza, and I hope we can follow-up on our proposed aid project. It was quite a trip.

Al Kagan  
August 27, 2000

## FTF Starts Feminist Booklist for Young Readers (from Women in Libraries)

At its Midwinter meeting, the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable decided to prepare an annual bibliography of books with strong feminist messages that are recommended for young people from birth to age 18 years and that have been published within the past 18 months. The purpose of the list is to communicate to the public young people's literature that is "Feminist Friendly" or encourages gender equity.

A group of interested FTF members prepared suggested policies and procedures at the conference and submitted it to the FTF listserv for feedback. At this time, the bibliography is called "Feminist Books for Youth Project: The Amelia Bloomer List." It will contain titles and brief descriptions of quality fiction and nonfiction books, mainstream and small press) that affirm positive roles for girls and women with an attempt to present a variety of reading tastes and levels.

The target audience is both young people and interested adults. The list would be distributed in print and on web sites

to libraries, bookstores, Head Start and other state agencies, and other institutions that might find such a list of interest.

Project members welcome all recommendations for the list that are original publications during the current calendar year or have been published from July to December of the previous calendar year.

A group of nine members will be responsible for reading, nominating, and discussing books with much of this activity carried out electronically with nominated books available on FEMINIST, the listserv of the Feminist Task Force. Voting will take place at Midwinter, and the announcement of the booklist will follow voting, beginning with the 2002 conference.

The Project is still looking for members. Interested parties or individuals wishing more information about "Bloomers" may contact Jenny Baltes (jenny\_baltes@hotmail.com; 349 Point 2 Point Road, Bel Air, MD 21015; 410-569-5005)

## Midwinter News From FTF (from Women in Libraries)

At the January 13, 2001 FTF meeting, Theresa Tobin also gave a report on the listserv (feminist@mitvma.mit.edu). According to Tobin, the list has grown slightly and now includes 873 members. About 85% are from the U. S., 10% from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth (Australia is high), and 5% from other countries.

A plus for moderating the list is that spam and commercial advertising are kept off the list. Also not allowed are position announcements without salary or salary ranges. In addition, the moderator communicates with those who posted the positions about FTF's stand on publishing salary: Some are returned with salary information while others respond saying that their Human Resources are not willing to post one. As a result, "a small amount of consciousness raising on this issue is accomplished,"

according to Tobin.

A minus is that when the moderator is away or unable to read e-mail, the list is silent. There was a discussion about recruiting a second moderator.

Diedre Conkling, a member of COO, reported that an area of interest in their discussions this conference is electronic membership. The issues of voting, especially in Member Meetings, may well have a great long-range impact.

At the second FTF meeting on January 15, it was decided that the program at Annual in San Francisco would be on "looksism" and ageism in job discrimination. The program is scheduled for Sunday, 8:00-10:00 pm. FTF will also host Introduction to Women's Groups at 2001 Annual conference. Diedre Conkling will organize this.

## PDR's for Cuba

PDRs for Cuba!

In the spirit of the SRRT Resolution on supporting Cuban libraries, we have an excellent way to help Cuban medical libraries and doctors to receive recent issues of the needed Physicians Desk Reference. Many public libraries discard last year's edition when the new one comes in. So instead of sending it to the dumpster, send it to me and I will make sure it gets to Cuba with the next trip of the Pastors for Peace Caravan, the Venceremos Brigade, or another delegation.

You can send the books to:

Ann Sparanese  
146 St. Nicholas Ave.  
Englewood, NJ 07631



If library rate is an issue, e-mail me at [sparanese@englewoodlibrary.org](mailto:sparanese@englewoodlibrary.org) and we can arrange for your library to send it to mine. These books will be greatly appreciated by Cuban libraries and medical personnel.



## International Responsibilities Task Force Report on Activities at the Chicago Annual Meeting

The SRRT International Responsibilities Task Force held an especially stimulating program on "The WTO and Libraries: Perspectives on Globalization" on Sunday, July 9, 2000 from 2 to 4 PM. It seemed like the spirit of the Seattle demonstrations was in the room! The speakers rallied the 75 attendees resulting in some inspired discussion. It was encouraging to see that we got excellent coverage in *American Libraries*. Look for the papers to be published in the *Progressive Librarian*.

The program began with Rick Weingarten, Director of the ALA Office for Technology Policy, and ALA representative to the Seattle meeting. ALA had official NGO observer status in Seattle. Unfortunately he had to speak and run to catch an airplane to another meeting. Fiona Hunt, Information Literacy Librarian at Zayed University Library in Abu Dhabi, then spoke on "The WTO: a Threat to Libraries." Fiona is also the owner of the best listserv on globalization, [mai-list@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:mai-list@interchange.ubc.ca). Our third speaker was Jonathan Betz-Zall, who until recently was Children's Librarian at the Sno-Isle Library System just outside Seattle. He talked on "The WTO: A Local Perspective."

Let me just note that the Canadian librarians have really taken the lead on these issues for our profession. Their resolutions helped motivate IFLA to take similar actions, which in turn made it possible for us to pass a WTO resolution through ALA Council last January. I can report that IFLA had a good WTO program at the August meeting in Jerusalem. We need to keep our eyes open for further WTO discussions on their proposed General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS). This proposal would classify publicly supported library services as a "non-tariff barrier to trade!"

The International Responsibilities Task Force also co-sponsored a program with the ALA Black Caucus International Relations Committee on Monday, July 10 from 9:30 to 11 AM on "Access to African Materials in US Libraries." Many libraries want to buy African materials but do not know where to start. The program included concrete information on the easiest ways to acquire African materials as well as discussion of the overall African publishing scene. People eagerly took the handouts with vendor contact information. The speakers were Ismail Adbullahi from the Clark-Atlanta University School of Library and Information Science and Valerie Mwalilino from the Library of Congress African/Middle Eastern Acquisitions Section. Unfortunately our third speaker, Mary Jay from the African Books Collective in Oxford, UK could not attend so I read her paper.

Our task force activities in Chicago included adopting a detailed response to the ALA International Relations Committee Agenda for 2000-2005. This was a response to the IRC's call for comments on their new activity of creating a five-year plan. SRRT Action Council voted a resolution sending our recommendations on to the ALA IRC. This document was supported by the ACRL IRC and had a very good initial impact. The major points covered addressed both the Guiding Principles as well as

the action items. For the Principles section, we noted the fundamental growing gap between the information rich and the information poor both between countries and within countries, stated the negative consequences of the increasing commodification and privatization of public information, and supported Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We urged ALA officers to seek funding from foundations, NGOs and IGOs instead of relying only on corporate and US Government sources. We advocated subsidizing appropriate international attendance at ALA meetings. We urged the ALA International Relations Office to support the work on the various ALA international relations bodies like our Task Force. And we specified that the IRC should work on freedom of expression, human rights, and issues around the WTO and globalization.

Finally, we affirmed our support for a solidarity project for the Gaza Medical Library and decided to develop a program on the Cuban library situation for the 2001 ALA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The Task Force will be co-chaired for the coming year by Elaine Harger, Mark Rosenzweig and Ann Sparanese.

Al Kagan, [akagan@uiuc.edu](mailto:akagan@uiuc.edu)

**The SRRT Newsletter needs  
YOU!**

**A new editorial board will be chosen at Action Council in San Francisco.**

**Feel free to nominate yourself**

**OR**

**Feeling shy?  
Contact Fred Stoss at  
[fstoss@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:fstoss@acsu.buffalo.edu)**

**He will be happy to do the honors.**

# RESOLUTION

Resolution & Response to the Draft of the ALA International Relations Agenda 2000-2005

Whereas the ALA International Relations Committee has formulated an International Relations Agenda and has asked for comments:

Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table transmits the attached [following] proposed amendments to the ALA International Relations Committee for their consideration:

The Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association commends the ALA International Relations Committee for its efforts to establish an International Relations Agenda. Although SRRT agrees with the thrust of the operational sections, we are proposing several changes and additions to strengthen the language and address points omitted. We do however have deeper concerns with the Guiding Principles which will be used to evaluate issues not specifically addressed in the body of the document. Here we are proposing significant changes that we think better describe the current state of affairs and reflect long-standing ALA policy statements.

SRRT puts forward the following proposed amendments. Paragraphs not affected are omitted. Deletions are [bracketed]. New text is in CAPITALS.

## Guiding Principles

\* Technology has nearly eliminated problems of distance and has significantly reduced the impact of differences in time FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IN REICH COUNTRIES AND ELITES IN POOR COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THERE IS A GROWING GAP BETWEEN THE INFORMATION RICH AND THE INFORMATION POOR BOTH WITHIN AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

\* [Information has become an international commodity.] LIBRARIANS HAVE TRADITIONALLY VIEWED MOST INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC GOOD FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL. THE INCREASING COMMODIFICATION AND PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION RESOURCES IS AN INTERNATIONAL TREND WITH NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MAJORITY OF CITIZENS.

\* [The role of the library in connecting individuals to information is a value held throughout the world.] LIBRARIES SHOULD PROVIDE FREE ACCESS TO INFORMAITON AND PROMOTE FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ALA SUPPORTS ARTICLE 19 OF THE U.N. DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PROTECTIONS IT SEEKS TO PROVIDE AGAINST REPRESSION OF THESE RIGHTS.

\* The library's role in promoting the education of society, preserving AND DEVELOPING its cultures, supporting EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE economic growth and advancement, and safeguarding AND DISSEMINATING the world's information heritage is essential for the global, transborder,



multicultural society of the 21st century.

1) An Internationally Aware Organization

\* Through the ALA development and international relations offices, funding for international activities will be sought from corporate, governmental, FOUNDATION, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, INTERNATIONAL AGENCY, and private sources, and through member contributions.

\* The association will attempt to increase membership from abroad and to realize a greater international presence at ALA conferences and meetings. AS WE SUBSIDIZE ATTENDANCE FOR ALA MEMBERS AT INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIRS, WE WILL ALSO SUBSIDIZE APPROPRIATE INTERATIONAL ATTENDANCE AT ALA MEETINGS.

2) An Internationally Aware and Involved Membership

[New point] THE ALA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE WILL SUPPORT THE WORD OF THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES OF ALA DIVISIONS, ROUND TABLES AD OTHER BODIES AND THE WORK OF THE ALA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASSEMBLY.

[New point] THE ALA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE WILL PROVIDE LIAISON SERVICES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES OF OTHER LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AS WELL AS INDEPENDENT LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MAY NOT BE AFFILIATED WITH OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED ASSOCIATIONS.

3) An Effective and Far Reaching International Program

\* Through its work in IFLA, with other library and educational organizations, and through various independent entities, ALA will be an influential force in areas of international importance such as copyright law, [and] the development of standards, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND OTHER GLOVALIZATIONS ISSUES INCLUDING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION PROPOSALS ON THE PRIVATIZATION OF SERVICES WHICH MAY DETERMINE THE GLOBAL CONTEXT OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS. \*

\*See 1991-92 CD#17.1, U.S. Objectives for IFLA and 1996-97 CD#18.4, IFLA, Human Rights and Freedom of Expression

Passed by SRRT Action Council, July 8, 2000

## NYSRRT HOLDS FIRST MEETING

Last November in Saratoga Springs, NYSRRT held its first business meeting and its first official program. NYSRRT was officially organized at the 1999 New York Library Association Annual Meeting. It has been thought to be an impressive startup, more than 40 members immediately joined NYSRRT and new members were added at this year's NYLA Annual Meeting.

The business meeting addressed a number of organizational items, including the need to keep their membership informed about NYSRRT activities. A NYSRRT eMail discussion list will be created, and an online newsletter was discussed. Discussion quickly turned to future activities. Mitch Freedman took the lead by suggesting NYSRRT contact other NYLA round tables and develop a program focusing on UCITA. Mitch then volunteered to do this and received a rather enthusiastic



"second" from another ALA SRRT member, Herb Biblo, who also attended this inaugural NYSRRT meeting. There is the potential for NYSRRT to conduct a Libraries Build Sustainable Communities, an ALA-sponsored outreach program, at next year's NYLA Annual Meeting in Albany. Fred Stoss, a member of the ALA LBSC Team, will investigate this.

NYSRRT's first program was held in the Glasby Room of the new Saratoga Public Library. Fred Stoss gave a presentation outlining how federal, local and municipal agencies, and non-governmental organizations, can work with libraries and provide grant funding for environmentally-related projects. Bobbi Chase from the Citizens Environmental Coalition, <http://www.crisny.org/not-for-profit/cectoxic/>, provided an overview of this grass-roots environmental health organization, and what CEC is doing to coordinate an activist's presence for the environment and natural resources in New York.

You can look at NYSRRT's home page at <http://www.nyla.org/srrt/index.htm>. SRRT Members wishing to join NYSRRT should contact Rich Peters at Rich Peters [mythos@pcom.net](mailto:mythos@pcom.net).

## Washington State SRRT Folds

The Washington [State] Library Association's SRRT chapter was disbanded at the end of last April because of lack of attendance and energy at its annual business meeting, but was revived in August after the chair attended the ALA Preconference on "Libraries Build Sustainable Communities" in Chicago. He recruited members from around the state to reconstitute the group, and planned to conduct the LBSC workshop at the



association's next conference in April 2001. Cheers!

Jonathan Betz-Zall, WLA/SRRT Chair

--

Jonathan Betz-Zall  
[jbz@scn.org](mailto:jbz@scn.org)

## AIP Report

At the annual meeting AIP approved a set of bylaws. They can be read at <http://libr.org/AIP/bylaws.html>. Among the bylaws approved was a procedure for voting in a new coordinator. A coordinator elect will be chosen by the members by a vote, and the coordinator elect will serve for one year as an assistant and "apprentice," and then serve as coordinator the following year, with another coordinator-elect helping. Rory Litwin has one year left as coordinator starting with the Midwinter 2001 meeting.

AIP has a lot of projects on tap, but some of them need leadership. If you want to contribute to anything, please don't hesitate to contact us at [aip@libr.org](mailto:aip@libr.org) and join.

One activity is the "Core List" project - the creation and publication of a core list of alternative serials and/or monographs for medium sized libraries. This is a much needed project that is in the early planning phases. The AIP website (<http://libr.org/AIP>) currently needs a redesign. This is something a savvy new member could accomplish.

This year's Eubanks award was given to Daniel Tsang. (To see why, check out his website at <http://go.fast.to/ar/>.) The Eubanks Award Committee currently needs one or two new members.

AIP held another midwinter discussion with alternative publishers, which was organized by the very able Gary Colmenar.

If you want to get involved in AIP, please contact us at [aip@libr.org](mailto:aip@libr.org). All of the members will receive your message.

Rory Litwin, PO Box 720511, San Jose, CA 95172  
[rory@libr.org](mailto:rory@libr.org) - <http://libr.org/rory>

# MANY VOICES, ONE GOAL: notes towards a critique of the "One Voice" policy for ALA

By Mark Rosenzweig

We recognize the concerns of the Executive of the ALA about the necessity for presenting a strong, common front and public face in order to be effective on matters of Association-wide concern. But we also have a need to project an image of an Association which practices what it preaches: there must be the highest degree of internal democracy and the rights of freedom of expression in ALA. An attempt to impose what can only be described as a "democratic-centralist" organizational philosophy appropriate to a Leninist party is inappropriate and unnecessary in an organization with our goals.

We believe there is a misunderstanding about what effective unity entails and what measures are appropriate or necessary to achieve unity in action at the levels at which that is meaningful. We wish to preserve the pluralism and commitment to free expression which should be exemplified by ALA, while helping to make the Association a stronger and more effective organization. This is an attempt to suggest that the "one voice policy" is not the way to proceed.

1) There is no disagreement that government/public policy issues on which the Association has taken a position, which have been endorsed by Council and where the issues which are in play regard pending/on-going legislation or litigation, counterpositions on the same matters and criticism of the position on these matters or of the conduct of the active bodies which, by agreement with council or statutorily, are empowered to advance these positions, should be intra-organizational, i.e. should proceed through the various foray afforded by ALA rather than being directly addressed to the public, the government or courts or similar bodies. It is conceded that concurrent conflicting positions by bodies of the association expressed on pending legislation or litigation advanced by the whole association is counter-productive. This should be an ethical and practical imperative rather than a legally enforced stipulation, and should be based on self-policing rather than on the threat of sanctions. Nonetheless, it should be explained clearly that this is highly undesirable and efforts should be taken by parties involved to negotiate to assure that this does not happen i.e. that opposed positions on association-wide issues at this level not be presented.

2) There remains a wide range of matters, not covered by the above, where there is, and should be, room for the expression of different, opposed, or additional viewpoints on issues confronting the profession, or which sub-units construe as confronting the profession, and where there is no reason why positions and statements should not be expressed and distributed both within and without the Association.

3) Sub-units, within their respective areas of concern, as established by statute (statements of purpose), accorded status, and/or historical precedent of concern and action, should not have any restrictions placed on their expression of overlapping, supplementary, critical or contrary points of view on issues, in the venues and directed to the parties of their choice, WHERE THIS DOES NOT DIRECTLY CONCERN A MATTER IN ACTIVE LEGISLATIVE OR LEGAL REVIEW OF AN ASSOCIATION-WIDE, DEMOCRATICALLY DECIDED POLICY POSITION, AS LONG AS THE POSITION, STATEMENT, DECLARATION, PETITION, etc. DOES NOT CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE POSITION OF THE ASSOCIATION AS A WHOLE, AND WHICH PROFFER CLEARLY STATES THIS IN A MANNER DECIDED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

This means that any communication by a sub-unit of ALA must have a disclaimer prominently displayed on all official presentations (letters, e-mails, faxes, telegraphs) that this statement is the statement ONLY of the unit issuing it.

3) That a third party may, either through ignorance or malice, misrepresent a properly identified position of a sub-unit as the position of the entire Association, is not reason to limit the rights to form and express and freely make known opinions by sub-units. The answer to any such misrepresentations lies in the fact that the responsible sub-unit has clearly identified the opinion as that of the unit and not the Association as a whole.

4) There is no more right to limit a sub-unit in its communications outside the Association than there is for the ALA to forbid an individual who has been elected to the ALA Council to so identify her/himself as such on a public statement AS LONG AS said person explicitly states (and it is so recorded) that the opinion expressed is her/his alone and that the title is for identification purposes only. This happens all the time.

5) There is a long history and precedent for sub-units communicating their positions both within and outside the association as part of their normal mode of activity. GODORT and SRRT, for example, have, since their inception, sent copies of their resolutions - and even direct appeals - to outside parties, and have always made the provenance of the document or pronouncement clear. The premise of this has not been challenged until the attempt to promulgate a new policy of "speaking with one voice" has

## Many Voices...

(Continued from page 12)

recently been made and illegitimately passed off as a mere "interpretation" of existing principles.

6)Indeed, SRRT, as an examination of its charter and history reveal, exists precisely to put forward positions on issues considered to be of concern to the profession which are NOT likely to have been represented by other units or the Association as a whole, except in those instances where SRRT resolutions are able to be passed by Council. SRRT has never limited its concern to influencing Council, in attempts to pass resolutions. Many resolutions of SRRT are not, and have not been throughout its history, passed with the purpose of being brought to Council for consideration. SRRT passes resolutions, as is proper, in its own name, clearly identifies them as such and makes them public. There has been no legal action initiated against ALA which has resulted from this practice; there is no reason to believe it jeopardizes the tax-exempt status of the ALA since SRRT clearly acknowledges its obligation to comply with the stipulations of the 501(c)3 provisions under which ALA operates, and does not engage in endorsing political candidates, or in campaigning for any parties or candidates or in related activities..

7)As far as the making public of SRRT's independent positions is concerned, there is no difference between their being published in the SRRT Newsletter, American Libraries, Library Journal on the one hand and the New York Times on the other; no difference between addressing a petition to the President of ACRL or the President of the United States. Public is public, and the positions, determined in open meetings by pre-established democratic procedures by recognized units of the Association, are public. The further publication of these position, their being brought to the attention of particular parties, in no way changes their essentially valid, public character. The wisdom of making these statements public in certain ways or to certain persons or groups is a matter of debate and discretion, but prior censorship cannot be accepted as a means of restricting the provision of information (a position so at odds with librarianship's philosophy) about the decisions taken by a legitimate sub-unit of the Association.

### **Coretta Scott King Awards Announced at Midwinter**

Six books were honored with Coretta Scott King Awards at Midwinter. Presented annually by the CSK Task Force the recipients are authors and illustrators of African descent whose distinguished books promote an understanding and appreciation of the "American Dream."

Commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and acknowledging the work of his widow Coretta Scott King, the awards are chosen by a seven-member award jury.

2001 Author Award Winner:

Miracle's Boys by Jacqueline Woodson (Putnam)

Honor Books:

Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney; illustrated by Stephen Alcorn (Harcourt/Gulliver)

2001 Illustrator Award Winner:

Uptown by Bryan Collier (Henry Holt)

Honor Books:

Freedom River by Bryan Collier (Jump at the Sun/Hyperion)

Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth; illustrated by R. Gregory Christie; text by Anne Rockwell (Random House)

Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys illustrated by E.B. Lewis; text by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard (Simon & Schuster)

### **CSK Task Force Appointments**

The CSK Task Force is pleased to announce the appointment of two talented and capable members to lead our jury and annual breakfast event. Fran Ware, currently a member of the Awards Jury will take over as Chair in 2001. Idella Washington, the 1999 Breakfast Chair will chair the San Francisco Breakfast. I congratulate both women and thank them for their willingness to serve. Fran Ware can be reached at: fware@jclibrary.org ; and Idella Washington's e-mail address is: idewash@prodigy

### **HHP Task Force Report**

The HHP Task Force sponsored a well attended, successful program on "Economic Barriers to Library Access" at the Annual Meeting in Chicago. Karen Venturella informed the members that she would be unable to continue as chair as she is expecting a baby in late December and will not be able to attend midwinter and annual for a few years. Damon Jaggars, from the University of Texas at Austin, was elected as the new chair of the Task Force. Task force bylaws were discussed, revised and submitted to SRRT Action Council for approval. Plans for the future include developing a training program for libraries dealing with poor patrons and designing services to meet there needs. A program is being planned for the Annual Meeting in San Francisco concerning providing library services to disadvantaged youth. Damon Jaggars jaggars@mail.utexas.edu

# The UN Makes a Heartfelt Request for Our Help to "Make the Big Noise Against AIDS"

The evening of October 23rd, 2000 in the United Nations General Assembly Hall is something I will never forget-- an evening dedicated to "Breaking the Silence on HIV/AIDS." Many thanks go to Fred Stoss for posting the tickets on the SRRTAC-L mailing list so I could attend on behalf of SRRT.

The "Race Against Poverty 2000 Awards Ceremony on Breaking the Silence on HIV/AIDS" was very moving. Between the remarkable music and the remarkable speakers, I believe this event will achieve success in moving people's hearts. "We must bring optimism, humor and dignity to the fight against AIDS." "We must bring generosity and courage to the battle."

There was a wonderful video of a journalist, a beautiful Polynesian woman about 25 years old, walking on the beach in native dress. She accepted the UN award for AIDS activism with the traditional garland of flowers on her head. Watching such a radiant, caring woman who looks like someone from a Gauguin painting step up to the podium to talk about what it means to be HIV positive would break anyone's heart.

However, the speakers were so dedicated and inspiring, and the music was such jubilant African drumming, singing, and strings, that I'm not breaking down in tears until now, as I type this e-mail.

Kofi Annan spoke about the massive scale of the tragedy, naturally, and talked about how one African country has such an intense campaign on AIDS that the local people call it "The Big Noise."

Here's a direct quote from Kofi Annan:  
"I am here to ask you on behalf of the United Nations to join us in making The Big Noise against AIDS."

I was able to speak briefly with Rita Arauz, one of the awardees. I never knew her personally, but I used to work and live with people in Nicaragua who knew her well and spoke of her often. Rita's speech said that there's an opportunity to prevent a repeat of the African tragedy in

Latin America, but only if we take massive action now. This was encouraging.

One of the sad moments of the evening was a personal account of visiting the grave of a South African who had been stoned to death for speaking out about being HIV positive and about the need for frank education. By comparison, we in the United States have very little to lose by coming out and taking a stand on HIV.

After giving myself a week to think it over, my initial reaction remains unchanged-- Kofi Annan made a personal request for help from every individual present, whoever we are and wherever we are from. Since my ticket came from SRRT, it's my duty to pass his message on to every member of ALA.

Please tell SRRT and the ALA leadership that we've just received a very personal and heartfelt request from the Secretary-General himself, a request to make common cause with the UN in making The Big Noise against AIDS.

The first thing that comes to mind is putting an AIDS information corner in every public library in America. But beyond that, I think we need to put together ongoing cooperation for a campaign that is jointly sponsored by ALA and the UN.

I called the United Nations Development Programme to get a contact person for us. It's Miss Mina Mauerstein-Bail, mina.mauerstein-bail@undp.org  
www.undp.org

So, SRRT, what's our next move?

Yours,  
Kristin Anderson  
kristin@telerama.com

## Welcome New Round Table Members

SRRT wishes to welcome the following new members. We're glad to have you along for the ride and we hope to see you participate fully in our endeavors.

Edward Elsner  
Student  
Lexington, KY

Hope Marie Jackson  
Baton Rouge, LA

Gail Wordsworth  
Falls Church, VA

Mark Weber  
Kent State University  
markw@lms.kent.edu



*Sow the seeds of future SRRT leadership. Mentor a new member.*

Rob Morrison  
Utah State University  
robmor@cc.usu.edu

Kathleen Isaacs  
Pasadena, MD  
kisaacs@mindspring.com

Helen Gonzales  
Student  
Tucson, AZ  
helen\_g@msn.com

Barbara Feldman  
Student  
Champaign, IL  
bfeldman@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE TO BE ESTABLISHED

**R**emember why you joined SRRT in the first place? Do you remember when you joined SRRT?

I joined twice. The first time was when I was a student in library school at Syracuse in the early 80s. My activities in SLA increased and I "left" SRRT (and ACRL) when, one year, I simply forgot to renew my ALA membership. I sort of "fell through a crack." When the Task Force on the Environment was created and held its first meeting in Atlanta in 1990, I returned to ALA and TFOE and SRRT.

Was there an active Membership Committee in SRRT around 1984 that might have prevented that gap? What about now in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? What if I forgot to renew my membership and did not heed the one or two renewal notices ALA sends? Would there be somebody in SRRT to contact me and say, "Fred, I know you might have been pretty busy and simply forgot, but you have been dropped as a member of ALA and SRRT?" or, "Is something wrong... "

This is but ONE responsibility of a Membership **COMMITTEE**--something **SRRT** does **NOT** have Something **SRRT NEEDS**.

The forming of a Membership Committee will be among the items on the Action Council agenda at the upcoming Midwinter Meeting. I will ask 3-4 members of SRRT to step forward and serve on this committee. If you will not be at Midwinter and would like to serve on the SRRT Membership Committee, you may contact me.

The SRRT Membership Committee will welcome new members to SRRT. When you embark on a new adventure the thrills and joys can be shared if there is someone standing beside you. It is also nice to have someone with whom you can share your initial feelings of uncertainty and confusion. I remember quiet vividly the first SRRT meeting I attended, and when Terry Link introduced me to Action Council. The entire aspect of SRRT organization, administration, and activities is much easier with someone helping to guide the way. "Welcome to SRRT!" should be the first words a new member hears from us.

New Members to SRRT need to stay in contact with SRRT and SRRT needs to stay in contact with them. We have a great discussion list. The Membership Committee needs to use the list to introduce new members to the SRRTAC list (our eMail discussion list is another item on the SRRT agenda for the Midwinter Meeting). New members' eMail addresses should be quickly added to the discussion list and they can keep abreast of SRRT's and begin to take part in the communications that keep SRRT one of ALA's more active and dynamic round tables.

The SRRT Membership Committee will tell new members to take advantage of the New Members Round Table to learn about the operations and functions of ALA. The SRRT Membership Committee should also be involved with NMRT to bring to the attention of other new ALA Members that SRRT is a viable group within the Association. NMRT provides several opportunities for SRRT to share its mission with new members and SRRT should be taking full advantage of this outreach activity and tell other new ALA Members how to join SRRT. The Membership Committee and the Public Relations Committee should work together and with other SRRT Members who are willing to answer the call, initiate a program to recruit new members to SRRT from within ALA and from outside the ranks of the association and help bring new members to ALA.

**Remember** you are a member of SRRT, and you can become a leader. Please think about your leadership role in accepting this invitation to help SRRT and join an effort to create an active Membership Committee within SRRT. Please let me know of your interests and send me a note. I'll bring those names to SRRT AC at Midwinter and SRRT can start a new adventure with a new SRRT Membership Committee.

Fred Stoss  
SRRT Coordinator  
University at Buffalo  
fstoss@acsu.buffalo.edu  
716-645-2947 ext. 224

Correspondence and manuscripts may be sent to the editor at:

**Jane Ingold, Editor**

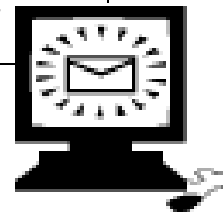
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College  
Library  
Station Road  
Erie, PA 16563-1502  
Phone: 814-898-7278  
Fax: 814-898-6350  
Email: [jli4@psu.edu](mailto:jli4@psu.edu)

Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of ALA/SRRT. The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary or as whimsy strikes.  
Next deadline: 07/15/01

**SRRTAC-L**

The SRRT discussion group SRRTAC-L is open to all SRRT members and is a relatively low-traffic [less than five messages a day unless there's a hot topic brewing] way of keeping up with SRRT's issues and discussions in-between conferences. Help decide SRRT's future directions and join in some lively debates. If you would like to join the SRRT discussion group, send the following message to [listproc@ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala.org):  
*subscribe SRRTAC-L [your first name] [your last name]*

***You've got mail!  
Well, you will if you join the  
scintillating discussions on SRRTAC-***



**SRRT'S WEB SITE**

Want more information on SRRT? Want to find contact information for the many SRRT Task Forces? Turn your browser toward the official SRRT web site:  
<http://www.libr.org/SRRT>

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
50 EAST HURON STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60611

Return postage guaranteed

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
Permit No. 3226