

## Letter from the Chair

Basking in the glow of a wonderful ALA 2006 Annual Conference in beautiful, revitalized New Orleans, it is now time for the EMERT Executive Board to begin planning yet another successful annual conference. The Executive Board will meet in January 2007 at ALA Midwinter in fabulous Seattle to plan the 2007 Annual Conference to be held in the summer of 2007 in our nation's capital—Washington, District of Columbia—our very own Paris on the Potomac.

Members of the Executive Board had a conversation in New Orleans last summer about the timing of EMERT events at the annual conferences. Board members expressed their concerns that attendance was disappointingly small at many vital and well-planned programs and events, since consecutive EMERT-sponsored events were often scheduled if not miles, certainly many long city blocks, apart. The fact is that many members can afford to attend the annual conference for only a day and are not able to attend EMERT-sponsored events on the days they cannot attend.

One warmly accepted idea was that EMERT programs should all occur on the same day and in the same locale so that members can make plans to attend all EMERT events, even if they are limited to one day's attendance. It would not be necessary to travel from one side of a conference city to the other to attend consecutive EMERT events. The board came up with the slogan "Sunday is EMERT day!" to emphasize our commitment to planning a full day of EMERT-sponsored events in the same locale for future ALA Annual Conferences. At Midwinter 2007 in Seattle the board will meet Sunday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and the chairs and members of EMERT committees will meet concurrently during the All Committees meeting time from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The EMERT Executive Board continually needs the ideas and thoughts of the membership to keep us on target and to ensure that your needs and wishes are addressed. I urge all of you to sign up for the EMERT listserv (EMIE-L@ala.org) so that together the EMERT membership can share successes and accomplishments working with multicultural groups and pass along the good news to others dealing with similar problems and issues.

This is our fifth quarterly issue of the *EMIE Bulletin* appearing as an insert in *MultiCultural Review (MCR)*. We have begun the second year of our productive collaboration with *MCR*. Since the *EMIE Bulletin* continues to serve as an important forum for spreading the good news to librarians and library advocates that EMERT is here to help, the Executive Board at 2007 Midwinter will need to vote to continue or discontinue EMERT's agreement with the publishers of *MCR*. Having the *EMIE Bulletin* insert in *MCR* has been an indispensable way to let the library community know that the EMERT is the new home of the Coretta Scott King Committee, which sponsors the internationally acclaimed Coretta Scott King Book Awards.

For those of you who are looking for opportunities to serve and to get involved in EMERT, please check out the EMERT web site ([www.ala.org/emiert](http://www.ala.org/emiert)) as well as the EMERT pages in the *ALA Handbook of Organization, 2006-2007*, to locate officers, chairs of committees, and representatives and liaisons.

I would like to remind all of you who have served as officers or committee chairs in EMERT throughout its history to send EMERT materials for the use of library historians and researchers to the ALA Archives, housed at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. ALA Archives officials remind us that "it is each unit's responsibility to preserve the historical record of activities for future researchers by regularly transmitting unneeded archival materials to the ALA Archives in Urbana." Our founder emeritus, David Cohen, has collected and preserved EMERT materials from EMERT's beginning in 1972, when the Ethnic materials Information Exchange Task Force of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) was founded. He is committed to getting these invaluable historical records to the ALA Archives. For more information on the ALA Archives and how you can get EMERT materials there, see (<http://web.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/ala/info.asp>).

It is now time once again for Past EMERT Chair and Nominating Committee Chair Victor Schill to present a slate of EMERT members who would like to serve as officers for the 2007-09 biennium. Our thanks go to Victor for presenting such a fine slate of officers for the 2006-08 biennium. New officers for the 2006-08 biennium began their terms at the close of the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans this summer. Officers to be elected for the 2007-09 biennium will begin their terms at the close of the 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., next summer. At the close of the 2007 Annual Conference, Myra Appel will become the EMERT Chair for 2007-09 and I will assume my new duties as Past EMERT Chair and Nominating Committee Chair for 2008-2010. And so it goes!

The ALA Executive Board will be meeting at 2007 Midwinter in Seattle to select ALA members to be honored with an ALA Honorary Membership. In August 2006 EMERT members Toni Bissessar, Vladimir Wertsman, and I officially nominated David Cohen, founder emeritus of EMERT, for an ALA Honorary Membership. We and all of the friends and colleagues of David Cohen are anxiously awaiting the ALA Executive Board's decision.

Always,  
Plummer Alston "Al" Jones, Jr., Chair, 2005-2007

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## Letter from the Editor

I am very happy to begin my inaugural editorship of the *EMIE Bulletin*. Before I say anything else, I know that everyone concerned with the *EMIE Bulletin*—the authors, readers, editors, and reviewers—will join me in thanking Professor David Cohen for his enormous contributions to the *EMIE Bulletin*. Professor Cohen has guided the *EMIE Bulletin* since its inception. Be assured that I will do my best to maintain the high standards set by Professor Cohen and previous editors. Any incoming editor needs to maintain the momentum set by Professor Cohen. And I will do just that. It is my intention to steer a familiar course. I want to build on the *EMIE Bulletin's* established excellence and move it forward to capitalize on its strengths, cultivate its potential, and preserve the hard work of previous editors, reviewers, and authors.

I envision the *EMIE Bulletin* as an essential resource for librarians and information professionals engaged in the study and service of multiculturalism. Therefore, the *EMIE Bulletin* must publish and disseminate articles and reviews that serve to educate and guide the service of librarians to the widest range of ethnic, multicultural, and multiracial populations. Additionally, the *EMIE Bulletin* must continue to build on Professor Cohen's strong commitment to intellectual freedom. Future issues of the *EMIE Bulletin* will include notes, articles, reviews, and bibliographic updates. We will also include occasional news and announcements (e.g., conferences); but because the EMiERT listserv also already covers that function, these items will be kept to a minimum.

I invite you to participate! Please submit your work to the editorial board and me. Please contact us with your thoughts and ideas. You can find our contact information both in the *EMIE Bulletin* and at our web site ([www.ala.org/ala/emiert/emibulletin/EMIERTBulletin.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/emiert/emibulletin/EMIERTBulletin.htm)).

In closing, I am privileged to be given the opportunity of editing the *EMIE Bulletin*. I both appreciate and respect the trust placed in me, and I am excited to be working with you all.

Roberto Delgado

## EMIERT ALA Midwinter 2007 Meetings

We have been granted the following times for EMIERT Committees to meet during the ALA Midwinter Conference to be held in Seattle, January 19–24, 2007. Please note we are continuing our (new) tradition of holding an “EMIERT Sunday” at all ALA conferences.

### Friday, January 19

2:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. . . . .Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury

### Saturday, January 20

9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. . . . .Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury  
 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. . . . .Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee  
 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. . . . .Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee  
 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. . . . .Coretta Scott King Book Awards Council of Chairs

### Sunday, January 21

9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. . . . .Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury  
 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. . . . .EMIERT Executive Board Meeting  
 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. . . . .EMIERT All Committees Meeting  
 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. . . . .EMIERT Children's Services Committee Meeting

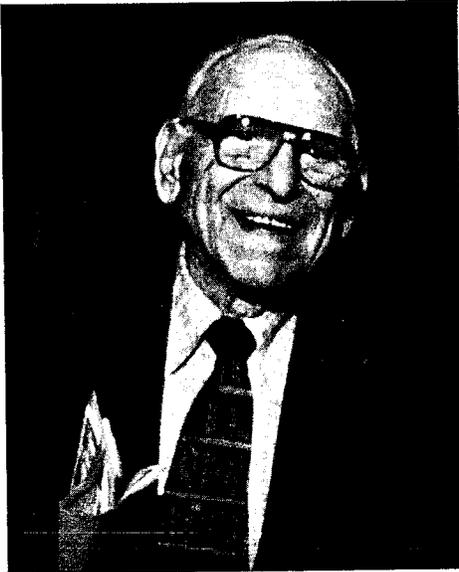
### Monday, January 22

10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. . . . .Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury  
 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. . . . .Coretta Scott King Book Awards Winning Publishers Meeting

We welcome members and interested librarians to attend these meetings. We invite you to join and participate in our committees.

To join or find additional information about EMIERT committees, please visit the EMIERT committees website at [www.ala.org/ala/emiert/emiertcommittees/EMIERTCommittees.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/emiert/emiertcommittees/EMIERTCommittees.htm).

Please contact committee chairs with specific questions.



## DAVID COHEN:

### A Tribute to the Founder Emeritus of the ALA Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT)

David Cohen has been and continues to be a pioneer in the fields of multicultural librarianship and intellectual freedom in a career stretching over seven decades. He is Professor Emeritus of the Queens College (City University of New York) Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. He has been an active member of the American Library Association (ALA) and the New York Library Association (NYLA) throughout his long and productive career in librarianship.

David has had a major impact on librarianship in the field of ethnic and multicultural library service, inspiring generations of library school students to initiate library programs and build library collections that reach out to the broadest possible range of ethnic and multicultural populations.

He has advocated for the inclusion of ethnic materials in libraries and the publishing of the works of more ethnic and minority authors.

Born in 1909, David graduated from the City College (now University) of New York in 1930 and began working as a reference librarian there, then finished his Master of Education degree in 1934 and his Master of Science from Columbia University's School of Library Service.

By the 1960s, David was very active in local and national library organizations in promoting multiculturalism, particularly the need for ethnic materials and materials in foreign languages in libraries. In 1967, while serving as a school library media specialist, David was chair of the ALA Committee on the Treatment of Minorities in Library Materials. By 1969, he was a charter member of the Freedom to Read Foundation as well as a trustee of the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund and a co-founder of the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship.

David was co-founder and coordinator of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)'s Task force on Ethnic Materials from 1972 to 1983. He directed the process to transform the SRRT Task Force into the Ethnic Material and Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT), later renamed the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table, but keeping the EMIERT acronym. Within EMIERT, he was the founding member of the Jewish Librarians' Caucus, later renamed the Jewish Information Committee (JIC).

David is also the founding editor emeritus of the *EMIE Bulletin*. He has contributed to five editions of *The Directory of Ethnic and Multicultural Publishers, Distributors, and Resource Organizations*. He served from 1982 to 1984 on the ALA Minority Concerns Committee. In 1986 he was awarded the SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award by the New York Library Association.

In 1999 ALA created the prestigious David Cohen/EMIERT Multicultural Award to recognize individuals for notable work on multiculturalism and libraries. In 2004 the ALA Council saluted Cohen with a proclamation for his lifetime achievement in multiculturalism and intellectual freedom in celebration of his 95th birthday. On June 25, 2005, the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Roll of Honor Award was presented to David Cohen by FTRF Executive Director Judith Krug at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

In honor of David's lifelong devotion to multiculturalism in libraries as exhibited in his productive career in school and academic librarianship and library education, the EMIERT Executive Board has nominated him for an ALA Honorary Membership. Letters to support EMIERT's nomination of David Cohen for an ALA Honorary Membership included those of Plummer Alston "Al" Jones, Jr., EMIERT Chair, 2005-07, and currently professor of library science at East Carolina University; Toni Bissessar, former EMIERT chair, former REFORMA chair, David Cohen's student at Queens College, and currently librarian in Arlington, Virginia; and Vladimir Wertsman, David's longtime friend and colleague and retired librarian and bibliographer from the New York Public Library. Other EMIERT members sent letters of recommendation individually.

All of us, the friends and colleagues of David Cohen worldwide, are waiting anxiously and excitedly for word from the ALA Executive Board on its decision. We collectively know that if anyone has earned an ALA Honorary Membership, it is David Cohen.

### GALE/EMIERT Multicultural Award

**Purpose and Criteria:** Standards for this award are any significant accomplishments in library services that are national or international in scope and that include improving, spreading, and promoting multicultural librarianship. Persons in the library world are eligible to be considered based on outstanding achievement and leadership in serving the community by significant collection building and outreach services, and developing creative multicultural materials and programs. Emphasis here is multicultural/multiethnic as distinguished from multilingual.

**Evaluation:** Nominated published articles will be evaluated based on submitted applications received by the deadline set by the EMIERT Awards Committee. Complete applications shall include five (5) copies of submitted materials to include a complete application form and detailed curriculum vitae of the candidate with specific information and evidence of the candidate's outstanding achievement and leadership.

**Administration:** There will be one annual award. If no suitable candidate is judged to merit the award in a given year, no award will be presented. The EMIERT Awards Committee will make the selection.

**Presentation:** The award will be presented at the ALA Annual Conference during the EMIERT membership meeting.

**Form and Donor:** The award consists of a certificate and \$1,000. Gale Research is co-sponsor of this award.

**Deadline:** December 31

**For additional information and forms  
please contact:**

**Francesca Hary, Director  
Milton-Union Public  
560 S. Main St.  
West Milton, OH 45383  
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### David Cohen/EMIERT Multicultural Award

**Purpose and Criteria:** To encourage as well as recognize articles of significant new research and publication that increase understanding and promote multiculturalism in libraries in North America. Works published within the last two years preceding the award application deadline shall be eligible to receive the award. The publication shall demonstrate advances in understanding multicultural issues in libraries. The award recipients will be selected based on the following specific criteria: \*relationship of publication to the purpose of the award, \*validity of cultural representation, \*extent to which publications bridges cultures, \*demonstrated significance of publication and its impact, \* accuracy of text, \*originality.

**Evaluation:** Nominated published articles will be evaluated based on submitted applications received by the deadline set by the EMIERT Awards Committee. Complete applications shall include five (5) copies of submitted materials to include a complete application form, a 250-word statement of significance, and a copy of the article.

**Administration:** There will be one annual award. If no suitable candidate is judged to merit the award in a given year, no award will be presented. The EMIERT Awards Committee will make the selection.

**Presentation:** The award will be presented at the ALA Annual Conference during the EMIERT membership meeting.

**Form and Donor:** The award consists of a certificate and \$300. Routledge is the award donor.

**Deadline:** December 31

**For additional information and forms  
please contact:**

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### Venture into Cultures to be Revised and Expanded

The Children's Services Committee will begin an ambitious revision and expansion of *Venture into Cultures*. As in previous editions, each chapter will include an annotated bibliography describing Children's and Young Adult literature about cultures as well as translations and bilingual books; books published in the United States; program ideas for teachers and librarians wishing to foster understanding of the particular group; web sites; small presses; organizations that promote understanding of the culture group; and other resources that might be helpful in further understanding the culture. Those interested in writing chapters or wishing additional information should contact Doris Gebel, Children's Committee chair, at: [djgebel@juno.com](mailto:djgebel@juno.com).