

# IFRT Report

Issue 84: Summer 2022

INTELLECTUAL  
**FREEDOM**  
ROUND TABLE

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## From the Chair

### Rhonda Evans

As I write this final report as Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, I look back over the past year feeling incredibly proud of all of IFRT's accomplishments and the relationships built in the face of so many challenges. I cannot believe how quickly this year has passed by, realizing that there is still so much more that I wanted to do within this short amount of time.

I was introduced to IFRT when the Round Table generously sponsored my participation in ALA's Emerging Leaders Program. I remember how impressed I was with the way IFRT members mentored me through the beginning stages of ALA participation and leadership. At the 2019 Midwinter Conference I was treated to lunch and introduced to the members at the Executive Committee meeting. Little did I know that in only a few months I would be leading that same meeting! My service to IFRT began as a member of the Membership Committee. This was a great starting point because it allowed for the opportunity to experience the workings of a committee as well as an understanding of how important it is to continue to promote the benefits of IFRT membership to the ALA community, which was an important aspect of my agenda as Chair. During my time on the membership committee we instituted a trial free student membership service and multiple all-member gatherings. I enjoyed being an active member of IFRT and was surprised when I was asked to run for Chair-Elect and was even more pleasantly surprised when I actually won! Through a series of unforeseen circumstances I went immediately from Chair-Elect to Chair. I was nervous about taking leadership of the Round Table so quickly, but found that I was in excellent hands with the support of the OIF staff, specifically Kristin Pekoll; the former Chair, Wanda Huffaker; and all of the IFRT membership. One of the first actions taken as Chair was to have one-on-one meetings with the chairs of each committee. Through these meetings I was able to talk through the committee goals, ways in which I could provide support, and get to know the incredible volunteers who stepped up to provide service to IFRT. As will be seen in the committee reports, each chair met their goals and led their committee successfully.

In addition to my own personal challenge of being brand new to ALA and IFRT leadership, there were a number of other challenges presented to the Round Table. First, we were still in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. The library profession was adjusting to a new normal, and there were a number of intellectual freedom challenges that librarians were dealing with—most prominently the digital divide. For many, the library was the only place to access the Internet or use a computer. There was also an onslaught of online misinformation directed at the most vulnerable among us, especially the elderly. The library community, as they always do during a crisis, still found ways to serve and support their communities. The LibLearnX gathering also saw a number of intellectual freedom focused programs highlighting these struggles and discussing and sharing solutions.

Soon another challenge faced the IF community. With the launch of the *1619 Project* there was an astronomical increase in challenges to books and programming that discussed the history of race in America, as well as books by authors of color. The groups and individuals promoting banning books dealing with race invoked, often incorrectly, Critical Race Theory. This added another complex layer to the fight against book bans—fighting the misinformation around Critical Race Theory. As Chair of IFRT and a member of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, I have the honor



RHONDA EVANS

to moderate a discussion among a number of excellent library professionals at the 2022 Annual Conference to discuss ways librarians can handle these types of challenges.

There was also an increase in challenges to materials by and about the LGBTQIA+ community. I was greatly impacted and concerned about the number of groups, protests, and proposed legislation attempting to ban these materials, in addition to the harassment of library workers. As a Black studies librarian I have a good understanding about the disparities within the publishing industry, and how hard it is for authors that are part of marginalized communities to get their works published by the major publishing houses. It was already difficult for these voices to be heard, and these challenges were creating barriers to access for those who needed to hear these stories the most. That is why I wanted to dedicate my Chair's Program at the 2022 Annual Conference to these authors. George M. Johnson, a top-ten banned author of *All Boys Aren't Blue* and an LGBTQIA+ person of color, agreed to tell their story for the Chair's Program. Unfortunately, George M. Johnson withdrew only a couple of weeks before the conference due to COVID concerns. I was incredibly disappointed, since I knew how excited many people were to engage with this author and tell of their experiences with book challenges. In spite of this set-back of having my Chair's Program canceled, I still have so much to be excited about and proud of concerning my work with IFRT.

I am probably most proud of IFRT's work with the Emerging Leaders Program. ALA's Emerging Leaders Program provides an entryway into ALA involvement from talented and passionate new librarians who work on projects aimed at improving the profession. Not only did IFRT choose to sponsor another fantastic Emerging Leader participant, but also an Emerging Leader Project. As a former Emerging Leader I understood that the projects that came out of this program provided important resources to the library community. As a member of IFRT I learned so much about intellectual freedom in a very short time. I seriously wondered why I never learned about intellectual freedom issues during library school, especially since these are issues that all librarians face in some form. I proposed "the Intellectual Freedom Syllabus" as an Emerging Leader Project. "The IF Syllabus will be a curated collection of resources that can be used in the creation of an intellectual freedom curriculum geared towards LIS education. The goal is that this will encourage and provide the foundation for LIS educators to create intellectual freedom courses, and also for students to use if their LIS program does not offer any intellectual freedom courses." The librarians working on this project have far exceeded our expectations of what this project could be and I can't wait for everyone to see the end product and know that it will have a significant impact on LIS education.

When I started on this journey a year ago I had no idea what to expect, but it was a wonderful learning experience and I have met so many smart, engaged, and supportive people. I cannot wait to see what the new Chair will do next and what is in store for the future of IFRT. I am also very much looking forward to my continued involvement through service on IFRT committees. I would like to specifically thank Kristin Pekoll, the chairs of each committee, every member of the Executive Committee, and all the IFRT members for their hard work, support, and encouragement. Now more than ever library workers must fight for intellectual freedom in all aspects—from the digital divide, to information literacy, to censorship and book challenges. I am so proud and grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table.

Sincerely,  
Rhonda Evans  
IFRT Chair, 2021–2022

## Executive Committee 2021-2022

### OFFICERS

- **Rhonda Evans**, Chair
- **Angela Ocaña**, Chair-Elect
- **Rebecca Moorman**, Secretary
- **Jennifer Steele**, Treasurer
- **Wanda Mae Huffaker**, Past-Chair
- **Johana Orellana Cabrera**, Director-at-Large
- **Amanda Vazquez**, Director-at-Large
- **Kristin Anderson**, Director-at-Large
- **Jeremy Brett**, Director-at-Large
- **Peter D. Coyl**, IFRT Councilor

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- **Kristin Green**, Bylaws and Organization Committee
- **Eldon Ray James**, Coalition Building Committee
- **Johannah Genett**, John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award Committee
- **Molly Dettmann**, Membership Promotion Committee
- **Cyndi Robinson**, Merritt Fund Promotion Committee
- **Wanda Mae Huffaker**, Nominating Committee
- **Michael Blackwell**, Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award Committee
- **Stephanie Barnaby**, Programming and Events Committee
- **Michael Kirby**, Publications and Communications Committee

## IFRT Councilor Update

by Peter D. Coyl

As the Intellectual freedom Round Table representative to ALA Council I am pleased to share this summary highlighting the actions of Council.

ALA Council proceedings were once again held virtually this year. The Inaugural LibLearnEx event was transitioned from a scheduled in-person event to a remote event. During Council meetings held during LibLearnEx two reports were issued that involved the concept of intellectual freedom: the reports from the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Freedom to Read Foundation. Both were adopted as presented. A resolution "Calling on the US Executive Branch to Drop Espionage Act Charges Against Julian Assange" was not passed. This resolution provided robust debate and conversations over both the legal issues as well as the concept of intellectual freedom.

As has been the case for the past number of years the reorganization of ALA consumed much of the time of Council. The Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) Task Force presented various concepts and models and much of the conversation surrounded that topic. There was so much to discuss and work to be done that a second, additional Council meeting was scheduled for March 10. This proved to highlight the need for longer scheduled council meetings, and perhaps additional meetings to be held by Council outside of the organized conferences. In addition to the regular Council meetings, TAG has also held some additional meetings to continue the conversation, solicit feedback, and share information.

ALA also embarked on "a national initiative to empower readers everywhere to stand together in the fight against censorship" called "Unite Against Book Bans". This initiative was announced on April 4, and has garnered the support of publishers, writers, teachers, and others. The hope is this group can mobilize and provide additional support and advocacy to fight the increasing number of efforts to censor and remove materials from public libraries, school libraries, and bookstores. We unfortunately have seen a staggering increase in the number of challenges over the past year and continue to see more efforts across the country to restrict access to materials.

There continues to be discussion on ALA Council about the equitable accessibility of ALA Council meetings, including barriers for those who wish to participate as members but also who wish to serve. The upcoming ALA Annual meeting will serve as proof of concept of a hybrid in person/virtual which could pave the way for a new way of doing business.



PETER D. COYL

## 2022 Spring Election Results

IFRT appreciates those members who stood for election for the 2022–2023 year and the participation of our membership in voting for these positions in the Round Table. Congratulations to those who were elected and will serve in the coming year!

- Amanda Vazquez will hold the position of the next Chair Elect
- Michael Kirby and Rebecca Moorman will serve as the next Directors-At-Large and
- Rita Ennen will hold the position of the next Secretary

Members of the Nominating Committee are Wanda Mae Huffaker (Chair), Johana Orellana Cabrera, and Jennifer Steele.

## IFRT Sponsored Sessions at ALA Annual Conference 2022

ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition is happening June 23–28, 2022, in Washington, D.C., and we're excited to be together again.

This year's conference offers more than 160 education sessions, inspiring thought leaders and celebrity speakers, and The Library Marketplace with more than 550 exhibitors, more than 80 author sessions, and lots of free ARCs. And most importantly, the return to an in-person meeting offers the opportunity to reunite with friends and colleagues and make new connections with speakers, exhibitors, and one another.

Here are just a few of the sessions you can look forward to:

- Addressing Critical Race Theory Challenges in Your Library
- Privacy Field Guides: Take Action on Privacy in Your Library
- Unite Against Banned Books: The National Campaign
- News You Can Use: Updates from the Working Group on Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice

To celebrate the 2022 award winners, IFRT and FTRF are cohosting a **Freedom to Read Celebration** sponsored by Penguin Random House and featuring banned author David Levithan. Proceeds from the celebration will go to support the Leroy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund.

Additionally, IFRT has created an interactive activity for attendees beyond conference sessions. **Banned Books Take Over D.C.** encourages everyone to snap pictures all over the city with their favorite banned book. There are multiple copies of over 32 books and with a template for attendees to make their own. People who use the hashtag [#BannedBooksDC](https://twitter.com/BannedBooksDC) can win banned books swag. ([oif.ala.org/oif/banned-books-take-over-dc](https://oif.ala.org/oif/banned-books-take-over-dc))

It's been a long time since we've seen you and we can't wait!

These sessions are a product of the hard work of the Programming and Events Committee whose members are Stephanie Barnaby (Chair), Nancy Aravecch Shah, Alonzo Crawford, Johannah Genett, Johana Orellana Cabrera, Edward Remus, and Katie Spires.

## Member Spotlight Roundup

Meet, connect, and learn about your IFRT colleagues!

Member Spotlight is an initiative that showcases IFRT members and their diverse experiences in the library world. From public libraries to specialized libraries, from library students to library support staff—we know you make a difference where you serve.

### JULY 2021

While in federal prison, **Eldon "Ray" James** decided to become a librarian. Despite his age and circumstances, he made that happen by graduating from the University of Texas at Austin School of Information in 2007. By amazing serendipity he made Dr. Lorlene Roy his advisor. The year he graduated, ALA chose Roy as ALA president and she took him to Washington as a part of her presidential party and introduced him to ALA and particularly a group called the Prisoners Forum, an interest group and the Association of Specialized Government & Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA, formally, ASCLA), where this ex-con found a family with correctional librarians. ([oif.ala.org/oif/ifrt-member-spotlight-eldon-ray-james](https://oif.ala.org/oif/ifrt-member-spotlight-eldon-ray-james))

### OCTOBER 2021

**Sarah Burchart** is an Information Resources Technical Specialist at ICPSR, a social science data archive at the University of Michigan, where she finds and adds citations of related publications to the ICPSR Bibliography of Data-Related Literature. She has previously worked in both public and academic libraries and currently serves as a volunteer on IFRT committees and the New Member Round Table's Endnotes Committee. Sarah has been a member of ALA since 2015. ([oif.ala.org/oif/ifrt-member-spotlight-sarah-burchart](https://oif.ala.org/oif/ifrt-member-spotlight-sarah-burchart))

### NOVEMBER 2021

**Pilar Martinez** is the Chief Executive Officer of the award-winning Edmonton Public Library, where she is responsible for leading 650 staff and managing a \$69M operating budget. She has championed numerous innovative services, including community-led and digital initiatives, such as makerspaces. Pilar has a broad base of experience in executive leadership including advocacy, strategic planning and change leadership. She is highly engaged with the community, serving on several boards nation-wide, the working group for the Centre for Freedom of Expression. Pilar is a stalwart advocate of public library's foundational value of intellectual freedom. ([oif.ala.org/oif/ifrt-member-spotlight-pilar-martinez](https://oif.ala.org/oif/ifrt-member-spotlight-pilar-martinez))

### DECEMBER 2021

**Jung (Soo) Bae** is a librarian at the National Gallery of Art in D.C. In her current role, she catalogs various library materials related to art and art history and works on some metadata projects. Before joining the National Gallery, she worked at Northern Virginia Community College, the University of Virginia, and Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, across a number of different specializations (access services, cataloging/metadata, digital libraries, technology, etc.). She received her master's degree in Information from Florida State University in 2016. She is a member of ALA, the Art Libraries Society of North America Association, Linked Data for Libraries Working Group, and is also an ALA Spectrum Scholar from the 2015 cohort. Outside of librarianship, she enjoys reading, gardening, and traveling (especially for exploring various foods). ([oif.ala.org/oif/ifrt-member-spotlight-jung-soo-bae](https://oif.ala.org/oif/ifrt-member-spotlight-jung-soo-bae))



## Journal of Intellectual Freedom & Privacy

The Journal of Intellectual Freedom & Privacy (JIFP) is a scholarly journal published by the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom. IFRT members receive a 50% discount on JIFP subscriptions as a membership benefit. ([ala.org/aboutala/offices/oif/jifp](https://ala.org/aboutala/offices/oif/jifp))

JIFP articles are double-blind peer reviewed and cover topics including censorship, freedom of expression, data use and privacy. The journal also publishes case studies, commentaries, and book reviews on topics related to intellectual freedom. JIFP aspires “to be at the center of discourse on intellectual freedom and privacy.” Submissions from practitioners and scholars in libraries, museums, archives, cultural heritage institutions, education, and other information environments are welcome.

With Shannon Oltmann as editor, JIFP is also a resource for keeping up with current developments in intellectual freedom. In the tradition of the ALA Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom, JIFP publishes book bans and challenges in the “censorship dateline” column, court rulings in the “from the bench” column, legal controversies in the “is it legal?” column, as well as intellectual freedom “success stories.”

Access to JIFP might also be available through institutional database subscriptions. For example, searchable, full-text access to JIFP is available through ProQuest’s Social Sciences Premium Collection. Database access might offer email table of contents alerts as a value-added feature. Readers can enable this feature from the database publication homepage to receive mail notifications when new issues of JIFP are published. For more information, inquire with your local library!





## LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund

Since 1970, the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund has provided support—monetary as well as personal—to librarians who:

- have been denied employment rights or discriminated against on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, color, creed, religion, age, disability, or place of national origin; or;
- have been denied employment rights because of defense of intellectual freedom: that is, threatened with loss of employment or discharged because of their stand for the cause of intellectual freedom, including promotion of freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and the freedom of librarians to select items for their collections from all the world's written and recorded information.



The Merritt Fund was established as a special trust in memory of LeRoy C. Merritt to provide direct financial aid to librarians faced with denial of these rights.

The Merritt Fund has made a huge difference for many people who have found themselves in difficult employment and defense of intellectual freedom situations.

The unprecedented rise in challenges this year signals that this is a growing problem that won't subside anytime soon. It's with this increasing intolerance in mind—and the accompanying threats to the employment of library staff who might wish to defend intellectual freedom—that IFRT created a toolkit for the Merritt Fund with shareable graphics, editable google slide, a promotional video, a QR code for direct online donations. ([oif.ala.org/oif/the-merritt-fund-promotional-toolkit](https://oif.ala.org/oif/the-merritt-fund-promotional-toolkit))

The donation is not tax-deductible, but all funds are used to provide relief to our colleagues in need.

Members of the Merritt Fund Promotion Committee are Cyndi Robinson (Chair), Michael D. Kirby, Emily Knox, and Johana Orellana Cabrera.

In addition to IFRT's Merritt Fund Support Committee, the Merritt Fund is managed by trustees elected every year. The 2021–2022 trustees are Sara Dallas, Robert P. Holley, Steve Norman, and Julia Warga. Trustees meet to confidentially review applications and manage the Fund.

## Immroth Award Winner: Terri Lesley

The American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) Immroth Award Committee is pleased to announce Terri Lesley as the recipient of the 2022 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award, which honors notable contributions to intellectual freedom and demonstrations of personal courage in defense of freedom of expression.



Terri Lesley has led the staff and library board of Campbell County Public Library in Gillette, Wyoming through an onslaught of challenged materials and protests. Beginning in the summer of 2021, the number of challenges to unique titles rose from 3 in August to nearly 30 by the end of the year. Library board meetings have been very contentious and there have been repeated protests outside the library. In October 2021, two of the patrons who led the challenges went to the Campbell County Sheriff's Office to attempt to prosecute CCPL librarians, including Ms. Lesley, of violating child sex laws based on five books they described as "hard-core pornography to children."

Throughout this period, Ms. Lesley has not only stood up for intellectual freedom for her patrons, she has also continued to build community support for her library through her interactions with the public. She has also strived to support her staff and maintain a strong working relationship with her board. Ms. Lesley has shared what she's learned with other library directors in Wyoming

"Ms. Lesley's commitment to intellectual freedom, her community, and her staff is second to none," said Conrado Saldivar, President of the Wyoming Library Association. "Her resolve and defense of library materials has been an inspiration to all library staff in Wyoming and ensures that her community can continue having a robust exchange of ideas and opinions."

The award will be presented on Friday, June 24 at 7pm ET at ALA's Annual Conference in Washington D.C.

Along with Ms. Lesley, there were several other inspirational nominees, who include Amanda Cawthon, head of youth services at Pflugerville Public Library in Texas, who was nominated for her social media work advocating for intellectual freedom; Aaryan Rawal, a high school senior at Westfield High School in Fairfax County, who was nominated for his work with the student-led group Pride Liberation Project which fought the removal of two books from the Fairfax County Public School libraries; and The FReadom Fighters—Becky Calzada, Carolyn Foote, NancyJo Lambert and one anonymous member—who were nominated for their social media work and letter writing campaigns to combat book banning in schools and libraries.

Established in 1979, upon the death of John Phillip Immroth, the Immroth Memorial Award honors the courage, dedication, and contribution of a living individual, group, or organization who has set the finest kind of example for the defense and furtherance of the principles of intellectual freedom. The award consists of a citation and \$500. John Phillip Immroth was a teacher, author, scholar, advocate, and defender of First Amendment rights. He was the founder and first chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table in 1973.

Members of the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award Committee are Chair Johannah Genett, Hennepin County Library; Kristin Anderson, Lewis University; Sarah Burchart, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research; Kristin Green, Penn State University Libraries, Scranton Campus; Lynda Salem Poling, Long Beach Public Library; and Jennifer Steele, University of Southern Mississippi.

## Hodges Award Winners: The Tennessee Library Association (TLA) and the Tennessee Association of School Librarians (TASL)

The Intellectual Freedom Round Table's Coalition Building Committee will award the 2022 Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations Award to the Tennessee Library Association (TLA) and the Tennessee Association of School Librarians (TASL).



For the past two years, Tennessee has seen an increase in attempts to censor library collections, displays, and programming in local institutions and state legislation. In response, the Tennessee Library Association and Tennessee Association of School Librarians joined forces with other state and national organizations to form a statewide advocacy ecosystem. The Tennessee Library Ecosystem Coalition (TLEC) was pivotal to defeating adverse library legislation in the state house and defending library materials under attack in Hamilton County. TLA, TASL, and FOTL drafted and published a statement opposing censorship in libraries. The Tennessean and the TN Holler have since published the joint statement, amplifying the anti-censorship message and the core values of librarianship.

TLA and TASL continue to collaborate on intellectual freedom professional development and advocacy projects on the harms of censorship. The award will be presented on Friday, June 24 at 7pm ET at ALA's Annual Conference in Washington D.C.

Members of the Coalition Building Committee are Chair Eldon Ray James, retired researcher; Jennifer Steele, The University of Southern Mississippi, Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science; Jeremy Brett, Texas A&M University Cushing Memorial Library; and Isabel Klein, Children's Branch Services Librarian Supervisor, Cuyahoga County Public Library.

## Eli M. Oboler Award Winner: Jamie M. Gregory

The American Library Association's Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award is presented each year for an excellent work in the area of intellectual freedom.

The 2022 award cycle marked a change for the Oboler Award. Starting this year, articles and books will be considered in alternating years. This change reflects the different scope of work and content that is required for varying publication types. This year, only article submissions were considered. Works to be considered for the award could be single articles (including review pieces), a series of thematically connected articles, or a similar work published on the local, state or national level in English or English translation. Next year, the awards committee will consider to books. Books published in 2021 and 2022 will be considered for the 2023 award. Submissions for either type of work may be submitted at any time and will be considered during the next appropriate cycle.

This year's winner is Jamie M. Gregory. Ms. Gregory is National Board Certified Teacher in Library Media working as the Upper School Librarian and journalism/newspaper teacher at Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville, SC. She writes blog posts for the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom's Intellectual Freedom Blog.

"With many outstanding articles or groups of articles having been submitted, choosing a winner was difficult," said Michael Blackwell, Chair of the Oboler Award Committee. "Not only the number of challenges but the organization with which those challenges have been brought make 2022 perhaps the most disturbing year for Intellectual Freedom advocates in living memory. Attacks on reading at, and sometimes by, school boards, local and state legislatures, and even by federal legislators, especially on works for by and about People of Color and LGBTQ+ individuals, often with disinformation and outright hate, foreshadow a new era of repression that must be fought if we are to provide safe and culturally responsive spaces. Ms. Gregory's writing takes us to the frontline of these challenges, pointing out the specific threats, interviewing leaders and especially young people being threatened by efforts to suppress their rights, revealing the injustice. She offers inspiring thoughts on why we must resist and practical advice on how we may yet prevail. Hers is an important chronicle of our time."

Said Ms. Gregory upon receiving the news "I am incredibly honored to receive this recognition from the Intellectual Freedom Round Table. Numerous state legislatures and local school boards are twisting the meanings of intellectual freedom and free inquiry, and I feel honored to be given space by the Office for Intellectual Freedom to explore these issues and make information available to those who dedicate themselves to ensuring the continuation and enforcement of students' access to information and free exchange of ideas. The goal is that by ensuring these rights, students will learn how and be motivated to contribute to our national conversation themselves as active, informed citizens."

Ms. Gregory's work may be found at Intellectual Freedom Blog. She will receive her award, including a \$500 stipend, at the 2022 ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C.

Members of the Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award Committee are: Chair Michael Blackwell, St. Mary's County Library; Molly Dettmann, Norman Public Schools; Eldon (Ray) James; Michael Kirby, Kingsborough Community College; Carole Nowicke, Ivy Tech Community College; and Amanda Vazquez, Dubuque County Library District.



## Membership Updates

### FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS

This year the IFRT Membership Promotion Committee worked to provide opportunities for membership engagement during the 2021–2022 year.

Work continued from previous years included:

- Hosted virtual all-membership gatherings
- Sent welcome messaging to IFRT active members

New endeavors launched by the committee were:

- IFRT mentee/mentorship program
- IFRT student member monthly messages with invitations to shadow IFRT committee meetings

The fall all-membership gathering was held on October 22nd, 2021, with a Banned Books display share, spooky Banned Book trivia, and breakout rooms for smaller group discussion. The spring all-membership gathering was held on May 1, 2022 and had information about volunteering for an IFRT committee and discussion on Intellectual Freedom topics.

Many thanks to these active and hard-working Membership Promotion Committee members: Molly Dettmann (Chair), Jeremy Brett, Brittany Broz, Sarah Burchart, Rhonda Evans, Stephanie Robertson.

## Bylaws Updates

To prepare for the upcoming Round Table Bylaws standardization, the Bylaws and Organization Committee has completed a thorough review of the charge descriptions for all IFRT standing committees this past year.

In collaboration with the IFRT standing committees, all charge descriptions were reviewed to ensure they accurately reflected the committees' work and were revised accordingly. Clarity and concision of the charge language were also considered. Over the course of the year, eight votes of proposed language revisions to the standing committee charges were brought forward by the Bylaws and Organization Committee to the Executive Committee. All revisions to the following IFRT committees' charges were successfully approved and adopted: Bylaws and Organization Committee, Coalition Building Committee, Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award Committee, Executive Committee, John Phillip Immorth Memorial Award Committee, LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund Promotion Committee, Membership Promotion Committee, Publications and Communications Committee.

Now that the IFRT standing committee charges have been reviewed, the Bylaws and Organization Committee will move forward with the implementation of Resolution CD 25.2 as passed by ALA Council in January 2022. The resolution, "requires that all Round Tables adhere to a common template of core Bylaws while maintaining flexibility of their own operating principles."

Thank you to the Bylaws and Organization Committee members for their collaboration across IFRT and their work this year in improving the efficacy of official IFRT documentation: Kristin Green (chair), Crystal Schimpf, and Amanda Vazquez.

## Publications & Communications Updates

Over the past year, the Publications and Communications Committee has been honored to highlight the work of our growing community. Our 1,794 Facebook fans and 1,990 Twitter followers are some of the most active participants in the fight for intellectual freedom, and it's been amazing to witness our community's efforts to protect freedom of speech. In this spirit, the committee continued the work of one our past social media campaigns:

- Member Spotlight—IFRT would not be what it is without its amazing members. The monthly Member Spotlight highlights individual members of IFRT and explores their interests in librarianship, IFRT, and intellectual freedom.

We also continued to create and distribute quarterly newsletters which offered information about ongoing initiatives, upcoming programs, and resources related to intellectual freedom.

Publications and Communications would be nothing without you, the IFRT members! Your unwavering support for intellectual freedom is inspiring.

## Intellectual Freedom News

Staying up-to-date with intellectual freedom issues is easy with this "must read" newsletter from the Office of Intellectual Freedom. Subscribe to Intellectual Freedom News, a free weekly compilation of news which covers topics including:

- current book challenges in libraries and schools
- articles about privacy, internet filtering, and censorship
- ALA activities, conferences and institutes, products, online learning opportunities, awards and grants, international exchanges, and more
- how to get involved and make the most of what ALA offers

([membership.informz.net/membership/pages/oif\\_ifnews\\_signup](https://membership.informz.net/membership/pages/oif_ifnews_signup))



# Thank you!

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**The Intellectual Freedom Round Table leaders are delighted to have such a robust and engaged membership. Thank you for sharing our interest in preserving and advocating for intellectual freedom.**

**The 2022 IFRT Report is brought to you by the members of the Publications & Communications Committee**

- Michael Kirby (Chair)
- Kristin Anderson
- Laren Anderson
- Sarah Hartman-Caverly
- Michael Blackwell
- Laryssa Duncan
- Lydia King
- Senaida Velazquez