



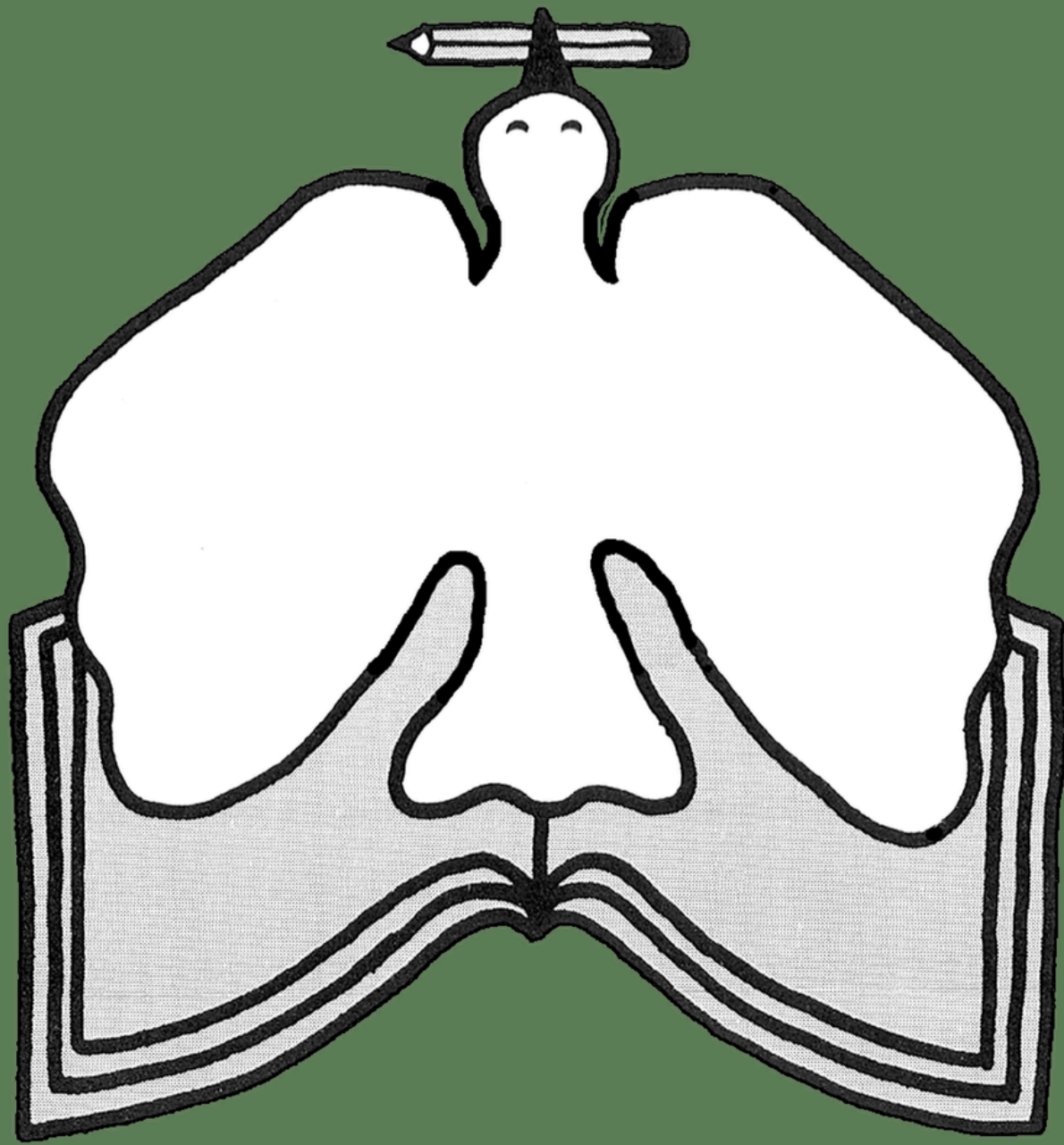
SRRT

Social Responsibilities
Round Table

EST. 1969

October 2024 Issue 226

Newsletter



Do librarians have social responsibilities?
They SRRTainly do!

Social Responsibilities Round Table of the
American Library Association, since 1969



ADVOCACY & TASK FORCES

All SRRT members are encouraged to join Task Forces that interest them.

If you're interested in being involved, please feel free to contact the Task Force's chair.

NEW

Elder Justice Task Force (EDJF)

Coordinators: Joseph Winberry and Kristina Shiroma

Seeks to partner with adults 65 and older, libraries, and communities to identify, understand, and address the needs of this growing and diverse population.

- Feminist Task Force (FTF)

Coordinator: Katelyn Browne

Provides feminist perspectives and initiates action on issues related to libraries, librarianship, information services, and ALA. Subscribe to the Feminist discussion list.

- Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force (HHPTF)

Coordinators: Lisa Gieskes and Julie Ann Winkelstein

Fosters greater awareness of the dimensions, causes, and ways to end hunger, homelessness, and poverty.

- International Responsibilities Task Force (IRTF)

Coordinators: Mark Hudson and Mark Rosenzweig

Advocates socially responsible positions on issues of international library concern.

- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force (MLKTF)

Chair: LaJuan Pringle

Supports and advances the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday as an American celebration.

Connect with SRRT



<https://connect.ala.org/srrt/home>



<https://www.facebook.com/SRRTALA>

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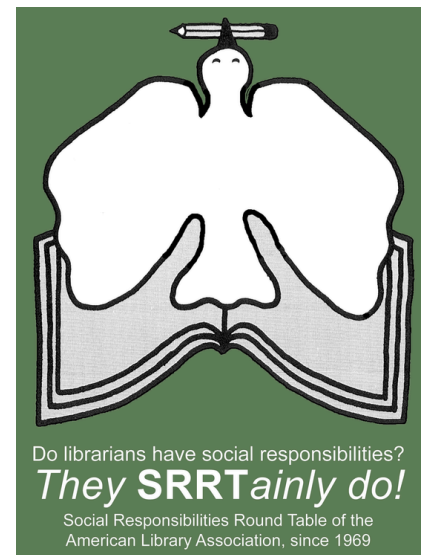
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On the Cover: SRRT 40th Anniversary T-shirt
Designed by Lincoln Cushing



SRRT Action Council Coordinator

Olivia Blake

One Secret Trick to Changing the World



Olivia Blake

Another year is in the books for SRRT, and 2024 has seen a flurry of engagement and activity from members like you. Between hosting popular programs and events, introducing resolutions, sharing pathfinders on current events, committing to advocacy working on a variety of issues, and so much more, SRRT continues to stand up and speak out.

If you're new to this round table, or just starting to explore whether you want to join us, you're probably wondering where you fit in and how you can get involved. With so many areas of activity and focus, it might feel a little scary to volunteer for something, or even to share your thoughts on Connect. That's OK. It IS scary! Our work is driven by values, like democracy, human rights, fighting against inequities and oppressions, and, well, promoting social responsibility. And when we start talking about our values, we're also opening ourselves to some level of vulnerability. That feels scary.

Beyond that, there are major issues facing libraries, schools, academia, and society as a whole, not the least of which are hostility toward our profession and attacks on marginalized identities. We see these issues playing out around the world, in a variety of ways and on many different fronts, from book and curriculum challenges to defunding libraries, from voter suppression to oppressive legislation, with acts of hate and violence woven amidst all of it. Understating the obvious: it's not pretty.

But, in the face of all that, I believe community is our greatest strength. Community gives us courage. It extends space to try new things even if they're scary, and to learn and grow from our mistakes. Community allows us to discuss ideas even if we don't have a ready solution, and to seek out and listen to new perspectives. Above all, community pulls us together in support of one another.

And here's where that secret trick to changing the world comes in. You don't have to be a superhero - although some of ALA's best and brightest have certainly graced SRRT's ranks! The secret is showing up.

Changing the world rarely happens overnight. But by consistently showing up for our community, we can organize, we can grow our coalition, we can build power. Showing up is how it starts, and showing up is how we keep going. And while this work does take courage, I hope showing up is a step that feels a bit less scary - especially when you're taking that step among and within community.

This SRRT community is a work in progress, but it's still our greatest strength, and it can only be made stronger when YOUR voice joins in. So, we'll keep showing up to fight the good fight, and I invite you to join us!



from the Action Council Coordinator cont.

A Few Updates:

SRRT’s newest task force, the Elder Justice Task Force, was approved with permanent status by the Action Council in our September meeting. Congratulations, and thank you for taking on this work!

As of July 2024, SRRT is still among ALA’s top 10 largest round tables, with 1,285 personal and organizational members. ALA has a total of 47,985 members.

Here are the largest round tables and their membership numbers:

New Members Round Table (NMRT)	1,984
Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT)	1,678
Rainbow Round Table (RRT)	1,544
Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT)	1,537
International Relations Round Table (IRRT)	1,293
Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)	1,285
Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table (GNCRT)	1,151

SRRT’s Action Council officers for 2024-2025 are as follows:

- Coordinator – Olivia Blake
- Coordinator-Elect – Rachel Rosekind
- Immediate Past Co-Coordinators – April Sheppard & Charles Kratz
- Secretary – Katelyn Browne
- Treasurer – Derek Wilmott



I also want to give a big “Thank You!” to our SRRT members who have volunteered to serve on our Action Council this year, and a shout-out to our tireless ODLOS Liaison, Hillary Pearson.

And finally, to you: If you’re already a SRRT member, thank you - I’m glad to have you here. And if you haven’t joined us yet, and if you’re reading this newsletter, if SRRT’s values and philosophies, initiatives, programs, and projects resonate with you, if you like what you see, please consider joining us. We would love to work with you!

I’m looking forward to a great year for SRRT. When we work together in community, we can accomplish so much, and I can’t wait to see what’s in store for us.

Curious about joining SRRT, or already a member and want to learn more about getting involved? Please reach out to Olivia Blake (orhysb+ALA@gmail.com). I hope to hear from you soon!

-- Olivia Blake



Announcing the Launch of the Elder Justice Task Force

By Joseph Winberry, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Information Library Science, UNC Chapel Hill and Kristina Shiroma, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Information Studies, Louisiana State University

On September 4, 2024, the Action Council approved the Social Responsibilities Round Table's (SRRT) newest task force: the Elder Justice Task Force. The Elder Justice Task Force (EJTF) seeks to partner with adults 65 and older, libraries, and communities to identify, understand, and address the needs of this growing and diverse population. Across numerous cultures, elders have been revered for their wisdom, seen as living libraries of knowledge, and engaged as guides for younger generations. The term "older adult" is most frequently cited, but because of its positive history "elder" is also sometimes preferred in comparison to more clinical, segregated, or deficit-focused terms like elderly, geriatric, old, or senior citizens. "Elder Justice" is a term used in law that funds the US Department of Justice, the statements of organizations such as Justice in Aging and the National Council on Aging, and in the writings of scholar-practitioners such as Lisa Nerenberg. The concept of elder justice recognizes that older adults often experience social injustices stemming from their age, such as discrimination, financial exploitation, or limited access to resources. The task force title was chosen to align with the larger elder justice movement though, like its work, it may evolve over time as new needs and interpretations appear.

The formation of the task force began with Dr. Winberry's presentation on July 1, 2024 at the annual American Library Association conference titled, "The Role of Libraries in an Aging Society: A Social Justice Imperative" which highlighted the American and world-wide population growth among people 65 and older. Dr. Winberry also discussed some of the ageism challenges, including elder abuse and intersectional injustice for being both older and a member of another marginalized population. While there are some other venues throughout the American Library Association



Graphic created by M. Winberry

for services to elders, one conclusion of the presentation was the need to focus on the needs of this population through a social justice lens. EJTF founding members believe its mission is ideally aligned with the SRRT belief that libraries and librarians must work to address social inequities as part of their mandate to work for the common good and bolster democracy.

The immediate work of the EJTF will focus on four objectives to: 1) challenge ALA and the library profession to be more inclusive of the needs of older adults; 2) collect and curate resources for serving elders in libraries; 3) create a network for those seeking to serve older adults and push back against ageist stereotypes; and 4) facilitate training for library staff on serving this population. A full listing of the task force's goals and projected activities is available at <https://www.ala.org/srrt/ejtf>. If you are interested in learning more about the task force or learn how you can get involved to help us better serve our elders, please share your interest at: <https://forms.gle/ghrnQh8haQN2T6Vx8>. We thank you in advance for your interest and for all the work you do to ensure that the older people in your communities get the services they need.



MLK Jr. Holiday Task Force Report

By LaJuan Pringle, Chair, MLK Jr. Holiday Task Force

In partnership with Beacon Press, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS), the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration will take place on Sunday, January 26, 6:30a, at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown. This year's theme is **Protest and Resistance**. This year's keynote speaker will be Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, author of the forthcoming Beacon Press title, [A Protest History of the United States](#). This year's call to action will be delivered by librarian, author, and documentarian Rodney Edward Freeman Jr. As a part of this year's celebration, we will also honor the late Satia Orange Marshall, one of the original founders/creators of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration. As noted in her [obituary](#), Satia "broadened the association's support and celebration of traditionally underserved library staff and library communities, developed new ALA member units and increased participation in events and activities, including the initiation of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration." Leading this tribute will be none other than librarian, author, curator, advocate for the arts, and former ALA Executive Director, Tracie D. Hall. As the association grapples with the format for future January meetings, we ask you to join us for what may be our final in-person celebration. See you in Phoenix!



Satia Orange Marshall

LaJuan Pringle
Librarian (Retired)
lspringle@gmail.com

SRRT's Conference Travel Grants

SRRT Travel Conference Grants are awarded every year. Applications usually open at the beginning of December and have a mid-January deadline. All personal ALA/SRRT members are welcomed to apply. The SRRT Travel Conference Grants Selection Committee will consider the following in its deliberations:

- The applicant's conference interests and goals regarding ALA and SRRT
- The applicant's potential contributions to ALA and SRRT
- How the applicant intends to use the ALA conference experience in their career, at their home institution, and/or in local, state and regional associations

See more at <https://www.ala.org/srрт/srрт-travel-grant>.



“Why Don’t You Leave?”: Social Responsibilities in a Red State

Anonymous

I live and work in a deep red state. Our state legislators have passed anti-trans, anti-drag, anti-library, anti-diversity, and anti-choice laws. Local libraries are being targeted with book bans and defunding while my colleagues across the state have been doxed, fired, threatened, and have had their children threatened. Librarians are leaving both the state and the field and we’re struggling to replace them. In my last search, I only had six qualified candidates.

Whenever my fellow librarians get together, we share tips:

“Don’t list your employer on your social media.”

“Don’t like or follow your library.”

“Don’t list your library science degree.”

“Use an alias for your social media.”

“Keep your social media accounts private.”

“Watch what sites and news articles you like online.”

“People are watching.”

People *are* watching. They’re sitting in our presentations, taking photos of our slides to send to senators. They’re in our classes, forwarding our lectures to the governor’s office. They’re in our friends lists, screenshotting our posts and likes and sending them to the local anti-library groups. They work in our libraries next to us, forwarding our emails.

Sometimes when I talk to librarians from other states, I get asked, “Why don’t you leave?” Well, it’s not that simple.

First, not everyone is privileged enough to “just leave.” On top of children, aging parents, and other familial obligations; librarians in states like mine don’t make a lot of money. There is a current job posting, requiring a master’s degree, with a listed salary of \$34,000. For a master’s degree! Staff salaries are even worse. I personally know a library worker who left their library after 30 years to make MORE money in an entry level position in another field. As a group, we are one disaster or car repair away from not making ends meet. We don’t have the moving expenses, deposits, first and last months’ rent to move into higher cost-of-living areas.

But the bigger reason: If we leave, what happens to our patrons? Regardless of what state laws say or don’t say, they’re still here and they still need us. Do we leave them to the wolves?

Despite the worries, and sometimes paranoia, of working as a librarian in a deep red state, the end goal hasn’t changed. It’s always been about our patrons and our communities. And for those of us who remain, we’re adapting. We do the same work, we just do it differently. Can’t say “diversity” anymore? We’ve figured out how to talk about diversity using different words. Can’t say “gay”? It’s not stopping the kids needing support from finding us. Can’t have pride book displays? Ok, now every book display can feature a LGBTQ+ author. It’s ironic that, in some cases, the attempts to limit inclusion are actually helping us find ways to be more inclusive. We are having more conversations about diversity, inclusion, equity, and social justice than ever before. We’re speaking out more, calling each other out more. By having laws that limit us, it’s made DEIA/B/J the starting point for lots of decisions.

It’s a delicate dance that we find ourselves in. The laws change, we adjust. The dangers are still there: people are still losing their jobs, books are still being challenged, and burnout is very real. But we’re not giving up and we’re fighting back. Some of us from behind the scenes in anonymous newsletter stories, some of us out front, in the news, in the courtrooms, and testifying at our state capitals. Our patrons are fighting back. They are coming to our board meetings, marching on our behalf, lobbying local governments, and fighting to reinstate funding for us. They’re fighting to save libraries, they’re fighting to save us – how could I leave them?

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How can librarians defend themselves against false accusations of antisemitism for including Palestinians in their work?

By Nora Lester Murad

There is an extreme uptick in [false accusations of antisemitism](#) made in bad faith with the intention of silencing Palestinians and undermining support for Palestinian rights. There is also an escalation of racism and discrimination, including Jew-hatred, from the right-wing, based on white Christian nationalist ideology.

Unfortunately, powerful, politically-motivated actors are increasingly using libraries and schools to confuse support for Palestinian humanity and liberation for all with real antisemitism.

False accusations of antisemitism can take many forms. A patron may complain to a library saying that a display is antisemitic for including information about Israeli occupation. An interest group may present a petition to a school board accusing a student group of antisemitism for an article in the school newspaper about Islamophobia. The target may be an educator, a parent volunteer, or a book. The complaint may relate to something that happened in the classroom, or something "extra" like the choice of a librarian to wear a *keffiyeh*. Or the complaint may be about something that happened outside of work, like a librarian who was seen at a protest with a sign about apartheid that somebody deemed hateful. Or a random person may fling outrageous accusations on social media. Or there may be an actual lawsuit complaining about a district-wide hostile environment for Jews based partly on materials shared at the library's antisemitism speakers series.

When librarians and teachers who include Palestinians in their work are falsely attacked as antisemitic, the material consequences can be devastating. In this environment, many educators hesitate to offer support—even if their antiracist sensibilities tell them they must fight for everyone's dignity

and inclusion. Some are unsure: Is it possible to include Palestinians without harming Jews? Others worry: Will I be falsely accused of antisemitism, even if I've been fighting antisemitism throughout my life?

These days, as education and speech have become so politicized, it makes sense to ask: If I am falsely accused of antisemitism, how can I defend myself?

Antiracist librarians must understand that accusations of antisemitism are rarely made to protect Jews as Jews, but rather to shield the state of Israel from criticism about its oppressive policies towards Palestinians. In order for educators to be antiracist, they must have tools to tell between politically-motivated, "[weaponization of antisemitism](#)", which seeks to deflect political criticism of a state, and actual bigotry against Jews because they are Jews.

Only when this distinction is made can we see both anti-Palestinian racism and antisemitism clearly—as forms of racism and bigotry grounded in white supremacy that must be fought in solidarity with others, not at their expense.

Efforts to silence Palestinians and their narratives are intended to create fear so that people won't talk about Palestine, can't learn from Palestinians, and won't be informed enough to formulate their own critical opinions about what's happening in Israel/Palestine. Censorship of Palestinians must be opposed on principle because without open learning and constructive engagement with a diversity of people and ideas, our democracy will suffer.

A [new toolkit](#) by Nora Lester Murad and Alice Rothchild, both Jews who write children's books about Palestine as part of their activism, explains how false accusations of

Will I be falsely accused of antisemitism, even if I've been fighting antisemitism throughout my life?

Continued from page 9

antisemitism are used to silence Palestinians and their allies in struggles against racism and colonialism. The toolkit lays out how librarians and teachers, especially in K-12 spaces, might realistically come under attack for fulfilling their professional and ethical obligations to include Palestinians in the world we teach to our children. The toolkit points to resources for librarians and teachers to determine what their rights are, and the possible consequences if they choose to act outside their protected rights. It suggests practical actions for librarians and teachers to build support to try to reduce the impacts of attacks before they arise, and constructive ways to respond if they do.

Murad and Rothchild welcome feedback on the suggestions in the toolkit, which were developed through interviews with librarians and teachers who have been falsely accused and professionals mandated to protect them. They incorporate feedback in [updates to the toolkit](#) and in public talks they give to support librarians and teachers to pursue their important mandate to include Palestinians with the solid support of antiracist peers and communities.

Bio

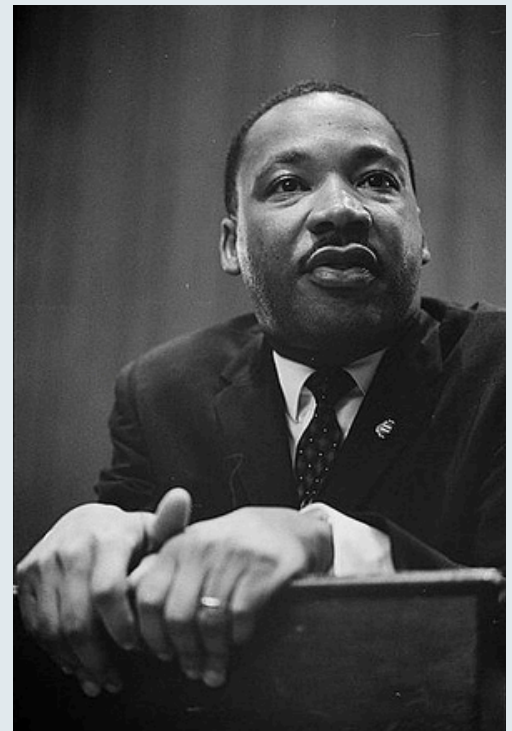
Nora Lester Murad is a writer, educator, and activist. Her young adult novel, *Ida in the Middle*, won the 2023 Arab American Book Award, the 2024 Middle East Book Award, a Skipping Stones Honor Award, and was selected as a finalist for the 2024 Jane Addams Peace Association Children's Book Award. She edited *I Found Myself in Palestine* (2020) and co-authored *Rest in My Shade: A Poem About Roots* (2018). While living in Palestine, Nora co-founded Dalia Association, Palestine's community foundation and Aid Watch Palestine, a community-driven aid accountability initiative in Gaza. Nora is a Policy Member of Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network, serves on the Board of Visualizing Palestine, and supports other social justice issues. From a Jewish family, Nora is the mother of three Palestinian daughters and lives with her husband in Massachusetts on the traditional homelands of the Eastern Woodland indigenous peoples. She shares K-12 teaching resources about Palestine at www.IdaInTheMiddle.com and can be reached through her blog at www.NoraLesterMurad.com.

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Post-election addendum: I asked the editor of the SRRT Newsletter if they would wait to publish until after the election to see if I would have the same outlook. Unfortunately, my local and state elections ended very similarly to the presidential election. My heart is so incredibly heavy. In the words of James Baldwin, "I'm terrified at the moral apathy, the death of the heart, which is happening in my country." Never has the target on my identities and my loved ones felt so close and imminent.

In my grief Wednesday morning, I'll admit that I briefly looked at job ads in blue areas and other countries. But it was just a moment. My patrons are going to need me now more than ever. I cannot abandon them. We'll continue to adjust and to find ways to fight. To end with another quote from, this time from Martin Luther King, Jr., "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress*



Book Review: *That Librarian*

Jones, Amanda. *That librarian: The fight against book banning in America*. New York; London: Bloomsbury, 2024. ISBN: 9781639733545.

Review by Michael Gorman, SRRT member and a retired academic librarian

Watson, Livingston Parish, Louisiana, is 95 miles and a world away from New Orleans. On July 22nd, 2022, at a Livingston Public Library board meeting, about 30 people spoke out expressing their concerns about the possible censorship and banning of books. Amanda Jones, a local middle school librarian of long standing, was among those people speaking. She attended as a citizen not in her professional capacity—an excellent example of the solidarity of different kinds of librarians that is so vital in this time of attacks on libraries from the benighted and belligerent culture warriors who cloak their bigotry in concern for “the children.” After she spoke in public, two men, one local and one from elsewhere, launched a vicious and concerted attack on Ms. Jones. The two villains were a man called Michael Lunsford, the head of something called Citizens for a New Louisiana (an anodyne name typical of these sinister and hazily-funded bodies—see also “Moms for Liberty”). The group, predictably anti-LGBTQI+, anti-vax, and all the other weird preoccupations of the far right, has taken up the censorship/banning cause. The other man, a charmingly self-described “asshole,” is called Ryan Thames, the typical basement-dwelling keyboard warrior of the right. This disagreeable duo have accused Ms. Jones, a woman of faith with two teenage daughters, of working to corrupt children by “fighting so hard to keep erotic and pornographic materials in the kid’s section” and worse, mocked her awards for being a stellar school librarian and fighter for intellectual freedom, and incited the usual barely-literate cretins to issue death threats. It appears that they have picked on the wrong woman.

Ms. Jones’ “part memoir, part manifesto” tells a vivid story of these events and their consequences. She starts by telling us about the fateful meeting and the online persecution that followed and her initial shock and dismay on realizing that people in her small community (in which she has lived all her life), might believe the evil that was being spoken of her or that someone might be motivated to attack her and/or her family. The author was aware of the gathering storm before the catalytic events at that library board meeting. Groups led by Lunsford have been on the warpath against sustained library funding in Louisiana by opposing library-targeted local tax increases for some time. Alas, they were often successful. The substance of the attacks had shifted from taxes to library materials, especially those with LGBTQI+ content (one often wonders what secret fears drive that particular animosity). Some people in the community started to shun Ms. Jones—one striking example she cites is of a “Bible class” organized to direct hate toward her (a disconcerting interpretation of Christianity).

Chapters in *That Librarian* go beyond the author’s personal travails and those of other Louisiana librarians to detail instances of persecution, censorship, loss of livelihood by librarians who stood up for intellectual freedom. and the whole depressing assault on modernity, free thought, intellectual freedom, and liberal democracy. Undaunted, Ms. Jones decided to fight back by suing Lunsford and Thames for defamation of character. One would have thought that the bare facts of what they had done and written would prove the case, but Mr. Bumble’s observation about the law proved true again when

That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America. Cover taken from [Bloomsbury](https://www.bloomsbury.com/9781639733545).





the judge first declared Ms. Jones a “public figure” (perhaps the first small town middle school librarian ever to wear that title) and then conducted the case as if it were about the books in the library not blatant character assassination, ending up dismissing the case. Undeterred, Ms. Jones continues to fight the case on appeal.

Ms. Jones describes an awakening in her that has led her to campaign tirelessly for minorities of all kinds, for queer children, overweight children, and all the underrepresented children who do not see their lives in the books they read. That is in the best spirit of library values that call for books and other materials for all in the solid belief that books change lives if they can speak to those lives.

One of the last chapters details steps that we all can take to counter obscurantism and bigotry. Like Joe Hill, the author believes in organizing and in action. She lays out many strategies that can help beleaguered libraries and librarians and bring comfort and hope.

That Librarian is recommended reading for all who care about intellectual freedom and the current far-right attacks on it. Especially for those in small libraries, school and public, who often have to wage lonely battles against obscurantist boards and organized book banners without the protection of large institutions committed to humane values. In this particular war on such values, it is important that we all stand up in the hope, belief, and joy of knowing that right will prevail eventually.

Nominations Opening Soon for Herb Biblo Outstanding Leadership Award for Social Justice & Equality

The SRRT Herb Biblo Outstanding Leadership Award for Social Justice & Equity recognizes an individual for outstanding leadership in promoting social justice and/or equality within the library profession. Leadership can be demonstrated by accomplishments through the Social Responsibilities Round Table or other socially responsible library organizations with similar goals. Preference will be given to persons who have had the widest impact, including influence on the greater society outside the library environment. The \$4000 award is co-sponsored by Library Juice Press.



Award criteria:

- Must be member of SRRT or other library organizations with similar goals
- Must concrete achievements in or advancement of social responsibility in librarianship or library science education
- Preference will be given to a person who has had the widest impact, including influence on society outside the library environment.

Nominations should open in December and have a January deadline.

See more at <https://www.ala.org/srрт/bibloaward>.



Book Review: *Ethics in Linked Data*

Watson, B. M., et al., editors. *Ethics in linked data*. Library Juice Press, 2023.

Review by April Sheppard, Associate Dean of Library, Arkansas State University

Ethics in Linked Data is an essential and timely work that lays the groundwork for a critical discussion on the ethical dimensions of linked data initiatives, setting the stage for future scholarship. This edited collection gathers insights from a variety of perspectives to examine the ethical challenges often overlooked in linked data projects, particularly those in GLAMS (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Special Collections). Written for those who work with metadata, cataloging, linked data, and related fields; readers are expected to already be familiar with concepts and terms. Fortunately for those of us who don't work in these fields, extensive footnotes provide additional resources for further discovery.

The collection is organized into three parts, each providing unique insights into specific linked data projects, dialogues about who creates linked data, and the individuals and communities described, often without being included in their own description and controlled vocabularies or with care of how these communities and individuals are treated. Part I delves into theoretical frameworks and explores the infrastructure underlying linked data and the often unseen biases embedded in these systems. Topics include sustainability, data philosophies and policies, and impact of the overly Western influences on linked data and linked data structures.

Ethics in Linked Data. Cover taken from [Library Juice Press](#).

Part II then shifts focus to the ethical considerations of linked data in the face of hegemonic forces like colonialism, racism, and cisnormativity. This section critiques how linked data projects can perpetuate colonial and discriminatory frameworks unless actively countered by ethical reflection and intentional practices, such as engaging and consulting with marginalized communities to ensure better representation. In Part III, authors present case studies that highlight inclusive approaches and prioritize ethical engagement with communities represented in linked data. These projects draw from the ethics of care, slow librarianship, and collaborative models to develop respectful and accurate data practices. Readers are encouraged to think critically about identity management, privacy, and community participation throughout the project life cycle.

Finally, the highlight of the collection is the Ethics in Linked Data Checklist created by the LD4 Ethics in Linked Data Affinity Groups with collaboration of other LD4 affinity groups and attendees at multiple LD4 events. This practical tool, divided into Planning, Implementation, and Maintenance stages, provides reflective questions to guide ethical decision-making in linked data projects. By addressing sustainability, inclusivity, and transparency, the checklist helps practitioners build more responsible, community-centered linked data systems.

Despite my background in public services and instruction, I found *Ethics in Linked Data* to not only be readable, but engaging. While I occasionally needed to pause for supplemental research, the breaks were opportunities to explore the many projects and frameworks mentioned throughout. Overall, I have been left with a much greater understanding of how linked data functions within cultural and societal contexts and it has given me much thought into my own role in the use and development of linked data.

VOICES FROM THE PAST

We offer excerpts from past newsletters in every issue. Last issue we published an article written by E. J. Josey written in June 1990. That year was SRRT's 20th anniversary as a Round Table. This issue we are sharing an article from the [June 2009 SRRT Newsletter](#), written by LaJuan Pringle, SRRT Coordinator. 2009 was the 40th anniversary of SRRT's foundation and LaJuan chose to write about the role that SRRT played in the early days of ALA's Round Tables.



LaJuan Pringle

I've never been one to be intimidated by a task no matter how large. And while it's always easier for me to engage in routine duties, I've never shied away from taking on more arduous responsibilities. So when I became the coordinator of SRRT, I was aware of the challenges of leading this group - but perhaps there was a bit of naivete on my part as to what I had taken on. However, as I begin to research the history of SRRT, I found myself a little overwhelmed by the scope of my position as the SRRT coordinator - especially this year. As I pondered what I could write in terms of celebrating SRRT's 40th anniversary, I found myself at a loss of words. I knew that I was coordinating one of the largest and most influential round tables in ALA.

But it wasn't until I got a sense of how SRRT came into existence, did I realize just how influential SRRT has been in shaping the association as we know it today. It humbled me to understand the nature of SRRT and how its efforts during its first years played a profound role in fashioning the direction of modern day ALA organization.

When the Round Table for Social Responsibilities in Libraries was granted round table status in 1969, one of the first endeavors of the round table was to work on the Activities Committee on New Directions (ACONDA) committee. This group, that featured prominent members of SRRT, would go on to make recommendations that would eventually reorganize the structure of ALA, encourage ALA to look out for the interests of librarians as it related to wages and working conditions, develop organizational support for Intellectual Freedom, and recognize ALA as an interest group that would actively promote legislation to support libraries. This group also determined that ALA should take positions on social issues and encouraging practices that allowed library users to learn alternative views on the various issues of the day. And all of the changes that this group recommended are now active components of ALA governance. In essence, SRRT forever changed the way ALA did its business.

So now here we are 40 years later celebrating SRRT's birthday and it seems to be highly appropriate that we celebrate our existence in conjunction with the Alternative Media Reception - an event that has done much to promote the

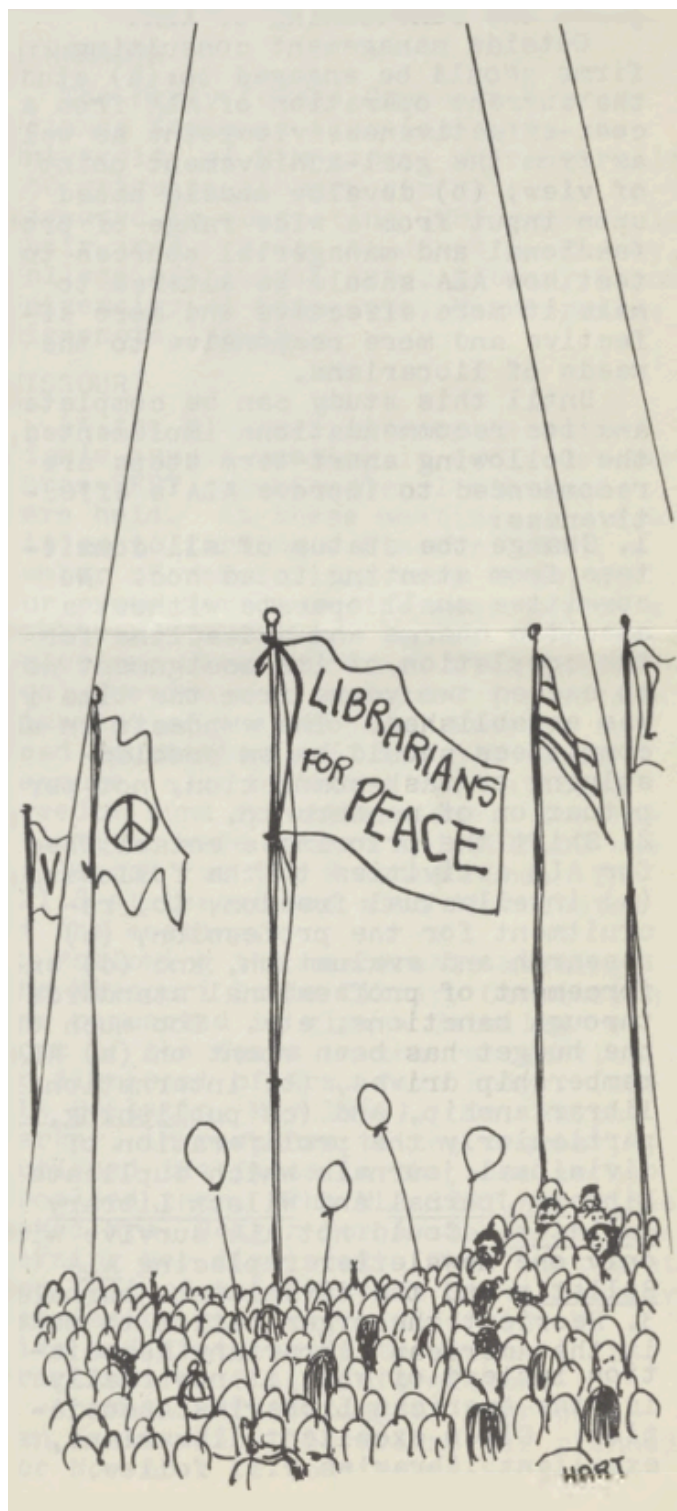
VOICES FROM THE PAST continued

alternative viewpoints that so many of us espouse. This event will take place on Monday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Experimental Station. We will also use our time in Chicago to sell t-shirts for SRRT as a fundraiser. We will sell them at our various programs and events throughout the conference. So make sure you pick up a shirt while you're there. But don't worry, if you can't make it to Chicago and you want to purchase one - we'll make accommodations for you as well.

I want to thank you all for your patience and support with me as your coordinator. I'm truly grateful to represent such a wonderful group of colleagues. I'd also like to thank Alison Lewis for working with me during our transition period. Her help was invaluable and everyone in SRRT should be thanking her for the work that she accomplished as our past coordinator. I'd also like to thank Myka Kennedy Stephens for her tireless work as our newsletter editor. Myka has been the epitome of graciousness as she has worked diligently to ensure that our newsletter is delivered to you all in a timely manner. She's been very patient and she deserves all of our gratitude as well.

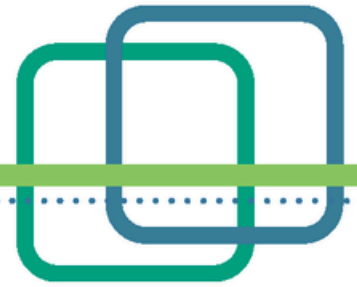
Peace to all!

LaJuan Pringle



*Librarians for Peace Cartoon
from Issue 3 of the SRRT Newsletter
December 1, 1969*

Call for Submissions



The SRRT Newsletter is always looking for good articles, essays, and letters to the editor. The next submission deadline is **December 29, 2024**. We want to start 2025 on a positive note, so the theme of the January issues will be **Hopes and Dreams for the New Year**. Share your social justice dreams for 2025 and/or your practical steps to achieve those dreams.

The SRRT Newsletter invites submissions from library and information workers, students, educators, and all others who recognize the critical importance of libraries in addressing community and social issues. Submissions should be 500 to 1,000 words and should include the article title, author's name and title, and school or place of work (optional). Graphics are encouraged. Submissions that primarily promote paid resources will not be considered.

Please submit your articles via our online form: <https://forms.gle/2ouwSAtRnU9v5pG88>

In memorial submissions can be submitted online at: <https://forms.gle/fQAQvp5kU9TAFv5k9>

Submissions, questions, and graphics can also be emailed to srrt.newsletter.content@gmail.com.

Submit an article!



Submissions to SRRT Newsletter - Reviews

Submissions for book or media reviews should be sent to Laura Koltutsky, SRRT Newsletter Reviews Editor, at laurakoltutsky@gmail.com, indicating "Reviews" in the subject line of your email.

Submissions should be sent electronically in MS-Word format or a Word compatible format. Reviewers should keep their reviews to 300-500 words; any length much shorter or longer should be discussed with the reviews editor prior to submission. Reviewers should avoid conflicts of interest. Full disclosure should be made to the reviews editor when appropriate.

Submissions to SRRT Newsletter - Letters to the Editors

The Newsletter invites readers to submit letters to the editors relating to social responsibilities and libraries. The letters should be respectful and thoughtful, either respond to specific content in the newsletter or include suggestions for topics of interest to SRRT members to be addressed in future issues. We will only publish letters of more than 200 words in exceptional circumstances.

Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy. You will be notified if your letter will be published.

Submit your letters to Laura Koltutsky at laurakoltutsky@gmail.com. Please indicate "SRRT Newsletter Letter to Editors" in the subject line of your email. You may submit your letter as a Word attachment or in the body of your email message.

Letters must include your full name, address, a telephone number and email address if you have one. This is for us only -- we don't share this information.

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Editorial Board Members: Jenny Garmon, Miguel Juárez, Laura Koltutsky, April Sheppard

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The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary or as whimsy strikes.