

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE

SRRT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 160/161 DECEMBER 2007



Please make plans to attend the following Action Council meetings:

Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 10:30 AM

Monday, January 14, 2008 at 1:00 PM

And don't forget the All Task-Force Meeting

Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 8:00 AM

(Meeting places to be announced at a later date)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COORDINATOR'S REPORT 2

FTF REPORT 3

IRTF REPORT 3

MLK REPORT 4

HHPTF REPORT 4

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL 5

MIDWINTER REPORT TO COUNCIL 6

TFOE REPORT 7

IFLA REPORT 8

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT, CAROL GULYAS 9

REVIEWS 10

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Greetings from your newly appointed roundtable coordinator! Please bear with me as I start to negotiate some of the unfamiliar (and changing!) territory that is both the structure of SRRT and its relationship to its parent body, ALA.

As I've tried to gain my footing in both a new work environment and my new responsibility as SRRT coordinator, I've already become more appreciative of all that SRRT is and does. In many ways, our task forces are the backbone of our organization – they are the places where the rubber hits the road and much of the concrete work of our roundtable is accomplished. It is the task force chairs and members who bring about the great ALA conference programming, special projects, and publications that focus on various aspects of social responsibilities within librarianship. Many of them also take the lead in bringing forward important policy and social issues for Action Council discussion and action. If you're a SRRT member who is not involved in a task force already, please read the task force reports in this newsletter and visit the SRRT website for more information. All of the task forces welcome new members with fresh ideas and energy for moving their work forward. Even if you can't attend ALA conferences, there are ways you can get involved. Contact the chair of the task force you are interested in to explore ways you might contribute!

There are other ways to contribute to SRRT beyond involvement in a task force – consider running for Action Council, helping out with the newsletter, working with membership coordination, helping manage the listserv, or serving as a liaison to another ALA unit. Contact me if you need more information on any of these ways to get involved!

Lastly, a goal that I have for our organization at this time is to improve both our internal and external communication. I'd like to see us find ways to improve communication on our listserv, communication among Action Council members, and communication between SRRT and ALA. If you have ideas for improving communication along any of these (or other) pathways, I'd love to hear from you.

I look forward to a great year ahead and hope to see many of you here in Philadelphia for ALA's Mid-Winter Conference!

Alison Lewis SRRT Coordinator

Alison.Lewis@ischool.drexel.edu

215-895-5959



Have you been thinking about getting more involved in SRRT?
We're looking for YOU!

Please consider the possibility of running for SRRT Action Council! For more information about SRRT's organization, and what its Action Council and officers do, please consult the SRRT website: <http://libr.org/srrt/> and particularly the section on job descriptions for SRRT officials: <http://libr.org/srrt/docs/srrtjobs.html>

Let me know if you have any questions, or if you would like to run for office! Your organization needs YOUR help to keep running smoothly!

Alison Lewis

FEMINIST TASK FORCE REPORT

The Feminist Task Force (FTF) has a full schedule of meetings and events during the 2008 Midwinter Meeting. We start out with *Feminists Night Out* held on Friday evening, January 11, at Giovanni's Room, <http://www.giovanisroom.com>, 345 South 12th St. (at 12th and Pine St.). We believe that we will be at Giovanni's Room between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. It may be that we will be able to stay past 8:00 p.m. We will send out updates on discussion lists and blogs as well as have fliers in the OLOS/SRRT boxes in the registration area. This is a great opportunity to buy some good books, have a few snacks and enjoy some good conversation.

The regular FTF meetings will be held on Saturday, January 12 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. with the all SRRT Task Forces meeting and on Sunday, January 13 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Everyone is then invited to go out to dinner as a group.

The Saturday meeting will include a discussion of the new FTF project being lead by Dolores Fidishun, *Research Project on Gender Presence in ALA Conference Presentations*. This project will evaluate the gender representation of program presenters at ALA Annual Meetings for the last 5 years and to try to find ways to track this information in the future. Once the Project Group gets together we will discuss whether we can add other diversity data, how we want to conduct the study, and what kinds of information we will need.

The Amelia Bloomer Project, <http://libr.org/ftf/bloomer.html>, has the majority of their meetings during the Midwinter Meeting. The meetings are on Saturday from 1:30 – 6:00 p.m., Sunday from 1:30 – 6:00 p.m. and Monday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. During this time they will finish evaluating the books and put together the 2008 Amelia Bloomer List of feminist materials for children and teens.

If you want more information about the Feminist Task Force please join our discussion list at <http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/feminist>. This is not a busy list but it current activities are always nounced on the list. Please feel free to contact Diedre Conkling, FTF Coordinator, at diedrec@charter.net.

IRTF REPORT

At this year's annual conference in Washington, D.C., the International Responsibilities Task Force along with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association presented a program "Darfur: the Library's Responsibility and the Community's Need to Know". Special guests from the program were Angel Baptiste, Ph.D., African and Middle Eastern Division, Library of Congress, Washington D.C., Mwiza Munthali, Public Outreach Director, TransAfrica Forum, Washington D.C., and Evelyn Sallah, Program Associate for Public Education and Mobilization, AfricaAction, Washington D.C. Each panelist discussed the connection between their organizations and Darfur. The Library of Congress has initiated a web capture program designed to archive digital materials including web sites. They are currently in the process of completing a web capture project on the topic of Darfur. TransAfrica Forum and AfricaAction have both led protests against the U.S. government for its failure to take any action to end the atrocities. Both organizations have issued numerous statements on the Darfur crisis and have offered steps for ending the unrest that continues to engulf the region. The biggest step is to deploy a robust peacekeeping force to protect the citizens of the region. Although there has been much talk of deploying a peacekeeping force, the deployment has been repeatedly delayed amidst decreased security and escalating violence as of late. The U.S. government's relationship with Sudanese officials who have been implicated in the genocide, but are "cooperating" with the U.S. on the "War on Terror", has further diminished the government's ability to deal with this crisis in an effective manner. When asked what libraries could do, the answer was simply to "educate" patrons with any resources available. This includes programming, displays and any other bibliographic tools that highlight various resources on the region.

LaJuan Pringle, Coordinator, International Responsibilities Task Force

MLK, JR. REPORT

7th ANNUAL KING HOLIDAY MULTICULTURAL IDEA EXCHANGE

SRRT Coordinator Elaine Harger welcomed the record audience attending the 7th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Multicultural Idea Exchange in the Washington Convention Center from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 23 during the ALA Annual Conference. With Lyn Miller-Lachman, Award-winning author and editor of the Multicultural Review as moderator, there were three panelists: (1) Director Andrew A. Venable, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, OH, (2) Dr. Em Claire Knowles, Assistant Dean for Student Administrative Service, School of Library & Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, MA, and (3) Dr. Claudette S. McLin, District Field Librarian, Library Services, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, CA. Also, a special presentation was made by Librarian Pamela Cash Menzies, Ebony Magazine Library, Chicago, IL. The second part of the program featured Audience Exchange Moderator Averil J. Kadis, Public Relations Director (Retired), Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD with attendees sharing highlights of the activities and programs from the Holiday Observances in their libraries to "Keep the Dream Alive."

Following the Audience Exchange, the Materials Exchange provided examples of brochures, calendars, flyers, posters, programs, etc. from the panelists and members of the audience that included those from the Westchester Library System's acclaimed King Holiday Authors Tea in Tarrytown, NY. Moreover, all the program materials became part of the King Holiday Task Force Exhibit in the Diversity Fair starring the Cleveland Public Library's professionally acknowledged, leading Book Mobile Service.

Special appreciation is extended to the panelists and attendees along with SRRT leadership, Satia Orange and the OLOS and others for successful events despite the absence of the Chair because of illness.

Please check your midwinter program for the details of the Sunrise Celebration

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. (Ginny) Moore, Chair

HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY REPORT

Hello! I am Lisa Gieskes, one of the new co-coordinators for the Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force. My goal is to continue and advance the work of the HHPTF. Here is an update on our task force:

1. 83 people attended the HHPTF/OLOS program on Serving Low-Income People Effectively: Ideas and Practices for Libraries on Sunday, June 24. Special thanks go to Helen Carpenter, Project Coordinator for the Welcome to Your Library Project at the London Libraries Development Agency and Laurel Weir, Policy Director at the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.
2. Coordination of a program at ALA Annual 2008 in Anaheim, CA, that focuses on community building through libraries. Please contact Lisa Gieskes, lisagieskes@yahoo.com, if you are interested in participating.
3. John Gehner will guest edit an upcoming issue on poverty in the Journal of Information Ethics. If you are interested in submitting an article contact John Gehner at jgehner@hhptf.org. Guidelines for submissions will be provided. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2008.

Check out Welcome To Your Library, coordinated through the London Libraries Development Agency. See: <http://www.welcometoyourlibrary.org.uk/>

ALA COUNCIL REPORT TO SRRT, JULY 3, 2007

Greetings to the members of the Social Responsibilities Round Table. SRRT took a break in proposing resolutions at the ALA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Perhaps we were worn out by the unsympathetic reception to our efforts at the Midwinter Meeting. SRRT did however endorse one resolution, which was then approved by the ALA Council. ALA is now on record in support of the necessary funding to bring new equipment to the National Library Service for the Blind. Council also passed a resolution on the need for "Accessible Digitization Projects" including people with disabilities. A discussion at the SRRT Action Council led to a later initiative at the ALA Council concerning how to move ALA Headquarters and the Washington Office to follow-up on SRRT initiated resolutions passed by the ALA Council. Although we have been assured that these resolutions are sent out to the members of Congress, etc., we are not given any tangible evidence. I now hope and expect to see much better and detailed implementation reports in the future, but of course we will have to monitor this and see what happens. In a related matter, ALA sponsored a successful lobby day where more than 2000 librarians descended on the Congress to lobby for ALA's issues. Of course, we found that our resolutions on withdrawing from Iraq, opposing disinformation campaigns, and opposing the use of torture were not included in the ALA handout. SRRT made its own handout but it is unclear if it was successfully distributed to many Congressional and Senate offices. I raised this issue three times at ALA Council meetings to no avail. This was particularly unfortunate because the ACLU, an ALA partner organization, along with a couple of hundred other organizations were also lobbying on the same day, and one of their main issues was stopping the torture of prisoners at US and US-affiliated facilities around the world.

The most likely important Council action was contained in the Intellectual Freedom Committee's report. ALA Council passed a good resolution against the misuse of National Security Letters to obtain library records. The IFC report also contained a substantial guide on "Fostering Media Diversity in Libraries: Strategies and Actions." The Council also endorsed a short document on "Principles for Digital Content," with sections on Values, Intellectual Property Rights, Sustainable Collections, Collaboration, Advocacy, International Scope, Continuous Learning, Preservation, and Importance of Standards.

There were two internal procedural resolutions that I and some other progressive councilors opposed. The first created a task force to investigate open-ended electronic participation in all ALA structures. As I said on the Council floor, I am all in favor of e-participation but I am not in favor of e-decision-making. When Keith Fiels later approached me about my remarks, I suggested the extreme case of a call for the ALA Council to meet online. I said that there is no substitute for personal interchange, including body language of folks at the microphone, the emotion in people's voices, and caucusing during debate to offer amendments. The second was a resolution that will be implemented at the next annual meeting, and concerns the restructuring of ALA Membership Meetings. These meetings were designed to influence ALA policy by offering members the chance to discuss any issues with the possibility of referring resolutions for consideration of the ALA Council. (The ability to overturn ALA Council resolutions was rarely used and is no longer in effect.) Until now, any proposed resolutions had priority on the agendas, but this new provision divides the one-hour meeting into two halves and relegates member resolutions to the second half. This will leave only one-half hour to discuss any controversial resolutions that may arise. We may have to address this problem again soon, perhaps by a membership resolution.

There was one other report of particular interest. The Freedom of Read Foundation lamented the loss of the so-called "Bong Hits 4 Jesus" case in the Supreme Court. The FTRF had filed an *amicus* brief along with several other free speech organizations. This lawsuit challenged a high school student's suspension from school for displaying his "Bong Hits 4 Jesus" banner. But this event, an Olympic torch relay, was not a school event and not on school property. This decision was a blow against student free speech rights, and it may have far-reaching implications. Finally, the Council honored Kurt Vonnegut with a memorial resolution noting his vision, humor, and support for libraries. The text notes that ALA records show 21 reported censorship challenges to five of his fourteen novels,

ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORT, CONTINUED

including fifteen incidents from 1972 to 2007 targeting *Slaughterhouse Five*, which was burned in 1973 in North Dakota. As usual, I will try to answer any questions. AL Kagan SRRT Councilor akagan@uiuc.edu

ALA COUNCIL REPORT TO SRRT, MIDWINTER 2007

Greetings once again to SRRT members, old and new. Following up on our previous successes, in Seattle we introduced a resolution aimed at lobbying the Congress to defund the Iraq War. The resolution referenced our past successful resolutions since 2003, which addressed securing Iraqi cultural resources and rebuilding libraries; opposing torture; opposing disinformation, media manipulation and the destruction of public information; and for getting the US military out of Iraq. Unfortunately, after much debate, the resolution failed 98 to 48. Although we had some unlikely supporters speak to it, the Council was just not ready to take this next logical step. Almost everyone we talked with was in favor on a personal level, but there is a disconnect between their personal views and their professional lives. We just have to work harder to connect our issues and break down these barriers to fundamentally change our society.

As I said on the Council floor, one of the nice things about meeting in new places is that we meet new folks who may want to participate in ALA for the first time. Some folks in the Seattle Public Library union crafted an excellent resolution on the reasons for impeaching President George W. Bush. SRRT endorsed it and we took it to the Council. Jonathan Betz-Zall took the lead as Washington State Chapter Councilor. This was a positive development on the one-hand but very disheartening to see the reaction of the Council. To my knowledge, the ALA Council has never precluded debating anything brought before it. Unfortunately in this case, someone came to the microphone to do just that. A councilor asked for a ruling on whether this resolution was appropriate business for ALA. President Burger consulted with the Parliamentarian who advised her to ask the body. When she did, a majority of hands went up and she ruled the item out of order. An immediate rebellion followed. Councilor Bernadine Abbott-Hoduski made an impassioned speech against self-censorship followed by several others including one councilor who said she had not realized what she was doing when she raised her hand. President Burger then overruled herself and we debated the resolution. Progressive councilors were themselves divided on this one. Several, including Bernadine, stated their opinion that tying up the Congress with impeachment was the wrong way to go, and that we needed the Congress to act to try to right some wrongs from the current Administration. In the end, only about ten councilors voted for the resolution.

There were several other important resolutions. The Council voted in support of immigrants (legal or otherwise) by opposing any legislation that infringes on the rights of anyone in the USA to use library resources, programs, and services on the national, state, and local levels. Evidently, many public libraries currently exclude undocumented immigrants from various services. Hopefully, local activists might be empowered to change this situation. Thanks to REFORMA for bringing this to our attention through the Committee on Legislation (COL).

The Council also approved two other items from the COL report. The first urged the Congress to amend the Copyright Act to facilitate use of "orphan works" if the user has made a good faith effort to locate the owners. The other urged governments at all levels to support the role of libraries in providing electronic government and emergency response services.

For the first time in my memory, the Intellectual Freedom Committee did not present any resolutions for consideration. The International Relations Committee had only one non-controversial action item, the appointment of an ALA representative to the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield. The Blue Shield was established in 1996 as an international organization to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by wars and natural disasters. The U.S. Committee was formed in 2006.

MIDWINTER COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED

There was one other ALA Council resolution of note. Several progressive councilors introduced a resolution to follow-up on ALA's continuing relationship with the Boy Scouts of America National Council (BSA). ALA Council had resolved at the Midwinter 1999 meeting to cut its formal relationship with the BSA because of their explicit homophobia and discrimination based on religious affiliation. These councilors pointed to a liaison listed on the website of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). The ALSC Councilor defended its practice and said this did not constitute an official relationship. In the end, Council decided to put this on hold until the Council could receive an official response from ALSC, which will happen at the annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Finally, the ALA-APA (Allied Professional Association) easily passed a resolution endorsing a nonbinding minimum salary of not less than \$40,000 for professional librarians.

As usual, I will be happy to try to answer any questions.

Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor, akagan@uiuc.edu

EDITOR'S NOTE: This report was inadvertently left out of the last issue. Please see page 10 for the latest report.

TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT ALA ANNUAL PROGRAMS

ALA Midwinter Request from TFOE

DAY/DATE Monday, January 14, 2008

TIME 1:30 - 3:30 (tentative)

PLACE Convention Center (tentative)

TYPE OF PROGRAM Environment and Literacy Discussion Group

TITLE Nature and the Environment @ your library: Nature Journals as a Tool for a Children's Library Program

DESCRIPTION: This inaugural program feature three distinguished discussion leaders who will focus on the theme of writing nature journals as a means for children to record their words, ideas, pictures, and feelings about the observations they make in the environments where they live, work, and play. This new discussion group, sponsored by the ALA Task Force on the Environment, begins a new dialogue about special programs for libraries and librarians that want to engage in supporting children's literacy programs on two fronts. First, is developing stimulating and fun projects or children's literacy initiatives. Second, is developing programs related to E-literacy (environmental literacy) by developing programs and activities to increase awareness about environmental and nature-themed topics and issues. Participants will hear from experts on a means to get kids interested in nature and things outdoors and get them started in making their own nature journals.

DISCUSSION LEADERS: Doug Wechsler, Director, The Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia) and Children's book author (28 titles) and nature photographer (Frog Heaven: The Ecology of a Vernal Pool, Boyds Mill Press); Mark Baldwin, Director of Education, Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History; Andy Boyles, Science Editor, Boyds Mill Press and Highlights for Children magazine.

MODERATOR: Fred Stoss, TFOE Co-Chair, University at Buffalo



IFLA REPORT

This year's IFLA World Library and Information Congress was held in Durban, South Africa, August 19th to 23rd. The local organizing committee took the opportunity to highlight the overthrow of apartheid by inviting Albie Sachs to give the keynote address. Now a Justice of the Constitutional Court, Sachs is an ANC stalwart who participated in the 1955 Congress of the People where the Freedom Charter was written (the ANC's foundational document). He went to prison in 1963 and eventually had to go into exile, losing an arm and an eye to a car bomb in Mozambique in 1988. He dedicated his talk to the unknown local librarian who supplied books to help him through solitary confinement. He noted that the new Constitutional Court Library has the largest human rights collection in the world, and its virtual collections are open to all of southern Africa. IFLA has promised that Albie Sach's talk will eventually become available on the IFLA website. Just as inspiring, Minister of Arts and Culture Pallo Jordan addressed various gatherings during the meeting. Jordan is known as a leftist, and he announced an additional one billion Rand (\$140 million) for public and community libraries over 3 years. This will include the strengthening of provincial library services and re-publication of classics in South Africa's 9 indigenous languages.

Of the more than 3100 attendees, more than one-third came from Africa, and probably about half the Africans came from South Africa. As a result there were far more programs about African libraries and librarianship than usual. For example, I was able to attend part of a pre-conference seminar on "African Libraries of the Future Interfacing with the Millennium Development Goals," an interesting session on the preservation of audio-visual and oral tradition archives, and a session on copyright concerns regarding traditional knowledge, cultural expressions and folklore. Of course, IFLA meetings always include lots of local culture and this meeting was no exception. I particularly enjoyed the traditional storyteller, Gcina Mhlope, who chaired the opening ceremony as well as performed. The Durban waterfront resembles Miami Beach, and there was even a beach party. But the level of crime in Durban towards white tourists and conference goers is just horrendous. Many IFLA folks naively thought they could just walk around the downtown, but they soon lost their valuables. Those who resisted the muggers sometimes got hurt, and one librarian ended up with a broken leg. South Africa is still one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to distribution of wealth, and neo-liberal economic policies are preventing any serious redistribution. On the other hand, I had a very interesting tour of several township libraries doing impressive work.

This was my final year on the IFLA Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Committee (FAIFE) -- an IFLA core program. I chaired the FAIFE program committee for the past two years and we put on our second successful program on access to HIV/AIDS information in Durban. The papers are on the IFLA website. Unfortunately, our most famous speaker could not attend. Zachie Achmat, the Chair of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), was involved in speaking out against the latest South African Government scandal around access to HIV/AIDS treatment. The South African Minister of Health, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, along with President Thabo Mbeki are known for their crackpot ideas around HIV/AIDS. For example, the Minister recently appeared at International AIDS conference with her display of garlic and beetroot in the place of anti-retroviral drugs. The TAC has not only kept up the pressure with mass demonstrations but has also taken the Government to court a number of times and won to demand drug treatment for all. While the Health Minister was recently in the hospital getting a liver transplant, her deputy was actually rolling out the drug treatment programs. Deputy Minister Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge was just fired for her good work after the Minister returned to work. This is another ongoing tragedy of the current South African situation. We unfortunately also missed out on hearing our Brazilian speaker on the intellectual property issues around HIV/AIDS drugs. He was also unable to attend due to pressing business at home.

The 2007 FAIFE World Report is forthcoming, it surveys 116 countries on freedom of expression issues. Finally, let me just note that the FAIFE fact-finding trip to Israel and the West Bank finally happened in April 2007. The

IFLA REPORT, CONTINUED

IFLA Governing Board has already accepted the initial recommendations. They include various kinds of library assistance to the West Bank, a conference to be held outside the regional to foster cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli library communities, and publication of articles describing the effects of the occupation and the second Intifada on the library situation in the West Bank. Let me know if you want a copy of the preliminary report.

The IFLA Council passed a dues increase and a resolution explicitly forbidding IFLA from endorsing national political candidates for office. The latter was not a change in policy but just something to satisfy foundations who make grants to the organization. Finally, it is a pleasure for me to report that Ellen Tise, University Librarian at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, is the new IFLA President-Elect. I have worked with Ellen for many years, and I have every confidence that she will try to take IFLA forward in a progressive direction. As usual, I will try to answer any questions.

Al Kagan, September 18, 2007

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CAROL GULYAS

1. Where did you get your MLS (or MIS) and when?

Dominican University, River Forest, IL, 2003

2. What is your current library position?

Reference & Instruction Librarian, Columbia College Chicago

3. How long have you been involved with SRRT? In what capacity?

Since 2003, first as a member, and a frequent poster to the list, then I was elected to Action Council in 2004. In 2006 I organized a program at ALA in New Orleans focusing on The Ethnic Press and Libraries, assumed the position of coordinator of the Alternative Media Task Force. In that role I organized the Free Speech Buffet for past two years.

4. What are your proudest SRRT achievements?

Voting to pass the resolution against the Iraq War. Being part of the group that put ALA on record as opposing illegal war, torture and the Patriot Act. Getting the Free Speech Buffet process organized and transitioning it to a paid event.

5. How has your experience with SRRT helped you as a librarian?

It has made me constantly aware of our role as community builders and protectors of free speech and the constitution.

6. In what direction would you like SRRT to go?

I would like the organization to do more than just meet at annual and midwinter and pass resolutions. I would like it to provide more resources for librarians to achieve social justice and provide more meaningful communication between annual and midwinter to foster the sharing of information and resources to further social justice. I would like us to do more fundraising so that the Free Speech Buffet can be even bigger and better.

7. What do you have to say to a new SRRT member?

Get involved and help reach out to attract even more new members.



ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITY

Looking to improve your advocacy skills? Want to meet fellow library supporters from across the country? Get the tools to become an effective library advocate by attending the Advocacy Institute, which will be coming to the American Library Association's (ALA) 2008 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, on Friday, January 11, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Advocacy Institute will cover core advocacy skills, including message development and coalition building during the morning session. In the afternoon, following a collaborative luncheon with the Young Adult Library Service Association (YALSA), specialized breakout sessions will focus on making effective budget presentations, crisis communications, and passing bond issues/referenda. Attendees will leave with an action plan that they can implement in their communities or campuses. Advance online registration is \$50 for members and non-members alike. Price includes lunch. To register, visit www.ala.org/midwinter.

The Advocacy Institute is coordinated by the Office for Library Advocacy and the Advocacy Institute Task Force of the ALA Public Awareness Committee; in cooperation with the ALA Public Information Office (PIO), the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA), the Chapter Relations Committee, the Committee on Legislation, and Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA). For more information, visit www.ala.org/advocacyinstitute.

JOURNAL REVIEW

Grant, Linda ed. *Minerva Journal of Women and War*, Volume 1, Number 1 (Spring 2007).

The feminine answer to Mars, Minerva was the Roman goddess of war and wisdom. She approached war with carefully calculated strategies and military skill, relying not on brutal strength but wisdom and calm courage. She exhibited a clear understanding of the cost of war, mindfulness about the welfare of warriors, and profound grief for the killed and wounded. Like the Roman goddess, The Minerva Journal of Women and War is designed to be an alternative voice—a feminine response to the historically male narratives of war and political conflicts.

Minerva Journal of Women and War is the newly renamed Minerva Quarterly Report on Women and the Military, which was originally founded by Linda Grant DePaw in 1983. A project of the Minerva Society for the Study of Women and War (MSSWW), the journal is now published by McFarland, an agreement designed to more effectively enable Minerva's editorial staff to "continue its tradition of publishing scholarship that expands both knowledge and understand of women in the military and women's relationship with war" (4). DePaw, a pioneer in the study of women's military history, continues her involvement as Founding Editor and Chief and director of the Minerva Center.

The change in title is intended to be a more accurate reflection of the journal's broad exploration of the ways political violence and wars intersect with women's lives. Indeed the current geopolitical climate reflects a growing interest in the ways in which women resist, participate in, and coexist with war. Editors Mathers, Pennington and Kennedy-Pipe explain: "the current preoccupation in many media and policy circles with women as casualties of war and terrorism, or as suicide bombers, begs a series of questions that the editors hope the journal will address about public concepts of women, violence, and political conflict" (4). Editors welcome submissions from scholars in a wide range of fields, including anthropology, women's studies, peace studies, cultural studies, sociology, history, and politics and will continue soliciting articles written by service personnel as well. Additionally, they hope to showcase culturally and ethnically diverse perspectives on these topics by seeking more submissions from outside North American and Western Europe.

As interdisciplinary studies continue gaining momentum, this publication is a welcome addition to any academic or large public library. Print and online subscriptions are available at www.mcfarlandpub.com or 800-253-2187.

Rebecca Howard, Literacy Coordinator, Tulsa City County Library

FREE SPEECH BUFFET PREPARATION

Efforts to recruit publishers and organize the Free Speech Buffet are underway, under the excellent leadership of Gary Colmenar. This is a great way to get to know independent publishers and help them get access to the ALA which might be out of their reach given their limited budgets. Also the Free Speech Buffet provides librarians with updates on what is happening in the world of independent publishing in each locality where ALA meets.

If you can help, please contact Gary Colmenar at colmenar@library.ucsb.edu

BOOK REVIEW

Jensen, Derrick. *Thought to Exist in the Wild: Awakening from the Nightmare of Zoos, Santa Cruz, CA: No Voice Unheard, 2007.*

“I’ve known people...who took their children to zoos to see animals, and then came home and poisoned pigeons. I’ve also known people who bought their children glassed-in ant farms, then stopped at the hardware store to buy some Raid.” (127)

This poignant book should perhaps come with a warning for the faint of heart for those for whom thoughts of young animals left motherless through violent human acts and the dismembering of surplus zoo animals, their heads destined to be mounted and sold for trophies are the stuff of nightmares. On the other hand, this is a poetic book owing to environmentalist Jensen’s almost rhythmic repetition of his central themes, reminiscent of Vonnegut’s use of “and so it goes” in *Slaughterhouse-Five*. The text is paired with three portfolios of dozens of stark black-and-white photographs by Karen Tweedy-Holmes of animals who live in some of the 10,000 substandard zoos in the United States.

Jensen outlines the tragic life of a zoo animal from its capture in the wild (usually accomplished through matricide) through its disposal at the end of its usefulness as well of the horrors of its limited life in between, including mockery by the very children the zookeepers insist they are educating:

“I see no awe and wonder on the faces of other zoo patrons. I hear children laughing at the animals. Not the sweet sound of children’s laughter that we so often read about in bad poems, but the derisive laughter of the schoolyard, the laughter at someone else’s misfortunes...” (43)

Along the way he highlights the human delusions that allow us to perpetuate the idea of zoos as altruistic efforts on our part: our belief that they have no feelings, our contention that we as humans are superior to them, and our insistence that zoos are requisite teaching tools about the wild. Though he makes cogent arguments comparing zoos to human prisons, Jensen is at his most powerful when he compares the keeping of animals in zoos who are “eagerly awaiting you” to the propaganda on a porn site...the featured women are also “eagerly awaiting you”. States Jensen: “It’s not enough to put these others on display. We must convince ourselves that they are desperately willing participants in their own degradation, that we are not exploiting them but doing them a favor...the animals in the zoos are so happy that we need cages to keep the others out.” (15)

This is a powerful essay and one of the few anti-zoo books available and worth a read for all those interested in humane treatment of animals (including *homo sapiens*).

Oh, one last quote. “Walt Disney was making a snuff film. This doesn’t surprise me as much as once it might have”. (129) Want to know what Jensen is referring to? Order the book for your library and find out.

Jane Ingold, Reference Librarian, Penn State Erie

BOOK REVIEW

Grossman, Elizabeth. *High Tech Trash: Digital Devices, Hidden Toxics, and Human Health*, Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2006.

When my laptop died, I asked friends and colleagues if they could recommend a reliable computer repair shop. The most common response was, "wouldn't it be less expensive to buy a new one? That is what I would do."

High Tech Trash explores the global crisis in technical waste, from the manufacture and disposal of digital devices. According to the author, Elizabeth Grossman, the 290 million people in America own over two billion pieces of high tech consumer products, including computers, cell phones, televisions, printers, fax printers, microwaves, PDAs, and entertainment systems. On average, personal computers are replaced every three years. The EPA estimates that over 2 million tons of e-waste ends up in U.S. landfills annually.

When the high tech industry started about forty years ago, it was widely proclaimed to be clean, with little impact on the workers or the environment. Today there is much evidence that the high tech industry has produced a serious legacy of toxics and health issues in some areas of the U.S., such as Silicon Valley, Endicott, New York, and Phoenix, Arizona.

And the problems are not limited only to manufacturing towns. For example the flame-retardants polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) -- found in many products, including the plastics used in electronics -- are associated with learning, memory, and behavioral problems and are now found everywhere, in the soil in the United Kingdom, in beluga whales that live in the Arctic, in peregrine falcon eggs in Sweden, and in mothers' breast milk.

The life of a digital device can be shockingly short. In the U.S., there are no mandatory regulations regarding the disposal of electronics, in spite of the toxic substances that make up these devices. Recycling is an option for some devices, but the vast majority of them end up in landfills.

Even when recycling happens, it too poses a health threat. In the United States, prisoners have been used to perform some of the recycling processes. Many questions have been raised concerning the health conditions under which this recycling has been done and the lack of OSHA oversight of the process. Another low cost option for recycling in the United States has been the exportation of our electronic waste to various countries in Asia. People in those regions work to dismantle our electronics without the benefit of safety equipment or sophisticated tools. Ultimately, real change will require pressure on the industry to change their designs and manufacturing processes.

Grossman indicates we have lost sight of the fact that technology depends on complex materials. We don't seem to recognize that "each tidy piece of equipment has a story that begins in mines, refineries, factories, rivers, and aquifers and ends on pallets, in dumpsters, and in landfills all around the world." She asserts that we have effectively divorced the information being processed by machinery from the machine itself. This, in addition to the throw-away mentality involving digital devices, is part of the idea that we as humans are somehow apart from the natural world. This is a false separation; the materials that are discharged from the manufacturing and disposal of high tech products now are in our rivers and our soil, and blowing through the breeze into our houses.

This is a book written for the lay person, the everyday consumer of electronics. It can be slow reading at times and a section of pictures would have been a valuable addition. Reading about the shocking recycling situation in some areas in Asia is not as effective as pictures of computer monitor screens being "smashed by hand, their copper yokes extracted and the shattered leaded glass thrown into a nearby irrigation canal or riverside dump." But the book provides a valuable in-depth look at the high tech industry that has had little exposure to date. Grossman is most engrossing when she examines the cultural issues that have brought us to where we are now in the digital world and why we continue to avoid the knowledge that is necessary to change the industry.

It is also an important resource for librarians. Librarians are concerned with the rights of citizens and we should be

REVIEW, HIGH TECH TRASH, CONTINUED

aware of the justice and health issues related to the development and disposal of electronics. As libraries have felt the pressure to provide electronic access to resources for all patrons, keeping up with technology has become a priority. But should libraries also be considering the implications regarding the creation and recycling of the electronics they use?

Grossman points out that high-tech electronics have created “‘virtual worlds’ and fostered the illusion that we have left the material world behind.” If we ever hope to get out from the high tech tide of toxins, health problems and environmental issues, we need to recognize “the global reach of the high tech industry’s environmental footprint.” Only then can we understand that, if we hope to continue to play in other worlds, our first commitment needs to be to action in this world.

Loretta Dunne , Adult Services Librarian, Mt. Laurel New Jersey Public Library

BOOK REVIEW

Gilmore, Ruth Louise. *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 2007.

Ruth Wilson Gilmore has written a surprisingly hopeful history of prison growth in California in her *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California* (California, 2007). This is not to say that the book is a cheerful one. Surely anyone reckoning with the alarming rate of incarceration in this country (California’s prison population rate grew by 500% between 1982 and 2000) and the explosion of prison construction (23 new prisons were built in California since 1984, compared to 12 in the 100 years before), will speak from a fairly deep well of pain and struggle. Gilmore tells us of families wrenched apart by the need to fill new prison beds with the poor and black and the urban, of small towns left so ravaged by the consolidation of industrial agriculture and the decline of the manufacturing sector that the construction of cages for young men seems their best economic alternative. Gilmore’s analysis—rooted in Marxist political economy and characterized by a thorough and well-documented historical sense—demonstrates that none of this happened by chance or by accident. Prisons—and, Gilmore convincingly argues, prisoners—are constructed by real people making real decisions in a real world: Just as we made these choices, we can make others.

Gilmore frames her book with the stories of two activist bus rides, both of which make clear her commitment as a scholar-activist to coalitions of diverse identities and interests united in struggle by similar social and political realities. Chapter one serves as an introduction, laying out the particulars of the prison construction and incarceration rates in California. Data is deployed both in-text and in tables, maps, and graphs throughout, giving her arguments a weight that more polemical and less historical works lack. Gilmore also summarizes the main explanations for prison growth, grounding the reader in current political and scholarly debates about prison expansion. Chapter two describes California’s political economy from the 1970s through the 1990s, building toward an analysis of what Gilmore calls the crises generated by surplus land and labor in the wake of agricultural consolidation and the collapse of the military economy. This is by far the densest chapter in the book. Gilmore is an admirably clear translator, and lay readers who can commit to a challenging fifty pages will be rewarded with an understanding both of her arguments and of the foundations of Marxist political economy. Chapter three describes the ways these surpluses were absorbed through the building of prisons and the increased criminalization and incarceration of unwanted (e.g., poor, urban, Black) populations. Chapter four applies her earlier analysis to a close reading of a prison construction project and its aftermath in Corcoran, California. Chapter five describes the work of Mother Reclaiming Our Children, an activist group in Los Angeles organized in 1992 in response to increasing incarceration rates. Gilmore’s work in this chapter is indispensable; we have few histories of organized resistance as

REVIEW, GOLDEN GULAG, CONTINUED

clear-eyed and complete as this. Gilmore closes with Lenin's question: What is to be done? Suggesting ten theses for political struggle that works across narrow identities, boundaries, and ideas of what constitutes politics, Gilmore calls us to mobilize our power into alignments that "begin to shake the ground."

Gilmore's text arrives amidst a flood of books about prisons in general and the 'exceptional' prisons at Guantanamo and inside the black holes created by extraordinary rendition. What makes Gilmore's text indispensable is its insistence that we arrive at our present only through a traceable history, one that she convincingly lays out here. Understanding and acknowledging this history—something Golden Gulag makes possible—allows us to move toward a different kind of future, a future without any cages at all. Essential.

Emily Drabinski, Reference Librarian, Sarah Lawrence College

BOOK REVIEW

Dilevko, Juris and Candice F.C. Magowan. *Readers' Advisory Service in North American Public Libraries, 1870 – 2005: A History and Critical Analysis*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2007.

Are these books recommended? A patron asked the question while I was in the stacks at the busy urban library where I worked at my first library job. Initially at a loss as to exactly how to respond, I replied that essentially all the books in the library were recommended (as the library's purchase of the materials demonstrated). My critics are sure to cry cop-out or possibly something more refined meaning the same thing. My defense would be my lack of experience and lack of exposure to the theoretical underpinnings of library service, and of public library service in particular. The books that the patron referred to were genre titles in the fiction collection displayed on clear acrylic "end-caps" on each stack and were stocked and re-stocked there regularly from any title in that range of shelving of which the library owned multiple copies. The library could be said to be *recommending* them based on their popularity (versus their quality, as purchase of multiple copies indicated popularity or demand). That chance encounter caused me to think about the library and its collection in a way that I had not before.

Next I considered the placement of the new books shelf just inside the entry of the library. This shelving was placed perpendicular to the entrance aisle with new fiction titles facing the door, so that those materials were the first books that patrons saw when they visited the library. On the back or opposite side of this new book shelving were displayed the new nonfiction titles. I wondered if the positions of the new fiction and nonfiction collections were reversed if circulation of new nonfiction would increase based solely on its being presented first to the library patron.

These examples serve as illustrations of how the library's purchase and deployment of its collections influence the library user and as such, speak to the basic role of the public library in its community. So, too, is the case with Dilevko and Magowan's book on the history of readers' advisory. *Readers' Advisory Service in North American Public Libraries, 1870 – 2005: A History and Critical Analysis* provides the critical history of this library service that the title proclaims, but also addresses the often debated proper role of the public library in modern life communities. The authors' two stated goals for the work are to outline the evolution of adult readers' advisory service over 135 years and to demonstrate that after 1980 readers' advisory "has lost its way." These aims are admirably met through chapters on the ideological basis of readers' advisory service, developments over time for the years 1870-1916, 1917-1963, and 1963-2005 with an emphasis on the post-1980 era of the last time division. Final chapters focus on case studies undertaken with the electronic readers' advisory database, Novelist, and recommendations for the future.

REVIEW, READER'S ADVISORY SERVICES, CONTINUED

Through numerous examples and convincing evidence the authors persuade the reader that the public library's purchase and promotion of genre fiction reduces library staff to the commercialized role of moving merchandise. Though not explicitly advanced as a goal of the work, the authors make a case for the essential role of the public library as one of providing meaningful education. By extension, public libraries should collect quality literature and authoritative nonfiction materials and advance the serious study of the same by the library's public. Unfortunately, the authors' emphasis on the goal of meaningful education is equated with the reading of difficult texts, such as serious, quality literature and nonfiction, such that this study is depicted as a sort of *bad-tasting medicine* that the reader must endure. On the contrary, readers of literature that is either not of the genre variety or on the best-seller list or both *enjoy* their chosen reading material and do not engage in it solely because it is *good* for them.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 27% of adults hold an undergraduate degree. That figure alone would indicate that the role of people's university is an appropriate one for public library service. Additional material acknowledging the Public Library Association's service responses and suggestions for implementation would have improved the work. Unique in scope, *Readers' Advisory Service in North American Public Libraries* is highly recommended for all public library staff and graduate programs in library science.

Robin Imperial, Information Services Librarian, Fayetteville, NC

BOOK REVIEW

Stanton, Richard. *All News is Local: The Failure of the Media to Reflect World Events in a Globalized Age*, Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2007.

Is all news bad?

Maybe not, but if you're getting your news from the Western news media, then you're not getting the best global news, according to Richard Stanton's book *All News is Local: The Failure of the Media to Reflect World Events in a Globalized Age*. Stanton, a professor of media and communication at The University of Sydney in Australia, has very strong complaints about the quality of the news that comes out of the West and the inability of the Western news media organizations to present global issues appropriately.

One strength of Stanton's book is his explanation of why some of the most popular Western news sources are unable to present global news in anything other than a local context. These reasons, he postulates, include flaws in the way journalists are taught to "color" their reports to make them a little juicier than their competitors' stories; the competition that global news has with local public interest and lifestyle reports; and the inability of news organizations to report on events fairly because of the ownership of their organization. And while Stanton never goes as far as to say that citizens of Western nations are incapable of understanding global news, he does say that Western news media "must acknowledge their place as élites and stop pretending they can distill complex issues into ten-paragraph local angle stories for general consumption" to "allow average citizens to comprehend that there are complex issues in the public sphere and that they can't all be distilled into digestible chunks the same as a dog-food advertisement" (198).

Stanton's complaints aren't new. Many studies, including the one conducted by Tim Groseclose and Jeffrey Milyo in 2005, have found that Western media is biased, and anyone familiar with the struggle that some news outlets have to remain "fair and balanced" has heard some of the same complaints that Stanton has about Western news media.

There are a lot of opinions about the flaws of our news: several bloggers blame news organizations for the current US presence in Iraq, and news outlets have been blamed for the "dumbing down" of our society. But Stanton doesn't just provide reasons why news organizations are incapable of providing global news. More importantly, he does an

REVIEW, ALL NEWS IS LOCAL, CONTINUED

excellent job of framing these issues in a larger political, economic, and historical context, and ultimately provides ways to transform the culture of Western news media. This aspect of his book is the most valuable and a future book further developing these ideas would be an excellent complement to [All News is Local](#).

Overall, this investigation of the flaws of Western news media would be an excellent read for anyone interested in a greater understanding of their news sources and is a good foundation for someone who would like to revolutionize the way that the West receives global news.

Julia Huprich, Assistant to the Dean & University Librarian at the Georgia College & State University Library and Instructional Technology Center

BOOK REVIEW

Madsen, Kristie. *The Ethics of Labeling in Mental Health*, Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company Inc., 2007.

Madsen, a medical social worker in California, authored this book to challenge the predominate notion in the mental health field that the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSMMD)* is the Bible of mental disorders. Madsen argues, “the system of mental health service in this country is an industry that profits from the harm of labeling people as mentally disordered” (1). The effects of labeling a person as having a mental disorder, whether it is Bipolar, Anxiety, Depression, etc., impact the individual in a negative manner. This practice of labeling, Madsen asserts, can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. A person may not have an anxiety disorder; however, once the individual is labeled as such, the patient may begin to manifest more signs of being anxious. Madsen concludes, “perceptions about people usually precede the reality of who they are” (25).

Madsen attempts to strengthen her arguments by providing various examples of real-life case scenarios. The problem with the scenarios is that they actually demonstrate the inadequacies of the American health care system, as opposed to supporting the author’s arguments against *DSMMD* labeling. One such example is the case of “Jack,” who was repeatedly refused treatment and assistance because his condition’s label did not fall into the “correct” categories. While Madsen uses this as proof of the negative connotations of labeling, it appears that Jack’s problem was an inadequate health care system that did not want to pay the cost of treatment.

Although this book provokes an interesting debate, it is not appropriate for the layperson. An appropriate audience may be the mental health professional who is concerned with the reliance on the *DSMMD*.

Jennifer J. Meister, Technology and Reference Librarian, Free Public Library of Monroe Township, NJ

REVIEWERS ALWAYS WELCOME

The SRRT Newsletter is always looking for reviewers for books that would be of interest to our members. Pick from a list of books we have received from the publisher or review one of your choosing that inspired (as I did in this issue) or outraged you. And remember, book review publication looks great on your vita! Reviews should run between 500 to 750 words and be submitted as a Word attachment.—Jane Ingold

BOOK REVIEW

Sheehan, Jacqueline, ed. *Women Writing in Prison: An Anthology*. Florence, Massachusetts: Amherst Writers and Artists Press, 2005.

Primarily works of free-verse poetry, but also prose, *Women Writing in Prison: An Anthology*, is loosely organized around the themes of prison, addiction, children, family, home, love & violence, changes, and spirituality, with a final section of contributions from the not-incarcerated facilitators. The title serves as an introduction to the genre for the reviewer. Though a cursory review of similar titles did not yield a large number of published works in this category, the tradition dates at least to the late 1970's, as evidenced by publication dates of materials catalogued in WorldCat.

The contributions included in the anthology represent the work of women participating in Voices from Inside, creative writing groups/programs in prison. The project, founded in 1999, seeks to enable women prisoners and former prisoners to tell their stories and to raise the public's consciousness with regard to the effects of incarceration. Voices from Inside operates in Western Massachusetts. The number of women incarcerated is on the rise due primarily to mandatory sentencing laws. Most women are incarcerated for non-violent, drug-related crimes. Drug addiction, poverty, and lack of education are some of the problems affecting incarcerated women.

For these creative writing experiences, women wrote in English and Spanish and in response to various prompts provided by the facilitators including poems, photos, everyday objects, and phrases. Facilitators took the women's work out of the prison each week and returned it with suggestions for improvement. Every effort was made to retain the writer's unique voice with minimal editing, though prison officials still censored some pieces for sexually explicit language and references to drug use. The collection represents a distillation of various writing groups' chapbooks and the chapbooks included the best two to four pieces written by each woman participant.

Each piece must stand on its own merit, but a sample is included here to pique interest:

ME

I am always student and sometimes teacher. I am here to scatter pieces of me around your conscience, an offering from my singed soul to all of humankind. Learn, learn, grow, and know me. I am the one for whom you lacked compassion. I am the one you turned from in disgust. Now something draws you to me. You can't look away. I am strength. I am example. I am fragmented but no longer "broken." I serve as reminder that we, you, are divine and noble. I live to acknowledge depravity and lack and to name these things. I don't turn away. I accept. I offer hope. I provide the lesson from having lived and survived. I found power through my experience. I was fear, now I am courage. Find me. Gain understanding. Find me. Education your heart. Find me. Seek change.

Dede

Women used only their first names to sign their work primarily to protect their loved ones. Indeed, as indicated by the themes used to organize the anthology, family in any and every form, is a central focus. Ironically, the love motif is paired with violence. Writing group facilitators do not attempt to be counselors, yet the writing experiences are nevertheless therapeutic and according to participants helped in their successful re-entry into the world outside prison walls. Since every community, unfortunately, has women who are in prison, the title is recommended for all public libraries, but it will be especially relevant for prison libraries and Massachusetts libraries. Proceeds from the sale of the work fund additional writing workshops. Visit <http://www.voicesfrominside.org/> for further details.

Robin Imperial, Information Services Librarian, Fayetteville, NC

MEDIA REVIEW

***State of Fear: The Truth About Terrorism: Based on the Finding of the Peruvian Truth & Reconciliation Commission.* Directed by Pamela Yates; edited by Peter Kinoy; produced by Paco de Onís; cinematographer, Juan Durán; original music, Tito La Rosa and Tavo Castillo; co-producer, Ana Caridad Sánchez; narrated by Karen Duffy. ISBN 1574481428. DVD, Skylight Pictures, c2005.**

Running time: 94 minutes. Not rated. In English and Spanish (with English subtitles). Official movie site: <http://www.skylightpictures.com/>

“The reaction [to the terrorist attack] was, ‘Kill them all, and forget human rights.’ ”

The president used mass media to “manipulate people’s fear,” encouraging the citizens to “ ‘Turn [suspicious people] in! We’ll win this war.’ . . . [He] had almost complete control over electronic media, TV, & radio.”

“We were between a rock and a hard place. If you didn’t go along you were a coward or a traitor.”

“People were very afraid to be mistaken for terrorists. They figured, ‘better stay home, not protest, keep quiet.’ ”

The documentary *State of Fear* tells of the political and social upheaval in Peru during the 20-year civil “war on terror.” It accounts the findings of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (pub. 2003), headed by Carlos Iván Degregón. It also focuses on the human rights violations Peru’s citizens endured at the hands of the terrorist group Shining Path and their own government under President Alberto Fujimori.

The film opens with beautiful footage of Peru’s unblemished countryside, while Degregón explains that the “years of killing are over, but the effects are not.” Seventy thousand Peruvians died in the war on terror, which began in 1980 when the guerrilla organization Shining Path attempted to seize power from the bourgeois institutions that ran the country and replace them with a revolutionary regime controlled by Peru’s subjugated native population, rather than Lima’s cosmopolitan elite.

Shining Path was founded in the early 1970s by Abimael Guzmán, a philosophy Professor who was influenced by Marx, Mao, and Lenin. Guzmán formed what he called the “people’s army,” and promised his followers a “paradise on earth.” Instead he gave them violence, draconian laws, harsh penalties for not supporting the revolution, and finally, guerrilla warfare. While Peru’s leaders ignored the peasant population, Shining Path exploited it. When the people began to rebel, Guzmán, who had planned to control the countryside before attacking the cities, changed his plans and attacked Lima in 1990.

The bombing galvanized Peru, and led its citizens to vote into office a “political outsider,” someone they thought was above political games and would bring “change” to the nation. And when Alberto Fujimori began his term, that’s exactly what he did.

Throughout the documentary, we hear first person accounts from both sides of the spectrum. Photojournalist Vera Lantz puts human faces to the horrific stories of Ayacucho’s inhabitants, descendants of the Incan empire, first ravished by the Conquistadors, then repressed by the “incomplete democracy” run by the elite, and now ravished again by white and Indian alike.

A follower of Guzmán explains that they wanted to “build a better world,” and that violence is often a consequence of change.

A Peruvian marine explains that in the early 1980s, due to Shining Path’s destructive presence, half of Peru’s population was in a “state of emergency” under martial law. He claims that the military didn’t distinguish Shining Path from civilians: “Even a 10-year-old child might be a terrorist.”

REVIEW, STATE OF FEAR, CONTINUED

We hear Beatriz Alva Hart, a lawyer raised in Lima, explain that growing up, she was told nothing of her nation's poor. As an adult, she remained comfortable and complacent: "I listened but didn't hear. Things happened and I didn't notice. It's like I was outside the situation."

We are introduced to Ramiro Niño de Guzmán, now a teacher, who as a child was kidnapped by Shining Path, forced into military service, and saw his brother and friend who, after questioning orders, killed for "treason."

A university student recounts the horror of being questioned by the military about "student leaders" she might know, then arrested without charges, jailed, questioned, blindfolded, drugged, raped, and tortured before she finally began confessing to things she never did.

And while this was happening, Lima's wealthy cosmopolitan population remained mostly ignorant. Rarely was there accurate media coverage, and when anything *was* reported, most assumed that those being arrested or questioned "must have done something." Lima's citizens remained "indifferent, silent bystanders," while human rights violations were committed all around them. Thus, when Shining Path attacked Lima, the citizens willingly gave up their civil rights out of fear; they exchanged democracy for security. Consequently, when President Fujimori dissolved Congress in a stunning coup d'etat, he had 70% of his country's approval to do so.

These accounts, along with dreadful footage of violence, prisons, and poverty, contribute to a compelling, heartbreaking film that will leave its audience enthralled, stunned, eager to learn more, and possibly angered that they'd not heard of these events until viewing this film. The significance of the opening quotes are apparent. A blurb on the DVD's back cover states that the events in Peru "serve as a cautionary tale for a nation like the United States." But we may already be in the middle of this cautionary tale. And we are not as strong as the Peruvians: when they learned that their 2000 presidential election was stolen, they protested and removed their corrupt leader.

Beatriz Alva Hart, so profound in her hard-learned wisdom, says what many Americans may one day echo: "My pain isn't just when I feel empathy for the victims, but also when I ask, 'Where was I then?'"

Tracy Marie Nectoux, Monographic Cataloging and Metadata, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

BOOK REVIEW

Yoshino, Kenji. *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights.* New York: Random House, 2006.

Today, race, national origin, sex, religion, and disability are all protected by federal civil rights laws... Americans have come to a consensus that people should not be penalized for being different along these dimensions. That consensus, however, does not protect individuals against demands that they mute those differences. We need an explanation for why the civil rights revolution has stalled on covering (x).

Covering blends both memoir and argument to elaborate a new paradigm for our common desire to express ourselves without the demand for conformity. Inspired by sociologist Erving Goffman's *Stigma*, Yoshino describes "covering" as the activity of downplaying stigmatized identities that are known. Some of the more recognizable examples Yoshino uses to help illustrate the practice of covering include Franklin Roosevelt, Martin Sheen, and Margaret Thatcher. Everyone knew Roosevelt used a wheelchair, but he always stationed himself behind a desk before meeting with his advisers. Martin Sheen changed his name from Ramon Estevez to get a name people could pronounce and connect with; and Margaret Thatcher trained with a voice coach to alter the pitch of her voice. Yoshino sees covering as a demand society imposed on him and on gay history. This demand, however, is felt not only by the gay community, but by all civil rights groups:

REVIEW, COVERING, CONTINUED

African-Americans are told to “dress white” and to abandon “street talk”; Asian-Americans are told to avoid seeming “fresh off the boat”; women are told to “play like men” at work and to make their child-care responsibilities invisible; Jews are told not to be “too Jewish”; Muslims, especially after 9/11, are told to drop their veils and their Arabic; the disabled are told to hide the paraphernalia they use to manage their disabilities (21).

For Yoshino, contemporary American life is at a transitional moment in discriminatory practices. “This covering demand is the civil rights issue of our time” (23). Whereas previous generations discriminated against entire groups current generations target minority cultures rather than people. Individuals are accepted not because they *are* white, male, straight, but because they *act* white, male, straight. Citing the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Yoshino shows that major civil rights legislation does not account for covering demands. Status is protected, but behavior is not: speaking a language, being a parent, participating in a same-sex marriage, wearing religious attire. In Yoshino’s language, the courts protect “*being* but not *doing*” (24).

Many readers may be surprised by Yoshino’s reply to the “angry straight white man” who attends his lectures on covering. He recounts an audience member who asks why racial minorities or women or gays should receive legal protection for behaviors within their control (wearing cornrows, acting ‘feminine’, flaunting sexuality). “After all, the questioner says, I have to cover all the time. I have to mute my depression, or my obesity, or my alcoholism... Why should my struggle for an authentic self matter less?” (24-5). Yoshino, however, agrees with the questioner arguing that contemporary civil rights assumes some individuals do not have to cover. “For this reason,” he writes, “we should understand civil rights as a sliver of a universal project of human flourishing” (25). The process through which Yoshino’s civil rights expands and develops to include the “angry straight white man” begins with a critique of the word “mainstream” and a recognition that we all have covered selves; and it continues through both legal and cultural action.

Yoshino is quick to note the sheer universality of the covering demand can be an asset for civil rights advocates (xii). In this demand, Yoshino sees a model for the critique of assimilation that is applicable for all civil rights groups. Although the book begins with a short history of gay rights, it argues his critique has value and implications for racial minorities, women, religious minorities, and people with disabilities. The quest for engaging our multiple identities without restraint is universal. *Covering* is an attempt to shift away from group-based identity politics and legal solutions towards universal liberty rights realized through social solutions. “Told carefully, the gay story becomes a story about us all—the story of the uncovered self” (27).

Winner of multiple awards (including the Stonewall Book Award from ALA), *Covering* is for those interested in human and civil rights issues, and is appropriate for both public and academic libraries. For additional information about the book, the concept, and the author, see <http://www.kenjiyoshino.com> which includes definitions, a Q & A, additional reviews, an excerpt, and a biography.

Megan Z. Perez, Librarian-In-Residence, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville DePauw,

BOOK REVIEW

MacFarlane, Scott. *The Hippie Narrative: A Literary Perspective on the Counterculture*, Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2007.

Scott MacFarlane takes his work seriously. He has analyzed, critiqued, dissected and explained the literature he has determined to be the “narratives that should be viewed as the literary canon of the counterculture.” (p.5) Whether or not you agree with his literary choices, you will learn a great deal about both the authors and their works.

REVIEW, HIPPIE NARRATIVE, CONTINUED

The author does an excellent job of defining post modernism, the “new journalism” “gonzo journalism” and defends his definitions with many examples. I have previously read many of the works MacFarlane explores and found both new information and new theories in this book.

MacFarlane starts with the “beat” generation of the 1950’s: Ginsberg, Kerouac and Burroughs. Most baby boomers remember some of their works. The Beat literary movement is covered as background material. MacFarlane explains the similarities and differences in both style and content between the Beats and the Hippies.

MacFarlane discusses fifteen literary works. The works chosen range from those authored in 1922, *Siddhartha* to *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, published in 1976. Included are such diverse works as the science fiction novel *Stranger in a Strange Land* (1961), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (1962) and *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969).

MacFarlane claims: “Taken mostly chronologically, one work at a time, these literary perspectives reveal the actual story of the hippies as the phenomenon played out through American Society in the 1960s and ‘70s. In this way *The Hippie Narrative* is both a literary and cultural study.” (p.3)

As a self defined, former hippie I do not agree that these books reveal the actual story of the hippies. MacFarlane speaks to this point in several instances: “Actually, the authors of the narratives studied here who were directly involved in the counterculture – Kesey, Brautigan, Thompson, Norman and Robbins – were born from 1935 to ’37, and bit too old to be classified with the teens and young adults in late 1966 who fit the descriptions of little hipsters. The bulk of the hippies were “baby boomers” and born from 1945 to 1957 ...” (p.16) The author of *Electric Kool- Aid Acid Test*, Tom Wolfe is praised for his portrayal of hippies: “The fact that Wolfe succeeded as well as he did in depicting the world of Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters was impressive. Wolfe was not an insider, never a hippie, and politely declined to drop acid.” (p.106). “Hunter S. Thompson was a fixture of the counterculture as a writer and self-described drug dilettante, but arguably never a hippie.” (p.176)

This book does an excellent job of describing and critiquing the chosen works. It does not give a well rounded picture of the era and the cultural mores. MacFarlane is aware of this and gives mention to that fact: “Literature, as Kesey noted, was not the dominant mode of expression. Rock and folk music offered what, today, would be called soundbites: “give peace a chance,” “what are we fighting for...,” “let’s go get stoned”... “they paved paradise and put up a parking lot,” ...”. (p.130) “...many diverse movements contributed to the counterculture, such as the anti-war movement, the psychedelic movement, the natural foods movement, or the environmental movement. The enormity of change combined to offer an alternative culture and lifestyle, perhaps too new, complex and vast for most authors of the time to immediately distill.” (p.16)

Another area given short shrift by MacFarlane: women and their roles in the counterculture. There were women authors, playwrights, and songwriters (Sara Davidson, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Germaine Greer) actively working in the era but they are basically ignored by MacFarlane. In a five page bibliography only eight women are listed. The index includes few women. The entire book under-represents women and their roles in the time period covered.

The information that can be gained from reading *The Hippie Narrative* is considerable. This information should be tempered by additional research of the time period for a more well rounded view of the era, including it’s literature. A look at vintage *Rolling Stone Magazine* will give authentic examples of “gonzo journalism”, and will show, through articles and advertisements, the “hippie” lifestyle.

MacFarlane should be applauded for his through research on the literary works he has chosen. This book is an excellent source of literary critique. It just does not deliver a full picture of the era.

Ann Marie Maloney , Graduate Student, University of South Florida at Tampa

BOOK REVIEW

Nsouli, Mona A. and Lockman, Meho E. *Censorship in the Arab World: An Annotated Bibliography*, Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow, 2006.

Censorship in the Arab World covers a lot of territory in its 146 pages. Nsouli and Lockman have gone to great lengths to find relevant material. Articles, books, doctoral dissertations, and encyclopedias are just some of the material cited in this work. In order to formulate their list of citations, Nsouli and Lockman searched more than 19 databases and roamed the stacks of the American University of Beirut, Indiana University Bloomington, the Institute of Palestine Studies, and the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

Twenty-two different Arab nations each have their own chapter. All members of the Arab League are represented, though some more fully than others. The sections covering nations such as Palestine, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia have multiple sections on such things as freedom of the press, laws and legislation, and copyright. Other nations like Comoros and Djibouti, where less information is available, contain only one entry

The work includes 677 citations, with a number of cross references, that date from 1960 to 2004 and includes entries in English, Arabic, and French. The multiple languages included in this text provide a broad overview of perspectives on Arab censorship and attest the efforts gone through to produce this work. However, some allowances for readers who do not speak or read Arabic or French would have been helpful. While all of the annotations are in English, many of the titles are not. The non-translated entries put the English-only speaker at a disadvantage when using this text. Nsouli and Lockman include translations of non-English titles only if the original authors provided them. For those titles that are not translated, the annotations take on an even greater importance. They are the sole source to discern the contents – when they are present.

The annotations themselves are varied. In some cases, they are in depth and provide insight into the text they are describing. In other places, the annotations are only a sentence, and some entries have no annotation at all. A more even treatment on the annotations would have made this work stronger.

Nsouli and Meho have created a detailed and informative resource compiling a great number of sources on a topic that needs more attention. The presence of so many entries in this text belies the idea that censorship in the Arab world is a little explored topic, but there is a lack of comprehensive bibliographies such as these. *Censorship in the Arab World* would be a great resource for researchers interested in this topic.

Heather Hill, Doctoral Student, University of Missouri-Columbia

Congratulations to Toni Samek, Associate Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, recipient of the first annual Library Journal Teaching Award.

BOOK REVIEW

Sapon-Shevin, Mara. *Widening the Circle: The Power of Inclusive Classrooms*, Boston: Beacon Press, 2007.

What's the best way to make sure all children receive the best possible education? Mara Sapon-Shevin explores this thorny question with passionate rhetoric and convincing arguments for parents and teachers trying to build inclusive schools.

Indeed, the word "inclusion" forms the heart of Sapon-Shevin's argument. *Widening the Circle* begins with a section called "Vision," in which the author clearly articulates exactly what is—and is not—meant by the term, deconstructing various misinterpretations along the way. She continues with "Challenges," several chapters dedicated to addressing specific fears parents, teachers and administrators might have about creating and maintaining inclusive classrooms. This section is the strongest portion of the work, dedicated as it is to concrete rhetorical strategies. Objections such as "This will be bad for everyone" and "But what about all these other school mandates?" are dismantled by Sapon-Shevin's level-headed counterarguments, which are equal parts logic and compassion. Although the reader is frequently reminded that there is no cookie-cutter method to addressing each school's unique needs, the author is both specific and encouraging, giving readers the confidence they need to approach their own circumstances with a toolkit of possible responses to wary school personnel.

At this point the text shifts gears, offering the personal narrative of Micah Fialka-Feldman. By letting Micah, his mother, and his peers tell their story of how inclusive education worked for them, Sapon-Shevin breathes life into her theories. In fact, the book's sole drawback is that it does not include more such stories. However, given the current educational climate, in which standardized tests carry the day, and fine arts classes are considered "extras" that can be easily disposed of at budget-crunch time, perhaps this is not so surprising. Sapon-Shevin adjusts for this grim outlook by emphasizing the positive, using language that reflects a wealth of cultures, customs and conditions in her hypothetical examples, and inserting many small moments of connection and hope into what has become what parent and activist Carolyn Das calls "the continued separation, segregation, and devaluation of our children" (77).

Widening the Circle ends with a section called "Getting it Right / Doing it Well," in which the author demonstrates how various schools nationwide are using inclusive principles to reshape their organizations. Sapon-Shevin emphasizes the process and the products equally, taking care to stress that asking questions and focusing attention on individual needs is the key to creating an inclusive school. Other elements to consider include creating safe environments, valuing cooperation over competition, and addressing conflict appropriately. The sheer number of factors to juggle—enriching the curriculum, addressing multiple intelligences, and differentiated instruction, to name a few more—may seem daunting, but the book ends with a reminder of the ultimate goal and the overall vision: classrooms where every child has the ability to succeed to the best of his/her potential.

Sapon-Shevin's passionate call to action, interwoven as it is with poetry, story, quotations and song, is impossible either to resist or to ignore, and is certain to provoke intense conversations in the communities in which it is purchased and read. School librarians will want to consider it carefully for their institutions, and the book is an absolute must for academic libraries that support teacher training programs. Public libraries should purchase as interest and demand warrant.

Leigh Anne Vrabel, Senior Librarian, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

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

SRRTMEM - SRRTMEM is an unrestricted email list for announcements from the American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table. Announcements come from the SRRT Coordinator, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and the Director of OLOS. The purpose is to keep SRRT members and other interested people informed as to SRRT's activities and to provide information about how to get involved. To subscribe to SRRTMEM, send the following email to:

listproc@ala.org: subscribe SRRTMEM [your name] To unsubscribe from SRRTMEM, send this command to

listproc@ala.org: unsubscribe SRRTMEM

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

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

Newsletter Editor, Erik Sean Estep: erik.estep@gmail.com (co-editor, this issue, Jane Ingold)

Book Review Editor, Jane Ingold: jli4@psulias.psu.edu

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

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

SRRT NEWSLETTER
Social Responsibilities Round Table
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611