

### From the Chair's Desk

After an absence of eons (or so it seems to the serials librarians and others among you), we return with the Winter/Spring 1982 issue of the IFRT Newsletter. This publication will appear more or less semi-annually, timed to reach members just before the Midwinter meeting and--in this case--the Annual Conference. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find news about the Round Table's program plans for the Philadelphia conference, a summary of what your Executive Board decided at the Midwinter meeting in Denver, and other information you as members should have.

The most important event of this year did not take place at an ALA event. Indeed, it happened after the Midwinter meeting. Sheldon Liebman, who had been serving as Assistant Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, resigned to pursue other interests. Robert Wedgeworth, the ALA Executive Director, responded by freezing the position. Sue Kamm, vice-chair, and I sent the following letter to Wedgeworth on February 23:

"Dear Bob:

"We have heard that you have chosen to freeze the position of assistant director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom which [at the time of writing the letter was] about to become vacant. Is this true?

"If our understanding of the situation is correct, we hope you will reconsider. While we are aware of ALA's financial problems, we believe that the Office for Intellectual Freedom performs an essential service for all librarians. We do not think that Council intended to sacrifice one of the Association's top priorities on the budget altar.

"Please respond to both of us at the addresses below."

Mrs. Ruth R. Frame, deputy executive director, responded on March 3:

"We have received your letter of February 23, regarding the staffing of the Office for Intellectual Freedom.

"The position of Assistant Director of the Office has just become vacant. During the current fiscal year it is absolutely essential that the Association take all possible steps to keep expenditures within income, and remain alert to our cash flow situation.

"In order to reduce personnel expenditures, the Association must leave several positions open temporarily [emphasis ours] as they become vacant.

"The OIF has been authorized to use

contract arrangements to do some of the work of that office until the Assistant Director position can be filled.

"We all recognize that the OIF performs essential services; the positions in that unit will be filled as soon as the budgetary situation permits."

In late April, Mrs. Judith Krug, director of the OIF, was told the position would be frozen for 18 months. This means, in essence, that the position has been permanently deleted from the budget.

This action has served to weaken the intellectual freedom program of this association. Because the Assistant Director of the OIF serves as the Round Table liaison, loss of this position adversely affects our part of the total ALA intellectual freedom program in particular. We as your officers rely heavily on the liaison to provide support for our meetings by setting up and arranging our meeting agenda, reproducing supporting documentation, mailing minutes and other notices, and, in particular, providing ongoing information we need.

In addition to taking care of the Round Table, the Assistant director serves as a co-editor of the **Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom** and the monthly **OIF Memorandum**, which goes to state IFC chairs; makes speeches; and provides support to troubled librarians as required. The burden of this position falls on Judy Krug's and Bob Doyle's already overburdened shoulders. OIF is trying to do the work of ten with a staff of four, including the support staff.

We hope that each of you will respond to this problem by writing, phoning, or visiting as many Councilors as you can. If you belong to a division, be sure to get in touch with your Division Councilor, as well as the Councilor representing your state. Send copies of your letters or brief notes of your call or visit to Sue or me. (A directory of officers appears elsewhere in this newsletter.) We must make Council aware that this is a grave situation.

On the good news front, we now have more than 1,000 paid members in the Round Table. Whether we should be grateful to Rev. Jerry Falwell and friends or not remains to be seen. The point is that the Righteous Right is out there trying to impose their views on the rest of us. They seem to forget that the First Amendment means free speech for all.

See you in Philadelphia!

Bruce A. Shuman  
Chair

### **Elie Abel to Discuss News Management at 1982 Program Meeting**

Elie Abel, from 1961-69 an NBC correspondent and later dean of the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, will speak on "Managing the News" at the IFRT's annual program meeting on Saturday morning, July 10. Abel's speech is part of an intellectual freedom program co-sponsored by the Round Table, the ALA

Intellectual Freedom Committee, division IFCs, and the Pennsylvania Library Association IFC.

As was the case in San Francisco, the intellectual freedom program will take the form of a keynote session. [Speakers had not been set as we went to press.] Following that program, the co-sponsoring groups will hold break-out sessions in various rooms near the location of the main speech.

Although to many people the question of news management implies government censorship, Abel will be discussing how editors select stories to appear in newspapers and other publications or to be broadcast on radio or television. This process is an example of the "selection/censorship" dichotomy with which librarians frequently find themselves involved, and IFRT members should find much of interest in Abel's speech.

A native of Quebec, Abel earned a B.A. from McGill University there, and served as a reporter and assistant city editor on Canadian newspapers. From 1946-47, he was the foreign correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance in Berlin. In 1947, he became the United Nations correspondent for the Overseas News Agency. Following that appointment, Abel served for ten years as a foreign correspondent with the New York Times. By 1959, he was Washington bureau chief for the Detroit News, and in 1961 joined NBC. He became familiar to millions of viewers of the Huntley-Brinkley Report during the 1960s as chief of the London bureau for NBC and as diplomatic correspondent in Washington.

After leaving NBC, Abel became Godfrey Lowell Cabot professor and dean of Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism. In 1979, he was named Harry and Norman Chandler professor of communications at Stanford University, a position he still holds.

### **Steve Pico to Receive IFRT Immroth Award**

Steve Pico, who as a high school student fought attempts by the Island Trees (L.I., N.Y.) school board to remove books from his school library's shelves, has been named winner of the IFRT's annual John Philip Immroth Award, the Award Committee Chair, Pamela Bonnell, has announced.

The Immroth Award honors the memory of one of the Round Table's founders. Immroth died suddenly in 1976.

Pico is the lead plaintiff in Pico v. Board of Education, Island Trees Union School District, which is now before the United States Supreme Court. [A decision in this case is expected before Annual Conference.] He will receive his award, which consists of \$500 and a citation, at the intellectual freedom program meeting at 9 a.m., Saturday, July 10.

### **Roll Call of States to Resume at 1982 Conference**

The "Roll Call of the States," an annual summary of intellectual freedom triumphs and problems state intellectual freedom committees have had in the past year, will resume at the IFRT's annual meeting, to be held Saturday, July 10, at 8 a.m. The exact location will be announced in the Conference Program.

State chairs should receive letters asking for contributions to the printed summary which will be distributed at the meeting.

Members will learn about challenges looming on the horizon, countermeasures, and triumphs. This process is a time for sharing both good and bad news about challenges to materials and resources, legislation, or court actions.

### **Time to Get Involved!**

#### **IFRT VICE-CHAIR LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN**

With no apologies to the United States Marines, I am looking for a few good men and women to serve as members and chairs of the Round Table's committees beginning at the close of the 1982 conference. Committee members serve a two-year term; those wishing to be considered should be able to attend upcoming Midwinter meetings in San Antonio, TX and Washington, DC, and Annual Conferences in Los Angeles and Dallas. (I should point out that most committee business can be conducted by mail or telephone; however, prospective chairs should plan to attend both annual and midwinter meetings as members of the Executive Committee.)

Our committees are:

**Immroth Award--Standing.** (2 members plus chair; Pamela Bonnell, chair)

This committee solicits nominations for the annual John Philip Immroth Award (see separate story on this year's winner), using criteria and guidelines approved by Executive Committee. One appointment to be made this year.

**Membership Promotion--Standing** (4 members plus chair; Michael Collard, chair)

The Membership Promotion Committee, as its name implies, is responsible for recruiting members to the Round Table. This year, the committee supervised production of the membership promotional brochure, and distribution of the brochure at state library association meetings. Two appointments to be made.

**Nominating--Standing.** (3 members; Fontayne Holmes, chair)

Unlike all other committees, members of the nominating committee are elected by the members at the annual business meeting. This committee is charged with recruiting nominees for the offices of chair-elect, treasurer, and two seats on the Executive Committee. Those interested in being nominated for election to this committee should contact me or Bruce Shuman before annual conference if they are unable to attend. **Nominating committee members should NOT plan to run for a Round Table office themselves.** The chair will be appointed from those elected to the committee.

**Program.** (4 members plus chair; Sue Kamm, chair)

The Program Committee plans the program for the annual conference. This means deciding on a topic and speaker, inviting the speaker, and providing for his/her hospitality during the conference. Because the 1983 Annual Conference and I are both in Los Angeles, I will continue as program chair this year. One committee appointment will be made.

**Organization and By-Laws.** (Composition to be determined; Frank Van Zanten, chair)

The Organization and By-Laws Committee was established at the 1982 Midwinter meeting. It has been charged with

reviewing the Round Table's by-laws, and specifically with drafting a provision for replacing officers who resign before the expiration of their terms. The number of appointments will be announced at the Annual Conference.

**Representatives and Liaisons**

The Round Table also appoints representatives and liaisons to other organizations within ALA's structure concerned with intellectual freedom. These are: Representative to the Intellectual Freedom Committee (John Swan, representative); Representative to the Freedom to Read Foundation (Pamela Bonnell, representative); and Liaison to the Merritt Humanitarian Fund (Karen Tallman, liaison). The liaisons are charged with attending the meetings of the organizations to which they are assigned and reporting on the groups' activities at the Executive Board meetings. Those interested in serving as liaisons should know that the Freedom to Read Foundation and the Merritt Humanitarian Fund\*meet one day prior to the opening of Midwinter and Annual Conference. Intellectual Freedom Committee meetings generally last the entire week of the conference.

All individual members of the Round Table are eligible for appointment to committees. Those interested in appointments should write to me. Feel free to get in touch with present chairs to learn more about what their committees do. Appointments will be announced after the Philadelphia conference.

--Sue Kamm, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

\*CORRECTION: The Merritt Fund meeting in Philadelphia is on Sunday, July 11, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

## **Planning for Los Angeles Conference Underway**

Preliminary planning for the 1983 Annual Conference, to be held in Los Angeles during the last week in June, has begun, Sue Kamm, chair-elect, has announced.

"For the first time in two years, IFRT will hold a separate meeting, combining the annual business meeting and program," she said. "I have requested three consecutive hours to enable us to conduct the Round Table's business without being rushed. This meeting will not begin at 8 a.m.!"

"Suggestions for speakers--preferably those based on the West Coast--are welcome," she added.

### **Officers, Executive Committee Members Listed**

Those wishing to get in touch with officers, committee chairs, and liaison persons will find their addresses and phone numbers listed below.

#### **Chair**

**Bruce Shuman**, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, Queens College, Flushing, NY 11367. 212/520-7126.

#### **Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect**

**Sue Kamm**, P.O. Box 26467, Los Angeles, CA 90026. 213/665-7664.

#### **Secretary**

**Laurence A. Miller**, 11321 S.W. 134th Avenue, Miami, FL 33186. 305/552-2461.

#### **Treasurer**

**Frank Van Zanten**, Mid-Hudson Library System, 103 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. 914/471-6060

#### **Directors**

**Pamela G. Bonnell**, 1808 Hanover, Richardson, TX 75081. 214/745-8302. (Term expires 1983.)

**Joan B. Goddard**, San Jose Public Library, 180 W. San Carlos, San Jose, CA 95113. 408/238-4433 (1983)

**Martha B. Gould**, Washoe County Library, P.O. Box 2151, Reno, NV 89505. 702/785-4190. (1982)

**L.B. Woods**, Rodman Hall, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881. 401/792-2947. (1982)

#### **Committee Chairs**

##### **Innroth Memorial Award**

**Pamela Bonnell**

##### **Membership Promotion**

**Michael Collard**, 1517 Colonial Drive, Godfrey, IL 62035.

##### **Program**

**Sue Kamm**

##### **Organization and By-Laws**

**Frank Van Zanten**

#### **Liaisons**

##### **Freedom to Read Foundation**

**Pamela Bonnell**

##### **Intellectual Freedom Committee**

**John C. Swan**, Lilly Library, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. 317/362-100, ext. 215 or 216.

##### **Merritt Humanitarian Fund**

Karen Tallman, 2721-3 Ferndale Avenue, Ames, IA 50010  
515/294-6013

### **IF Activist Martha Gould is Council Candidate**

Martha Gould, who has twice served on the Round Table's executive committee, is a candidate for election to the ALA Council.

Mrs. Gould is associate director of the Washoe County Library, Reno, NV. She is completing her second two-year term on the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Known as an effective lobbyist with the Nevada State Legislature and the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, Mrs. Gould has been Nevada Intellectual Freedom Committee chair and has chaired the state association's legislative committee. She is immediate past president of the Nevada Library Association.

In 1980-81, she chaired the IFRT Program Committee, and was responsible for the successful and popular discussion of censorship of materials about gays and lesbians at the San Francisco conference.

Mrs. Gould believes strongly in the principles of intellectual freedom. She deserves the support of all of us who are also committed to maintaining the rights of free inquiry, free expression, and free exchange of ideas.

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