

# SRRT Newsletter

A Publication of the Social Responsibilities Round Table  
of the American Library Association

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## COORDINATOR'S MEMO

From: Denise E. Botto

SRRT has been busy as usual, with most of the activity occurring in the task forces, as it should. If you have an area of interest that is not being addressed in ALA, consider forming a SRRT task force to investigate and inform all members of ALA. Contact **Sybil Moses** at ALA's Office for Library Outreach Services and ask for a copy of the SRRT constitution, which outlines the procedures for forming a task force. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call Sybil or myself.

As always I invite you to attend Action Council meetings at the upcoming Midwinter ALA conference. We are experimenting with a new schedule this year. Instead of three meetings in three days, we will have only two meetings: a regular-length meeting on Saturday for urgent business and for matters that are to appear before ALA Council and must meet time guidelines, and a double-length meeting on Monday for all other business. This should allow for less conflict with section meetings, which are work-related and which must be attended. This should also allow more time for Action Council discussion of important issues. We will use this new schedule at Midwinter and Annual and then evaluate its effectiveness.

## CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

Recent events and trends signal the need for a revived SRRT Civil Rights Task Force: 1) President Bush has vetoed the 1990 Civil Rights bill; 2) "White supremacist" groups in the U.S. now number more than 200; 3) Bias-related crimes in New York City in

1989 numbered 541--more than double the number reported in 1988 (similar increases are reported elsewhere); and 4) Seventy percent of those perpetrating such crimes in New York City were younger than 19 years of age. Since white supremacy is a myth, such

trends point to misinformation or a lack of information. Libraries are supposed to have something to do with information. Moreover, libraries have a lot to do with schooling in this country, and all those young adult racists spend a good deal of time in school. There is clearly a breakdown in the teaching activities that dismantle the white supremacy myth.

This breakdown is one reason that the Ford Foundation recently granted \$100,000 to a few selected colleges. Its goal is to encourage literature and discussion about diverse cultures in the classroom. Sometime in the 1970s and 1980s this kind of goal was apparently scuttled, this commitment to multicultural education. What actions or inactions make libraries culpable in relation to this regression? If multicultural literature is not reaching classrooms without Ford Foundation intervention, why not? What are librarians doing in support of multicultural school curricula? How many librarians and teachers believe that almost any action on behalf of civil rights is an abrogation of intellectual freedom? How can we clarify the necessary interaction between civil rights and civil liberties?

That interdependence is clearly visible in the battle over the 1990 Civil Rights bill. The battle revolves around discrimination in the work place. Race and gender discrimination are illegal (according to civil rights laws), but "due process of law" can be manipulated so as to undermine civil rights. This kind of problem is longstanding. In 1880, for example, the Supreme Court upheld the illegality of denying jury duty to blacks, but, at the same time, it placed the burden of proof on blacks in showing that race discrimination was the cause of such denial. Thus, a county in Mississippi with 7,000 African-Americans and 1,500 whites was not found culpable when the county government denied jury duty to all the blacks in the county. Denial of justice was easy when a court ruling vis-a-vis "burden of proof" made the civil rights law unenforceable. By shifting the burden of proof from victimizer to victim (as the Supreme Court did in its 1989 rulings about job discrimination), meaningful civil rights laws have again been rendered null and void.

If librarians encouraged some balance in the teaching of civil rights history, a sham civil rights

proposal would be more readily recognized. A proposal that leaves the burden of proof squarely upon the victim would be acknowledged as a contradiction of civil rights. Bush's veto of the congressional bill would be seen as an action that moves the country back to at least 1880!

SRRT's Civil Rights Task Force is currently at a stage when it must organize again from "scratch." If it gains new recruits, it can launch successful programs at conferences; if not, it can remain merely a one-person research operation. Various units in ALA do address multicultural issues, but it is good to keep a sharp focus on civil rights, per se.

I have requested two meeting times at the Midwinter conference: 2:00-4:00 on Saturday and 2:00-4:00 on Sunday.

--**Donnae MacCann**,  
Task Force Coordinator

### PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE TASK FORCE

The presentation of the first Peace Award at the SIRS party during the ALA annual meeting was quite an event. The recipient was the Hammond (Indiana) Public Library. The Director of the library accepted the award as a number of the trustees looked on. As Hammond is in greater Chicago, the number of attendees from the library was higher than normal. It was nice to honor a local hero. **Nominations for the second award to be presented in Atlanta are due to the Task Force chair by the end of the first day of the ALA midwinter meeting.** This year's jury is Laura Tull and Beth Sibley.  
--**Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr.**,  
Task Force Coordinator

### ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT TASK FORCE

The AIP Task Force will meet during the following times at the ALA Midwinter conference: Sat. Jan. 12 4:30-5:30 p.m. and Sun. Jan. 13 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Topics to be discussed include the forthcoming program meeting on the press in the New South; Dan Tsang's new Alternative Collections Newsletter; a pre-conference program on the Alternative Acquisitions Project for 1992; and new projects and programs for the Task Force to begin.

The Task Force is undertaking a review of library press coverage of small press materials to identify gaps, and may possibly publish articles presenting histories of presses in topical areas and interviews with people involved. AIP members have been asked to come to Midwinter with a list of 25 important small presses so that the Task Force may develop a list of core alternative presses. Comparison of the lists should be informative for members and will help identify gaps for further

research. If you cannot attend the Midwinter meeting but would like to contribute, send your list to:

**Mimi Penchansky**  
Queens College Library  
Flushing, NY 11367

### KEY DATES FOR 1991 ALA ELECTION

#### March 1:

Last day nominating petitions accepted for Council, Division, or Round Table ballots

#### March 8:

Last day Division and Round Table ballots accepted for in-house printing

#### March 29:

Last day membership applications and renewals accepted for processing for inclusion in mailing of ballots

#### April 5:

Ballot mailing begins

#### April 26:

Ballot mailing completed

#### June 7:

Last day ballots accepted for tabulation

#### June 12:

Election Committee certifies and distributes results of election

### ISOLERA SYDAFRIKA!

During the August conference of the International Federation of Library Associations in Sweden, many of the almost 2000 participants witnessed a demonstration led by the Swedish Isolate South Africa Committee (ISAK), protesting the admission of librarians from South Africa. They said only three of the 11 South African participants were active opponents of apartheid. ISAK stated "this is provocation against the approved policy of opposition of apartheid in Sweden." The group also called for immediate implementation of the IFLA Working Group report, published earlier this year, which stated that if conditions in South Africa do not improve, IFLA should exclude all South African institutions in 1991.

### LIBRARIES IN AN APARTHEID SOCIETY

The following is excerpted, with permission, from a talk given by **Chantelle Wyley**, chair of the **Library and Information Workers' Organisation** (Natal, South Africa), at the "Launch of the Library and Information Workers' Organisation" held in Durban, July 14, 1990.

The role of a library in society is to collect, store, maintain and distribute information to its user group, and, in terms of the ethics of the profession, librarians undertake to perform these tasks without prejudice. In South Africa however, the basic principles by which libraries operate have been distorted by apartheid, and both users and librarians face a situation of crisis at this stage.

Libraries in South Africa, with a few exceptions, operate as part of government structures or in terms of government policies, for example, school libraries (both in private and government schools), university libraries, and public or municipal libraries. Librarians in all of these are forced to choose and disseminate material in terms of limitations imposed by censorship legislation, school syllabi, and the personal likes and dislikes of various officials. Libraries of all types, including private firms' libraries, are obliged to adhere to censorship legislation concerning the possession and distribution of information.

Libraries in South Africa have been created to serve racially segregated user groups--in schools and in tertiary educational institutions, and as part of local authorities. Today, many public libraries are not yet open to all races, generally as a result of the racist policies of individual local authorities controlling the public buildings in which libraries are situated. In addition, public libraries have been situated in segregated group areas, with access limited by distances, and by public transport which does not cater for commuters travelling to these areas for purposes other than employment.

Public library services for whites have in the past been reasonably well funded, offering fair to excellent reader services, and housing material adequate in terms of the variety and depth of information available and required, excluding of course material restricted in terms of State censorship. Public libraries for blacks, however, if they exist at all in some areas, were more often than not established later, and attached to existing white library services. Their bookstock may consist of leftovers, hopelessly inadequate for a user group which has special needs--for example, literature for adult newly- and semi-literates. Books offered are usually absolutely irrelevant in terms of user interests. They seldom concern topics such as community development, primary health care, literacy, or include works by African writers.

School libraries for blacks are virtually non-existent, at best consisting of a random selection of donated books on a shelf in the corner of a classroom. Most students in Department of Education and Training schools do not even have textbooks, let alone school libraries. Most white schools have libraries or resources centres which provide books and other format media such as tapes and videos. These are usually staffed by a qualified teacher-librarian who conducts book

education and a readers' advisory service (although in the last few years there has been a move to cut down funding for such posts in government schools).

As a result, black children, deprived of adequate library services in schools, and (easy) access to (adequate) public library services, grow up into library illiterate adults. Having never had the opportunity to cultivate the reading habit, reading for pleasure and self-education are not regular activities, contributing directly to an inability to assimilate and criticise information with a view toward self-improvement. Black students at tertiary education level are often completely library illiterate, and find it difficult to cope with library procedures regarding the arrangement of material. Their studies suffer as a result, and their ability to realise their academic potential is seriously impaired.

Today, librarians face enormous problems related to an influx of library illiterates, gaining access to libraries for the first time, whose needs cannot often be catered for with the material available. Libraries are unable to cope with the numbers of black students who use libraries as places to study, especially at a time when the funding of libraries is being cut by local and school authorities.

On a more serious level, the training of librarians in South Africa is inadequate and irrelevant in terms of the issues raised above, leaving librarians unaware of the sociological context of the problems they face, or in some cases, unaware of the problems at all. Training in First World technology, computer applications in libraries, online searching and the like, have their place, but not at the expense of training in the procedures necessary to cope with the information needs of Third World library users. At the root of this is the artificially separate context in which libraries are perceived by librarians themselves and by administrators. Libraries have long been considered a luxury commodity by authorities controlling library funding in South Africa, and not as the indispensable and crucial part of the wider educative process. Librarians themselves are unaware of the powerful position they should command in society, and are avoiding their responsibility to existing and potential users as a result.

## ALA TURNING GREEN

The American Library Association is now using recycled office paper and is recycling aluminum cans. ALA Publishing Services is investigating turning to recycled, acid-free paper for its publications, including the SRRT Newsletter. ALA's goal, according to Ed McLarin, Associate Executive Director of Publishing, is to use recycled paper that is largely composed of post-consumer waste (i.e., paper and other fiber wastes that have been collected from their "end use" environments). ALA reports that use of post-consumer recycled paper

is presently feasible for books, but not for periodicals that require coated stock for advertising (Booklist and American Libraries). Cost is still a major problem to be addressed, but this should become less of a barrier as recycled paper becomes more readily available. **A L A needs to know that SRRT members want to see the SRRT Newsletter printed on recycled paper as soon as possible.** Please contact:

**Edgar S. McLarin**

Associate Executive Director, Publishing  
American Library Association  
50 East Huron St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

## THE OIL SPILL PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER

The Oil Spill Public Information Center provides information to the public on the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Located in Anchorage, Alaska, the Center welcomes requests from patrons around the world.

On March 24, 1989, the tanker Exxon Valdez spilled almost 11 million gallons of oil into Prince William Sound. During the massive cleanup effort that followed, large amounts of scientific and economic information related to the oil spill were generated. Recognizing the value of this information to the public, the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency established the Oil Spill Public Information Center. Information may be contributed to the Center by agencies of the Federal Government and other public and private organizations.

The Center will house a variety of information related to oil spills, with emphasis on the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The base reference and research collections will include information from numerous disciplines in the natural and social sciences, economics and law. Visitors to the Center will find technical reports, newspaper and magazine articles, books, and other print material in the reading room. They will have access to information stored on microfilm and microfiche, a growing library of audio and videotapes, photographs, and computerized data bases.

To serve users outside the Anchorage area, the Center has established systems for sharing information by telephone, facsimile transmission, mail, or interlibrary loans. The staff can prepare bibliographies of the Center's holdings for use by individuals who wish to request documents. In addition, the Center is a contributing member of the WLN bibliographic network. As part of WLN, the Center will be able to share its resources with other libraries throughout the U.S., Canada, and other countries. Contact:

**The Oil Spill Public Information Center**  
645 G. St.

Anchorage, AK 99501

(907)278-8008

Fax: (907)276-7818

Patron phone numbers:

1-800-478-SPIL (Alaska residents) or

1-800-283-SPIL (outside Alaska)

## GREEN BOOKS AROUND THE WORLD

Sierra magazine reports that Green Library, a group formed in 1986 by Polish environmentalist Jacek Purat, has been actively working to fulfill its goal to make environmental information available to libraries in countries with severe environmental problems. The group sends books to needy libraries and often helps build libraries. Purat established the group as a network of independent libraries run by local environmental organizations. This ensures that materials reach those who really need them and aren't lost to government control or censorship.

Green Library has sent books to Vietnam, Cuba, Latvia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Nepal, and hopes to build 15 green libraries in Eastern Europe and the USSR within the next two years. For more information write to: **1918 Bonita St., Berkeley, CA 94710**; phone (415)841-9975.

## WASHINGTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SRRT REPORT

"We are not going to abandon teenagers if they missed out on early childhood literacy programs, and we are not willing to wait until they become eligible for adult literacy programs. They have legitimate literacy needs now, that should be met now. What more natural partners in such an effort than school and public librarians?" This was the opening remark, given by WLA SRRT chair Jonathan Betz-Zall, at the January 20 conference on "Teenage Literacy: How School and Public Librarians can Cooperate to Support It," sponsored by the WLA SRRT, in cooperation with the WLA Children and Young Adult Services interest group, the WLA Literacy Committee, and the Washington Library Media Association.

## PLG STATEMENT ON OPERATION "DESERT SHIELD"

The Organizing Committee of the Progressive Librarians Guild has issued a statement opposing U.S. military intervention in the Middle East. In part the statement reads:

"As socially responsible professionals in the field of librarianship, we demand that the troops be brought

home now, that immediate consideration be given to a negotiated settlement of the conflict and that our national resources be redirected from policing the world to fighting against the many ills that plague our own society and helping to peacefully construct a better world based on social and economic justice and mutual understanding. We urge all of our members to participate in the anti-war movement, to work as librarians to counter propaganda emanating from the war-hysterical mass media by assuring the provision of alternative viewpoints on the conflict and to oppose all manifestations of the anti-Arab racism which the intervention is generating. We call upon all bodies of ALA to unite in condemnation of U.S. involvement in a Middle East war."

### FAX, NOT PAX?

AT&T is offering a free "public service" called "Desert Fax." Anyone can send "heartfelt messages" to U.S. military personnel overseas involved in Operation Desert Shield. When was the last time AT&T offered free service to the homeless, poor, or unemployed, or gave a break to under-funded libraries?

### LIBRARY SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS

The ALA Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS) would appreciate information on library services and programs specifically designed to empower low-income people. Librarians working with shelters for the homeless, school drop-out programs, and welfare or other social service agencies are requested to submit information on these partnerships to OLOS for use in its advisory services. Contact:

**Sibyl E. Moses**

Office for Library Outreach Services  
American Library Association  
50 E. Huron St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

### JOHN SESSIONS MEMORIAL AWARD 1991

The American Library Association's Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD) is currently seeking nominations for the John Sessions Memorial Award. The award, established by the RASD Board in 1980 to honor John Sessions, formerly an assistant director of the AFL-CIO's Education Department, is presented annually to a "library or library system that has made a significant effort to work with the labor community and by so doing has brought recognition to the community through the

library of the history and contribution of the labor movement to the development of this country." Past recipients have included public and academic libraries and archives. The 1990 recipient was the Hennepin County Library in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

For nomination forms, please contact, as soon as possible:

**Ruby Tyson**

AFL-CIO Library  
815 16th St., N.W., Suite 102  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202)637-5299  
Fax: (202)637-5058

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### Carnegie Reading List Grants

The American Library Association's Publishing Services has announced that applications are now being taken for the Carnegie Reading List grants. **Official units of ALA, such as divisions, committees and round tables (including round table task forces) are eligible.** The awards are "to be applied to the preparation and publication of such reading lists, indexes, and other bibliographical and library aids as will be especially useful in the circulating libraries in this country."

Deadline for applications is **March 15, 1991.**

For more information contact:

**Mary Frances Concepcion**

ALA Publishing Services  
(312)280-5416 or (800)545-2433

#### Whitney-Carnegie Awards

Whitney-Carnegie Awards of up to \$5,000 are granted by the American Library Association's Publishing Committee to **one or more individuals** for the preparation of guides to research resources and the literature of a chosen discipline or subject area. The guides must be useful to both scholarly and general audiences and serve an unfilled need. They must evaluate as well as describe the resource base or topics chosen; major concepts and trends in research should be highlighted. Joint submissions by library practitioners and subject specialists are encouraged.

Next deadline for applications is **March 15, 1991**; following deadline is **September 15, 1991.** For more information contact:

**Mary Frances Concepcion**

ALA Publishing Services  
(312)280-5416 or (800)545-2433

#### Jesse H. Shera Award for Research

The Library Research Round Table of ALA announces its 1991 Jesse H. Shera Award for Research for a \$500 award and invites entries from all researchers.

Eligibility is not limited to LRRT members. The deadline for submitting entries is **February 1, 1991**. To enter the 1991 competition for this award, send THREE (3) copies of your research paper, postmarked no later than February 1, 1991 to:

**Paul Metz**, Principal Bibliographer  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
University Libraries  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
(703)231-5663

#### Baber Award

The Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant (up to \$10,000) is given annually to one or more librarians or library educators who will conduct innovative research that could lead to an **improvement in services to any specified group(s) of people**. Any ALA member may apply. Application deadline is **March 1, 1991**. An application packet is available from:

**Office for Research**  
American Library Association  
50 E. Huron St.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
or call:

**Laura Schulte**  
(800)545-2433 ext. 4274

#### **MULTICULTURAL LIBRARIANSHIP**

The Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies offers students the opportunity to study major issues relating to the nature and availability of library materials and services for minority groups. Among the topics included in the course entitled "Multicultural Librarianship: Services and Materials," are (a) the treatment of minority groups in library materials; (b) the production and acquisition of library resources intended for children, young people, and adults; and (c) current, traditional, and innovative programs and services designed to more effectively serve ethnic populations. Resources and services are evaluated for the following ethnic and cultural groups: African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Italian Americans, Jewish Americans, and Irish Americans. For more information contact:

**David Cohen, Professor**  
Queens College  
Graduate School of Library and Information Studies  
65-30 Kissena Blvd.  
Flushing, NY 11367  
(excerpted with permission from Empowerment, Spring 1990)

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF NOTE**

"People of Color: A List of Periodicals," "Columbus Quincentennial: Is There Anything to Celebrate?" and "Smoking: Political Aspects" are three up-to-date bibliographies compiled by Chris Dodge of Minnesota SRRT. For more information contact:

**Chris Dodge**  
4645 Columbus Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

#### **HISTORY OF THE UNDERGROUND AND ALTERNATIVE PRESS**

Ken Wachsberger, managing editor of Reference Services Review and Serials Review, is compiling a history of the underground and alternative press of the Vietnam War years, to be published by Pierian Press. The book is intended to be a collection of candid stories written by alumni of u/a publications from throughout the U.S. The book will also include a national directory of major research collections of Sixties and Movement materials and an annotated bibliography of books and articles about the u/a press. Anyone interested in contributing a history or desiring more information about the project should contact:

**Pierian Press**  
P.O. Box 1808  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106  
(313)434-5530

#### **REVIEWS**

ESSAYS ON GAY LITERATURE. Edited by Stuart Kellogg. Harrington Park Press, 1985. ISBN 0-918393-09-4. 174 p. \$8.95 (pbk.). Publisher's address: 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13902.

This fine volume consists of twelve essays by twelve distinguished scholars with credentials in English and writing. It examines literary works with gay and lesbian characters and themes from utopian, political, sociological or psychological perspectives. These explorations have value to students of both literature and the social sciences.

The introduction by Stuart Kellogg, editor of The Advocate, discusses the uses of homosexuality in literature. Byron R.S. Fone looks at the theme of "Eden" or "Arcadia" in a variety of literary works as a place where it is safe to be gay. Selected other chapters examine:

E.M. Forster's Maurice; the anonymous 1830s poem Don Leon; hidden homosexuality in the writings of Henry James; homoerotic configurations in William Faulkner's Absalom, Absalom!; the homosexual as anti-Semite in Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice; the lesbian hero in works of Radclyffe Hall; sexual liberation, Victorian style, in Walter Pater's works; homosexual

poetry in twelfth century Western Europe.

Each essay has its own notes and references. The volume is indexed by authors, titles, critics and subjects. This is a high quality and serious, scholarly book, recommended for individuals and library collections interested in literary criticism on the gay and lesbian experience and tradition. This book was originally published in 1983 by Haworth Press under the title Literary Visions of Homosexuality. It has also appeared as Journal of Homosexuality, vol. 8, nos. 3-4, (1983).

--**Mark Goniwiecha**, University of Guam

GARBAGE. Old House Journal Corp. Bimonthly. ISSN 1044-

3061. \$21/year. Publisher's address: 435 Ninth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215-9937. (800)274-9909.

E: THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE. Earth Action Network, Inc. Bimonthly. ISSN 1046-8021. \$20/year. Publisher's address: Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 6667, Syracuse, NY 13217-7934

Hopefully the 1990's will truly be the decade of protecting and restoring our environment. If new magazines are any indication, we are off to a good start. Garbage and E show promise of informing and inspiring their readers. And both show promise of practicing what they preach: both are printed on recycled paper.

Garbage, as the name indicates, does not mince words. The magazine deals with the results of our everyday activities and how they affect the environment. Thus it fills a unique niche in the field of environmental magazines. Garbage is an extremely practical magazine that, in general, suggests actions and products that will reduce the waste we release into our land, air and water. It also suggests ways to protect ourselves from the "garbage" that humans have put into the environment. Articles cover such topics as low-flush toilets, composting, organic foods, global warming, and household hazardous waste. Helpful reference charts are included in many articles to compare products or methods at a glance. The magazine deals with the many environmental problems that we face, but does not become dark and gloomy. Instead, the reader feels empowered by the (sometimes small) changes she/he can make in daily life to improve the environment. And, often, the articles are written with a touch of humor. This magazine is recommended for all libraries; not only should you subscribe, but you should display it very visibly.

E takes a broader approach. First, it covers many of the public lands, wilderness and wildlife issues that Garbage does not. Background on the loss of our ancient forests and killing elephants for ivory are covered in the premier issue. Profiles of people and groups who have worked to save our environment are especially perceptive, inspiring and contain many memorable anecdotes. The magazine provides background on a

wide range of environmental issues, and does it relatively free of affiliation to any one environmental group. Thus, a broader perspective can be provided than by reading a magazine espousing the views of one group. Like Garbage, much of the advertising is from companies offering environmentally sensitive products. (Note: Garbage has received complaints from readers for also accepting advertising from companies with poor environmental records.) Also, like Garbage, the intent is ultimately to inspire readers to take action, rather than just depressing them. A section called "Consumer News" helps the reader to make product decisions. E is recommended for public and academic libraries as an engaging way to keep abreast of a wide range of environmental issues.

--**Diane Prorak**, University of Idaho Library

FRIENDS IN DEED: THE STORY OF U.S.-NICARAGUA SISTER CITIES. By Liz Chilsen and Sheldon Rampton. Wisconsin Coordinating Council on Nicaragua, 1988. 171 p. ISBN 0-9620731-0-5. \$25.00 (pbk.). Publisher's address: P.O. Box 1534, Madison, WI 53701

One of the few positive things that emerged from the long and troubled history of U.S.-Central America relations is the U.S.-Nicaraguan sister city movement. Ordinary U.S. and Nicaraguan citizens joined together in a people-to-people effort that not only transcended the official atmosphere of hostility, but also made visible the hope for peace and friendship that exists in both countries. There are currently over 100 sister cities in the United States and many more throughout the world.

This book is a loving document to this movement. It traces the history of "citizen diplomacy" in the United States, and outlines in detail how to become a sister city, how to organize material aid, and how to link up with other organizations that share a concern for Central America. A very helpful appendix offers sample resolutions by local governments. Chilsen's black and white photographs give glimpses of the beautiful people of Nicaragua and their lives. An index and bibliographies are provided. Improved political relations between the U.S. and Nicaragua should see a blossoming of the sister city movement. This book, in its demonstration of the power of grassroots action, will prove invaluable to that cause.

--**Lori Keenan**, Moscow/Latah Co. (Idaho) Library

THE PURSUIT OF SODOMY: MALE HOMOSEXUALITY IN RENAISSANCE AND ENLIGHTENMENT EUROPE. Kent Gerard, Gert Hekma, editors. Harrington Park Press, 1989. 553 p. ISBN 0-918393-49-3 \$29.95 (pbk.) Publisher's address: 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13904.

The first thing to know about this collection is that it was simultaneously published as volume 16, numbers 1/2 of the Journal of Homosexuality (Haworth

Press). Those libraries subscribing to the Journal may find this to be a secondary purchase.

By itself, Pursuit makes a solid contribution to Gay Studies. The scholarly papers collected here were written by an international panel. Multiple papers cover England and the Netherlands, but there are also papers on Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, and Denmark. The volume concludes with book review essays on related works.

Many of the contributions discuss the repression of homosexuality and the prosecutions of sodomy. Intolerance towards homosexuality is a main feature, yet instances of tolerance are documented. Other papers detail the characteristics of homosexual subcultures to which modern gay liberation movements can be traced. --**Scott C. Markham**, James Jerome Hill Reference Library, Saint Paul, MN

## PERIODICALS RECEIVED

**NETWORK ON ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE BULLETIN.** Available from: Asian Law Caucus, 468 Bush St., Third floor, San Francisco, CA 94108.

**MINORITY PUBLISHERS EXCHANGE.** Praxis Publications. \$18.00 per year (sample issue 45 cents in postage). ISSN 1049-5428. Publisher's address: 2215 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704.

"A bimonthly newsletter for networking with independent publishers of color."

## BOOK RECEIVED

**RETRIEVING AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY: A METHODOLOGICAL GUIDE TO SOURCES IN THE PERKINS LIBRARY MANUSCRIPT DEPARTMENT.** Compiled by Jennifer Morgan; edited by Virginia Daley. Duke University, 1989. 30 p. \$1.00. Publisher's address: Manuscript Dept., Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, NC 27706.

"Sources on ... [African-American women's history] are difficult to locate, and when found are often biased ... The scarcity of such sources in archival repositories is due in part to a long tradition of collection development from an elite white perspective but also reflects the oral tradition which has prevailed over a written tradition in the transmission of African-American heritage. [The compilers list] references which specifically point to the lives and experiences of African-American women and located additional collections which had not been identified as such." Illustrated and indexed.



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## NOTICES RECEIVED

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN LIBRARIANSHIP: ESSAYS ON EQUALITY.** Edited by Donnarae MacCann. McFarland, 1989. 134 p. ISBN 0-89950-457-4. \$19.95. Publisher's address: P.O. Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640.

**WHO'S WHO: CHICANO OFFICEHOLDERS.** Researched and compiled by Arthur D. Martinez. \$24.95 (1990-91 ed.). Available from: Arthur D. Martinez, P.O. Box 2271, Silver City, NM 88062.

**THE HUMAN FACE OF POVERTY: A CHRONICLE OF URBAN AMERICA.** By Vincent Fanelli. Bootstrap Press, 1990. 160 p. ISBN 0-942850-23-8. \$12.50. Publisher's address: Suite 9A, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

"Through the eyes of volunteers who lived and worked in one New York neighborhood for a decade and a half, we come to understand the poor as real people, not as statistical abstractions or faceless objects of pity or contempt."

**LIBRARIES, EROTICA AND PORNOGRAPHY.** Martha Cornog (ed.). Oryx Press, 1990 (tentative). 240 p. ISBN 0-89774-474-8. \$39.50 (pbk.). Publisher's address: 4041 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85012-3397. (800)279-ORYX.

"A compendium of 17 articles written by sexuality researchers, the volume addresses the full range of issues surrounding libraries' collections of materials about sexual subjects. The only book written specifically on this subject..." Contains "bibliographic descriptions of major erotica and homosexuality research collections, materials on censorship, a listing of quality erotica, and a selection of X-rated videos for libraries." Some SRRT members are among the contributing authors.

**ALTERNATIVE AMERICA (July 1990 ed.).** Resources, 1990. 250 p. ISBN 0-933342-15-2. \$29.95 postage paid. Publisher's address: 40 Welles Ave., Boston, MA 02124. (617)825-8895.

A directory of over 12,000 alternative, progressive, innovative, and experimental groups and organizations. Includes geographical, name, and subject indexes. Some selected categories: bookstores, health care organizations, alternative radio stations, small presses, and alternative technology groups.

**BERKELEY IN THE '60s.** Film produced and directed by Mark Kitchell, 1990. 118 minutes. Video sale: \$295; classroom rental: \$95. 16mm sale: \$1495; rental: \$175. Distributor's address: California Newsreel, 149 Ninth St./420, San Francisco, CA 94103.

"Skillfully interweaves the memories of 15 activists from that era with riveting archival footage." Part I: Confronting the university. Part II: Confronting America. Part III: Confronting history.

#### NEW LC SUBJECT HEADINGS OF INTEREST

Ageism  
Death squads  
Gaia hypothesis  
Green movement  
Greenhouse gases  
Homeless children  
Telephone assistance programs for the poor

And, in acknowledgement that usage is stronger than grammar:  
"Stadia" has been changed to "Stadiums"

#### PUBLISHERS TO NOTE

**Path Press** has released the second issue of Pathways, a minority press review. All the titles featured are published by small minority presses and include materials by and about African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and Native Americans. For more information call: 1-800-669-9700.

**Women's Braille Press** produces books and periodicals on tape, a limited number of books in braille, and a quarterly newsletter in braille, on tape, and in print. Subscription rates for the newsletter are on a sliding fee scale from \$10 to \$25 (depending on income). A catalog of tapes and braille books is available in braille, on tape and in print. WBP also welcomes offers from volunteer readers. Contact:

**Womyn's Braille Press**  
P.O. Box 8475  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
(612)872-4352 or (612)822-0549

**Our Right To Know Braille Press** publishes Freedom Ideas International, a quarterly review of minority and independent left publications, produced on 4-track 15/16 ips cassette tape. A four-issue subscription to FI is \$5.00. Contact:

**Our Right to Know Braille Press, Inc.**  
640 Bayside  
Detroit, MI 48217  
(313)842-1804

#### SRRT ACTION COUNCIL 1989-90

##### Coordinator

**Denise E. Botto**  
Hilton C. Buley Library  
Southern Conn. State Univ.  
501 Crescent St.  
New Haven, CT 06515  
(203)397-4510  
(203)387-2493 (home)

##### Secretary

**Gail P. Warner**  
Oxnard Public Library  
214 South C St.  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805)984-4636  
(805)985-8179 (home)

##### Treasurer. Planning and Budget Assembly Representative

**Cynthia Johanson**  
Asst. Chief  
MARC Editorial Div.  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C. 20540  
(202)707-5261  
(202)544-2356 (home)

##### Conference Arrangements

**Linda Pierce (1992)**  
Crosby Library  
Gonzaga University  
Spokane, WA 99258  
(509)328-4220 x3814  
(509)325-3124 (home)

##### Newsletter

**Chris Sokol**  
Holland Library  
Washington State Univ.  
Pullman, WA 99164-5610  
(509)335-2175  
Fax: (509)335-0934  
Bitnet: sokol@wsuvm1  
(208)883-1085 (home)

##### Membership/Recruitment

**Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr.**  
Center for Science & Intl. Affairs  
Kennedy School of Government  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617)495-1408  
Fax: (617)495-8963  
(617)646-0253 (home)

Elected Action Council Members

**Denise E. Botto** (1991)

Hilton C. Buley Library  
Southern Connecticut State Univ.  
501 Crescent St.  
New Haven, CT 06515  
(203)397-4510  
(203)387-2493 (home)

**Diedre Conklin** (1991)

Weber County Library  
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475 East 2600 North  
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(801)773-3872 (home)

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(718)225-5665 (home)

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Community Extension Services  
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Atlanta, GA 30354  
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Farmingdale, NY  
(516)420-2740

**Cynthia Johanson** (1992)

Asst. Chief  
MARC Editorial Div.  
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Washington, D.C. 20540  
(202)707-5261  
(202)544-2356 (home)

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James Branch Cabbel Library  
Richmond, VA 23284-0001  
(804)367-1094

**Linda Pierce** (1992)

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Spokane, WA 99258  
(509)328-4220 x3814  
(509)325-3124 (home)

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New York Public Library  
Mid Manhattan Branch  
455 Fifth Ave.  
New York, NY 10016  
(212)340-0885

**Dan Tsang** (1992)

Main Library  
University of California  
P.O. Box 19557  
Irvine, CA 92713  
(714)856-4978  
(714)751-2856 (home)

**Gail P. Warner** (1992)

Oxnard Public Library  
214 South C St.  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805)984-4636  
(805)985-8179 (home)

Task Force Leadership

Alternatives in Print

**Mimi Penchansky**

Queens College  
CUNY  
Library  
Flushing, NY 11367

Civil Rights

**Donnarae MacCann**

717 Normandy Drive  
Iowa City, IA 52246

Coretta Scott King Award

**Henrietta M. Smith**

1202 N.W. 2nd St.  
Del Ray Beach, FL 33444

Environment

**Terry Link**

Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
(517)355-1751  
(517)651-2005 (home)

Feminist

**Sherre Dryden**

Central Library  
Vanderbilt University  
419 21st Ave. South  
Nashville, TN 37240-0007  
(615)343-6043

Freedom to Read Foundation

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Gay and Lesbian

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Saginaw Valley State University  
Melvin J. Zahnw Library  
2250 Pierce Road  
University Center, MI 48710  
(517)790-5637  
(517)799-6293

International Human Rights

**David L. Williams**  
Chicago Public Library  
Social Sciences and History Div.  
400 N. Franklin  
Chicago, IL 60610  
(312)269-2953

Library Education Assembly Representative

**Mark Rosenzweig**  
New York Public Library  
Mid Manhattan Branch  
455 Fifth Ave.  
New York, NY 10016  
(212)340-0885

Library Union

**Elaine Harger**  
Empire State College  
School of Labor Studies  
33D W. 42nd St., 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
(212)279-7380 x20  
(212)569-3665 (home)

Migration, Refugees and the Homeless

**Elizabeth Morrisett**  
Library Director  
Alaska Pacific University  
4101 University Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
(907)564-8284  
(907)563-3326 (home)

Peace Information Exchange

**Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr.**  
Center for Science & Intl. Affairs  
Kennedy School of Government  
Harvard University

Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617)495-1408  
Fax: (617)495-8963  
(617)646-0253 (home)

ALCTS Committee on Cataloging:Description & Access Representative

**Sherry Kelly**  
Catalog Dept., Central Tech. Services  
Cornell University Library  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Bitnet: umky@cornellc

Regional Affiliate Members

Minnesota SRRT

**Linda DeBeau-Melting**  
170 Wilson Library  
University of Minnesota  
309 19th Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
(612)625-5050

Washington SRRT

**Carolynne Myall**  
Eastern Wash. Univ. Library  
MS-84  
Cheney, WA 99002  
(509)359-6967  
(509)535-2462 (home)

Progressive Librarians Guild

**Elaine Harger**  
Empire State College  
School of Labor Studies  
33D W. 42nd St., 4th floor  
New York, NY 10036  
(212)279-7380 x20  
(212)569-3665 (home)

Past Coordinator

**John Hostage**  
Harvard Law School Library  
Langdell Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617)495-4295  
(617)782-0910 (home)

Staff Liaison

**Sibyl E. Moses**  
Director, Office for Library Outreach Services  
American Library Association  
50 E. Huron St.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(800)545-2433 x4295  
Fax: (312)440-9374

**BOOKSELLERS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

A national group calling itself Booksellers for Social Responsibility formed at the June 1990 convention of the American Booksellers Association in Las Vegas. One of the founders is Lew Rosenbaum of Guild Books in Chicago. Rosenbaum had worked with bookstores and agencies for the homeless in Chicago to sponsor a reading at the public library, and invited homeless poets to read from their work. One of the group's offshoots, Midwest Booksellers for Social Responsibility, was recently established in Minnesota. They plan to address homelessness, racism, censorship, and literacy, and are considering publishing a catalog of multicultural resources for librarians and teachers.

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE SRRT NEWSLETTER!**

Get it off your chest and into the minds of other readers! Write a letter to the editor, an essay, or an article and send it to the editor (address below).

**\*\* DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 25 \*\***

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Editor: Chris Sokol  
Editorial Board: Elizabeth Morrissett  
Linda Pierce  
John Sheridan

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**\*\* JANUARY 25: DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE \*\***

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
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