

SRRT NEWSLETTER

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Issue 144/145



PLEASE ATTEND:

Saturday, January 10, 2004

8:00 am to 9:00 am SRRT All Task Force

9:30 am to 12:30 pm SRRT Action Council

Monday, January 12, 2004

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm SRRT Action Council II

TASK FORCE MEETING SCHEDULE

- Martin Luther King Jr, Sunrise Celebration 01/12/2004 Monday 6:30 am - 7:30 am
- SRRT/CSK Council of Chairs Meeting 01/12/2004 Monday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- SRRT/CSK Jury 01/09/2004 Friday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
- SRRT/CSK Jury Meeting 01/10/2004 Saturday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
- SRRT/CSK Jury Meeting 01/11/2004 Sunday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
- SRRT/CSK Jury Meeting 01/12/2004 Monday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- SRRT/CSK Publishers Meeting 01/12/2004 Monday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- SRRT/CSK Task Force Meeting 01/11/2004 Sunday 8:00 am -10:00 am
- SRRT PLG 01/11/2004 Sunday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- FTF Amelia Bloomer Project 01/11/2004 Sunday 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm
- FTF Meeting 01/11/2004 Sunday 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
- FTF Meeting 01/12/2004 Monday 8:00 am - 9:00 am
- FTF Amelia Bloomer Project 01/12/2004 Monday 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm
- FTF Amelia Bloomer Project 01/13/2004 Tuesday 8:30 am - 11:00 am

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A PROFESSION THAT LOOKS LIKE AMERICA?

"The real heroes of the digital revolution in higher education are librarians; they are the people who have seen the farthest, done the most, accepted the hardest challenges, and demonstrated most clearly the benefits of digital information. In the process, they have turned their own field upside down and have revolutionized their own professional training. It is a testimony to their success that we take their achievement for granted."

*Edward L. Ayers and Charles M. Grisham. **Why IT has not paid off as we hoped (yet).** Educause review. November/December 2003, p.43.*

Professors Ayers and Grisham are quite correct about the achievements of academic (and other) librarians in dealing with the now ubiquitous computer. Their praise is quite justified, as is their unspoken rebuke to the rest of academia. It seems to me that they are quite wrong about the impact on library education. (Earlier in the article they speak with wonder about how no-one would have predicted the death of the card catalogue ten years ago—oh, really?—so they are benevolent toward, if not especially well-informed about, our profession.) Our “professional training” has not been revolutionized; it has just drifted further and further from the practice of librarianship in libraries. Students graduate from the successors to library schools without a basic education in the core skills that define an effective librarian—reference work, cataloguing, library instruction, collection development, etc.—and without a grounding in the basic values of our profession—service, intellectual freedom, stewardship, literacy, etc. This is a crisis that is teetering on the edge of catastrophe and it comes at a particularly bad time. Demography is our enemy. Librarians with command of basic skills and imbued with our values and a social conscience are retiring in unprecedented numbers. Who is to replace them? How will those people be educated in our core skills and values when many successors to library schools are indifferent to, or even contemptuous of, those skills and values? Even more importantly, how can we recruit potential librarians who reflect the demographics of today’s multicultural diverse America? I cannot pretend to have all the answers to these questions but they must be addressed and the structure of education for librarianship must be changed if our profession is to survive and thrive.

*Michael Gorman
California State University, Fresno*

Coordinator's Report: *For an Integrated SRRT*

Fred Stoss, the previous coordinator of SRRT, used to tell me that it's difficult for us to assert a progressive perspective on issues in librarianship as a whole because the energy in SRRT is in the Task Forces, which are concerned with advancing disparate agendas belonging to separate issue areas (which many outside SRRT and some within SRRT see as unrelated). He was right - that is a difficulty. He was also right to celebrate the energy of the Task Forces and all that they do - programs, publications, effective networks, and advancing resolutions to Action Council. But I believe that our present self-definition as an umbrella group for a collection of different political interests is not the most effective way for us work and not the best way to conceive of the relationship between the Task Forces and SRRT as a whole, though it may have been very effective in the past.

Why do I think it's become an ineffective way to conceive of ourselves? I see two reasons. The first is simply that if SRRT members identify primarily with their Task Forces and not with SRRT as a whole, the focus shifts from an attempt to address the root causes of injustice via the core principles of librarianship to various attempts to address emergent problems in issue areas without cohesion. The result is that we have good efforts relating to specific issues (which of course should continue) but little sense of what SRRT as a whole ought to do within ALA to represent the collective interest; that is, little sense of what holds SRRT together in the first place. This issue can be called the issue of integration within SRRT.

The second reason follows from the first. As long as our energy and identity is primarily issues based, the environment in which we operate and try to be effective will receive us as a representative of special interests. The result is that we and our issues end up being treated as marginal to librarianship and marginal to ALA's "proper" activities.

So what can SRRT be if not issues based, and where does it leave the Task Forces? I believe the answer is to couple our identification with specific issue areas with our own analyses of social problems and connect these analyses to our ideas about librarianship. Let me give you an example. Let's say that your interest in SRRT is primarily in the Feminist Task Force. At the present time it might look to outsiders like this means that "women's issues" are your only issues, when in fact your Feminism offers you a way to analyze other problems, so that you can see, for example, environmental problems as a result of Patriarchy. Someone in the Task Force on the Environment might not see it in precisely the same way, but they are very likely to sympathize with your analysis and gain a larger sense of SRRT's cohesion by communicating with you about it. Similarly, someone in the Alternatives In Publication Task Force might have found herself there because of her view of the way our market-based media system marginalizes ideas which are critical or simply outside of that system. Her way of looking at things may explain, for her, an aspect of the perpetuation of racism in our society that Coretta Scott King Task Force members would be interested to hear. This is the first step - using an analysis of root problems from each of our own perspectives to find our connection with the other Task Forces (and then to share our ideas).

The next step is to move from the margin to the center. Once we've moved from a focus on specific issues to root problems (which doesn't mean backing off from specific issues, necessarily, just using analysis to form a theoretical cohesion among the Task Forces beginning from a diversity of places) we can connect our analyses of social problems to the core of librarianship. This is not a pipe dream. It would be in most professions and institutions, but not in librarianship. Our profession, as conservative as it can seem, has established a set of fundamental values that are distinctly progressive - they could have been devised by us (and a look at history would show that they've been introduced and secured by our counterparts in the past). There is a real consensus about those values among librarians across the political spectrum - a fact that works to our great advantage.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

I would call this the task of moving from the margin to the center Integration within ALA. (To what extent we should become personally involved in other parts of ALA as SRRT members and spend less time operating within the SRRT core is not what I'm talking about and is a question for each of us to answer for him or herself.) How might a SRRT member connect their political philosophy to their vision of librarianship and its core values? I'll share with you the way I started doing it; there are probably a million ways.

I was thinking about rewriting SRRT's Statement of Purpose along the lines that I'm talking about now (a project I've since decided could too easily get us into hot water). The current Statement of Purpose of SRRT reads as follows:

to provide a forum for the discussion of the responsibilities which librarians and libraries have in relation to the important problems of social change which face institutions and librarians today;

to provide for the exchange of information about library activities among all ALA units with the goal of increasing understanding of current social problems;

to act as a stimulus to ALA and its various units in making libraries more responsive to current social needs; to present programs, arrange exhibits and carry out other appropriate activities.

I'm not entirely satisfied with the way our Statement of Purpose talks about "problems of social change" and "current social problems" without asserting a connection between our general progressive project and the values of librarianship as defined by ALA's core ethical documents (the Library Bill of Rights, the Policy Manual and the Code of Ethics) as well as the values implied in the profession's actual practice. I probably would have liked the Statement very well when it was first written, but the context has changed, and the need to assert our location at the center rather than at the margin of ALA and librarianship has emerged. (How has the context changed? Think of how many Americans now view abortion as a "current social problem" and how many view the advancement of property rights today's "problem of social change." The current Statement of Purpose lacks a statement of our values as well as lacking a connection to the core of librarianship.)

So, in thinking about the nature of librarianship in relation to my political values I hit upon three principles that connect them. Librarianship has three central attributes (that I can think of) that make it an inherently progressive calling. It is a communitarian practice, in that it is based on a community sharing its resources for the good of all; it is a civil libertarian practice, in that it holds sacred the value of intellectual freedom, as well-expressed in the Library Bill of Rights; and it is a sustainable practice, in that the ethic of sharing and reusing resources presents an alternative to consumer society and the logic of the market.

Another person working on the same project might key in on the progressive nature of preserving the cultural memory or of empowering people to locate and use intellectual tools for autonomy and liberation. There are many ways that we can draw this connection between our social and political concerns and the core values of librarianship. There doesn't have to be an official SRRT doctrine defining this connection. But SRRT members should make the connections for themselves, communicate their vision to others (inside and outside of SRRT) and use it as a basis for working for change. The cumulative result will be to strengthen SRRT's voice when it comes to working for change within ALA and the profession, by allowing us to use the core values of librarianship as a premise to our arguments.

That's what I mean by an Integrated SRRT.

Rory Litwin

SRRT Coordinator

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY TASK FORCE IDEA EXCHANGE IN TORONTO

Due to lower attendance for this year's ALA Annual in Toronto, the audience was smaller than usual for the 3rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Multicultural Idea Exchange. Despite its size the audience was generously enthusiastic and each of the speakers was zealously greeted for the highlights of their 2003 King Holiday programs.

The keynoter was Mary E. (Molly) Raphael, Director, District of Columbia Public Library with its Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Main Branch. She provided the impressive details of the special King Holiday programs since the Federal Holiday began and its 2003 "Reading King" program which honors the life and legacy of Dr. King. Raphael outlined the partnership project between the D.C. Public Library and the Newseum for the observance of the King Memorial Library's 30th Anniversary in September 2002. For this, a visual artist had designed a hands-on workshop for children and their families. The two resulting murals were unveiled at the King Memorial Library on January 15, 2003 to celebrate Dr. King's birthday. All of the District of Columbia branch libraries also sponsored programs and events to celebrate the King Holiday.

To follow, there were highlights from an academic library by Charles E. Kratz, Dean of the Library and Director of Information Resources Customer Service in the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Memorial Library at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. He described some outstanding features of the events that included the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner which was a fund raiser sponsored by the University of Scranton, the Council for Community Affairs, and United Colors, a student group at the university. The university also presented a series of videos in honor and celebration of a "Historical Perspective of Dr. Martin Luther King" that was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. In addition, a Martin Luther King Day breakfast was sponsored by the African American Arts Alliance and the Office of Equity and Diversity. Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library presented the Schomburg Museum Exhibition titled "African Presence in the Americas" 2 February - 9 March 2003. The opening reception was held in the Weinberg Memorial Library.

The closing speaker was Antionette Negro, Media Specialist, (Retired), Quince Orchard High School, Montgomery County Schools, Maryland. She presented many examples of the ways she had worked with students and teachers using multimedia approaches to doing research about Dr. King and his philosophy along with discovering innovative ways to celebrate the King Holiday. Along with reading books, there were illustrations of lesson plans, dramas, poetry readings, field trips, and other events with the King Holiday celebration setting the stage for the African American History Celebration.

Following the presentations by the featured speakers, Ellen M. Utley, Branch Manager, Greenbelt Library, Prince George's County Memorial Library System (MD) served as the moderator for the Audience Idea exchange in which all attendees gave highlights of their library programs. The lively discussion offered many new ideas for future King Holiday celebrations and the Materials Exchange at the close of the program featured fine brochures, bulletins, programs, posters, and more from each of the featured speakers, as well as Cleveland Public Library, Westchester Library System (Ardsley, NY), and members of the audience.

We are grateful to our speakers, audience, SRRT, and the OLOS Staff for the success of this event and the King Holiday Task Force is seeking new members and volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia B. Moore, Chair

The Feminist Task Force is sponsoring the following programs at the annual conference in **Orlando**:

Introduction to Women's Issues --
11:30 am to 12:30pm on Saturday, June 26, 2004.

and

Revolting Librarians Redux,
co-sponsored by AIP, Sunday evening
June 27, 2004, 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm

SRRT Task Force on the Environment has a new co-chair: Jonathan Betz-Zall of City University in Everett, Washington. He joins current co-chair Maria Anna Jankowska of the University of Idaho. Together they are planning programs on the connection between Intellectual Freedom, Access to Information and Environmental Justice. They also hope to revive the Libraries Build Sustainable Communities initiative.

If you or anyone you know has encountered any kind of trouble for speaking out on environmental issues in library or other educational settings, ALA's **Task Force on the Environment** has a place for you: our program "Speaking Freely on the Environment" at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, June 24-30, 2004. We are looking for speakers who can frame their experiences as conflicts over intellectual or academic freedom in about 15-20 minutes of speaking and can then respond to questions. If you would be willing to speak, or know someone who might be, please contact Jonathan Betz-Zall (jbetzall@cityu.edu) or Maria Jankowska (majanko@uidaho.edu).

Report on ALA President's Advisory Committee meeting November 7-8, 2003

Jonathan Betz-Zall, City University Everett

"We will make a difference in the visibility of libraries—and the people who work in them—in order to improve literacy, access to information, and library funding, greatly enhancing the lives of Americans everywhere."

Beginning with an advocacy-oriented vision statement, Carol Brey-Casiano's Presidential Advisory Committee met in New Mexico the first weekend in November to begin developing a strategic plan for her presidential year. Drawn from a broad variety of interest groups within ALA including unions and trustees as well as public, school, and academic librarians and educators, the group generated ideas so efficiently that the workshop concluded an hour early. Specific foci included Literacy, Salaries and Status/Recruitment, International Relations, Diversity, Intellectual Freedom, and Sustainable Community Development. Carol and her staff are digesting the ideas into a detailed plan, so details are not yet available, but I can report for the group with which I worked, covering Intellectual Freedom and Sustainable Community Development. In these areas, ALA should project two main messages:

- "Libraries protect your right to privacy and confidentiality in what you read, view, and consult in your library"

"Libraries protect your right to have unrestricted access to the information you need to make informed choices."

ALA should act:

- Identify, assemble, and compile if necessary materials to transmit these messages
- Identify and contact non-library groups with like interests to help them educate their members about these messages

Document the process to enable chapters and other library organizations to replicate the process at their levels. Create a clearinghouse to allow these groups to post success stories and questions.

The rough draft of the presidential plan is available on Carol's web site: <http://www.carolbrey.com/presidentialplan.htm>. This will be largely reworked using the ideas generated at this planning session and subsequent electronic meetings.

Run for Action Council

SRRT needs to elect four new members to Action Council next Spring. Please consider running and putting in the time to help run SRRT. The deadline for putting your hat into the ring is by the end of the upcoming Midwinter Meeting. (Email will suffice, but you would be making a commitment to travel to each conference.)

The SRRT Bylaws say:

Action Council shall have the responsibilities of:

- Determining the membership program at the annual conference;
- Submitting projects or endorsing projects of volunteer Task Forces of SRRT;
- Soliciting volunteers and appointing SRRT members to ALA unit positions which accrue to the coordinator ex-officio and to committees to help the Council meet its organizational responsibilities. Such liaisons will serve a 3-year term and may be re-appointed for one additional term;
- Coordinating the dissemination of information to the SRRT membership.
- Approving the budgets and expenditures of the Round Table and the Task Forces.

In reality, your main responsibilities as a member of Action Council would be to keep up with issues facing SRRT, help define SRRT's direction, attend and participate in SRRT meetings at the Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting (which are essentially where SRRT takes its major actions).

If this sounds like something you'd like to do, please email me privately indicating your interest. Someone from ALA will be in contact with you later for next steps.

Happy Holidays,

Rory Litwin

SRRT Coordinator rlitwin@earthlink.net

Beginning Activism

Undeterred by a tropical storm warning and despite having only a few hours' notice, a small but hardy band of protestors gathered on September 5 outside the Tampa hotel where Attorney General John Ashcroft was scheduled to speak as part of his recent whirlwind tour to tout the alleged virtues of the increasingly unpopular Patriot Act.

Under damp skies and very breezy conditions, with traffic noisily whizzing by on the busy Courtney Campbell Causeway, protestors peacefully but vocally awaited the arrival of Ashcroft, who was to address a carefully chosen audience of law enforcement officers. TV reports, which were filmed early in the morning so as to make the noon news, showed only a handful of people, but the group actually numbered about 50 at its peak. For conservative Tampa, home of MacDill Air Force Base, that's not bad.

Waving a variety of signs (among them "Dissent Is Patriotic," "Bush Lied, People Died," and "The Silencing of America,") the protestors were a diverse group who has turned out for a mixture of reasons including the Patriot Act, the war in Iraq, and Bush administration policies in general. It included a mother with her young child, military veterans, MoveOn members, ACLU representatives, and people ranging from college age to senior citizens and having no obvious affiliations—just a common desire to speak out. One highly visible member was a priest in his clerical collar, who greeted each passing truck by vigorously pumping his arm in the universal request for a blast on the horn. Many drivers obliged. He also was the one to observe with a laugh that politics did indeed make strange bedfellows when someone else noted that the lot in which protestors had been invited to park so as to avoid possible trespassing charges was owned by a well-known local strip club owner and free-speech advocate who is constantly at odds with local laws and officials.

I was among that group, taking part in my first protest since the days of the Vietnam War. I had all of the motives above, but the inspiration and the catalyst that had me scrambling to find sign-making materials late the night before and giving up a couple of hours of pay came from you—the activist librarians who are reading this.

Although, like many librarians and librarians-to-be, I consider myself politically aware and socially responsible, I haven't been doing anything over the years to publicly stand up for my beliefs. But something has changed since I became a graduate student in library science. When I started the road to my degree, I had what I thought were the usual worthy reasons for wanting to be a librarian (the desire to fight censorship being high on the list), but I didn't realize the vast possibilities for activism that existed.

Then I saw what some of you were accomplishing.

I was thrilled by the leading role librarians' played in rescuing Michael Moore's book from his publisher's plans to trash it. While taking a cataloging class I discovered the inimitable Sandy Berman, who immediately became my hero. Right here at the University of South Florida, I found faculty member Dr. Kathleen de la Peña McCook, who is widely known and honored for her social activism. Earlier this year, I saw the power of librarians (and did my small part in firing off emails to legislators) as we successfully fought off—for the moment, at least—the governor's ill-considered attempt to close the Florida State Library.

More recently, as I've been reading and seeing news reports of librarians and library groups, from the ALA to individuals such as those in Santa Cruz, California, publicly taking stands against the Patriot Act and trying to protect the rights and privacy of library users, I found myself feeling that I was a part of something very big and exciting, and it made me both hopeful and proud. I felt a sense of community, and I think that's what did it. As a graduate student with several courses still to go, I'm not yet in a position to post signs warning patrons about FBI surveillance, to set library policies, or even to speak out as a representative of an institution or of the profession, but that day is coming, and I can hardly wait.

In the grand scheme of things, my taking part in a small protest is unworthy of note. But I'm sure there are many others just like me, who were just waiting to get involved. I write on behalf of them to let you know that your activism is contagious—and to thank you for it.

Jean Andrews is a graduate student in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida. She can be reached at egret27@tampabay.rr.com.

Congratulations to Jean's mentor Kathleen de la Peña McCook who was awarded the Beta Pi Mu award at ALA Annual.



Pay Equity in a Stormy Economy

While we all learn in library school that we ought to negotiate for the highest salaries possible, few actually do so once they hit the job market. This is doubly true in today's market where graduates might be concerned that they will negotiate themselves out of a position. In a field that is dominated by women, we suffer even more acutely since women are less likely to negotiate salaries than their male counterparts. (See Babcock and Laschever's *Women Don't Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide* for further discussion) As members of SRRT, pay equity has always been on the table as an important issue. I would push our responsibility one step further.

Undoubtedly, there are a number of members like myself who are both members of SRRT and find themselves at the helm of a library. As directors, we have a special responsibility to ensure that we negotiate for a living wage. This is important not only for our own benefit, but for the well being of our entire staff. As a small rural public library director, I am well acquainted with the 500-pound budget gorilla; rest assured, he can be tamed.

Some library Boards like to be involved in salary matters. Perhaps a director might be worried about their Board not taking a raise for everyone in stride. Obtaining raises for each person on your staff is an attainable long-term goal. If you are in a unionized environment, collective bargaining makes it possible to achieve this in one fell swoop during negotiations. Sell the idea of attracting and maintaining well trained professional staff to your Board members. Have them understand that part of that package involves salary, and let them know that paying employees a living wage helps to ensure a lower rate of turnover. Come armed with statistics on what other similar local libraries pay their employees. Let the Board know when employees are doing a good job, and what employees are accomplishing. By keeping the Board apprised of your personnel issues, you will be better able to make the case for a warranted raise. Don't be nervous about acting on this issue – you might be pleasantly surprised at I would advocate that a director work first to ensure raises for the staff and then work towards a raise for themselves. This helps vividly demonstrate to your Board what your priorities are. It also helps build staff morale. Be honest and open with your entire staff about pay issues. If you know that you will have to strategize in the process by taking care of one or two staff members at a time, make it clear to all staff members who you are seeing to first, and why. Let them know the layout of your long-term salary plans and where they fit in the picture. Adjust everyone's pay to a living wage first, then worry about adjustments that are merit based. If an employee does not warrant a merit based raise, let them know what your thoughts are and what they would need to do in order to warrant one.

With your Board and your staff behind you, you might need to convince local officials that you are spending the money they allocate to the Library in a responsible fashion. Relax, if you have really performed what I've previously discussed, you already have your basic argument fashioned. Local statistics might be particularly helpful to you in these talks – every town wants to be thought of as the best place to live and work. Let the politicians know that a raise for your staff is a solid show of support for the importance of education in your area. Many politicians can say that they support education; this can serve them as proof of that aim. I am fortunate enough to serve in a town that has education as its top priority – and it shows in the bottom line of the town budget.

It is crucial for us to stand up for our employees. Even though I only oversee five employees, those five salaries directly impact upon the lives of about 12 other people - in reality I am working to help 17 people. If you do not negotiate for your employees, they might not negotiate for themselves. As members of SRRT we must make take the well being of our employees to heart and act as advocates for our staff. In that way, we can make as wide of an impact in the field as possible.

M. Brooke Helman
Director, Hinsdale Public Library
mhelman@illinoisalumni.org

At the 2003 Annual Conference in Toronto, the Membership Committee chose a group health-insurance plan for ALA members offered by the National Professional Group. This was the result of a SRRT-sponsored resolution passed by ALA Council in 2002, which called on ALA to provide an affordable group health-insurance plan for librarians and other library workers not covered by their employers.

Mark Hudson, ALA Membership Committee Liaison

Report to SRRT on ALA Council, Toronto, June 2003

This was a very successful meeting in terms of SRRT's concerns. All resolutions discussed at SRRT Action Council went our way. A very good revised version of Ann Sparanese, Mark Rosenzweig, and Larry Romans' resolution against FCC deregulation was passed. Concerning the resolution in support of ERIC, SRRT had urged that some language against commercialization be inserted, however the original version was approved. The SRRT endorsed resolution on security and access to government

information was passed. SRRT opposition to the very weak draft resolution on the Terrorism Information Awareness Program helped transform it into a strong condemnation. Michael Gorman's and Michael Malinconico's resolution against the destruction of Iraqi libraries and cultural resources was weakened in the International Relations Committee (IRC) but mostly restored by amendment on the Council floor. Finally, the IRC's original State Department friendly resolution on Cuba was overwhelmed by the Canadian Library Association's strong resolution against foreign intervention. Some of the Canadian language was inserted in the IRC's original draft, however this strange hybrid was rejected by ALA Council and sent back to the IRC and Intellectual Freedom Committee for reconsideration.

Many other important issues relating to social responsibility came before the Council. SRRT's previous successful resolution on providing an ALA group health insurance plan was finally actualized. It will be open for enrollment in the fall. The ALA Allied Professional Organization passed its first resolution, in support of an annual Library Worker's Day. A resolution supporting several civil liberties bills to amend the Patriot Act was approved, but a resolution against the leaked Patriot II bill was defeated. Councilors would not support the second resolution because it was not an official bill and would likely be changed before surfacing. This reminds me of the ostrich who buries its head in the sand so it doesn't have to see what is coming. Also on the negative side, Council refused to endorse a qualified no-conflict time for Membership Meetings. This would have prohibited scheduling programs but not committee meetings during the Membership Meetings. Council continues to refuse to see the importance of membership input and highlighting a space for vigorous discussion. Also on the downside, the ALA Executive Board again refused in general to consider socially responsible investments for its endowment fund. The Endowment Trustees had asked its current investment firms to study the question. I and Michael Gorman made a plea for reconsideration, asking that the same methodology be used by one or two investment companies that specialize on SRI.

Of course, SARS and the ALA budget shortfall was on everyone's mind. ALA has a plan to deal with the budget and it does not seem like a crisis situation. The CIPA Supreme Court decision was also discussed, and a press release was issued. It appears that there will still be room for further litigation after there is some concrete experience with how filtering interferes with library service. A strong resolution was passed in support of school libraries which seem to be suffering more than other types of libraries under the present budget cuts. The IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom was endorsed. A useful privacy policy guidelines document was approved. And of course, a strong resolution was passed on fixing the ALA website and trying to prevent further damage in the future through appropriate oversight.

As always I will be happy to try to provide any further information or copies of the documents.

Al Kagan

SRRT Councilor
akagan@uiuc.edu

From ALA Toronto: Melissa Riley (left) and Lincoln Cushing (right) talk with Nancy and Charles Willett.



Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Liaison Report

Obviously the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Supreme Court case was the main topic of discussion at Annual. FTRF Trustees and Unit Representatives discussed how the Supreme Court might rule and were generally optimistic. FTRF general counsel, Theresa Chmara, predicted that the Supreme Court Justices might try to leave an opening for a later challenge.

Selected cases discussed at Annual included:

ACLU v. Department of Justice in relation to the FOIA request relating to Patriot Act statistics. The Department of Justice has since released some of these statistics stating that there have been no searches of library records under the Patriot Act since its inception.

The Yahoo! v. La Ligue Contre Le Racisme et L'antitsemite (LICRA) is a case where Yahoo!'s auction site was sued for selling Nazi memorabilia by an anti-racism group from France. French law prohibits the selling of such material and a French court ruled that Yahoo! was capable of blocking sales of such items to French citizens. Yahoo! filed to have the French courts order unconstitutional and unenforceable in the United States. This case has implications for the enforcement of international treaties such as the EU Convention on Cybercrime where First Amendment principles are challenged in an international context.

The Freedom to Read Foundation has submitted an amicus brief on November 4, 2003 in the case of New Times v. Isaaks. The case involves a Dallas alternative newspaper, the Observer publishing a satirical news story that included two cases of children being arrested for "terroristic" writings. The article included fictitious quotes from then governor George Bush, county district attorney Bruce Isaaks, and juvenile court judge Darlene Whitten. Isaaks and Whitten have sued the New Times, claiming that their reputations were damaged by the story. This case has implications for satire losing its protected speech designation. The case has made its way up to the Texas Supreme Court and arguments begin December 3, 2003.

Theresa Chmara, FTRF general counsel from Jenner and Block was named the 2003 Freedom to Read Foundation Roll of Honor Award recipient at ALA Annual in Toronto. The FTRF Roll of Honor was established to recognize individuals who have contributed substantially to the FTRF through adherence to its principles and/or substantial monetary support.

Laura Koltutsky (laura_koltutsky@hotmail.com)

Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) Liaison Report

IFRT met and discussed several issues at annual. These included IFRT response to the One Voice Policy, as well as discussion of support for various resolutions. The IFRT decided to continue trying to work with other roundtables such as SRRT on addressing the One Voice Policy. Jim Kuhn of IFRT who is liaison to SRRT has volunteered to continue working towards a collaborative program or session. IFRT has also chosen to join Mary Ghikas' task force that will address this issue further, IFRT representatives on this task force will be Mike Wessells and Jim Kuhn.

Resolutions that were addressed at IFRT's general meeting included resolutions dealing with the Cuban independent librarians, the FCC and Media Consolidation, the destruction of Iraq's libraries and cultural institutions, and the Committee on Legislation's (COL) Patriot Act resolution.

The scheduling of conflicting sessions was discussed as both IFRT and SRRT were running programs that conflicted with each other or with roundtable meeting times. As these sessions would be of interest to many of the same individuals there was some discussion of holding a joint program in Orlando. Trying to prevent such time conflicts in the future will be a priority. Programming for Annual in Orlando was discussed and it was agreed that IFRT would try to contact either youth or children's interest roundtables to coordinate a session dealing with children and intellectual freedom. Recently IFRT has agreed to work with the Association for Library Service to Children division to create such a session.

Laura Koltutsky (laura_koltutsky@hotmail.com)

EQUITY OF ACCESS INFORMATION NEEDED

I am developing some information for Larra Clark, ALA Press Officer, to support her efforts in highlighting EQUITY OF ACCESS in libraries in local communities. This is the theme of ALA President Carla Hayden's initiative. We need to demonstrate how libraries are addressing equity of access issues, in every community, in every city and town, in every state and region, across the country.

There are two ways you can contribute to this effort: go to <http://www.ala.org/olos> and complete the "What's Happening @ Your Library" form OR send your story directly to me at sorange@ala.org. Write "Equity of Access" in the subject line so I can find it immediately.

Send me information on:

- 1) The impact of service delivery in your library with: immigrants, poor and homeless people, rural and small communities, people of color, communities where English is the second language, adult learners, funding cuts, privacy issues, etc., successful community partnerships.
- 2) Tell how libraries (you) are creating resources and programs and services that definitely make a difference.
- 3) Tell us the success stories, how your libraries are winning in service delivery to these populations.
- 4) Tell us the challenging stories, where libraries are still in the fight to gather resources, and maybe re-locate support for services.
- 5) Tell us the stories that are frustrating because of the lack of funding and other resources and support. Maybe we can help.

I know the stories are there. Telling us now so we can help you to make the difference you need in your communities. Start sending today and keep sending the stories. We need them today and tomorrow and everyday.

Satia Marshall Orange, Director
Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS)

Action Council Activity at ALA Annual in Toronto

SRRT Action Council passed a motion to endorse Larry Romans's resolution concerning recent changes at the FCC, which was going to ALA Council.

Al Kagan discussed two resolutions coming to Council. One, authored by Michael Gorman and Michael Malinconico, concerned the destruction of cultural resources in Iraq. SRRT Action Council passed a motion to endorse this resolution going to Council. The second resolution concerned access to information in Cuba. Action Council passed a motion to instructing Al to vote against this resolution because it failed to give context to the current situation in Iraq, especially in its failure to discuss the U.S. trade embargo of Cuba. Ann Sparanese planned to speak against the resolution at Council.

Larry Romans was seeking SRRT endorsement on principle of an intended GODORT resolution that would address planned changes in the ERIC database by the Department of Education. Al Kagan suggested that endorsement include the stipulation that the resolution include provisions that ERIC be kept not-for-profit and that education specialists be kept as part of the ERIC indexing process. Action Council passed a motion to oppose the Resolution on Terrorism Information Awareness Program.

Action Council also passed a motion addressing the SRRT membership committee doing greater outreach to and developing partnerships with other divisions and roundtables in ALA: "The membership committee will communicate with the chairs or representatives of groups and committees in ALA and invite them to SRRT meetings, programs, and social events for the purpose of outreach, growing the membership, and creating partnerships. SRRT liaisons to other groups will be in communication with the membership committee."

MEMBERS NEWS

Please welcome these new members

Jonathan Furner	Los Angeles CA
Stanley R. Conrad	New York NY
Sarah Liggon Shreeves	Champaign IL
Nancy M. Minton	Seattle WA
Laurel Erin Fennell	Miami FL
Derek Kevin Jones	Pittsburgh PA
Marie - Kettelie Nemorin	Newark NJ
Melanie Gottlieb	Webster Groves MO
Blair Criswell Parsons	Austin TX
Dominique Gazo	Montreal
Lance R. McGrath	Nampa ID
Lisa Ann Hartman	Ridgeley WV
Angela Semifero	Lansing MI
Colleen Tara Canavan	Moorestown NJ
Joyce M. Bak	Jacksonville FL
Terry Ross	Madison WI
Billie A. Clements	Mishawaka IN
Amanda Carpentier	Spokane WA
Blair Russell Glenn	Huntsville AL
Kristi L. Barbour	Harrisburg PA
Elizabeth A. Marcus	Oradell NJ

Congratulations to H. Robert Malinowsky on his induction into the Special Libraries Association Hall of Fame in June. He is Professor and Manager, Collections Development and Reference at the University of Illinois at Chicago Library and edits two electronic journals E-STREAMS and AIDS Book Review Journal.



CHECK OUT THESE RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY SRRT MEMBERS

A collective effort: Made in the U.S.A. by Ann Sparanese. *Library Journal*. September 1, 2003. Vol. 128 #14; p. 49.

Mark Rosenzweig published an article about the microfilm of the CPUSA papers at the Library of Congress in the November 2003 issue of *Political Affairs*.

Mark Hudson has just added a page of "Alternative Resources on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" to the IRTF website.

Mark's page can be found at:
<http://www.pitt.edu/~meh22/israelpalestine.html>.

Ann, Ann, Everywhere...

Congratulations to Ann Sparanese on her 2003 Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award.

Also, not only did Michael Moore mention her in *Dude, Where's My Country*, she's in the dedication!



The Feminist Task Force's Amelia Bloomer Project

was featured on the Bitch List (*Bitch* magazine's "annotated guide to some of our favorite things") in the Summer 2003 issue.

SRRT LIAISONS

- ALA Education Assembly - Marie Jones
- ALA Literacy Assembly - Pat Micks
- ALA Membership Committee - Mark Hudson
- ALA Planning and Budget Assembly - Rory Litwin
- ALCTS CSS CC:DA - Cynthia Whitacre
- IFRT - Laura Jean Koltutsky
- FTRT - Laura Jean Koltutsky
- EMIERT - Gerardo Colmenar

"The **HHP** Subcommittee has decided to put off its Annual Conference panel discussion until 2005 in Chicago. They will work with OLOS to develop a preconference to go along with our traditional panel discussion during the conference. Members decided to work on recruitment and to help develop a significant information resource, in print and the web, to help librarians in dealing with library service and information access issues that arise in the lives of the poor and homeless. HHP needs new and enthusiastic volunteers to help it build its web site. We need help with web site design, research, and content."

IFLA Report to SRRT, August 2003

The annual IFLA Meeting took place in Berlin, August 1-9, 2003. It was attended by 4650 participants from 133 countries. IFLA's recent reorganization has resulted in a more democratic and representative structure, and IFLA's first Third World president was inaugurated at the end of the meeting, Kay Raseroka from the University of Botswana. The new Governing Board has much broader geographic representation than previous bodies: 8 from Western Europe, 4 from North America, 3 from Africa, and 1 each from Australia, Eastern Europe, Russia, China, and Latin America.

Interestingly it was openly discussed at the USA Caucus that out of a slate of 16 candidates this time around, 11 were elected and that all four US candidates were defeated. It was pointed out that there were too many US candidates and a lack of a coordinated election strategy. Furthermore and unsurprisingly, US foreign relations has a clear effect on IFLA. Since most of the world's people and governments opposed the US war on Iraq, it is not surprising that US candidates were defeated. It is absolutely critical that US librarians and the rest of civil society learn these political realities. Obviously, we must increase our efforts to actively counter the fiction that librarianship can be apolitical.

Apart from the ongoing work of the various sections and other bodies, the major issues can be seen in the substantive resolutions (appended) passed by the IFLA Council on Libraries in Iraq, National Security Legislation, and the World Conference on the Information Society (WSIS). The Council also passed a resolution on Women's Information Needs. And *The IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2003: Intellectual Freedom in the Information Society, Libraries and the Internet* was launched with responses from 88 different countries.

A French librarian, Jean-Marie Arnoult, was part of the second Unesco delegation to Iraq at the end of June and beginning of July. His presentation, including slides, was truly shocking. See <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/admin/iraq2407.htm>. The delegation visited ten libraries in Baghdad and some others elsewhere. He stressed that he saw only a small part of the situation and that more missions are needed to visit other parts of the country. Nevertheless, his emotional report showed the level of destruction. He confirmed that the most precious collection of 47,000 manuscripts was rescued, but that the national library building was completely destroyed, looted and burned twice. Thirty percent of its 1.2 million books are lost, the catalog was destroyed, and the remaining books are now scattered in three locations in very bad conditions. The National Archives were in the same building. The oldest part of the Archives were previously moved and hopefully OK but the rest was completely destroyed. Looters piled books in corners, poured fuel over them, and set them alight so that only ashes remain. This pattern was seen throughout the country. This deliberate book burning took some level of organization and planning. The Baghdad Central University Library lost half of its books and the oldest university lost 5-10% of its collection. The Central Public Library of Basra which had unique collections and functioned as a key resource for the southern region was completely destroyed as was the central library of Basra University. Things were not as bad in Mosul where the public library was weakened by bombing but escaped vandalism. The Mosul University Library was looted but was immediately restored. Mr. Arnoult stressed the need for all countries to ratify the 1954 Hague Unesco Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its protocols, especially the 1999 protocol that makes looting a war crime. See <http://www.unesco.org/general/eng/legal/convent.shtml> for the conventions and protocols. The IFLA Council resolution asked national library associations to respond to the International Committee of the Blue Shield through IFLA Headquarters.

According to IFLA President Kay Raseroka and other speakers, the USA Patriot is serving as model legislation for other countries to clamp down on civil liberties in the name of national security. When she praised ALA for taking a stand, I realized that IFLA could certainly do the same and have a worldwide effect. In fact, the IFLA Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) Office was actually ahead of ALA. The June 5th FAIFE press release called on the US Government and Congress to amend the PATRIOT Act to safeguard civil liberties and freedom of access to information. After discussing the need for a resolution at the FAIFE Committee meeting, several people worked with me to craft the final resolution which states that IFLA deplores such legislation and calls for the repeal or amendment of such existing laws. It calls for national library associations to respond to the IFLA FAIFE Office.

The World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) will be held in Geneva on December 10-12, 2003, and a second summit will be held in Tunis on November 16-18, 2005. Although IFLA has responded to its Draft Declaration of Principles and Draft Plan of Action, few librarians seemed to know about it before the Berlin meeting. The WSIS is sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union rather than Unesco, and there is a danger that libraries will be not only ignored but that the Summit will concentrate on technical issues and promote a corporate agenda. Mr. Abdelaziz Abid of Unesco presented an alternative view and declared that libraries need to be considered a "global public good." In discussions with Mr. Abid and several IFLA leaders, I drafted a resolution incorporating Abid's phrase and delineating information gap issues to try to influence the WSIS debate. It will be distributed to all national library associations and government delegations to the WSIS.

Finally, I am pleased to again report on the recommendations of the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group. Some readers may remember that I convened this group, and it concluded last year in Glasgow with the approval of 13 recommendations by the IFLA Council. These were all related to information gap issues, and included specific items on rural library development, literacy in libraries, fees for library

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services, human resource development, electronic information, library cooperation, and the profession, library associations and IFLA structure. The Discussion Group then suggested sending specific recommendations to appropriate IFLA sections and other bodies. The IFLA Professional Committee added a few more bodies at its December 2002 meeting and letters were sent to 17 sections and 5 other IFLA bodies. As a result, many of these bodies already the recommendations on their Berlin agendas regarding the formulation of their new two-year action plans. According to the 2002 resolution, the members of the Discussion Group were to help with implementation of the recommendations. I was able to advocate for the recommendations at the meetings of 15 sections, the Regional Activities Division, and at the FAIFE meeting. The response was heartening, and I expect that many of the forthcoming action plans will incorporate these recommendations.

Berlin was an excellent IFLA venue, a stimulating non-stop city with a rich and disturbing history. Changes in the IFLA structure and culture along with much hard work made this a most fruitful meeting.

Al Kagan
SRRT Councilor
Akagan@uiuc.edu

SRRT MOURNS FOUNDING MEMBERS

Elizabeth Ellen Winkelmann Morrisett
Founding Member of SRRT
Sept. 3, 1920 - July 19, 2003

Elizabeth Morrisett received her MLS in 1994 from the University of Michigan. She retired in 1991 from the Alaska State Library after a varied career. ALA Councilor at large, Mark Rosenzweig, shares his thoughts about his longtime friend:

“Our profession and our country are the poorer for the loss of librarian Elizabeth Morrisett, who I was proud to have known and worked with.

I feel she was a friend, and someone who encouraged me -- in large part by her own example, but also by her kind words -- to keep up the struggle when things were looking bleak. The difference in our ages meant little. She was an inspiration to me and to several generations of librarians who saw their work, as she did, as a contribution to a better future.

A founding member of the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), she created and chaired several important Task Forces.

Always full of good humor, she was nonetheless absolutely serious about making librarianship --and even ALA-- instruments for what she saw as much needed reform, even -- dare I say it --part of a humanistic revolution. I will miss her.”

Contributions may be made in her name to Doctors Without Borders USA, P.O. Box 1856, Merrifield, VA 22116-8056.

Joan K. Marshall
Founding Member of SRRT
October 29, 1929 - July 22, 2003

Joan K. Marshall attended NYU and Columbia University and retired in 1988 from Brooklyn College. She authored the groundbreaking book *On Equal Terms: A Thesaurus for Nonsexist Indexing and Cataloging* (1977) and received the prestigious Ralph Shaw award for Library Literature from the American Library Association two years later.

Ms. Marshall was a long-time ALA Councilor and served as editor of *Serials for Libraries* (1979). She was a trustee of the Freedom to Read Foundation and was active in women's issues.

Donations may be sent to a book fund established in her name at Brooklyn College Library, 2900 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11210.

Call for Poster Sessions for ALA Orlando

Applications for presenting poster sessions at the 2004 American Library Association Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, are now being accepted. An application form is available on the poster session website at <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/ala>.

The website also provides rules and guidelines for presenting poster sessions, helpful hints in applying, frequently asked questions, and photos of sample poster sessions.

If you don't have Internet access, you can apply via e-mail. Send the following information to jfagan@lib.siu.edu: Title, author's name, institutional address, e-mail address, and 200 word abstract.

If you have any questions about the submission process, please contact:

Jody Condit Fagan, Chair, ALA Poster Session Review Panel,
Morris Library, Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL. 62901-6632, 618-453-5844 (telephone)

The deadline for submitting an application is January 30, 2004. Applicants will be notified by March 31 concerning the outcome of the review process. Poster sessions will be presented on June 26, 27, and 28 at the Orlando conference.

Special thanks to Jenna Freedman for all photos in this edition.

Confessions of a Newsletter Editor

This may be my last issue as editor and I thought it was about time I confessed: I have no idea what I'm doing!

When I first started my present job I was told I should consider joining either the Pennsylvania Library Association or ALA. Once I stumbled upon the Social Responsibilities Round Table, the decision was easy. I decided I'd like to be a part of a group that tries to make a difference in what I view as a chaotic and unfriendly world.

At that time our coordinator was Fred Stoss and I told him I was looking for some way to be involved. He suggested I become the newsletter editor. I confessed to him, as I am to all of you now, that I actually know little about the issues that are covered on SRRTAC-L. He correctly guessed that this would be a good way to learn.

Becoming socially aware has been a long, slow trip for me. I grew up in a small town near Erie, PA. Although my father was always a union officer, he never really mentioned labor issues with me (although I do recall a terrifying childhood summer when he was on strike.) My parents were clearly conservatives but they never discussed politics nor social issues. As I look back, I led quite a sheltered life. I was a teenager when I discovered that Erie had a synagogue and in my thirties when I learned there are actually two.

By far the most telling story from my journey occurred during my library school days (UT-Austin). I shared a bathroom with two other women, Beverly and Kelley. They introduced me to feminism and the Anarchist's Cookbook, took me to my first protest (against Apartheid), and led me to my first vigil (International Womyn's Day 1987). That January, Bev asked me to listen to speech she wrote for Roe v. Wade day. I listened intently and came to a realization by the end. When she finished, I asked a question that stunned her. "Bev, is abortion *legal*?"

Bev and Kelley were my earliest teachers; SRRT members have been my latest. Progressives, hegemony, Haymarket are all new words to me since becoming a member. For the longest time, people would post items to SRRTAC-L without comment and I would wonder, "how do 'we' feel about that?" That's a rare occurrence now so I guess I've come a long way.

For a long time I was ashamed of my ignorance and afraid that if people knew what I don't know, they'd turn me away. I've wanted to write this for a long time, but Jean Andrews' essay on her newly-lit fire for activism encouraged me. I felt suddenly less alone. So, thank you for your wisdom and your kindnesses over these three years. Take care of your wise and kind selves.

Jane Ingold

SRRT Newsletter Editor

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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 whimsy strikes. Next deadline: 03/15/04

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's a hot topic brewing] way of keeping up with SRRT's issues and discussions in-between conferences. Help decide SRRT's future directions and join in some lively debates. If you would like to join the SRRT discussion group, send the following message to listproc@ala.org: *subscribe SRRTAC-L [your first name] [your last name]*

SRRTMEM

SRRTMEM is an unrestricted email list for announcements from American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table. Announcements come from the SRRT Coordinator, Treasure, 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.lib.org/SRRT>.

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