

SRRT Newsletter

June
2004
Issue
146/147

Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association

SRRT PROGRAMS IN ORLANDO



Saturday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. "Introduction to Women's Issues in ALA". Forum with leaders from SRRT Feminist Task Force, ACRL Women's Studies Section, Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship, LAMA Women Managers Discussion Group and others about women's issues in ALA and librarianship.

Saturday 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. "Who Speaks for Whom? Forum on Free Speech and Cohesiveness in ALA." CANCELLED

Saturday 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. "IRTF Librarian Responses to Imperialism." A panel of speakers on librarian responses to imperialism.

Saturday 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. "Speak and Publish Freely on the Environment." Speakers will discuss and demonstrate examples on how we can speak and publish freely on the environment.

Saturday 1:30-4:30 p.m. "Librarians Confront the War in Iraq." Sponsored by SRRT's International Responsibilities Task Force. See Task Force News inside this issue for description.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.-noon, "New Voices, New Visions: New Leaders Speak on the Future of Libraries and Librarianship." Sponsored by the ALA Diversity Office. Speakers include the SRRT Coordinator, Rory Litwin.

Sunday 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. "Creating Culturally Sensitive Materials for Children's Sessions." Publishers, editors, and literary agents discuss challenges in identifying, nurturing, and publishing ethnic writers and illustrators.

Sunday, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. "Cultural Democracy and the Information Commons," MarriottGL, Del Lago 3/4. Co-sponsored by ALA-WO, PLG and the new provisional task force, Information Policy in the Public Interest.

Sunday, 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. "Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Go Back In The Library--Revolting Librarians Redux Radical Librarians Speak Out." Co-sponsored by AIP and FTF. See Task Force News inside this issue for description.

35th Annual Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast, Tuesday, June 29, 7:00 a.m.-9:00 am. Registration required.

Some other programs of interest:

Sunday 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. "Willful Infringement: The Movie that Disney Does NOT Want you to Watch." Sponsored by ALA-WO.

Monday, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon "From Many Voices to Few: Media Consolidation and Intellectual Freedom." Sponsored by ALA-IFC.

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Notes from the Editor:

Hello!
My Name is Sally

I hope you like the new look of this newsletter! After moving the mast-head as a stylistic possibility, I decided to keep it for, at the risk of sounding sappy, it reminds me of a tree; the trunk representing SRRT's steadfastness to its mission of integrating social problems and librarianship in a progressive manner; and the need to stand tall in our beliefs of justice, peace, equality and compassion. The branches—way up high, off the page—obviously represent the various SRRT task forces. It's exciting to announce the formation of a new task force, Information Policy in the Public Interest, but just like the sadness felt when a tree loses a healthy branch in a storm, we must also say goodbye to the Coretta Scott King Task Force.

Some of you may be wondering who I am and how I became involved with the SRRT. I suspect that most of you can relate to the fact that I had a wake-up call. I woke up to the fact that I wasn't very happy with the way our country was being run. I woke up to the fact that my librarian position was more than just a "day job." I put two and two together. I located the intersection called SRRT. At Midwinter, I attended both Action Council meetings and was approved as the newsletter editor.

In addition to my reference and instructional responsibilities, I manage collections in many areas that tie in neatly with SRRT: political science, military studies, business, and now environmental studies, thanks to the retirement of a librarian here at Penn State Altoona. In addition, I've recently been asked to join the faculty of our women's studies department, taken on some volunteer work with the State College Peace Center, and have been involved with several peace initiatives on and off campus. These days I'm feeling a lot more whole and I'm very excited to begin what I think will be a long-term involvement with the SRRT. I can't tell you how impressed I am with everyone I met at Midwinter. In addition, I've read many of your books, articles, blogs, zines and email postings and am feeling quite empowered myself. I feel a special kinship to Zoia Horn, who I thank very much for sharing her inspiring life and historical aspects of SRRT in *Zoia! Memoirs of Zoia Horn, Battler for the People's Right to Know*. I would also like to thank Katia Roberto and Jessamyn West for editing an interesting collection of essays, *Revolting Librarians Redux*, that made me confront the fact that I have been working as a quasi-librarian for many years.

I began my newsletter career back in 3rd grade when I laid out a 2-page spread on the world of birds, complete with original crayon artwork and a bibliography comprised of a single *Weekly Reader* article about feeding backyard birds. A few eras later and here I am, putting that knowledge and experience to good use as the new editor. I can state emphatically that I feel just as fulfilled seeing this issue come together as I did admiring my bird spread on the bulletin board.

Thanks to all who cooperated with my requests for submissions, thanks to the people who volunteered to write book reviews, thanks to Action Council for much of the content, and thanks to my editorial board for guidance. A very special thanks to the previous editor, Jane Ingold, who provided many newsletter components that I am keeping, and answered every single question—no less than a billion.

This issue presents the usual reports and news items as well as some of my own ideas—a file that grows daily. Since I am new to the SRRT, I want to know everything about the organization's history, the impact SRRTers have made in ALA and librarianship, biographical information about members past and present, task force initiatives, awards, programs and so on. I will be interviewing many of you for the newsletter and with this issue I begin with Jenna Freedman, who demonstrates that SRRTified librarianship can mean small steps as well as major initiatives. I also spent some intimate time with the SRRT mailing list and included a few statistics in this issue, but watch out, because I now know where each of you live! Don't wait for me to contact you—send me your thoughts, your ideas, your articles anytime.

Sally Driscoll

Highlights and Promised Actions for SRRT Action Council Meetings I & II, ALA Midwinter Conference 2004-San Diego, California

Prepared by Michael Santangelo
2/13/04, revised 2/16/04

SRRT Action Council I

SRRT Action Council endorsed in principle Mark Rosenzweig's resolution on libraries and cultural democracy, "Resolution on Cultural Democracy as a Core Value."

Al made a motion for SRRT to endorse Michael Gorman. Motion passed.

Al Kagan asked for SRRT AC to endorse his motion calling on ALA to request that the entire USA Patriot Act be repealed. SRRT AC honored Al's request and endorsed Al's motion.

The Coretta Scott King Award Task Force announced the intentions to leave SRRT and join EMIERT. The move was not complete and CSK needed to speak to EMIERT first to get permission.

Larry Romans discussed ideas for meetings sponsored by the Committee on Membership (1)ALA-Is it too active or not active enough? and (2) USA Patriot Act. Larry asked members to send any other suggestions to him or Al for the meeting. (If a quorum is met, they will be meetings; if a quorum is not met, they would be forums.)

SRRT Action Council II

Rory reported on the Bylaws Committee's recommendations for revisions to the bylaws to be voted on at the Annual membership meeting. A motion was seconded by Elaine Harger to allow Action Council, upon recommendation of the Bylaws Committee, to make such editorial changes in these bylaws as may not change their substance and meaning. Those changes shall take effect upon such action and shall be referenced in the next publication of the SRRT Bylaws and announced in the next SRRT newsletter.

New SRRT newsletter editor appointed—Sally Driscoll. AC also approved appointments to the Newsletter editorial board. They were Mark Hudson, Mark Rosenzweig, and Marie Jones.

Mark Rosenzweig brought up his proposal for a new award to be presented by SRRT called the Edward Said Book Award. Mark will research award giving and will come to Annual with a more thought-out proposal.

Mark Rosenzweig suggested the creation of a new task force-Information Policy in the Public Interest. AC approved provisional status for this new task force.

Sam Trosow discussed a program for Orlando entitled "Cultural Democracy of the Information Commons." It would look at the conflicts of copyright laws, cultural democracy, and the effects on libraries. It would be co-sponsored by the new provisional task force, Information Policy in the Public Interest. SRRT AC approved giving \$1000 to SRRT Admin for the program.

Task Force reports.

AC approved budget for 2004/2005 in the amount of \$8,900. (This would be prior to the increases passed later in the meeting.) The net balance for SRRT is \$202, 679.00. Each task force was once again given \$500 for their fiscal budget.

The International Responsibilities Task Force was given an additional \$1000 for their 2003/2004 budget. Rory Litwin will research for Annual the issue of putting the SRRT Web site on the ALA server.

Sanford Berman Awarded ALA's Most Prestigious Award

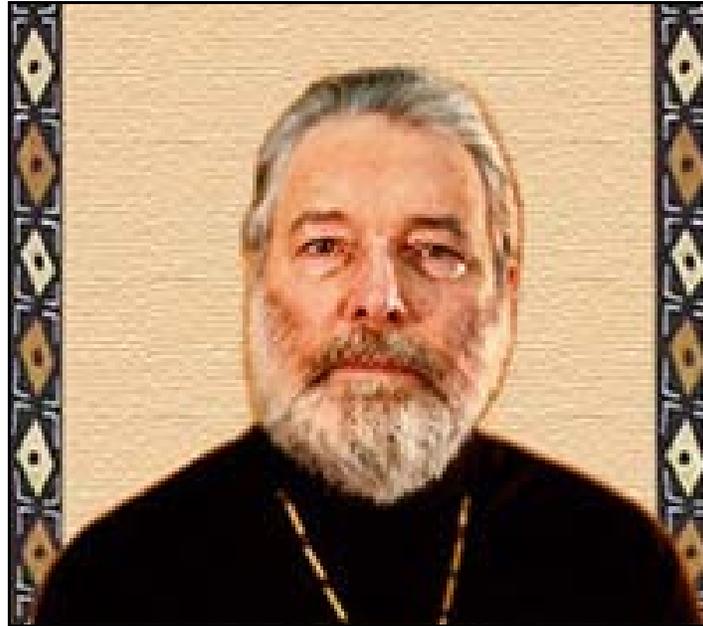


Photo courtesy of Sanford Berman's Web site, <http://www.sanfordberman.org>

Longtime SRRT member and founder of the Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force, Sandy Berman was elected to honorary membership in the American Library Association during the Midwinter Meeting in January. This is the highest honor bestowed by ALA and is given to people "whose contribution to librarianship or a closely related field is so outstanding that it is of lasting importance to the advancement of the whole field of library service."

Former head cataloger at Hennepin County Library (MN) from 1973-1999, Berman is credited with reforming cataloging and classification. Best known for establishing socially progressive, non-LCSH subject headings that reflected non-biases and promoted cultural diversity, he also implemented subject headings for fiction that later became the foundation for *NoveList's* database.

Honorary Member benefits include free membership in ALA and all desired divisions, complimentary registration to all ALA Midwinter and Annual Conferences, and free subscriptions to all desired ALA division journals.

Berman now joins such distinguished honorary members as former President Jimmy Carter (elected in 1994); television personality Johnny Carson (elected in 1983); and benefactor of libraries Andrew Carnegie (elected in 1899).

Congratulations, Sandy!

Report on ALA Council to SRRT by Al Kagan

January 25, 2004

There were two major issues before the ALA Council at the January meetings in San Diego: what more to do about the USA Patriot Act and how to deal with developments in Cuba. Mitch Freedman and I proposed a resolution in favor of repealing the entire Patriot Act. We attached the August 2003 IFLA resolution passed in Berlin that called for actions against similar legislation throughout the world. However, the ALA Washington Office and the Committee on Legislation had their own ideas. ACRL sponsored a Patriot Act forum with two speakers from ALA's Washington Office and a local San Diego lawyer representing the ACLU. All the speakers spoke broadly against the range of repressive measures in the Act, but the Washington Office was adamant that ALA should only respond to the sections of the Act which directly affect libraries' day-to-day work. The ACLU lawyer disagreed and called for the repeal of the entire Act. It was interesting to hear one of the Washington Office speakers talk about going home and forming coalitions with many groups who are opposed to various sections of the Act, and then defend the need for ALA to act narrowly. In the end, the Council passed the Committee on Legislation's resolution that addressed only issues related to library users and free expression. Six bills to amend the Act are noted in the resolution. Mitch and I withdrew our resolution in the face of certain defeat, but not before making our argument. If successful, ALA's narrow actions taken to their logical extreme, might result in a library free zone with an intensely repressive society outside the library's doors. I asked the Council to consider the implications and hopefully to act more broadly at the Annual Meeting in Orlando.

As many of you know, SRRT has been addressing US aggressive policies against Cuba for a long time. ALA leadership and IFLA have gotten involved more recently. Due to increased hostility of the Bush Administration to the Cuban Government, Bush appointed a new Head of the US Interests Office in Havana (the official US representation on a lower level than an embassy). The US has increased funding for many types of activities in Cuba which are against Cuban laws and international norms. The US Interests Office is distributing not only books but also fax machines, computers, and funds to the so-called "independent libraries" in Cuba. The latest Amnesty International Report shows that these "independent librarians" are neither independent nor librarians. Most are journalists and politicians but the group includes others such as poets and medical doctors who have small book collections in their homes. As a response to increased US actions, the Cuban Government recently tried, convicted, and imprisoned about 75 dissidents, and some of them call themselves "independent librarians." As far as we know, all of them are non-violent political prisoners. Colin Powell again called for "regime change" in his January 1st *New York Times* Op Ed article as part of a national campaign. ALA is under intense pressure to fall in line. At the 2003 Annual Meeting, the ALA Council referred a proposed resolution on Cuba back to the International Relations Committee (IRC) and the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC). I was on a joint task force of the two committees that reported back to ALA Council in San Diego. The report is based on extensive research and expertise and takes into consideration the complex mix of international relations, US foreign policy, and freedom of expression concerns. It is a consensus document describing past ALA and IFLA actions and puts ALA on record in support of IFLA statements, including an end to the US embargo. It addresses both US and Cuban Government actions and takes a nuanced approach and tone. It states that ALA and IFLA members confirmed in discussions with these individuals that they did not consider themselves librarians, but described themselves as "political dissidents." Of course, everyone wants political prisoners out of jail, but we need to address the basic issues. As I told the Council, the best way to get the prisoners out of jail is to change US foreign policy, end the embargo and repeal the Helms-Burton Act. If that happened the Cuban Government would not need its counter laws (especially Law 80), and there might be sentiment to release the prisoners. Although there was a call to amend the report to fall in with US foreign policy, the Council passed the report as presented. A further resolution in support of US foreign policy was later withdrawn due to lack of support. Although some SRRT members are not happy with this balanced approach in the face of over-

whelming US aggression against Cuba, this is the best report that we could get. I fully expect to see further severe criticism of ALA for not supporting the so-called "independent librarians." We will need to continue to cut through massive propaganda and address the reality of the Cuban situation.

One issue that had much discussion on the Council listserv before the meeting was endorsement by ALA units of ALA candidates for office. A number of ALA units including SRRT often either publish lists of their members running for ALA Council, President, or Treasurer or endorse candidates in general. In the past, SRRT has sent out a post card listing such candidates. There are two aspects to this debate endorsement itself and spending ALA funds to further such endorsements. It became clear before the meeting that the ALA Headquarters staff misconstrued current ALA policy and guidelines. We were advised that such endorsements were forbidden. After some research, we were finally able to prove that there was no such policy whatsoever. A resolution to state a policy was roundly defeated in ALA Council. However, the question of spending money to further these endorsements is still in dispute. According to the Executive Director, units can use already existing modes of dissemination such as newsletters and listservs, but not anything that would involve spending new funds such as sending post cards. However, the ALA bylaws explicitly say that units may do special mailings to further their activities. On the Council floor, I asked our Executive Director to further investigate this issue. SRRT Action Council endorsed Michael Gorman for ALA President.

There were three other important resolutions introduced by individual Councilors: the first in support of the Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies, the second to establish a policy for retaining legal counsel, and the last to rescind the ALA motto. The decision to close the Clark Atlanta School is a blow to diversity in our profession since it has graduated more black librarians by far than any other library school. It is one of only two library schools at historically black colleges and universities. After some discussion, and at the urging of Ismail Abdullahi (a councilor who teaches there), the Council passed a strong resolution to establish a task force and make a plan to try to reverse the closing and to better position ALA to address such emergencies in the future.

The resolution on legal counsels was introduced by Mitch Freedman and Peter McDonald. It was written to confront the fact that ALA's legal counsel, Jenner & Block, is representing Divine which controls Faxon and Rowe.com. As you know, libraries have recently lost many millions of dollars on serial subscriptions prepaid to these corporations. The resolution was divided into two, the first part on establishing a general policy on conflict of interest was referred to BARC for budgetary implications, and the second part on addressing the current situation was defeated. This is a sad commentary on the lack of the ability of Council to stand up for libraries' material interests. One wonders what it would take for ALA to confront corporate malfeasance and legal shenanigans.

The resolution on rescinding the ALA motto provoked a surprising and heartening response. Although infrequently used, the 1892 motto is still official. It reads, "The best reading, for the largest number, at the least cost." Although many thought it quaint and out-of-date, and others thought it condescending towards readers, the Council rallied in support of what was seen as a basic *raison d'être* and voted to retain the motto. It will be interesting to see if new motto proposals emerge.

There were no resolutions regarding the Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA), but it was announced that a director has just been hired, Jenifer Grady, and that various task forces are forming to work on the salaries and status initiatives.

Finally, let me just comment on two events and honors for two individuals. As usual the Sunrise Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance was inspirational. The featured speaker, Herb Cawthorne, spoke in the voice and intonation of MLK as he might have addressed ALA just before his death. This was a remarkable performance. The ending when we hold hands and sing "We Shall Overcome" is always a highpoint for me (and one of the few times I actually try to use my awful singing voice). It is difficult to get up so early, but I would encourage anyone to do it. The tribute to E.J.

Josey on his 80th birthday was also a very special occasion. E.J.'s courageous work inside and outside of the library profession on civil rights, apartheid in South Africa, and numerous issues of human rights and justice throughout his long career were duly noted by a long list of his friends. He is a role model for us all. The ALA Council awarded Honorary Memberships to Norman Horrocks and Sandy Berman in San Diego. I have worked with both of them over the years in various capacities and it was a pleasure to vote on these awards. Norman has been my ALA mentor as well as my publisher. Sandy has been my partner in the SRRT Action Council and we have worked closely around South Africa and especially on the exceedingly difficult issue of freedom of expression in Palestine and Israel. Sandy and I have not always agreed on issues in recent years, but his life's work continues to be an inspiration for me and countless other librarians.

Coretta Scott King Task Force Joins EMIERT

CHICAGO - The Coretta Scott King (CSK) Task Force is pleased to announce its new affiliation with the American Library Association's (ALA) Ethnic Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT). The CSK Task Force annually presents the Coretta Scott King Award to African American authors and illustrators for outstanding contributions to literature for children and young adults. The award is given to encourage the artistic expression of the African American experience via literature and the graphic arts including biographical, social, historical, and social history treatments. In addition, the Task Force seeks to promote, recognize and celebrate the continued publication of quality literature by African American children's authors and illustrators. "Our joining EMIERT was initiated because their activities closely mirror those of the Coretta Scott King Task Force," said Fran Ware, chair of the CSK Task Force. EMIERT provides ALA members and librarians with informational resources related to multiethnic materials and programs. The group offers recommendations on ethnic collections, services and programs. EMIERT also develops ALA conference programs that deal with the key issues of ethnicity and librarianship.

RESOLUTION ON CULTURAL DEMOCRACY AS A CORE VALUE

— Sponsored by Mark Rosenweig and co-sponsored by Susan Dillinger

And whereas SRRT recognizes as one of its core values that cultural democracy is the necessary complement to economic and political democracy and as a project which has taken on more urgency in the age of corporate globalization, increasingly monopolistic control of the media, means of communication, and cultural heritage, and privatization of the institutions of public life

And whereas there is significant movement of people in the cultural sector to realize the project of developing cultural democracy

And whereas librarians have an important role in this as front-line defenders of intellectual freedom and facilitators of equalizing access to cultural capital and promoters of the 'information commons'

Be it resolved that SRRT identifies cultural democracy as a core value of librarianship which must be cultivated and promoted

And be it further resolved that SRRT recommends that the American Library Association make the profession's commitment to cultural democracy explicit in any explication of librarianship's 'core values'.

Progressive Librarians Guild News



photo by Elaine Harger

Mike Davis, author of *City of Quartz* and *Ecology of Fear*, was the guest speaker at the Progressive Librarians Guild (PLG) dinner at Bandar's in San Diego, January 11, 2004. Like his recent book, *Under the Perfect Sun: The San Diego Tourists Never See* (2003), his presentation highlighted the political corruption, labor unrest, and racial injustice that underlies the current stratified socioeconomic climate in the San Diego metropolitan area.

Winners of door prizes included Jenna Freedman, who won a copy of Mike Davis' *Dead Cities*; Sally Driscoll who won a copy of Lincoln Cushing's *¡Revolución! Cuban Poster Art*; and Melissa Riley who won Davis' *Under the Perfect Sun*.

PLG at Annual

The PLG will host a dinner in Orlando. Details are available at the Web site, <http://www.libr.org/PLG/>

The PLG Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 27, 5:30 to 7:00 at Doubletree, Garden Pavilion. New members are welcome!

Book Review

The Image and Role of the Librarian

Editors: Wendi Arant and Candace R. Benefiel, New York: Haworth Information Press, 2002, ISBN 0-7890-2099-8 \$24.95

Librarians who are concerned about stereotyping in the profession would do well to pick up this book. It covers an interesting range of topics within the basic framework of librarian image and answers some burning questions: How are librarians portrayed in comic books? Do the perceived Myers Briggs types of movie librarians match those shown in studies of actual librarians? What is the origin of the "know-it-all" librarian?

Daniel Liestman offers a "back-to-the-future" view of librarianship in a study of what late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century librarians imaged was in store for librarians of our day. Elaine Yontz performed a historical study of librarians in children's literature from 1909 through 2000. She notes that a high percentage (71.6) of the books portrayed white female librarians and that no librarian of color appeared until 1970. Looking only at books published after that watershed year revealed the number of white female librarians depicted was down only slightly to 61.4%. It would be interesting to know what the corresponding numbers were in "the real world". Thad Dickinson looked specifically at male librarian stereotypes through the years. Academic librarians may want to peruse Jody Fagan's study on student perceptions at Southern Illinois University which offers some helpful suggestions on combating the misconceptions of students. Coming full circle, Pixey Anne Mosley speculates the future image and role of librarianship by considering trends in technology and society.

In the end this book turned out to be quite an enjoyable read and elicited chuckles in a way library literature rarely does (laughing with the article, not at it). (This volume is one of the Haworth series of journals masquerading as books. It was also published as *The Reference Librarian*, Number 78 2002.)

---Jane Ingold, Reference Librarian at Penn State Erie, The Behrend Campus.

News about our Members

Welcome New SRRT Members!

Joyce Jelks
 Barbara Vianna
 Jay Stein
 Melinda Callaway
 Ann Perbohner
 Sarah Reeves
 Elizabeth Bogdanski
 Robert Farwell
 Edward Lomax
 Colleen Major
 David Orenstein
 Anna Posas
 Edward Spicer
 Susan Veltfort
 Margaret Whitehead

ShinJoung Yeo
 Denis Brunke
 Juana Careaga
 Jessica Chatham
 Gary Clegg
 Dawn Collings
 Christine Grewcock
 Zhan Hunt
 Abra Mitchell
 Carolyn Murphy
 Martha Preddie
 Aline Reed
 Laurence Seidenberg
 Daryll Stevens
 Gabrielle Toth

In Memoriam

Cinder (Cynthia) Johanson passed away in January 2004 from cancer. She was a former ALA Councilor and a devoted member of SRRT, active in helping to found SRRT and the Task Force on Women/Feminist Task Force. She was considered gentle, yet spirited, and is credited with promoting social responsibilities and feminism throughout the realm of librarianship.

Publications

Harris, Steven R. "Civil Rights and the Louisiana Library Association Stumbling Toward Integration." *Libraries & Culture* 384 (Fall 2003) 322-50.

Kagan, Alfred. "The U. S. Peace Movement: Lessons from a Local Case." *ACAS Bulletin*, no. 66 (Winter 2003/2004) 25-28. [ACAS is the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars]. Paper presented at the African Studies Association annual meeting, Boston, Nov.1, 2003.

Kagan, Alfred. Issue Editor. "The Transformation of South African Librarianship." *Innovation: A Journal for Appropriate Librarianship and Information Work in Southern Africa*, no. 25 (December 2002). [Published August 2003.]

Kagan, Alfred. "The Transformation of South African Librarianship Survey Results and Analysis of Current Opinions." *Innovation: A Journal for Appropriate Librarianship and Information Work in Southern Africa*, no. 25 (December 2002) 1-26. Published simultaneously in *Progressive Librarian*, no. 22 (Summer 2003) 1-37. [Published August 2003.]

Rude, Renee I. "It's Not Handicap, It's Accessible: Towards Access and Respect for All." *Versed: The Bulletin of the ALA Office for Diversity* (March/April 2004) <<http://www.ala.org/ala/diversity/versed/versed2004/march2004abc/mar2004.htm>> Rude is Associate Professor and Refer-

ence Librarian at the James W. Miller Learning Resource Center at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota.

Awards and Presentations

Tiffany Connor, former graduate student at the University of Tennessee, School of Information Sciences and paraprofessional in the UT Libraries, won the 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant that provides members in NMRT funding to attend the ALA Annual Conference. In addition, she accepted a new professional position at the University of Connecticut to begin June 7, 2004.

Steve Fesenmaier presented his nomination of the Pocahontas County Free Libraries system for the National Library Service Award and gave the keynote speech in a ceremony that included Senator Jay Rockefeller and IMLS Director Robert Martin at the McClintic Public Library in Marleton, West Virginia on April 17, 2004. Fesenmaier is State Data Coordinator for the West Virginia Library Commission.

Steve Fesenmaier presented a weeklong series of 17 independent West Virginia films this past March in New York City. The series included discussions with many of the filmmakers, and consisted of documentaries that explored environmental issues such as Robert Gates' 1977 *In Memory of the Land and People* about mountaintop removal mining; historical films such as Bill Richardson's *Feud: The Hatfields and McCoys*; and documentaries about the lives of Appalachian artists and musicians.

Steve Fesenmaier provided research for Kyle Boyd's film, *Life Matters*, which was later shown in January as part of PBS' series INDEPENDENT LENS. The film profiles a former Pentecostal/Baptist minister, Curtis Boyd, who become an abortion doctor and his commitment to serving women.

Cynthia Frost, presented "That's a Family! - A Tour from a Child's Point of View of the Incredible Range of Family Structures" at the Georgia Council of Media Organizations Conference (COMO), in Jekyll Island, Georgia on October 24, 2003. It featured the showing of "That's a Family!", a documentary about family diversity produced by Women's Educational Media. Frost is Librarian/Assistant Professor in the Zach S. Henderson Library at Georgia Southern University.

Loriene Roy co-edited two special journal issues. The November 2003 issue of "The Electronic Library" explores "The Impact of IT on Indigenous Peoples." The recently released Spring 2002 issue of "World Libraries" features articles on indigenous library services. Dr. Roy is also the Principal Investigator for the new IMLS funded scholarship program, "Honoring Generations," providing \$340,000 in scholarship funding to train American Indian librarians. Roy is Professor for the Center for Women's Studies and in the School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin.

Fred Stoss presented "Libraries, Librarians and Information for Sustainable Communities," at the Patriotism, Environment, Community Session of the Fourteenth North American Interdisciplinary Conference "Environment & Community" from February 19-21, 2004, organized and sponsored by Empire State College of the State University of New York and held in Saratoga Springs, NY. His presentation featured the ALA Libraries Build Sustainable Communities program and called for communities to include librarians in their community decision-making process. SRRT/TFE materials were provided. Stoss is Biological Sciences Librarian at the University of Buffalo-SUNY.

Movers & Shakers!

Congratulations to the following SRRTers who were named Movers & Shakers in the March 15, 2004 *Library Journal Supplement*:

Jane Fisher, New York Public Library

Christine Borne, Shaker Heights Public Library, Ohio.

New York Times Librarian Award

Congratulations to Ann Sparanese, one of 27 nationwide winners for this 2003 award. Sparanese is Head of Adult and YA Services at the Englewood Public Library, NJ.

Membership Profile

It wasn't more than a few months after joining SRRT that I became the newsletter editor, and I can't think of a better way to get to know the people, the organization, and the issues. Yet the people who post to SRRTAC-L and the members who send me newsletter submissions are a small minority of the 1568 SRRT personal members. So I spent some time with the membership list and I think you might find these results as interesting as I did. I am merely presenting the data, not performing an analysis. If you would like to make any comments about these statistics, feel free to write to me—but please don't ask for recounts!

Student Members

What percent of our members are students? What colleges and universities do they attend? Do they represent every ALA-accredited library and information studies program?

Of the 681 students, 248 (36%) neglected to include the college affiliation on their ALA/SRRT application, which means that these results are based on only 64 percent (433) of the student membership. Although I would have liked to credit the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill when Chapel Hill was the mailing address, or the University of Kentucky when Louisville was listed, I felt that I could not because so many students provided a home address rather than their student residence.

Of the 49 U.S. library and information studies programs, the only college not represented was Clark Atlanta University, but once again, it might be a case where several students forgot to include the university on the membership form. The colleges with the most SRRT students are: San Jose State University (27); University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (18)—29 when combined with the Madison campus; Wayne State University (16); University of Washington (15); University of North Carolina—combined Greensboro and Chapel Hill campuses (17); and both Simmons College and Emporia State University at (14) each. There are 6 students who listed Canadian universities with ALA-accredited library and information studies programs.

Of the 681 students, 61 provided names of colleges which do not offer library or information science, so I leave it up to your imaginations as to what degrees they may be pursuing.

Non-student Members

What about non-students? There are 887 SRRT members who did not claim student status and they represent all states, with members in Puerto Rico, Bermuda, UK, Australia, Kuwait, Ghana, United Arab Emirates and Canada. What types of libraries are represented and how many members are employed outside of libraries?

Number of Non-Students per Library Type	
Academic library	347
Public library	279
Special library	52
School library	43
State library association or Library of Congress	13
Total	734

Number of Non-Students by Title/Occupation	
Administrative: directors, managers, head librarians, University Librarian, etc.	51
Reference Librarians (many perform other responsibilities, but listed this first.)	128
Children’s librarian, school librarian, media specialist	79
Research Librarian and all subject specialists excluding **(see below)	46
Circulation, access, computing,	30
Professors-library school or other	37
Cataloguers, tech services	37
Information literary and instruction librarian (Many are also ref. librarians.)	26
Public Services, adult librarians, outreach librarians	24
Acquisitions, collection development	23
Special libraries, consultants	21
Trustees	18
***Social science, government docs, or political science librarians	16
Publishers, editors, authors	10
Retired:	6
Other support staff	6
Unspecified	<u>229</u>
****I singled out these subject specialists because SRRT primarily deals with social and political issues.	Total 887

The SRRT 'Edward Said Award' for Distinguished Activity as a Public Intellectual

An action item was presented to SRRTAC in San Diego, whose purpose would be to create an honor awarded by a committee of the Action Council of SRRT, on behalf of SRRT as a whole, in memory of the late Professor Edward Said of Columbia University, an exemplary US public intellectual whose passionate and influential involvement in defining and debating cultural and political issues continued until the last weeks of his decade-long struggle against leukemia. It has been proposed as something to be presented annually by SRRT to a candidate worthy of recognition in and by the library community for distinguished contributions as a public intellectual. Those achievements, like Dr. Said's, could be in criticism, journalism, scholarship, advocacy, recognizing especially the excellence of published work which has made a difference in broadening and transforming debate in the public sphere. The award is meant to emphasize the necessity of public figures like Said who are both scholars and activists to keeping democratic life alive and vigorous. SRRT AC voted in favor of the idea of the award. It is presently being elaborated by Mark Rosenzweig and Jenny Baltes of Action Council, who will present a more complete exposition of the criteria for selection of candidates and methods for choosing the year's honoree, as well specifying as the exact nature of the prize attached to the award. Volunteers for the award committee should contact Jenny Baltes or Mark Rosenzweig.

—Submitted by Mark Rosenzweig.

INTERVIEW with Jenna Freedman

Each newsletter will feature at least one interview with a SRRT member who demonstrates a commitment to the mission and beliefs of SRRT. I met Jenna Freedman at the PLG dinner in San Diego, where she mentioned a zine collection project that she had just begun at Barnard College. I was intrigued because she was starting at ground zero, and thought her experiences would be of interest to those looking for a similar challenge.

Freedman is a member of the Alternatives in Publication Task Force and has published a zine herself, *Lower East Side Librarian*, *Winter Solstice Shout-Out* which sold out at the *Counterpoise* booth at Midwinter in San Diego.

Tell me how your zine project is going.

It's s-l-o-w going. I first pitched the idea to my boss—Dean of Information Services, Carol Falcione—nearly a year ago, and the damned zines still aren't in the stacks. Of course there is a lot to figure out—cataloging and shelving issues, among others. Still, it's very exciting. I'm really trying to immerse myself in zinery. I started a zine librarians discussion list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/zinelibrarians/>) and I'm hoping to organize zine librarian discussion groups in ALA and at zinefests. I've been very fortunate to get help from friends like Chris Dodge (*Utne Librarian* and zine sensei) and Celia Perez, a classmate from library school who writes *I Dreamed I Was Assertive* and other zines and used to run a distro called Frida ♥ Diego. They both gave me a bunch of zines and have put me in touch with other zinesters like Greig Means of the Independent Publishing Resource Center. His zines include *Zine Librarian Zine* and *The Best Zine Ever*, a review zine.



photo submitted by
J. Freedman

How many zines have you collected? What subject areas?

I think I've got between 150 and 200 zines so far. I'm decidedly *not* thinking of zines as serials, so most of them are individual titles. I've got a subscription to *The East Village Inky* because it rocks, and because it's dependable. You can't really say that about most zines, and as far as I'm concerned, that's part of their charm. One of Barnard Library's specialties is women's studies, so that's how I presented the zine collection. We're focusing on zines that discuss women's and feminist issues, especially Third Wave. I'm particularly interested in those written by urban women and women of color. Also, when I say "women" I include anyone who identifies as such. I've got some great tranny zines!

What criteria do you use for collecting them? How do you find them?

I use distros like Microcosm (<http://www.microcosmpublishing.com>) and independent bookstores and infoshops. My local sources are Bluestockings and May Day. I also made a pilgrimage to zine Mecca—Quimby's in Chicago—when I visited Celia there. I got a few at a zine trading at Bluestockings in exchange for my own creation, *The Lower East Side Librarian Winter Solstice Shout-Out*. I've found local zinesters to be excited about the project and very generous.

How are you shelving/archiving them? Will you bind them?

I try to get two copies of each—one for the stacks and one for preservation. That was Jim Danky's suggestion. Because zines are so inexpensive it's cheaper to buy an extra copy than to spend a lot on binding them. I think Julie Bartel and Brooke Young at Salt Lake City PL bind theirs like comic books or magazines. Their zines circulate, though, so it's crucial to protect them. I think of the Barnard zines as more of a research collection, so I don't want to put anything on the zines to impede the reader's viewing of them. For us they'll be more for study than for leisure. (That's not to say that the SLC and other

collections haven't been or won't be used for scholarship.)

Regarding shelving, I was determined that we subject class (and also fully catalog) them. They've got LC call numbers. Having spoken with other zine librarians, I feel good about this choice. It's a lot easier to organize things from the beginning than to engage in a retrocon project. Even with having the zines in our OPAC, I didn't think alphabetical shelving would serve the researcher best.



cover of *Lower East Side Librarian Winter Solstice Shout-Out*.

What do your catalogers think about this project?

Zines are a nightmare to catalogers! Many of them are serials, which is bad enough to start with, but then they also change their names, don't come out regularly, and you have to search often messy type or handwriting to find the most basic citation information that may not even be there at all. It cracks me up that we're adding authors with names like Cindy Ovenrack or lots of people with only first names listed to WorldCat. Despite all of that, our cataloger (Michael Elmore, Head of Technical Services) has been cooperative and has come up with some really innovative solutions to all sorts of crazy problems.

Have you visited other zine collections? How do you envision the Barnard collection fitting in with the existing collections?

There are a handful of other libraries that collect zines. I mentioned SLCPL above. There's also a special collection at Duke that I'm hoping to visit one day. Librarian/Activist Andrea Grimes oversees San Francisco PL's Little Maga/Zine collection (<http://www.sfpl.org/librarylocations/main/bookarts/zines/zines.htm>) that has its roots in the 60's underground press movement. Another of my favorite radical librarians, Julie Herada, has zines at University of Michigan's Labadie Collection (<http://www.lib.umich.edu/spec-coll/labadie/>.) There was just an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* about Minneapolis Community and Technical College's spectacular collection. (<http://www.minneapolis.edu/library/zines/>) There are a bunch more. I'd have to find my copy of *Zine Librarian Zine* to name the rest. It's also important to acknowledge that most zine libraries and zine librarians are not exactly affiliated with ALA. They're at art and activist centers, bookstores, and other places. I can think of two zine libraries in NYC: ABC No Rio (http://www.abcnorio.org/facilities/zine_library.html) and Jane Doe Books in Brooklyn. It's the early days of the alternative press movement all over again. Non-librarians—outside radicals—are doing the work we should have pioneered. Zinedom is the ultimate DIY culture; however, we know a thing or two about how to collect, organize, and preserve things, and it would be nice if we could collaborate with and/or advise our compatriots.

What are the most rewarding aspects?

The zines themselves and helping them find a home in a library, in WorldCat, in the future of research. I love being able to preserve so many original voices that would normally never be able to be heard and remembered in this way.

Thanks, Jenna!

Zines cited:

I Dreamed I Was Assertive (and others)

\$2 or equal trade

Celia Perez

2272 W. Leland Ave, #3E

Chicago, IL 60625

perezeeb@yahoo.com

Lower East Side Librarian, Winter Solstice Shout-Out, #3

\$2 + .60 stamp, \$3, or librarian zine trade

Jenna Freedman

521 E. 5th St., #1D

NYC, NY 10009

jennafree@bigfoot.com

Zine Librarian Zine

\$1

Greig Means

PO Box 12409

Portland OR, 97212

zinelibrarian@yahoo.com

Task Force News

Task Force on the Environment

ALA SRRT's Task Force on the Environment makes librarians and the public aware of diverse environmental information sources, recognizes and seeks solutions to environmental cancers, and promotes the awareness of environmental issues in the ALA and library communities. Since its formation in 1990, the Task Force has produced more than twenty programs, supported by bibliographies on the environmental issues presented, influenced the ALA to adopt recycled and chlorine-free paper policies, worked with Gale Research as consultants to a new line of environmental reference books for the Gale Environmental Library, supported the virtual National Library for the Environment, <http://www.cnie.org/nle/>, worked on greening the ALA conferences, and endorsed the *Electronic Green Journal*, <http://egj.lib.uidaho.edu/index.html>.

TFOE is also gathering information from librarians who have successfully collaborated with other agencies in disseminating environmental information to the public. Some of our most successful programs were, "How Green is Your Library: Environmentalists at Work" (1990), "Poverty, Development and the Environment Information Challenges for Libraries" with David Brower (1992), "Environmentally and Socially Responsible Business: Finding the Information to Make the Decision to Buy or Invest" (1996), "GIS as a Tool for Collaborative Spatial Decision Making (CSDM) Libraries Perspective," (1999), "Earth Day in the 21st Century: Environmental Activism" with Denis Hayes, founder of the first Earth Day in 1970, (2001), "Sustaining Libraries for the Future: Energy Efficiency, Friendly Buildings, and Libraries' Sustainability" (2001), "Promoting Public Health and Community Protection Can Libraries Help?" (2002), and "Clear the Air and Water—Environmental Selections for Children, the Public and Academic Libraries" (2003).

TFOE in Orlando

For the conference in Orlando we are combining concerns for the environment and intellectual

freedom by sponsoring "Are You Missing Any Information? Speaking and Publishing Freely on the Environment" on Saturday, June 26, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.. We will have several speakers who have experienced or analyzed problems resulting from suppression of information on environmental issues.

Join us!!!! For more information, please contact: Maria A. Jankowska, co-chair, at majanko@uidaho.edu or Jonathan Betz-Zall, co-chair, at jbetzall@cityu.edu.

—submitted by Jonathan Betz-Zall

International Responsibilities Task Force

The International Responsibilities Task Force presents "Librarians Confront the War in Iraq", Saturday, June 26 from 1:30-3:30, Marriott GL, Palazzo A.

What professional and personal responsibilities do library workers have in times of war? Librarians are often told that professionals must remain "neutral" on social and political issues, that we must not take sides. Yet "neutrality" as manifested in the real, day-to-day life of a library is itself a position as it usually gives passive support to the status quo. Our speakers will describe and reflect on their experiences as library workers and anti-war activists. Speakers Cynthia Banas, retired librarian, works closely with the organization Voices in the Wilderness and has traveled to Iraq several times both before and after the current U.S. invasion. Christine Gaunt, library support staff member at Grinnell College (IA) has been arrested and jailed for dissent, and was involved in the case of four Des Moines activists subpoenaed by the FBI in February. Michael Malinconico, faculty member at the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Science, has traveled in Iraq and has been involved in anti-war activism for many years.

—submitted by Elaine Harger

IRTF members Tom Twiss and Beth Bogdanski have put together a page of "Alternative Resources on Haiti" for the IRTF Web site. In addition, Twiss added a page, "Discussion on the 'Independent' Cuban Libraries" that presents articles by Nat Hentoff, librarian responses to Hentoff and links to background articles including selections from the Cuban Libraries Solidarity Group Web site. Both pages can be accessed from <http://www.pitt.edu/~ttwiss/irtf/>

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force

5th Dr. Martin Luther King Sunrise Celebration Enraptures

There was a the thunder of applause with many standing in awe and many in tears following the eloquent, inspiring, and moving keynote address at the 5th Annual Sunrise Celebration honoring the legacy of equality, equity, and advocacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego. The dynamic keynote speaker was Herb Cawthorne, Deputy Director, Southeastern Economic Development Corporation in San Diego. He had asked the audience to imagine that he was Dr. King delivering one of his last speeches at the ALA Conference in 1968 and that the audience respond in the same manner. Prior encouragement seemed needless as Cawthorne's imitation of Dr. King's voice, manner, and words elicited enthusiastic response as he addressed the King Holiday Task Force Theme "A Challenge to America's Libraries: Ensuring Information Access to All People.

Mr. Cawthorne's credentials for his outstanding performance included his career and service as a teacher, news reporter, actor, and community leader. Moreover, his close ALA connection comes through his very active son, Jon Cawthorne, Associate University Librarian at San Diego State University. This dynamic father-son connection provided the early risers for the King Celebration with memories for inspiration and motivation.

Equally important and eloquently presented in a soft stimulating voice, came the edifying and powerful message of Lucille C. Thomas, 2002 ALA Honorary Member and a past co-

chair of the National Library Involvement Committee of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission before this committee evolved into the ALA-SRRT Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force. She focused on the role and duties of library workers to promote equity of access and to remember the underserved and youth. In answer to her question, "What would King's expectation of librarians be today?" Thomas said that librarians should be "...building bridges that span the stream of ignorance and connect people with collective knowledge to satisfy the intellectual and social needs of our communities." Thomas' message challenged all those involved in the library world in a manner that will "Keep the Dream Alive."

Other speakers included ALA President Carla Hayden, ALA Executive Director Keith Fiels, Isabel Espinol, Chair, Advisory Committee of the ALA Office for Library and Outreach Services(OLOS), Paul Kobasa, Executive Director, Research Services & Product Development, World Book, Inc. and Andrew P. Jackson (Sekous Molifi Baako), President-Electa, Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) who gave the closing remarks before the full-circled audience ended the ceremony singing "We Shall Overcome."

In the continuing tradition, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table, The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), and World Book, Inc. co-sponsored the event. Profound gratitude is extended to all participants with deepest appreciation expressed for the passionate dedication and leadership of Satia Orange, and the OLOS Staff along with the thanks for the promotion and support of Rochelle Hartman, Editor, and the COGNOTES staff as well as for the recognition by Leonard Kniffel, Editor and Publisher and staff, *American Libraries*.

2004 King Holiday Multicultural Idea Exchange Set for ALA Annual in Orlando.

Illustrious panelists will present features of their acclaimed 2004 Martin Luther King Holiday programs along with traditional events in their public, school, and academic libraries on Saturday, June 26, 2004 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The place will be announced in the Conference Program. The panelists include Dorothy L.

Guthrie, Director, Student Services, Gaston County Public Schools, Gastonia, NC and Rosie L. Albritton, Ph.D., Director of College Library and Associate Professor, Florida Memorial College, Miami, FL.

Members of the audience will have the opportunity to give brief highlights of their programs during the Audience Idea Exchange session and all attendees are asked to bring at least 25 copies of each handout to share during the Materials Exchange at the closing.

—Submitted by Virginia B. Moore, Chair
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force

Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force

The HHP Task Force will not be presenting a program at Annual because they are planning a pre-conference for 2005, focusing on creating a Web site, putting together a listserv, writing some resolutions to bring to Council, and seeking examples of best practices in regards to providing services to the poor and homeless. As always, they are recruiting.

—submitted by Michael Santangelo

Alternatives in Publication Task Force

The AIP Task Force is cosponsoring a program with the FTF called "Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Go Back In The Library--Revolted Librarians Redux Radical Librarians Speak Out" on Sunday, June 27, from 8:00 to 10:00 pm. This program is based on the book of the same title about progressive librarianship. Speakers include the editors of *Revolted Librarians Redux: Radical Librarians Speak Out*, Katia Roberto and Jessamyn West, as well as Sandy Berman and Jenna Freedman.

AIP is hosting its annual Free Speech Buffet, a free event featuring small, progressive, and independent publishers and organizations, plus

refreshments. The Buffet will be held on Monday, June 28th, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at Siam Orchid Restaurant, 7575 Universal Blvd., Orlando.

The Jackie Eubanks Award, given annually to a library professional who has shown outstanding achievement in promoting the use of alternative information resources in libraries, is usually presented at the Free Speech Buffet. The 2003 winner was Charles D'Adamo.

Other ongoing AIP activities include compiling practical tips for getting alternative materials into libraries and creating alternative bibliographies in a variety of subject areas.

We're always looking for more members!

—submitted by Katia Roberto

The Feminist Task Force

The FTF announces the Amelia Bloomer Project Awards which are given annually to children's and young adult books that depict strong, self-actualizing female characters.



Members of the 2004 committee are: Jennifer Baltes, facilitator, Forest Hill Elementary School (MD); Debbie Carton, Berkeley Public Library North Branch (CA), Jane Cothron, Lincoln County Library District (OR), Alison Hendon, Brooklyn Public Library (NY), Brenda Kilmer, Felix Varela Senior High School (FL); Gay Ann Loesch, Sun Valley Middle School (NC); Nel Ward, editor *Women in Libraries* (OR), and Ilene Cooper, *Booklist*, consultant.

The complete list is on the following pages.

2004 Amelia Bloomer Project Award Winners

Picture Books Fiction

Corey, Shana. *Players in Pigtails.* Illus. by Rebecca Gibbon. 2003. unp. Scholastic, \$16.95 (0-439-18305-7). PreS- Gr. 3. Katie Casey, who "preferred sliding to sewing, batting to baking," was one of the first recruits for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

Picture Books Nonfiction:

Christensen, Bonnie. *The Daring Nellie Bly: America's Star Reporter.* Illus. 2003. unp. Knopf Books for Young Readers, \$16.95 (0-375-81568-6). PreS-Gr. 3. Enraged by an article that claimed any woman who had a job was "a monstrosity," Elizabeth Jane Cochran wrote a letter of protest and became the famous journalist Nellie Bly, the reformer, best known for her trip around the world in 72 days.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Girl Wonder.* Illus. by Terry Widener. 2003. unp. Simon & Schuster, \$16.95 (0-689-83300-8). Gr. K-3. Bold illustrations depict the saga of baseball pioneer pitcher Alta Weiss.

Mora, Pat. *A Library for Juana: The World of Sor Juana Ines.* Illus. by Beatrice Vidal. 2002. unp. Knopf Books for Young Readers, \$15.95 (0375806438). Gr. 2-5. Luminous illustrations highlight this picture book biography of the 17th-century Mexican poet who, at the age of three, followed her sisters to school and continued learning for the rest of her life.

Intermediate Fiction

Cushman, Karen. *Rodzina.* 2003. 215p. Clarion Books, \$16.00 (0-618-13351-8). Gr. 4-7. Overlarge, unpretty, stand-offish Rodzina would rather stay on the streets of Chicago, but instead she's on an orphan train, accompanied by the cold, rigid Miss Doctor.

Ihimaera, Witi. *The Whale Rider.* 2003. 152p. Harcourt, \$17.00 (0-15-205017-5). Gr. 5-9. In the Maori tribe of New Zealand descended from the legendary "whale rider," it is the male that inherits the title of chief, but eight-year-old Kahu is determined to change this tradition despite her great-grandfather's stubbornness.

Love, D. Ann. *The Puppeteer's Apprentice.* 2003. 185p. Margaret K. McElderry, \$16.95 (0-689-84424-7). Gr. 4-6. Orphaned scullery maid Mouse runs away from the cruel cook and finds a new life and home with a mysterious puppeteer who hides an identity.

Mankell, Henning. *Secrets in the fire.* 2003. 166p. Annick Press, \$17.95 (1-55037-801-5). Gr. 5-9. When a game takes her off path and onto a landmine, Sofia's life instantly changes in this brutal depiction of an indomitable young girl's survival in war-torn Mozambique.

McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody Saves the World!* Illus. by Peter Reynolds. 2002. 144p. Candlewick, \$15.99 (0-7636-1446-7). Gr. 3-5. Judy's pushy manner may irritate her friends and family, but her determination to save the planet after learning about the destruction of the rain forest inspires her third-grade class to undertake an award-winning, environment-saving project.

Intermediate Nonfiction

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Thank You Sarah: The Woman who Saved Thanksgiving.* Illus. by Matt Faulkner. 2003. unp. Simon & Schuster, \$16.95 (0-689-84787-4). Gr.1-5. Although she didn't view herself as a women's rights activist, Sarah Hale's actions define feminism, as she fought for the education of girls and women, opposed slavery, struggled for safe working conditions for all women, and spearheaded a 38-year letter-writing campaign to make Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Atkins, Jeannine. *Wings and Rockets: The Story of Women in Air and Space.* Illus. by Dusan Petricic. 2003. 197p. Index. Farrar Straus & Giroux, \$17 (0-374-384590-9). Gr. 4-10. Stories about the challenges for 20th-century women in flight begin with Katherine Wright, who supported older brothers Wilbur and Orville so they could pioneer powered flight.

Butcher, Nancy. *It Can't be Done, Nellie Bly!: A Reporter's Race Around the World.* Illus. by Jen L. Singh. 2003. 84p. Peachtree, \$12.95 (1-56145-289-0). Gr. 2-5. Told that women are lesser beings than men, reporter Elizabeth Jane Cochran travels around the world in 72 days in 1888-89 to beat the time set by Jules Verne's fictional character Phileas Fogg.

Fradin, Dennis Brindell & Judith Bloom Fradin. *Fight On!: Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration.* Photographs. 2003. 181p. Index. Clarion Books, \$17 (0-618-13349-6). Gr. 5-9. Born the daughter of slaves in 1863, Mary Church Terrell's fight for civil rights and women's rights culminated in her participation in the 1950's battle to integrate restaurants and theaters.

Harness, Charyl. *Rabble Rousers: Twenty Women Who Made a Difference.* 2003. 64p. Dutton Books, \$17.99 (0-525-47035-2). Gr. 4-8. Spurred by misery and unfairness, these twenty fascinating, fiery women spoke out to rouse the people and change America.

Lakin, Patricia. *Amelia Earhart: More than a Flier.* Illus. by Alan and Lea Daniel. 2003. 48p. Aladdin, \$11.89 (0-689-85576-1). Gr. 3-5. Lively illustrations and engaging text show the development of Amelia Earhart as a feminist as well as a pioneering aviator.

Lyon, George Ella. *Mother to Tigers.* Photos by Peter Catalanotto. 2003. 32p. Atheneum, \$16.95 (0-689-84221-X). Gr. 3-6. Helen Martini's career as the first woman zookeeper at the Bronx Zoo started with hand-raising abandoned zoo babies in her apartment.

Pflueger, Lynda. *Amelia Earhart: Legend of Flight.* 2003. 128p. Index. Enslow, \$20.95 (0-7660-1976-4). Gr. 3-6. From her childhood climbing fences against her grandmother's wishes to her final around-the-world flight, Earhart pushed against the limits imposed on women.

Swinburne, Stephen R. *The Woods Scientist.* Photographs by Susan C. Morse. 2002. 48p. Houghton Mifflin, \$16 (0-618-04602-X).

Gr. 2-5. Study forests and forest animals with Susan C. Morse as she teachers volunteer trackers forest habitat and animals in northern woodlands.

Tryszynska-Frederick, Luba. *Luba: The Angel of Bergen-Belsen.* As told to Michelle R. McCann. Illus. by Ann Marshall. 2003. unpaginated. Tricycle Press, \$16.95 (1-58246-098-1). Gr. 3-8. In this stirring picture book biography, Luba Tryszynska-Frederick, while a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp, succeeds in hiding, feeding, and caring for a group of orphaned children.

Young Adult Fiction

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy.* 2003. 181p. Delacorte Press, \$15.95 (0-385-72961-8).

Gr. 5-9. War changes everything, including the life of a young French girl who fights for her country, her honor and her freedom in this World War II tale based on a true story.

Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light.* 2003. 389p. Harcourt, \$17 (0-15-216705-6). Gr. 7-10. Surviving life in poverty, her mother's death, the burden of raising her sisters on a farm, and the crisis of being the only person who knows the truth about a young pregnant woman's murder, 16-year-old Mattie fights to find her own voice and achieves her desire of going to college in 1906.

Karr, Kathleen. *Gilbert & Sullivan Set Me Free.* 2003. 226p. Hyperion Books for Children, \$15.99 (0-7868-1916-2). Gr. 6-9. When the new chaplain at Sherborn Women's Prison starts a prison chorus, the life of young inmate Libby Dodge is changed forever.

Krisher, Trudy. *Uncommon Faith.* 2003. 263p. Holiday House, \$17.95 (0-8234-1791-3). Gr. 7-10. Voices of townspeople in 1837 Millbrook, Massachusetts share their attitudes about women's rights, slavery, and religious differences as young Faith Commons questions the traditional expectations of women.

Peters, Julie Anne. *Keeping You a Secret: A Novel.* 2003. 256p. Little, Brown/Megan Tingley Books, \$16.95 (0-316-70275-7). Gr. 8-12. Senior class president Holland Jaeger has her life on track, balancing classes, her boyfriend, a new stepfather and stepsister—until she falls in love with Cece, an out-and-proud lesbian.

Pratchett, Terry. *The Wee Free Men.* 2003. 263p. HarperCollins, \$16.99 (0-06-001236-6). Gr. 5-9. Young Tiffany discovers her talents as a witch-to-be as she works with a tribe of pixies—blue-skinned men only six inches tall—in the daring rescue of her brother, kidnapped by the Queen of the Elves.

Young Adult Nonfiction

Allred, Alexandra Powe. *Atta Girl!: A Celebration of Women in Sports.* Illus. 2003. 227p. Index. Wish Publishing, \$16.95 (1-930546-61-0). Gr. 9-12. Thanks to the women who fought, and continue to fight, for the right to train and compete in sports, girls and women everywhere can challenge their bodies, minds, and spirits on the field, the court, and the track.

Bitches, Bimbos, and Ballbreakers: The Guerrilla Girls' Illustrated Guide to Female Stereotypes. Illus. 2003. 96p. Penguin Books, \$20 (0-14-200101-5). Gr. 10-12. The Guerrilla Girls take on the stereotypes used to make women feel insecure, fearful, and powerless and offer examples of real women who have changed their worlds in this fun and upbeat introduction to feminism.

Di Domenico, Kelly. *Super Women in Science.* Illus. 2003. 102p. Bibliography. Second Story Press, \$7.95 (1-896764-66-5). Gr. 5-9. From Hypatia and Mary Anning to Chien-Shiung Wu, Rosalind Franklin and Mae Jemison, women scientists followed their passions, becoming pioneers in nuclear physics, sports medicine, genetics and ecology.

Echlin, Kim. *Inanna: From the Myths of Ancient Sumer.* Illus. by Linda Wolfsgruber. 2003. 72p. Groundwood Books, \$19.95 (0-88899-496-6). Gr. 7-up. From the 4000-year-old stories of the powerful goddess Inanna come her adventures in love and war as she grows from childish inexperience and youthful exuberance into maturity, gaining the power to create, destroy, and name.

Feldt, Gloria. *Behind Every Choice Is a Story.* 2003. 242p. University of North Texas Press, \$19.95 (1-57441-158-6). Gr. 9-12. Vibrant voices of patients, teachers, doctors, teenagers, mothers, and other women and men about love, sex, pregnancy, and family show the necessity of reproductive rights and the value of defining lives by individual choices.

Khouri, Norma. *Honor Lost: Love and Death in Modern-day Jordan.* 2003. 209p. Atria Books, \$24 (0-7434-4878-2). Gr. 10-12. Dalia, a vibrant twenty-five year-old Jordanian woman, died at the hands of her father in an honor killing for the crime of falling in love with a Catholic man.

Nebenzahl, Donna. *Womankind: Faces of Change Around the World.* Photographs by Nance Ackerman. 2003. 196p. The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, \$29.95 (1-55861-460-5). Gr. 9-12. Superb photographs, lyrical writing, and graphic design document the inspiring work of forty-five women activists in over thirty countries and five continents and their efforts toward peaceful social change.

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood.* 2003. 153p. Pantheon Books, \$17.95 (0-375-42230-7). Gr. 9-12. Powerful black-and-white graphic novel images tell Satrapi's story of her life in Tehran from ages six to 14 during the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the Islamic Revolution, and the war with Iraq.

Smith, Catherine and Cynthia Greig. *Women in Pants: Manly Maidens, Cowgirls, and Other Renegades.* 2003. 184p. Harry N. Abrams, \$35 (0-8109-4571-1). Gr. 9-12. Real women have always worn pants: vintage photographs from the 1850s to the 1920s combined with well-researched text chart an important chapter in feminist history.

Some Initial Thoughts on the Need for SRRT to Develop the *Information Policy in the Public Interest Task Force*

By Sam Trosow

A new Task Force has been proposed for SRRT. The *Information Policy in the Public Interest Task Force* (IPPI) will be created in order to work on issues of democratizing information and cultural policy as related to library work and activism. At the last SRRT Action Council meeting held in January 2004 in San Diego, SRRT adopted a Resolution on Cultural Democracy recognizing that as “librarians are working in the cultural sector along with many other cultural workers and activists, the notion of cultural democracy should be identified as an implicit core value of librarianship which must be cultivated and promoted.” (The full text of the resolution along with a background paper written by Mark Rosenzweig is reproduced in *Library Juice*, 7.2 item #4.)

How might the new IPPI Task Force promote the values of cultural democracy through the articulation of, and advocacy for, a critical and reflexive set of interrelated information policies, and how will this articulation enhance the overall work of the association?

“Information policy,” broadly construed, deals with those institutional arrangements and rules of governance that bear on the information transfer process in society. The specific policy areas of intellectual property, privacy, censorship, access to information, and media regulation form the central pillars of information policy. Rather than thinking of these areas as separable, and linear, a critical and reflexive set of information policy, sees the interrelationship between each of these areas.

Some examples of issues that IPPI might address in each of these areas includes:

- In the area of intellectual property, deepening our understanding of how copyright, patent, trademark, and trade secret laws are used to advance an agenda of commercialization, privatization, and commodification of information resources in such a way as to limit the intellectual commons, replacing it instead with an enclosed space characterized by privately appropriable property rights;
- In the area of privacy, deepening our understanding of how privacy destructive technologies and practices enable the capture, storage, combination, and re-use of data pertaining to personally identifiable individuals both by the government and private sector to enhance their ability to both understand and control members of society. (privacy destructive technologies and practices include technological systems such as databases containing personal information and other surveillance tracking devices such as RFID's, as well as regulations easing restrictions on access to personal records such as the Patriot Act);
- In the area of censorship and intellectual freedom, deepening our understanding of how censorship pressures are much broader than traditional government mandated prior restraints. In a technologically advanced era, threats to intellectual freedom come from the private sector in the form of economic censorship as well as from the government.
- In the area of access to government information, deepening an understanding of the close interrelationship between restricting access to government information and the growth of proprietary information systems;
- In the area of media policy, deepening our understanding of how the growing concentration in the ownership and control of the media is promoted by government policies and practices.

Crucial to the development of a critical and reflexive information policy is the recognition of the inter-

relationships and overlaps between all of these areas, and how they all impact on notions of cultural democracy. For example, efforts to expand proprietary intellectual property restrictions and to heighten enforcement mechanisms typically involve the utilization of privacy destructive technologies deployed in a manner that restricts intellectual freedom and that results in the concentration of ownership of media. And the chipping away of privacy interests is inevitably associated with a corresponding loss of intellectual freedom. The concentration of media resources is dependant on both an expansionary intellectual property regime and an increased ability to control the media consumption habits of consumers through surveillance techniques.

As well, the problems of globalization and internationalization heighten the tensions and interrelationships in each of these policy areas. In recent years, we have witnessed a marked expansion of international trade regimes through institutions such as the World Trade Organization and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas Agreement. No longer concerned simply with the free movement of goods across borders, the modern international trade regime has expanded into the area of services, including public services, as well as into all areas of intellectual property. In all of the sub-areas of information policy, the trade agenda of "progressive liberalization" threatens to diminish the ability of the public sector to consciously adopt and apply appropriate information policies to serve the public interest.

Why does ALA need to take a broader approach to information policy? And why should SRRT be working on this problem?

As an association, ALA has been actively engaged in information policy issues through the work of the Washington Office as well as through various committees and task forces. ALA has played an important role in advocating for increased funding for public libraries, in working against an undue expansion of intellectual property restrictions, and in working against various threats to privacy and civil liberties and in working for strong notions of intellectual freedom. The purpose of IPPI is neither to replace these functions nor to compete with them. Quite to the contrary, the efforts of IPPI will reinforce these efforts by addressing the interrelated wholes of information policy from a particularly progressive perspective. Given the background, experience and record of the SRRT and its activist members, it is particularly well-suited to become engaged with a broader discussion of a critical and reflexive vision of information policy issues. The recent resolution on cultural democracy provides a solid conceptual basis to approach this work, and the new task force will provide an organizational venue in which this work can be carried out.

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Don't miss this program at Annual!

"Cultural Democracy and the Information Commons,"

Co-sponsored by ALA-WO, PLG and the new provisional task force, Information Policy in the Public Interest.

Sunday, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm, MarriottGL, Del Lago 3/4.

Eleven on Cuba -- What Nat Hentoff Won't Tell You

By Ann Sparanese

SRRT and the ALA Council had to deal with the issue of Cuba over the last two years, primarily because of the arrests and convictions of individuals on the island calling themselves "independent librarians." Trying to understand the situation in a country "so near and yet so far" from us requires more than average effort. It can't all be summarized, let alone understood, with the words "Fidel Castro."

Most Americans, even librarians, come to Cuba with a great deal of ignorance and misinformation. Because of the 40 year old embargo, the U.S. travel ban which prevents most U.S. citizens from traveling freely to Cuba, and the influence of the right-wing Miami Cuban institutions on American politics and – yes – publishing, it isn't easy to find solid and fair-minded information about Cuba for library collections. It is nearly impossible to find such information from the Cuban point of view. And while much has been asserted about "censorship" in Cuban libraries – for instance, why doesn't every Cuban library have copies of 1984? – similar questions are not raised about why every U.S. library does not have volumes penned by Cuba's foremost national poets, Nancy Morejon or the late Nicholas Guillen? Does yours?

Here are a few of my personal picks. All are recent and in print. If you can read only one this year, my recommendation would be Isaac Saney's *Cuba: A Revolution in Motion*. If you love richly researched history, then do not miss *Conflicting Missions* by Piero Gleijeses.

Bardach, Ann Louise. *Cuba Confidential: Love and Vengeance in Miami and Havana*. Random House, 2002. (ISBN: 0375504893)

Bardach writes frequently on Cuba for the *L.A. Times* and other publications. This book examines issues from both sides of the straits, beginning and ending with the case of Elian Gonzalez as being emblematic of the familial and political divide. Some of this book takes the personal and "family feud" analysis for hostilities a little too far, but readers will definitely get the skinny on the right-wing Miami crowd, include the terrorist elements harbored by the Bush family there. It's an absorbing read.

The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Edited by Aviva Chomsky, Barry Carr and Pamela Maria Smorkaloff. Duke University Press, 2003. (ISBN:0822331977)

This tome (part of a series of Latin American Readers by Duke) also covers the gamut: from Christopher Columbus' comments upon "discovering" Cuba to "The Revolution Turns Forty" by Saul Landau. From pieces on sports, dance, race and religion in Cuba, to considerations of Cuban feminism, the role of sugar, and including writings by some of Cuba's foremost artists and cultural workers, this encyclopedia volume has contributions from many points of view. From "Operation Mongoose" to the Venceremos Brigades, U.S.-Cuba relations are included. You can read Fidel Castro's "History will Absolve Me" speech and Elizardo Sanchez's "A Dissident Speaks Out" both in the same 700 pages.

Cuban Revolution Reader: A Documentary History. Edited by Julio Garcia Luis. Ocean Press, 2001. ISBN: 1876175109.

Ocean is an unabashedly pro-Revolutionary Cuba press based in Australia. It specializes in reprinting the writings of Cuban revolutionary leaders and in exposing U.S. government aggressions towards Cuba as well as studies of different aspects of the Cuban Revolution. But this book is a collection of primary documents on a variety of subjects and issues: speeches of Cuban leaders, documents from the Literacy Campaign, the Agrarian Reforms, reporting on hurricanes, ration cards, relations with Vietnam, Cuban laws and much more -- all the way up to the Pope's visit in 1998.

Franklin, Jane. *Cuba and the United States: A Chronological History*. Ocean Press, 1997. ISBN: 1875284923.

Still in print and in need of updating, but everything is here is "just the facts" of the relationship between the two countries since the triumph of the Revolution. These facts set the stage for the problems between the two countries today.

Gleijeses, Piero. *Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington and Africa 1959-1976*. University of North Carolina, 2003. (ISBN 0807854646)

Cuba has had a long involvement with Africa, which culminated in their decisive assistance to Angola in defeating an invasion by the South African apartheid state in 1976. This Italian scholar has examines the actions and the motives of the Cubans in Africa, where Cuba found itself coming face to face with U.s. policy, including CIA covert operations. This is an astounding and brilliantly researched read, which challenges conventional wisdom about what the Cubans were *really* doing in Africa. (e.g. following the orders of the Soviet Union? *Not.*)

Hunter, Stephen. *Havana*. Simon & Schuster, 2003. ISBN: 074323808

Wow! An action-thriller, by a superb writer of this genre, set in the Havana in 1953, right before Fidel Castro and friends attacked the Moncada (Batista's military garrison in Santiago de Cuba). And what a read!! Hunter's got the atmosphere and politics of those days about right, even though he takes the liberties of fiction with history and character. But even though we know how it is going to turn out, the darn thing is a page turner and the author's sympathies are...well, you decide.

Morejon, Nancy. *Looking Within/Mirar Adentro: Selected Poems/Poemas Escogidos, 1954-2000*. Wayne State University Press, 2003. (ISBN: 0814330371 and 081433038X pbk)

This award-winning contemporary and internationally known Cuban poet is a Afro-Cuban feminist and a revolutionary. She directs the Caribbean Studies Center at the Casa De Las Americas, a center of Latin American literary activity. This is a bi-lingual edition of her work, anthologizing works from ten different collections and organized by theme.

Oltuski, Enrique. *Vida Clandestina: My Life in the Cuban Revolution*. Wiley, 2002. ISBN0-787961698.

Oltuski, a middle class Cuban Jew and Miami-educated engineer, was actually working for Shell Oil when he was recruited into the 26th of July Movement. He became a leader in the clandestine urban underground struggle, and now works in the Ministry of Fisheries. His easy-going memoir demonstrates how revolutionaries were made of the most unlikely individuals.

Roman, Peter. *People's Power: Cuba's Experience with Representative Government*.

Updated versions, Roman and Littlefield, 2003. (ISBN: 0742525651)

Americans think they know how the Cuban government works, but they don't. What is usually referred to as the "Castro Regime" actually has elected municipal, provincial and national assemblies. The book describes and analyzes the Cuban parliamentary system, with an emphasis on the municipal levels, from the beginning of People's Power in the 1970's up to the present time. It dissects the role of the Communist Party and brings the reader into the nominating processes that go on in the neighborhoods and workplaces.

Saney, Isaac. *Cuba: A Revolution in Motion*. Zed, 2004. (ISBN 1842773631)

Canadian writers bring a whole lot less baggage to the issue of Cuba than Americans do. This book is up-to-the minute look at Cuban society, with chapters on many aspects of life in contemporary Cuba, including the issue of the dissidents.

Sweig, Julia. *Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground*. Harvard University Press, 2002. (ISBN: 0674008480)

Recently, the Cuban government has been allowing certain writers and scholars first-time access to previously secret records of the 26th of July Movement and the archives of the revolutionary government. Sweig reveals the tension between the urban underground and the mountain-based guerrilla movements during the struggle to topple the Batista government and provides another look at the process which usually focuses on the rural guerrilleros.

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 in the body of the email, to listproc@ala.org: subscribe SRRTAC-L [your first name] [your last name] To unsubscribe: unsubscribe SRRTAC-L

SRRTMEM

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

SRRT'S WEB SITE

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

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