December 2002



SRRT NEWSLETTER

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

Issue 141

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Have you been hoping to become more involved in SRRT? Have you been wanting to join a Task Force but weren't sure how? Are you just itching to get involved but you're not sure how?

Well, opportunity just knocked!

There has been some concern among SRRT Action Council about membership numbers and lack of involvement by the SRRT membership at large. When I myself joined SRRT, I had no clue how to become involved until Fred Stoss took the time to suggest ways I could become involved. When I attended my first Annual Conference (in Chicago), I sat outside the room during the All Task Force Meeting. I thought you had to be appointed to one.

I have asked each Task Force to write an article describing their history, current projects, and volunteer opportunities.

SRRT Coordinator has contributed a column explaining the inner working of Action Council and Task Forces.

Membership Committee Coordinator Fred Stoss submitted an update on where membership now stands and actions that need to be taken to ensure SRRT's viability.

Finally, Mark Rosenzweig was gracious enough to allow me to publish a tribute he wrote for Miriam Braverman. She should serve as fine inspiration to get us all involved.

Jane Ingold, Editor

YOUR FIRST STOP ON THE WAY TO INVOLVEMENT? ATTEND THESE IMPORTANT MEETINGS

SRRT All Task Force Meeting 8 AM to 9 Saturday, January 25

SRRT Action Council I 9:30am to 12:30pm Saturday, January 25

SRRT Action Council II 2pm to 4pm Monday, January 27

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HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS, AND POVERTY TASK FORCE

The Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force is committed to three goals: researching, discussing, and advocating library services to people living in poverty. Last year, at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta, we looked at ways in which fines and fees act as barriers to information services for people living in poverty. Our speakers included many well known advocates for progressive library policies, including Carolyn Caywood and John Berry III (editor of Library Journal). Our programs aim to mix theory and practice, and our fines and fees program reflected this goal. Panelists spoke to philosophical and ethical concerns as well as to actual successful programs in practice.

This year, we are presenting a program on library services to the homeless. The program will be entitled "You Don't Need an Address to Get a Library Card: Library Services to the Homeless". We intend to look at the ethical concerns we have regarding exclusionary policies aimed at the homeless and to examine some libraries that practice successful, inclusionary policies.

The task force also plans to update our neglected pages on the SRRT web site. This would include information on the latest studies concerning the impact of 1996's "welfare reform" on people living in poverty and would feature a contact list for agencies that serve them. We would also like to include an idea sharing aspect to the

web site. Our goal is to create a top-rate resource for librarians looking for information on how to set up and maintain library services to people living in poverty. Many librarians need this support, especially when presenting ideas to administrators and trustees. Although our annual panel programs are well thought out and useful to many librarians, there are many librarians who cannot attend the conference. They often come from systems that can barely pay librarians a decent salary much less send them to conferences. By neglecting these librarians, we are mimicking the exclusionary policies we aim to eradicate. Our web site can open us up to many librarians and to many other social service providers.

The Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force is always open to new members. We are looking for members who are particularly willing to help with our web site. This would not necessarily have to be in web site design, but most importantly, in information gathering.

Michael Santangelo, Coordinator mturtle13@earthlink.net Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force Website: http://libr.org/HHP/

Editor's Note: As Michael Santangelo reminds us above, there are some librarians who themselves work for extremely low wages. Having at one time been a librarian in that position, I urge your involvement in Dr. Freedman's Initiative. Here are some important Midwinter meetings to consider attending:

The Special Presidential Task Force on Better Salaries and Pay Equity will be sponsoring the following sessions:

Friday, January 24, 4:30-7:00 PM, location TBA
Most of the Task Force's Working Groups (Advocacy,
Chapter, Grants, Partnerships, Publications, Publicity, and
Research) will be meeting at various times within this time slot.
Contact the appropriate Working Group Coordinator. Look to
http://www.mjfreedman.org/tfsignup.html to find out the exact
meeting time for your group. ALL ARE WELCOME. (Note that some
Working Groups--Programs, Support Staff, and Unions--will be
meeting at other times.)

Saturday, January 25, 2-3:30pm, Mitch Freedman's Suite, Marriott: Unions Working Group meeting. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Sunday, January 26, 1-3, location TBA: Salaries Workshop Part 1, Overview of better salary issues. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Monday, *January 27*, *11:30-1:30*, *location TBA:*Salaries Workshop Part 2, Salary advocacy training. ALL ARE
WELCOME. HOWEVER, this is a "train the trainers" session, and
participants will be expected to conduct trainings in their home states,
regions, or consortia. A box lunch will be provided to the first 50
trainees.

Kathleen de la Peña McCook's paper for ALA on the history of equity now appears on the ALA website. It includes the role of SRRT over the years. See http://www.ala.org/work/ritw/

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ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT

The Alternatives In Publication Task Force (AIP) promotes the acquisition and use of alternative information resources in libraries. We feel that the "Library Bill of Rights" is realized by providing access to a diversity of materials, including those that lie outside the interests of commercial information providers. Members of the task force feel that protecting access to a wide range of information resources, even in the face of partisan and doctrinal objection or economic indifference is a major responsibility of librarians today. Librarians are obliged to serve the public rather than the information industry. The task force's ongoing activities include the Jackie Eubanks Memorial Award, which is given annually to a library professional who has shown outstanding achievement in promoting the use of alternative information resources in libraries. (See Call for Nominations below).

We also work with Byron Anderson to produce Alternative Publishers of Books in North America, a directory with descriptions of over 150 small and alternative presses. Each year at the ALA annual conference the task force also hosts the Free Speech Buffet, which serves as a showcase for alternative presses from the region where the conference is held, as well as a social event for SRRT members. Mark your calendar for Monday night in Toronto. We'll announce exact time and place before the conference. This year, the task force has been working to create two new resources to help promote the acquisition of alternative materials in libraries. The first is a subject bibliography project, Alternative Voices: Essential books and media that most libraries don't carry and should. The concept of this project is to provide short bibliographies in manageable subject areas as collection development tools for all types of libraries. The first of these bibliographies on Media Consolidation is available at: http://libr.org/AIP/bibliographies/bib.1.pdf. The second project the task force has underway is a list of Practical Tips for Librarians about how to acquire alternative materials in mainstream libraries. We're still looking for additional suggestions for our Practical Tips pages, so if you have any, please send them to Gary Colmenar, colmenar@library.ucsb.edu.

Marie Jones, Coordinator jonesmf@mail.etsu.edu.
Alternatives in Publication Task Force Website: http://www.libr.org/AIP/

Call for Nominations: Jackie Eubanks Award

The Al ternatives in Publication Task Force is now calling for nominations for this year's Jackie Eubanks Memorial Award.

The award honors the late Jackie Eubanks, former AIP Task Force member and vigorous champion of al ternative views in library collections. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in promoting the acquisition and use of al ternative materials in libraries. Such achievement may take the form of, but is not limited to: developing specialized collections; making or moderating presentations; publishing reviews, articles or books, including bibliographies and indexes; actively participating in professional organizations; organizing events or exhibits; developing and maintaining an alternative Web site useful to librarians; and other as determined relevant by the jury.

Nominations should be received by the Jury Chair by February 15th. Nominating letters should state the nominee's specific contributions and may be accompanied by further documentation (e.g., publications, press notices). Any current ALA member may submit a nomination. Task Force officers and jury members are not eligible for consideration. Submit nominations to: Byron Anderson, University Libraries, Northern II linois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Email: banderson@niu.edu. For more information on the award see: http://www.libr.org/AIP/eubanks.html.

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TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT



Created at 1990, The Task Force on the Environment is aimed at making librarians and the public aware of diverse environmental information sources, recognizing and seeking solutions to environmental cancers, and promoting the awareness of environmental issues in the ALA and library communities.

During last twelve years, the Task Force created more than twenty programs, supported by bibliographies on the environmental issues presented, influenced the ALA to adopt the 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. The programs of the Task Force on the Environment cover the role of libraries and librarians as disseminators of environmental knowledge to the public. Some examples of our most successful programs during ALA conferences are:

Chicago, 1990 "How Green is Your Library: Environmentalists at Work."

San Francisco, 1992 "Poverty, Development and the Environment: Information Challenges for Libraries" with David Brower, one of the foremost environmentalists of our time,

New York, 1996, "Environmentally and Socially Responsible Business: Finding the Information to Make the Decision to Buy or Invest"

New Orleans, 1999, "GIS as a Tool for Collaborative Spatial Decision Making (CSDM): Libraries Perspective,"

San Francisco, 2001, "Earth Days in 21st century: Environmental Activism" with Denis Hayes, founder of the first Earth Day in 1970, and

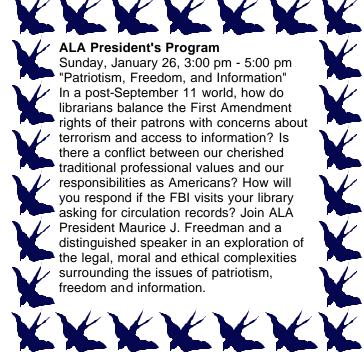
"Sustaining Libraries for the Future: Energy Efficiency, Friendly Buildings, and Librarians' Sustainability, Atlanta, 2002, "Promoting Public Health and Community Protection: Can Libraries Help?"

For Toronto, 2002, the TFOE will be sponsoring session called: "Clear the Air and Water - Environmental selections for children, the public and academic libraries." The program is scheduled for Monday, June 23 from 10:00 - 12:00. We plan to have three speakers offering their perspectives on whether libraries should have environmental resources in their

collections, what should they collect, and is there a role for outreach beyond library walls. If you know the names of dynamic speakers for this session, please let us know. Contact one of the TFOE co-chairs.

information to the public.

Maria Anna Jankowska, Coordinator majanko@uidaho.edu or Irwin Weintraub, Coordinator IrwinW@brooklyn.cuny.edu TFOE Website: http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/srrt/tfoe/



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MLK HOLIDAY TASK FORCE

Through the leadership of Satia M. Orange, Director, ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) and Virginia B. Moore, Chair, the ALA-SRRT Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force presented the first Sunrise Celebration to honor Dr. King at the 2000 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio with the World Book Company as sponsor. The 2nd and 3rd Sunrise Celebrations were sponsored jointly by the ALA-SRRT Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday-day Task Force, Black Caucus-ALA, OLOS and The World Book Company at the 2001 and 2002 ALA Midwinter Meetings in Washington, DC and New Orleans, respectively. At the 2001 ALA Annual in San Francisco, the Task Force presented its first King Holiday Idea Exchange Program with panel speakers and audience

participation in an enthusiastic exchange of ideas and materials from outstanding programs in different types of libraries. Also, the Task Force started annual participation in Diversity Fair 2000.

The King Holiday Task Force began as the National Library Involvement Committee of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission in Washington, DC . It was established in 1985 by ALA President Dr. E. J. Josey (1984-85) and revitalized in 1990 by ALA President Patricia W. Berger (1990-91) who appointed Virginia Moore as her Co-Chair. From 1991 through 1998 the Commit-tee was hailed by the Commission and others for its production of a Holiday Celebration Kit for use in public, school, academic, and special libraries. Those contributing materials for the King Holiday Kit included: The Prince George's County (MD) Memorial Library System, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Brooklyn Public Library, Maryland State Department of Education, DC Public Schools, Chicago Public Library, ALA Federal Librarians Round Table, and the American Library Association.

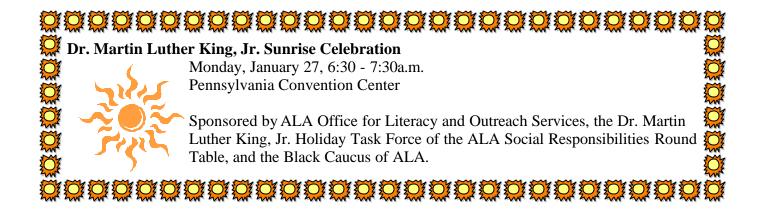
With the assistance of ALA Presidents, Executive Directors, and others, many efforts were made to make the Committee an integral part of the American Library Association. Following the Commission's Sunset in 1996 there was an increase in emphasis and enthusiasm that resulted in Mary Biblo, (the late) Marvin Scilken, and Virginia Moore appealing and presenting the required signatures to the ALA-SRRT Action Council at the 1999 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. After the probationary status, the SRRT Action Council accepted the newly named ALA-SRRT Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force held at the 1999 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

All members of the Task Force are welcome to participate in the activities that fulfill our mission to advance the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday as an American celebration for a broad spectrum of academic, public, school, and special library participation. We need presenters, speakers, facilitators, organizers, writers, artists, etc. for brochures, flyers, programs, bookmarks, contests, bibliographies, exhibits, and new ideas.

Join the ALA-SRRT Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force. Help to Make the King Holiday An American Celebration – A Time to REMEMBER, CELEBRATE, AND ACT in fulfilling Dr. King's dream of freedom in all types of libraries.

Virginia B. Moore, Coordinator vm0013@mail.pratt.lib.md.us

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force Website: http://libr.org/MLK/



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FEMINIST TASK FORCE



The Feminist Task Force began in 1970 to address sexism in libraries and librarianship. FTF was the first ALA group to focus on women's issues, and FTF is active in studying and improving the role of women in librarianship and society. The work of the Feminist Task Force enabled the Committee of the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL), the RASD Discussion Group on Women's Materials and Women Library Users, the ACRL Women's Studies Section (WSS), the LAMA Women's Administrator's Discussion Group, and the FTF Mentoring Program. Several FTF members have become ALA presidents.

Politics

The Feminist Task Force endorses selected ALA candidates based on feminist, non-homophobic and antiracist activity. FTF has introduced several resolutions that led ALA Council to: forbid contracts with government and other organizations that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, prohibit sexist and racist language in ALA documents, and require ALA to use affirmative action as a library school accreditation criterion.

Activities

The Feminist Task Force has sponsored pre-conferences, programs, and workshops on topics such as sexism in librarianship, women and political clout, pornography and censorship in libraries, looksism in the workplace, and pay equity. FTF members monitor ALA exhibits and library publications for sexist, racist, and homophobic content. The task force sponsors Women's Night Out, a librarian "social" at the ALA Annual conference. FTF also sponsors the Amelia Bloomer Project, an annual list of recommended books for children and teens that emphasize strong roles for girls and women.

Discussion List

FEMINIST is the online discussion list of the Feminist Task Force. The purpose of the list is to communicate the work of the task force and to solicit suggestions for additions to the agenda of the task force. FEMINIST enables the open exchange of ideas about work, education, collection building, professional literature, pay equity, and other issues of primary concern to women in our field. FEMINIST accepts postings of job openings in the library field, and requires that all postings include pay scale information. This list also serves as a communication device for other women's groups within ALA.

Ways to Get Involved

We welcome all newcomers. It is not necessary to be appointed or invited to the Feminist Task Force. Anyone who is interested in FTF can get involved by coming to meetings at the Midwinter and Annual conferences, by signing up for FEMINIST (email to feminist@mitvma.mit.edu), or attending an FTF program at a conference. The program "Introduction to Women's Issues in ALA," which is held on Saturday at every ALA Annual conference, is a great place to learn more about FTF and other women's groups in the American Library Association.

Jennifer Baltes, Coordinator jenny_baltes@hotmail.com Feminist Task Force Website: http://libr.org/FTF/

Applications for presenting poster sessions at the 2003 American Library Association Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada 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, please contact Jody Condit Fagan, Chair, ALA Poster Session Review Panel, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL. 62901-6632, 618-453-5844 (telephone) for instructions on how to apply.

The deadline for submitting an application is January 17, 2003.

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Coretta Scott King Task Force

For a number of reasons few members of SRRT or ALA at large need an introduction to the primary focus of the Coretta Scott King Task Force (CSKTF). The sponsorship of our Awards Breakfast at ALA has become a major event of the Annual Conference. Few persons however are aware of the wrenching process that results in awards to authors and illustrators of quality literature for children.



A jury of seven professionals representing a mixture of school library media, public library children's services, and college faculty are appointed by the chair and elected by the Task Force membership in alternate years. This jury meets during Midwinter to discuss a list of titles that have been read and progressively winnowed down throughout the year.

The CSK Award grew out of a need to recognize and nurture the then miniscule group of African American creators of children's literature. The CSK Award was created during a period of our history when few books were being written or illustrated by what could be described as authentic creators. This paucity of books reflecting the African American experience written and illustrated by African American authors and illustrators was a concern of librarians throughout the profession with an interest in services to children. This universal concern was responsible for the current make-up of the CSK Award Juries. The attempt to diversify both the ethnicity and the work environment of the committee selecting the awards is deliberate and conscious.

The impact of the growing prestige of the CSK Award has been far-reaching. Editors have found it to be advantageous to maintain a list that includes several titles by African American writers and illustrators. A few publishers have made a conscious commitment to actively recruit new writers and illustrators. The Award committees of recent years have found, not surprisingly, the more prolific a writer/illustrator, the more likely their they are to produce outstanding artistry. The greater the number of ethnic writers and illustrators on a publisher list, the greater chance that that publisher will host a winning writer/illustrator. Repeat recipients are evidence of the gifted genius of the creators and the conscious commitment of the publishing house. The creation of the John Steptoe Award for New Talent is the Task Force's attempt to further encourage publishers to increase the pool of African American writers and illustrators creating books for children.

Recent CSK Award committees have shared their awareness and sensitivity to the imp act of the CSK Award after their service on the Jury. In an era that is beginning to question the political correctness of ethnic awards, the quality of the work (which has been a focus of the CSK from its inception) dominates other considerations. Though competition is stiff, award juries are proud to note the qualitative winner has consistently become inevitably clear. Regretfully, the body of African-American writers and illustrators that the jury is given to consider remains small (generally less than two hundred titles) particularly when compared to the larger pool of creators of literature for children. The impact of the award is the fact that these numbers have actually quadrupled since the award's inception.

The Coretta Scott King Task Force is looking at ways to build on their experience and expand opportunities for Task Force members to promote the CSK. In 2003, we will publish the fourth Discussion Guide of the CSK Award titles. The Guide is intended to assist teachers, librarians and book club leaders to extend and enhance the reading experience of both the current year and past CSK winning titles. Additionally we are actively seeking opportunities to collaborate with other ethnic groups within ALA that also give awards to writers and illustrators of children's literature. We expect to sponsor a joint program at the 2003 Annual meeting as our initial effort.

Carole J. McCollough, Coordinator c.mccollough@worldnet.att.net

Coretta Scott King Task Force Website: http://www.ala.org/srrt/csking/

I am reminding you to share your career and program news with others, especially OLOS. We want to celebrate your accomplishments, whether professional or programming, staff development, etc.

Just send them to American Libraries, with Leonard Kniffel @ala.org, Pam Goodes at pgoodes@ala.org or other editors at American Libraries; with Paige Wesson pwesson@ala.org or others in the ALA Public Information Office; or with us in OLOS via Beatrice Calvin bcalvin@ala.org, OLOS Communications Officer.

We know you're doing great things and providing exemplary services to your library communities. Tell us about it.

Also, your perspectives on the profession are important, and you can share your thoughts with others in the Association. Just let us know.

Lastly, remember that your responses to issues and coverage of library issues in American Libraries deserves hearin g as well, so take advantage of the "Letters to the Editor" column and share your thoughts.

These are some of the options you have for making a difference.

Satia Marshall Orange, Director Office for Literacy and Outreach Services

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INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES TASK FORCE

The SRRT International Responsibilities Task Force provides a forum for discussion and work on the international dimensions of SRRT issues, including organizational alliances. As globalization proceeds, it is imperative that SRRT understand its mission in the international context, and work with sister organizations in other countries to address common concerns and problems.

Two kinds of activities are addressed: foreign policy and international relations:

Foreign policy includes bilateral and multilateral relations with governments, corporations, and organizations in various countries. Particular attention is given to current situations where United States policy is likely to have a major impact.

International relations includes alliances and relationships with library and related organizations throughout the world. Issues addressed include foreign policy as well as issues that may be seen as local but similar in many countries.

Functions

- 1. To provide information and advocate socially responsible positions on issues of international concern within SRRT, ALA, and the international library arena through programs, resolutions, and reports.
- 2. To change ALA policies to reflect socially responsible positions, make such policies known within ALA and internationally, and implement these policies.
- 3. To promote international human rights, including implementation of Article 19 on freedom of expression, of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 4. To serve as liaison with other progressive library and related organizations worldwide, and promote cooperative endeavors.

The coordinators of the International Responsibilities Task Force would like all SRRT members to know that we have been working on two key areas this last year, Cuba and Israel/Palestine, the latter quickly becoming a matter of some controversy when it was forwarded from SRRT to Membership and then, in collaboration with the International Relations Committee (IRC) of ALA, taken to Council in the form of an IRC resolution.

We invite all of you to visit our web site for further information. This site, established and maintained by task force member Tom Twiss, has all the documentation of these present issues and our efforts around them, as well as historical documentation of all international responsibilities issues. It is a very rich site, constituting a veritable archive of documentation of international issues SRRT has entertained and of resources for further study.

Mark Rosenzweig, Coordinator iskra@eathlink.net or Elaine Harger, Coordinator eharger@agoron.com

International Responsibilities Task Force Website: http://www.pitt.edu/~ttwiss/irtf/

HERE IS A TENTATIVE LIST OF SRRT MIDWINTER EVENTS

Friday, Jan 24

2:00PM - 5:30PM *CSK Jury Meeting* Marriott Conference Suite I

Saturday, Jan 25

8:00AM – 9:00AM **SRRT All Task Force** Sheraton Society Hill Ballroom C

9:00AM – 5:30PM *CSK Jury Meeting* Marriott Conference Suite I 9:30AM- 12:30PM *SRRT Action Council* Sheraton Z Society Hill

Ballroom A/B

Sunday, Jan 26

9:00AM – 5:30PM *CSK Jury Meeting* Marriott Conference Suite I 2:00PM – 4:00PM *SRRT PLG Courtyard* by Marriott Salon II Sunday, Jan. 26 cont'd

2:00PM – 5:30PM *FTF Amelia Bloomer* Loews Roberts Board Room

8:00PM - 10:00PM FTF Meeting Marriott Conference Suite II

Monday, Jan 27

6:30AM – 7:30AM *MLK Sunrise Celebration* Pennsylvania Convention Center 113 A/B/C

8:00AM - 9:00AM FTF Meeting Marriott Conference Suite I

11:30AM – 12:30PM *CSK Publisher Meeting* Marriott 302

2:00PM – 4:00PM *SRRT Action Council II* Pennsylvania Convention Center 204 A

2:00PM – 5:30PM *FTF Amelia Bloomer* Wyndham Franklin Plaza Parlor C

Tuesday, Jan 28

8:30AM - 11:00AM FTF Amelia Bloomer Marriott Conference Suite II

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Membership Report

At the end of September 2002 the SRRT Membership was 1,449, down 2.16% from the September 2001 number of 1,481 personal members. While these numbers may not be the best news in an association that is growing by several percent each year for the last decade, there are some recent trends indicating things may be improving. First and foremost is that the number of renewals increased by 44.74% from 2001 (76) to 2002 (110) and the number of new personal members joining SRRT increased by 113.04% from September 2001 (23) to 49 for September 2002.

If we look at SRRT's organization members, we find that in September 2001 we had 70 members in this category, while we report having 65 organization members in 2002. Because these numbers are small, it is difficult to determine if this slight drop in organization members (7.14%) can be attributed to the post 9-11 economic turndown or not. All but seven of our organization members are libraries (those with budgets of greater than \$2 million are the largest cohort in this category: 31). We also report having six international libraries as members of SRRT, and we still have two corporate members of SRRT.

There are several things the Membership Committee needs to do. First is to provide a friendly thank you note and acknowledgement of new members when the join SRRT and mention of their names, eMail address, and place of employment in the newsletter with a note to our current members to welcome these new members if they are in close proximity to them by geography or by subject interest or task force affiliation.

The second task of the Membership Committee will be to contact each member dropping SRRT as an ALA Affiliation and ask the simple question, "Why did you leave SRRT?"

There are two other tasks the Membership Committee needs to address. First is creating a database directory of our membership, and second is develop a strategy for attracting new members to SRRT. The first is being investigated with assistance from OLOS and Membership Services.

The second is an issue that requires some strategic thinking, and that's where you members of SRRT can help. First would be to join the SRRT Membership Committee and share some of your time, talents, and creativity. The most important question to address is what can we do to attract more people to SRRT? Again working with the OLOS staff may yield some new ways to advertise SRRT and its Round Tables in American Libraries. Continuing to have an active and viable presence at the ALA Annual Meeting in the Exhibits Hall is proving to yield a small harvest. This means that when the call is made for SRRT Members to volunteer to staff the SRRT booth at the Annual Meeting, take a moment to consider contributing an hour or two or three of your time to meet people and tell them abut the good things SRRT has and is doing and how they to can share the adventure.

If SRRT remains on firm financial footing, we may wish to explore taking advantage of the one-half price of an exhibit space at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. If the SRRT Action Council feels this may be a risky action to take, perhaps SRRT can find another round table with whom we can share the space and the cost of an exhibit table at Midwinter Meetings. The primary focus of a Midwinter exhibit would be to focus on the activities of SRRT's Task Forces and the special services, publications, programs, and other activities of SRRT's task forces.

Which leads me to the last and perhaps most important task the Membership Committee needs to address: finding out the task force affiliation(s) of SRRT Members. ALA Membership records cannot (even with the new and improved database management system) track task force members. What is proposed is that the Membership Committee create a simple postcard insert in the SRRT Newsletter and ask each recipient of the newsletter to take the card, place their name, address and eMail address on the card and simply check off the task force(s) to which they wish to be affiliated.

There is no extra cost to the SRRT Membership fee to be a member of a task force, just an active interest in the issues addressed by that task force. There s no limit to the number of task forces to which a SRRT Member may be affiliated. The postcard would be returned to the Membership Committee Chair where the data would be entered into the SRRT Membership database and to the respective task force chairs.

To minimize costs of this activity dove-tailing this post to a special issue of the SRRT Newsletter would be important. Details of this activity will be presented at the 2003 Action Council meeting in Philadelphia.

Anyone interested in sharing their time, talents, and expertise with the Membership Committee should contact Fred Stoss, Membership Committee Chair at fstoss@buffalo.edu.

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Report to SRRT on the August 2002 IFLA Glasgow Meeting

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) meeting was held in Glasgow, Scotland, August 17-24, 2002. More than 4700 people attended from at least 122 countries. I would like to report on the work of the Social Responsibilities Discussion Group, three resolutions passed by IFLA Council, activities around Palestinian and Israeli libraries, the fringe globalization meeting, and discussions around trying again to form a world network of progressive library organizations.

The IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group (SRDG) applied for section status last year in order to continue the work with more resources, but this request was denied. The Governing Board advised us to have one last meeting and then find ways to mainstream our concerns within the other bodies of the organization. As convener, I drew up three documents for the meeting based on our 13 recommendations for action (see below): a listing of what had been accomplished so far, a listing of proposed bodies that might be interested in working on our recommendations, and a listing of how our recommendations related to IFLA's Professional Priorities. These documents were distributed to our small committee before the meeting and then distributed to those who attended the SRDG meeting in Glasgow for discussion.

At our meeting, we slightly amended the recommendations and list of IFLA bodies that might be interested in follow-up. We then wrote the following resolution for the IFLA Council as follows:

"The IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group, after three years of work, urges IFLA's Governing Board to insure that its recommendations for actions to IFLA's bodies be considered for implementation during the next planning cycle.

It asks the Governing Board to pass on the recommendations to the appropriate IFLA bodies by the Secretariat staff.

The organizers of the Social Responsibilities Discussion Group will provide support and advice."

The resolution was then duly submitted and approved by our parent body, the IFLA Section on Education and Training. It was approved by the IFLA Council with 31 abstentions and no votes opposed.

I also discussed the idea of forming another committee directly under the Governing Board for further work, but there is so far no indication that this is a viable option. The Governing Board accepted the resolution at their meeting just after the Council meeting, and will further discuss implementation at the their December meeting in The Hague. Meanwhile I will write a final report for their consideration. Note that according to the resolution, there is still a facilitation role for the SRDG activists at the next IFLA meeting.

Here are the 13 recommendations:

Rural Library Development

1. IFLA should develop a research program on rural library development in coordination with national library agencies. The focus should be on empowerment of local authorities to process information required by the community in comprehensible formats for diverse rural populations.

Literacy in Libraries

- IFLA should urge library and information schools to promote adult basic education skills as a component of their curriculums.
- 3. IFLA should promote literacy training as a basic library service as advocated in the Unesco Public Library Manifesto.

Fees for Library Services

- 4. IFLA should take a strong position against fees for basic services broadly construed as advocated in the Unesco Public Library Manifesto.
- 5. IFLA should work with commercial information providers to establish a standard price structure for publicly supported libraries based on ability to pay.

Human Resource Development

- 6. IFLA should encourage library and information science schook to adopt a socially responsible orientation, including the promotion of a strong service ethic towards all population groups.
- 7. IFLA should research the education and training needs of Southern countries in conjunction with relevant agencies in order to facilitate the development of appropriate information curricula.

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Electronic Information Gap

- 8. IFLA should promote the development of and assist in formatting local content for electronic resources.
- 9. IFLA should work with appropriate national and international bodies to promote policies and develop programs that equalize access to the Internet.

Library Cooperation

10. IFLA should promote greater resource sharing between the information rich and the information poor, including links to the information superhighway for equitable, adequate and reliable communications for all.

The Profession, Library Associations, and IFLA Structure

- 11. IFLA should advocate and develop strategies for the use of library associations to develop policies conducive to the development of information infrastructures for equitable, adequate and reliable communications for all.
- 12. IFLA should monitor and report on how various library associations are addressing information gap issues with a view to stimulating further work and activities.
- 13. IFLA should continue to work toward putting the concerns of Third World librarianship at the center of its program and activities.

Two other resolutions were passed by the IFLA Council, one advocating that collections of national importance be protected by disaster plans, and the other endorsing the IFLA Internet Manifesto which advocates freedom of access to the Internet. I don't see the Manifesto yet on IFLANET, but I imagine it will get there shortly.

Frode Bakken, President of the Norwegian Library Association, called an informal meeting to discuss the situation of Palestinian and Israeli libraries and what we might do about it. About 25 people attended, mainly from Norway, but also people from other Scandinavian countries, the UK and the US. Mitch Freedman was there along with ALA's new Executive Director, Keith Fiels, and Michael Dowling, Head of ALA's International Relations Office. You will remember that the resolution finally passed by ALA Council asked IFLA to investigate the situation. I distributed copies of our original SRRT resolution as well as copies of the final resolution as passed by ALA Council and gave a short overview of what has happened in ALA. There was interest in doing something inside IFLA as well as doing more outside IFLA. The Norwegian and Danish library associations have agreed to fund a fact-finding trip to Israel and Palestine, and ALA has been asked to contribute. The IFLA Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) will undertake the mission. Other initiatives may include a library aid campaign, possibly through Book Aid International.

Information for Social Change (ISC), a progressive UK library organization, organized a successful half-day meeting at Glasgow University titled "The Profit Virus: Globalisation, Libraries and Education." Besides the excellent content of the presentations, this meeting provided a meeting place for progressive librarians, and stimulated discussions related to again trying to form an international network of progressive library organizations. Besides ISC, organizations represented in Glasgow included LINK: a Network for North-South Library Development (UK) and the Study Circle in Political and Social Library Science (Mexico). One idea is to invite the various national organizations to endorse the 10 principles Mark proposed for the Vienna meeting a couple of years ago. We would then have a loose network of national bodies that could cooperate with each other on various initiatives, but would not be tied to any central organization. This might be a good first step. I would like to put this on the SRRT Midwinter agenda. Perhaps we can then do some follow-up at the 2004 IFLA meeting in Berlin.

Another exciting possibility is the proposed formation of an African progressive library organization made up of Africans living in various countries including in Europe and North America. Shiraz Durrani in London is motivating this initiative.

All in all, it was a successful meeting for advancing a progressive agenda.

Al Kagan
African Studies Bibliographer and Professor of Library Administration
Africana Unit, Room 328
University of Illinois Library
1408 W. Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801, USA
tel. 217-333-6519
fax. 217-333-2214
e-mail. akagan@uiuc.edu

submitted September 9, 2002

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Organizations which Provide Aid to Palestinian Libraries

The information in this list was taken from the websites of the organizations listed and from correspondence with a number of these groups. Inclusion in this list does not imply endorsement of these charities or their activities.

A. M. Qattan Foundation: AI-Qattan Centre for the Child-Gaza (http://www.qattanfoundation.org)

"The Al-Qattan Centre for the Child-Gaza was established in 2000 as one of the major educational projects of the A.M Qattan Foundation in Palestine . . . The Centre will contain a huge library. . . , a multipurpose hall, an information technology unit, as well as an outreach services programme designed to serve children in the more deprived and remote areas of the Gaza Strip. . . . [W]e are inviting you to be our partners in serving the children of Palestine by providing suitable library materials for children aged 0 to 15, as well as for parents and professionals working with children, such as books, magazines, videocassettes, audiotapes, toys, CDs, DVDs and any other suitable materials in Arabic, English or French." Contact Information: Ms. Reem Abu Jaber, Director, reem@qcc.gattanfoundation.org.

American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) (http://www.anera.org/index2.shtml)

"ANERA is a U.S. non-profit, humanitarian organization working since 1968 to reduce poverty and relieve suffering and improve the lives of people affected by conflict in the Middle East." ANERA's **Projects in Education and Youth** (http://www.anera.org/projects/edu.html) have included assistance to libraries.

Book Aid International (http://www.bookaid.org/)

"Book Aid International works in partnership with organizations in developing countries to support local initiatives in literacy, education, training and publishing." Book Aid International currently supports over 20 organizations in the West Bank and Gaza, where it plans to make available approximately 10,000 books in 2002. It accepts bank transfers and checks in US dollars. If your contribution if specifically for Palestinian libraries, this should be indicated in your correspondence.

Jerusalem Fund for Education and Community Development (http://www.palestinecenter.org/)

"The Jerusalem Fund is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian organization based in Washington, DC. It is an independent organization with no links to political or religious organizations in the United States or abroad. . . . Community assistance grants are funded through donations from private individuals in the United States and abroad." One recent grant recipient was Birzeit University Library. Monetary donations are accepted for the libraries included on the Jerusalem Fund's list.

Palestine Children's Welfare Fund (http://www.pcwf.org/index.html)

The Palestine Children's Welfare Fund was established "to improve the living standards of the children of Palestine in the refugee camps inside Palestine." One of this organization's programs is **Books for Palestine** (http://www.pcwf.org/books.htm). "The Book Campaign was established to source children's books for the children of the refugee camps in Gaza and the West Bank. However, after the Israeli invasion of March and April 2002 and the destruction of the facilities in the universities and colleges of the West Bank," it was "decided to expand the program to include institutions of higher learning." Monetary contributions, and contributions of books, software, journals, and videos are accepted.

United Palestinian Appeal (http://www.helpUPA.com/)

"The United Palestinian Appeal is a non-political, tax-exempt American charity dedicated to providing aid and assistance to Palestinians in need, especially children, in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon." Educational projects supported in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Lebanon "provide communities" with modern educational resources such as reading libraries, scientific laboratories, [etc.]." If you specify "restricted" on your check or Web site form, your donations will be sent to the specific library or libraries that you choose. (UPA recommends donating to one of the university libraries, such as that of Birzeit University or al-Najah University, because these are central cultural institutions in their respective regions and reach out to large numbers of students and teachers. Your money will go further in making knowledge available to Palestinians than if given to a private library.)

Compiled by:
Tom Twiss
Government Information Librarian
G-22 Hillman Library
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
ttwiss@pitt.edu
Phone (412) 648-7730
FAX (412) 648-7733

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The SRRT program "SRRT Open Discussion of the ALA One Voice Policy" listed on the Conference website has been canceled.

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A BIG WELCOME TO THESE NEW SRRT MEMBERS

Berg, Sommer Brown, Audrey "1Alaska1@usa.net" Buhalis, Meredith Diaz, Maria "mediaz@prodigy.net" "Frontani, Stephanie "sfrontani@yahoo.com" Gadapee, Jeffrey "jgadapee@yahoo.com" Gibbs, Heather "hgibbs@optonline.net" Guzman, Daphne "dmgf@hotmail.com" Joyce, Aneisa "ajoyce@library.syr.edu" Kohn, Karen "kkohn@uiuc.edu" Ku, Beverly "bku@umich.edu" Leininger, Lea "lealeininger@hotmail.com" Lewis, Heidi "lewissmith@centurytel.net" McCartin, Darlene "dmccartin@usa.net" Olofson, Suz-Ann "solofoson@leegov.com" Pellikka, Maria Vertone, Regina "rjv2001@hotmail.com" Wallace, Michelle "wallace5thgrade@msn.com"

BOOK REVIEWS

The Anti-Capitalist Reader: Imagining a Geography of Opposition. Edited by Joel Schalit Akashic Books, 2002. (ISBN 1888451335).

I have mixed feelings about things you can buy to support anti-capitalism. Now that corporate globalization is a daily reality that most of us can write and converse intelligently about, it seems only natural that someone would compile these discussions and sell them back to us. That said, this book offers a good overview to the many "talking points" surrounding the current cynicism about the brave new capitalist world being force-fed to us by the likes of Big Business and their henchmen the WTO and the IMF.

The essays range from a very down to earth and humorous look at the consumer-orientation of transexuality to post-modern yammering that I stopped reading at the phrase "the terms of anti-capitalism's symbolic/conceptual production." You'll find more Marx here than Kropotkin, but the Reader is largely doctrine-free, though more closely aligned with the philosophical concerns of the anti-capitalist movement than the very real "well what do you do without capitalism, smart guy?!" issues that affect the day to day lives of many modern anti-capitalist thinkers.

Interviews with Thomas Frank from The Baffler, and Ramsey Kanaan from AK Press are two of the book's stronger pieces, as is Naomi Klein's homage to Subcommandante Marcos. The Reader covers a wide range of topics from open source software and intellectual property rights to bioengineering to Leninism. There's a little something for everyone -- a perfect primer for Anti-

Capitalism 101 at your local Megaversity -- and Punk Planet co-editor Schalit has the necessary cred to not only bring it all together but get it noticed as well.

Jessamyn West jessamyn@eskimo.com

It's a Free Country: Personal Freedom in America after September 11 Danny Goldberg, Victor Goldberg, and Robert Greenwald, eds. New York: RDV Books/Akashic Books, 2002. (ISBN 1888451335).

This collection of essays on civil liberties represents a response to the USA Patriot Act and actions taken by the Justice Department to institute military tribunals, detentions without charges, and the questioning of middle-eastern men solely because of their ethnicity after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Co-editor Danny Goldberg calls the book "an attempt to create a rational and moral context in a difficult time." The essential point is there does not have to be a one-to-one trade off between freedom and safety and we can best combat real terrorism by upholding our constitutional freedoms.

Ira Glasser, who served almost twenty five years as Executive Director of the ACLU, sums up the point of view of most of the essays by asking the question "Who will be made safer?" Several pieces discuss the history of attacks on civil liberties, from the first Alien and Sedition Acts to the Smith Act, and conclude that none of the attempts to combat enemies of the U. S. has been successful in making us safer, rather the targets of these attempts have more often been innocent persons whose only crime has been to speak against government policy.

The book is organized into seven sections: the his tory of threats to civil liberties, essays from members of the U.S. House of Representatives, articles from ACLU leaders and officials, offerings by prominent journalists, a few satirical pieces, essays on detentions and rights, and personal narratives and reflections of how innocent persons have been discriminated against because of their ethnicity or national origin.

With contributors selected almost entirely from the left and liberal side of the political spectrum, readers of a more conservative political bent might not be likely to read the book, and the editors might be left with the unproductive role of preaching to the choir. It is most useful in bringing an understanding of how the current crisis in civil liberties is rooted in a long history of attempts to limit freedoms granted by the Bill of Rights. Though there are some problems with seemingly random organization, I think this book would be particularly valuable in high school government classes and introductory college political science and history courses. Recommended for academic and public libraries.

Jerry Shuttle shuttle@mail.etsu.edu

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COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE: All About Those Action Council Meetings

oining a Task Force and participating in the discussion on SRRTAC-L are two of the best ways to get more involved in SRRT, learn more about it and find ways of contributing. The other really good way is to attend Action Council meetings, of which there are usually two at each conference; one on Saturday morning and the other on Monday afternoon. Because these meetings consist mostly of business that continues from conference to conference and are mostly attended by people who have attended previous meetings, it can sometimes be a challenge for newcomers to figure out what is going on. This article is intended to answer questions that SRRT members often have who are attending for the first time or two.

1. Who can vote?

Most business at Action Council meetings consists of motions that have to be passed or not passed, and this requires a vote. Sometimes the Chair will say "Elected Action Council members only can vote," and sometimes he or she will not, depending on the nature of the question. This can give visitors the idea that they can vote when the Chair doesn't say "Elected Action Council members only can vote." This isn't the case.

There are two kinds of items that are voted on:

- 1) Budget items, where we vote to appropriate money to some purpose, and
- 2) all other items.

Budget items can only be voted on by elected, "At Large" members of Action Council. This leaves out the Action Council members who can vote on all the other items. These are the representatives of Task Forces, one from each, and the representatives of SRRT's Affiliate Groups, one from each (if they are present). At no time can regular SRRT members vote on items at Action Council meetings. But this doesn't mean you are free from having to introduce yourself to the whole group at the beginning of the meeting!

2. Who can talk?

Everybody can talk; people generally speak when they are recognized by the Chair, who tries to make sure that everyone is heard (Action Council members having some degree of priority over visitors). Action Council does follow, loosely, the official rules of order for ALA, which are Sturgis (unless it has changed recently). SRRT lacks a parliamentarian, and no-one is too worried about this. The Chair and other members do, however, pay attention to what is happening at any given time at the meeting. In the first place, our discussion is guided by the agenda (which is released on SRRTMEM and SRRTAC-L prior to the meeting). Sometimes discussion of agenda items leads in unexpected directions, and based on importance we often deal with these issues on the spot.

3. Okay, but what is going on?

A good way to think of the meetings is that they are a format for discussions leading to action. Discussion about an agenda item will usually lead to someone making a motion - that is, proposing that SRRT take a certain action, whether it be making a public statement, adopting a resolution, setting up a new listsery, appropriating money, making an inquiry with our staff liaison as to an important fact, or any other action. We often put considerable effort into phrasing a motion the right way, which is good given that we are deliberating actions to which we will commit SRRT officially. We tend to do this using a rather open process of give-and-take, where people sometimes speak without being recognized by the chair. If you have something important to say when this is happening, jump in. Once a motion has been proposed and has a "second" (i.e. is "on the floor") discussion must be in relation to that specific motion until it is voted on or there is a motion for an amendment (at which point discussion would have to be about the proposed amendment). "Friendly amendments" to a motion can be adopted without a vote by the agreement of the person who made the motion, and regular amendments are voted on as motions-within-motions," which is one reason why it helps to pay close attention to what is going on in terms of discussion leading to actions.

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4. Okay, what about Task Forces?

As you may be aware, most of the work that active SRRT members do is through SRRT's seven Task Forces, which are dedicated to particular issue-areas.

The current Task Forces are:

<u>Alternatives in Publication</u> (for advocacy of the alternative press)

Coretta Scott King (presenters of the Coretta Scott King book awards for the best children's literature by Black authors)

Task Force on the Environment (TFOE)

Feminist Task Force

<u>Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force</u> <u>International Responsibilities Task Force</u>

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force
(for observation of the MLK holiday at conferences and in libraries).

On Saturday morning at the conference prior to the first AC meeting (and in the same room) we have the "All Task Force" meeting, where the leadership of each task force has their business meetings. The All Task Force meeting is your best opportunity to get involved with a SRRT Task Force. Just show up, talk to people to find out which table is for the TF you're interested in, and go over and introduce yourself. The TF members present will welcome you warmly and enthusiastically. Nothing pleases us more than meeting a SRRT member who is interested in seeing how he or she can help. Additionally, there will be a representative from each task force (and members of each task force) at both AC meetings, to whom you can introduce yourself. The SRRT website also has contact information for the TF representatives, as well as links to the websites for each task force.

The SRRT website is at http://libr.org/SRRT./.

I hope this message will encourage you to get involved with SRRT and make it easier to get started. Participation is what we are all about!

> Hope to see you in Philadelphia. Rory Litwin

IN MEMORIAM: MIRIAM BRAVERMAN

Pioneer political librarian, Miriam Braverman, died October 21, 2002 in NYC of a heart attack following a broken hip and hip-replacement surgery.

She remained vitally interested in progressive developments in librarianship to the end, long after she had retired, and was extremely happy to have been asked to be the retiree representative on the Progressive Librarians Guild Coordinating Committee roster.

She was closely connected to a former librarian turned NY Congressman, Major Owen, often called the "only librarian in Congress" and fought as an organizer and strategist to keep him as one of the few outspoken and reliable critics of reaction on the national level.

Miriam Braverman was the author of *Youth*, *Society and the Public Library* (1979, ALA) a critical book suffused, nonetheless, with hope for the role public libraries played and will play in the betterment of the life of young people in a society she had no problem calling "capitalist", a society the limits of which she had put her shoulders against and pushed for most of her life --to either topple or clear a space for greater social and cultural development for all -- along with many others (not enough from our field).

Those who had the honor, as librarians, to work with her in this endeavor of social change, across the artifice of party lines, came quickly to love Miriam and her incisiveness and fiery commitment, the latter never extinguished even in her last year.

May she be an example to us all of the fulfillment that can be found of working and of a lifelong commitment to social justice, humanism,

intolerance of injustice and inequity, and striving for a better world.

Mark Rosenzweig

(Photo courtesy of Mitch Freedman)

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Correspondence and manuscripts may be sent to the editor at:

Jane Ingold, Editor

Assistant Librarian John M. Lilley Library Penn State Erie, The Behrend College Station Road

Erie, PA 16563-1502 Phone: 814-898-7278 Fax: 814-898-6350 Email: jli4@psu.edu

Book Review Editor Rebecca Tolley-Stokes

tolleyst@mail.etsu.edu

Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of ALA/SRRT. The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary or as whimsy strikes. Next deadline: 02/01/03

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. SRRTMEM is no longer just for SRRT members - now, anyone may subscribe.

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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