

# Social Responsibilities Round Table

OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

number 129

September 1998

### from the srrt coordinator:

Despite the heat and the humidity, ALA's Annual Conference in DC left me energized and optimistic. This was one of the most rewarding conferences I've attended, thanks to Barbara Ford's conference theme, Global Reach, Local Touch, and to SRRT's inspiring program, Social Responsibilities Around the World. There's a full report on our program, but it deserves another mention. Progressive, socially responsible librarians from Austria, Sweden, Germany, South Africa, Scotland, and England participated in a three-hour session that provided time for information-sharing, questions, and suggestions for follow-up activities. Thanks are due to Al Kagan, for all his organizing efforts; to Barbara Ford, who supported our program with a generous donation; and to our international guests, who not only participated in our program but attended SRRT events and meetings, observed ALA Council and Membership chats, and provided so many valuable insights into the issues facing libraries and library workers in their countries.

SRRT's meetings at Annual were extremely productive— see inside for the text of the resolutions we passed. Other topics discussed:

Creating a listserv etiquette policy, which will be emailed to the list once a month, as a reminder, and coming up with guidelines to make resolution discussions on the listserv easier.

Deciding not to change our resolution policy to allow resolutions to be passed between conferences, as we need and value the opportunity for in person discussion.

Approving a small expenditure to reprint and update the SRRT brochure.

Discussing the new Round Table Councilor positions, and how we will determine who the SRRT Councilor will be (see next issue of the newsletter for details).

Avoiding conflicts between SRRT programs and meetings.

Urging all task forces to have bylaws, or, at least, a mission statement by Midwinter.

Deciding that having a separate Membership meeting at Annual is not working. We will try to combine the Membership Meeting with one of the Action Council meetings next year.

Thanks to the efforts of SRRT secretary Elaine Harger, we started a new tradition this year: a snazzy one-page flyer listing all SRRT programs. It was a great publicity tool! Our booth was well staffed and organized, thanks to Fred Stoss, Ann Sparanese, Charles Willett, and all the volunteers who helped with staffing.

As usual at this time of year, we pause to say thank you to those who are cycling off SRRT positions and welcome to those coming on board. SRRT members leaving Action Council this year are Dorothy Granger, Al Kagan, Mark Rosenzweig, and Nel Ward. Special thanks to Dotty, for her heroic efforts in the SRRT Treasurer position, and advanced gratitude to Nel Ward, who has volunteered to take over the Treasurer job. Welcome to new SRRT Action Council members Ceci Chapple, Wayne Mullin and Ann Sparanese, and re-elected Action Council member, Mark Rosenzweig! Elaine Harger will continue as Secretary for one last year, and I will stay on for one more year as coordinator.

I would also like to thank outgoing liaisons Tom Wilding (Literacy Assembly) and Alison Hopkins (Education Assembly) and outgoing Newsletter Editorial Board member Madeleine Tainton, who has completed her third year on the Board. Stephen Stillwell, former SRRT Coordinator, will take Tom Wilding's place; replacements for Alison Hopkins and Madeleine Tainton will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter.

Last, but not least, welcome to new SRRT task force chairs and affiliate liaisons!

Wendy Thomas, SRRT Coordinator

wendy@radcliffe.edu

617.495.8549

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# resolutions passed at ALA annual

RESOLUTIONS

## RESOLUTION ON THE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENTS (MAI)

WHEREAS the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI) is a pending global trade agreement which will require signatory governments to relinquish a degree of sovereignty to multinational corporations; and

WHEREAS the MAI is being negotiated in secret under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a grouping of the world's 29 wealthiest countries; and

WHEREAS the MAI will require governments to provide equal treatment for domestic and foreign businesses, meaning that laws

offering preferential treatment to businesses or organizations in a given locale or situation would be subject to lawsuits to be heard in courts and as-of-yet unnamed international tribunals, opening them up to unlimited liability for the continuation of democratically created laws; and

WHEREAS the MAI is intended to apply to all levels of government (national, regional, local, community) regardless of whether or not the governmental body in question ratified the treaty, meaning that local ordinances may be challenged by multinational corporations; and

WHEREAS many public and academic libraries receive the majority of their funding from governmental bodies, who will be constrained in the policy-making arena by the threat of foreign corporations taking legal action against them if they feel local interests are being placed ahead of their "rights"; and

WHEREAS the MAI will apply retroactively to contracts and laws implemented before the MAI is ratified; and

WHEREAS the MAI is anti-democratic and gives multinational corporations rights that citizens do not have while absolving them of most responsibilities; and

WHEREAS libraries and librarians are vital components in maintaining democratic systems by providing the information needed to maintain an informed and involved populace, and so have a significant stake in rebuffing attacks on democracy and the power of citizens to control their lives; and

WHEREAS the British Columbia Library Association Executive has already voiced its opposition to MAI; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association declares its opposition to the continued negotiation of the MAI until such time as the negotiations are opened up to representation by developing countries and by non-governmental organizations dedicated to protecting intellectual freedom, environmental, labor and consumer interests; and be it further

RESOLVED that SRRT urges the ALA Council, current President, and Presidents-Elect to publicly oppose MAI as a threat to democratic values, local autonomy, and human rights.

*Passed by SRRT Action Council, 6/27/98 Washington DC*

## RESOLUTION ON EQUAL ACCESS TO SENATE AND HOUSE PRESS GALLERIES FOR INTERNET REPORTERS

WHEREAS it is essential for a healthy democracy that the public is well informed about the activities and policies of Congress; and

WHEREAS objective and comprehensive coverage of Congress can only happen when there is a free press; and

WHEREAS Congress has delegated the credentialing of reporters to the Senate and House Periodical Press Galleries, whose members are "correspondents, newsgathers, or reporters"; and

WHEREAS in 1996, the Executive Committee of the Press Galleries denied press credentials to Vigdor Schreiberman, a reporter whose work is published through the Federal Information News Syndicate (FINS); and

WHEREAS the Press Galleries issued credentials to Mr. Schreiberman in 1993, 1994 and 1995 as a correspondent for the "Electronic Public Information Newsletter" (EPIN); and

WHEREAS there has been no substantial change in Mr. Schreiberman's functions, inasmuch as he has always issued his news columns and special reports in the names of FINS, distributed over the Internet and in print as a correspondent for EPIN; and

WHEREAS Mr. Schreiberman's actions as a bona fide correspondent and newsgatherer, previously accredited by the Periodical Press Galleries and validated by his continuing work, are entitled to the protections of the First Amendment, which is a personal right independent of who he serves as a correspondent at any particular time; and

WHEREAS Mr. Schreiberman has filed a lawsuit (Schreiberman vs. Holmes) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia challenging the denial of his press credentials based upon the first Amendment to the Constitution command that "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the Press"; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association recognizes the validity of Mr. Schreiberman's claim to be a correspondent and news gatherer and

supports his lawsuit as a means of resolving the constitutional issues that refusal of his credentials has raised; and be it further

RESOLVED that SRRT urges ALA to file an amicus brief supporting Mr. Schreiber's law suit.

*Passed by SRRT Action Council, 2/27/98 Wash. DC*

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION ON THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

WHEREAS the American Library Association (ALA) has had a long official relationship with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), currently in the form of a designated ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children) liaison; and

WHEREAS ALA and units may provide bibliographies and other material and services to any organization with or without formal or official affiliation; and

WHEREAS the BSA continues to exclude persons from membership and leadership on the basis of religious ideas and/or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS ALA Policy 9.5 specifically prohibits ALA or its component units from having formal relationships with organizations which violate ALA's principles and policies regarding human rights and social justice; and

WHEREAS ALA policies 54/17 and 60.2 declare the Association's support for gay rights and against creed-based discrimination; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association calls upon ALA to suspend formal or official relations with the Boy Scouts of America until such time as the Boy Scouts of America ends its exclusionary policy on the basis of a person's religious

# resolutions...continuing

monitors established to implement standards by disclosing relevant information in a timely fashion.

*Passed by SRRT Action Council, 6/27/98 Wash. DC*

## RESOLUTION FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE PAPERS

WHEREAS temperate rainforests represent a very small percentage of coastal regions of temperate latitudes; and

WHEREAS temperate rainforests represent some of the most rare, rich, and remarkably diverse ecosystems along North America's Pacific Coast, providing a unique biodiversity reserve of plant and animal species; and

WHEREAS federal, state, and provincial governments have established laws governing logging practices in these temperate rainforests; and

WHEREAS logging continues to take place in these old-growth temperate rainforests often in violation of federal, state, and provincial laws; and that clear-cutting remains in many instances the preferred method of harvest; and

WHEREAS Simon & Schuster has taken a progressive and environmentally responsible lead among the publishing industry by formulating a corporate policy not to use, distribute, or purchase papers made wholly or in part from clear-cut, old-growth trees; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association stimulate and support other publishers, including ALA Editions, to adopt similar policies stipulating that paper used in their publishing and communication activities not come from paper mills a. using wood chips from clear-cut, old-growth trees, or b. using paper pulp or pulp stock from other mills that is using wholly or in part materials taken from pristine, old-growth forests.

*Passed by SRRT Action Council, 6/29/98 Washington DC*

RESOLUTIONS

## Libraries: An American Value?

At ALA in DC, SRRT discussed Ann Symon's intellectual freedom statement "Libraries: An American Value." This statement is to become an important policy to ALA, designed to be adopted nationwide by libraries nationwide and equal in stature to the Library Bill of Rights. Sandy Berman, Carol Reid and Charles Willett have created a revised version of the statement that was discussed in Action Council. Some councilors supported the changes, others recommended refusing to support the statement altogether. It was decided to discuss it further at Midwinter and let individual SRRT members lobby for changes they supported. Here is a quote from Charles:

"This message invites you as individuals to support the revisions to the proposed ALA intellectual freedom statement, "Libraries: An American Value". I have sent the text to June Pinnell-Stephens, chair of the presidential task force, which published a draft statement to ALA members in March 1998 and held a follow-up hearing at ALA in Washington last month. Ann Symons has made intellectual freedom the focus of her ALA presidency. The presidential task force will prepare a final text this Fall and will submit it to ALA Council at Midwinter for acceptance as

official ALA policy.

If you support our more forceful, revised text — or if you want to make other revisions of your own — please write to June Pinnell-Stephens [JuneP@muskox.alaska.edu](mailto:JuneP@muskox.alaska.edu) IMMEDIATELY. Waiting until the next SRRT Action Council meeting in January 1999 will be too late."

In the interests of space, the relevant documents are available online. Please send email to [jessamyn@eskimo.com](mailto:jessamyn@eskimo.com) if you would like them emailed to you. For more information on the discussion, you may tune into the SRRT listserv.

"Libraries: An American Value" original document with comment form

<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/pe/statement.html>

memo with more info about LAV document

[http://www.ala.org/alaorg/pe/statement\\_memo.html](http://www.ala.org/alaorg/pe/statement_memo.html)

Willett/Reid/Berman amended revision

<http://www.jessamyn.com/SRRT/docs/lav.html>

Library Bill of Rights

<http://www.ala.org/work/freedom/lbr.html>

FOR ADD'L INFO

# NO NLE? : A Response to ALA Council Actions

ALA's Committee on Legislation recommended no action on the issue to endorse the National Institute for the Environment (NIE) and the creation of a National Library for the Environment (NLE). This is VERY disappointing news. The Task Force on the Environment and SRRT held two programs at two Annual Meetings ('98 and '97) on the creation of the National Institute for the Environment and a National Library for the Environment. TFOE held specific programs at two annual meetings to introduce the concepts of the NIE and the proposed NLE to ALA.

One of the major features of the proposed NIE would be the creation of a National Library for the Environment. A NLE would be part of a comprehensive national environmental information infrastructure that would add value to existing data and information resources (including federal, state, academic, and other libraries and library networks) by linking existing information into a integrated system with one stop shopping for critical environmental information and data resources.

A NLE would provide a systems that places in one location the access to environmental information so that the person or organization seeking data or information doesn't have to know whether the data are maintained by EPA, WDCs, EOSDIS, DOE, NRDC, the University of North Carolina or whomever in order to find it. The NLE is proposed as a information management center where the user can easily navigate among simple summaries, metadata records, technical reports and data, appropriate to their level of expertise. Once the data and information are identified, the user then is "escorted" to the appropriate agency(ies), data center(s), or institution(s) where the needed data are located.

The benefits to academic, school, and public libraries would be tremendous, for no single agency now has the capability nor the support to serve as a comprehensive environmental information and data resource provider . This in large part was why the NLE was suggested as a major program area within a NIE. More than 220 colleges and universities in the U.S. have already endorsed the NIE. A dozen or so U.S. federal agency librarians have worked closely with the CNIE in the design of the NLE, assisting in the drafting of the original proposal to create the NLE, serving on various NLE Steering Committees and Advisory Boards, and promoting the benefits of the proposed NLE at various library and other professional meetings. For a glimpse of what the NLE could become, readers are directed to the

the prototype NLE Web site at <http://www.CNIE.org>.

One of the comments by the ALA Committee on Legislation was related to their perception that " the National Science Foundation recommends against creating such an institute." The National Science Foundation issued a report to Congress in April stating that "the needs for [environmental research], reliable assessment of that research, education of the public about environmental issues, and dissemination of environmental information are critically important now and will be in the future. NSF plays an important role in all of these activities, and is expanding its support of them..."

On November 7th, 1997 Representatives Jim Saxton (R-NJ) and Neil Abercrombie (D-HI) introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives - The Sound Science for the Environment Act (H.R. 2914) - which will authorize and direct the National Science Foundation to establish a National Institute for the Environment (NIE). There are now 69 co-sponsors of this initiative. A summary of this bill is found at <http://www.cnie.org/billsumm.htm> and the full text of the legislation is found under H.R. 2914 at the Library of Congress' Thomas site, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d105:H.R.2914>.

However, last spring the NSF did not propose any institutional change to accomplish these activities, despite a request from Congress that they do so. They

## Dear Mom : Radical Librarian Weekend at ALA

### INSIDER REPORT

Well, I'm pretty much sitting around my office today, uncompressing after a whirlwind weekend spent at ALA and schmoozing with all the radical librarians who came to town.

It was good to see several people there who are on this list, including Kati Roberto from Illinois (<http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/~roberto/>), Rory Litwin from California (<http://www.libr.org/Juice/>), Chris Dodge from Minnesota (<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Cafe/7423/radlib.html>) and his wife Jan DeSirey (also an MSRRT Newsletter editor). I also got to hang with some new friends like Ken Thompson and Jessamyn West from Seattle who edit the SRRT Newsletter. Jessamyn spent a lot of time taking pictures for her Tattooed Librarian page. Unfortunately, we were unable to do anything for the Nekkid Librarians page, but we did stage a lesbian kissing scene in front of the Family Research Council, a noted anti-gay think tank.

This photo went into the second issue of CogNotes, an alternative conference zine published by some creative malcontents that I may or may not have shared beers with. Cognots was distributed at several locations and events at ALA and became a sought out underground "commodity." The first issue of Cognots had a list of places offering free food during the conference, i.e. receptions, vendor parties, and SLIS reunions. Both issues included plenty of satirical reports on real and imagined ALA sessions ("First Aid & Laundry Care: What's a Library Worker to Do?") and hints about cool things to do in DC (i.e. hang out at the Waffle Shop with the local branch of the Lesbian Avengers).

I also discovered on Friday that one of the Cognots staff had been going around to the Internet Cafes in the convention center and changing the default home page to the ALA Disorientation Guide that I posted to my MA Infoshop site (<http://burn.ucsd.edu/~mai/ala/index.html>). The index page for the Disorientation guide got 600 hits last month, which helped the Anarchist Librarians page get around 700 hits. I think its pretty cool that several hundred librarians checked out the Guide before and during the convention. Thanks to those of you who pulled the Cafe stunt. The Anarchist Beer night happened as planned, although we probably shouldn't be planning beer nights. ;-) About 7-8 people showed up, thanks to a late afternoon surge by the Cognots distaff. We should do this again next year in New Orleans and hopefully in a more central location.

Chris Atton spoke at several events during the conference. He's written about Spunk and reviewed several of my web sites, as well as writing about alternative in print from the U.K. perspective. Chris was a discussant at an evening session on social responsibilities around the world (more about this in a minute) and on Monday morning he received the Jackie Eubanks award from SRRT. One of the unusual things about the award session was that the head of the British Library Association was in the audience and he got up and congratulated Chris on his award.

I also got a chance to talk with Raimund from Germany who does the International Directory of Progressive Librarians. The theme of ALA this year was "Global reach, local touch," so the ALA SRRT organized a panel discussion with representatives from SRRT-like organizations around the world. There were reps from Bis in Sweden, KRIBIBI in Austria, LIWO in South Africa, and organizations in Germany and the U.K. I later gave the KRIBIBI rep a copy of Practical Anarchy and the Atlantic Anarchist Circle contact guide, so she could give them to the punk rockers she knew. I think it is very important to cultivate solidarity ties with radical librarians around the world. We share many similar concerns.

On Monday night the AIP hosted the annual Free Speech Buffet, which is an attempt to get local small presses and zines together with librarians who acquire new materials for libraries. The Buffet was held at the "Washington Home of Stuart Mott" which is this nice house with a courtyard across the street from the Supreme Court. Rumor has it that Mott was from the applesauce Mott family jr "T\*irobre ce)

## Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force

### TASK FORCE REPORTS

Activities of the GLBTF continue to draw in record crowds. Annual saw an attendance of nearly 180 people for our Book Award Breakfast. Each attendee heard fantastic comments and readings from our winners, Lucy Jane Bledsoe (*Working Parts* – Seal Press) and Adam Mastoon (*The Shared Heart* – Wm. Marrow) as well as inspiring speeches from our speakers Rep. Barney Frank and David Bergman (*Men on Men* series editor). So inspired were the attendees that the membership moved to appoint a new standing committee. The new Elections Committee will be recruited and given charges by Midwinter. With the advice and inspiration of ALA Councilor, Karen Schneider, the GLBTF hopes to more fully and effectively participate in the guidance of the profession via the ALA machine.

The GBLTF program, “What have you done for me lately?” Gay and Lesbian youth speak out.” drew an audience of 80 people and was attended by librarians from all corners of the library world: many from remote areas who needed solidarity and progressive ideas. Many thanks to President-Elect Ann Symons for attending and participating in both the Breakfast and the

program.

Revolutions have occurred within the ranks of the GLBTF. I bid a bittersweet farewell to Co-Chair Bonita Corliss (Enjoy your free time!) and heartily welcome Shari Clifton as she steps into Bonita’s spot. I look forward to intense and fun times in the year ahead.

## International Responsibilities Task Force

### Social Responsibility Around the World

The International Responsibilities Task Force sponsored the main SRRT program this year titled, "Social Responsibility Around the World," endorsed the Pastors for Peace caravan to Cuba, and endorsed the Basic Services for Libraries project for Palestine.

Contact Ann Sparanese, [ACS20@aol.com](mailto:ACS20@aol.com), for further information on how to help with the Pastors for Peace caravan to Cuba. They are bringing bookmobiles as well as library and school supplies. Contact Elaine Harger, [eharger@tao.agoron.com](mailto:eharger@tao.agoron.com) to help out with the Palestine project to aid the Gaza Health Sciences Library at the Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

In coordination with ALA President Barbara Ford's 1998 theme, "Local Touch, Global Reach," the Task Force was energized through its successful program on "Social Responsibility Around the World." The papers will be printed in the *Progressive Librarian*. The following speakers from our sister progressive library organizations gave overviews of their organizations and explained the library environment in their respective countries:

Austria: Renate Obadalek from Arbeitskreis Kritischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare im Renner-Institut (KRIBIBI). Translation: Male and Female Critical Librarians.

Germany: Frauke Mahrt-Thomsen from Arbeitskreis Kritischer BibliothekarInnen (AKRIBIE). Translation: Working Group of Critical Librarians.

South Africa: Johnny Jacobs from Library and Information Workers Organization (LIWO).

Sweden: Lennart Wettmark from Bibliotek i Samhle (BIS). Translation: Libraries in Society.

United Kingdom: Martyn Lowe from Information for Social Change.

Several other members from the Austrian and German organizations also attended the meetings and participated in our discussions, including Raimund Dehmlow, editor of the *Directory of Progressive Librarians Around the World* (Hannover: Laurentius, 1997). An expanded directory is online without descriptions at the following URL. Links to various homepages are provided: <http://www.germany.net/teilnehmer/100/115158/adresse.htm>

Chris Atton, author of *Alternative Literature: A Practical Guide for Librarians* (Aldershot, UK: Gower, 1996) was the panel discussant. Chris noted that it can sometimes be lonely working on issues in our respective countries, but the act of coming together and meeting each other is actually "a validation of our work." He described how winning this year's SRRT Jackie Eubanks award validated his work in the UK, and brought mainstream attention to his work. So giving each other more awards may be a viable organizing strategy.

The great positive energy generated resulted in the beginnings of an international network of progressive library organizations. Our first action

was to endorse a statement on the inappropriate venue for this year's International Visitors Reception at the World Bank. All of the speakers boycotted the event in protest over the Bank's "Structural Adjustment Programs" which decimate social programs so that countries can pay their debts as dictated by the international financial system. The first campaign will be opposition to the Multinational Agreement on Investments (MAI). See the SRRT resolution in this issue.

Al Kagan  
[akagan@uiuc.edu](mailto:akagan@uiuc.edu)

### Task Force on the Environment

Last spring TFOE was contacted by the Rainforest Action Network, a nonprofit organization advocating on behalf of threatened and endangered rainforest around the world. Specifically, the Rainforest Action Network was seeking to leverage ALA support in hopes of eliminating or reducing the amount of material from old growth temperate rainforests (primarily along the Pacific Coast of British Columbia in Canada). Rainforest Action noted ALA's effectiveness in getting large publishing houses to switch to acid-free papers.

A TFOE resolution to that request was made and approved by the Social Responsibilities Round Table. The Resolved statement can be read in the resolution section on page 3.



## TFOE Selects New Co-Chairs

The Task Force on the Environment has selected two librarians known for their environmental activities to serve as Co-Chairs for TFOE for the next two years. Their experience in environmental matters and their willingness to see TFOE and ALA take on new challenges will bring TFOE into the 21st Century and provide a firm leadership basis for this task force.

Patricia "Patty" Owen has her BA from Mount Holyoke College in the Biological Sciences and her MLS from the University of South Florida, where she was inducted into Beta Phi Mu. Patty serves as Pasco County Library System Assistant Director, Public Services. She is a former Chair of the Environment and Resource Management Division of the Special Libraries Association and is currently Chair of the Florida Library Association LAMA Interest Group. Her current environmental projects include a Stormwater Pond Restoration Aquascape project at South Holiday Branch Library in partnership with Southwest Florida Water Management District and establishing public access environmental information Internet stations at Hudson Regional Library in conjunction with SWFWMD. Patty is interested in continuing efforts towards the creation of a Rachel Carson Book Award planned to begin in 2000 to recognize excellence in youth oriented environmental fiction and non fiction.

Maria Jankowska returns to the helm of the Task Force. A member of TFOE since its inception in 1989, Maria will serve a two-year term as Co-Chair with the intent of exploring new initiatives in the areas of environmental education and environmental justice. Maria is a reference librarian at the University of Idaho and is leading an effort in Geographic Information Systems. Maria holds a Ph.D. in economics in addition to her library science degree. She continues to serve as Editor of the Electronic Green Journal and was the founding editor of its printed predecessor, The Green Library Journal.

## Feminist

Call For Mentors! The Feminist Task Force is actively seeking mentors for the Women of Color Mentoring Program. Mentors are asked to allow their mentees to accompany them to ALA events at ALA's annual conference in New Orleans. Part of the purpose of the women of Color Mentoring Program is to personalize the often overwhelming ALA experience for new conference attendees. Women interested in participating should contact Deb Gilchrist at [dgilchri@ctc.ctc.edu](mailto:dgilchri@ctc.ctc.edu).

## Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty

### Will the Poor Always be Among Us?

"I use libraries for intellectual stimulation," said a homeless "dumpster diver" to librarians at the Taskforce on Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty's (HHP) program at ALA's Annual conference in Washington, D.C. He did not, he said, use the library just to "get out of the cold".

The homeless D.C. resident was a panelist for "Will the Poor Always Be Among Us? Welfare Reform and its Aftermath" along with two other representatives from the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) and a representative from the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

About 125 people attended this program where Michael Stoops, an

organizer for the NCH and a member of the HHP Taskforce, presented a saddening slide program with music entitled "Faces of Homelessness". The slide show communicated in an impressive way that homelessness has many faces including those of children. Stoops also talked to librarians about his anger at the current administration's lack of action on the issue of homelessness. His remarks were supported by the testimonies of two homeless men who spoke about their lives on the streets.

Katherine Allen, a research associate with the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, D.C. talked about welfare reform and how libraries could meet the needs of current welfare recipients and of those coming off welfare. Some the greatest needs, she said, will be for learning experiences, informal training and literacy programs.

The goal of this program was to continue promoting ALA's Poor People's Policy and to stimulate discussion about economic barriers to information access. Having two men talk about what it was like to be homeless seemed to have a moving effect on the audience.

## Coretta Scott King

### CSK Breakfast and Program Initiatives

Attendance at the Coretta Scott King Award breakfast numbered four hundred and fifty at the ALA Conference in DC, and The CSK Task Force is committed to doubling that number for the 30th Anniversary celebration scheduled for New Orleans in the Summer of 1999. This year's breakfast was complete with local student guests sponsored by the Prince Hall Masons and various publishing houses: Lee & Low, Scholastic, Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, and Hyperion. Among head table guests were SRRT Coordinator, Wendy Thomas, ALA President Barbara Ford, Basil Phillips, honorarium presenter from Johnson Publishing, James Gurke, honorarium presenter Encyclopaedia Britannica, Alvin Granowsky, honorarium presenter World Book Encyclopedia, and John Nelson honorarium presenter Book Wholesalers Inc. 1998 Award recipients were Sharon Draper (text) and Javaka Steptoe (illustrations). 1998 Honor winners were: Joyce Hansen and James Haskins for text, and Ashley Bryan, Baba Wague Diakite, and Christopher Myers for illustrations.

A series of celebratory programs are being planned for the 30th Birthday of the Coretta Scott King Award inclusive of storytelling, art workshops, young author workshops, a read-in, A CSK Gala, and the Annual CSK Breakfast. In addition, the Task Force is planning a yearlong campaign to heighten the awareness of the Coretta Scott King Award to the general public and library community. Watch the CSK web sight for

tradition by telling the title story from CSK award winning book "The People Could Fly" by Virginia Hamilton. The two major program highlights were performances by local and guests youngsters. Ten students from the "Hatari Paca Chuii Sana Skuli" after school program from Newark New Jersey under the direction of Mr. Oba Saeed Lewis presented wonderful "Swahili Call and Response Exercises in Discipline." Several students from the District of Columbia YMCA Summer Camp Program introduced themselves and read their favorite poems from the "In Daddy's Arms I am Tall" illustrated by Javaka Steptoe (1998 CSK Award Winner). It was truly a celebration in story, song, and poetry.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

### Cultural Connection to African Art Exhibit at the Saint Louis Art Museum

One of CSK's first collaborative efforts will be implemented with the Saint Louis Art Museum connecting art and literature using the CSK Award Books for the opening program of the international "Masterpieces from Central Africa Exhibit" from September 12 - November 29, 1998. Ashley Bryan, Coretta Scott King Award recipient, will be the featured Artist/author- In - Residence in the opening festivities (September 10-14, 1998). Twelve CSK Award titles that highlight African themes, presentations by Ashley Bryan, and a book fair with autographing will be the focal point of the weekend opening festivities. CSK Award brochures will be available to teachers attending lectures by Mr. Bryan. A full schedule of program

activities can be found on the Saint Louis Museum Web page <http://www.slam.org/tervuren.html>.

### CSK Task Force Meeting Highlights

Newly revised Constitution and Bylaws were passed by membership. CSK Task Force meeting time was changed to Saturday to coincide with the All Task Force Meeting times of SRRT and to better facilitate the business of the Task Force. Tentative 30th Anniversary Plans were approved. Four new Award Jury members were elected. Black Caucus Conference CSK Booth and Program were approved. As outlined by new constitution, Chair Barbara Clark summarized goals of her term: 1) Strengthen SRRT/CSK ties. 2) Increasing membership and foster expansion of the CSK talent pool. 3) Update CSK Constitution and Bylaws. 4) Develop a 5-year plan for the financial solvency of the CSK Task Force. 5) Foster programming and awareness of the Coretta Scott King Award on a

informative bibliographic reference section. Although electronic tools are referenced throughout the book, Fasick emphasizes that children need a variety of experiences (books, tapes, videos, computers, storytimes) in order to learn. This book is surprisingly deceptive in its modest paperback cover and straight forward textbook style and layout, because it is chockfull of extremely useful guidelines, advice, examples, references, and strategies for providing library services. It can be a useful tool for all librarians, not just managers and not just those with responsibilities in children's or young adult services. I highly recommend this book to public

## CONTACT INFO

*note: this will be the last contact list with the old task force chairs,  
please email us new contact info for your task forces*

### Alternatives in Print

Charles Willett  
352.335.2200  
willett@afn.org

### Coretta Scott King Award

Barbara Jones Clark  
810.203.4606  
bc2obps@atlas.moa.net

### Environment

Frederick Stoss  
716.645.2946, x224  
fstoss@acsu.buffalo.edu

### Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty

Sanford Berman  
612.694.8570  
sberman@  
sun.hennepin.lib.ms.us

### International Responsibilities

Alfred Kagan  
217.333.6519  
akagan@uiuc.edu

### Feminist

Kristen Carlson  
312.996.2728  
carlson@uic.edu  
Veronda Pitchford  
312.996.2728  
vjpitch@uic.edu

### Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual

Michael Miller, co-chair  
212.854.5159  
mjm83@columbia.edu  
Bonita Corliss, co-chair  
206.386.4615  
bcorliss@spl.lib.wa.us

## SRRTAC-L

The SRRT listserv SRRTAC-L is open to all SRRT members and is a 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 listserv, send the following message to listproc@ala.org:

*subscribe SRRTAC-L [your first name] [your last name]*

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**Jessamyn West:** [jessamyn@eskimo.com](mailto:jessamyn@eskimo.com)  
**or Ken Thompson:** [kthompso@u.washington.edu](mailto:kthompso@u.washington.edu)  
or the SRRT Newsletter book review editor  
**Adrienne Julius:** [atjulius@seanet.com](mailto:atjulius@seanet.com)

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