

This June's ALA Annual Conference promises to be an informative one for members of SRRT. Several of our task forces are sponsor-

San Francisco, Here We Come...

(Continued from page 1)

by the National Audubon Society as one of the 100 most conservation figures of the 20th Century. Hayes believes that information is a powerful force for change. He will present ways that librarians can join citizens in five continents in developing an activist agenda and an informed global constituency to achieve a sustainable planet and efficient use of renewable resources. Speakers: Denis Hayes, President of the Bullitt Foundation in Seattle and Chair of the Energy Foundation in San Francisco (he was national coordinator of the first Earth Day in 1970 and Chair of Earth Day 1999 and 2000).; Frederick W. Stoss, Past Chair of the Task Force on the Environment, SRRT Coordinator and Biological Sciences Librarian, State University of NY, Buffalo

Saturday, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

“Introduction to Women’s Issues in ALA”

Feminist Task Force (FTF), COSWL, ACRL-WSS

Information about the activities of the women’s issue groups in ALA will be presented by: 1. SRRT Feminist Task Force (FTF) 2. ACRL-Women’s Studies Section (WSS) 3. Committee on the Status of Women in Libraries (COSWL) 4. Pay Equity Committee 5. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table (GLB-TRT) and 6. LAMA Women Administrators Discussion Group. There will also be a discussion about the concerns that are arising from these groups about women’s issues in libraries and ALA. Speakers: Jenny Baltes, FTF Coordinator; Theresa Tobin, ACRL-WSS Chair; Sarah Barbara Watstein, COSWL Chair; E.J. Josey, Pay Equity Chair; Faye A. Chadwell, GLBTRT Co-Chair; Elizabeth A. Avery, LAMA, Women Administrators Discussion Group Chair

Sunday, 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

“Looksism: Issues In the Workplace”

Feminist Task Force

We live in a looksist society that judges people, especially females, on the basis of physical appearance. Through this program we will be looking at how looksism affects our hiring and management practices and how we serve the users of our libraries.

Monday 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

“Women Moving Mountains: women and Organizational Development”

ACRL Women’s Studies Section, SRRT/Feminist Task Force

Presentation of WSS Awards: ACRL WSS Award for Career Achievement in Women’s Studies Librarianship sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group to Sarah Pritchard and ACRL WSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women’s Librarianship sponsored by Routledge Press to M... Program: Kathryn Deiss discusses issues of leadership and organizational development for librarians after years of training librarians for the libraries and the Chicago Library System and lead a discussion session on leadership in organizational development room for creative

zations. She will address the influence/confluence of the rise of Women’s Studies, the Women’s Movement, and focus on understanding gender in the workplace. Speaker: Kathryn Deiss, Director for Education & Training, Chicago Library System

Sunday, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

“Sustaining Libraries for the Future: Energy Efficiency, Friendly Buildings, and Librarians’ Sustainability”

Task Force on the Environment

Can libraries spend more of their budgets for information resources by spending less for energy? Three speakers will offer practical guidelines on how to plan, design, build, and operate library buildings that are energy efficient, conserve resources, save money, focus on the people and are sustainable for heavy use in the long run. Don’t miss this program – you will gain valuable information on “10 Commandments of Library Energy Conservation,” tips for strategic and sustainable planning in your library, and how to use your own conservation activities to teach the public about energy conservation. Speakers: Cate Gable, Poet, author, teacher consultant, founder and president of Axioun Communications International, Berkeley, CA; Donald Wulfinghoff, author of “Energy Efficiency Manual” and president of Wulfinghoff; James Weiner, Senior Associate, Director of Sustainable Architecture, Fields Devereaux, Architects & Engineers, Los Angeles, CA

Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Coretta Scott King Awards Breakfast

Coretta Scott King Task Force

Looking for that special event to top off a great conference year in 2001? Looking for insight, information, and inspiration? Join us for the 32nd Anniversary celebration of this annual breakfast honoring African-American authors and illustrators of books for children and youth. Don’t forget to register early for the Coretta Scott King Breakfast. Tickets sell out early – don’t be disappointed. Fee: \$40

Marriott Union Dispute...

(Continued from page 1)

Some background on the dispute:

In 1980, to obtain permission to build a hotel on city land, Marriott agreed to not hinder unionization.

Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, Local 2 which represents housekeepers, food workers, telephone operators and baggage handlers won legal recognition in 1996 and has been in negotiations with Marriott since that time.

Following a two-day strike in July 2000, picketing has been on intermittent basis.

On July 27, 2000 the National Labor Relations Board issued a 20-page complaint accusing Marriott of nearly 100 labor law violations concluding that they were: Restraining and coercing employees in the exercising of their rights; discriminating in regard to the hiring or tenure or terms or conditions of employ-

ment of its employees thereby discouraging membership in a labor organization; and failing and refusing to bargain collectively and in good faith. Allegedly, hotel management had repeatedly badgered pro-union workers about the futility of selecting the union as their bargaining representative and prohibiting the wearing of union insignia and buttons as well as the passing out of union leaflets.

Support for the boycotters has been intense. A Labor Day 2000 demonstration that was endorsed by Mayor Willie Brown. Former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich cancelled a scheduled appearance at the California Credit Union League's annual convention in November. The Service Employees International Union Local 790 Librarians Caucus, representing librarians at the San Francisco Public Library, urged ALA attendees to avoid the Marriott. In contrast to ALA's position on moving the conference, in March the National Association of Insurance Commissioners cancelled their June meeting and relocated it to New Orleans.

ALA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Membership I, Saturday, June 16, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Gateway Ballroom, Moscone Convention Center

Membership II, Monday, June 18, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, Gateway Ballroom, Moscone Convention Center

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Membership I

- ? Mary Y. Moore, Chair of the Council Committee on Education, reports on the committee's voluntary post-masters certification for professional librarians proposal
- ? E. J. Josey, Chair of the Council Committee on Pay Equity, will discuss pay equity and salaries of librarians

Membership II

- ? Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) litigation will be discussed by Daniel Mach, a member of ALA's Jenner & Block legal team, Candace D. Morgan, President of the Freedom to Read Foundation, and Judith F. Krug, Director of ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom

Please Note: Agendas for Membership Meetings ARE NOT CLOSED, and additional items can be added to them at the beginning of each meeting. A minimum amount of time on the agenda will be devoted to procedural activities. Members of the Council Resolutions Committee will be available to help members draft resolutions they wish sent to Council.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

To take any formal action on these or any other agenda items, a quorum, constituting 545 ALA personal members, must be present at each of the meetings.

If you are a new association member, veteran member, listener or talker, there is something for you at these meetings that goes to the heart of the profession. Please contact the Association by e-mail at membership@ala.org or by phone at (415) 346-1000. The meeting will be held on Monday, June 18, 2000, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon at the Gateway Ballroom, Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco, CA.

Fears of a potential onslaught of corporate branding expressed at last June's Action Council meeting seem to have been realized. ALA has recently circulated several press releases outlining events that some believe have taken branding to an outrageous level.

A January announcement stated:

"The American Library Association (ALA) is pleased to announce 3M Library Systems has joined 'at your library, The Campaign for America's Libraries', as a founding partner. "The founding partnership we have developed with 3M Library Systems will enable 'The Campaign for America's Libraries' to speak more loudly and more clearly about the value of libraries and li- It

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circumstances of the giving should imply no official or professional endorsement of the company's products or services, nor should our acknowledgement favor a particular company dealing either with libraries or -- in their capacity as such -- library patrons; and finally, we take pains to keep the profession, its institutions and the association free of implications of "payola".

Many in the SRRT community were also distressed to see an article in ALA News that makes it clear that the @ your library campaign was intended as a vehicle for corporate sponsorships. According to Rosenzweig who has closely watch developments: "This is not what we were led to believe. This is distasteful and a disgraceful reflection on the profession and the Association. We have no right (and the Exec has been given no license) to lease the name of the Association and, worse, the PROFESSION, to corporations (many with vested interests in the library

market, but -- I'm sure -- not to be restricted to them) for the promotion of their products and services. This is a thousand times worse than putting advertisements up in the public library, something which we have resisted, lo these many years, as UN-ETHICAL.

We appear to have crossed a line because the brand "@your library" -- meant to promote libraries and trademarked by ALA -- is being used to promote a product, competing with other products, in this case for the library market, and allows ALA to become involved in unfair promotion of one another matter) over all others. This HAS to be a misuse of the trademark or, if it's not, and this is the kind of "partnerships" which were envisaged by the creators of the campaign, we are involv-

ts:

Co-sponsors: SFPL Librarian's Guild and Library Employees
Union Chapter, Local 790 SEIU

“Best Copy Available”

Speaker: Nicholson Baker

At the very moment when excellent digitization techniques make permanent access a possibility, the only extant originals have disappeared, with only scratchy and incomplete microforms in their stead. Why has the past been discarded before we have found a proper home for it in the future? What is the purpose of the library? In this evening event Nicholson Baker will speak directly to librarians--the only professionals whose macro-
Nicolson Baker stillardappeuan.306ris lent ds from raryhott is thOic

Jerusalem was perhaps the most controversial IFLA venue in the history of the organization. The status of the city is one of the main contentions in the ongoing peace talks. The Palestinian and other Arab librarians boycotted the meeting and instead convened a conference of the Arab Union for Libraries and Information in Cairo. Although IFLA officials stated that they only learned of the boycott fifteen months before the meeting, the Palestinians claim contesting the venue four years ago, one year after the choice was announced. The IFLA Executive Board issued a statement last year stating that the conference "does not confer any particular recognition or status on that venue." This may be a fine theoretical statement, but it was ignored in practice. In fact, the Opening and Plenary Session presumably arranged by the Israeli Organizing Committee turned out to be an explicit showcase for promoting the politics of the State of Israel. A representative from the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) welcomed us to the "unified capital of the State of Israel." This was in Hebrew, so those without headphones for simultaneous translation missed it. The keynote speaker at the Opening Session is usually a government official who talks about libraries, education, or culture in the host country. This was the first time in my knowledge that the speaker was a political scientist who addressed an overtly political topic, the dramatically changed conditions that have led to the peace process. The talk was given by Shlomo Avineri, Director of the Institute for European Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a former Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The session was concluded with a choir singing Israeli peace songs.

Although the Palestinians were effectively silenced at the official meeting, the Norwegian Library Association took the lead in bringing a Palestinian point-of-view to the attendees. A small international group met with Feisal Hussein, the informal mayor of East Jerusalem and the member of the PLO Executive Committee who is in charge of Jerusalem affairs. The group was presented with a statement from the National Conference of Palestinian Librarians which reaffirmed the boycott, noted that the Israeli Government had prevented a workshop for Palestinian librarians, and called for Unesco intervention to maintain the cultural identity of the city. This statement was finally published in the conference newsletter, the *IFLA Express*, on the last day of the meeting. IFLA President, Christine Deschamps, stated at the closing session that the IFLA Executive Board dissociated itself from political incidents during the conference, but claimed that these were beyond the control of the local organizing committee. This was the weakest response possible.

Several other statements were made during the conference in at least two other meetings. I took the opportunity to address the question at both the panel and the business meeting of FAIFE, the Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression. I asked the following rhetorical questions concerning the Opening Session: Why were we welcomed to the "unified capital of the State of Israel?" Why was it focused on the peace process with only the Israeli point-of-view and no chance for discussion? Why were there Israeli peace songs but no Palestinian peace songs? And in a city with a large Palestinian population, why was there not one word of Arabic? At the FAIFE business meeting, I said that the situation was entirely predictable five years ago, and I asked that FAIFE have some input into future venue decisions.

Although the Israeli Organizing Committee had to promise that all would be welcome in its bid to win the venue, it turns out that visas were denied to many third world librarians. It is notable that the Re-

gional Section on Africa's funded speaker was denied a visa as were a number of other African librarians. Many also suffered long and difficult immigration and customs interrogations, both on arrival in Israel and before takeoff at El Al Airlines facilities at other airports. I observed what appeared to be a typical case of profiling on my arrival, the

At its Midwinter meeting, the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable decided to prepare an annual bibliography of books with strong feminist messages that are recommended for young people from birth to age 18 years and that have been published within the past 18 months. The purpose of the list is to communicate to the public young people's literature that is "Feminist Friendly" or encourages gender equity.

A group of interested FTF members prepared suggested policies and procedures at the conference and submitted it to the FTF listserv for feedback. At this time, the bibliography is called "Feminist Books for Youth Project: The Amelia Bloomer List." It will contain titles and brief descriptions of quality fiction and nonfiction books, mainstream and small press) that affirm positive roles for girls and women with an at-

The SRRT International Responsibilities Task Force held an especially stimulating program on "The WTO and Libraries: Perspectives on Globalization" on Sunday, July 9, 2000 from 2 to 4 PM. It seemed like the spirit of the Seattle demonstrations was in the room! The speakers rallied the 75 attendees resulting in some inspired discussion. It was encouraging to see that we got excellent coverage in *American Libraries*. Look for the papers to be published in the *Progressive Librarian*.

Resolution & Response to the Draft of the ALA International Relations Agenda 2000-2005

Whereas the ALA International Relations Committee has formulated an International Relations Agenda and has asked for comments:

Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table transmits the attached [following] proposed amendments to the ALA International Relations Committee for their consideration:

The Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association commends the ALA International Relations Committee for its efforts to establish an International Relations Agenda. Although SRRT agrees with the thrust of the operational sections, we are proposing several changes and additions to strengthen the language and address points omitted. We do however have deeper concerns with the Guiding Principles which will be used to evaluate issues not specifically addressed in the body of the document. Here we are proposing significant changes that we think better describe the current state of affairs and reflect long-standing ALA policy statements.

SRRT puts forward the following (and reflect the thrust of the operational sections)

1. The Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association commends the ALA International Relations Committee for its efforts to establish an International Relations Agenda. Although SRRT agrees with the thrust of the operational sections, we are proposing several changes and additions to strengthen the language and address points omitted. We do however have deeper concerns with the Guiding Principles which will be used to evaluate issues not specifically addressed in the body of the document. Here we are proposing significant changes that we think better describe the current state of affairs and reflect long-standing ALA policy statements.

MANY VOICES, ONE GOAL: notes towards a critique of the "One Voice" policy for ALA

By Mark Rosenzweig

We recognize the concerns of the Executive of the ALA about the necessity for presenting a strong, common front and public face in order to be effective on matters of Association-wide concern. But we also have a need to project an image of an Association which practices what it preaches: there must be the highest degree of internal democracy and the rights of freedom of expression in ALA. An attempt to impose what can only be described as a "democratic-centralist" organizational philosophy appropriate to a Leninist party is inappropriate and unnecessary in an organization with our goals.

We believe there is a misunderstanding about what effective unity entails and what measures are appropriate or necessary to achieve unity in action at the levels at which that is meaningful. We wish to preserve the pluralism and commitment to free expression which should be exemplified by ALA, while helping to make the Association a stronger and more effective organization. This is an attempt to suggest that the "one voice policy" is not the way to proceed.

1) There is no disagreement that government/public policy issues on which the Association has taken a position, which have been endorsed by Council and where the issues which are in play regard pending/on-going legislation or litigation, counterpositions on the same matters and criticism of the position on these matters or of the conduct of the active bodies which, by agreement with council or statutorily, are empowered to advance these positions, should be intra-organizational, i.e. should proceed through the various foray afforded by ALA rather than being directly addressed to the public, the government or courts or similar bodies. It is conceded that concurrent conflicting positions by bodies of the association expressed on pending legislation or litigation advanced by the whole association is counter-productive. This should be an ethical and practical imperative rather than a legally enforced stipulation, and should be based on self-policing rather than on the threat of sanctions. Nonetheless, it should be ex-

Many Voices...

(Continued from page 12)

recently been made and illegitimately passed off as a mere "interpretation" of existing principles.

6)Indeed, SRRT, as an examination of its charter and history reveal, exists precisely to put forward positions on issues considered to be of concern to the profession which are NOT likely to have been represented by other units or the Association as a whole, except in those instances where SRRT resolutions are able to be passed by Council. SRRT has never limited its concern to influencing Council, in attempts to pass resolutions. Many resolutions of SRRT are not, and have not been throughout its history, passed with the purpose of being brought to Council for consideration. SRRT passes resolutions, as is proper, in its own name, clearly identifies them as such and makes them public. There has been no legal action initiated against ALA which has resulted from this practice; there is no reason to believe it jeopardizes the tax-exempt status of the ALA since SRRT clearly acknowledges its obligation to comply with the stipulations of the 501(c)3 provisions under which ALA operates, and does not engage in endorsing political candidates, or in campaigning for any parties or candidates or in related activities..

7)As far as the making public of SRRT's independent positions is concerned, there is no difference between their being published in the SRRT Newsletter, American Libraries, Library Journal on the one hand and the New York Times on the other; no difference between addressing a petition to the President of ACRL or the President of the United States. Public is public, and the positions, determined in open meetings by pre-established democratic procedures by recognized units of the Association, are public. The further publication of these position, their being brought to the attention of particular parties, in no way changes their essentially valid, public character. The wisdom of making these statements public in certain ways or to certain persons or groups is a matter of debate and discretion, but prior censorship cannot be accepted as a means of restricting the provision of information (a position so at odds with librarianship's philosophy) about the decisions taken by a legitimate sub-unit of the Association.

Coretta Scott King Awards Announced at Midwinter

Six books were honored with Coretta Scott King Awards at Midwinter. Presented annually by the CSK Task Force the recipients are authors and illustrators of African descent whose distinguished books promote an understanding and appreciation of the "American Dream."

Commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and acknowledging the work of his widow Coretta Scott King, the awards are chosen by a
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The evening of October 23rd, 2000 in the United Nations General Assembly Hall is something I will never forget-- an evening dedicated to "Breaking the Silence on HIV/AIDS." Many thanks go to Fred Stoss for posting the tickets on the SRRTAC-L mailing list so I could attend on behalf of SRRT.

The "Race Against Poverty 2000 Awards Ceremony on Breaking the Silence on HIV/AIDS" was very moving. Between the remarkable music and the remarkable speakers, I believe this event will achieve success in moving people's hearts. "We must bring optimism, humor and dignity to the fight against AIDS." "We must bring generosity and courage to the battle."

There was a wonderful video of a journalist, a beautiful Polynesian woman about 25 years old, walking on the beach in native dress. She accepted the UN award for AIDS activism with the traditional garland of flowers on her head. Watching such a radiant, caring woman who looks like someone from a Gauguin painting step up to the podium to talk about what it means to be HIV positive would break anyone's heart.

However, the speakers were so dedicated and inspiring, and the music was such jubilant African drumming, singing, and strings, that I'm not breaking down in tears until now, as I type this e-mail.

Kofi Annan spoke about the massive scale of the tragedy, naturally, and talked about how one African country has such an intense campaign on AIDS that the local people call it "The Big Noise."

Here's a direct quote from Kofi Annan:
"I am here to ask you on behalf of the United Nations to join us in making The Big Noise against AIDS."

I was able to speak briefly with Rita Arauz, one of the awardees. I never knew her personally, but I used to work and live with people in Nicaragua who knew her well and spoke of her often. Rita's speech said that there's an opportunity to prevent a repeat of the African tragedy in

Latin America, but only if we take massive action now. This was encouraging.

One of the sad moments of the evening was a personal account of visiting the grave of a young African woman who had died of AIDS. She was speaking out about being HIV positive and about the need for frank education. By comparison, we in the United States have very little to lose by coming out and taking a stand on HIV.

After giving myself a week to think it over, my initial reaction remains unchanged-- Kofi Annan made a personal request for help from every individual present, whoever we are and wherever we are from. Since my ticket came from SRRT, it's my duty to pass his message on to every member of ALA.

Please tell SRRT and the ALA leadership that we've just received a very personal and heartfelt request from the Secretary-General himself, a request to make common cause with the UN in making The Big Noise against AIDS.

The first thing that comes to mind is putting an AIDS information corner in every public library in America. But beyond that, I think we need to put together ongoing cooperation for a campaign that is jointly sponsored by ALA and the UN.

I called the United Nations Development Programme to get a contact person for us. It's Miss Mina Mauerstein-Bail, mina.mauerstein-bail@undp.org
www.undp.org

So, SRRT, what's our next move?

Yours,
Kristin Anderson

kristin@telerama.com



Correspondence and manuscripts may be sent to the editor at:

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Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of ALA/SRRT. The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary or as whimsy strikes.
Next deadline: 07/15/01

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]

***You've got mail!
Well, you will if you join the
scintillating discus-
sions on SRRTAC-***



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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