

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



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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

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 find a way to appoint a regular jury of African American literary services to the award. The award is now appointed by a regular jury of African American literary services.

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 they 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 about the good things SRRT has and is doing and how they can share the adventure.

If SRRT remains on firm f

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 Change (USA) which have been active in the

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: Al-Qattan Centre for the Child-Gaza ([http:// www.qattanfoundation.org](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.qattanfoundation.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 is 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,

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"

Gu zman, 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"

Joining 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

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:

Alternatives in Publication (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

Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force

International Responsibilities Task Force

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 librariansh

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

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



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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