

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE

SRRT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 158/159

JUNE 2007

ALA ANNUAL OVERVIEW

Saturday June 23

SRRT All Task Force Meeting

8:30-10:00am

SRRT Action Council I Meeting

10:30-12:30pm

SRRT-FTF: Introduction to Women's Issues at ALA, "I'm not a feminist, but..."

sponsored by: ALA SRRT / ACRL WSS/COSWL

1:30-3:30pm

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Multicultural Idea Exchange

sponsored by: ALA SRRT

1:30-3:30pm

Finding Environmental Information in the New Millennium: Continuing the Dialogue

*Sponsored by: ALA SRRT
Co-Sponsors: GODORT, FAFLRT, COL, Federal Libraries Subcommittee*

4-5:30pm

Walking Hand-in-Hand: Librarianship & Social Movements Today

*Sponsored by: ALA SRRT
Co-Sponsors: AILA, APALA, CALA, REFORMA*

4-5:30pm

Sunday June 24

FTF Amelia Bloomer Project Breakfast: Who Needs Feminist Books? \$

Sponsored by: ALA SRRT

7-9am

Feminist Task Force - Ms. Magazine: A Voice for a Movement

*Sponsored by: ALA/SRRT
Co-Sponsor: COSWL*

8-10pm

Darfur: The Library's Responsibility and Our Community's Need to Know

Sponsored by: ALA SRRT

1:30-3:30pm

Monday June 25

The Data and Information Behind "Truth"

Sponsored by: ALA SRRT Task Force on the Environment

10:30-12:00pm

SRRT Membership & Action Council II Meeting

1:00-3:30

16th Annual Free Speech Buffet \$

*Sponsored by: ALA SRRT
Alternative Media Task Force*

6-8:30pm



Library of Congress

For more information, see individual task force reports inside.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FEMINIST TASK FORCE 2

PROGRESSIVE LIBRARIANS GUILD 3

MLK, JR. 4

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 5

HUNGER, HOMELESSNES AND POVERTY 6

ENVIRONMENT 7

RACHEL CARSON AWARD 8

COORDINATOR'S REPORT 10

BOOK REVIEWS 12

GRANMA BOOKMOBILE 18

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA 19

FEMINIST TASK FORCE

This year at the ALA Annual Conference 2007 the Feminist Task Force has a wealth of opportunities for conference goers. We are particularly excited about having Ellie Smeal, Ms. Magazine, & the Feminist Majority, coming to speak at our Sunday evening program.

The Amelia Bloomer Project is in its 6th year. The members have compiled excellent lists of books for children and teens with feminist values. All are invited to attend the Amelia Bloomer Project breakfast and learn more about the Project and the books on the lists.

If you want to know more about the Feminist Task Force (FTF), the Committee on the Status of Women in Libraries (COSWL), the ACRL Women's Studies Section (WSS) and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transsexual Round Table (GLBTRT) the best place to go is to the "Introduction to Women's Issues" program. This is a good, interactive program with good discussion about current issues of interest.

The FTF business meetings are very inviting. There are always activities for individuals to participate in. Ideas about actions for FTF are always welcome.

Here is more about our programs and meetings:

Saturday June 23

SRRT-FTF: Introduction to Women's Issues at ALA, "I'm not a feminist, but..."

ALA SRRT/ACRL WSS/COSWL

1:30-3:30pm - MAY New York Room

Have you ever thought or said, "I'm not a feminist, but..."? If so, how you finished that sentence could inform the development of agenda in SRRT Feminist Task Force (FTF), Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL), ACRL's Women's Studies Section (WSS) or the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT). Representatives from these and other groups will be there to learn from you what the issues are and they will be able to tell you about the opportunities to participate in their current work. The first hour will be the program, the second hour will be set aside for networking and casual conversation.

Sunday June 24

FTF Amelia Bloomer Project Breakfast:- Who Needs Feminist Books? \$

ALA SRRT

7-9am - REN Room 12-14

Join the Amelia Bloomer Project of the Feminist Task Force for a breakfast presentation looking at literature for children and teens through the lens of feminism. This event requires registration (\$25).

Feminist Task Force - Ms. Magazine: A Voice for a Movement

ALA/SRRT

8-10pm - REN Grand Ballroom North

Co-Sponsor: COSWL

The Feminist task Force invites you to join Ms. Publisher, Eleanor Smeal, for a discussion of the premier feminist publication that, for 30 years, has been the voice for a movement. Learn about the new Committee of Scholars, which is diverse in race, ethnicity, age, region, and academic discipline, and how the Committee works with Ms. to increase the reach of women's studies scholarship to a wider audience. With this partnership, Ms. serves as the perfect vehicle to give feminist scholars and activists the voice that they deserve and to give Ms. readers the information that they need.

FTF CONTINUED

FTF Business Meetings

SRRT Feminist Task Force Meeting

6/23/2007 Saturday

8:00 am - 10:00 am

WASH Parkview (with the SRRT All Task Force Meetings)

SRRT Feminist Task Force Meeting

6/24/2007 Sunday

1:30 pm - 03:30 pm

JW State

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SRRT needs people to take a shift or two (or more) at the SRRT booth in the Exhibit Hall of the Washington Convention Center, from Saturday thru Tuesday, June 23 to 26. Please contact SRRT Coordinator Elaine Harger for more info and to sign-up – eharger@agoron.net or 425/831-6718.

DON'T FORGET THE WSS/FEMINIST TASK FORCE SOCIAL

National Museum of Women in the Arts - <http://www.nmwa.org/>.

Friday, June 22nd

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

PROGRESSIVE LIBRARIANS GUILD NEWS

The Progressive Librarians Guild will be meeting during annual on Sunday, June 24, from 3:00-5:30pm.

The biggest news from PLG is our participation in the upcoming U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta immediately following ALA.

Librarian colleagues throughout the world are involved in the Social Forum movement in a few different ways -- collecting publications from social forum participants in order to document and preserve the memory and history of this important social movement; informing social forum participants on the role libraries can play in communities to support social justice; in providing library services during the social forum itself; and in sharing our experience as activists engaged in opposing and exposing privatization of public services, disinformation, censorship. The Progressive Librarians Guild wants participate in the U.S. Social Forum in order to support the work begun by our colleagues within the context of the World Social Forum.

We hope to connect the idea, the potential, and the reality of libraries as vital hubs of knowledge and information within all communities. PLG shares with the Social Forum a commitment to building bridges between peoples and cultures, with an internationalist perspective and a desire to put our skills at the service of grassroots initiatives. The overall theme of the U.S. Social Forum -- if another world is possible: another US is necessary -- reflects much of the work PLG has engaged in over the past 17 years within the field of librarianship. We consider the opportunity of the U.S. Social Forum a vital step in the development of our work as librarians who are opposed to neo-liberalism and imperialism, and dedicated to political, economic and cultural democracy and the building of infrastructures that heal the environment so badly damaged by industrial nations in the past century.

MLK, JR. REPORT

SEVENTH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNRISE CELEBRATION

Tracie D. Hall was the keynote speaker to a capacity audience during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, Washington. Hall was recently appointed Assistant Dean, Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information from that of Director, ALA Office of Diversity. The celebration was held on Monday, January 22 from 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center and focused on this year's King Holiday national theme, "Remember! Celebrate! Act!! A Day On ... Not a Day Off!" to encourage librarians and all library workers to bear in mind the importance of ensuring access to information in libraries to all people, especially underserved populations.

Keynoter Hall had been recognized by Library Journal as the August 2004 "Mover and Shaker" and her writings on diversity and leadership have appeared in several professional publications. She spoke extemporaneously from her theme "The Parable of the Talents Retold: Librarians as Active Witnesses to History" providing an account of her personal life growing up in Watts of Los Angeles and her professional experiences in Hartford and New Haven, CT after having her first job as librarian, almost thirteen years earlier, at the Seattle Public Library. Her message was punctuated by asking the audience to repeat as she reminded them that "there is joy in repetition" and she charged them to entrust their talents as in the biblical story by using this year's 10th anniversary of the Spectrum Scholarship Program as an example that they "gotta get ready for the big payback."

ALA President Leslie Burger and Executive Director Keith Fiels were opening speakers along with Vice President Paul Kobasa of World Book, Inc. who spoke of the role librarians play in advancing the liberty that Dr. King proclaimed stating, "there is no such thing as freedom without knowledge ... and ultimately without information." SRRT Coordinator Elaine Harger called attention to ALA's new report "Diversity Counts" and observed that "we are all part of the human family" as she spoke among the Presidents of representative ALA organizations, committees, and round tables of the OLOS community who read selected quotations from Dr. King. Transporting music was provided by the Mt. Zion Brotherhood Chorus leading the audience singing in unison opening with "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the African American National Anthem and concluding with "We Shall Overcome."

We gratefully acknowledge the leadership of the American Library Association, the Co-sponsorship of the Black Caucus-ALA (with special recognition of its Immediate Past President Andrew P. Jackson [Sekous Molefi Baako] for the Celebration Quotations), World Book, Inc. for Co-Sponsorship and the repast, Editor Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr., Cognotes, Editor in Chief Leonard Kniffel, American Libraries, along with Director Satia Orange and OLOS Staff for continued leadership and support.

7TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MULTICULTURAL IDEA EXCHANGE

Lyn Miller-Lachman, award winning author and editor of the "MultiCultural Review" will be the moderator for a panel of representatives from public, academic, special, and school libraries. The panelists will provide highlights of acclaimed activities to observe the 2007 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday with emphasis on library efforts that "Keep the Dream Alive!"

Speakers:

Panel Moderator, Lyn Miller-Lachman, Award-winning author and editor of the MultiCultural Review

Director Andrew A. Venable, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, OH

Dr. Em Claire Knowles, Assistant Dean for Student Administrative Services, School of Library & Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, MA

Dr. Claudette S, McLinn, District Field Librarian, Library Services, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, CA

Pam Cash Menzies, Librarian, EBONY-JET, Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., Chicago, IL.

Audience Exchange Moderator, Averil J. Kadis, Public Relations Director (Retired) Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD

Respectfully submitted by Virginia B. Moore, Chair

ALA-SRRT Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force

IRTF UPDATE

The International Responsibilities Task Force's (IRTF) meeting at midwinter was short with only two major agenda items. IRTF plans to present a program at the annual conference in Washington, DC that spotlights the current turmoil that is currently taking place in Darfur. The program is tentatively entitled "*Darfur: The Library's Responsibility and the Community's Need to Know*". We are pleased to announce that this will be our first collaboration with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA). We are working on acquiring speakers and the program will be formatted as a roundtable discussion.

Here is the preliminary description of the program:

Darfur: The Library's Responsibility and Our Community's Need to Know

Join the Social Responsibilities Round Table for an afternoon of thought-provoking discussion on the genocide that is taking place in Darfur. This roundtable discussion will focus on the history of the conflict, the role of the Sudanese government in the genocide and the response from the international community. We will also discuss the lack of media attention about this crisis and focus on how libraries can create public awareness as this tragedy continues to unfold. This program will be co-sponsored with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

The 2nd agenda item was the introduction of a resolution by Al Kagan that called for defunding the Iraq War. The resolution referenced past resolutions which had been met with success. The resolution addressed securing Iraqi cultural resources and rebuilding libraries; opposing torture; opposing disinformation, media manipulation and the destruction of public information; and executing a strategy that would end troop involvement. IRTF overwhelming consented to taking the resolution to the SRRT Action Council for further review.

LaJuan Pringle

Coordinator, International Responsibilities Task Force (IRTF)

PLCMC, University City Regional Library

Phone - (704) 595-9589

Email – LPringle@plcmc.org

KATHLEEN DE LA PEÑA MCCOOK TO RECEIVE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Distinguished Professor Dr. Kathleen de la Peña McCook will be awarded the Florida Library Association's Lifetime Achievement Award at their annual conference this year. This award is presented to a librarian whose distinguished record of professional achievements and accomplishments has spanned decades and advanced the stature of libraries within the State of Florida via such activities as risk taking, innovation and significant change.

JENNA FREEDMAN NAMED FUTAS WINNER

The American Library Association (ALA) has awarded the Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award to Jenna Freedman, coordinator of Reference Services at Barnard College Library in New York.

The Futas award, consisting of \$1,000 and a 24 karat gold-framed citation of achievement recognizes and honors a librarian who invests time and talent to make positive changes in the profession of librarianship by taking risks to further the case, helping new librarians grow and achieve, working for change within the ALA or other library organizations, and inspiring colleagues to excel or make the impossible possible.

Freedman is a change agent. She developed a "Zine" College at Barnard and has spread the word nationwide to libraries about the value and importance of collecting zines. A zine is a self-produced, self-published and self distributed magazine type publication creatively expressing individuality and interest in a particular subject. Freedman writes her own zine: "Lower East Side Librarian Winter Solstice Shoutout Zine."

The 2007 Elizabeth Futas Catalyst For Change Award will be presented at the ALA Award Ceremony and Reception, Tuesday, June 26, during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington DC.

HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY TASK FORCE REPORT

ALA's Midwinter Meeting 2007 in Seattle provided a helpful boost for HHPTF activities this year. Six librarians, including Canadian Mark Koep of the Vancouver Public Library, gathered at the HHPTF table during the SRRT All-Task Force Meeting. Participants shared their experiences and insights concerning library service to poor and socially excluded people and discussed ways to build stronger community partnerships.

Later at the conference, I met with ALA's Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) Subcommittee on Library Services to the Poor and Homeless--represented by Satia Orange, Michael Santangelo, and Fred Stoss--to establish specific collaborative goals for the year. Those projects are as follows:

1. The drafting of an "internal" survey, to be distributed to ALA units, to assess the implementation of ALA Policy 61, Library Services for the Poor. This survey fulfills an ALA Council directive assigned to OLOS in 1999. At press time, the survey is complete and has been posted to SurveyMonkey.com. The questions are based on the objectives outlined in the "Poor People's Policy."
2. The drafting of an "external" survey, to be distributed to ALA membership, to assess library service to the poor and to collect case studies. I agreed to work up a first draft, which is based on Frances Smardo Dowd's national survey assessing library service to homeless children conducted in the late 1990s. At press time, the first draft was shared with OLOS principles and a second draft, with minor changes, will be available for their review by May 4. ALA's Office for Research and Statistics must review and approve the survey prior to distribution. We discussed posting the survey online and allowing ample time for responses.
3. Coordination of a program at ALA Annual 2007 in Washington, D.C., that focuses on service to low-income people. That scheduled program is as follows:

Serving Low-Income People Effectively: Ideas and Practices for Libraries

Sunday June 24, 10:30 am to noon / Location: TBA

Speakers: Helen Carter, London Libraries Development Agency; Laurel Weir, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty; Milli Kanani, Institute for Children and Poverty

4. The distribution of a practical library fact sheet on serving homeless people, to be distributed and promoted during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in mid-November. The content for this resource will be derived from a "poverty toolkit" for librarians that Michael Santangelo is creating with input from the HHPTF and OLOS. ALA's rural libraries toolkit ("The Small but Powerful Guide to Winning Big Support for Your Rural Library") is just one of the resources serving as a format model.

In other news, the Illinois Library Association's Librarians for Social Responsibilities Forum (LSRF) agreed to sponsor a state survey of library service to poor people. Roughly ten LSRF members, including SRRT veterans Al Kagan and Mary Sue Brown, met at The Urbana Free Library March 5. I distributed a report issued by Illinois' Heartland Alliance showing that 85% of Illinois counties experienced an increase in poverty in 2006. I offered background on the ALA survey projects and the prospect of similar state surveys in New Jersey and Wisconsin. A search for project partners is currently underway.

In case you missed it, be sure to read Chip Ward's thoughtful article on homeless people in public libraries: "What They Didn't Teach Us in Library School: The Public Library as an Asylum for the Homeless," available online at

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/index.mhtml?pid=180836>. Ward recently retired from his position as assistant director of the Salt Lake City Public Library.

You should also see the revamped rendering of Sandy Berman's 2005 Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecture "Classism in the Stacks," which design student Ronald Lu conceived for a course at the Art Center College of Design. The reproducible PDF booklet is available online at <http://www.whoknew.org/content/issue05/01bodyodor/main.html>. WhoKnew is directed by Joshua Trees and published triennially. Students "graphically communicate texts considered complex, confusing and/or controversial."

HHPTF CONTINUED

Finally, the HHPTF is seeking volunteers to serve as coordinator or co-coordinator. If you are a SRRT member or would like to join SRRT, if you can attend ALA conferences, and if you want to help libraries serve poor people more effectively, please contact me!

John Gehner, Coordinator
jgehner@hhptf.org
www.hhptf.org

TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT ALA ANNUAL PROGRAMS

FINDING ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM: CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE
TRACK: USER SERVICES, REFERENCE & OUTREACH

Co-Sponsors: GODORT, FAFLRT, COL, Federal Libraries Subcommittee, SRRT Task Force on the Environment

Saturday, June 23rd ; 4-5:30pm

Since February 2006, there has been much talk and discussion about access to environmental information. Much of the controversy stems from the restructuring of the

Environmental Protection Agency's National Library Network, which has seen the closing of five of its units in response to a \$2 million cut in its fiscal year 2007 budget. The EPA stopped further library closing in late December 2006 and engaged representatives from the EPA Office of Environmental Information engaged in several lengthy and frank discussion of its actions with regard to its libraries at the ALA Midwinter meeting in January 2007. Various speakers representing different perspectives on this issue will continue this dialogue on access to environmental information. Speakers: Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, Government Information Advisor, a professional staff member for Library and Distribution Services, U.S. Congress, Joint Committee on Printing for 21 years, and founder of the ALA Government Documents Round Table; Jonathan Betz-Zall, Reference Librarian for Highline Community College in Des Moines, Washington, and co-Chair ALA Task Force on the Environment; Emma J. McNamara, Director of the Information Access Division of Information Analysis and Access in the Office of Environmental Information of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Jeff Ruch, Executive Director, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility; and Fred Stoss, University at Buffalo Arts & Sciences Libraries, co-Chair ALA Task Force on the Environment will serve as moderator.

THE DATA AND INFORMATION BEHIND "TRUTH:" A LIBRARIAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON GLOBAL WARMING

Track: User Services, Reference & Outreach

Monday, June 25th; 10:30-12:00pm

Co-Sponsor: SRRT Task Force on the Environment

Presenter and ALA Task Force on the Environment co-chair, Fred Stoss, was trained by Al Gore and The Climate Project in January 2006 to present the slide show that is the basis for Al Gore's Oscar-winning documentary film and *NY Times* best selling book, "An Inconvenient Truth" Using Gore's resources from Gore's slide show, this presentation will review the data and information from where much of Gore's resources are found, and discuss the various resources from where additional information can be found: data-rich online compendia, core reference books, additional DVDs and videos, must read books (children, young adults, and adults), and sources from which solutions to the causes of global warming are readily found. He will also address some of the special concerns for teaching children about complex and controversial topics, such as global warming. Speaker: Fred Stoss, University at Buffalo, Arts & Sciences Libraries, Biological and Environmental Sciences and Mathematics Librarian and co-Chair of ALA Task Force on the Environment.

RACHEL CARSON BOOK AWARD

More than ten years ago Patty Owen and Fred Stoss made an attempt to establish a children's book award for environmental and nature-themed fiction and non-fiction works. A resolution was sent to ALA Council where it was referred to BARC and rejected.

Patty would not let the idea die. She and Fred dusted off some old notes and decided to give it another try. They have spent the past five or six months to honor the 100 year anniversary of Rachel Carson's birth, and propose the Rachel Carson Book Award for Outstanding Children's Environmental Literature in both fiction and nonfiction to be created by the Task Force on the Environment of the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table.

The purpose of the Rachel Carson Book Award is to recognize authors and their work that inspire children to "'keep alive [their] inborn sense of wonder" especially "'the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." * Rachel Carson

The award will be presented annually by the Task Force on the Environment of the American Library Association's (ALA) Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT). Award recipients would be announced during the ALA Midwinter Meeting each January. The awards are presented each June at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association. The award consists of a plaque and a cash award.

To be considered, the book:

- a. Must portray some aspect of environmental science or a national or global environmental issue and be scientifically accurate.
- b. Must be written by an author who is a citizen or resident of the United States. "Resident" specifies that author has established and maintains residence in the United States as distinct from being a casual or occasional visitor.
- c. Must be published in the United States in the year preceding presentation of the Award. "Published in the preceding year" means that the book has a publication date in that year, was available for purchase in that year, and has a copyright date no later than that year. A book might have a copyright date prior to the year under consideration but, for various reasons, was not published until the year under consideration. The intent of the definition is that every book be eligible for consideration, but that no book be considered in more than one year. Books originally published in other countries are not eligible.
- d. Must be an original work. In defining the term, "original work," the committee will consider books that are traditional in origin, if the book is the result of original research and the retelling and interpretation are the writer's own.
- e. Must be written in English. The term, "in English" means that the committee considers only books published in English. This requirement DOES NOT limit the use of words or phrases in another language where appropriate in context.
- f. Must be written for a youth audience. The book displays respect for children's understandings, abilities, and appreciations. Children are defined as persons of ages up to and including fourteen and books for this entire age range are to be considered.
- g. Must meet established standards of quality writing for youth. Fiction includes fiction, poetry, folktales. Nonfiction includes the arts and sciences and biography. Committee members need to consider the following:
 - Interpretation of the theme or concept
 - Presentation of information including accuracy, clarity, and organization
 - Development of a plot
 - Delineation of characters
 - Delineation of setting
 - Appropriateness of style

RACHEL CARSON CONTINUED

Because the literary qualities to be considered will vary depending on content, the committee need not expect to find excellence in each of the named elements. The book should, however, have distinguished qualities in all of the elements pertinent to it.

- h. Each book is to be considered as a contribution to environmental education. The committee is to make its decision primarily on the text though other aspects of the book i.e. overall design, illustrations, and photographs are to be considered as they add to the readers' appreciation and awareness of the content and the world around him.
- i. The book must be a self-contained entity, not dependent on other media (i.e., sound or film equipment) for its enjoyment.
- j. Particular attention will be paid to titles that seek to motivate readers to develop their own attitudes and behaviors as well as comprehend their personal duty and responsibility as environmentally responsible citizens.
- k. The award need not be given if the committee so decides in a particular year.
- l. Authors and publishers can request permission from the ALA Task Force on the Environment to use the Rachel Carson Book Award medallion art, text or materials.

So far Patty has secured permission from the Estate of Rachel Carson to use her name and likeness for the award. All contracts and letters of agreement have been submitted through ALA and the Office of Literacy and Outreach Services. The next steps of this process is to find a suitable source of funding to provide a monetary stipend to accompany the awards, and to establish a Book Awards Committee with the Task Force on the Environment. TFOE will be reaching out to AASL and ALSC for assistance.

TFOE will be making a motion to the SRRT Action Council to give its approval for creating this award, a step needed before the proposal can be submitted to the ALA Awards Committee for their approval.

Greening of the Words



The SRRT Task Force on the Environment (TFOE) is working among its members and with others in the publishing world to bring to the attention of librarians, readers, and others associated with the publication of books about new initiatives to make book publishing a more environmentally friendly and a "greener" operation. Over the past several years we have seen several publishers change paper stocks, printing processes, marketing strategies, and other aspects of producing, promoting, and providing books to readers. TFOE hopes to engage in a series of discussion on the topic of green publishing in the next ALA Midwinter and Annual Meetings, and hopefully propose for wider adoption practices that will reduce the ecological footprints of publishers. If interested in being a part of this effort, contact one of the TFOE Co-Charis, Jonathan Betz-Zall or Fred Stoss.

EPA Libraries Follow-up

Fred Stoss, co-Chair of the Task Force on the Environment remains a member of the ALA Federal Libraries sub-committee of the Committee on Legislation. The sub-committee was one of several groups meeting with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Information at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. ALA maintains a record of actions at

www.ala.org/ala/washoff/woissues/governmentinfo/fedlibs/epalibraries/epalibraries.cfm

Here you can review ALA's actions on this issue, as well as links to other resources. You can also get an update on this issue at the ALA Annual at a panel discussion sponsored by TFOE, GODORT, FAFLRT, COL, and the Washington Office. Speakers will address this issue and comment on keeping this dialogue going. Details of this program are provided elsewhere in this issue.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

May Day 2007

Dear SRRT members,

Recently, questions posted to SRRTAC-L prompt me to write here something of how SRRT works. How does SRRT decide what issues to address? How are decisions made?

With 2,176 members (at last count), SRRT could potentially address countless matters. So, how, for example, did the genocide in Darfur become an issue for SRRT at last year's meeting in New Orleans where a SRRT resolution on the situation was passed by ALA's governing Council?

Like most SRRT initiatives, the Darfur resolution arose from the concern of an individual SRRT member, who shared it with members of one of SRRT's task forces, in this case the International Responsibilities Task Force, chaired by LaJuan Pringle. Members of IRTF discussed why librarians should be aware of this human horror and what we might do about it. A resolution was drafted and presented to Action Council, SRRT's governing body which meets at every midwinter and annual ALA meeting on Saturday mornings and Monday afternoons. Members of Action Council discussed, amended and voted to support the final resolution, whereupon SRRT's representative to ALA Council, Al Kagan, submitted it for that body's review and action.

Placed on its agenda, ALA Council discussed, amended and voted to approve the "Resolution on the Darfur Genocide," which reads in part:

Resolved, That the American Library Association Council urges all the relevant ALA units and the profession-at-large to highlight and explain the Darfur Genocide through collections, programs, displays, resource guides, and other suitable means; and, be it further

Resolved, That the American Library Association calls upon publishers to actively seek and publish materials at both lay and scholarly levels to add to public understanding of Darfur and other genocidal conflicts.

As you can see a SRRT member's concern about something so seemingly distant from librarianship as a 21st century genocide happening on the other side of the globe, is indeed a relevant professional concern and responsibility.

In a nutshell, any SRRT member, with any concern can bring it to Action Council's attention for consideration. Some matters are passed on to ALA Council, as in the example above, others are acted on in the most appropriate manner. Some issues arrive on Action Council's agenda from SRRT task forces and from ALA units outside of SRRT. Throughout its history, SRRT has been responsible for bringing to ALA's attention many matters. Here are a few which have been codified into ALA policy in recent years:

50.12 Environmental Issues

52.8 Disinformation, Media Manipulation and the Destruction of Public Information

54.21 Workplace Speech

58.4 Article 19 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights

61. Library Services for the Poor

Very important to know is that if you have a concern you'd like SRRT to address, you can, and should! You do not have to attend any meetings for that to happen. You do, however, need to work with a member of Action Council who can present your concern at a meeting, for it is only at face-to-face meetings that official SRRT decisions are made.

SRRT has, since its founding in 1969, been a home within ALA for librarians who are concerned about social injustice and who wish to work for social change. SRRT was, for instance, the only unit of ALA that would give an organizational home to the librarians who established the Coretta Scott King Award. These librarians believed that ALA recognition of books by Black authors and illustrators that spoke to African-American children in positive ways could make a difference in ameliorating the problem of racism within our society. Similarly, SRRT gave a home to gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgendered

COORDINATOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

librarians who believed the time had come for librarians to "come out of the closet" within the context of their professional organization. Likewise, each current SRRT task force brings to ALA concerns connecting librarianship with the rest of society – indeed, with the rest of the world. It is no wonder that SRRT is widely considered the "conscience of ALA."

ALA Policy 1.1 reads in part: "The broad social responsibilities of the American Library Association are defined in terms of the contribution that librarianship can make in ameliorating or solving the critical problems of society; support for efforts to help inform and educate the people of the United States on these problems and to encourage them to examine the many views on and the facts regarding each problem..." SRRT helps ALA put this policy into practice.

If SRRT sounds like a place for your activism, let me know. SRRT needs people to fill some very important positions – we're seeking a new listserv manager, a membership coordinator, and we always need liaisons to various ALA units. Feel free to e-mail or phone me at eharger@agoron.net or 425/831-6718.

In solidarity,

Elaine Harger
SRRT Coordinator

OPINION

BY TODD M. GROOTEN

I have been a member of the SRRT since I first joined the American Library Association during my first semester of library school back in 2001. I have not been an active participant in the activities of the group during this time for a number of reasons, primarily due to the fact that I find a lot of the activity on the SRRT discussion list to be very hostile and uninviting. There always seems to be a great deal of tensions between list members about the direction and activities the SRRT should engage in. Here lies my concerns with the Roundtable and why I don't feel that it represents any issues I feel important.

I have dealt with chronic unemployment since graduating with my MLS in May 2003. I know I am not the only new(ish) librarian suffering from this problem. It has been discussed in many of the discussion lists geared towards people new to the profession (Nexgenlib, Newlib). When I posted a message about this topic to the SRRT discussion list last year, no one responded to my message, on or off the list. I found this disheartening, since I considered it an issue that would be pertinent to the group.

I can understand and appreciate the many issues that are important to the members of the Roundtable, but I have to approach things from a pragmatic viewpoint. When I am struggling to make end meet and keep current with all my financial obligations, I can't concern myself with what's going on in Cuba, China, or many of the other troubled places in the world. Perhaps in the eyes of some that might suggest I am insensitive to these issues - I am not. I consider myself a socially responsible and aware individual, but when all is said and done I have to look out for myself and MY interests first and foremost.

I would feel more comfortable with the SRRT if they engaged in social activism as it relates directly to libraries and library workers. This is why I joined the American Library Association and many of the various divisions and interest groups. Many of the causes advanced by SRRT members have organizations or activist groups specifically targeted towards advocating those issues. I would seek these out first when and if I wanted to engage in this kind of activism. I do not feel that the non-library activism the Roundtable leans to is beneficial, when there are a lot of different causes and positions represented by the membership, and coming to an agreement on one or more of the issues discussed would be difficult or impossible. If there cannot be consensus on anything, then there cannot be change (for good or otherwise).

BOOK REVIEW

D'Angelo, Ed. *Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library: How Postmodern Consumer Capitalism Threatens Democracy, Civil Education and the Public Good.* Duluth: Library Juice Press, 2006.

In the week following Kurt Vonnegut's death, his 2004 essay, published in *In These Times*, swept the library listservs and appeared in many librarians' blogs. Perhaps this is because this paragraph can be found nestled within Vonnegut's scathing critique of American culture:

So the America I loved still exists, if not in the White House or the Supreme Court or the Senate or the House of Representatives or the media. The America I love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries.

(http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/i_love_you_madame_librarian/)

The context behind Vonnegut's statement is simply this: we can no longer trust our media or our leaders to tell us the truth. In fact, they suppress the truth, manipulate, censor, and ban it. But librarians (along with a few heretical alternative publishers) are still stewards of information, defenders of Vonnegut's idea of what America is supposed to be: "So I am a man without a country, except for the librarians and the Chicago-based magazine you are reading."

I can only assume that Vonnegut would have applauded Ed D'Angelo's *Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library*. In his concise, yet comprehensive book, D'Angelo—Supervising Librarian at Brooklyn Public Library, with the credentials of a philosopher—warns that if librarianship and libraries continue their current path, democracy and the public good will continue to decline, and finally perish altogether. Education, democracy, and the public good depend upon each other. If one is threatened, all are.

The most important and most moral function of tax-supported public libraries has always been "to promote and sustain the knowledge and values necessary for a democratic civilization" (1). To maintain democracy, we must have an educated citizenry. Thus, education promotes democracy, which itself is a public good. But D'Angelo claims that postmodern consumer capitalism has turned Americans into consumers rather than citizens; that our media is more "infotainment" than information; and that our elected officials "advertise" themselves and their policies to us, rather than explain them. Americans seem happy to support this "cult of consumerism" and vacuously buy the product. As we continue to purchase our manufactured "knowledge," we sink more and more into anti-intellectualism; we become lazy and complacent about the problems and issues surrounding us; and we move further and further from the democratic society we claim to honor.

How did we come to this end? Drawing upon his extensive knowledge of history and philosophy, D'Angelo walks us step-by-step through Western society's economic history, beginning with the first democracy in Athens, followed by the feudal societies, the industrial revolution, the explosion of consumer capitalism in the 1950s, and finally to our own New Economy. D'Angelo warns of a future in which library administrators will be required to have an MBA rather than an MLS. His fear is that libraries have embraced New Economy capitalism, and now consider "customer service" more important than reference, collection development, cataloging, and reader's advisory (121–122). And since democracy cannot exist without an educated citizenry, any library that runs on a "give them what they want" philosophy, indeed any librarian who considers himself or herself an entertainer rather than an educator, are stark indicators of a frightening sickness in our democratic civilization, as well as threats to the public good.

In her preface, Kathleen de la Peña McCook says that she assigns D'Angelo's book in her public librarianship classes, and I agree that this text would be a valuable addition to any curriculum, not just in library science courses, but in sociology, political science, or economic courses as well. For library courses, *Barbarians at the Gates* would be an excellent companion to John Buschman's *Dismantling the Public Sphere* (Libraries Unlimited, 2003).

This book is not an easy read, and those used to the typically dumbed-down "scholarly" publications offered today may find it challenging. D'Angelo quotes from historians and philosophers alike: Plato, Voltaire, Jeremy Bentham, John Locke, Friedrich Nietzsche, John Stuart Mill, Gianfranco Poggi, Jesse H. Shera, and Thomas Frank (and I'm just scratching the surface). However, D'Angelo's writing is clear and distinct. No word is wasted. His passages that cover economics and classical philosophy are intellectually stimulating and insightful, without being unnecessarily abstruse. He does tend toward repeating earlier premises, which could work well for students who may be approaching these topics for the first time. Even so, the careful, thoughtful reader might find this technique somewhat redundant.

REVIEW, BARBARIANS CONTINUED

D'Angelo does not mince words; he does not suffer willful ignorance, conspicuous consumption, or blind allegiance to the Free Market gladly. Like Socrates, who refused to pander to the masses, D'Angelo spells out the dangers of greed and "infotainment," and intelligibly describes the strain we put on ourselves and the "free society" in which we believe we live. If you are still of the classical persuasion that a library's first—and most moral—duty is to edify society, D'Angelo's book is a must-read. If you are not, D'Angelo's book may at best unnerve, and at worst, annoy. But it will not be a waste of time.

Tracy Marie Nectoux, Monographic Cataloging, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

BOOK REVIEW

Arbinger Institute. *The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler, 2006.

...not all weapons are aimed at the flesh. Look around. Home and workplace casualties are everywhere. Bitterness, envy, indifference, resentment, -these are hallmarks of the hot and cold wars that fester in the hearts of family members, neighbors, colleagues, and former friends the world over. If we can't find the way to peace in these relationships, what hope have we for finding it between nations at war? (p. xviii)

The Arbinger Institute's *The Anatomy of Peace* is a sequel of sorts to their *Leadership and Self-Deception*, which focused on conflict resolution in the workplace. A parable inspired by real events, it follows the story of a group of parents who are about to entrust their troubled teens to a desert boot camp run by an unusual pair: a Palestinian and an Israeli who both lost their fathers in the Middle East conflict. Now partners in this enterprise, through their personal stories they teach the angry and frightened parents how to react to their children and each other from a heart at peace versus a heart at war. The former allows us to see people as human, while the latter causes us to see them as objects and leads to the grouping together of individuals and causing an us versus them mentality: "Lumping everyone of a particular race or culture or faith into a single stereotype is a way of failing to see them as people." (p. 29)

How does one develop a heart of war? It starts with an act of self-betrayal—of behaving in a manner contrary to what your heart deems appropriate. And since we are reluctant to take responsibility for this breach, our mind begins justifying our actions to ourselves by objectifying and blaming the other.

...when I betray myself, others' faults become immediately inflated in my heart and mind. I begin to 'horribilize' others. That is, I begin to make them out to be worse than they really are. And I do this because, the worse they are, the more justified I feel. A needy man on the street suddenly represents a threat to my very peace and freedom. A person to help becomes a person to blame. (p. 94)

Often we search out others to collude with us about the situation, furthering our justification, adding more people to the conflict, and leading ourselves even further from the peace we yearn for.

This book is for those who are interested in the peace process or even in understanding their own thought processes and their effect on their relationship to themselves and others. It is an eloquent, thought-provoking book appropriate for academic and public libraries and also for young adult collections.

Jane Ingold, Assistant Librarian, Penn State Erie

REVIEWERS ALWAYS WELCOME

The SRRT Newsletter is always looking for reviewers for books that would be of interest to our members. Pick from a list of books we have received from the publisher or review one of your choosing that inspired (as I did in this issue) or outraged you. And remember, book review publication looks great on your vita! Reviews should run between 500 to 750 words and be submitted as a Word attachment.—Jane Ingold

BOOK REVIEW

Litwin, Rory, ed. *Library Juice Concentrate*. Duluth: Library Juice Press, 2006.

Library Juice Concentrate is far more than a compendium of essays and writings published between 1998 and 2005 by Litwin and other progressive librarians on Library Juice – a web-based serial that has since morphed into a noteworthy Blog. As the title might suggest, the collection of work is organized and concentrated into a blend of structured themes: Foundation Building, Professional Issues, Intellectual Freedom and Media Independence, Librarians' Culture and Identity, a section on Cuba (included as a historical amalgam and mode for understanding the current friction within the Library Left surrounding the "Cuba Independent Library Movement"), and miscellany (humorous, poignant library-related limericks philosophically relevant quotations, and suggested paper topics). Though the bulk of this tome is comprised of Litwin's studious and insightful critique of stolid and traditionally safe tenets of our profession, other voices add flavor to this concoction and proffer a body of critical thinking on issues that have been hotly bandied about (calmly debated on occasion) in the meeting halls of ALA conferences, the blogosphere, and library listservs. Contributions from "progressive" or otherwise profoundly-thinking librarians such as Mark Rosenzweig, Mark Hudson, Luis M. Acosta, Margaret Myers, Tami Oliphant, Chuck D'Adamo, Doug Horne, Rhonda L. Neugebauer, Ann Sparanese, Larry Oberg, and Carol Reid, and interviews with LC stalwart cataloger Barbara Tillett and "nextgen" librarian Jessamyn West help to infuse the reader with a renewed sense of determination. The series of essays, interviews, and other webzine artifacts bubbles, boils, seethes, and ultimately distills into what could be regarded as an essential primer for the intellectually curious library school student, embattled mid-career librarian, or anyone looking to challenge their assumptions and beliefs about mainstream and "lefty" librarianship.

Though by its nature no anthology can be considered complete or purport to represent all sides of each issue it tackles - there will no doubt be pro-Codrescu librarians incensed by the exclusion of their arguments - LJC broaches many political, philosophical, and technological themes of highly consequential meaning and relativity to the continuum of librarianship and the profession's direction in these 2.0 times. My hastily jotted notes reveal a portion of the myriad threads: 1) unquenchable thirst for flattery outside the profession, 2) deification of Google (the greatest information conglomerate of all time), 3) dangerous ideas, 4) disassociation within Intellectual Freedom debates, 5) alternative media, a no-brainer for libraries, 6) the limitations posed by neutral and objective definitions of neutrality and objectivity, 7) information as commodity, 8) technophilia, 9) user end-around due to non-dissemination, 10) paean to Information literacy, 11) anarchy in the ALA, and 12) cooperative authority control.

The contents of Library Juice Concentrate form the basis for an inroad into the theoretical study of librarianship by linking its past with its future. The concern with the theoretical rather than a collection of essays focused on mundane or narrower aspects of librarianship provide a launching point that I have found lacking in any Urban Library Council study or ALA Marketing Report that professes to move library trends forward based on some vague consensus reality. The inclusion of quotations from Albert Einstein, Mary Wright Plummer, Jesse Shera, Salman Rushdie and a legion of other academic, intellectual, and literary luminaries, combined with Litwin's challenging and thoughtful suggested paper topics (including invitations to challenge his own assertions), and an exhaustive bibliography of suggested reading lend completion to a diverse array of abstract and sociopolitical explorations.

Library Juice Concentrate is not acidic in tone, nor is it awash with opaque and pulpy platitudes. The arguments expressed by its various contributors are carefully and cogently constructed and its opinions clearly owned and elucidated so as to force the reader to concentrate. The reward for ingestion is, as noted in Kathleen de la Peña McCook's preface, the realization of a "tectonic shift" in librarianship. Library Juice Concentrate cries out "No Business As Usual" humbly and proudly without fostering shame or guilt for its would-be detractors, middle-of-the-road and neoconservative librarians who seem content with a laissez-faire attitude toward the marketplace of ideas and the ideal of the marketplace. LJC is "lefty" in its leanings inasmuch as we are all "radical, militant librarians" for our role in the provision of access to knowledge on this good round earth. Library Juice Concentrate is a satisfying and indispensable addition to library literature.

Mike Marlin, Adult Services Librarian in Tucson, Arizona

BOOK REVIEW

Samek, Toni. *Librarianship and Human Rights: a twenty first century guide*. Oxford: Chandos, 2007.

Toni Samek has already traced the history and subtle transformations of library activism in *Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility in American Librarianship 1967-1974* (2001). In her new book, *Librarianship and Human Rights: a twenty first century guide*, focusing on librarianship and human rights, she identifies the continuing trend to link the core values of librarianship to many of the sentiments stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), IFLA's 1983 and 1989 human rights resolutions, and subsequent national and international documents, protocols and my favorite, the "Progressive Librarians' International Coalition's Ten Points." [http://www.foreningenbis.org/English/lib_plic.html]

New terms for progressive librarians to acknowledge and incorporate in our professional conversation are "information ethics" (think *The Camel Bookmobile*, by Masha Hamilton) and think also of "information ecology", where we remember to learn what indigenous people might have to say about their information storage and retrieval. Another is "critical librarianship" an international library movement encompassing library advocacy and library activism. Finally, "global information justice", as we begin to look beyond our national pockets of struggle and join international efforts to take advantage of the concept that "the world is flat" and avoid pitfalls of cultural annihilation and working towards advancing cultural diversity.

Samek makes it very clear what she wants to do with this book. She lists agendas, subtexts, intentions, aims, calls to action, and features of the book, and then delivers what is promised. Primarily, she wants us all to recognize that as librarians we are required to understand, and be sensitive to, our necessarily activist role in the midst of greater social movements that involve intellectual freedom, human rights, cultural survival, access to information and more, *every single day of our working lives*. (Emphasis mine.) She issues a "direct challenge to the notion of library neutrality, especially in the present context of war, revolution, social change and global market fundamentalism (p.7)".

This "twenty-first century guide" is our handbook, our pathfinder, our heart, and our moral compass going forward. She promises to "set a path towards examining moral responsibilities of library and information workers in the 21st century". In fact, she "acknowledges issues of a higher magnitude than human rights, such as sustainable development and peace, not war".

North American librarians, especially those of us living and working below the 49th parallel, would do well to take notice of the international library workers' movements. In fact, one of her subtexts is "the purposeful inclusion of and, hence, the de-marginalisation of, the agendas of numerous local, national and international library groups that readily identify themselves as progressive, critical, activist, radical, alternative, independent, socially responsible and/or anarchistic in orientation."

Following Part One: The Rhetoric, is Part Two: The Reality, which contains a short essay "Practical Strategies for Social Action"; a brief list of "Prevalent manifestations of social action applied to library and information work"; and the largest, third section entitled "Specific forms of social action used in library and information work for social change" It is organized alphabetically from "Access to information" to "Women, Status of". Each of the "social actions" is given a definition (from *Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science*, *Oxford English Dictionary Online*, or Wikipedia) and an explanation. This arrangement permits the author to avoid having to create a contorted narrative that strains to connect a potpourri, patchwork, disaggregated collection of uppity, dare I say "revolting" actions, serving as (book agenda item coming up) a "point of resistance".

She says it's not, but it is, tinged with the scholarly, and it is an intense, compact explanation of everything progressive in librarianship. She includes a small chronology which begins with the first PLG created in 1939 up to the 2005 Progressive African Library & Information Activists' Group (PALIAct). It is "informed" by library and information work worldwide, it concentrates on English and translated sources. One of the eight features of the book to be pointed out is "This book has urgent purpose". Another is "This book is committed to an optimistic vision". This book is important, I think. And this book belongs in any *critical library* collection.

Katharine Phenix

BOOK REVIEW

Sloan, Wm. David and Mackay, Jenn Burleson, ed. *Media Bias: Finding It, Fixing It*. McFarland & Company, Inc., 2007.

Probably the most controversial aspect of mass media is the perception of bias by various groups towards writers, publishers, and broadcasters. It is not unusual for both sides of an issue to claim that reporting on the issue showed bias. Given its subjective aspect, it is helpful to have useful tests to find bias. Wm. David Sloan is a professor of journalism at the University of Alabama. He and Jenn Burleson Mackay, an advanced doctoral student at the University of Alabama, present seventeen essays on various topics and written by communications experts, hoping to provide practical information on looking for bias.

In his initial essay, Professor Sloan presents an overview of the bias controversy, including some examples of where bias was claimed. Many of the examples are drawn from current events, including the belief by many that Al Jazeera regularly presents biased reports. He uses the examples to try to find how to define bias. He discusses certain characteristics that can be used to identify bias, basic principles for analysis, and why it is important to keep bias out of mass media.

The next essay is devoted to how the news media reports the Arab-Israeli conflict. Written by Bruce J. Evensen, professor of communications at DePaul University, reviews the recent history of the conflict and how various events were covered by the media. Evansen mentions a number of websites that were developed to present a balanced view of one side or the other. Evensen's essay is different from the rest because he has personal experience covering the conflict in Jerusalem as a network bureau chief.

Each chapter reviews possible bias in sixteen topics, including such issues as ideology, religion, abortion, homosexuality, gender, and race. Each essay discusses arguments for and against possible bias and reviews evidence for the arguments. The writer presents endnotes and suggested readings for further investigation. The various contributors were chosen for their knowledge of the particular topic, as well as their experience with communications.

Overall, the book does a good job of presenting the arguments for perceived bias in each topic. By using a similar format for each essay, the reader is able to understand the specific points made by the writer and get useful information to examine media reports for bias. Since each essay also includes a large section of suggested readings, the reader can use the book as a starting point for future research. While there are many books that discuss media bias, Sloan and Mackay have produced a functional group of essays that would be of use to students. The book is recommended for academic libraries and larger public libraries.

Joel W Tscherne

ASRRT YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN ALA & SRRT

Member involvement is essential to the good health of both ALA and SRRT. Active members and new members give life to our organization with ideas, energy, time, commitment, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness.

Be sure to take the opportunities provided at the upcoming ALA Annual Meeting in Washington DC for membership involvement – and activism!

ALA membership meetings are:

Saturday, 6/23/2007, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center, Ballroom C

Monday, 6/25/2007, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center, Ballroom C

On Saturday the ALA membership meeting starts with an open forum to address the question, "Should ALA Take a Stand on the War in Iraq and other 'non-library' issues?"

(Continued on page 17)

LIBRARY JUICE PRESS

This issue of the SRRT Newsletter contains reviews of two books published by Library Juice Press, the publishing company I founded last year as an outlet for books from the Library Left and from authors with philosophically reflective writings on librarianship. I will let those reviews stand as SRRT members' introduction to the press, and will use this space to mention a few librarian publishers who have come before me.

A number of the publishers putting out works on librarianship had their beginnings within the world of libraries. Ralph Shaw, who was a major leader in libraries (and a major curmudgeon) founded Scarecrow Press in 1950 as a sideline to his job as director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Library in Washington, D.C. Scarecrow was so named because it was organized in a skeletal way, spending very little on overhead and putting out academic books quickly and inexpensively. Shaw moved on to be a professor of library science at Rutgers, becoming dean in 1958. Eventually he moved to Hawaii to found the library school there. Throughout these years Shaw pursued many endeavors, at the same time leading Scarecrow as it grew continuously. (Shaw was succeeded by Eric Moon as Scarecrow's head in 1969, after the company was purchased by Grolier. Moon's biography by Kenneth Kister includes a section about the history of Scarecrow Press.) Scarecrow is still one of the main publishers of books on library topics.

Shortly after joining Scarecrow, Eric Moon hired Robbie Franklin as his assistant editor. Robbie was not a librarian, but his father, Bob Franklin, was director of the Toledo Public Library in Toledo, Ohio, so he qualifies as a member of the club by virtue of growing up in the world of libraries. In 1979, Robbie founded McFarland Publishing, which continues to publish books on librarianship as well as many academic subjects. McFarland publishes between two and three hundred titles per year.

Another member of Robbie's generation of library people is Pat Schuman, who was one of the original founders of SRRT in 1969. Pat Schuman is one of the founders, of course, of Neal-Schuman Publishers, which is one of the main publishers of practical books for librarians.

Library Juice Press has most in common with Scarecrow and McFarland, in that it is a semi-academic press that is more interested in books on library philosophy than library practice. But it is unlike them in having a tighter editorial focus and fewer ambitions (at least at this stage) about becoming a major player in the academic publishing market. This is to be expected in the new era of the micropress, where new technologies have shifted the economics of publishing toward niche markets and smaller sales volumes.

Library Juice Press welcomes manuscripts on Library Left topics. <http://libraryjuicepress.com/>

Rory Litwin

(Continued from page 16)

On Monday the forum will discuss: "Is ALA heading in the right direction?"

Be sure to attend to let your voice and views be part of the dialogue.

SRRT Membership & Action Council Meeting

Monday, 6/25/2007, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Washington DC, Room 16. The first part of this meeting will be to hear from members about your concerns. Action Council is especially interested in knowing what members think of several issues on AC's agenda:

ALA Elections: How might SRRT best communicate information to members about ALA elections?

Election Endorsements: Should AC endorse candidates?

Listserv Climate: Should SRRT have guidelines for our listserv to deal with people who subscribe for the primary purpose of being disruptive?

ASRRT YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN WASHINGTON DC!

The Granma Bookmobile Project: Update, April 2007

We have two wonderful and fantastic items to announce about the bookmobile project that leaves Los Angeles July 9, headed with the Pastor's for Peace Caravan to Tampico, Mexico.

First, we were awarded a \$5000 grant from the Christopher Reynolds Foundation to help purchase books. The award covers the expenses for purchasing the Midnight Special Bookstore's collection when they closed down. But we still need many more donations of funds and books, as well as other library materials and supplies. If your library has surplus supplies in any of the following areas*, please consider donating them.

You can help develop the bookmobile's collection and purchase books through Alibris (<http://www.alibris.com/>). Click on Donate A Book at the top, and search for our wish list with danalubow@hotmail.com. There is a large collection of titles for all ages with a wide range of prices.

Southern California librarians can get involved and begin to help collect donations for the sendoff party. It will be sometime in June if you want to come join the festivities. Southern California residency not required to attend the party.

The other bit of news is that Gerardo Hernández (<http://www.freethefive.org/meet5/gerardo.htm>), one of the Cuban 5 (<http://www.freethefive.org/>) has designed various elements to be used for the exterior of the bookmobile. The Five are such heroes in Cuba and Rebeca Brull Ramirez, the director of the "1868 Provincial Library" in Granma where the bookmobile is headed is quite ecstatic that one of the Five is designing the bookmobile.

If you don't know who the Cuban 5 are, visit the website. Gerardo is in the United States Prison in Adelanto in Southern California in the Mojave Desert serving two unjust life terms.

He listens Saturday evening 6-8 p.m. to a radio show, "Canto sin Fronteras" on progressive KPFK (www.kpfk.org). Canto sin Fronteras is a radio program that plays music in Spanish with political and social content. You can listen too, over the Internet, as well as send Gerardo greetings and even your thanks for his design for the bookmobile. Send them to Tanya Torres, the host (cantosinfronteraskpfk@yahoo.com).

An art student at L.A. Valley College, Rafael Carrillo, is developing the design which will be painted on the vehicle using Gerardo's elements.

The last bit of news is a German solidarity group donated \$1500 to the project. We thank them! Other smaller donations also have been received. Little by little we are getting closer to reaching the project's financial goals.

* List of Library Supplies Needed for the Bookmobile and Libraries in Cuba

Mending glue and tape

Circulation/cataloging cards, checkout, cataloging pockets

Single row card drawers, 1 or 2 for date-due cards

Art supplies: crayons, paper, etc.

Bookmobile decorations, rolls of decorative paper suitable for a party or child. Wedding or patriotic designs not accepted.

Strip decorations. 4 inches wide, 50 feet minimum) found in educational supply stores), 2 ft. wide paper, 6ft.min.

Mobiles

Basket of puppets (lacking basket and more puppets). (2 foot diameter the minimum for the basket. I (Dana) have a request if you live in Southern California and run across that or anything else on the list for that matter at a garage sale, immediately give me a call with the address. (H-626/2052029, W-818/947-2766) I will pick up if they are in EXCELLENT condition at a decent bargain-basement price (.25 is not an unheard of garage sale price here in Southern California for quality merchandise.)

Have: One hand puppet, mouth does not open 6 finger puppets, Folkmanis.

While Folkmanis (<http://www.folkmanis.com/>) is expensive they are preferred, but really, any puppet in good, clean, operable condition is welcome to join the caravan. If you are an "EBayer", they often come up there as well as at garage sales. Only clean, operable puppets in good condition will be accepted. Mouths that open are preferred to those that don't.

GRANMA CONTINUED

Don't hesitate to contact one of us if you are interested in helping and/or traveling with the bookmobile.

Dana Lubow
L.A. Valley College
978 Norumbega Dr.
Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 303-1078
dana_lubow@yahoo.com

Rhonda Neugebauer
University of California, Riverside
8327 Barnwood Ln.
Riverside, CA 92508
(951) 776-4889
rhondaneu@charter.net

SRRT ELECTS FOUR ACTION COUNCIL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Congratulations to:

Alison Lewis
Nancy Garmer
Mike Marlin
Tom Twiss

UPDATE ON THE FREE SPEECH BUFFET AT ALA ANNUAL IN D.C.

The **Alternative Media Task Force** organizes the Free Speech Buffet annually to provide an affordable venue for progressive and independent publishers to exhibit at the ALA Annual Meeting.

Please register today to attend the Free Speech Buffet, Monday, June 25, 2007, from 6 to 8:30pm, in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott MetroCenter, 775 12th Street NW. Appetizer buffet and cash bar for \$15.

You can register on the ALA website at this link: <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2007a/otherevents.htm#ala-s> Or, you can register when you get to the convention in D.C.

The following publishers are planning to attend (special thanks to Olga Francois of the University of Maryland for helping connect us to local publishers):

- o The New Press
- o Pathfinder Press
- o Washington Writers' Publishing House
- o Insight Press
- o Split this Rock Poetry Festival (DC Poets Against the War)
- o Three Sistahs Press
- o Fire & Ink, Inc.
- o Redbone Press
- o Black Classic Press
- o Gival Press
- o Teaching for Change
- o Busboys & Poets Bookstore
- o AK Press
- o Library Juice Press
- o Alternative Press Center
- o RCP Publications
- o Plan B Press
- o Insight Press

Help Support the FSB even if you can't attend ALA:

If you can't make it to this event, you can support the Free Speech Buffet by going to this link <http://www.cafepress.com/amtf> and purchasing "Books Are Weapons in the War of Ideas" mugs, t-shirts, and buttons. (Thanks to Maureen Knapp of the LSU Library for organizing this CafePress fundraiser.)

Carol Gulyas, Coordinator, Alternative Media Task Force

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 is a hot topic brewing) way of keeping up with SRRT's issues and discussions in-between conferences. Help decide SRRT's future direction and join in some lively debates. If you would like to join the SRRT discussion group, send the following message in the body of the email, to listproc@ala.org: subscribe SRRTAC-L/[your first name] [your last name] To unsubscribe: unsubscribe SRRTAC-L

SRRTMEM - SRRTMEM is an unrestricted email list for announcements from the American Library Association's SocialResponsibilities Round Table. Announcements come from the SRRT Coordinator, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and the Director of OLOS. The purpose is to keep SRRT members and other interested people informed as to SRRT's activities and to provide information about how to get involved. To subscribe to SRRTMEM, send the following email to:

listproc@ala.org: subscribe SRRTMEM [your name] To unsubscribe from SRRTMEM, send this command to

listproc@ala.org: unsubscribe SRRTMEM

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

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. (We are currently publishing double issues twice a year.)

Newsletter Editor, Erik Sean Estep: erik.estep@gmail.com (co-editor, this issue, Jane Ingold)

Book Review Editor, Jane Ingold: jli4@psulias.psu.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 the whimsy strikes.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, IL
Permit No. 3226

SRRT NEWSLETTER
Social Responsibilities Round Table
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611