

SRRT Newsletter'

A Publication of the Social Responsibilities Round Table
of the American Library Association

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CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Civil Rights Task Force has been at work on a manuscript, now nearing completion, of Essays on Equity and People's Issues: _____ A Handbook on Social Responsibility for Librarians.

We decided in 1984 that it would be helpful to have a handbook on social responsibility that would consist of new essays on a selected group of issues. The project began while the late Brad Chambers was Task Force Coordinator, and it continued with the support of his successor, Kate Shackford.

Essay topics and contributors include women's rights (Sandra Bolton); multi-lingualism (Dr. Alfredo Benavides); literacy (Jean E. Coleman); access through subject headings (Dr. Doris H. Clack); affirmative action and minorities (Dr. Marva DeLoach); and children's issues (Donnarae MacCann).

The reason for commissioning a new set of studies has been twofold. In the first place, we felt that a re-articulation of SRRT-type concepts, as developed in the 1970s and extended in the 1980s, would be beneficial. And second, we wanted to approach these issues so as to provide a considerable amount of historical background and context. Our intention is to encourage a sustained focus on some of the most unyielding, problematic areas of librarianship-- to re-examine ambiguities and controversies that impinge on human rights.

Further details about the manuscript and its prospects for publication may be available by Midwinter.

- Donnarae MacCann

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* *
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* Linda Pierce *
* John Sheridan *
* *
* Deadline for next issue is Jan. 20 *
* *

WORKSHOP ON RACISM- MIDWINTER

In San Antonio Friday, January 8, 1988, the Feminist Task Force is planning "A Workshop: White Women Working Together."

REPORT FROM PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE
TASK FORCE

A very informative address by Executive Secretary of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, Ann Fagan Ginger, a prominent lawyer who has worked with human rights, civil rights, and peace law, was the high point of the Peace Information Exchange Task Force program at Annual Conference. It is highly recommended that you investigate her publications on peace law, compilations of laws which support peaceful action,

For copies of Elizabeth Martinez-Smith's speech, contact Jody Bush, Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge, Berkeley, CA 94704.

ALA divisions and groups interested in participating in the New Orleans Conference should contact Betty-Carol Sellen, Librarian, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY 11210.

- Susana Hinojosa

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Betty-Carol Sellen and Susan Vaughn are redesigning the SRRT brochure. Task Force coordinators who have not yet sent revised information on their groups, should do so immediately. Address your contribution to Betty-Carol or Susan at the Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210.

**James P. Danky and Elliott Shore are planning a new edition of Alternative Materials in Libraries. originally published by Scarecrow Press in 1982. One chapter of the new guide will include an updated, expanded version of the directory of "Collections of Contemporary Alternative Materials in Libraries." If your library has a substantial collection of alternative contemporary social and political materials, particularly those with roots in the activist movements of the 1960s and 1970s, and if you have not yet received a questionnaire for the directory, or if you know of similar collections that were not included in the first edition, please contact: Ellen E. Embardo, Special Collections, Homer Babbidge Library, University of Connecticut, U-5sc, Storrs, CT 06268.

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REPORT FROM AIP TASK FORCE

The Alternatives in Print Task Force presented a very successful program at ALA in San Francisco entitled "Sex in the Stacks: Providing Access!" The program was well-attended and served as a sounding-board for many librarians concerned over censorship attempts.

Speakers included Joanie Blank, writer and publisher of Down There Press; Susie Bright, editor of On Our Backs, a lesbian journal; David Steinberg, publisher of Red Alder Books; and our own Dan Tsang, editor of The Age Taboo.

The probable topic for the AIP program in N-UBUlp./,,,,J-Lkp...hlaarS-hvlba-hvlo,rogr

BOOK REVIEWS

Brown, Cynthia Stokes. Ready from
Within: Septima Clark and the Civil
Rights Movement. Edited with an intro-
duction by Cynthia Stokes Brown.
Navarro, CA: Wild Trees Press, 1986.

Carter.

Septima Poinsette Clark's story is one of courage and belief in positive change. "I don't expect to ever see a

ACTION COUNCIL, TF CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS

Please note the following changes and additions to the information in the list of Action Council members and task force coordinators printed in the SRRT Newsletter no. 85:

Linda Pierce's phone number at work is (907) 261-2907.

Chris Sokol's ZIP code is 99164.

You can reach OLOS (and other ALA offices) by dialing 1-800-545-2433.

Civil Rights Task Force
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Library Union Task Force
Jeanene McNair
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University Library
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL 33620
(813) 974-2047 (w)
(813) 961-6728 (h)

If you spot other errors or omissions, please notify the Editor.

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DEBATE ON "TASK FORCE"?

In a note to the Editor, Noel Peattie writes:

Is anyone else bothered by the term "task force"? The Supplement to the OED lists its first use (in Time, 29 June 1941) as in a military context, and while it has now been transferred to civilian uses, its primary implication or at least origin, is still military and naval. Is a "Peace Information Task Force" somehow self-contradictory? Should we be using "working group"? Or is the present language so habituated by use that it will seem merely trivial to try to change it?

Perhaps Noel's point can be extended to other military terms which have entered into common usage. Bring your thoughts to Midwinter!

GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE SCHEDULE

Dee Michel reports that the following events will take place at Midwinter in San Antonio:

Sat. Jan. 9

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