

# Social Responsibilities Round Table

OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

N E W S L E T T E R

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## from the srirt coordinator:

Time flies, and ALA's Annual Conference is almost upon us. If you've been participating in the SRRT listserv since Midwinter, you'll know that the last couple of months have seen a lot of lively discussion on several important issues (the Boy Scouts and the Iraq situation, to name two), as well as the usual pre-conference preparations.

In DC, SRRT task forces have a variety of programs, meetings, awards breakfasts, and social events lined up— full details are inside. And this year we have a very exciting SRRT-wide program, Social Responsibilities Around the World, on Sunday, June 28, 7:00-10:00pm. It will give us a wonderful opportunity to meet socially-responsible librarians from other countries, and it fits in nicely with ALA President Barbara Ford's theme, Global Reach, Local Touch. Don't miss it!

Also in DC, we'll have our regular SRRT meetings scheduled as follows:

— Action Council I/All Task Force Meeting Saturday, June 27, 8:00am-11:00am

(Task forces meet 8-9:30; Action Council meets 9:30-11)

— SRRT General Membership Meeting Sunday, June 28, 11:30am-12:30pm

— Action Council II Monday, June 29, 2:00pm-4:00pm

*[ed. note: see page 15 for the complete list of SRRT events!]*

So far, the following agenda items are on the list for our Action Council meetings: Use of the SRRT mailing list; Advertising in the SRRT newsletter; SRRT Councilor position — if ALA members vote in favor of Round Table representation on ALA Council, we'll need to decide who will serve as our representative, and what his/her responsibilities will be; Review of our resolution procedures — should we revise them to incorporate a way to issue resolutions between conferences?; Budget (groan). *[ed. note: see page 2 for some other possible topics.]*

If you have other agenda items, please bring them to my attention before DC.

After Annual, we'll have vacancies for a number of SRRT liaison positions, so, here's your chance to volunteer. We'll also be selecting a coordinator, secretary, and treasurer from the Action Council ranks, so let me know if you are interested in any of these positions!

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# Topics Du Jour

What follows is as accurate a representation of recent discussions on the srrtac-l listserv as someone who is as opinionated as myself can write up. These items, as Wendy mentions on page 1, are likely to show up in the AC agenda for discussion at Annual. The Iraq letter and Boy Scout draft resolution appear on page 3. I will not detail those discussions here. Otherwise, look for these items to perhaps appear:

**1. Releasing SRRT member names:** The Alternative Press Center requested use of the SRRT mailing list for the purposes of doing a fund drive (there are many ties between SRRT and APC). Some members of SRRT are

# Librarians Against the War: an open letter

LETTERS, RESOLUTIONS

February 20, 1998

We speak to you as librarians, members of a humanistic profession whose practice implies commitment to openness, democracy and freedom. We speak to you as believers in the superiority of reason over force and dialogue over violence.

Dedicated to an ideal of human progress which attends to preservation and continuity, librarianship is committed to patient, constructive work for a better future. A profession which helps create and maintain space for discourse and argument, for the free speech and dissent so important to a robust democracy, librarianship is also a profession based on mutuality.

This includes international cooperation in the service of a world of knowledge which knows no borders. Educators and public servants, scholars and researchers, we are above all a profession of nurturers.

Hear us out, though we speak for the moment not of books and databases, but on an issue implicitly our legitimate professional concern.

We speak to you of war and of the threat of war. Not of a battle joined of necessity, in self-defense, but of war, planned and plotted with cold calculation against another nation and—less abstractly—against another people. As we write, our government is preparing an air assault on Iraq which will be devastating to the already suffering Iraqi people and which will contribute nothing to the cause of democracy or peace. We do not accept the planned death of countless civilians, the destruction of the infrastructure of their lives and society, as an “acceptable price to pay” or as “collateral damage”.

We speak in solidarity with our colleagues in the nation of Iraq, in its libraries and schools and universities, who strive for freedom and the end of oppression but in no way wish to see their people suffer another round of punitive military attacks and destruction.

No one can truly believe that a “message sent to Saddam Hussein” in the blood of innocents has any effect on the heart of Iraq’s dictator. It would be only another macho demonstration of military superiority, an object lesson in U.S. willingness to use any means, no matter how disproportionate, to pursue its ends.

There are forces, among them the United Nations, which are striving for a diplomatic solution to the impasse over site inspections in the sovereign nation of Iraq. We support all such efforts.

With colleagues whose names are signed below, the Action Council of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association voices its opposition to the planned US-led attacks on the nation of Iraq. We do so as professionals concerned not only about the health, welfare and development of the Iraqi people, but also with the degrading effects that violence has on the United States itself.

Sincerely,  
Mark Rosenzweig,  
SRRT Action Council  
Hofstra University  
-and-  
Fifteen Action Council Members  
-and-  
Eighty-eight other supporters

*please see <http://www.jessamyn.com/srrt>  
for a list of all signers & affiliations*

## Draft Resolution: Boy Scouts of America

**Whereas**, ALA has a long relationship with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), currently in the form of a designated ALSC liaison, and

**Whereas**, the BSA continues to exclude persons from membership and leadership on the basis of religious ideas and/or sexual orientation, and

**Whereas** ALA Policy 9.5 specifically prohibits ALA or its component units from having formal relationships with organizations which violate ALA’s principles and policies, and

**Whereas** ALA policies 54.17 and 60.2 declare the Association’s support for gay rights and against creed-based discrimination,

**Therefore, be it resolved that:**

The American Library Association suspends relations with the Boy Scouts of America until such time as the BSA ends its exclusionary policy on the basis of a person’s religious beliefs or sexual orientation, and

**Be it further resolved that:**

ALA Council strongly urges the Boy Scouts of America to change its membership practices so that they demonstrate a commitment to human rights, inclusivity and mutual respect, and to so inform the Boy Scouts of America.

*[this resolution originated as an ALA Council resolution being brought forth by Mark Rozenzweig and has been altered slightly to this version which will be presented as a SRRT resolution]*

# ALA Membership Meetings: The Quorum Question

## COMMENTARY

ALA should be committed to being a more substantively democratic organization. Only such an organization can fulfill its obligations to its members, to the profession, to society, and to the various constituencies we serve. In such an organization the interests of administration and bureaucracy are subordinate to the interests of the membership and the profession, not the other way round.

Membership meetings at conference are vital to substantive democracy in ALA. They were meetings of members of ALA who came to conference and who could assemble to discuss their concerns, to pass resolutions representing the opinion of the body and to frame these resolutions accepted by that body for Council to consider. Much has been made about self-selected people pursuing actions in membership meetings. “Self-selected” or no, these membership meetings were in a certain sense much more representative of the body of members than the formal representatives of Council who largely represent a managerial elite. Membership meetings had more diversity, more different kinds of librarians, new ones as well as seasoned ones, young ones as well as old ones, people of color and other minorities. Those people who used to come to membership meetings came there to discuss with other members the issues of the day and, if necessary or possible, to frame resolutions dealing with issues which otherwise would never come to Council’s attention.

In revisiting this we should recall that the “close down” of Membership meetings by raising the quorum to a ridiculously high number was effected in a panic to once and for all exclude social issues and issues of potential embarrassment to management and to our vendors and corporate supporters. It was done in an underhanded way through a mail ballot where the pros and cons of the matter were not laid out for the membership. Now the very people who killed the Membership meetings are crying crocodile tears about the inability of Membership to achieve the draconian quorum limit it maneuvered to establish. The quorum issue and the timing of Membership meetings should be revisited at the earliest opportunity.

**THE QUORUM SHOULD NOT BE USED AS AN OBSTACLE TO PREVENT MEMBERS FROM MEETING TO TAKE ACTION AT CONFERENCE. I WOULD RECOMMEND REVISING THE QUORUM TO WHATEVER NUMBER IS LIKELY TO ASSURE THE REGU-**

**LAR CONVENING OF METINGS, PROBABLY NO LOWER THAN 100 AND NO HIGHER THAN 200, THE PREVIOUS QUORUM.** The quorum should, in principle and according to parliamentary sense, be low enough so that these meetings are likely to occur and succeed and be an effective forum where members at conference will feel that formal deliberation will occur. In any case, these meetings, no matter what their attendance, have a better chance of reflecting something of the diversity of opinions and concerns of ALA’s membership.

There is absolutely no reason to have tied the quorum of these membership meetings to a percent (1%) of overall membership of the association. In no way does a 1% quorum make the Membership meetings significantly more “representative”. These meetings do not and never have pretended to represent the entire membership of the association. They are meetings open to that large group of individual members who appear at the Annual Conference, not on Council, (although Councilors are by no means excluded), to deliberate as a group of interested members on issues of current concerns with colleagues from around the country, from different kinds of libraries, in different positions, active in roundtables and divisions or other activities (or not). Such a group ENRICHES the proceedings of the Conference by bringing different perspectives to bear, by publicly and systematically and in an orderly and parliamentary fashion debating them and by producing resolutions reflecting the results of those procedures.

When the quorum was 200 it was still possible to have large, lively membership meetings. In order, however, to reverse the damage done by raising the quorum to a ridiculous number leading to years in which membership meetings have not been able to convene, it may be wise to set a lower quorum than the original 200 if one really wanted to send a message and see membership meetings back in business.

Organized Membership brings a different perspective to conference, an informed and concerned rank-and-file perspective. Council is dominated by its very nature by administrators and management types. For them the glib language of the corporate world flows easily and automatically from their tongues, whether it be “down-sizing” or “outsourcing” or whatever the euphemism of the moment is. Common interests with the corporate world also seem natural to most Councilors, so that whether it be McDonald’s or

Ameritech or Microsoft or Baker & Taylor, many Councilors feel no gut skepticism towards corporate interests, or dare question their motives or practices. The cult of the bottom line is the new credo of library managers well represented on Council, the market is increasingly their alpha and omega. No, members don't see outsourcing of their jobs as a neutral "option" in managements toolkit or as something which the organization should not act on because to do so would involve "interfering in libraries internal affairs"!

And, at the same time, rather than looking for every which way to exclude them, it should be recognized that, as a professional organization, ALA has a responsibility to weigh in on issues affecting the cultural, intellectual and educational climate of the country. This is the broader milieu in which we operate, along with teachers, academics, curators, archivists, journalists, authors and some computer specialists. We share with them broad concerns for all those factors, national and international, which impact on the world's need for information and knowledge and on the means of its dissemination and preservation.

*Unlike the House of Representatives ALA operates under Sturgis, Standard Code, which is perfectly clear "Until a quorum is present there can be no meeting." - page 104.*

*The last item I read on this topic was in the July 1997 "Parliamentary Journal", official journal of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. The article by Franklin B. McKechnie, "Quorum : What for and how many ?" which discusses the two methods of determining the quorum - (1) as a percentage of membership , or (2) a fixed number. As you know ALA how has the former but used to have the latter.*

*In summary the author says "To reiterate, a quorum should never be so large that business cannot be transacted... I recommend , therefore, that regardless of the size of the organization, it is preferable to have a fixed number for the quorum. If it becomes too small as the organization grows, then it can be easily raised but it should never be so large that business cannot be transacted. If members complain that they don't want such a small group doing the work of the organization, suggest that they might attend the meetings and participate. Demeter [in his Manual of Parliamentary Procedure] reminds us that in the House of Lords in England, having a membership of 1022, the quorum requirement is three."*

It should go without saying that it is perfectly appropriate for us as an association to corporately express solidarity with librarians and other information workers who are under siege for one reason or another, no matter where they are. It is perfectly appropriate for us to make common cause with education workers struggling to reform the educational apparatus, to broaden it and sustain it as a public good. We play, or should play, a role in that.

A priori exclusion of SOCIAL ISSUES, once seriously proposed in Council and in ACRL, is the height of provincialism, parochialism and an outright abdication of the right to be considered professionals.

The Progressive Caucus I have proposed is an interim means to bring together councilors and membership , especially the activist and marginalized elements representing progressive viewpoints and interests, to push for the recognition of the validity of our concerns and the lack of an effective forum for their expression and for action upon them. One of our first concerns is the restoration of ALA democracy and the revival of the Membership Meetings.

Let's restore democracy to ALA and in that way restore some of the liveliness and active participation that kept the organization from becoming an ossified and self-perpetuating bureaucracy and, at least on occasion, made it a partisan both for professional responsibility and the interests of rank-and-file librarians.

-- Mark C. Rosenzweig

## Update on Pastors For Peace Bookmobile Caravan to Cuba

As the unofficial chairperson of this sub-committee of the International Relations Task Force, I want to thank those who responded to my last (vague) request for help with donations for the caravan!

Here's the latest list of items that would be helpful to Cuban librarians and institutions:

1. Equipment: All sorts of school supplies, including pencils, notebooks paper; lab supplies and equipment; lab slide projectors.

2. Medical reference: Late edition PDRs (Physician Desk Reference); late edition medical texts on oncology, cardiology, internal medicine, ob/gyn, pediatrics, etc. Your own public library may be discarding last year's PDR each time they update. If you know people in Life Sciences or Medical libraries, they might be able to help with their superceded editions of medical texts.

3. Medical Journals: Virtually ANY professional or scientific medical journal, 1990-1996, are wanted.

4. Other reference: A few sets of Ulrich's Periodical Directory, CorpTech directory, other standard directories. (Just don't send these - check with me first because we don't want to send too many.)

5. Medical supplies: There is a specific list of needed medical supplies which I will happy to send you if you e-mail me. It's too long to include in this article.

You can send materials to my library, marked to my attention: Englewood Public Library 31 Engle St. Englewood, NJ 07631 ATTN: Sparanese

PLEASE E-MAIL me FIRST about what you are sending, and WAIT for my response to send. That way I will know what and when to expect material.

If you are curious to know exactly WHY all this material is necessary, I especially refer you to the excellent article I found on the Washington Post web site titled "The Hemorrhaging of Cuba's Health Care" (from the Feb 23 edition of the paper, p. A12). Site address is [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com).

There are two bills in Congress directly relating to the exemption of food and medicine in the embargo against Cuba. As you probably know, this embargo does not allow the Cubans to obtain - on the free market - many of the medical supplies they desperately need. It is a very simple bill which does not change Cuba policy but simply allows the Cubans to purchase these items from the US or from countries doing business with the US who are currently penalized (under the Helms Burton Law) when they trade with Cuba. It is very important to call your representatives and senators to sponsor and/or support these bills. In the House it is HR 1951 and in the Senate, S 1391. In the meantime please help with the Caravan! --Ann C. Sparanese [sparanese@bccls.org]

## Call for Papers: Library Philosophy and Practice

Library Philosophy and Practice (<http://www.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/lp&p.htm>) is a new peer-reviewed electronic journal which will appear twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Its inaugural issue will appear in Fall 1998. This is a call for papers for Vol. 1, no. 2 (Spring 1999.)

An essential type of library science research is applied research with the library as laboratory. Library Philosophy and Practice is a refereed electronic journal publishing articles that demonstrate the connection between library practice and the philosophy and theory which are behind it. Library Philosophy and Practice publishes reports of successful, innovative, or experimental library procedures, methods, or projects in all areas of librarianship, including both public and technical services. These reports are set in the context of applied research, with reference to current, past, and emerging theories of library practice.

Editors: Mary K. Bolin, Head, Technical Services, Associate Professor ([mbolin@uidaho.edu](mailto:mbolin@uidaho.edu))

Gail Z. Eckwright, Humanities Librarian, Associate Professor, ([gze@uidaho.edu](mailto:gze@uidaho.edu))

University of Idaho Library, Moscow, ID 83844-2350

Submit manuscripts of approximately 2,000 to 6,000 words electronically to the editors in any IBM compatible word-processing format, or in HTML. Deadline for submissions for

## BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT: “Poor People and Library Services”

A compilation of fifteen original chapters exploring library services to the poor and economically disadvantaged members of our society. The contributions include chapters on the theoretical issues involved in the connection between poverty and libraries. The majority of chapters offer examples of library programs that seek to address the needs of poor people. Chapters are organized within the following subheadings “Theory and Background,” “Poverty Programs for Children,” “Ensuring Access to Technology for Low-Income Groups,” “International Organization and Neighborhood Coalition,” “Suggestions for Action, Shelters and Public Housing,” and “Rural Poverty Programs.”

The book includes a foreword by Sanford Berman, Head of Cataloging at Hennepin County Library and longtime library activist on social justice issues. Contributors include John Buschman (Information Services librarian at Rider University), Khafre Abif (Youth Services librarian at Montclair Public Library), Kathleen de la Pena McCook (Professor & Director of the School of Library & Information Science at the University of South Florida), Elizabeth Segel (Co-director of Beginning with Book at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh), Wizard Marks (a neighborhood activist in Minneapolis), and many others. Appendices include ALA’s “Policy on Library Services to Poor People,” “The Library Bill of Rights,” and a list of poverty related organizations. The book is edited by Karen Venturella, Multimedia Resources librarian at Montclair State University, and will be published by McFarland (Jefferson, NC). The intended date of publication is June 1998. Address any questions or concerns to [venturellak@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:venturellak@mail.montclair.edu).

## Clothes Make the Man: A Unique Special Social Service Library

Dressing right is one of the major factors to consider when interviewing for a job. The selection of the right shirt and tie, proper skirt or blouse, the coordination of accessories are part of the process of putting ones best foot forward in creating a positive image and an favorable first impression. But what happens if a person for any number of reasons does not have the means or resources to make those critical decisions on proper dress?

Enter in the Career Marketplace and its Tie Library. This unique library is part of two larger Career Marketplace pro-

## Gay Lesbian Bisexual:

### Looking Back and Looking Ahead

TASK FORCE REPORTS

As I approach my last annual conference as the co-chair of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Task Force, I can look back over the last two years with a certain sense of accomplishment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Mark Martin and Michael Miller for their assistance and consistent good humor during my tenure. At various points along the way, both of these gentlemen have made my life as co-chair a pleasant and rewarding experience.

I am particularly proud that the GLBTF now occupies two positions on the newly formed ALA Diversity Council. This inclusion in the wider world of ALA is definitely a step in the right direction. Hats off to Jennifer Schaffner and David Van Hoy for taking on this task. Another measure of how the

GLBTF is moving out into the wider world is the newly formed External Relations Committee which is under the able guidance of Kenn Bicknell. And taking a giant step in the right direction, we have formed a Fundraising Committee, which is under the direction of Mark Martin.

With all these new additions we are currently working on revising our bylaws to reflect all these new initiatives. I know that many of you will want to join in our discussions on this matter in Washington D.C. It is a measure of our success that our structure has become larger and more diverse. To sustain this success, we will need everyone to help us with the work of the GLBTF.

Another measure of our success is the third annual Book Awards Breakfast. When I first came to the awards ceremony in 1992 it was an inspiring hour but with the inauguration of our book awards breakfast we have truly raised the celebration to a higher level. This is always one of the highlights of each annual conference. Right after the breakfast be sure and stay for our program "What have you done for me lately?" Lesbian and Gay Youth Speak Out. As a former young adult librarian, I am really pleased that we will be hearing from some young people this year, thanks to Jules Tate and our program planning committee.

And don't forget to join us Saturday night, June 27th, for our social at Howard University...many thanks to Tanner Wray and Gary McMillan for their work on this event.

I would also like to thank Keith Trimmer for keeping our website updated with all our committees, and events. And last, but not least, Cal Zunt for her tireless dedication to the production of this newsletter.

I have been fortunate to have worked with all of these people and many more over the last six years of my involve-

ment with GLBTF. Each of you has made me proud to be a part of the work of the Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force.

-- Bonita Corliss

### GLB Book Award Committee News

**AWARD WINNERS:** Lucy Jane Bledsoe, author of *Working Parts*, and Adam Mastoon, author of *The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young People* are the winners of the American Library Association's (ALA) Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Awards for literature and nonfiction. Bledsoe won the fiction award for her first novel, published by Seal Press, about a lesbian cyclist and skilled bicycle mechanic Lori Taylor as she undertakes the challenge of learning to read. The nonfiction winner, published by William Morrow, pairs Mastoon's photos with the words of teens and young adults describing their awakenings to gay, lesbian or bisexual identities and the effects of their awakenings on the world around them.

Five finalists were named in each category. Literature finalists included Elana Dykewomon for *Beyond the Pale*, Press Gang Publishers; Judith Katz for *The Escape Artist*, Firebrand; Scott Heim for *In Awe*, HarperCollins; and Persimmon Blackbridge for *Prozac Highway*, Press Gang Publishers.

Nonfiction finalists were Amy Hoffman for *Hospital Time*, Duke University Press; James Sears for *Lonely Hunters: An Oral History of Lesbian and Gay Southern Life, 1948-1968*, Westview Press; Susan Raffo, editor of *Queerly Classed*, South End Press; and Arlene Stein for *Sex and Sensibility: Stories of a Lesbian Generation*, University of California Press.

The awards, sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force, will be presented June 29, 1998, during the GLB Book Awards Breakfast at ALA's annual in Washington, D.C. You will not want to miss this event which usually features the winning authors, some wonderful guest speakers, and giveaways. It is also a great way to show support for the Book Awards. For more information, contact Ellen Bosman, Indiana University Northwest Library, ebosman@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu, phone: 219.980.6947; fax: 219.980.6558.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** The BAC has just finished another round of recruiting for new members for a two-year committee stint. The committee consists of 14 public, academic and special librarians, equally divided between male and female members. Because the BAC perpetually has a long waiting list of glb librarians who are interested in working on this committee, we don't often open up the "recruiting" outside this list. That was definitely the



case this year. However, we still add names to the waiting list all the time. Please contact Faye A. Chadwell, Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award Committee chair (see more information at the end of this section).

Our new members include: John Bradford, reference librarian, Tempe Public Library, Tempe, AZ; John N. Mitchell, cooperative cataloger, Library of Congress; Wayne Mullin, library instruction coordinator, Science Library, UC-Santa Cruz; Laura Quilter, Learning Center facilities manager, Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA; and Anne L. Moore, coordinator for document delivery & reference librarian, University of Nebraska at Kearney. Congratulations and welcome to one of the hardest working committees in ALA!

Continuing members include: Daniel Barden, Broward County Public Library, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Faye Chadwell (chair), University of Oregon Library System, Eugene; Emily Edwards, Bessemer Public Library, Bessemer, AL; Laura Reiman, school librarian, Lakewood, CO; Ann O'Neill, College of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia; Rob Ridinger, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb; Tamara Fultz, American Numismatic Society, NY, NY; Al Fritz, University of Washington, Seattle; and David Games, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

The BAC would also like to acknowledge the contributions of those members who are rotating off the committee at ALA annual. They are: Cal Gough, Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library, Steve Russo, Derry Public Library, Derry, NH; Michael North, The Grolier Club, NY, NY; Suzy Taraba, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT; and Laura Pattison, Boston Public Library. These librarians contributed immensely to the success of the BAC in the last two years. Because the BAC demands an enormous commitment of time and energy and these librarians definitely did their share, we thank them. The BAC will miss them and their insights into glb literature.

**BOOK AWARD STICKERS:** Some time ago, the GLBTF created stickers with a special GLB Book Award design/logo to sell to the publishers of our award winners and to bookstores who sell copies of our past winners. Individuals may also purchase these stickers to place on their personal copies of award winners. The BAC has also created a brochure with information about the GLB Book Award and past winners to market these stickers. It should be available this summer. If you are interested in purchasing these stickers, contact Faye Chadwell, BAC Chair.

**NOMINATIONS:** We are seeking nominations presently and up until the end of October. If you want to nominate a work of literature or non-fiction published between December 1997 and November 1998, send a brief

(and we mean brief!) statement to Faye A. Chadwell, Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award Committee chair, University of Oregon Library System, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene, OR 97403-1299. Telephone: 541-346-1819. Fax: 541-346-3485. E-mail: chadwelf@oregon.uoregon.edu.

## GLBTF PROGRAM 1998 Annual Conference -

Plans are practically complete for the 1998 GLBTF Annual Program in Washington, D.C. The program is entitled: *"What have YOU done for me lately?" Lesbian and gay youth speak out.*

Young people will speak their minds, discussing how librarians, educators, and other allies can begin to address their issues and provide the resources they need. Two brief videos will introduce the program: "My Mom's Two Names Are Judy," (10 minutes) produced by the Lesbian and Gay Parents Association; and the two minute testimony of alumnus Ken Goodman to the Montgomery (Maryland) County Board of Education on 3/25/96. A short bibliography for educators will be provided by the moderator, listing appropriate literature for various age groups in the K-12 range.

Final arrangements are being made through ALA to audiotape the program for sale at the conference. (However, one speaker has not signed the required release form; so it is possible that the ALA will not tape the program.)

This program will be co-sponsored by YALSA, ALSC, PLA, AASL.

The program will be held on MONDAY, June 29, 1998 from 10:30 am - noon (immediately after the Book Awards Breakfast).

Moderator for the program will be Jill Karpf, Middle School Media Specialist, Montgomery County Maryland Public Schools, and Founding Member and former Co-Chair of Gay-Lesbian-Straight Education Network, D.C. chapter (GLSEN-DC).

The three young (under 21) panelists will be Willy Diaz and Harry Santana from Green Chimney Social Children's Services, Inc (A New York City social welfare organization); and a young person from Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL), Washington, DC.

## Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force Third Annual Book Awards Breakfast

Join with librarians, publishers, authors and readers to honor the 1998 winners of the oldest gay, lesbian and bisexual book awards in the United States. The breakfast, featuring full sit-down breakfast, door prizes and giveaways, is a fundraiser to endow the Book Awards and to ensure their future.

Guest speakers include:

1. U.S. Representative Barney Frank
2. David Bergman, author of *Gaiety Transfigured* and editor of numerous works
3. Adam Mastoon, author of *Shared Heart Portraits* and winner of the 1998 Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award for Non-fiction
4. Lucy Jane Bledsoe, author of

storefront near the University of Florida. In 1996 the CMC and the local public library system signed a contract, just now completed, to catalog 1,100 of the most useful CMC books into the public library's online database, thus making the CMC a sort of self-operating, alternative branch library. Most of the cost of cataloging the materials was covered by a generous donation from the local Friends of the Library organization. At the Diversity Fair Charles and possibly a public librarian from Gainesville will talk about how public libraries in other cities can make street library collections accessible online.

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE. BUSINESS MEETING.** If you have a hankering for editing, writing reviews and articles, or just learning about the alternative press in all its amazing breadth and depth, get up early and come to this meeting! We are a small group, and we want to meet you!

**STREET LIBRARIES, INFOSHOPS AND ALTERNATIVE READING ROOMS.** Infoshop guy Chuck Munson and AIP stalwart Chris Dodge have put together this unusual program — the first time to our knowledge that ALA has ever hosted a discussion about radical storefront collections. The diverse panel includes Chris Atton — librarian from Edinburgh who wrote the book *Alternative Literature* (1996); Alexis Buss — Wooden Shoe Books (Philadelphia); Joe Courter — Civic Media Center (Gainesville, FL); Chantel Guidry — Crescent Wrench (New Orleans); Chuck Munson — Mid-Atlantic Infoshop; and Brad Sigal — Love and Rage Newspaper. Libraries are failing to meet the real needs of many young people and activist communities. Come find out about alternative press spaces and the people who run them.

**HAWAII WORKING GROUP. HAWAII: PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER.** A year ago in San Francisco a nine-member panel put on a two-hour presentation followed by an hour of questions and discussion about the outsourcing agreement signed the previous year between the Hawaii State Public Library System and Baker & Taylor, Inc. This year, unfortunately, none of the six Hawaii librarians are able to come to Washington. But the three stateside panelists — Hawaii Working Group chair Pat Wallace, Sanford Berman, and Charles Willett — will return to discuss with the audience how and why the entire house of cards collapsed during the past 12 months and what lessons the Hawaii outsourcing disaster offers for library - vendor relations in the future.

**PRESENTATION OF THE JACKIE EUBANKS MEMORIAL AWARD.** At the start of the *Counterpoise* program (see below), a short ceremony will take place

presenting the fourth Jackie Eubanks award to Scottish librarian, author, and lecturer Chris Atton. AIP gives the \$500 award and plaque annually to a single individual "to recognize outstanding achievement in promoting the acquisition and use of alternative media in libraries." Previous awards were given to Noel Peattie, Chris Dodge, and Mev Miller.

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE. COUNTERPOISE, ALA'S NEW ALTERNATIVE REVIEW JOURNAL: GETTING STARTED.** Creating a new review journal out of thin air isn't easy. In 1996, after two years of discussion and planning, AIP put together a 20-member editorial board of volunteer librarians and subject specialists, and cranked out the first 65-page issue of *Counterpoise* in January 1997. Now five issues are in print and the drive is on to improve content, appearance, subscriber base, and financial stability. Live on stage and totally unrehearsed, editor Charles Willett and associate editors Byron Anderson, Chris Atton, and Peggy D'Adamo invite you to come and participate in a no-holds-barred critique of what we all have accomplished — and failed to accomplish — thus far in creating a useful, quarterly journal of articles, reviews, letters to the editor, and indexes about alternative reference materials, books, pamphlets, magazines, zines, audio, video, and electronic materials from around the world.

**FREE SPEECH BUFFET.** If you have already been to a Free Speech Buffet (Washington is our sixth!), this event needs no explanation. If you are a first-timer, prepare yourself for a different kind of ALA party. Organizer Chuck D'Adamo has persuaded caterer Arun Gupta, who served a fabulous feast of vegetarian Indian specialties at the New York buffet in 1996, to come hundreds of miles down to Washington for a repeat performance. Free admission. Buy a drink and get buffeted by strange encounters with alternative publishers and their subversive, non-government, non-corporate, pro-humanist tracts at this souse 'n' browse bash **INSIDE THE BELTWAY!**

## Coretta Scott King: CSK Task Force Expands Its Vision, Incoming Chair Calls for Increased Participation

As the incoming Chair for the CSK Task Force, I see our role expanding as we approach the new millennium. While the primary goal of the Coretta Scott King Task Force is the selection of CSK and New Talent Award books, our mission and role in this process is evolving. CSK is both "vintage and new." There are those who are well aware of this award, yet, it is not unusual to encounter colleagues and

John Q. Public who have never heard of it. I see part of my

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resources, the building industry and building owners must approach the design, construction and operation of library structures in a way that values principles of resource efficiency, health, and productivity. The main issue is to do as little damage to the surrounding physical environment as possible through the use of renewable resources and recycled materials.

Monday 1:00-4:00 OLOS, SRRT, Task Force on the Environment Global Reach — Local Touch: The Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Library

This program will be held at the EPA Headquarters in the Waterside Mall (204 M Street, S.W. off of the Greenline). The EPA Headquarters Library supports a vast national network of libraries, clearinghouse, and special information resource collections. The Library serves as the U.S. Node of the United Nations Environment Program INFOTERRA. The EPA Library network supports research, policy development, and education. EPA Librarians will be on hand to describe the full spectrum of resources

from the global to the local.

Monday 2:00-4:00 p.m. ALA Map and Geography Round Table. Geographic Technologies (GeoTech) Committee Building the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Metadata Catalog: The Librarians Role

A program on developing spatial metadata, funding spatial metadata projects, and the roles librarians in the growing National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NDIS). Papers will discuss varied aspects of metadata, drawing on practical examples, and will provide a look at the present and future place of spatial data and geographic information systems in libraries.

## Feminist:

The Feminist Task Force will be having its annual Feminist Author Breakfast in Washington DC at ALA's conference.

The breakfast is scheduled for Sunday June 28 from 8:30 to 11 am. Authors will include: Nancy VanArsdall author of "Coming Full Circle: Honoring the Rhythms of Relationships. Lynn Kanter, author of "On Lill Street" and the "Mayor of Heaven," Carol Anne Douglas, author and contributor to "Radically Speaking," and Joan Pinkvoss, founder of Aunt Lute Books in San Francisco.

The location is to be announced.

For Ticket information please contact: Dotty Granger at [d\\_granger@convene.com](mailto:d_granger@convene.com) or Dotty Granger Pacific Oaks College 5 Westmoreland Place Pasadena, CA 91103

Everyone is welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

## Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty:

The SRRT Taskforce on Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty will present a program entitled "Must the Poor Always be Among Us?" at the annual conference on Saturday, 2-4 p.m.

This program will discuss causes and remedies for poverty and welfare in America and what roles libraries can play. Michael Stoops of the National Coalition for the Homeless will present a short multimedia presentation on the "Faces of Homelessness" which will be followed by some brief presentations from Barbara Duffield, Director of Education and Web Site manager for the National Coalition for the Homeless; Katherine Allen, Research Associate for the Institute for Women's Policy Research; and Sherri Marshall, current welfare recipient and Board Member of ARISE for Social Justice, Springfield, MA.

Yvonne Farley, West Virginia SRRT representative, will be the moderator of the panel discussion which follows.

For more information, contact Yvonne Farley, Kanawha County Public Library, 123 Capitol St., Charleston, WV 25301

[304.343.4646.yfarley@hotmail.com](mailto:304.343.4646.yfarley@hotmail.com)

## International:

Social Responsibility Around the World Sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the ALA

Date and time: Sunday June 28, 1998, 2-5:30 pm, location TBA

Program: Each organization will have 20 minutes to give an overview of its philosophy, activities, successes and failures, impact on the library profession, and impact on society in its own country. Solidarity links with other countries and international activities should be included. Proposals for further international cooperation can also be put forward. Then questions, answers, and discussion from those attending.

Informal discussion: Dinner for panelists and SRRT Action Council members immediately after the program.

Follow-up: Special Meeting of SRRT Action Council and speakers, 8-10 pm. To develop proposals for international cooperation, projects, etc.

Meeting: Proposals will be formally considered at the 2nd meeting of SRRT Action Council, Monday, June 29, 2-4 pm.

Contact: Al Kagan,  
217.333.6519  
[akagan@uiuc.edu](mailto:akagan@uiuc.edu)

***Diversity and Multiculturalism in Libraries***

Katherine Hoover Hill, ed. *Foundations in library and information science* ; v. 32. Greenwich, CT : JAI Press, 1994.

Feeling discouraged about the future of diversity in libraries because of recent attacks on affirmative action? Has your institution's multiculturalism program plateaued or run out of steam? If so, go to your shelves and dust off *Diversity and Multiculturalism in Libraries*. It is one of the two most recent books on the topic. *Multiculturalism in Libraries* by Rosema Du Mont was more widely reviewed and purchased, so this review will introduce the former.

This is a collection of essays by librarians and administrators from all over the United States, who write about the importance of actively making their libraries and larger institutions more inclusive. It gives examples of how they have been able to make their institutional climates more accepting of differences. It is organized from the general to the specific, beginning with Rush G. Miller's "Leading the Way to Diversity: the Academic Library's Role in Promoting

Multiculturalism," ending with two accounts of diversity internships, and touching on a variety of issues on the way. Most discuss issues pertinent to specific populations and are of the "how we did it" genre, but some are more theoretical. Overall it allows readers in need of fresh ideas for their diversity program to see examples of what has worked in other academic and public libraries.

Grade: B Well-organized, adequate index, essays good but not stellar, with citations and a couple literature reviews.

Jon McConnel  
jonmc@memes.com

***Information of the Image***

Pratt, Allan D. 2nd Edition, 1998. Ablex Publishing, Greenwich CT.

Mr. Pratt proclaims in his introduction "This book is an exploration of, not an explanation of, information (in its recorded form), and the keepers of those records, the librarians." This essentially sets the tone. He explores topics, but does little to explain them. He shares his opinions, but primarily expresses the opinions of others. I see this as a re-visiting of many other articles.

The highlights are his clear discussions of Buckland's 'information-as-process' 'information-as-knowledge' and 'information-as-thing' and of the Shannon-Weaver communication model. The first half of the book is an interesting discussion on communication and the role of libraries and librarians in the communication of ideas via graphic records.

In the second half of his work, he seems to stray off what appeared to be the subject. He reviews the role of public libraries and attacks the differing views on what a public library should provide to its community, fee vs. free argument and the possible disappearance of the librarian in the age of information technology. Mr. Pratt then criticizes the library community for its lack of professionalism and

social influence, and claims librarians receive no respect from the public and other professions because they do not respect themselves.

In the end, I found it difficult to discover a point to Mr. Pratt's arguments. This work was at times exciting and at times tedious (in only 111 pages, mind you). Includes references, author and subject indexes.

Adrienne Julius  
atjulius@seanet.com

***The Gay & Lesbian Alliance against Defamation. Access Denied: The Impact of Internet Filtering Software on the Lesbian & Gay Community.* 1997.**

Debate around Internet filtering software and rating systems continue, and today, few among us would disagree that the gay and lesbian community has reason to be seriously concerned about Internet filtering software. While the Communications Decency Act's defeat is a victory, our communities access to and visibility on the Internet continues to be profoundly challenged. Internet filtering software serves one primary function - it filters material on the Internet, whether it is Web sites, chat rooms or mailing lists. Outcomes and impact vary.

Filtering software may, for example, may block sites dealing with sexual orientation and gender identity, or, on the other end of the spectrum, it may deny even basic educational or support resources for many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth. Among those most threatened by this software are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth. Thumbs up to GLAAD for confronting these issues head-on and for preparing and publishing this excellent resource on cyber issues and the lesbian and gay community.

The political implications of Internet filtering software, filtering software and online censorship issues and a legal examination of the Communications Decency Act and its future impact comprise the first three sections of this report. The next two sections offer a parent's and a young person's perspective on Internet filter software. A review of software, rating systems and search engines follows and concludes with suggestions for industry leaders. The report closes with a proposal for future ratings that GLAAD will implement in future years as a guideline to Internet filtering software manufacturers, ratings providers, ratings boards, individual ratings judges, schools, and parents. This will be GLAAD's way of demonstrating either an Internet filtering software's lack of attention to or discrimination against the gay, lesbian, and bisexual and transgender community. GLAAD is up front about its commitment to "ensuring access to information via the Internet that is a fundamental right of all Americans guaranteed by the First Amendment." This report will open your eyes to the troubling implications of filtering software and rating systems; it will also make you a more educated consumer. Don't miss it!

GLAAD Online: [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org)  
GLAAD E-mail: [glaad@glaad.org](mailto:glaad@glaad.org)  
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# SRRT ALA Calendar

*While every effort has been made to get all the SRRT events listed here, this is not necessarily an exhaustive list. Please refer to your conference guide for information on locations, changes and additional goodies.*

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Friday

SRRT/CSK [co-sponsor w/ Black Caucus] Bridging the Gap, Building the Future, Friday, 6/26, 10 am  
 SRRT/GLBTF: Steering Committee I, Friday, 6/26, 8-10 pm

## Saturday

SRRT: All Task Force/Action Council I, Saturday, 6/27, 8-11 am  
 [the following task forces will be meeting during the All Task Force part,  
 8-9:30am: FTF, TFOE, IRTF, AIP, HHP, FTF, GLBTF]  
 SRRT/AIP/HWG: Hawaii Working Group: Hawaii: Putting the Pieces Back  
 Together, Saturday, 6/27, 2-4 pm  
 SRRT/HHP: Must the Poor Always Be Among Us?, Saturday, 6/27, 2-4 pm  
 SRRT/GLBTF: Book Awards Committee, Saturday, 6/27, 2-4 pm  
 SRRT/GLBTF: Social!! Saturday 6/27, 6-8 pm

## Sunday

SRRT/FTF: Rhythms of Life, Author B'fast, Sunday, 6/28, 8:30-11am  
 SRRT/AIP: Street Libraries: Infoshops & Alternative Reading Rooms,  
 Sunday, 6/28, 9:30-11am  
 SRRT/TFOE [cosponsor w/ LITA] Social Research and GIS: Applications for the Library  
 Sunday 6/28 9:30-noon  
 SRRT: Membership Meeting, Sunday, 6/28, 11:30 am -12:30 pm  
 SRRT/TFOE [cosponsor w/ OLOS] Developing a National Library for the Environment: ALAs Role  
 Sunday 6/28 1 -2:30 pm  
 SRRT/AIP [co-sponsor with RUSA] Reading in the Age of Global Media,  
 Sunday, 6/28, 2-4 pm  
 SRRT: Social Responsibilities Around the World, Sunday, Sunday, 6/28, 7-10pm  
 SRRT/GLBTF: Read Aloud, Sunday, 6/28, 8-10pm

## Monday

SRRT/FTF: [meeting], Monday, 6/29, 8-9 am  
 SRRT/GLBTF: Book Awards Breakfast, Monday, 6/29, 8-10 am  
 SRRT/AIP Presentation of the Jackie Eubanks Memorial Award, Monday 6/29, 9:30 am  
 SRRT/ AIP: Publications Committee, Counterpoise, ALA's New Alternative  
 Review Journal: Getting Started, Monday, 6/29, 9:30-11am  
 SRRT/GLBTF: What Have you Done for Me lately? Lesbian & Gay Youth  
 Speak Out, Monday, 6/29, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
 SRRT/TFOE [cosponsor w/ OLOS] Global Reach — Local Touch: The EPA Headquarters Library  
 Monday, 6/29, 1-4 pm  
 SRRT: Action Council II, Monday, 6/29, 2-4pm  
 SRRT/GLBTF: Membership meeting, Monday, 6/29, 2-4 pm  
 SRRT/AIP: Free Speech Buffet, Monday, 6/29, 6-9 pm

## Tuesday

SRRT/CSK: Awards Breakfast, Tuesday, 6/30, 7:30-9am  
 SRRT/GLBTF: Steering Committee II, Tuesday, 6/30, 8:30-11am

# Hello New Members

Welcome to SRRT, the voice for social change and progressive priorities within ALA and the profession. We are glad to have you as a new member! If you would like to learn more about SRRT and its various task forces, here's how.

If you have specific questions about getting involved in SRRT, contact the SRRT Coordinator, Wendy Thomas (wendy@radcliffe.edu 617.495.8549).

If you would like to get involved with one of the SRRT task forces (Alternatives in Print; Coretta Scott King; Environment; Feminist; Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual; Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty; and International Responsibilities), contact the task force chairs directly.

If you attend ALA's Annual Conference, come to SRRT Action Council, Membership, or task force meetings! We always welcome new members and volunteers.

Also check out the fledgling SRRT web site at <http://www.jessamyn.com/srrt>

-- Wendy Thomas, SRRT Coordinator

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

<http://www.jessamyn.com/srrt>

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