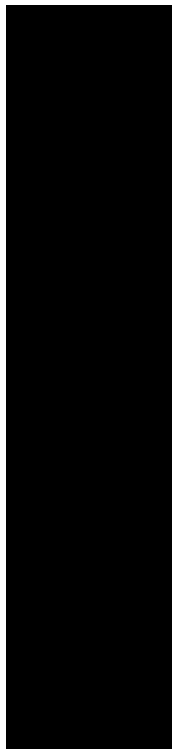


SRRT



Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association

WE ARE...SRRT!

Officers

SRRT Coordinator: Rory Litwin

SRRT Treasurer: Aureole Maria Johnstone

SRRT Secretary: Marie Jones

SRRT Representative to ALA Council: Al Kagan

SRRT Membership Committee Chair: Fred Stoss

Newsletter Editor (ex officio member, Action Council): Sally Driscoll

At Large Action Council Members

2002-2005

Jennifer Baltes

Fred Stoss

2003-2006

Susan Dillinger

Mark Hudson

Marie Jones

Aureole Maria Johnstone

2004-2007

Mark Rosenzweig

Rory Litwin

Ann Sparanese

Dana Lubow

Task Force Representatives to AC

AIP:

Highlights of SRRT Meetings at ALA Annual 2004

Excerpted and adapted from draft minutes prepared by Michael Santangelo

Action Council I, June 26

After introductions, announcements, and a call for agenda items, several resolutions were discussed. (All resolutions that were passed are contained in this newsletter.)

1. Resolution Against the Use of Racist Training Materials by the U.S. Military. Created by Mark Hudson in support of a statement by Racism Watch, which called on President Bush to make an executive order taking Raphael Patai's book, *The Arab Mind*, out of the U.S. military training materials. It was decided that this resolution would be accepted only by SRRT, not presented to ALA Council, and promoted in *Cognotes*.
2. Resolution on Workplace Speech. Original resolution was created by Sandy Berman with the intent to amend the library bill of rights, but rejected by ALA Council. This revised (and much more moderate) resolu-4.8(Late)-7.2(Aneata(i)0H5Etcstead(o)-, [(am)8.8(e(o)-2()6(th)-5(e)pti)-5(u-6(li)-5.c(e)-1211(y7.5()2((am)8.a(e)-1.Am

the conference; there is a plan to file another CIPA lawsuit in the next few months; they have planned a pro-

new officers, but there was some objection since members were not present. Rory states that he will schedule the appointment of officers next year during the open session, instead. Incoming members of AC are Dana Lubow, Rory Litwin, Mark Rosenzweig, and Ann Sparanese. Rory agreed to continue serving as Coordinator after Elaine dropped her offer and vote is unanimous. Also elected are Aureole Maria Johnstone as Treasurer, Marie Jones as Secretary.

Who's Who in SRRT



Action Council II ended late and many members had to leave, but those who remained until the end are, stand-

Proposed Revisions to the SRRT Bylaws

Rory Litwin, SRRT Coordinator

SRRT Action Council has a committee that was formed a couple of years ago to review the SRRT Bylaws and to propose a set of revisions, if needed, to be voted on by the SRRT membership. (Proposed revisions to the bylaws don't have to come from Action Council to be brought to the membership for a vote, but there is no reason that Action Council can't initiate the process as any member might.)

At the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando, this committee, which had Elaine Harger, Mark Rosenzweig, Marie Jones and myself as members, with Norman Horrocks advising, brought a small set of revisions to Action Council for it to endorse for the ballot that will be coming in the spring. Action Council endorsed the proposed revisions for the ballot by a unanimous vote, incorporating some changes that came from the Action Council meeting of the previous Midwinter. (The committee would not have submitted the proposal to the ballot without the endorsement of Action Council, but such endorsement is technically not needed for a proposal for bylaws revision to go to the membership for a vote.)

BYLAWS

June 1995

I. Name.

The name of this organization shall be the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association.

II. Purpose.

The purpose of the Social Responsibilities Round Table shall be:

- to provide a forum for the discussion of the responsibilities which librarians and libraries have in relation to the important problems of social change which face institutions and librarians today;
- to provide for the exchange of information about library activities among all ALA units with the goal of increasing understanding of current social problems;
- to act as a stimulus to ALA and its various units in making libraries more responsive to current social needs;
- to present programs, arrange exhibits and carry out other appropriate activities.

III. Membership.

Membership will consist of personal members, regular,

Action Council for approval. The term of office for the editorial board shall be 3 years. There will be staggered terms of appointment. The editorial board will advise the editor upon request on matters of editorial policy.

Action Council shall have the responsibilities of:

Determining the membership program at the annual conference;

Submitting projects or endorsing projects of volunteer Task Forces of SRRT;

Soliciting volunteers and appointing SRRT members to ALA unit positions which accrue to the coordinator ex-officio and to committees to help the Council meet its organizational responsibilities. Such liaisons will serve a 3-year term and may be re-appointed for one additional term;

Coordinating the dissemination of information to the SRRT membership.

Approving the budgets and expenditures of the Round Table and the Task Forces.

Action Council elections.

terms of office shall be for 3 years, with the right to run for re-election to a second term. Three or four members will run each year to replace the outgoing members.

Action Council coordinator will take responsibility for coordinating SRRT elections. Individual members who wish to volunteer to serve will submit their names, their statement of concerns

Notes from Annual in Orlando

Although ALA maintains the “One Voice Policy” which prohibits SRRT from speaking for the entire organization, SRRT’s influential voice was loud and clear at the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando. The special showing of Michael Moore’s *Fahrenheit 911*, thanks to Mitch Freedman and Ann Sparanese, filled the 2,300-seat auditorium. At her speech and film presentation, **Amy Goodman** of Democracy Now! stated, “Disney should be challenged by every librarian here at the convention,” referring to the fact that Disney refused distribution of Moore’s documentary. She also called librarians (and no doubt referring specifically to SRRTERS!) “freedom fighters” in her accompanying speech to the showing of the film *Independent Media in a Time of War*. The film demonstrated, as she claimed, “media acting as a conveyer belt for the U.S. Administration.”

SRRTERS spoke forcefully and eloquently at the

Enoch Pratt Leads Martin Luther King Holiday

Virginia B. Moore, Chairperson of the MLK Holiday Task Force

Providing impressive details about the numerous and varied 2004 programs of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, Vivian Fisher, Manager, African American Department, led the panel discussion at the 4th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Multicultural Idea Exchange. The event was held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel on Saturday, June 26 during the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando with a highly expectant and enthusiastic audience.

In representing the types of programs held in public libraries, Ms. Fisher gave interesting details about a few of Pratt's highly applauded 2004 programs such as: "Brown v. Board of Education: 50 Years Later - An Evening with Kurt. L. Schmoke, Dean, Howard University School of Law and the first African American to be Mayor of Baltimore (1987-1999)"; an exhibit, "Maryland's First Black Lawyers: 1877-1977"; and The Pratt Library Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Lecture, "Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." with Guest Speaker Dr. Brad Ronnell Braxton, Jessie Ball Dupont Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Biblical Studies, Wake Forest University Divinity School (NC) and author of *No Longer Slaves*. In addition, she gave an illustrious report of the "West African Drumming and Dancing Workshops for

Report on ALA Council to SRRT by Al Kagan

June 2004

Due to a lot of hard work, SRRT issues did remarkably well in Orlando. Despite the heat and being in one of the most difficult to navigate and plastic environments yet, social responsibility is now a core value, ALA is on the

the ALA International Relations Committee. This was an attempt to go beyond the well-researched and nuanced report adopted at the last ALA meeting. Mr. Berry did not share this dictated "letter" with the IRC before

Liaison Report: Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF)

Laura Koltutsky

The FTRF has been actively following first amendment cases as well as challenges to legislation like the Patriot Act. One case in which FTRF filed an amicus brief, *John Doe and ACLU v. Ashcroft*, recently (September 29, 2004) saw Patriot Act Surveillance Power declared unconstitutional by a Federal Court. Another case in Dallas dealt saw the FTRF file an amicus brief to the Texas Supreme Court defending the use of political satire in an alternative weekly, the *Dallas Observer*. This case was recently (September 3, 2004) adjudicated by the Texas Supreme Court and the court voted unanimously that political satire is protected speech. The state level “harmful to minors” legislation is challenged by FTRF in states like Michigan with such statutes.

Liaison Report: Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT)

Laura Koltutsky

IFRT and the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) held several programs in Orlando including “Walking the High Wire: Exploring the Tension among Intellectual Freedom, Privacy, and Intellectual Property” and “Tiny Trackers: The Use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology by Libraries and Booksellers.” IFRT will be co-sponsoring a program in Chicago with YALSA on Intellectual Freedom and Youth. IFRT is also working on planning a reception for their official program in Chicago. The new *Intellectual Freedom Manual* was discussed and Martin Garnar of IFC led a discussion of the revisions that were being made to the document. Jim Kuhn, IFRT representative to SRRT, led a discussion about the “One Voice Policy” and IFRT bylaws were rev9(w)ru

Report of the SRRT Liaison to GODORT

Tom Twiss

At the 2004 ALA Annual Conference, the Legislation Committee of the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) discussed and approved five resolutions. Ultimately, all of these were adopted by ALA Council. Three of the resolutions were especially significant from a social-responsibilities perspective:

1. "Resolution on Guidelines for "Sensitive" Information." In light of the increasing withholding of

Books...For Bombs!

In Orlando, Action Council approved Elaine Harger's outreach program proposal that would invite individual members to donate children's books to the United Talmud Torah School in Montreal, site of the 2004 anti-Semitic firebombing. Harger presented the following letter that will be sent to the school with a request for specific titles and/or types of books that the school would like. When a list is available, it will be posted to SRRTAC-L for those people interested in participating in the program. Stay tuned!

Open Letter to the Children of United Talmud Torah School,

This letter to you is from many librarians who belong to a group called the Social Responsibilities Round Table, which is part of a big organization called the American Library Association. The people who belong to our group cherish libraries and we believe that everyone needs to take good care of libraries.

Now that school is back in session, we are sending this letter to let you know that we hope your new library is open. Each of us would like to give a new book to your library and we are sending a list of books that have won an award that our group sponsored for many years – winners of the Coretta Scott King Award. The award is for books that promote peace, brotherhood and non-violent social change. You can read more about the award on the internet at <http://www.ala.org/ala/srrt/corettascotting/abouttheaward/aboutaward.htm>.

We have heard about what happened to your old library, about the fire that burned it so badly, and that made us feel very sad. We felt frightened and angry too. We know you felt frightened and angry and sad too.

Some of the books that burned in the fire are in your new library, in a special exhibit case. The burned books will help you remember how you felt when your library was burned. The burned books will also help you to think about why the fire happened.

Right now, we grown ups don't really know why the books were burned, but we do have some guesses. Someday maybe we will know for sure why the books were burned, but for right now we don't know.

Sometimes books get burned by people who hate the stories inside. These people are called intolerant.

Sometimes books are burned by people who have a sickness that makes them feel good when they burn things that should not be burned. These people are called pyromaniacs.

Sometimes books are burned by people who hate the people who have the books in their libraries. These people are called prejudiced.

Prejudiced people who burn books at schools with Jewish students are called anti-Semites. Prejudiced people who burn books at schools with black students are called racists.

Sometimes books are burned by people who are very sad and angry because something bad happened to their families and friends. People who don't like what they have done call them evil, terrorist, villain, coward. People who do like what they did call them hero, patriot, good, brave. That might sound very strange, but it is true.

Children know, just like librarians know, that books should never be burned. Books are not good or bad, they are just books with stories that we can read and learn from. Even books that we don't like have something to teach us.

It is wrong to burn books. The person who burned the books in your beautiful library was wrong. That person did a very bad thing when he burned your library. That person needs to think for a long time about what he did. He needs to try to feel how frightened and angry and sad he made you when he burned your library.

If he was a pyromaniac he might still feel good that he burned your library, and if he does feel good then he needs help from a special doctor called a therapist or psychiatrist. If he was an anti-Semite who feels proud that he burned your library, then he needs help learning that his prejudice is very wrong.

If he was a person who burned your library in anger, he might still be angry. He might also be sorry. If he is angry, he needs help thinking about why he is so angry. He also needs to think of better, non-violent ways to express his anger. If he is sorry, he needs our help in deciding what he can do to earn our forgiveness for the bad thing he did.

Sometimes it is very hard to forgive someone who has done a very bad thing, but we must always try to understand why that person acted so badly. When we do understand why, then it is our job, our responsibility, to help that person change to become a better person.

The work of understanding and helping people change is called our social responsibility. It is our social responsibility to understand why your beautiful library was burned. And it is our social responsibility to help change mental sickness into mental well-being. It is our responsibility to change prejudice into tolerance and care, and to change anger expressed through violence into anger expressed in peaceful ways. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hoped all people would use non-violence to make our world a better place.

The librarians of the Social Responsibilities Round Table believe this work for change, for a better world, is possible. We believe this work is important. We believe social responsibilities are everybody's job, even yours.

*We are sharing our belief in social responsibility with (sib)civ t(lief)U2(rtin)ited(with)-T.2(cial)mhis ud(with)-Tora6(with)-S-6(so)-9Thk(the)-owessed6(b)--5.1(t)12.9(eta)-5.195.1311.d useebantank5.3.1(r)10.9(.)-8.9(Mo-4.of6(and)6(ce)6(t10.1(h) ti6.9(h)1-7.1(,) 9.81.7330 TD0.0004 Tc24.0089 ab geb218 ia(no4)-4..9 ,100.2645 -1.146 TD0 Tc0 Tw()JTT*0.0012 Tc0.0092 Tw(W)9.8(e)-5.40.7(bentitnes (ang)-5stas (ang), 9(lera2n)0.8(d)10.6(h.4(olen) we (y yo2(nd-5stay yo2(nd10.6(e5.4(y)10.6(cmr.8(d)4(olen))12(b)-9.8*

News about our Members

De Marco, Joseph R.G. *Mr. Dead Leather & Other Stories*. Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2004.

De Marco, Joseph R.G. "Homosexuality." *Men and Masculinities: A Social, Cultural and Historical Encyclopedia*

Tom Twiss and **Mark Hudson** were interviewed on the topic of "Libraries and Social Responsibilities" on the radio program, "Fightin' Lefty Review" on WRCT-FM Pittsburgh in August.

Rosenzweig to Attend Caracas Conference

At the invitation and with the support of the Venezuelan Ministry of Culture, **Mark Rosenzweig**, SRRT Action Councilor and ALA Councilor at-large, will attend an international conference in Caracas on the theme "In Defense of Humanity" an international meeting of artists and intellectuals opposed to the effects on culture and society of corporate globalization under US domination. The conference, at which participants will meet President Hugo Chavez (on whose initiative the meeting has been called) will last from Nov. 29 to December 10.

Tribute to David Cohen

Herb Biblo

David Cohen has reached his 95th birthday and has achieved iconic status at ALA.

Radical Reference Premieres at Republican National Convention

Rachel Holt

Since July, I have been a volunteer for Radical Reference (<http://radicalreference.info>). We are a group of librarians from all over the US that worked together to provide street, email, and web reference services to activist groups and the independent media on the eve of the Republican National Convention in New York City. We fielded numerous questions about all aspects of the Bush administration, the war in Iraq, and the convention itself, as well as provided a team of librarians at the demonstrations to help with more immediate concerns ("Where are the bathrooms?" "What do I do if I get arrested?"). RadRef is currently on a short hiatus while we re-tool for our post-RNC existence, in which we hope to offer our services on a wider and more permanent basis.

Blogging for the Democratic National Convention

Jessamyn West wore an official DNC media/press badge that entitled her to entry into the convention center and thus, close encounters with politicians and celebrities. Her daily experiences and reflections were published in her blog, which you can still read at <http://librarian.net/dnc/>. This was the first political convention to provide credentials for bloggers.

ALA Adopts Torture Resolution

Mark Rosenzweig's resolution, originally defeated by ALA Council in 2002, was adopted by Council in Orlando on June 26, 2004, with some changes. That version is now posted on the Web site.
<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=ifresolutions&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=70739>

Resolution Against The Use of Torture as a Violation of Our Basic Values as Librarians Adopted by SRRT, June 2004

WHEREAS, The American Library Association (ALA) is



Whereas “people-to-people exchanges” to Cuba – the largest category of licensed travel previously available to the American people to see Cuba for themselves – were eliminated in 2003; and

Whereas the category of “fully hosted travel” – which allows hundred of US students to study gratis at medical schools in Cuba – has now been eliminated; and

Whereas the new restrictions include violations of basic human rights such as the limitation of family visits for Cuban Americans to only once every three years, regardless of family emergency; and

Whereas the Washington Office on Latin America writes that “the new policy 11.8(RT Neto1 T6e;p)-4676ta-(:)c7 Tw[(Whe)-ue17(o
Cyfer 11;yerCy-5(It..4(a)0htm.6(21)-52I op76tpo4.96cA8n rirationdadlmlfg 1(n 6(c)66(v)7t 162-)7.1, 202- and



SRRTERS tend to be influential and engaging, and it is difficult to select just one person to be interviewed for each newsletter. After I finished the last newsletter and began to agonize over this dilemma, a posting on SRRTAC caught my attention. It was a response from Noel Peattie to Al Kagan's April TV Turnoff Week Announcement, and this peaked my curiosity.

“Hi Al, I don't have a TV. Never had one, never will. I have a computer for news and correspondence; two telescopes; and a reed organ from the 1880's. I have a sailboat in Berkeley, and a girlfriend in a nearby city... I'm happy!”

Noel, you have never lacked in the ability to nourish your soul! Quaker, poetry and fiction writer, newsletter editor, small press publisher, amateur astronomer,

library—a real honor for anyone, especially a librarian—the Noel R. Peattie Reading Room and Library. Tell me

Earth Day 35th Anniversary

Fred Stoss, co-chair Task Force on the Environment and Biological Sciences Librarian at University at Buffalo--SUNY

April 22, 1970 may be one of the most important days in the history of environmental activism. IT was the day when a generation of college students took to their campuses a call for action. It was a call for governments to act to increase their efforts to assure a higher standard for environmental quality. It was a call for all citizens to learn more about the cause and effect relationships between our human activities and the impact they have on the environments in which we live, work, and play. It was a day to celebrate the true richness and riches of our environment and seek a better means to protect it.

The celebration event known as Earth Day, was created in 1969 and 1970. However, Earth Day found its initial inspirations in the 1950s and 1960s--decades marked by tremendous social and cultural awareness, times of activism and change, times of spiritual enlightenment and consciousness. One cultural concept around which millions of people began to rally was the environment.

The birth of the contemporary environmental movement began with the 1949 publication of Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*, considered by many to be one of the most important books on conservation written this century. Leopold's classic was preceded by the evolution of a contemporary wilderness ethic that began in the 1870s with the creation of Yellowstone National Park (the first such preserve in the world). This land and resource preservation movement extended to 1935 with the publication of *The Living Wilderness* by the Wilderness Society. The Society's first director, Howard Zahniser, drafted the first version of a wilderness bill in 1955. The bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Hubert Humphrey (D-Minnesota) in 1956 and signed into law as the Wilderness Act by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

Several events stimulated a greater concern for the quality of the environment in the 1960s. Among these events were the proclamation that the Great Lakes were declared "dead"--choked by what seemed to be an endless infusion of pollutants, the grounding of the Torrey Canyon off the coast of England, the first

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Earth Day Internet Resources

Stoss has provided an extensive list of resources that can be used to learn more about the quality of our environment. These sites reflect the environmental theme of the first Earth Day, "Think Globally, Act Locally!" They reflect international, national, state, local, and campus resources and include sites of interest especially for children. (<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/exhibits/earthday.html>)

Notes

(1)

SRRTERS Work with Librarians Nationwide to Foil Censorship Attempt

The *Raven Magazine* publisher warned the printer, BrioPrint, that his magazine contained “irreverent humor like South Park and MAD TV” as well as satire often critical of the current presidential administration, and BrioPrint assured the publisher that there would not be a problem and responded with a signed contract. Then 4 days later, BrioPrint reneged on the contract, stating that the content was “slanderous” and contained “reverse-racism.” They were apparently concerned about content such as a satirical cartoon depicting George Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld in Nazi uniforms, and a parody of Mel Gibson’s thoughts on more movie projects that reinforce stereotypes similar to those of the Jews depicted in *Passion of the Christ*. Forcing *Raven Magazine* to locate another publisher would have delayed production and delivery until well after Election Day, making the issue dated and irrelevant.

The California Library Association received word about this censorship issue, and soon librarians around the country began an assault on BrioPrint in the form of phone calls, emails and faxes, until the owner, John Marino, surrendered. The following letter is a thank-you from the editor of Raven Magazine. For subscription information, go to the Web site, <http://www.Ravenmagazine.com>

Date October 14, 2004

To freespeechlibrary@fastmail.fm

From editor@ravenmagazine.com

Subject Re FwmmBba(g)7(aibrarBfrbhee2(o)-l le)7.i6(h)-5((r)7s)-t Tcn afr-ei ie.2(-6(f)8.2BW” oa(aro)D0.00bw)3(m)yc7tor d,8ine.

Thanks to **Rebecca Tolley-Stokes** for her help over the past few years as book review editor, and welcome to Jane Ingold, who will be managing reviews now. In the meantime, we received two books from McFarland and Co. Publishers which are reviewed here as a courtesy. I would like to stress that we have not been receiving relevant titles that would be of interest especially to SRRTERS such as those in the areas of politics, feminism, environmental studies, current events, etc. We hope to solicit these books and Jane also has some good ideas.

New Titles of interest to public librarians from McFarland & Co. Publishers
<http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/>

Turner, Anne M. *It Comes with the Territory: Handling Problem Situations in Libraries*. Rev. Ed. 2004.
The director of the Santa Cruz City-County Library System, Turner has Tund ry:Tute7(e)0hitt

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SRRTMEM

SRRT'S WEB SITE