

June
2005
Issue
150/151

SRRT Newsletter

Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association

Rent a bike in Chicago!

Get some exercise! See the city from a new perspective! Beat the shuttle buses and pedal to the meetings listed below. Details on p.19.



SRRT Programs at Annual 2005

All Task Force Meeting
Saturday, June 25, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Introduction to Women's Issues (FTF)
Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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

We Need People for Task Forces!

When you first join SRRT or anytime thereafter, you have the option of selecting one or more task forces to join. Belonging to a task force is the best way to become actively involved in SRRT. Throughout this newsletter you will find information about each task force and the exciting programs they will be presenting at Annual. Most of the task forces are in need of new members or new leaders: people with vision, ideas, and energy. Feel free to email the coordinator, or if you attend ALA conferences, introduce yourself at one of the meetings or programs and get involved! Read the mission statements, history, and more on the Web sites.

SRRT Task Forces and Contact Information

Alternatives in Publication (AIP)

Highlights from Action Council I, 2005 Midwinter Meeting

Boston, Massachusetts, January 15, 2005

In attendance: Rory Litwin, Mark Rosenzweig, Carol Gulyas, Ann Sparanese, Sally Driscoll, Mary Sue Brown, Dana Lubow, Al Kagan, Gary Colmanar, Elaine Harger, Ginny Moore, Mary Biblo, Tom Twiss, Melissa Riley, Diedre Conkling, Theresa A. Tobin, Jonathan Betz-Zall, Mark Hudson, Sam Trosow, Susan Dillinger, Tiffani Conner, Fred Stoss, Ramona Islam, Elizabeth Richardson, Mary McCord

Approval of minutes from AC I and II at Annual in Orlando.

Remembering Noel Peattie:

Al Kagan, Elaine Harger, Rory Litwin, Jonathan Betz-Zall, and others spoke about the life of their colleague and friend who passed away in January, and then there was a moment of silence. A sympathy card was passed around for signatures, and one for David Cohen whose wife passed away.

Treasurer's Report

According to the budget worksheet that Carol passed out, the net assets at the beginning of the year were \$55,544. SRRT took in \$12,000 in dues and made \$16,500 in miscellaneous revenue. Net assets at the end of the year were \$63,373. Discussion focused on the net assets at the end of the year and why this figure was more than expected. Al suggested that the Coretta Scott King expenses may make the difference and then determined to deal with budget issues at AC II.

Tom Twiss requested funding of \$1,000 to cover airfare, etc. for an IRTF program for the summer featuring Clara

paragraph and then forwarding this to COL. A motion was made to pass the resolution. Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

IFRT Resolutions

Draft resolutions on radio frequency IDs and national standardized IDs were sent to the SRRT listserv. There

Highlights from Action Council II, 2005 Midwinter Meeting

Boston, MA, January 17, 2005

In attendance: Terry Epperson, Carol Gulyas, Sam Trosow, Cynthia Whitacre, Diedre Conkling, Aryana Bates, Peter McDonald, Mark Rosenzweig, Elaine Harger, Spring Raulerson, Mark Hudson, Al Kagan, Sally Driscoll, Fred Stoss, Tom Twiss, Rory Litwin, Theresa Tobin, Dana Lubow, Ginny Moore, Rhonda Neugebauer

Announcements: The Progressive Librarian's Guild will be presenting the Miriam Braverman Memorial Award for library/information science students who write an essay concerning social responsibilities and libraries.

Strategic Planning Document

Discussion first involved the need to put social responsibilities issues up front, in the values section, and specific wording options such as, "Public good, public interest, or social responsibilities," or "Social Responsibility and the Public Good" were considered.

It was pointed out that the feedback form does not have a section for changing the values statement; perhaps the statement should go elsewhere. Others indicated that the values statements in the strategic plan were written before Social Responsibilities were added to the core values of ALA and perhaps it is time for ALA to revisit the values section of the strategic plan and change it to reflect those core values.

Additional discussion took place, indicating that we don't have to limit "Social Responsibility and the Public Good" to one section of the form, but that it can go in both the values and the organizational sections. That idea was taken as a friendly amendment to the motion.

Elaine Harger suggested a specific mechanism for providing feedback to put this information in both the organization section and the values section: placing it in the feedback form under both the section specifically labeled "organization" and at the end of the form under "other" to give feedback on the comments section. The motion carried unanimously.

Response to threat of Library Closures:

Mark Rosenzweig reported on Council's response to the Salinas resolution, indicating that he did not think it had strong support and that many spoke against it.

Carol Gulyas offered a draft "Endangered Libraries List" resolution, with the idea that this list would be similar to an "endangered species" list, providing a PR vehicle for action on library closures. The final clause of the resolution reads:

"Therefore be it resolved that the American Library Association establish an 'Endangered Libraries List' which will capture and centralize in readily accessible format, information on libraries whose funding is endangered and encourage the dissemination of this list as an organizing tool."

Discussion was generally positive and that Carol Gulyas would work with others to prepare it to be presented to Council at Annual.

ALA Presidential Candidates:

Christine Lind Hage and Leslie Burger addressed the group, followed by questions from the floor.

Afterwards, E. Harger moved that SRRT support neither of the candidates for office.

M. Rosenzweig seconded. Mark Hudson spoke against the motion, indicating that there might be good reason

to support Burger, who represents SRRT values in many ways, if not in all.
Vote: 6 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstention

Budget

M. Jones moves that we pass the budget as discussed. (Total \$5,000: \$500 per task force with \$2,000 for FTF's 2006 programs.) M. Hudson seconds.

F. Stoss asked if this includes anything extra for a postcard insert in the newsletter, which would cost around \$400 and be used to gather information from SRRT members about task force interests and bring in new leadership and energy, but it was voted down and suggested that something get printed in the newsletter instead.

Resolution Against Disinformation Campaigns

E. Harger presented the resolution, referring to the Friends of Cuban Libraries as an example of such a disinformation effort. She had given drafts of the resolution to those involved in the Intellectual Freedom committee. She sought SRRT's endorsement so that she could take it to ALA council. D. Conkling suggested it be taken to GODORT and other International Relations committees (ARRL, ALTA, ALCTS). The resolution, containing the following resolved clauses, was moved by Elaine Harger and seconded by Tom Twiss, co-chairs of the International Responsibilities Task Force:

“Resolved that SRRT encourages its members to help raise public consciousness of the many wa thrr46(g)20.2(n)-1.94(m)9(a)()-69

Ashcroft v. ACLU: Supreme Court upheld the injunction barring enforcement of the Children's Online Protection Act. The case now returns to the District Court to determine whether COPA is the least restrictive means of achieving the government's goal of protecting children from sexually explicit materials.

John Doe and ACLU v. Ashcroft, et al: Southern District of NY ruled that provisions of the PATRIOT Act which permit the FBI to compel production of information without judicial review is unconstitutional. The government will appeal.

Muslim Community Association v. Ashcroft: Challenges PATRIOT Act section 215. The government filed a motion to dismiss on the grounds that plaintiffs do not have standing to challenge the law. The court heard oral argument; a decision is pending.

Video Software Dealers, et al v. Maleng: Challenge a Washington State law barring the sale or rental to minors of video games depicting violence against law enforcement officers. District Court entered summary judgment in favor of the plaintiffs, overturning the provision as an unconstitutional restriction on speech. The state has not appealed.

ACLU v. Department of Justice: FTRF and ACLU filed a FOIA request for information concerning use of Section 215 of PATRIOT Act following Ashcroft's claim that the FBI had never used the section. After the FOIA request was refused, the plaintiffs filed a lawsuit to force the FBI to process the request. The District Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and in June 2004 the FBI began to release records and documents concerning the FBI's use of Section 215.

Note that the Sunset provisions of Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act (that is, those provisions that require that these sections of the law must be re-affirmed or they expire) are coming soon. This will be a major arena of effort for the FTRF this spring. We have the advantage on this one because we only have to block passage.

Additional items (Meeting extended)

F. Stoss reports that OLOS would like to create a spreadsheet to keep track of all of their programs at annual meetings. His agenda item "Membership Communication Program" was taken care of under "Budget" above.

R. Neugebauer discusses the formation of a new group called the Emergency Coalition to Defend Educational Travel (ECDET) that is supported by the Latin American Studies Association's Cuba Section. ECDET is an organization including members from accredited colleges and universities and academic associations (including AAUP). They are moving toward a court challenge to Cuba travel restrictions based on rights of academic freedom. This organization is supported by a number of groups, and would like SRRT's support also.

E.Harger moved that we support in principle the ECDET. D. Lubow seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Thanks to **Rebecca Tolley-Stokes** for providing the meeting minutes.

Editorial Director of *The Nation* will speak in Chicago

Victor Navasky, publisher and editorial director of *The Nation*, will give a talk and sign his yet-to-be-published book on Sunday, June 26, at 8 p.m. We will publish the location on the SRRT lists when it is confirmed. Victor's talk is titled "The Case Against"

ALA Council Report to SRRT, January 2005

By Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor

The January meetings of the ALA Council were calmer than usual. It was amazing that both the second and third meetings ended early. I guess SRRT gave them a bit of a rest. Two SRRT items were raised at the Information Session. I asked about the state of socially responsible investment in the context of the Endowment Trustees report. I would say that we have our toe in the door if not our foot. ALA has now invested 1% of its endowment in a socially responsible fund and has made nearly 15% on it. This was an experiment, and they say that they will do more in the coming year. A Partnership Guidelines document was distributed, and there will soon be a call for comments leading to adopting a revised policy at the annual meeting in Chicago.

I put Sandy Berman's Resolution on Workplace Speech on the agenda, but the discussion was quite discouraging. It appears that many of the administrators on the Council are afraid that passing such a resolution will come back to affect them personally. In any case, the resolution was referred for legal advice and will be revisited in Chicago. Sandy also asked me to submit a resolution supporting the Bringing America Home Act, which addresses homelessness and many other poverty issues. A SRRT member on the Committee on Legislation suggested that since COL was already considering the bill, we ought to lobby for it there and perhaps bring it to the floor in Chicago. So we will see what develops. We also adopted a memorial tribute to long-time

Progressive Librarians Guild News

March 15, 2005 Press Release

Ann Sparanese, SRRT Action Council Member, was the guest speaker for the October 2004, Pratt Institute's School of Information and Library Studies annual Nasser Sharify Lecture. Her speech was titled "Beyond Censorship: Librarians Confront the National Security State."

Mark Rosenzweig has joined the Board of Directors of the "Provisions Library" in Washington DC. See their web site at <<http://www.provisionslibrary.org>> for a description of this new and very ambitious project.

Steve Fesenmaier provided research for the 3-part PBS series, "The Appalachians" which aired in March 2005 and the related book published by Random House in June 2004.

Steve Fesenmaier's



Nonfiction

Moss, Marissa. *Mighty Jackie: The Strikeout Queen.* Illus. by C.F. Payne. 2004. unp. Simon and Schuster, \$16.95 (0-689-86329-2). Gr. K-3 Jackie Mitchell, an 18-year-old baseball pitcher, plays against the legendary heroes Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig—with surprising results.

Intermediate**Fiction**

Collins, Pat Lowery. *The Fattening Hut.* 2003. 186p. Houghton Mifflin, \$15.00 (0-618-30955-1). Gr. 9-12
When Helen finds out the secret that her tribe's fattening hut contains, she runs away from all she knows for a chance to be free.

Constable, Kate. *The Singer of All Songs.* 2004. 297p. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, \$16.95 (0-439-55478-0). Gr. 7-10
Calwyn, a young priestess of ice "chantment," leaves the safety of Antaris to help save her homeworld from a sorcerer who would claim all the magic for himself.

Frederick, Heather Vogel. *The Education of Patience Goodspeed.* 2004. 314p. Simon & Schuster, \$15.95 (0-689-86411-6). Gr. 5-9.
In 1836, the impatient 14-year-old heroine saves her father's ship and its crew before being confined to a boarding school run by the narrow-minded Reverend Wiggins.

Jocelyn, Marthe. *Mable Riley: A Reliable Record of Humdrum Peril and Ro*

Marcovitz, Hal. Nancy Pelosi. 2004. 120p. Chelsea House, \$22.95 (0-7910-7737-3). Gr. 5-9.

In 2002 Nancy Pelosi did what no woman had done before: she took leadership of the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Stearman, Kaye. Feminism. 2004. 64p. Raintree, \$22.95 (0-73986-415-7). Gr. 3-7.

This beginning portrayal of the many faces of feminism shows its influence, past and present, around the world.

Thimmesh, Catherine. Madam President: the Extraordinary, True (and Evolving) Story of Women in Politics. Illus. Douglas B. Jones. 2004. 80p. Houghton Mifflin, \$17.95 (0-618-39666-7). Gr. 3-7.

When she declares her intention to become President, a girl is shown vignettes of the vital leadership roles of women world-wide in politics, paving the way for aspiring young women leaders.

Young Adult

Fiction

Aidinoff, Elsie V. The Garden. 2004. 403p. HarperTempest, \$16.99 (0-06-055605-6). Gr. 9-12

In the beginning, God created the wise, beautiful, and just serpent to train the newly-created Eve in the ways of the world. He knew not what he did.

Mackler, Carolyn.

I caught up with Fiona Bradley, SRRT's only Aussie librarian, as she accompanied her husband on a study-tour of the U.S. in March. They stopped at many academic libraries. What did you discover?

The immediate thing I've noticed about U.S. libraries is how many things people are doing at once—students surfing the 'net with their laptops, listening to music on their iPods, open books surrounding them. Academic libraries are really busy places.

Some U.S. libraries are very well-resourced and it's been like going to a candy shop [filled with] books and databases that I haven't been able to access in Australia. Access has varied widely: some have no access at all for visitors, and others have a one-day-per-semester pass system if you register with ID. Many libraries are tourist destinations in their own right—there are lots of libraries listed in my guide book, but when it comes to actually using the resources instead of just admiring them, it can be difficult.

What have you been doing for fun and what has impressed you?

I like to go to art galleries—I was particularly impressed by the Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Art Institute of Chicago, see bands, and just walk the streets. There is a great alternative culture here. I've been enjoying reading free alternative weeklies like the *Chicago Reader*. Chicago's my favorite city so far in the U.S. It's a magnificent city architecturally and culturally, and beautiful even in terrible weather! And it is wonderful that every library has been full of people.

You've also traveled previously to Vancouver, Japan, Vienna, and Paris. Did you travel much with your family growing up?

My family has certainly encouraged me to travel while I'm young. Most Australians learn a foreign language in school so there's always the desire to try out those skills on a holiday! Growing up I traveled to England three times to visit relatives (my parents are British immigrants) and to Thailand and Hong Kong. We also traveled for two weeks a year every year around my home state, Western Australia. Recently, I've also traveled closer to home, to New Zealand and New Caledonia.

What attracted you to the library profession?

My family instilled a strong service ethic in me, and librarianship appeals to that. My parents used to take me to the public library twice a week to get new books and I'd be there for hours, checking the card catalogue, looking up subject headings, and getting things on inter-library loan. I won my school's library service prize (for service to the library committee) so I think it was inevitable!

Your thesis, _____, focuses on the challenge of developing instructional programs in special libraries for journalists. What are the challenges and what suggestions do you pose?

I think the biggest challenge is the need for skills in understanding the sources of news, for journalists and readers alike. This has a major impact on the reporting of facts. Journalists often have to get source material from somewhere else. How much information about the sources should be communicated to the public? If you read a newspaper, you'll know what comes from Associated Press, but if you watch Tn7jor21 Tf-20.7dg.7(? Is Y(l)-22sourceTw[s']13.8c1

Until recently, Fiona was a librarian at the Radio Resource Centre for the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS Radio) in Sydney, Australia. She established the Music Library Special Interest Group with ALIA. Are you still involved with that?

The group closed due to a restructure within ALIA, some members moved over to IAML, an international music library group. It was great to get experience in starting and running the group for the two years that I was involved.

What kinds of music do you listen to?

Pretty much anything except dance music. My favourite music is indie rock, but in the last year I've been DJ-ing a '60s French pop club. So I have fairly diverse tastes!

I believe you're SRRT's only Aussie. What attracts you to SRRT and what task forces are you interested in?

Access to information is the issue I'm most interested in and I think SRRT is the roundtable that addresses that best. I decided to join SRRT in 2002 because I wanted to learn more about underserved populations, sustainability, and alternative points of view in the profession. The task forces I'm interested in are IPPI and AIP.

You presented a paper at an ALIA conference on the Information Commons. Are you working with this task force at all? Is ALIA working on this issue?

No. I'd like to do more work on this issue and I've been following developments within ALA, IFLA and the WSIS closely. ALIA, as a whole, tends to be interested in researching social responsibilities issues. For example, ALIA

FTF Amelia Bloomer Project
Sunday, June 26, 2:00 – 5:30 p.m.
and Monday, June 27, 2:00– 5:30 p.m.

Feminist Task Force Meeting
Monday, June 27, 8:00– 9:00 a.m.

The Hunger, Homelessness, and Pov-

Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force Update

On March 21st, the Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force (HHPTF) distributed the document "Are Public Libraries Criminalizing Poor People?," a response to punitive library poli-

chair Jonathan Betz-Zall at
jbetzall@yahoo.com.

SRRT Resolution Against Disinformation Campaigns

Adopted by SRRT, January 15, 2005

Whereas the mission of our professional association, the American Library Association, is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all (Policy Manual 1.2); and

Whereas the ethos of professional librarianship is characterized by commitments to intellectual freedom, open access to information and accuracy of information in pursuing the goal of assisting in the development of an informed citizenry capable of functioning in a political democracy; and

Whereas ALA recognizes the contribution librarianship can make in giving support for efforts to help inform and educate the people of the United States on critical problems facing society (Policy Manual, 1.1); and

Whereas inaccurate information, falsehoods, distortions of truth and covert disinformation campaigns are anathema to the ethos of librarianship and to the functioning of a healthy democracy; and

Whereas substantial documentary evidence exists revealing the history of the U.S. to be riddled with the use of falsehoods in pursuit of political and economic power - practices 4.9(w)2C(t ic-2.(a)-1.ts3(p60)25.3(el-5.1(et)-23.1(ycisto11.1tan)5.

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Resolution on Endorsement of “Bringing America Home Act”

Introduced by Sandy Berman, Adopted by SRRT, January 15, 2005

WHEREAS poverty, and its attendant hunger, homelessness, illness, and despair, affect millions of Americans and

WHEREAS the National Coalition for the Homeless has crafted with members of Congress a comprehensive and feasible plan—the Bringing America Home Act—to significantly alleviate the extent and impact of poverty in America, specifically addressing issues of affordable housing, living wages, health care, emergency and transitional services, education, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association is explicitly committed to promoting “programs likely to reduce, if not eliminate, poverty itself” (Policy 61.1);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association endorses the Bringing America Home ACT (H.R. 2897) and urges all library boards and state library associations to do likewise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this endorsement be transmitted to the National Coalition for the Homeless and every member of Congress.

For additional details:

November 2004 *NCH News*
Donald Whitehead, NCH Executive Director (202-737-6444 Ext. 14)
dwhitehead@nationalhomeless.org

Of Interest to Those Attending Annual

Chicago Labor Conference

Book Reviews

Book Review Editor, Jane Ingold

Gogol, Eugene (2004) *Raya Dunayevskaya: Philosopher of Marxist-Humanism*. Eugene: Resource Publications.

Raya Dunayevskaya's life spanned "the short twentieth century" between the Russian Revolution and the fall of the USSR. This Ukrainian-American, Marxist philosopher-activist's rich work was influenced by many of the seminal moments of this eventful period: the rise of Stalinism in the USSR, the Civil Rights revolution in America, the Chinese revolution, and the overthrow of the European colonial empires in the Third World. She kept in close contact with the common people who lived through these events in order to use their ideas in moving, as she put it, "from practice to theory." Eugene Gogol, Dunayevskaya's long-time secretary, attempts to explain her theory in *Raya Dunayevskaya: Philosopher of Marxist-Humanism*.

Gogol provides a close reading of Dunayevskaya's four core works: *Marxism and Freedom* (1964), *Philosophy and Revolution* (1973), *Rosa Luxemburg* (1982), and *Women's Liberation and the Dialectics of Revolution: Reaching for the Future: A 35 Year Collection of Essays, Historic, Philosophic, Global* (1985). One of Dunayevskaya's central concerns is the preservation of the revolutionary dialectic. To this end, she went back to Hegel and Marx and Lenin's readings of Hegel. She used Hegel to stress the importance of the revolutionary subjective. She also saw the humanity in Marx's Hegelian focus on the worker as subject in *Capital*. For Dunayevskaya, this was important because it brought the Hegelian dialectic from the abstract into the practical world of everyday politics. To Dunayevskaya, philosophy and politics were inseparable, and she thought that a revolutionary organization must be solidly grounded in philosophy.

What drove Dunayevskaya to develop the philosophy of Marxist-Humanism was a rejection of Stalinist totalitarianism and Maoist excesses. Even though Dunayevskaya

SRRTAC-L

The SRRT discussion group SRRTAC-L is open to all SRRT members and is a relatively low-traffic (less than five messages a day unless there's a hot topic brewing) way of keeping up with SRRT's issues and discussions in-between conferences. Help decide SRRT's future directions and join in some lively debates. If you would like to join the SRRT discussion group, send the following message 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 American Library Association's Social Responsibilities 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>](http://www.libr.org/SRRT)

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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. Next deadline: 9/30/05

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