

than at any other time in our lives, we are keenly aware of the past and the future. We look back on 1998; we look forward to 1999. We anticipate the accomplishments of a new century; we celebrate the accomplishments of the century that is ending.

Even as we maintain our commitment to today, LIRT, too, is looking to the future and to the past. Most immediately, we are looking forward to Midwinter Conference in Philadelphia. Although I know some of you will think I am nuts, I have to admit I am looking forward to the winter weather. I am also looking forward to seeing old friends I see only twice a year, to participating in stimulating discussions like those we always have at the LIRT Discussion Forum, and to eating good food and meeting new friends at Bites with LIRT.

On a larger scale and in keeping with ALA's "New Visions: Beyond ALA Goal 2000," LIRT is developing a strategic plan that will help us establish organizational priorities to see us into the 21st century. Using their recently completed environmental scan, recommendations from the









































