

2014 Braverman Prize Winner Announced

The Progressive Librarians Guild (PLG) is pleased to announce that **Denise Scott** from the University of Toronto is the **2014 winner of the Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize** for her essay “Deconstructing the ‘Books for Boys’ Discourse.”

Having completed her degree, Scott will graduate in June from the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Information with a Master of Information degree. She also holds an Honors Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Master of Arts from York University’s Graduate Program in Interdisciplinary Studies. Her academic interests include gender identity and sexual orientation, youth cultures, and diversity in libraries. Scott co-authored a forthcoming publication about transgender members of the Canadian Forces, and has previously published about library services for LGBTQ youth. Ultimately, she hopes to work in teen services at a public library.

Scott’s paper, “Deconstructing the ‘Books for Boys’ Discourse” examines the “Books for Boys” rhetoric, which labels some books as being specifically “boy books” in order to encourage boys to read more. The paper analyzes the prescriptive nature of such gendering and the problems that accompany the discourse’s reliance on gender stereotyping. Scott offers that “while the practice may encourage some boys to read, it also sends a message about the types of books that boys should want to read and the topics that should be of interest to them.” Written for an “Issues in Children’s and Young Adult Services” class, the paper served as a way for Scott to argue that “there are ways to encourage children and youth to read without reinforcing narrow gender norms.”

The Braverman Memorial Prize is awarded annually to a student in Library Science or Archival Studies for an essay submitted on the theme of progressive or activist librarianship. As winner of the prize, Scott receives a \$500 stipend toward expenses at ALA Annual, and her essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Progressive Librarian*, the PLG journal. Additionally, she will be given the opportunity to apply her perspective in writing about the conference for the PLG bulletin. Scott is the 11th Braverman Memorial Prize winner.

The award honors Miriam Ruth Gutman Braverman (1920-2002), who was a socialist, writer, activist librarian and longstanding member of the Progressive Librarians Guild, a founder of the ALA’s Social Responsibilities Round Table, and a proponent of the social responsibilities perspective. The award is intended to celebrate Miriam’s spirit of activism and faith in the power of people’s collective social justice efforts and inspire future generations of librarians. The award has been given annually since 2003, most recently to Emily Lawrence, in 2013, for her essay “Loud Hands in the Library: Neurodiversity in LIS Theory & Practice.” Past prize-winning essays can be found at PLG’s website: www.progressivelibrariansguild.org.

For information about the Braverman Prize, please contact the 2014 Braverman Prize Committee Chairs Kelly McElroy at kellymce@gmail.com or Margaret Browndorf at browndom@gmail.com.

SRRT Programs at ALA Annual

Saturday, June 28

8:30AM	Amelia Bloomer Project and Rainbow Project Author Panel	Caesars Palace Neopolitan IV
8:30 AM	Accessible eBooks: Ensuring that Your Library's eContent is Universally Accessible to All	Las Vegas Convention Center N237
1:00PM	Librarians and Archivists to Palestine	Las Vegas Convention Center N116
3:00 PM	Intellectual Freedom in the Surveillance State	Las Vegas Convention Center N240

Sunday, June 29

10:30 AM	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Multicultural Exchange	Las Vegas Convention Center N240
4:30PM	Progressive Librarians Guild Meeting	Las Vegas Convention Center - N211
7:00 PM	Progressive Librarians Guild Dinner	TBA
8:00PM	FTF Feminist Night at the Movies	Caesars Palace Trevi

For more information on these sessions, as well as other SRRT committee meetings, please visit <http://ala14.ala.org/scheduler>

CFP - Organize and Assemble IV: Commodification of Information

PLG Edmonton invites submissions for our **fourth annual symposium, Organize and Assemble IV**, taking place on **October 18, 2014**. Practitioners, scholars, activists, students, and other members of the general public interested in library, archival and allied information services are asked to speak on topics pertaining to this year's theme: the commodification of information goods and library services.

Recent political, economic, and technological change have resulted in the growing commodification of information and the marketisation of library services. The consequences range from increasingly restrictive intellectual property rights to the recasting of library patrons

Continued on page 3...

CFP - Organize and Assemble IV: Commodification of Information (continued)

as customers to the outsourcing of entire libraries to private companies. Resistance to this trend has emerged, aimed at safeguarding the intellectual/knowledge commons and advancing alternatives to intellectual property. Tension around the economic nature of libraries and information is a core issue for all librarians and information professionals

This one-day refereed event will provide an interactive forum for the identification and exploration of contemporary issues of commodification of information, access, equity, and social justice as they connect with and disconnect from the rhetoric and reality of library and archival studies and services locally and globally. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Samuel E. Trosow from the University of Western Ontario -- a leading expert in Canadian copyright -- who has served on the CLA copyright committee and is co-author of the recently published, second edition of *Canadian Copyright: A Citizen's Guide*.

In keeping with the theme, possible topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Market rhetoric in library services (e.g. customers, library CEOs)
- Intellectual property rights (copyright, patents, etc.)
- Alternatives to intellectual property and promotion of the knowledge/information commons (gift/sharing economy, open access, open source software, etc.)
- Fees for services and the role of cost-recovery vs. for profit models in libraries, museums, and archives
- Outsourcing and privatization of library services
- The intersection of the information marketplace and issues of race, gender and/or class
- The economics of library services and information (public vs. private information, artificial scarcity, pricing models for information)

We are also thrilled to announce that the conference proceedings will be published in *Progressive Librarian*, thereby exposing the content of our local symposium to an international audience. Accordingly, we are inviting proposals for print materials such as cartoons, poems, resource lists, reviews, etc. to be considered for inclusion in the issue.

Please submit proposals (not to exceed 500 words) for individual and group contributions (e.g., papers, debates, round-tables, critiques, panels, posters, exhibits, manifestos, performances, and mini-workshops) and for print materials to be included in the conference proceedings via email to plg.edmonton@gmail.com by **midnight July 4th, 2014**. Submitters will be notified of their acceptance by July 18th.

The PLG supports progressive and democratic activities in the area of information services, and the Edmonton Chapter's Program Committee will review all submissions that recognize (or challenge!) this stance and the PLG statement of purpose more broadly:

<http://www.progressivelibrariansguild.org/content/purpose.shtml>.

Seattle May Day March



Helping to keep the flame of international solidarity alive was this two-person PLG contingent in Seattle's May Day march. Carrying the PLG banner are Ben Tucker, Business, Economics and Social Sciences Librarian at the University of Puget Sound, and Elaine Harger, librarian at Washington Middle School in Seattle.

This photo-collage features buttons from Miriam Braverman's collection which adorn the banner. One button in particular deserves mention – "Re-elect Major Owens for Congress".

Major Owens, the only librarian to serve in the United States Congress (1983-2007), was a good friend, as well as colleague, of Miriam's. Owens died last fall, much to the deep sorrow of all who knew him. Although he was never a member of PLG, he certainly was one with us. See John Berry III's Library Journal remembrance of Owens at: <http://bit.ly/1oHTEDH>

Salary Advocacy Toolkit For Librarians and Library Workers

The [American Library Association – Allied Professional Association](#) (ALA-APA) has released the fifth edition of its [Advocating for Better Salaries Toolkit](#). Initially created in 2002, the revised *Toolkit* is designed to help library workers advocate and negotiate for better salaries and address pay equity issues in a post-Recession, more-with-less environment.

While too many salary negotiation and library advocacy resources are one-size-fits-all, the *Advocating for Better Salaries Toolkit* addresses the varied needs, interests, and capabilities of library workers, including support staff, librarians, and library managers, in public, academic, or special libraries. Readers will find guidance on determining fair market value, comprehensive negotiation strategies for both individual workers and union members, and targeted advice for librarians seeking faculty status and managers looking to raise staff pay. Since the release of the fourth edition in 2007, the *Toolkit* has been updated to reflect the economic concerns of today's library workers, with sections on incorporating pay issues into library advocacy campaigns, negotiating in a saturated labor market, and the continued importance of recruiting, rewarding, and retaining a quality library workforce.

ALA-APA is a companion organization to the [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#), established “to promote the mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers.”

- By Aliqae Geraci

Red All Over: Political and Countercultural Printshops of the S.F. Bay Area

In April 2014, Lincoln Cushing presented a lecture at the San Francisco Public Library entitled “Red All Over: Political and Countercultural Printshops of the S.F. Bay Area”. The lecture is now available online at <http://youtu.be/tU9CsU0aZfQ>.

Have an update you'd like to see included in next month's bulletin?

Send it to sarahbarriage@gmail.com