

Call for Submissions - Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize

Calling all Activist-Librarians-to-be!!

The MIRIAM BRAVERMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE, a presentation of the Progressive Librarians Guild (PLG), is awarded each year for the best paper about some aspect of the social responsibilities of librarians, libraries, or librarianship. Papers related to archivists, archives, and archival work are also eligible.

The winning paper will be published in the Summer 2014 issue of *Progressive Librarian*. The winner of the contest will also receive a \$500 stipend to help offset the cost of travel to and from the 2014 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV from June 26-July 1. The award will be presented at the annual PLG dinner at ALA. In addition, the winner will be provided a press pass for the conference, allowing for free entry to sessions and the exhibition floor, with the expectation that they will write a short reflection regarding the conference for publication by PLG.

Think you might be interested? Here's the fine print.

1. Contestants must be Library and/or Information Science students attending a graduate-level program in the United States or Canada. Contestants may not have finished their coursework earlier than December 2013.
2. Entries must be the original, unpublished work of the contestant, and must be written in English. Entries may not exceed 3,000 words and must conform to MLA in-text citation style.
3. To facilitate the blind review process, each entry must include a cover sheet providing the contestant's name, full contact information (address, phone number, e-mail address), name of the institution where the contestant is enrolled, and the title of the paper. No identifying information other than the title should appear on the paper itself.
4. Entries must be submitted electronically, in Microsoft Word or RTF format, to bravermansubmissions@gmail.com. Entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. CST on International Workers' Day or May Day, Wednesday, May 1, 2014.
5. The \$500 stipend is available *only* to help defray the cost of ALA conference attendance in 2014; if the winner of the contest is unable to attend, the money will remain in the Braverman Prize endowment fund. The winner will still be offered publication in *Progressive Librarian*.

Any questions regarding the contest or the selection process can be directed to the chairs of the selection committee, Megan Browndorf at margaret.a.browndorf@gmail.com or Kelly McElroy at kellymce@gmail.com. More information about Miriam Braverman and about the Progressive Librarians Guild, including winning papers from previous years, is available at <http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/content/award.shtml>.

There is Power in A Library! Book Launch in Edmonton

On Monday, March 24th, 2014, a book launch for the recently published Library Juice Press publication *Informed Agitation: Library and Information Skills in Social Justice Movements and Beyond* was held at Rutherford Hall at the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta.

Edited by Melissa Morrone, the book focuses on “projects and pursuits of activist librarianship in the early 21st century”, discussing a variety of interesting social justice projects in libraries, archives, digital spaces, and other information settings in North America and other parts of the world¹.

The event featured opening remarks from Toni Samek, professor at the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, followed by brief talks from local information workers who contributed to the book.

Stephen MacDonald spoke about the chapter that he co-wrote on threeSOURCE, a social research database managed by the Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) that was designed to address the information needs of the social services sector in Edmonton. Mr. MacDonald was responsible for managing this online resource while employed with the ESPC as their Resource Coordinator. The chapter was co-written by Jen Hoyer, an information worker who helped develop threeSOURCE while holding this position with the ESPC.

Moyra Lang and Gayle Sacuta spoke about their work with the Greater Edmonton Library Association’s (GELA) Women’s Prison and Reintegration Committee, which was the focus of their chapter. The committee “provides programs, resources, and access to information for incarcerated individuals [at the Edmonton Institution for Women]; raises awareness of the urgent and particular needs of prisoners; and encourages and assists in providing library services to individuals behind bars.”²

The following websites contain additional information on the Edmonton projects featured in *Informed Agitation*:

threeSOURCE: www.threesource.ca

GELA Women’s Prison and Reintegration Committee:

<http://gelaprison.wordpress.com/2010/02/16/gela-women%E2%80%99s-prison-library-and-reintegration-committee-inmates-february-wish-list/>

The book is available for purchase through major online retailers such as Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

¹Litwin Press (2014). *Informed agitation: Library and information skills in social justice movements and beyond*. Retrieved from <http://libraryjuicepress.com/informed-agitation.php>

²Lang, M. & Sacuta, G. (2014). Library programs and information access for incarcerated women: A Canadian perspective. In Melissa Morrone (Ed.), *Informed agitation: Library and information skills in social justice movements and beyond*. (P. 87). Sacramento, CA: Library Juice Press.

Joint Statement from the Presidents of the Ethnic Caucuses of ALA (AILA, APALA, BCALA, CALA, REFORMA) and the American Library Association (ALA)

March 24, 2014

The values of diversity, equity, and inclusion form the foundation of the library profession and our professional associations. Those values have been challenged by the discriminatory enforcement of the “Stand Your Ground” law in Florida and the fact that ALA’s 2016 Annual Conference is scheduled for Orlando. The Executive Committee members of ALA and the BCALA Executive Board have actively engaged in conversation to determine the best solution to this challenging dilemma. That conversation has been extended to the Executive Boards of AILA, APALA, CALA, and REFORMA with a decision to issue a joint statement of commitment and action.

In response to BCALA’s concern regarding holding the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, FL in 2016, the ALA Executive Board thoroughly explored the options for moving the conference. ALA started by clarifying the facts underlying conference site selection, the implications of trying to move the Orlando conference, and the prevalence of Stand Your Ground laws across the United States. The contracts for Orlando were negotiated originally in 2000; the Stand Your Ground law in Florida became effective on October 1, 2005. Cancelling the hotel and convention center contracts would result in a minimum fine of \$814,000. Conferences as large as ALA must be scheduled for specific sites and contracts signed at least 7-10 years in advance. At this late date, it would be highly unlikely that ALA would be able to find another site with availability during our window of late June/early July, 2016.

Most troubling is the growing prevalence of Stand Your Ground laws. Twenty-two states have laws that allow for that self-defense provision to be asserted (as of August 2013). An additional 21 states have enacted laws that allow for self-defense within one’s home (called Castle Doctrines). However, each state has implemented and applied the Stand Your Ground laws differently, and it is the interpretation and application of the Stand Your Ground Law in the Zimmerman and Dunn cases, as well as the Marissa Alexander case, that has heightened the urgency for discussion and action.

With that information in hand, our ALA’s Executive Committee and BCALA’s Executive Board decided that the best way to respond to the Florida situation is by turning it into an opportunity to educate, build awareness, and advocate for equitable treatment, inclusion, and respect for diversity. We have agreed on the following actions:

- Town Hall discussions of racial diversity and inclusion in our profession, association, and communities
 - Major topic of Membership Meeting at 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas
 - Topic of discussion during Virtual Membership Meeting on June 5, 2014
- Support for conversations and actions at the state level facilitated by state library associations or other organizations within the states

Continued on page 4...

Joint Statement from the Presidents of the Ethnic Caucuses of ALA (AILA, APALA, BCALA, CALA, REFORMA) and the American Library Association (ALA)

- Formation of a Special Presidential Task Force involving members of the ethnic affiliates and ALA to 1) develop programs and other opportunities for members to learn about and engage in the issue, 2) build strong advocacy and awareness while at the Orlando conference, and 3) develop communications directed toward the public. The Task Force will be formed immediately. The goal is to use the Orlando conference platform to provoke a national dialogue.
- Collaboration with local Black and Hispanic/Latino community members and organizations in Orlando to determine the best ways for ALA members to be supportive of them. This will include compilation of a list of African-American and Hispanic/Latino businesses in Orlando for ALA members to patronize.
- Outreach to national organizations with vested interest in the Stand Your Ground laws to build alliances and collaborative efforts in advocacy and public awareness (e.g., NAACP, La Raza, Urban League).

Most important to all the ethnic caucuses and ALA is the public and honest conversation that will be generated by our actions. We are committed to building more diversity and inclusion among our members, the field of librarianship, and our communities. We invite all members of AILA, APALA, BCALA, CALA, REFORMA and ALA to engage with us in moving toward a more just society.

With respect,

Barbara Stripling
President
ALA

Jerome Offord, Jr.
President
BCALA, Inc.

Heather Devine
President
AILA

Eugenia Beh
President
APALA

Lisa Zhao
President
CALA

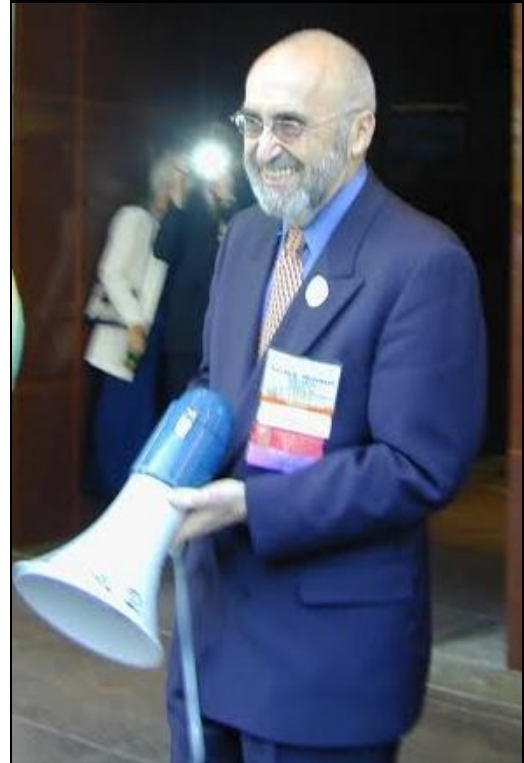
Isabel Espinal
President
REFORMA

PLG Member Receives Lippincott Award

The American Library Association presented long-time PLG member Maurice J. (Mitch) Freedman with the 2014 Joseph W. Lippincott Award for distinguished service to the profession of librarianship.

According to Patricia Glass Schuman, the Lippincott Chair, “The jury for the 2014 Joseph W. Lippincott Award is delighted to honor Dr. Maurice J. (Mitch) Freedman. Mitch is an outspoken and visionary leader and a tireless advocate for better salaries and pay equity for all library workers, and for the humanistic application of technology in libraries. His contributions have had profound and lasting impact on who we are, what we do, our values, and what our work is worth. He has literally changed the way librarians talk about our libraries and our profession.”

The [full press release](#) can be found on ALA’s website.



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

Send it to sarahbarriage@gmail.com