

IFRT at ALA New Orleans

Pam Klipsch, 2006 Chair

IFRT members that plan to attend conference in New Orleans, please include the IFRT Membership Reception and Conference Program in your conference calendar.

On Saturday, June 24 from noon to 1:30 p.m. the Membership Reception will be held in the Morial Convention Center Room 343. This is an opportunity to meet our 2006 IFRT award winners and the featured speakers for the conference program, which follows immediately after the reception.

Our 2006 award winners include: the Eli M. Oboler Award for the most distinguished literary work in the area of intellectual freedom, published within the last two years, is presented to Kembrew McLeod, author of *Freedom of Expression®: Overzealous Copyright Bozos and Other Enemies of Creativity* (Doubleday, 2005).

The John Phillip Imroth Award is given to an individual who has made a notable contribution to intellectual freedom, or has exhibited personal courage in defense of freedom of expression during the past year. This year's winners are Lucy Colins Nazro and Kathryn Runnells, representing the Board of Trustees of St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Austin TX.

The ProQuest/SIRS State & Regional Achievement Award is presented to the regional or state association, committee or coalition that has implemented the most successful and creative state intellectual freedom project during the past year. This year we honor the Colorado Association of Libraries Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Come see the awards presentations, meet the winners and enjoy a light lunch in the middle of your busy Saturday! The reception is free to all members of IFRT.

Immediately following the reception, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the adjacent room 344 in the Morial Convention Center, IFRT will present its annual conference program. This year's program, "Acknowledging Native Perspectives on the American Experience," was developed with the cooperation of the American Indian Library Association (AILA) and is cosponsored by AILA and the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) Subcommittee on Library Services to American Indians.

Four speakers will discuss the social, cultural, educational, and legal issues that concern Native Americans, providing both historic context and contemporary perspective on their efforts to maintain identity and improve their quality of life. Four Native librarians will respond with examples of how libraries have developed programs and services to meet those needs.

Our speakers will also be attending the reception before the program, so you will have an opportunity to get acquainted with them before they speak. For more information on the speakers and a weblibliography of resources on Native Americans, please visit the IFRT 2006 Program web page at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ifrt/ifrtinaction/programb/2006.htm>

Many thanks to Lauren Christos and the members of the 2006 Program Committee who helped develop the program and the weblibliography, and a special thanks to Kelly Webster and Carlene Engstrom, who served as AILA liaisons to the Program Committee.

I also want to mention two other IF programs in New Orleans that IFRT is co-sponsoring. On Sunday, June 25 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. IFRT is cosponsoring a program organized by the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) and the Ethnic Materials Information & Exchange Round Table (EMIERT). The title is: "The Ethnic Press: Libraries and Communities, How We Can Strengthen the Ties."

On Monday, June 26, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., IFRT is cosponsoring a program organized by the International Relations Round Table (IRRT): "Intellectual Freedom: Views through a Cross-cultural Lens," with speakers from China, the Middle East and Africa.

I will complete my term as chair of IFRT at the close of the New Orleans conference, and want to thank all of the officers, executive committee members, committee chairs and committee members who have helped to make this year a success for IFRT. I owe special thanks to our staff liaison Nanette Perez in the Office for Intellectual Freedom, who keeps all the balls in the air with never a blink of the eye no matter how outrageous the demands upon her time.

As immediate past chair my task next year will be to recruit candidates to run for office in the spring 2007 election. If you are interested in running, please contact me at conference or immediately after!