



International  
Social Role Valorization  
Association

## **Eighth Annual Report December 2024**

The purpose of the International Social Role Valorization Association is

***“To promote SRV development, education, assessment, and leadership to assist people and organizations to implement SRV concepts so that vulnerable people may have access to the good things of life”***

2024 was a busy year with SRV related training events and other activities returning to pre-Covid levels, at least in North America; many of our members continued to teach, implement, and conduct assessments with SRV training occurring in several countries. Here follows our report on ISRVA activities.

### **Membership**

Our membership numbers are stable. Membership is essential and ISRVA is able to operate because of the support of our membership, who make financial contributions to meet our mutual goals of strengthening the global SRV community.

2024 membership consisted of 134 members from 9 countries and 4 continents, at varying levels of contribution. Countries represented included Australia, Canada, France, India, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, Pakistan, and the USA. We invite readers of this Annual Report to join ISRVA for 2025 to support the work of the International Social Role Valorization Association (ISRVA). This past year 37 organizations made a sustaining, supporting, or contributing pledge to this work, compared to 26 in 2023. Thank you to all members for the support – SRV dissemination continues to be a collective effort.

## Financial Position

During this current year we have had expenses of \$20,483 and revenues of \$25,162. 100% of our revenue is from membership and conference fees. On December 31, 2023, our bank balance is \$106,246, including \$8,500 held in reserve as seed money for the 8<sup>th</sup> International SRV Conference. Much of our expenses were directed towards maintenance to the websites and meetings. The Applied SRV Institute and support of the Wolfensberger Collection were also expense items. We awarded a research grant of \$5,000 in 2024.

## Wolf Wolfensberger website

ISRVA hosts a legacy website to Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger. This website, [www.wolfwolfensberger.com](http://www.wolfwolfensberger.com)



Webpage activity	2021	2022	2024
Visitors	8,029	8,119	15,373
Views	10,118	10,297	31,564

## Social Role Valorization Website

The current website which was launched in mid-2019 has demonstrated a dramatic increase in traffic. Last year, the website had over 413,000 visitors making 2,184,000 visits to the website, nearly 4 times the number of visitors in 2022. Some of the interesting stats include:

Visits to SRV website	Number of Visitors and visits			
YEAR	2020	2022	2023	2024
Online visitors	22,182	108,595	269,837	412,959
Online Visits		902,707	1,786,161	2,184,296

Country	2024	2023
USA	18,399	20,272
India	4,523	3,808
China	3,177	3,147
Canada	2,987	2,231
France	2,670	2,110
United Kingdom	2,418	1,607
Germany	2,325	2,803
Australia	2,255	1,981
Brazil	2,020	
Singapore	2,003	1,227

ISRVA continues to add French content to [www.AIVRS.ca](http://www.AIVRS.ca). Our francophone web site can be accessed by selecting the website link: [www.valorisationdesrolessociaux.com](http://www.valorisationdesrolessociaux.com)

### Social Media

ISRVA manages two Facebook groups. One provides a forum for English-speaking SRV practitioners from around the world. The purpose of this group is for the international community of Social Role Valorization leaders, teachers, students, practitioners, and researchers to share our work, look for connections, learn about the events and activities happening worldwide, and assist each other in SRV use in a welcoming, supportive manner.

The ISRVA Facebook group has as of the writing of this report 300 members (174 in 2020) and is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/280067349420572/>.

The second group is a Francophone Facebook Group that has 30 members and can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/614131435753569>.

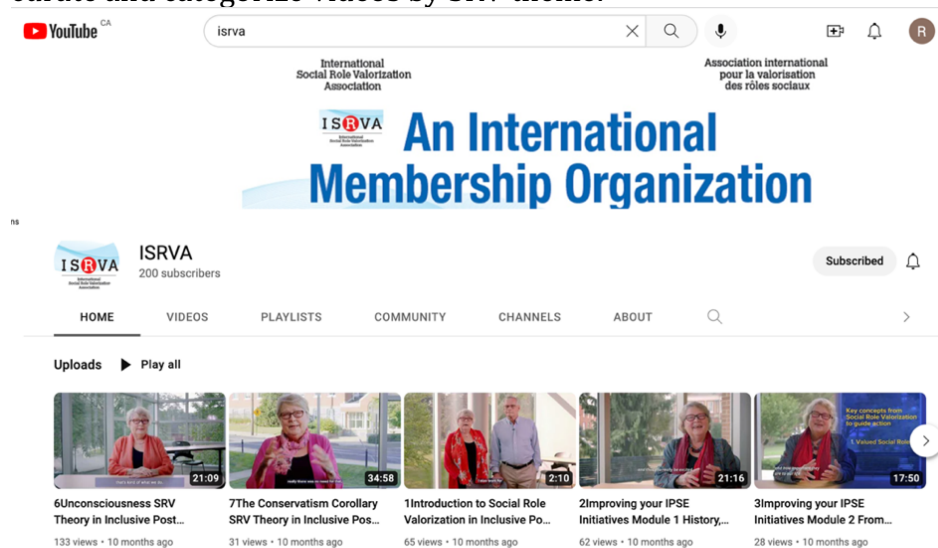
We participate in two other social media groups via Facebook. S.R.V. (Social Role Valorization)] has 720 members can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/177849802342830>

“Social Role Valorization” has 1.1k members and is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/8623212156>

You can join these private Facebook groups by visiting the URLs listed above, and requesting admission to one, several, or all the groups.

## YouTube channel

ISRVA launched a simple-to-use YouTube channel in November of 2019. It can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/c/ISRVA>. We currently have 229 subscribers and 52 videos. ISRVA members were relied upon for recommendations of videos to include, and Guy Caruso, Erica Tinsley-Baker and Betsy Neuville are leading efforts to curate and categorize videos by SRV theme.



## 2024 Research Grant

The 2024 research grant was awarded to Dr. Marc Tumeinski. The grant will support Marc's "research into Wolf's theological writings, particularly those writings on the nature of membership, integration and valued roles for devalued people within Catholic parishes and Christian communities generally. I will use the fruits of this research to submit at least one manuscript to a peer-reviewed academic journal."

Research grants are still available 2025 and the grant application process and description are available at <https://socialrolevalorization.com/international-srv-association/grant-opportunities/>.



### **8<sup>th</sup> International SRV conference – May 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.**

A group of SRV leaders in Canada led by Miriam Kaye, Judith Sandys, Peg Jenner, Bill Foreman, Zana Lutfiyya, and others are the organizing committee for the next International SRV conference. ISRVA has provided financial support and many ISRVA members will be present at the conference. ISRVA will invite members who are at the conference (or members who join ISRVA at the conference) to join us in our hospitality room. Members of the ISRVA leadership group will be there to answer questions, and to join in the camaraderie that is always present at our conferences.

### **The Institute for Applied SRV (IAS)**

Our plan to establish an "Institute for Applied Social Role Valorization" has been put on hold, at least for the time-being. Such an institute was seen as a major way to develop and increase the capacity of individual and organizational service providers to apply SRV proficiently and fully on behalf of their service recipients. Our planning of the proposed institute was a multi-step process, guided generally by Wolfensberger's "Model Coherency Design," which entailed an assessment of its feasibility at several points along the way. Last July, the final feasibility assessment included potential users' frank consideration of their likely participation in an institute operationalized according to our fairly advanced-stage description of its offerings and the broad costs to them. Their responses were unanimously positive that the described institute was a good idea, but for many the financial investment and time commitment were significant deterrents. We determined that, overall, this did not indicate a sufficient base of commitment to warrant our continuing with the project at this time. Instead, we are proposing a course on SRV implementation that requires a much shorter time commitment and less expense. That project is in development.



**Valor Press** is managed by Valoris (Rockland Ontario – Executive Director Caroline Granger) and collaborates with ISRVA for the purpose of keeping some of Dr. Wolfensberger's works in print and publishing some of his unpublished manuscripts as well as other original works that are of interest to Valoris and ISRVA.

	1 April 2024 to Dec 31 2024	1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024	1 April 2022 to March 31 2023	1 April 2021 to March 31 2022
Introduction to SRV	221	148	409	187
Limitations of the law	4	2	3	3
A Guideline on Protecting the Health...	52	63	60	22
PASSING (Eng)	28	21	28	20
PASSING (Fr)	0	1	10	
The Future of Children	14	33	9	49
Ageing and SRV	12	11	2	39
Model Coherency -1	17	28	17	150
Model Coherency-2	12	26	17	150
Model Coherency-3	12	30	17	150
La VRS	30	5		
Advanced Issues in SRV	30	1		2
WW Festschrift	20	200		

## Wolfensberger Archives

### The University of Nebraska Medical Center’s McGoogan Library

Darby Kurtz, Archivist and Public Historian, can be contacted at the Wolfensberger Archives for more information: [dkurtz@unmc.edu](mailto:dkurtz@unmc.edu)

The Nebraska University Foundation has organized a fundraising campaign to digitize some of the more important cassette recordings of Dr. Wolfensberger’s speeches, lectures and workshops. There are over 1,700 extant cassettes and each audio tape costs about \$38 to digitize. We have identified about 500 critical cassette recordings that should be preserved. ISRVA supports this initiative and has participated in the Foundation fundraising. The Keystone Institute (Betsy Neuville) supported the digitization of Pennsylvania related audio recordings.

The work is progressing relatively well and about 80 recordings are now available at the UNMC McGoogan Health Sciences Library website. These recordings are mostly of Wolf Wolfensberger’s voice but there are a few recordings of other prominent actors including Bengt Nirje And Neils Erik Bank-Mikkelsen. You can find the recordings at

[https://unmc.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/SO\\_0d405a59-502e-456d-827f-ad2f139e1677/?pg=2](https://unmc.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/SO_0d405a59-502e-456d-827f-ad2f139e1677/?pg=2)

## Wolfensberger Pyschopostcard Collection and its Future Uses

Dr. Wolfensberger was a collector of postcards that dealt mostly with institutions, although there are also categories of Freakery, Disability/Deviance, and Human Services as well. His daughter, Margaret Wolfensberger Sager, has kept his collection, and shared it with Dr. Thomas Malcomson, who wrote the Wolfensberger Festschrift book chapter on Wolfensberger's Use of History. Tom has a serious interest in the "pyschopostcards" and is starting projects related to them. He too has collected over 1000 postcards related to Wolf's postcard interest.

Tom completed the scanning of all postcards and related material in the summer of 2024. He believes the postcards are a treasure that deserves preservation for future researchers who examine the history of human services and our societal views on people who are different through physical or mental disability, impairment or socio-economic conditions, and are thus societally devalued.

Tom states that the collection contains 1,976 postcard images, 18 other images (photocopies of pictures from books, or cut out of magazines, etc.), 37 transcriptions of the messages on the postcard, 13 letters dealing with psycho-postcard collecting or with the institutions that are represented on particular cards, 105 notes, written or typed, by Wolf or others (relating to the postcard to which it is attached, or that it follows in the file), 73 articles or article excerpts that relate to a postcard, or a group of cards on the same institution, 30 excerpts from books dealing with the institution on the card or the Kirkbride design, and 11 miscellaneous pieces such as business cards, book lists, contact information for postcard dealers. Some excerpts are in German, some messages on the cards are in languages other than English (not a lot). The date range on those postcards that were used, is 1904 through 1988.

Tom created an inventory for each box that corresponds to the images in the matching image file. He created a thumb drive containing one image file for each box, along with a PDF of the inventory for each of the four boxes Wolf collected.

His hope is to do two things with the cards. First would be to prepare a presentation for the SRV Conference in Halifax in May 2025, around the ideas of image and role, with remarks about the widespread use of the cards and their influencing social perceptions of disability and difference. For this he will focus on the Freakery, Disability/Deviance and Human Service related cards, with a few from the institutional element.

The second is to take Wolf's notes on the Bogdan and Marshall article and use them to form a further analysis of the institutional cards and what they tell us of the history of human service, and, in particular, of asylums and large-scale institutions.



Two other short book projects are envisioned. One would be a postcard history of the Fraternal homes built in the United States (and possibly Canada) in the 1800s and which continued in some cases right up to today. Postcards would serve as the images; narrative would come from archival, newspaper and journal research. This is a truly unexplored area and thus this project would add significantly to the understanding of these institutions, the people housed in them, the staff, and the larger society and culture of their times. The second potential project is to sample the asylums, across the United States, again providing a postcard history, with academic research describing the various selected institutions.

For the last three ideas, Tom would use Wolf's postcards and his own, thus increasing the total sample, providing an increased number of asylums covered and different views of the same institution.

If you too collect postcards on institutions or other human service-related topics , please consider contacting Tom (thomasmalcomson5@gmail.com) and sharing them with him.

### **Scanning and Digitalization of PASS, PASSING, and CAPE Reports:**

Guy Caruso is leading an initiative to collect and convert into a digital format all extant PASS/PASSING and CAPE (O'Brien and Wolfensberger – 1980- Citizen Advocacy Program Evaluation) reports.

Over the last few years, with the initial suggestion coming from John O'Brien, ISRVA under the guidance of Guy Caruso has asked people to send us any PASS, PASSING and/or CAPE evaluation reports so we could collect, scan and digitalize them for safe keeping and for learning purposes. The reports came from Syracuse University Training Institute, other party, or even as part of a formal consultation assessments. Betsy Neville, Pam Seetoo and Matt Nyguyen at the Keystone Institute scanned and digitalized around 170 reports and used a coding system to organize reports for example by type (PASS, PASSING, CAPE), year, Training Institute/other, program type (e.g. residential, vocational).

In addition, Susan Thomas reported that she found many PASS and PASSING reports at The Wolfensberger Collection at UNMC's McGoogan Library Nebraska (Wolfensberger archives) that were part of Wolf's large collection of materials sent there. She reported that there are approximately 180 unreleased PASS reports, approximately 70 released ones, and about 90 PASSING reports (mixed released and unreleased) at the archives. Released means the agency that was assessed using PASS or PASSING approved the report to be made public. She further discovered that they are a mix of reports that came out of the Training Institute workshops, and ones that other people sent to Wolf from events they conducted.



Susan also found a paper titled - *Explanation & Instructions for Inventory of WW Archives: PASS & PASSING Reports* - that says the unreleased reports should not be opened to public view until the year 2050. Wolf certainly was one to plan ahead!

Both Susan Thomas and Betsy Neuville report ~~only~~ finding only a few reports from the Pennsylvania Evaluation Project (PEP) and if anyone associated with ~~such~~ any of those official evaluations has such reports, please contact Guy Caruso ([guycaruso@aol.com](mailto:guycaruso@aol.com)) to share them.

ISRVA member Zana Lutfiyya asked us to collect CAPE (Citizen Advocacy Program Evaluation) reports, and we received a few that were scanned and digitalized as well.

If you have a PASS, PASSING, and/or CAPE reports please contact Guy Caruso ([guyucdd@consolidated.net](mailto:guyucdd@consolidated.net)) so ~~he can see if we have these already and, if not, if we~~ can possibly scan and digitalize these for safe keeping if we do not have them already..

ISRVA's intent was to collect, save (scan/digitalize) the reports, and to share some released or redacted reports on the ISRVA website. Betsy Neuville is in the process of selecting a few reports for the website. In reading over a few of the reports Betsy found them to be fascinating and edifying to read as so many lessons can be learned about service quality and other realities.

### SRV Study Sessions

Four successful SRV Study Sessions were held on Zoom, with available space for participants filling almost immediately. For each event, two sessions have been offered at two different times to make it possible for people from widely different time zones to attend and we have had high participation from Oceania, Asia, Europe, and North America.

Month	Title	Leaders
November	Unsafe Spaces: Fire Through Dry Grass	Andrew Oliver
October	The SRV Help Desk: Weaving SRV into Organizational Practice	Karin Bonesteel, Ric Brown, Miriam Kaye
April	ISRVA Town Hall	Betsy Neuville
February	Protective Measures: Chapters in the History of Child Welfare	Raymond Lemay

## ISRVA Leadership

The ISRVA leadership group includes Jo Massarelli, Betsy Neuville, Andrew Oliver, Guy Caruso, Joe Osburn and Raymond Lemay. We generally meet monthly by video-conference, though we did meet for a weekend last August to further the planning of the Institute for Applied SRV.

## A Brief History of ISRVA

After the Canberra International SRV conference in September 2011, there was some concern that SRV might not survive Dr. Wolfensberger's recent passing (Feb 2011). A few of us (Betsy Neuville, Guy Caruso and Raymond Lemay) on our way back home from Canberra imagined that a permanent international structure should be established to provide long term institutional support – something like an international association. We then prepared a position paper elaborating the idea and presented it to the North American SRV Council (NASRVC), and, after a lengthy discussion, set up a committee to further develop the idea. From the outset, it was clear that though members of the NASRVC were actively involved in the development of this project, any new entity stemming from our work would be separate from the NASRVC.

The original committee included Jo Massarelli, Beth French (who has since passed away), Betsy Neuville, Joe Osburn, Guy Caruso, and Raymond Lemay. John Armstrong, a senior leader in Australia, was also quite helpful in the early going and participated in early discussions and quite graciously transferred to the association the socialrolevalorization.com website that he had developed and managed for years.

The committee met several times, including multiple-day meetings in Worcester MA and Kingston ON, reached out with a survey and interviews to SRV groups and aficionados around the world, and reworked and transformed the original position paper into statement of purpose and description of activities – the latest version of which is available on the socialrolevalorization.com website.

After much discussion and some procrastination, we decided to move forward and start the ISRVA with a membership drive.

A number of founding organizations were instrumental in moving this project forward. They include:

- Valor & Solutions, Plantagenet, Ontario, Canada
- Valoris pour enfants et adultes de Prescott-Russell Valoris for Children and Adults in Ontario Canada
- Shriver Clinical Services Corporation, Wakefield, Massachusetts, United States
- Family Lives, Massachusetts USA
- Keystone Institute, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, United States
- Community Ventures in Living, Lafayette, Indiana, United States

ISRVA website: [www.socialrolevalorization.com](http://www.socialrolevalorization.com), and visit its sister website: [wolfwolfensberger.com](http://wolfwolfensberger.com).

Despite the ongoing turbulence in the world, we continue to thrive. The long-term purpose is still alive as we find new ways of promoting “SRV development, education, assessment, and leadership to assist people and organizations to implement SRV concepts so that vulnerable people may have access to the good things of life.”

For the ISRVA,

Jo Massarelli, Betsy Neuville, Andrew Oliver, Joe Osburn, Guy Caruso and Raymond Lemay