

## AWARD AND HONORS ANNOUNCES WINNERS

The Wisconsin Library Association's Awards and Honors Committee is pleased to announce the following award recipients for 2004: **DEMCO/Librarian of the Year**, both Rob Reid, Indianhead Library System, and Peter G. Hamon, director of the South Central Library System; **Library of the Year**, Hedberg Library on the Carthage College campus in Kenosha; **Trustee of the Year**, Sandralee Thiele, president, Darien Public Library Board of Trustees; **Special Service Award**, Donald Bulley, Trustee, South Milwaukee Public Library; **WLA/Highsmith Award**, Marathon County Public Library; and **Muriel Fuller Award** to Laura Gottlieb, Reference Librarian at Hedberg Public Library in Janesville.

The awards and Honors Committee discussed qualifications and accomplishments extensively before concluding that they'd have to honor both **Peter G. Hamon** and **Rob Reid** for their very different accomplishments as librarians, and name them BOTH Librarian of the Year for 2004.

**Peter Hamon's** political activism on the state level, as he fought to preserve the Department of Public Instruction, and on the national level, as he worked to defeat CIPA, was highlighted by nominators. He was also credited with being instrumental in creating a statewide delivery system through South Central Library System, and working to establish the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium.

Peter Hamon has also played a critical leadership role in pulling together the Wisconsin Library Association in the early 1990's as he took on the Presidency, and helped WLA grow over the next few years. Larry Martin, former Executive Director, wrote that, "Peter played a critical leadership role in expanding [WLA's] legislative activities" as he led the organization to take a more "proactive advocacy role on behalf of Wisconsin's library community."

In contrast, **Rob Reid** has made his mark nation- and state-wide as a children's librarian, garnering praises from many corners for his presentations at conferences and his highly popular e-newsletter, *Heart of a Child*. Rob has also written books (*Childrens' Jukebox* (1995), *Wave goodbye* (1996), *Family storytime* (1999), *Something funny happened at the library* (2003), and *Cool story programs for the schoolaged crowd* (2004)) used extensively by youth services librarians.

Rob has been elected to the 2006 Newbery Award committee, and has served on the ALA Great Websites Committee. For the past six years he has been teaching classes at UW-Eau Claire, helping to train future librarians, a position he will now take up full time. In these and many other ways Rob has inspired and mentored fledgling librarians all over the country.

The **Hedberg Library** on the Carthage College campus, Library of the Year for 2004, is truly an active and well-used facility. It is noted as an Electronic Teaching Library by its nominator, who goes on to detail the ways Hedberg not only serves its campus as an exemplary academic library, but also reaches out to the surrounding communities with programs and resources. It offers reciprocity agreements with local colleges (UW-Parkside and Gateway Technical College), and also offers a Friday Family Fun Night to residents of Kenosha and Racine. Community members can also use the library's materials in-house or borrow materials with a guest card.

Hedberg offers its university community a wide range of materials, both electronic and paper, as well as highly -trained assistance at the reference desk. The media staff has designed electronic classrooms for the campus, and created the Saemann Curriculum Center which provides video conferencing facilities, coordinates satellite programs, and provides resources and facilities for video production and editing. The faculty and staff at Carthage can also take advantage of Office Tutoring from the Academic Information Services staff.

The extensive service this academic library offers all its patrons (too extensive to detail completely here) makes it a model for complete and complex library service.

**Sandree Thiele**, Trustee of the Year for 2004, was cited for her tireless work in not only keeping the Darien Public Library up to date by establishing the criteria used to weed the collection, but also in expending considerable effort in making sure the community built a new public library facility. She hosted focus groups to determine needs in the community, visited library facilities throughout the area to see what other communities had built, and held informational meetings to keep the community apprised of progress of the project. Now that the new building is finished she continues to work teaching a series of computer classes for those wanting to learn. Her selfless work for her community is an example of what a library trustee can do to serve the community.

**Donald Bulley** has also served his community well, and so earned the Special Service Award for 2004. He has served on the South Milwaukee Library Board for 25 years, is currently its president, and has fought to preserve and expand the library's budget. He has worked with city officials on projects that better the community, and provided leadership in the hugely successful effort to renovate the South Milwaukee Public Library building in 1994-1995. Don is also active in the WLA Trustee Association, is currently that organization's chair, and has been involved in conference planning for the Trustee Association. The Governor has also recently appointed Don to COLAND.

Don's political advocacy for public libraries, by attending Library Legislative Days in Madison and keeping the cause of libraries in the consciousness of state legislators, has served his community well, and is just one of many reasons he is very deserving of this recognition.

A truly innovative program titled Marvelous Explorations through Science and Stories, or M.E.S.S., was recognized for its collaboration between the public library and local schools, and earned the WLA/Highsmith Award for the **Marathon County Public Library**. This program started with a visit from the Magic School Bus, a book series that introduces basic and complex science concepts to children. This led to the staff at Marathon County PL creating a spin-off activity that brought high school students to the library to re-create science experiments for younger children. The staff arranged for students from elementary schools to visit the library, watch various science experiments demonstrated by the high school students, take part in a tour of the library, and then listen to a science-related story. This program has brought in a steadily-rising number of students who are becoming enthusiastic advocates for science!

**Laura Gottlieb**, winner of the Muriel Fuller Award for 2004, has greatly benefited her community by creating an electronic index to the newspaper clippings kept on file, named the Local History Database, at Hedberg Public Library in Janesville. She has also developed a "Death Index" of obituaries from the local newspaper. One writer of support for Laura stated that both databases "are continually updated and expanded. Access to both has greatly improved and benefited library services by providing fast, accurate information to staff and the general public." They are both searchable, and available on the library website. Laura has also indexed other local sources, which makes them much more accessible to the public and those doing research on the community.

All award-winners will be presented with a proclamation and a plaque detailing their accomplishment at the 2004 WLA Annual Conference Awards Banquet on Thursday, November 4. The winner of the WLA/Highsmith Award will receive a check for \$1,000 from Highsmith, and the winners of the Librarian of the Year DEMCO award will receive a check for \$500.00 from DEMCO. There were no nominations for Citation of Merit Award. Christine Jameson, chair, Award and Honors Committee.