

## Alice Oakey receives 2018 Cornerstone Award

Because of her “passion and commitment for community service,” Alice Oakey was honored Oct. 18, 2018, as the 10th recipient of the South Central Library System Foundation Cornerstone Award.

Alice was the supervisor of Madison Public Library’s Meadowridge Library, 5726 Raymond Road, from 2009 until her retirement in May of 2018. She received her BS in Agricultural Journalism from the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Science in 1991 and was a full-time stay-at-home mom until she began working as a page at Madison Public Library at the Sequoia Library in October of 1995. She was promoted to clerk and later began taking courses toward her MLS at UW-Madison SLIS, graduating in June of 2004. In 2006 Alice moved to the Central Library to the Youth Services

Department where she was a library assistant.

“I am very proud of the innovative work we accomplished,” Alice said. “I believe neighborhood libraries need to reflect the needs, desires and dreams of their neighborhood residents. I believe in hiring from the



Alice (center) is pictured with Madison Public Library Director Greg Mickells (right) and Sarah Lawton, Monroe Street and Pinney Library Supervisor.

neighborhood, providing programming of interest to the neighbors, and making sure the collection reflects the interests of the neighborhood. I also believe it is an honor for a library to be situated in a neighborhood and an honor to be a resource for that neighborhood.”

In her written support of Alice’s nomination for the Cornerstone Award, Sarah Lawton, supervisor of Madison Public Library’s Monroe Street and Pinney Libraries, said, “Alice has

dedicated her career to building community through

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## Libraries honored at Cornerstone Reception

The 2018 SCLS Foundation library award recipients are listed below. More detail is available at [www.sclsfoundation.org/cornerstone/award\\_recipients.html#2018](http://www.sclsfoundation.org/cornerstone/award_recipients.html#2018).

**Super Awesome Library Award: Alicia Ashman Library (Madison Public Library)**—On Aug. 20, 2018, the Alicia Ashman Library literally became an island from the flooding at Old Sauk and High Point Roads on Madison’s west

side. Despite operating on emergency lights and very limited capacity, Pam Wittig, the librarian in charge, kept the library open knowing it was too dangerous for staff and patrons to challenge the surrounding waters. When Madison Public Library’s Facilities Manager contacted Pam, thanking her

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Pam Wittig is pictured with Rob Ferrett, master of ceremonies.

## Cornerstone Award recognizes community service—from page 1

library service. She has become a huge force for positive transformation to residents of the Meadowood neighborhood.” Lawton said Alice has touched the lives of many neighborhood residents in meaningful ways.

As part of her efforts while at Meadowridge, she also worked to create a partnership with the West Madison Senior Coalition to provide lunches for seniors three times per week at the library.

“Meadowridge is a vibrant, welcoming, very active library that is very much embedded in its neighborhood,” Alice said. “At Meadowridge our priority was to serve our patrons in whatever capacity they needed.” Because the renovated library featured a full kitchen, Alice said she and her staff introduced classes for youth and community programs centered around healthy eating and food sustainability. “We hosted monthly community suppers and provided sack lunches every day for children in need of a meal,” Alice explained.

With support from the Madison Public Library Foundation, Meadowridge staff also conducted a successful drive to obtain personal hygiene items for patrons, especially teen-aged girls.

“While at Meadowridge, Sheray Wallace and I also created the Meadowood Health Partnership to provide information and connect our neighbors with the health care resources to help lead healthy lives,” Alice said. “We partner with community health providers to augment what services we could provide in the library. Sheray conducts office hours two days each week at the Meadowridge Library.”

According to Janet Pugh, SCLS Foundation Board President, “The SCLS Foundation Board was thrilled

to be able to honor a librarian like Alice Oakey who has such a passion and commitment for community service. She epitomizes the Cornerstone Award, which is given annually to an individual or individuals who have had a significant and long-term impact on enhancing public libraries in South Central Wisconsin. Alice truly represents the values and mis-

sion of the South Central Library System Foundation.”

The 2018 Cornerstone Award Fundraising Reception was held Oct. 18 at Babe’s Grill & Bar, 5614 Schroeder Road in Madison. **Bibliotheca**, **First Business Bank** and **Hausmann-Johnson Insurance** were the corporate sponsors for the awards reception.

## Library awards—from page 1

for her leadership during the crisis, she simply replied, “Well, I was the librarian.”

**Program Wizard Award: Madison Public Library** (multiple locations)—“Wild Rumpus: an AnjiPlay experience” is a project at Haen Family Park, Reindahl Park, and Brittingham Park nominated for the Program Wizard Award because it has brought racially, culturally and socially diverse community members together, encouraged early childhood literacy, activated public park space in a new and innovative way, connected children to nature, and expanded the public’s sense of what and where Library programs can be.

“The impact has been substantial and growing,” wrote Marc Gartler, Alicia Ashman & Sequoya Library Supervisor in his award nomination. “This project highlights a successful partnership and sharing of resources between agencies.”

**Giddy Up Partner Award: Beth Hays & Ruth Culver Community Library, Prairie du Sac**—Partnering with community organizations and agencies is



*Beth (holding the plaque and trophy) is pictured with Jennifer Endres Way (left), former library director, Meagan Statz, and Helen Campbell, board president.*

common practice for public libraries, and on Oct. 18 the Ruth Culver Community Library and Beth Hays were recognized by the South Central Library System Foundation as recipients of the 2018 “Giddy Up Partner Award.”

Ruth Culver Community Library and Youth Services Librarian Beth Hays created a community program to explore the documentary “Screenagers—Growing Up in the Digital Age. The film probes into the vulnerable corners of family life and depicts messy struggles over social media, video games, and academics. The film offers solutions on how we can help kids navigate the digital world.

**Outstanding Library Volunteer Award: Nicole Waerzeggers, Sun Prairie Public Library**—Public libraries and their staff member provide vital services

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Carissa Christner

# Libraries honored—*from page 2*

and resource in the communities they serve, but most successful

libraries have something else in common—dedicated volunteers. In recognition of her efforts in support of Sun Prairie Public Library, Nicole Waerzeggers was named the 2018 recipient of the Outstanding Library Volunteer Award from the South Central Library System Foundation.



Nicole (center) is pictured with Sun Prairie Director Svetha Hetzler (left) and Cindy Stankey, Circulation Manager.

## SCLS Foundation Member Libraries

- Adams County Library
- Angie W. Cox Public Library (Pardeeville)
- Lester Public Library of Arpin
- Black Earth Public Library
- Brodhead Memorial Public Library
- Friends of Brodhead Library
- Friends of the Cambridge Community Library
- Columbus Public Library
- Dane County Bookmobile
- Friends of Columbus Public Library
- Friends of Deerfield Public Library
- Jane Morgan Memorial Library (Cambria)
- Jefferson Public Library
- LaValle Public Library
- Lester Public Library of Arpin
- Lodi Woman's Club Public Library
- Lodi Supplemental Fund
- Friends of Lodi Public Library
- Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library Foundation
- Mazomanie Free Library
- Friends of McFarland Library
- McMillan Memorial Library
- Middleton Public Library
- Monroe Public Library
- Poynette Public Library
- Reedsburg Public Library
- Rio Public Library
- Friends of Rio Public Library
- Rock Springs Public Library
- SCLS Foundation
- Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library
- Sturm Memorial Library
- Friends of Whitehall Public Library
- Wyocena Public Library

## Foundation contributors

These people have donated to the SCLS Foundation since July 18, 2018. The category in which each is listed represents their total Foundation contribution to date.

### Legacy – \$10,000+

Phyllis Davis

### Benefactor – \$9,999 - \$5,000

Delta Properties  
Peter & Ann Hamon

### Stewards – \$4,999 - \$1,000

Bob Blitzke & Jane Grogan  
Robert Cohen  
Demco  
Jane Morgan Memorial Library  
Janet & Tom Pugh  
Claire Rynders  
Single Step Foundation  
Martha Van Pelt

### Advocates – \$999 - \$500

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Victoria Billings  
Kathryn Curtis  
Cindy Fesemyer  
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Jennifer & Fred Harrington  
Mark & Becky Ibach

Larry Martin & Martha Cranley

Mark Miller  
Dave Odahl  
Patricia Portz  
Woodman's Food Markets

### Patron – \$499 - \$250

Bob Bocher & Mary O'Connor  
Phil & Judith Cox  
Kathleen Imhoff  
Nancy Long  
Oriental Shop

### Friends – \$249 - \$100

Tana Elias  
Gregory Mickells  
Jody Mohrbacher  
Mary Nelson  
Molly Warren  
Bill & Kathleen Zimdars

### Supporters – \$99 - \$50

Barbara Karlen  
George & Beth Ann Scott

### Sponsors – \$49 - \$1

R. Bruce Allison  
Anjali Bhasin  
Liz Dannenbaum  
Raymond Keck  
Mandy Meloy  
Janice Zmrazek

## Foundation fund performance

As of Feb. 26, 2019, the fund balance was \$2,064,476.

The gross return since inception on Dec. 1, 2012, is 6.63% return.

For more information about investing with the Foundation, please contact Martha Van Pelt, SCLS Director, at (608) 246-7975 or [mvanpelt@scls.info](mailto:mvanpelt@scls.info).

Welcome Jefferson Public Library to the South Central Library System Foundation!

## The South Central Library System Foundation

by **Janet Pugh**, *President, SCLS Foundation Board*

Eighteen years ago when we were creating the Foundation, we envisioned it in two parts:

- one, a place where local libraries could put their donated funds to grow well and to be tax-exempt for donors and
- two, a place where the System could place money the system raises to grow well and to be tax-exempt for donors AND to become a source of funding for projects or items that benefit libraries throughout the system.

Today, we are excited that so many libraries have chosen to invest their donated funds in the Foundation. The financial return to the libraries has been very good. And several libraries have goals and needs for those dollars. This is just the way we wanted the Foundation to work.

The System's portion of the Foundation has also grown and we have had funds for the Maker Kits, patron counters, and digitization that have been used by local libraries. Good show!

However, we are finding that raising funds for the

System's part of the Foundation is a hard slog. As a System, we do not have the identifiable patron base that local libraries have. The System is kind of like a skeleton, necessary but not seen (unless you spot a red delivery truck!). We rely on the annual Cornerstone Award reception to be the fundraiser for the System's Foundation. The current donor base is faithful, but not large, and not growing.

The Foundation Board recognizes that in order to continue to provide "extras" for member libraries, we need to continue to grow the System's part of the Foundation.

As people who support libraries, we rely on you to remember that as a system, we support each other. And that includes supporting the System's Foundation. The System provides a significant infrastructure for local libraries, and the Foundation supplies money for "extras" that are helpful and important to local libraries. We are thrilled that we are able to make these extras available, but we can't do it without your help.

Thank you for all you do to support libraries and for what you can do to help all the libraries in the System.



*Janet Pugh*