

*Ceremony will be Nov. 7 in Madison*

## Curtis, Zimdars to receive 2013 'Cornerstone Award'

In recognition of their lifetime of work in support of area libraries, including the South Central Library System, Kathryn Curtis & her late husband J. Robert Curtis and William Zimdars will receive the "Cornerstone Award" at a Nov. 7, 2013, fundraising reception. The event will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. in the newly renovated and

expanded Madison Public Library, 201 W. Mifflin St.

"This is the Foundation's fifth annual award to honor people who have made significant contributions to the improvement of library service in their own communities, throughout the South Central Library System, and statewide," said Trish Frankland, foundation board president and co-director of the Lodi Public Library.

The award is given to an individual or individuals who have had a significant and long-term impact on enhancing public libraries in South Central Wisconsin and represent the values and mission of the SCLS Foundation.

Kathryn Curtis has a long history with Portage Public Library, with the

Columbia County Library Board, and with the South Central Library System. In the early 1980s, Columbia County was looking for someone to serve on the SCLS Board of Trustees. When

Robert Curtis was asked to take that seat, he suggested Kathryn. She accepted, and soon thereafter became a member of the Columbia County Library Board, and

then also became a member of the Portage Public Library board. She served in those multiple capacities for more than 10 years, but served on the local library board longest.

"I have always been very involved," Kathryn said. "That's one of the reasons Bob and I married. He was always so interested in education."



*William Zimdars*

"Doc" Curtis was serving on the local school board when he and Kathryn married, and he also served on the state education board and fulfilled many other volunteer opportunities. "When Bob retired, it was really to start a new career in service: he was

on the city council, county board, state boards, and was a representative to the SCLS Board," Kathryn said. "We enjoyed being involved in all

those boards over the years because of the intellectual stimulation. You meet so many really smart and interesting people."

Also being honored this year is William Zimdars, who currently serves on the Portage County Public Library

—please see Cornerstone on page 2

Nov. 7, 2013  
5:30-7 p.m.  
Madison Public Library  
201 W. Mifflin St.

### Board updates policies, procedures

**by Trish Frankland**, President  
SCLS Foundation Board

The SCLS Foundation Board has spent a lot of time this past year reviewing and updating its policies and procedures. In the years since the SCLS Foundation (SCLSF)

was created, a few things have changed—and we wanted to make sure our documentation accurately reflected the

reality of 2013 and beyond. In the process, we also re-discovered that many things are just the way the original board imagined them in February 2001.

In changing our investment partnership in December 2012, we realized that our investment

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## Cornerstone—*from page 1*

Board. “The best way to get involved with libraries is to have children,” Zimdars said. “We have four children, and that’s how you really discover how important libraries can be.”

Bill is a former business education teacher, and he also sold insurance later in his career. He was a member of the Portage County Board when they decided to join the South Central Library System, and he became the county’s representative on the SCLS Board of Trustees (served one term as board president). For many years he was a county board representative

on the Portage County Library Board, and was off the County Board three months when he was reappointed to the County Library Board as a citizen representative.

“When you ask people about libraries, if they don’t use them they don’t usually have anything negative or positive to say,” Zimdars said, “but if they do use the library they always have wonderful things to say. People pretty much always like libraries.”

According to Frankland, this fifth annual Cornerstone Award Reception continues a fundraising tradition

that has raised nearly \$49,000 for the foundation in four years.

“It is exciting to have Madison Public Library host this year’s Cornerstone Award,” Frankland said. “Last year’s recipient, former Madison Public Library Director Barbara Dimick, was instrumental in the renovation and expansion of Madison’s central library, so it’s exciting to see the result of all that work.”

“We’re also especially grateful to the Gordon Flesch Company, Kayser Ford, and Wegner CPAs for their generous financial contributions in support of the 2013 Cornerstone Awards.”

## Policies & procedures—*from page 1*

policy had always been M&I Bank’s investment policy. After consulting with our new partners at First Business Bank and much discussion amongst the board, we approved the new SCLSF Wealth Management Investment Policy in April. While the new policy is in essence a formalization of the old policy, it’s comforting and prudent that we now have this document.

We also set forth a new procedure to reimburse South Central Library System for the work its employees do on behalf of the Foundation. Quarterly, SCLS will present an invoice among the bills to be approved for payment by the board. It’s a nominal amount—but it’s an important move that allows the Foundation to better maintain its relationship and responsibilities separate from the SCLS administration.

Last (and most arduously), the board discussed, dissected, and revised the SCLS Foundation’s Disbursement Policy. The new policy clearly defines how “profit” is determined, and then dictates “50% shall be disbursed to all SCLS members for a purpose that benefits all members, at the discretion of the Foundation Board.”

Once this policy was adopted at the July board meeting, the next item on the agenda was to release \$6,188 (2012 profits in accordance with the new policy) to help offset libraries’ fees for the 2014 purchase of e-materials through Wisconsin’s Digital Library. (see article on page 3)

A saving grace to us all throughout these discussions was the insight and historical knowledge of current board member and former SCLS director Peter Hamon. We owe him our gratitude for helping to update these policies while maintaining the original intentions of the founding board (of which he was a member). We’re lucky to have him back aboard in his retirement. Please visit the Foundation’s updated website at [www.SCLSFoundation.org](http://www.SCLSFoundation.org) to view any of these policy documents or learn more about the Foundation.

Finally, please consider joining us for the Cornerstone Award Reception on November 7 at the new Madison central library; it’s a fun night to fete some wonderful library advocates, and a great opportunity to socialize with others in the library community.

### SCLS Foundation Member Libraries

- Adams County Library
- Angie W. Cox Public Library (Pardeeville)
- Black Earth Public Library
- Brodhead Memorial Public Library
- Friends of the Cambridge Community Library
- Columbus Public Library
- Cottage Grove Community Library
- Friends of McFarland Library
- Jane Morgan Memorial Library (Cambria)
- Kraemer Library & Community Center (Plain)
- LaValle Public Library
- Lodi Woman’s Club Public Library
- Marshfield Public Library Foundation
- Mazomanie Free Library
- Monroe Public Library
- Reedsburg Public Library
- SCLS Foundation
- Wyocena Public Library

## Board gives \$6,188 for ebook purchases

Circulation of eBooks and downloadable audio books continue to garner strong popularity among public library customers, and libraries within the South Central Library System are seeing dramatic increases in the use of resources available through Wisconsin's Digital Library (<http://dbooks.wplc.info>).



In support of that increasing e-content use, the SCLS Foundation Board voted in July to allocate \$6,188.42, or half of the Foundation's 2012 net profit, to help purchase ebooks and audio books for Wisconsin's Digital Library. This fol-

lows a 2011 contribution of \$5,412 for the same purpose. The money directly supported member libraries, each of which provided financial support toward the creation of a \$1 million purchasing pool.

The buying pool, which dramatically expanded the titles available through Wisconsin's Digital Library, has helped spur usage of the electronic resources. In 2010, customers at SCLS member libraries checked out 6,205 e-books. That number increased to 44,983 in 2011, and hit 224,665 in 2012. That represents a 364 percent

increase over 2011. January to July 2013 actual usage was 169,583, with a projected use of 290,714 by the end of 2013.

"The \$1 million statewide annual purchasing pool continues to be an aggressive goal," said Martha Van Pelt, SCLS Director. "But it has had a dramatic impact on usage because of the significant increase in the number of titles."

At an average cost of \$15.50 for the e-books being purchased, that means the Foundation contribution of \$6,188.42 will purchase nearly 400 titles.

SCLS and its member libraries account for about 14 percent of the state's population but about 20 percent of total 2013 WPLC circulation.

## Columbus Public Library finds safety in SCLS Foundation

By Peter Kaland

SCLS Foundation Board

I have been a member of the Columbus Public Library Board for the past 20 years, and president for the past seven years, and during that time we have had many discussions about the investment of library gift funds. For years we invested in certificates of deposit at the local banks, which provided for an acceptable rate of return on our investment and offered the safety of a CD.

Given present low rates of returns on CD's, we were earning less than the rate of inflation, or losing purchasing power on the gifts we have received. We have not been spending gift funds, but have been saving these gifts for a future much needed building addition. Since our existing investment decisions were not working, we looked at alternative ways to invest.

While researching alternatives we received a large bequest from a former area resident. If our bequest would ever grow, we needed to find a better investment vehicle. We voted last year to invest our funds with the SCLS Foundation and have been very pleased with the results. The fund is conservative, includes a mix of stocks and bonds, and is well managed. We have realized gains and losses on a monthly basis, with the gains far exceeding any losses. The administrative costs are reasonable and well in line with other foundations with which I have been involved.

We also researched doing a local 501c(3), but found it much easier to use the established SCLS Foundation program already in place. Our library is a strong believer in investing with the SCLS Foundation and would highly recommend the program to other libraries.

### Contributors grow endowment

These people have donated to the SCLS Foundation since Feb. 1, 2013. The category in which each is listed represents their total Foundation contribution to date.

#### Stewards – \$4,999 - \$1,000

Kathryn Trudell

#### Advocates – \$999 - \$500

National Mutual Benefit

#### Friends – \$249 - \$100

Kristin Groth & Ed Jepsen

Mark Miller

#### Supporters – \$99 - \$50

Michael & Barbara Bahr

#### Sponsors – \$49 - \$1

Alliance of Crop, Soil,

Environmental Science Societies

Harold Anderson & Barbara

Nilsson\

#### Contributions for Specific Libraries

Columbus Public Library

James & Lorna Will (\$10,000)

## Peter Kaland is new citizen representative

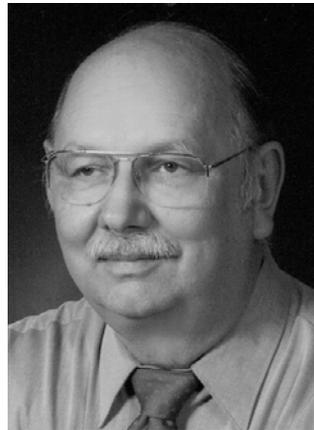
Peter Kaland, Columbus, is the newest member of the SCLS Foundation Board.

He began his teaching career in January of 1968 as a high school teacher of Economics and World History. In 1975 he became Audio-Visual Director and continued teaching history. In 1980 he became the high school Library Media Director and later served as K-3, and then K-12 librarian, retiring in June of 2008. Peter received a BS degree from UW-Stevens Point with majors in history and broad field social studies. In 1980 he received his MS degree from UW-La Crosse in Library Media.

He has been active in the Columbus community, having served two terms as alderman and was appointed mayor to serve out one year of an unexpired term. For the

past 20 years he has served on the Columbus Public Library Board, served as vice-president and secretary, and for the past seven years as its president. Peter also served as interim librarian when the director was on medical leave and before a new director was hired.

In addition to this civic duty, Peter has been active in two foundation boards—one at his local church, and the other the International Foundation of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Lincoln, NE. Peter is in his fourth year on this board, and has served as vice-president and presi-



*Peter Kaland*

dent, and at present serves as secretary.

Peter said he has been an avid reader all of his life and has a strong interest in libraries. "My 28 years as a library/media specialist has reinforced that interest in libraries," Peter said. "I believe that my 20 years of service to my community on the Columbus Library Board,

along with my experience and leadership on other Foundation Boards, will be an asset to the SCLS Foundation Board. The Columbus Public Library has assets invested with SCLS Foundation, so we have an interest in the success of the SCLS Foundation." (see related article on page 3)