

Ceremony held Nov. 7 in Madison

Curtis, Zimdars honored with 2013 'Cornerstone Award'

Library supporters from across the South Central Library System gathered Nov. 7, 2013, at Madison Public Library to pay tribute to individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to public libraries. Kathryn Curtis & her late husband J. Robert Curtis, and William Zimdars received the "Cornerstone

Award" at the fund raising reception.

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.

Introducing Kathryn Curtis was Peter Hamon, former SCLS Director and long-time friend of Kathryn and her husband "Doc." Hamon said their contributions to libraries are numerous, including playing a significant

role in helping Portage construct its current library building. "Kathryn and Doc are not only library supporters of the first magnitude, but wonderful, warm, funny people, and it was my pleasure and honor to work with them for many years," Hamon said.



Kathryn Curtis and Bill Zimdars catch up on old times during the Nov. 7 Cornerstone Award reception.

When accepting the award, Kathryn said she and "Doc" shared a real love of literature that blossomed into a shared commitment to libraries and service to the community.

In a letter, Portage Mayor W.F. "Bill" Tierney wrote, "Through the years, both Doc and Kathryn have served as tireless advocates for libraries by serving on both local and system library boards. They have passed on their love of libraries to their children, as both March and Ellie served on the library board of their com-

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Foundation offers many benefits

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

As the new president of the SCLS Foundation, I get to share with you some of my "idle" thoughts about the benefits of the Foundation, both for the system as a whole and for the libraries that participate in the Foundation. Because of our icy winter, I find myself looking to images of spring.



The goal of the Foundation is to help grow the monies that have generously been given to libraries. We want them to "blossom" so that libraries can use them in ways that will benefit their patrons. Because the funds from

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Kathryn Curtis

-munities. As long-time library supporters, they have been major parts of past and recent successes of not only the Portage Public Library, but the entire South Central Library Sys-

tem. Because of their contributions, the Portage Public Library continues to be an important resource facility for not only the city, but the surrounding area.”

Also honored was William Zimdars, who currently serves on the Portage County Public Library Board. 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 its members 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.

In her introduction, former SCLS Director Phyllis Davis said Bill has always believed that libraries are the leveling force in the community, and that the success of the institution is a credit to staff. “Because this is the kind of guy he is, Bill gives the credit for the success to the staff,” Davis said. “They have made the library what it is today.” However, she was quick to point out that no staff can

do that kind of work without a supportive board, and that is Bill’s legacy.

According to past SCLS Foundation Board President Trish Frankland, this fifth annual Cornerstone Award Reception continued a fund raising tradition that has raised over \$60,000 for the foundation in five years. More than \$12,000 was raised



Attendees at the 2013 Cornerstone Award fund raising reception enjoyed good food, and visiting with old friends and new acquaintances.

through the 2013 event.

“We’re also especially grateful to the Gordon Flesch Company, Kayser Ford, and Wegner CPAs for their



William Zimdars

generous financial contributions in support of the 2013 Cornerstone Awards,” said Franklin. “And a special thank you to Cedar Grove Cheese for contributing to our delicious hors d’oeuvres, and to Madison Public Library for hosting this year’s event.”

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)
- 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

2014 Cornerstone Award nominees sought

Each year the SCLS Foundation presents the Cornerstone Award 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.

Help us recognize deserving individuals by submitting names for 2014. Send names to mibach@scls.lib.wi.us, and include an explanation of how they meet the award criteria. The nomination deadline is June 1, 2014.

Contributors grow endowment

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

Benefactor – \$9,999 - \$5,000

Phyllis Davis
Peter & Ann Hamon
Denise Marino & Herb Paaren
Delta Properties

Stewards – \$4,999 - \$1,000

Bob Blitzke & Jane Grogan
Demco
Janet & Thomas Pugh
Stanley Talarek

Advocates – \$999 - \$500

Victoria Billings
Lauren Blough
Bob Cohen
Carla & Michael Dilorio
Barb Dimick

Gordon Flesch Company
Jennifer & Fred Harrington
Kayser Ford
Anne Iwata & Darren Stucker
Madison Community Foundation
Jane Morgan Memorial Library
National Mutual Benefit
Wegner LLP
Allan & Sandra Wendland

Patron – \$250 - \$499

Bob Bocher & Mary O'Connor
Charles Bunge
Kathryn Curtis
Mary Davidson
Carol Froistad
Mark & Rebecca Ibach
Mark Miller
Gary Poulson
Louise Robbins
Claire Rynders
Brinnan Shaffer

Martha Van Pelt
Sharon Zindars

Friends – \$249 - \$100

Judy Ashford
David & Sarah Aslakson
James Block & Terese Allen
Joe & Jan Carter
Michael & Nicole Clark
Phil Cox
Kathleen & Clement Imhoff
Oriental Shop
Kevin & Erin Seeger
Sam & Grace Skibicki
Bob Stack
Roger & Kristi Williams
Denise & John Anton Wright
Bill & Kathleen Zimdars

Supporters – \$99 - \$50

Phyllis Davis (in memory of
Darren Stucker)
Eric & Susan Ecklund
Robert & Janis Garske
Marilyn Huset
Trish & Greg Iaccarino
Thomas & Carol McCarrier
Mary Struckmeyer (in memory of
Marian Edsall)
William & Eleanor Voigt

Sponsors – \$49 - \$1

Donald Birdd
Harry & Marguerite Bolanowski
Stephen & Maureen Busalacchi
Thomas & Amy Cook (in memory of
Marian Edsall)
Judith Edwards
Peter Kaland
Tracy Yarmell Lira (in memory of
Marian Edsall)
Sue & Chris Martin
Douglas & Sharon Meredith
Jessica Pauls
Raymond & Margaret Pitzrick
Wayne & Nancy Schroeder
Thomas Schuett
Roger & Donna Sunby
Dean & Janet Swiston
Dorothy Tiede
Jerold & Kathryn Trachte
Roger & Donna Wetzel

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several libraries are “planted” together, we can reap greater interest. Just recently the Monroe Public Library removed funds that have been in the Foundation for several years. The library will use the money for a major remodeling project, which is just what the Foundation is designed for!

As for the System’s portion of the Foundation, we are pleased to disperse funds to support the System’s budget for e-books. E-books have been an increasing portion of libraries’ circulation, so all our patrons benefit. In 2013 the Foundation contributed \$6,188, or enough to purchase about 400 titles.

We love saying “thank you” to people who have supported libraries, and the Cornerstone Award is the Foundation’s way of recognizing individuals who have made a significant contribution to the growth and development of libraries. For five years the Foundation Board of Trustees has selected the award recipient(s). This year we would love to hear from you, in the local libraries, about people who have been significant friends and supporters and who we might honor with the Cornerstone Award.

The Foundation fund raising reception to thank donors and present the Cornerstone Award will be in November. I hope you will all put it on the calendar and join us.

In the meantime, think spring!

 *South Central Library System Foundation*

Fesemyer, Iaccarino join Foundation Board

Cindy Fesemyer and Trish Iaccarino are the newest members of the SCLS Foundation Board.

Cindy began her second career in May 2012 as the Director of Columbus Public Library. She is pleased to serve the Columbus community by improving their library to the best of her abilities. So far she's led the library through a large renovation and the addition of their first-ever parking lot. Together, she and her staff have added tons of new programming and blown the dust off of a somewhat dated materials collection. She's currently excited to be exploring the idea of expanding the library building some-time in the not-too-distant future



Cindy Fesemyer

(they hope). "That's why Columbus is so involved with the Foundation," she said at her first meeting of the SCLS Foundation Board.

Both Cindy and Peter Kaland, the Columbus Library Board President, serve on the Foundation Board at this time. "Hoping that expansion can't be too terribly far off, the Columbus Library Board opted to start growing its nest egg via the Foundation," said Kaland. Cindy added that the Library Board had explored other options with various Foundations and settled on the SCLS Foundation "because we get a professionally managed account without committing any of our principle to the Foundation's own

coffers." She says she sees SCLS as "a very valuable tool for saving."

Previous to librarianship, Cindy was a non-profit administrator and fund raiser for various Madison-area and statewide organizations. "I'm very happy with this opportunity to share my fund raising skills with the SCLS Foundation," Fesemyer said.

Also new to the SCLS Foundation Board is Trish Iaccarino. She has been a librarian at UW-Madison since 2002 and previously worked for the Division of Libraries, Technology and Community Learning (1994-2002). Trish has served on the SCLS Board of Trustees since 2003.



Trish Iaccarino