

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Regina U. Minudri

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the broader library community lost a valued member and leader on June 18, 2021, with the death of Regina Ursula Minudri;

Whereas “Gina” graduated from San Francisco’ College for Women in 1958 , then received her Master’s Degree in Library Science from the University of California-Berkeley in 1959;

Whereas she began her career as a reference librarian at the Menlo Park Library, later serving as young adult librarian for the Mountain View Library, as the Regional Librarian at the Santa Clara County Library, as Assistant Alameda County Librarian, and becoming the Director of the Berkeley Public Library in 1977;

Whereas after the devastating effects of Prop 13 on public library financing, in 1980 Gina was the first library director in California to turn to voters to secure library tax funding, and she led the campaign to make that tax permanent with another successful 2/3 vote in 1988;

Whereas Gina initiated innovative services wherever she worked; as Federal Young Adult Library Project Coordinator in Mountain View she loaned tools to fix cars to attract teen boys and as Assistant Alameda County Librarian Gina championed library work with seniors, promoted services to prisoners in Oakland City jails and in local youth detention centers and placed Youth Adult Librarians in all 10 branches – all of this took place over 45 years ago;

Whereas Gina was recognized in 1975 with the ALA Grolier Award for her works with young adults and for her Young Adult book column in School Library Journal;

Whereas other innovative Gina programs created include Berkeley’s Tool Lending Library, the Berkeley Information Network, a city-wide community information index, and establishing one of the first library-based adult literacy programs in California;

Whereas Gina lectured at UC Berkeley and San Jose State University’s Library School;

Whereas she was elected president of the California Library Association (1981) and later served as the president of the American Library Association (1986-87) where her platform promoted diversity and pay equity;

Whereas throughout her career, Gina championed library services to youth, responsiveness to the public’s library needs, and participative management in the workplace;

2020-2021 ALA Memorial #24
2021 ALA Virtual Annual Conference

Whereas Gina retired from the Berkeley Public Library in 1994, whereby the Board of Library Trustees honored her by designating her Library Director Emerita and by naming the library's Young Adult Room after her;

Whereas in 1997 Gina was called out of retirement to head the San Francisco Public Library which had been struggling through several major crises, and managed to stabilize SFPL's budget, appoint a Deputy City Librarian, and hire a Chief Financial Officer to begin the turnaround, so that Mayor Willie Brown, recognizing her leadership, allocated \$2.5 million for the construction of the first new city library branch in 30 years;

Whereas in 2012, the California Library Association began a Hall of Fame for California librarians and Gina was elected into that Hall of Fame in its first inaugural class;

Whereas to honor her legacy and commitment to young adult librarianship, Carol Starr established the **Regina U. Minudri Young Adult Scholarship administered by YALSA** to be given once a year to a Masters degree candidate in Library Science who intends to work professionally with young adults in public libraries;

Whereas in 1999 Gina suffered a catastrophic stroke and was not expected to live;

Whereas Gina's partner Carol Starr created a team of Gina's friends and colleagues who rallied around Gina—feeding her meals, exercising her body, and challenging her mind until Gina was able to return home;

Whereas despite the post-stroke effects, and with Carol's ever-present help, Gina resumed a life of traveling, attending family celebrations, and bursting out in Broadway musical songs whenever an opportunity arose;

Whereas Gina and Carol were married in October 2008 when California law permitted it, and continued to celebrate their union for a total of 34 years together; and

Whereas despite Carol's loving care, the deep love and support of her family and friends, plus the ongoing help of her attendants Irene Palos Lopez, Malani Shashitharan, and Lu Yang, Gina suffered a series of small strokes in 2020 and 2021; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Regina Ursula Minudri over the course of her career and mourns her death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her friends and family including her wife Carol Starr, her nieces and nephews Mike Lavorini (Roni), Melissa Wolfenbarger, Tim Lavorini (Tony), Amanda Harper (Bud), Paul Lavorini (Michelle), and her great nieces and nephews Lea Harris (Justin), Dana Wolfenbarger (Trey), David

**2020-2021 ALA Memorial #24
2021 ALA Virtual Annual Conference**

Johnson, Molly Jones, Jenna Harper, Dylan Lavorini, Matthew Lavorini, Kyle Roy, Jayden Harper, and Nicole Lavorini.

Mover: Beatriz Preciado, CA Chapter Councilor

Seconder: Abigail Leigh Phillips, YALSA Councilor

Ann Symons, Councilor-at-Large, ALA President, 1998-1999, ALA Honorary Member

Luis Herrera, United for Libraries Councilor

Patty Wong, ALA President-Elect, 2020-2021

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