



Memorial Resolution Honoring Margo Crist

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the broader library community lost a valued member and leader on December 15, 2021, with the death of Margo Crist, a trailblazing leader of public and academic libraries, active ALA and ARL member, tireless library advocate, and mentor to many;

Whereas Margo Crist served on numerous ALA committees, including chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and chair of the Presidential Right to Know Committee;

Whereas Margo Crist was an active participant in ALA governance, serving as both a chapter and at-large councilor and was elected to serve on the ALA Executive Board;

Whereas Margo Crist was awarded the Emerson Greenaway Distinguished Service Award for Librarianship by the New England Library Association in 2001 for exemplary leadership to the profession;

Whereas Margo Crist was the Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst from 1997- 2003 where she championed technology advancement, many user-centered service advances, and unique print-based collections;

Whereas Margo Crist was the Associate Director for Public Services at the University of Michigan where she pioneered the Faculty Exploratory, a space for faculty to learn how to adopt new learning technologies, was active in faculty governance, and mentored many new and experienced librarians;

Whereas Margo Crist was the Assistant Director of the Boston Public Library where she had a national reputation as an innovator and library advocate;

Whereas Margo Crist was the Regional Administrator for Central Massachusetts Regional Library System where she initiated the founding and co-directed the establishment of a network of 40 small and rural member libraries, allowing them to share resources and realize efficiencies for members;

Whereas Margo Crist was co-leader of a delegation of sixty-five librarians sponsored by the China Society of Library Science to visit the People's Republic of China in 1985 for purposes of strengthening ties between librarians in the United States and China;



Whereas those who worked under Margo Crist remember her a leader who applauded accomplishments and who took an active, helping approach to challenges. At work and in her personal life, she was forthright and collaborative; as a colleague she was courageous and articulate. Friends knew her to be wise, discreet, and a non-judgmental counselor, intent on healing and empowering others;

Whereas Margo Crist shattered stereotypes, was a whirlwind on the dance floor—never missing ALAP—and possessed brilliance, energy, charisma, courage, honesty, and the ability to teach a dining room of serious librarians how to hang a spoon from their noses*; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its grateful members:

1. acknowledges Margo Crist as an extraordinary ALA leader whose contributions to librarianship are so outstanding that they are of lasting importance to the advancement of the whole field of library and information sciences and mourns her death;
2. extends its deepest condolences to her many friends and colleagues, and especially to her sister Judith (Robert) Whaley, her nephews Richard (Diane) Whaley, Alan Whaley, Philip (Frances) Whaley, and Christopher (Kim Phan) Robertson, and grandnieces Rachel, Chaii, and Jordan Whaley, and Ava Robertson as well as the entire Hopkins family, including Martin Hopkins.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Monday, June 27, 2022, ALA Annual Conference

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracie Hall", written in a cursive style.

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director
and Secretary of the ALA Council



Endorsements:

Karen E. Downing, Councilor-at-Large

Alexandra Rivera, ALA Executive Board

Patricia Glass Schuman, ALA Honorary Member

Carla J. Stoffle, ALA Member

Sherman Pridham, ALA Member

Joseph Mika, ALA Member

Marianne Hartzell, ALA Member

Sally Reed, ALA Member

Patricia Smith, ALA Member