

### Memorial Resolution for Ruth and Jay Toor

**Whereas** the school library community lost two strong advocates with the passing of Ruth Toor on September 7, 2018, and Jay Toor on January 19, 2020;

**Whereas** Ruth was active in the American Library Association for more than 30 years, serving as President of the American Association of School Librarians in 1992-93. In addition, Ruth consulted and worked actively on many ALA, AASL and ALSC committees including the ALA Committee on Legislation. In 1995, she served on the Caldecott committee;

**Whereas** Ruth Toor emigrated from Vienna, Austria with her parents to escape the Nazis, skipped at least one grade in school and started college early at the University of Delaware. As a teenager she met the love of her life, Jay Toor, who lived a block away from her family. Told she could not marry until she graduated from college, Ruth doubled down and did so at age 19. They were married soon after and were together for 66 years;

**Whereas** Ruth completed her master's degree in library sciences at Rutgers University and was hired at Southern Boulevard Elementary School in Chatham Township, NJ. She worked hard presenting the library as a resource to enrich teachers' lessons until she retired after 29 years;

**Whereas** with school librarian and co-author Hilda Weisburg, Ruth wrote more than a dozen professional books for school librarians, including *New on the Job: A School Librarian's Guide to Success* and *Elementary School Librarian's Almanac: A Complete Media Program for Every Month of the School Year*;

**Whereas** Ruth and Hilda Weisburg created *School Librarian's Workshop*, a newsletter created for Prentice-Hall as one of more than two dozen newsletters it offered;

**Whereas** after Prentice-Hall discontinued all newsletters, newly retired Jay Toor bought it and increased its circulation and revenue. The newsletters' features included lists of books for holidays and historical events, tips for managing school libraries, and activities for children of various ages from kindergarten through high school. At its height, the *Workshop* had a circulation in the thousands;

**Whereas** Jay Toor was President of Library Learning Resources, Inc. which published many library professional books and presented the AASL School Librarian's Workshop Scholarship annually to a person planning to become a school library media specialist;

**Whereas** Ruth and Jay Toor supported school libraries and learners with marketed learning activities to parents under the *Workshop* name and professional presentations at countless school library conventions and similar events;

**Whereas** Ruth taught graduate courses as an adjunct at Rutgers and Montclair State Universities, and was the internship adviser for professional development studies at Rutgers' School of Communication and Information;

**Whereas** in 2001, Ruth received a Lifetime Membership Award from the Educational Media Association of New Jersey, now New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL), of which she is a past president;

**Whereas** in 2003, Ruth was inducted into the University of Delaware Alumni Wall of Fame in recognition of her outstanding professional and public service achievements;

**Whereas** Ruth and Jay were long-time members of ALA and AASL and showed their commitment to the future of libraries and the association with their membership in ALA's Legacy Society; and

**Whereas** in 2015, to memorialize Ruth Toor, Jay Toor established the AASL's Ruth Toor Grant for Strong Public School Libraries which provides an annual \$3,000 award funding the creation and implementation of a local public awareness/marketing campaign that promotes and positions the school library as a necessary resource in the community; now, therefore be it

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

1. recognizes Ruth Toor's service to, and influence on, the profession, over the course of her career and mourns her death;
2. recognizes Jay Toor's service to promote school libraries throughout his life and mourns his death; and
3. extends its sincerest condolences to their friends and family, especially their sons Cary and Mark Toor.

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Leslie Preddy, ALA Councilor-at-Large

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