

This memorial resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, January 24, 2017

A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING KAREN AVENICK

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) and the broader library community lost a valued member and leader on December 25, 2016 with the death of Karen Avenick;

Whereas Karen Avenick dedicated 29 years of her professional career to the Camden County (NJ) Library system, initially serving as Head of Reference Services and, for the majority of her tenure there, as the Assistant Library Director; in that role she was an active member of the Library's Management Team:

Whereas during her time as an Assistant Director, Karen Avenick guided the design and building of branch libraries of Bellmawr, South County and Haddon Township and these live on as testimony to her hard work, tenacity, and expertise;

Whereas Karen Avenick was the original and longtime Chair of the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative Advocacy Team and a pillar of the South Jersey library community; in that role, she trained a host of other librarians to become effective advocates for the importance of libraries in their communities;

Whereas, Karen Avenick served on the PALINET Board of Trustees, including terms as President, effectively guiding that Board through a challenging period during a transition in leadership;

Whereas, Karen Avenick extended her service to the library community of New Jersey in her role as the President of the New Jersey Library Association, a position she embraced with enthusiasm, grace and humor, carrying her knowledge of advocacy techniques to a statewide arena;

Whereas, Karen Avenick was recognized by her peers with the title of New Jersey Librarian of the Year, for her achievements on the local, county, regional, statewide and multistate levels;

Whereas, Karen Avenick was widely known for her love of travel, international cooking skills, and flair for entertainment with Ides of March and Election Night parties;

Whereas, Karen Avenick mentored many New Jersey librarians, offering advice, direction, opportunity and unending support to the many library staff she came into contact with over her career; and

Whereas, Karen Avenick was a much loved colleague, friend and inspirational library leader whose impact on those in the New Jersey library community and beyond is profound and everlasting, now, therefore, be it

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

1. honors the memory of Karen Avenick, celebrates her legacy of library service, commitment and advocacy and recognizes her lasting impact on the lives of all he touched; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her family, friends and the NJLA

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 24, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia



Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council