

***This memorial resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on
Tuesday, February 13, 2018***

Memorial Resolution Honoring Mae Benne

Whereas, Mae Benne was a professional leader for all people concerned with children and teens;

Whereas, in 1950 she took a job as a high school librarian in Oberlin, Kansas, finding her calling in libraries when she was unable secure work teaching history;

Whereas, she obtained her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1955;

Whereas, she began her library service to children through rural and urban work at Yakima Valley Regional Library, Southfield Library (Wayne County, MI), and North Central Regional Library (Wenatchee, WA);

Whereas, in 1965 she became the children's specialist at the University of Washington School of Librarianship where she taught until her retirement in 1988;

Whereas, she joined the American Library Association (ALA) early in her career, engaging with the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) as a member of many committees, notably as chair of the 1986 Caldecott Award Selection Committee and the 1980-1982 ALSC Intellectual Freedom Committee;

Whereas, she served on the 1978-79 ALSC Board of Directors during a tumultuous change in leadership;

Whereas, she authored two influential works about children's library service, *The Central Children's Library in Metropolitan Public Libraries* (University of WA, 1977) and *Principles of Children's Services in Public Libraries* (ALA, 1991);

Whereas, she actively encouraged other ALSC members to serve ALA because she believed all library issues affect children;

Whereas, she inspired generations of school and public librarians to carry on her fundamental beliefs in the power of the written word, the right of all children to access information, and young people's freedom to learn;

Whereas, she made time to talk to all members about serving children and teens, bringing a legendary voice to youth issues during Council as a member at large; and

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Whereas, she is remembered for her keen intelligence, sharp wit, and passion for serving youth; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions of Mae Benne throughout her distinguished career; and
2. extends its deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, February 13, 2018, in Denver, Colorado

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary W. Ghikas".

Mary W. Ghikas
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council