

## Dreisbach Award for Exemplary Service to Berks County Libraries

This is the highest honor the System presents. Established in 1996, this award is named for Dr. Dodson E. Dreisbach, founding member of the Friends of Berks County Public Libraries, and first president of the System Advisory Board. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to public library service development.

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### Previous Winners of the Dreisbach Award

1996 Dodson E. Dreisbach \* 1997 Chester E. Hagan \* 1998 Glenn B. Reber \* 2002 Jean Weiser \*  
2003 Sara R. Mack 2004 Pat and Garland Bear \* 2005 Friends of Berks County Public Libraries \*  
2007 Commissioner Judy Schwank \* 2010 Linda Baer \* 2010 Julie Rinehart \* 2011 Joan Cook \*  
2013 Sandra Hanson \* 2014 Liz Eshelman \* 2016 Mary Young \* 2017 Vicki Steinberg and Pam Hilbert \*  
2018 Renéé Dietrich \* 2020/21 Jennifer Smilko

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### The Chet Hagan Memorial Public Relations Award

**How It Began** In 1991, the annual System/District Trustee Workshop program focused on the role of effective public relations in securing adequate funding for libraries. Chet Hagan, as a member of the System Board, was the prime mover in developing and arranging this well-received workshop program. Chet was then the editor of *Bookends*, the excellent publication of the Friends of the Reading-Berks Public Libraries. And so the Public Relations Award began with its first presentation to Chet Hagan on September 14, 1991.

**Why a Hen?** At that 1991 workshop, the following fable was told:

*A goose is probably the most stupid creature that God ever created. When a goose lays an egg, what does she do? Does she flap her wings and lift her voice to the high heavens announcing the fact? No! She waddles off as if she were ashamed of the feat and tells no one.*

*What does the hen do when she lays an egg, which is much smaller than the fine specimen produced by the goose? She announces the fact to all who will hear! She lifts her voice in glee! She is proud of her product and wants the whole world to know about it.*

*What is the end result? There is usually more demand for hen eggs than there is for goose eggs. It pays to advertise. The hen knows this, but the goose doesn't.*

The award made to Chet Hagan in 1991 consisted of a trophy featuring a hen — the **Henny** was born! In 1992, the System Board voted to add a dividend to the award by presenting the winning library with a check for \$250.

**Remembering Chet Hagan** Following Chet's death in 2002, the System Board and the Friends Board wished to honor his memory and his many contributions to library service development in Berks County. The annual PR award was therefore renamed *The Chet Hagan Memorial Public Relations Award*. The Friends added their own annual \$250 prize, bringing the total for the winning library to \$500. Currently, the award is co-sponsored by the County of Berks and Friends of Berks County Public Libraries.



## Awards

# Celebrating Libraries

## Honoring Innovation Leadership and Service



## Twentieth Annual Berks County Public Libraries Awards Program



March 1, 2023  
Berks County Agricultural Center

# CELEBRATING LIBRARIES

## Program of Awards

*Award recipients are selected by the System Advisory Board from among nominations submitted by staff, trustees and Friends of member libraries.*

Welcome and Introductions.....Amy Resh,  
Library System Administrator

Greetings from the District Center .....Becky Wanamaker,  
District Consultant

### Presentation of Awards

**Dreisbach Award For Exemplary Service** — Presented in recognition of an individual or group’s outstanding contributions to public library service development.

*Mike Najarian, Reading Public Library & District Library Center*

**Linda Baer Friend of the Year** — Presented in honor of Linda Baer, past President of the Friends of Berks County Public Libraries and recognizes the significant and substantial commitment of time, energy and creativity of a single member of a local library Friends organization. The award includes a \$100 cash prize sponsored by the Friends of the Berks County Public Libraries.

*Annette Heffelfinger, Kutztown*

**Trustee of the Year** — Presented to a public library trustee (or entire board of trustees) in recognition of outstanding leadership of a System-member library.

*Michel Micozzi, Reading*

*Bernville Community Library Board of Trustees*

**Outstanding Local Business** — Presented to a local business or local office of a regional, state or national corporation in recognition of its support of public library services.

*Redner’s Markets, Hamburg*

*Firefly Bookstore, Kutztown*

*LJ’s Fitness, Womelsdorf*

**Outstanding Library Director** — Presented to a member library director who fosters cooperation and collaboration among member libraries, shares time and talent with other libraries on county-wide initiatives, and has an effective and resourceful impact on the community.

*Debe Donley, Bernville*

**Outstanding Library Staff Member** — Presented to a staff member at a member library who demonstrates exemplary library service and has an effective and resourceful impact on the community.

*Egon Cools, Reading NE*

*Carol Donahue, Village*

*Leah Ruth, Robesonia*

*Barbara Orkis, Bernville*

*Linda Capozello, Reading Main*

**Outstanding Library Volunteer** — This award is presented to a distinguished volunteer who has made noteworthy contributions to the library that is above and beyond what is reasonably expected.

*Betsy Reifsnnyder, Bernville*

*Janet Barr, Hamburg*

*Tyler Jones, Exeter*

*Carolyn Edwards, Womelsdorf*

*Weston Niemczyk, Muhlenberg*

**Outstanding Fundraising Effort** — Presented in recognition of a onetime or ongoing fundraising project that is especially creative or unique. The amount of funds raised is not a factor in determining the recipient of this award.

*The Haunted Library, Bernville*

*Rock the Library, Village*

*Fire and Ice Festival, Womelsdorf*

**Outstanding Program** — Presented in recognition of a member library for the presentation of an adult, young adult, or children’s program of exceptional interest or creativity.

*Food for Thought, Reading Main*

*Manny in the Wild, Village*

*Summer Reading Program, Bernville*

*Spice Club, Hamburg*

*Beyond Kutztown, Kutztown*

*Death Cafe, Exeter*

**Chet Hagan Memorial Public Relations Award** — Presented to a library that demonstrates excellent public relations activities carried out during the year.

*Reading Public Library*