

### *Merit Award for Outstanding Service*

#### **Mary Bucher Ross, Consultant and Trainer**

Mary Ross is a remarkable trainer in both face-to-face and online environments, Mary has taught, mentored, and inspired trainers throughout the Washington library community. As a staff trainer in Washington libraries, training consultant for many library services, online instructional designer, founding member of Washington Library Trainers, and Coordinator of Continuing Education for WLA, Mary has educated us and enabled us to educate others. Through her talent as a teacher and her passion for libraries and learning, she has created a legacy of effective continuing education in Washington libraries.

### *CAYAS Visionary Award*

#### **Shannon Peterson, Youth Services Manager, Kitsap Regional Library**

Shannon was singled out for her amazing dedication and enthusiasm at both a local and national level. Amongst her many creative programs and outreach efforts in her community, Shannon is also the President-elect of YALSA.

#### **2013 WLA Scholarship Recipients**

Richard Council – University of Washington MLIS Program  
Andrea Hermanson – University of Washington MLIS Program

#### **Awards Committee**

Tim Mallory, Committee Chair  
Carolynne Myall  
John Sheller

#### **Scholarship Committee**

Mary Ross, Committee Chair  
Carolynne Myall  
Daria Cal  
Erin Krake  
Jose Garcia  
Nancy Huling  
Valerie McBeth



## *Awards Program*

## *WLA Awards Luncheon*

*Friday, April 26, 2013*

### ***WLFFTA Friend/Foundation Award #2***

#### **Brenda Kochis, President, Friends of the Spokane Public Library**

Brenda has gone beyond traditional Friends of Spokane Public Library activities. She listens to library needs and advocates to her Friends' board in support of those needs. When the library is discussed at a city council meeting, Brenda is there to speak on behalf of the library. When the city council, at short notice, put a levy on the ballot to generate additional revenue for the library, Brenda became the backbone of the phone bank at the Yes for Spokane Libraries campaign. Among the successful book store, generous financial support for library programs and stellar advocacy work, Brenda represents a true and vigorous library champion.

### ***WLA Honorary Lifetime Membership***

#### **Joan Airoidi, Retired, Former Director, Whatcom County Library System**

Joan has made a lasting impact on the libraries in Whatcom County and on the State of Washington. She helped co-write the first Whatcom READS! One Book grant, a program by which all members of the Whatcom Libraries Collaborate, Village Books, and many school districts work together to sponsor and to create a community book club and bring the author to Whatcom County every year. Through her leadership and hard work, Whatcom READS! has become a non-profit corporation. Nationally, Joan Airoidi is recognized as a champion of First Amendment rights. She received the 2005 Pen/Newman's Own Intellectual Freedom Award when she challenged the FBI's effort to search patron records. All of the award money, \$25,000, Joan donated to create the Whatcom County Library Foundation. Joan has had an impact on the Whatcom County Library System and all of the libraries in Whatcom County, on literacy, on lifelong learning, and on intellectual freedom.

### ***WLA Honorary Lifetime Membership***

#### **Pat Partovi, Director, Spokane Public Library**

Pat worked diligently with the Legislative Planning Committee and the public library directors to seek creative solutions to the chronic underfunding experienced by many of our state's municipal libraries. She and a small working group even drafted proposed legislation to give city libraries access to the type of funding certain park districts and fire districts benefit from. While the legislation was never floated, Pat's concepts and language laid the groundwork for future WLA efforts in Olympia.

### ***WALE Outstanding Employee of the Year***

#### **Brian Soneda, Director, Mount Vernon Public Library**

Brian is one of the biggest reasons the WALE Conference still exists. After a few bad years when the conference lost both money and attendees, the WALE board was informed that the WLA board was thinking of doing away with the annual fall WALE Conference. WALE rallied to host a magnificent conference in 2011 at the historic Davenport Hotel in Spokane. Although WALE members managed to pull off a spectacular conference that made a profit in 2011, it was Brian Soneda who recognized the passion of WALE members and told the WLA board that he had made an executive decision and had given his okay to schedule the 2012 conference. Brian has been, and continues to be a proud and passionate supporter of libraries and library employees.

### ***WLFFTA Trustee Award #2***

#### **Jacquelyn DeFazio, Trustee, Sno-Isle Libraries**

Jacquelyn has served on the Sno-Isle Libraries Board of Trustees since 2004. During her tenure, she has been an unswerving supporter of intellectual freedom, services to communities with limited library resources, and avid support of library staff. Due to Ms. DeFazio's foresight, experience, and sound judgment, Sno-Isle Libraries successfully weathered the downturn in the economy – providing compelling documentation to voters for a levy lid lift election in 2009 when many others in the library community felt that a request for a tax increase was politically adverse. This was accomplished with no staff furloughs, library closures or staff layoffs. Following the levy lid increase in 2009, Ms. DeFazio worked with staff to maintain service levels in all of Sno-Isle's libraries, while at the same time enacting cost saving measures to ensure the best use of public funds. She was a strong advocate for establishing a pilot library project on Camano Island, which currently serves over 15,660 individuals who previously needed to drive to another community for library services.