**2017-2018 ALA Memorial #11**

**2018 ALA Annual Conference**

**Memorial Resolution Honoring Bernard A. Margolis**

Whereas, Bernard A. Margolis distinguished himself in his service as the Director/CEO of Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado, President of the Boston Public Library, New York State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries at the New York State Library, New York State Education Department;

Whereas, he was a passionate advocate for multiple type library cooperation as evidenced by his service and advocacy as Director of the Woodlands Library Cooperative and Monroe County Library System in Michigan and the Board of Directors of the Boston Library Consortium;

Whereas, Bernard A. Margolis was a graduate of University of Denver, receiving a Bachelor's degree in political science and a Master's in librarianship;

Whereas, he joined the American Library Association (ALA) early in his career, as a member of Council from 1985-2016, serving as a member and chair of the Resolution Committee, ALA Legislation Committee and an Endowment Trustee;

Whereas**,** he was remembered for debating the issues by being insightful, concise, unabashed and fair in a manner that included humor and heart;  
  
Whereas, he was recognized for his innovation, vision, steady and reliable leadership, and dedication;

Whereas, he was a fierce advocate for public libraries and their mission to provide unfettered access to information to their communities, including expanding access to programs, advocating for the freedom of expression, increased open hours;

Whereas, Bernard A. Margolis advocated for increased support of public libraries, which resulted in state funding for public library construction growing from $14 million to $34 million a year during his tenure in New York and preserving and restoring the historic Central branch in Boston;

Whereas, Bernard A. Margolis championed library services for the youngest residents, hiring a children’s librarian in every Boston Public Library branch, creating a nationally recognized Homework Assistance and online tutoring

**Memorial Resolution Honoring Bernard A. Margolis/2**

program, growing participation in *Summer Reading at New York’s Libraries* to 2.2 million readers in 2017 and establishing *Ready to Read at New York Libraries*, New York’s first statewide early literacy library services program;

Whereas, Bernard A. Margolis helped to found two State Centers for the Book in Colorado and Massachusetts and served on the Advisory Board for a third, the Empire State Center for the Book, linking statewide library outreach programming with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress;

Whereas, Bernard A. Margolis, as the faithful steward of historical significant artifacts and documents oversaw the operations of the library of President John Adams, Shakespeare's first folio, Lincoln’s first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation and Gutenberg's Catholicon among many other unique and rare materials and expanded the New York State Research Library’s treasures by acquiring important new collections such as the Harry Rosenfeld Collection and the Dutch Genealogical Book Collection from the Holland Society of New York; and

Whereas, Bernard A. Margolis has been a trusted colleague, cherished friend and mentor to so many in the library community and beyond who learned their principles and commitment from his example; now, therefore, be it   
  
*Resolved*, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the many important contributions of Bernard Margolis to the library community; and
2. extends its sincere sympathy to the family of Bernard Margolis and expresses the high esteem in which we hold his life and his memory.

Mover: Jennifer Ferriss, New York State Chapter Councilor

Seconders: Lauren Comito, ALA Councilor-At-Large

Additional Seconders: Sara Dallas, ALA Councilor-at-Large; Karen E. Downing. ALA Executive Board Member; and Sarah Kelly Johns, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Endorsements:

New York Library Association

Final Version: 6.18.18 —10:24am