

Memorial Resolution for Ruth and Jay Toor

Whereas the school library community lost two strong advocates with the passing of Ruth Toor on September 7, 2018, and Jay Toor on January 19, 2020;

Whereas Ruth was active in the American Library Association for more than 30 years, serving as President of the American Association of School Librarians in 1992-93. In addition, Ruth consulted and worked actively on many ALA, AASL and ALSC committees including the ALA Committee on Legislation. In 1995, she served on the Caldecott committee;

Whereas Ruth Toor emigrated from Vienna, Austria with her parents to escape the Nazis, skipped at least one grade in school and started college early at the University of Delaware. As a teenager she met the love of her life, Jay Toor, who lived a block away from her family. Told she could not marry until she graduated from college, Ruth doubled down and did so at age 19. They were married soon after and were together for 66 years;

Whereas Ruth completed her master's degree in library sciences at Rutgers University and was hired at Southern Boulevard Elementary School in Chatham Township, NJ. She worked hard presenting the library as a resource to enrich teachers' lessons until she retired after 29 years;

Whereas with school librarian and co-author Hilda Weisburg, Ruth wrote more than a dozen professional books for school librarians, including *New on the Job: A School Librarian's Guide to Success* and *Elementary School Librarian's Almanac: A Complete Media Program for Every Month of the School Year*;

Whereas Ruth and Hilda Weisburg created *School Librarian's Workshop*, a newsletter created for Prentice-Hall as one of more than two dozen newsletters it offered;

Whereas after Prentice-Hall discontinued all newsletters, newly retired Jay Toor bought it and increased its circulation and revenue. The newsletters' features included lists of books for holidays and historical events, tips for managing school libraries, and activities for children of various ages from kindergarten through high school. At its height, the *Workshop* had a circulation in the thousands;

Whereas Jay Toor was President of Library Learning Resources, Inc. which published many library professional books and presented the AASL School Librarian's Workshop Scholarship annually to a person planning to become a school library media specialist;

Whereas Ruth and Jay Toor supported school libraries and learners with marketed learning activities to parents under the *Workshop* name and professional presentations at countless school library conventions and similar events;

Whereas Ruth taught graduate courses as an adjunct at Rutgers and Montclair State Universities, and was the internship adviser for professional development studies at Rutgers' School of Communication and Information;

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Whereas in 2001, Ruth received a Lifetime Membership Award from the Educational Media Association of New Jersey, now New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL), of which she is a past president;

Whereas in 2003, Ruth was inducted into the University of Delaware Alumni Wall of Fame in recognition of her outstanding professional and public service achievements;

Whereas Ruth and Jay were long-time members of ALA and AASL and showed their commitment to the future of libraries and the association with their membership in ALA's Legacy Society; and

Whereas in 2015, to memorialize Ruth Toor, Jay Toor established the AASL's Ruth Toor Grant for Strong Public School Libraries which provides an annual \$3,000 award funding the creation and implementation of a local public awareness/marketing campaign that promotes and positions the school library as a necessary resource in the community; now, therefore be it

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

1. recognizes Ruth Toor's service to, and influence on, the profession, over the course of her career and mourns her death;
2. recognizes Jay Toor's service to promote school libraries throughout his life and mourns his death; and
3. extends its sincerest condolences to their friends and family, especially their sons Cary and Mark Toor.

Mover: Diane R. Chen, AASL Division Councilor, dianerchen@gmail.com

Second: Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Councilor-at-Large, skjohns@gmail.com

Hilda Weisburg, ALA member

Leslie Preddy, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Joyce Kasman Valenza, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Mary Keeling, AASL President and ALA Member

Jill A. Mills, NJASL President and ALA Member

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