

AWARDS LUNCHEON
November 17, 2002
2002 CALTAC Awards

Michael Eng	Trustee, Commissioner, or System Advisory Board Member for Outstanding Service to a Local Library or System
CarolAnn Tassios	Librarian for Outstanding Work with a Board of Trustees or Commission
The Brodart Company	Business, Community Organization, or Individual Making a Significant Financial or In-kind Contribution to a Library or Library Program
Senator Wesley Chesbro	Elected Local, State, or Federal Official from California for Specific Support or Promotion of Legislation to Benefit Libraries and/or Library Services
Marie Heiner	Individual for Outstanding or Volunteer Service to a Library

Trustee, Commissioner, or System Advisory Board Member for Outstanding Service to a Local Library or System

**Michael Eng, Bruggemeyer Memorial Library
Library Board of Trustees**

Michael Eng has been a champion of libraries since 1986, when, as a Board member, he helped to raise funds for the Friends of the Library when their treasury was depleted by writing and co-producing a video called "How to Become a U.S. Citizen". The video was available in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Cantonese as an aid to the city's growing Asian and Latino population, and to assist immigrants in learning sufficient English to pass the difficult naturalization exams. The Friends earned more than \$10,000 for its budget after people purchased several thousand copies of the video. When the city experienced controversy over two simultaneous labor organizing issues, Michael organized a forum on the topic, initiated an essay contest on the role of organized labor, and arranged for an endowment of over \$1,000 to add new books to the library's labor materials collection. Michael feels that one of the main purposes of a library is to allow the free exchange of ideas over a variety of topics including those that, while controversial, might add understanding and perspective. When Michael was reappointed to the Library Board in 2001, the Library Board had already decided to apply for Proposition 14 funds to build, expand and renovate the library. Michael volunteered to head the Fundraising Committee to raise \$250,000 to supplement other local funds as the match for Proposition 14. Many thought this impossible in such a short period of time. The campaign has currently raised \$388,000, and has raised its goal to \$450,000. Without Michael this would not have been possible.

Nominated by Joseph Rubin for the Board of Library Trustees of the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library, Monterey Park

Librarian for Outstanding Work with a Board of Trustees or Commission

**CarolAnn Tassios, Library Director
Yorba Linda Public Library**

As Director of Library Services, CarolAnn has faced many daunting challenges over the years in her quest to make Yorba Linda Public Library one of the finest in the State. However, CarolAnn's greatest contribution does not lie in buildings and

books. She is a tireless champion of the Yorba Linda Public Library and has worked hard to solidify the Library's image in the community. She has carried favor and support from a broad cross-section of the community including the City Council, local school district, The Friends of the Yorba Linda Public Library, her Library Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, merchants' and homeowners' associations, local businesses and non-profit organizations. In addition, keenly aware of the numerous social and technological changes within the library community, she has sought to promote the needs of the City's residents by holding numerous informational meetings with her staff, Library Commissioners, and community members. These future oriented meetings have resulted in innovative and exciting projects designed to meet the growing needs of the community which includes: popular Internet instruction classes, Senior outreach programs, a well-attended Tuesday Night Study Group for high school students. Library Commissioners are kept well aware of all aspects of the library. A series of continuous discussions and informative presentations keep Commissioners aware of all trends including the use of cutting-edge technology in the field of information science. CarolAnn is a credit to both her profession and to the Yorba Linda Public Library.

Nominated by Randie Noell, Yorba Linda Library Commissioner

***Business, Community Organization, or Individual Making
In-kind Contribution to a Library or Library a Significant Financial or Program***

The Brodart Company

Over the last two years, The Brodart Company has not only provided the Rancho Cucamonga Library with excellent customer service on a day to day basis, but has gone the extra mile and supported the library's annual Telethon (a fundraiser that has to date, raised over \$275,000), through the donation of incentive gifts. In addition, Brodart sales representative, Loree Tillman, has volunteered her own time at each Telethon (staffing phone banks and taking monetary pledges), presented Brodart's book donation on air (a major incentive to viewers to call in and pledge), and has even made a personal donation to support the library's cause. Overall, the Brodart Company has proven to staff, library board and city government that their satisfaction and needs are the company's number one priority. Rancho Cucamonga Library, with a book budget of less than \$100,000, is by no means a large source of income for Brodart. Beyond being their book vendor, Brodart has no other ties with the city of Rancho Cucamonga or the community. Despite this, they are still willing to support the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library Telethon each broadcast year—and have since 1996. Working with a company that both understands and believes in libraries is important to staff, and Brodart has demonstrated that they support the ideals of literacy and the importance of outreach into a community.

Nominated by Ravenal Wimberly, Rancho Cucamonga Public Library Board of Trustees

***Elected Local, State, or Federal Official from California for Specific Support or
Promotion of Legislation to Benefit Libraries and/or Library Services***

Senator Wesley Chesbro

On July 1, 2002, NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL from lobbyists Mike and Christina Dillon carried the headline "Senator Chesbro saves Public Library Foundation – funding restored to \$31.5 million. Following a move which zeroed out the fund completely, Budget Conference Committee member Senator Wes Chesbro made an official motion to restore \$31.5 million back to the Public Library Foundation, which would leave the baseline for the program at \$31.5 million. The motion passed, and the funding was subsequently restored to the Budget bill. The Senator has been vigorously responsive in terms of the needs of public and school libraries in the State Legislature. As one of the co-authors of the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction Act of 2000, and with the successful passage of Proposition 14, he was very pleased that the bond provided funds to support the needs of the public library system. The bond currently provides matching grant funds for the acquisition or construction of new facilities or additions to existing public as well as funds to purchase furnishings and equipment for these facilities. In this past legislative session, Senator Chesbro voted for AB1781, supporting the preservation of the California Public School Library Act of 1998 and SCA 10, endorsing a constitutional amendment to change the voter requirement for library bonds. Wes Chesbro's constituents can attest to his deep concern for California's libraries, as well as his fine character and integrity.

Nominated by Diji Christian, Chairperson of the Solano County Library Advisory Council

Individual for Outstanding or Volunteer Service to a Library

Marie Heiner, PlaneTree Health Library

In addition to volunteering at PlaneTree, Marie volunteered on several commissions for the City of Santa Clara. She continues to be a steady, reliable volunteer. For almost 14 years, she has worked at least three hours every Wednesday at this medical library that is free and open to the public. Marie Heiner of Santa Clara hadn't planned to become a volunteer when she first visited PlaneTree. "My son has muscular dystrophy," she explained in an interview with the San Jose Mercury, "and although they say there's no cure, I wanted to learn more about it, about current research. The staff was wonderful. They did a search for me. I was so grateful and asked if they needed any help. That was it." Today Marie's gracious way of assisting all visitors is a role model for staff, interns, and other volunteers. Her bilingual abilities are especially important to Spanish-speaking patrons, and flyers indicate which day to come to receive assistance in that language. Her experience and wisdom in listening to people's needs and responding to them is always a part of the library's volunteer workshops. New volunteers are often paired with Marie for a time so that they can observe both her friendliness and compassion. Marie also works to promote the library's health information services, speaking to groups about PlaneTree. She also talks to fellow passengers on the bus or Outreach service that she takes to come to the library every week – many a driver and fellow passenger has received one of PlaneTree's bookmarks from the stash that Marie keeps handy. That is not all that Marie gives. "Marie's pure optimism and sense of humor are a source of inspiration to us all", says director Candace Ford.

Nominated by Candace Ford, Director, The PlaneTree Health Library