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***LIBRARY JOURNAL* NAMES NANCY PEARL
2011 *LJ* LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR**

New York, New York, January 4, 2011—A passionate advocate for readers and libraries at the national and local level who has encouraged booklovers everywhere with her broadcasts on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*, helped to educate a generation of new librarians at the University of Washington Information School in Washington, redefined "public outreach" for libraries, and just published her latest book, *Book Lust To Go: Recommended Reading for Travelers, Vagabonds, and Dreamers*, Nancy Pearl is *Library Journal's* 2011 Librarian of the Year.

The Librarian of the Year must be nominated by peers and receive broad support from industry leaders. Pearl was nominated by Neal Wyatt, a readers' advisory thought leader and author of *LJ's* Wyatt's World and editor of the Reader's Shelf. Support for the nomination of the person many call "our national librarian." came from a wide range of library leaders in cities throughout the United States.

Pearl's first library job was with the Detroit Public Library. Then she moved west to Tulsa, finally landing in Seattle. As executive director of Seattle Public Library's (SPL) Washington Center for the Book, she began One City, One Book—a program that encouraged everyone in Seattle to read the same book at the same time. It proved so successful that it has been adopted by thousands of libraries all over the country.

Pearl retired from SPL in 2004, but she did not retire from efforts to improve libraries and aid readers. Libraries nationwide have enlisted her talent and experience to help train their staffs, conduct workshops, and initiate new programs.

She coached employees at the King County Library System (KCLS), Issaquah, WA, which circulated 21.3 million items in 2009. She conducted workshops for all 1200 staff members. "From pages to library managers, everyone learned new ways of approaching readers, and they generated scores of new ideas," says KCLS director Bill Ptacek. The library's "Take Time To Read" program, with its simple goal "to make King County a more literate community," grew out of Pearl's workshops.

She had earlier performed a similar task at the respected Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) in the Cleveland suburbs. During her year at CCPL, Pearl led public book discussions and workshops in all branches and helped build a public relations campaign to strengthen CCPL's image as the place for books and reading.

“Pearl’s efforts for decades have centered public libraries and reminded us that books and reading are our brand,” said Sari Feldman, CCPL executive director.

Commenting on being honored for a lifetime of service, Pearl said: "After I retired from the Seattle Public Library, I redoubled my efforts to promote books and reading through my own writing, speaking, and teaching. To win *Library Journal's* Librarian of the Year Award at this point in my career affirms my belief in the centrality of books and reading to the profession that I have loved and honored my whole life,”

LJ's 2011 Librarian of the Year Award will be presented to Pearl at the American Library Association Midwinter meeting later this week in San Diego.

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