

**LIBRARY JOURNAL NAMES GILDA RAMOS
2011 PARALIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR**
Full story online at www.libraryjournal.com/ramos

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York, NY, March 1, 2011—Gilda Ramos, Spanish Speaking Library Assistant at Patchogue-Medford Library in New York has been named *Library Journal's* 2011 Paralibrarian of the Year. The award is sponsored by DEMCO, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin, and recognizes the essential role of paralibrarians in providing excellent library service. Chosen from a national field of library staff, Ramos applies her love of languages and bilingual skills to empower and educate the growing population of Hispanics in Suffolk County. The first person to be hired into this new civil service category, she is a role model with a special gift for listening, teaching, and connecting with people.

Ramos was selected by the editors of *Library Journal* from a competitive group of nominations. A native of Peru, she lived in both Peru and Germany before settling in the United States. Ramos understands the importance of language and education, which is reflected in her work. She holds computer classes at the library in Spanish; teaches English as a second language; offers immigrant counseling; and recently started a program entitled “Madres Latina” for Hispanic mothers looking for help for their families and themselves as they adjust to their new culture.

As reported in *LJ's* feature story and according to her colleagues, “Ramos does things not for personal gain but because she believes libraries must show the way for people of all backgrounds to live and work together, as a first step to a lasting, sustainable community.”

“Gilda Ramos has impact not only on the library users she teaches and mentors, but also in the larger community and the county,” says Francine Fialkoff, *LJ* Editor-in-Chief. “She not only ‘give[s] people a voice,’ as she says, “but she is a powerful voice for positive change.”

This year marks the renaming of this award, now in its eleventh year, from the Paraprofessional of the Year to the Paralibrarian of the Year, in recognition of the inherent professionalism of these talented people. Ramos will be awarded a \$1500 cash prize, underwritten by DEMCO, as well as honored at a special reception during the 2011 American Library Association conference in New Orleans, LA, in June. The award is celebrated in a cover story in the March 1 issue of *LJ* and available at www.libraryjournal.com/ramos.

ABOUT *LIBRARY JOURNAL*

Founded in 1876, *Library Journal* is one of the oldest and most respected publications covering the library field. Over 100,000 library directors, administrators, and staff in public, academic, and special libraries read *LJ*. *Library Journal* reviews over 8,000 books, audiobooks, videos, databases, and Web sites annually, and provides coverage of technology, management, policy, and other professional concerns. For more information, visit www.libraryjournal.com. *Library Journal* is a publication of Media Source Inc., which also owns *School Library Journal*, *The Horn Book Magazine*, and Junior Library Guild.

ABOUT DEMCO, INC.

With a history of serving libraries and librarians for over 100 years, DEMCO is the leader in creating spaces and providing solutions that help librarians better serve their customers.