The American Library Association’s I Love Libraries® Commission, through the I Love My Librarian® Award, has recognized 2008 award winners since 2008. The award is designed to celebrate librarians who are outstanding in their profession. Nominations are accepted through September 30. To learn more about the eligibility criteria and to nominate librarians who have made a significant impact on their community, visit ilovelibraries.org/love-my-librarian.

The Madison Public Library Foundation celebrated 10 years of strategic planning in the fall of 2023. The strategic plan will be shared publicly this winter. Madison Public Library Director Greg Mickells’ tenure, which started in 2009, has significantly impacted the library’s growth and development.

In 2020, the library opened the Meadowridge branch, which serves the west Madison area. The library’s partnership with Dane County Library system has formed a working group to begin the strategic planning process, resulting in a plan for the next three years. The final strategic plan will be shared publicly this winter.

The Madison Public Library Foundation is responsible for hiring new directors and an interim director will be selected to help with the transition. The Library Board is responsible for hiring new directors and an interim director will be selected to help with the transition.
Our intent is to highlight the importance of supporting the library in the community.

**Library Tours Provide Valuable Insights for Foundation**

In the past year, Madison Public Library Foundation staff have dedicated time tochooling about two subjects: the history of the Microscopic World. From Paul de Kruif’s Microbe Men to Andrew Weil’s The Healing Power of Place, these books are a reminder of the power of books to inspire. The library is proud to host the 30th anniversary of the Wisconsin Book Festival, which examined the careers of American bacteriologists, and doctors who discovered microbes and invented vaccines to counter the feeling of being trapped. There are countless stories of how a book can make a great read, and reach out to the library through the front door. “It’s a great way to bring people to the library,” White says. “And this is a great opportunity to encourage people to continue to support the library.”

**Epilogue Circle Gift Celebrates 60s-Era Sequoya Library Assistant**

In 1958, Zenoba White accepted a position in the mid- to late 20s. After the move, she took some typing courses and eventually became a library staff member. She was a great role model for the residents of her community for a long time. At the turn of the 20th century, these books are a reminder of the power of books to inspire. The library is proud to host the 30th anniversary of the Wisconsin Book Festival, which examined the careers of American bacteriologists, and doctors who discovered microbes and invented vaccines to counter the feeling of being trapped. There are countless stories of how a book can make a great read, and reach out to the library through the front door. “It’s a great way to bring people to the library,” White says. “And this is a great opportunity to encourage people to continue to support the library.”

*Join Epilogue Circle* 

Epilogue Circle is a membership program that focuses on staff appreciation and self-care. This all-day event, which takes place each fall, is an opportunity for the library to celebrate every one of its library employees. The event includes workshops and interactive art and creative projects for staff and patrons. For more information and to join Epilogue Circle, visit mplfoundation.org/EpilogueCircle.

*Library Foundation Supports Library Staff for 30th Year*

This summer marked Madison Public Library Foundation’s 30th birthday, and the foundation also funds professional development programs for library staff. These programs help staff to stay current with the latest trends and technologies, and improve their work to support the library. "It’s a great way to bring people to the library,” White says. “And this is a great opportunity to encourage people to continue to support the library.”

*We Read Youth Voices Writing Contest Winners Announced* 

On Friday, October 20, 2023, the Community Foundation announces the three overall winners of the 2023 Youth Voices Writing Project. The project was created to highlight the importance of supporting the library in the community.

The Wisconsin Book Festival is presented by Wisconsin Madison-Madison and is supported by the Wisconsin Arts Board, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Wisconsin Humanities.

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“Mom was tasked with getting them to comply. She loved working there,” White recalls. “She constantly brought literature, books that would intrigue me and make me think, and she’d say, ‘Mom, this would have been great to have when you were growing up.’”

White continues to work at the library through the 1980s. By that point, Sequoya had become a center of the community, a place where people could come after work and socialize. “That was a really important place for me,” White says. “It’s where I met my girlfriend, where I met some of my lifelong friends. It was a really diverse, welcoming space.”

White says she feels a deep sense of gratitude for the Sequoya Library staff and the community it served. “I always felt like I was part of something special,” she says. “It was a place where people could come together and form connections.”

The Sequoya Library was located at the corner of State and Milton streets, near the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. White says she was drawn to the library because of its location and the diverse community it served.

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Nominations Open for Librarian Award

The American Library Association’s Library of the Year Award is now accepting nominations through September 30 to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to library service. Nominated community-oriented leaders can be from anywhere in the United States, its territories, or an overseas American service location serving patrons from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Information from the survey and virtual feedback session will be anonymized and used to develop the Librarian Award Criteria for the next three years. The final strategy will be shared publicly this winter.

Library Seeks Ideas for Strategic Plan

Madison Public Library is seeking community input through September 30 to help shape a strategic plan that will guide library service for the next three years. The final strategic plan will be shared publicly this winter.

Check out the eligibility criteria and complete nomination form at Librarian.org/awards.

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Stock Up on Books and More at Library Friends Sales

Several Madison Public Library Friends will host book sales this fall at various library locations. Check out our list of Friends of Library book sales and the sales dates that fall at Central Library. To purchase donated books, DVDs, CDs, video games, and more, visit madpl.org/friends/libraryfriends.

Library to Host Spanish-Language Book Fair

Madison Public Library will host a Spanish-Language Book Fair at our Plover branch on Saturday, September 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. “The goal of the library’s Hispanic Heritage Month will be to highlight diverse cultures and celebrate the contributions they’ve made,” said Director Mickells.

The fair will be inspired by the fair’s previous events at the Wisconsin Folklife Center, which Madison Public Library will attend to use books for the collection.

Tickets for our annual fall fundraiser, Buy Your Ex Libris: Local Librarians, are on sale now! This event features a range of local books and beverages. Madison Public Library will be on hand to fulfill your book and drink orders. Madison area restaurants, breweries, venues, and sponsors will gather to offer a collection of local literary delights, live music, and a silent auction. In addition to celebrating all local authors, the library will promote local food vendors in our community.

Find the library online and learn more at mplfoundation.org and mplfoundation.org/buyyourexlibris.