

10-1-2021

Georgia Library Association - 2021 GLA Awards

Adrienne Junius

Gainesville library, ajunius@hallcountylibrary.org

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Junius, A. (2021). Georgia Library Association - 2021 GLA Awards. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 58(4). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol58/iss4/9>

This News is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Library Association 2021 GLA Awards

Library Support Services Award

The Library Support Services Award is given each year to recognize someone employed in a library support profession who has furthered



library development or who has made outstanding contributions to Georgia libraries as part of his or her job or business. The award winner could be a vendor employee, an employee of an office or department that supports library

services, or an employee of an individual institution.

This year's winner is Daniel Zeiger, director of Information Technology with Georgia Public Library Service.

Daniel's nomination noted his assistance to the Georgia Library Association (GLA) last year in setting up and administering Google Workspace for the organization, which was invaluable. Daniel saved the organization time and money and delivered a perfect technology platform for GLA's evolving needs.

Before moving to Google Groups for GLA's listserv, Daniel backed-up all of the lists GPLS was hosting for GLA to ensure continuity. He has also volunteered to stay on as a super administrator and consultant to assist GLA in Google Workspace.

Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award

The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award was originally called the Library Advocacy Award. It was renamed in 2003 to honor Charles Beard, Georgia's strongest library advocate. The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award is given each year to recognize someone not employed in or by a library who has made outstanding contributions to libraries.

This year's winner is the late Honorable John Lewis.



Photo Credit: Steve Eberhardt

Rep. John Lewis served the 5th Georgia Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 1987 till his death in 2020. He is also well known for his tireless work in the civil rights movement from helping to organize several marches to Selma, the 1963 March on Washington, and serving as chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and he was one of the first Freedom Riders. Mr. Lewis used his experiences in the civil rights movement to author the *New York Times* Best Selling graphic novel trilogy *March*. The trilogy won several awards including the Georgia Teen Peach Award, the Coretta Scott King Book Award, Printz Award, Sibert Medal, and the National Book Award. He also authored *Run* (2018), *Walking with the*

Wind: A Memoir of the Movement, and *John Lewis: From Freedom Rider to Congressman*. Mr. Lewis was a true advocate for America’s public libraries. He spoke numerous times at American Library Association (ALA) conferences and joined with other librarians in Atlanta to march for social justice and women. He always advocated for the support of libraries in the work he did as a US Congressman. His late wife, Lilian, was a librarian and educator at Atlanta University and Clark Atlanta University. Even after being denied a library card at the age of 16 due to racial segregation of public libraries in the 1950s, he made “good trouble” over his lifetime, persevered, and became a champion for public libraries.

Bob Richardson Memorial Award

The Bob Richardson Memorial Award was established by the GLA Executive Board in 1999 in recognition of Bob Richardson’s dedicated



service to the Georgia Library Association (GLA). It honors those who have given outstanding service to the Georgia Library Association.

This year’s winner is Tamika

Barnes, associate dean at Perimeter Library Services. Tamika has served two terms as GLA’s ALA Council member at large. She has served on ALA’s Executive Board, the Council representative to the Planning and Budget Committee, and numerous ALA organizations and committees. In 2019, she co-founded the Black Caucus Group for the Georgia Library Association. In 2016 and 2017, she served as chair of the Special Library and Information Services Division of

GLA. After moving to Georgia, she served in this role because of her previous experience working in a special library environment and leading North Carolina’s Special Library Association. As the chair, she was responsible for planning and leading meetings at both the midwinter and annual GLA conferences. She also guaranteed there would be at least one program sponsored by the division during the two years that she was chair. She submitted conference proposals and organized field trips to specialized libraries during the conference in Athens (University of Georgia Special Collections) and Augusta (Augusta Museum of History—tour of museum and behind the scenes archive). She also partnered with the Georgia Chapter of Special Libraries and had joint happy hours and networking events at MODA in Atlanta. In this role, Tamika also had a seat on the Georgia Library Association’s Executive Board, which met quarterly to discuss the business of the association. Tamika is known throughout GLA as a role model and mentor to numerous members of the Georgia Library Association.

GLA Team Award

The GLA Team Award was established by the Executive Board in 2012. This award honors a team that has excelled in the past year by offering innovative programming or services, performing or acting on assessment activities,



undertaking a successful outreach or promotion effort, or providing outstanding support of an individual Georgia library or Georgia libraries as a whole.

This year's winners are the staff members on the Cobb County Public Library's Census 2020 Committee. Members include Helen Poyer, library director; Slone T. Williams, communications manager (team lead); Thomas Brooks, communications specialist; Patricia Ball, branch manager; Timothy Steggall, library services supervisor; Raymond Goslow, senior library assistant for periodicals; Katherine Zavala, library assistant; Shannon Tyner, virtual librarian; Mary Wood, community engagement manager; Wanda Dallas, support analyst II; and Dinah Bonesteel, library support assistant.

Cobb County Public Library (CCPL) was asked to join Cobb County's Complete Count Committee, a committee formed to promote the 2020 Decennial Census.

CCPL's main goal for this project was a high overall participation rate for the 2020 Census in Cobb County, with a focus on undercounted areas to help achieve that goal. Geographic Information System (GIS) technology was used to divide the county into service areas, or areas of influence, for each branch as determined by circulation of physical materials and in-library computer usage. Knowing the areas of the county in which each branch served, or had the most influence, combined with historical participation rates, and demographics that are historically undercounted, allowed branch managers, regional managers, and other decision makers to know if an area at risk of being undercounted is within their area of influence.

The county's response rate in March 2020 (following the COVID-19 Pandemic) was 33.8%, and due to the marketing efforts performed by Cobb County Libraries, the Cobb Complete Count Committee, and community partners, on October 15th, Cobb reached 70.4%—which

surpassed the 2010 rate of 66.7%. CCPL met their goal! Successful elements of their plan included utilizing GIS tracking, collaborating with community partners, providing a strong virtual presence throughout their social media platforms, website, and email marketing, and most importantly, purchasing kiosks and laptops that provided access for safe and secure Census submissions. CCPL's target audience never shifted, but the COVID-19 Pandemic was an obstacle for them to overcome. CCPL persevered and continued in developing innovative marketing strategies to attract their target audience in spreading the message: Everyone Counts.

McJenkin-Rheay Award

The McJenkin-Rheay Award was established by an anonymous donor and approved by the Executive Board on July 17, 1981. It is given to recognize a librarian early in his/her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association (GLA), to leadership as exemplified by the careers of Virginia McJenkin (school libraries) and Mary Louise Rheay (public libraries).

This year's winner is John Mack Freeman, head of public services at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mack has been working in Georgia libraries for 10 years. He has been a member of GLA for that entire time, and, since 2016, he has made outstanding contributions to GLA and to the profession. GLA has been able to advocate for significant steps in intellectual



freedom because of Mack's leadership and passion for intellectual freedom and privacy in libraries. In 2016, Mack worked to re-establish the GLA Intellectual Freedom Interest Group (IFIG) that had gone on hiatus and led the group in co-hosting a Carterette webinar ("Censorship: It's Not Just For Books") in August 2017. Mack has served as the chair of the IFIG since 2016. Under his leadership, the IFIG has provided information to GLA Members and Georgia libraries (and presented at several conferences) on topics such as censorship, fake news and information literacy, library services to marginalized groups, and the tough challenges involved in the intersection between library beliefs and emerging concerns. Since 2020, Mack has been a part of the Library Freedom Project, a group devoted to providing libraries with the skills and advocacy to ensure privacy. Most recently, he worked with the Advocacy Committee to create a GLA resolution affirming broadband as a human right. He led the GLA Scholarship Committee to moving applications online and offering auctions and donations by credit card. He has developed the GLA Mid-Career Award and the GLA Presidential Commendation Award. He is also a founding member of Black Caucus of GLA and the Gender and Sexuality Diversities Interest Group. His professional recognitions and professional work include a list of notable awards and positions, including American Library Association Emerging Leader, Georgia PINNACLE graduate, and he has served as a member of the GLA Executive Board since 2016.

GLA Mid-Career Award

The GLA Mid-Career Award was established by the GLA Executive Board in 2018 to honor significant and ongoing contributions to the library profession, Georgia's libraries, and the Georgia Library Association by individuals who are in the middle of their library careers. This award honors the accomplishments of recipients while also denoting GLA's belief in the ongoing potential of the recipients.

This year's winner is Teneka Jones Williams, former outreach librarian with Georgia Public Library Service and owner of Royal Petals ATL.



Teneka is a 2009 American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Scholar and

has always been passionate about libraries and her communities. Her work revolved around diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. She was recognized by GLA's Library Services for Persons with Disabilities Interest Group in their 2021 "Spotlight on Accessibility Services." She has helped facilitate diversity training at GPLS's staff development day. She also co-planned the Elements of Empowerment Conference in March 2021, which addressed cyberbullying. She has published several articles in *American Libraries* and *Library Trends*. She was also a member of the 2015–2016 PINNACLE Class. Teneka was instrumental in having LeRoy Childs, Georgia's first black library director, honored at the Georgia Capitol building as part of a March 2019 celebration of the state's librarians. She understands the value of our untold library stories, particularly those about people of color, and she knows that we all benefit from learning about our diverse professional history.

Nix-Jones Award

The Nix-Jones Award is given to a practicing librarian for distinguished service to Georgia librarianship. It recognizes substantial contributions to the library profession, such as stimulation of library development, leadership in library programs, unusual and imaginative

services, and outstanding support of Georgia's libraries.

This year's winner is Wendy Cornelisen, assistant state librarian for library innovation and collaboration with Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS).

Since joining GPLS in 2014, Wendy has made a profound impact on libraries in Georgia with her numerous projects, work with other public libraries in Georgia, and professional development to librarians in the state of Georgia and nationwide. She was integral in the development and execution of the PINNACLE Leadership program. Furthermore, she currently serves as president of the Georgia Library Association. Working with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Wendy was instrumental in bringing e-book access to millions of Georgians through the eRead Kids e-book service and SimpleE free e-reader app. Wendy was the 2020 Association of Specialized Government and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) Leadership & Professional Development Award winner for her consistent work on behalf of libraries and for building a

statewide e-book service for Georgia's youngest readers. Additionally, she received the Alumni

Innovator Award from the University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences. In 2017, she was named by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal to the board of the Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy at

Georgia College and State University. She is also a current member of the Georgia Department of Education Connectivity and Devices Working Group. In 2018, she served as the chair of the Georgia Library Association Advocacy Committee. Wendy is most known for her incisive intellect and warm spirit when working with other Georgia library workers and advocates.

