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New Jersey Library Champion Award 2012 Acceptance Speech

Thank you, Norma.
Thank you for the pleasure it has
been working with you on behalf
of our NJ Libraries. We wish you
a wonderful retirement as you go
off to see the world!

Especially, thank you all for the
many paths we have walked
together...
For the friendships I have made
along the way...
For the camaraderie...
The passion of purpose...
The successes we have enjoyed!

Thank you to my wonderful family – Dr. Steve, Annie, Eliana, Jordan and Jacob –
for sharing this day with me...

For my husband Harry for always being by my side...



L to R: Marianne Gaunt, Dorothy Pearson, Dagmar Finkle,
Renee Swartz, Gus Friedrich, Betty Turock, Jackie Spritzer

This recognition – in a larger sense, underscores the heralding of new initiatives in Library development...

In harnessing the power of the volunteer capacity...
In building new constituencies...
In reaching out to new partners...
To define a vision for the 21st century Library.

Indeed, there is a Library champion in each of us...
As we write our own stories...
Touching our worlds in our own special ways...
Dreaming large dreams to grow into.

My passion has been to redefine the Library as a great community and cultural center...

The heartbeat...
The soul...
The cornerstone for the mind of the public domain it serves.
The Library with access for all...

Its doors open wide to afford each of us the opportunity to reach
“The American Dream.”

Online information sources, electronic books, and yet unimagined and exciting new ways that will be devised to access both print and non-print media present an extraordinary challenge and an unparalleled opportunity for the Library of the Future.

I will continue to devote my time enthusiastically to the creation of tomorrow's Libraries and to the life-altering experiment in information delivery that our institutions and the people of New Jersey will experience together in the years to come.

Thank you.

Renee Becker Swartz