

Humboldt Library Foundation

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PRESS RELEASE

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Susan O'Connor Honored with the 2020 Helen Everett Award Humboldt Library Foundation Presents Annual Award



The Humboldt Library Foundation (HLF) presented Susan O'Connor with the 2020 Helen Everett Award. Established in 1999 by HLF in honor of local library advocate Helen Everett, the award recognizes an individual or organization for extraordinary contributions that benefit the public library.

Ms. O'Connor has been on the board of HLF since 1997, where she serves as Board Treasurer and until recently chaired the Planned Giving Committee. A retired Certified Financial Planner, she opened the doors on her own business in Humboldt County in early 1987, and retired twenty-eight years later. A highly

respected member of the business community, Susan's thorough, thoughtful and trustworthy qualities helped to establish and grow a very successful business.

"The library has always been an important part of my life, a direct link to how I measure the quality of life," said Susan. "You can walk into the library and look at a display of books on important topics of the day or fiction books organized by theme. The displays are eclectic and prompt your interest. The Humboldt Library Foundation has been the perfect cause for me -- I believe in the mission and don't mind asking others to help bring the wonders of the library into the arms of young children, families and individuals who want to access its wonders," she added.

In her retirement, Susan has also started volunteering at the Serendipity Bookshop operated by the Friends of the Redwood Libraries at the Main Branch Library in Eureka. (The bookshop is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

HLF Board President, Elizabeth Murguia said, "It is with genuine admiration and affection that the board of the Humboldt Library Foundation bestows the 2020 Helen Everett Award to Susan O'Connor. She's given countless hours of time and dedication to HLF and to the library directly. She is a true champion for the cause of the public library."

The Humboldt Library Foundation (HLF) was formed in 1996 to build financial support for the Humboldt County Library system, which includes the Main Library in Eureka, ten branches and a bookmobile that serves fourteen rural communities. HLF raises funds in the community and makes direct annual grants to the library to help purchase new materials add programming and provide technology upgrades. Since its inception, HLF has provided over \$1.4 million in grants to the library.

Donations of any size are welcome. If you wish to create a donor advised fund or want more information on the Humboldt Library Foundation and how you can give, visit our website www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org, 'like' us on Facebook, or call the HLF office at (707) 269-1991.

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