

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

At the beginning of every year, I have the task of gathering statistics and reviewing the expenditures for the previous year in preparation for my Annual Report to the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. I am always quite amazed at how much we have accomplished through the efforts of many volunteers and a dedicated staff. The community served by HPL can be extremely grateful for their hard work.

Coming up on April 15, during National Library Week and National Volunteer Appreciation Week, we will hold our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. This event is a time for the library staff and board to recognize our many volunteers, who put in close to 5000 hours of work in any one year. In the past 2 months, I know that the average number of volunteers and their working hours have risen due to our need for help to convert to a Radio Frequency Identification System.

As is our tradition, we invite the many people who make our library such a wonderful place in which to visit and work. Between 100 and 120 volunteers, who attend, visit with one another, enjoy a delightful meal, and get very excited about the gift items that have been donated by local businesses. This day is probably my favorite work day of the entire year. I get to give away many gifts and thank all of those who are able to attend for their hard work.

In addition, April 12, during National Library Week is designated as National Library Workers' Day recognizing the efforts and achievements that library staff have made to give the community access to information via books, computers and other media. Beginning on March 29, this year, a "STAR Award" form will be available in the library and on our website, which you may use to compliment a group or individual staff member who have helped make your library experience a great one. You may drop it off anonymously, or send it through our library email address, which I will receive to distribute to the intended person.

Yes, April 10 through 16 is a "feel good" week celebrating National Library Week and National Volunteer Appreciation week. At the Hershey Public Library, our mission is to serve the public, satisfying your needs all year long. Thank you to all who help us succeed.

With gratitude,

Barbara S. Ellis

Director of Library Services