

Memorial Resolution Honoring Sara Fine

Whereas the officers and members of the American Library Association have recently learned of the untimely death of our esteemed colleague and friend Dr. Sara Fine;

Whereas Dr. Sara Fine was an accomplished psychologist, author and a university professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh for 23 years;

Whereas she began her teaching career as a 4th grade teacher, and subsequently earned her Master's and Doctorate degrees in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh;

Whereas Dr. Sara Fine fostered significant change in librarianship both in the United States and abroad with her groundbreaking studies, institutes, speeches, and training sessions on human factors and technological change, communication skills, and interpersonal and organizational behavior;

Whereas she inspired countless librarians and prepared them to become effective leaders through her experiential workshops on attentive listening and group dynamics;

Whereas Dr. Sara Fine changed the way we think about and practice reference services through her emphasis on behavioral issues and listening skills in her research, teaching, and continuing education efforts;

Whereas she taught at Hebrew University as a Visiting Professor and then as a Fulbright scholar, as a Visiting Professor at City Polytechnic of Hong Kong and Texas Woman's University, and was a consultant to universities in Hungary;

Whereas following her retirement from the University of Pittsburgh, she was a Professor Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv where she taught Master students and chaired numerous doctoral dissertations;

Whereas Dr. Sara Fine was a loved and respected member of the faculty wherever she taught, and especially with her Doctoral students at the University of Pittsburgh and Bar-Ilan University. As Chair of the Doctoral Studies Committee at the University of Pittsburgh she inspired students from around the world who sought her help with their research;

Whereas the importance of her research and expertise was recognized by the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh who added her course on organizational behavior to the required core;

Whereas Dr. Sara Fine not only taught research, but was a researcher and author of numerous books and papers studying how humans interact with technology; how technology affects individuals, organizations, and societies; and how human behavior affects the need for information;

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Whereas her groundbreaking focus on uniting the behavioral sciences with the information sciences was honored by the establishment and endowment of the Sara Fine Institute for Interpersonal Behavior and Technology at the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Information Science;

Whereas Dr. Sara Fine was an active member of the American Library Association, including the ALA Special Presidential Committee "Your Right to Know: Librarians Make it Happen" where she led students in a project to collect stories about how libraries changed people's lives;

Whereas she was a lifelong student, studying Hebrew after she retired and emigrated to Israel and learning to play chess with veteran Russian players at the Chess Club;

Whereas she had an insatiable appetite for adventure and exploration--including trips to exotic places (Antarctica, East Greenland, Faroe Islands), bird watching in Negev, and travel to Machu Picchu;

Whereas Sara Fine was a steadfast friend who could help organize, analyze, and strategize how to handle difficult and complex situations and who never judged, only helped solve dilemmas; and

Whereas Sara Fine was much loved and respected by her family, her friends, co-workers, and her many students, both in the United States and around the world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA):

1. recognizes the legacy of understanding and knowledge about human behavior as it effects our profession and our users left to us by Dr. Sara Fine;
2. honors Dr. Sara Fine for her lifetime of work in the library and information science profession and her significant work as a library educator; and
3. extends its deepest sympathy to her husband Paul Glasser; her children Carolyn Fine Friedman, Sibyl Fine King, and David Fine and her nine grandchildren, Rose, Nina, Sophie, Daniel, Ryan, Alice, Ari, Ben, and Adam, her niece Carol Gleiser and her nephews Barry and Sandy Riemer and Mark Fogel for their profound loss.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council
Tuesday, June 26, 2012
In Anaheim, California