

**Marion Satterthwaite Award 2008
Presented to Mary Ann Chasen
By CML President Bill Wilson
MLA Luncheon, May 16, 2008
Ocean City, MD**

Citizens for Maryland Libraries established the Marion Satterthwaite Award to recognize outstanding advocacy efforts to improve library service in Maryland. It is my great honor to present this award to Mary Ann Chasen who embodies the qualities for which this award was established.

Mary Ann has been a very active advocate for libraries for more than 20 years. She was a member of the St. Mary's County Library Board from 1987 to 2002. During that time, she was instrumental in the creation of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, Inc. (SMRLA) and in helping St. Mary's County develop its own independent board.

Mary Ann was a leader in the advocacy efforts that led to the building of the \$7 million Lexington Park Library which opened in 2002.

She was also a staunch defender of the principle of intellectual freedom for library customers during an intense Internet filtering challenge. In fact, she had to undergo a series of personal attacks for defending intellectual freedom (and received information and support from Steve LaBash, then the MLA Intellectual Freedom Officer).

Mary Ann served on the SMRLA board from 1991 through 1995, a time when SMRLA became a pilot site for Sailor and achieved a number of other technology milestones.

Mary Ann is a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries, and currently serves on the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Planning Committee.

Mary Ann's work in the community extends well beyond the library. She is the executive director of Christmas in April and has been with the organization for 18 years, starting as a volunteer. On Saturday, April 26 of this year, Mary Ann and an army of volunteers renovated 23 homes in the community. A local chapter of Rebuilding Together, this volunteer organization rehabilitates the homes of low income homeowners,

particularly those of the elderly and disabled, so that they may live independently in a safe and comfortable environment. In the past 18 years, Christmas in April has repaired 540 homes and 13 community non-profit facilities.

Mary Ann has always been a whiz with technology. In fact, she got started with Christmas in April when she was asked to volunteer to create a database for volunteers.

She grew up in Montgomery County and attended Albert Einstein High School, which 32 years ago did a trial with computer based learning. Mary Ann was fortunate to be among those that learned geometry via computer. Her interest in technology grew from there.

She worked for the National Cancer Institute and University Hospital until she moved to St. Mary's County, where she worked for Bendix (now Honeywell) until she quit to raise a family.

Wanting to keep her hand in technology, she started a home based business, Accurate Typing Service. This grew tremendously over the years as she got more and more work from government contractors and the military. In fact, she became an expert in completing bid forms and preparing detailed paperwork for test pilots, coming to the Patuxent Naval Base. Soon she was getting requests from around the world as pilots spread the word. Then she began to get inquiries about starting a home business and was featured in an article in *Good Housekeeping*. Finally, after many, many requests, she self-published a booklet on starting and managing a home based business.

Mary Ann and her husband Steve met in college. He recently retired after 31 years of service as a school media specialist with St. Mary's County Public Schools. They have two grown children, a daughter Mary and husband in Evanston, Ill and Paul, a librarian with the Baltimore County Public Library.

So Mary Ann, it is our great pleasure to thank you for all your hard work on behalf of Maryland libraries. We hope that we and the rest of the community will continue to be the beneficiaries of your energy and skills.