



DarienLibrary

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022



FRIENDS FINANCIAL RESULTS

Friends revenues are combined with the results of the Annual Fund and events, transfers from the Capital Fund, the results of Library Operations such as overdue fines, interest, copying, room rentals, and State Aid.

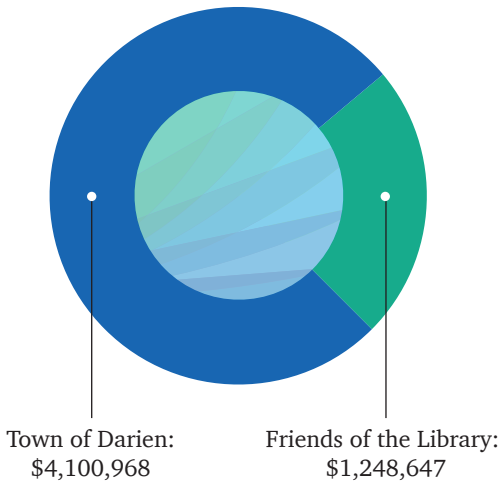
Friends expenditures are for materials, whether print, audiobooks, or electronic (such as downloadable audio or e-Books), magazines, both published and electronic, videos, programs, technology services, technology projects, staff development, fundraising expenditures, and Library operations related to the activity of the Friends, such as printing, postage, and allocated expenditures.

OUR MISSION: To provide education, entertainment, enrichment, and community building through compassionate service to all.

UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022

REVENUES		
Annual Fund	\$729,567	
Transfer from Capital Fund	\$430,000	
Total Friends Funding		\$1,159,567
Library Operations	\$26,758	
State Aid	\$53,146	
Total Friends Revenues		\$1,239,471

EXPENDITURES		
Books in All Forms	\$331,664	
Magazines and Newspapers	\$31,314	
DVDs	\$17,892	
Other Collection Items	\$2,254	
Bloomberg Terminal	\$27,985	
Databases	\$65,441	
Programs for Adults, Teens, and Children	\$134,925	
Technology Services	\$135,257	
Capital Projects	\$143,000	
Staff Development and Professional Dues	\$94,997	
Fundraising	\$54,773	
Library Operations	\$288,480	
Total Library Friends Expenditures		\$1,327,982



Darien Library’s audited results will generally be available four to six months after the end of the fiscal year.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Over the past year, Darienites have found new ways to come together, share interests, and build community during challenging times. We are proud that so many of you have been able to do this right here at the Library. Whether in person or online, you’ve explored what you’re passionate about at our author events, hands-on workshops, lectures, field trips, storytimes, family film nights, and music programs. You’ve met your neighbors, made new friends, discovered great reads, and found common ground to strengthen a community that is resilient and compassionate. Recently, a visitor shared with me that Darien Library is her “happy place.”

In the following pages, we highlight just some of the many ways that Darien Library continues to evolve with you, including one-on-one technology training, comfortable work and meeting spaces, a new and vastly improved website and online catalog, and an engaging Storywalk® at the Darien Nature Center for our littlest readers.

This past year, over 23,000 of you attended one of our over 1,000 free events. Nearly 123,000 of you logged onto our computers or made use of the free high-speed WiFi. Over 97,000 of your research questions were asked and answered by our librarians. And you checked out over 500,000 books and materials. It is no surprise, then, that Darien Library remains one of the most well-used public libraries in the state and nation, consistently ranked as a Star Library.

All of this is made possible by you. Donations to our annual campaign and special fundraising events enable the purchase of all of the books, digital materials and resources, technology, and all of the events, classes, workshops, and special programs we host for children, teens, and adults of all ages. Our longstanding public-private partnership with the Town of Darien, in turn, funds our award-winning staff and the annual maintenance of the Library building and grounds.

Whether you’re new to town or a longtime resident, we want you to know that Darien Library is YOUR library. Stop in, visit us online, and discover your own “happy place” at Darien Library.

With Hope and Gratitude,

K. Parrott
Kiera Parrott, Director

KIERA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF 2022



NEW OFFERINGS

MUSEUM PASSES



NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

A living museum and educational institution, the New York Botanical Garden was established in 1891 at Bronx Park in New York City.



AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

One of the world’s preeminent scientific and cultural institutions, it is renowned for its exhibitions and scientific collections that cover the planet and world cultures.

EXPANDED TECH PROGRAMMING

BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

Individual tech help appointments that last an hour.

TECH HELP TUESDAYS

A weekly drop-in program on the Second Floor from 2 to 3 p.m.

TECH HELP THURSDAYS FOR SENIORS

Monthly registered tech help sessions at the Mather Center.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

LIBBY EXTRAS

Discover these new OverDrive collections by downloading the Libby app.

Classica: classical music concerts

Craftsy: craft video tutorials

Great Courses: academic lectures

IndieFlix: independent films

Qello Concerts: concert recordings

LINKEDIN LEARNING

Learn new business, technology, and creative skills through hundreds of free video courses (formerly Lynda.com).

NEW YORK TIMES HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

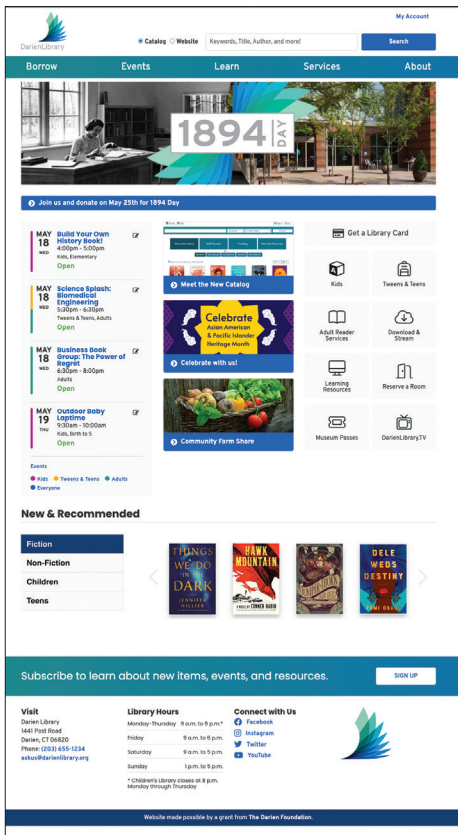
Searchable full-text and images from *The New York Times* archive.

"Darien Library is highly regarded as a tech-savvy organization."

TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

WEBSITE & CATALOG

In May, the Library launched a new website and catalog via a generous grant from The Darien Foundation.



BUILDING SPACES

REFRESHED CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

In the spring, the Children’s Library was closed for two weeks while the carpet was replaced. The new vibrant blue carpet has transformed the room!



COLLABORATIVE WORKSPACE

The Reading Room on the Second Floor has been converted into a collaborative workspace for students and those working remotely. The movable whiteboards provide privacy to patrons who are working alone and offer a large surface for collaborative study groups.

“Wow—such an incredible, superlative-inspiring experience! Great work making excellent even better.”

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM

The Small Conference Room provides groups of 12 or fewer with the space they need to have focused, in-depth discussions.

2,846
STUDY ROOM BOOKINGS

WHAT'S NEXT

EXPANDED TWEEN & TEEN SERVICES

The Library is enhancing services to tweens and teens with a new dedicated department. These talented and engaged staff will expand our services for this age group. Stop by the Teen Lounge on the Lower Level to meet them!

REFRESHED BOOK MATCHMAKER

Readers' Advisory Services' popular Book Matchmaker service will return with a refreshed format and new special features. The philosophy remains the same—to create a premium book service that connects with our adult readers in a way that is fun, highly personalized, and easy.

IMPROVED DISCOVERABILITY OF COLLECTIONS

Over the past year, the Library participated in a diversity audit of the collection. The outcome of this project was to make books more discoverable and increase their circulation within the community.



ENHANCED DIGITAL RESOURCES
The Knowledge & Learning Services department is launching four new digital resources: Birds of the World, Heritage Hub, Social Justice Suite, and *New York Times* Games.

INCREASED BUSINESS SERVICES
A double-sided scanner will soon be available on the Second Floor at the Technology Help Desk.

“Darien Library is hands-down one of the very best libraries in the country. And I travel a lot and visit many wonderful libraries. Our town is so lucky to have such a beautiful library and resource.”

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AARP
Abilis
At Home in Darien
Barrett Bookstore
Board of Education - Facilities
Boy Scout Pack 55-56
Community Fund of Darien
Community Mindfulness Project
Council of Darien School Parents
Culture Care
Cytogel Pharma
Darien Advocates for Education of the Gifted
Darien Arts Center
Darien Community Association
Darien Depot
Darien Elementary Schools
Darien Farmer's Market
The Darien Foundation
Darien Girl Scout Leaders
Darien Girl Scouts
Darien High School
Darien High School Class of 1961 Reunion Committee
Darien Human Services Planning Council
Darien Land Trust
Darien Nature Center
Darien Parks and Recreation
Darien Pollinator Pathways
Darien Senior Programs
Darien SEPAC
Darien Youth Lacrosse (Men's)
Darien Youth Lacrosse (Women's)
Delafield Island Tax District
Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Essex Library

Fairfield County Writer's Group (FCWG)
Ferguson Library
First Congregational Church Nursery School
The Gardener's Center
HAVYN
Holmes School PTO
Hotchkiss Library
Ichimura Music School
Junior League of Stamford/Norwalk
Lauren Faulkner Piano Studio
League of Women Voters of Darien
Mark Twain Library
Mather Homestead
Merritt Parkway Conservancy
Middlesex Genealogical Society
Mirador, LLC
Museum of Darien
New Canaan Library
Nielsen's
Norwalk Public Library
Open Doors
Palmer's Market
Pear Tree Point Working Group
Post 53
Residence at Selleck's Woods
Saint Luke's Parish School
Sipster's
Stamford Hospital
Stoneledge Farm
Tokeneke PTO
Town of Darien
Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County
Westport Library
YWCA Darien/Norwalk

POPULAR ADULT FICTION



POPULAR TEEN TITLES



POPULAR KID TITLES



The Café at Darien Library officially opened on February 9, 2022. It is a partnership between Darien Library and Abilis made possible by a generous grant from The Darien Foundation, which purchased all the equipment.

BUILD IT TOGETHER

COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS

NEW CAFÉ

The Café at Darien Library officially opened on February 9, 2022. It is a partnership between Darien Library and Abilis, a local nonprofit dedicated to providing inclusive, competitive employment opportunities for adults with disabilities. The Café was made possible by a generous capital grant from The Darien Foundation, which was used to fund all the equipment, accessible appliances, and point-of-sale technology. All of the fresh food and pastries are provided by local, Fairfield County businesses such as Michael Joseph’s, Palmer’s, and Upper Crust Bakery.

It’s been a win-win for all—delicious food, friendly service, and meaningful employment opportunities for adults in our community. We are looking forward to expanded café hours this fall.

SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTER

Tropical Storm Ida received a Federal Disaster Declaration on October 30, 2021. In its aftermath, the Library hosted a Small Business Recovery Center from November

2021 through January 2022. The Center was managed by the U.S. Small Business Bureau.

TEEN WELLNESS

The Library partnered with the Darien Depot for two programs to discuss teen mental health. "Getting Real about the Depression and Anxiety Epidemic" featured a panel of experts who opened a dialogue on how to support teens. TEDx speaker Emily Torchiana returned to share her experiences as a suicide attempt survivor.

The Thriving Youth Task Force presented the results of their Asset Survey at the Library. The biennial anonymous survey asks 7th to 12th grade students about their mental health and substance use patterns.

MIDDLESEX MIDDLE SCHOOL READING AMBASSADORS

The popular booktalking collaboration between Middlesex Middle School and the Library returned for a fifth year. The 6th and 7th grade Reading Ambassadors read a book, wrote their own script, and filmed a video discussing the title. The project brings tween readers into the Library over the summer to check out this year's featured books.



DARIEN'S PRIDE CELEBRATION

In June, the Library joined the community at the Town's first major large-scale Pride celebration. Library staff offered buttons, stickers, books, and reading recommendations to the over 600 attendees. The Library has been attending Pride events since 2016.

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

Over the last year, the Library conducted a survey with community partners to find out about the technology needs of Darien. The responses will help inform decisions about technology training and resource allotment. Initial findings show that the community is concerned about the rapid change of technology, online safety, and online privacy.

The survey partners were At Home in Darien, The Darien Foundation, Darien Senior Programs at the Mather Center, First Congregational Church Nursery School, HAVYN, League of Women Voters, Saint Luke’s Parish School, Tokeneke PTO, and YWCA Darien/Norwalk.

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

People come to the Library to follow their interests as they attend field trips, storytimes, author events, hands-on workshops, lectures, and music programs. They journey here to be together in person.

Visits to the Library increased by 74.1% over the past fiscal year. Circulation increased by 14.7%. Darien Library is the heart of the community and we are proud to welcome them home.



FROM AFAR TO TOGETHER

Throughout the year, a group of au pairs meets at the Library to laugh, connect, and share their experiences as young professionals living abroad. They answer questions about their home countries as well as discuss their lives in America.

The 17 attendees at the April event represented 10 countries.



Children made flower crowns at the Summer Solstice Party.

RAISING THE NEXT GENERATION

The Library hosted many outdoor events to allow families, especially those with young children, to connect with each other for possibly the first time since the start of COVID. These opportunities gave folks a way to meet others who are also raising the next generation.

The Storywalk along Hecker Aveue, outside of the Children's Library, featured displays that enclosed two pages of a book at a time. Families walked from display to display to read the story together.

The courtyard was home to storytimes, concerts, and movies for children. Library-hosted events at local parks, beaches, and the Darien Nature Center helped families explore their community.

BUSINESS BOOK GROUP

Since 2014, the Library has hosted a networking book group for business professionals. Attendees share their real world experiences around the ideas discussed in each book.



BUSINESS BOOK GROUP TITLES FOR 2021-2022



“Fantastic discussion last night. Thanks for facilitating! I have a friend who would like to join the book group.”



Exploring Together

This year, we found joy embodied within the earth beneath our feet, the green things that grow, and we shared it through tours of beautiful gardens in our Library programs.

We also looked ahead to see what was next, how we got here, and where the journey will take us in the years to come.

Check darienlibrary.tv for recordings of some of these events.

FINDING HOME

Transformation

- Monarch-friendly Gardens and Raising Monarchs with Alice Ely
- Hand-tied Bouquet Demo with Floral Designer Jamie
- Pollinator Pathway: Preparing Your Garden for Winter
- The Magic of the Winter Garden with Jana Milbocker
- *Unearthing the Secret Garden* with Marta McDowell
- Festive Holiday Arrangement with Floral Designer Jaime
- Propagating Houseplants with Joy
- Planning the Perfect Vegetable Garden
- Compost: How to Make Black Gold for Your Garden
- Author Frédérique Lavoipierre: *Garden Allies*
- Celebrating Arbor Day with Native Trees of Connecticut
- *Epic Tomatoes From Your Garden* with Craig LeHoullier
- Build a Beautiful Butterfly Garden with Michele Sorensen
- Weeding in the Garden of Good and Evil: A Look at Invasives
- What We Grew Then, and What We Grow Now: A Look at the History of Gardening
- *A Therapist's Garden: Using Plants to Revitalize Your Spirit* with Erik Keller

Discovery

- New York National Historic Sites and the History They Tell
 - Seven Wonders to National Parks
 - Federal Hall
 - African Burial Ground
 - Hamilton Grange
 - Castle Clinton & Forts
 - Ellis Island and Immigration
 - Statue of Liberty
 - Grant's Tomb
- Author Greg Peters: *Our National Forests*
- Historic Bridges of the Merritt Parkway
- Reclaiming Black Spaces
- Private Tour of the Bush-Holley House
- Author Dennis Drabelle, *The Power of Scenery: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Origin of National Parks*
- Central Park: Before and After Frederick Law Olmsted
- Mather Homestead: Tour and Tea
- Florida Keys' Century Old Bridge Gets a Makeover
- Famous Memorials & Monuments Throughout the United States
- Untermyer Gardens with Stephen F. Byrns
- Explore Lyndhurst Mansion with Howard Zar
- Exploring Frederic Church and His Masterwork, Olana
- Private Walking Tour of Untermyer Park and Gardens
- The Mount: A Great American House (Edith Wharton's estate)
- The Garden Tourist's Florida with Jana Milbocker
- Garden Walk Buffalo: America's Largest Garden Tour
- Henry Francis du Pont's Winterthur
- Jacqueline Kennedy and Henry Francis du Pont: From Winterthur to the White House
- Designer John Brookes' Denmans Garden: A Room Outside

Inspiration

NEAR AND FAR

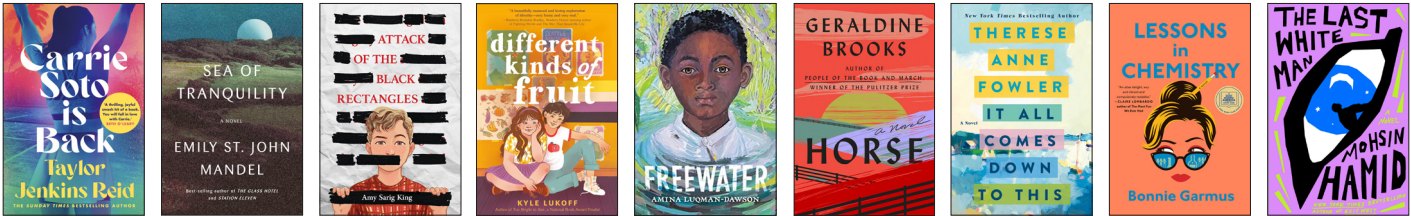


The Continuing Story

- Book Group: *Under a White Sky*
- Author Elizabeth Kolbert *Under a White Sky*
- Author Kale Williams, *The Loneliest Polar Bear*
- Author Heather Hansman, *Powder Days*
- Author Eric Fisher, *Mighty Storms of New England*
- Film Screening: "My Octopus Teacher"

1,592 ADULT SUMMER READING PATRON RECOMMENDATIONS

BOOKS WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO READING



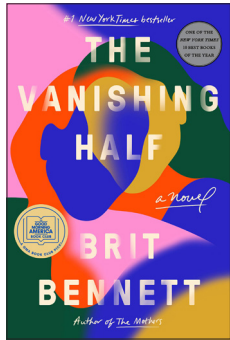
85 ROOM RENTALS WHICH SERVED 2,179 ATTENDEES

"The Library is beyond the best. You keep us informed, the staff is terrific, the offerings of programming are excellent, and the availability of titles is phenomenal. One of the greatest resources the town of Darien has to offer."

FUNDRAISING

THE NOVEL TEA

Wednesday, October 27, 2021



The 6th Annual Novel Tea fundraiser was held at the Wee Burn Country Club and featured Brit Bennett, bestselling author of *The Vanishing Half*. We welcomed 237 guests. Thanks to our sponsors and attendees.

2021 SPONSORS



14,984

NEW ITEMS PURCHASED

THE WYPER FAMILY AUTHOR FUND



George and Susan Wyper and their family have endowed The Wyper Family Author Fund to provide resources to assist in bringing prominent speakers to Darien Library.

This year the Fund sponsored the appearance of Brit Bennett, author of *The Vanishing Half*, one of the year’s most successful novels, at the Novel Tea.

“My family and I have been to so many great speaker events at the Library over the years, and learned so much, that I could not begin to count them. We know that many in Darien share our experiences. Our goal in establishing the Author Fund is to support the Library in its continuing efforts to provide the community with ever increasingly interesting authors and ideas.”

— George Wyper, Honorary Trustee



MINI GOLF

Saturday and Sunday, March 5-6, 2022

We welcomed over 820 golfers to the Darien Library Mini Golf Fundraiser. Thank you to all who attended and played through 18 holes of golf in the Library.

PREMIERE HOLE SPONSORS:

Baywater Properties
ENCON Heating & AC
The Wyper Family

HOLE SPONSORS:

A.P. Construction Company
The Blair Family
Carta, McAlister, & Moore, LLC
Cross Private Client Insurance
First County Bank
Floor Covering Warehouse
Sheree Frank, Houlihan
Lawrence
GWAY Printing & Graphics
Dr. Maryann Lehmann
Nedder & Associates, LLC
NOLA Physical Therapy + Performance
TD Bank

TEE AND GREEN SPONSORS:

Alan Hyatt Landscaping
Darien Toy Box
Kumon
Michael Joseph’s Catering

1894 DAY

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

We hosted our 4th Annual Giving Day in May. 1894 Day began in 2019 to celebrate our 125th anniversary and is now an annual event.

Our goal this year was to raise \$128,000 in 24 hours in honor of the Library’s 128th anniversary. With the extraordinary support of our donors, we surpassed our goal and raised over \$200,000.



Thank you to all our of Friends for your kind words and incredible generosity.





BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"Your generosity allows the Library to do great things for all members of our community, fulfilling its mission of providing education, entertainment, enrichment, and community building. On behalf of the entire Library Board of Trustees, thank you for your continued support."

– Millyn Gaaserud, President



(left to right) Front Row: Allegra Erickson, Millyn Gaaserud, Emily Kroenlein • Middle Row: Min Selkowitz, Elena Whidden, Melissa Noonan, Maggie Brown Domont • Back Row: Kim Westcott, Michael A. Cippolletti, Tyler Kyle, Hutch Pegler, Adrienne Kelly



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

Millyn Gaaserud, *President*
 Emily Kroenlein, *Vice President*
 Karen S. Knapp, *Treasurer*
 Kim Westcott, *Secretary*
 Hutch Pegler, *Member at Large*
 Jay Bennett
 Mike Cippolletti
 Maggie Brown Domont
 Allegra Erickson

Adrienne Kelly
 Tyler Kyle
 Rob Levinson
 Rich Maier
 D. Jill McCammon
 Diana Nehro
 Melissa Noonan
 Min Selkowitz
 Elena Whidden

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Harold W. McGraw, Jr.
 (1918-2010)
 Anne Morrow Lindbergh
 (1906-2001)
 Ann S. Mandel
 Stephen F. Mandel
 (1931-2009)
 Kimberly D. Huffard
 George U. Wyper
 Suzanne McGraw

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

A special thanks to the 1,141 Friends of the Library who contributed to The Annual Fund for 2021-2022. Your donations are the sole source of funding for all the books, movies, and technology as well as the support of countless programming opportunities throughout the year.

Thank you for making Darien Library the intellectual and cultural heart of Darien.

“When I walk into the Library, it sums up the best of Darien in that it welcomes everyone.”

Evan and Jim Clark
DR Bank
Nancy and Steven Grune
Cindy and Ron Holland
Laurence Jurdem and
Jorie Waterman
Adrienne and Colin Kelly
Frank and Martha Kugler
Bob Noonan
Ryann and Hutch Pegler
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Angela and Timothy Riley
Maureen and Joe Roxe and
The Roxe Foundation
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Eleanor Riemer
Amy and John Chlnoky
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Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Collins
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Greater Greensboro
Josephine and Adolf DiBiasio
Maggie and Andrew Domont
Sandra Drimal
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Mary Jo and Rob Dyer
Banks and Meredith Edwards
ENCON Heating & AC

Alyson and Henry Johnson
Diana J. Kalman
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Kimberly and Timothy Kristof
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Mandel, Jr.
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Mark Maruszewski
Tom and Laurie McGrath
Mr. and Mrs. Philip K. Meyer
David and Lisa Miller
Lance and Margie Minor
Mr. and Mrs. James Moltz
Thomas and Erma Moore
Danielle Muller-Yoo and
Michael Yoo

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Holly and Bill Russell
Charles and Robin Wakeman
Salmans
The Sedlock Family
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Joseph Simon
Liz and Tom Smith
The Smith Family
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Spellane
Reverend Dawn Stegelmann
Jim and Sally Steintal
Mr. and Mrs. Tarun Stewart
Ted and Jeanne Storb
Ryan and Chandler Stroud
John and Charlotte Suhler
The Sulger Family
Daniel and Tresa Toscano
Jean and Douglas Traver



Gifts received July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022

**PRESIDENT'S CLUB
(\$5,000 AND ABOVE)**

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Mike and Anne Armstrong
Ed and Joan Barksdale
Barbara and Charlie Bartz
Bright Funds Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. N.
Cudd and The Stuart
Higley Foundation, Inc.
The Darien Foundation, Inc.
Mr. Peter M. Dixon +
Robert and Alex Eising
Allegra and John Erickson
Allison and Kevin Gasvoda

Whitney and Meredith George
and The Meredith and
Whitney George Family
Foundation
Goldman Sachs & Company
Mr. Ned Goodnow and the
Goodnow Fund
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Min and Jan Selkowitz
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sload
Nancy and John Sommi
Elena and Avery Whidden
Steve Wiggins and
Melissa Kerr
McCartney and Jay Wilkins
The Wyper Family

**DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE
(\$3,500-\$4,999)**

Joan DaPonte
Millyn and Eric Gaaserud
Paige and Tyler Kyle
Suzanne Hubbard Okie
Anna and Ernie Steiner
Kim and Jeff Westcott

**BENEFACTOR
(\$2,500-\$3,499)**

Jay and Mary Bennett
Bryan Choi
Mike and Jennifer Cippoletti

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(\$1,000-\$2,499)**

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Annie and George Necakov
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Marjorie Neville and
Michael Jacoby
John and Lindsay O'Donnell
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Reifenheiser
Anne Rondepierre

Seana and Michael Turner
Rich and Merrill van den Broek
Ms. Cheryl Viesto
Craig and Lindsay Warnke
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald R.
Watkins
Edward and Melissa Williams
Cary Holcomb and
Heather Winters
Erica and Jason Wood
Carolyn and Sturgis
Woodberry

“You are an amazing gift to our community.”

FAMILY (\$500-\$999)

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Rick and Joan Agresta
Dan and Stacie Allen
A.P. Construction
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David and Alexandra Austin
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Ball
David and Susan Ballard
Gary and Martha Banks
Sally and Bill Banks
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Molly and Michael Bogdan
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Sam and Joanna Bridges
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Carta, McAlister & Moore, LLC
Warwick and Lyle Carter
Allison and Steven Cary
Toby Cone
Ed and Theresa Cosden
Cross Private Client Insurance
Brian and Susan Curry
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Henry and Suzanne Domenici
Mr. Tom Dunn
Colin and Meredith Dunne
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Wendy and Rob Hopper
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Jennifer Knebel
Sharon Kratochvil and
Nick Kamillatos
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Jeffrey McMahon
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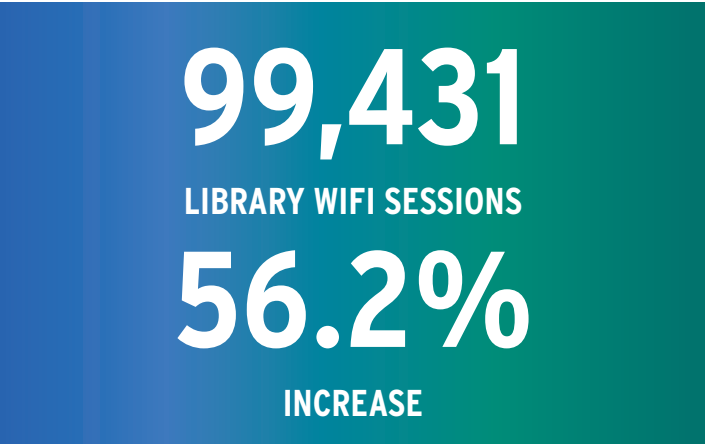
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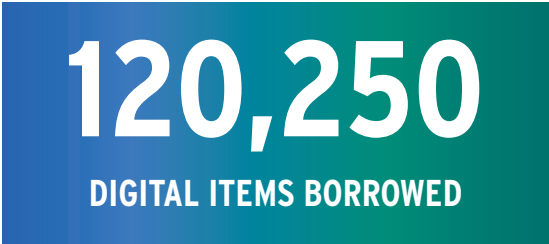
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