

# 2024 Annual Report







### Montclair Public Library Board of Trustees

JoAnn McCullough, President
Theodore Graham, Vice President, Alternate for Mayor
Brian Clarkson, Treasurer
Diana Lunin, Secretary
Geoffrey D. Borshof
Thamar Campbell
Lilian Ferguson
Erika Pierce, Alternate for Superintendent of Montclair Public Schools
Andrew Silver

Board members as of December 31, 2024

### Montclair Public Library Foundation Board of Directors

Sheila Boyd, Chair
Emily Hagen, Vice Chair
Jared Miller, Treasurer
Jennifer Dann-Phillips, Secretary
Jennifer Amore
Eileen Brackenbury
Michael Cocco
James Cotter
Aman D'Mello
Dagmara Domińczyk

Veronica Harris Rosemary Iversen Marni Jessup Susan Mellin Jennifer Mellish Henry Neff George Oliphant Elizabeth Rich Jason Tanz Robert Tortoriello Max Tourtelot

The Montclair Public Library is a vibrant cultural and educational institution where ideas come to life, fostering artistic enrichment, cultural exploration, and lifelong learning. The library strives to connect people of all ages and backgrounds by offering inclusive access to knowledge, creativity, and community through dynamic programming, collaborative spaces, and joyful engagement. Its vision is to provide unlimited opportunities for lifelong learning, discovery, and community engagement.

The Montclair Public Library Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that develops philanthropic support for the Montclair Public Library. Established in 2002, the MPL Foundation raises funds for library programs, collection enhancement, staff development, special projects, and other critical needs that exceed municipal funding. The Foundation has raised over \$6 million to support Library programs and services including technology improvements, museum passes, summer reading programs for children, and programs like the signature Open Book / Open Mind series and the Little Read.



### Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with deep gratitude for your unwavering generosity and commitment to our mission. Thanks to your support, more than 186,000 visitors walked through our doors in 2024—each one welcomed into a space where curiosity is nurtured, knowledge is shared, and community is built. Together, we celebrated the power of access, lending over 387,000 items, from books and digital resources to unique items from our ever-expanding Library of Things.

One of the year's most inspiring accomplishments was our community-wide reading of *The Best We Could Do* by Thi Bui, a moving exploration of identity, migration, and family. This extraordinary initiative, made possible through a prestigious "Big Read" grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, brought together over a dozen partner organizations and offered more than 30 engaging events for all ages. It was a true testament to the strength and heart of Montclair—how a book can spark conversation, empathy, and connection across our diverse town.

We simply could not do this without you. Your support makes it possible for the Montclair Public Library to serve as a cornerstone of learning, creativity, and inclusion. From all of us—staff, volunteers, and the many community members whose lives are enriched by your generosity—thank you for believing in the transformative power of your library.

With sincere appreciation,

Radwa Ali, MLIS

Director, Montclair Public Library

Mary Packer, M.Ed., CFRE Executive Director, Montclair Public Library Foundation

### Introducing Radwa Ali, the new Library Director

### She is Making Magic Happen!

In July 2024, Radwa Ali was appointed Executive Director of the Montclair Public Library, bringing with her a bold vision for what a 21st-century library can and must be. With over two decades of experience in the field—and a track record of revitalizing institutions through innovation, community engagement, and fiscal strategy—Radwa has quickly set the tone for a new chapter in MPL's long and storied history.

She arrived at a time of transition, with a new mayor, a new town council, and renewed community conversations about what kind of library Montclair deserves. Just weeks into her tenure, the Library faced a major facilities crisis when its aging HVAC system failed during a record-setting heat wave in August 2024, forcing unexpected closures and limited public access. The incident underscored the urgent need for capital reinvestment and became a galvanizing moment that brought Library leadership, the Township, and community stakeholders together with a shared sense of purpose.

In the months that followed, the Library has since undertaken extensive planning to reimagine its Main Library and historic Bellevue Avenue Branch, with input from staff, patrons, and key community stakeholders. The vision includes reconfiguring spaces to better serve today's needs: digital learning, workforce development, lifelong education, youth and teen creativity, arts programming, and civic dialogue.

Internally, the organization has taken steps to improve coordination, modernize and streamline processes, and continue to build a culture of shared purpose and public service. This foundational work ensures that the Library is not only positioned to grow, but to grow responsibly—with programs and services that reflect the needs and aspirations of the community it serves.

Radwa extends deep gratitude to the Township of Montclair and the Town Council for their vision and partnership; to the Montclair Public Library Foundation for its steadfast support; to the Board of Trustees for their leadership, the Friends of Montclair Library Steering Committee, and the Friends of Bellevue Avenue Library for their ongoing advocacy; to the hardworking staff and dedicated volunteers who pour their hearts into their work every day; and, most importantly, to the Montclair community-for whom everything we do is rooted in service, access, and connection. With the strength of these partners and countless others, the Library is building on a proud legacy to grow into an even more innovative, well-used, and beloved resource for all who call Montclair home.



### MPL Patrons Maximize Our Services

In 2024, MPL circulated nearly **390,000 items**, saw over **185,000 visitors** walk through the doors, and had more than **170,000 website views**. An abundance of programming for children, teens, and adults alike was planned, accounting for 28,000 of those visitors. The total library budget to support these services was **\$4.6 million—88%** of which was funded by the Township.



### **TECHNOLOGY**







**22,042**on-site Wi-Fi
sessions provided

**890**Wi-Fi hotspots borrowed for home use

### **PROGRAMS**



**6,919** attendance at adult programs



18,802
attendance at children's and teen programs



**3,005**registrations in adult school classes





### 2024 Circulation Spotlight



270,308
loans of MPL's physical media, incl. books and DVDs



186,902 in-person visits to the Library



2,888
library cards issued





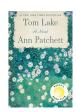
114,738

loans of digital media, incl.
eBooks and streaming movies

2,056 loans of objects, kits, and passes



### **MOST BORROWED TITLES**



**ADULT FICTION**"Tom Lake"
by Ann Patchett



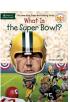
**ADULT NONFICTION**"Crying in H Mart"
by Michelle Zauner



ADULT MEDIA "Oppenheimer" (Universal)



JUVENILE FICTION
"Dog Man: Fetch-22"
by Dav Pilkey



**JUVENILE NONFICTION** "What is the Super Bowl?" by Dina Anastasio



JUVENILE MEDIA
"Super Mario RPG"
(Nintendo Switch)



Young Adult FICTION "One Piece: Volumes 1-2-3" by Eiichiro Oda



DUNGEON MASTERS GUIDE

YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION
"Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah
"Dungeon Master's Guide"
(Wizards of the Coast)

### MOST BORROWED ITEMS FROM THE LIBRARY OF THINGS







### An Eventful Year...

## The Big Read Embraced Community Through Art and Storytelling

From February through May, more than 30 events—book discussions, classes, storytelling, movies, and more—inspired by Thi Bui's "The Best We Could Do" were held throughout town. An American Book Award winner, Bui's memoir traces her family's daring escape after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970s and their effort to build new lives for themselves in America. This project was co-organized by the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence, Montclair High School, and MPL. Partners included AAPI Montclair, Dumpling Diplomacy, East Side Mags, MILL, MKA Montclair Art Museum, Montclair Film, Montclair History Center, MPL Foundation, MSU, Out Montclair, Succeed2gether, The Vietnamese Boat People, and Watchung Booksellers.

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.







### Summer Reading Participation Outshined Previous Years

Recognized by libraries nationwide, summer reading promotes literacy during a time when children are out of school and may not otherwise be maintaining their reading skills. MPL's Summer Reading Club ran from June 25 to August 25, with 530 children & teens

and 215 adults participating. Anyone who logged their reading was eligible for prize drawings throughout the summer, which included gift cards to various Montclair businesses. Children & teens logged a total of 11,764 days while adults logged a total of 1,006 books, earning 2,433 and 852 rewards, respectively. These numbers surged well above the four-year average from 2020 to 2023. Thank you to the William and Judith Turner Family Foundation who, in 2024, acknowledged this reading surge by funding the 2025 Summer Reading program.

### Introducing Our New Reading Specialist

MPL now has a full-time Reading Specialist in Youth Services! Gina Chung Fortt, a certified Reading Specialist with a Masters in Education, was hired in September 2024 to help empower parents and caregivers in their child(ren)'s literacy journey. Gina runs regular storytimes, hosts programs promoting reading/writing/phonics, and personally visits Montclair schools. Most recently, she launched a new (and very popular!) service: Book a Reading Specialist. This service, similar to MPL's "Book a Librarian," is free to anyone with an MPL card. Parents, caregivers, and educators are encouraged to sign up for a 30-minute consultation to learn about books and resources available to borrow from the library, to discover creative ways to support children in reading at home, to review a child's reading assessment, and so much more.

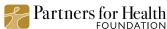


### An Eventful Year Continued

### Partners for Health Foundation Wins National Recognition for MPL Partnership

The Partners for Health Foundation was among 11 winners named in the international "I Partner with My Public Library" awards. Created by the non-profit organization Let's Move in Libraries, this award celebrates the crucial work of community collaborators to the work of public libraries across the United States and Canada. Partners for Health was the only winner from New Jersey. The MPL Foundation nominated Partners for Health for their steadfast support and partnership, specifically for the Library's summer lunch program, social services pilot program, and "Poverty, by America" author talk and discussions.







Local author Henry Neff at the Little Read.

#### The Little Read Celebrates Its Sweet Sixteen

In October, the Library invited the community to attend the 16th annual "Little Read," a series of events in which guest readers—including Mayor Renee Baskerville-climbed into the iconic big red chair and read stories aloud to schoolchildren and families. This celebration of literacy encourages sharing stories, building community, and cultivating a love of reading. Funds raised through sponsorships support children's programming at the Library throughout the year. The Little Read began with visits to the Library by local schoolchildren and culminated in "Little Read & Treat" on October 26, which featured a haunted house, Halloween bingo, and spooky stories. All in all, fourteen schools visited the library in a week's time, and more than 1,057 children sat for a storytime either at the library, in a park, or at the YMCA. Thank you to the many readers, sponsors (included on page 13), and volunteers who helped to make this year super sweet!

### A New StoryWalk Was Unveiled in the Parks

From August 1 to September 15, families enjoyed Walk + Read Montclair, a NEW literacy-boosting initiative consisting of storybook pages lining walking paths in three local parks. Families encountered an unfolding children's story, page by page as lawn signage, until they reached the end of the path. The three children's books selected were "The Fab Cab" by Jill Lauren, installed in Glenfield Park; "In the Tall, Tall Grass" by Denise Fleming, installed in Nishuane Park; and "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault, installed in Watchung Park. This initiative was accomplished in partnership with the Judy Weston Garden.

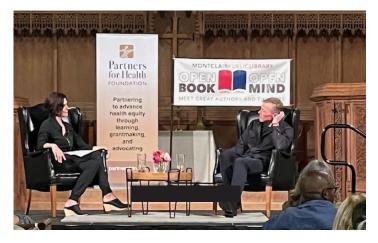


### An Eventful Year Continued

### Open Book / Open Mind

MPL's live conversation series continued to feature great authors and thinkers discussing their new books and important topics. In 2024, hosted authors included:

- Kate Manne, "Unshrinking: How to Face Fatphobia." In conversation with Kate Tuttle, of the Boston Globe.
- Ayana Mathis "The Unsettled." In conversation with Emily Raboteau, ("Lessons for Survival").
- James B. Stewart and Rachel Abrams, "Unscripted: The Epic Battle for a Media Empire and the Redstone Family Legacy." In conversation with Tom Hall, of Montclair Film.
- Howell Raines, "Silent Cavalry: How Union Soldiers from Alabama Helped Sherman Burn Atlanta-and Then Got Written Out of History." In conversation with Edward Ball, ("Slaves in the Family").
- Rigoberto González (editor of the upcoming "Latino Poetry: Places We Call Home"), Alexis Romay, and C.E. Wallace
- Ray Isle, "The World in a Wineglass: The Insider's Guide to Artisanal, Sustainable, Extraordinary Wines to Drink Now." In conversation with Sharon Sevrens, of Amanti Vino.
- Nell Irvin Painter, "I Just Keep Talking: A Life in Essays." In conversation with Ira Wagner, of MAM.
- Leslie Jamison, "Splinters: Another Kind of Love Story" and Emily Raboteau, "Lessons for Survival: Mothering Against 'The Apocalypse'" In conversation with Kate Tuttle.
- Claudia Cravens, "Lucky Red." In conversation with Laurie Lico Albanese ("Hester").
- Matthew Desmond, "Poverty, by America." In conversation with Andrea Elliott ("Invisible Child").
- Nicholas Kristof, "Chasing Hope: A Journalist's Life." In conversation with Stephen Engelberg of ProPublica.
- Tracy O'Neill, "A Woman of Interest: A Memoir." In conversation with Catherine Chung ("The Tenth Muse").
- **Bruce Jackson**, "Never Far from Home: My Journey from Brooklyn to Hip Hop, Microsoft, and the Law." In conversation with Jon Fortt of CNBC.
- Jonathan Alter, "American Reckoning: Inside Trump's Trial—And My Own." In conversation with Dale Russakoff, ("The Prize").
- Liana Finck, "How to Baby: A No-Advice-Given Guide to Motherhood, with Drawings." In conversation with filmmaker Leah Wolchok (Very Semi-Serious: A Partially Thorough Portrait of New Yorker Cartoonists and Judy Blume Forever).



Pulitzer Prize winners Matt Desmond and Andrea Elliott discuss poverty in America thanks to event co-sponsor Partners for Health Foundation.

### Special thanks to the Open Book / Open Mind Advisory Committee:

David Jones, Co-chair
Kate Tuttle, Co-chair
Jonathan Alter
Reagan Arthur
Marina Budhos
Neal Carruth
Catherine Chung
Alice Elliott Dark
Jennifer Dorr
Elisabeth Egan
Dionne Ford

David Folkenflik Jon Fortt

Gabrielle Glaser

DT Max

Juan Milà Sara Mosle Dale Russakoff Margot Sage-EL Rachel Swarns Susan Weinberg Kate Zernike

**Open Book / Open Mind** is presented by the Montclair Public Library through generous financial support from an Anonymous donor, David and Mary Lee Jones, Dr. Alex Malaspina, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, and our new Underwriters. In-kind donations are made by Amanti Vino, First Congregational Church of Montclair, The George Montclair, and Watchung Booksellers.



Connie Alexis-Laona Alice Elliott Dark and Lawrence Dark Dagmara Domińczyk and Patrick Wilson Deb Ellis and Hal Strelnick Sybil Eng and Tad Roselund Rosemary Iversen Diana and Joseph Lunin Joyce Michaelson Jon and Sidney Simon Max and Millie Tourtelot Don and Joan Zief



### Leaving a Lasting Impact

### **Brick Dedication & Bookplates**

### A Very Special Ceremony

In December, the Montclair Public Library was deeply moved by the fond memories shared by friends and family members of both Cheryl M. McCoy and Ronald Murphy, two former librarians, at a dedication ceremony that included brick installations.

Cheryl McCoy served the community for more than 40 years as a librarian at Montclair Public Library and became our first African American Director- a position she held for four years. She was deeply committed to helping others. Ronald Murphy started the library's first African American book discussion group and distinguished himself during his long service, participating in local, state, national and international organizations such as the New Jersey Library Association, Black Librarians of New Jersey, Public Library Association, American Library Association, Black Caucus of the American Library Association and People-to-People.

### Tribute Bookplates Leave an Impression

Another way to leave a lasting mark at the library is through circulation! Our bookplate dedication program offers a meaningful way to recognize or remember someone special in your life by adding their name to a new book within our collection. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to the Albert Terhune Foundation for their generous donations over the past two years to add new titles to special collections for young children and teens.



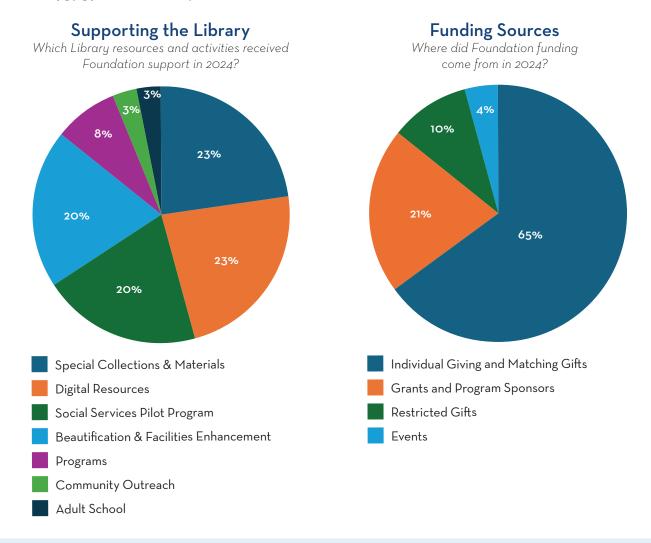




For more information about how you can purchase a brick or bookplate, please visit www.montclairplf.org.

### Foundation at a Glance

Thanks to special events, grant awards, and generous donors like you, the Foundation raised more than \$575,000 in 2024!



#### Awarded Grants

G	ra	nt	0	r

**Partners for Health Foundation** 

**Hyde & Watson Foundation** 

**Essex County History Program** 

**Whitehill Foundation** 

**Essex County Local Arts Program** 

William & Judy Turner Family Foundation

**Montclair Foundation** 

The Albert Payson Terhune Foundation

Investors Foundation

#### Impact

To launch a part-time social services pilot program

To purchase new audio/visual equipment for the Auditorium

Supports the continued digitization of property deed books

Expands the Hoopla subscription to offer more content

Makes several 2025 art classes tuition-free within the Adult School

Fully funds the 2025 Children's Summer Reading program

Supports the Children's Spanish Lapsit storytime

To purchase new titles for the Teen Graphic Novel Collection

Assists in covering the cost of the Adult School registration system

### The Joy of Giving

The Foundation hosted a series of fundraising events throughout the year that created some fantastic memories!

In 2024, we held a Trivia Night, Wine Tasting, and Karaoke Party. Thank you to everyone who participated in these events. We hope you had a blast!



### Thank You to Our Business Sponsors

### **Program/Event Sponsorship**















































### **In-Kind Supporters**

Angelbeck's Wine Merchants

The Barrow House

The Coder School

Cowan's Public

Dave & Buster's

DollyMoo

Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom

East Side Mags

Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

First Congregational Church of Montclair

The George

Just Kidding Around

Liberty Science Center

Macaroni Kid Montclair

Mercado

Montclair House Grill

Nickelodeon Universe

Only Poké

Parkside Social

Piazza Della Sole

School of Rock

Sparo's Deli & Catering

Stew Leonard's Clifton

Studio de Mel

The Tutor Shack

Tia's Food of Love

The Printer's Place

White Rabbit Black Heart

YMCA Montclair



### **MONTCLAIR IS A LIBRARY TOWN**

Thank you to all of our 2024 donors! Your generosity makes it possible to offer valuable programs and resources to everyone in our community.

### Gifts of \$25,000+

Anonymous
Estate of Glenn W. Geyer
Dr. Alex Malaspina
Edward Robin and Family in
Memory of Gloria Robin

### Gifts of \$10,000 - \$24,999

Jonathan Bellack and Jennifer Bonnell Colbert Family Fund of Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina

Nick DeToustain and Christine James Holly and Ruben Fleischer

### Gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous
Citadel
Sue and Reimer Mellin
Jared and Shara Miller
Rita Singer
David and Lois Stith
Robert Tortoriello

### Gifts of \$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous (3)

Eileen Birmingham and Greg Wawro
Diane Borradaile and David Wright
Candy Cooper and Robert Weisbuch
Friends of the Bellevue Avenue Library
Matthew and Emily Hagen
Samuel Huber and Catherine Weiss
Martin Infeld
Rosemary Iversen
David and Mary Lee Jones

Lukenda and Lockhart Family
Diana and Joe Lunin
June Nguyen and Todd Tauber
Jane O'Leary
Donald and Jill Seagraves
Fred Williams

### Gifts of \$1,000 - \$2,499

Matthew Albright

Connie Alexis-Laona
Jennifer Amore and Louis Franzese
Anonymous (2)
Alan Berkowitz
Monica Biondi
Tom Blim and Susie Sonneborn
Eileen Wilde Brackenbury and
Jesse Brackenbury
Alex and Maddie Ciliotta-Young
Mike and Katie Cocco
James and Susann Connors
Heather Daly and Michael Van Brunt
Jennifer Dann-Phillips and
Jonathan Phillips
Alice Elliott Dark and Lawrence Dark

Aman D'Mello and Mark Malaspina Dagmara Domińczyk and Patrick Wilson John and Susan Eckert Deb Ellis and Hal Strelnick Sybil Eng and Tad Roselund Debra Feinberg and Jeffrey Fenster John Fennelly Susan First and Edward Martoglio Mary Anne Ford Irena Goldstein Adam Grace and Lisanne L. Renner Emily Grand and Arthur Hickok William E. Hamilton Izumi Hara and David Koschik Veronica and Vince Harris Mary and Tom Heyman Alan and Jill Johnson Ted Kastner and Alix Ross Bruce and Janell Keller Joanne Kornoelje Andrew and Wendy Lacey Leis Family

Benilde Little and Cliff Virgin

Kathleen Logan and Edmund Rung



A partnership with Montclair Community Farm's mobile farm stand offers organic, locally grown produce available for purchase throughout the summer and fall at MPL. SNAP and senior vouchers are accepted.

Susan McHugh

McMullen Family Foundation

Joyce Michaelson

Trustees of the Montclair Public Library

Deborah Nagin and Edward Ott

Henry and Danielle Neff

Thomas C. Nye

Susan Reitz

Katherine Rohmann

Margot Sage-EL

Richard and Kim Seltzer

Andrew and Merrill Silver

Jonathan and Sidney Simon

Thomas Sullivan

The Teachers Club of Montclair

Amy and Paul Therattil

Max and Millie Tourtelot

Etti and Mark Zeldis

Don and Joan Zief

### Gifts of \$500 - \$999

Joseph and Lisa Amato

Anonymous (7)

Judy Avrin

Joan Axelrod

Alison and Doug Bauer

Emily and Steven Becker

Debbi and Steve Bernstein

Jennifer Bernstein

Megan Beardsley and David Blackburn

Lisa Brescia

Phillip Byrd and Janet Shapiro

Denise Cante and Jason Tanz

Bethany Chase and Andrew Weinstein

Ellen and Kenneth Colton

Cynthia and Murray Corhan-Aitken

James Cotter and Mary Sok

Jayson Council

Luis Crespo and Luz Miranda-Crespo

Adrian Dollard

Ethan Drucker and Mariana Campos Horta

Emer Featherstone

Sara Ferry and Rick Gyan

Ivy Fischer and Debra Glessner

Kathleen Gebhardt

Rebecca Goldburg and Billy Goodman

Jacqueline Goldin

Brad and Jeni Goldman

Alyce Gottesman and Eric Lee Schwimmer

Carolyn Gould

Bryan Harmon and Anneka Street

Dion Harmon

Jessica Henry and Ken Waitz

Catherine and Philip Irwin

Alice and Matthew Iversen

Joshua and Sarah Jacobstein

Pamela and Robert Kahan

Brenda King

Amy Knapp and Myron Walden

Leslie and Marc Kunkin

Ruth Kunstadter

Jonathan Landau

Toni LeQuire-Schott and Newton Schott

Maddrey Family

Marcia Marley and Peter Rappoport

Nick and Diane Masucci

Joanne and Tyler Mathisen

JoAnn and John McCullough

Whitney McMahon

Joseph Mellicker and Judith Scheuer

Deborah and Jory Miller

The Nachtigal Family

Nishuane School PTA
David Popiel

Lindsey and Michael Sag

Lisa Schweitzer

Edward Silberman

Joanne and Kevin Smith

Missy Sullivan

Tehranian Family

Margaret Valentine

Margaret and Richard Wager

Frank and Margo Walter

Eric Weiser

Rahum Williams

### Gifts of \$250 - \$499

Steven Abrahamson and Maritza Guzman

Gladys Acosta-Melendez

Richard Acosta-Haran

Kristina Anderson

Linn and Merrick Andlinger

Vandana Aneja and Gaurav Jetley

Phyllis Aniello

Anonymous (5)

Andy Ayala

Helen Berman

Lauren Berman

Erica and Kevin Bigley

Vanessa Biondo

Allegra Blackburn-Dwyer and John O'Neill

Elisabeth Blackburn

Gene Bloch

**Bonfire** 

Carolyn Buck and Michael Goulder

Cardiac Rehab of Mountainside Hospital

Marni Jessup and Gary Carlin

Kathleen Carroll and Steve Twomey

Henry Cauvin and Rachel Swarns

Dore Carroll and Michael DuHaime

Jerry and Maria Czin

Dr. Ramon Delgado

Kevin and Anne Denning

Lynne and Mark Di Benedetto

The Dinour Family

Roger Drill and Lettie Teague

Janet Duni and Robert Hertzberg

Larry Engelstein and Celia Radek

Frank Failla and Hannah Rolfes

George and Sukyin Farris

Selwa Shamy, Assistant Director, and Ruby Willams, Teen Librarian.

Harriet and Michael Finck

Erin and Sean Flynn Maelle Fonteneau

Eric Fox and Daniel Helmik Joel and Nancy Franklin

Joyce and Mark Friedman
Fugua-Kerbel Family

Carley Graham Garcia and David Garcia

Adam and Emily Gasthalter

Kerry Giles and Tony Vecchione

Paul Godino and Amanda Henry-Godino

Jennifer Mellish and Andrew Gottfried

Fannie and Tim Gray

Verna Gray

Paul and Marjorie Grayson

Judith A. Greene

Jennifer and Brian Hand

William F. Harrison

Frances Hecker and Richard Schwartz

Jason Hedberg and Mikie Sherrill Jan Hoffman and Dan Nachman

Jill Hoffman and Leon Hojegian

Milt Horowitz Christine Hou

Evan and Sarah Hudson-Plush

Jeffrey and Janice Jacobson

Elizabeth Jarit Kathryn Kempf

Robert and Roxanne Kent

Andrey and Vera Kuzyk

John D. Laing

Sarah and Todd Larson

Ellen Lovitz and Jon Rosenhein

Steve Lucas and Emily Rosenblum

Melina Macall

Susan and Charles Marro, Jr.

James Mayer

Jeffrey and Mary Kate Mellow

Larry and Nicole Miller

Trustees of the Montclair Foundation

Quang Nguyen

George and Zoe Oliphant

John Orfanidis

Over the Rainbow Early Learning Center

Mario and Laurie Pisano

Dale Russakoff and Matthew Purdy

Myra Quigley and Edward Unger

Ana Maria Quiros

Krystyna Raines

Jamie and Matthew Reichstein

Barbara Reisman and Eric Scherzer

Amy and Ruth Ro Matthew Rose

Robert and Katherine Ruberton

Pearl Ruff

Ellen and Jonathan Sander

Bela Schwartz and June Zimmerman

Kevin Settembrino Elizabeth Silberman

Denise and Paul Silverman

Alaina and Hale Simon

Harold Simon

Andrew and Robyn Slutzky

Bridget Soyka Smith

Steven Smith

Brian and Linda Sterling

Ryan and Samantha Stuckert

Jamie and Mark Truman

David Tykulsker Susan Uva Darin Wacs

Deborah Waldron

Claire Walls

James and Kim Woodard

Alexandra Yurkosky

Lauren and Michael Zichelli

Gifts of \$100 - \$249

Bassam K. Abed and Peter Ross Sieger

Gail Abramowitz

Ron Acher

Kirti Agarwal

Michael and Nancy Alberga

James Aley

Kristina Anderson

Ercilia and Olle Andersson

Craig Annis and Kate Whitman Annis

Anonymous (19) David J. Antonelli

Marc Archer and Susan Joseph

Linda Ariel Emily Aronson

Thomas and Katherine Ash Charles and Ellie Bagli

Lawrence Barnes

Mary and Timothy Barrett

Rikke Beal

Rachel Bernstein and Scott Frank

Andie and Co Bertsche

Deirdre Birmingham and Jason Luther

Julie Blackman and Mitchell Dinnerstein

Pablo Blanco

Gerald and Linda Blume

Margaret Bodde Julia Bonsal

Maarten Bosland and Marsha Love

Sheila M. Boyd Brewington Family

Nina Brogle and Avrin Slatkin

### **Recurring Monthly Donors**

To our dedicated recurring donors: Thank you for your unwavering commitment. Your consistent donations are essential to our work and allow us to make a real difference. We are deeply grateful for your support.

Joan Axelrod

Jonathan Beck and Rona Cohen

Gene Bloch

Sheila M. Boyd

Marni Jessup and Gary Carlin David Willner and Carol Gamm

Noemi Giszpenc and Paul Fitzpatrick

Carolyn Gould

Thomas Halgren and Beatrice Schaer

Carolyn Hickey

Susan Mack

Jonne McCarron

Henry and Danielle Neff

Marilyn Papayanis

Susan Reitz

Linda Shortman

Steven and Jane Tennen

Susan Toker

David Tykulsker Eric Weiser

16

Henry Brown

Harold and Sally Bryant

Joshua and Rebecca Burch

Joseph and Kathy Burke

Rebecca Cabaza

Robert and Deana Campion

Aaron and Abigail Carlton

John and Lauren Carlton

Linda Cary

Matthew Castello and Carol Novinson

Luis Castro

Susan Chandler and William Stein

Jeff Chanin

Xi Chen

Michael Chow

Nadiya Clark

Martha Clarke and Roger Mosier

Rebecca and Daniel Cocco

Richard Cohn

Christopher and Deborah Corbett

Barbara and Vernon Corbin

Cynthia Cox

Lynn and James Crane

Lisa Culhane

Denise B. Dailey

Ebony Taileur David

Robert E. David and Barbara Flessas

Michele Davis

Scott and Twana Davisson

Joy Dawson

Debi Debiak and George Holland Peter Della Bella and Jodi Paroff Heather and Kevin Dibble

Maryann Dickar

Daniel Diehl

DiGeronimo Family

Peter Dillard and Mirela Trofin

Elyssa and Eyal Dimant

DeSouza Dobro Family Foundation

Peter and Lois Donegan

Janet Donohue and Richard Lamoreaux

Judith Dorphley

Kenneth Dowell and Melissa Klurman

Michael H. Dudek

Hannah Duus

Anne Earley

Arielle Eckstut and David Sterry

John Ekstrom

Philip and Regina Elberg

Emily Eldridge and Michael Silberman

Jean Ellis

Sally Ellyson

Francesca Elms

Facebook

Jonathan and Lisa Farb

Chester and Lynne Faye

Buddy Feld and Jose Virella

Steve Feldberg and Mary Knowles

Stephen Figlewski and Carol Lipsitch

Paul Fitzpatrick and Noemi Giszpenc

Tracy Fontao and Robert Kramer

Gina Chung Fortt and Jon Fortt

Steven Fox and Vicki Reikes Fox

Melissa and Ryan Freeman

Lucinda Furlong

Carol Gamm and David Willner

Maureen and Subhendu Ghosh

Thomas P. Giblin

Susan Gibson

Michelle Golden

Theodore and Jamie Graham

Steve and Nancy Grande

Andrew and Barbara Green

David and Shirley Grill

Aileen and Marc Grossberg

Cathlin and Jonathan Grupper

Justin Guillou

Andrew Gutelle and Sena Messer

Bradford Hanson

Jane Hanson and Patrick Shrout

Ayelet Haran

Judith Hauser

William and Joan Hearst

Rhonda and Stratton Heath

Sharon Hendee and Diane Hughes

Peter and Vicki Herbst

Carolyn Hickey

David Hicks and Marsha Kalman

Yary Hluchan

James and Patricia Hobin

Kasey and Ryan Hodgson

Betty Holloway

Tatyana Hube

Jessie Jacobs

Claudia Jessup and Jonathan Richards

Ann and Tom Johnson

Diana L. Johnson

Michelle Johnson-Lewis

Charles and Alice Johnson

Amy Josephson and Sheldon Kugelmass

David and Jeanne Josephson

Steve Karl

Carol Katzman

Robert and Nancy Kautz

Marjorie and Sean Keating

Kari Keller

Trisha and Seth Kelly

Charles Kenny

Alexandra Kent and Samuel Selesnick

The Kevelsons

Saiful Khan and Neha Shah

Jason Kirschner and Heather Peikes



Matilda Williams, Youth Services,

Andrew Klein

Wolf Knapp and Margaret Malloy

Phillip Koblence Bernice Kreger

Ashwin Krishnan

Frances Kroeckel

Clifford and Robin Kulwin Allison and Eric Kusseluk

Fred and Joanne Langbein

Benjamin Lazatin Gary and Betty Lee

A. Bryan Lees and Paula Whitlock

Laura Legrand and Joe Maguire

Hillary Leonard Carol Lewkowicz

Mark and Janice Linaugh

Carmel Loughman

Jenny Lunin

Mark and Florence Lurinsky

Grace Lynch Susan Mack

Benjamin Madorsky and Madeleine Rowan

Drake Maleh

John and Suzanne Manners

Tim Mannion

Lydia and Gabe Marabella

**Edward Martin** 

John and Frances Martin

Rob and Eva Maskin

Michael Mayer

Lori McCann

Oneida Mendez-Laws

Robert and Barbara Meyer

The Milano Family

Jeannette and Philip Miller

Kevin Miller and Claire Wilks

Amy Minkoff

Diane Moore and Victor Weingast

Melissa Moore

Charles and Donna Moran

Kevin and Sue Moriarty

Arlene and Harry Moskowitz

Barbra and Jim Murtha

Amit and Jeannine Nanavati

Abby Natelson and Avi Turgeman

Louise Nevin

Mara Novak and Jim Price

Martha Nowycky

John H. O'Connell

Brad and Maureen Ohlmuller

Sarah Olson and Paul Swanson

Marilyn Papayanis

Bernice Paschal

Elizabeth Perez

Rachel Perten and Adam Stone

Andrea Peyser

Alex and Deirdra Picou

Eugene and Sharon Pitts

Betsy and Jim Poris

Judy Pritchett

Crystal Proenza-Ponte

Cherry Provost Farhana Rahman

Marianne Ribley

Elizabeth Rich

Elizabeth Riggs

Anne and Kevin Riordan

Brigeth Rivera

Linwood Ladell Robbins

Florence Rogers

Matthew Rose
Kathy Rosenberg

Eric Roston and Karen Yourish

David Rothenberg

Rebecca and Aaron Rudelson

Janhavi Sahasrabuddhe

Patricia Sanders

Dave and Elsy Sandhusen

Carole Schaffer and David Waggett

Kurt Schansinger

Alexander and Doris Schapira

Cynthia and Jeffrey Schechter

Margaret Schmidt

Louis and Mindy Schoen

Roger and Vera Scholl

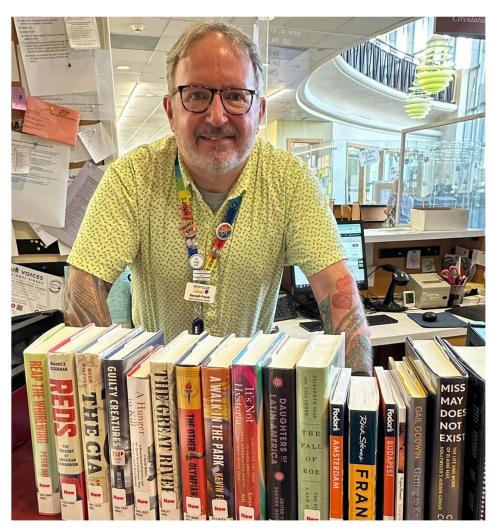
Lorinda Schrager

Alexandra and Jonathan Schulz

Jonathan Schwartz and Kate Zernike

James and Susan Schwei

Miriam Scott



Ken French, Manager of Collection Development.

Mona N. Shah

Jo Ann Sharkey

**Brian Shortt** 

Kathrin Smith

Anna Maria Sorrentino

Deanna M. Spaulding

Sean M. Spiller and Lauren Spiller

Amy Stair

Adam Steinhaus and Annie Trihn Steinhaus

Susan Stohr

Derek Stordahl and Jody Suden

Roland and Susan Straten

Patricia and Tage Strom

Patricia Sullivan

Jane and Harvey Susswein

Debra Taffet

Steven and Jane Tennen

Tierney's Tavern

Susan Toker

Janet Torsney and Gregory Dean Walker

Richard and Nina Tucker

Sharon Burton Turner and Lincoln Turner

Edzel Ubas

Ilmar Vanderer

Mary Ann Vierheilig

Katherine Vlasica

Karen and Jace Wagner

David Wasmuth

**Gregory Waters** 

Mimi and Roosevelt Weaver

The Werner Family

West Essex AARP Chapter 131

Jason and Erin White

Margaret Whitsett

Rita Williams-Bogar

Kenneth Williams

Matilda Williams

Lisa Wisniewski

Wolfgang-Stohr Charitable Fund

Elizabeth Wolfson

Hal and Brigitte Wolkoff

The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair

Michael Wynne

Feng Zeng

### Gifts of \$1 - \$99

Julie Adams and Kenneth Italo Marchini

Robert and Beth Adleman

Alison Ainsworth and Edward Felsenthal

Gieselle Allen

Sharron Allen

Nicole Altneu

Claire Altschuler

Susan Shin Andersen

Audrey Anderson

Anonymous (37)

Linda Aro

Joseph and Marie Attanasio

Carla Baranauckas

Emily Barocas and Neal Carruth

Amy Bechelli

Bernard and Judy Beck

Jonathan Beck and Rona Cohen

Lee Behlman

Michael Bender

Karim Benjelloun

Alan and Janet Berman

Bruce and Lynn Bird

Daniel Blackman and Meg Siesfeld

Carolee Boger

Shana Boniface

Jan Brecht-McKee

Kathleen Breiten

Brian Brewer

Jennifer and Jonathan Brooks

Michael and Carolyn Brown-Kalthoff

Beth Burstein

Judith Byers

Christine Banks Calderon

Phyllis Capriotti

Barbara Grose Carnevale

Barbie Casasus

Catcom Computers

Michael Cavalier

Dan and Cara Cesareo

Paul and Shahrezad Chamberlain

Christina Chao

Cassandre Cheung

Amy and Scott Claman

Glenn and Sarah Collins

Diane R. Conner

Julia Connolly and Jack Garrigan

Meagan E. Coomber

Carmen and Mary Ann Corsi

Jonathan Crespy

**Brittany Cris** 

Gloria and Timothy Crist

Dave Crossen

Curtis Crouch and Marion Held

Robert Culicover

Katherine C. Davenport

Carol Davison and Shawn Mahoney

Jessica G. de Koninck

Constance DeMartino

Gail Derivan and Daniel Keppel



Storyteller and educator Ana Cristina Coura leads a special storytime with rhymes, stories, and songs in Portuguese.

Mia Deschamps John Hammond and Merle Wise Rita F. Maggio Frank Diaz and Karen Schloss Varsha and Suresh Hathiramani Aparna and Chandan Mallik Donna Dickert and James Newman George Hayes and Robert James Dennis and Margaret Malloy Nicholas and Trish DiMinni Eric Heilner Maribel Martinez and Samuel Shaffer MaryLynne Drexler Raymond J. and Katheryn Begley Herbert Jeremy and Lauren Martino Penelope Drumming Karen Herbst Nancy Masterson-Newkirk Robert Dubin and David Saidnawey Candace and Thomas Hickey Math Momentum, Courtney Willis-William Dunnell and Rachel Shatz Geoffrey Hillback and Melora Soodalter Washington Gerard and Kristine Durr Brett and Courtney Hirsch Robert and Katherine Maurizi Maria and Robert Dyer Jonne McCarron Tom Hoesly Wanda Ellert and David Kanegis Amy Hohn Samantha McCormack Ron Epstein and Paula Kaufmann Ching-Fen and Margaret Ann Hsiao Shannon McGee Robert and Rita Erickson Anthony Iannini Kimberly McLaren Jeanne McMahon William and Helen Fallon **Brent Johnson** Barbara Farber Lorenzo Johnson and Blanca Rodriguez John P. McMorrow Linda McNish and Edward Solecki RoseElla Ferguson Thomas Johnson and Christina Loccke Yasuo and Emy Kamihara Mark Kevin Medina Tess Fils-Aime Zion Forde-Clarke Nikki Katzur Gerardo Mejia Virginia Fortt-Brockett Barbara Kauffman Margaret Miele Don and Nancy Foster Kathleen Flynn Kay Campbell Minister Diane Franciose Janet and Thomas Kaz Steve Moctezuma Michael Frank and Susan Helman Gregory and Kerry Kelley Tara Moran Maureen Franks Rich and Cynthia Kibble Maureen Morgan Glen Freyer Melody Kimmel and Daniel Nigro Michael Morgan Randi C. Friedman **Emily Klein** Erin Mori Mark and Joanne Friedman Phillip and Sharon Koblence Ari L. Morse Lori Ann Fuchs-Meyers Linda Kow and David Lee Shelby Moser Janai Fullard David Kravitz Robert Moss Kristina Fung Jessica and Manish Kukreti Niall and Liz Mullane Lisa Beth Galatio Lisa Kus and Meryl Tillis Thomas Mulligan Jeffrey Gall and Karen Rosenberg Norman and Susan Ladov Sandra Mullins Brian Gallagher Tom Larson Kimberly Sinatra Murphy and Matthew Dorothy Gannon Michael Laser and Jennifer Prost Murphy Sianne Garlick Francis and Marisa Lazatin Genya Muzyczka Carole LeFlore Isabelle Genest Richard and Mary Newman Ellen Giammarino and Marco Munoz Chris Len The Norman Family Georgette and Gregory Gilmore Elaine Leporati Graham and Sheila Oakes John and Jeanne O'Connor Lisa Gimelli Tanya Leslie Dr. Edward Gold and Rosanne Guararra Robert and Mary Levai Deirdre Ogden Emanuel Goldman Joshua and Ronni Levering OneHope Foundation Ann and Paul Goldstein Beverly Lewis Jesusa and Suzie Organista Adriana O'Toole Stephanie Gregory Shirley Li and Mark Yolleck Patricia Grunther Janet and Joe Link Mark and Mary Packer Deborah and Nahum Hahn Christopher and Carol Lippincott Brigitte Padberg Beth and Thomas Panucci Alyce Halchak Mallory Loehr and Michael John van Rhyn Keith Hall David W. Lowden Kathryn Patterson David and Suzanne Hall Megan Lukas and Glen Parker Maxine Pittman Booz Allen Hamilton Tim Lynch Mark and Cynthia Porter

Herbert and Thelma Portnoff

Tanya Priber

Barbara and Peter Prichard

Kevin and Melanie Rattigan

Heidi Reifenberg

Glenn and Lyn Reiter

Mary Ann Renn

Mary Rex

Nicholas Rigg

Robert and Nicole Rinklin

Denise C. Riordan

**Deborah Rivers** 

Abigail Robin

Christopher Robinson

Cynthia and John Rogers

Marcia Rogers

Marian Rothenberg

Christine and Robert Russo

Yaniel Sargeant

Maureen Savage

Beth Calamia Scheckel

Kenneth and Robin Schlager

John and Johanna Schmitt

Kathleen and Howard Schostack

Tony Schuman and Peg Seip

Erika Segall

Lynn Seligman

Elizabeth B. Sheedy

Linda Shortman

Betty Shvetz

Isaac Silverman

Allison and Michael Silverstein

Kenneth Silvestri

Mark Smith

Kate Sonnenberg and Thomas Zaubler

Per Sorensson

Karen Speth

Newell Dean Squires

Cameron Stowell

Nancy-Jo Taiani

Michael and Tera Tarulli

La Keisha Temple

Nat Testa

Nancy Herkness Theodorou

John and Elizabeth Thomas

Karla Trincanello

Jean-Louis and Marty Turlin

Yael Silverberg Urian

Michelle Vago

Frank Van Morrelgem

Montserrat Vargas

Donna and Robert Villanova

Marjorie Villapando

Christina Vincenti

David and Mary Beth Weil

Beverly and David Weitzman

Alfred and Barbara Weller

Bryn Whittle

Ashlee Wolfe

Jane Wood

Eric D. Zavolinsky

Ariel Zeitlin

Kelly and Paul Ziek

### **In-Kind Donors**

Dagmara Domińczyk and Patrick Wilson

Deborah Ellis

Rosemary Iversen

Marni Jessup

Julie Adam Marchini Elizabeth Rich

### **Corporate Matching Gifts**

ADP

American Express

Apple

BlackRock

Briston Myers Squibb

Coca Cola

Covanta

Google

Hearst

. . .

Macy's McGraw-Hill

McKinsey and Co.

Paul/Weiss

**Prudential** 

T-Mobile

Visa



Judge Victoria Pratt signs copies of "The Power of Dignity: How Transforming Justice Can Heal Our Communities" at an intimate reception held at Rosemary Iversen's home.

### Gifts Were Made in Celebration, in Honor, or in Memory of the following:

Mary Aley

Joan Bloch

Paul O. Boger, Sr.

John C. Boyd

Sheila Boyd

John D. Brewington Sr.

Laura Case Callender

David Carr

Michael Cocco

Vernon and Barbara Corbin

John Francis Curry III

Terry Lawrence Demming

Charles Eckstein

Sally Ellyson and Jerry Esposito

Paul Epstein Barbara Farlie

William P. Ford

The Fortt Family

Gina Chung Fortt

Donna Grant

Rae and Jesse Green

Bill, Sally, and Bobby Grose

Carla Horowitz Nancy Hutchinson

Lois Infeld

Isabella and our angels

Rosemary Iversen

Norman James

David Jones

Alexander Laser

Thomas R. Laws

Joan Lippincott

Diana Lunin

Laura A. Marchini

Irwin Maskin

Irene C. Masterson

Flossie Young and Bertha Matthews

Michael L. McCann

Cheryl McCoy

Serella McGee

Teddie McKee

Aida Medina, R.N.

Amilcar R. Melendez

Sue Mellin

Nadiya Mirchuk

William Murrell

George Oliphant

Mary Packer Lauren Proctor

Rosaleen Quinn

Jim RE

Liz Rich

Margot Sage-EL

Fran Abbruzzese Shoenfield

Hyacinth Spiller

Toby Stein

Gemma Sullivan

Shirley Suzuki

Janet Torsney

**Bob Tortoriello** 

Dorothy C. Van Cleef

Ben and Max Virella-Feld

Gloria Wachowiak

James Whithed

Jackson Whitsett

Martha Williams

Stanley Winters

Brenda Wolchok

Kelly Ziek

### Brighter Futures Start Today

Help shape the future of MPL by pledging to include the Foundation in your estate plans. Whether you'd like to add us as a beneficiary to your will, a trust, or any insurance plans, there are many ways to achieve your philanthropic goal of leaving a legacy. Please contact Mary Packer, Executive Director,

at 973-744-0500 x2269 or mary@montclairplf.org to discuss how you'd like your planned gift to be designated and acknowledged.

A special thank you to those who so generously made bequests in recent years:

- Estate of Robert Alan Becker
- Estate of Glenn W. Gever
- Estate of Martha B. Herkner
- Estate of Kathryn Perino



Former Director Janet Torsney and Librarian Ariel Zeitlin at the solar eclipse

Gifts received January 1 - December 31, 2024

Please contact **info@montclairplf.org** with any questions. The Montclair Public Library Foundation strives to be accurate in its acknowledgment of our generous donors. If there are errors, please let us know so they can be corrected.

### Staff

#### Administration

Radwa Ali Mia Boxer Adrienne Burke Lisa Connell Andrew Ng Margarette Ouji Selwa Shamy Janet Torsney Patricia Way Linda Welch

#### Adult School

Maurice Boyer Carol Costello Kaitlyn Flannagan Candace Jones Elaine Morillo Ariel Zeitlin

#### **Adult Services**

Kait Astrella Guitry Banks Kiera Clifford Tracy Crawford Jill DeMarco Sally Fica Roger Kosson Marisa Shaari Lymon Smith Jr. Lisa Tomaselli Kristina Variano

#### Bellevue Avenue Branch

Kristen Comeaux Rekha Gandhi Chasity Hernandez Yazmin Johnson Alessandra Lentini Linda McMahan Nancy Ort Raven Ramirez Luke Spaltro Adrian Waters

#### **Borrower Services**

James Crocker
Derek Duncan
Margaret Higgins
Thomas Hoesly
Pearl Kustanovich
Lisa Lakomy
Ronald Leiva
Noemie Maxwell Vassilakis
Amy Raiss
Christian Rasmusson
Shirley Suzuki
Liana Vazquez
Cynthia Walker
Eliza White
MariAnne Yeterian

#### Collection & Materials Services

Kenneth French Diane Josephs

#### Facilities & Security

Timothy Flowers
Haquette Newsome
Manily Jenkins
Kenneth Williams

#### Youth & Teen Services

Robert Axelrod Gina Chung Fortt Lynn Ferrara Deivis Garcia Nia Gitau Jeffery Harrison

### Amnah Javed Daisy Lorenzo Janet Morales Enola Romano Jodi Silverman Matilda Williams Ruby Williamson Selene Yang

#### Montclair Public Library Foundation

Mary Packer Kelly Farrell Ziek



Library staff members Adrienne Burke and Enola Romano received bricks as a gift for their years of service at the 2024 Staff Appreciation breakfast.

Talented local pianist Aaron Gardner at our A Very Vine Affair fundraising event.

### **Volunteers**

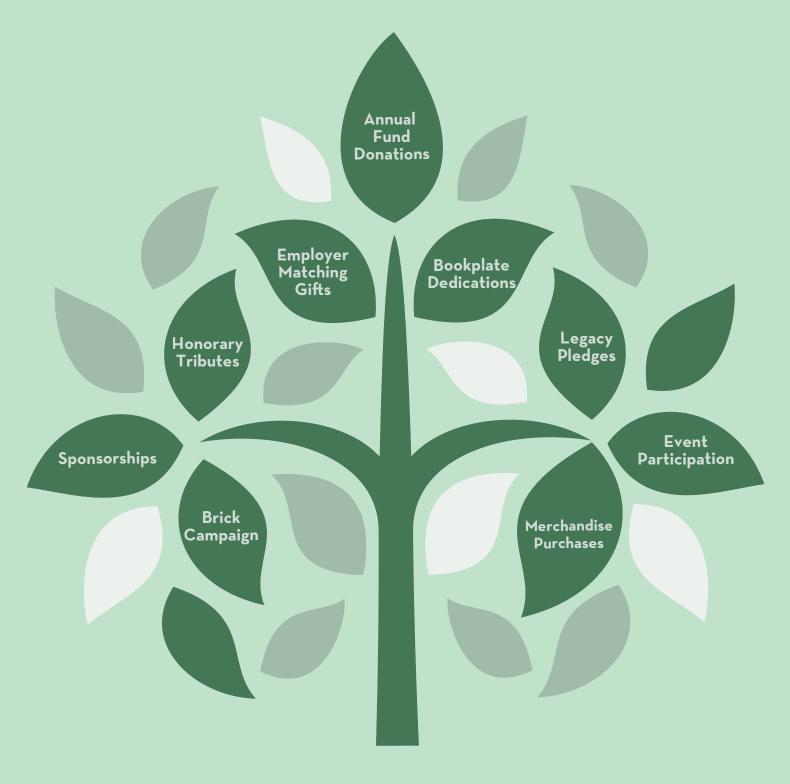
#### Thank you to all our volunteers who made a difference in 2024.

Connie Alexis-Laona Will DeBear Ercumat Dursun Glenn Eichler Barbara Farber Ella Fitzhugh Barbara Hedeen Karen Herbst Grace Ju

Catherine Onyemelukwe

Gina Papeo
Michael Papuzenski
Maxine Pittman
Crystal Proenza-Ponte
Sandra Restino
Heloise Ruskin
John Sieck
Bob Sillery
Roseanne Spendley
Bill Stein

## Ways to Support the Foundation



Main Library 50 S. Fullerton Avenue Montclair, NJ 07042 Bellevue Avenue Branch 185 Bellevue Avenue Montclair, NJ 07043

