

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEWPORT
BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

FALL 2023



The Central Library turns 30!

*Join us in celebrating
three decades as the cultural
heart of the community.*





Celebrating 30 Years of the Central Library and Investing in the Future

In 2024 the Foundation celebrates two milestones. It was 35 years ago that Elizabeth and John Stahr gathered advocates in the community and began a movement to convince the City Council that Newport Beach needed a central library that would be a reflection of the quality of this City and be the educational and cultural center for Newport Beach and its surrounding communities. That group of dedicated citizens became the Newport Beach Library Foundation. The Foundation, with the support of the Library Trustees, launched a capital campaign that raised \$2.2 million (over \$4.5 million in today's dollars!) to help fund the construction of the Central Library. In July 1994 the Central Library opened its doors. Look for announcements of special events to celebrate 30 years of serving the public—of all ages—in 2024.

Thirty years later, our patrons crowd the library for Library Live and Witte Lectures, for the Library's Sunday Musicales, for children's programs like Storytime and Crafternoons and our read to a dog program, to hear local authors, medical professionals and scientists, to use the computers, Media Lab, and Broadcast Booth—and, yes, to borrow books.

You can make an investment in the future of the Newport Beach Public Library by leaving an estate gift to the Foundation and being part of The Elizabeth and John Stahr Legacy Society. The Stahr Legacy Society honors those who have left an estate gift to the Foundation or those that have notified the Foundation that they intend to do so. Members of the Stahr Legacy Society to season opening and season closing Library Leadership Circle events and are listed in the Annual Report.

The Library Foundation is also offering the FreeWill service to Foundation members and all Library patrons. FreeWill is an online tool to simplify the estate planning process. You can create a legally valid will online at no cost, providing peace of mind and security for what you hold dear.

If you have already included the Library Foundation in your legacy planning, please let us know so that we can include you in The Elizabeth and John Stahr Legacy Society.

For financial advisor information and the Estate Gift Intent Form, go to:

www.NBPLF.Foundation/Estate-Giving

For further information, contact Jerold D Kappel CFRE, Library Foundation CEO, at jkappel@nbplf.foundation, or by phone at 949-717-3890.

HUMAN STORIES BEHIND LIBRARY NUMBERS

There are many things the Newport Beach Public Library does that can be easily quantified: counting how many patrons visit the buildings on any given day, how many items are checked out, how many library cards are issued, how many reference questions answered, and how many people attend a program.

But what about the human stories behind those numbers? There are human connections that are made every day: children attending their first storytime, patrons getting their first library card, staff connecting people to much needed social services. Library staff are able to witness and be a part of life-changing moments every day, such as an adult learner reading on their own for the first time or a patron using technology to connect with a long-lost family member.

We refer to these connections as “touches” and in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Library had over 3,000,000 patron touches. Those touches are not just people coming through the doors of Central and the three neighborhood libraries, but people using the eBranch of eBooks and audiobooks, over 60 searchable databases, eMagazines, streaming videos, and the Beanstack tracking platform. It includes the Passport service, test proctoring, program attendance including the Adult Literacy program, use of the public computers, Media Lab, and Broadcast Booth, and people that call the Library for specific information. 3,000,000 touches a year. That is community impact.

Offentimes people come to the Library when they are at a low point in their lives. Staff are able to offer a warm, friendly smile and a touch of human kindness in what can seem like an inhumane world. Libraries have always done this. Everyone who walks through the doors are welcome to enjoy the resources and the environment.

We are here to help however we can. For most of us it is more than just a job. We’re proud to know that we make a real difference in our community and the lives of everyone who chooses to come through our doors.

– *Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager*



CHANGING LIVES THROUGH PROJECT ADULT LITERACY

The Newport Beach Public Library’s Project Adult Literacy (PAL) Program provides free help for adults to improve their reading and writing skills. The program creates a foundation for its learners to achieve greater success in their lives.

Sarah, a 31-year-old female, joined PAL in 2022. She has severe learning disabilities and anxiety issues. These challenges, compounded with her inability to read and write, have made her life very challenging. In fact, Sarah was homeless when she learned about PAL. She did not know a program like this existed. Sarah joined and was matched with a tutor to work with her on a weekly basis.

Despite numerous challenges, Sarah has been committed to PAL. When Sarah first joined PAL, it was difficult for her to write a simple sentence. A year later, she can write sentences, short speeches, and thank you letters. Listen to what Sarah wrote about her experience transitioning from homelessness to housing:

“I am truly grateful. I’m living in my place for 6 months. I have a roof over my head. It’s a new experience and a new journey.”

Project Adult Literacy has helped Sarah express herself in new ways. It has given her a voice. The confidence this has given her has helped make positive changes in her life. She’s registered at Orange Coast College, began volunteering at her church, and has shown a desire to become more involved in the community. For these reasons and more, Sarah was selected as the PAL recipient of the 2023 Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award for outstanding achievement. She is truly a capable and deserving individual. We are so proud of Sarah and all the success that she has made!

– *Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director*

The Foundation salutes its volunteer leadership, both current and those that have fulfilled their tenure.

CURRENT



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Vice Chair & Secretary



Emilie Menghin
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Jill Johnson-Tucker
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Joanna Kim
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Mireya LLaurado
Attorney



Walter Stahr
Community Leader

COMPLETED TENURE



Dorothy Larson



Toby Larson



John Prichard



Lizanne Witte



Adrian Windsor



Felix Yan

Dear NBPLF Members and Friends,

After guiding the Library Foundation through the pandemic, the shift to virtual programming, a return to in-person programming, hiring a new CEO, negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Newport Beach to raise 50% of the funds needed to build a state-of-the-art lecture hall/civic auditorium, Karen Heath Clark passed the leadership of the Board of Directors to me in June of 2023. Karen deserves praise for her steady hand and wisdom in guiding the Foundation during these past years and I will rely on her guidance during my tenure as Chair of the Board.

The Foundation has seen valued Board members complete their tenure as leaders of the Foundation. Completing their service to the Foundation are Dorothy Larson, Toby Larson, John Prichard, Lizanne Witte, Adrian Windsor, and Felix Yan. Dorothy Larson and Antonella Castro remain Library leaders by being appointed to the Library Board of Trustees. Lizanne Witte and Adrian Windsor continue their volunteer service as members of Board Committees. We value these volunteer leaders who have served the Foundation and the Library.

Joining the Foundation Board are Linda Beimfohr, Joy Brenner, Randy Heyler, Emilie Menghin, and Mireya Llaurado. I welcome their commitment and look forward to working with them to fulfill the Foundation's mission to "fund valuable library resources and engage the community through diverse literary, cultural, and intellectual programs."

This past year we continued the campaign for Witte Hall, Beyond Books, chaired by Jill Johnson-Tucker. The Hall, a civic auditorium for the Newport Beach community, continues to draw support from community leaders. Rising costs have had a significant impact on the construction bids for the project, but the Foundation is confident that the community will philanthropically support this critical addition to the Library and Civic Center.

It was 30 years ago in 1994 that the Central Library opened its doors to the Newport Beach community. It was the Foundation, established by the foresight and drive of John and Elizabeth Stahr, and joined by many Newport Beach community leaders, which advocated for a Central Library and raised \$2.2 million, 25% of the eventual cost, for its construction. That insight of the need for a Central Library has resulted in an institution that, as Library Services Manager Rebecca Lightfoot documented, has three million "touches" with patrons each year. That support has provided a library for the Newport Beach community that is rated a "Four Star" library—the only "Star" library in Orange County and one of only twelve in California.

Your continued contributory support as members and as ticket purchasers to the Witte Lectures and Library Live, and attendance of our free programs of Medicine in Our Backyard, Financial Literacy Workshop, Spotlight on Science, and the Book Discussion Group, makes the Library Foundation an important and vital partner of the Newport Beach Public Library. I urge you to continue your support, increase it if possible, and encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to join you in that support.

We are also seeking leadership volunteers to join our Board of Directors and Board committees. Feel free to contact me or CEO Jerold Kappel to learn how you can be part of the future of the Foundation and the great Library it serves.

Kevin Barlow
Chair of the Board
 kevin.barlow@gmail.com

PROGRAMS

The Foundation presented 45 programs in the 2022-2023 season, 30 of which were free for the community. Free programs included Medicine in Our Backyard, the Financial Literacy Workshops, Book Discussion Group, and the new initiative, Spotlight on Science. The Foundation continues its successful partnership with the University of California Irvine Health for the Medicine series and has begun a partnership with UCI Science for the Spotlight on Science series, which will expand to three programs this current season. Total attendance for the programs presented by the Foundation was over 3800.

The demand for the Foundation's program is strong, with both Library Live presentations this fall sold out and the Spotlight on Science first lecture over-registered. Medicine in Our Backyard and the Financial Literacy Workshops and the Book Discussion Group were all back to pre-pandemic attendance, and often exceeding it.

WITTE DISTINGUISHED AUTHOR SERIES

The 26th season of the Witte Lectures kicked off with a SOLD-OUT event featuring Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author Anne Applebaum. Over 1300 people attended the Winter-Spring 2023 Witte Lecture Series. Audience members were enthused to be able to attend compelling presentations by:

- Anne Applebaum, author of *Twilight of Democracy: The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism*
- Arthur Caplan, PhD, renowned medical ethicist, spoke on *Ethical Challenges on the Frontiers of Medicine*
- Cristina Mittermeier, National Geographic and Smithsonian Conservation photographer, spoke on *Enoughness: Ocean Conservation*
- Dacher Keltner, Ph.D., visionary and Faculty Director of the Berkeley Greater Good Science Center, spoke on *The Promise and Peril of Power in the 21st Century* and on his research and book on *Awe*

LIBRARY LIVE

Library Live featured a wide array of authors in a variety of genres including science and historical fiction that gave rise to stories of immigration, identity, climate change and refugee crises. The speakers were:

- Rebecca Scherm, author of *A House Between Earth and the Moon*
- Bill Plaschke, author of *Paradise Found: A High School Football Team's Rise from the Ashes*
- Omar El Akkad, author of *What Strange Paradise*
- Min Jin Lee, author of *Pachinko*

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

The Library Foundation initiated a new free program that will focus on innovative and exciting scientific research, utilizing extraordinary and renowned scientists from our local universities. The first event was held on May 4, 2023, with James Bullock, PhD., Dean of UCI Physical Sciences. The free event was over-registered in 5 days and was very successful. Dr. Bullock captivated us with the stunning images from the James Webb Space Telescope. Enthusiastic audience feedback has prompted the Foundation to program three Spotlight on Science presentations this season.

MEDICINE IN OUR BACKYARD

Through the Library Foundation's partnership with UCI Health and the support of Mike and Polly Smith, Medicine in Our Backyard engaged internationally renowned UCI medical faculty to address a broad range of health issues: nutrition, breast cancer, hearing loss, Alzheimer's disease, heart failure, Crohn's disease, aging and the spine, and skin cancers. As many as 150 people registered for these free lectures, each ending with a wide-ranging Q & A exchange with the audience.

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS

The Financial Literacy Workshops started in September and saw an increase in participation, exceeding pre-pandemic numbers. The workshops are free programs presented by the Library Foundation for the public. Financial Literacy presents *It's Your Money Series* in the Fall and *It's Your Estate* workshop in the Spring. Each series has six workshops.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

This free program also saw a significant increase in participation. The Discussion Group, curated and moderated by Director of Programs Kunga Wangmo, suggests books to read and discuss, and then Kunga Wangmo curates the suggestions and includes the works by the Library Live authors who will speak on that series for the season. Book Discussion Group begins in September and ends in May for nine sessions.

VIDEOS

Due to licensing restrictions, videos of the Witte Lecture and Library Live series are available on the Foundation's website free for members of the Foundation. The Medicine in Our Backyard video archives are available on the Foundation's website free to both Members and non-Members.

MEMBER EVENTS

The season opened with the annual Library Leadership Reception in the Bamboo Courtyard, celebrating those Foundation donors that make generous annual contributions to fund the Witte Lectures, Library Live, and other Foundation programs as well as provide support for the Foundation’s support of the Newport Beach Library. As you walk along the portico in front of the Central Library you will see tiles with the names of those that have made leadership contributions over the past 30 years.

The season ended with a Summer Solstice Reception in the Bamboo Courtyard celebrating new members of the Foundation, Library Leadership Circle donors, and distinguished guests. At this event the Foundation honored Mike and Polly Smith who have sponsored Medicine in Our Backyard since its inception ten years ago. After the reception, Susan Straight, Southern California award-winning author, spoke about her book, *Mecca*, which is a homage to Southern California. She was very well received and her novels were available for purchase and signing after her presentation.

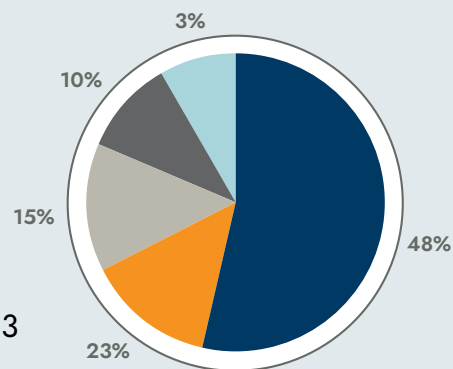
SPECIAL EVENT IN SUPPORT OF THE TECHNOLOGY FUND FOR WITTE HALL

In January, the Foundation hosted a presentation by Greg MacGillivray of MacGillivray Freeman Films on the publication of his memoir *Five Hundred Summer Stories: A Life in Imax*. MacGillivray spoke about his life as the filmmaker of 45 groundbreaking and award-winning IMAX productions created to raise awareness about the natural world. Attendees celebrated MacGillivray’s outstanding career and raised funds to support the audio/visual technology that will make Witte Hall an outstanding experience.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

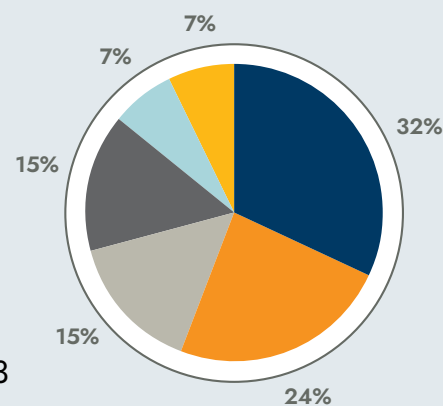
The Foundation had a 7.7% increase in contributed revenue for the fiscal year, and with earned revenue from the Witte Lectures and Library Live presentations, the Foundation experienced an overall net operating revenue increase of 12%. This excludes the Paycheck Protection Program grant of \$100,000 that was forgiven in Fiscal 2022.

Operating expenses were on budget, and revenue exceeded expenses by nearly \$30,000. The Foundation contributed \$48,600 to the Library and underwrote \$49,290 in campaign expenses for the Beyond Books capital campaign for Witte Hall. Total programming was \$320,780 of which \$100,180 was for free community programming. Overall, the Foundation provided support to the Library of over \$197,000.



FISCAL 2023 REVENUE

■ Contributed Revenue	\$385,349.00
■ Grants	\$184,978.00
■ Investment Income	\$118,666.00
■ Earned Revenue	\$ 82,083.00
■ Special Events	\$ 27,600.00



FISCAL 2023 EXPENSES

■ Fee Program Expenses	\$220,602.00
■ Management.....	\$164,600.00
■ Free Community Programs	\$ 100,179.00
■ Fundraising	\$100,802.00
■ Capital Campaign.....	\$ 49,287.00
■ Library Contribution	\$ 48,555.00

The Foundation raised \$2.9 million in the capital campaign for Witte Hall with an additional \$5.2 million in confirmed gift agreements. The Foundation’s endowment, restricted to support of the Library, is \$2.97 million.

The Foundation has received a Platinum rating for transparency from Guidestar.org (Candid) and a Four Star rating from Charity Navigator. These independent rating agencies assure donors, and the community, that contributions will be stewarded, used for the intended purpose, and managed for the good of the Foundation, the Newport Beach Library, and the community that uses and enjoys the Library. The Foundation’s audit and IRS Form 990 are on the Foundation’s website under the About/Financial Responsibility tab.

GOVERNANCE

Under the leadership of Chair Karen H. Clark, the Board of Directors remained engaged and committed to the mission and programs of the Foundation.

The Board welcomed new members Linda Beimfohr, Joy Brenner, Randy Heyler, Emilie Menghin, and Mireya Llauro. Dorothy Larson, Toby Larson, John Prichard, Lizanne Witte, Adrian Windsor, and Felix Yan completed their terms of service. The Board also appreciates the service of Tammy Tang who left the Board and Antonella Castro who was appointed to the Board of Library Trustees. Dorothy Larson also became a Trustee.

Karen Clark completed her term as Board Chair in June and now serves as Immediate Past Chair. Kevin Barlow assumed the role of Chair, Marilyn Krahe serves as Vice Chair and corporate Secretary, and new Board member Emilie Menghin serves as Treasurer.

Janet Ray was the Trustee liaison to the Foundation Board this past fiscal year, Trustee Chair Paul Watkins was the liaison to the Witte Lectures Committee and Trustee Ash Kumra to the Library Live Committee. The Foundation thanks them for their support and service.

We invite you to JOIN nbplf.foundation.

Donations

The following are donations, pledges, grants, and program sponsorships received between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. If we have unintentionally misspelled, omitted a name, or incorrectly categorized your contribution, please let us know at admin@nbplf.foundation or by phone at 949-717-3892, so we may apologize profusely and correct our records.

Renaissance Program Underwriter \$25,000 Plus

The Isidore C. & Penny W. Myers Foundation

Classicist \$15,000 to \$24,999

Pamela and Don Gilmour
Barbara Roberts
Michael C. and Pauline L. Smith
Samuel and Tammy Tang
Lizanne L. and Matthew Witte
William Witte and Keiko Sakamoto Witte

Oxford Scholar \$10,000 TO \$14,999

Karen and Bruce Clark
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Pacific Life Foundation
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Diane and David Steffy
Jill Johnson-Tucker and Larry Tucker
Doreen W. Vail

First Edition Collector \$5,000 TO \$9,999

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Holly Shores
Richard and Elizabeth Steele Fund
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Christopher and Deborah Gaal
Pamela Gardner
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Whitney and Michael Gomez
Randy and Kelly Heyler
Hoelscher Bell Elliott Foundation
Dolores and Marshall Johnson
Marilyn and Francis Krahe
Buky Lee
Donald Morrow and Judy Johnson

Classic Collector \$2,500 TO \$4,999 cont.

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Kim Prickett
Janet and Walkie Ray
Thomas B. Rogers and Sally Anderson
Chiyo Imai Rowe
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Latika Sethi
Ellen Shockro
Peter and Alexandria Strelow
Thomas and Marilyn Sutton
Steve Swerdlow
Laura Seaver
Thomas and Marilyn Sutton
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Mary L. Vollmer
Tom Weinberg Staple
Miles Youрман

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Marjorie and Roger Davison
Judi Dutton
Diane Hafer
Irene McKeown
Roger & Marion Palley
James and Jacqueline Shelburne
Elizabeth Stahr
Latika Sethi
Jene Witte

Knowledge Explorer \$1,000 TO \$1,499

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Edward R. and Sally S. Crockett
Roger C. and Marjorie Davison
Richard A. and Elaine England
Sandy Fainbarg
Barbara Glabman
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Fred and Wendy Salter
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Tatjana and Gaylord Soli

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Ginger Sun Ong and Arthur Ong
Karen Thorp
Rana Mays Truman
Clarence and Janice Turner
Amy and Gary Uyemura
Paul and Stacey Von Berg
Paul K and Ronnie Watkins

Literary Lion \$599 TO \$999

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Thomas C. Tustin and DM Fullerton
Stephanie and Ken VandeVeer

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Joe Daruty
Jackie D. Davidson
Vicki de Reynal
Patricia and Gary Dreyfus
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Arnold Eisman
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Glenn and Jane Fowler
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Carol Gaetano
David and Josie Gardner
Jerri and Mark Gerard
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Susan J. Glass
Constance Glenn
Ed and Mary Hall
Rebecca and William Halladay

Book Collector \$250 TO \$499

Gene and Lynn April Hartline
Pam and Mike Howard
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Joyce Jack
Anne and Thomas Johnson
Jo Anne Johnson
Dennis and Joanne Keith
Christine Kiger
Betsy and Ray King
Martha Kinney
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Jan Shea
Barbara Shelton
Linda Simos
Margaret Stewart
Donald and Carole Tompkins
Jeffrey Topkis
Rosemary Ward
Cam and Suzanne Woods

The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation appreciates your generosity, patience, and assistance. To renew your Membership or if you are not a Member and want to join our community of library lovers and champions, please visit nbplf.foundation. We will welcome you with open arms

**Book Lover
\$100 to \$249**

Olivia Abel
Lisa King Ackley
Susan Anderson
Kathleen and Dwight Armstrong
Richard and Rita Auelmann
Jim Aust
Lynda Badum
Judy Baldwin
Linda Barker
Alia Batniji
Charles and Martha Becker
Bonnie Bennett
Elaine Beno
Carol Berke
Raymond and Carol Berke
Sharon and W.I. Bilbeisi
Grant and Heidi Bixby
Linda Blackburn
Gerald Blankenship
Lynne Bloomberg
Walt and Carol Boice
Peter S. and Sabra Bordas
Robin and Linda Boyd
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Gretchen Stahr Breunig
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Heather Chalmers
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Alice C. Coons
Richard and Kim Crawford
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**Book Lover
\$100 to \$249**

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Peggy and Frank Listi
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**Book Lover
\$100 to \$249**

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Sue Michaelson
Kathy Michel
Malika Middlebrooks and Mohammed Elayan
John and Elizabeth Middleton
Carole Miller
Kim and Dave Miller
James E. and Michael Ann Mitchell
Gigi Moaddeli
Joyce Moix
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John and Ann O'Flynn
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Lauren Packard
Darrell Pash
Scott and Liddy Paulsen
Yvette Pergola
Peter Perrin
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Nancy L. Phelps
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Judith Rigby
Ginny Riley
Jill Robbins
Kathy Roberts
Linda Roberts
Ruth and Mel Ross
Teresa Ross
Herbert Roth
Jane Rowen
Barbara Roy
Lynda Ruth
Dave Saenz
Candi Tony Sary
Katitza Schmidt
Jonas and Viviane Schultz
Bonnie Scidmore
Sondra Scott
James V. and Harriet Selna
Robert and Mary Shackleton
Claudette Shaw
Norm and Joyce Shepherd
Don and Sally Anne Sheridan
Lawrence and Julie Sherwin
Stephen and Michelle Sholkoff

**Book Lover
\$100 to \$249**

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Ronald and Wendy Smith
Carol Sokel
Victoria Solinger
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