

Friends

of the St. Louis County Library Foundation



St. Louis County Library
Foundation

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Spring 2023 / Volume 21, No. 3



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Michelle Beck / mbeck@slcl.org

Development Assistant
Ashley Sexton / asexton@slcl.org

Friends Newsletter

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Terri Williams, *Content Editor*
Kim Fischer, *Senior Graphic Designer*
Lucas Peterson, *Photographer*

St. Louis County Library Foundation
1412 S. Spoeede Road
St. Louis, MO 63131
314-994-3300
foundation.slcl.org



St. Louis County Library
Foundation

Note from the President

Linda Legg, Foundation Board President



Welcome spring! As the new president of the St. Louis County Library Foundation Board, I want to thank Brian Davies for his excellent leadership and guidance the last three years as the Foundation Board president. He unquestionably created the positive environment that enabled the board to grow and thrive in our role of funding library extras

for the wonderful and creative library we admire and support. I also want to acknowledge and thank the directors of the Foundation Board—some who have served for many years and all who are great ambassadors for the Library. And the board is welcoming some new directors who will add their skills and love for libraries to the mix.

The Foundation Board exists to advance the Library's mission of promoting literacy in our region through programs and services that benefit the whole community and attract people to the Library.

We will be focused on funding existing valued programs, and we'll be open to brainstorm new ideas and ways the Foundation can help the Library. We are proud to support a library that receives countless awards as a true community asset.

There's lots of good news in this issue...several awards including being named Missouri Library of the Year and a Five-Star ranking from Library Journal, generous donors including Great Southern Bank, announcement of a wonderful fundraiser in August.

Thank you, Friends of the St. Louis County Library, for your support.



SAVE THE DATE

A GREAT GATSBY CELEBRATION

ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION EXTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023

THE REVERIE STL, 17089 N. OUTER 40 RD., CHESTERFIELD, MO 63005

Proceeds benefit SLCL.

Tickets available soon. Visit foundation.slcl.org/events for updates.

To learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact **Jackie Hamilton** at jhamilton@slcl.org or 314-994-3300 ext. 2156

 **St. Louis County Library Foundation**

A ROARING GOOD CAUSE!

Rock Out with SLCL

The St. Louis County Library Foundation invited the entire community to Rock Out with SLCL last November at The Sheldon Concert Hall and Art Galleries. The event, commemorating SLCL's 75th anniversary, was an 80's themed concert featuring musical artist Brian Owens. A true entertainer, Owens captivated the audience with hits from 80's icons like Prince, Journey and New Edition. Attendees danced from their seats and sang along with each musical number.

In addition to viewing the concert, guests had an opportunity to capture the night's events with a polaroid photo and write about their fondest library memories, which were placed in our anniversary memory box.



Musical artist Brian Owens



Kristen Sorth



Audience at event featuring Brian Owens



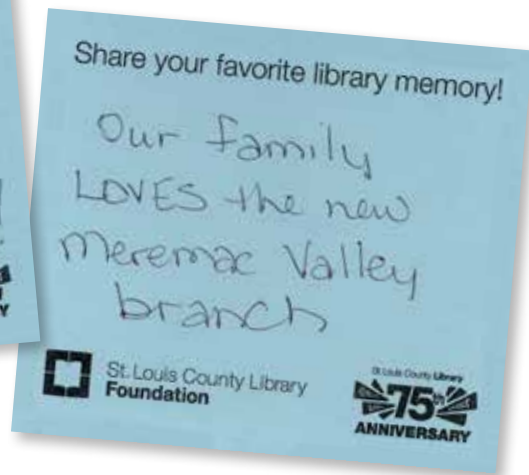
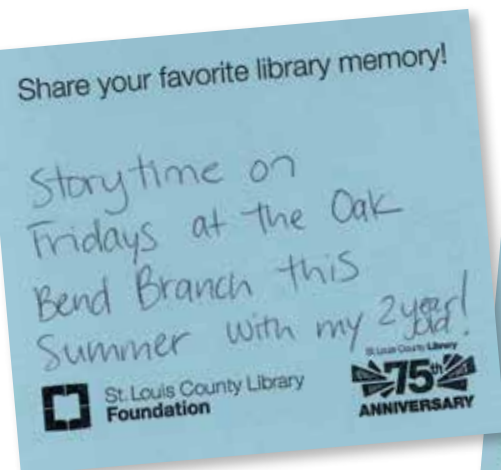
Musical artist Brian Owens and the band



Dr. Lynn Beckwith and Brian Owens



Reyna Spencer and Jackie Hamilton



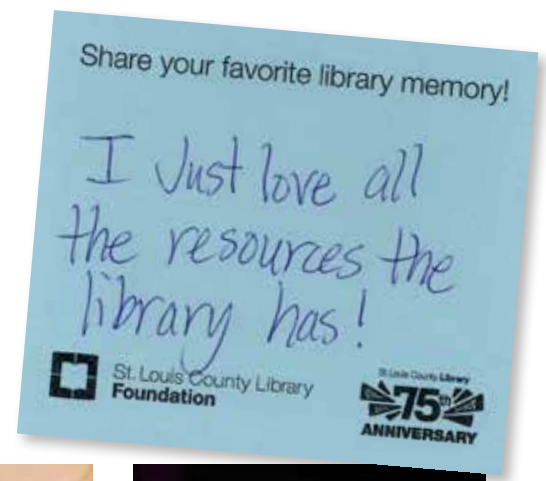
Final bow from musical artist Brian Owens and the band



Stephany and Richard Kniep



Brian Owens performs with his children



Gloria Walls and Beverly Pleasant



Dr. Mary Gira, Brian Owens, Catherine Quiroga, and Maurice Quiroga



Vocalist Neil Salsich

New Bookmobile Sponsored by Great Southern Bank

Bookmobiles eliminate barriers to service and open up a world of discovery and enjoyment for students. Our friends at **Great Southern Bank** have ensured those barriers will continue to be broken. Their generous gift of 150k will be used to sponsor a new bookmobile! Because of generous supporters like Great Southern Bank, the next generation of students will continue to be empowered by the resources and services bookmobiles provide.



Kristen Sorth, Jackie Hamilton, Mary Dunavant and Brian Davies



SLCL Celebrates Monumental Year!

Last year marked St. Louis County Library's 75th anniversary, and there was plenty to celebrate! In addition to commemorating this milestone anniversary, SLCL was selected as a recipient of the prestigious National Medal for Museum and Library Service, named Missouri Library of the Year, and received a 5-Star rating from Library Journal, among many other accolades!

In September, only months after being awarded the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, SLCL received the title of Missouri Library of the Year by the Missouri Library Association. The honor came as recognition for the many ways the library district has served the community through impactful services and programming.

“We are honored to receive this award celebrating the work of our employees. St. Louis County Library is very proud of our work supporting the region during the pandemic.”

Kristen Sorth, Director and CEO, St. Louis County Library

The year ended on yet another high note in December, as SLCL was notified it was listed as a 5-star library in the 2022 Library Journal Index of Public Library Service; an SLCL first! The 5-star ranking is awarded to public libraries that excel in nine categories of service outputs: legal service area population, physical circulation, e-material circulation, library visits, program attendance, public computer users, wi-fi sessions, electronic retrievals and library website visits.



SLCL is more than a library district. Each branch serves as a customized community hub, providing the resources and services its patrons need most. These include, providing free books to children for literacy support, access to an accredited adult high school education program, technology to bridge the digital divide, fresh produce and meals to aid in hunger relief, tutoring services for students, rental assistance for families in

Awards, Individual Honors and Announcements received in 2022!

- **Special Recognition Leadership Award, North County Incorporated**
GrandPads Initiative
- **Library Journal Mover & Shaker Award**
Jennifer Gibson, Assistant Director, Strategic Initiatives
- **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Government Finance Officers Association**
2020 Annual Financial Report
- **2022 Best of Florissant Awards, Library Category**
Florissant Valley Branch
- **National Medal for Museum and Library Service Winner, Institute of Museum and Library Services**
Extraordinary and innovative approaches to community service
- **Class of Champions for Diversity & Inclusion Awards, St. Louis Business Journal**
Ricqui Brooks, Adult Literacy Coordinator in Adult Services
- **2022 Missouri Library of the Year, Missouri Library Association**
- **Ronald G. Bohley Award, Missouri Library Association**
Eric Button, Deputy Director of SLCL (one of 3 recipients for the SLCL & SLPL catalog merger)
- **Class of Champions for Diversity & Inclusion Awards, St. Louis Business Journal**
Ricqui Brooks, Adult Literacy Coordinator in Adult Services, Excel Adult High School program
- **5-Star Library Ranking, America's Star Libraries, Library Journal**
- **2023 St. Louis Titan 100**
Kristen Sorth, Director & CEO (announced Dec. 2022)

need, notary assistance and so much more! None of this would be possible without the community partners, amazing employees, and patrons that continue to expand our reach into the community and utilize our resources. Stay tuned for what's in store for 2023!



From the Stacks

Murals of America

by Jennifer Alexander, Adult Collection Development Specialist

Charles Frazier’s novel “Cold Mountain” follows the travels of Inman, a Confederate soldier who escapes from a military hospital before he can be sent back to the fight. The soldier begins a slow walk home hoping to be reunited with Ada, who is struggling with her own

hardships surviving on a failing farm. Readers were captivated by Frazier’s style, how he deployed detailed observations of landscape and humanity with a quiet tone in service to a dramatic story. That debut novel won the National Book Award for fiction in 1997 and won Frazier many fans eager for his next book.



Photo by Jack Gruber

Frazier has continued to write compelling historical novels each highlighting different aspects of the American story. In his latest novel, “The Trackers,” Frazier turns his attention to the Great Depression in a sweeping tale that takes readers on a journey from a ranch in Wyoming to Hooverville camps in Seattle, to the Withlacoochee River Swamp in Florida, and to nightclubs in San Francisco. It is part adventure tale with a mystery at the heart of it, part noir love story in which the love part of the story is only happening to one of the people involved, and part fable which may reveal something of the American character.

Painter Val Welch has been granted a New Deal commission to paint a mural in the Dawes, Wyoming Post Office. At a time when artists and everyone else are having trouble finding employment, Val is pleased with the opportunity and determined to do well. In another bit of good luck John Long and his wife Eve have offered to host Val in the guesthouse of their ranch.

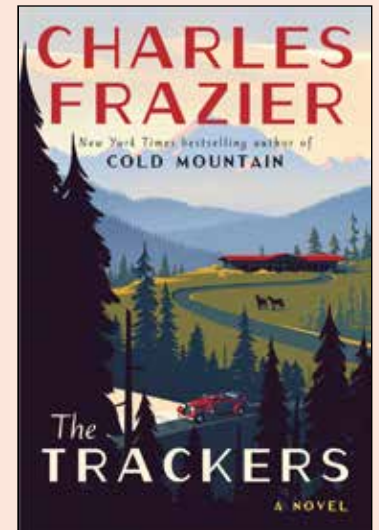
Long is an art lover who served as a sniper in WWI and has political aspirations. His wife Eve had been roaming the country riding the rails and singing in a western band before she met and married Long. They form a glamorous and mysterious couple. Val travels to Wyoming by train. What he notices along the way reveals his artist’s eye. At one stop a tired-looking woman steps down from the train, is not greeted by anyone, doesn’t look right or left, and walks toward the station door. Before she enters, she removes her hat “one that would have been in fashion five years ago” and drops it in a wastebasket. Val


muses “I could spend the next ten years painting that train ride.” Val sets up scaffolding in the Post Office, talks to townspeople about the mural and the WPA, and even has a young girl paint a part of the sky advising her to look at her patch of sky every time she visits. Val’s ideas for this mural and his career are influenced by Diego Rivera and Thomas Hart Benton whose work elevates the experience of the common man rather than simply extolling deeds of the powerful.

His mural is called “The Trackers” and depicts what Val calls a sweep of time. A vast herd of buffalo appears as a dark shadow on the left and gradually thins out to just a few stragglers on the right standing near a herd of cattle. In the center is a trio of trackers—two Crow guides and mountain man John Colter. Val’s intention is to capture a moment of early contact between white men and the Plains Indians, before everything changed for good.

The choice of trackers as his subject proves prophetic when Long’s wife Eve disappears. Val agrees to search for Eve and begins a long quest that takes him across the country. He meets a host of colorful characters along the way. Some are menacing, some helpful, and some just plain mysterious. Perhaps the most peculiar is Long’s right hand man, an old cowboy named Faro who embodies elements of the Old West.

Longtime fans of Frazier and any reader curious about the history of this great sprawling nation will enjoy the adventure and insight of “The Trackers.”





POWERED BY THE
St. Louis Community
Foundation



Give STL Day | May 10

Early Giving Begins April 10, 2023.

New and Renewing Friends

The following is a list of people who joined the Friends of the St. Louis County Library Foundation or who renewed their membership between the dates of August 13, 2022 and February 23, 2023.

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Margaret Brown
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Linda S. Legg
Selma Leong
Eugene Lerman
Lewis A. Levey

The St. Louis County Library Foundation is committed to enhance and enrich the library's educational and cultural mission by securing financial support beyond public funding, sponsoring programs and special projects, and serving as a library ambassador.

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Kim Zachritz
Donna Zerega
Stephanie & Eric Zimmerman

Celebrate Black Resistance to Injustice

Keynote with Carlotta Walls LaNier

Throughout the month of February, SLCL celebrated Black History Month by offering entertaining and educational family programming at various branches and locations across the county. Programming included a performance by the Black Rep, a jazz concert with the Black and White Band featuring Songbird, a gospel celebration featuring Shadrach Robinson, Mia Gully Calicutt and the Rest Outreach Ministry Youth, author events, and much more. The highlight of the month was the keynote author event featuring civil rights

pioneer Carlotta Walls LaNier, held at The Ethical Society on February 17.



Carlotta Walls LaNier

Walls LaNier discussed her book, "A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School" and her experience as a member of the Little Rock Nine. When she and eight other African American students integrated Little Rock Central High School September 25, 1957, she was only 14-years-old. During her

keynote address Walls Lanier shared the emotional, mental, and physical traumas and triumphs she and her family endured for her to secure an equitable education.



Several St. Louis based family members of Mrs. Walls LaNier attended the event.

DID YOU KNOW? Carlotta Walls LaNier once lived in St. Louis with legendary civil rights icon Frankie Freeman.



Will Ross and Sandy Williams

The night also featured the presentation of the Frankie Freeman Inspirational Award to Dr. Will Ross. Dr. Ross is the Associate Dean of Diversity at Washington University, Alumni Endowed Professor of Medicine, Nephrology and Principal Officer for Community Partnerships. He is also the founder of the Saturday Neighborhood Health Clinic, a free service for those in underserved areas.

Programs Celebrating Black History Month



Africa Alive



Author Jaer Armstead-Jones at the Oak Bend Branch



Exploring West African Dance at the Thornhill Branch



Set the Night to Music at the Florissant Valley Branch

Readers' Advisory Reads for Spring



"Code Name Blue Wren"

by Jim Popkin

True Crime

In a family of federal investigators, why is one a Cuban spy?

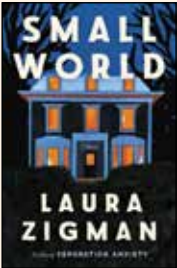


"The Matchmaker's Gift"

by Lynda Cohen Loigman

Fiction

What lessons can a Jewish grandmother's experiences as a 1900s New York matchmaker provide for her 1990s granddaughter?

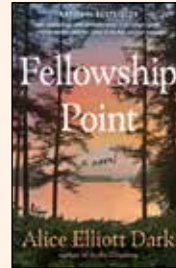


"Small World"

by Laura Zigman

Fiction

Can sisters from a fractured family learn to trust each other?



"Fellowship Point"

by Alice Elliott Dark

Fiction

Can an 80-year-old author dispose of her Maine estate responsibly, reconcile with old friends, and reveal her secret?

A LOOK BACK | History & Genealogy

Lambert Airport

by Brent Trout, Manager, History & Genealogy

Following the Wright Brothers' first flight in 1903, the airplane developed rapidly across the globe. The potential of airplanes in travel and transportation became quite apparent to several influential citizens of St. Louis. For many St. Louis leaders, admitting the city's costly delay in railroad development, establishing an early presence in the air meant a revitalization to the city. Perhaps no greater advocate for the potential of airplanes was local well-to-do Albert Bond Lambert.

Albert, along with his cohorts in the St. Louis Aeronautical Club, leased a field outside of Bridgeton in 1920. Using his own funds, Lambert shifted the field from farming to recreational flying. While that might have been enough to satisfy local enthusiasts, Albert sought to put St. Louis aviation on the map. The newly established Pulitzer Air Races were the perfect venue to showcase St. Louis' advantageous position to serve as a hub for air travel, aeronautic manufacturing, and recreation.

Through Lambert's connections with various departments of government, Lambert convinced the committee in charge of

selecting a site for the Pulitzer Races to visit and consider

St. Louis. After at least three visits, in March 1923 the committee selected St. Louis as the location of the next air race. Immediately, new hangars, stands, and runways were constructed for the field. By the beginning of October 1923, with the prep work completed, the field was officially designated as an airfield. In honor of Lambert, the field was christened the Lambert-St. Louis Flying Field and the Pulitzer Air Races began.

The race brought over 140,000 people to witness the marvels of technology!

The successful rally of the Pulitzer Air Races led to the development of Lambert Airport which served as one of the busiest airports in the golden age of flight. This development cemented aviation industries throughout St. Louis and the surrounding area for much of the 20th century. Without the influence of the Pulitzer Races 100 years ago, St. Louis might have never taken off in the development of air industries and travel!



Dedication of Lambert-St. Louis Flying Field on October 4, 1923 during the Pulitzer Air Races.

Kranzberg Foundation Brings Jazz Jam & High Noon Series to SLCL

Last October, SLCL announced a partnership with the Kranzberg Arts Foundation. Thanks to a generous endowment from the Kranzberg Foundation, SLCL has been enriched with the opportunity to host the Kranzberg Jazz Jam and the Kranzberg High Noon Speaker series at SLCL branches.



Saxophonist Harvey Lockhart and community musicians

The Jazz Jam is led by local music educator Harvey Lockhart and held every first Thursday of the month at the Lewis & Clark Branch. Celebrating St. Louis' legacy of jazz music, the first half of each program features an ensemble of local musicians performing preselected arrangements. The second half of the program is open to any musician in attendance that is willing to join the jam session!

Be sure to mark your calendars for next month's events.

Thursday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

The Kranzberg Jazz Jam hosted at Lewis & Clark

Tuesday, May 9, 12:00 p.m.

The Kranzberg High Noon Series hosted at Florissant Valley

The High Noon Speakers Series is hosted every second Monday of the month at 12 p.m. at the Florissant Valley Branch. Library patrons are invited to bring their lunch and listen to guest speakers from fields across the arts, culture and thought leadership landscape.



Musician Ryan Marquez

Adult High School Program Celebrates 102 Graduates

SLCL's Adult High School Program is thrilled to announce it has now empowered 102 adult learners to receive their high school diplomas. Starting in 2017, SLCL has offered high school education opportunities designed to give adult learners a second chance. Since then, at least one graduate has completed the program at 17 SLCL branches.

Adult Literacy Coordinator, Riqui Brooks stated, "We are so very proud to have helped 100 patrons obtain their high school diplomas and set them on a path to better lives. Each of them worked tirelessly to earn their diploma and achieve their dream while maintaining jobs, family life, and more. These graduates are shining examples of hard work and determination. Our investment in them and this program is a testament to SLCL's mission."

On March 4, the first graduation ceremony since 2019 was held at the Jewish Community Center. In addition to students who recently completed the curriculum, graduates unable to be celebrated in a traditional ceremony during the pandemic were also invited to participate. Over 20 graduates walked across the stage to celebrate this educational milestone.



If you, or someone you know is interested in participating in the Excel Adult High School program, please email excel@slcl.org

Upcoming author events



David Grann
Monday, April 24



Martha Hall Kelly
Tuesday, April 25



Jonathan Losos
Monday, May 1



Soman Chainani
Friday, May 12



Sandeep Jauhar
Tuesday, May 16



Brooke Kroeger
Tuesday, May 23



Jo Nesbø
Thursday, June 1



Fiona Davis
Wednesday, June 21

April

Monday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.

David Grann, "The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder"

Presented by the Westfall Politics & History Series

Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63117

Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m.

Martha Hall Kelly, "The Golden Doves"

Presented by SLCL Authors @ the J

The J's Staenberg Family Complex

Mirowitz Performing Arts Center, 2 Millstone Campus Drive

St. Louis, MO 63146

Thursday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Jeneva Rose, "You Shouldn't Have Come Here"

Grant's View Branch

May

Monday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

Jonathan Losos, "The Cat's Meow: How Cats Evolved from the Savanna to Your Sofa"

Presented by SLCL Authors @ the J

The J's Staenberg Family Complex

Mirowitz Performing Arts Center, 2 Millstone Campus Drive

St. Louis, MO 63146

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.

John C. McManus, "To the End of the Earth: The US Army and the Downfall of Japan, 1945"

Presented by the Westfall Politics & History Series

Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63117

Friday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Soman Chainani, "Fall of the School for Good and Evil"

Reading Garden Series for Young Audiences

Presented in partnership with the Very Asian Foundation

Daniel Boone Branch

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.

Sandeep Jauhar, "My Father's Brain: Life in the Shadows of Alzheimer's"

Presented by the Arthur Gale Medical Arts

In Partnership with the Alzheimer's Association of Greater St. Louis

Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63117

Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 p.m.

Brooke Kroeger, "Undaunted: How Women Changed American Journalism"

Presented by the Westfall Politics & History Series

Grant's View Branch

June

Thursday, June 1, 7:00 p.m.

Jo Nesbø, "The Killing Moon: A Harry Hole Novel"

In conversation with bestselling mystery author Lori Rader-Day

Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63117

Monday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.

Viola Shipman, "Famous in a Small Town"

Presented by SLCL Authors @ the J

JCC's Staenberg Family Complex, 2 Millstone Campus Drive

St. Louis, MO 63146

Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 p.m.

Annabel Monaghan, "Same Time Last Summer"

Grant's View Branch

Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 p.m.

Fiona Davis, "The Spectacular"

Presented by SLCL Authors @ the J

JCC's Staenberg Family Complex, 2 Millstone Campus Drive

St. Louis, MO 63146

Wednesday, June 28, 7:00 p.m.

Susanna Moore, "The Lost Wife"

Daniel Boone Branch

To view the full schedule of author events visit slcl.org/authors.



Gifts and Tributes

The Library Foundation offers a special opportunity to honor and remember a loved one, friend or colleague. A donation to the Foundation recognizes and expresses your love and respect for a beloved individual while enhancing the Foundation's early childhood literacy programs. Please consider the Foundation for a tribute or memorial gift.

The following is a list of people who gave gifts or tributes between the dates of August 13, 2022 and February 23, 2023.

In Memory of:

Helen Anne Bezdek
Jenna O'Leary

Norma Burns
Janet M. Kern

Ken Cieslak
Bradley Becker
Charlotte A. Brown
Lynn M. Brown
Robert Carter III
William F. Herbert
Jacklyn P Manuel
Michelle Robertson
Linda Royal
Suzanne Winkler
M. Frances Wyatt

Lenora Rachel Citrin
Jeffrey H. Citrin

Anthony Drake, Sr.
Debra Drake

Stephen C. Greenwood
Karen Bryan
Gil Kleinknecht
Thomas M. & Shelley B. Smith

Grandma Pat
Stephanie Clubb

D. Jean Lionberger
Lois Vander Waerd

Nelda McAdon
Sharon Casey
Julie Griffith
Judith Holmes
Dorothy McGuffin

Jay Ring
Lisa Ring

Judy Shepard
Rita Clark
Sally Smith
Michelle Syberg
Pamela Payne
Karen Sue Prenger

Nola Van Amburg
David Butler
Gwendoly Taylor & Family

John Ronald Warner
Alexandra Beckman
Jay G. Bender
Gerald Lunders
Gerald & Linda Sale
Billie Walters

In Honor of:

John Fox Arnold
Jane Menell

Lynn Beckwith
Westelle Florez

Denise Bogard
Lise H. Bernstein

Bridget Brennan
Alice Weis

Carol Carr
Winifred Wooten

Cathleen Courtney
Robert & Rebecca Courtney

Grand Glaize
Nikki Buechler

Grants Received



The Library Foundation was awarded five grants totalling \$36,000 from October 2022 to January 2023.

October 2022

Herbert A. and Adrian Woods Foundation

\$10,000 to support diaper distributions at five Library branches.

Blues for Kids

\$5,000 to support the Foundation's Born to Read program.

Delta Dental

\$5,000 to support the Raise a Reader program.

Incarnate Word Foundation

\$5,000 to support social workers at Library branches.

January 2023

The Saigh Foundation

\$5,000 to provide sensory-friendly supplies at the Library's Sensory Story Times.

St. Louis Teen Book Festival

In partnership with St. Louis independent bookstore The Novel Neighbor, SLCL hosted its first in-person book festival celebrating teen readers. The festival, held on December 3 at Ladue Horton Watkins High School, featured 14 authors. Activities included book signings, book talks, author panels and other exciting things to do. Over 450 individuals were in attendance!



Friends Reception with Brad Meltzer

On January 19, Brad Meltzer joined SLCL Friends for a VIP reception prior to his author event at The J that evening. The historian and #1 New York Times bestselling author's latest book is titled "The Nazi Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill."



Know Your Library Quiz

1. What anniversary did SLCL celebrate in 2022?
A. 100th B. 55th C. 75th
2. The Library offers access to GrandPad technology for seniors? True or False
3. Last summer, SLCL Bookmobiles school units served between 200–350 students per school. True or False
4. The new SLCL administrative building opened during which month in 2022?
A. January B. April C. August
5. SLCL has a department that offers help with genealogical research. True or False

Answers: 1. C; 2. True; 3. True; 4. B; 5. True

Thank you!

The St. Louis County Library Foundation would like to express gratitude for your continued support. If you have any questions about the foundation, or would like to learn about other ways to support SLCL, please email foundation@slcl.org.



St. Louis County Library Foundation

St. Louis County Library Foundation
1412 S. Spoeede Road
St. Louis, MO 63131
foundation.slcl.org

Fascinating Summer Fiction

*Tuesday, April 25
7:00 p.m.*

Martha Hall Kelly

"The Golden Doves"

Photo by Jeffrey Mosier

SLCL Authors @ the J



*Thursday, June 1
7:00 p.m.*

Jo Nesbø

"The Killing Moon: A Harry Hole Novel"

Photo by Stian Broch

Ethical Society of St. Louis



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Fiona Davis

"The Spectacular"

Photo by Deborah Feingold

SLCL Authors @ the J



*Wednesday, June 28
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Susanna Moore

"The Lost Wife"

Photo by Denise Applewhite

Daniel Boone Branch



Go to foundation.slcl.org/events for more information about these and other author visits.