

## Facing Forward

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library has been under construction for over a century, but most years without cranes or dust.



Walker Doermann, children's manager, outside Morrison Library

Since Andrew Carnegie's initial investment in 1901, our Library has been an evolving institution. We've grown physically in response to the needs of a changing community, expanding facilities and our network of locations. But we've also evolved in less visible ways, in the services we provide and how we provide them, often leading the way for others. We were the first library in the country to establish a Film and Sound division in the 1940s, and fifty years later Bill Gates cut

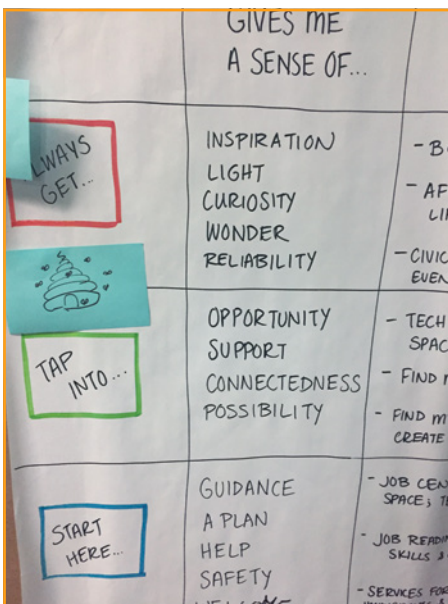
the ribbon on the "Virtual Library," one of the nation's first public computer labs. In 2008, *ImaginOn* was described in *Public Library Quarterly* as "the first 21st century library building in the US." The edge of change is where we've always been.

Today we are actively planning for the next century of service, including a new Main Library. Generous investments and expertise from the Knight Foundation and the Reemprise Fund have allowed us to step outside familiar models, to think broadly and look through different lenses at how the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library system can continue to improve lives and build a stronger community today and for future generations. Private investment has made it possible for our staff and community to participate in visioning sessions, test new approaches to programming, go on benchmarking trips, attend conferences, and explore best practices both within and beyond the library field.

When Morrison Regional Library reopens in late fall, look for changes inspired by some of this research – instead of large service desks, roving staff members will provide customer assistance on mobile devices. An automated materials handling system will allow staff to spend more time interacting

with customers. Reconfigurable spaces and furnishings will be designed for flexibility, and features throughout the branch will encourage users to make it their own. We'll be closely watching the community's reaction to this new model, and incorporating successful elements into locations throughout the system.

With your enthusiastic support and participation, today's Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is continuing to learn, grow, and build for the future. We couldn't do it without you.



Notes from a Main Library visioning workshop

“The new Morrison location gives us an opportunity to redefine our role in response to our community. With more group study rooms, two outdoor patios, a makerspace, and an expanded children's area, we'll have more flexible spaces where the community can come together. Our new space will reflect the way our customers use the Library.”

SUSAN GREEN  
Morrison Regional Library location manager

## Looking Ahead, Together



There's a saying about time passing: days are long but years are short. It's true with children, and it's been

true with our Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation. Five years ago, the Foundation was established with the dual goals of raising private dollars and elevating the profile of the Library in the community. Today, we've raised over \$6.7 million dollars and stand at the cusp of one of the most exciting transformations in our Library's history.

As we compile the dreams and aspirations of this community into a vision for the future of our Library system, and organize the practical steps to bring that vision to reality, we can't help but recognize how far we've come together – the Library Foundation, our Library, and this community.

Every day, it's our honor and privilege to

be part of an organization that truly improves lives and builds a stronger community. And it's an even greater privilege to be a part of this community – whose generosity, imagination and confidence in our shared future make it all possible. We look forward to the next five years together.

LINDA LOCKMAN-BROOKS  
Chair, Foundation Board

JENNI GAISBAUER, CFRE  
Executive Director

## Remembering Dennis Rash



On July 25, 2017 our city and our Library lost a dear friend. Dennis Rash served as a Library trustee from the mid-1980s through the mid-1990s, with terms as vice chair and chair during that time. In 2010 and 2011, Rash volunteered with the Future of the Library Task Force, and in 2014 he was recruited to lead the Main Library Reinvention Committee. The

visionary work of that committee established a framework for today's plans for the future of our uptown location.

Dennis was a civic pioneer on many fronts, credited with the growth of UNC Charlotte and the rebirth of our city's uptown. In the 1970s as a Bank of America (then Nations Bank) executive, he created the country's first bank-owned Community Development Corporation. The CDC's first project was the revitalization of Fourth Ward, and Dennis and his wife Betty Chafin Rash were among its earliest residents. Dennis recognized – and taught others – that collaboration and partnership are the keys to making real progress. And he knew, as we do, that strong public libraries are the backbone of strong communities. We are forever grateful to Dennis for his lasting legacy on our city, our Library, and our hearts.

Said Library CEO Lee Keesler, "Dennis loved the Library and our mission. His counsel and friendship will be missed."

## A Gift for the Future



Gloria Ann Bolster with Colin

From the moment Brent Bolster called, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation had a new friend.

In late spring, Brent contacted us to inquire about making a gift to the Library in memory of his wife, Gloria Ann Bolster. An avid reader, Gloria knew the importance of reading in a child's education – so much so that she established a scholarship program for high school students in Maryland in her father's name.

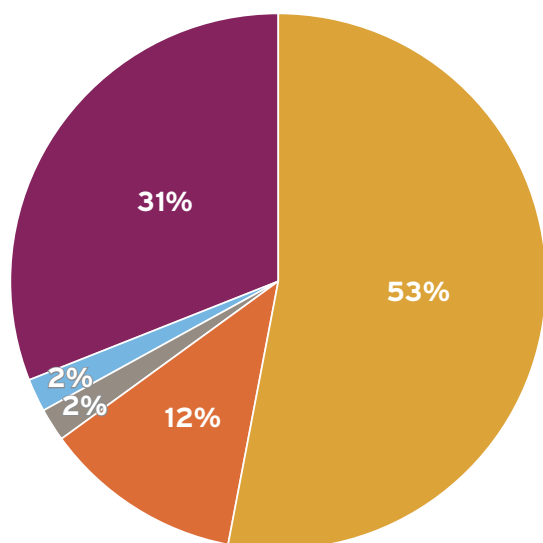
Gloria brought her grandchildren to storytime at the Cornelius library location every week. Colin and Emma are now 5 and 3 years old, and have developed a love of books thanks to these weekly visits. To honor her legacy with something she was passionate about, Brent has endowed a gift that will make a difference for future generations. The Gloria Ann Bolster Memorial Children's Book Fund was established to expand the children's collection at the Cornelius location. This endowment will support the collection in perpetuity and Brent and others can add to it at any time.

To learn more about establishing an endowment or including a gift to the Library Foundation in your estate plans, contact Karen Beach at 704-416-0802 or [kbeach@cmlibrary.org](mailto:kbeach@cmlibrary.org).

# FY 2017 by the Numbers

The Library Foundation raised **\$1,754,316**.

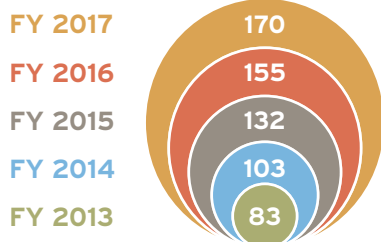
## DONOR DESIGNATIONS



- Unrestricted
- Programs
- Collections
- Endowment
- Restricted

## CARNEGIE CIRCLE MEMBERS

Individuals who gave over \$1000



**105%** GROWTH OVER 5 YEARS

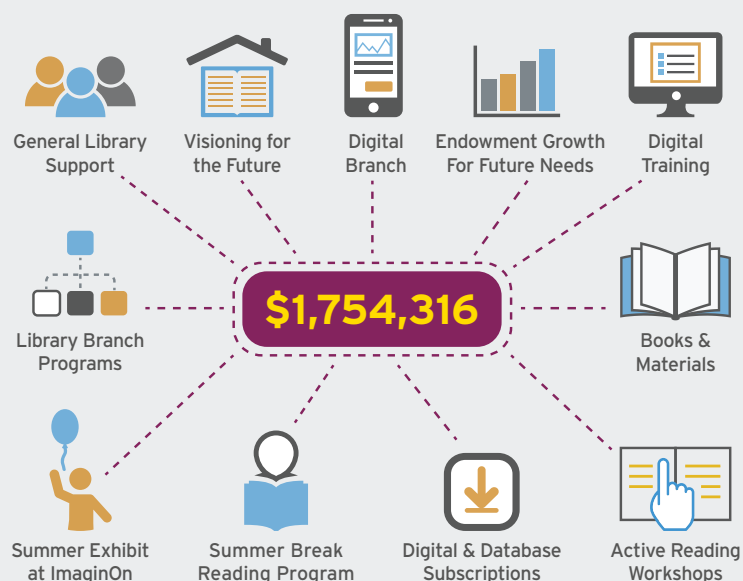
## DEWEY CIRCLE MEMBERS



2017 - 48 Members  
2014 - 33 Members

**45%** INCREASE

## HIGHLIGHTS OF DONOR IMPACT



**1,708** DONORS

**408,313** ACTIVE LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS  
UP **5%**

**844** DONORS EXCEEDED THE  
LEON LEVINE FOUNDATION'S  
**\$100,000**  
MATCHING CHALLENGE BY **109%**

**405,081** PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN  
**29,635** PROGRAMS AT  
LIBRARY LOCATIONS  
AND THROUGH OUTREACH

VALUE OF ENDOWMENTS  
**\$6.3M**  
21% INCREASE FROM FY 2016

**6,114,537** ITEMS BORROWED  
OR DOWNLOADED

# Focus on Three



Third grade teacher Alexandria Langlois knows first-hand the importance of reading. “I can always spot the students who read outside the classroom, because they enter school with strong comprehension skills and a love of learning.”

If there’s an 8-year-old in your life, you know third grade is an academic turning point. Lessons shift from concrete facts to abstract applications. Math, science, and social studies become more complex. And students who’ve been learning to read are suddenly reading to learn. Read Charlotte’s efforts to double third grade reading proficiency by 2025 is critical, because 96% of proficient third grade readers will graduate from high school, a strong predictor of career and life success.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library has always been a champion of early literacy, and this year thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations and corporate donors we are again at the forefront of large-scale initiatives. As a partner to Read Charlotte, the Library is taking the lead in Active Reading training. We’ve already introduced 4-part workshops in early literacy strategies for caregivers and their children. With support from The Belk Foundation, these popular Active Reading workshops – and a streamlined, 90-minute version – are now available upon request throughout the County. “Active reading means reading *with* children, rather than just reading aloud to children,” says Johanna Anderson, Executive Director of The Belk Foundation. “Research has proven that Active Reading builds vocabulary and

comprehension, core components to literacy. Parents, caregivers, tutors and volunteers will be empowered with Active Reading training to best support young readers in Mecklenburg County.”

The Akers Foundation and Duke Energy Foundation have also invested in our youngest students through collection development. A grant from the Duke Energy Foundation will support digital resources specifically designed for grades K-3. PebbleGo Science is an award-winning database that develops both reading and independent research skills.

Resources like PebbleGo and more are available online from any Library location, from home, or from the classroom with a Library card or student ID number, through the Library’s groundbreaking ONE Access program. Since its inception in 2015, over 193,000 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools students and staff have activated their ONE Access accounts, and this year the program has expanded further to include select charter and independent schools.

*“Reading is the foundation of learning. I’m so grateful Charlotte Mecklenburg Library provides students access to books and materials, and also helps them find something they’re passionate about reading – starting young! Reading with very young children as part of a daily, year-round routine establishes a personal commitment to literacy, and sets them up for school success later.”*

ALEXANDRIA LANGLOIS  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools 3rd grade teacher

336,910  
CHILDREN YOUNGER than  
3<sup>rd</sup>  
GRADE

participated in Library  
literacy programs in  
FY 2017, an increase of

11.1%  
over the previous year.



# Seeing the Need

Ten program participants cut pictures from magazines and glue them to paper plates, making fans on a hot summer day as Michael Jackson's music videos play in the background. Some trade pictures of favorite animals. Library staff member Cathy Fletcher navigates the room with familiarity and confidence, evidence of the relationships she's developed over two years of offering these weekly programs for adults living with sensory, memory, mobility or developmental challenges. This is a room of friends.



Nancy Collins' 23-year-old son Damien has low vision and hearing, so programs that appeal to multiple senses are essential. Nancy notes that there aren't many places Damien feels comfortable and welcomed, which can be isolating for both of them. "I love that the Library offers this. He gets excited to see his Library friends, and this program is what that means. There are very few free opportunities that allow him to be part of a community, to learn and to grow. This is so valuable for us."

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's adult sensory programs began when staff recognized a lack of opportunities for this segment of our community. Several years ago the Library introduced sensory storytimes for children on the autism spectrum, and Fletcher pointed out that a similar program for adults was needed for those who age out of children's programs. Library leadership was immediately supportive, and two years ago the program was born.

A small group of librarians cross-trained with Library outreach staff serving adults, and children's services. They developed a hybrid structure for adults – incorporating amusing picture books, as well as games like bingo, musical chairs, colors, painting and clay to develop both gross and fine motor skills. Staff are sensitive

to the varied abilities and age ranges within each group, and look for opportunities for engagement at every level. Programs include music, movement, stories and subject matter designed to trigger conversation. Participation and social interaction are the primary goals, and the experience has been well-received by individual families, group homes and social service organizations.

The program has expanded throughout the Library system, and the small team recently organized a retreat for staff from every location to share materials, ideas and best practices. David Singleton, Director of Libraries, observes "These programs are fundamentally about access, about serving our whole community, and about connecting people with resources, with each other, and with the Library. There is a sense of welcome and inclusion at the Library, and this is a wonderful expression of our mission to improve lives and build a stronger community."

The smiles on the faces of program participants – and the high fives many give to Library staff – are the best review of the program's impact. Linda, a regular attendee at Main Library, explains, "I like Cathy and I like making purses and hats and sewing baskets. I like coming here." Linda's caregiver confirms that the Library program really brightens her client's day.

And it brightens the Library too. Cathy Fletcher notes, "This is something I probably should have been doing my whole life, and I'm so glad to be part of it."

IN FY 2017,  
**2,854**  
ADULTS PARTICIPATED IN  
**196**  
ADULT SENSORY  
PROGRAMS AT LIBRARY  
AND OUTREACH  
LOCATIONS.

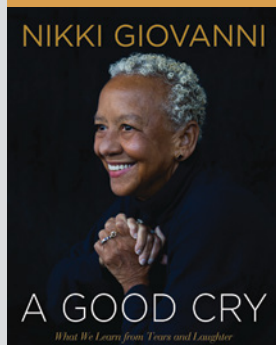




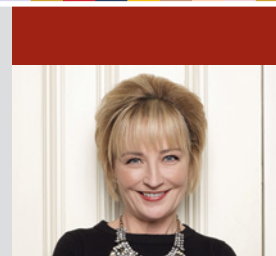
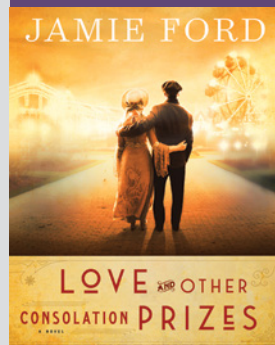
**BRENT RIDGE & JOSH KILMER-PURCELL**



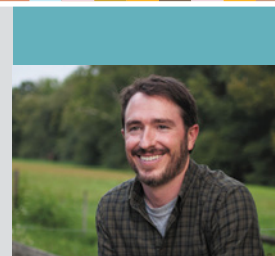
**NIKKI GIOVANNI**



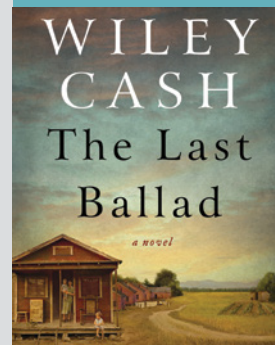
**JAMIE FORD**



**KATE WHITE**



**WILEY CASH**



## Literary Weekend 2017

*Verse & Vino* and *EpicFest* bring together a community of readers over three days in November. Each year these signature events get even better because of your feedback and continued support.

**Verse & Vino** celebrates the joy of reading, writing and libraries through an elegant evening of food, wine, and conversation with five *New York Times* bestselling authors. Last year's event attracted over 1,000 attendees and netted more than \$225,000 for the Library.

Based on guest feedback, book bundles containing the newest release from all five authors are now available for pre-order with every ticket purchase. Guests can skip the book sale lines and have more time with authors, friends, food and wine! A new individual sponsorship ticket level offers benefits previously unavailable to individual supporters, including an invitation to a VIP reception with the authors, a book bundle, and sponsor recognition. We hope you'll be a part of the fourth annual *Verse & Vino*.

**EpicFest** is an extraordinary, free literary festival that connects families, children and teens with books, authors, illustrators, and the Library. *EpicFest* was created to remember and honor Jim and Elizabeth (Libby) Preston's passion for reading, and to encourage

and instill a love of reading in children. Last year, *EpicFest* touched over 4,500 children and families.

In addition to a lineup of nationally-recognized authors and illustrators for children and young adults, this year's festival will include a special performance by Eric Litwin, the *New York Times* bestselling author of the original *Pete the Cat* series. Eric's dynamic, fully interactive performances bring early literacy and music together. As they have in the past, the authors will spend Friday, November 3 with students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. We'll also host a Saturday evening event just for teens at UNC Charlotte's Center City location, featuring the young adult authors.

**“The authors I represent are always thrilled with their experience at Verse & Vino. The event is well-organized, the audience is enthusiastic, and Charlotte has so much to be proud of in their Library. We are glad to support this event.”**

SHERRY VIRTZ  
Penguin Random House



**November 2, 2017 at Charlotte Convention Center**

**Tickets:** <https://foundation.cmlibrary.org/verse-vino-2017>

**Featured guests:** Wiley Cash, Nikki Giovanni, Brent Ridge & Josh Kilmer-Purcell (The Beekman Boys), Kate White and Jamie Ford

**Event Sponsors**

**Presented by:** PNC Bank

**First Edition Sponsors:** Bank of America, *The Charlotte Observer*

**Bestseller Sponsors:** American Airlines, Duke Energy/Piedmont Natural Gas, Rinehart Wealth & Investment Advisory, Rodgers Builders

**Collector Sponsors:** Baker & Taylor, CD Spangler Foundation, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company, Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority, The Duke Endowment, Foundation For The Carolinas, Novant Health, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as of September 1, 2017



**November 4, 2017 at Imagination**

**Information:** <https://foundation.cmlibrary.org/epicfest-2017>

**Featured guests:** John David Anderson, Margery Cuyler, Alan Gratz, Fred Koehler, David Lubar, Kelly Starling Lyons, Kathryn Otoshi, Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, Amber Smith, Janet Tashjian, and more to come!

**Special musical performance:** Eric Litwin

**Event Sponsors**

**Presented to the Community by:** Wells Fargo

**Community Partner:** Read Charlotte

**Imagination Sponsors:** National Endowment for the Humanities, *The Charlotte Observer*

**Animation Sponsors:** Akers Foundation Inc, American Airlines, Charlotte Hornets, Publix Super Markets Charities, TIAA, WFAE 90.7FM, as of September 1, 2017



## Final Draught Launches



### Books and Beer.

When you combine those words frequently enough, something is bound to happen. In the case of *Final Draught*, that “happening” occurred in June when the Library Foundation’s Friends Council acted on a concept years in the making.

*Final Draught* was created as a quarterly, themed speaker series designed to connect attendees to the award-winning Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and the Library Foundation. The inaugural event at Seventh Street Public Market examined Charlotte’s changing food scene and welcomed over 130 attendees from every demographic, exceeding all expectations for a new series.

Panelists included Bonnie Warford of Earl’s Grocery and Carpe Diem, James Yoder of Not Just Coffee, Courtney Buckley of Your

Mom’s Donuts, and Dalton Espallat of Sabor and Three Amigos. Each discussed their perspectives on the Queen City’s culinary evolution - and the breaking points in their lives that pushed them out of their comfort zones. The conversation was expertly moderated by historian and foodie Dr. Tom Hanchett, and attendees left with new friends, fresh ideas, and recommended reading.

*Final Draught* is anything but finished. We’re planning four events annually, each built around a different topic. By the time you read this, the second installment will have taken place at Flight Beer Garden, around the theme of Charlotte’s booming brewery scene. Join us for the next one in early 2018 for lively, informative conversation, to connect with the Library and with others, and of course...books and beer.

Learn more about *Final Draught* at [finaldraughtclt.com](http://finaldraughtclt.com) or contact Teleia White at 704-416-0803 or [twhite@cmlibrary.org](mailto:twhite@cmlibrary.org).



Photo courtesy of Deborah Triplett Photography

## Donor Voices



*“I’ve been a life-long reader and know all the opportunities our Library provides. It can be an education, an inspiration, an escape and more. I support the Library Foundation so all children and adults can benefit from these life-changing resources.”*

JENNIFER DEWITT

Library Foundation board member and Carnegie Circle donor

*“I visit the Library at least twice a week, and in my 26 years in Charlotte, I’ve noticed so many positive changes. Our Library is safe and welcoming to everyone, and that is reflected in the diversity of the people using it. And it remains a house of wonder. When I walk in I feel like a child in a candy store, and I can hardly wait to see what I’ll discover. I support the Library Foundation to grow and sustain that magic.”*

JULIA AUSTEN

Longtime Library friend, Carnegie Circle donor and Dewey Circle member

*“As native Charlotteans, the Library played a vital role in our intellectual curiosity, academic success and personal growth. We donate to say thank you, but also to ensure that our children and future generations enjoy the opportunities uniquely offered by our Library system.”*

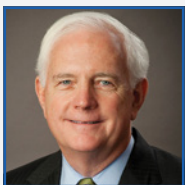
BRANDON and KERBIE NEAL

Library trustee and Carnegie Circle donors



# New Faces

The terms of four members of the Foundation's Board of Directors ended this year. We will be forever grateful to **Pepper Dowd**, **Thom Graham**, **Darrel Williams** and **Bill Williamson** for their leadership and commitment to the success of our Library system. At our September meeting, we welcomed four new members:



**Gene Cochrane** was president of The Duke Endowment until his retirement in 2016. He is currently a visiting scholar at Murdock Charitable Trust, and serves on the boards of The Charles Cannon Foundation, Council on Foundations, and UNC University Press.



**Jennifer DeWitt** is responsible for corporate philanthropy and nonprofit relationships as the Director of Foundation Programs and Community Affairs for Duke Energy. She serves on the communications committee for the Women's Impact Fund and has been recognized as an up-and-coming leader throughout the Carolinas.



**Barb Ellis** is a retired executive from IBM Corporation, and has since served as interim Chief Information Officer of NC Central University, Vice Chancellor and CIO of IT for North Carolina A&T State University, and consults on business strategy. She is the current chair of the Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange advisory board.



**Meredith Heimburger** integrates environmental, social and governance considerations into the investment process as Director of Sustainability at Global Endowment Management. She serves on the board of directors of Equal Measure, the board of visitors of Davidson College, and the regional advisory board of Teach For America.

## CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY FOUNDATION

310 N. Tryon St.  
Charlotte, NC 28202

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*Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE, Executive Director*

*Karen Beach, CFRE, Deputy Director*

*Teleia White, Director of Individual Giving*

*Melanie Baron, Marketing and Communications Specialist*

## Events...

### **Verse & Vino**

**Thursday, November 2, 2017**

**Charlotte Convention Center**

[foundation.cmlibrary.org/verse-vino-2017](http://foundation.cmlibrary.org/verse-vino-2017)

### **EpicFest**

**Saturday, November 4, 2017**

**ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center**

[foundation.cmlibrary.org/epicfest-2017](http://foundation.cmlibrary.org/epicfest-2017)

### **Final Draught**

Quarterly, themed speaker series

[www.finaldraughtclt.com](http://www.finaldraughtclt.com)

### **Carnegie Circle Dinner**

**March 5, 2018**

Annual appreciation event for donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more

[foundation.cmlibrary.org/carnegie-circle](http://foundation.cmlibrary.org/carnegie-circle)



For the latest event information, visit [www.foundation.cmlibrary.org](http://www.foundation.cmlibrary.org).