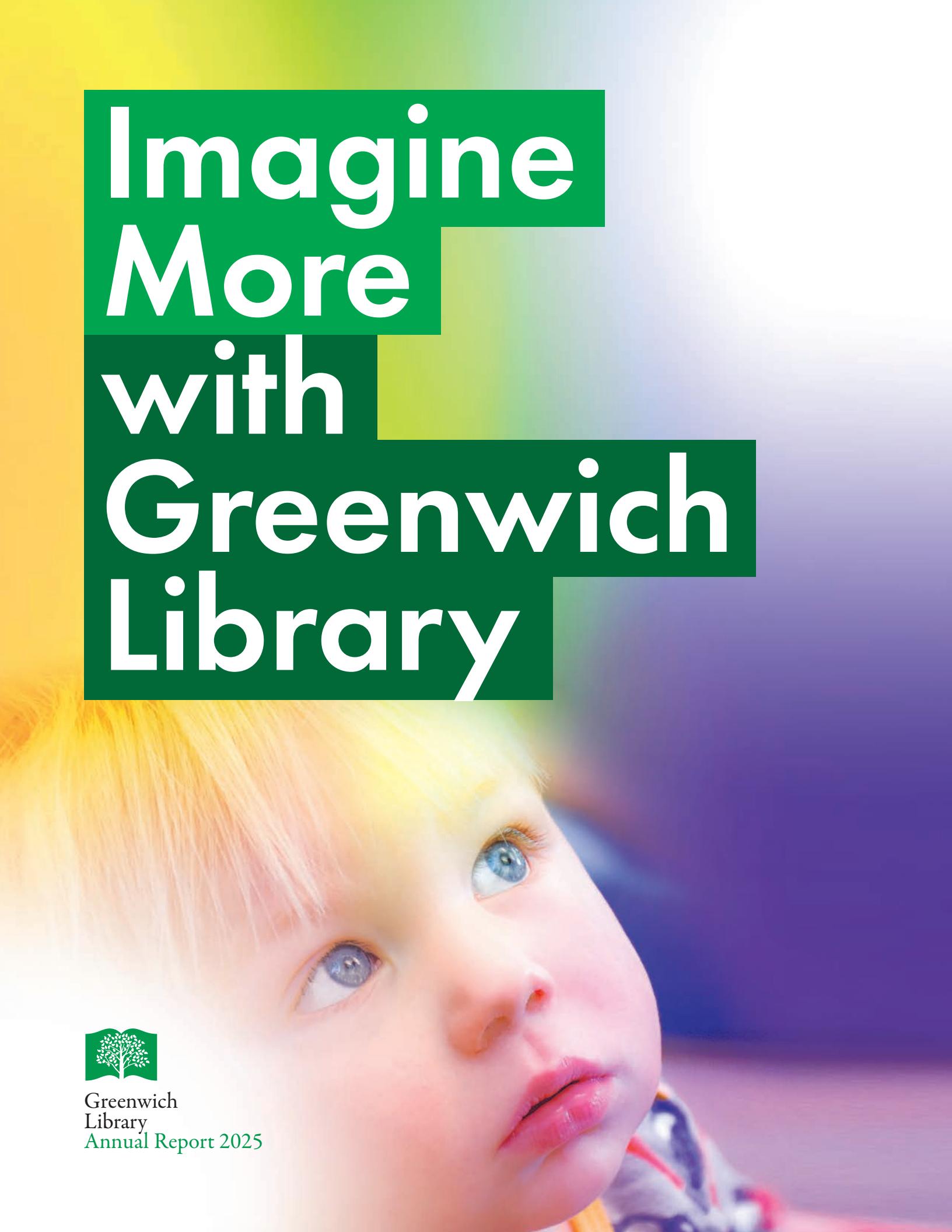


# Imagine More with Greenwich Library



Greenwich  
Library  
Annual Report 2025



# Message from the Library Director and Board of Trustees President

Dear Community Member,

In 2025, Greenwich Library asked our community to *Imagine More*—and, together, we delivered on that promise. Guided by a dedicated staff, engaged Trustees, Volunteers, and the unwavering support of the Greenwich community, the Library continued to thrive as one of Greenwich's most valued institutions.

Your generosity made *more* possible this year: more early-learning opportunities for children through the new *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten* program, more resources for students and families through expanded programs in the Innovation and Learning Labs, more cultural programming that brings neighbors together, and more access to information and ideas for residents at every stage of life. From bestselling authors and thought-provoking lectures to performances, the Library remained a place where curiosity is welcomed and connection is cultivated.

The Town of Greenwich funds the Library's core operations, but it is the philanthropy from community members like you that makes Greenwich Library extraordinary. Your partnership allows Greenwich Library not only to meet current needs, but also to thoughtfully plan for the future and continually explore new ways to serve our changing community.

Greenwich Library belongs to all of us. We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make *Imagine More* a reality this year, and we look forward to continuing this work together.

With sincere appreciation,



Joseph Williams,  
Library Director



Ian Murray,  
President, Board of Trustees

# Imagine Your Kids

EXPERIENCING the arts, science, and storytelling—all in one week. Hundreds of programs for babies, toddlers, and kids are available at Main or Cos Cob and Byram Shubert branches.

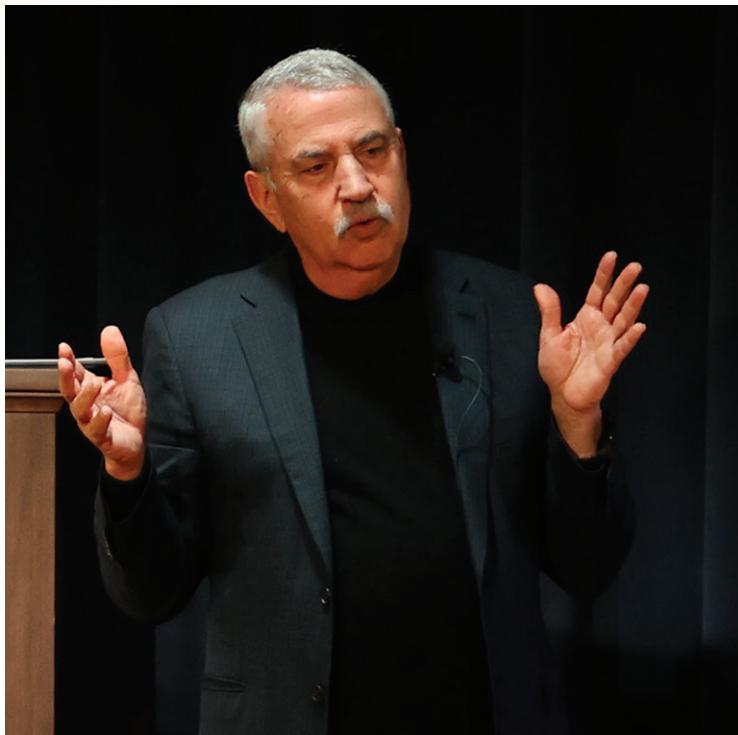


# Imagine Your Teens

STUDYING, learning with peers, and hanging out in a safe, welcoming place (plus, food is permitted on the lower level!).

# Imagine Your Community

GATHERING for lectures from leading experts and authors, experiencing world-class musicians, dancers, artists, and poets. Our welcoming spaces bring new ideas, new people, and new voices to our community.



New York Times columnist and author Thomas Friedman in the Berkley Theater.

Friends of Greenwich Library volunteers Hilary Martin Lea, Alvina Kwan, Helaine Winer, and Mary Ellen Markowitz check in patrons for a performance in the Berkley Theater.



Musician, poet, and cultural icon Patti Smith performed for Poetry Month.

Innovator in Residence, Vladimir Marino, works with patrons to explore new technology in 3D printing and robotics.



## Imagine Lifelong Learning

From early literacy to technology for seniors, our doors are open to all who seek to learn. Our Librarians are always available to assist patrons in discovery.

# Highlights and Accomplishments

Greenwich Library Staff used this year to finish the work outlined in its Strategic Plan, *Greenwich Library Reconnects*. Using a holistic and collaborative process, the Staff worked with Friends and Trustees to develop a new plan, which will guide our future efforts. This new plan will be launched in January 2026. The Library's mission remains unchanged. We aim to provide exceptional resources, programs, and services that promote the joy of lifelong learning and discovery, and to offer a welcoming place for people to gather and share experiences.

The Strategic Plan's focus areas sustain the Library's efforts to reconnect and assess its collections, programs, and services.

## Collections:

- Systemwide borrowing increased 2% to 986,212 items circulated, and eBook and downloadable audiobooks accounted for 21% of all systemwide circulation. eAudiobook usage increased 14.3%.
- A Staff Picks collection launched in fall 2024, increasing discoverability of select titles.
- Updated the Library's collection development policy to emphasize recent changes in the Library's collection, added language regarding patron-submitted book purchase requests, and revised the Library's policy regarding book donations.
- Completed significant weeding of Cos Cob's collection, identified materials to be stored during branch closing, and created new opening day collection for the renovated Cos Cob branch. More than 2,000 new items were purchased in anticipation of the branch reopening.
- Byram Shubert Branch Library staff worked in close collaboration with the Resources Management team to complete a major inventory project.
- Launched a collection evaluation for materials in the Arts and Recreation collections.
- Integrated children's DVDs and music CDs into the adult collections, now labeled *Family*.

## Programming:

- Programming attendance decreased slightly from 65,181 to 63,692, which is not surprising given the Cos Cob renovation and expansion.
- Refined program mix to better address patron needs. Added Recreation and Leisure to the offerings, inspired by the success of past adult crafting programs and acknowledging how patrons use Library spaces for bridge and/or mahjong meet-ups.
- Offered exceptional programming including conversations, concerts, and performances enjoyed by consistently full houses in the Berkley Theater. Notable programs included:
  - Signature Series: Melissa Clark in conversation with Debra Ponzek
  - Greenwich Reads Together with Percival Everett, author of *James*, winner of the National Book Award for Fiction, the Kirkus Prize, and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
  - Children's AuthorsLive with Adam Gidwitz
  - Friends Performing Arts Series: Broadway star Norm Lewis
  - Musicians from Marlboro
  - Lynne and Richard Pasculano Signature Series: Thomas Friedman
  - Flinn Reeves Lecture with Danielle Ogden on Christo and Jeanne-Claude

### **Community Connections:**

- The work performed in preparation for the new Strategic Plan 2026-2028 created many opportunities for Library staff to engage with the broader community. Local community partners participated in roundtables, and staff members visited peer libraries to learn how these institutions develop and maintain relevant services for their communities.
- Established collaborative relationships with outside partners including the Greenwich Audubon Center, which plans to launch a quarterly book club in the next fiscal year.
- The lending staff worked on updating old and creating new staff and students' accounts for public and private schools.
- Byram Shubert Branch Library opened after hours so New Lebanon School's students and parents could tour the branch.
- The Library collaborated with the United Way to develop the Community Organizations Fair, which was conducted in October 2024.

### **Spaces & Facilities:**

- Broke ground on the Cos Cob branch renovation and expansion in October 2024. The Cos Cob branch renovation project was completed on schedule and on budget; the branch reopened in fall 2025. The new community room and thoughtfully designed spaces for adults, teens, and children are highly appreciated by the neighborhood.
- Convened working group to assess wayfinding and directional signage at the Main Library. Recommendations on how to improve signage are under development.
- Completed a usage study, a peer library analysis, and an architectural study to assess the space and use of the Children's Room at the Main Library.
- Revised Meeting Facility Use Policy and pricing for outside rentals of the Berkley and Marx Family Black Box Theaters as well as the 2nd Floor Meeting Room.
- Initiated work to create an enclosed, quiet reading space at the Byram Shubert Branch Library.
- Assessed landscaping at the Main Library and developed a plan to address.
- Worked to develop a redesign plan for the Peterson Music Wing.

### **Services:**

- Children's Services launched its 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative.
- Byram Shubert Branch Library revised its operating hours to better serve the community. By staying open until 6 PM, patrons have easier access to branch services.
- Business Services added additional resume appointments due to high demand.
- Outreach programs, with particular emphasis on senior citizens, were conducted on-site at The Mews and the Wallace Center.

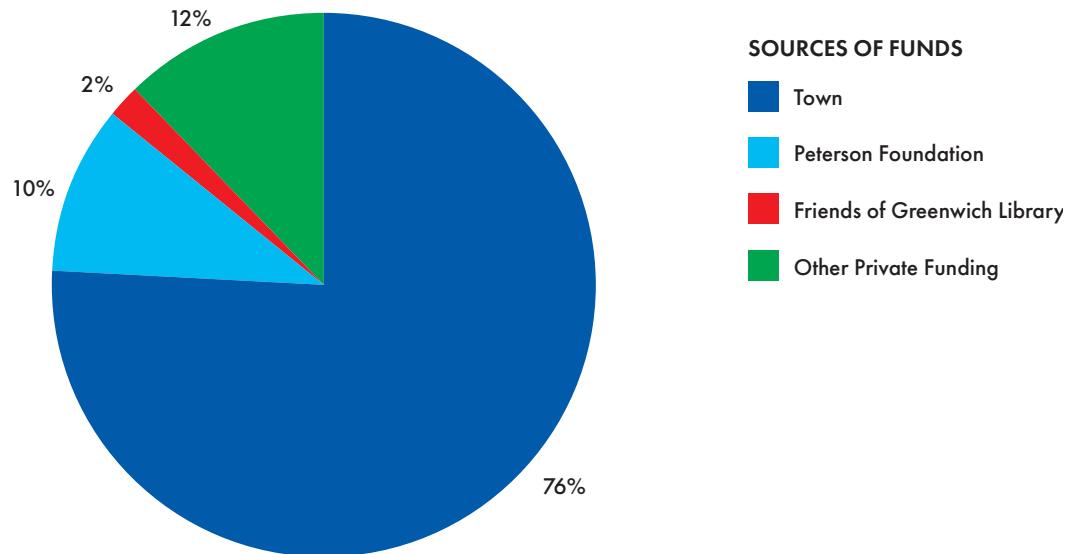
### **Organizational Effectiveness:**

- Continued to align staff and hiring to support strategic needs.
- Several long-term employees announced their retirements; these vacancies will be filled during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- In conjunction with the broader Strategic Planning process, a cross-section of Staff, Friends, and Trustees participated in a planning offsite.
- Hosted staff training day in May 2025, providing an opportunity to cultivate highly skilled staff.

### **Technology:**

- Developed a three-year technology plan.
- Configured new splash page prompting user agreement with the Library's Electronic Resources Policy to access the Library's WiFi.
- Launched a new wireless printing system to the public.
- Worked to redesign the Library website.

# Sources of Funding



Greenwich Library has a long history of public-private partnership. The annual operating budget is funded by the Town of Greenwich, while the Board of Trustees Development Office and The Friends of Greenwich Library raise funds from our community to support Library programs and initiatives. The Friends of Byram Shubert Library and The Friends of Cos Cob Library provide additional program funding for branch-specific programming.

A long-standing private endowment comes from the Clementine L. Peterson Foundation. The Foundation was established under the will of Clementine L. Peterson in memory of her son, Jonathan, and her husband, J. Whitney Peterson. Peterson Foundation Trustees exclusively govern the investment plan and distribution of funds. The annual distribution is used for operating and staffing costs of the Peterson wing, as well as for enhancing business and music collections and services.

This year, Greenwich Library received a transformative \$5 million gift to endow its acclaimed Signature Series programming. This is the largest gift received by Greenwich Library in more than 30 years, marking a pivotal moment in the Library's history. The gift, made by Greenwich residents Lynne and Richard Pasculano, is their most recent support in their decades-long relationship with Greenwich Library. In recognition of this gift, the program will be named The Lynne and Richard Pasculano Signature Series.

# Thank You for Your Support

## When you support Greenwich Library:

- You are bringing world-class authors, lecturers, and entertainment to our community—**FREE TO ALL PATRONS**.
- You are providing career training and tech skills to keep our community members competitive—**FREE TO ALL PATRONS**.
- You are offering literacy and lifelong learning for our youngest visitors, our seniors, and everyone in between—**FREE TO ALL PATRONS**.
- You are providing over 2,200 programs and events all year long—**FREE TO ALL PATRONS**.



**Your support  
provides  
services and  
programs for  
patrons of  
all ages.**

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Caralliene Westbrook  
The Whitehead Charitable Foundation  
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Kenneth and Linda Wiltsek  
Sandra York

# Cos Cob Renovation Campaign 2025

Robert and Rosamond Brady  
Susan Cyr  
Sandra and Steve Grandinetti  
Carolyn McArdle  
Debra and Michael McLaughlin  
Jennifer and Robert Rimmer  
Mervat Rohaiem  
Karen Free Royce  
Sharon's Charities  
Alexandra Tanner

# Flinn Gallery Renovation Campaign 2025

Sarah and Scott Abercrombie  
Kira Albinsky  
Sallie Baldwin  
Chris and Gayle Baring  
Marissa Brust  
Siobhan Burns and Ralph Sutton  
Kate Sheridan Chung  
Alexandra and Larry Codraro  
Ann K. Collins  
Terrill Warrenburg Cydlo  
Katie DeGroot  
Arthur and Wynne Delmhorst  
Emily Derr  
Jeffrey W. Earls  
Jennifer Fertig  
Kathleen and Michael Finnell  
Heide Follin  
Debra Fram and Eric Schwartz  
Friends of the Greenwich Library  
Claire Furlin  
Nancy Heller and Roger Lob  
Kerry Hopkins  
The John C. Griswold Family Foundation  
Christopher Joy  
Dennis and Karen Keegan  
Christine Kessler  
Carmen Konigsbach  
Tara Kulkarni  
Francene and Ronald Langford  
Hilary Martin Lea  
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Asha and Geoffrey Marsh  
Susan Millard  
Georgetta and Kim Morque  
Leslee and William Morrison  
Mia and Tyler Newton  
Dianne Niklaus  
Barnet and Sharon Phillips, IV  
Andrew and Kirsten Pitts  
Leona N. Retzler  
Barbara Richards  
Christie C. Salomon  
Diana and Scott Seaton  
Davidde and Ronald Strackbein  
Sophia Tawil and Frederick Wesner  
Helaine and Jonathan Winer  
Caren Ellis Winnall

# Opening Night Celebration 2025

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| Sarah Aaronson                              | Jeffrey and Marty Gendell                       | Arlene and Reuben Mark                          | May and Steven Stelmach                      |
| Loring Allen                                | Francine Gingras                                | Brad and Mary Ellen Markowitz                   | Susan and Warren Stern                       |
| Fabiola Arredondo-Rolfe<br>and Andrew Rolfe | The Giving Bee Family Foundation                | Asha and Geoffrey Marsh                         | Davidde and Ronald Strackbein                |
| Francie and Hank Ashforth                   | Gina Gladstein and David Mullen                 | Christopher and<br>Kathryn McCormack            | Susan Langer Denner<br>Galenus Foundation    |
| Gordon Assing and<br>Mary-Ann Zalman        | Ilse Gordon and Neil Shapiro                    | Peter McGuigan and<br>Janet Stone-McGuigan      | Karen Tam                                    |
| Ellen and Robert Barolak                    | Debra Graham                                    | Braxton McKee                                   | Alexandra Tanner                             |
| Christine Benson and<br>Peter Schwartzstein | Michele Graham                                  | Kamele Mellissa McLaren                         | Sophia Tawil and<br>Frederick Wesner         |
| Janet Bodey                                 | Julia Gray and Paul Marantz                     | Janet and Michael McMahon                       | Elizabeth and Horst Tebbe                    |
| Sarah Boyle                                 | Greenwich Academy                               | Deborah Kayton Michals                          | Aimee Telsey                                 |
| Rosario J Brooks                            | Greenwich Happiness by Daria                    | Shruti Mody                                     | Antonia Thompson                             |
| Olga Bruce                                  | Karen Grinthal                                  | Ronda Muir and Richard Sandler                  | Kimberly R Treibick                          |
| Junyao and Matt Brumberg                    | Shanti L Hageman                                | Ann and Ian Murray                              | Marilyn Tucker-Viselli<br>and Enrico Viselli |
| Mackenzie and Ryan Brumberg                 | Mary Halsey and Robert Marks                    | Eileen and Michael Nelson                       | Jeff and Liz Urdang                          |
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| Christine Chao and James Shaver             | William Herz and Gwenn Scheuer                  | Ashley Pacelli                                  | Helaine and Jonathan Winer                   |
| James and Jill Cobbs                        | Amy Horbar and Allan Ruchman                    | Mary L Pacelli                                  | Jill Woolworth                               |
| Jenny Collins                               | Mark and Michelle Horgan                        | Philip Pacelli                                  | Lilyanna Yang                                |
| Carol Cram                                  | Michael David Horgan                            | Chintan and Renata Panchal                      |  |
| David and Judy Crystal                      | Sharon Houle                                    | Susan Elizabeth Parker                          |  |
| Barbara and Raymond Dalio                   | Zuzana Hylova                                   | Wendy Pei                                       |  |
| Dalio Family Foundation                     | Marc and May Jaffe                              | Laura Petit                                     |  |
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| Cynthia and Mark De Riemer                  | Mandeep Johar and<br>Valentina Poghosyan        | Monica Prihoda                                  |  |
| Andrea and Louis DeBergalis                 | Peggy Edersheim Kalb<br>and Scott Kalb          | Lolly Prince                                    |  |
| Carol and John Dietz                        | Dennis and Karen Keegan                         | Paul and Wendy Raether                          |  |
| Andrea Douglas                              | Doug and Pam Kelly                              | Raether Family Charitable Trust                 |  |
| Joellen Doyle                               | Laurel Teresa Kenner                            | Carol Ravera                                    |  |
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|   | Archana and Raj Makam                           | Valerie Stauffer                                |  |

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Established in 2010 to ensure that Greenwich Library can respond to our community's constantly evolving expectations with the collection, programs, facilities, and resources needed to continue providing superior services to children, teens, and adults.

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Arlene Roberts Grant  
Alissa Klumac  
Audrey Malek  
Debbie Orrico

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