



Foundation

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER 2023-24

A newsletter from
Madison Public
Library Foundation

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for Annual Fund**

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\$100,000 Match for December Gifts to the Annual Fund

A group of loyal donors to Madison Public Library Foundation is offering a \$100,000 match throughout December for all gifts made to the annual fund, which fuels core library resources and programming. Every contribution will go twice as far!

In 2023, annual fund gifts supported:

- **collection items** – books, large-print books, Spanish-language picture books, music, movies, and even seed libraries
- **programs**, including *Library Takeover* and *Live Well @ Your Library*
- **technology** – computers, Wi-Fi, and audiovisual upgrades in meeting rooms at many libraries
- **AASPIRE internships** (Affirmative Action Student Professionals in Residence) for students of color and others from underrepresented groups as part of the foundation’s Equity and Innovation funding initiative
- **library staff training** and professional development
- **sewing machines** for Sequoya Library classes
- the library staff’s **BIPOC and Pride Affinity Groups**
- **lecterns** for Central Library events, such as Wisconsin Book Festival free author programming

You can expect the foundation to fund many more critical library services and materials in 2024, in addition to reserving 10 percent of annual fund proceeds for the permanent endowment, which sustains the library for the future.

Mailed gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to count toward the 2023 tax year and to qualify for the match.

To give, visit mplfoundation.org/donate, scan the code on this newsletter’s mailer section, or mail your contribution in the envelope provided.



Photo by Onlyone Photography LLC

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Pinney Library hosted the *Mini Feria de Libros*, which featured new, foundation-funded Spanish-language books for the collection.

Smart Tips for End-of-Year Giving

Do you own appreciated stock? Are you a retiree age 70 ½ or older with an IRA subject to required minimum distributions (RMD)? If either applies to you, you could reduce taxes by making your year-end contribution to our foundation through a stock gift or giving from your RMD.

Donating stock is a win-win strategy because it can help you avoid large capital gains taxes, and the recipient nonprofit does not pay taxes on the gift.

By making a charitable gift from your IRA RMD, you can reduce your adjusted gross income, and you may receive the full tax benefit if you’re not taking the standard deduction.

Visit mplfoundation.org/donate to download a special form for stock gifts and to find the foundation’s EIN, which you’ll need when making a gift from your IRA’s RMD. You may also call **608.266.6318** for assistance.

Holiday Hours

If you need help making a year-end gift, we’re here for you! Simply call us at **608.266.6318** or send an email to info@mplfoundation.org between 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Please note that our offices will be **CLOSED** on the following dates:

- Friday, December 22
- Monday, December 25
- Monday, January 1



Photo by Shanna Wolf

Teens work on a computer at Pinney Library. The foundation always reserves a portion of its annual fund gifts for technology.

YOUR GIFT

+

MATCHING GIFT

=

DOUBLE IMPACT

Wisconsin Book Festival Wraps 2023, Announces Spring Events

Under the leadership of new Director Jane Rotonda, the Wisconsin Book Festival presented 91 free author programs in 2023, concluding a fantastic year with beloved children’s author Jan Brett speaking about her latest book, *Cozy*, on December 2.

Last spring, the festival brought musician and *Crying in H Mart* author Michelle Zauner, and actor Elliot Page for his memoir *Pageboy* to the Barrymore Theatre for standing-room-only events. During the four-day Fall Celebration weekend, the festival hosted 54 authors, from local favorites to *New York Times* best-sellers: Craig Thompson, Dan Egan, Vauhini Vara, Nabil Ayers, Beth Nguyen, Jamel Brinkley, Schuyler Bailar, José Olivarez, Cat Bohannon, and John Scalzi, among others. *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast had the honor of delivering the Cheryl Rosen Weston Memorial Lecture in November.

Presented by Madison Public Library in partnership with Madison Public Library Foundation, the festival is incredibly grateful to Marvin J. Levy, Signature Sponsor; Madison Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, and Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation, Presenting Sponsors; the Cheryl Rosen Weston Estate, Festival Patron; and the many other sponsors for their steadfast support.

Most Fall Celebration events were recorded, and you can find those by visiting wisconsinbookfestival.org and clicking on the page for the event you’d like to watch.



Author Craig Thompson (left) discusses his novel *Ginseng Roots*, in conversation with Will Hsu.

Spring Events

The festival will take a break from programming through late February, but there are a dozen events already scheduled for spring! They include:

- Best-selling novelist and essayist **Leslie Jamison** for her blazing memoir *Splinters: Another Kind of Love Story*, February 27
- **Andrew J. Graff** for his heartfelt novel *True North*, February 28
- Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer **Ed Yong** for *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us*, March 7, presented by Aldo Leopold Foundation in partnership with the festival, virtual via Crowdcast
- Professor and activist **Trish O’Kane** for her memoir *Birding to Change the World*, March 12
- Best-selling author **Caroline Paul** for *Tough Broad: From Boogie Boarding to Wing*



Attendees were treated to Café Domestique coffee, courtesy of Madison Public Library Foundation.

Walking – How Outdoor Adventure Improves Our Lives as We Age, March 13

- **UW–Madison Fiction MFA Graduates** Reading, March 18
- Award-winning author **Valeria Luiselli** for *Lost Children Archive*, April 15
- **2024 Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing Fellows** Reading, April 18
- *New York Times* best-selling author **Amor Towles**, whose novels include *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *The Lincoln Highway*, for *Table for Two*, April 30 (location TBD)
- **2024 Creative Writing Awards Ceremony**, May 2
- Award-winning fiction writer and essayist **Emily Raboteau** for *Lessons for Survival: Mothering Against “The Apocalypse,”* May 8

All events will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held at Central Library unless otherwise noted. More details will be available in early 2024 at wisconsinbookfestival.org.

Festival Gift Memberships Available

If you’re in need of a last-minute gift this holiday season, consider a Wisconsin Book Festival gift

membership! For a donation of \$100 or more, members receive reserved seating at select festival events, an invitation to the exclusive Fall Celebration schedule launch party, and placement on the priority email

list. Festival memberships are a great gift for friends, family members, coworkers, teachers, and other book lovers in your life! Purchase now at wisconsinbookfestival.org/give.



Making Justice Participants Learn to Create Podcasts

Madison Public Library’s *Making Justice* program, run by the Bubbler staff, is teaching incarcerated and at-risk youth to create podcasts, videos, visual art, and more.

A November 25 *Wisconsin State Journal* story highlighted the program’s work that engages local artists, culture makers, and Bubbler staff to share their crafts with participants. Local podcasting personality Dee Star, who presents the podcast *OuttaDeeBox* about mass incarceration, talked with the reporter about his podcasting class, which instructs on how to interview and record interesting guests

discussing various subjects to create episodes. “I cannot even tell you how many times I’ve asked the question, ‘What do you want to be?’ ” Star told the *State Journal*. “So many kids say, ‘I don’t know if I’m going to be alive.’ The ‘I don’t know’ is totally fine when you’re 15, 16. But to say you’re probably not going to be alive? It’s heartbreaking.”



Madison Public Library Foundation secured donations for Making Justice 2023 programming from Epic, *The Capital Times* Kids Fund, Public Health Madison Dane County, and Tim & Sharon Thousand.

You can support Making Justice by designating your gift to the program at mplfoundation.org/donate or writing “Making Justice” in the memo line of your check.

To read the story, visit madisonbubbler.org or madison.com.

Local podcaster Dee Star (second from left) leads a podcasting class.

Save the Date: Lunch for Libraries with Tommy Orange

Best-selling novelist Tommy Orange will be the featured speaker at Madison Public Library Foundation’s 2024 *Lunch for Libraries* fundraiser on Tuesday, April 23, at Monona Terrace Convention Center.

Orange is well known for his acclaimed debut novel *There There*, which speaks to the complexities of the urban Native American experience, exploring narratives of violence and recovery, hope and loss, and identity and power. In 2019, *There There* earned Orange the PEN/Hemingway Award, an American Book Award, and the John Leonard Prize. He was also a 2019 Pulitzer Prize finalist.

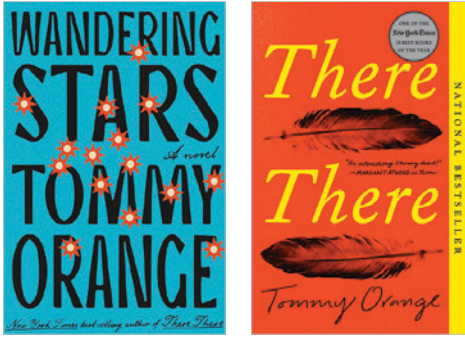
Orange will discuss his highly anticipated follow-up, *Wandering Stars*, in which he traces the legacies of the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864 and the Carlisle Indian Industrial School through three generations of a family in a tale that is by turns shattering and wondrous.

Orange is a 2014 MacDowell Fellow, a 2016 Writing by Writers Fellow, and a graduate of the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma, and was born and raised in Oakland, Calif. He lives in Angels Camp, Calif., with his wife and son.

Check-in for the event will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the program at noon. Tickets will go on sale in January. If you’re interested in purchasing a table or in sponsoring the event, please email events@mplfoundation.org. More details will be available on the foundation website, mplfoundation.org, in early January.



Tommy Orange



Meet Our Five New Board of Directors Members

Madison Public Library Foundation’s board of directors recently welcomed five new board members: **Laura Bird**, **Bryan Chan**, **JP Croake**, **Laura Murray**, and **Jessica Yehle**.



Bird is a Milwaukee native with an English degree from the University of Notre Dame. Her literary-themed Instagram, @laura_at_the_library, led foundation Executive Director Conor Moran to invite her to serve as an ambassador for the Wisconsin Book Festival several years ago. Bird served as the Co-Chair for *Lunch for Libraries* last spring.

Bird is the author of a middle-grade novel, the award-winning *Crossing the Pressure Line*. The sequel, *Marvelous Jackson*, comes out September 10. When she’s not reading, writing, or reviewing books, Laura loves to exercise and explore the outdoors. She lives with her husband, three teenagers, and small dog on the west side of Madison.



Chan is President and Founder of SupraNet Communications Inc., a local business Internet services provider that built fiber conduit into all the Madison Public Library locations as a gift to the City of Madison. He has served on many local boards,

including the Greater Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, Madison Children’s Museum, Madison Symphony Orchestra, Madison Region Economic Partnership, Rotary Club of Madison, and United Way of Dane County. He has been a regular guest at the foundation’s *Lunch for Libraries* and *Ex Libris* fundraisers for many years and has served on the foundation’s Marketing Committee for the last year.

Chan grew up in Los Altos, Calif. He lives with his partner, two children, and cat, and enjoys traveling and arts events in his free time.



Croake

Croake is a corporate and real estate attorney with Stafford Rosenbaum LLP. He also volunteers on the boards of Monroe Street Arts Center and Madison Print Club, and served as board member and treasurer at Creative Learning Preschool. Croake has lots of experience in public service, with a particular interest in providing access to educational and cultural experiences.

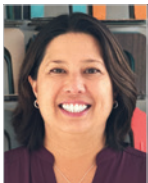
The Madison native earned his JD from Marquette University Law School and an English degree from Hunter College. Croake lives with his spouse, Shira Phelps; his son, Henry; and his dog, Brooklyn. He enjoys travel, cooking, and street photography.



Murray

Murray has been a financial advisor at Baird since 2000, with extensive experience in investment strategy and financial planning. She is passionate about financial literacy and education, which is reflected in her community involvement. Murray is the Dane County Humane Society Board of Directors President and serves on the Women’s Fund of Door County’s Advisory Board.

Murray enjoys spending time with her family and her black labs. She loves reading, cooking, golfing, and being outdoors, especially in Door County. She has a B.A. in behavioral science and law from UW–Madison.



Yehle

Yehle is a retired nurse and community volunteer who grew up in Madison. Her first job was at Central Library while in high school! She has a history of involvement with the Lussier Community Education Center, Madison Symphony Orchestra League, Village Diaper Bank, and the local Ronald McDonald House.

Yehle earned a biology degree from Boston University and a nursing degree from Simmons College. In addition to supporting the mission of the library, she enjoys reading, traveling, and playing the flute. She lives with her husband, Jim, and her three children.

Bubbler’s Our Town Everywhere Portrait Collection Growing

Our Town Everywhere is a unique portrait-making project led by Madison Public Library’s Bubbler program. Throughout the past year, the project has sparked connections, conversation, and collaborative creation in libraries, parks, and other community spaces.

“We’re excited to have the opportunity to reflect this project back into the communities that have participated,” said Bubbler Program Administrator Carlee Latimer. “We’re hoping many see familiar faces within these exhibitions, and are reminded of our collective humanity and creativity.”

The project, which involves creating stamped self-portraits, is made possible by a grant from the Madison Arts Commission, secured by Madison Public Library Foundation. The grant allows Bubbler staff to fund and mobilize the program, bringing *Our Town Everywhere* to life throughout Madison.

At the foundation’s recent annual fall fundraiser, *Ex Libris XIII: Local Flavor*, guests were invited to make stamped



Older adults served through NewBridge, a local nonprofit, make portraits in the Bubbler room at Central Library.

self-portraits. The Bubbler is working to bring the project not just to the libraries, but to other locations in the community to

“I love that anyone, at any age, at any skill level, can create a wonderful portrait of themselves.”

— Alicia Rheal, participating artist

Alicia Rheal. “I am always amazed at how different each and every portrait is.”

Our Town Everywhere is based off a project called *Our Town Nashville* in Tennessee.

gain a full representation of portraits created by people from all walks of life.

“I love that anyone, at any age, at any skill level, can create a wonderful portrait of themselves,” said participating artist



Guests of the foundation’s *Ex Libris* fall fundraiser created and hung their portraits in the Bubbler.

Letterpress printmaker Bryce McCloud traveled around Davidson County inviting people to create stamped self-portraits. The completed project included more than 1,000 portraits and was added to the Nashville Public Library’s permanent archives.

In Madison, *Our Town Everywhere* hopes to build a full, representative collection of portraits by the end of 2024. The project currently sits at 810 portraits and 49 community partners.

Visit madisonbubbler.org/projects/our-town-everywhere to view portraits and to find out how you can make your own self-portrait.

Community Weighs in on Imagination Center

Madison residents had the opportunity to view current designs of the northeast side Imagination Center at Reindahl Park and provide feedback on the project during a virtual public input session on November 6.

The meeting was hosted by three of the four project partners — City of Madison Engineering, Madison Public Library, and Madison Parks — as well as JLA

Architects, which is leading design of the facility and its surroundings. Madison Public Library Foundation is also a project partner and plans to fundraise \$4.5 million of the \$18.6 million project total; other funds will come from the city budget.

The new community facility, which will be constructed at 1818 Portage Road in Reindahl Park, will include the library’s 10th new location and an indoor, rentable



The Imagination Center at Reindahl Park is a unique collaboration of Madison Public Library, Madison Public Library Foundation, Madison Parks, and City of Madison Engineering.



park pavilion. The 17,500-square-foot facility, with about 12,000 feet dedicated to library use, will serve as a vibrant, multifunctional indoor-outdoor library and community space, bringing much-needed library and city services to an estimated 26,000 residents on the growing northeast side. With a serene setting, a combined city services menu, and an interweaving of nature, play, and learning, the center will lift up the whole city while closing service gaps and improving equity.

Construction is slated to begin in fall 2024, with project completion by early 2026.

If you missed the public input session, watch the recording and view presentation slides at madpl.org/reindahl.

EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



Audiobooks are a popular digital resource and available for instant downloading on the Libby app.

Foundation Raises \$30,165 for Digital Collection

Giving Tuesday, a day to celebrate generosity and charity, was November 28. This year, a family with a passion for audiobooks provided the foundation with a \$15,000 matching gift to encourage donations to the library's digital collection. With the support of our generous donors, we reached and even exceeded our goal of raising \$30,000 in total!

The library's digital collection includes:

- eBooks and audiobooks that are part of Wisconsin's Digital Library (Madison Public Library is a top contributor of titles)
- online newspaper and magazine subscriptions
- Kanopy video streaming service

The digital collection is critical for providing equitable access to library materials, especially for people who face barriers to visiting the library in person. But digital library materials are more costly than print materials, making wait times much longer for library users.

Thanks to the match gift and to the other generous Giving Tuesday donors, the library will be able to bolster and renew its digital resources, helping it facilitate literacy and lifelong learning.

Visit madpl.org/athome to access the library's digital resources.

Email Signature Inspires Sharing About Reading

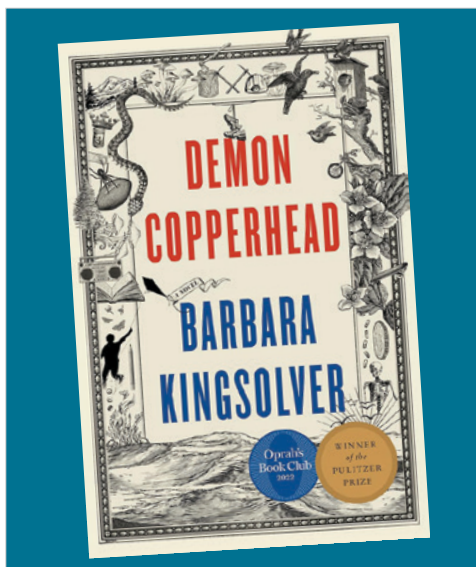
When Conor Moran took over as Executive Director last December, one of the first changes he made was to his email signoff. Little did he know that by adding the simple closing statement, "Hope you're reading something good," he would learn so much about all of you!



Moran

He heard from teachers, librarians, authors, board members, and donors. The range of your reading was incredibly broad, from best-sellers like *Lessons in Chemistry* and *Tom Lake*, to nonfiction about topics like the shipwreck of the *Endurance* and Nora Ephron's essays. How many people have read Charles Dickens' *Barnaby Rudge*? At least one! People traveled and read *The Cellist of Sarajevo* and *The History of the Siege of Lisbon* to immerse themselves in the stories. And there was even a clear winner: The book you read the most this year was *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Thank you for sharing all your reading this year. And, as always, hope you're reading something good!



Alicia Ashman Library Gets New Play Items

Kids tested out new play materials at Alicia Ashman Library recently. Funded with a Madison Public Library Foundation grant, the Superspace panels immediately inspired and intrigued children. "As soon as I brought the box out to the children's area today, kids flocked over to see what I was doing," said Youth Services Librarian Carissa Christner. "Is it building stuff? It's building stuff! Let's build something! Let's build a rocket!"

Child-led play has incredible benefits to children's learning. Foundation dollars allowed the library to purchase new, open-ended play materials for all nine libraries over the last two years. They can be used in many ways — for stacking, stepping on, and crawling over — depending on a child's interests and imagination.

Madison Public Library has become a leading innovator in the intersection between libraries and child-led play. If you're looking for a warm, safe, and fun place to play, visit madpl.org/play to learn more about what you'll find at each of our neighborhood libraries!



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MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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Meadowridge 5726 Raymond Rd.
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