



ALINE HALLE MISNER



LESLIE NEWMAN



STEPHANIE TOMEI



DAVINA BURNETT

# 5 NEW BOARD MEMBERS EXPAND OUR VOLUNTEER POWER



MICA WILSON

We are delighted to welcome five extraordinary community members to our Board of Directors, each of whom brings special expertise, life experience, and talents that will strengthen the Foundation's support for our Library and its role as an essential connector to our community. Together with these talented individuals, we hope to expand opportunities for New Rochelle residents to learn, access resources and enjoy the Library's multi-faceted programming.

# Expanding Our Volunteer Power

## DAVINA BURNETT

Davina has over 20 years of experience in the business and human resource fields. Davina is the Founder and President of Shoreline HR, Inc. which provides recruiting, business management and human resource development to clients in the fields of education, training, development and research. She is especially skilled at unraveling operational conflicts with clients, students, consultants, and contractors, providing strategic performance management and process improvement paths. An Adjunct Professor at Mercy College, Davina has served on the boards of the YMCA of New Rochelle, The Ursuline School, and Jack & Jill of America/Westchester. Davina is happily married to Dale Burnett and loves spending time with their three children, Dana, Dionne and Danielle.

## ALINE HALLE MISNER

As a 4th generation resident of New Rochelle, the NRPL has been a fixture in Aline's education and upbringing. She has shared her lifelong love of the library with her two children who see the library as a place to check-out books, as well as a community center where they can meet new people while developing a love for reading and the arts. Aline is a Marketing Manager for Acoustic Distinctions, an acoustic and AV design firm previously based in New Rochelle. She manages the company's marketing strategy, social media programs and online presence. Aline is excited to utilize her marketing and business administration skills to further develop the resources of the Foundation, advise on the needs of parents in the community, as well as to help promote the full range of services the library provides. Aline whole-heartedly believes that "Libraries Change Lives" and looks forward to helping the library touch as many lives as possible.

## LESLIE NEWMAN

Leslie has served on a number of boards and committees during her twenty plus years in Larchmont. She has been a member of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck School Board Selection Committee and, most recently, the Center for Continuing Education, where she served as President from 2016-18.

Leslie grew up in Toronto, a city with a strong public library system that serves a diverse community. As a child, her local public library was a very important part of her life. Leslie also brings a legal expertise to the board. She is a corporate counsel with significant experience in several facets of the technology industry. Leslie lives in Larchmont with her husband Mark and their dog, Dorado. Leslie and Mark love to travel, especially to visit their two sons who live in Edinburgh, Scotland and Los Angeles, CA, respectively.

## STEPHANIE TOMEI

A native of Tempe, Arizona, Stephanie has called New Rochelle home for the past 22 years. Obtaining a library card was one of her very first moves in her adopted hometown. She has been an involved New Rochelle resident for many years: a founding member of Ward Acres Community Garden; a former PTA Council President; and an active board member of the New Rochelle Council of Community Services, the New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence, and Hudson Park Children's Greenhouse, to name just a few. Formerly working in special events, Stephanie loves planning and executing fundraisers and looks forward to helping the Foundation grow and better serve the community. Stephanie enjoys spending time with her college-aged children and her husband, Joe.

## MICA WILSON

Mica is a Strategic Marketing and Communications professional with over 25 years of experience. She most recently founded a consulting company, Pride Development Group, a boutique agency that helps organizations strategically maximize their marketing and communications efforts. Mica is a host on the Dame Talk podcast. The podcast features four generations of women covering topics that help professional women through the challenges they may experience in the workplace. Pre-COVID she loved traveling all over the world to learn about and experience different lifestyles and cultures. She lives with her husband, Sheldon Pride, in the Glenwood Lake area of New Rochelle.

### New Rochelle Public Library Foundation Board

#### PRESIDENT

Christina Selin

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Green

#### SECRETARY

Dr. Cheryl Archbald

#### TREASURER

Joan F. Clarke

#### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Roderic Rolett

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Amy Bass

Marjorie Bliss

Heather E. Brown

Davina Burnett

Leslie Margot Demus

Judith Factor

Aline Halle Misner

Hon. Timothy C. Idoni

Theresa Kump Leghorn

M. Lori Morrow

Leslie Newman

Michael Rosenthal

Dr. James W. Swinehart

Stephanie Tomei

Mica Wilson

#### EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Handelman (1993-2019)

Alisa Kesten

Mary Jane Reddington

#### EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Dierdra Gray Clark

*Library Board President*

Tom Geoffino

*Library Director*

Alisa Mannis

*Administrative Director*

# Looking Ahead: Foundation Goals 2021-22



Dear Friends:

## Closing the Digital Divide in New Rochelle

Over the last year, the needs of our community have become dramatically more urgent. As we have become more dependent on the Internet to access resources, the digital divide has become deeply evident. The Foundation is committed to closing this divide by supporting projects which strive to close this gap for the most vulnerable members of our community.

- **Expand Mobile Hotspot Initiative** – 40 mobile hotspots are currently being loaned to New Rochelle students in need. Additional hotspots would be made available to other economically disadvantaged members of our community, including senior citizens.
- **Teen Room** – Many of our local teens only find access to cutting edge technology at the Library. To meet these needs we want to purchase:
  - **Automated Laptop Kiosk with 6 Laptops** for in-house lending, to double the current supply of 6 laptops, which are in high demand.
  - **3-D Printer and Virtual Reality** – hardware and software.
- **30 Desktop Computers** – There is an urgent need to replace the current out-dated computers in the Huguenot Children's Library and the Main Library, which include those in the Handelman Business Opportunity Center and the Computer Center. Most of the Library's heavily-used computers were purchased more than 8 years ago and need to be replaced to provide up-to-date services.

Our Library is an essential resource to so many in our community, especially during these difficult times. The Library and this Foundation are working to assist our residents in so many ways: instituting a vibrant curbside pickup service; purchasing loanable mobile WiFi hotspots; individually curating Book Bundles for kids and, of course, expanding our online resources and services. But to meet our 2021-22 Goals we will need your support.

**It is your gifts – large and small - that allow us to fund projects which keep our Library vibrant and strong. We appreciate and thank you for your generosity.**

Be well and stay safe,

Chris Selin

**NRPLFoundation.org**  
facebook.com/nrplfoundation





# Cocktails & Conversation

## Virtual Events Kick-off the 2021 Season Topics That Reflect Our Times

### Coping in a Time of Chaos

Thursday, March 18th at 8 PM on Zoom

→ To register go to [www.nrplfoundation.org](http://www.nrplfoundation.org)

Boy, do we need this one! Join gifted moderator, Amy Bass in conversation with authors Sara DiVello, author of *Where in the OM Am I?* and Catherine Pearlman (aka The Family Coach) and author of *Ignore It!* for an evening focusing on coping with pandemic and other life stresses.



Author, yoga teacher and ex-corporate executive **Sara DiVello's** book, *Where in the OM Am I?*, is the true story of her journey from the fast-paced, cut-throat corporate world to the slow-living, cut-throat yoga world and all of the entertaining "characters" in both worlds. The book jacket

describes it as "*The Devil Wears Prada* meets *Eat, Pray, Love*" and an "engaging, inspiring tale of self-discovery." DiVello "blends keen cultural observation with a terrifically wry wit."



**Catherine Pearlman**, PhD, is the founder of *The Family Coach*, a private practice helping parents and an assistant professor at Brandman University. She writes the nationally syndicated "Dear Family Coach" column. Her articles have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, CNN.com, the

Huffington Post, and have been featured several times on NBC's Today show. The title of her latest book, *Ignore It!: How Selectively Looking the Other Way Can Decrease Behavioral Problems and Increase Parenting Satisfaction*, says it all.

#### FREE YOGA CLASS

Those who register and make a donation of **\$40 or more** will be given access to a free virtual yoga class from **Tovami Yoga** with two of their most popular instructors, **Stephanie Petrillo Gould** and **Franklin Shire**.



### Finding Your Family: LGBTQ+ Literature

Thursday, April 29th at 8 PM

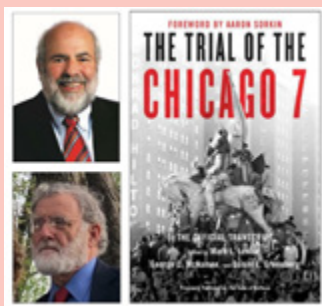
→ To register go to [www.nrplfoundation.org](http://www.nrplfoundation.org)

With Authors **Steven Salvatore**, *Can't Take That Away*, and **Nicolas DiDomizio**, *Burn It All Down*.

Join us for an evening of enlightening conversation as these YA authors talk about their wild – and weirdly parallel – roads to publication and the importance of strong support systems, especially as queer writers. Steven and Nicolas will share the ways in which family – found or blood-related – have shown up in their work, and how they've shown up for each other. (Their books started as ideas in text messages to each other.)

**Cocktails & Conversation** events take place via Zoom at 8 pm. These events are moderated by Amy Bass Ph.D., NRPL Foundation Board Member, historian and acclaimed author of *One Goal: A Coach, A Team and the Game That Brought A Divided Town Together*. Admission is free but a \$20 donation is suggested – and appreciated – to support the essential services provided by our Library. Participants sign up in advance to receive the Zoom link and the recipe for a signature cocktail to make – and enjoy – at home.

Our featured books are available for sale by special arrangement from Bronx River Books, a local independent bookstore. (37 Spencer Place, Scarsdale, 914-420-6396 or order online at [www.bronxriverbooks.com](http://www.bronxriverbooks.com)).



## The Trial of the Chicago 7

Mark Levine and Danny Greenberg, editors of *The Trial of the Chicago 7*, were our guests at our February 4th SOLD OUT virtual event. The Aaron Sorkin film, an Oscar contender and the Golden Globe winner for Best Screenplay, is based on their book which documented the actual trial that held the country in thrall for months in 1970. At that time, Levine and Greenberg were two young attorneys who came up with the idea to publish the trial transcripts, and their "instant book" (published by Bantam) formed the basis for Aaron Sorkin's brilliant script.

"The book reads like a script," Levine said. "It was clearly the most cinematic trial that ever took place," added Greenberg. Our guests shared how they turned 22,000 pages of transcripts into a compelling window on the politics of the 60's. What followed was a marathon effort, with 20 to 30 friends and family reading through the transcripts 24 hours a day. Greenberg noted the parallels to today's culture wars.



## In Celebration of National Library Week



Thursday, April 8th at 8 PM

→ Join us by registering at [www.nrplfoundation.org](http://www.nrplfoundation.org)

### The Most Fun You Ever Had on Zoom

Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. But bragging rights are priceless.

Join us for an evening of laughs and friendly competition to test your knowledge of books, New Rochelle history, sports, science and all things trivial against your neighbor.

**PARTICIPANT: \$25** – Each registrant will need one device to join the Zoom party and another device to play the trivia game. Most people play the game on their phone and Zoom on their computer.

**SPONSORSHIPS:** Sponsors will be recognized on our website and on-screen during the live event. All Sponsor Packages are prewrapped and delivered contact free.

#### EVENT SPONSOR: \$500

This will get you top billing as our event sponsor. Includes 2 bottles of wine and snacks for 6 delivered to your home (local area only)

#### WISE OWL SPONSOR: \$250

Includes a bottle of wine and snacks for 4 delivered to your home (local area only)

#### QUIZ MASTER: \$100

Includes a bottle of wine and snacks for 2 delivered to your home (local area only)

## SCAVEGANZA

Saturday, October 2, 2021

### New Rochelle Crazy City-Wide Scavenger Hunt

If you like doing good with a side of fun competition, this event is for you! We look forward to having an event that is safe, fun and supports the urgent needs of our Library. **Stay tuned for details.**



## Opening Doors to Opportunity

One Library Plaza  
New Rochelle, NY 10801

[NRPLFoundation.org](http://NRPLFoundation.org)

— SAVE THE DATE —

### Cocktails & Conversation

Thursday, March 18th at 8 PM

**Coping in a time of Chaos**

Thursday, April 29th at 8 PM

**Finding Your Family – LGBTQ+ Literature**



In Celebration of National Library Week

Thursday, April 8th at 8 PM

## SCAVEGANZA

Saturday, October 2, 2021

**New Rochelle Crazy City-Wide Scavenger Hunt**



The NRPL Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising resources and providing advocacy to keep our library vibrant, up-to-date, and able to serve the diverse needs of the New Rochelle community. To accomplish this mission, we depend on community volunteers who are passionate about libraries and who will devote their energies and lend their special talents to grow the Library and its network.

### GIVING IS EASY.

- ➔ Visit us at [NRPLFoundation.org](http://NRPLFoundation.org) and click the **DONATE** button on our homepage for more details on how you can support the Foundation.
- ➔ Donations made by check should be made out to NRPL Foundation and mailed to: **NRPL Foundation One Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY 10801**

For more information on how you can get involved email us at  
[nrplfoundation1@gmail.com](mailto:nrplfoundation1@gmail.com)

The NRPL Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable entity, Federal Tax ID #13-3712927

**NRPLFoundation.org**  
[facebook.com/nrplfoundation](https://facebook.com/nrplfoundation)

