

# friends

CELEBRATING  
35 YEARS!

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County • [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org)

*3rd Annual Library After Dark*

## Libraries OPEN DOORS

FOLMC will host our third annual Library After Dark fundraiser and awards ceremony on Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rockville Memorial Library. This year we will celebrate our 35th Anniversary with the theme *Libraries Open Doors*. Join us for our local celebration of National Library Week with an evening of entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, mystery door prizes, a literary jester and more.



We are pleased to announce this year's Honorary Chairs, Major General Arthur Holmes (Retired) and Mrs. Wilma Holmes.

After a venerable military career of almost four decades, General Holmes served several years with the Montgomery County government including as Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board and Director of Go Montgomery! Mrs. Holmes had a long and distinguished career as a teacher, principal, and Director of Human Relations with Montgomery County Public Schools and has served on the Montgomery County Commission on Women. Together they

have provided the most admirable service to Montgomery County and we are thrilled to present them as our 2017 Honorary Chairs.

This year our goal is to raise \$35,000 to honor our 35 years of dedication to helping MCPL provide opportunities for Montgomery County residents. There are six levels of corporate sponsorship, ranging from \$10,000 to \$500. As a sponsor, there are many benefits, including an invitation to the VIP Reception and complimentary tickets to literary events. For details about the benefits, please visit [www.folmc.org/lad-sponsor](http://www.folmc.org/lad-sponsor).

Tickets are \$80 per person and \$70 for FOLMC members and MCPL merit staff. To purchase tickets, visit [www.folmc.org/lad-ticketing](http://www.folmc.org/lad-ticketing), email [staff@folmc.org](mailto:staff@folmc.org), or call (240) 777-0020.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors



Arthur and Wilma Holmes • Censeo Consulting Group  
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### FOL Chapter Sponsored Events

Visit our website for more upcoming events: [www.folmc.org/events-calendar](http://www.folmc.org/events-calendar).

#### MARCH:

- 11 2 p.m. Chevy Chase: Foreign Film Showings: I Served the King of England
- 21 7 p.m. Bethesda: Classics in Context: The Optimist's Daughter
- 23 7 p.m. Bethesda: Meet Authors Brendan Reichs and Kami Garcia
- 28 10:30 a.m. Chevy Chase: Bilingual Storytime with Lupe Marks
- 28 7 p.m. Bethesda: Meet Author Jennifer Latham

#### APRIL

- 3 7:30 p.m. Silver Spring: Book Discussion: The Informers
- 6 10:30 a.m. Chevy Chase: Toddler Arts and Crafts
- 10 4:30 p.m. Damascus: Cosmic Adventures: A Brief Tour of the Universe
- 11 2 p.m. Germantown: Spinny Johnson
- 13 10:30 a.m. Chevy Chase: Play Date at the Library
- 14 10:30 a.m. Damascus: School's Out LEGO Special
- 21 10:30 a.m. Chevy Chase: Jefferson Cafe: My Secret Shame
- 28 4:30 p.m. Gaithersburg: Lego Crew

## Officers

Tom Thomson, *President*  
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## Trustees

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 Susan Chen, *Development & Communications Coordinator*  
 Lysette House, *Membership & Database Coordinator*  
 Cheryl Peirce, *Operations Coordinator*  
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## Bookstores

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 Brooke Higdon, *Wheaton*

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Debra Dunn	Patty Walker
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Lisa Goldstein	Greg Zalusky
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FOLMC is supported in part by funding from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

# From the President of the Board and the Executive Director

Tom Thompson and Ari Z. Brooks, MSW



Saying thank you alone hardly seems fitting to express our deep gratitude to our donors and members this past year. All year long, we received generous gifts in support of our mission that range from \$10 to \$10,000. Some are made in honor of a loved one and others come every year at the same time from a faithful donor. No matter the amount or frequency, each gift brings heartfelt joy as it allows us to continue our important work to provide vital community resources.

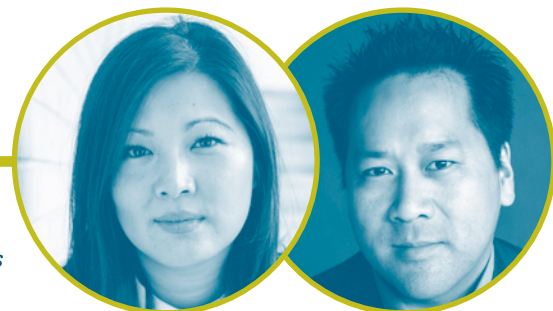
In November, we put out a call to raise \$10,000 by the end of 2016 in honor of our 35th anniversary. We are proud to report that we surpassed our goal by raising nearly \$17,000 within the span of two months. This outpouring of financial support is a powerful testament of how much our community cherishes libraries. It's no wonder Montgomery County can boast of one of the most successful Friends' groups in the State of Maryland. With enthusiastic supporters from every corner of the county, your gifts add great value to the library experience for all those who use them.

We wish to gratefully acknowledge the following **donors who generously contributed to our end-of-year campaign**. We are very proud of the work we do in support of libraries and are thrilled that you are partners in this endeavor.

- |                          |                               |                              |                           |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Christopher Alhambra     | Robin Delany-Shabazz          | Theodore & Mary Hartz        | Michelle Maxberry         | Nancy Rosenberg         |
| Eliot & Louise Allentuck | John Dibbern                  | Kelly Gardner Headd          | Denise Mazarow            | Elizabeth Sagle         |
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| James Bradley            | Sarah Gilliam-Kincaid         | Katherine Koepsell           | John & Abigail Pereira    | Lorraine Tischler       |
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| Sarah Bromel             | Barbara Golden                | Steve Kover                  | Christopher Platt         | United Jewish           |
| Ari Brooks               | Deborah Goldfarb              | Samuel & Marie Kramer        | Lance & Sheila Pohl       | Endowment Fund          |
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| Susan Crawford           | Kelly Hammond                 | Eleanor Lynch                | Stephen Rose              | Norma Yess              |
| Wendy Cutler             | Max Handelsman                | Ann Main                     | Arthur Rosen              | Julian & Stacy Yochum   |
| Martin Czigler           | Jeannette Handler             | Paul & Karen Mannes          | Robert & Sarah Rosenbaum  |                         |
| Hampton DeJarnette       | Bob & Kate Harrison           | Anne Mansfield               | Ira & Roberta Rosenbaum   |                         |

If you believe there are any errors or omissions in this list, please contact us immediately at (240) 777-0020.

# Spring Literary Series



FOLMC will host two spring author events for our 29th Annual Literary Series. The spring literary series will begin on **March 23 at 2:00 p.m.** with a free author book launch featuring **Tom Glenn** at Asbury Methodist Village, Rosborough Cultural Arts and Wellness Center, Community Rooms, 301 Odendhal Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Mr. Glenn will discuss his newest novel *Last of the Anamese*, followed by Q&A and a book signing. An Outreach Librarian from Montgomery County Public Libraries will provide information on senior services.

On **May 11**, literary power couple **Mei Fong** and **Andrew Lih** will discuss their lives, careers together and their works. Fong is a Pulitzer-winning journalist and former staff reporter for the China bureau of *The Wall Street Journal*. She is the author of

*One Child: The Story of China's Most Radical Experiment*. Ms. Fong has been a contributor to the *Atlantic* and National Public Radio. Andrew Lih is a new media researcher and professor of journalism at American University. Lih is an expert on Wikipedia who published, *The Wikipedia Revolution: How A Bunch of Nobodies Created the World's Greatest Encyclopedia*.

The lecture will start at 11:30 a.m. followed by a book signing and optional luncheon. Copies of *One Child* will be available for sale. Tour the art exhibit, historic mansion, and shop for handmade crafts and jewelry during your visit.

Visit [www.folmc.org/events-calendar/literary-series/](http://www.folmc.org/events-calendar/literary-series/) for ticket information. FOLMC and Strathmore members receive special discounted rates.

## Board Spotlight Eric Smith



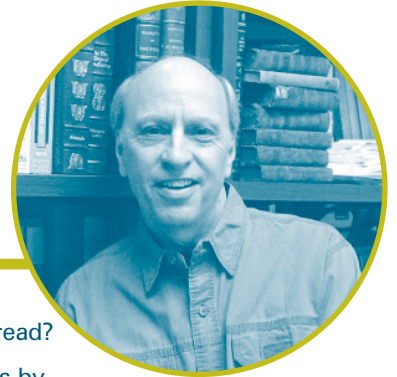
Eric Smith joined the board of trustees in November 2016. Eric grew up in Cumberland, Maryland and received his B.S. in accounting at the University of Maryland before earning an MBA at Frostburg State University. At the University of Maryland, he was a radio sports broadcaster for the National Champion Women's Field Hockey and Women's Lacrosse teams.

Snyder Cohn chairman Eddie Snyder made the introduction between Eric and Director Brooks. In Eric's words, "I decided to join the FOLMC board to assist an organization that promotes a mission that I believe in. As a CPA that has a number of non-profit organizations as clients, I know the amount of effort and good that these organization can provide to a community and thought that my background could really assist FOLMC. Also as a young professional, it's never too early to become involved in your community

and learn from others. By joining FOLMC it has allowed me to gain a better understanding of the County, while also learning from my fellow board members as each of them has a wealth of knowledge that I am fortunate to be surrounded by." Eric frequents the Rockville bookstore because of the "really great selection and you can find what you're looking for at a lower price and good condition."

In his spare time, Eric pursues diverse interests including reading nonfiction and playing sports. Eric is also a founding member of eight-month old improv comedy troupe Thanksgiving 2007 that performs around metro DC. Eric has lived in Rockville for nearly two years.

## Staff Spotlight: Les Rich



Meet Les Rich, manager of our Rockville bookstore. Les has been with FOLMC since 2004 and recently celebrated 12 years with our organization. FOLMC sat down with Les to learn more about him and his love of books.

**FOLMC:** Why did you decide to join the FOLMC team?

**LR:** I became a staff member at the Rockville bookstore at the behest of Jim Ludlum, the manager of the Wheaton bookstore. I had been assisting him in identifying first edition books and other works and he asked if I would do the same for the new Rockville bookstore as a staff person.

**FOLMC:** What is your hometown, background, where did you go to school?

**LR:** My father was in the military so I don't actually have a hometown. I was born in D.C. and grew up partly in Baltimore and partly in Germany depending on the tour of duty. At one point we actually lived in a safe house in Bamberg, Germany, like you see in the movies, as my father was in Army Intelligence. I went to high school in Dundalk, Maryland and college in Texas where I remained for several years. My grandfather ran a mission for the homeless in Delaware and, as children, my brothers and I would roam through his warehouse looking at the many donations they received and that's where I first became interested in old books.

**FOLMC:** What do you like to read?

**LR:** I enjoy reading mysteries by Lee Child and Hillerman and Jance and the like, along with biographies, history and most anything that looks interesting.

**FOLMC:** What are your recent reads?

**LR:** Art book on the works of Cellini, *Midway* by Mitsuo Fuchida and Masatake Okumiya (who were officers in the Imperial Navy), John Grisham's *Rogue Lawyer*, *High Wind in Jamaica* by Richard Hughes, *The Making of the African Queen*, *Death Comes to the Archbishop* - Willa Cather, Issac Asimov's *Mysteries* anthology, *The Fourth Part of the World*, *Stained Glass in the Middle Ages*, *Custer: My Life on the Plains*.

**FOLMC:** What are your other hobbies?

**LR:** Book repair is one of my hobbies, which is very helpful at the bookstore.

**FOLMC:** What's a fun fact about you?

**LR:** Back in the day, I went out on the road and hitchhiked through 10 states before returning to Texas and settling in Austin where I became manager of a sandwich shop on Sixth Street and was part of the original Willie Nelson, Armadillo, Sixth Street era which has become the now legendary 'Austin scene'.



## From the Stacks

On December 16, 2016 our Rockville Bookstore lost its longest tenured volunteer and a true friend. Audrey Bell, 93, had been volunteering at our Rockville location since it opened in November 2003. A quick wit with an abundance of southern charm, Audrey was a fixture at the bookstore, arriving at opening time several days a week to assist staff with shelving and organizing. She often brought along a box of clementines to share with staff and fellow volunteers.

A resident of Bethesda, Audrey was also a long time volunteer with the Red Cross and the National Naval Medical Center. We will always remember her great spirit and willingness to help. Audrey was frequently busy shelving romance paperbacks

but not for love of the genre. When asked how she wound up tasked with a mountain of slim Harlequins and Regencies she said flatly that she wasn't a fan but no one else would shelve them! She always brought good humor to whatever task was set before her. In addition to being generous with her time, Audrey made several monetary donations to facilitate the purchase of new bookstore furniture.

In her memory, we will be naming the romance section of the bookstore Audrey Bell Aisle. She will be greatly missed.



# From the Library Director

Parker Hamilton, MCPL Director



We are excited to partner with FOLMC to bring rich, vibrant discussions to the County through Contemporary Conversations @ MCPL series. Contemporary Conversations @ MCPL is a forum for residents to engage in enriching conversations about cultural and current issues with contemporary writers and experienced leaders.



On March 4, we will kick off our Contemporary Conversations @ MCPL series with Kojo Nnamdi. Mr. Nnamdi is one of the most well-known interviewers and talk show hosts in the Washington, D.C. area. Host of the National Public Radio (NPR) program that bears his name, Mr. Nnamdi is celebrated for his knowledge on a wide range of social, political and cultural issues relevant to the nation's capital and to the world outside Washington, DC. With a reputation for his versatility and

exhaustive preparation, Mr. Nnamdi has received several awards, including Washingtonian of the Year and one of the One-Hundred Fifty Most Influential People in the metropolitan area by *Washingtonian* magazine.

Best-selling author and prize-winning columnist for *The Washington Post*, David Ignatius will come to Contemporary Conversations @ MCPL on April 1. Mr. Ignatius has been covering the Middle East and the CIA for more than twenty-five years. He writes a twice-a-week foreign affairs column and contributes to the PostPartisan blog. Mr. Ignatius has also written eight spy novels including *Agents of Innocence*, *Body of Lies*, and *The Increment*.

As the year progresses, we will be bringing more authors, journalists, and national and community leaders to dialogue about significant contemporary issues relevant to our County and our nation.

Check out our website ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library)) for more information on Contemporary Conversations @ MCPL.

## Check It Out

FOLMC has continually fostered a strong library community through our sponsorship of annual volunteer appreciation events and activities at all 21 MCPL branches, including the Montgomery County Correctional Facility Library, Central Administration, and Collection Management.

Several hundred volunteers are recognized each year throughout these appreciation activities that include refreshments for events, certificates of service and appreciation, and other mementos offered to thank volunteers for their hard work and support. MCPL and FOLMC together recognize the tremendous value volunteers bring to our libraries every day. These dedicated volunteers perform a variety of roles including creating and updating displays, updating bulletin board information, mending books, maintaining local book sale shelves, and beautifying the library grounds with gardening.



*The volunteer appreciation celebration for the FOL Olney Chapter. Photo courtesy of the Olney branch*

Library, FOL chapter, and Library Advisory Committee volunteers are an invaluable support to our branches whose service strengthens our library community. FOLMC is honored to work with so many dedicated volunteers and we are proud to continue sponsoring their recognition.

## FOLMC CHAPTERS

### Aspen Hill

4407 Aspen Hill Road  
Rockville, MD 20853  
President: Chris Swan  
aspenhill@folmc.org

### Bethesda

7400 Arlington Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
President: Joan Greenbaum  
bethesda@folmc.org

### Chevy Chase

8005 Connecticut Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
President: Vacant  
chevychase@folmc.org

### Damascus

9701 Main Street  
Damascus, MD 20872  
President: Earl Patrick  
damascus@folmc.org

### Davis

6400 Democracy Boulevard  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
President: Robert Owen  
davis@folmc.org

### Gaithersburg

18330 Montgomery Village Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
President: Patrick McGinn  
gaithersburg@folmc.org

### Germantown

19840 Century Boulevard  
Germantown, MD 20874  
President: Robert Fuss  
germantown@folmc.org

### Kensington Park

4201 Knowles Avenue  
Kensington, MD 20895  
President: Eli Sola-Sole  
kensingtonpark@folmc.org

### Little Falls

5501 Massachusetts Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20816  
President: Jane Snyder  
littlefalls@folmc.org

## Chapter Spotlights

### ROCKVILLE

*President: Kathy Wessman*

#### Celebrating 10 Years of Giving

November 19, 2016:

The Rockville Memorial Chapter celebrated the 10th anniversary of the branch opening in Town

Square. More than 60 invited attendees - public and library officials, donors, and FOL members and volunteers - enjoyed the afternoon program. Certificates of appreciation were given to donors and dedicated volunteers. Montgomery County's first lady, Catherine Leggett, gave the keynote address. She told how her local library was a haven during a childhood of poverty. She said, "In my view libraries were founded to be a beacon of light and hope to support families and communities." and "Libraries have the power to make it better."

**Donor Wall:** Over the last 10 years, the number of donors (local businesses and residents) whose single contribution was \$1,500 or more has increased to a total now of 50. The plaques, inscribed on gold, silver, or bronze, are displayed in the hallway leading to the front door of the library. Last fall, the chapter raised over \$18,000 in commemoration of the 10th anniversary.

**Purchases and Plans:** The Rockville Memorial Library's makerspace and Studio i had an open house the afternoon of the 10th anniversary celebration. Chapter funding is helping to buy furniture for this space. In addition, a tour of the library that day showed that the first floor layout is being redesigned to create a more defined teen area and a large welcoming area with lots of table space. The chapter is proud to support all these updates by purchasing furniture and accessories with a budget that exceeds \$26,000.

**Student Volunteers:** A shout out to the many volunteers from Richard Montgomery High School who were so helpful in preparing for and "staffing" the celebration. Lindsey Hundt, former library manager of the Rockville Memorial Library, says the RMHS helpers were "just fantastic!"



*Donors and volunteers (Catherine Leggett in the middle left) before the cake cutting.*

### MARILYN J. PRAISNER

*Co-chairs: Vicky Taheri & Nora Siegel*

#### A Year in Review

Marilyn Praisner Library has a new manager, Cindy Schweinfest, and our FOL joins the staff and the Praisner community in welcoming her. We wish our previous manager, Jim Stewart, much success in his new position and we thank him for all he did for our library and community.

We started 2016 with a performance of the Chinese Lion Dance to celebrate the Chinese New Year. We also sponsored programs throughout the year such as the Juggling Hoffmanns, Rope Warriors, and Reptiles Alive! In October, we had an



# Chapter Spotlights

oboe trio and we were serenaded by the NIH singers in December. We provided tee shirts for our staff members for the Summer Reading Program and will do so again this year.

We also helped sponsor Burtonsville Day and we were happy to inform attendees about the programs at Praisner library and the importance of FOL. The FOL funded our garden clean up and it has been kept up with the help of volunteers. In December, our FOL served a catered holiday luncheon for staff appreciation day and each staff member was given a beautiful poinsettia plant. We continue with our monthly book sales which are always well attended and popular in our community.

In February 2017 we held Library Lovers Month programs to attract members of the community to consider joining our chapter and serving as volunteers.

## GERMANTOWN

*President: Robert Fuss*

### Providing Strong Community Support

Thanks to our long-running, monthly Book Sale, the Germantown chapter is able to support and fund an array of programs that enhance the library experience for customers of all ages and interests.

Programs include: kids creating with Legos, audiences learning about exotic animals up close and the annual crowd-pleasing Lunar New Year Lion Dance. Upcoming programs include the Culkin School of Irish Dance and former Harlem Globetrotter "Spinny" Johnson who intersperses his amazing basketball skills with messages about "the importance of education, respect, goal setting, determination and perseverance." Proceeds from the Book Sale have also maintained a fish tank in the Children's section, funded author speakers and supported a chess activity.

The Book Sale (2nd Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.) enjoys tremendous support from residents who donate and/or buy books. But it would never happen if not for a corps of dedicated (book-loving) volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome; just contact us at [Germantown@folmc.org](mailto:Germantown@folmc.org).

The Germantown chapter recently bid a fond farewell to two Very Important Friends (VIFs): Immediate Past President Mil MacVicar left for the even colder climes of Burlington, VT. Mil has been an integral part of the chapter since her arrival just over eight years ago. Under her leadership, the Board membership expanded and she staffed the chapter's membership table at each Book Sale and regularly volunteered to help at weekend library programs. After four years at Germantown, Branch Manager Karen Miller now holds the same position at Kensington Park Library. The chapter will miss Mil and Karen and thank them for their strong support.

We now welcome the opportunity to work with our new branch manager, Jan Baird-Adams.



## FOLMC CHAPTERS

### Olney

3500 Olney-Laytonsville Road  
Olney, MD 20832  
President: Salley Shannon  
[olney@folmc.org](mailto:olney@folmc.org)

### Potomac

10101 Glenolden Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854  
President: Edythe Wingate  
[potomac@folmc.org](mailto:potomac@folmc.org)

### Marilyn J. Praisner

14910 Old Columbia Pike  
Burtonsville, MD 20866  
Co-chairs: Vicky Taheri & Nora Siegel  
[praisner@folmc.org](mailto:praisner@folmc.org)

### Quince Orchard

15831 Quince Orchard Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
President: Dawn Fairbanks  
[quinceorchard@folmc.org](mailto:quinceorchard@folmc.org)

### Rockville

21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 100  
Rockville, MD 20850  
President: Kathy Wessman  
[rockville@folmc.org](mailto:rockville@folmc.org)

### Silver Spring

900 Wayne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
President: Kathlin Smith  
[silverspring@folmc.org](mailto:silverspring@folmc.org)

### Twinbrook

202 Meadow Hall Drive  
Rockville, MD 20851  
President: Elaine Joselovitz  
[twinbrook@folmc.org](mailto:twinbrook@folmc.org)

### White Oak

11701 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
President: Frank Altrichter  
[whiteoak@folmc.org](mailto:whiteoak@folmc.org)

## Chapter Book Sales

For a full list of book sales in library branches, visit the MCPL website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/about/bookdonations.html>

21 Maryland Avenue  
Suite 310  
Rockville, Maryland 20850-2389

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## A BOOK TO LOVE AT FRIENDS' BOOKSTORES

### ROCKVILLE BOOKSTORE – EXPANDED

Randolph Hills Shopping Center  
4886 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville, MD  
301-984-3300

### WHEATON BOOKSTORE – NOW OPEN!

at the Old Silver Spring Library  
8901 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD  
301-933-1110

### GAITHERSBURG BOOKSTORE – CLOSED

## MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIVING

FOLMC receives thoughtful contributions in memory of friends and relatives who have passed away, as well as to celebrate special occasions. The following gifts were received during 2016.

### IN MEMORY OF:

Rosemary Brandus  
Cynthia & Ben Burton  
Kathy Campoli  
JP Cassagnol  
Joyce Eminhizer  
Harold & Ida Halpert  
Ann Hall Marshall  
Judith Hartt  
Henry Hoffman  
Maggie Nightingale  
Steve O'Brian  
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John Rounsaville  
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Alan Spector  
Thelma Spinrad  
Frances Stambaugh  
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### IN HONOR OF:

Ari Brooks  
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Peggy Gervasi  
Celia Jaffe  
Cay Keller  
Aileen Klein  
Mark Niles  
Jim Polk  
Steve Schmal  
Susan Scolnik

*If you think your loved one's name has been omitted in error, please contact us at (240) 777-0020.*

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