

Levy Senior Center  
Foundation

2023 Annual Report

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Levy Senior Center Foundation, thank you all for enriching our lively community of older adults. Because of the ongoing participation and investment of Levy Senior Center members and friends just like you, we've once again been able to extend our reach, grow our numbers, and deepen our commitments to an expansive array of Levy programs, services, and facilities improvements.

The senior network we support grows more diverse every year. Our outreach efforts continue to be welcoming, inclusive, and responsive to the changing needs of older adults from all walks of life. This is vital work, but without the contributions of so many dedicated partners, collaborators, and volunteers, none of the Foundation's underwriting efforts would be nearly enough.

Thank you, also, to the City of Evanston and all the Levy Center staff, Foundation board members, and others who've worked so hard to ensure our continued success. For all your long hours and tireless efforts, I remain humbled and amazed.

Finally, I want to extend special thanks to all the generous donors who've blessed us not just with their financial support, but also their passion and trust. It's a privilege to serve as Foundation chair, a labor of love, and I'm beyond grateful for the dynamic community of older adults we continue to build together.

With love, laughter, and longevity,



Judy Newton  
Chair, Levy Senior Center Foundation

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## LSCF Board

Judy Newton  
*Chair*

Anne Morrissey  
*Vice-chair*

Hugo Rodriguez  
*Vice-chair*

Evan Nielsen  
*Treasurer*

John Peterson  
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Robert Bady  
Michael Fogarty  
John Given  
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Pamela Harvey  
Jill Korshak  
Gerri Sizemore  
Jane Wuellner

## Learn More

Visit our website:  
[lscfevanston.org](https://lscfevanston.org)

### Support from Nonprofits

*We are committed to building connections with fellow Evanston nonprofits. Through collaboration and support for each other's shared goals, we are able to provide additional opportunities for our older population.*



“  
As players age,  
and are on fixed  
incomes, the LSCF’s  
support means  
even more.”

**Christy Bowman**

Hoops for the Ages Player



**Clockwise from top:** board member Rob Bady with stars from Team Dream; men’s team at Hoops for the Ages; fitness at Aging Well; women’s Hoops teams with referee

## Fitness and Fun

For the second year, we underwrote the LSC’s annual Hoops For The Ages basketball tournament. Featuring 30 teams of local male and female players ages 40 to 90, the tournament offered another opportunity for our seniors to socialize, stay active, and compete — with 11 Foundation-sponsored teams even going on to the National Senior Games!

At the same time, we again were a sponsor of the Aging Well Conference. This annual multi-day event featured everything from health and wellness lectures and workshops,

to free yoga classes, to the screening of a powerful social justice documentary, *Team Dream*, about two older black female swimmers from Chicago who also went on to compete at the Senior Games!

Looking ahead, we’re thrilled to report we’ve now secured commitments to renovate the LSC’s personal training room and group game room. Coming soon, these upgrades promise to make the Center an even more inviting destination for our seniors to workout or find fellowship over a lively game of bingo, bridge, bid whist, or mahjong.





## Rhythm and Rhetoric

**T**acos and rib tips, funk bands and classical duets, plus a series of provocative lectures, we kept our community engaged in 2023 by supporting more than a dozen virtual and in-person musical events and moderated talks.

Musically, our long-running Fran Randall and Jamming Jean concert series drew crowds of all ages to the LSC's building and grounds. Featuring

an eclectic range of musical stylings by Gerald McClendon (R&B), Suite Mollie (funk), Lynn Jordan and the Shivers (soul), South Boulevard Band (blues), and a variety of accomplished young classical performers, crowds gathered both inside and out to listen, dance, sing along, and feast on traditional offerings from Evanston's Cocina Azteca and Hecky's Barbecue.

As for our Levy Lectures (designed to reach members, via Zoom, far beyond the LSC's physical walls), highlights included "chamber-blues" legend Corky Siegel in conversation with Neil Tesser and two lectures moderated by local writer and ETHS graduate Shane DuBow, including AARP's Philippe Largent on senior advocacy and The School of the Art Institute's Jill Riddell on the leading role seniors might play in combating climate change.

## Prose and Plays

The LSCF's deep partnership with Skokie's Northlight Theatre continued on in 2023. With crucial underwriting from the Foundation's Dennis Newton Scholarship Fund and Northlight's Arts for Everyone program, we provided free tickets for more than a hundred Levy community members to see any one of five different Northlight plays.

For members looking to find their voice and share their life stories on the page, Northlight also delivered another year of High Lights Writer's Workshops. With some 60 new and repeat Levy participants coming together virtually to get and give feedback, these participatory six-week workshops remain

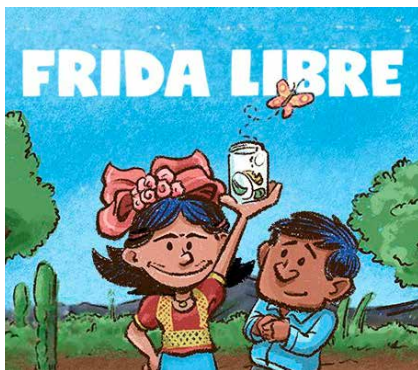
“  
I love it so much!  
Instructors Matt  
and Freddie are  
phenomenal.”

—  
**Paula Finkelstein**

High Lights Workshop Participant

consistently packed.

As for new Foundation cultural partners, we joined with Northwestern's Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts. In 2023, 25 Levy members enjoyed free tickets to *Frida Libre*, a production about the childhood life of Mexican painter, Frida Kalo.



**Clockwise above:** a Wirtz Center production; Jill Riddell offered empowering thinking about climate change at a Levy Lecture; Corky Siegel in a Levy Lecture presentation **Clockwise opposite:** Lynne Jordan performing at a Jamming Jean Concert (JJ); Crowd dancing at a JJ with Gerald McClendon; Suite Mollie at a summer JJ; Fran Randall Concert with Mezzo-soprano Naomi Brigell accompanied by Sarah Jenks; Dancing to South Boulevard Band

## Buds and Blooms

In 2023, *Science Daily* reported that “fostering social connections around nature-based activities may lead to improved psychological, emotional and physical health for elders.” A firm belief in this growing body of research continues to drive the Foundation’s commitment to maintaining and improving the Levy Senior Center’s open-air grounds.

Key Foundation underwriting went to maintenance of the LSC’s front gardens and the on-going restoration of the LSC’s Hulda B. and Maurice L. Rothschild Enabling Garden in the Center’s courtyard. With help from Barker Metal Craft and TK, we oversaw the refurbishment of the Rothschild’s tables and chairs and mosaic art. With help from Nature’s Perspective and Clesen’s Greenhouse, we also oversaw the continued revitalization of the Rothschild Garden’s lush and meditative landscaping.

Finally, with a heart-felt donation from longtime former Evanston Alderperson Ann Rainey, the Foundation celebrated the planting on LSC grounds of three new trees: one dedicated to Evanston police

“Partnering with LSCF on the farm stand is an excellent example of how collaboration can be super impactful.”

**Mary Collins**

Associate Director, Evanston Grows

and firefighters, another to the Council of Jewish Elderly and Evergreen Real Estate for their commitment to providing affordable senior housing and a third to all of us here at the Foundation for our work on behalf of Evanston’s older adults.







**Clockwise p.6:** honorees at a reception following the dedication of trees; members enjoying the Rothschild Garden ; a visitor admires the veggie gardens; **This page:** volunteers and patrons at the Levy Farm Stand; community member with free farm stand flowers from local gardens

## 2023 Contributions

*Your generous contributions helped to fund programs and events enjoyed by our senior community. Thank you!*

### **Total Gifts: \$143,927**

Arts For Everyone  
 Dennis Newton  
 Scholarship Fund  
 Fran Randall Concerts  
 High Lights Writer's  
 Workshops  
 Hoops for the Ages  
 Internship Program  
 Irrigation System  
 Jamming Jean Concerts  
 Levy Farm Stand  
 Levy Lectures Series  
 Levy Longevity Series  
 Levy Senior Center Gardens  
 Partner Programs for Seniors

*To see a list of our donors, please visit: [lscfevanston.org](http://lscfevanston.org).*

## Food and Friendships

**W**ith stubborn inflation continuing, the Foundation continued to support the Center's free Farm Stand Fridays to help combat food insecurity. Thanks to The Garden Club of Evanston, Evanston Grows, and a new LSCF farm stand internship program for local college students, volunteers distributed fresh produce grown on-site in the Center's eight edible garden beds, each bed dedicated

to supporting a different culinary tradition found among our ethnically diverse senior community.

Due to the farm stand's popularity as a spot for locals of all ages to meet, mingle, and share culinary tips, we also released another edition of our now annual *Garden Fresh Recipes* book. To make sure nothing goes to waste, any leftover produce now gets donated to nearby shelters and soup kitchens and food pantries.



“  
Joshua’s tech help  
makes our life easier.  
He’s a genius!

—  
**Ann Searles & Dana Buchanan**  
Levy Community Members



**Clockwise:** *Ann Searles and Dana Buchanan get tech help from Josh Lieber; Northlight’s High Lights Writer’s Workshop alumni at a live reading event; an LSCF appreciation luncheon for Parks and Rec employees*

## Highlights and Hits

**A**dditional Foundation supported highlights and hits from 2023 included all of the following:

Our popular and essential Dennis Newton Scholarship Fund continued to subsidize costs for Levy members to attend a variety of local cultural and sporting events as well as costs for our Heaven Can Wait program which covers Levy membership fees for residents ages 90 and up.

Another year of the Levy Center’s Tech Tuesdays, where seniors can get one-on-one guidance with their

laptops and phones, helped keep our community plugged in and connected.

### LSCF Mission

The Levy Senior Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3), operates to improve the quality of life for Evanston seniors by soliciting monies to supplement the Levy Senior Center’s operating budget. In partnership with the City of Evanston, we seek to improve the Center, its programs and resources.