



MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Middletown Township Public Library Announces Award Winners to be Recognized at Black & White Masquerade Gala on Friday, October 28th

MIDDLETOWN, NJ – The Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) will recognize members of the community for their service and dedication to Middletown with four awards at its Black & White Masquerade Gala on October 28, 2022, at Jacques Reception Center.

Joyce P. Murphy Imagination in Education Award – Craig Palmer

The Joyce Murphy Imagination in Education Award, presented in memory of MTPL Children's Department employee Joyce Murphy, recognizes an individual who shares her inherent kindness, joy and creativity in their interactions with children and supports children's reading to strengthen their creativity, language, learning and overall well-being. This award will be presented to Craig Palmer, who embodies these values in his role as Principal of St. Mary's School.

Outstanding Philanthropist Award – Tony Panzica

The Outstanding Philanthropist Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies the best of our caring and generous community and has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to long-term positive change through exemplary care, empathy and generosity within the Middletown community. This award will be presented to Tony Panzica, a longtime Middletown resident who is being recognized for his unwavering support and passion to help others, exemplified by his work distributing supplies to those in need during Superstorm Sandy. He has also been a significant benefactor to the Middletown World Trade Center Memorial Gardens and has helped fund improvements in honor of the 20th Anniversary of September 11th.

Business Generosity Award – The Saker Family

The Business Generosity Award recognizes a Middletown-based business that embodies an overall spirit of giving through contributions of time, leadership and resources in support of local non-profits. This award will be presented to the Saker Family who, as the owners and operators of Saker

ShopRites, support their communities through a variety of fundraising efforts, including participation in the Check-Out Hunger program, the Vision of Children Foundation to combat childhood blindness, the Joan Dancy and Pals organization to support those suffering from ALS, and their continued support of New Jersey food banks.

Historic Preservation Award – Friends of the Cedar View Cemetery

The Historic Preservation Award recognizes an individual or an organization who has been an outstanding advocate for historic preservation in our community through projects or programs. This award will be presented to the Friends of Cedar View Cemetery for their work restoring and cleaning up the historic Cedar View Cemetery.

The Black & White Masquerade Gala on October 28th is the kickoff event for MTPL's Reimagining Your Library Campaign. In addition to the awards presentation, a cash raffle and a silent auction will be part of the event. Those in the community aged 21 and over are invited to purchase tickets for the Gala on the "2022 Gala" page at mtpl.org. All the evening's proceeds will go towards the library's planned internal re-design.

Please contact Jenna O'Donnell at jodonnell@mplmain.mtpl.org for additional information. Middletown Township Public Library is located at 55 New Monmouth Road in Middletown, NJ.

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