



WEST PALM BEACH
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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For immediate release

WPB Library Foundation Begins Next Exciting Chapter with New Leadership at the Helm

New Executive Director and Three New Board Members Announced

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. (September 21, 2020) – The [West Palm Beach Library Foundation](#) is turning the page by starting a new chapter with the addition of veteran leadership and development professional, **Dean W. Dimke**, as its new Executive Director. The nonprofit organization that serves as the fundraising arm for the downtown city library also named three prominent new Board members, all recognized for their commitment and dedication to the West Palm Beach community: former West Palm Beach Mayor **Jeri Muoio**, local attorney and business leader **Robert Sanders**, and philanthropist and library ambassador **Josephine L. duPont Bayard**. The importance of the [Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach](#) to the community has become more evident than ever, and these passionate leaders will ensure that the library can continue to help area children, teens, and adults for years to come.

Dimke, a fundraising and communications professional with more than two decades of experience, will focus on developing a strategic vision and plan to advance the foundation’s mission to raise funds that support the valued and life-changing programs, services and resources of the Mandel Public Library. Dimke will also oversee the Foundation’s fundraising strategy and increase tactical partnerships with community leaders, corporations and other key stakeholders.

“The Mandel Public Library has become a vital resource center for many in our community helping open doors to opportunities that would not otherwise be available. I am confident that working with our donors, volunteers, community partners, and business leaders, we will expand the reach of these critical services,” said Dimke.

Dimke is a well-known leader and tireless advocate throughout Palm Beach County, previously serving as the CEO of American Red Cross, Palm Beach and Treasure Chapter (formerly called the Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter), where he directed the response to several major hurricanes that impacted the area. He has also worked in the private sector bringing his expertise and talents to the National Council on Compensation Insurance and KEMET Electronics. Dimke received several leadership awards from the American Red Cross, and was the keynote speaker at its national convention in 2005. He earned his B.A. in communications from the University of Louisville (KY).

Former West Palm Beach Mayor **Jeri Muoio** is returning home to serve on the Library Foundation Board. Shortly after moving to Florida, Muoio was appointed to the Mandel Public Library Advisory Board and from that start, went on to become a City Commissioner and Mayor. While on the City Commission, she was involved with the design and construction of the new City Center, which included the new library on Clematis Street. Muoio is thrilled that her journey has come full circle and believes the library is one of the city's most treasured assets. Muoio is currently President & CEO of Great Cities for All, using her experience to work with cities, organizations and leaders across Florida to help them reach their goals and potential.

Robert Sanders is an accountant, lawyer, businessman and leader in West Palm Beach, whose passion for the community is cherished and not limited to business. He currently works at Greenberg Traurig focusing his practice on governmental, administrative and real estate matters. Prior to joining the firm, Sanders served as City Administrator for the City of West Palm Beach, he was past President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, is currently the Chairman of the Downtown Development Authority, and also serves on various local nonprofit organizations. He is an original founding member of the Library Foundation and former Board Chairman who has served the Foundation for over 20 years, and is now returning to the Board after a brief hiatus.

Josephine DuPont Bayard's family background has been a lifelong catalyst to advance many philanthropic causes which have covered a broad range of non-profit organizations. Her interest in the Mandel Public Library and Library Foundation began as a volunteer for the Let's Read program, where volunteers bring read stories to students in Title I schools. She has also served as honorary chair for the Foundation's Food For Thought annual fundraising event. The entrepreneur, philanthropist, and advocate has become a true library ambassador wholly supporting community programs and fundraising efforts.

"The Foundation is thrilled to start this new chapter for the organization and to draw upon the leadership, talents, and enthusiasm of these community builders to safeguard the future of the downtown library," shared Natalie M. Alvarez, Chairwoman of the West Palm Beach Library Foundation Board of Directors.

About the West Palm Beach Library Foundation

The [West Palm Beach Library Foundation](#) raises funds for the [Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach](#) to provide free quality programs, services and resources that enrich and strengthen its diverse community. The Foundation hopes to create an inspired community where children excel and adults thrive. Gifts to the Foundation support popular library programs including afterschool homework centers, summer learning programs, reading programs, teen college prep, job readiness and adult programs in art, technology, education, culture, and entertainment. For more information or to make a donation, please visit www.wpblf.org.

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