Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce that the Campaign for Tomorrow’s Newberry is more than two-thirds of the way towards its goal of $25 million!

In the past few months we’ve received gifts to support fellowships, staff development, and our genealogy programs. We’ve received renewed support for public programs like “Conversations at the Newberry” and our Spotlight Exhibitions. And we’ve received many important unrestricted and Annual Fund gifts, which will be applied to projects and programs as needed.

With only a few months of the campaign remaining, now is the time to join the Campaign for Tomorrow’s Newberry and have a positive impact on the future of the library.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

From the Campaign Chairs

Opportunities to support the Campaign for Tomorrow’s Newberry include:

- Funding the acquisition, cataloging, and preservation of materials
- Funding fellowships for graduate students and visiting scholars
- Supporting digital initiatives and projects
- Contributing to public programs, seminars, and exhibitions
- Endowing Research Centers, departments, and staff positions
- Funding capital projects, including the transformation of the first floor lobby
- Providing unrestricted Annual Fund or endowment support

Judge Richard Posner, and Scott Turow in “Conversation”
“Conversation” continued from page 1

Discussing the role of books in a digital age, Turow acknowledged that “e-books are here to stay.” While praising their ease of use and accessibility, Turow warned that the availability of digital materials raises concerns over book piracy and copyright violation and threatens the viability of book stores and libraries. Citing a lawsuit The Authors Guild filed against Google after the company made the contents of seven university libraries available online, Turow said, “It’s a fight over who is going to make money. All of these issues revolve around the concept of copyright,” explaining that a copyright grants authors a limited monopoly over their work, providing an incentive to share their intellectual property.

Judge Posner offered a different opinion, admitting he is “not a fan” of copyright laws which, in his view, block access to material. “I think it’s a scandal that Google has been frustrated in its effort to digitize all works. It ought to be all digitized and accessible, otherwise you’re just withholding access to the great body of human thought. Digital distribution is simply immensely more efficient than libraries or book stores.”

Turow conceded the need to strike a balance between copyright protection and access and explained that, traditionally, libraries have filled that role by providing the public “free access to the intellectual property created by authors,” a role Judge Posner believes libraries are moving away from in a digital age.

Thanking Turow and Judge Posner for their insights, Newberry President David Spadafora said, “Obviously, the issues involved are important to us here at the Newberry and we think they should be important to everyone.”

Campaign Profile — Sue and Mel Gray

WHEN NEWBERRY TRUSTEE SUE GRAY first heard the plans for “Conversations at the Newberry,” she was “completely swept away” by the vision Newberry President David Spadafora presented to her. “I liked the idea of having an opportunity to hear people with great accomplishments in the humanities. I thought the Newberry was the perfect place for such a program.” When Sue and her husband Mel began considering a gift to the Campaign for Tomorrow’s Newberry, they decided to provide support to make “Conversations at the Newberry” a reality.

“Conversations at the Newberry” was envisioned as a forum for exciting discourse about the pressing issues of today. Each “Conversation” is designed to encourage dialogue not only among experts in a particular field, but between those experts and members of the general public. Presented without charge, the “Conversations” consist of a discussion about an important humanities-related topic, followed by a question and answer session between the speakers and the audience.

For Sue, “Conversations” represented an opportunity for the Newberry to present debate and discussion of the highest caliber, while at the same time drawing new audiences to the Newberry. “More people should have the opportunity to become familiar with the library,” she says. “Being involved at the Newberry has broadened my interests and my views, and Mel and I are thrilled to support a program that encourages people to have similarly enlightening experiences.”

In its first year, “Conversations at the Newberry” has been a resounding success in this area, drawing big crowds to the library. The October event, featuring noted theologian and author Martin E. Marty and Rev. John M. Buchanan of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, welcomed a near-capacity audience of 175 guests. The February “Conversation” between Chicago-based novelist and attorney Scott Turow and Judge Richard Posner, renowned legal theorist, economist, and jurist, sold out within days of being announced.

The program’s ability to draw diverse crowds to the Newberry is enormously gratifying to Sue and Mel Gray. “We are a family that values education and feels that a thorough understanding of the humanities is a basis for anything you want to do in life... Our gift to support the public programs at the Newberry is an effort to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to continue learning and exploring.”

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The program’s ability to draw diverse crowds to the Newberry is enormously gratifying to Sue and Mel Gray. “We are a family that values education and feels that a thorough understanding of the humanities is a basis for anything you want to do in life. We believe that nothing replaces a good education and that it is of vital importance to continue learning forever, whether you are learning something new, or revisiting a favorite subject. It is an essential part of living fully. Our gift to support the public programs at the Newberry is an effort to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to continue learning and exploring.”
Join the Campaign for Tomorrow’s Newberry

To fulfill our vision of a Newberry for the 21st century, we seek those who believe that nurturing intellectual discourse in the humanities enriches our lives. We seek those who believe that preserving and sharing the records and knowledge of the past is vital to understanding today’s world. We seek those who care deeply about the Newberry Library.

We hope you will consider a gift to encourage deeper understanding of our world.

For more information about how you can support the Campaign for Tomorrow’s Newberry, please contact Meredith Petrov, Campaign Manager, at (312) 255-3687 or petrov.m@newberry.org.

Steering Committee of the Campaign for Tomorrow’s Newberry

Roger Baskes, Co-Chair
Victoria J. Herget, Co-Chair
Andrew McNally IV, Co-Chair
Hanna H. Gray
Charles C. Haffner III*  
David C. Hilliard
D. Carroll Joynes
Barry L. MacLean
Andrew W. McGhee
Cynthia E. Mitchell
Harold B. Smith

* Deceased

Charles C. Haffner III

We pay tribute to Newberry Trustee Charles C. Haffner III, who passed away on April 30 at the age of 83. A member of the Board of Trustees since 1972, Charlie was a dedicated member of the Steering Committee for the Campaign for Tomorrow’s Newberry. Throughout his remarkable 40-plus-year relationship with the Newberry, Charlie quietly but enduringly employed his unshakeable commitment, boundless generosity, and wonderful wit and sense of humor to advance the Newberry’s cause. We are deeply saddened by his passing, and he will be greatly, and always, missed.

To make a gift in honor of Charlie, contact Vince Firpo at (312) 255-3599.

News from the Sister Ann Ida Gannon Initiative

The Newberry’s Sister Ann Ida Gannon Initiative, which will conserve and catalog more than 7,000 titles from our religious materials collection, reached a milestone this spring when the cataloging of the Catholic Theological Union Collection was completed. This collection consists of 486 titles, mostly by or about members of the Franciscan and Capuchin orders. Many unique titles were cataloged, including two incunabula, several 16th-century imprints, books on monastic rules and canon law, and a large number of biographies of saints and other religious figures.

While the Catholic Theological Union Collection is the first completed collection, Newberry staff have also been busy cataloging several others, including the Dominican Friars of the Province of Saint Albert the Great Collection, the Concordia University Collection, and the Edward E. Ayer North and Middle American Indian Linguistics Collection, as well as other religious materials.

The Gannon Initiative is named in honor of Newberry Trustee Sister Ann Ida Gannon, who spearheaded the arrival of religious materials from Mundelein College nearly two decades ago. It was followed by a series of contributions from other Chicago-area religious institutions that, together with our extensive previous acquisitions, constitute one of the great collections of early-modern religious books and manuscripts in the world. When these books and manuscripts are properly cataloged and conserved, the Newberry will become the premier institution in North America for studying religion between 1500 and 1800. The Gannon Initiative is funded through the Campaign for Tomorrow’s Newberry by generous gifts from Roger Baskes, Dennis J. Keller, Robert E. King, Frederick A. Krehbiel, Barry L. MacLean, and Robert C. McCormack.
The Newberry’s Quasquicentennial!

The first Bible printed in North America. An aria handwritten and signed by Mozart—when he was 9. A Shakespeare First Folio. Original artwork featuring American Indians by American Indians. An original paper-covered copy of Voltaire’s *Candide*. Letters from Thomas Jefferson, Jack Kerouac, and Ernest Hemingway, and rare correspondence between a slave woman and her husband.

These are just a few of the 125 collection items that will be on display when the Newberry unveils its celebratory anniversary exhibition, *The Newberry 125*. The exhibition will open September 6—exactly 125 years after the Newberry first opened its doors to the public. In addition to these show-stopping objects, the library will present a complementary exhibit of 50 items that relate directly to the Newberry’s rich and sometimes quirky history.

More than 30 authors—Newberry staff and others—have written essays on the 125 selected objects. These thought-provoking pieces, accompanied by gorgeous photographs, will be published in a book that will be available this fall.

In the months leading up to the anniversary, the Newberry will be sharing stories and hosting events related to the quasquicentennial, as well as offering special previews of some of the 125 items. To keep up-to-date, follow us on www.newberry.org, Facebook, and Twitter.