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# REMARKABLE EVENING

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FEATURING

**GEORGE W. BUSH**

*43rd President of the United States*

interviewed by

**JON MEACHAM**

*Presidential Historian and Author*

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

PRESENTED BY



THE NEW ALBANY

*Community Foundation*





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# REMARKABLE EVENING

## PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

**GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE**

FEATURING

**GEORGE W. BUSH**

*43rd President of the United States*

interviewed by

**JON MEACHAM**

*Presidential Historian and Author*

PRESENTATION OF THE  
JEANNE & JOHN G. MCCOY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

DINNER PREPARED BY THE NEW ALBANY COUNTRY CLUB

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*As a courtesy to our speakers this evening, we ask that guests please turn off electronic devices.*

*Underwriting support for this evening's benefit has been provided by the Wexner family so that more of the funds raised through Remarkable Evening may be invested back into the community in the form of grants in four strategic areas of impact: lifelong learning, health and wellness, the arts and environmental sustainability.*

#RemarkableEvening

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A photograph of two children, a girl with red hair and a boy with dark hair, sitting on the floor in a library. They are looking at each other and talking. Bookshelves filled with books are visible in the background.

# POWERING FOWARD TOGETHER

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# FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

## Craig Mohre

*President, The New Albany Community Foundation*

Thank you for supporting The New Albany Community Foundation tonight!

Your generosity has made grants to 130 organizations possible, enriching lives in the community. It also has supported transformational community initiatives such as the library, McCoy Center, Hinson Amphitheater and the nationally recognized New Albany Lecture Series and Student Lecture Series. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than \$22 million in grants.



*Promoting a love of reading during the New Albany Scholars Author Residency Program.*



*Students interact with Renée Elise Goldsberry following the 2022 Amp Up the Arts benefit.*

Some of the most inspiring work we do together invests in students and children in New Albany and beyond. As someone once said, “Our children are our future.” Supporting their growth, development and welfare is critical to sustaining our mission to create an extraordinary community.

Because of your generosity, more than 33,000 area students have had the unique opportunity to interact with some of the most influential thought leaders of our time. Similarly, student volunteers routinely meet with and gain wisdom from award-winning performers through the Foundation’s Amphitheater Performance Series. The feedback we receive from students, parents and educators about these opportunities is overwhelmingly positive.

The New Albany Student Lecture Series, Safety Town program for pre-schoolers, Healthy New Albany youth experiences, Easton E3 Environmental Lab, New Albany Scholars Author Residency Program, performing arts programs, Well-Being Connection programming, New Albany Schools Extracurricular Activities



*Gavin DeGraw and Colbie Caillat inspire student volunteers after the 2023 Amp Up the Arts benefit.*

Scholarship Fund and so much more are made possible because of support from donors like you. The Foundation annually supports additional community initiatives, including the farmer’s market, food pantry and mental health programming, as well as opportunities for children with disabilities.

We are proud to serve fund donors, donors and sponsors who want to have a positive impact in the community. We are equally proud to partner with organizations like the City of New Albany, Plain Township, New Albany Schools, the New Albany Women’s Network, Healthy New Albany and others to advance community aspirations.

Your support of the Foundation truly is REMARKABLE, and your continued commitment to our collective future is to be celebrated.

With greatest appreciation,

Craig Mohre

The Foundation has welcomed students from the following schools and organizations to participate in The Student Lecture Series:

### Central Ohio High Schools

Bexley High School  
Big Walnut High School  
Bishop Hartley High School  
Bloom Carroll High School  
Canal Winchester High School  
Circleville High School  
Columbus Academy  
Columbus School for Girls  
Columbus Scioto 6-12  
Cristo Rey Columbus High School  
C-TEC Career And Technology Education Centers of Licking County  
Delaware Hayes High School  
Dublin Jerome High School  
Gahanna Lincoln High School  
Granville High School  
Heath High School  
Hilliard Davidson High School  
Jonathan Alder High School  
Johnstown High School  
KIPP Columbus High  
Licking Heights High School  
Licking Valley High School  
Linworth Experiential Program  
Marburn Academy  
Metro Early College High School  
Metro Institute of Technology  
New Albany High School  
Newark High School  
Northridge High School  
Northridge Local Schools  
Olentangy Liberty High School  
Pickerington Central High School  
Pickerington North High School  
Pleasant High School  
Reynoldsburg High School  
St. Charles Preparatory School  
St. Francis DeSales High School  
The Wellington School  
Thomas Worthington High School  
Upper Arlington High School  
Watkins Memorial High School  
Westerville North High School  
Whitehall-Yearling High School  
Willis Education Center  
Worthington Kilbourne High School

### Columbus City Schools

Beechcroft High School  
Centennial High School  
Columbus Africentric Early College  
Columbus Downtown High School  
Ft. Hayes Metropolitan Education Center  
Marion-Franklin High School  
Mifflin High School  
Northland High School  
South High School  
West High School

### Universities

Capital University  
Denison University  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Otterbein University  
The Ohio State University

### Organizations

Boy Scouts of America  
Central Ohio Leadership Academy  
Franklin County Youth Council  
Girl Scouts  
Handshake America



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CAS is proud to support the New Albany Community Foundation in its mission to help build an extraordinary community.

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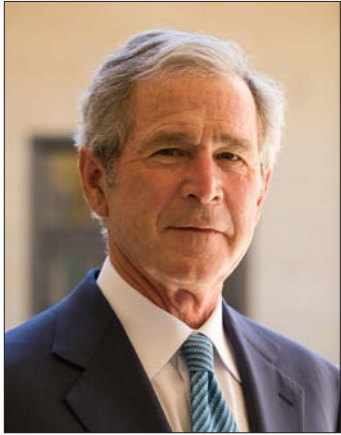
# Tonight, The Applause Is For You.

We're here for the same reasons you are. You're proud to be part of this vibrant community. You recognize the value of culture, education and lifelong learning. And you know when we all come together, there's nothing we can't achieve. So give yourself a round of applause. Because this night wouldn't be possible without you. Without all of us.

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## REMARKABLE GUESTS



### George W. Bush

*43rd President of the United States*

President during a momentous period in American history, George W. Bush offers his thoughts on eight years in the Oval Office, the challenges facing our nation in the 21st century, and the power of freedom.

George W. Bush served as 43rd President of the United States of America from 2001 to 2009. As Commander in Chief, President Bush worked to expand freedom, opportunity, and security at home and abroad. His Administration reformed America's education system, restored robust private-sector economic growth and job creation, protected our environment, and pursued a comprehensive strategy to keep America safe after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

After the Presidency, President Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush founded the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas. The Bush Center is home to the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and the George W. Bush Institute, a nonpartisan public policy and leadership development program.

President Bush is the author of four bestselling books: *Decision Points* (2010), *41: A Portrait of My Father* (2014), *Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors* (2017), and *Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants* (2021). He and Laura are the parents of twin daughters: Barbara, married to Craig Coyne, and Jenna, married to Henry Hager. The Bushes also are the proud grandparents of Margaret Laura "Mila", Poppy Louise and Henry Harold "Hal" Hager, and Cora Georgia Coyne. ~



### Jon Meacham

*Presidential Historian and Author*

Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham is one of America's most prominent public intellectuals.

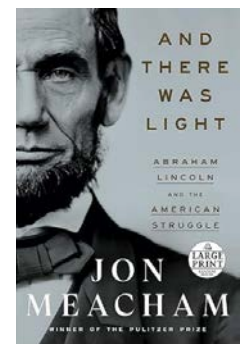
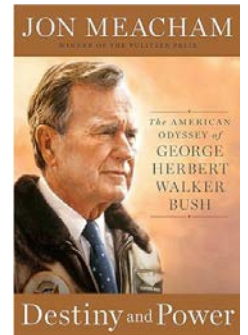
A skilled orator with a depth of knowledge about politics, religion, and current affairs, Meacham has the unique ability to bring history to life and offer historical context to current events and issues impacting our daily lives.

A contributor to *TIME* and the *New York Times Book Review*, Meacham is a highly sought-after commentator, regularly appearing on MSNBC, CNN, and other news outlets.

Meacham is the author of multiple New York Times bestsellers including, *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush* and *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*, and his latest, *And There Was Light*. *And There Was Light* earned Meacham the 2023 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, recognizing his work as a major contribution to the long line of Lincoln biographies.

Named a "Global Leader for Tomorrow" by the World Economic Forum, he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a fellow of the Society of American Historians.

Meacham is a frequent guest on *Morning Joe*; *Real Time with Bill Maher*; *The 11th Hour* and was featured in Ken Burns' documentary series *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*. ~

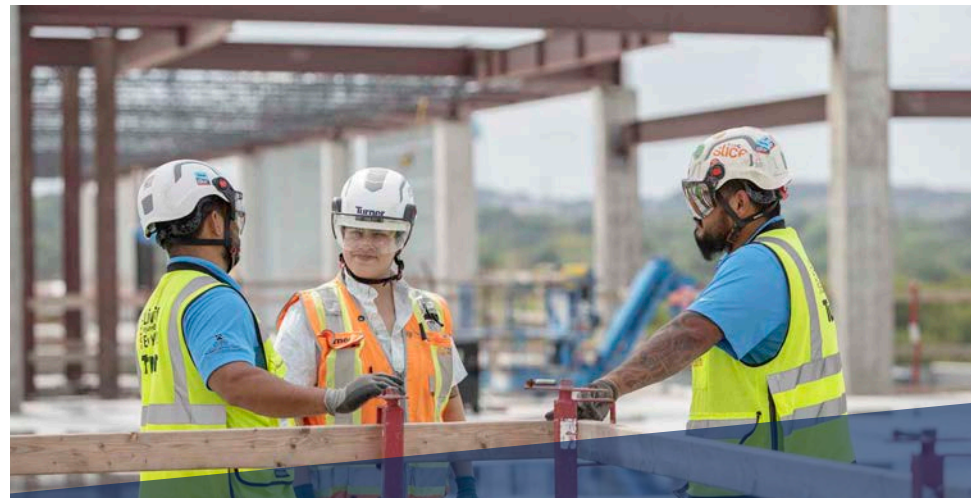




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# REMARKABLE HONOREES



THE NEW ALBANY  
*Community Foundation*

# JEANNE & JOHN G. McCOY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

In 2004, The New Albany Community Foundation established the Jeanne & John G. McCoy Community Service Award in honor of two beloved civic leaders whose exceptional generosity had a significant and lasting impact on central Ohio. Reflecting the McCoy's' belief in actively supporting organizations that strengthen the community and increase opportunity for all, recipients of the prestigious Jeanne & John G. McCoy Community Service Award are selected annually and recognized at the Foundation's Remarkable Evening benefit.



*Abigail Wexner with Jeanne and John G. McCoy at Remarkable Evening in 2004.*

## MCCOY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD HONOREES

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>2023</b> Sara & Rick Mershad          | <b>2013</b> John W. Kessler         |
| <b>2022</b> Colleen Briscoe              | <b>2012</b> Robert H. Schottenstein |
| <b>2021</b> Patti & Steve Steinour       | <b>2011</b> Tiney McComb            |
| <b>2020</b> Angela Douglas               | <b>2010</b> The Ryan Family         |
| <b>2019</b> Melanie & Michael DeAscentis | <b>2009</b> Dr. Phil Heit           |
| <b>2018</b> Leslie H. Wexner             | <b>2008</b> Donald Cameron          |
| <b>2017</b> Barbara & Al Siemer          | <b>2007</b> Bill Resch              |
| <b>2016</b> Cindy & Keith Berend         | <b>2006</b> Dr. Ralph Johnson       |
| <b>2015</b> Jennie & Mark Wilson         | <b>2005</b> Janet Atwater           |
| <b>2014</b> Jackie & Ken Krebs           | <b>2004</b> Jeanne & John G. McCoy  |

## REMARKABLE HONOREES



### Sara & Rick Mershad

*receive community service award for championing wellness and the arts*

Rick and Sara Mershad have a long history of embracing New Albany and contributing to its family-friendly environment with community engagement and support for wellness initiatives and the arts.

“New Albany has given Sara and me so much opportunity and enriched our lives more than we could have expected when we moved here to raise our family,” Rick Mershad said. “We are grateful to be able to give back to this community that has blessed us so abundantly.”

New Albany stands out as a place to live and raise a family because of its unique combination of a close-knit community and modern amenities. “It offers the ideal blend of a small-town feel with access to quality education, vibrant cultural experiences, and a strong sense of safety,” Sara Mershad said. “The town’s commitment to well-being and educational opportunities for children has been paramount in our decision to stay. It’s beautiful green spaces, excellent schools, and a strong sense of community make it an exceptional place to call home for the past 25 years.”

The Mershad’s generosity, enthusiasm and thoughtful involvement with the New Albany Community Foundation have been a cornerstone of the organization’s pillars of lifelong learning, health and wellness, arts and culture and environmental sustainability. “Sara and Rick’s desire to provide strong thought leadership, unwavering commitment and financial support over the past 25 years has been extraordinary and we’re proud to recognize them with the 2023 Jeanne and John G. McCoy Community Service Award,” said Craig Mohre, president, New Albany Community Foundation.

It was in 2008 that the Mershads established the Mershad Family Fund at the Foundation with a mission to incorporate the arts into STEM programming. Gifts from the Mershad Family Fund have significantly advanced the New Albany pillars of health and wellness and arts and culture for the entire community. Sara’s passion for practicing meditation and yoga, with a focus on gratitude and staying present, prompted the Mershads to seek ways to share the health benefits they have witnessed with others. They were instrumental in providing transformative experiences for area students and citizens with the legendary author and alternative medicine pioneer Deepak Chopra, MD, who kicked off the 2022 and 10th anniversary season of The New Albany Lecture Series, as well as the world-renowned yoga instructors, authors and integrative health advocates Colleen Saidman Yee and Rodney Yee, bringing the creators of Urban Zen Integrative Therapy to New Albany in 2019.

In many ways, Sara’s advocacy for mindful living and integrative health has heightened awareness and driven demand for programming particularly focused on children and young adults offered by Healthy New Albany and the Well-Being Connection. They have personally hosted numerous mindfulness and Urban Zen based yoga retreats, including one focused specifically on cancer survivors, and supported children’s nature programming. Their support of the Well-Being Connection has included hosting a fundraiser and supporting and hosting restorative yoga programs.

“I can say unequivocally that our community is happier and healthier because of the Mershad Family,” said Angela Douglas, Executive Director of Healthy New Albany. “They are generous and authentically dedicated to helping others by supporting the wellbeing of our community. Their commitment also inspires so many others. What an honor it is to know and work alongside them in this effort.”



The Mershads continuously have supported experiences to enrich the cultural fabric of New Albany and central Ohio. Their gifts have provided state of the art LED screens at both the McCoy Center for the Arts and the Charleen & Charles Hinson Amphitheater allowing both venues to provide high-quality programming and events, including the free family movie series, live music and art performances and thought-provoking discussions. A black box theater space in the McCoy became a reality through their generous support. Mershad Hall is one of the most used spaces at the McCoy each year for performances, rehearsals, student lecture programs, community meetings and so much more. Their leadership in championing aspirational projects such as Mershad Hall has set an example that continues to inspire fellow community members.

“The New Albany Community Foundation has been instrumental in transforming our community for the better. The Foundation’s commitment to bringing people together and facilitating collaborative efforts is commendable. It has helped create a vibrant, culturally rich, and health-conscious community that we are proud to be a part of,” the couple shared. “The McCoy Award is a tremendous honor and a humbling experience. It underscores the importance of community service and philanthropy in New Albany, and we are grateful for the recognition. The award inspires us to continue our efforts to make a positive impact on this remarkable community and its future.”

They added, “While our children have grown into adults, New Albany continues to hold a special place in our hearts. It’s not just a location; it’s where our family’s story unfolded. What keeps us here is our deep connection to the community, our friends, and the relationships we’ve nurtured over the years. We’re also committed to seeing New Albany continue to evolve and thrive, and we want to be a part of that journey. New Albany will always be home.” ~

**“While our children have grown into adults, New Albany continues to hold a special place in our hearts. It’s not just a location; it’s where our family’s story unfolded.”**

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# A Remarkable Evening An Equally Remarkable Community



Once a year, remarkable people come together for an event that has a long-lasting impact on the community. M/I Homes is proud to support the New Albany Community Foundation and their extraordinary contributions to lifelong learning, arts and culture, health and wellness, and a sustainable environment.



## one open door can open doors across a community.

Our most important work happens outside the four walls of our bank. KeyBank gets involved by supporting people who make a difference and working with community-focused organizations through investments, philanthropy, and volunteering. Together we can keep our communities full of hope, compassion, and opportunity. KeyBank thanks the New Albany Community Foundation for making a difference.



**Lara DeLeone**  
Central Ohio  
Market President



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At OhioHealth, we believe a healthy community means providing exceptional care for all.

**OhioHealth is proud to partner with the New Albany Community Foundation and support the 2023 Remarkable Evening.**



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The Wexner Family

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# THE STUDENT LECTURE SERIES

More than 33,000 students from New Albany and 50 other central Ohio schools have interacted with Foundation speakers as part of **The New Albany Lecture Series**.

In response to its donors' desire to support The Student Lecture Series, The New Albany Community Foundation established **The Lifelong Learning Circle**. Visit [newalbanyfoundation.org](http://newalbanyfoundation.org) to become a member of The Lifelong Learning Circle and help the Foundation underwrite the cost of the series so that central Ohio students can benefit from these programs.

**Thank you to the members of the 2023-2024 Lifelong Learning Circle who help provide student access to inspiring speakers:**

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# How you can support THE NEW ALBANY LECTURE SERIES

A priority for the Foundation moving forward is to endow The New Albany Lecture Series. This will enable the Foundation to continue to present high-quality speakers while keeping lectures accessible to the entire community, including students, senior citizens and veterans. Additionally, endowing The New Albany Lecture Series would allow the Foundation to continue to invest in other transformative projects and initiatives in the community. Already, several families have established endowment funds to support the series.

If you are interested in establishing a fund or simply making a contribution to The New Albany Lecture Series Endowment Fund, please contact Craig Mohre at 614-939-8150 or [craigmohre@newalbanyfoundation.org](mailto:craigmohre@newalbanyfoundation.org) to support The New Albany Community Foundation's programming.



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Inspiring speakers made possible by The New Albany Community Foundation donors

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 2009	 2010	 2011	 2012	 2013	 2014
Michael Beschloss	James Bradley	Condoleezza Rice	Bill Clinton	Tony Blair	George W. Bush
 2015	 2015	 2016	 2016	 2016	 2017
Robert Gates	Leon Panetta	David Brooks	Thomas Friedman	Ana Navarro	Colin Powell
 2018	 2018	 2018	 2019	 2013-19 Moderator	 2020
Joseph J. Ellis	Doris K. Goodwin	Jon Meacham	Nikki Haley	David Gergen	Walter Isaacson
 2021	 2021	 2022	 2022	 2022	 2023
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*\*In Memoriam*

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FAST FACTS ABOUT YOUR FOUNDATION

## The Facts Are Telling. Your Generosity Creates Far-Reaching Impact.

The Foundation and its donors work together to help build this extraordinary community by forging partnerships and investing in transformational projects, such as: the New Albany Branch Library, the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, the Charleen & Charles Hinson Amphitheater, Safety Town, The New Albany Lecture Series, The Student Lecture Series and the New Albany Scholars Author-in-Residency Program, among others.

In 2023, grants to the community surpassed \$22 million since the Foundation's inception, thanks to generous donors who give annually or have established more than 70 funds at the Foundation.

**\$22,000,000+**

AREAS OF IMPACT



Lifelong Learning



Health and Wellness



Arts and Culture



Environmental Sustainability

In addition to advancing larger community projects, through its fund donors, the Foundation has awarded **grants to 130 different organizations** since 2004 that impact the lives of New Albany residents.

Some of the grant recipients include:

- The Antidote-FIRST Tech Robotics Team
- Ballet Met
- Buddy Up for Life
- City of New Albany
- Columbus Metropolitan Library
- Fry Out Cancer
- Healthy New Albany Farmers Market/ Food Pantry/Community Garden/CARES Program
- The Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts
- LifeCare Alliance
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- New Albany Ohio Model United Nations
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*Wild Mushroom and Boursin Tartlets*  
*Smoked Turkey Sausage Skewers, Bell Pepper, Red Onion, Roasted Garlic Chimichurri*  
*Chicken Chorizo Tumbleweeds, Bistro Sauce*  
*Crudités Shooters, Southwest Ranch Dip*  
*Travis County Deviled Eggs*  
*Caramelized Texas Sweet Onion Tartlets, Amish Wood-Smoked White Cheddar Cheese*  
*Gingersnap Crisps, Texas River Whey Bleu Cheese Spread, Port-Glazed Figs, Pistachio Dust*

### FIRST COURSE

*Texas-style Buffalo Chicken Empanada, Cilantro-Lime Crema*  
*Pecan Crusted Baby Brie Wedge, Ohio Maple Mustard Glaze*  
*Monterey Jack, Colby and Parmesan Fritter, Tomato Jam, Balsamic Glaze*  
*Lone Star Caviar Dip: Black Eyed Peas, Black Beans, Aromatic Vegetables, Tomatoes, Charred Corn, Roasted Jalapenos, Roasted Garlic, Cilantro-Citrus Vinaigrette*  
*Pimento Cheese Dip, Texas Hot Honey*  
*Adobo Seasoned Naan Dippers*

### ENTRÉE (GF)

*Southwest Spice-Rubbed and Cast Iron Seared Ohio Beef Short Rib,*  
*High Bank Distillery Whiskey War BBQ Sauce*  
*Rustic Potato Cheddar Bake, Scallions, Sour Cream*  
*Green Beans, Grilled Carrots, Baby Bell Peppers, Seasoned Olive Oil*  
*Southwest Dusted Lavash*

### DESSERT

*Chocolate Bourbon-Pecan Tarts*  
*Buttermilk Pies, Whipped Buttercream*  
*Texas Sheet Cake, Chocolate Drip Icing, Candied Pecan Pieces*  
*Hummingbird Bundt Cakes*  
*Banana Pudding Shooters, Shortbread Crisps*  
*Fresh Berries, Champagne Glaze*

### WINE

*Tribute Cabernet Sauvignon & Tribute Chardonnay*

---

### VEGAN, GLUTEN FREE ENTRÉE

*(menu items are soy and nut free)*

*New Albany Organics Sweet Potato and Corn Succotash Stuffed Poblano Pepper,*  
*Black Bean Sauce, Pepita Chimichurri*  
*Sweet Potato and Fresh Corn Cake, Vegan Cheddar Cheese, Sour Cream, Scallion*  
*Green Beans, Grilled Carrots, Baby Bell Peppers, Seasoned Olive Oil*  
*Southwest Dusted Corn Tortillas*

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MARCH 12		Thank you to all who participated in the October 3rd program.	

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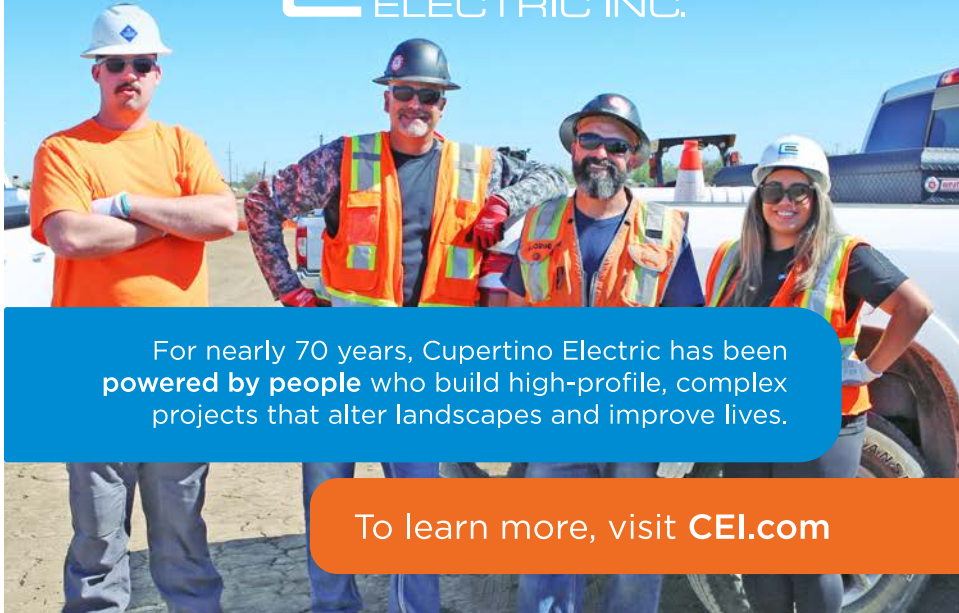
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The New Albany Community Foundation appreciates the many organizations and individual photographers who graciously provided images for this evening's event and program: CAPA, City of New Albany, James DeCamp Photography, Sam Fahmi, Healthy New Albany, Lisa Hinson, Jeffrey Krugh, New Albany Ballet Company, New Albany-Plain Local Schools, New Albany Walking Classic, Holley Rosebaugh, Safety Town, Scott Cunningham Photography, Lorn Spolter, Holly St. Myer and Rochelle Young.

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