The Durango Public Library’s Friends of the Library and the Library Advisory Board are pleased to announce that the 2023 Library Community Champions Award has been given to the Reading Club of Durango. Please join us for a reading of the Proclamation by City Council at 5:30 pm Tuesday, October 17 in Council Chambers and for an awards reception at the library on Monday, October 30th at 3:00pm.

Begun in 1882 and one of Colorado’s early federated women’s clubs, the Reading Club of Durango founded Durango’s original library in 1889:” The Club wrote to Andrew Carnegie to obtain funding for the building in 1907, and donated its own small library of books, furnishings and fixtures to the new library,” originally located on Second Avenue across from the current 9-R administration building. Durango’s oldest reading club, also sometimes known in prior times as the Ladies Reading Club of Durango, donated its scrapbooks to the Center of Southwest Studies in 2015 in keeping with its mission to guard tradition and flex with contemporary times. In addition to creating our first public library, several members of the Reading Club of Durango were instrumental in protecting what is today Mesa Verde National Park. Again, with history and literacy in mind, “the Club donated $25 in 1926 to assist in forming a library at Mesa Verde National Park.” The Reading Club of Durango has a long and storied past with our town, and we are pleased to name this organization the Library Champions of 2023—its 141st year of supporting libraries!