

Everyday Heroes

THE 2016 SEEDS OF HOPE HONOREES
PROUDLY SERVE NEW JERSEY.

As sure as the sunrise, acts of kindness large and small happen on a daily basis across the Garden State. To highlight these sometimes hidden and always selfless efforts and the people behind them, *New Jersey Monthly* created the annual Seeds of Hope Awards to celebrate and honor the state's most dedicated volunteers.

Although there is a 70-year age difference between the youngest and oldest honorees this year, they all share a passion for giving back to their communities. Their commitment affects people of all ages.

The 2016 honorees were chosen from 67 nominees by our panel of four judges: Kathleen DiChiara, founder, president and CEO of the Community Food-Bank of New Jersey; John Harmon, founder, president and CEO of the African-American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey; Sue Henderson, president of New Jersey City University; and Judy Spires, chairwoman and CEO of Kings Food Markets.

The honorees will be saluted at a luncheon on September 21 at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston. The event is sponsored by PNC Wealth Management and the Crystal Plaza.

Photographs by JOHN EMERSON

2016

HONOREES

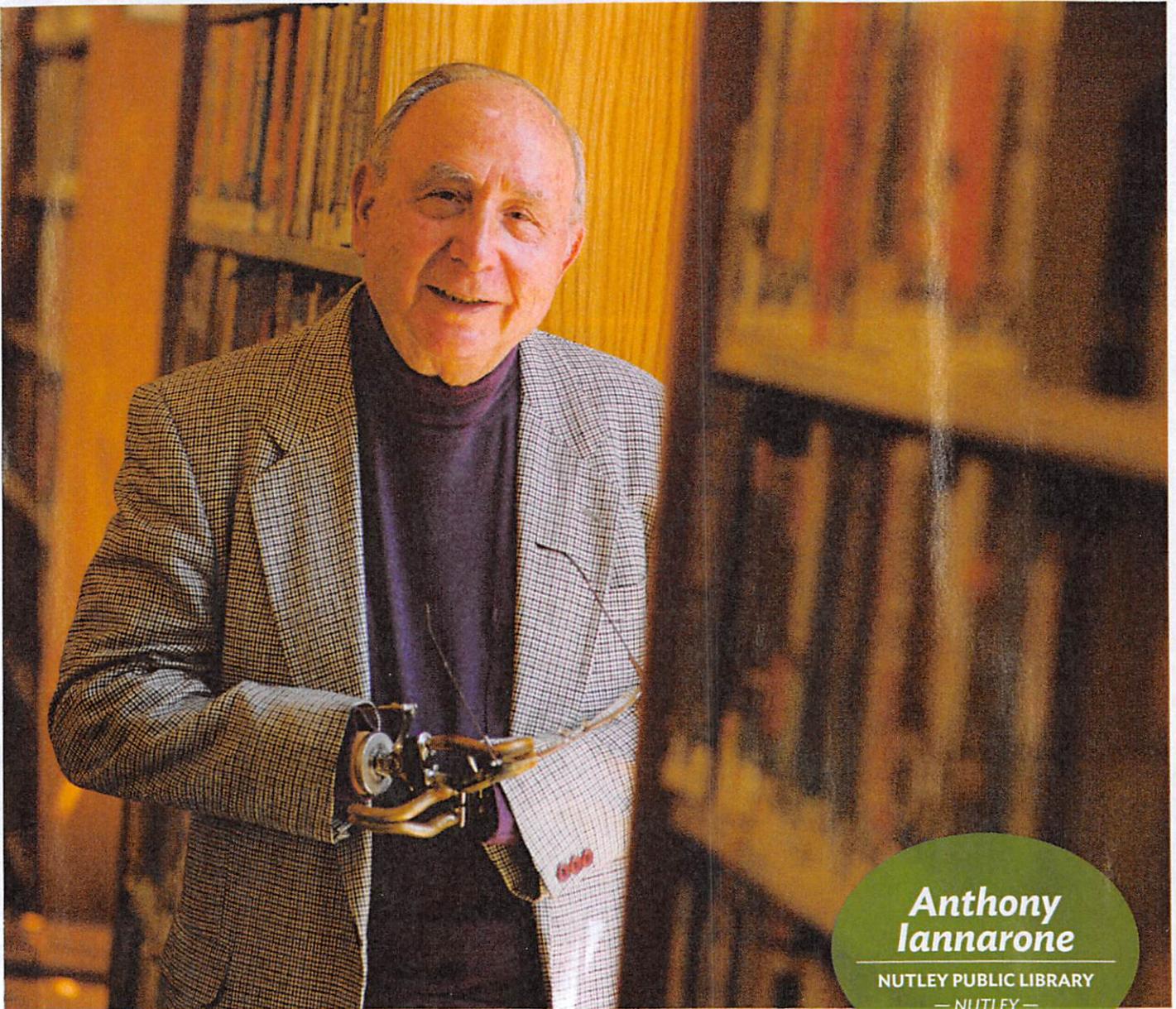
Suzanne Barron

Anthony Iannarone

Alexandra Jackman

Tyler Treible

Susan Brillhart



**Anthony
Iannarone**

NUTLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
— NUTLEY —

For the Love of Books

AT 85, ANTHONY “TONY” IANNARONE recalls moments from 50 years ago as if they happened yesterday. One moment he remembers with painful precision occurred on a beautiful day in early May 1949. Iannarone, then a freshman at Rutgers University, was toying with chemicals in a laboratory classroom when an explosion resulted in the loss of his hands.

After a summer-long recovery, Iannarone returned to school. He went on to become president of his senior class, graduating with a BS in psychology. He later earned a law degree and master's in law from NYU.

Iannarone settled in Nutley with his wife and their growing family. In 1972, he was asked to join the Nutley Public Library Board of Trustees. A book lover, Iannarone couldn't resist. In time, he became board president—a post he has held for 30 years. Under his watch, the library has evolved into a state-of-the-art information and cultural center that is a pillar of the community.

As board president, Iannarone spearheaded a \$2.5 million renovation and expansion of the building (one of the state's 36 original Carnegie libraries) in the late 1980s. He has pushed to expand library hours—the

building is currently open 60 hours a week—and established permanent gift funds that total more than \$475,000.

The library is technologically up-to-date with Kindles and Nooks available to take home, and e-books available for download.

In addition to his 40-year career in law and his library leadership, Iannarone has devoted himself to numerous other civic and charitable causes in support of the Nutley community.

“I am proud—proud of the library, proud of the town,” he says. “I put my heart and soul into it.”
—Breanne McCarthy