

## Darien Library Annual Meeting Oct 21 Features Author Eric Klinenberg

**Author :** David Gurliacci

**Categories :** [Darien Library](#)

**Tagged as :** [Darien Library Annual Meeting](#), [Darien Library Annual Meeting 2018](#), [Eric Klinenberg](#)

**Date :** October 8, 2018



Friends of the Darien Library cordially invite you to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 5 p.m.

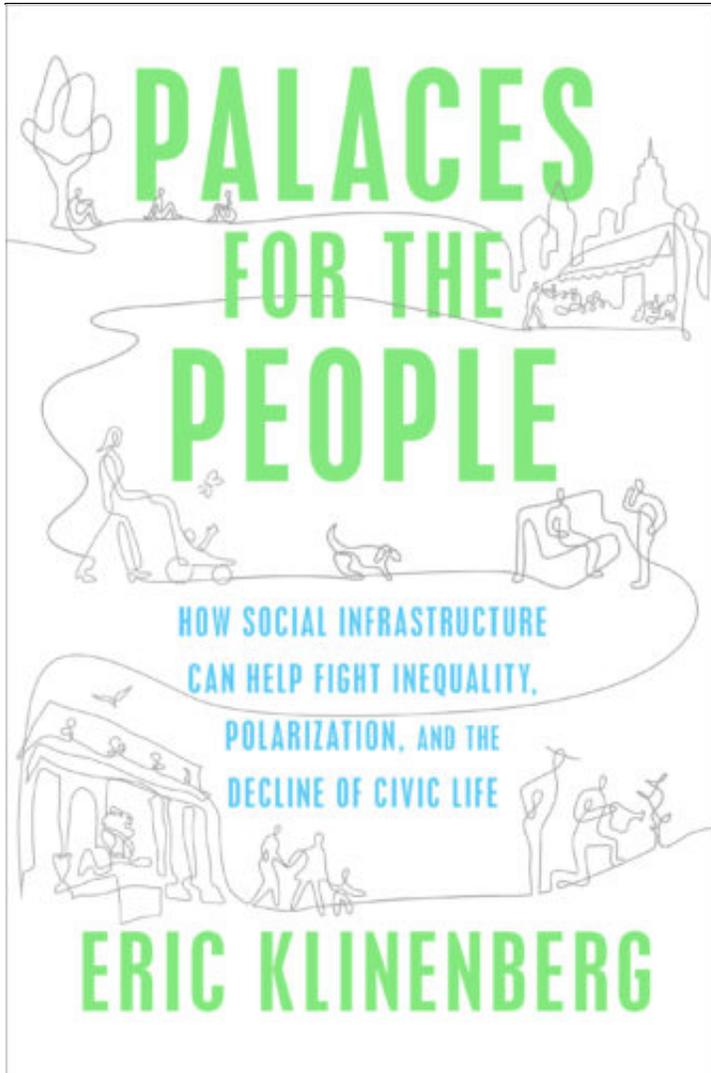
Our featured speaker is Eric Klinenberg, author of *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*.

— [an announcement](#) from [Darien Library](#)

A reception and book signing will follow. Books will be available for purchase courtesy of Barrett Bookstore.

Prior to Eric's presentation, learn about the year's developments from Kevin Gasvoda, president of the board. Election of officers and new trustee nominations for the 2018-19 year will be held.

**About the Book**



Public institutions such as libraries, schools, playgrounds, parks, athletic fields, and swimming pools are all vital parts of social infrastructure. So are churches and synagogues, flea markets, and corner diners.

Places where people can gather and linger encourage the formation of social bonds and promote interaction across group lines. And if our democracy is going to thrive, we need more of them.

Investing in social infrastructure is just as urgent as investing in conventional hard infrastructure such as bridges, levees, and airports.

Often, we can strengthen both simultaneously, establishing vital social arteries that are also “palaces for the people,” to borrow the phrase Andrew Carnegie used to describe the 2,800 grand libraries that he built around the world.

- “This fantastic book reminds us that democracy is fortified and enlivened by people

coexisting together in public, and that good design and support of a wide variety of public spaces can produce those mysterious things we call community, membership, a sense of belonging, a place, maybe a polity.

- “In an age where the push for disembodiment and never leaving the house and fearing and avoiding strangers and doing everything as fast as possible is so powerful, this makes the case for why we want to head in the opposite direction. It’s both idealistic and, in its myriad examples, pragmatic, and delightfully readable.”

— Rebecca Solnit, author of *Men Explain Things to Me* and *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*

#### **About the Author**

Eric Klinenberg is a professor of sociology and the director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. He’s the coauthor of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Modern Romance*.

Klinenberg’s previous books include *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone*, *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*, and *Fighting for Air: The Battle to Control America’s Media*.

In addition to his books and scholarly articles, Klinenberg has contributed to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *Wired*, and *This American Life*.

#### **About Darien Library**

Darien Library is among the busiest in the state with over 1,300 people visiting on an average day and has the highest per capita circulation of items in Connecticut.

The Library collection includes 125,000 books and 300 newspaper and magazine subscriptions.

In addition, the Library presents over 1,500 public events annually, hosting a lineup of bestselling authors, technology classes, early literacy programs, and workshops for small business owners and entrepreneurs.