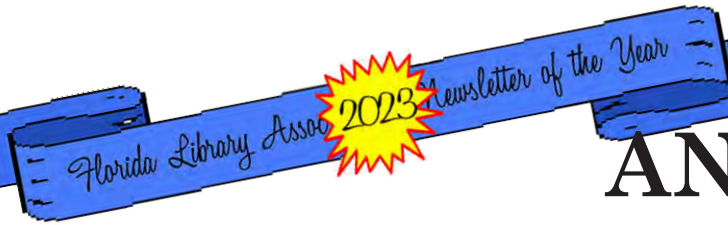




The Newsletter of the Friends of the Library, Gainesville, FL, serving the Alachua County Library District
 folacl430@gmail.com www.folacld.org



THE LIBRARY AND ITS FRIENDS

Volume No. 73

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April 2024

We're Debt Free!!

With help from our members and generous donors to the Building Fund, the entire Friends of the Library Bookhouse is all ours!

In our 70th year, FOL is celebrating that our recent mortgage is now paid. From the first donation to the building fund in June, 2020, 155 donors have contributed over \$100,000 to help pay off the mortgage that enabled FOL's purchase of the former thrift store spaces in our shared building. **THANK YOU!**

The building was originally built in the early 1920s by T. B. Stringfellow to house the Gainesville Buick Company. In the 1930's, this building was the site of Gainesville Chevrolet Co. Currently, we have several FOL volunteers who remember the candy in the warehouse when it served as the Eli Witt Wholesale Distribution Center. In 1989, FOL and the Junior League cooperated to purchase the building, providing a permanent facility to prepare donations for sales. Our mortgage at that time was repaid in three years.

In 2020, the purchase of the balance of the building necessitated another mortgage – paid in full in February, 2024. With this transformation of a warehouse over 100 years old to a permanent FOL Bookhouse with Art Annex, we plan to continue to bring our community many years of book sales.



Save the Date

April 20-24 – Spring Book Sale
 October 26-30 – Fall Book Sale



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From the Director

New and exciting opportunities are springing up around the Library District every day. Opportunities like crafting classes, STEAM programs, musical performances, and *Story Time* await you at your local library.



The Library District now has several *Story Time* events happening outside the walls of the library. The *Bilingual Story Time* at the Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park & Nature Center meets at 3 PM on the first Tuesday of every month. Patrons can enjoy *Story Time* at the Herlong Mansion at 11:30 AM every Thursday. Library staff will read stories, sing songs, and share some lemonade on the front porch of this Micanopy bed and breakfast. On the third Wednesday of every month at 10:30 AM, patrons can come out to the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo and participate in *Story Time at the Zoo*. Library staff will read stories about some of the friendly creatures in our world. The group meets on the front lawn outside the entrance to the zoo.

Among the ways to connect with your local library is through the programs we offer. On May 16th, patrons can go to the Archer Branch and take part in the *Home School MakerSpace: Make a Wild Bee Hotel* program. You will learn to make a safe shelter for native bees. Creating a safe habitat for Florida bees helps to keep these pollinators coming back year after year. Also happening in May will be the *Re-Entry Community Job and Resource Fair*. On May 13th, local businesses and organizations, some that provide second chance opportunities for justice-impacted

individuals, will fill Meeting Room A at the Headquarters Library seeking to hire new employees.

Trying to come up with something to do for Mother's Day? Come by the Millhopper Branch on Saturday, May 11th, to hear local musician and harpist Barb Kerkhoff perform a free concert. If playing music is more your style, you can take beginner or intermediate guitar lessons with musician Shawn Manley at the Tower Road Branch in April.

Do you like poetry? The ACLD will be hosting two programs during the 2nd *Annual North Central Florida Bard & Broadside Poetry Festival*. Come out on Saturday, April 13th, to hear the winners of the *Teen Poetry and Monologue Contest* read their winning pieces. Then on Sunday, April 14th, featured poet Natalie J. Graham, a Gainesville native and the poet laureate of Orange County Florida, will lead a Poetry Workshop and Reading.

Calling all collectors! The Micanopy Branch will be hosting a Collectors Corner program on April 20th at 2 PM. Bring your treasures to the library to show them off and share the stories behind them. Patrons will also learn how to care for and store their items.

Summer at the Library is almost here, and this year's theme is "Adventure Begins at your Library." We will be hosting our kick-off event, *Reader Palooza*, on June 8th, from 10 AM to 12 NOON at Depot Park. Patrons can sign up for the *Summer Reading Challenge*, visit with the local vendors and providers, play with bubbles, dance to the music with our local DJ, get free stuff, and have fun.

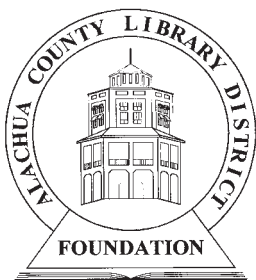
The Library District not only offers opportunities to participate in programs and classes, but also has amazing physical and digital collections. If you are not taking advantage of our most popular collections, then you're not getting the most from your library card. Our digital offerings through *hoopla* and Libby are the most popular collections the Library District has to offer. Patrons can download movies, television shows, comics, music, graphic novels, audiobooks, and more. You can even check-out a *hoopla* BingePass to get unlimited access to chunks of online content for up to seven days. All you need is a library card.

We have so many opportunities to participate, connect, and discover with your local library. To learn more about the programs, services, collections, and events the Alachua County Library District has to offer, just visit the ACLD website at www.aclib.us. There you will find a vast network of information, from daily blogs that feature books and materials in our collection, to the events page to learn what's happening at each of our locations.

If you don't want to spend time searching around the site, we created a one-stop resource page that has all the most important library information in one location, the Family Resources page. Check out www.aclib.us/FamilyResources for links to databases, study room information, downloadable content, events, our catalog of materials, and more.

We can't wait for you to join the Alachua County Library District. Sign up for a library card today! It's the most important card in your wallet.

-- Shaney Livingston



The Foundation

The Alachua County Library District Foundation

providing long-term support to the Alachua County Library District
through major gifts and bequests since 1989

ACLD Foundation's Katherine's Tree Reception

As our clocks leaped ahead on the second Sunday in March, the tenth annual Katherine's Tree reception was held at Headquarters Library, recognizing the previous year's leaf recipients and donors. Six new leaves were added to the ten-foot glass etching of the Tree of Knowledge, dedicated in 1995, representing the names of individuals being honored for their dedication to the many services provided by the Alachua County Library District.



Waldo Branch Manager Kerry Lennon Dowd received the 17th Guy Hudspeth Award, so named for its first ACLD staff recipient and sponsored annually by the Kosman Foundation. The award recognizes an outstanding Library District employee who has made special contributions to the integration of the library and its local community. Dowd started the Teen Creative Writing Contest and was heavily involved with the Equal Justice Initiative and the planning and renovations of the Waldo Branch.

Known far and wide for their semi-annual book sales and contributions to ACLD projects, the Friends of the Library also supports the Foundation endowment by recognizing outstanding volunteers with leaves on Katherine's Tree. For 2023, those singled out were Michelle Benoit and Holly Prugh. For fourteen years, Michelle has worked at book sales, been a table coordinator, and for nine years has served as an invaluable and greatly appreciated Membership Chair. Holly has most recently curated Florida items in the Collectors Corner, which she helped design, build, paint, and expand during its remodeling. She also posts pre-sale lists of Collectors Corner items online.

William E. Beaty donated a leaf in memory of his parents, Ralph and Elizabeth Beaty, who were not only readers for enjoyment and personal productivity but encouraged their children to make use of the library and its many resources for pleasure, education, and the public good.

Juanita Harrison has been a "soldier" volunteer for the FOL since 1994, fulfilling a multitude of roles as needed. In recognition of her dedication, her husband, Will Harrison, donated a leaf in her honor.

Numerous friends and Foundation board members contributed for a leaf in memory of Cecilia Caton, a longtime member of the Foundation Board. Her creative and always dependable efforts for Non-Event Galas and other fundraising projects helped ensure Foundation success in its endeavors.

These six leaves represent \$12,000 added to the Foundation Endowment to help advance its support of our outstanding Library District.

Message from the President



something for everyone -- and a whole lot more!

As we prepare for our spring sale, we should pause and reflect. 2024 has been a banner year. We paid off our mortgage and now own the entire century-plus-year-old Bookhouse. We are entering our 70th year! We are the largest book sale in the southeastern United States – and we accomplish all of this with only our dedicated volunteers! We would be remiss

if we did not also recognize the continuing support of the Gainesville and beyond community who so generously donate their books, media and art . . . and then come to the semi-annual sales in search of other treasures! It has been and continues to be a very symbiotic relationship.

Thank you everyone! See you at the book sale!

– Jean Westin-Lagotic



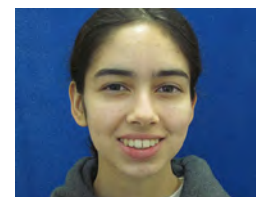
New Volunteers

Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Olson and Cheryl Osborn welcomed FOL's January new member class. A training session covered FOL policies, practices, and procedures for receiving and sorting books and other community donations, supporting library projects, and conducting FOL's semi-annual sales. The new members are now working with other FOL volunteers to ensure the April sale is well-stocked and easily navigated.

Donna (DJ) Deem retired from nursing with over forty years in oncology-hematology. A Master Gardener, Frank Fletcher retired after forty years as an IT architect. An art major when in college, Marilyn Hasselbeck is a quilter, golfer, and online duplicate bridge player. A retired grandmother of three, Carol Israel spends time volunteering at FOL, Operation Catnip, and at her church (where she leads a pie sale each November). Alexandra Leon is a History and English student at UF looking to engage with the Gainesville literacy community. Jean Michelson is a semi-retired dietitian who enjoys reading and hiking. At-home High Springs mom of two wonderful children, Sandy Walker enjoys books – reading them, talking about them, and now sorting them.



Front Row: Sandy Walker, Carol Israel
Back Row: Jean Michelson, Frank Fletcher,
Marilyn Hasselbeck, Donna (DJ) Deem



Alex Leon

Getting to Know You

Spotlight on Library Staff

Liz Akers

Position: Librarian, Cone Park Branch Library

Background: Liz Akers is originally from New York, but moved to Massachusetts where she attended Boston University. Her mom read to her nightly, and Liz was especially enamored of the tales of Hans Christian Anderson. In the early 2000's, she moved to Gainesville, hoping to earn a degree in Russian Studies at the University of Florida. She then landed a dream job working at a Gainesville institution, Goerings Book Store. Sadly, the store closed in 2010.

Luck shined upon Liz when a job opened at the UF Levin College of Law Library. It was there that she worked for eleven years at the Circulation desk, assisting students, professors, and the public. Knowing that her career trajectory was limited in the library field without an advanced degree, Liz finally conquered her fear of taking the GRE exams to pursue her MLIS when she turned 53. She decided that being a librarian at a public library was the best way for her to serve the people that she related to the most. The Cone Park Branch is a place where she feels comfortable, and she enjoys chatting with patrons about everything from books and movies to food and gardening. She enjoys learning and teaching American Sign Language alongside her class participants, and is proud of the Urban Fiction section and book club that she has developed. There are so many talented and inspiring people in the community and Liz is eager to help make the Cone Park Branch the go-to location for social, community, and reading engagement in East Gainesville.



Liz Akers



Jackie Trudeau

Spotlight on FOL Volunteer

Jacqueline (Jackie) Trudeau

Position: Corresponding Secretary, Sorter

Background: Jackie Carlson Trudeau writes family stories. Born in Boston, Jackie moved to Norfolk, MA (pop. 2,500), and lived among her extended Swedish family. Her mother's family descended from English settlers who arrived in Boston in 1636. Always an avid reader, Jackie accumulated documents, photographs, and fascinating stories from several generations of her family.

When opportunity called, Jackie and her husband Rene moved their young family from Providence, RI, to Orlando, FL, in 1972. After thirty years in the telecommunications industry, Jackie traveled with her sister Ellen to Australia, Sweden, Finland, and France. More recently, she shared travel adventures with grandchildren in London, Alaska, and Canada. In 2013, she and Rene moved to Gainesville to live near family. Currently in the midst of writing a memoir about life on "Carlson Pond," Jackie collaborates with a writing coach from the Orlando area.

Known to her grandchildren as Mimi, Jackie shared her love of reading through Mimi's Book Club for more than twenty years. Each month, her "grands" received an age-appropriate book until they entered high school. Jackie says "We had lots of fun talking about their books during in-person visits or long-distance phone calls."

In 2022, Jackie was elected FOL's corresponding secretary. She says she loves working with the FOL volunteers. "Everyone has a story."

FOL Volunteers Honored



Juanita Harrison,
Michelle Benoit, Holly Prugh

Friends of the Library volunteers Michelle Benoit, Juanita Harrison, and Holly Prugh were recognized at the ACLD Foundation's annual Katherine's Tree Reception on

March 10, 2024. The leaves for Michelle and Holly were sponsored by Friends of the Library in appreciation for their years of service and leadership. Juanita's leaf was sponsored by her husband Will Harrison in recognition of her thirty years as an FOL volunteer and constant supporter of FOL's programs and events.

Literacy Programs

ACLD Literacy Office programming with our two Literacy Specialists extraordinaire, James Lopez and Kacey Meadows, is in full swing. We currently have over fifty volunteers working at seven of ACLD's branches. While the heart of our program is one-to-one tutoring, we are also providing at least one learning opportunity for each day of the week. For English language learners, we have virtual 'Conversation Clubs' on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in-person 'Conversation Clubs' on Monday at Tower Road and Friday at Millhopper, and a class on Wednesday mornings at the Headquarters Library. The following programs are all at the Headquarters Library: for all learners, we have 'Writing and Drawing Social Club' on Monday afternoons and 'Reading Club' on Thursday afternoons; on Tuesday afternoons, we have 'Computer Help Drop-in' and on Wednesday we have 'Job Club,' where patrons can get help with all aspects of the job seeking process. Our grant-funded 'English for Families' program will be starting its second five-week session on April 13th at the Alachua Branch. Lastly, we've begun offering once-a-month digital literacy training to the volunteers of our local AmeriCorps, funded Foster Grandparent Program. They are eager to learn, and it has been a treat to work with them. Stay tuned: James and Kacey are full of ideas, so there's no telling what we'll be up to next!



Florida Library Association Legislative Day

On January 24, 2024, library advocates and supporters from around the state attended Florida Library Legislative Day in Tallahassee, an annual advocacy event at the State Capitol sponsored by the Florida Library Association. Alachua County Library Director Shaney Livingston led the local delegation as they met with Senator Keith Perry, a legislative representative of Senator Jennifer Bradley, Representative Yvonne Hinson, and Representative Chuck Clemons. Director Livingston also met with Representative Chuck Brannan later in the day. Director Livingston and those attending thanked the legislators for their support of the Alachua County Library District and discussed specific legislative requests and district projects. Representing Alachua County were Library Director, Shaney Livingston; Public Services Division Director, Joyce West; Library Board of Trustees Chair, Dr. Sulmarie Duncan; and Friends of the Library volunteer, Daryl Gonchoroff.



... with Senator Keith Perry



... with Representative Chuck Clemons



... with Representative Yvonne Hinson

FOL Spring Sale, April 20-24

Looking for a book based on your individual interest, such as cookbooks, romance, art, science fiction, or contemporary fiction? How about vinyl or manga? Whether you desire a collectible treasure or the latest 2023 edition, we probably have it at a bargain price. The Friends of the Library Bookhouse, located at 430 N. Main Street in Gainesville, is stuffed full with donated books, texts, records, CD's, DVD's, games, puzzles, paintings, prints, magazines, and ephemera. For more information about the Spring Sale or items featured in the Collector's Corner, visit us at <http://www.folacld.org>. Better yet, come to our sale from Saturday, April 20, through Wednesday, April 24, and see for yourself.

Be sure to visit the Collector's Corner – stocked with books and other items of local, historical, and special interest. Items featured in the Collector's Corner can be found at <http://www.folacld.org/m^sale^colcor.html>.

[See sale pictures on page 8.]
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Seed Library

Starting a new garden or looking to refresh your yard? Come to any location of the Alachua County Library District and get packs of seeds from our Seed Library.

A variety of seeds are available, such as vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The Seed Library relies on donations, so our selection changes throughout the year, but the seeds are always free.

Each library location has a Seed Library. Some locations have a seed display, other locations have the seeds at the circulation desk. Ask any staff member at your local branch where the Seed Library is located, and they will be happy to help you.

In 2016, librarian Wendy Schneider was working in the Hawthorne Branch when she participated in the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute with the Northeast Florida Library Information Network. Her final project was called “Cooking From your Garden.” Along with educational programs about cooking food from the garden, Wendy’s project featured a way to collect seeds and then distribute them to library patrons, the Seed Library. This novel idea took root with patrons quickly and is still heavily utilized today. Last fiscal year we had 16,668 seed packets checked out from our Seed Libraries around the Library District.

The Seed Library displays also provide tips for gardeners, with a curated selection of books about gardening and seeds, along with fact sheets about the different plants available each month. If you come by the Seed Library display at the Headquarters Library, you will find a “Plant Parenthood” area where you can adopt sprouted seedling that are in small pots. These seedlings are first-come-first-serve and are available whenever a new batch of seedlings is ready.

Learn more about how you can use and donate to the ACLD Seed Library at <http://www.aclib.us/SeedLibrary>.



On the Road Again....Unusual Donations

Occasionally an item donated to Friends of the Library is of special interest to another institution. Volunteers in the Collectors Corner research these items, contact the institution, verify their interest, and then send each item “home”.

Consider a recent example:



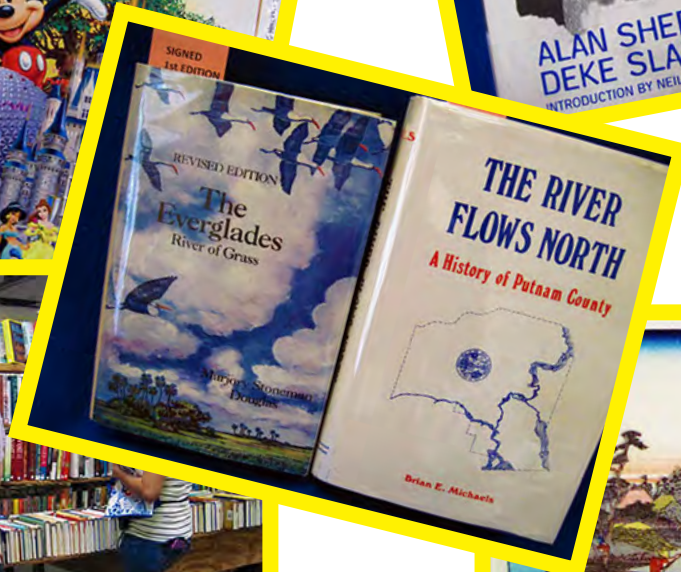
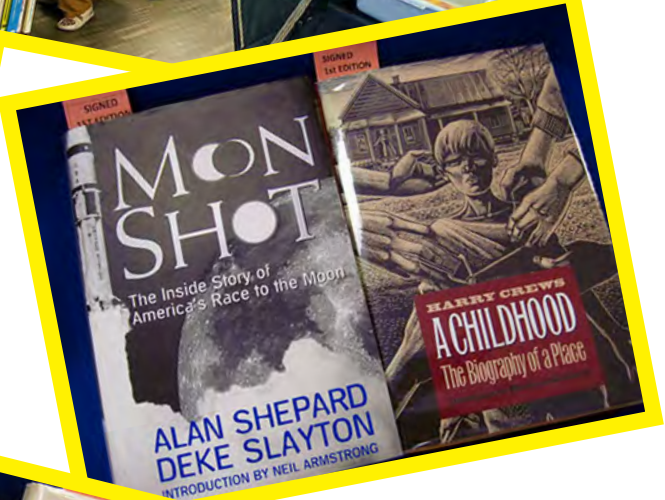
Lilla Moye and Ms. Turcotte

In 1939, an English edition of MK Rawlings’ *The Yearling* was published in Germany. In 2024, a copy of the book was donated to FOL. The copy was signed by Ms. Rawlings and dedicated to Sidney West, Director of UF Libraries. Flo Turcotte, Literary Manuscripts Archivist at UF’s Smathers Libraries, was pleased to learn of the copy, stopped by the Bookhouse to see it, and was delighted to add the book to UF’s Rawlings collection. Several recent donations have also found new homes:

- *King of the Desert Freighters* booklet made the trek to the American Mule Museum in Bishop, California (desert freighter = mule train!)
- Hunter College 1935 yearbook is back in the Big Apple, New York City
- 1883-84 Savannah Military Academy Catalog was added to the Georgia Historical Society Collection in Savannah (the oldest continuously operating state historical society in the Southern United States-but they didn’t have this catalog)
- 1938 Gordon State College yearbook is back on campus in Barnesville, Georgia

It’s great fun to see the donations we receive at FOL. You never know when an unusual item will appear – and then hit the road to a new home.

Sale Items and Images



THE LIBRARY AND ITS FRIENDS
Friends of the Library
430 North Main Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Remember - the benefits of your membership include:

- 4 newsletters per year,
- invitations to the annual meeting and special seminars,
- volunteer opportunities with the twice-yearly book sales.
- But the biggest benefit of all is that wonderful feeling you get from doing something great for your family, neighbors, and community.

Invite your friends to join FRIENDS!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Renewal - FOL member since _____

Name: _____
(as you wish your membership name to appear)

Address: _____

City : _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

E-Mail Address _____

Membership Categories

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Life Member (65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student/Senior (65+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ ____ Other |

Volunteer Opportunities

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Sorting (year round) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other talents,
please call me | <input type="checkbox"/> I can't volunteer, but am
happy to support FOL
with my membership |

Make checks
payable to FOL

Mail to: Friends of the Library, Attn: Membership
430 N Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601

FOL Newsletter - Apr 2024