Thank you for Another Exceptional FOL Book Sale

This April’s FOL book sale exceeded our previous spring sales. Friends and families came to take advantage of the bargains and experience the goodwill that makes our event special. We heard, “This is cool!”

Thank you for your enthusiasm. We’re glad that you came and hope that you are enjoying your summer reads, puzzles, DVDs, and more. Because of your strong support and months of preparation by our dedicated volunteers, our commitment to the Alachua County Library District and literacy programs in our area will continue. Our next FOL book sale is October 21-25, 2023.

New Collections at ACLD

The Alachua County Library District is continually trying to provide new materials to our patrons, and we recently made several new additions to the collection.

The first category of the collection that got a significant boost is Read Along Books. These are physical books that have a built-in speaker which plays a reading of the book as you move through the story. Read Along Books are a great way for kids to learn language and improve their vocabulary. The Library District added more than 120 of these popular books to the collection. Some of the newly added titles include The World and Everything In It by Kevin Henkes, Birdsong by Julie Flett, and The Library Fish Learns to Read by Alyssa Satin Capucilli.

Another portion of our collection that is rapidly growing in popularity is audiobooks and digital audiobooks, called eAudiobooks. In the last year, audiobooks and eAudiobooks have
From the Director

The summer months have arrived, and the hot temperatures outside will likely stay around. This time of year, you might be looking for a cool comfortable indoor space to relax in. Come by any of the twelve branches of the Alachua County Library District. We have a collection of cozy air-conditioned spaces where you can snuggle up and read with the whole family. We also have many comfortable chairs where you can settle in to read your favorite book. Maybe you are looking for a quiet space to do your summer research. Try spending some time in one of our Quiet Reading Rooms; most branches have one. No matter what your reading interests are, the Library District has many wonderful, air-conditioned spaces where you can enjoy a good read.

We know people are always looking for indoor spaces to escape the heat, but there are many people who enjoy going outside this time of year. ACLD patrons can make that outdoor experience a little better by checking out one of our Birding Kits or Exploration Backpacks. These kits have items that are used to discover new things in nature. The Birding Kits come with binoculars and two bird field guides to help identify your feathery finds. The Exploration Backpacks are for a more hands-on experience. The kit comes with a plant press, butterfly net, mesh bug enclosure, a bug lens cube, pocket microscope, and a couple of other items to help with your discoveries. Each of these kits is great for a family adventure.

In a few months, Fall will be upon us and kids around Alachua County will be going back to school. The ACLD wants to be sure that all kids are ready to learn this school year. The Library District has many resources for students, families, and teachers to use. For students and teachers looking for help finding good resource material, we provide access to the Florida Electronic Library. This database includes electronic magazines, newspapers, almanacs, encyclopedias, and books on topics that include current events, education, business, technology, and health. Maybe you need help with test preparation or building skills for test taking. We provide access to Learning Express Library, where you can find homework help and help preparing for common assessments. (You can find these resources by selecting the “Research and Learn” tab of our website.)

If you’re homeschooling, we also have materials for you. The Millhopper Branch will be hosting the Homeschooling Resource Fair on Saturday, Aug 5th, from 2 PM till 4 PM. Join us to learn about local homeschooling resources in our community. Connect with organizations that provide academic support, volunteer opportunities, field trip destinations, and extra-curricular activities. Another great resource for students is Tutor.com. This resource combines online tutoring, homework help, and test preparation with diagnostic tools and self-study resources to provide a well-balanced and flexible educational environment designed to meet the needs of all learners. Any card-carrying patron of the ACLD has free access to Tutor.com. Live tutors are available daily from 3 PM to 10 PM.

The ACLD has many opportunities for access to amazing resources, all you need is a library card.

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month. This national campaign began in 1987 with a call to action that every child should have a library card. The ACLD thinks that everyone in our community should have a library card. With your library card, you have access to more than 850,000 items in our collection, including more than 275,000 eBooks and eAudiobooks. You can also use your library card to access our robust database collection anywhere Internet is available. Your library card also allows you access to our Library of Things, where you can check out items like sensory toys, STEM kits, and the Exploration Backpack. Your library card will also allow you to borrow a WiFi2Go mobile hotspot and get seeds for gardening from our Seed Library. There are so many benefits to having a library card that it just makes sense to have one.

We invite you to come by any branch of the Alachua County Library District and sign up for a free card today. Signing up takes about five minutes; all you need to bring is your ID. Because ACLD has so many opportunities for access to information, we encourage you to come in and see what we have to offer.

-- Shaney Livingston
Foundation Helps Fund Archer Branch Expansion

The Archer Branch Library is undergoing a major expansion from its current 3,427 square feet to 6,313 square feet, with the Foundation contributing $100,000 to the project. Foundation funding is directed to three areas that Branch Manager Lesia Schnur says will significantly enhance the services that the library provides the community. One is the greatly expanded space dedicated to the children’s area.

There are two other new areas for the Archer Branch — a dedicated Teen Space and a MakerSpace. As Branch Manager Schnur commented, Archer middle and high school students go to Newberry Middle and High Schools. The Library is a school bus pick up/drop off location, and the Teen Space is an excellent way to introduce them to the myriad library services. The MakerSpace will focus on the arts, following the example of the Waldo Branch.

This expansion project is yet another example of how the Foundation uses its endowment to enable the Library District to better serve the people of Alachua County.
Amazing! Exciting! Fun! Incredible! Organized! Efficient! What a well-oiled machine! These are just a few of the many positive comments overheard at our just-completed book sale. Shoppers departed with armloads of books and smiles on their faces. Opening day saw a several-block-long line of eager shoppers. Several commented that they planned their vacations around our sales. We have become a tourist event—a very positive tourist event—which has been recognized by the County Commission. What started in 1954 as a dream of a few book lovers has blossomed into a five day event. This would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of our wonderful volunteers who sort and organize donations, our award-winning newsletter, our very generous community members who continue to donate their much loved books and media, and all those who attend the sale. Thanks to you, the spring, 2023 book sale was our largest and most successful event. Thanks to you we are able to continue our mission to support the Alachua County Public Library and to promote literacy in our community.

-- Jean Westin-Lagotic

2023 FLA Newsletter Award

Once again the Florida Library Association (FLA) recognized Alachua County’s Friends of the Library with its annual Friends Newsletter of the Year award. FLA commented “For the second year in a row, judges were impressed by a strong Friends group bringing to life a vibrant library system and community through professional photography, masterful copywriting, and successful project management … . Through their supportive efforts, especially this newsletter, the Friends of the Library of Alachua County show not only how a library can support a community, but how a community can support its library.” John Tucker, Prue Tucker, and Ellen Smith accepted the award during FLA’s annual meeting in Daytona Beach. This is the fourth time in eight years that the FOL newsletter The Library and Its Friends has won the state award.

2023 FLA Newsletter Award

Summer Fun With Our Library

Volunteers from Friends of the Library joined the Library District staff at Depot Park for the Reader Palooza on June 3rd to kickoff summer reading programs at the library. Bruno, the reading dog, was there, too. Parents with kids and teens under 18 enjoyed selecting a free book after signing up for Beanstack, the library’s program to track their summer reading. You, as a Friends of the Library member, help sponsor Summer at the Library. Kudos to our Alachua County Library staff for organizing a successful launch of summer programs with this fun, family event at Depot Park.
Getting to Know You

Position: Manager, Newberry Branch Library

Marlin Day

Background: Marlin grew up in a small town loving to read but, as a child and young man, had never considered being a librarian. After a ten-year career in retail, he returned to school to finish his bachelor's degree. While a university student, he pondered what to do after graduation, considering many alternatives. But one day he was reading the local newspaper and there was an article about how local libraries were having a challenging time finding librarians due to the graduate degree requirements and other reasons. Marlin has described that moment as his life’s turning point. He has stated it was “like the clouds in the sky cleared, a beam of sunlight shone down on me, and a voice said ‘thou shalt do this.’ ” After graduating with a degree in history, Marlin attended Florida State University’s library school, earned his MLS, and then went to work for the Jacksonville Public Library. Being a librarian combined several of his loves: reading, sharing his love of books with others, and helping people when they needed a hand. He worked for ten years with JPL as a librarian, assistant branch manager, and a branch manager.

In 2012, the Alachua County Library District hired Marlin as the Branch Manager for the Newberry Branch Library. This was his dream job, running a library in a small town like he had grown up in, helping his neighbors, and making a difference in the local community. While living in Newberry and working as the manager, Marlin has served several civic organizations and festivals and various city boards and committees, receiving the Mayor’s Award in 2022 for his work in the community.

When not working or volunteering, Marlin likes to fish, spend time with his wife and son, walk his dogs, and, of course, he still loves to read.

Position: Table Coordinator, Collector’s Corner - Paperbacks

Brian Adams

Background: Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, a member of an Air Force family, Brian Adams traveled the world. After earning degrees in Business Administration and Business Education from Southern Illinois University, he held various professional jobs until the recession closed the bank where he was employed. Brian considered the advantages of military service and began a twenty-year second career in the Navy, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. After a brief stint working in the education arm of Walt Disney World, he was recruited by the Florida Correctional System where he led Adult Basic Education classes for inmates. For twelve years, he directed youths and adults as they worked to earn a GED (General Educational Development) degree.

Brian came to the Bookhouse for a sale, loved it, and asked how he could help. As our other new volunteers, he participated in training and orientation activities, then worked as a sorter, receiving and directing donations to the proper tables. When a need arose in the Collectors Corner, he joined the volunteers there, cataloging and preparing paperback donations for sale.

Brian says he is amazed with the skills and knowledge of those in the Collectors Corner and is fortunate to work with wonderful people.
ACLD Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The Alachua County Library District (ACLD) held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, April 14th, at the Best Western Gateway Grand hotel. With the theme “Our Volunteers Set the Stage for Success!” Library Director Shaney Livingston welcomed, recognized, and thanked volunteers and library staff for their work in support of the library. Larry McDaniel, ACLD Board of Trustees, led the blessing. Speakers included Ken Cornell, outgoing chair of the ACLD Governing Board, and UF librarian Dr. Benjamin Walker, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the George A. Smathers Libraries.

Door prizes of gifts and services donated by numerous community businesses were awarded at random during the event.

Valuable, But Not For Sale

Recently, FOL volunteers Lilla Moye and Mary Hall recognized that a large scrapbook received in donation would likely not sell at our book sale but was full of pictures significant in the history of Lake City, FL. When they delivered the scrapbook to Lake City Public Library Head Librarian Katrina Evans, she avidly poured over the old pictures and was effusive in her note of thanks: “Thank you so much for saving the notebook filled with old pictures and postcards of Lake City and Fort White and bringing it to us at the Columbia County Public Library! ... I’m looking forward to scanning pictures to share with the historical museum, Columbia County Schools, and others.”

This is just one of many examples of how FOL volunteers enjoy finding the right home for those “not saleable” but still valuable donations.

April Sale Pictures
In May, 2023, Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Olson, along with Cynthia Karle, welcomed eleven new volunteers to Friends of the Library and introduced them to FOL policies and procedures. With mentoring and on-site training, they have begun processing donations and preparing the Bookhouse for the October 2023 book sale.

Jim Gates is the retired library director of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. A member of the Artisans’ Guild Gallery, Abby Hogan loves to garden, kayak, read, create art, and listen to Dave Matthews. Gail Keeler loves to garden, travel, and watch birds. An Army veteran from Minnesota, Cassy Midboe retired from a thirty-year career with Haven Hospice. A native Floridian and UF alumna, Vanda O’Neill is a former librarian and a current resident of Oak Hammock Senior Community. Sergio Quintana is a lifelong Gainesville resident, PK Yonge and UF graduate, father, and grandfather. A retired nurse practitioner, Dari Smith grew up in Gainesville and raised her five children here. Michael Stoop is a PhD student in Anthropology at UF and used to work at UF Libraries. Janet Tucci is a former elementary school teacher.

**New Volunteers Welcomed**

Front Row: Cassy Midboe, Abby Hogan, Vanda O’Neill, Janet Tucci, Beth Frame  
Back Row: Gail Keeler, Dari Smith, Jordan Foti, Sergio Quintana, Michael Stoop, Jim Gates

Snuggle-Up visits Highlands Preschool Headstart

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**Snuggle Up & Read Returns & Grows!**

After a two-year pause due to COVID, we are happy to announce that our 20+ year-old Snuggle Up & Read program is back! This Spring, Library staff and Friends volunteers were able, once again, to visit all Alachua County Head Start classrooms, to share stories, promote the Library, and give each child their own copy of this year’s book, *Everybody in the Red Brick Building* (by Anne Wynter/illus by Oge Mora). Approximately 500 books, a “gift of reading from the Library and its Friends,” were distributed to children in the thirteen Head Start classrooms in Alachua County.

The program’s impact often goes beyond the one annual visit. Headquarters staff report that, “children enjoyed the Storytime and loved getting their own copies of the book to take home. The Head Start locations were grateful to have us and several were interested in receiving further outreach from the Library.” Tower Road Branch and Cone Park Branch staff both reported they are now working on establishing future outreach visits with their nearby centers.

Now, about that growth? Thanks to the success of our book sales, we are also providing books to another Library District partner. Healthy Families, an early intervention/child abuse prevention program, offers home visitation services focused on child development and parent education. Their Program Manager says, “We appreciate the FOL’s generous donation of books so we can instill the love of reading in participants’ children. Books donated by the FOL have gone to approximately 250 families, 80% of whom are Medicaid eligible (low income).”
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

☐ $150 Life Member (65+)
☐ $15 Individual
☐ $50 Patron
☐ $10 Student/Senior (65+)
☐ $25 Family
☐ $ ___ Other

Volunteer Opportunities

☐ Book Sales
☐ Book Sorting (year round)
☐ Other talents, please call me
☐ 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