Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The Alachua County Library District hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Best Western Gateway Grand on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. Colorful decorations supported the event’s theme, “Our Volunteers Make a World of Difference.”

Shaney Livingston, Library Director, welcomed volunteers and dignitaries, introducing members of the Governing Board, the Board of Trustees, the Foundation, the Friends of the Library, staff, and volunteers from the many ACLD branches.

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New Waldo Library Shines

Clouds could not diminish the excitement as Shaney Livingston, Library Director, welcomed dignitaries and guests to the new Waldo Branch Library. On Saturday, June 8, 2019, the Alachua County Library District (ACLD) opened an expanded 5000 square foot facility, an area five times the size of the previous building. Director Livingston began the festivities by welcoming the community.

After an invocation by Mr. Bernard Carter, words of welcome and support were shared by Marihelen Wheeler, ACLD Governing Board vice chair; Kim Worley, ACLD Board of Trustees vice chair; and Louie Davis, Waldo mayor. Director Livingston recognized and thanked the Friends of the Library for sponsoring

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Letter from the Director

This summer brings us many reasons to rejoice at the Alachua County Library District. We celebrated the grand opening of the Waldo Branch on June 8th, introduced new branch hours districtwide, and launched Summer at the Library. As we grow, we continue to keep our mission statement to be a resource to the community to participate, connect, and discover central to every step we make.

The Waldo Branch opened on a sunny Saturday morning, narrowly missing showers for our opening ceremony. The new branch is located at 15150 NE US Highway 301 in a former Dollar General store, renovated for its new purpose. Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Library, this location features Waldo’s first Quiet Reading Room, adorned with a beautiful bronze statue. The new location is approximately five times larger than the original branch and also includes a Snuggle Up Center, Teen Space, meeting room, more computers, and 54 percent more material on the shelves.

Waldo is also home to our first ARTspace, a studio thoughtfully designed for art programs, with easy-to-clean floors, adjustable work stations with electrical outlets, multiple sinks, and a large flat-screen television. The new space will certainly foster many budding artists and curious patrons, offering a space to learn and to cultivate creativity. The ARTspace embodies our commitment to our MAKERspace programs, which empower citizens to explore new technologies and learn new skills at the Library.

On June 1st, a week before the doors opened in Waldo, new schedules rolled out across the Alachua County Library District. In April and May, we prepared for the transition with posters, bookmarks, handbills, and an advertising campaign. Overall, the new hours have been received well by patrons, with no interruption to library services. To learn more about the new hours, visit www.aclib.us/newhours.

Amid these big projects, we kicked off Summer at the Library on May 19th with the Summer Reader Palooza at Depot Park. Learn more about our many summer plans and special guests later in this issue.

As the summer continues, we look forward to cheering on teen teams from across the district at the tenth Battle of the Books on July 27th at Headquarters Branch. Author G. Neri will discuss his graphic novel, Grand Theft Horse, and teams will vie for the top spot in the trivia-style competition.

On June 15th, our 2019 Author Series concluded with a visit from Melanie Benjamin, author of enthralling historical fiction. This year’s series also featured Steve Berry, Lisa Wingate, Wiley Cash, Elizabeth Berg, and the Florida Writers Association’s I Heart Books event highlighting Sunshine State authors.

We are proud to bring world-class writers to Gainesville thanks to assistance from Friends of the Library. In their visits, our patrons connect more deeply to the works they love and we all gain life lessons, as well as inspiration for our daily work. In April, Elizabeth Berg shared a particularly poignant lesson from her first career as a nurse, before she became a best-selling novelist. In nursing school, she learned to withhold judgement when she met each patient and instead hold “unconditional positive regard for every person.” I’m proud to lead an organization where our staff approach our patrons with the same spirit of service and consideration.
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

Waldo Branch Grand Opening

ACLD Foundation Participates in Waldo Branch Grand Opening

The new and improved Waldo Branch Library had its grand opening on Saturday, June 8th, with a large crowd in attendance that included many Foundation Board members. Judging from the number of people present, residents of Waldo and the surrounding areas clearly were eager to see the new building, which is significantly larger than the former branch building.

The ACLD Foundation continued its decade-long funding of Snuggle-Up Centers and Teen Spaces throughout the Alachua County Library District with its contribution of $55,000 for this purpose at the new Waldo Branch. These special facilities have become hubs of activity within the individual libraries. On opening day, children and their parents were eagerly exploring the Snuggle-Up Center and teens were learning about the literature, computers, flat-screen TV, and an Xbox One at their disposal in the spacious Teen Space.

[Photos courtesy ACLD]
Currently our public schools are closed for their long summer holidays. As all students are prone to forget at least some of what they learned during the previous school year and teachers have to play catch up when schools finally open, I urge everyone to remember the resources of Alachua County’s libraries.

Our libraries are actively increasing their role in education, and ALCD is quite superb in this respect. Ask for the Think Summer 2019 newsletter in any library and see what’s available. Anyone who thinks summer vacation is too long should appreciate that their children can continue their education and improve their social and technological skills by going to their local library. Think lists what each library offers and when it’s offered.

ACLD branches provide facilities like TeenSpaces, playgrounds, gardens, Quiet Reading Rooms, MAKERspaces, technical rooms, seminars, writing, talks, IT lessons, cooking, dancing, yoga, karaoke, and help in many areas. Over half of our branches offer seed libraries and introduce pets - as in “Read with a Dog” programs.

The choices are impressive. If you don’t know what to do, ask your local librarian. Get your Think and find peace, knowing that as a parent can educate your children by encouraging activities in a free, cool, and safe place during the summer.

2019 Spring Sale
WITH APPRECIATION FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thanks to continued community support and the dedication of Friends of the Library volunteers, the 2019 Spring Book Sale was the most successful in recent years. A wide selection of books, records, art, CDs, DVDs, and games at bargain prices combined with a week of beautiful weather to encourage shoppers to browse and take home a wide selection of books and other media.

With continued contributions from the community, we anticipate that the 2019 Fall Sale will be just as well-stocked and successful. Please help re-fill the Bookhouse by bringing in your donations and encouraging your friends and family members to do the same. The Fall Book Sale will be October 19-23, 2019.

Calling All Artists:
Submit your work for the 2019 Summer Art Show

Artists can submit their work at any Alachua County Library District Branch through July 30th for the annual Summer Art Show. Artwork will be displayed Aug. 4-30 at Headquarters Branch, and artists will be celebrated at a reception Aug. 4th at 2:30 PM. Gainesville-born artist Ameena Khan will lead a discussion following the reception. Her art focuses on the stories of Muslim women living in the U.S.

Artists must be 18 or older to submit their work and complete an application and waiver. For full guidelines, visit aclib.us/artshow.
Getting to Know You

Position: Administrative Assistant / Human Resources

Background: Sometimes the BEST things in life are unexpected! – Author Faith Sullivan. Growing up in Miami, I explored the mysteries around me. I was adventurous, impetuous, and continuously questioning everything. An only child, I challenged my college-graduate parents, truly believing I was the center of the universe. But they loved and supported me despite my intent on a career in forensic psychology. Fortunately for all, that path was not to be.

Community involvement is a pillar of my life. A Girl Scout by age five, I was later a troop leader when my daughters joined. I was born an active member of the A.M.E. Church. As a teen and young adult, I found joy in singing, dancing, and acting. The world was my stage! Little did I know that motherhood (the ultimate selfless occupation) and a career in human resources (the profession of people) would become my two greatest passions. My father realized this. He was the employment manager at Jackson Memorial Hospital, where his co-workers often allowed me to pretend I was the hiring manager when I visited the office. I asked questions, took notes, and even gave Monopoly money as a sign-on bonus.

I'm the proud mother of Ashley, Alexis, and Austin. Moving to Gainesville in 2005 brought many lessons of life - experience as a military mom (daughter Alexis is a sergeant in the Army), a March of Dimes team captain for six years while Austin was the ambassador, cheerleading and band parent, youth choir director, alto choir member, and member of women's missionary. I am also an avid cook and lover of all things superhero-related. (I think I was “Storm” in my previous life).

Perhaps it’s the adventurer in me, but I feel genuinely fortunate to work for the Library District. There’s a sense of belonging here. I’m looking forward to serving for many years to come.

Spotlight on FOL Volunteer

Lisa Williams

Position: Sorter

Background: Originally from North Miami Beach, FL, Lisa Williams is the daughter of a sightseeing boat-captain and homemaking mom. She enjoyed school, sewing, bicycling, recycling, tennis, and sightseeing day-trips along south Florida’s Intracoastal Waterway and Biscayne Bay. She especially enjoyed the family’s annual summer pilgrimage to New Jersey.

After high school graduation in 1973, Lisa attended Miami-Dade Community College, then transferred to UF, majoring in Plant Pathology and earning a BS in Agriculture in 1979. She later worked several part-time and volunteer jobs, including at Fabric King, Peacock's Landscaping, and UF-IFAS and USDA horticultural research labs.

Lisa settled in Providence/Lake Butler with her husband, an agricultural extension agent, and their two children and began her thirty-year career as biological scientist with the Florida Department of Agriculture in Gainesville. She collaborated in plant disease diagnostics, field surveys, introduction of foreign citrus germplasm, and quarantine greenhouse management.

Lisa was introduced to FOL by several co-workers and has attended many sales since. Always impressed by the friendly and helpful FOL volunteers, she chose to join the ranks and now volunteers Friday mornings as a sorter and assists at the education table. She confesses that, oddly enough, she is not an avid reader but still finds plenty of books relating to her many interests, including ten grandchildren, arts and crafts, cooking, gardening, genealogy, health and fitness, piano, quilting, and travel.

Lisa and Richard now live in Alachua on three acres that include their wildlife and bird sanctuary, a large vegetable garden, fruit trees, and “Leah the cat”. You will usually find them nearby, unless they’re catching a breeze on the Gulf on their 31-ft sailboat.
Snuggle Up and Read  
- Head Start Classes

2019 marks the 19th year that Friends of the Library has provided the funding to give each Head Start student in Alachua County the gift of a specially selected, age-appropriate book of their own. This year, FOL volunteers and Library staff visited 36 classrooms and distributed *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall to 671 children!

Snuggle Up & Read is just one of many library enhancement and enrichment projects made possible by the twice-a-year Book Sales organized and held by our amazing FOL volunteers!

and other guests. Speakers included Ken Cornell, Chair, ACLD Governing Board, and Elmira Warren, District Volunteer Program Specialist. Writer, speaker, and volunteer Terry Martin-Back spoke on the benefits and value of volunteers.

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

the branch’s Quiet Reading Room and the Library Foundation for sponsoring the Teen Space and Snuggle Up areas in the new library. She introduced Library staff members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the successful completion of the new facility.

After a celebratory ribbon cutting, community members toured the new building, including the branch’s ARTspace and study rooms. Refreshments were available in the community meeting room.
**Adventure Awaits**

The Library District’s largest annual program is in full swing through early August, with new adventures in store for participants of all ages.

Through Aug. 4th, anyone can register for *Summer at the Library* and track participation for a chance to win a super prize – a private ART or MAKERspace event for six people.

With support from Friends of the Library, branches will host special guests for *Summer at the Library* programs, including Lubee Bat Conservancy, Mark Alan Magic, Menestrelli Dog Show, Reptiles on the Road, Tampa Taiko, Wild Wonders Animal Show, and Floridingers illustration team. Each branch will host programs perfect for kids and the whole family to enjoy.

While *Summer at the Library* offers endless entertainment for young ones, adults can join in the fun, too. Our first *Adult Summer Camp* offers programs that range from yoga to art classes at noon on various weekdays through July at Headquarters Branch. Check the “Events” tab at aclib.us.

The experience extends beyond the stacks to local shops and restaurants, where we’ve scattered best sellers for our first Book Share program. Anyone can pick up a book, log it at aclib.us/bookshare, and then pass it on to the next reader.

Learn more about all our summer plans and register at aclib.us/summer.

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**Our New Volunteers**

Friends of the Library is pleased to welcome new volunteers to the Bookhouse. Meeting with Volunteer Coordinator Doris Harvey, these new FOL members learned about the Bookhouse, sorting guidelines, and FOL procedures. They look forward to greeting you and receiving your donations as they prepare for the Fall Book Sale in October, 2019.

**May Class**

From left: Susan Fulford, Priya Dames, Nora Zietz, Anna Sperring, Mike Zietz, Ellen West

Priya Dames is a student at UF studying computer engineering. Susan Fulford loves to travel. Anna Sperring taught in Alachua County schools for 34 years and is a Gainesville native. Ellen West is a retired school principal, artist and loves to crochet. Mike Zietz likes to hike and paint and is a member of the Gainesville Fine Arts Association. Nora Zietz moved from Maryland and loves hiking and piano music.

**June Class**

Betty Jean Blenko is willing to learn something new. Richard Daugherty is legally blind and is a semi-retired board game enthusiast. Jackie Trudeau is a tutor and GED instructor.

From left: Jackie Trudeau, Richard Daugherty, Betty Blenko
Waldo Branch Library Opening

Some FOL Members at the Volunteer Luncheon

SnuggleUp Area

ArtSpace
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-B N Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601

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