FOL Annual Meeting

Friends of the Library held its annual meeting at the ACLD Headquarters Library the evening of October 1, 2017.

President John Ritter welcomed those attending and recognized Library staff and FOL members. After a buffet dinner, he introduced Shaney Livingston and Theresa Sterling.

Shaney Livingston, ACLD Director, thanked FOL for its support, highlighted the library’s many successful projects, activities, and awards from the previous year, discussed plans for future projects, and complemented her staff.

Theresa Sterling, ACLD Literacy Coordinator, thanked Library staff for their assistance and FOL for their financial support of the literacy program. She shared a list of program highlights. This year, the program was able to train 45 volunteers who worked with 79 learners.

The evening’s speaker, Valerie Rivers, Park Manager at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings State Park, shared pictures of Mrs. Rawlings, of Cross Creek, and of people and authors Rawlings knew. Ms. Rivers spoke of Mrs. Rawlings’ early life, her time at Cross Creek, and the letters that she sent and received. This is the 75th anniversary of the publication of two of Rawlings memorable books – Cross Creek and Cross Creek Cookery.

The business meeting began with the treasurer’s report presented by Beverly Bartlett. The 2017-2018 budget was approved by the membership.

[Continued on page 4.]
We Thank our Friends

Thanks to the generous support of our Friends of the Library, the Library District offered a creative line-up of programs that enticed all ages to visit their libraries, sign-up for Summer Reading, and participate in “Summer at the Library.” Our Friends helped to fund popular programs such as Professor Dodad’s Lab, Jongleur Jugglers, Magic Mike, Tampa Taiko drummers, Capoeira of Gainesville, and more. Plus we added new programs such as Page Turner Adventures, WizzBangz Bus, and Mask Dance with Surapsari.

A team of Library staff members developed our local “Summer at the Library” program and marketing campaign that helped promote our Library District, programming, and community engagement. Thanks to the supplemental marketing budget provided by our Friends, we were able to create and produce a spot to air on Cox networks, increase our social media advertising, and continue our print ad campaign to help promote author visits, and programs. We spread the word about our grand finale Summer Reader Palooza for kids and families on August 6th at the Headquarters Library. This all-age event included a MAKERspace program where teens could try robotics and 3D printing, then experience the Escape Room. Other activities included the 4th Annual Elements of Inspiration Art Show for adults, face painting, crafts, and activities for kids.

We formed partnerships with Depot Park, Santa Fe College Zoo, Little Orange Creek Nature Park in Hawthorne, and others to help increase community engagement. This year, Summer Reading participants enjoyed earning badges for reading, writing book reviews, participating in great programs, and visiting interesting places in their community.

We expanded our MAKERspace programs. Alachua Branch and Headquarters Library offered SEWINGspace, which provided machines and helped teens and adults learn to sew. FOODIEspace programs taught the science of ice cream and how to use a 3D printer to make pancakes at Alachua, Archer, Cone Park, Headquarters, High Springs, Library Partnership, Millhopper, and Newberry branches. Waldo Branch’s FOODIEspace made Solar Power S’mores.

Thanks to an empowered staff and an exciting new approach backed by creative marketing, we increased Summer Reading registration from 5,316 in 2016 to 5,847 in 2017, for a total increase of 9.99 percent.

Fun learning, tinkering, and exploring continues this fall with more MAKERspace programs. In October and November, Cone Park will provide a variety of MAKERspace programs so kids and teens with shared interests can gather to work on projects while sharing equipment and knowledge. This October and January, Headquarters Library will offer CREATEspace programs so participants can learn more about 3D printing, coding, electrical circuitry, and robotics. Millhopper Branch will teach kids ages 5 to 11 the stop-motion animation process from story-boarding to filming in its ANIMATIONspace programs. Also in October and November, Cone Park Branch will present FOODIEspace: A Taste of African Heritage. This six-week class brings people together to celebrate African heritage foods; provides delicious, easy-to-prepare recipes; and helps families improve their diets to reduce the risks of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.

We look forward to “Celebrating Our Friends” during National Friends of the Library Week, October 15-21. Look for our annual “thank you” ad in The Gainesville Sun on October 15th and displays at our branches that express our heartfelt thanks for all the contributions of our Friends. We invite all our Friends to an Appreciation Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 29th, 3 pm at Headquarters Library. We hope to see you then.

It’s Time to Renew Your FOL Membership

October 1st begins the fiscal year for Friends of the Library and is a reminder that it is time to send your annual membership dues to FOL. Please continue supporting our local libraries and literacy in Alachua County by renewing your FOL membership today. Reminder notices were delivered in September by email and postal mail to members whose memberships were not already renewed. You can find additional forms on the last page of this newsletter and online at the ‘Join Us’ link from the FOL home page or at http://folacld.org/n_mbr.html

Please continue your support for FOL by renewing your membership today. Thank you.
Annual Meeting 2017

Outgoing Chair Pushpa Kalra welcomed approximately 60 Foundation associates, members of the Board of Directors, and friends to the Foundation's Annual Meeting, held at the Headquarters Library on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

Dr. Kevin McCarthy, prolific author, retired UF English professor, and man of numerous other descriptors of his highly varied life experiences, explored the topic “Dirty Words and Banned Books” as guest speaker. The table decorations were library books from the District’s display of items which had been highly controversial -- or still are.

ACLD Director Shaney Livingston provided her overview of District accomplishments over the past year and the plans for the future. She also thanked the Foundation for its continued supporting contributions to Snuggle Up centers and Teen areas at branch libraries. Following a report by outgoing treasurer, Mitzi Austin, who was thanked for her years of service to the organization, the membership approved the 2017-2018 budget proposal. Barbara Scott led the election of Officers and new Board of Directors members, which resulted in the unanimous acceptance of those nominated.

Returning Board members up for renewal: Mitzi Austin; Cecilia A. Caton; Hunt Davis, Jr.; Patsy Frenchman; and Doris Hargrave. New Board of Directors Members: Brian Gendreau and Marilyn Tubb. Officers who will be serving from October 1, 2017-September 30, 2019: Bill Burger, Chair; and Brian Gendreau, Treasurer. Officers serving from October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018: Jon Reiskind, Vice Chair; and Maggie MacDonald, Secretary.
Message from the President

After three years as President of Friends of the Library, I am stepping down. It has been my honor to lead such a great organization. Whatever has been accomplished was due to our workers, donors, and patrons – and especially to the Board; a finer group could not be found. I take little credit. I appreciate their dedication, and all they have done.

Not all of our problems have been solved, however. We still need new volunteers and people willing to serve on the Board, join a committee, or take over a table. Let’s face it: many of us are getting old and are loath to admit that we are wearing out. But it finally hits us that we no longer have the energy we had ten years ago. FOL has lost many faithful old timers lately. Fortunately, new volunteers have joined our ranks, yet more are needed.

I’ve always found it difficult to say goodbye. But this isn’t a true goodbye. I have my engineering table and sorting on Fridays, but it won’t be the same.

I wish the best for my successor. I am sure he will do well, especially since the rest of the Board has agreed to stay on. He couldn’t have better help.

Thanks to everyone. Keep reading.

Introducing P. J. van Blokland, FOL President

For Friends of the Library, the two main things in my favor are that my London mother was a librarian and my Dutch father volunteered at FOL. My first memories were of the London Blitz and being evacuated to a Staffordshire farm, which gave me a love of farming. Consequently, I left England in 1962 with a BSc. in Agriculture, plus a background in rugby, cricket, tennis, and squash, to farm in Malawi, Tanzania, Trinidad, and Swaziland for the Commonwealth Development Corporation. I attended the University of Illinois from 1972 to 1976, earning an MS and PhD in Economics, and then taught finance at UF and abroad from 1976 to 2008.

I am an avid reader, though sometimes I wish I read less.

Joy Avery presented the slate of officers for the next year. It was approved unanimously. The article at the right introduces them.

Sue Harms and Joy Avery recognized volunteers with milestones of service. There is an article about the honorees on page 6.

Pete Roode announced those receiving leaves on Katherine’s Tree and described their service to FOL. This year’s honorees are Mary Ann and Tom Evans and Bill Watson. They are pictured on page 7, with more information about the award.

In closing the meeting, P. J. van Blokland accepted the responsibilities of his new office, expressed his interest in serving FOL, and asked the members to contact him with suggestions and concerns.
Position: Teen Librarian, Tower Road Branch Library

Background: As I was growing up in New York and South Carolina, my favorite place to be was in a library. When I had the opportunity to work as a Circulation Page for the Alachua County Library District in 2008, I really enjoyed the work and the people. As a cinephile, there was one position that I thought was the coolest I had ever heard of – DVD selector. Who wouldn’t love reviewing movies all day? I was promoted to Library Assistant in 2009. Enough people were asking me if I was in school for library science that I realized it was a possible career for me. Paying more attention to the other positions in the library, I realized this is exactly what I wanted to do with my life. I transferred to the Millhopper Branch Library, then got a promotion to Library Specialist at Library Partnership Branch in 2012. I started working on my Master’s in Library and Information Science the following week. Six months later, I was able to transfer into the Technical Services department and filled the vacant DVD selector position. It wasn’t quite the fun I had daydreamed about back when I was a page, but I learned a lot and I stayed there for three years while I finished my Masters.

Before beginning my MLIS degree in 2012 from Florida State University, I received an Associate Degree in Photography and a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. FOL helped me tremendously in obtaining my Master’s Degree with their tuition reimbursement program.

In July of 2016, I was promoted to Teen Librarian at Tower Road Branch Library. I am looking forward to the completion of our renovations there and the start of many new teen programs!

Getting to Know You

Spotlight on Library Staff
Rachelle Mason

Spotlight on FOL Volunteers
Mary and Ron Nutter

Position: Book Sale Volunteer Coordinators

Background: Mary and Ron Nutter have always loved books and libraries….and sailing and volunteering and family. While dedicated to careers in education, their volunteer activities in Gainesville have benefitted the Harn Museum, Ironwood Golf Course, the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, and Friends of the Library. Beginning in October, these midwestern natives will focus their leadership and volunteer skills on coordinating the volunteers who work each Friends of the Library (FOL) Book Sale.

Mary Nutter, from Detroit, Michigan, first wanted to be a librarian. However, when she realized that librarians did more than just read all the books in the library, she decided to be a teacher. She taught special education for many years, extending her own education to include a PhD in curriculum and instruction.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Ron Nutter reports one of his fondest childhood memories is of going to the book store to get books for himself and his mom, a voracious reader. He earned degrees in speech and hearing therapy, audiology, and a PhD in Special Education, Leadership and Administration. At UF, he helped design and implement their first online program – in management of fire and emergency services.

Mary and Ron believe that communities are defined by the activities they support. They say the FOL Book Sale is such an event for Gainesville – making books available to the entire community and increasing accessibility to knowledge.

Whether teaching, volunteering, sailing, swimming, traveling, spending time with family, or enjoying their boat in St. Augustine, Mary and Ron Nutter have followed his grandmother’s advice to “do the best you can at all times.” They “realize that coordinating the many volunteers needed for a fall or spring FOL book sale is a big job, but we are willing to try it and do it well.”
**2017 Service Milestone Honorees**

*Five Years:* Joy Avery, Gladys Lane  
*Ten Years:* Linda Boyles, William Burk, Sue Harms, Alan Morrow  
*Fifteen Years:* Carter Gilbert, Liz Jones, Anna Zerner  
*Twenty Years:* Sue Roland, Knol Salhanick  
*Twenty-five Years:* Pat Marshall, Barbara Pactor, Margaret Wagener

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**The Fall Sale**

FOL’s Fall Book Sale is almost here! Sale days extend from Saturday, October 21, through Wednesday, October 25, 2017. Choose from thousands of books, records, CDs, DVDs, and art work in categories ranging from architecture to zoology. The Collector’s Corner is stocked with books and other items full of local and historical highlights. Items featured in the Collector’s Corner can be found at [http://folacld.org/n_sale_colcor.html](http://folacld.org/n_sale_colcor.html).

You will find bargains on every table and in the outdoor tents. For more information about the Fall Sale, visit [http://folacld.org/n_sale_about.html](http://folacld.org/n_sale_about.html).

Thank you for attending the sale and continuing to support Friends of the Library and the Alachua County Library District.
About Katherine's Tree

It is great when two plans merge into one which is better than the originals. Such was the “plan” that became Katherine’s Tree, the glass and oak structure at the Headquarters library. In 1995, FOL had received a large amount in memorial donations and wished to do something significant with the money. The recently formed Alachua County Library District Foundation was looking for a way of acknowledging significant gifts to their endowment fund. FOL was pleased to pay for the construction of the Tree then turned it over to the Foundation. FOL recognized its founders and significant others with an original pledge of $30,000 (later increased to $100,000). The Foundation was pleased to receive a substantial start to their drive to establish a million-dollar endowment fund, which was achieved last year.

Katherine’s Tree is a unique rendition in etched glass of the Tree of Knowledge, designed and executed by Robbie Rucker of the former Festival Signs. It is surrounded by an impressive oak frame and base by Greg Webb, and is named for Katherine Anne Tubb (5/13/76 to 11/13/91), an avid reader and library user. Significant donations made in her memory to FOL were the “seeds” for the tree, which was completed with additional gifts made in memory of Carl Bordenca, Gerry McAlister, Eileen Otis, and Inex Scudder.

FOL has continued to add two or three “leaves” a year to recognize publicly long-time volunteers at FOL. To date, FOL has donated $162,000 to Katherine’s Tree.

Archer Branch Library

Drive 28 miles west on Archer Road and discover the powerful Archer Branch Library providing essential services and quality programs for Archer and its surrounding rural county residents. Since opening in 1993, Archer Branch has become part of the fabric of its community.

This 3,500 sq. ft. library provides programs for all ages, including weekly preschool Storytimes, educational afterschool programs, and activities for seniors. S.T.E.A.M.-based programs were added to support the Alachua County School District’s initiative to foster Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math learning and provide more access. The new Archer Lego Club further supports S.T.E.A.M. concepts and socialization for children ages 3 to 12. Other programs include hands-on art for teens and a Crochet Club and Zen Coloring for adults.

Archer Branch works with community partners, including Archer Elementary School, Santa Fe College’s Davis Center, Archer Historical Society and Archer Cultural Progressive Organization, to participate in Yulee Railroad Day and Archer Elementary School Career Day. The Santa Fe Davis Center hosts tutoring space in support of the Library District’s Adult Literacy Program.

From 2014 to 2015, the library increased its summer programs by 95 percent. Archer Branch Manager Jodie Patterson (recently promoted to Tower Road Branch) summed up its accomplishments as the little branch that could, comparing it to children’s book, The Little Engine That Could.
Invite your friends to join FRIENDS!

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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New ☐ Renewal ☐ - FOL member since _______

Name: _______________________________________

(as you wish your membership name to appear)

Address: _____________________________________

City: ________________ State: ___ Zip: ___________

Telephone: Home ____________ Work _____________

Membership Categories

☐ $100 Corporate ☐ $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 Chair
430-B N Main Street
Gainesville, FL 32601