Special Anniversaries Highlight FOL’s Annual Meeting

On Sunday, September 15th, 2019, Friends of the Library held its annual meeting and buffet dinner at Library Headquarters - celebrating 65 years of service to the community and the thirtieth anniversary of the purchase of the Bookhouse on North Main Street. FOL members were welcomed by President PJ van Blokland, who introduced special guests and highlighted FOL activities in support of the Alachua County Library District.

Shaney Livingston, Library Director, thanked Friends of the Library for their support of the library and library programs. She listed the year’s highlights and described plans for next year.

Local author Janis Owens was the evening’s featured speaker. Entertaining the audience with anecdotes from her past, she recalled listening to her family’s stories, her time as a student at the University of Florida, the importance of libraries, and other steps along her path to becoming a published author.

Beverly Bartlett began the business meeting by presenting the finance committee’s recommended budget for 2019-2020. The membership approved the budget.

On behalf of the nominating committee, Stephanie and Mark Olson proposed a slate of Executive Board officers [listed and pictured on page 6] for 2019-2020. The membership elected the slate:

Doris Harvey and Lynda McKenzie recognized volunteers for milestone years of service. [We list the honorees and include available pictures on page 6.]

The evening ended with special recognition of volunteers Linda Boyles and Virgil Burk. FOL thanked them for their long service and honored them with contributions to the ACLD Foundation’s Katherine’s Tree fund. [We picture them on page 6.]
Letter from the Director

Most of us celebrate a new beginning on January 1st, but in the Alachua County Library District, October 1st marks the new year. As we closed out 2018-2019, we look ahead to another fantastic year and reflect on our successes.

In our new year, the library staff is planning a host of new programs, thanks to your support. On October 12th and 13th, we’ll welcome a haunting expert for a series of spooky Folklore of Haunted Hometowns programs at the Alachua, Headquarters, Hawthorne, and Tower Road branches. The Library District will host a program on A Land Remembered in February, and our Youth Services team is already lining up performers for next year’s Summer at the Library.

Summer at the Library is a perfect example of the District’s partnership with FOL. In 2019, more than 7,200 people registered for the summer program. From June to early August, we hosted a great selection of performers funded by FOL. Our branches tallied more than 51,600 attendees at these events, an increase of 10,000 from last year. While teens are generally the trickiest customers to attract to the library, dozens participated in the Battle of the Books, another Summer at the Library element supported by FOL.

For more details on what we achieved in the last year, be on the lookout for our annual Accomplishments Report coming in November. Among the highlights I’m proud to share now are three awards the Library District received from the Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN), a nonprofit training organization that serves 550 libraries in 24 counties throughout northeast Florida.

In late September, NEFLIN recognized the Library District’s commitment to staff and patrons with three trophies. The Library District received the NEFLIN “Golden Apple Hall of Fame” and the “Making the Most of NEFLIN Continuing Education Award” for dedication to training and continuing education.

We also received their “Innovation Award” for the Millhopper School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, an eight-month program that harnesses Harry Potter’s magic to introduce participants to library programs and resources. Attendees register in the fall and earn points for their Houses by attending programs. The experience, which began its third term this September, offered seventy programs and tallied more than 2,000 attendees last year. Librarian Karen Malloy leads the program with the support of the entire Millhopper Branch team. Congratulations to the Millhopper team for this honor.

As the year ended, I had the pleasure of attending the Friends of the Library annual meeting and spending an evening with the volunteers who give much to our public library system. I was glad to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Bookhouse, a space which you have wisely leveraged to host your renowned biannual sales. Looking at how FOL successfully paid off the building’s mortgage and dramatically increased the revenue from book sales, it’s clear that our two organizations share a similar drive to manage resources responsibly and achieve great results.

This year the Library District received an outstanding audit with no findings and presented a budget with a rolled-back millage rate to our Governing Board. With our budget approved in September, we are proud to be excellent stewards of the taxpayers’ investment. Friends of the Library helps us to achieve this goal by funding programs, collections, and services. Thanks to FOL, we head into the new year ready to accomplish more big goals.

Fall Book Sale – Help Spread the Word

Book Sale flyers and promotional book marks announcing the 2019 Fall Sale are in the FOL office. Please take some to share with organizations and businesses that you visit. Ask to have them put on bulletin boards, front windows, and other prominent sites to announce the dates of FOL’s October Sale.
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

Thirtieth Anniversary Foundation Meeting

Chair Bill Burger welcomed more than fifty Foundation Associates, Board members, guests, trustees, elected officials, and members of the Library staff to the Foundation’s Annual Meeting celebrating its Thirtieth Anniversary and held at Headquarters Library on Sunday, September 22nd.

Jean Chalmers, former Gainesville City Commissioner and Mayor Commissioner, was the guest speaker, addressing the topic of “Gainesville Highlights from the Last Sixty Years,” with an emphasis on the earliest thirty years of that time. In keeping with the anniversary celebration, the table decorations were stacks of major books published in 1989 (and still available from the Library) and strings of (fake) pearls, the symbol of thirtieth anniversaries.

ACLD Director Shaney Livingston provided her overview of District accomplishments over the past year and plans for the future. She also thanked the Foundation for its continued supporting contributions to SnuggleUp Centers and Teen Areas at branch libraries. Director Livingston also introduced the ACLD staff members in attendance, including the new Facilities/Safety Services Administrator Michael McLaughlin.

Bill Burger presented the Chair’s Annual Report and Brian Gendreau provided the Treasurer’s Report. Membership Committee member Maggie MacDonald recognized the new Associates. Barbara Scott, after first recognizing Tom Rider, who was the Foundation’s first chair, led the election of Officers and new Board of Directors members, which resulted in the unanimous acceptance of those nominated. Elected to new two-year terms were Jon Reiskind as Chair and Mitzi Austin as Vice Chair; Brian Gendreau was re-elected to a two-year term as Treasurer. Eve Ackerman, Bill Burger, Donald Caton, Maggie MacDonald, Howard Rosenblatt, and Mary White were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board. Maggie MacDonald has one remaining year of her term as Secretary of the Foundation.
Message from the President

For those of us born at the start of the London Blitz, there was little entertainment apart from books and radio. We were, therefore, immersed in reading early in life. Television was not prevalent until the late 1950s and then offered two channels starting in the late afternoon and ending before midnight. So we kept reading.

That’s why I’m delighted to support ACLD’s policy of providing library cards to all the young school children in the county. This seems infectious, for I’ve noticed an increasing proportion of our sales customers are young.

I invariably visit local libraries when I travel. We visited Highlands, NC, recently and found that their FOL sold books six days a week in their own shop. The Asheville Pack FOL did the same thing. Food for thought. [Ed. Note: Some years ago, our FOL operated a shop in the Headquarters Library, but could not support the staffing need.] Then there is the Haskell Library straddling the Vermont and Quebec border, with part in the US and part in Canada. I heard that families separated by travel bans can meet and mingle there. Libraries are not just about books, but also relationships.

“The only true equalizers in the world are books. The only treasure house open to all comers is a library. The only wealth which will not decay, is knowledge”...

John Alfred Langford

FOL welcomes volunteers to work during the book sale. To learn more and sign up for a three-hour shift, write to FOL at FOLacld@bellsouth.net. Please include your name and phone number.
Getting to Know You

Spotlight on Library Staff
Stephanie Tyson

Position: Library Specialist,
Tower Road Branch Library

Background: Stephanie joined Alachua County Library District in October 2018. She worked in Outreach Services driving the bookmobiles for almost a year before joining Tower Road Branch’s children’s programming team as a Library Specialist on September 30th.

Before coming to the Library District, Stephanie worked at Columbia County Public Library for fourteen years, mostly as a Librarian II in youth services. She is currently in her last semester of the Master of Library and Information Science program at University of South Florida. Her undergraduate degree is in animation and her big dream is to one day work at the library of Disney or Pixar.

Stephanie’s favorite authors are Neil Gaiman, Jim Butcher, Maggie Stiefvater, and Audrey Niffenegger. Her go-to book recommendation is The Time Traveler’s Wife. Her favorite children’s book authors are Karma Wilson, Mo Willems, and Oliver Jeffers, and she loves the illustrations of Dan Santat, William Joyce, and Trina Schart Hyman. Aside from books, she loves The Great British Baking Show, Indian food, crafting of all sorts, costuming, and Disney World.

Outside of work, Stephanie stays very busy with her creative pursuits. She is bench coach/newbie trainer/board member for the ACR Hunnies, a nearby roller derby team in which she has participated for about five years. She has performed at the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire on the human chessboard for more than a decade. She has also acted in numerous plays with High Springs Community Theater, though her dramatic roles have been put on hold while she is in grad school. Stephanie looks forward to returning to the stage come 2020, so be on the lookout for her then!

Spotlight on FOL Volunteers
Mary Hall and Debbie Phelps

Position: Sorter (Mary) and Table Coordinator (Debbie)

Background: Sisters Mary Hall and Debbie Phelps are long time Gainesville residents. During World War II, their parents met at Camp Blanding, married, moved briefly to Indiana, then returned to Gainesville. Both Mary and Debbie graduated from Gainesville high schools, raised their families here, and worked for and retired from the University of Florida (UF).

While working at UF, raising her boys and continuing her studies, Mary was a soccer mom. She was a youth soccer coach and referee and played in a coed soccer recreation league. At UF, she advised students in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Debbie says Mary was “paid to tell students what to do and they loved her. There were 600 people at her retirement party – the biggest number ever.” Always a reader, Mary attended the Friends of the Library book sales and decided to volunteer at FOL once she retired. She enjoys sorting donations from the community and says “I’ve made so many friends and love being around books.”

Debbie also spent many years as a sports mom, with children in basketball, baseball, softball, and soccer. When Debbie retired from UF’s Department of Ophthalmology, Mary “kept bugging” her to try volunteering at FOL. Initially Debbie sorted donations. Then table coordinator (and long-time neighbor) Esther Nordlie recruited her to help at the Children’s table. After one session, Debbie knew she loved working there and now shares responsibility for that area. Debbie says that “working with Esther was pure joy.”

Both Mary and Debbie encourage others who “like to read as much as I do” to volunteer at the Bookhouse.
Katherine’s Tree Honorees

From left: Assistant Treasurer-Sue Harms, President-PJ van Blokland, Recording Secretary-Doris Harvey, Treasurer-Beverly Bartlett, Corresponding Secretary-Oebm Bendrah, and Vice President-Ellen Smith

Service Pin Recipients

Thirty-five years: Beth Allerton and Katie Yost

Thirty years: Beverly Bartlett and Albert Caracausa

Twenty-five years: Juanita Harrison

Twenty years: Patsy Sanders

Fifteen years: Marty Clendenin, Mary Ann Evans, Tom Evans, Michael Stephens, and Barbara Wagner

Ten years: Oebm Bendrah, April Clark, Rich Heiss, Anne Morgan, Holly Prugh, Ellen Smith, and Terry Thorkildson

Five years: Ron Beauchamp and Hope White

2019-2020 Executive Committee

From left: Assistant Treasurer-Sue Harms, President-PJ van Blokland, Recording Secretary-Doris Harvey, Treasurer-Beverly Bartlett, Corresponding Secretary-Oebm Bendrah, and Vice President-Ellen Smith
Cone Park Unlocks New Learning Tool With Escape Rooms
from Rachel Cook, ACLD

Librarians know there’s no escape like a good book, but the Cone Park Branch staff have discovered another great getaway at the library.

Leveraging library resources, participants gather in a room to puzzle their way through clues that lead to their “escape.” The quest requires research using library books and databases. Following a successful program with teens from Girls Place in 2018, the branch has built out more complex escape room experiences.

“Escape room programs offer a fun way to practice critical thinking and group collaboration while learning about a new subject area,” said Cone Park Branch Manager Diane Johnson.

Cone Park Librarian Helena McNeer has mapped several adventures using the escape room model. For a “Marooned without a Compass” program, she challenged teens to navigate Iceland’s landscape using maps and other resources to find the city of Reykjavik. For a Juneteenth program, teens uncovered clues written in invisible ink, traced maps from the 1800s, and found hints in historic texts.

“Escape rooms are a great way to promote library materials to young kids,” McNeer said. “It encourages the kids to find their own answers.”

Student Library Card Program Revamps For Year Two
from Rachel Cook, ACLD

While students readied backpacks and parents completed shopping checklists, the Alachua County Library District also geared up to go back to school.

In August the Library District, in partnership with Alachua County Public Schools, launched the 2019-2020 Student Library Card campaign to arm more than 27,000 with their Student Library Card information.

This fall, students will receive a welcome letter explaining what their Student Library Card is and how to use it. New students will receive their own Student Library Card with the letter. Returning students will receive their card information with the letter.

In addition to an advertising campaign, library staff members are heading out to schools to spread the news by meeting with media specialists and parents at open houses. You can help by talking to the caregivers and children in your life about the benefits of this resource.

With their Student Library Card information, students can check out three items at a time; download electronic media like music and magazines; and use any of the Library District’s eSources, including Tutor.com, for homework help and test prep. Learn more at www.aclib.us/studentcards.

2019 Fall Sale

Join FOL for the Fall Book Sale to be held from Saturday, October 19, through Wednesday, October 23, 2019. Come to the Bookhouse, 430 North Main Street, Gainesville, FL, to select from thousands of books, records, art works, CDs, and DVDs from categories ranging from architecture to zoology.

Special items in the Collector’s Corner include: *Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad* by Jacqueline L. Tobin; a *Dr. Who* vintage VHS tape collection, including titles not available on DVD; a first edition of *No Ordinary Days* by Maggie Taylor; and 1930’s era *Maskee: A Shanghai Sketchbook*, drawn and hand colored by Friedrich Schiff. Items featured in the Collector’s Corner can be found at http://folacld.org/n_sale_colcor.html.

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

[We picture more sale items on page 8.]
Hammerfest, Norway, a coastal town with a population of about 11,000 on three islands, was razed by retreating German troops at the end of World War II. One of the many things that had to be rebuilt was the town's library.
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

FOL Newsletter - Oct 2019