Eagle Scout Project Benefits FOL

In early November, Thurman Lincoln, a Buchholz High School student and Boy Scout from Troop 378, held his Eagle Scout Project, a 5K fun run benefiting the Friends of Library. The 5K event was held at the Santa Fe College race course (a large grassy field on NW 39th Avenue). Participants each brought at least one book to donate - with some bringing entire boxes. Over seventy people attended this race and donated several hundred books, which Thurman delivered to the Friends of Library. Next April, look carefully - those books will be at the Friends of Library Spring Sale.

Thurman said that he “had only expected about 35 people to turn up,” and was “very happy about the excellent turnout and how many books were donated.” This successful service project provided fun for all those involved and much-appreciated books in support of FOL and the Alachua County Library District.

2018 Fall Sale

Friends of the Library is delighted with the support of local and regional shoppers during its recent Fall Book (and art, records, video tapes, games, movies, music, and more) Sale. Thank you for making this event one of our most successful. Your interest and purchases insure our continued support of the Alachua County Library District and community projects that are funded by FOL.
Letter from the Director

Alachua County Library District is looking forward to an exciting 2019, full of interesting programs and the opening of a new library in the City of Waldo during the summer. We are proud to present the 2019 Author Series, featuring nationally renowned authors at the Headquarters Library, starting with New York Times internationally bestselling author of the popular Cotton Malone series, Steve Berry, on Sunday, January 27th. Berry will present his latest book, The Bishop’s Pawn, which looks back at history with a different take on the feud between Martin Luther King, Jr., and J. Edgar Hoover. Lisa Wingate, author of Before We Were Yours (her blockbuster hit that was on the New York Times Bestseller List for more than a year) speaks on Sunday, February 24th. The prize-winning author of The Last Ballad (named Best Book of 2017) Wiley Cash comes on Saturday, March 30th. Elizabeth Berg will talk about her latest book, Night of Miracles, a delightful novel about surprising friendships, community, and the way small acts of kindness can change a life, on Saturday, April 13th. Melanie Benjamin, author of the New York Times and USA Today bestselling historical novels The Swans of Fifth Avenue, The Aviator’s Wife, and The Girls in the Picture will visit on Saturday, June 15th. All the Author Series events above will begin at 2:30 PM. Thanks to our generous Friends of the Library for making the amazing Author Series possible.

At our newly expanded and renovated Tower Road Branch, opportunities to participate in Foodiespace to whet palates and capture culinary experiences will start in January, with Cake Decorating (led by Publix Bakery) on Monday, January 14th, at 6:00 PM. The AARP Tax-Aide Foundation and United Way’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will offer tax assistance at several libraries between January 28th and April 15th, with weekday appointments and Saturday walk-in service.

During Black History Month in February, we offer opportunities to explore African-American literature through books, movies, and interactive programs. At the Headquarters Library on Saturday, February 2nd, at 2 PM, we present Reclaiming Kin: Once Lost, Now Found. Karen Kirkman and Tatanya Peterson will discuss research on Peterson’s family back to a plantation in Alachua County. At the Cone Park Branch on Thursday, February 7th, at 4:30 PM, the Jacksonville Buffalo Soldiers Historical Society will share stories of honorable military men and women and the role they played in American history. Our Alachua and Hawthorne Branches engage their communities with an African-American Read-in on Sunday, February 24th, at 2 PM, in Alachua and on Saturday, February 23rd, at 2 PM, in Hawthorne.

For a full line-up of the amazing programs coming to our community, please visit our website at www.aclib.us/events.

After a very successful partnership with Alachua County Public Schools, we issued 26,000 Student Library Cards. We will extend this great opportunity to P. K. Yonge School in January.

Many thanks to our Friends of the Library for supporting our mission and helping us build a better community.
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 Hosts its Seventh Annual Non-Event Gala

Beginning in 2012, the Foundation started hosting an annual Non-Event Gala to raise funds for its work on behalf of the Alachua County Library District and its patrons. The first Gala honored Charles Dickens on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his birth. The 2018 Gala celebrates yet another 200th anniversary, that of the publication of *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus* by Mary Shelley.

Alas, Mrs. Shelley is unable to join us in our celebration, and we’re quite relieved that Victor Frankenstein and his creation (AKA monster, daemon, fiend, creature, wretch, and devil) are also not attending. If the monster were at our gala, he would enjoy the vegan option: “...to glut my appetite; acorns and berries afford me sufficient nourishment.”

We suggest instead staying in the comfort of your home (on a dark and stormy night) with this story that is, as Mrs. Shelley says, “One to make the reader dread to look round, to curdle the blood, and quicken the beatings of the heart. If I did not accomplish these things, my ghost story would be unworthy of its name.”

Once your heart stops racing, consider how your donation of $100 to the Alachua County Library District Foundation Non-Event Gala supports your public library. Checks should indicate that they are for the Gala, be payable to the ACLD Foundation, and mailed to the ACLD Foundation, 401 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601. All proceeds go directly to the ACLD Foundation. This gift is tax deductible, and 100% of your donation goes towards building our library endowment. Thank you for keeping the bloodcurdling chills, shivers, and storytelling alive for future generations.
Message from the President

This is a time for thanks, and I would like thank all our volunteers for their dedicated work over the past year. It’s not easy getting older and working in an unheated and non air-conditioned building, but you did it. Thank you.

Special thanks: to Eagle Scout Thurman Lincoln (featured on the front page of this newsletter); to Kaitlyn Lister, a UF senior, who worked on sales publicity, PowerPoint instructions for volunteers and table coordinators, and made suggestions for future sales; to Chris Curry, who joined as a sorter, but spends most of his time on shelving and signs; to the anonymous volunteers who paint and help maintain the building and its environs. Farewells to Theresa Sterling, ACLD Headquarters Literacy program coordinator, who is moving to Tallahassee, and to Nickie Kortus, ACLD Marketing and PR manager, who is retiring.

We have had an excellent year at FOL, with record sales and a smart bunch of new volunteers, many of them young and all well trained by Doris Harvey. May this happiest time of the year provide us with the zest to face whatever comes next. Thank you, and “God bless us, everyone.”

Donations Are Welcome

Friends of the Library accepts donations of books and other material in many categories: art, vinyl records, sheet music, CDs, DVDs, board games, video games, puzzles, magazines, manga, comic books, print and other collectibles, and more. Community members are encouraged to bring their donations to the book house at 430 N. Main Street, Gainesville, FL, from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday through Thursday and 9 AM to NOON on Friday and Saturday. A limited number of donations for FOL may be left with your branch of the Alachua County Public Library. Thank you for helping FOL continue its support of your public library.
Getting to Know You

Spotlight on Library Staff
Samantha Noll

Position: Library Specialist, Youth Services

Background: I was born and raised in Fort White, FL, and moved to Gainesville after high school. I started as a page at the Millhopper Branch in 2007. While Millhopper was being renovated, I transferred to Technical Services and then the Alachua Branch. In 2009, I was promoted to Library Assistant at the new Library Partnership. I was very proud to be a part of the new initiative between the Alachua County Library District and The Partnership for Strong Families. I worked there for three years, then transferred back to Millhopper. In 2015, I was again promoted to Library Specialist at the Cone Park Branch. There I got to do the kind of work I enjoyed most, youth programming. After two years at Cone Park, I transferred to the Youth Services Department of the Headquarters Library. Though I do some children’s programming, the main portion of my work is with teenagers.

I received my AS from Santa Fe College in Graphic Design. I am an avid reader, consuming about two hundred books a year. My favorite genre is Young Adult Fantasy. I am a big crafter, enjoying hand sewing, crocheting, knitting, and cross stitch. I also enjoy painting and drawing. I have often used my hobbies for library programs, such as Sew Simple, Perler Bead Crafts, and Table Top Games for Teens.

One of my absolute favorite parts of my job is the Teen Art Show. It is a bi-annual event for teens all over the county. Their submitted artwork is displayed and judged by professionals from The Harn and UF’s College of Arts. I love being a part of this and other great programs offered by the library.

Spotlight on FOL Volunteer
Stephanie and Mark Olson

Positions: Table Coordinator and Sorter

Background: Originally from Minneapolis, MN, Stephanie and Mark Olson met in 1965 at the Dairy Queen where they both worked during high school. They were married shortly after Mark’s graduation from the U. S. Military Academy in 1970, living overseas and in several areas of the United States, including a brief tour in Gainesville. While here, Mark earned his Masters Degree and their two children, Lars and Stacy, went to Glen Springs Elementary. Mark’s last military assignment was at the Pentagon, where both Mark and Stephanie worked for the Department of the Army. Following Mark’s military retirement in 1990, they stayed in the DC area, continuing to work and allowing their children to complete high school.

Mark’s goal was always to move back to Gainesville, and once they both fully retired (Mark from the National Security Agency and Stephanie from the Department of Defense), they downsized and moved south about two years ago. Though much has changed since their first stay, they find that Gainesville continues to be a vibrant and diverse community. Here they can also be close to Mark’s parents in Kingsland, GA, and Stacy’s family in Ft. Lauderdale.

Both Stephanie and Mark enjoy their volunteer work at the Bookhouse. Having been regular volunteers at their Fairfax County library, they were happy to find a similar opportunity here in Gainesville. They comment that, “The Bookhouse volunteers are a great bunch of folks, and it’s a pleasure working with such a dedicated, fun group. The book sales bring together the entire community and the money raised benefits everyone.”

In addition to their volunteer activities, they travel extensively, with an upcoming trip to India planned for the spring. They enjoy cheering on Gators and attending Gainesville’s many cultural offerings.
Now it’s time to start again! With continued contributions from the community, we anticipate that the 2019 spring sale will be just as well stocked and successful. Please bring your donations to the Bookhouse at 430 N. Main Street and encourage your friends and family members to do the same. The Spring Book Sale will be April 27 - May 1, 2019.
New Volunteers

In September, Doris Harvey trained two groups of potential new volunteers: On the 22nd she met with Virginia Chow, who enjoys books and looks forward to volunteering at the Bookhouse; Pierce Heathcock, who is 14 and will be volunteering with his mother, Monique, on Saturday mornings; David Lindberg, a PhD student and an instructor of statistics; and Frank Schofield, husband to Sandra, father to Jake and Frank, Jr., and now grandfather to Michael, Sean, Tess and Bridgette.

On September 27th, Doris trained five more new volunteers. Rita Dardis is retired and enjoys sewing, crocheting, entertaining, and spending time with her husband, four grandchildren, and all her family and friends. Bill Leonard, a mostly retired lawyer and mediator, is an avid Gator. Melanie Leonard is a retired flight attendant, avid Gator, and grandma. Ava Long loves books, baking, and whale sharks. Amanda O’Shea is a nightshift nurse and full-time book lover.

Mini-Grants for Literacy

Friends of the Library provides Mini-Grants to Alachua County non-profit organizations for literacy and language-related activities. Grant applications are accepted from February 1st until March 31st for awards given May 15th and again from August 1st until September 30th for awards given November 15th. Grants are awarded for one year, with a report due after one year explaining how the money was used. There is a maximum of $2,000 for each award.

Specific rules guide the selection process. Only one grant is given per year to any one organization. Grants may be awarded no more than two consecutive years to the same organization and are only given to organizations based in Alachua County. Grant proposals are reviewed by the FOL Mini-Grants committee.

Applicant organizations must be accredited, non-profit charitable or educational organizations, approved as such by IRS Code 501(c)(3).

First preferences will be given to proposals dealing with one or more of the following categories: literacy, books, media, literature-related events and activities, reading-related matters (including educational programs), and language (including dramatic presentations and oral history).

APPLICATION FORMS are available at http://folacld.org/n_mgrnt.html or by writing to Mini-Grants, Friends of the Library, 430B North Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601, or calling 375-1676. If you know groups that would be eligible, please encourage them to contact Friends of the Library for further information.
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**

- $100  Corporate
- $50   Patron
- $25   Family
- $15   Individual
- $10   Student/Senior (65+)
- $ ___ 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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