Read with a Dog

The Alachua County Library District brought back a popular program to several branches around the Library District. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Read with a Dog was canceled, like all our programs; after many requests from patrons, this popular program is back. Multiple times a week, our young patrons can have the opportunity to read with a furry friend during Read with a Dog programs. These programs give patrons the opportunity to visit with and read aloud to therapy dogs.

Reading aloud is a foundation of literacy development and reading aloud with a dog is a fun way for children to build confidence in their ability to read. The therapy dogs are great listeners, and

2023 Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Library Bookhouse at 430 North Main Street has something for all ages and is packed with books, records, art work, games, comics, CDs, and DVDs from categories ranging from architecture to zoology.

Items in the Collector's Corner include a signed first edition of Jacob's Ladder by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, The Didache by Aaron Milavec, Exo-psychology signed by Timothy Leary, history books from multiple centuries, books from Florida, and a first printing of Edgar Bergen's How to Become a Ventriloquist. Items in the Art area include a framed map of

[Continued, with pictures, on page 7]
Letter from the Director

Spring is the time of year when life begins to flourish and nature is rejuvenated by the warmer weather.

The Alachua County Library District is in step with springtime as we continue to flourish in 2023. We have sprouted a new crop of programs for the community to enjoy, planted a few seeds for new events and services we will offer in the coming year, and we've initiated actions to grow the district.

One way we are growing in 2023 is the expansion project currently underway at the Archer Branch. The expansion will nearly double the size of the branch from 3,421 square feet to 6,313 square feet. This will allow for the addition of a Quiet Reading Room, new study rooms, and a new Teen Room with computers and a gaming system. The renovation will centralize all the children's books into a new children's area while enlarging the meeting room space, which will allow us to serve the community better. A new MakerSpace area will also be included in the renovation. MakerSpace programs allow patrons to explore new technologies and learn engineering skills through creative tinkering.

During construction, the branch will remain open for computer usage, checkout, and hold pickups, but all programming will be suspended until the completion of the project. We look forward to all the benefits this expansion will bring to the Archer community in the years to come.

In anticipation of a busy spring, the Library District has worked hard to create some new and exciting programs for our community to enjoy. In general, we strive to create positive programming that will be of interest to all ages. This spring we have several new programs and partnerships that will stand out as benefits to our teen and youth patrons.

The ACLD is partnering with ARTSPEAKS to host the Bard & Broadside 2023 North Central Florida Poetry Festival. The festival will include the inaugural North Central Florida Youth Poet Laureate Commencement Ceremony. During this event, attendees will get to hear poetry from the finalists vying to be the first-ever Alachua County Youth Poet Laureate. Special poetry workshops will be held over the two-day festival. All festival events are free and open to the public. Come out on April 15th and 16th to the Headquarters Library for this event that will no doubt be insightful and enlightening.

Another new program we are excited about is the first ever Teen Battle of the Bands, which will be at the Tower Road Branch on May 20th at 2 PM. Music will fill the book racks as local teen bands vie for a top prize. Bands can register for the event on our website until April 29th. We are very excited to be putting on this program that will bring music into the library space. Music is a creative outlet for so many, and we are looking forward to providing a stage for teens to express their creativity. We hope you will join us to hear the amazing young musicians of Alachua County.

As spring moves into summer, the Library District is looking ahead and preparing for our annual Summer at the Library programming and reading challenge. If you have never heard of Summer at the Library, let me tell you a little about what we have planned. The summer will kick-off with our annual Reader-Palooza event, which will be held at Depot Park on June 3rd from 10 AM to NOON. People will be able to sign up for our summer reading program and receive a bag with information about our collection of summer programming and events. We will have roaming performers for the event, like the Gainesville Circus Center and Magic Mike. Throughout the summer, we will have a collection of performers doing programs all over the Library District. The Santa Fe Zoo, Animal Tales, and the Lubee Bats will bring animals into our library spaces for programs about conservation and exploration. Programs from the groups Science Surprises, DoDad's Lab, and Magic of Sands will amaze patrons of all ages. While performances from Shana Banana, Orisirisi African Folktale, Digeridoo Down Under, and Just Add Rhythm will get patrons up and moving with creative musical programs. We will also be having an end-of-the-summer special event from DoDad's Lab, a foam party for all the kids and kids at heart, at the Headquarters Library July 29th.

The Alachua County Library District invites you to join us this spring and summer for our new programs and events as we grow the Library District through your participation. Don’t forget we still have all the best books, eBooks, and audio books you need for spring and summer reading. So, join us at your library today.

-- Shaney Livingston
The Alachua County Library District Foundation

providing long-term support to the Alachua County Library District through major gifts and bequests since 1989

2022 Annual Katherine’s Tree Award Ceremony

On Sunday, March 12th, the Foundation held its ninth annual reception to recognize the 2021 and 2022 Katherine’s Tree leaf recipients. It was an especially enjoyable event, with more in attendance than previous years, as the pandemic had prevented holding the 2021 and 2022 receptions.

Librarian Patricia Carr received the sixteenth annual Guy Hudspeth Award (named for retired librarian and its first recipient in 2007 Guy Hudspeth) for her work with the District’s Conversational English Program. The fourteenth and fifteenth Awardees were also recognized: Otto Pleil for his invaluable leadership of the eBranch during the pandemic, and Guylene Morris Resue for working to ensure that the Hawthorne Branch is integrated into the community. The Award, sponsored by the Kosman Foundation, honors an outstanding Library District employee annually.

Each year the Friends of the Library honors some of its outstanding volunteers by placing leaves on the tree. The 2021 Honorees were Stephanie and Mark Olson, Ellen Bridges Hulslander, and Hope and Tony White, while the 2022 Honorees were Jonathan van Blokland and Oebm Bendrah.

Friends and families were recognized for having funded ten additional leaves on the Tree. The Foundation Board provided a leaf in memory of Julia Barth Reiskind, wife of past Foundation Chair Jon Reiskind. Board member Mitzi Austin and husband Wayne Smith gave three leaves to honor son J. Victor Austin and grandchildren Reece C. and Matilda Austin in memory of their grandmother/great-grandmother Matilda Cockrell. They gave a fourth leaf in honor of their daughter-in-law Jessica Giuli Austin. Board Treasurer Brian Gendreau and his wife Linda gave a leaf in memory of his mother Jean Gendreau. Board member and past chair Pushpa Kalra and family members gave a leaf in memory of her husband Satya Paul Kalra. Tony White gave a leaf in honor of his daughter Skye and husband John Maze. Jane Brockman, with family friends, gave two leaves in memory of her husband Tom Rider, who was the Foundation’s first chairperson.

These eighteen leaves represent gifts of $36,000 to the Foundation to help advance its support of our outstanding Library District.
Message from the President

On April 24, 1955, Alachua County Circuit Judge John Murphee signed an order which approved the Charter of Friends of the Library as a not-for-profit Florida corporation whose recognized objective was “... for the benefit of persons or organizations interested in the Public Libraries ... for the purpose of promoting among its members and the general public interest in books, libraries, and general education”.

What began as a once-a-year, one-day sale of less than a thousand books has blossomed into a biannual five day event of close to a half-million books and media. In 1989, Friends of the Library joined the Junior League and acquired the building at 430 North Main Street. In July, 2020, Friends of the Library became the sole owner of the entire space, which allowed us to increase not only the book area, but also to expand the collector’s corner and have a designated area for art, games, puzzles, comics, and graphics.

We have come a long way in our sixty-eight years, but our goals and mission remain the same. We remain committed to the advancement of the Alachua County Library District and literacy in our community!

Please join us for our Spring Sale (April 22 – 26) as we celebrate sixty-eight years – and if you visit on Monday, April 24, 2023, be sure to shout HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY!

-- Jean Westin-Lagotic

Spring Book Sale – Help Spread the Word

Book Sale flyers and promotional book marks announcing the 2023 Spring 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 April Sale.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Spring Book Sale is just a few weeks away, and Friends of the Library is looking for volunteers to help with the sale. Book sale volunteers assist in the checkout process for the hundreds of FOL shoppers making purchases at our four checkout venues. Volunteers also assist in restocking shelves to ensure a ready supply of items is available throughout all sale days. Before and after each sale day, volunteers are needed to move signs, tents, tables, bins, and boxed donations. Assistance is also needed with publicity and social media promotions.

Can you help? Would you like to be part of the team of volunteers that guides each sale? Call or send email to Mark Olson (352-204-5851; olsonmr@mac.com) to express interest. Year-round volunteer opportunities are also available. Check the member information page under the “Join Us” link on the FOL website [ folacld.org/ ] and click on “Lend a Hand.” Then call FOL at 352-375-1676 or email folacld@bellsouth.net.
Sarah Grainger

Position: Children's Librarian, High Springs Branch Library

Background: Sarah grew up in a home with two parents who loved to read. Her grandmother, with whom she spent much time, was a librarian and had urged her to become a librarian, which she didn't do ... at first.

Sarah came to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida and earned a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the School of Forest Resources in the College of Agriculture. She got a job teaching in a private school upon graduation, got married, and left teaching to raise and homeschool their two children. When she visited the Headquarters Library with her two children as they were growing up, she would dreamily think about working at the library one day. That day did come, seven years ago.

In the past seven years, Sarah started as a page at the Headquarters Library, was promoted to the teen library specialist at the Cone Park Branch, transferred to the Headquarters Library as the MakerSpace specialist, and then got her master’s degree in library science online through Florida State University during the pandemic, along with a fellow coworker and friend. They were both promoted to Youth Services at the Headquarters Library.

Sarah's grandmother was thrilled to know that Sarah was working on becoming a librarian, although she passed away before Sarah graduated from FSU. Sarah recently transferred from Youth Services at the Headquarters Library to the High Springs Library to become their children's librarian.

Sarah likes to read, especially in her recliner with one or both of her cats on her lap. She enjoys mysteries and nonfiction and is currently working on building her own personal children's library at home.

Sarah thanks her dear friend for encouraging her to apply to get her MLS degree and thanks the Friends of the Library for their support during her course work at FSU!
they can help reduce the stress new readers feel when reading aloud.

Four branches of the Library District will now have Read with a Dog programs happening weekly. At the Alachua Branch, the program happens every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 2 PM; at the High Springs Branch, the program is every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 2 PM; and the Tower Road Branch holds the program every Thursday at 2:30 PM. The Library Partnership Branch holds their Read with a Dog program, called Stories with Slick, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 2 PM.

As summer approaches, several other branches in the Library District plan to hold Read with a Dog programs. Keep checking the events calendar at the Alachua County Library District website, www.aclib.us/events, for more information.

We can’t wait to hear all the amazing stories our patrons will read with the dogs this year. Come out and join us.

Sarah’s Sweetwater Greenway Loop Festival

On Feb. 19, 2023, the Friends of the Library joined their neighbors in the Duck Pond Historical District in celebrating the 1st Sarah’s Sweetwater Greenway Loop Festival. In the family-friendly Roper Park on NE 2nd Street, FOL volunteers promoted our upcoming Spring Book Sale and offered a variety of free books to the community. We found new readers for over 160 books at this event. Go to the web or your library to find out more about the Sweetwater Greenway Loop project, the history of Roper Park, or to learn about local African-American business owner, Sarah McKnight.

FOL Welcomes New Volunteers

In February, 2023, Volunteer Coordinator Doris Harvey and Cynthia Karle welcomed nine new volunteers to Friends of the Library. The group learned to process community donations, locate the different categories of items in the Bookhouse, get to know other FOL volunteers, and learn about the FOL organization. They have now joined other weekly volunteers preparing the Bookhouse to welcome the community to FOL’s April, 2023, book sale.

Laura Carlson recently returned to Gainesville after over a decade living in Israel. Henry Hirst is a retired financial executive. Braxton Linton is a friendly, outgoing team player. Retired nurse and active nature lover Nancy Morris also loves historical fiction. Rita Smith is a retired UF librarian and avid reader. A recently retired registered nurse, Lynne Sobel has lived in Gainesville for thirty years. Linda Tomlinson has been coming to the sales for forty years and looks forward to seeing how it all works. Recently retired after forty years as an RN in health care, Julie Whitney is happy to follow her parents Jim and Gert Desjardin at FOL. Cathie Ziegler says she was born in the south – South Dakota.
the world (6’ 8’ wide x 3’ 9” tall) and a book about Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

Join your friends and neighbors at the sale from Saturday, April 22nd, through Wednesday, April 26th. On Tuesday, April 25th, all items are half price and on Wednesday, April 26th, each remaining item is just ten cents. The Collector’s Corner is open Sunday through Tuesday.

For more information about the Spring Sale, visit

http://folacld.org/m^sale^about.html

Items featured in the Collector’s Corner can be found at

http://folacld.org/m^sale^colcor.html
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