FOL Annual Meeting – September 9, 2018

Friends of the Library held its annual meeting at the ACLD Headquarters Library the evening of September 9, 2018. President P. J. van Blokland welcomed those attending and introduced special guests.

Three volunteers were introduced as Katherine’s Tree honorees and thanked for their service to Friends of the Library. Each will have a leaf added to the Foundation’s art panel at Headquarters Library. Honorees for 2018 are John Ritter, Ellen Smith, and John Tucker.

After a buffet dinner, P. J. van Blokland introduced each speaker.

Shaney Livingston, ACLD Director, highlighted library projects, activities, and new branches, and thanked Friends of the Library for their support. She recognized and thanked her staff for insuring the quality programs and projects that distinguish ACLD as the successful community asset that it is.

Theresa Sterling, ACLD literacy coordinator, discussed basic skills training and literacy initiatives for low-literacy populations. Ms. Sterling emphasized the critical need for these programs and relayed some recent success stories. She also reported the process of the pilot Certificate program that improves participants’ opportunities for gainful employment.

The evening’s guest speaker was Dr. Michael T. Olexa, Director of the University of Florida’s Center for Agricultural and Natural Resource Law. Dr. Olexa detailed the positive influence and contribution libraries have had on his life and the agricultural career field. Including his early years in West Virginia, he emphasized the

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We Thank our Friends

As we “Celebrate Our Friends” during National Friends of the Library Week, October 21-27, we recognize and thank our Friends with an ad in The Gainesville Sun on Sunday, Oct. 14th, and displays at our branches that express our heartfelt thanks. Since 1986, our Friends have contributed more than $5 million to help fund programming, services, a diverse collection, staff scholarships, library renovations, and more.

Our Friends sponsored 59 children’s and teens’ programs during “Summer at the Library.” These quality programs filled our libraries with entertainment by Menestrelli’s Dog Show, Science on the Go by Jacksonville’s Museum of Science and History, hands-on Engineering for Kids, and Amazing Animals. In total, the Library District hosted 3,948 programs for all ages and 41,618 people attended these programs. Summer reading registration increased by 22%, with 7,508 signing up. This year, participants received a family tote bag, a 16-page uniquely-designed coloring book, crayons or colored pencils, a pencil, and two coupons.

Thanks to our Friends, we were able to increase our advertising to help promote “Summer at the Library” and author visits. The TV and radio stations sponsored the Library District’s paid advertising with matching in-kind dollars, helping the Library District to reach a more diverse audience to let them know about the numerous programs available at their local libraries.

Partnerships with the Cade Museum, Florida Museum of Natural History, Depot Park, Lubee Bat Conservancy, and Santa Fe College helped to expand programming and increase community engagement. Summer Reader Palooza at Depot Park provided library staff the opportunity to introduce new families to library programs and services. In June 2018, this two-hour event increased the program’s attendance by 45% and signed up more than 100 people for summer reading.

Thanks to our Friends, we put 3,000 books into the hands of young children and teens. These books encouraged reading, discussion, and learning through programs such as the Battle of the Books where all participating teens received a free copy of the three books they read for the competition. FOL also sponsored guest speaker Christina Moore for the ninth annual Battle of Books. Moore is the narrator of the audiobook *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, which was one of the three books chosen by teens to read this summer. Moore talked with 140 attendees about her career recording more than 400 audiobooks, for which she has received 14 Earphone awards.

Thanks to our Friends and community partnerships, your Library District continues to meet and exceed its goals of providing excellent, diverse programs. FOODIEspace programs at our Tower Road Branch have added a Chef Series featuring local chefs who share their recipes and passion for cooking and “Cooking from your Garden” that teaches people how to cook what they grow. MAKERspace workshops feature 3-D printing, sewing, Arduino, and augmented reality. SEWINGspaces teach basic skills and provide sewing machines. CREATEspaces bring teens and adults together to learn, explore, and share a variety of technologies.

Thanks to a partnership with Alachua County Public Schools, we will send out more than 26,000 Student Library Cards to Alachua County Public School students in October and we hope to expand this new program to more schools in future years. We work with our Friends and partners to close the digital and opportunity divides that exist in our community so all students have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

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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

The Foundation’s Annual Meeting 2018

Chair Bill Burger welcomed some 65 Foundation Associates, Board Members, guests, Trustees, elected officials, and members of the Library staff to the Foundation’s Annual Meeting held at Headquarters Library on Sunday, September 23rd.

Guest speaker Dr. Peggy MacDonald, Executive Director of the Matheson Historical Museum, addressed the topic, “A History of Citrus in Alachua County.” The table decorations were books related to the history of Alachua County and more broadly of Florida.

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 then recognized Facilities/Safety Services Administrator Dan Whitcraft for his outstanding work on behalf of the Library District. Bill Burger next presented a Special Recognition Award to Jean Trammel and Carol Higman of the Ehrhart Family Foundation for their long-term financial support of the ACLD Foundation.

Treasurer Brian Gendreau presented the annual financial report and the 2018-2019 budget, which the members then approved by a voice vote. Mary White recognized the new Associates, and then Jeanne Davis led the election of Officers and new Board of Directors members, which resulted in the unanimous acceptance of those nominated. Maggie MacDonald was re-elected to a second two-year term as Secretary and Jon Reiskind for a one-year term as Vice Chair, while Joanne Auth, Jeanne Davis, Pushpa Kalra, Jon Reiskind, and Barbara Scott were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board. Chair Bill Burger and Treasurer Brian Gendreau each have one remaining year to serve as officers of the Foundation.
Message from the President

The Wall Street Journal recently mentioned research that shows handwriting to help learning and remembering better than typing. Yet, shamefully, few schools teach cursive writing. I like writing and keep a diary but also use an iPhone calendar. It’s the same with books. I’m at home with a hardback, but as a frequent flyer, I have a Kindle.

Our county libraries have responded to these dualities by offering books and technology. By thinking outside the book, they also provide DVDs, CDs, media, 3-D printers, photoshops, teen rooms, children’s playgrounds, gardening, and quiet rooms, all with friendly advice.

While visiting our county’s libraries, I see babies to great-grandparents, all enjoying their various occupations. Eric Klineberg, Professor of Sociology at New York University, says libraries are “social infrastructure,” for they supply companionship for all ages and public places for the poor. They are an essential part of any neighborhood.

Where else can a child learn about books if they have none at home? Where else can they imitate adults reading? Our library staff are as important to our local community as our police, fire, and EMS personnel. Let us help them grow.

New Student Library Card Expands Library’s Reach

With the beginning of the 2018 school year, ACLD and the Alachua County Public Schools began a cooperative pilot project to provide all students enrolled in our public schools with a brand-new ACLD Student Library Card that will allow greater access to the print and online resources they need to complete school assignments and do research.

The idea for creating this card grew out of a recognition that there were many students in our local schools who, for any number of reasons, were not able to get or use a library card. This new card will make it possible for these students to borrow up to three print or audio books at a time, use the Library’s extensive collection of online reference sources, and use computers at any ACLD branch or bookmobile.

Students who already have a library card will also receive the student card. Registration is automatic with enrollment in any Alachua County school, though parents or guardians may opt out if they wish. For those who do not attend public school, the Library hopes to expand this program to other interested schools in the future.

We hope the Student Library Card will lead to more students using the Library’s resources and provide additional support for their success in school. For the Library, the Student Library Card is just one more avenue toward building a better community by creating opportunities for our citizens of all ages, to “participate, connect, and discover.”

[Information provided by Erin Phemester, Headquarters Youth Services Department, ACLD.]

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Getting to Know You

Spotlight on Library Staff

Leah Welch

Position: Graphic Designer, Marketing and Publications

Background: Born in Florida, I’ve called Gainesville home since you could count my age on one hand. I love our area, including our stellar library system – so when I had the opportunity to join as the in-house designer this summer, I was thrilled. Stationed at Headquarters Library, I have the opportunity to work on projects both district-wide and for each of our individual branches.

In high school, I dual enrolled at Santa Fe College, and then spent five years doing volunteer work in neighborhoods around Gainesville. After deciding to go back to school, I earned my AS in Graphic Design from Santa Fe College, and went on to get my Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design. It might sound cheesy, but I really feel that as a designer I have found my calling. I love helping others communicate their message in the best possible way. I come from a museum background, and have always loved contributing to our community this way.

When I’m not at work, I focus on creative passion projects like hand lettering, illustration, and beaded embroidery. A lot of my work is sparked by natural themes, our surrounding area, and my faith, or it emerges as an abstract form of journaling thoughts and emotions.

I’m an Enneagram 9w1 who loves board games, movies, hammocks, naps, taking a ridiculous number of photos of my cats Olive and Polka Dot (adopt, don’t shop!), and, of course, the Florida Gators. I will always choose a booth at a restaurant, because the conversation is just better. Finally, I’m rediscovering my love of reading – how could you not, surrounded by so many awesome books! I lean towards Sci Fi / Fantasy and humorous memoirs, but will always take a recommendation.

Spotlight on FOL Volunteers

Bill Burk and April Clark

Position: Table Coordinators

Background: Bill Burk grew up in the Ozark Mountains of southern Missouri. After graduating from Ava High School, Bill worked various jobs, including construction worker and high school and college teacher. Bill and his family moved to Gainesville in 1976. As a Child and Family Development Specialist at the University of Florida, Bill often worked with 4H clubs around Florida. About eleven years ago, Bill joined FOL after encouragement from his neighbor Elizabeth Waite, a long time FOL volunteer. Most days, Bill can be found at the Bookhouse preparing at least one of the many tables he coordinates: Psychology, Health and Fitness, Western Fiction, Communication, Folk Lore/Mythology, Parenting, and Anthropology/Archeology. Because there are so many “Bills” at the Bookhouse, Bill Burk began answering to Virgil, his maternal grandfather’s name.

At age fifteen, April Burk arrived in Gainesville with her family. She grew up loving reading and going weekly to the library with her father Bill and her siblings. April is a graduate of Gainesville High School, where she excelled in the Cooperative Business Education program. April has been a freelance writer and editor and has worked at Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Corner Drug Store, and UF’s Theatre Department. April recently retired as School Administrator from Jordan Glen School.

April and her husband Sam Clark now make their home in Archer. When her youngest was in preschool, she often came to the Bookhouse to visit her dad, who got her interested in volunteering. Today she works with the teen fiction and children’s classics areas of the Young Adult table. April says volunteering with her dad at FOL is a fun way for them to spend time together. She loves being greeted by her dad with a hug and “Hey, favorite first born!”
life changing experience libraries provide to both children and adults. He also provided several examples of the profound impact libraries have had in researching and resolving critical agricultural issues. Throughout recorded history, libraries - particularly research libraries - have been a key component in assuring a steady food supply for individuals and communities around the world.

The business meeting began with the treasurer's report presented by Beverly Bartlett. The 2018-2019 budget was presented and approved by the membership. Anna Langford and Patti Williams presented the slate of officers. It was approved unanimously. The officers for 2018-2019 are:

President P. J. van Blokland
Vice President Ellen Smith
Recording Secretary Doris Harvey
Corresponding Secretary Oebm Bendrah
Treasurer Beverly Bartlett
Assistant Treasurer Sue Harms

Beverly Bartlett and Joy Avery recognized volunteers with 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, and 40 years of service. They are:

**Forty Years:** Linda Connell
**Thirty Years:** Carolyn Caracausa, Robbie Davis
**Twenty-five Years:** Becky Davis, Lyn Fort
**Fifteen years:** Betty Roode, Pete Roode, Peter Levine
**Ten Years:** Michelle Benoit, Jayne Lewis, Fred Morris, John Ritter, Judy Ritter, P. J. van Blokland
**Five Years:** Ann Andel, Karen Caraway, Mary Courtenay, Susan Dubinsky, Sue Dudley, Ken Johnston, Terry Shultz, Peter Winters, Kathleen Wobie

**FOL Welcomes New Volunteers**

On August 28, 2018, five new volunteers met to learn about working at the Bookhouse. Please welcome them to their shifts and assist them with any questions. Linda Allen, who plans to work Wednesday mornings, enjoys outdoor activities, reading and crafts. Jim and Mary Freeman, the parents of long-time volunteer Jaime Freeman and avid readers and book collectors, will be working Friday mornings. Monique Heathcock looks forward to working with the books she loves. She hopes that her 14-year-old son will be able to assist her in sorting on Saturday mornings after he has completed FOL training. Also working on Saturday mornings will be Jay Weininger, who teaches at Santa Fe and says that he is a cognitive science guy in the land of Educational Psychology.
Library Partnership Branch – Grand Opening

On Saturday, August 11, 2018, an excited crowd was welcomed to the new Library Partnership Branch. Standing in front of the new facility, ACLD Director Shaney Livingston welcomed those attending the Grand Opening of this newest county library building.

After an invocation from Dr. George Dix, Pastor of the Passage Family Church, Ms. Livingston described the features of the new facility, recognized and thanked those individuals and librarians who made the new construction possible – and celebrated the project’s completion under budget. Comments were offered by Mr. Ken Cornell, chair of the ACLD Governing Board; Dr. Peter Roode, vice-chair of the ACLD Board of Trustees; and Mr. Stephen Pennypacker, president of the Partnership for Strong Families.

Ms. Livingston recognized the Friends of the Library for sponsoring the new Quiet Reading Room and the ACLD Foundation for sponsoring both the Teen Space and the Snuggle Up Center. Other new features include a large community meeting room, two study rooms, a super children’s area, a media MAKERspace, and 23 public computers, as well Partnership for Strong Families’ new offices and meeting room. After closing remarks and ribbon cutting, library patrons and community leaders were invited to tour the new building.

Joining with the Partnership for Strong Families, The Florida Department of Children and Families, and the Casey Family Program to grow a successful neighborhood resource center, this Alachua County Library District branch insures that citizens benefit from a complete library experience while also having access to over thirty local organizations that address needed community services.

2018 Fall Sale

Friends of the Library’s Fall Book Sale is almost here! Stop by the FOL Bookhouse at 430 North Main Street, Gainesville, FL, from Saturday, October 13, through Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Once again, those in Gainesville and Alachua County, as well as from around the Southeastern United States, are invited to choose from thousands of books, records, art works, CDs, and DVDs from categories ranging from architecture to zoology. Remember that on Tuesday, Oct. 16th, all items are half-priced, and on Wednesday, Oct. 17th, each item cost just 10 cents!

Be sure to visit the Collector’s Corner – stocked with books and other items of local, historical, and special interest. 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 Fall Sale, visit 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.
More Library Partnership
Branch Opening Pictures

Shaney Livingston and P. J. van Blokland

More Fall Sale
Preparations Pictures

Snuggle Up and Read Space

Quiet Reading Room
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 ☐ $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