More Space, More Storage, Same Address

For many years the Friends of the Library book sale led a nomadic existence, dependent on business owners to donate an empty space to use for a few months each year.

In 1989, a permanent FOL home became a reality when the Junior League joined Friends of the Library to purchase and share the building at 430 N. Main Street. For thirty years, the community has enjoyed knowing where they could to buy books and media for very reasonable prices and also where to donate books and other items in support of the county library.

Early this year, the Junior League decided to move from its current location. Friends of the Library board members and other volunteers recognized the value of expanding into the vacated area, reviewed financial resources, and purchased these rooms in July, 2020.

FOL volunteers are currently creating new sales and storeroom spaces. When shoppers next enter the Bookhouse, they will find an expanded sales area and added storage for donations received between sales.

Bag of Books Sale

What do you do when you can’t have shoppers inside the Bookhouse selecting books? At Friends of the Library, you have an outdoor Bag of Books event! During October, 2020, FOL is inviting the community to go online to www.folacld.org and follow the “BOB Sales” link to request Bags of Books. Shoppers can request books from various categories, but will not be able to select specific authors at this time. FOL volunteers will pack books and notify buyers of their personal Saturday appointment to collect their order in the FOL parking lot. The FOL website now has an on-line store to allow purchasers to order and pre-pay.

Bag of Books Sale

What do you do when you can’t have shoppers inside the Bookhouse selecting books? At Friends of the Library, you have an outdoor Bag of Books event! During October, 2020, FOL is inviting the community to go online to www.folacld.org and follow the “BOB Sales” link to request Bags of Books. Shoppers can request books from various categories, but will not be able to select specific authors at this time. FOL volunteers will pack books and notify buyers of their personal Saturday appointment to collect their order in the FOL parking lot. The FOL website now has an on-line store to allow purchasers to order and pre-pay.

Save the Date

April 17-21 – Spring Book Sale

[Click titles or page numbers to see articles]

Letter from the Director........... 2
Foundation Page ................. 3
From the President............. 4
Unusual Year .................. 4
FOL Spotlights ................. 5
Annual Meeting ................ 6
Book Clubs ...................... 6
Bigger Space .................. 6
Service Pins ................... 7
Officers ......................... 7
We Remember .................. 7
Grab & Go ...................... 7
Letter from the Director

As the seasons change, we’re pleased to welcome patrons back to our libraries to browse our shelves for the first time since March. Our next phase in the reopening of the buildings launched on Sept. 28th; we hope to continue safely expanding in-person services in the coming months.

Currently, patrons are welcome to browse during limited hours:

- **M–F–S, 3–5 PM; Tu–W–Th, 3–7 PM**
  - at Headquarters Millhopper Tower Road Alachua.

- **M–S, 3–5 PM** at Cone Park

**Curbside** services will continue:

- **M–S, 10 AM–5 PM**
  - at Headquarters Millhopper Tower Road Alachua
  - at Hawthorne Millhopper High Springs Tower Road Cone Park
  - at Library Newbury Partnership

- **Tu–S, 10 AM–5 PM**
  - at Archer Micanopy Waldo.

**Drive-Thru** Hours will continue at Alachua:

- **M–F–S, 10 AM–5 PM**;
- **Tu–W–Th, 10 AM–7 PM**.

**Computer appointments and copier services** are available at 10 AM, NOON, 2 PM, and 4 PM at all locations on days when curbside or drive-through service is available. As we continue to adjust our services, please refer to www.aclib.us/CurrentServices.

From our Facilities Department to our Public Services Division, our teams have worked together to prepare to welcome the public back safely. All patrons are required to wear approved face masks and complete a health screening, including a temperature check, before entering buildings. Browsing will be limited and seating has been removed to assist us with practicing social distancing. Our meeting rooms and study rooms remain closed. We continue to receive returns through our exterior book drops only and isolate items before returning them to the shelves.

Amid our preparations for reopening, we had several accomplishments to celebrate in September. On Sept. 11th, the Alachua County Library District and Library Specialist Ann Le Zotte received accolades from the Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN). The Library District received the Making the Most of NEFLIN 2020 Award for our dedication to staff training and continuing education. Le Zotte received NEFLIN’s Member of the Year Award for providing inclusive programs to underserved children and teens, particularly patrons with disabilities and the LGBTQ community. I am proud of these honors and I look forward to continuing our relationship with NEFLIN I serve on the organization’s board this year.

This fall, we’re excited to team up with the Florida Museum for the NEA Big Read Alachua County. This community reading program celebrates women in science with Hope Jahren’s memoir, *Lab Girl*. Book discussions, keynote speakers, storytelling events, and more, all relating to women in STEM, are parts of this program, with events through March 2021. The program launched with a virtual look inside the Florida Museum’s labs on Sept. 19 and a book giveaway. I encourage you to participate in the NEA Big Read Alachua County by reading this exceptional book. Learn more at www.aclib.us/bigread.

Our staff members continue to rise to the occasion, trying out virtual programs, launching new offerings, and reviving services each month. The return of the Seed Library program embodies their commitment to restoring and improving resources for our patrons. In September, the Seed Library reopened and expanded to the Library Partnership Branch, making seasonal seeds available at all twelve locations. I’m sure that in this service our commitment to growth and innovation will continue to bear excellent results.
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 Receives $10,000 Ehrhart Grant

The ACLD Foundation recently received a $10,000 grant from the Ehrhart Family Foundation of Venice, Florida. This grant, when added to earnings from our endowment and other income, enabled the Foundation in 2020 to commit $40,000 toward the newly constructed Homework Center in the Alachua Branch. The Center is intended as a place where students will have access to tutors, technology, furniture, and study materials designed to enhance study skills. This commitment is in keeping with the Foundation’s emphasis on enabling the ACLD to better serve the youth of Alachua County.

The Foundation has long received annual Ehrhart Family Foundation grants ranging from $2,500 to $10,000. We are extremely grateful to ACLD Foundation associate member Carol Higman, a member of the Ehrhart family and a board member of their foundation, for her enthusiastic support of our requests for this funding. A sampling of other recent projects in support of the Library District that Ehrhart grants helped the ACLDF fund over the past decade include Snuggle Up Centers and Teen Spaces in the new Waldo Branch (2019), the renovated Tower Road Branch (2017), and the renovated High Springs Branch (2016).
Message from the President

There’s been a lot happening at FOL since our long but necessary closure, which saddened more than just our volunteers. Here are three bits of good news.

1) We are opening for donations to be placed in bins each Monday and Thursday. These bins will then be quarantined inside FOL for a safe period, while new bins will replace them outside. The quarantined bins will eventually be sorted into boxes and stored in our newly purchased area.

2) On October 1st, we started selling bags of books (BOB) for $5 and $10 each. Subjects include young adult, children, paperback and hardback fiction, sci-fi, romance, and mystery. Prospective buyers can link from FOL’s website to select and pay for books. FOL will then contact the buyer to arrange a time for a drive-through Saturday parking lot pick up.

3) FOL has started a “Building Fund” to help pay for our Junior League area purchase. Ask a member of the Executive Committee how to contribute, wait for a letter coming to all volunteers, or check the FOL website http://folacld.org/n_BldgFnd.html.

A Very Unusual Year

An early FOL pamphlet reports, “The Gainesville Friends of the Library was formed in 1954 to wake up the community to the need for improved library funding and services.” Current members of FOL carry on that mission as they support the library and literacy projects in Alachua County.

For sixty-six years, FOL has faced challenges: finding financing for local library and community needs, identifying sites for each year’s book sale (pre-1989) and then securing a permanent site, encouraging membership, training volunteers, and funding library purchases.

This year, Friends of the Library encountered new challenges. Health concerns prevented the Spring 2020 sale. Those same concerns now necessitate a different type of Fall sale. The purchase of the former Junior League Thrift Shop has provided expanded sales and storage areas but – due to the lack of normal sales revenue – has required a mortgage to help pay for that purchase. Our previously open doors have been closed, even as the community is eager to donate items collected during months spent sheltering in place.

FOL’s executive board and various committees have been addressing these challenges.

• Volunteers have worked to adapt the new space and then reallocate the vacated spaces in the warehouse area.

• FOL has launched a two-year $50,000 fundraising campaign to help pay the new mortgage.

• On Monday, Sept. 28, FOL opened to receive books and other items from the community from 9 AM to 2 PM on Mondays and Thursdays ONLY.

• Our first ever Bag Of Books (BOB) sale began accepting online orders on October 1st, with scheduled pick up in the FOL parking lot.

Thank you for your patience during this unusual time.
Position: Building Mechanic

Background: Rick Williams joined the Alachua County Library District’s Facilities Department last year eager to apply his fix-it skills to any challenge.

Rick grew up in Apopka, Florida, until the age of 10. His family relocated to High Springs, where he still lives today. Rick’s aptitude for mechanics appeared early. When he was about six, his father bought him a bicycle. Rick dismantled his gift into dozens of pieces, then reassembled the bike to take it for a ride. His father soon handed over his toolbox for Rick’s use.

Rick attended Santa Fe High School and his talents then carried him into trade careers. Rick built boats in Alachua, started an aluminum contracting business, and worked in HVAC contracting before joining the Library District. Rick, who works primarily at the Headquarters Library, loves the responses he receives from grateful coworkers after he solves their problems. He is a self-professed “sucker” for the instant gratification that comes from smiles and thank-yous.

Working at the Library District has expanded Rick’s knowledge of the resources, programs, and services libraries offer beyond books – from MakerSpace activities to bookmobiles. He enjoys learning about the evolution of libraries each day on the job.

In his spare time, Rick continues to put his tinkering skills to use. He loves building and repairing almost anything and figuring out how and why all things mechanical and electrical work. He is currently undertaking several construction projects, including building his own house. True to his detailed nature, Rick likes descriptive novels like *Game of Thrones* and Neal Stephenson’s *The Baroque Cycle* series. He enjoys High Springs’ close-knit atmosphere and seeing his neighbors at Bev’s Burger Café. While he prefers to stay close to home for barbecues with friends, Rick’s favorite vacation spot is Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

---

Position: Table Coordinator and Membership Chair

Background: Michelle Benoit started out in Maine, went to college in Rhode Island, then served with the Peace Corps in Togo, West Africa. She has worked for a decorator, honing her sewing skills, and spent five years supervising various departments in a bank. Michelle earned an MBA in Boston, but simultaneously had a third daughter, so she says “there went the chance to set the world on fire.” In 1990, she arrived in Gainesville with her husband Richard, a mathematician at the University of Florida.

In 2007, Michelle earned an MFA at UF in costume production in technical theater – “all the stuff that goes on backstage.” Since 2001, she has worked backstage at the Phillips Center. Currently she often is head of wardrobe for touring shows or transport officer for visiting artists.

Michelle travels to make costumes in American summer theater. In recent years, she has worked in western Massachusetts, Utah, New York, Idaho, Colorado, and North Carolina. International trips have included England, France, Ghana, and Japan. “I always cheerfully come back to sixty-or-so boxes to get ready for FOL’s October sale.”

Michelle joined FOL during a sale because it looked like everyone was having so much fun. She now serves as membership chair and coordinates three tables: Drama, Film and TV, and Mass Market Paperback Fiction. She loves being at FOL. “We come from so many different places and backgrounds. I SO miss my mornings at the Bookhouse. I can’t wait to get back to work.”
2020 Annual Meeting

In a year unlike any other, Friends of the Library held its annual meeting with just a few members in attendance — masked and socially distanced. Ballots for officers and for the budget were sent prior to the meeting so members could cast their votes without attending in person.

President P. J. van Blokland led the meeting in the space adjoining the Bookhouse recently purchased from the Junior League. Shaney Livingstone, director of the Alachua County Library District submitted a report describing the many activities ACLD was able to conduct successfully despite the limitations of COVID-19. Plans were presented for the use of FOL’s new space, the creation of a “Bag of Books” sale (instead of the regular Fall Book Sale), and the launch of a two-year $50,000 Building Fundraising Drive to help retire the mortgage on the former Junior League property.

Sue Harms recognized Bookhouse volunteers for their years of service and honored those long-time volunteers who passed on during the last year [See pg 7 for details of these.]

Members were thanked for their continued assistance as Friends of the Library explored new ways to provide books to the community and support the library.

A Bigger Space — A Brighter Day

At the start of its fiscal year on October 1st, Friends of the Library begins a two-year financial campaign to raise $50,000 to support the purchase of the former Junior League area of the shared building on Main Street. The additional space will provide expanded display areas, increased storage space for donated items, and an improved sales area allowing FOL to better serve the community, conduct semi-annual book sales, and support the Alachua County Library District.

Financial gifts from FOL members and from the community will be used to reduce the building’s mortgage. Whether directly by check, through an RMD contribution from your IRA, or other bequest – as you review your plans for charitable giving in 2020 and 2021, please consider making a donation to FOL’s Building Fund. Further information can be found on the FOL website at http://folacld.org/n_BldgFnd.html

Thank you for your continued support of Friends of the Library. Your contribution — no matter the size — will make a difference.

Book Clubs Go Virtual

After a six-month hiatus, many of the Alachua County Library District’s book clubs have now reconvened. Six book clubs are currently available on Goodreads, including the new Diversity Reads Club.

Book discussions are held throughout the month as members chime in at their leisure. The new forum format has been particularly fitting for the Teen/Tween book club overseen by Youth Services Librarian Jessica Miller.

“The asynchronous nature of the book club allows teens to pick up any of the books at any time and then talk to one another in passing or online,” Miller said. “No one has to feel left out because of a full schedule of activities or schoolwork.”

The clubs also include genre groups for fans of crime reads and romance novels and digital versions of branch-specific clubs like the Millhopper and Tower Road chapters. Join a club at www.aclib.us/bookclubs.
2020 Service Pin Honorees

Thirty Years
Louise Yariv

Twenty-five Years
Susan Wellons

Twenty Years
Joan Bearden
Karen Prentice

Fifteen Years
Martha Friedrich
John Tucker
Bill Zettler

Ten Years (con’t.)
Jean Kaufman
Barbara Ullman
William Watson
Beverly Winters
Tony White

Five Years
Zulma Chardon
Nasser Chegini
Marylyn Gresser
Doris Harvey
Jane Larkan
Lynda McKenzie
Barbara Palmer
Joy Rohan
Susan Santa Cruz
Patti Williams
Tom Williams

Grab & Go Services Debut
Across Library District

In the era of Yelp and Google, recommendations hold sway over every decision. From crowdsourcing restaurant opinions to scrolling hobby forums, absorbing the additional input can be more exhausting than helpful. To combat decision fatigue, the Alachua County Library District started a new Grab & Go Service that pairs patrons with their next favorite books with curbside convenience.

Patrons can call any branch and request a bag of books, music, or movies based on their tastes. Staff members will have the items ready for checkout in one hour. Materials are tailored to patron’s preferences by genre (romance, science fiction, mystery, etc.), format (print books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs), and age category (adult, teen, children, etc.).

The new service launched Aug. 3rd with an infomercial-style video starring the High Springs Branch team. High Springs Branch Manager David Fuller said the new service makes it easy for patrons to get materials on their schedules.

“Grab & Go is fast, convenient, and our patrons love it,” Fuller said.

The Library District also added another to-go option in August – Story Time in a Bag. Since branches cannot host popular story time programs in person, children’s librarians created these take-home story times. Each bag contains two picture books, suggested songs, and instructions for a craft for grown-ups and children to do together at home. Themes rotate each week, covering topics such as emotions and friendship. Story Time in a Bag is perfect for children ages 0-6 and ready on-demand.

Next time you’re wondering what to read or looking for something fun to do with your favorite little ones, turn to the library for a quick solution – no decision making required!

2020-2021 Executive Board Officers

President
P.J. van Blokland

Vice-President
Ellen Smith

Recording Secretary
Doris Harvey

Corresponding Secretary
Oebm Bendrah

Treasurer
Beverly Bartlett

Assistant Treasurer
Sue Harms

We Remember

Service Years
Ruby Cox 1988-2018
Helen Duschatko 1994-2017
Jen Miller Featherston 1994-2012
Sandy Mann 2002-2017
Denise Stevens 2005-2020
Hope White 2014-2020
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