



Friends of the Fort Lauderdale Libraries Calendar

December 1, 2010

Board Meeting - Fort Lauderdale Branch
5:30pm

December 3, 2010

1st Friday Special Collection Fair - Main
11:30am – 3:00pm

December 16, 2010

Friends of Broward County Library (Umbrella group)
North Regional/Broward College
Noon - 2:00pm. Call 954-970-8865 to register

January 5, 2011

Board Meeting - Fort Lauderdale Branch
5:30pm

January 7, 2011

1st Friday Special Collection Fair - Main
11:30am – 3:00pm

January 20, 2011

Friends of Broward County Library (Umbrella group)
Northwest Regional Library
Noon - 2:00pm. Call 954-970-8865 to register



100 S. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

December Sponsored Events



December 2, 2010

Kindermusik with Annett Groose
10:30am

December 4, 2010

Chopin Concert
11:30am – 3:00pm

December 6, 2010

Fall 2010 Regional Workshops for Library Friends
Hagan Ranch Road Branch Library, Delray Beach
9:00am - 1:00pm

December 16, 2010

Holiday Open House for the Public
11:00am - 1:00pm

December 17, 2010

Books and Bears
11:30am – 3:00pm

December 22, 2010

Cookie Lady at Teen Holiday Party
2:30pm - 3:00pm



2011 Budget Reduced Another \$600 Million

After two budget workshops and three public hearings the Broward County Commission finally passed a no-frills budget. The library system was reduced by another \$600 million and 18 positions were lost. Hardest hit was Main which will now be open only 40 hours a week and only Monday through Friday. Extensive renovation work makes this a sensible move, but there is concern about reduced services to patrons in the area. Cindy Shuman, Main's branch manager, explains these developments.

Question: What renovations will be made and when will they start?

Cindy: Our building is a unique architectural landmark that sparked the renaissance of downtown Fort Lauderdale but Main is now 26 years old and requires major renovations. Some have been going on for over a year and others will include:

- Replacement of the escalators plus installation of a stairwell between them.
- Surround sound and digital technology will replace the auditorium's current sound system.
- Replacement of windows which has gone out to bid. This project, which could start in the spring, will take some time but will result in new frames and hurricane proof glass.

In addition to the Cybrary on the 7th floor, a second center called Cyber Commons will add 50 public service computers and is currently under construction on the first floor. Each month over 20,000 people log on to use the computers. Main will also continue to offer computer classes.

Other improvements will include replacements to the air handler units, the roof, ceiling and lights on the 8th floor, and wall tiles throughout the building.

Question: What will happen to the many free programs such as SAT preparation, Chopin concerts and art exhibits, some of

which take place in the evening or on Saturday?

Cindy: Many contractors plan to work evenings and weekends so as not to disturb library operations. The Chopin concerts will continue on Saturday afternoons this year, some SAT prep classes will be held at Main and we are exploring holding others at AARLCC as well as weekdays during the summer.

We will continue to have art exhibits and hold the Florida Artist Book Prize in the Bienes Museum of the Modern Book. The Fort Lauderdale Friends of the Library supports a Saturday storytelling series from January through April along with FAU, WLRN and the Museum of Art, where the series will be held.

Question: Eighteen positions is a lot to lose. Will they all come from Main? How will this affect patron service?

Cindy: As of November 1, 2010, the hours at Main Library were reduced to 40 hours ... because of all of the renovations going on. Many libraries undergoing such extensive renovations close completely and then reopen to the public. We will continue to do our best to provide service during this time and hope to have a grand reopening when the building is finished. Some of our staff has been re-assigned to locations struggling with staff shortages. As we go through this period of transition we will continue to strive to meet the needs of our patrons. We have "self-check-out" machines on two floors and our phone system allows the public to call and renew material without speaking to a staff member. We also have the electronic



Cindy Shulman

Consultant's Study

The Broward County Commission has hired MGT of America, Inc., a national public consultant, to study our library system, comparing many statistical measures internally and with other libraries throughout the country. A three-member team was here in July looking at efficiencies by collecting data, conducting interviews and meeting with focus groups. The report will provide County Administration and the Board of County Commissioners input about how to further reduce the library budget if that is deemed necessary. The consultant's report is expected to be available in the next few months.

Broward County Historical Commission

The Historical Commission, created in 1972 to preserve records and artifacts of the county's heritage, will be moving to Broward County Library -- but without any staff or budget. The Historical Commission collects and maintains artifacts and archival materials, holds monthly brown-bag lunch discussions and organizes programs such as annual Pioneer Days. Bob Cannon, libraries director, has said that public access to the preserved materials will remain open and he will attempt to maintain the educational programs.

As a part of the county's budget reductions, the Historical Commission's entire budget was eliminated. They moved into offices in the restored West Side School this past February.

The real challenge will be how to continue with the important preservation work necessary to understand Broward County's history, work that requires a special expertise.

BE A FRIEND - RECRUIT A FRIEND
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www.libraryfriends-ftl.org
to join today.

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Student Addresses County Commissioners

"Take into consideration our teens," FAU student Roldy Roman requested at a meeting of Broward County Commissioners where they discussed the upcoming library budget. He may not have sounded as eloquent as Abigail Adams appealing to her husband John Adams to "remember the ladies," but he impressed at least one commissioner, Kristin Jacobs, who admired his speaking out and identified with his experiences.



Roldy Romain

Romain, who grew up in "what most would consider a ghetto," told his audience that when things started to get too much at home, he hopped a bus downtown to the library. "This was my safe haven, where nothing could bother or hurt me, and I would stay there until the building closed." He was in the library daily and became part of TAB, the Teen Advisory Board. "The work I did there established a sense of purpose in my life. It gave me a goal," said Romain who is now pursuing a bachelor's of science in nursing.

It is still to be determined how funding reductions will affect programs and whether Roldy's plea to "take into consideration the future of our youth," will be possible.



Linda Bedell, Friends of the Library member holding her personalized copy of *Trail of Blood*, greets author Lisa Black (on the right.)

Author & Forensic Scientist Lisa Black Visits Library

The Fort Lauderdale Friends sponsor authors for book talks and book signings. Lisa Black, author of the newly published *Trail of Blood* shared with the audience the interesting background for her book. Not only is she a writer of suspense novels, she is also a forensic scientist in Cape Coral, Florida.

President's Message

As you can see from the articles in this issue, Main continues to face new and significant challenges and is determined to find ways to meet them despite the reduction of staff and resources.

The renovations, some already in progress, will keep all of us challenged for some time to come. Cindy Shulman outlines these extensive changes in her interview on the front page. They will affect everything from access to the building to changed service locations. The staff at Main is trying hard to find solutions that will keep the resources and services intact, even though events or locations may vary from time to time. A good example of this is the Chopin concerts, which will now be presented in the afternoon rather than evening due to the library's reduced schedule.

Your patience, understanding and support will be paramount during this time of change. We can and will come out of this a stronger library and a stronger Friends group and it will be because of how all of us together meet these challenges.

Did You Know?

- Broward County Library is the 9th largest library system in the country.
- 1,282,194 people have Broward County library cards
- 11,158,908 items were checked out last year
- 3,074,198 people used library computers
- Broward County library received \$3,281,776 in State Aid to Public Libraries in 2002 but only \$1,895,120 in 2009.

2010 - 2011 Board of Directors

The new Board was installed at the October meeting.

Co-Presidents



Harriet Buchbinder



Barbara Correll

Vice President



Narda McCarthy

Treasurer



Cathryn Driver

Secretary Open

Additional Information can be found on our website at www.libraryfriends-ftl.org or call 954-357-7415

Freda Mosquera Presents Award at ALA

Freda Mosquera, Youth Services Administration Librarian, had the distinction of serving on the 2010 Selection Committee for the Pura Belpre Award and presenting it to novelist Julia Alvarez on June 27.

Named after the first Latina librarian from the New York Public Library, the award is given to a Latino / Latina writer and illustrator for an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. The Friends of the Fort Lauderdale Libraries enabled Mosquera to attend the ceremony to make the presentation at the ALA Conference in Washington, D.C. She was one of only seven librarians nationwide selected to serve on the committee.

Alvarez, received the award for her most recent novel "Return to Sender," about two children who live in fear of their undocumented parents' deportation. She has also been honored for her historical novel "In the Time of the Butterflies," about the three Mirabal sisters' tragic struggle



Freda Mosquera and Julia Alvarez

against Dominican Dictator Trujillo which was recently chosen by NEA for The Big Read.

James Findlay's Passing Mourned

There was standing room only Oct. 20th at a remembrance gathering for Jim Findlay in the Bienes Ceremonial Room. The much admired director of the Bienes Museum of the Modern Book planned to retire August 1st, but was stricken with lymphoma in early July and died Oct. 5th. He had served as Center director for 13 years and was known nationally, particularly for his work on WPA books, catalogues and exhibits.

Cindy Shulman, Regional Manager at Main Library, and Julie Hunter, Director of Public Services, spoke about his many achievements locally and nationally. Jean Trebbi, former director of the Florida Center for the Book, and Peggy Bing, retired assistant to Jim and secretary of Fontaneda, a rare book society that met at and supported the Bienes Center, applauded his professional accomplishments.

Others offered personal remembrances of Jim. Rafael Rodriguez, his partner of 24 years, thanked those present for joining in honoring his memory. The unveiling of a plaque for Jim on the wall outside an exhibit room followed the gathering.



(A profile on Jim appeared in the Spring 2010 issue of this newsletter.)

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service Ask-a-Librarian. We continue to offer computer classes and will be adding another computer area called Cyber Commons on the first floor.

We continue to need our volunteers and the support of our Friends and Foundation more than ever. Please know how much we appreciate your efforts.

Representative Evan Jenne Honored by Friends

Florida State Representative Evan Jenne, U.S. House District 100, was presented a Legislative Award from the Florida Library Association at the October meeting of the Friends of the Broward County Library, Inc. The Fort Lauderdale Friends hosted the parent or "umbrella" Broward Friends at the event which was attended by 75 people.

Jenne was instrumental in restoring state aid to public libraries during the 2010 legislative session after it had been removed from the proposed 2009 - 2010 Transportation and Economic Development budget. State funds, although seriously reduced in recent years, are crucial to libraries throughout the state and a necessary supplement to Broward's ever-diminishing county funds, the primary financial support for the library.

In accepting the award Jenne stated that he would always advocate for libraries and library supporters. He said he had visited all the libraries in his district, where "the work you do betters your community."



Representative Evan Jenne and Lisa Manners



Are books, videos, cd's, dvd's piling up in your home? Please consider donating them to the Friend's Book Fair. Bring them to Main or call 954-357-7415 for more information.