



FRIENDS OF THE BOCA RATON PUBLIC LIBRARY 2017 FUNDING PRIORITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends of the Boca Raton Library are celebrating their 27th year anniversary with a bang. We are proud of our volunteers who have worked hard to provide outstanding service in the Bookstore and to provide crowd-pleasing cultural programs for the community. We have a long-standing commitment to the library and this year was no exception. We are proud to present our 2017 successes.

- We have a new website designed and developed by Board Member Tracy Wasserman and her daughter Morgan. Check it out at www.bocalibraryfriends.org. The website has many new features that keep our members and friends up to date with our events, programs, newsletters, accomplishments and much more.
- The Bookstore continues to bring in excellent sales with over 30 volunteers working 5 days a week (Tuesday -Saturday, 10am-5:30pm). Manager Joy Fishkind and Assistant Manager Doreen Griffiths have reported robust sales in the store and through Amazon.com. Donations are at an all-time high. The store's newsletter called Coastal Reads has become an effective communication channel for current and new customers. The Bookstore also completed a three-year business plan highlighting a strategy to keep the store a viable entity through increased marketing and volunteer support.
- The Friends donated nearly \$50,000 to the library for programs, events and new technology including:
 - 12 new lap tops for the Discover Studio,
 - Expansion of the Little Makers and Youth Makers programs such as robotics and coding,
 - Summer Reading Program: Build A Better World (with over 3,000 readers enrolled),
 - Book purchases for children's book groups,
 - Purchase of books for Read for the Record: Jump Start was the 2017 book selection,
 - American Girl Dolls (funded three new dolls for the library's free on-loan collection),
 - Foreign Film Festival (featuring French foreign films),
 - Gale Legal Forms (for individuals and small businesses),
 - Library Tea for young readers and their guests,
 - Boca Raton Holiday float.
- We funded \$10,000 for Friends programs and events presented at the library including:
 - The Friends Music and Speaker Series,
 - Art Exhibits at the Friends Art Gallery (Spanish River Library),
 - Book Clubs at both libraries,
 - 2017 membership meeting and brunch,
 - Historic Re-enactment members reception and event, featuring Alexander Hamilton,
 - Wine Tasting - Valentines for Booklovers, an evening of fine wine tasting,
 - 2017 Volunteer Recognition Lunch (for 60 volunteers and some library staff),
 - October Beerfest, a beer tasting event, featuring local beers with author Mark DeNote,
 - Living Voices, an historic re-enactment of the experiences of Irish Immigrants in the early 20th Century.
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- For the first time, we celebrated the National Friends of the Library Week (Oct 15-21). This is a national program promoted annually by the American Library Association to highlight the successes of local library Friends organizations and to celebrate their contributions to libraries across the country. We are celebrated with:

- A Proclamation from Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie for National Friends of the Library Week;
 - Local media spotlights with WXEL, a PBS television station and with our local Boca Chamber Radio (www.bocachamber.com/listen);
 - Annual Membership Meeting, focusing on our library and Friends organization;
 - Annual Membership Drive kick-off;
 - Special sale at the Friends Bookstore;
 - Library banner at the entrance to the Downtown Library;
 - Membership tables at the Library;
 - Visibility throughout the library,
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- Community Outreach:
 - Funded four educational programs at the library for Florence Fuller Child Development Centers - 2 pre-school and 2 elementary;
 - As a non-profit member of the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, participated in its events and programs;
 - Advocated for the library at Boca Raton City Council Meetings;
 - Participated in 2016 Holiday Parade with the library's float;
 - Participated in educational programs sponsored by the Junior League of Boca Raton.