

Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library

Newsletter



April 2026

This spring has been a powerful reminder - especially during National Library Week - of the many ways libraries bring our community together. We've seen incredible turnout at the Book Club Fair, meaningful conversations at our Legislative Breakfast, and a strong debut of our first-ever Book-It 5K Challenge.

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue the momentum with several upcoming events. Tomorrow, we'll gather for our Member Social with National Geographic Explorer George McKenzie Jr. On May 16, we'll welcome families to the Great Big Free Book Fair at the Naranja Branch. And in June, we'll partner with The Miami Foundation to offer nonprofit training sessions on how to leverage the Library's free resources to strengthen their work.

Thank you for being part of a community that believes in the power of libraries to inform, inspire, and connect us all.

Read on for what's new, what's next, and how you can be part of it.

Friends' Exclusive Member Social

STORYTELLING THROUGH THE EYES OF
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER
GEORGE MCKENZIE JR.



**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF EXPLORATION INTO THE EVERGLADES - AN
ADVENTURE THAT SUPPORTS LIBRARIES AND WILDLIFE!**

APRIL 25TH | 5:00 PM | GREEN SPACE MIAMI | 7200 BISCAYNE BLVD



Join us tomorrow, Saturday April 25, for a special Friends Member Social featuring National Geographic Explorer and wildlife photographer George McKenzie Jr. as he takes us behind the lens and into the Everglades. This intimate evening offers a unique opportunity to hear firsthand about his work documenting wildlife and conservation efforts in one of Florida's most remarkable ecosystems.

Hosted at Green Space Miami, the event will include light bites, wine, and plenty of time for conversation and Q&A. As an added highlight, guests will have the opportunity to select up to five complimentary prints from the Library's Romer Collection.

This exclusive event is open to Friends members (and you can become one today for just \$25!), and space is limited.

[RSVP Here](#)



JUNE 2026

NONPROFIT RESOURCE LAB @ THE LIBRARY

BUILT FOR NONPROFIT LEADERS, STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS

In partnership with **The Miami Foundation**, the **Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library** is offering seminars exploring the free tools, resources, and services the Library provides to support your organization.



Nonprofit Resource Lab @ the Library

Join us for a new seminar designed to help nonprofits better leverage the Miami-Dade Public Library System, offered on multiple dates for your convenience. This two-hour session will

feature library experts sharing practical tools to support your organization - from grant research and business databases to workforce training and free meeting space.

We'll also highlight resources for the communities you serve, including mobile outreach, digital access, and lifelong learning programs, along with a brief advocacy training to help you champion the Library's impact.

Westchester Regional Library – Thursday, June 4, 11am-1pm

North Dade Regional Library – Thursday, June 11, 11am-1pm

Miami Beach Regional Library – Wednesday, June 17, 11am-1pm

West Kendall Regional Library – Thursday, June 25, 11am-1pm

[RSVP Here](#)

The Great Big Free Book Fair

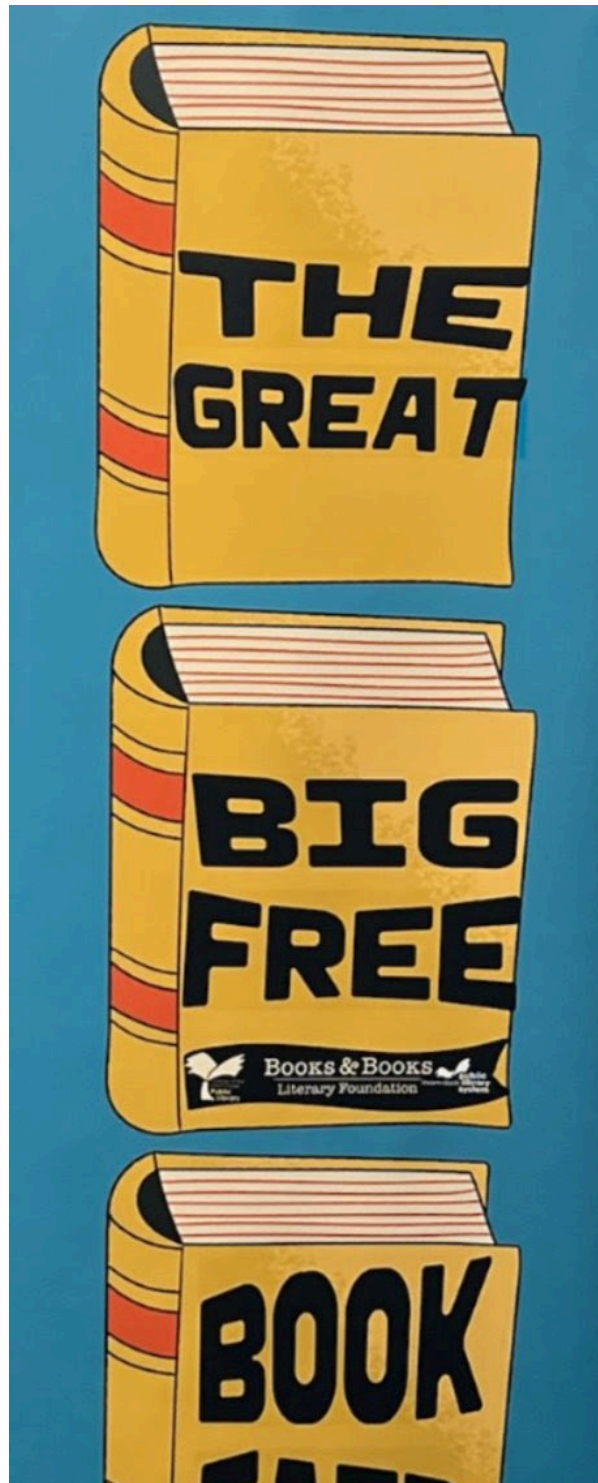
In partnership with the Books & Books Literary Foundation, we're excited to bring the Great Big Free Book Fair to the Naranja Branch on Saturday, May 16!

The morning will feature engaging children's book authors, hands-on arts and crafts, and ongoing activities to keep families connected and involved throughout the event.

Children will have the opportunity to take home brand-new books from our presenting authors, along with additional titles generously provided by the Books & Books Literary Foundation.

Guests can enjoy a welcoming space with opportunities for photos, book browsing, and light refreshments, all designed to create a vibrant and memorable experience for families. No RSVP required.

May 16, 10:30am - 1:30pm
Naranja Branch Library
14850 SW 280th Street
Homestead, FL 33032





The Book Club Fair: A Celebration of Reading, Community & Connection

Our Book Club Fair was a standout moment this April, bringing together an incredible 2,500 registrants for a vibrant day of books, ideas, and community under the palms at Pinecrest Gardens. With 35 vendors, 14 authors, and 8 featured book clubs, the event created a one-of-a-kind literary experience unlike anything else in our community.

From engaging author talks and book signings to a lively Vendor Village filled with bookstores, literary organizations, and creative entrepreneurs, the day was filled with opportunities to discover, connect, and be inspired. Attendees also enjoyed unique experiences like silent reading spaces, yoga, a mobile library, and family-friendly activities - making it truly a day for every kind of reader.

More than just an event, the Book Club Fair showcased the power of libraries to bring people together and build community through a shared love of reading.

Explore highlights and photos from the Book Club Fair on our [blog](#).



Advocating for Libraries: The Legislative Breakfast Recap

On April 7, the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library welcomed community leaders, elected officials, partners, and supporters for our first annual Legislative Breakfast - a meaningful opportunity to highlight the essential role libraries play in strengthening our community.

The morning focused on how libraries serve as one of the last truly free and accessible public spaces, providing critical resources for students, job seekers, families, and seniors alike. Through thoughtful discussion and interactive displays, attendees experienced firsthand the

breadth of library programs and the importance of continued partnership and sustainable funding to support them.

We are grateful to all who joined us in championing the future of our libraries and the communities they serve.

Read more about the event and key takeaways [here](#).



Chef's Table **AT THE HUB**
ADEENA SUSSMAN on
ZARIZ



Chef's Table: Adeena Sussman on Zariz

On Monday, May 4, at 7:00pm, join us at The Hub for an evening of flavor, easy, and Tel Aviv-inspired inspiration with Adeena Sussman as we celebrate her new cookbook Zariz! Sussman will speak in conversation with Mike Solomonov, Chef of Zahav and five times James Beard Award winner.

Get tickets [here](#).

The Hub Miami at Temple Beth Am

5950 N Kendall Dr, Pinecrest, FL, 33156



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY

The Book-It 5K Challenge: A Celebration of Community & Literacy

Our first-ever Book-It 5K Challenge brought together runners, walkers, readers, and community champions for a creative, community-driven event - all in support of the Library.

Together, participants raised an incredible \$8,500 to help expand programs, resources, and access across the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

From standout fundraising efforts to creative routes and team spirit, participants made this event truly special. Whether logging miles individually or as part of a team, every step helped support vital library services, including free tutoring, literacy programs, and community initiatives.

Thank you to our participants, sponsors, and supporters who made this event such a success. Read more and see highlights from the Book-It 5K [here](#).

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

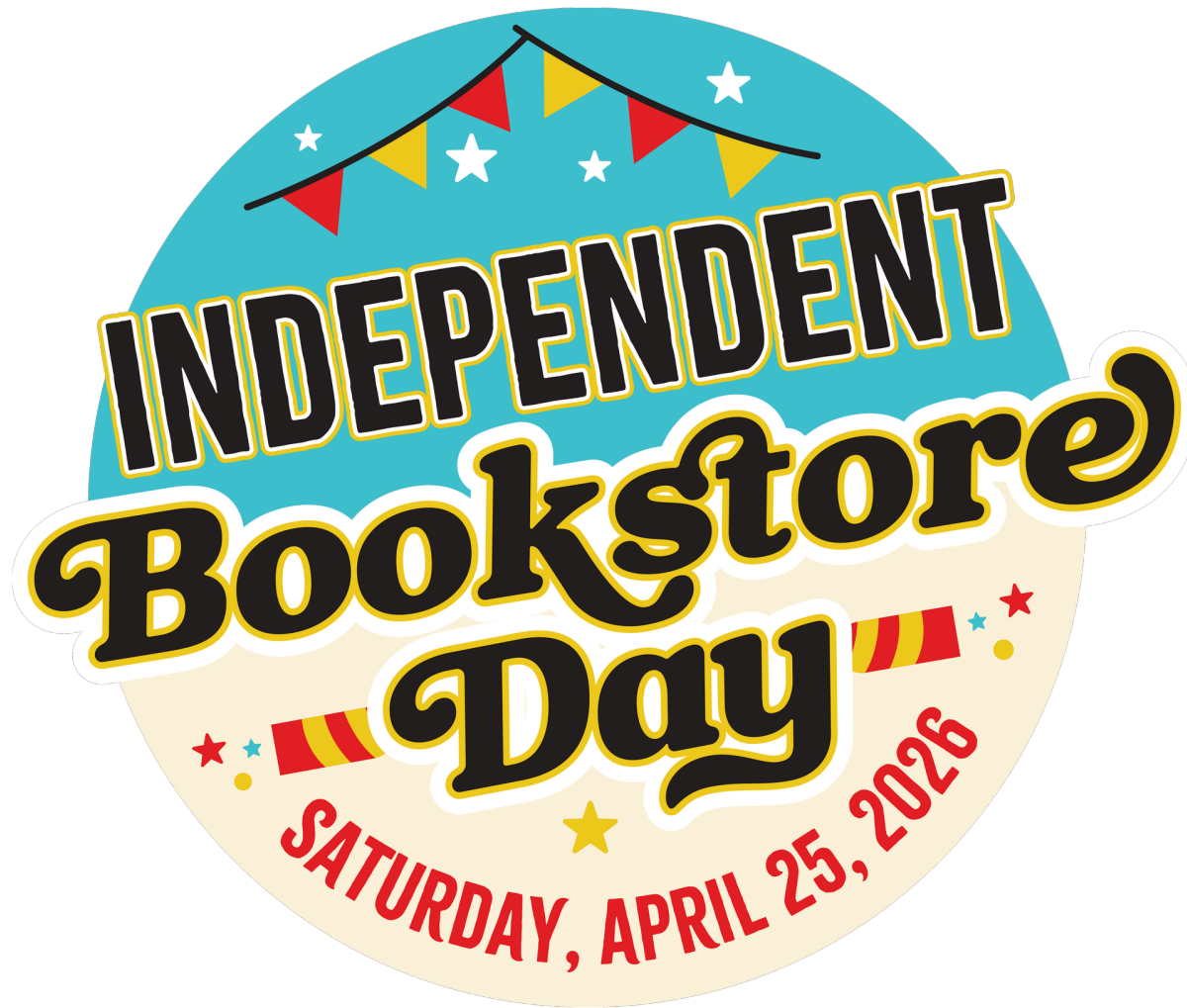
April 19-25, 2026



“Find Your Joy”

Come by this week and share
something joyful about our libraries!





Independent Bookstore Day is tomorrow, and we'd love to celebrate with you on Saturday, April 25! Click [here](#) to learn about the full day of fun, freebies, and family-friendly festivities that show off everything that's best about our local bookstore community.

Our Contact Information

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