

newsletter

FRIENDS OF THE MIAMI DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY

February 2025

Happy New Year! (are we past the expiry date on saying that?) Anyway, thank you to all of the library supporters out there, and we can't wait to show you what's on tap for 2025. We've gotten off to a great start already and there is so much more to come.

COME TO OUR BOOK CLUB FAIR!



Are you in a book club (or want to be in a book club)? Then, the Book Club Fair is for you! Learn tips and tricks on how to run your club from expert [Anna Ford](#), CEO of [Bookclubs.com](#). Join small group round tables led by local Book Club gurus on the ins and outs of book club success. Listen to the experts from [Book Browse](#) on choosing the right book. Browse our fair full of book club booths with fun activities, book related vendors, and of course snacks and refreshments.

Please [register](#) (for FREE!) to run one of bookclub booths or to attend the fair.

Register Now



FIRST ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY EMPLOYEE AWARDS



Please join us in congratulating the seven award winners selected from a pool of 46 library employee nominees. These remarkable individuals are being honored for their contributions to the diverse services and programs provided throughout the county. Each winner has been awarded \$200 along with an engraved plaque, courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Click [here](#) to learn more about these extraordinary individuals!

- *Eleanor Guldbeck Impact Award*
 - Cynthia Saavedra – Youth Services Specialist, Kendale Lakes Branch Library
 - David Hildenbrand – Adult Services Librarian, Naranja Branch Library
- *Julio Castro Innovation Award*
 - Shiham Colegial-Lorenzo – Construction Manager 3
- *Leadership Award*
 - Milena Gonzalez – Branch Manager, Naranja Branch Library
- *Service Award*
 - Adriana (Anna) Blake – Collection Development Manager
 - Daymi Roman – Social Worker 2
- *Teamwork Award*
 - Qiana Robinson, Library Services Specialist (Customer Care)

**LOCAL AUTHOR OF *PINK GLASS HOUSES* PREVIEWS
HER NEW BOOK AT OUR FIRST SIGNATURE EVENT
OF THE YEAR: A RECAP**



Over 50 Friends of the Library attended the [Asha Elias](#) exclusive author event on January 30th at [Santorini by Georgios](#). Over champagne and tapas, Asha gave insights on the inspirations and the journey that led to the publication of [Pink Glass Houses](#). After sharing a sneak peek of her soon-to-be-released novel, [The Namaste Club](#), she kindly autographed

copies of her book. Thanks to our donors support, over \$1,800 was raised to support the Miami-Dade Public Library's free [Homework Help and Tutoring Program](#).



COCONUT GROVE ART FESTIVAL: A RECAP



CGAF Volunteer Spotlight: *My name is Paulina Ros, and I am a senior at Carrollton who has always enjoyed reading and creative writing. As a student and someone who genuinely loves learning, to me the library is an integral resource and an invaluable part of the community. It gives me all I need to expand my*



The Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library hosted a booth at the Coconut Grove Art Festival, where volunteers sold prints and books featuring photography from the Library's Gleason W. Romer collection. The collection, showcasing striking images of



CGAF Volunteer Spotlight: *My name is Paulette Martinez, and I am a senior at Miami Arts Studio's Entertainment Law magnet. Growing up in a primarily Spanish-speaking household, literature has been a pivotal point in my life. From attending book readings at my local Westchester branch to utilizing the*

horizons, from books to journals to language apps that helped me dive into introductory French. I love the library because it is a place where people can discover things about the world and about themselves, and I was so grateful to have the opportunity to work with the Friends this weekend to spread awareness and raise money for all of the library's initiatives.

Miami's history, allowed festival-goers to take home a piece of the city's past while supporting the Library's mission. The booth was staffed by dedicated volunteers like Paulina Ros and Paulette Martinez, making it a community-driven effort that brought the beauty of these historical photographs to local art lovers.

wealth of resources available with my library card, the library has always been a place of community, growth, and success. It was an incredible opportunity to volunteer with Friends of the Miami Dade public library where I not only spoke with members of the community on the benefits of the system but even learned more about the resources provided by the organization.

March is National Reading Month--5 ways you can celebrate with us:



1. Pick up a book and read!
2. Read aloud to children and show them your love of literacy
3. Share a booklist of your recommendations with your friends
4. Join your local book club
5. Post about what you're reading now on social media

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



Want to help? Whether you can offer service hours by assisting at an event, are looking for an internship, or want to join one of our committees (Community Engagement, Development, and Communications) - we always welcome volunteers! You can learn more [here](#).

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



Elayne Norweb is an avid reader with a lifelong love of the Public Library, making it her first visit when she moves to a new city! The Miami-Dade public library has a special place in her heart, as she has been able to share her love of library with her three children through library visits to collect books or joining in the special programming the libraries offer. Elayne's professional career began in New York City in fundraising and advocacy. She took time off to be home with her kids and dedicated her time to events and fundraising for their schools. She is currently working as an event coordinator and fundraising consultant in Miami. Joining the Board of the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library is a perfect combination of her passions.

CELEBRATING OUR IMPACT: RECENT PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS

- **Hispanic Heritage Month:** Supported programs that included topics such as art, storytelling, and dance in celebration of Hispanic Heritage and culture for all ages.
- **Halloween Outreach Events:** Contributed to the information tables at Halloween Community Events such as HowlO Springs, Zoo Boo, Pinecrest Trick or Treat, and provided the Pumpkin Decorating Fun Program with supplies for pumpkin carving.
- **Fall into Winter Reading Challenge:** Motivated young readers to explore new books and develop a love for reading with events that included magic shows, bilingual musical storytimes, storytelling presentations for all ages, and prizes for reading challenge contest winners.
- **Tree Lighting Ceremony at Kendale Lakes Library:** Provided refreshments and activities such as Santa Claus, Stiltwalkers, Face Painters and a DJ for Kendall Lakes Tree Lighting Events.

- **Local Author Series Programming:** Championed author presentations and professional development workshops at branches across the Public Library System.
- **Yoga:** Funded presenters for the yoga programs at the Westchester Health and Wellness Information Center.
- **Mario Kart 8 Tournament Finale:** Contributed to prizes for the MarioKart tournament top winners.
- **Healthy Snacks:** Provided refreshments for the children's cooking program series at the Westchester Health and Wellness Information Center, the Party Girl Movie themed movie screening, the Monster Ball, the Teen Volunteer Fair, the Fiesta Latina at the Sunset Branch Library, and Grinchmas.
- **Library Card Design Contest for Teens:** Supported the finale celebration held at the Westchester Regional Library with refreshments and prizes for this annual event.

Why Do You Love the Library?

We all have our story for why we love the library - if you'd like to share yours [please upload it here](#).



Why Do You Love The Library?

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

We regularly update our social channels. Please follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), and [X](#) @friendsofmdpl to stay in the loop.



Our Contact Information

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