

Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library

Newsletter



October 2026

Thanks to your generosity, the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library continues to champion our libraries and the communities they serve. From advocating for library funding to putting thousands of books into children's hands, your support makes this work possible. In this issue, we share the impact we're making together, celebrate our community partnerships, and highlight ways to help our libraries thrive.

Inside this issue:

- [Amendment 3](#): why it puts library services at risk
 - [Town Hall](#): join the Friends on Wednesday, October 21st to discuss Amendment 3 and its potential impact on our libraries
 - [Late at the Library](#): a full day honoring Mychal Threets
 - [My First Library Card](#): the UNIQLO design contest
 - [Give Miami Day](#): how to become a Champion for our libraries
 - [Key Biscayne Legacy Brick Campaign](#): a lasting way to give back
 - [Back-to-School Drive](#): 8,000 free books delivered to children
 - [Annie Jacobsen](#): highlights from an evening with the author of Biological War: A Scenario
 - Meet a Friend: Shelby Goldberg Quick
 - In the News: recent media coverage featuring the Friends
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Keep Libraries Funded

**LOVE YOUR LIBRARY?
VOTE LIKE IT.
VOTE NO ON
AMENDMENT 3.**



VOTE NO | FLORIDA AMENDMENT 3

Amendment 3: A Threat to Our Libraries And Local Services

Proposed property-tax changes under Amendment 3 could reduce funding for the essential local services our communities rely on every day, including libraries, law enforcement, fire rescue and emergency medical services, 911 and emergency management, parks and recreation, road repair, stormwater and flood protection, public transit, and senior and youth programs.

For Miami-Dade's libraries, the projected impact is significant: more than 30% of library funding could disappear in the first two years, putting at least 10 of the system's 50 branches

at risk of closure. More than 250 library jobs could also be lost, and funding for books and programming could be cut in half.

Those who protect and serve our communities are sounding the alarm, from police and firefighters to parks and public works. Join the Friends on Wednesday, October 21 for a Town Hall discussion about Amendment 3 and its potential impact on our libraries and local services.

Here are three ways to get involved and help protect our libraries:

[Pledge To Vote NO](#)

[Attend Our Town Hall](#)

[Volunteer For The Campaign](#)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026



MYCHAL THREETS

*Two celebrations.
One joyful day.*

10AM – 2PM

THE GREAT BIG FREE BOOK FAIR

Culmer/Overtown Branch Library

In collaboration with the Books & Books Literary Foundation, this event includes free children's books, book signings, food, & more.

&

7:30PM – 11PM

LATE AT THE LIBRARY

Growing Library Joy



Coral Gables Branch Library

★ Mychal is the 2026 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Awardee for his contributions to literacy and libraries



Learn More
www.friendsofmdpl.org



Saturday, November 7: A Big Day for Library Joy

On Saturday, November 7, we'll celebrate the power of libraries, literacy, and community at [Late at the Library: Growing Library Joy](#), our annual benefit at the Coral Gables Branch Library. This year, we're honoring [Mychal Threets](#), beloved librarian and national library advocate, with the [Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award](#) for his contributions to literacy and libraries. Last year's event sold out, so reserve your tickets soon!

Can't join us in person? You can still be part of the celebration! Our online silent auction will be open to everyone [here](#) on November 1, 9:00am until November 7, 10:00pm. whether or not you attend the benefit. We're also looking for volunteers to help make this special day a success. Sign up to volunteer [here](#)!

The celebration begins earlier that day with the Great Big Free Book Fair at the [Culmer/Overtown Branch Library](#). Presented by the Friends and the Books & Books Literary Foundation, this free family event will feature special guest authors Mychal Threets and [Tico Armand](#), story times, signed books, arts and crafts, and - most importantly - free books for every child who attends.

From helping young readers discover the joy of owning a book to celebrating the people who champion libraries, it's a day that captures what our mission is all about.

Reserve Your Ticket



The winning design will feature on a limited edition library card and 10,000 tote bags distributed at local hospitals in partnership with UNIQLO and the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library.



www.friendsofmdpl.org/uniqlo

Help Welcome Miami-Dade's Youngest Readers

What if your artwork became a child's first connection to the library?

The Friends and the Miami-Dade Public Library System have partnered with UNIQLO on the My First Library Card & Tote Bag Design Contest, inviting Miami-Dade County residents ages 13 and older with a library card to submit original artwork. The winning design will appear on a limited-edition library card and a co-branded UNIQLO tote filled with newborn essentials and library and community resources for families at hospitals across the county.

The winner will also receive a \$500 UNIQLO gift card. Entries are open October 1–31, 2026.

Get the Details and Enter



Be a Give Miami Day Champion!

Love your library? Help us spread the word!

Thursday, November 19, is just around the corner! Give Miami Day is one of the Friends' largest fundraisers, helping us champion the Miami-Dade Public Library System and support the libraries our community depends on.

We're looking for Give Miami Day Champions to help spread the word, inspire others to give, and build momentum for this important day of giving. All you need to do to be a champion is

text FIVE friends your page link - easy peasy!

Sign up today and help us make this Give Miami Day count!

Become a Champion

BUILDING OUR NEW LIBRARY

ONE BRICK AT A TIME

BE PART OF SOMETHING LASTING.





Key Biscayne Legacy Brick Campaign: Leave a Lasting Mark

As the Key Biscayne Branch Library begins a new chapter, the Friends invite you to become part of its story through the Key Biscayne Legacy Brick Campaign.

An engraved brick can honor your family, celebrate someone special, or express your love for libraries. Each \$500 brick will become part of the walkway leading to the entrance of the rebuilt branch - and will support both the branch and the Friends' broader work across all 50 Miami-Dade Public Library System locations.



8,000 Free Books. 14 Events. One Big Community Effort.

A strong school year starts with access to books and resources - and this year, our community showed up in a big way. Through 14 back-to-school events, the Friends helped put more than 8,000 free books into the hands of children and teens across Miami-Dade County.

Made possible through community partnerships and the support of local leaders, these events helped young readers build their home libraries while connecting families with library cards and valuable community resources.

Every book is an opportunity to spark curiosity, build confidence, and nurture a lifelong love of reading. Thank you to the partners, volunteers, and supporters who helped make this community-wide effort possible.

Want to help put more books into young readers' hands? You can donate gently used books directly to the Library! Drop off book donations at any [Miami-Dade Public Library branch](#). Every book can help connect a reader with their next favorite story.

[Read More](#)



A Night of Big Questions for Annie Jacobsen

What can we learn from the people and ideas shaping our world? Friends members and guests gathered for a thought-provoking evening with acclaimed journalist [Annie Jacobsen](#), author of *Biological War: A Scenario*, whose work explores national security, science, and the possibilities and consequences of emerging technologies.

The event offered an opportunity to engage with big questions, hear from a compelling voice, and connect with fellow readers and curious minds. It was another example of how the Friends bring people together through meaningful literary experiences - and how library supporters can find community well beyond the bookshelves.

[Read More](#)



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Shelby Goldberg Quick



Libraries have held a special kind of magic for me ever since I was a little girl. Every time I walk into one, I'm filled with a sense of nostalgia that feels like coming home. The quiet rustle of turning pages, the comforting scent of old books, and the opportunity to pause and be transported into another world through literature is a feeling unlike any other.

As a Miami native, I grew up visiting the South Beach Branch, and it was incredibly meaningful to get my daughter her very first library card at the Brockway Library when she was 18 months old. It felt like passing along a tradition that has brought me so much joy throughout my life.

Being a Friend of the Library has been such a rewarding experience. I love attending the wonderful events hosted by the Friends and the different library branches, and I'm grateful to be part of a community that celebrates reading, learning, and lifelong curiosity.

Good Company. Great Perks. A Cause That Matters.

Meet Shelby Goldberg Quick, one of our Friends members! Like Shelby, you can be part of a community that celebrates libraries while enjoying unique experiences along the way.

From free Mahjong 101 classes and private tours of the Library's art collection to author events and member socials, Friends members enjoy special opportunities to connect with fellow library lovers - all while supporting the Miami-Dade Public Library System. Membership starts at just \$25 a year.

Become a Member

In The News

The Friends' work to champion libraries and strengthen our community has been featured across local and regional media. Explore recent coverage of our advocacy, programs, and partnerships.

Advocating For Our Libraries:

- [WLRN: Florida Property Tax Reform Could Affect Libraries, Homesteads and Rentals](#)
- [Coconut Grove Spotlight: Does Florida's Property Tax Reform Threaten Local Libraries?](#)
- [Islander News: Property Tax Referendum Coverage](#)
- [Islander News: The Next Chapter of the New Library Won't Be Rewritten by Amendment 3](#)
- [CBS News Miami: Impact of Amendment 3 on Miami-Dade County's Public Library System](#)

- [CBS News Miami: Amendment 3 and the Miami-Dade Public Library Budget](#)

Conversations About Books and Families

- [The Miami Book Hub, Episode 33: Marylynne Schwartz, President of the Friends of MDPL](#)

Celebrating Libraries and Community Partnerships

- [Islander News: Bringing a Library to Key Biscayne, Part Two](#)
- [Miami Herald: UNIQLO Design Contest Coverage](#)
- [Miami New Times: UNIQLO Announces Opening Dates for Two Miami Stores](#)
- [Community Newspapers: School Board Member Roberto J. Alonso and Senator René García Host Back-to-School Giveaway](#)



Our Contact Information

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