

newsletter

FRIENDS OF THE MIAMI DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY

May 2025

Thank you for being a Friend! Since our last newsletter, the Friends hosted our inaugural Book Club Fair with over 500 bookclubbers visiting our booths and engaging in roundtables. We also participated in community events around Miami-Dade County including A Night In D9, the May meeting of the Woman's Club of Coconut Grove, and the Eden Grinshpan cookbook event at Beth Am. Now we turn our focus to the Summer Reading Challenge and the Late at the Library: Beyond Books Benefit in October.

Keep reading to learn more about upcoming events, what we've been up to, and how we've been supporting the library!

You are invited to celebrate our 51-year legacy of supporting Miami-Dade
County's Public Library System

Late at the Library

THE BEYOND BOOKS BENEFIT



SATURDAY

10.11.25

7:30 PM

CORAL GABLES BRANCH LIBRARY

We invite all Lifelong Learners, Community Supporters, and Bookworms to join us for an evening to remember with food, refreshments, conversation, a silent auction, and special guests. This event is the Friends' biggest fundraiser of the year and we are counting on your support. We are seeking sponsors, silent auction donations, and attendees - click [here](#) to learn more.

Want to volunteer to help with the event? Please fill out this [form](#) and select the Development Committee.

Register Now



The Friends recently launched four [volunteer committees](#) and are looking for members.

Development: Help plan our Benefit and our Give Miami Day strategy.

Community Engagement: Plan smaller quarterly events, liaison with existing community groups, and advocate for our library system.

Communications: Manage our social media strategy and execution, assemble newsletters like this one, help with public relations, work on website updates, help with graphic design and ad management.

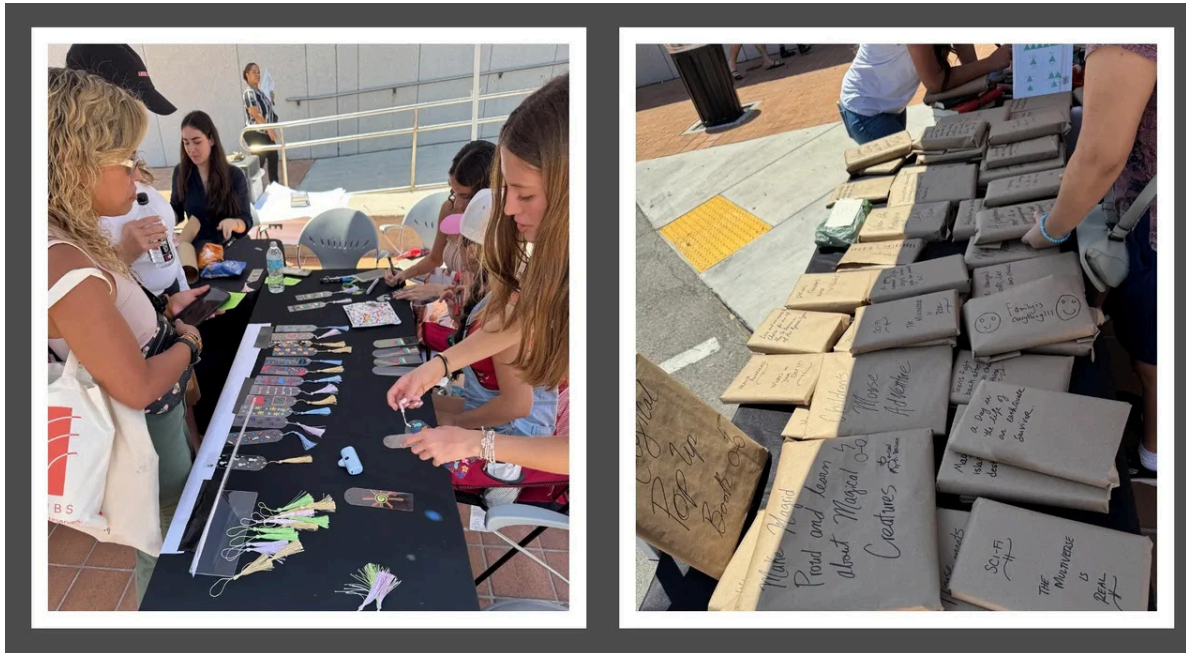
Youth Advisory: For young leaders, help advise on programs and initiatives, advocate for youth needs, and serve as ambassadors for the Friends.

We will be having an **All-Hands Meeting** on Monday, May 19th at 6pm at the Coral Gables Branch Library. This meeting will be a great opportunity to learn about our committees and select the one that best fits your skills and interests. Please email friends@friendsofmdpl.org if you plan to attend.

The Book Club Fair: A Recap

On Saturday April 12, the Friends hosted the inaugural Book Club Fair. This free community event, held at the [Westchester Regional Library](#), had over 500 attendees and gave book lovers the opportunity to hear engaging speakers, browse bookish vendors, learn about the ins and outs of running or joining a book club, participate in round tables led by local book club experts, meet fellow bibliophiles, and participate in a blind book swap.

One of our sponsors, [Bookclubs.com](#), is offering all Friends a 20% discount on Bookclubs premium with code MIAMI20 and 1:1 assistance with a club set up. [Learn more here.](#)



COMMUNITY EVENTS



A Night in D9: The Friends participated in the resource fair put on by School Board Member Luisa Santos and [Arts Access Miami](#). This free family event celebrated the talent and creativity of local youth and we were happy to be invited to participate.



Woman's Club of Coconut Grove: Friends' President, Marylynne Schwartz, and Committee Chair, Aileen Sabanal, presented at the May meeting and spoke about the history and future of the Friends, followed by a "blind date with a book" book swap.



Eden Grinshpan Cookbook Event: The Friends hosted a cookbook swap at this event hosted at [The Hub](#) where participants could bring a cookbook to trade.

The Friends is always looking for opportunities to be involved in community events. Please let us know about tabling opportunities or if you'd like to have us speak to your club or organization. Email friends@friendsofmdpl.org with ideas and opportunities.

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



Please welcome Jennifer Lee as the Friends' newest board member. Jennifer is a graduate of The University of Pennsylvania and made her career in finance. She is a dedicated philanthropist who, together with her husband, established the Jennifer Joo and Philip Lee Endowed Scholarship with The University of Pennsylvania and the Lee Family Merit Scholarship at Gulliver. Jennifer was on the Host Committee for last year's 50th Anniversary Party of the Friends and was the Presenting Sponsor.

CELEBRATING OUR IMPACT: RECENT PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS

- **2025 Local Author Book Fair:** Supported the annual Local Author Book Fair held at Main Library including paying the presenter fees.
- **Sensory Friendly Programs:** Contributed the presenter fees for branch programs for the year-long Autism Acceptance initiative including music therapy and sensory-friendly presentations.
- **Black History Month Programs:** Paid the presenter fees for branch programs during Black History Month including a black history-themed cooking class, a percussion workshop, theatre programs, several art workshops, and story time presentations.
- **Women's History Month Programs:** Provided the presenter fees for branch programs during Women's History including art workshops.
- **Home for the Pawlidsays:** Supported Animal Services adoption event.
- **Family Fun Day:** Contributed to holiday library event showcasing library services.
- **Healthy Snacks:** Provided support for food preparation/cooking program.

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

Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library

[101 W Flagler St.](#)

[Miami, FL 33130](#)

7865394481

<http://www.friendsofmdpl.org>

