

Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library

Newsletter



July 2026

It's been an exciting season for the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library as we continue to grow our impact in support of the Library and the communities it serves. In this issue, you'll find:

- A welcome to our first-ever Executive Director, Ava Habif
- Upcoming Back-to-School Resource Drives across Miami-Dade
- A Save The Date for Late at the Library and early ticket information
- The new Key Biscayne Legacy Brick Campaign
- Highlights from our exclusive evening with NY Times Bestselling Author Lisa See, and an invitation to join us for a VIP book signing with Annie Jacobsen
- Recaps from our Private Art Collection Tour, the Nonprofit Resource Lab, and the Great Big Free Book Fair

Thank you for being part of the Friends community. Read on to see what we've been up to - and what's coming next!

The Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library

Executive Director



AVA HABIF



Friends Welcomes First-Ever Executive Director

We're excited to share a major milestone for the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library! Ava Habib has joined the organization as our first-ever Executive Director, marking an important new chapter as we expand our efforts to support the Library through fundraising, advocacy, and community engagement. Made possible through the generous support of the Knight Foundation, this new leadership role will help strengthen partnerships, grow philanthropic support, and advance the Friends' mission for years to come.

Read more about Ava's appointment and what this milestone means for the future of the Friends on our blog by clicking the link below.

[Learn More](#)



Back To School Resource Drives Are Here!

The Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library is proud to once again partner with Miami-Dade County Commissioners to help children and families prepare for a successful school year. Throughout the summer, we'll be participating in Back-to-School Resource Drives across Miami-Dade County, where we'll distribute thousands of free books alongside backpacks, school supplies, and other essential resources.

These community events are a wonderful opportunity to help children build their home libraries and start the school year excited to read and learn. We hope you'll stop by one of this year's events to say hello, pick up a book, or volunteer to help!

Upcoming events include:

- Saturday, July 18, 10a-1p at [North Trail Park](#)
- Friday, July 24, 10a-1p at [Live Like Bella Park](#)
- Saturday, July 25, 7a-2p at [Henderson Park](#)
- Wednesday, July 29, 6p-7p at [Greynolds Park](#)
- Friday, July 31, 10a-12noon at [Hialeah-Miami Lakes High School](#)
- Saturday, August 1, 10a-2p at [Westwind Lakes Park](#)
- Tuesday, August 4, 6p-8p at [Millers Pond Park](#)

- Friday August 7, 9a, 5p at [Victor Wilde Park](#)

Visit our calendar to stay up to date on this year's schedule, locations, and ways to get involved.

[Visit Our Calendar](#)



Save The Date: Late at the Library Returns November 7

Mark your calendars! Our signature fundraising event, Late at the Library: Growing Library Joy, returns on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at the Coral Gables Branch Library. Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating 52 years of supporting literacy, access, and community connection through the Library.

Tickets are now on sale, and we encourage you to reserve your spot early. Friends members receive exclusive early access and savings, including **\$50 off for the first 100 tickets purchased** with promo code **EARLYBIRD**.

[Reserve Your Ticket](#)

BUILDING **OUR NEW** **LIBRARY** **ONE BRICK AT A TIME**



BE PART OF SOMETHING LASTING.



Leave Your Legacy at the New Key Biscayne Branch Library

As the Key Biscayne Branch Library begins an exciting new chapter, you have a unique opportunity to become part of its future. The Friends is proud to launch the Key Biscayne Legacy Brick Campaign, inviting community members to purchase personalized engraved bricks that will be installed along the walkway to the new library entrance.

Whether you choose to honor your family, celebrate a loved one, or show your support for the library, your engraved brick will become a lasting part of a place that has served - and will continue to serve - the Key Biscayne community for generations. Proceeds from the campaign will benefit the new Key Biscayne Branch Library and support the Friends' mission to strengthen libraries throughout Miami-Dade County.

Purchase Your Brick



An Evening with Lisa See and Annie Jacobsen - and More to Come

This summer, the Friends launched an exciting new partnership with Books & Books, offering members exclusive opportunities to meet bestselling authors in an intimate setting before their public presentations. Our inaugural event featured New York Times bestselling author Lisa See, who shared the inspiration behind her newest novel, *Daughters of the Sun and Moon*, answered questions from members, and signed books following the conversation.

The series continues on August 5 with acclaimed investigative journalist and bestselling author Annie Jacobsen, who will discuss her latest book, *Biological War*. Friends members enjoy exclusive meet-and-greet access, book signings, and reserved seating for these special events.

Read our [recap of the Lisa See event on our blog](#) and reserve your spot for Annie Jacobsen today using the button below!

JOIN US
FOR AN EXCLUSIVE FRIENDS' EVENT

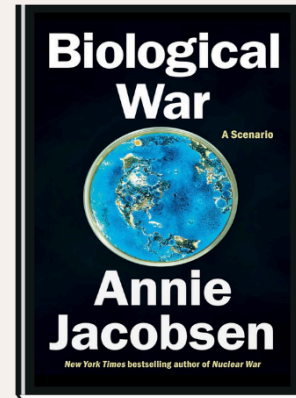
Annie Jacobsen

AUGUST 5TH, 2026
6:00PM

Books & Books Coral Gables
265 Aragon Avenue

Your Ticket Includes:

Reserved book launch seating
VIP queue at book signing
Light bites and drinks
Free with Membership



Books & Books

Reserve Your Spot



Behind the Scenes: Exploring the Library's Art Collection

In June, Friends' members enjoyed a special behind-the-scenes tour of the remarkable art and archival collections at Main Library. Participants explored highlights from the Library's

Permanent Art Collection, which includes more than 7,000 works by acclaimed local, national, and international artists, and gained rare access to the Vasari Project and the Special Collections & Archives Division.

The day concluded with a presentation and hands-on workshop inspired by *Piecework Legacies: Experimental Quilting in South Florida*, offering members a unique opportunity to engage directly with the Library's cultural programming and collections.

Read more about this special members-only experience - and learn how to become a Friend to attend future events - on our blog.

[Read Our Blog Post](#)



Supporting Miami-Dade's Nonprofit Community

In partnership with The Miami Foundation and RSA Consulting Group, the Friends recently hosted the Nonprofit Resource Lab, a series of workshops designed to help nonprofit professionals strengthen their organizations. Participants explored free library resources - including grant research tools, meeting spaces, technology, and professional development opportunities - and received practical guidance on nonprofit advocacy and government relations.

Read our [blog](#) to learn more about the workshops and click the link below to discover the many free resources available through the Library.

[Free Library Resources For Nonprofits](#)



The Great Big Free Book Fair Brings Reading to Life

Families from across Miami-Dade gathered at the Naranja Branch Library this spring for another successful Great Big Free Book Fair, where children explored thousands of free books, enjoyed arts and crafts, and met children's author Sara Echenique during a special Storytime and book signing. More than a book giveaway, the event celebrated literacy, community, and the joy of reading while helping families build their home libraries.

Thank you to our partners at the Library and the Books & Books Literary Foundation, as well as our volunteers and supporters, for making this memorable day possible.

Read our full recap on our blog and stay tuned for the announcement of our next event!

[Read Our Blog Post](#)

Our Contact Information

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