

Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library

Newsletter



February 2026

Spring is full of stories, celebration, and community at the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library. From our upcoming [Book Club Fair](#) and the [Book-It 5K Challenge](#) to volunteer gatherings and unforgettable author events, there are so many ways to connect, give back, and celebrate the power of libraries.

This quarter, we're also sharing highlights from recent events - including our evening with bestselling author **Alka Joshi** and the incredible impact of the **Great Big Free Book Fair** - plus a special spotlight on one of our dedicated members.

Read on to join us for what's new, what's next, and how you can be part of it all!

BOOK CLUB FAIR

APRIL 11, 2026

Join us for a literary festival celebrating stories, authors, and the vibrant community that gathers around books.



PINECREST GARDENS
10AM - 3PM



The Book Club Fair Is Almost Here - Register Now!

Spend the day surrounded by stories, ideas, and fellow book lovers at our upcoming Book Club Fair - a lively celebration of reading and the community that keeps it thriving.

This free, all-day event brings together bestselling authors, local book clubs, literary organizations, and vendors for conversations, panels, shopping, and discovery. Featured speakers include Brad Meltzer, Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney, Meg Shaffer, along with genre panels in mystery, fiction, romance, and immigrant stories. The day also includes our vendor village (with lots of fun activations), yoga on the patio, and author book signings. Read more about the full lineup and schedule on our [blog](#).

Most importantly, be sure to register for free admission and to purchase author talk tickets.

[Register Here](#)



Join us for the Book-It 5K Challenge

A VIRTUAL RACE CELEBRATING FITNESS, LITERACY, AND THE POWER
OF LIBRARIES TO CONNECT US ALL

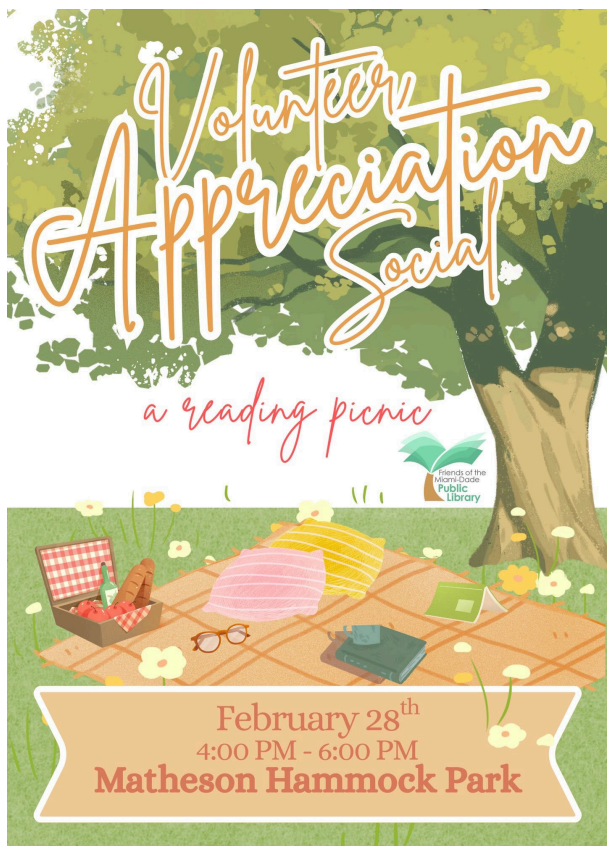
Join Us For The Book-It 5K Challenge

Calling all runners, walkers, readers, and community champions - every step supports the Library!

It's not too late to join our Book-It 5K Challenge, happening March 1–8, 2026. This virtual race celebrates fitness, literacy, and the power of libraries to connect us all. Participation is free — simply register, complete your 5K anywhere, and invite friends and family to support your run.

Every mile logged helps fund essential programs like free homework help and tutoring, adult literacy classes, cultural programming, and mobile device lending.

[Register Here](#)

The graphic features a large tree with green foliage in the background. The title 'Volunteer Appreciation Social' is written in a large, orange, cursive font. Below it, 'a reading picnic' is written in a smaller, red, cursive font. At the bottom, there is an illustration of a picnic setup on a checkered blanket, including a picnic basket, a pink pillow, a green book, and a pair of glasses. A small logo for 'Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library' is visible near the tree. A banner at the bottom of the graphic contains the event details.

Volunteer Appreciation Social
a reading picnic

February 28th
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Matheson Hammock Park

EVENT DETAILS

WHEN + WHERE
SAT FEB 28 - 4:00-6:30 PM
MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK
MEET BY THE CORAL ROCK SHELTER
Parking as soon as you drive into the park (left side)

HOW IT WORKS
TO ASSIST PLEASE RSVP
WITH YOUR FREE TICKET

RUN OF EVENT
4:00 - 4:15 ARRIVALS
4:15 - 4:25 INTROS
4:25 - 4:45 CERTIFICATE AND GIFTS GIVING
4:45 - 6:30 READING PARTY, BOOK SWAP, BINGO

WHAT TO BRING
YOUR FAVE BOOK TO READ
A WRAPPED BOOK TO SWAP
PICNIC BLANKET, PILLOW AND/OR CHAIR
FEEL FREE TO BRING PREFERRED PICNIC FARE

PROVIDED
LITE BITES & REFRESHMENTS

Volunteer Social - You're Invited!

We are so grateful for all you've done - and all you continue to do - to support our libraries! Please join us on February 28th from 4:00–6:00 p.m. at Matheson Hammock Park for a special Volunteer Social celebrating YOU — our volunteers and Friends.

Whether you've already given your time or are simply curious about getting involved, we'd love to welcome you. Come connect, learn about upcoming opportunities, and celebrate the incredible community that powers the Friends.

[RSVP Here](#)



An Evening with Alka Joshi

We were thrilled to welcome internationally bestselling author Alka Joshi for an unforgettable members-only evening of storytelling and conversation. From behind-the-scenes insights into her Jaipur Trilogy to reflections on her latest novel, [Six Days In Bombay](#), guests were captivated by her warmth and perspective.

The evening featured thoughtful discussion, delicious Indian food and mango lassis, and the kind of connection that reminds us why author events matter. If you'd like to attend special events like this, [membership](#) is open!

Read the full recap on our [blog](#).



The Great Big Free Book Fair Makes an Impact

The North Dade Regional Library was filled with energy and excitement during The Great Big Free Book Fair, presented in partnership with the Books & Books Literary Foundation.

More than 1,200 books were given away to young readers, many leaving with signed copies and brand-new additions to their home libraries. Special guest authors Tico Armand and Ron Magill inspired children and families, reinforcing the joy and possibility that books bring.

The day was a powerful reminder that libraries are living community spaces where children discover that they belong.

Read the full story and see more pictures [here](#).

Become A Member And Be Part Of Our Story!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Corinne Rhyner

The Miami-Dade Public Library System is world class, and it has been a cornerstone in building my home and a life in Miami.

When I first moved to South Florida and was working on my dissertation, I would request books and use the library space to write. Then, it helped foster my children's love of reading at the Coconut Grove branch's story hours. Today, the library system is instrumental to me as an educator, a book club organizer, and as a volunteer with Uplift Literacy.

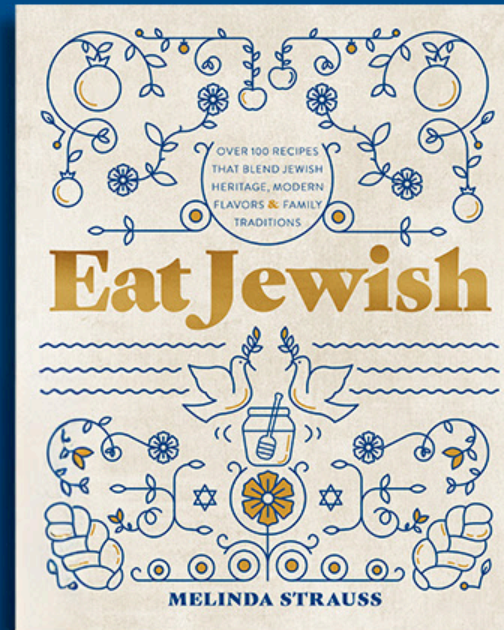
The Library has given me so much and participating in the Friends gives me an opportunity to give back.





Chef's Table AT THE HUB

MELINDA STRAUSS on **EAT JEWISH**



Chef's Table at The Hub: Melinda Strauss on Eat Jewish

On Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00pm, join us at The Hub for an evening with social media star Melinda Strauss that celebrates bringing family and friends together over delicious Kosher-style meals from Strauss's book *Eat Jewish*.

In *Eat Jewish*, Jewish social media influencer and Modern Orthodox Jew Melinda Strauss pairs over 100 traditional and modern kosher recipes with key stories and insights into Jewish tradition, history, and culture.

Stick around following the cookbook conversation celebrating *Eat Jewish* for a Kosher-style dinner, attended by Melinda.

Get tickets [here](#).

The Hub Miami at Temple Beth Am

5950 N Kendall Dr, Pinecrest, FL, 33156



Our Contact Information

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