



Broward Public Library Foundation
100 S. Andrews Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301



NOVEMBER 2026

First Edition

News of Interest from the Broward Public Library Foundation



The Broward Public Library Foundation was founded in 1982 to enhance the collections, programs and services of the Broward County Library beyond the means of public funding. The nonprofit Foundation is the catalyst in sparking private funding and endowments to enrich the Broward County Library system.

SAVE THE DATES

Literary Feast

Mark your 2027 calendars for one of South Florida’s most exciting series of literary events!

Through its signature Literary Feast events, the Broward Public Library Foundation celebrates great books, meaningful conversations with the authors who write them, and the role libraries play in enriching our community—all while raising funds for Broward County Library services, programs, and resources. For more information, email info@bplfoundation.org or call 954-357-7382.

LitLUNCH!

Presented by The Haller Foundation

Friday, February 12, 2027 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Aviva Ballroom, Pier Sixty-Six

LitLIVE!

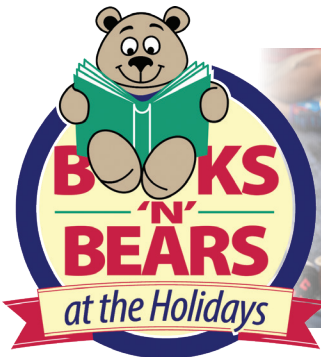
Presented by Nova Southeastern University

Friday, April 9, 2027 | 5:30–8:30 p.m.
Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University

A Night of Literary Feasts

Presented by the Helen Ingham Foundation

Saturday, April 10, 2027 | 5:30–10:00 p.m.
Las Olas Ballroom, The Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort



For 39 years, Books ‘n’ Bears at the Holidays has brought the joy of reading and the warmth of the holiday season to thousands of young children throughout Broward County.

This December, more than 3,000 preschoolers will take part in festive celebrations at Broward County Library branches and child care centers. Through story times, songs, and holiday activities, each child will receive a brand-new storybook and a cuddly teddy bear—often their very first book and bear of their own.

These special gifts do more than create holiday memories. A first book can spark imagination, encourage discovery, and help build a lifelong love of reading, while introducing young children to the library and the opportunities it offers.

This beloved early literacy tradition is underwritten by the Broward Public Library Foundation, with the generous donations of individuals throughout our community and the Florida Panthers Foundation.

To support Books ‘n’ Bears at the Holidays, visit bplfoundation.org/booksandbears.



The Library Foundation's popular Books & Bites series continues this January with author Matthew Pearl and his latest novel, *The Award*.

Books & Bites will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, January 12, at our presenting sponsor location, Belmont Village Senior Living, 1031 Seminole Dr., Fort Lauderdale. The event includes the author's presentation, light bites, book sales, and signings.

In *The Award*, Pearl delivers a dark and witty thriller set in the competitive literary world of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Blending satire, psychological suspense, and a tale of ambition, deception, and murder, *The Award* explores just how far people will go to succeed.

Pearl is a bestselling writer of fiction and nonfiction. His other work includes the nonfiction book *Save Our Souls* and the historical fiction novel *The Dante Club*.

To learn more and register, visit bplfoundation.org/books-and-bites.

Follow the White Rabbit to a Wonderland of Stories

A day of imagination, adventure, and literary magic is in store at the 25th Annual Storybook Festival on Saturday, November 14 at Southwest Regional Library in Pembroke Pines.

This year, the Festival's theme is *Curiouser and Curiouser: Inspired by Alice's Adventures in Wonderland!* The first 1,000 children arriving at the Festival will receive a free book at the Big Book Giveaway. Children are encouraged to come to the Festival in costume and join the StoryBook Parade at 1:15 p.m.



The Fantasy Forest is always a popular attraction – costumed guides will lead youngsters through the enchanted forest to meet Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, and more of their favorite characters. Fantasy Forest tour tickets are obtained on-site the day of the event, with tours scheduled at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Sponsors include the Broward Public Library Foundation, City of Pembroke Pines, the Friends of Southwest Regional and Florida Blue.

The free event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Southwest Regional Library at 16835 Sheridan St., Pembroke Pines. For more information or to make a donation to support the Storybook Festival, please visit bplfoundation.org/storybook-festival.

Shine Bright, Do Good!

The holiday season sparkles as the Broward Public Library Foundation teams up with Kendra Scott for a "give back" event at the Pembroke Pines retail location and online.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, when you shop at Kendra Scott's Pembroke Gardens store and mention BPLF at checkout, the store will donate 20% of your purchase to our organization.

Can't make it in person? You can still support our cause when you shop Kendra Scott online anytime Dec. 5 and 6. Just enter the code **GIVEBACK-MYEQY** and **20% of your purchase will benefit BPLF**. It's a great way to check off some holiday shopping for loved ones (or yourself!) while supporting literacy programming in the local community.

Annual Meeting – New Leadership Installed

Diana C. Verity is the new Chair of the Broward Public Library Foundation Board of Directors. She was installed at the 44th Annual Meeting on Oct. 7.



Diana Verity and Joey Crawford

Verity, a wealth advisor at Miami-based Global Kandor, has served as Vice Chair for the past two years. She succeeds Joey Crawford in the Board's leadership role.

In addition to Verity, the Board's 2026-2027 officers are Vice Chair, Henny Shomar of Tripp Scott; Secretary, Monique Blake, community volunteer; Treasurer Stephen Emery of Citrin Cooperman; Past Chair, Joey Crawford; and At-Large Member, Gregg Goldstein of EMS Consulting Group.



Gregg Goldstein and Bienes Museum Curator, Rochelle Pienn

The Board unanimously voted to install new member Rachel Kantosky, a healthcare technology executive with more than 15 years of experience leading major IT initiatives for health systems, including Broward Health.

Broward County Library Archivist Supervisor Erin Purdy shared information about the upcoming 30th anniversary of the Bienes Museum of the Modern Book at the Main Library.

One Book One Broward 2027

Reflecting on how courage and civic responsibility have inspired justice, resilience, and grit across American history, Broward County Library's One Book One Broward 2027 will feature Charles Portis's classic novel *True Grit*.

The annual literacy initiative encourages readers across Broward to read the same book and engage in community events together.

American West-themed programs will include ArtLit at the North Regional/BC Library, a Pages in the Park Bonfire and Hayride Book Talk at T.Y. Park, as well as a film screening, photography, line dancing, Lunch and Learn Workshops, and system-wide book talks.

One Book One Broward runs January 1 through February 28. For more information about the initiative and related events, visit broward.org/library.

GIVING TUESDAY

Invest in Your Community's Future

Your library is so much more than books. It's a lifeline for job seekers building new careers, a safe place where children fall in love with reading, and a technology hub helping families cross the digital divide.

On Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1, you can keep these vital services strong with a gift to the Broward Public Library Foundation.

Have a donor-advised fund? Recommending a grant to the Library Foundation is a simple, tax-smart way to give. It often takes just minutes through your DAF provider, and all you need is our EIN: 59-2224746.

Ready to give? Visit bplfoundation.org/giving-tuesday or call us at 954-357-8086.

Please remember us in your wills and trusts.

Join our email list: bplfoundation.org/contact-us | @bplfoundation



| 954-357-7382

