



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



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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.

Amendment 3 and the Library

The Broward County Library system is an important part of everyday life for tens of thousands of people across our community, providing free access to books, technology, educational programs and welcoming community spaces.

As Florida voters consider the impact of Amendment 3, which is on the November ballot, many of us have questions about what it could mean for our public libraries. **If this bill passes, the increased homestead exemption of \$150,000 in 2027 would result in an estimated 9% budget cut, or roughly a loss of \$9 million to the library system. The following year as it increases to \$250,000 we would see the budget cut an additional 10%.**

Broward County government, which funds the library system, may need to make difficult decisions about library hours, collections, technology programs, capital projects, and even branches.

To provide context on this issue, the Library Foundation has prepared a website page with information and frequently asked questions. Please take a few moments to review before deciding how you will vote.

Learn More About Amendment 3 and the Library:
www.bplfoundation.org/amendment3

Learn More About Broward County Property Taxes:
www.broward.org/countyfunding

Florida League of Cities Resource Center:
www.flcities.com/propertytaxes



Summer Learning at the Library

Families turned summer slide into summer stride by participating in the Summer Learning Program at Broward County Library this season.

Readers who participated in the 2026 Summer Learning Program logged over 8 million minutes of time spent reading — and kids under 5 years old logged over 37,000 books read.

Participants explored new books, enjoyed cultural performances, and built a stronger community of readers across all ages. The Summer Learning Program encouraged reading all summer long through reading challenges, events, and activities. Youngsters were encouraged to log their reading minutes to win prizes.

The immersive 10-week adventure, with an “Unearth a Story” theme, included a wide range of events and activities from June 1 through August 8 throughout all 37 library branches. The event kicked off with the annual Children’s BookFest event at West Regional Library and continued at various branches with discovery-themed workshops, games, contests, crafts, musical and theatrical productions, programs, reading, and more. The program also incorporated the Florida Panthers Summer Reading Tour, with books read by Panthers personnel and appearances by Stanley the Panther.

Thank you to the 70+ individual donors who responded to the Broward Public Library Foundation Summer Learning Program appeal, as well as the Friends of Broward County Library, Community Foundation of Broward, Charles F. & Esther M. Frye Foundation, JM Family Enterprises, FPL, Florida Virtual School, and Children’s Services Council of Broward County.

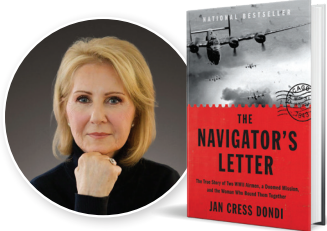
Bringing Literacy to Families Across Generations

With the support of the Florida Blue Foundation, families came to Broward County Library’s Lauderdale Lakes Branch this summer for a 10-week series of cross-generational English literacy learning.

Eighty-three parents and grandparents, along with 96 children between the ages of five to 13, were taught through shared book reading, literacy games, and educational activities, all led by a trained bi-lingual literacy coach. Each English for Families class included literacy games as door prizes and three featured books that each family received copies of to help build their home library.

Thank you, **Florida Blue Foundation**, for making this program possible.

New Season of Books & Bites



The Library Foundation’s popular Books & Bites series returns this fall with Fort Lauderdale’s Jan Cress Dondi, author of *The Navigator’s Letter*.

Books & Bites will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 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.

Dondi’s *The Navigator’s Letter* is inspired by an extraordinary family history that began with letters and documents preserved from World War II. Her research uncovered the stories of those whose lives were forever shaped by the war, including her uncle, a B-17 navigator who became a prisoner of war, and her father, who served as a radio operator with the Army Air Forces.

A longtime litigation paralegal, Dondi brings decades of research and writing experience to her work. Her journey to uncover this story also took her to archives and historic locations in the United States and Europe, helping bring a remarkable chapter of World War II history to life.

Books & Bites is free to attend for Library Foundation members at the \$50 and above level; all others are welcome to attend for \$25 on a space-available basis. To learn more and register, visit bplfoundation.org/books-and-bites.



American Revolution Exhibit In Final Month at Library

If you haven’t yet toured the “American Revolution: The 250th Anniversary Experience,” plan to add it to your calendar this month.

The augmented exhibit, which combines world-class scholarship and 3D technologies, is at the North Regional/Broward College Library through Oct. 5.

Using touch-screen tablets called HistoPads, visitors will step into digital reconstructions of eight defining moments in American history, including the Battle of Lexington and Concord, Valley Forge, and the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

“This was an amazing exhibit,” one visitor wrote in an exhibit survey. “There was so much interesting info in a manageable amount of time. I learned so many details about this period of history.”

The North Regional/Broward College Library is at 1100 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek.

The free exhibit is sponsored by the Broward Public Library Foundation, the Windhover Foundation, BBX Capital Foundation and Broward Health.



Wednesday's Women Book Clubs

The two Wednesday's Women reading clubs are preparing to begin an exciting new season of books and engaging discussions. Participation in the Wednesday's Women Book Club is a benefit to being a Broward Public Library Foundation member at the \$100 Bibliophile level or higher.

To learn more about joining a Wednesday’s Women book club, visit bplfoundation.org/wednesdays-women.

Wednesday's Women reading groups meet in both eastern and western Broward County with two separate schedules:

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN WEST

Meetings take place monthly, the third Wednesday of the month (with the exception of April 2027, which will be held on the fourth Wednesday) from 10:30 a.m. - noon at the Weston Library Branch (4205 Bonaventure Boulevard).

- Sept. 16 ***The Calamity Club*** by Kathryn Stockett
- Oct. 21 ***Lady Tan's Circle of Women*** by Lisa See
- Nov. 18 ***The Names*** by Florence Knapp
- Dec. 16 No Book or Meeting This Month
- Jan. 20 ***The Sweetness of Forgetting*** by Kristin Harmel
- Feb. 17 ***The Women on Platform Two*** by Laura Anthony
- March 17 ***The Midnight Train*** by Matt Haig
- April 28 ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi
- May 19 ***My Friends*** by Fredrik Backman
- June 16 ***We the Women: The Hidden Heroes Who Shaped America*** by Norah O'Donnell and Kate Andersen Brower

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN EAST

Meetings take place every other month from 10:30 a.m. - noon at the Pompano Beach Branch Library (3250 NE 2nd Street).

- Sept. 9 ***The Red House*** by Mary Morris
- Nov. 11 ***All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me*** by Patrick Bringley (Note: This meeting will take place on Veteran's Day, and a separate location is to be determined)
- Jan. 13 ***Whistler*** by Ann Patchett
- March 10 ***Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt*** by Charlotte Gray
- May 12 ***The Correspondent*** by Virginia Evans
- July 14 ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi

Women Making STEAM Lectures

The third annual Women Making STEAM lecture series, being held this month, features a diverse group of South Florida educators, researchers, and creators in the STEAM world. The three-part series will offer online Zoom sessions.

- Monday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m., Dr. Rhona Trauvitch, an associate teaching professor at Florida International University, who specializes in literary STEM, focusing on intersections of literature and science
- Wednesday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m., Dr. Rebecca Clark, an associate professor of geology at Broward College, where she mentors undergraduate students in hands-on scientific research
- Wednesday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m., Dr. Katarzyna Balug, an assistant professor of architecture at Florida International University

The series is sponsored by the Broward Public Library Foundation. For details visit bplfoundation.org/women-making-steam-2026.