



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.



Literary Feast | Save the Dates

Each spring, the Broward Public Library Foundation celebrates the written word and the significance of libraries through its signature **Literary Feast** fundraising events. This series brings together bestselling authors and passionate readers for an experience filled with conversation, community, and charitable giving. Proceeds from the Literary Feast events benefit the Broward County Library system.

LitLUNCH! Presented by The Haller Foundation

Friday, February 20, 2026 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Aviva Ballroom, Pier Sixty-Six

An inspiring and philanthropic women's luncheon featuring a bestselling author. Guests will enjoy a multi-course meal with complimentary wine upon entry, along with a raffle, live auction, and book sales. Sponsorship opportunities are available at bplfoundation.org/litlunch.

LitLIVE! Presented by Nova Southeastern University

Friday, April 17, 2026 | 5:30–8:30 p.m.
Location To Be Announced

The award-winning Literary Feast authors will appear in moderated Fiction, Nonfiction, and Mystery panel discussions, followed by book sales and signings. Free and open to the public. bplfoundation.org/litlive.

A Night of Literary Feasts Presented by the Helen Ingham Foundation

Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 5:30–10:00 p.m.
Las Olas Ballroom, The Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort

The weekend culminates with A Night of Literary Feasts, beginning with a Welcome Reception featuring an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and book signings. At 7:30 p.m., guests depart to dine with one of the visiting authors at restaurants, clubs, or private homes throughout Fort Lauderdale. Sponsorship details are available at bplfoundation.org/a-night-of-literary-feasts.

For more information, email info@bplfoundation.org or call 954-357-7382.

Books 'n' Bears at the Holidays



Through the generosity of donors like you, the Books 'n' Bears at the Holidays program has brought comfort and a love of literacy to thousands of needy youngsters throughout Broward County for nearly four decades.

This season, over 3,500 children ages 2 to 4 will receive a book and cuddly teddy bear just in time for the holidays, and for many, it will be the first book they call their own. This year's featured title is *Where's My Teddy* by Jez Alborough, a rhyming tale about a boy named Eddy who loses his teddy. Books will be handed out during interactive programs featuring story times, songs, refreshments, and holiday magic at library branches and child care centers throughout the county.

Presented by the Broward Public Library Foundation, Broward County Library, and the Florida Panthers Foundation, this program continues to create lasting memories and foster early literacy in our community.

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



Annual Meeting –
A Celebration of Libraries

The Broward Public Library Foundation Board of Directors marked its 43rd annual meeting on Oct. 8 with, in Chair Joey Crawford’s words, “a celebration of possibility...of what happens when stories, ideas, and people come together to build something extraordinary.”

He discussed the Foundation Board’s mission this year: Leading Through Advocacy. “Advocacy ensures,” he noted, “that amid the noise of political uncertainty, the voice of libraries remains strong, clear, and unified.”

In addition to Crawford, the Board’s 2025-2026 officers are Vice Chair, Diana Verity of J.P. Morgan; Secretary, Monique Blake of Broward College; and Treasurer, Henny Shomar of Tripp Scott.

The Board unanimously voted to install new members Soni Laing, Ryder System, Inc.’s Senior Director of Brand Strategy and Advertising, and Allison Rials, who will serve as an ex-officio Board member, representing the Library Advisory Board. Gregg Goldstein, of EM Consulting Group, who joined the Board in September, was also recognized.

Nancy Thies, the Community Foundation of Broward’s Philanthropic Services Executive, presented details of its new report on philanthropy in Broward, “Unlocking Possibilities.”

Make a Smart Investment
This Giving Tuesday

GIVINGTUESDAY

Your library is more than books. It’s a lifeline for job seekers accessing career resources, a safe space where children discover the joy of reading, and a technology hub bridging the digital divide for families who need it most.

This Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2, you can strengthen these vital community services with a gift to the Broward Public Library Foundation.

Looking for a simple, tax-smart giving option? If you have a donor-advised fund (DAF), you can recommend a grant to the Library Foundation directly through your provider; it often takes just minutes and all you need is our EIN: 59-2224746.

Whether you give through your DAF, by credit card, check, or other means, every contribution supports literacy programs, technology access, collections, and services that serve thousands of community members each year.

Visit bplfoundation.org/giving-tuesday or contact us at **954-357-8086** to support your library this Giving Tuesday.

Discover Florida with Caren Neile
at Books & Bites

The first Books & Bites event of 2026, featuring author and performance storyteller Caren Neile, Ph.D., will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 13, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at our presenting sponsor location, Belmont Village Senior Living, 1031 Seminole Dr., Fort Lauderdale.



Dr. Neile taught storytelling studies for two decades at Florida Atlantic University and has shared her work in seven countries and thirteen states. A regular contributor to public radio WLRN, she brings Florida’s stories to life with humor, history, and insight. Her latest book, *Featuring Florida*, explores the state’s identity through TV, movies, and fiction from the 19th century to today. Her upcoming title, *Florida Funny*, will be published later in 2026.

The program includes the author’s talk, light bites, book sales, and signings. To learn more about Dr. Neile and her work, visit CarenNeile.com.

Books & Bites is free for **Library Foundation members at the \$50 level and above**; all others are welcome to attend for **\$25**, space permitting.

Learn more and register at bplfoundation.org/books-and-bites.



Once Upon a Table

At the Tower Club’s recent event, “Once Upon a Table: A Feast of Fairy Tales and Fables”, guests came dressed as a myriad of storybook characters right out of your imagination. The Broward Public Library Foundation was the beneficiary of this annual Charity Classic event. With fairytale-themed drink and food stations spread across the Tower Club’s footprint, this event was a true celebration of imagination, reading, and the library.

Quintessential of the evening’s festivities, Joey Crawford, left, the Library Foundation’s Board Chair and Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Tower Club Fort Lauderdale, along with Andrew Donaldson, and Dr. Rozalia Williams found fairytale magic dressing up as Aladdin, the Mad Hatter, and a storybook princess.



StoryBook Festival –
Follow the Yellow Brick Road

Families who attend this year’s Wizard of Oz-themed StoryBook Festival are sure to find that there is no place like a Broward County library.

Now in its 24th year, the StoryBook Festival continues to inspire a love of literacy in children while encouraging families to frequent our libraries. This year’s event, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15, will feature a fun-filled day of storytelling, book readings, arts and crafts and a book giveaway for the first 1,000 children to arrive.

Children are encouraged to dress in costume and join the thrill of the Storybook Parade. Fairytales will also come alive at the Fantasy Forest where children can meet some of their favorite storybook characters, including Sleeping Beauty, Rumpelstiltskin, Rapunzel, and Little Red Riding Hood along an enchanted path.

The StoryBook Festival is sponsored by the Broward Public Library Foundation, the Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital and Florida Blue. Event admission, entertainment, and activities are free. The Southwest Regional Library is located at 16835 Sheridan St. in Pembroke Pines. For more information, call **954-357-6580** or visit broward.org/library.

‘The Librarians’ to screen in Broward

From Nov. 22-25, the Savor Cinema will screen *The Librarians*, a documentary on book challenges in schools and public libraries in Florida and Texas, and the librarians in both states who are leading the fight to protect the freedom to read.

Broward County Library Director Allison Grubbs will speak prior to the 7 p.m. screening on Nov. 25. After the film, a conversation with Director Kim Snyder will be moderated by Robert Kesten, President and CEO of the Stonewall National Museum and Archives in Fort Lauderdale.

The documentary was presented the Best Documentary Feature Film Jury Award at the Sarasota Film Festival, and was also shown at the Sundance Film Festival.

The Savor Cinema is at 503 SE Sixth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit fliff.com/events/thelibrarians/.



Please remember us in your wills and trusts.

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