



Friends of the Alpharetta Library

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Quarterly Newsletter from the FOTAL Group.

Volume 4, Number 1 Spring, 2011

Good Things

There is so much focus on our troubled times that we thought we'd pass on some **GOOD THINGS** that have been going on within our broad Library community. Hope you enjoy the HAPPY NEWS!

Volunteer Elena continues to take paperback books to Northside Hospital for patients and families.

We drove to Fayetteville Library with librarian Judy to preview *Summer Programs for kids*.

FOTAL contributed to the Roswell Recycling Center's "**Keep Roswell Beautiful**" fund.

Grady Clinic asked (and now receive) magazines and books every two weeks.

Kindred Hospital (respiratory illnesses) is getting books monthly and sometimes twice a month.

The Step-Up Society (drug rehab programs) gets our excess books and movies.

6 boxes of audio books were given to the **Blue Ridge Library**.

20 boxes of books were donated to the *Cherokee Library's* book sale.

We **bought lunch** for the Librarians when they were so short staffed no one had time to get lunch.



We have a Facebook page.

We're posting activities on **Patch.com** (local Milton and Alpharetta news and events website)



We gave the Alpharetta GED program dictionaries.

We received an e-mail from a **NY Friends** group asking about our scholarship programs.

Did you know ? ? ? ?

That you can get a list of the 'HOTTEST' books or DVDs from the home page of the Library???? (afpls.org then the LINK to Bookletters & Booksellers)

You can get updates to Library events on FOTAL's Facebook and webpage (FOTAL.org) or on the Library

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors and the most patient of teachers.

Charles E. Eliot (1839 - 1926) *The Happy Life*, 1896

Letter from our President

NEW LIBRARY

Many of you continue to ask where and when the new Alpharetta Library is to be built. An article in the 4/29/11 'Patch.com' reported that the City of Alpharetta may donate a piece of property in the downtown area. Other than this article, the Friends have no other information concerning the location. The article states: *Alpharetta City Council plans to consider offering some property it owns in downtown for the new library branch that's to be built by the Atlanta-Fulton County Library system. The council has a resolution to make that offer on its May 2 meeting agenda. Alpharetta has approximately 22 acres of city-owned property in downtown. The library board of directors would need to tell the city what section of the property might meet its needs for the 25,000 square foot library branch, which will replace the existing 10,000 square foot library at the corner of Mayfield and Canton streets. They'll kind of guide us on what their site needs to comprise. And, for that matter, if they really want to pursue this option,' said Mr. James Drinkard, the assistant city administrator. The library branch is something that could fit within the city center development, which could include all 22 acres of that land, Drinkard said. Previously City Council members and staff have said the piece of land at the corner of Haynes Bridge Road and Academy Street, across Haynes Bridge from the Eagle Gym parking lot, will remain designated as a park. City Council hopes to come forward with specific property within the 22 acres for the library branch after consulting with the library board. The city recently purchased land along Brooks and Thompson Streets.*

Citizens also frequently ask when the staff positions in the library will be filled. The Friends understand that two full-time positions have been filled. The Children / Youth Librarian will start May 1st. The Adult Librarian position, vacated by Ms. Irene Fields who retired last November, will start sometime after that date.

Sincerely,

Ben Statham, President of FOTAL

2011 FOTAL Board

President	Ben Statham
Vice-President	Kathleen Smith
Treasurer	Linda Statham
Secretary	Gerrie Fornek
Membership	Barb Mitchell
Book Sales	Barbara Selwyn
Publicity/Newsletter	Susan Fornek
Books for Soldiers	Gerrie Fornek

FOTAL Membership

Membership in FOTAL is easy. Just fill out a form at our sales available from Barb Mitchell. Or, you can go on-line to fotal.org at any time. Membership prices are on the form. It's \$5 for individuals. The money is used for the Library needs. You will get notifications of sales and events being held and a bookmark to remind you.

BOOK SALES

ANY CHANGES TO OUR SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE -FOTAL-

FORUM.ORG

- May 5
- June 4
- July 2
- August 6
- September 3
- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

Sale Hours:
10am to 4pm
Rain or Shine

Teachers: Bring your ID, receive 1/2 off

Bring your own Bag, get a 50 cent discount

- Children's Books start at 25 cents
- Paperbacks start at 50 cents
- Oversized paperbacks start at \$1
- Hardbacks start at \$1

YOU CAN BUY OUR BOOKS ON-LINE ANYTIME

<http://shops.half/ebay.com/alphalibrary>
www.amazon.com/shops/alphalibrary
www.amazon.com/shops/fotal42

Alpharetta Library

238 Canton Street
Alpharetta, GA 30009
770-740-2425
Mon-Wed: 10:00 - 8:00
Thurs: 10:00- 6:00
Fri-Sat: 11:00-6:00

The strength of the United States is not the gold at Fort Knox or the weapons of mass destruction that we have, but the sum total of the education and the character of our people.

Claiborne Pell (1918 -)



Attendees



Ben and Kathleen

FOTAL VOLUNTEERS GET TOP HONORS

On April 16th, the 21st annual Volunteers Appreciation day took place at the Central Library in Atlanta.

Once again, our own Ben Statham and Kathleen Smith took top honors logging in 1400+ hours and 1000+ hours respectively. Honorable mentions....Gerrie Fornek at 800+ hours, Linda Statham 700+ hours, Susan Fornek at 200+ hours and last but not least Barbra Mitchell and Barbra Selwyn at 100+ hours. Congratulations to our dedicated members!

Thanking all the dedicated volunteers were Patricia Floyd, Vice-Chair Library Board of Trustees; John H. Eaves, Fulton County Board of Commissioners; John Szabo, Library Director and Margaret Roach, Volunteer Services Manager.

FYI: Mr. Szabo pointed out that if all of the Volunteers were 'on salary' for 2010, the check that Kathleen is holding would be in the neighborhood of \$1.4 million dollars !!

Isn't that a nice neighborhood?



DONATIONS

We depend on your generous donations to supply us with books for our sales. This is the lion-share of our income and we APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!

BUT... please don't give us your garbage. We feel like you're using us as a dumping ground for SPRING CLEANING! We've been receiving boxes that should be put curbside for trash pick-up. Please take the time to go through the books you are dropping off. When they come to us mildew, torn, chewed by your pets (or children), we must throw them away.

If you are donating, think about the book's condition, and ask yourself this question: WOULD YOU GIVE THIS BOOK TO A FRIEND? If the answer is NO...then we can't use them either!

Thanks for your consideration.



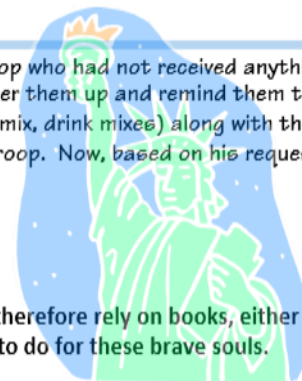
Books for Soldiers

From Afghanistan:

A request was received from an Assistant Chaplain serving in Afghanistan. There were quite a few Soldiers in his troop who had not received anything from home. They are called the 'forgotten soldiers'. He asked for books, movies, really anything from the U.S. to cheer them up and remind them there were people at home thinking of them. FOTAL sent 6 boxes of books, movies, games and snacks (granola bars, trail mix, drink mixes) along with the cards written by Library patrons, adults and children alike. We received a note of thanks from him on behalf of the troop. Now, based on his request, we're getting ready to send some inspirational books, self-help, stress relievers.

A really, really GOOD THING!

What is so gratifying for us is the request from Soldiers in remote areas who cannot get good Internet reception and therefore rely on books, either paperbacks or audio, to help them through the long hours in these remote and hostile territories. Such a small thing to do for these brave souls.



READING SUGGESTIONS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS AND TEEN BOYS

Here's lists of top Children, Tween and Teen Boy's Books. They are not necessarily on any school reading list, but those most recommended by library and educational organizations.

Top 5 Children's Fiction

- 1 The Lost Hero. Rick Riordan
- 2 Beastly. Alex Flinn
- 3 A World Without Heroes, Brandon Mull
- 4 Invincible: Chronicles of Nick, Sherrilyn Kenyon
- 5 I Am Number Four. Pittacus Lore



Top 5 Children's Picture Book

- 1 Silverlicious, Victoria Kann
- 2 A Sick Day for Amos McGee, Philip C. Stead
- 3 Interrupting Chicken David, Ezra Stein
- 4 LEGO Star Wars: The Visual Dictionary, Simon Beecroft
- 5 Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters, Barack Obama

Top Teen books for Boys

Malace: The line between reality and fiction is blurred in this unique story by master storyteller Chris Wooding.
Leviathan: Award winning author Scott Westerfeld creates an alternate reality of World War I in this biology versus technology tale.
The Ruins of Gorlan: (The Ranger's Apprentice, Book One) Legions of readers are following the adventures of 15 year-old Will who battles fantastical beasts and evil warlords trying to take over the kingdom.
I Am Number Four: Action and adventure are non-stop in this science fiction novel.
Gone: Everyone over fifteen is disappearing in Sam's town and the ones left behind are turning to him for help.
Pluto: Well-known manga artist Naoki Urasawra has created a dark retelling of the popular comic "AstroBoy-The Greatest Robot on Earth" originally written by Osamu Tezuka.

Top 5 Children's Series & Tie-ins

- 1 Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Jeff Kinney
- 2 Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins
- 3 Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Rick Riordan
- 4 The Vampire Diaries, L.J. Smith
- 5 House of Night, P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast

The wisest mind has something yet to learn.
George Santayana (1863 - 1952)

National Library week

Each year, the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) receives hundreds of reports on book challenges. These are formal requests to remove a book from a library or classroom because of objectionable content. They (OIF) have received *more than 11,000 requests* since the inception of the program which started in 1990. The top 10 challenged books for 2010 are:

1. And Tango Makes Three, Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson
2. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie
3. Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
4. Crank, Ellen Hopkins
5. The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins
6. Lush, Natasha Friend
7. What My Mother Doesn't Know, Sonya Sones
8. Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America, Barbara Ehrenreich
9. Revolutionary Voices, Edited by Amy Sonnle
10. Twilight, Stephenie Meyer

The list was released this year as part of the **2011 State of American's Libraries Report**, which highlights key trends and issues facing libraries during the previous year. The report is released annually in conjunction with *National Library Week*. It also contains information about funding, legislative issues and library technology in academic, school and public libraries. For more information, go to their website (ALA.org).

To continue with the above theme, there is a yearly list of Banned Books. In fact, there is even a 'BANNED BOOKS WEEK'. Aren't you glad there is something like INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM?



For your info and for some smiles, go to:

- *Huffington Post for banned graphic novels,
- *Banned-Books.com which also includes Authors

Alice in Wonderland was banned in China, **Grapes of Wrath**, was banned in California because it showed Californians in a bad light, and the **American Heritage Dictionary** was zapped for some offensive words.

.....OH , WELL..... IT'S AN INTERESTING 'READ'.

WHO-O - HO-O..... SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE HERE AGAIN !!

Summer Programs are here again. Much work was done by our Librarian Judy, who has been filling in as Children's Librarian. **(YEA FOR MISS JUDY !!)** An Event is scheduled almost every week throughout June and July. June's calendar has been included for your information. Any changes to the Calendar will be on the Library's schedule page, FOTAL's websites and FOTAL's Facebook page plus Patch.com.



The BIG KICK-OFF is **June 1st** with the theme of ONE WORLD - MANY STORIES. Plan your days now. Some of the Programs do have a limit and will require advance sign-up.

LIBRARIES Here and Around the World

Libraries are so very Important - probably more than ever. According to Reading is Fundamental, a Washington D.C. based group, a majority of today's children living in poverty do not have one book in their home.

Literacy is still a huge problem. This may be a surprise, but it is quoted that 30 million adults cannot read. This is in American - today!

The cost of operating the 8 new libraries due to be built in Fulton County by 2013, is estimated at \$10 million. The budget for 2011 for the Atlanta Fulton Public Library system is \$31 million. Mr. Szabo said that enough bonds were sold last November to cover the costs to start the projects. Let's hope Fulton County funds are sufficient to sustain the increased needs of the ever-growing North Fulton County.

Since this year's theme is GLOBAL, we thought you might like to see what LIBRARIES AND BOOK STORES look like in other parts of the world.

a children's book store in Beijing



London Library



St. Petersburg Library is supposed to be the largest in the world.

Their new one in Moskovsky Prospekt



King George's Collection



Singapore Regional Library (1 of 3, plus 20 community libraries and additional Children's libraries



North Kohala Library (Hawaii)

