



Friends of the Alpharetta Library

238 Canton St Alpharetta, GA 30009
www.fotal-forum@yahoo.com

Quarterly Newsletter from the FOTAL Group.

Volume 5, Number 1 Fall, 2012

2012 Summer Programs in Review

The Programs this summer for Children, Teens and Adults were so very successful. Attendance was by far, the largest ever recorded. We - FOTAL - would like to attribute that to our wonderful Librarians and staff.

CHILDREN's 'Dream Big: READ!' Programs and Reading : 1201 Signed up! 246 completed. 5640 books were read. 24 Programs were held. 1378 children attended the programs!!!

TEENS 'Own the Night' Reading Program: 162 Signed up. 28 completed. 185 books were read. 6 Programs were held. 73 teens attended the programs.

******* 28 TEENS volunteered at the Library! *******
They completed 239 hours of work.

ADULT READING PROGRAM: *"BETWEEN THE COVERS"*

Sadly, Cassandra Lamar, our Adult Programs Librarian, passed away in July. It was sudden and we are still grieving the loss. Amy, the Children/Teen Librarian continued with her agenda, assisted by the entire staff. Because of this, numbers for the Adult programs were not counted.

However, as with the Children's Programs, many signed up and completed the reading program and attended scheduled Programs. A drawing for the top three Adult readers was held; Andrea Parker, Savita Bajaj and Joyce Jaraczewski were the 'winners'. Prizes included a Nook, a City-Pass for Atlanta, and passes to Mini-Golf.

Save **MONDAY, OCTOBER 15 at 2:00 pm....**
Teen Read Week - 'It Came from the Library'
Teen Gaming

Fulton County Schoolteachers have a workday. Celebrate Teen Read Week and the theme "It Came from the Library" with a mobile game theater and "Booger Wars", a clean and super fun outdoor game. Reservations recommended.
Ages 12 - 18.

Letter from our President

I am proud to be a volunteer for the Friends of the Alpharetta Library. We are a local group of volunteers who recognize that in this time of a tight budget, we can make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Alpharetta by helping to improve the needs of the Alpharetta Library. We also work hard to improve literacy needs in other areas surrounding Alpharetta as well as needs for our military personnel who are serving overseas.

Through October of 2012, we have achieved many accomplishments for the community as well as other areas in need:
We presented Alpharetta Elementary School with a \$10,000 grant to purchase needed reading and writing programs. That same grant amount will be presented to the school for the 2012-13 school year.

FOTAL held 20 book sales in 2011 and 2012.

Monthly, we donate thousands of books to a variety of sources including school libraries in Alpharetta and many other areas, Northside Hospital, a prison ministry in NW Georgia, a local Art Council program, the Backpack Program for Children, an Atlanta inner-city hospital and various other institutions.

FOTAL has provided the library with children and adult program funds as well as many materials such as books, audio books, DVD's, office supplies, etc.

Decorative items for the interior of the library are bought, bulletin boards are decorated, and plants/flowerpots are purchased, planted and maintained by FOTAL volunteers. The Alpharetta Garden Club assists in the plantings and the upkeep.

We gave a \$350 donation to the Atlanta Fulton Library System Foundation.
Three \$350 Scholarships are given annually to area high school Seniors. A \$500 scholarship was given to Gwinnett Tech to use for adults needing to purchase tests for their GED degree.

We support the Books for Soldiers national program by preparing and mailing boxes of books and supplies to our military forces overseas.

The annual Craft Show at our May book sale enables artists an opportunity to sell their craft/art items.

Hundreds of hours are donated by volunteers to sell books online and thus increase the budget.

FOTAL volunteers have helped to establish a library at Walker State Faith and Character Prison in NW Georgia. We supply not only books but craft items and other needs.

As the list shows, our volunteers are busy with having donated over 6,800 hundred hours in 2011. We thank the Mayor and City Council for their support plus the citizens who continue to donate their books for our sales. If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, we would like to hear from you. Call me (Ben) at 770-861-4812 and tell me which area you would enjoy being a part of with your help.

Sincerely,
Ben Statham

2011 FOTAL Board

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

FOTAL Membership

Membership in FOTAL is easy. Just fill out a form at our BOOK SALE. Or, you can go on-line to fotal.org at any time. Membership prices are on the form. It's \$5 for individuals. 100% of the money is used for the Library's needs.

What do you get with your Membership? Knowledge that you are directly supporting your library, books on the shelves, supplies and programs.

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

November 3
December 1
January 5
February 2

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

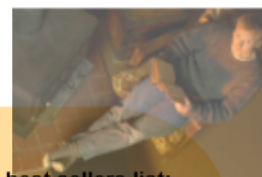
YOU CAN BUY OUR BOOKS ON-LINE ANYTIME

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

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

"I cannot live without books . "

Thomas Jefferson



BOOKS... BOOKS... BOOKS....

From the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library's weekly best sellers list:

- >> *Gone Girl*, by Gillian Flynn. Another thriller involving Nick's wife disappearing on their anniversary and his subsequent daydreams!
 - >> *Telegraph Avenue*, by Michael Chabon. Chabon explores the life of 2 families in Oakland (CA) and the pop-culture surrounding them.
 - >> *The Time Keeper*, by Mitch Albom. An imaginative novel about the inventor of the world's first clock the the consequences of inventing time. Another inspirational book reader's may use to reconsider how we all spend time.
- From GOODREADS.com:
- >> *The Reapers are the Angels*, by Alden Bell. Zombies have infested a fallen America.
 - >> *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon. A tale of a brilliant man who has no understanding of human emotions but relates well to animals.
 - >> *The Casual Vacancy*, by J.K. Rowling. Her first adult novel about what's behind the doors in a pretty town in the idyllic English countryside.

Children and Teen Programs for October, November and December, 2012

FAMILY STORYTIME: Tuesday at 10:30 am. Sept 4 - Oct. 30. Stories, songs, movement and occasional crafts. Ages 0 - 5.

Oct.17: Ages 8-12. 4:30 pm....MAKE A ROBOT WRITE YOUR INITIALS
Come teach a Scribbler robot to write your initials. The Milton Robotics Team will help you learn how to put the Scribbler through its paces. Space limited to 20. Sign ups begin 9/17.

Nov. 6: Ages 0 - 2. 10:30 am.... JAMMING WITH MS. JENNIFER, MUSIC FOR BABIES AND CAREGIVERS. Enjoy music and movement with Ms. Fargar, an early childhood music specialist. Registration Recommended. Signup starts 10/5

Nov. 6: Ages 3 - 5. 11:45 am.... JAMMING WITH MS. JENNIFER, MUSIC FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND CAREGIVERS. Enjoy music and movement with Ms. Fargar, an early childhood music specialist. Registration Recommended. Signup starts 10/5

Nov 15: Ages 6 - 11. 4:30 pm... MY REPTILE GUYS. Cool reptiles are fun, educational and totally interactive. Space is limited. Reservations Recommended. Signup starts 10/15.

Dec 4: Ages 0 - 5. 10:30 am.... WINTER CRAFTS FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND PARENTS. Make winter themed crafts together. Space limited to 20. Reservations recommended. Sign ups open 11/6.

Dec 13: Ages 5- 11.4:30 pm... WINTER CRAFTS FOR KIDS. Make a fun winter themed craft. May require use of scissors. Space limited to 20. Reservations recommended. Sign up open 11/13.

BOOK SALES



So far this year, FOTAL has sent 46 boxes filled with 782 books, 249 DVDs and 30 games to our Men and Women serving in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines.

FOTAL has spent (through September) \$485.00 for supplies and \$670 in postage to ship the boxes to their destinations. It's worth every penny and every minute spent getting the supplies and packing them up!!!

They have been sent mostly to Afghanistan, but sometimes the destination isn't actually known. Snacks, toiletries, and drink mixes are usually included along with those great cards and notes you and your children have written at every Book Sale. This is very important for those in remote areas where supplies and contact to home are far and few between. We've even sent laundry detergent.



National Friends of the Library Week
October 21 to 27, 2012.

The Friends Groups play an important role in supporting the library, carrying out many activities beyond the reach of the library's budget. They raise funds, public awareness of library services, sponsor programs and are an advocate for libraries throughout the community. Friends Groups are critical to the growth and health of the entire library system.

From Lemony Snicket: *Horseshoe: Bitter Truths You Can't Avoid*

"A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them."

Volunteering, continued

Fulton County has announced a \$30 million shortfall for 2013. That means the libraries will suffer too.

Due to retirements and cuts in budgets, the staffing at Alpharetta Library is meager. Your Library is actively seeking volunteers. If you have a few hours in the day or a few days a week, pitch in and spend it at the library helping the staff.

Applications are at the Front Desk.

Volunteering

The Friends of the Alpharetta Library has consistently had more Volunteer Hours than any other of the 35 Fulton County branches. It's one of the smallest libraries but has the 4th largest circulation (number of books checked out). Ben Statham, President of FOTAL has volunteered more hours than any other person at any of the Libraries for the last 5 years! You see him around the library most days of the week. Yes, sometimes it's hard work - picking up boxes, shelving books, setting up for the monthly Book Sale, but the rewards out-weigh the work... most of the time!!! Regardless of the WORK - it makes you feel really good.

People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. Some to promote a cause they feel strongly about, such as caring for abandoned pets. Other people choose volunteerism as a way to attract positive attention from the media or general public, to advance their career or public image. Whatever the motivation, volunteerism has played a significant role in advancing and improving society.

History

The history of volunteerism in America began in colonial times. Survival required members of the community to help one another. The first libraries were established when citizens donated books, and volunteers helped operate or raise funds to support the institutions. Harvard became the first American college after John Harvard donated over 400 books and funds. During the Revolutionary War citizens opened their homes for medical centers and volunteered their time to man the operation. Throughout history the work of volunteers has improved the educational, medical and overall quality of life for the general public.

Effects of Volunteering

Volunteerism can bring about social changes. When women were seeking the right to vote, volunteers banded together to fight for the cause. Volunteer movements, such as Habitat for Humanity, provides homes for families. Museum and gallery volunteers help promote the preservation of history, culture and arts, which better educates the populous. Volunteers can save lives when assisting during disasters or bringing medical attention to those in need.

*** Our wonderful Fox Theater depends on volunteer ushers for every performance.*

*** The Atlanta Historical Center depends on Volunteers to operate the Center and take tours.*

*** The Red Cross depends on Volunteers for 90% of its jobs.*

Time Frames

.... In 1736 Ben Franklin started the first volunteer fire department in America. That's no surprise!

....Clara Barton established the Red Cross in 1881.

....The United Way was formed in 1887.

....The Rotary Club was founded in 1910, and 6 years later the Lions Club and Kiwanis Club was founded.

....In 1919 the first Volunteer Bureau was opened, which focused on volunteer workers from the ranks of those released from war service.

So... find an organization - or a cause where you can give some of your time. Assist a teacher in a classroom, be a hospital candy striper, serve meals at a soup kitchen, there are countless other activities. You'll feel better - it will take your mind off your problems.... and it will benefit the people you volunteer WITH !

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your address label will have the date your membership expires.

- \$5: Individual member
- \$10: Family membership
- \$5: Student / Teacher



You will receive a quarterly newsletter either electronically or via US Mail. Your preference. If you would prefer e-mail, please indicate and add your email address below. Yes, email please.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I'd like to help with:

- Pre-book sales
- At book sales (monthly)
- Seasonal decorating
- Newsletter articles
- In general

MAIL TO:
FOTAL
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Cut on line and mail to address at bottom. Or drop off at the Library. Our membership form is also on-line at FOTAL.ORG.

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