



Friends of the Alpharetta Library

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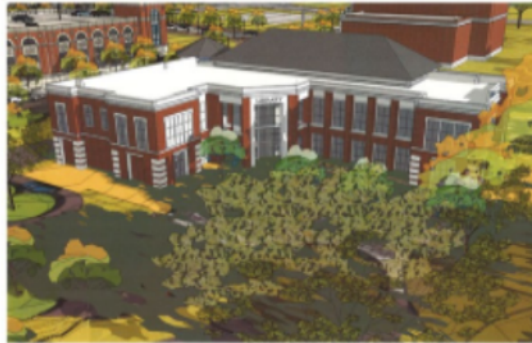
Quarterly Newsletter from the FOTAL Group.

January, 2015



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Last year (last month?) ended an eventful year for FOTAL. The **GROUND BREAKING** ceremony for our new library took place. It looks very impressive. Drive down Academy and turn onto Haynes Bridge to see for yourself. The current projection is to open in the 2nd Quarter. We'll have more than twice the space and **PARKING!**

Check out the progress and plans at the Library website: afpls.org and read **Ben's Letter about the Library on page 3**



What happened in 2014 at the Friends.....

Our Book Sales did well, but not quite as profitable as in past years. Weather in 2014 was not our friend! However, because of the sales and your loyalty, between the monthly sales and internet sales, we earned \$25,591.

This allowed us to do the following:

- * continue to donate a Literacy Grant to Alpharetta Elementary School for additional programs: \$8000
- * continue to award 3 scholarships to graduating high school students: \$1050, and funding for GED testing at the former Milton high school location: \$500
- * continue to send our Military men and women boxes of books, DVDs, snacks, hygiene products through the 'Books for Soldiers' organization: \$1643
- * donate funds towards a track chair for disabled Vets: (Independence Fund) \$765. The donation was in memory of a Library Staff's husband who was a long time supporter of FOTAL.
- * continue to pay for additional Children's and Teen programs and new books: \$5000
- * continue to pay for additional new Adult books and programs: \$3300
- * supplement the staff needs which were unfunded by Fulton County's budget: \$4200

And let's not forget that from the books you donated, we gave generously to requests for books from hospitals, clinics, school libraries, and charitable organizations.

At the yearly Fulton Library Volunteer meeting, FOTAL is regularly at the top of the list of number of hours worked. **Ben Statham** has been honored as **top Volunteer** consistently and he was again in 2014. Remarkably, Ben and his wife Linda, have been volunteers at the Alpharetta Library for 25 years.



KROGER Community Rewards Program. If you register your Kroger Card (on-line) a percentage of your purchases will be sent to FOTAL. It might not be much money, but we appreciate all donations. See the registration form at: Kroger.com/communityrewards. Click on 'Enroll' and add **'Friends of the Alpharetta Library'** as your chosen organization along with your Kroger number. You will see our name at the bottom of your receipt. The enrollment must be done yearly.

2011 FOTAL Board Members

BOARD MEMBERS

President : Gerrie Fornek
 V-President: Ben Statham
 Secretary: Gerrie Fornek
 Treasurer: Linda Statham
 Children's Books: Kathy Peters
 Book Sales: Barbara Selwyn
 Publicity: Susan Fornek
 Paperbacks: Bob Moore
 Bri Baker

Honorary Members:

Juli Kearns, FOTAL webmaster
 Adam Maroney, Principal, AES
 William McCormick
 Jim Paine



Activities / Meetings / Events

Chck with the Desk to make sure classes will be held.
WEEKLY:

- > **ESL Classes** - every Monday thru 5/22, 11am - 1pm
- > **Youth Bridge** - every Monday thru 5/25, 3:30-4:30
- > **Children's Storytime** - every Wednesday, 10:30-11am
- > **Happy Tails:** every Wednesday, thru 5/27 4 - 5pm. Reading with Echo.
- > **Sahaja Meditation:** every Thursday, 6 - 7pm

Every Other Week:

- > **Scrappers:** 2nd & 4th Thursday start 1/12, 12 - 2pm

MONTHLY

FOTALBook Sale: First Saturday, 10-4pm
LEGO Building: Tuesday, start 1/20, 4 - 5pm
SEE THE INSERT FOR THE ENTIRE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND MEETINGS.....

FOTAL Membership

Membership in FOTAL is easy. Just fill out a form at our **BOOK SALE.** Or, go on-line to fotal.org at any time. Membership prices are on the form

What do you get with your Membership? Knowledge that your are directly supporting your library, books on the shelves, supplies and programs and a tote bag to use at the sales for a discount.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS !



January brings the usual New Year's Resolutions. Some we keep and others -oh well. We've found several interesting ideas for 2015 from the Scholastic organization who published 100 New Year's Reading Resolutions.

- read a book written by someone from Georgia
- read every book in a series
- read a classic
- read a biography of someone you didn't know about
- listen to an audio book
- ask someone to recommend a book, then read it

You get the gist. The bottom line is **READ!**

BOOK SALES

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

February 7
 March 7
 April 4
 May 2
 June 6
 July No Sale

Sale Hours:
 10am to 4pm
 Rain or Shine

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

Teachers: Bring your ID, receive 1/2 off books used in your classroom

Bring your own Bag, get a 50 cent discount

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

Monday and Wednesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm
 Tuesday: 2pm - 6pm
 Thursday: 12pm - 8pm
 Friday: closed
 Saturday: 1pm - 5pm



The Friends of the Alpharetta Library (FOTAL) recently celebrated the 90th. birthday of one of their treasured volunteers, Katherine "Katie" Johnson. Katie and her late husband, Ralph Johnson, started volunteering at the monthly book sales in 1999. Even after Ralph passed away in January of 2009, Katie has continued to be a faithful volunteer every month at the monthly sale. For those patrons who search the paperback section for their favorite book, there is no doubt that Katie has helped you find it. She and Dr. Robert Moore keep that paperback section in good order and love helping people find books.

In 2009, FOTAL established a scholarship to honor the memory of Mr. Johnson and to honor Mrs. Johnson for their dedicated devotion, support and service to the library patrons of the area. Funds are given each year to assist individuals who take tests to earn their GED degree.

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.
Sir Winston Churchill



FOOD FOR THOUGHT
 Chef Susan

Nothing takes the chill off a cold winter's day like a bowl of chilli. Here's one of my favorite one's..

- 2 tbslp olive oil
- 1 medlum onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- .5 lb. ground pork
- 1.5 lb. ground beef (90/10 fat)
- 8 oz. canned green chilles,
- 1 tbslp ancho chill powder
- 2 tbslp chill powder
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 2 tsp cumlin
- 1.5 tsp salt
- 2-12 oz cans diced tomatoes
- 1 can pinto beans, drained & rinsed
- 1 can kidney beans, drained & rinsed
- 1 can northern beans (do not drain)



Heat oil in a large pot. Brown beef & pork then add onions, chilles and spices. Cook for 10 minutes to let onions and spices cook. Add tomatoes and simmer another 30 minutes. Check seasoning and adjust. Add all of the beans and simmer another 30 minutes.

Add fresh poblano or jalapeno peppers if you like your chilli spicier.

Buon Appetito!!



Books for Soldiers

The Friends have been sending books (plus DVDs, games, snacks, soap, shampoo, wet wipes, and such, through 'Books for Soldiers' for quite a few years. About 50 boxes are sent every year.

Those of you who come to our monthly Book Sales see the *Books for Soldiers* donation jar plus several blank cards at our tables inside the meeting room. Dear Friends and Patrons drop in coins and cash which we add to to buy items for our service men and women (supplemented by FOTAL). Kids write cards to the soldiers and draw pictures and take a toy from the bucket. Several of our 'regulars' always write! Those cards are included in the monthly shipments to soldiers.

We received 2 cards at last month's Book Sale from a 10 year old and an 8 year old. They were brother and sister and so insightful and caring to us who work the sale, that we thought they should be shared.

Card #1: *'Thank you for protecting our country and because you went in the Army, we now have freedom. We have reached our destination and our destination is our freedom'*

Card #2: *Thank you for serving our country. It's such an honor to have someone that cares so much. Me and my family admire that. Thank You! We GREATLY appreciate it. We wave this flag with pride and we salute every morning, knowing that someone is out there, serving for the US.'* (note: there was a flag on the card).

Remember they are 8 and 10 year olds... no parent coaching them! It is amazing what they think of the troubles going on in our increasingly dangerous times.

Letter from Ben.....

The new Alpharetta Library is located next to the new City Hall in the Alpharetta City Center downtown. As you drive down Haynes Bridge Rd., you will be excited to see that the roof is almost finished and the outside walls are sheathed and partially bricked. We are amazed at the size of the building, all 25,000 square feet. That's a huge size increase from our present 10,000 sq. ft. structure. The library will have a very prominent view as you enter Alpharetta from Haynes Bridge Rd.

The most frequently asked question the Friends get seems to be, "When will the new library open?" We wish we had a definite time frame to tell you but we don't. At one time we were told that in the second quarter of this year, the building would be ready but we can't confirm that timeframe yet. We just know it will be exciting when it IS finished and occupied.

Heather Staniszewski is the Volunteer Services Manager and she gave us these numbers for the opening day collection. It will include 69,335 print volumes: This includes:

- Adult Print Collection: 43,630
- Young Adult: 1,555
- Juvenile: 24,150

Last Wednesday the Fulton County Commissioners agreed to accept the presented budget which will allow ALL of the libraries to return to the former hours of operation. This will not take effect until April 1st.

In December, three new fulltime staff members were added to the present library staff. They are all busy readying the library for the move to the new building.

Mrs. Anne Haines has been the Interim Library Director since Mr. John Szabo left as Director several years ago. Last week she announced her retirement. She has been the driving force for the construction of the new buildings. We owe her much gratitude for her support and hard work toward seeing these libraries come into fruition. We wish her a happy retirement and thank her for her support of the Friends.

Ben Statham



FOTAL Supporters

BAGEL BOYS 11770 HAYNES BRIDGE RD



We'd like to thank Bagel Boy's for supplying bagels for the volunteer crew at our Saturday Book Sales. Stop in for breakfast or lunch. Take a few home along with a 'schmear' of cream cheese.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM. Register your Kroger Card on-line and a portion of the money you spend at the store is

BEST READS From Atlanta Public Libraries.



NON-FICTION:

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End, By Gawande, Atul In "Being Mortal," bestselling author Atul Gawande tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: how medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending. Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable.

Yes Please, By Poehler, Amy We'd get to hang out with Amy Poehler, watching dumb movies, listening to music, and swapping tales about our coworkers and difficult childhoods. Because in a perfect world, we'd all be friends with Amy--someone who seems so fun, is full of interesting stories, tells great jokes, and offers plenty of advice and wisdom (the useful kind, not the annoying kind).

Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir By Chast, Roz Kirkus Prize (2014), National Book Awards (2014), New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association Award (2014), New England Book Award (2014)

FICTION:

All the Light We Cannot See, By Doerr, Anthony National Book Awards (2014). From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, a stunningly ambitious and beautiful novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II

Gray Mountain, By Grisham, John. John Grisham has a new hero . . . and she's full of surprises. The year is 2008 and Samantha Kofers' career at a huge Wall Street law firm is on the fast track--until the recession hits and she gets downsized, furloughed, escorted out of the building. Samantha, though, is one of the "lucky" associates

Lila, By Robinson, Marilynne. 3rd book in Gilead series. A new American classic from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Gilead" and "Housekeeping." Marilynne Robinson, one of the greatest novelists of our time, returns to the town of Gilead in an unforgettable story of a girlhood lived on the fringes of society in fear, awe, and wonder. Lila, homeless and alone after years of roaming the countryside.



TV Shows to Books..... Comparisons

If you liked a particular TV show, there are books that compare or were actually based on the book, *BuzzFeed* says:

If you loved **Mad Men**, you should read Richard Yates' **Revolutionary Road.**

If you loved **Orange Is the New Black**, you should read Margaret Atwood's **The Handmaid's Tale.** *

If you loved **The Walking Dead**, you should read Max Brooks' **World War Z.**

If you loved **Gossip Girl**, you should read Zoey Dean's **The A-List.**

If you loved **Seinfeld**, you should read Philip Roth's **Portnoy's Complaint.**

If you loved **The Office**, you should read Joshua Ferris' **Then We Came to the End.**

If you loved **Doctor Who**, you should read Douglas Adams' **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.**

If you loved **Game of Thrones**, you should read Patrick Rothfuss' **The Name of the Wind.**

If you loved **The Sopranos**, you should read Philip Roth's **American Pastoral.**

If you loved **Sherlock**, you should read Robert Galbraith's **The Cuckoo's Calling.**

FOTAL Supporters

THE CITY OF ALPHARETTA: Thank you Mayor Belle Isle and the City Council for your continued encouragement and contributions.



ALPHARETTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Principal Adam Maroney



ALPHARETTA GARDEN CLUB at Mansell House. They plant and maintain the 2 pots at the front steps in memory of Barb Mitchell, a member of both the Garden Club and the Friends

Friends of the Alpharetta Library (FOTAL) Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State / ZIP _____ / _____ / _____

email: _____ do not email

Individual: \$10 _____ Seniors/Teens: \$5 _____ children UNDER 12: free Family: \$25 _____ Donation: _____

Business/ Community/Contributor:

Gold Level: \$200 _____ Silver Level: \$100 _____ Bronze Level: \$50 _____

Yes, I'd like to be a volunteer. Check one of the following:

_____ Book Sales _____ most anything! _____ News articles _____ Membership _____ Publicity _____ member of the Board
Other _____

Mail to: (or drop off)

Friends of the Alpharetta Library
238 Canton Street
Alpharetta, GA 30009

alphalibrary@yahoo.com
Fotal.org (website)