



Friends of the Alpharetta Library

10 Park Plaza Alpharetta, GA 30009

website: www.fotal.org | www.alphalibrary@yahoo.com

Newsletter from the FOTAL Group.

Winter, 2017



Happy Birthday

Friends of the Alpharetta Library 25th Anniversary Year Come into our Book Store and sign our BIRTHDAY CARD!

We're actually a few years older, (!) but as an active organization, it's been 25 busy and constantly evolving years. Here's what past President Ben Statham and Board Member Linda Statham have to say about their involvement in the group..



HAPPY 25TH. BIRTHDAY TO THE FRIENDS OF THE ALPHARETTA LIBRARY

We are pleased to be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the Alpharetta Library (FOTAL). The Friends have enjoyed a quarter century of providing funds and goodwill to the library and to the citizens of the area. This non-profit volunteer group has worked diligently to supplement the library's budget in order to provide additional materials and programs for our growing community.

The first library in Alpharetta opened in 1966. For a few years it was in the former City Hall building. Early in 1986, because of renovations to the municipal building, the branch was moved to a downtown commercial building to await the construction of a new facility that was to be built with bond funds approved by voters.

With the support of the City of Alpharetta, bond funds and a generous donation from Louie and Gertrude Jones, a library was built at the corner of Mayfield Rd. and Canton St. in the Fall of 1989. The city and the surrounding North Fulton area was growing at a rapid pace and the librarians were extremely busy trying to meet the needs of the community. Ladye Heisel was the Children's librarian in 1991 and she asked Mary Anderson and Ben Statham if they would be interested in reviving the existence of a former Friends group. Mary became the President. Tony Pennock and Ben Statham became the book sale chairmen. Linda Statham was the Secretary and Treasurer. Charlotte Richter was appointed the volunteer coordinator. Becky Garrett was head of publicity and Jeannie Lewis was membership chairman. That was in September, 1991. The Friends were off and running!

We started with one book sale a year. Then we started having a sale two times a year. So many books were being donated for the sales and storage was a problem so Barbara Mitchell said to Ben, "Ben, we need monthly sales to meet the needs of the reading community." In the mid 90's, the Friends, under the leadership of Charlotte Richter, Larry Curry and Pam Caird, became a non-profit 501 c3 organization.

Ten years ago Kathleen Smith said, "Ben, we need to start selling some of these expensive books that aren't selling at our monthly book sale on the internet." She started listing books online along with the help of Iain Caird, Linda Statham, Ben Statham, Jo Davisson, Bill Ohlemueller and Gerrie Fornek. As of today, we continue to raise funds with the monthly book sales and the online sales to pay for Children's and Young Adult programs, Adult programs, supplies, scholarships, supplies for the Books for Soldier's program and donations to other non-profits and local schools. Along with the book sales and the online sales, Gerrie Fornek, Barbara Selwyn and their energetic volunteers, have opened a very successful Book Store inside our new current library which opened in July of 2015. The book store is now open seven days a week. The book store volunteers work like busy bees keeping the shelves and carts loaded with the latest and greatest books, all at very reasonable prices.

We appreciate all the volunteers who have helped over the past 25 years with the monthly sales or in the book store or in any of the other many ways to support our mission. We appreciate the City of Alpharetta, the support of the library staff and the citizens who continue to donate books and/or to come and shop for books. You make our volunteer work worthwhile and we thank you for a memorable 25 years. **Go FOTAL!!**

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FOTAL Board Members

BOARD MEMBERS

- President : Gerrie Fornek
- Secretary: Gerrie Fornek
- Treasurer: Linda Statham
- Book Store: Barbara Selwyn
- Publicity: Susan Fornek
- Paperbacks: Bob Moore
- Book Sale Chariman: Ben Statham
- Membership: Lynn Adamski

Honorary Members:

- Marcia Divack, Alpharetta Library
- Juli Kearns, FOTAL webmaster
- Jim Paine
- Corretta Stewart, Principal, AES

BOOK SALE SCHEDULE

- February 4
- March 8
- April 1
- May 6
- June 3
- July - NO SALE
- August 5

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

Sale Hours:

- 10am to 4pm
- Rain or Shine

- Children's / Juvenile Books start at 25 cents
- Paperbacks: 50 cents
- Oversized paperbacks start at \$1
- Hardback Fiction: \$1 and up
- Non-Fiction: \$1 and up
- Audio Books: \$1 and up
- DVDs: \$1 and up

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

FRIENDS Book Store Hours

- Monday-Friday: 1pm-6pm
- Saturday: 11am to 1pm
- Sunday: 2pm to 6pm

The hours are subject to change since the book store is run by Volunteers.

Alpharetta Library Hours

- 10 Park Plaza
- Alpharetta, GA 30009
- 770-740-2425
- Marcia Divack, Branch Manager

- Monday: 10am to 8pm
- Tuesday: 10am to 6pm
- Wednesday: 10am to 6pm
- Thursday: 10am to 8pm
- Friday: 10am to 6pm
- Saturday: 10am to 6pm
- Sunday: 2pm to 6pm



BOOK STORE

Our **Book Store** is now open **Monday thru Friday from 1PM to 6PM, Saturday from 11-1pm and Sunday from 2pm to 5pm.** Our staff of VOLUNTEERS try to keep this schedule going however, at times, the Store may close earlier.

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE MONEY???

It goes to the Library for additional books and library supplies; Summer Programs for children, teens and adults and funding programs held throughout the year.

Stop in and see the Store. Inventory changes DAILY based on donations. And... it's lots cheaper than Barnes & Noble or Amazon!!!

WHAT'S IN STOCK

- ... Monthly Topical Features (holidays, themes)
- ... Current **Best sellers (2016 books)**
- ... Romance and 'COZY' mysteries
- ... **Historical Fiction**
- ... **Local** authors, Southern History, Black History
- ... **COOKBOOKS**
- ... hundreds of **children's books** (all ages) **Chapter Books, Series, Teen/Youth Books, PICTURE and Board Books**
- ... US & World **HISTORY, War, Politics, Business**
- ... **CLASSICS** (Shakespeare, Dickens, Cooper...)
- ... **Literature:** (Wells, Harper Lee, Vonnegut, Atwood...)
- ... **BANNED BOOKS-** *Lovely Bones, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Scarlett Letter, Ulysses, Brave New World, The Kite Runner, Pillar of the Earth...* **We really do have Banned Books** which are listings banned by organizations around the country!

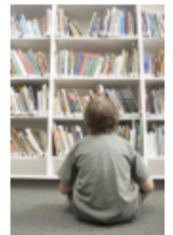
PRICES:

- * Small Paperback books are always 50 cents
- * All other books start at \$1 and seldom more than \$5.
- * Audio books start at \$1, Movies start at \$1

*** **BOOK MARKS** for Sale @ \$3 (wonderful gift item) They are made by **Friends Volunteers.**



We also have books for sale on-line.
<http://shops.half/ebay.com/alphalibrary>
www.amazon.com/shops/alphalibrary
www.amazon.com/shops/fotal42



BOOK DONATIONS

We accept book donations every day that the library is open. A **DONATION BOX** is located in the Lobby of the Library, next to the Book Store. We **LOVE THAT YOU THINK OF US, AND APPRECIATE THIS SUPPORT.** Children's books - gently used- are most appreciated.

DO NOT LEAVE:

- Text Books... **MAGAZINES...** Reference books ...
- Old, smelly, **MILDEW** books, **OLD** books in poor condition. We cannot sell them.

FOTAL Accomplishments in 2016

FOTAL donates thousands of books yearly. In 2016 we gave to:

- * the Salvation Army
- * Goodwill
- * Habitat for Humanity (ReStore)
- * North Fulton County Community Charities
- * beginning novels for ESL classe at Gwinnett Tech
- * Dictionaries, Thesaurus to Gwinnett Tech

AND

*50% DISCOUNT IS ALWAYS GIVEN TO ALL TEACHERS WHO BUY BOOKS FOR THEIR CLASSROOM

2016 Budgeted items:

- * Library programs: \$14,000.00
- * Alpharetta Elementary School Literacy project: \$8,000.00
- * Scholarships to North Fulton high school graduating Seniors: \$4500
- * GED testing fund for students at Gwinnett Tech: \$500.00.
- * Books for Soldiers program: postage for 34 boxes of books, DVDs, toiletries, snacks (cost of snacks,

FOTAL'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships have been awarded by FOTAL for 21 years.

We started the program based on the Friends mission which is to encourage literacy, promote the library's programs and be an integral part of the community.

In 2016, FOTAL increased both the number and monetary amount of the scholarships. The requirements have remained constant: submit an application as a graduating senior in the Alpharetta area schools, provide an acceptance letter from a college or university, include a list of school achievements and extracurricular activities and write an essay of 250-500 words about '*the importance of a free, public library system in today's society*'.

More applications were received than ever before from which 9 were chosen. The teens were accepted at a variety of schools: UGA, Georgia Tech, Carnegie-Mellon, MIT, Clemson, Syracuse, Cornell, USC, Georgia State, Coastal Carolina, Auburn. So impressive!

Applications will be available through the local high school Media Specialists or Scholarship Coordinators and on-line through our website: FOTAL.org. (The forms will be made available starting 3/1/17 and due to the Friends on 4/15/17. None will be accepted after that date. Look for the announcement and take advantage of this program.



2016 LIBRARY ACTIVIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It might seem a little out of date to talk about last SUMMER's PROGRAMS, but 2016's Reading Program and the Events held were the largest, most attended in Alpharetta Library's history. This Library Staff deserves a standing ovation providing so much for the Community. It was a herculean effort! More importantly - continued cheers go to them as they are understaffed but always there for all of us.

In June, 2016 there were 29 programs, attended by 1716 children. Due to the increase in patrons for children's programming, the library offered special summer reading events IN ADDITION to the monthly and weekly events. Attendance was astronomical - the Mobile Petting Zoo drew in a crowd that exceeded 400 people! (It was held in June.) July had 21 programs attended by 1056 children. The most popular of programs was the *Harry Potter Birthday Bash* which will likely become an annual end of summer reading event. It was attended by approximately 288 members of the community, most of whom came in costume. It wrapped up a truly incredible and impressive first full summer at the new Alpharetta Branch.

SCHOOL'S PARTICIPATING in the summer programs.

The children attending the programs registered from 15 different schools; Alpharetta Elementary school led with 152 attendees. The most active ages were 5 - 10 year old. 7 year olds were the largest group.

The READING PROGRAM was also phenomenal. 384 children completed the program and read 7,328 books. 27 Teens completed the program, reading a total of 220 books! 51% of all participants read only 10 books (the minimum goal). 49% read an additional book or so and 80% read up to 29 books. 2 of the participants read more than 100 books.

HEADS-UP FOLKS



PROJECTIONS FOR 2017

As far as we know (at the printing of this newsletter), 100% of all funding for LIBRARY PROGRAMS will come from the Friends of the Library organizations except for the Kick-off program which is usually held June 1st.

That said, your input, support, membership becomes more important to continue these FREE PROGRAMS FOR OUR COMMUNITY. Where else can you go for so much information, entertainment, activities, and education in an environment that is SAFE, comfortable, family-friendly and totally FREE. Find a corner in a comfortable chair and read as many do every day.

"For years it was predicted that libraries would become superfluous- mausoleums for books when so much was available on-line. Instead, library visits now far exceed annual attendance at sporting events, concerts and museums combined. It turns out that the very electronic revolution that was supposed to make libraries obsolete has made them indispensable."

KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM

Register your Kroger Card on-line and a percentage of the money you spend at the store is sent to us.

SIGN ON TO: www.Kroger.com/communityrewards

You will have to enter your *'Kroger rewards number'* and then just follow the directions to the COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAMS.

Enter *'Friends of the Alpharetta library'* as the non-profit organization you want the funds transferred to. A quarterly check sent to the Friends.

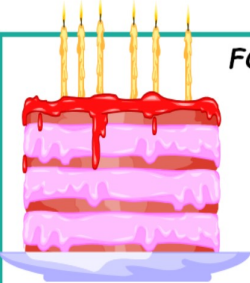
FOTAL Supporters

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

ALPHARETTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
Principal Ms. Coretta Stewart

ALPHARETTA GARDEN CLUB
at Mansell House.

BAGEL BOYS 11770 HAYNES BRIDGE RD



FOTAL MEMBERSHIPS, EMAILS, AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS

Become a member OR renew your membership in this 25th Anniversary year and receive a commemorative BOOK BAG!
(Additional bags are available for \$2 each)

Your membership
* supports this library

* helps fund programs and buys additional books

MONTHLY SPECIALS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE SALE DATE. WITH EACH PURCHASE, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR 1 TICKET TOWARDS A COMMEMORATIVE ITEM ... a book, a book light, ??? DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE END OF EACH OF THE BOOK SALES. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT GET.

alphalibrary@yahoo.com. Subject: FOTAL INFO

Sign up for email bulletins about FOTAL activities, book sales, event notices and programs. Just send us a note at alphalibrary@yahoo.com.

We only need your name and email address. Your name will not be used anywhere else.

Friends of the Alpharetta Library (FOTAL) Membership

Clip the form and Mail with your payment to:
Friends of the Alpharetta Library
10 Park Plaza | Alpharetta, GA 30009
website: Fotal.org

OR

Drop the membership form plus your payment off at the Library BOOK STORE. Monday - Friday, 1pm to 6pm. The Library Staff will also take your payment and give it to us IF the store is NOT OPEN.

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 _____

