



Friends of the Alpharetta Library

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www.fotal-forum@yahoogroups.com

Quarterly Newsletter from the FOTAL Group.

Volume 1, Number 1 Winter, 2010

"Books and Friends should be few but Good"

Anonymous

2010 FOTAL Board

President	Ben Statham
Vice-President	Kathleen Smith
Secretary/Treasurer	Linda Statham
Membership	Barbara Mitchell
Acquisitions	Jane Harp
Book Sales	Barbara Selwyn
Publicity	Susan Fornek
	Gerrie Fornek
Books for Soldiers	Gerrie Fornek
Craft Show	Jo Davisson

Book Sales

March 6	August 7
April 3	September 4
May 1	October 2
June 5	November 6
July 3	December 4

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 ANY TIME.

<http://shops.half/ebay.com/alphalibrary>
[www.amazon.com/shops/alphalibrary ...](http://www.amazon.com/shops/alphalibrary...)
www.amazon.com/shops/foal42

Letter from our President, Ben Statham

I am proud to be a volunteer for FOTAL. 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 services of the Alpharetta Library. The Friends realize that by improving the quality of services of the local library, they then enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Alpharetta

We thank our members, the Mayor and City Council of Alpharetta and the community for their support both through monetary gifts and book donations for our sales as well as their attendance at our monthly sales. These gifts enable us to accomplish our goals. We are a devoted organization with a dedicated mission to enhance literary skills, to put books in people's hands and homes and to promote the need for adequate library facilities. FOTAL'S 2009 budget allowed the Friends to purchase materials, pay for children's programs, buy books and tapes and any other items the librarians need to keep our library one of the busiest in the system as evidenced by its circulation numbers. Despite being only a 10,000 square foot library and competing with regional 25,000 square foot libraries, of the 34 in the system, Alpharetta is the 4th highest in circulation numbers each month. We are fortunate to have such a hard working staff.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Donated thousands of books to school libraries, Foster Care programs, area nursing homes and a Senior Center, South Fulton
- Library for their book sale, Northside Hospital for patients, a low-income school in Rome, GA, a school for children with learning disorders, and many other needy recipients.
- Over 1000 donated children's books were processed by FOTAL volunteers and placed onto the shelves of the library during the past two years. Taxpayers were saved thousands of tax dollars and made more books available.
- Enhancement of the interior and exterior of the library by way of holiday decor, flowers, bird feeders, etc.
- Bookcases donated to Habitat for Humanity.
- Three Scholarships given to area high school Seniors.
- Books, DVD's, and supplies sent to soldiers around the world.
- A Craft Show in May for local artists.
- Support of the Alpharetta Girl Scout's refreshment booth at our monthly sales.



Education is not preparation for life. Education is Life itself.

John Dewey

FOTAL

Who we are.....

The Friends of the Library is a national not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote the Library as a Learning Center for the Community and provide financial assistance for programs. We are advocates for improved services at the Library.

What we do.....

- Raise funds by holding book sales
- Sell books on-line
- Donate books to supplement school libraries
- Provide scholarships to graduating high schoolers
- Purchase additional books for the library
- Sponsor children and youth programs at the library
- Buy prizes for the Summer Reading Program
- Provide time and materials for projects around the Library, including an outdoor bench and bird feeders
- In 2009 we donated 6471 hours

We always need volunteers to work the book sales. Contact Ben Statham and give a few hours on the First Saturday of every month. It's a lot of fun - when it isn't cold or raining!!!

Contact us at fotal-forum@yahoogroups.com

ALPHARETTA LIBRARY
238 CANTON STREET
ALPHARETTA, GA
30009

Coming Events

The city of Alpharetta will hold a CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL on Saturday, March 27th. There will be a petting zoo, magic shows, story telling and performances by local groups and so much more. Look for our booth. We'll be selling children's books.

More in Alpharetta..

February 20: Arbor Day Celebration at Wills Park

March 28: Alpharetta Easter Egg Hunt

April 24: Touch a Truck

April 24-25: Alpharetta Arts StreetFest

The CITY OF ALPHARETTA's website has details and additional Events. www.alpharetta.ga.us

In May, FOTAL will sponsor a Craft Show again. Last year's was wonderful. More information will be provided in the next month.

Book Sales

The Monthly Book Sales are a large part of our revenue. All books, with the exception of Library discards, come by way of donations from our friends and neighbors. The 'regulars' at our monthly book sales are true recyclers; they return the books read as donations and purchase 'new' ones.

Volunteers sort the books and price them as they come into the Donation Basket. On average, at least 200 books are donated weekly. Some publications we would rather not receive are:

- Readers' Digest/ Book Club editions,
- magazines,
- books that are torn, moldy or mildewed,
- trade publications,
- encyclopedias,
- phone books

In addition to the monthly sales, FOTAL sells books on-line. There are a wide variety available from text books to popular novels and old classics. Look at our WEBSITE for news and general information.

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Books for Soldiers



The most rewarding volunteer job for me is the Books for Soldiers campaign. We are a member of a National, totally Volunteer Organization that receive requests from Soldiers all over the world.

In 2009, FOTAL sent 98 boxes to our Men and Woman in Afghanistan, Iraq, North Africa, Germany and Korea. Many times, for security reasons, the locations are unknown. All we do know is that someone out there, defending our Freedom, could use a good book, a movie, some candy, a puzzle, a cheerful note from home - anything to pass the time when they are not busy.

576 books, 320 DVDs and Xbox games, phone cards, mini recordable DVDs and untold amounts of snacks and drink mixes were sent. Donations come from our Patrons at the Book Sales, Aramark, Happy Healthy Snacks, Sam's Club, and a Walgreen's employee plus FOTAL, of course. We pay for all postage.

The heartbreaker is a group called the 'Forgotten Soldiers'. According to their commanders, they receive little to no mail from home. Many times all that is asked for is just a letter of support. How can we not give?

Thank you if you've donated books or money, OR have signed a postcard at our table - the return is priceless.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Gerrie Fornek

BY THE WAY.....

Thanks to all the children (and adults) who signed Valentine's Day cards. They were sent off to Army, Marine and Navy men and women during the week before February 14th.

Library News

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS start up again this year with Lap Sit readings for 0 to 4 year olds EVERY TUESDAY from 10:30 - 11:15 followed by Reading for 6 years and up from 11:15 to Noon.

MARCH 2

MARCH 9: 'Spot / Bingo' (dogs)

MARCH 16

MARCH 23

MARCH 30: Bugs / Caterpillars

APRIL 6

APRIL 13

APRIL 20: 'What cha Gonna Wear?'

APRIL 27

SENIOR CITIZEN'S AFTERNOON TEA:

Every Monday at 1pm in the Meeting Room. Topics covered are those of interest to Seniors.

NEWSLETTERS

Sign up for newsletters from the Atlanta-Fulton County Library System - there are a lot of interesting topics. They also list a variety of events throughout all the Libraries. One of the newsletters is 'BOOKLETTERS' which lists all the current best sellers or most asked for books.

Go to: www.afnlub.com

Around the Library

Have you noticed???

- ➡ The birdfeeders? 'Daddy' Charles (librarian) makes sure our feathered friends have lunch.
- ➡ The Bench under the tree dedicated to one of our Friends
- ➡ Flowers in the pots along the stairs and walkway are donated and maintained by the Alpharetta Garden Club
- ➡ Northeast Spruill Oaks Library is celebrating "Love Your Library" throughout February
- ➡ The week of April 19 is National Volunteers week.
- ➡ Atlanta Fulton County Library System will celebrate April 24 as Library Volunteer's Day.

Happy Birthday Alpharetta Library

20 Years in the Neighborhood

FOTAL GRATEFULLY THANKS OUR SUPPORTERS:

- ▶ The City of Alpharetta
- ▶ Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System
- ▶ Alpharetta Library
- ▶ Alpharetta Garden Club
- ▶ Barnes & Noble Booksellers
- ▶ Aramark
- ▶ Starbuck's
- ▶ Bagel Boy's
- ▶ Verizon

