Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Is Wednesday, June 8th
On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!

This summer the entire family is invited to read...just for fun! The North Miami Public Library Summer Reading Program runs from June 8 to August 9th, offering reading fun, entertaining programs and prizes for all!

The Friends of the North Miami Public Library are providing Grand Prizes of an Apple I-Pad, LeapFrog Leap Pad Ultra Learning Tablet, Amazon Kindle Fire HD and gift cards. Other weekly prizes will also be awarded by the Friends. Categories range from children, teenagers, and adults. Participants must sign up, pickup a reading log, and reporting on books read.

Programs all summer will include visits from some well-known personalities, Curious George in June, Bunnicula in July and Clifford the Big Red Dog in August, plus a wild animal show, a safari story teller, movies and popcorn, and a concert by the Miami Oratorio Society. See Events Calendar on back page for dates and times.

Haitian Heritage Month
Kicked-Off at Library in May

The library was the main site for the kickoff of the citywide Haitian Heritage Month celebration. A wonderful photo exhibit in the library’s central reading room remained for the entire month. The celebration included films, author signings, storytelling performances and art exhibits.

Earth Day Art & Poetry Contest A Wonderful Feast of Talent!

Based on the Esphyr Slobodkina Wonderful Feast theme, the art and poetry contests celebrated the earth’s bounty and wealth in original creations. The winners in each category are listed and pictured inside.

The Friends are grateful to Nanci Thomas of the Oscar Thomas Foundation for her enthusiastic, motivating poetry workshop, the live performances and reception at the awards ceremony on April 28th.

Several dads accompanied their children, encouraging their participation in the art and poetry contests at the library. Special guest opera singer Angel Refuse (third from right) welcomed the men, and gave a stirring operatic performance.
Friends of the North Miami Public Library

"Uplifting Our Community"

North Miami Public Library
835 N.E. 132 Street
North Miami, FL 33161
Tel.: 305-891-5535
Email: library@northmiamifl.gov
Website: www.northmiamifl.gov/departments/library

Hours
Monday-Thursday: 11:30 am to 8 pm
(computers close at 7:30 pm)
Friday-Saturday: 9:30 am to 5 pm
(computers close at 4:30 pm)
Sunday: Closed

The library offers free WiFi to the public. Public access computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis for all library card holders.

Editor
Susan Neuman
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Library Cards
Library cards are free to North Miami residents and City employees regardless of residency. Reciprocal borrowing privileges are available for residents of Hialeah, North Miami Beach and the Miami-Dade Public Library System Taxing District at no charge. There is a charge for residents of Bal Harbour, Miami Shores, Surfside and out-of- the-area residents who wish to apply for a library card.

All applicants must be present when application is completed. Anyone under 18 years of age must have parental authorization to obtain a card.

The President’s Message

It’s only been 6 months since the library reopened, but we’ve accomplished so much! The Friends served the Prime Time meals, we’ve held a successful book sale, supported/enjoyed the magnificent art exhibit for Haitian Heritage Month and now we’re preparing for the Summer Reading program. While the Friends have provided the additional support, we must applaud our industrious, resilient Library Director and staff. They do an amazing job with limited resources. The Friends will be asking our businesses and citizens to provide monetary support to better fund the Summer Reading Program, please be open and generous when they ask. Help us awaken the love of books and learning in our youth and adults.

Inez Couch, President
Friends of the North Miami Public Library
b_couch@bellsouth.net

The Movie Club

The Friends of the Library have started a new committee, The Movie Club, which will be sponsoring a free movie twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday nights. John Criscuolo will chair the new committee. The first showing will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, with the showing of “Seabiscuit.” The second free movie will be “Patton,” to be screened on June 22nd starting at 6:30 pm. Movie nights are free and will have popcorn (50-cents) and beverages (25-cents) available for purchase. The library has an extensive collection of movies available for checking out, also. Surveys will be taken to determine future movies to be shown on Wednesday nights.

The Wonderful Feast in Art and Poetry

The library’s continuing year-long celebration of the life and works of Esphyr Slobodkina whose large original artwork mural hangs in the library was the basis for the Earth Day art and poetry contests theme, The Wonderful Feast: A Celebration of the Earth’s Bounty and Wealth. Winners in both contests took home monetary prizes of $100 for first place, $75 for second and $50 for third.

ART WINNERS
Elementary
1st Place-Aika Meleus
2nd Place-Amee Fontil
3rd Place-Jennifer Don-Pierre
3rd Place-Sarah St. Fleur

Middle School
1st Place-Jason Caban
2nd Place-Rachel Hill
3rd Place-Jeff Don-Pierre

High School
1st Place-Daphenie Aly
2nd Place-Emile Uisle

POETRY WINNERS
Elementary
1st Place-Marcus Themistocle
2nd Place-Wiersma Constant
3rd Place-David Hereford

Middle School
1st Place-Kevin Prexilon
2nd Place-Kevin Ward

High School
1st Place-Daisy Collazo
2nd Place-Midjennie Dorval
3rd Place-Dama Andre
3rd Place-Synthia Andre

Friends Member Spotlight

Artist Ginette Rouzeau
Teaches Nature’s Art Painting

Long-time member of the Friends of the Library Ginette Rouzeau teaches a class at Griffing Community Center on Tuesday and Thursday. The class, Nature’s Art Painting Class, meets for seven sessions, teaching students how to be an artist and make gifts for friends using what we find in nature such as leaf printing techniques, painting on glass, clothing and bottles. Her lessons stress how to recycle and add new life to bottles, vases, clothing, sheets, lamps and more. Classes are $16.
Save the Date:

Esphyr Slobodkina’s Life & Works To be Celebrated in September

Esphyr Slobodkina’s birthday is September 22nd, and the library will celebrate the entire month with displays, seminars, and special performances. Special events will be held for the art community, seniors and children. This avant garde artist and author of 20 children’s books was a pioneer of American abstraction. An original huge mural of hers lives on two walls of the library. Her vast body of work is diverse and exciting. In her own words: “I just happen to be a very natural person, untammeled by artificial, arbitrary rules of the games people, in my case people of “Art Circles,” play. Frankly, I never gave a damn what people thought. As a result of that I always painted, sculpted, constructed, made collages, wall hangings, dolls, books, clothes, furniture “serendipographs,” “glass sandwiches,” etc., etc., and all at the same, or approximately the same time.” Plan to spend time at the library in September. Full schedule of events will be published in the next BookWorms and on the library’s website.

Book Review: Caps for Sale

Esphyr Slobodkina’s first and most popular children’s book, Caps for Sale, was published in 1940, and has become a lasting recognized classic. She is both the author and illustrator.

It is based on a folk tale found in cultures ranging from West Africa and Sudan to Egypt and India to England. As a pidgin-style saying, it appeared in American culture in the early 1920s as “monkey see, monkey do” a sly way of demonstrating a learning process without understanding why between two people or species without a common language.

Children love the mischievous monkeys. It is a fun, short and concise life lesson in natural language. It has been translated into more than a dozen languages.

Book Review: Billy, the Condominium Cat

This was Esphyr Slobodkina’s 20th and last children’s book which she both wrote and illustrated. It was published in 1980. She had moved from New York to Hallandale, Florida, with her mother in 1978.

Billy, the Condominium Cat, grew out of her personal experiences in South Florida. It is the story of an elderly woman who retired to South Florida with her cat, where both, in loneliness, wistfully reminisce about the northernly home, garden and people they left behind.

While in South Florida, Ms. Slobodkina contributed to local art galleries, museums and libraries. She donated 20 of her children’s books to the North Miami Public Library in 1988, and created and donated a huge, two-wall mural of The Wonderful Feast for the Children’s Room of the North Miami Public Library in 1988, where it still hangs.

Fall Book Sale

Set For October

The Friends of the Library have set their fall Book Sale dates for Friday, October 7 (Friends Preview Day), Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9th at the library program room.

We are always welcoming donations of gently read coffee-table, hard-cover and paperback books, movie dvds, current magazines, reading accessories, knick knacks and paraphernalia. So, update those book shelves and magazine racks, clean out those closets, and bring us some treasures to sell. We fund our library community programs with the proceeds, bringing everything from opera singers to choir groups, folk story tellers to orators, puppet shows to guitarists, costumed historical figures (like Ponce de Leon himself!) to costumed critters (like Curious George, Bunicula and Clifford the Big Red Dog) for the amusement, amazement (and education!) of our patrons of all ages.

Special instructions: Box your donations (small boxes are easier for us to lift), call ahead for a drop off time, and bring them into the library lobby. Please don’t leave them outside or put them in the book drop. Please, no old text books, they just don’t sell. Mark the boxes for “Friends donations”. Then mark the dates on your calendar to come and support our Book Sale.

Library Director's Message

This summer the North Miami Public Library, with the generous support of the Friends of the Library, offers an array of programs, activities, reading challenges, and incentives to make reading a community-wide family experience for all ages. Research shows that school summer breaks can cause the average student to lose up to one month of instruction, with disadvantaged students being disproportionately affected. This is what researchers have often referred to as the “summer slide.” A report written for the US Department of Education found that the amount of independent reading done outside of school was consistently related to gains in reading achievement and that children will engage in more independent reading when they have greater access to books. The North Miami Public Library’s summer reading program and the exciting events and incentives listed in this issue are intended to involve parents and all family members in the library summer reading experience, to increase successful reading experiences through librarian-supported, self-selected, voluntary reading, improve access to books and resources, and to foster the love of reading. We invite readers to discuss, write about, and report on the books they read. We invite everyone to “Join the Game...Exercise your Mind...Read!”

— Lucia Gonzalez

Friends of the North Miami Public Library
Book Club
Friends Book Club Offers Contemporary & Historic Intellectual Stimulation

The Book Club has an exciting summer planned. The three books for summer reading are The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown, which will be discussed at the June 16th meeting; The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd, the topic of the July 21st gathering; and Killing Reagan by Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard, for the August 18th meeting.

The Book Club meets at the Alaska Coffee Roasting Company, 13130 Biscayne Blvd., at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday each month. We would love to see some new faces at our next Book Club meeting. The public is welcome.

~Barbara Stewart

Events at Your Library
June 8 – August 9 Summer Reading Program

June 8, 1:00 to 5:00pm Summer Reading Kickoffs on Wednesday, Meet Curious George, pick up your first reading log and stay for a story hour with Mayor Smith Joseph!
June 8, 6:30 pm. The Friends’ adult Movie Club presents Seabiscuit. Movie is free. Popcorn, beverage available for purchase.
June 14, 1 pm– Children’s Movies & Popcorn @ the Library, Watch exciting movies inspired by books and enjoy the popcorn.
June 16, 1 pm. Ready, Set...Read with Melinda the Storyteller! Amazing stories about the sea, owls, frogs, tricky critters, slithery snakes told by master storyteller Melinda Munger.
June 16, 7 pm. The Book Club meets at Alaska Coffee Roasting Co., to discuss The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown.
June 22, 6:30 pm. The Friend’s adult Movie Club presents Patton, the story of the amazing World War II General.
June 23, 1 pm. Children’s Movies & Popcorn @ the Library, inspired by books.
June 30, 1 pm. Ready, Set...Read with Melinda the Storyteller! Amazing stories by a master storyteller.

July 2, 2 pm. Concert by the Miami Oratorio Society. Under the direction of Andrew Anderson, they will perform classical, spirituals and gospel.
July 5, 1 pm. Children’s Movies & Popcorn @ the Library.
July 7, 10 am. Pangea Productions Wild Animal Show, Presenting a variety of animals in a ‘hands-on’ adventure! The show includes arachnids, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, scorpions, toads, alligators, snakes, birds, monkeys and more!
July 13, 6:30 pm. The Friend’s adult Movie Club, movie showing.
July 14, 1 pm. Ready, Set...Read with Melinda the Storyteller! Amazing stories by master storyteller Melinda Munger July 19, 10 am. Safari Sue, - Explorer, alligator hunter, storyteller - this safari has Florida history, explorers, the Everglades, and even Africa!
July 21, 1 pm. Children’s Movies & Popcorn @ the Library.
July 21, 7 pm. The Book Club meets at Alaska Coffee Roasting Co., to discuss The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd.
July 27, 6:30 pm. The Friend’s adult Movie Club presents a movie selection.
July 28, 1 pm. Ready, Set...Read with Melinda the Storyteller!
August 2, 10 am. Get in the Game...with Sporty Sue, Play, compete, and enjoy this program about adventure and sports!
August 4, 1 pm. Ready, Set...Read with Melinda the Storyteller!
August 9, 1 pm Summer Reading Program conclusion. Lots of fun, refreshments, book characters and more.
August 10, 6:30 pm. The Friend’s Movie Club presents a free adult movie.
August 18, 7 pm. The Book Club meets at Alaska Coffee Roasting Co., to discuss Killing Reagan by Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugan.
August 16. Summer Reading Program Grand prize winners announced. Grand Prizes: LeapFrog® LeapPad™ Ultra Learning Tablet; Amazon Kindle Fire HD; and gift cards!
August 24, 6:30 pm. The Friend’s Movie Club presents a free film for adults.

Calling All Donors

Help our organization uplift the North Miami community by sending us a donation to further expand our mission.

MISSION STATEMENT: Advocate for the North Miami Public Library patrons, staff, volunteers, and citizens by raising funds to purchase reading materials, equipment, supplies, refreshments, field trips, professional services, and free to the public programs that enhance intergenerational literacy.

This 30 year old organization has a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service. Donations are tax deductible and an official letter of receipt will be sent to each donor.

Send donations to Sharon Sbrissa, Treasurer, Friends of the North Miami Public Library, 835 NE 132 Street North Miami, FL 33161