

the Book Worms

WINTER 2022

Friends of the North Miami Public Library

Outgoing Library Director Lucia Gonzalez: *"This is not goodbye."*



On the evening of January 6, the retirement party celebrated the retirement of Library Director Lucia Gonzalez in front of the North Miami Public Library (out of an abundance of caution, health-wise). There was delicious food prepared by Chef D, great music by the group Guitars Not Guns, and festive decorations that graced the courtyard of the Library. Many people expressed their respect and appreciation for her, including North Miami Mayor Philippe Bien-Aime and other city and community leaders. Friends of the Library President Becky Jones presented to Lucia a book sculpture. Paul Bazile, the newly-appointed Library Director, expressed his gratitude for experiencing the benefit of Lucia's ongoing mentorship, resulting in his new appointment. Lucia has "passed the baton" onto him, exemplifying the importance of leaving behind a legacy that ensures the ongoing survival and relevancy of the Library. Lastly, Lucia herself expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the staff members, to the community, and to Friends of the Library and other fundraisers that have supported the Library, emphasizing the value of the partnership between the community as a whole and the North Miami Public Library. This is *not* goodbye; her presence will continue to be felt as a new member of the Friends of the Library, where she will continue to do her part to support her local library. *See the article based on the interview with Lucia Gonzalez on page three.*



Lucia Gonzalez and Becky Jones, Library Friends President

FEBRUARY 2022 BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

"Silent Movies" every Friday, 3:00 pm. Featuring films celebrating the legacy of the Black community. *With closed captions or with our special headphones.*

MOCA at the Library for Teens, to celebrate Black History Month. Thursdays at 3:00pm.

Brite Star Theatre Presents: *Black History Hall of Fame*, February 22 at 3:30 pm.

Essay Contest about Black History. Deadline is February 12 and no later. Announcement of contest winners is on February 24, 5:30 pm.

Programs are sponsored by Friends of the North Miami Public Library

Congratulations to the New North Miami Public Library Director,

Paul Bazile



Mayor Philippe Bien-Aime's Official Essay Contest

DEADLINE: February 12, 2022, 5 p.m. No Exceptions!!!

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to celebrate Black History Month, Mayor Philippe Bien-Aime is hosting an **Essay Contest** open to all North Miami middle and high school students.

There will be 3 winners for Middle School aged students and 3 for High School aged students. All winners must be present on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at the North Miami Public Library, 835 NE 132nd Street, North Miami, FL 33161. All essays must be submitted to the North Miami Library by February 12, 2022, 5 p.m. **No Exceptions!**

Complete entry forms can be picked up from the North Miami Public Library, located at 835 NE 132nd Street, North Miami, FL 33161.

For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation Office 305-895-9840.

We're Honoring Black History Month

. . . which is a time to celebrate the contributions and triumphs of African-Americans throughout history. The NoMi Public library will honor black history with Children's Storytime, a Black History Hall of Fame production, new books being added to our African American Collection, and much more.

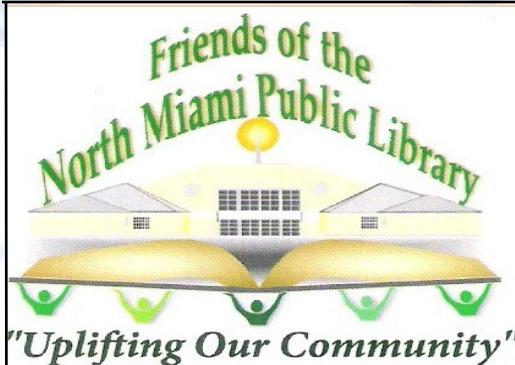
BLACK HISTORY HALL OF FAME

A theatrical production by *Brite Star Touring Theatre* Tuesday, **FEBRUARY 22, 2022, 3:00 pm**



Follow us on this amazing journey through Black History as we meet Maya Angelou, Aretha Franklin, Mae Jemison, the Buffalo Soldiers, and more. A fast-paced adventure sure to delight any audience! For age groups K-5th Grade.

Social distancing and face masks will be enforced.



by **Becky Jones**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you, Lucia!

Lucia Gonzalez has Retired as the Director of the North Miami Library. The Friends of the North Miami Library hosted her retirement celebration on January 6, 2022.

The Celebration was to express our Thanks for the years she spent as the leader of the Library.

We have had several Directors over the years. They have all been outstanding! Lucia will be remembered for her leadership during the pandemic. Covid-19 closed the Library for almost a year.

Lucia had to find ways to provide virtual library services during this unprecedented time. She and the library staff provided creative and informative programs for the community for more than eighteen months!

This is to just say Thank You Lucia for all you've done and to tell you that you'll be remembered long after your retirement!

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Wednesday

12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Friday and Saturday

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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

Nancy Donohue

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LIBRARY CARDS

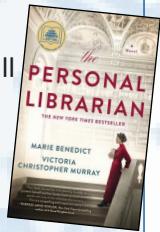
Library cards are free to North Miami residents and City employees regardless of residency. Reciprocal borrowing privileges are available for residents of Hialeah, North Miami Beach and the Miami-Dade Public Library Systems. Taxing District at no charge. There is a charge for residents of Bal Harbour,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

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

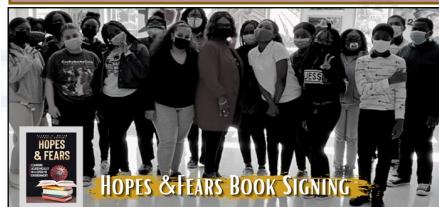
Book Recommendation

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray—Review by *Malinda Cleary*, Friends of the North Miami Public Library member.

If you appreciate learning about someone who is relatively unknown today but achieved extraordinary success in her time, you will enjoy *The Personal Librarian*. This historical novel has been well researched and presented. The heroine is Belle Da Costa Greene, who was born into a prominent, pale Black family. Passing as white, Belle became the personal librarian to one of the most powerful and influential men of his era, John Pierpont Morgan. With her remarkable intelligence and perceptive observations, she helped create the unmatched Morgan Library collection of manuscripts and art. The Morgan Library and Museum was made accessible to the public under her direction. In this narrative, you will step back in time and enjoy the familiarity of illustrious notables of New York's Gilded Age. All of this is achieved by an individual who had to maintain her own secrets and personal sacrifices during this era.



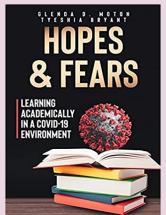
Authors! Authors!



To students preparing for the **SAT exams** for college, sign up for the **Jumpstart Tutoring Center** program.

Contact the North Miami Library at 305-891-5535. Classes are on **Saturdays, March 5—April 29, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm**. The SAT exam is on May 5.

The book ***Hopes & Fears*** was written by North Miami Senior High's ninth grade English class taught by Ms. Glenda Moton, recounting what had been a difficult year for us all. The students wrote essays, expressing their hopes and fears during the pandemic. Because they were so profound, Ms. Moton decided to publish them in a book she entitled ***Hopes & Fears: Learning Academically in a COVID-19 Environment***. Out of this came media attention from North Miami's Councilman Scott Galvin, and a successful book signing event at the North Miami Public Library.



LUCIA'S LEGACY

By Nancy Donohue



Based on an interview with former North Miami Public Library Director, Lucia Gonzalez

The recently-retired Library Director Lucia Gonzalez shared some of her insights into the future and the changing role of libraries. It makes sense that she would be a strong advocate, having also worked in the Broward and Miami-Dade Library systems during her career. In 2011, she became the Library Director of the North Miami Public Library with extensive experience under her belt. Her clarity of vision and strategy were the thrust of a clear-cut five-year plan that she formulated, aware that the libraries' roles must continue to evolve in order to maintain their relevance. Under Lucia's leadership, the NoMi Public Library was transformed into one that has a healthy relationship with the City of North Miami and with the community as a whole. She saw to it the library's expansion included upgraded technology and the addition of many more computers (from grants); and the complete renovation of the Library building itself. There is now a healthy book budget, and RFID technology has been implemented to make keeping track of borrowed books more efficient.

In her heart of hearts, Lucia is a children's librarian first. She feels that having a background in children's

librarianship has made her a better leader. And as an immigrant from Cuba herself, she took measures to make sure that the Library is accessible to families, especially those from other countries. Creating an atmosphere that makes them and their children feel welcome was key to encouraging them to seek the Library to improve their literacy and their participation in their children's education. And English as a Second Language (ESL) classes were offered. "Family night" and many other programs were organized to create a relationship between the Library, the community, and local schools. Lucia got to know a lot of the patrons, to the point of being able to recommend particular book titles to individuals. The Library, she said, is about "building bridges," and emphasized that "parks and libraries are essential for a healthy community."

For many teens, noted Lucia, "the library is a safe haven, a refuge, from the difficulties of their lives." Most schools close at 3:00 pm, so the library is where they can stay and do their homework or have access to a computer. There are times when a book can save a life; kids aren't always comfortable approaching their parents or anyone else for advice, but they can access books and get some of the answers there.

She emphasized that one of the responsibilities of the Library Director is to cultivate future librarians and staff members in order to ensure the Library's continuity and growth. She speaks with

pride about the current Library Director, Paul Bazile, whom she mentored since he was an intern at the Library years ago. Moreover, he comes from the very community that the Library serves, so he has a keen understanding of how best to serve it.

Storytelling is not that big a leap from librarian to author. Lucia's books include: *The Bossy Gallito; Señor Cat's Romance and Other Favorite Stories; and The Story-teller's Candle*. The importance of a story cannot be over-emphasized in its ability to impart wisdom and life lessons, and in ways that are easily understandable to young readers. Lucia notes that her retirement also means that "I have just completed writing my library."

Life after the Library for Lucia includes becoming a member of the Friends of the North Miami Public Library, a group that helps support many of the Library's programs through book sales and other activities. The Friends have enthusiastically welcomed her, and regard her as a valuable addition to the organization.

Lucia Gonzalez has come full circle. When she was a young immigrant from Cuba years ago, she received her very first library card.

It was at the North Miami Public Library.



Programs Sponsored by



The City of North Miami in collaboration with the **Florida State Conference of the NAACP** and the Miami-Dade branch of the NAACP held a program called **"Unity in the North Miami Community."** It was held on December 11, 2021 at the North Miami Public Library.

North Miami's Council Woman Cassandra

Timothe was the moderator, and the conference also included a host of panelists from the NAACP Miami-Dade branch and prominent Black figures in the community.



CHILDREN'S TRUST—PARENTS CLUB

"Being a parent is hard. But you don't have to do it alone." On Wednesday **January 26, 2022 at 6:30pm** the **Children's Trust Parent Club** hosts a workshop in English designed to help caregivers learn new skills. Also on **February 2 at 6:30 pm** in Creole; **February 9 at 6:30 pm** in Spanish.

WAGS & TALES

Come to the NoMi Library every **Wednesday at 3:30 pm** and read to some of our furry-tailed friends! For more information, please contact us in the Library at 305-891-5535.

The month of March is:

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
and March 8 is
International Women's Day



March 2 is Dr. Seuss Day!
Or: National Read Across America Day.

The **GREAT PUMPKIN COUNT**

winner is: **EVELENDA ETIENNE**—192
pumpkin candies in a jar.

The prize: a \$25 Amazon gift card.

"The three most important documents a free society gives are a birth certificate, a passport, and a library card." **E.L. Doctorow**

Learning at the Library

Celebrity Storytime

Enjoy **Celebrity Storytime**, read by different NoMi Community leaders.

Feb 1 Celebrity Storytime, 3:00 pm.

Feb 3 **MOCA @ The Library Celebrates Black History**, 3:00 pm.

Feb 8 Storytime Feat. **Miss. Rosie and her Red Wagon**, 3:30 pm.

Feb 15 Celebrity Storytime, 3:00 pm.

Feb 22 **Brite Star Theater Presents - Black History Hall of Fame**, 3:30 pm.

Feb 28 Celebrity Storytime Feat. **Ray Shipman**, 3:30 pm.

March 2 Celebrity Storytime Feat. **Lorraine Joseph**, author of *When Liyah Gets Carried Away*, 4:00 pm.

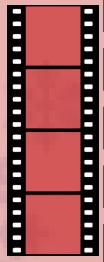
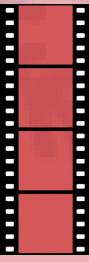
March 3 Celebrity Storytime Feat. **Theresa Therilus**, North Miami City Manager, 4:00 pm.

March 30 Celebrity Storytime Feat. **James Haj**, Children's Trust President and CEO, 4:00 pm.

The NoMi Library presents

"Silent Movies"

Enjoy the movies with closed captions or with our special headphones!



Feb. 4—"42" The Jackie Robinson Story

Feb. 11—Just Mercy

Feb. 18—Hidden Figures

Feb. 25—Harriet

Fridays, 3-5 pm

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER PROGRAM SEMINAR at the Library

Topics: City and county available grants; new laws and regulations; credit requirements and tax changes

For Creole speakers.

Every fourth Saturday of the month, 6:00 to 8:00 pm



MAD SCIENCE is an 8-week hybrid **STEM** program for kids in grades K-8. From **Saturdays, January 29 through March 22, 2022. 11:30 am—12:30 pm**.

The first 20 kids to register have the option to attend at the Library itself and receive science kits and safety gear for each week. Other participants will have access to the live program through Facebook (@NoMiLibrary).

To register, please call the Library at 305-891-5535. Space is limited!



MOCA at the Library

—Every Thursday,

3:00 pm

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), and the North Miami Public Library join forces to bring teens together through art.

Restorative Yoga

With instructor, **Paula Londono**

MONDAYS, March 7, 14, 21; April 4, 11, 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 starting at 11:30 am

ADULTS, ages 18+

(Senior Citizens & special needs accommodated)



Social distancing and face masks will be enforced. Please bring a water bottle and small towel. Props and mats are provided by the Library as needed.

Free admission

For more information or to participate virtually, please call the North Miami Public Library at 305-891-5535

ONLINE Sewing Classes

Learning something new, fun, and creative!

Classes on Wednesdays on February 23 and March 2

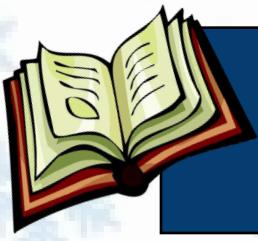
Adults: 11:30 am—1:00 pm

Youth : 4:00 pm—5:30 pm

Also, students complete a 1.5-hour class on sewing safety.



Call the NoMi Library to register at 305-891-5535



BOOK CLUB

FRIENDS BOOK CLUB OFFERS CONTEMPORARY & HISTORIC INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION

After the pandemic restrictions are lifted, we will resume our monthly Book Club meetings.

Remember—There's an ongoing *BOOK SALE* by the entrance of the Library



Congratulations and *Thank you!* to those of you who organized and attended our famous **ANNUAL BOOK SALE**. As always, the proceeds will support the educational programs of the North Miami Public Library.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HOPES & FEARS BOOK SIGNING EVENT

A compilation of student authors' pandemic experiences
Monday, 12/8, 6:00-8:00 pm

NAACP, Miami-Dade Branch's UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

A "Unity in the North Miami Community" seminar

Saturday, 12/11, 12:00 pm

RETIREMENT EVENT—LUCIA GONZALEZ

Celebrating the former Library Director's contributions

Thursday, 1/6, 5:30 pm

CHILDREN'S TRUST PARENTS CLUB—a Parents' Support

Group. **Wed., 1/26, 6:30 pm** in English. **Wed., 2/2, 6:30 pm** in Creole. **Wed., 2/9, 6:30 pm** in Spanish.

MAD SCIENCE

8-week hybrid STEM program for kids

Saturdays, 1/29—3/19, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

CELEBRITY STORYTIME

With readings by North Miami Community leaders

Tues., Feb. 1, 8, and 15; and Mon., Feb. 28

Wed., March 2; Thurs., March 3; and Wed., March 30

Times vary; see previous page under Celebrity Storytime

BLACK HISTORY HALL OF FAME

A theatrical production of the Brite Star Touring Theatre

Tuesday, 2/22, 3:00 pm

ONLINE SEWING CLASSES

Separate Youth (11:30 am) and Adult (4:00 pm) classes

Wednesdays, February 23 and March 2

DR. SEUSS DAY or National Read Across America Day

Encouraging children to read

March 2

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, and professional services—programs that are free to the public 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.



<https://www.facebook.com/NoMiLibrary>

Instagram: NoMi Library

For the latest updates of Library events, visit <https://www.northmiamifl.gov/681/Calendar-Programs>

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS' SEMINAR

For Creole speakers

Every fourth Saturday of the Month, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

OFFICIAL ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by NoMi Mayor Philippe Bien-Aime

DEADLINE for submission: Feb 12, 2022 at 5:00 pm

OFFICIAL ESSAY CONTEST Winner Announcement

3 Winners for Middle School age and 3 for High School age

Feb. 24, 2022 at 5:00 pm

WAGS AND TALES

The **Wags and Tales** program. Our furry Friends will be in the Library ready for our little patrons to read them a story.

Wednesdays, 3:30 pm

MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art) @ THE LIBRARY

Art instructors show teens specific art projects

Thursdays, 3:00 pm

SILENT MOVIES

Listen on our headphones or watch the movie with no sound (closed captions).

Fridays, 3:00 pm

ONGOING BOOK SALE

By the entrance of the NoMi Library

JUMPSTART TUTORING CENTER

Sign up for classes by the **Jump Start Tutoring** program in order to prepare for the SAT exams. Call the NoMi Library for reservations. Sessions are on Saturdays, from March 5 through April 29, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The SAT exam itself is on May 5.

CALLING ALL DONORS

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

SEND DONATIONS TO:

Friends of the North Miami Public Library
835 NE 132 Street
North Miami, FL 33161