Hello, Friends!

After over a year of what seemed like suspended animation due to COVID19 precautions, the Friends of Hall County Library System put on our first fundraiser of 2021, a special One Day Mini Book Sale.

Getting together with other Friends to sort and set up the books was a joyous occasion, as many faithful Friends volunteered to help. But apparently we weren’t the only ones eagerly anticipating a return to book sales. By the time the library opened the doors at 10 on Saturday, June 19, we had a line of over 100 eager customers ready to shop for bargains. We raised around $2000 from the One Day sale, to add to the $600 from the sale of books from our shelves at the branches. And we received our first quarterly check from our new online book sales partner, Thrift Books, for $900.

I can’t thank all the volunteers and the library staff enough for the hard work everyone put in to get this sale together on relatively short notice. It's wonderful to see those efforts rewarded by such a great return, which will be put to good use supporting our libraries programs for children and adults, as well as education and training opportunities for the staff.

We have 2 more fundraising events scheduled for 2021:

- **Dark and Stormy Night**, an evening of ghost stories for adults, scheduled for October 22nd. This popular event returns to get us in the mood for a spooky Halloween. Current Friends members will get first chance to purchase tickets for this event, which has been a sellout both times we’ve presented it before. Look for information coming to your inbox and on the library's website later this summer.

- **Return of our Annual Used Book Sale** on Saturday, November 13th and Sunday, November 14th. We are planning a Members-only Preview Sale the evening of Friday, November 12th, so look for news about that in early fall.

We'll also need volunteers to help with these events, and I'll be emailing you about that when the time comes. And don't forget our next **Friends quarterly meeting, set for 5 pm, Monday, August 16th, at the Gainesville Library.**

Thank you all for staying loyal to our Friends organization during the upheavals of the past year. You can be proud of what we've managed to accomplish as outside forces required the library staff to handle the challenges of moving in and out of temporary quarters at the main branch in Gainesville, and the pivot to curbside pickup and virtual programs throughout the system to protect us all while allowing us access to much-needed materials during the pandemic. We have a library system –and a Friends group-- to be proud of and grateful for.

Best regards,
Denise Lee
President of FOHCLS

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**Upcoming Dates:**

Friends of the Library Meeting (IN PERSON!) Monday August 16 at 5PM Gainesville Library meeting room

Dark and Stormy Night Ghost Storytelling Friday October 22 7:30PM Gainesville Library

Friends Annual Used Book Sale November 12-14 Gainesville Library
Tickets go on sale for Friends members only Monday August 23rd at 9AM. General public tickets will go on sale on Wednesday September 1st at 9AM. Friends members use the discount code: ghostfriends2021 at check out if getting tickets online. Enjoy new stories, storytellers, learn about the famous hauntings of Gainesville, a dessert intermission, and more!

Sorting will start in October on Monday and Wednesday mornings at the Gainesville Branch. The week of the book sale we will be doing sorting and set up every day. Please be on the look out for volunteer opportunities in your email box or call 770-532-3311 ext. 126 to volunteer. Even one hour makes a huge difference! Donations can be made to any branch as well for the book sale.
It is time to renew your Friends membership for 2021. Our membership/renewal form is located on the back of the newsletter. If your name is not listed, we have not recorded your renewal for 2021. If you feel we have omitted your name in error, or if we have misspelled your name, please call Adrianne Junius at 770-532-3311 ext. 126. All membership renewals are based on the calendar year and due in January.

Friends make a difference!

The largest supporter of Hall County's summer reading program is the Friends of the Library. In 2020, with Covid-19, programs and activities had to be done virtually. The staff planned for a semi normal Summer Reading Program, and the community response has been large! Thanks to the Friends, the library system has been able to host outdoor storytimes, performers, teen events, and more! The Friends also bought all staff members custom Summer Reading shirts to promote the large literacy program.

Remembering Mrs. Lessie Smithgall 1911-2021

The Friends of the Hall County Library send our condolences to the family of Mrs. Lessie Smithgall. Mrs. Smithgall has been a supporter and lifetime member of the Friends for many years. She was a huge supporter of the Friends sponsorship of HCL's team for the Hall County Alliance for Literacy's Spelling Bee.
Join Friends of the Hall County Library System and enjoy your membership through the year 2021. With your help, we can expand our library activities and services throughout Hall County.

Student $5    Individual $15 Family $25 Patron $50    Sponsor $100    Lifetime $500

NAME________________________________________ PHONE__________________

ADDRESS____________________________________________________________

EMAIL_________________________________________________________________

Please send me the newsletter by U.S. mail _____ Please send via email only _____

I would like to help with:   Library book sales_______ Author programs_______

Fundraising_______ Service on the Board ______

My check for $___________ is enclosed.
Pay to FOHCLS, 127 Main Street NW, Gainesville. GA 30501