First Edition

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM THE BROWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Broward Public Library Foundation was founded in 1982 to enhance the collections, programs and services of the Broward County Library beyond the means of public funding. The nonprofit Foundation is the catalyst in sparking private funding and endowments to enrich the Broward County Library system.

Literary Feast Features 17 Best-selling Authors

The countdown is underway for Literary Feast 2017, the 29th annual celebration of books and authors being held on March 31 and April 1. Seventeen nationally known authors, including Debbie Macomber, Sophie Hannah, Joyce Maynard and Heather Graham, will meet with donors, sponsors, high school students and the public at three events. The Helen Ingham Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor of the fundraising weekend.

On Friday, March 31, the authors will visit Broward County high schools to talk about their books and the craft of writing during Novel Day for Students, sponsored by Bank of America. That night, at LitWEL, sponsored by Nova Southeastern University, the authors will speak on panels at three Barnes & Noble stores in Plantation, Fort Lauderdale and Pembroke Pines.

On Saturday, April 1, the Night of Literary Feasts begins with a Welcome Reception, sponsored by JM Family Enterprises, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale. From there, guests go on to dinners with an author in private homes and restaurants.

A highlight of the evening is the silent auction – mobile bids can be placed starting March 27 on http://bidpal.net/literaryfeast for more than 100 items, including a 7-day Holland America cruise, your name in one of the Feast author Linda Fairstein’s upcoming novels and a Basket of Cheer donated by the Broward Public Library Foundation Board of Directors.

Reservations - $175 for reception and dinner, or $75 for reception only - are now available online at bplfoundation.org. For more details, call 954-357-7382.

Dollars raised throughout the weekend will support 18 Broward County Library programs, including the Summer Learning Program, free computer classes and free SAT/ACT Workshops for high school students.

For free tickets, please visit www.bpfoundation.org

Location #1

"Feast in Fort Lauderdale" with moderator Gail Bullin
Friday, March 31, 2017 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Barnes & Noble (Fort Lauderdale, Federal Highway)
2031 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305, 954-561-3732

Authors appearing at the Fort Lauderdale store are:
Roberto Celen Butler, Parfums River
Herta Estly, Saving Moab, Moonrow
Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing
Debbie Macomber, If Not for You
Joyce Maynard, Under the Influence
Gareth Russell, Young and Damned and Fair: The Life of Catherine Howard, Fifth Wife of King Henry VIII

Location #2

"Mystery Panel in Plantation" with moderator Oline Cogdill
Friday, March 31, 2017 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Barnes & Noble (Plantation, Broward Mall area)
591 South University Dr., Plantation, FL 33324, 954-723-0489

Authors appearing at the Plantation store are:
Linda Fairstein, Killer Look
Heather Graham, A Perfect Obsession
Mark Greenway, Gunmetal Gray
Andrew Grass, The One Man
Sophie Hannah, The Closed Closet (an Agatha Christie Hercule Poirot mystery)
Jean Martinez, Conviction: The Untold Story of Putting Jodi Arias Behind Bars

Location #3

"Panel in the Pines" with moderator, Mim Harrison
Friday, March 31, 2017 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Barnes & Noble at Pembroke Crossings (Pembroke Pines, near Flamingo Road)
11820 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines, FL 33026, (954) 441-0444

Authors appearing at the Pembroke Pines store are:
Dr. James Hamblin, If Our Bodies Could Talk
Jennifer Keishin Armstrong, Sentinella
Lawrence Millman, At the End of the World: A True Story of Murder in the Arctic
Thomas Swick: The Joys of Travel: And Stories That Illuminate Them

New Library Director on the Job in Broward

Broward County Library has a new Director - Kelvin Watson. Watson, who has been in the library services industry for almost 20 years in both the public and private sectors, began work in Broward on Feb. 27. Formerly the Chief Operating Officer, Senior Vice President for Queens Library in New York City, he is credited with innovative community outreach, including jails, hospitals and community centers. He also has a strong background in technology and pioneering ways to overcome the digital divide.

"My role as Director is to ensure that our customers always receive the very best service possible from our resourceful and helpful staff," he said. "I look forward to working with our Library Advisory Board, Friends groups, the Broward Public Library Foundation and other Broward County stakeholders to create partnerships that bring powerful programs and expanded resources to the Broward County Libraries customers."

In addition to his position at Queens Library, Watson has previously held positions at the National Agricultural Library, The Library Corporation, Ingram Library Services, Borders Group, Inc., and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He is the past president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and has served as a Commissioner Officer in the Active US Army and Army Reserves.

"We are excited to have someone with the depth of industry experience and successful community engagement as Kelvin brings to Broward County," said Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry. "I am confident that his experience in expanding digital and traditional service delivery will enhance our already robust offering of library, online, and mobile services."

Watson received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a Minor in Military Science from Lincoln University in Missouri. He also has his Masters of Library Science Degree from North Carolina Central University.

Kelvin Watson
LitLUNCH! a Smashing Success

On Feb. 10, Samantha Etus, author of “The Pie Life,” shared her recipe for work/life balance and success with 180 guests at LitLUNCH!, the first event of Literary Feast 2017. Held at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six Pier Top, those attending enjoyed networking and bidding on silent auction and raffle items during the fundraising event. WPLG-Local 10 anchor/reporter Niko Mohan introduced Ms. Etus and conducted a live auction for a half-hour phone consultation with the author. The Haller Foundation was the Presenting Sponsor; other sponsors included Tripp Scott, BankUnited, Broward Health, Edward Jones Investments and Home Advisors Miami.

Don’t Miss the Final Book With Brunch on April 27

South Florida attorney Robert Buschel’s debut novel, By Silent Majority, tells the story of President Dan Carlson’s rise to power and the risky decisions made along the way. Buschel will speak, sell and sign his political thriller at Book with Brunch, which begins at 10:30 a.m. April 27 at ArtServe in Fort Lauderdale (1350 E. Sunrise Boulevard).

A Brooklyn native, Buschel graduated from the University of Miami in psychology and went on to receive his law degree from Nova Southeastern University.

Besides writing, Buschel’s passion is flying airplanes. He is an instrument-rated private pilot who flies for business and humanitarian missions. Book With Brunch is a benefit to Foundation members at the $50 level and above; nonmembers may attend by paying a $25 non-refundable fee in advance. Please call 954.357.7382 to make your reservation.

BPLF Interviews Sophie Hannah, Writing Heir to Agatha Christie

The newest Agatha Christie novel Closed Casket opens with a nervous lawyer calling on his client, a writer of children’s mystery books at exactly four o’clock. He is a minute late. He’s worried. This is coincidentally the same time Sophie Hannah sat down with BPL for an interview about how she was chosen to carry on the work of Dame Agatha and the beloved detective Hercule Poirot.

“I had heard that the family of Agatha Christie did not want anyone to write continuation novels as they are called. My agent was in a meeting one day and put my name forward to the U.S. publisher. I was irritated with him, knowing it wasn’t what the family wanted. Hannah said.

The day after hearing this, Hannah had the perfect idea for a Poirot book. The problem was that she didn’t write historical fiction. And there was the little problem with the family.

“For me, the idea of history is Season 1 of The Good Wife. I thought that I’d just have to buckle down and write one—though I usually write contemporary psychological mysteries.”

The next day her agent called. “The Christie family wants to meet you. Agatha Christie’s family had questions about how Sophie Hannah would treat the character of Poirot. Would she want to change him? Would she want to bring him into the 21st century? Would she give him a love interest? I knew that it would be impossible to copy another writer’s prose style. I invented a new sidekick for Poirot who could narrate the story and be a new voice that would explain the change in prose.”

Hannah’s writing holds to a classic Poirot in the golden age of the 1920s and 30s. Hannah hopes some of Agatha Christie’s other characters will appear in continuation novels. “I would love to see someone write Miss Morpie. I would be excited as a reader. I want to experience that as a fan.”

Conference on Children’s Literature Scheduled for March 17

“One Children’s Book, Many Ways: Exploring Educational Options and Approaches Within a Single Title” is the theme for the 30th annual Conference on Children’s Literature, being held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 17 at the Main Library in Fort Lauderdale.

The free conference, funded by the Broward Public Library Foundation, the Friends of the Fort Lauderdale Libraries and the Friends of the African-American Research Library, is a free event where teachers, librarians, parents, readers, writers and illustrators can gain exposure to current trends in literature for youth and teens.

Among the presenters are Caldecott Honor Award winners Laura Vaccaro Seeger and Brian Pinney, as well as knowledgeable local educators.

Those interested must preregister by March 14 by calling 954.357-7336. The Main Library is at 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale.