



The Foundation

The Alachua County Library District Foundation

providing long-term support to the Alachua County Library District
through major gifts and bequests since 1989

April 2020

2020 Annual Katherine's Tree Award Ceremony

On Sunday, March 8th, the Foundation held its sixth annual ceremony to recognize the previous year's Katherine's Tree leaf recipients. Librarian Linda Cue received the 13th annual Guy Hudspeth Award (named for retired librarian and its first recipient in 2007, Guy Hudspeth) for her work with vulnerable populations, including incarcerated patrons. The Award, sponsored by the Kosman Foundation, annually honors an outstanding Library District employee. Among her many other accomplishments, Cue set up the "Read to Me Program" while serving as the jail librarian. This enabled incarcerated fathers to make recordings of story books to share with their children. "I am grateful for this award and the opportunity to serve my community and library patrons for almost twenty years," Cue said.

Each year, the Friends of the Library honors some of its outstanding volunteers by placing leaves on the tree. One honoree was Linda Boyles, a faithful FOL volunteer who, among other activities, helps select a book to be donated to Head Start students each year. Another was Bill Burk, a twelve-year volunteer who is willing to take on any task and

even recruited his daughter to volunteer. This year's third FOL-donated leaf, in combination with family members, was given in memory of Helen Duschatko, an avid reader and longtime FOL volunteer.



Geraldine Nichols gave a leaf in memory of her mother Mary Louise O'Haire Cleary, a world traveler always ready for adventure and a voracious reader — a passion she passed on to all her children. Masuma Downie donated a leaf in memory of her late husband Richard D. Downie. After his retirement from UF, he was a frequent patron of the Tower Road Branch and also appreciated the Interlibrary Loan books which the librarians always managed to acquire for him.

Marilyn Tubb, on behalf of Roxie Mergenthaler, gave a leaf in honor of her aunt, Katherine Anne Tubb, for whom this tree is named. Roxie shares her late aunt's love of books and reading. Lita and Peter Fake donated a leaf in appreciation for "the superb services provided by the libraries of Alachua County."

These eight leaves represent gifts totaling \$16,000 to the Foundation to help advance its support of our outstanding Library.