



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

January 2022

ACLD Foundation Hosts its Tenth Annual Non-Event Gala

Beginning in 2012, the Foundation has hosted an annual Non-Event Gala to raise funds for its work on behalf of the Alachua County Library District and its patrons. The first Gala honored Charles Dickens on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his birth. This year's Gala marks a 100th anniversary, that of the first stage production of *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)* by Czech playwright Karel Čapek (in which the word "robot" was introduced to the world). The American premiere was in October, 1922, with 184 performances at New York's Garrick Theatre. Spencer Tracy and Pat O'Brien played robots in their Broadway debuts.

Our non-event Gala asks questions posed by *R.U.R.* in an age of artificial intelligence: "What does it mean to be human? How do we build a better society? Can I get a robot to scrub my toilet for me?" (Yes, Roomba™, we're looking at you!)

Alas (or fortunately), Mr. Čapek and his creations from *Rossum's Universal Robots* cannot join us, as this is a Non-Event Gala. Instead, the Alachua County Library District Foundation encourages you to enjoy a good library book in the comfort of your own home, where you can say, "Alexa™ (or Siri™, depending on your chosen AI), raise the lights." (You did know we already have robot overlords, right?)

Your suggested donation of \$100 to the Alachua County Library District Foundation Non-Event Gala shows support for the Alachua County Library District. 100% of your donation will go toward building our library endowment fund, which over the past decade has enabled the Foundation to contribute \$452,000 to the Library District. Checks should indicate that they are for the Gala, be payable to the ACLD Foundation, and mailed to the ACLD Foundation, 401 E. University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601. Your gift is tax deductible.

The ACLD Foundation is a support group for the Alachua County Library District.

