



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

October 2023

A Busy Foundation Weekend

The Sept.30/Oct. 1 weekend was an especially busy one for the Foundation Board and members. On Saturday, eight Board members attended the Library District's Grand Reopening of the Archer Branch to celebrate the completion of a project that nearly doubled its size. Among the new features are a Children's Area, a Teen Zone, and a CreateSpace, which the Foundation funded with a \$100,000 contribution to the total cost of about \$1,000,000 for the library branch expansion.



The next day, Sunday, the Foundation held its annual meeting at the Library District Headquarters, with a light supper for the more than sixty members and guests in attendance. Library Director Shaney



Livingston gave an update on the Library District, noting that it is debt free, which received enthusiastic applause. Next was a stimulating talk by UF Distinguished Professor of History Jack E. Davis, who received the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in History for his *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*. He began his talk – “A Bird, a Book, and a Bet with Nature,” based on his recent *The Bald Eagle: The Improbably Journey of America's Bird* – by noting that, unlike so many environmental history accounts, this particular history is a positive and encouraging one.



The formal business meeting included the Chair's Annual Report, along with that of the Treasurer, the adoption of the 2023-24 budget, recognition of new members, and the election of officers and Board members. Serving two-year terms are Mitzi Austin as Chair, Bill Zegel as Vice-Chair, and Brian Gendreau continuing as Treasurer. Laura Berns was elected for one year to fill the unexpired term of Secretary. Mitzi Austin presented concluding remarks before the meeting adjourned.

