



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 2024

ACLD Foundation's Katherine's Tree Reception

As our clocks leaped ahead on the second Sunday in March, the tenth annual Katherine's Tree reception was held at Headquarters Library, recognizing the previous year's leaf recipients and donors. Six new leaves were added to the ten-foot glass etching of the Tree of Knowledge, dedicated in 1995, representing the names of individuals being honored for their dedication to the many services provided by the Alachua County Library District.



Waldo Branch Manager Kerry Lennon Dowd received the 17th Guy Hudspeth Award, so named for its first ACLD staff recipient and sponsored annually by the Kosman Foundation. The award recognizes an outstanding Library District employee who has made special contributions to the integration of the library and its local community. Dowd started the Teen Creative Writing Contest and was heavily involved with the Equal Justice Initiative and the planning and renovations of the Waldo Branch.

Known far and wide for their semi-annual book sales and contributions to ACLD projects, the Friends of the Library also supports the Foundation endowment by recognizing outstanding volunteers with leaves on Katherine's Tree. For 2023, those singled out were Michelle Benoit and Holly Prugh. For fourteen years, Michelle has worked at book sales, been a table coordinator, and for nine years has served as an invaluable and greatly appreciated Membership Chair. Holly has most recently curated Florida items in the Collectors Corner, which she helped design, build, paint, and expand during its remodeling. She also posts pre-sale lists of Collectors Corner items online.

William E. Beaty donated a leaf in memory of his parents, Ralph and Elizabeth Beaty, who were not only readers for enjoyment and personal productivity but encouraged their children to make use of the library and its many resources for pleasure, education, and the public good.

Juanita Harrison has been a "soldier" volunteer for the FOL since 1994, fulfilling a multitude of roles as needed. In recognition of her dedication, her husband, Will Harrison, donated a leaf in her honor.

Numerous friends and Foundation board members contributed for a leaf in memory of Cecilia Caton, a longtime member of the Foundation Board. Her creative and always dependable efforts for Non-Event Galas and other fundraising projects helped ensure Foundation success in its endeavors.

These six leaves represent \$12,000 added to the Foundation Endowment to help advance its support of our outstanding Library District.