History of our Organization

The Friends & Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit membership organization that supports the resources and programs of the Arlington Public Library through public awareness and fundraising activities.

Originally, there were two nonprofit support organizations – the Friends (established in 1986) and the Foundation (established in 1993). The Friends held semi-annual book sales and Book & Author Luncheons and the Foundation raised funds primarily through grants, events, and direct mail solicitations. Because of their similar goals to support the Library System, the two groups merged in October 2016.

Over the years, the organizations have contributed over $3.5 million to the Arlington Public Library, helping to make the difference between a good and a GREAT library system for the people of Arlington!

Check out the Library's calendar to see what's happening today!

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Book Sale

WHEN
March 27 - 31

WHERE
Meadowbrook Recreation Center, 1400 Dugan Street 76010

REMEMBER
The first day of the sale, for FFAPL members only, is when you can choose from the cream of the crop! Don't miss out on this benefit of your membership - join us at the sale on March 27 between 2pm and 7pm!

And if you are interested in volunteering your time at the sale, be sure to sign up today!
Book & Author Luncheon

WHEN
April 4, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

WHERE
Shady Valley Country Club, 4001 West Park Row Drive 76013

FEATURED AUTHORS
- Asa Dunnington, *Selectively Lawless: The True Story of Emmett Long, an American Original*
- Bobbie Wygant, *Talking to the Stars: Bobbie Wygant's Seventy Years in Television*

Tickets are $30/person and can be purchased [online](#).

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Member Highlight - Ruthie Brock

Ruthie Brock is a Librarian at the University of Texas at Arlington and a longtime friend to the Arlington Public Library System. She became a Friends member very early on, back when Mildred Kibby started the organization in 1986. She also helped create Citizens for Library Excellence when the Library was part of a budget cut and the group wanted to show support by speaking at a City Council meeting. In the 1990s, she was appointed to the Library Advisory Board, during a period of expansion and upgrading of facilities. She also worked with then Director of Libraries, Dr. Betsy Burson, to raise approximately $75,000 for the Northeast Branch Library, making up the difference between bonds that had been approved 15 years prior and the actual cost of construction. Ruthie served as chair of the Arlington Public Library Foundation from 2001 to 2002 and she currently sits on the board of the Friends & Foundation of the Arlington Public Library.

Ruthie and husband Allan Saxe have a connection to almost every Arlington Public Library location. There is the Ruthie Brock Lobby and the Tech Genius bar at the Downtown Library. They are listed as funders on the walls of the Northeast, Southeast, and Lake Arlington branches. They funded bricks on the walkway and the Ruthie Brock Reading Garden at the Southwest Branch. And, there is the sculpture of a boy reading, which is located in the administrative offices at City Hall!

When asked to be the member spotlighted here, Ruthie said, “others seem more deserving for this article.” In reality, there are few who have dedicated so much of themselves to public library service in our community. We are so grateful for her friendship.
Upcoming Event

Book It 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run

Mark your calendars to run or walk in the 7th annual Book It 5K or 1 Mile Fun Run. This fundraiser will bring the community together for a morning of healthy fun!

DATE
Saturday, September 28

LOCATION
George W. Hawkes Downtown Library

TIME
8:00 a.m. 1 Mile Fun Run
8:30 a.m. 5K

Sponsorship opportunities start at $250. For more information, contact the Library's Development Coordinator at 817-459-6924 or andi.davis@arlingtontx.gov.