

... because libraries  
are more than books



THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION  
OF MARTIN COUNTY

## Annual Programs presented by the Library System of Martin County

**BookMania!** – a weekend celebration of books and reading featuring book discussions, book signings by authors, and cultural performances (*January*)

**Chautauqua South** – a season of literary, performing and cultural experiences presented at all Library Branches (*January – April*)

**Chautauqua South Fiction Award** – a nationally recognized annual award that recognizes a fiction author from Florida or a Florida-based story. A statewide selection committee of authors, teachers, librarians and humanities specialists makes the initial nominations. A panel of readers in Martin County makes the final choice (*February*)

**International Festival** – featuring a different culture each year with presentations in music, dance and the visual arts (*June*)

**BOOK BLAST!** – a day of fun for the whole family celebrating National Children's Book Week (*November*)



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Q: Why do we need a Library Foundation?

A: Libraries are the cornerstones of our communities. They are gathering places where we can meet, converse about books and issues, listen to music, experience other cultures, talk with local officials, use a computer, learn to read, or simply greet neighbors and friends. The preservation of free access to books, ideas, resources and information is imperative for education, economic strength, and democracy.

As community and information centers, our libraries provide programs and services that advance literacy, lifelong learning and technology skills. People of all ages and walks of life benefit from our FREE libraries.

Libraries are a legacy to future generations, preserving the heritage of the past and opening doors to the promise of the future. The Library Foundation is a steward of that legacy.

The Library Foundation of Martin County is the private component of the public/private partnership that promotes expanded access to library services by:

- *Seeking capital support for all six library branches in Martin County.*
- *Providing financial support for literary, educational, and cultural programs for over 7,000 individuals and families every year.*
- *Underwriting programs that assist almost 7,500 youth annually, both in the library branches and in the community.*
- *Managing endowments that provide funds to enrich the collection and programming.*



Blake Library



Cummings Library



Hobe Sound Library



Hoke Library



Indiantown Library



Robert Morgade Library

**Q: What part did private gifts play in building the branch libraries?**

**A:** One of the most important roles of The Library Foundation of Martin County is to secure and manage matching gifts that are required to qualify for state and federal

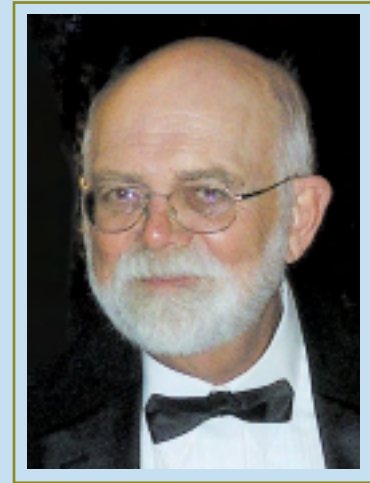
construction grants for new buildings and renovations.

Since the Foundation was established in 1992, over \$5 million donated by individuals and businesses has enabled the Library System to construct five branch libraries in five years. The sixth branch, Indiantown Library, underwent extensive renovation.

Each Branch Library boasts a community room that provides a home for special programs designed to bring the book collections of the library to life. The Community Rooms are in great demand by area organizations ranging from the Genealogy Club, to retired teachers, to garden clubs, to the Board of County Commissioners.

The Honor Wall at each Branch Library recognizes gifts in the following amounts:

Benefactor	\$ 1,000 and up
Founder	\$ 10,000 and up
Bronze Circle	\$ 50,000 and up
Silver Circle	\$100,000 and up
Gold Circle	\$500,000 and up



*"I feel that libraries are important because they are for everyone in the community. And it was a special way to honor my parents."*

- Ken Middleton

**Q: Are students and children still using libraries in spite of the growth of the Internet?**

**A:** The Internet has not replaced the library. In fact, teachers require students to use multiple resources in completing assignments.

### *Homework Helpers*

is an innovative program that assists elementary, middle, high school and college students by providing an extra resource person in the library after school and on Saturdays to help students learn to use library resources.

Approximately 2,000 visits are recorded every year at each Homework Center. Students get assistance with everything from writing for the DAR essay contest to preparing a Science Fair project. As a result of the attention students receive from Homework Helpers, national studies have documented an increase in student self-esteem and improved interpersonal skills.

*BookBlast!* is a fun-filled day for children and families that recognizes national Children's Book Week each November. It is dedicated to spreading the word about children's literature and encouraging the joys of reading.



### *Children's Summer Outreach*

Special outreach sessions held weekly at twenty community locations reach over 3,700 children each year. Coordinators use colorful activities that engage children in reading to inspire them to become lifelong readers and library users.



*"I want to help each child do well in school. It is such an important part of who they will become as an adult. I want them to have all the assistance our libraries can offer."*

- Betty Lahti

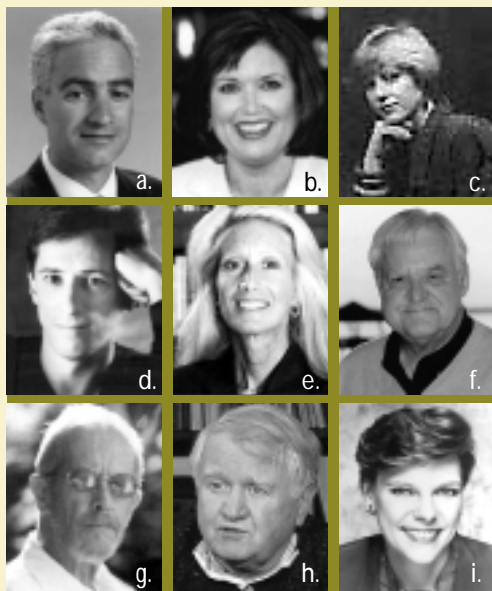
## Q: What authors come to Martin County?

A: Each January, the Martin County cultural season kicks off with a weekend-long parade of interesting authors, book

discussions and signings, and in-depth panel discussions with new writers.

**BookMania!** has been an annual event since 1993. It is the premier opportunity for book lovers along the Treasure Coast to meet their favorite authors in person. The event celebrates something truly timeless: reading. It appeals to book lovers and book buyers. It introduces readers to new authors. It enhances the use of the library's collection. It promotes an appreciation of books and reading for everyone.

A partial list of authors who have made BookMania! a success includes:



- a. Frank Cerabino
- b. Mary Jane Clark
- c. Connie Mae Fowler
- d. James Grippando
- e. Jane Heller
- f. John Jakes
- g. Elmore Leonard
- h. Malachy McCourt
- i. Cokie Roberts



*"We have been avid readers all our lives. Having the opportunity to meet these authors right in our community is priceless."*

- Gloria and Paul Wolfe

