

Downtown library's bookstore proceeds up



Members of the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library board of directors attend a meeting in the Downtown Library. (Marci Shatzman/Staff / FPG)

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Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library's bookstore and online sales totaled nearly \$98,000 and the group's last library gift was \$64,000.

"It was a terrific year for fundraising," Friends' board president Cyndi Bloom summed up at a board meeting in the Downtown Library. "Business is up in the bookstore and we're in a position to give more money to the library."

Total bookstore sales alone for 2015 were \$83,138.38. The bookstore is in the foyer of the Downtown Library at 400 NW Second Ave.

The Friends has increased its annual giving by nearly 100 percent since 2013, the library said when the gift was announced. The latest gift will fund youth programs, e-resources, the Discover Studio staff development at the Downtown Library and the library's civic engagement initiative.

In other library news, Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling's book "Very Good Lives: The Fringe Benefits of Failure and the Importance of Imagination" is the first book chosen for a joint reading experience.

"One Book Boca is our first community read and part of our civic engagement," library manager Anna Nappa said.

The illustrated book was Rowling's 2008 commencement speech at Harvard University.

"It was a staff choice and has an inspirational message for all ages," she said. "It's a quick read and busy mothers can read it over coffee."

Both the Downtown and Spanish River Libraries offer print and ebook versions for checkout for library cardholders and a study guide is available for schools, book clubs and individuals.

Teen book discussions are 6 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Downtown Library and 4:15 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Spanish River Library, 1501 Spanish River Blvd. A moderated community discussion is 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Downtown Library. Register at bocalibrary.org

The Friends is looking for volunteers to staff two-and-a-half-hour shifts in the bookstore and as ambassadors to greet people who come to the programs that include the Sunday music and speaker series.

"We also need a special events manager to run events and our authors' luncheon and to design fliers," said Krista Maki, programs chairwoman.

Membership is up 20 percent in the Friends, a fundraising and volunteer group that supports library services and programs and the love of reading, said Sandy Creighton, membership chairwoman.

"You don't have to be a library member to join and we have Friends from Delray, Deerfield and Boynton," she said.

Visit bocalibraryfriends.org/ that includes the new logo and symbol, the tree of learning.

"The logo is important to us because it shows our relationship to the library, the support of which is our reason for being," Maki said.